

"Community of Scientists" 2.0: Where Science Meets Everyday Life in Yangpu



shared her experience. "This is my second visit to the community. The first time, I came to handle some procedures for talent registration. I thought it was mainly an event space, and only later learned that it also includes talent apartments," she said. Introduced to Shanghai under the "Shanghai Nine Measures" policy as a high-quality content creator, Zhao is considering relocating her company to Yangpu District's V-Juchang. "Moving offices is something I'll have to deal with soon. A community like this, with spaces for interaction and relaxation, is really appealing. When innovation talent steps out of their homes and into shared community spaces, it not only sparks new ideas but also helps connect resources down the line."

Building an Ever-Growing Circle of Connections

Another highlight of Community of Scientists 2.0 is the newly opened Science Unlimited Home. Guided by the principles of balancing activity and calm, linking functions, and delivering complete services, the nearly 1,000-square-meter space is efficiently designed to balance public service with commercial operations. The result is a setting defined by "five qualities": urban warmth, innovation leadership, humanistic character, cultural depth, and vibrant city life.

In terms of layout, a 765-square-meter public-interest zone includes a tea room, gym, screening room, and reading areas. Services such as free book lending and public film screenings help build a strong cultural foundation, complementing the high-end social spaces of the Talent Hub. A 202-square-meter commercial zone introduces three key formats. Shishuji combines reading, dining, and shopping, drawing on the resources of Dayin Bookstore to create two-way traffic between culture and everyday consumption. Chuangyue Studio hosts art salons and reading talks, offering a refined cultural experience. Strong Body Club pioneers a "culture + health" model, extending services into wellness. Together, the three form a virtuous cycle in which public services attract engagement while commercial operations sustain long-term viability.

Community spaces are also differentiated by floor. The ground floor focuses on convenience services and dynamic consumption, with a convenience store and first-floor Shishuji offering drinks, light meals, and delivery services, while a cultural-creative area brings visual interest through pop-up collaborations. The second floor emphasizes tailored services and public-interest experiences: the second-floor Shishuji provides customized dining, and the public zone connects seamlessly with Talent Hub services. Curated reading lists and spatial displays foster deeper emotional engagement, creating a living space that combines practicality with a sense of belonging.

"We've packaged the ideas and

resources we've accumulated from operating public spaces to become a lifestyle steward with warmth and cultural sensibility," said He Xuan, general manager of Dayin Bookstore.

On the second floor, there is also a hair and nail salon offering services at public-interest prices. Outside the screening room, a message board displays the weekly film schedule, where residents can "place orders" using sticky notes. The 24-hour gym is equipped not only with fitness facilities but also with books on sports and health.

As a lifelong Yangpu resident and an urban planning researcher, Xin Shengxi offers a deeper perspective on Community of Scientists 2.0. "This is a typical node of 'three-zone linkage' that connects campuses, industrial parks, and residential communities, and reveals the everyday side of innovation," he said. "I study and work here, but I also see young entrepreneurs, elderly residents shopping, and women coming in for manicures. Research here constantly draws nourishment from real life and ultimately serves people's sense of fulfillment and well-being. Under the vision of a people-centered city, this is an essential model for Yangpu's innovation-driven development and one that deserves to be more widely adopted."

"Why do we call it Science Unlimited Home?" He Xuan explained. "Because we hope the circle of life around this 'home' will keep expanding, much like a growing circle of friends." He added that the model is expected to be extended to other talent housing projects across the district.

Community of Scientists 2.0 has been renewed under the leadership of the Yangpu District Party Committee and government, with the District Organization Department (Talent Office) taking the lead, joined by Pingliang Road Subdistrict and Weibaixin Group, and supported by the professional expertise of Dayin Bookstore. Going forward, the community will continue to strengthen coordination across its platforms, further enhance service capacity and quality, and fully unlock the added value of government-enterprise collaboration, injecting fresh momentum into the development of a high-quality talent living circle in the district.

"Science should never be distant or out of reach," Xin Shengxi said with a smile. "Whether it is technological application or public science education, it should be embedded in community spaces and everyday life. Many major scientific discoveries have emerged from innovation scenes deeply integrated with social life, such as the discovery of the DNA double helix at the Eagle pub near the University of Cambridge. Innovation hubs like the Community of Scientists should be a must for building a people-centered city driven by science and technology."

(Some content compiled from Liberation Daily)

Photos in this section are file photos.

from Germany once envisioned a shared reading room on every floor—spaces where people could freely meet, talk, and exchange ideas. In version 2.0, that vision is gradually becoming a reality.

Bringing Innovation Talent Out of Their Homes and into Shared Community Spaces

Stepping into the Talent Hub on the ground floor of the Community of Scientists, the space feels bright and welcoming. Soft brown carpeting adds warmth to the winter atmosphere, while casually arranged sofas create a relaxed, open feel. From friends catching up and business discussions to themed events and government services, many aspects of daily life for innovation professionals can take place here.

According to project organizers, the Talent Hub is positioned around the concept of "technology+, talent+, and innovation +." It integrates research and office functions with residential life, cultural exchange, and social interaction, forming a high-quality, one-stop community space. The goal is to build an "infinite home" that pursues excellence, offering full-cycle support and a diverse service ecosystem for high-level science and technology talent.

Going forward, the Talent Hub will focus on three core functions. First, technology-driven services will support innovation through end-to-end offerings such as startup incubation, policy applications, intellectual property protection, and technology transactions, helping reduce innovation costs and support business growth via shared technology platforms and investment funds. Second, talent-focused support will provide housing and career security through long-term rentals with short-term free stays, housing subsidies, and job-matching services, complemented by skills training and entrepreneurship guidance. Third, an innovation ecosystem will be fostered by bringing together universities, research institutes, and industry resources to promote industry-academia collaboration and the transformation of research outcomes, creating an integrated innovation environment that combines space, services, and resources. As a high-end networking and resource-matching platform, the Talent Hub also features dedicated meeting areas to encourage idea exchange and collaboration among innovation professionals.

At the community open day, Zhao Jiadai, a post-95s entrepreneur and producer of the business interview series Judy's 100 Friends,

By Tang Shunjia, Shi Chenlu

Xin Shengxi, 30, a postdoctoral researcher at Tongji University's College of Architecture and Urban Planning and an associate researcher at the Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning Institute, returned from the UK last year. Recently, he has been spending much of his time at the nearby "Community of Scientists" in Yangpu, treating it as his personal "third space." "There's a convenience store, reading areas, tea rooms. You can have coffee, work, discuss ideas, and even watch public film screenings," he said.

Located next to Danyang Road Station on Metro Line 18, the Community of Scientists is one of Yangpu's flagship projects in building a high-level talent hub. As one of Shanghai's first pilot projects for high-end talent housing, it has already welcomed more than 200 households of professionals.

Not long ago, the 2.0 version of the Community of Scientists officially opened, alongside a community open day titled Science Unlimited Home • Smart Launch Station.

Xin describes the riverside community in southern Yangpu as having "the warmth and liveliness of everyday life, infused with science." When the project was first proposed, an innovation professional returning