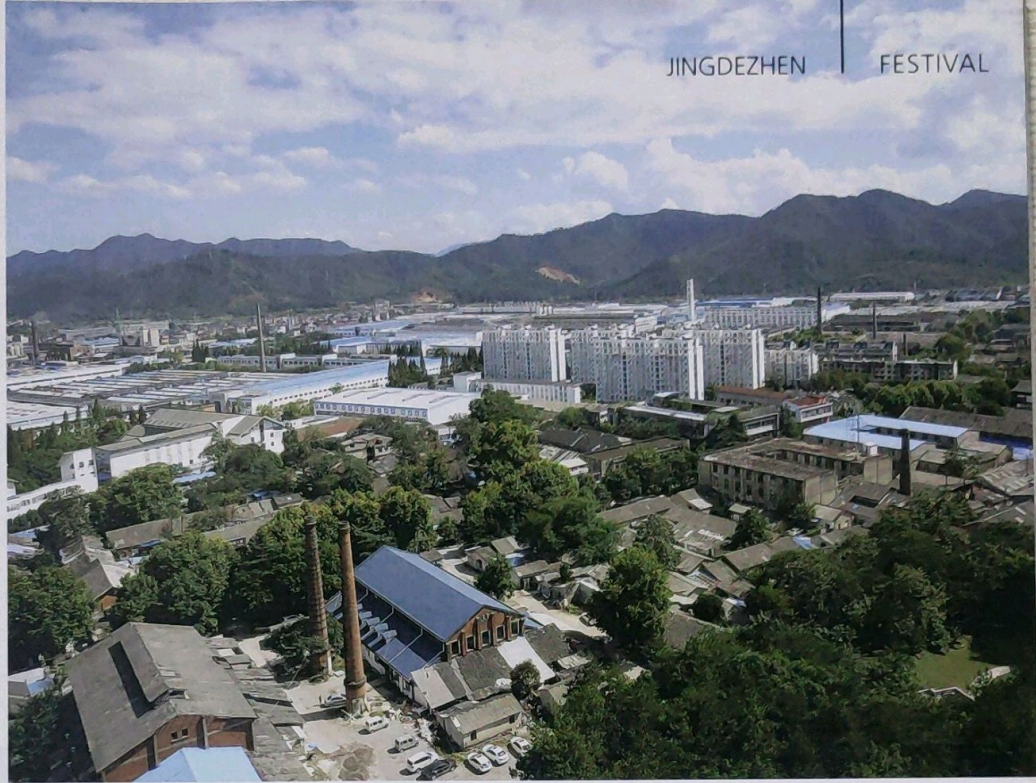


porcelain painted with cobalt by hand became world famous and the factory was considered to be among the top ten producers in the whole country.

With the decline in porcelain production at the end of the 1990s, the necessary investment became more cautious, production stagnated and was ultimately discontinued in 2002. In the local climate, the abandoned buildings gradually fell into disrepair.

But then, just at the crucial moment, the revitalisation of the former factory and its conversion into a centre for porcelain and ceramics was agreed. Today, the factory site, which covers several hectares, has become a porcelain paradise. The former factory hall, where tunnel kilns were once fired, was converted into a gallery with the lecture theatre and various multipurpose rooms, the Jingdezhen Heritage of Ceramic Industry Museum. The permanent exhibition introduces guests to the history of the porcelain and the production processes and technologies here. A roadway leads through the whole site, the Ceramic Art Avenue, with galleries, shops selling porcelain and ceramic goods, restaurants, cafés, a design centre and the International Ceramics Studio, open to ceramists from all over the world to undertake residencies. In the former workshops and in the open air, pottery and craft markets take place almost every week. Last year, the management of the Tao Xi Chuan ceramics studios decided to put on the ceramics fair on an international scale for the first time, inviting ceramists from Europe, Japan, Korea and Taiwan to take part. Without having to think about it for very long, we accepted and arrived in Jingdezhen in late September 2017. The city is completely different from Shanghai, where we took part in what until then had been the last International Ceramics Symposium. Although it has more than two million inhabitants, one feels more like it is a large village or small town. Commerce and services often unfold right in the street, where mopeds, bicycles of suppliers and customers or people hurrying to work hustle and bustle among the tailors' tables, snack-bars with delicacies and repair shops for electrical appliances.

Especially in the evenings by artificial light, at the centre of Tao Xi Chuan you feel like you are in a different world. You enter the illuminated oasis with its fountains through a mighty gateway.



It shows the present situation - but from a little bit far away distance



Yaoli village - the place under the Kaoling mountain

Yaoli village - participants of the festival in TaoXiChuan 2017

