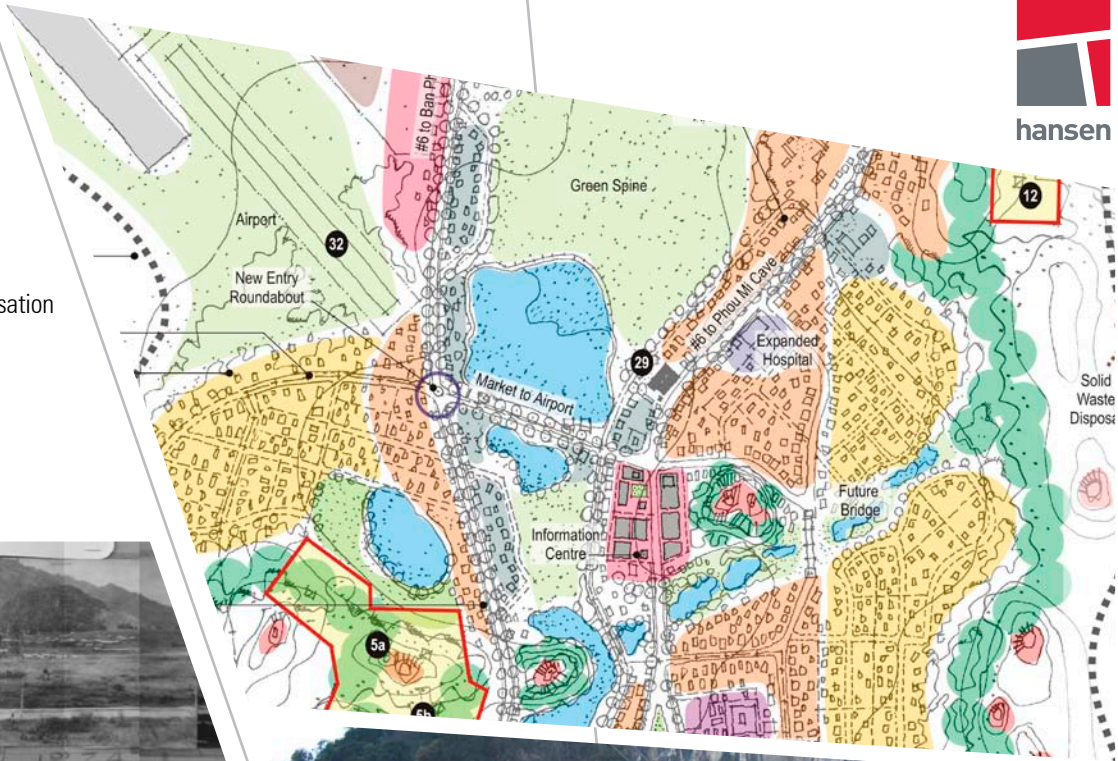


# viengxay town master plan, laos pdr



client:  
Netherlands Development Agency (NDA)  
United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

project team:  
hansen partnership



## project description:

**hansen** was engaged by the UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization) and SNV (Netherlands Development Agency) to work with state and local officials in the preparation of the Town Master Plan for the nationally significant town of Viengxay in Northern Laos.

In 1992, the town of Viengxay was placed on the Laos PDR register of National Heritage. It is a post-1975 settlement surrounded by a natural landscape of mountains, caves and forest used by the Pathet Lao during its struggles against French and American armed forces from 1945 to 1975. Viengxay is often referred to as 'the birthplace of the Laos PDR' and its many limestone caves accommodated the diverse needs of approximately 23,000 people including key heroes in the struggle for freedom during war time.

The Town Master Plan for Viengxay provides a clear and achievable vision for incremental growth of the Township in a sustainable and respectful manner, given the cultural and historic sensitivities of the site and its context, and the considerable threats that any influx of international tourism could place on the image and integrity of the Town. The Town Master Plan generates a 5 step urban design concept, realizing the Town's potential as a national heritage place, a green place, a healthy place, a walking place and a prosperous place. The Plan recognizes the capacity of the Town to grow and accommodate for sensitive tourism uses around the remarkable caves, while at the same time evolving the place with the necessary civic, employment and social infrastructure and orderly housing.

**hansen** was awarded the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) Victoria Medal in Landscape Architecture at the 2008 AILA Victorian State Awards Ceremony, for the Viengxay Town Master Plan, Laos PDR project. The Victoria Medal is the highest award in the profession of landscape architecture in Victoria. This project also received the AILA Victoria Award for Planning Excellence. The project demonstrates the importance of landscape architects, urban designers and urban planners working in close collaboration to realise award winning outcomes.



urban planning urban design landscape architecture

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