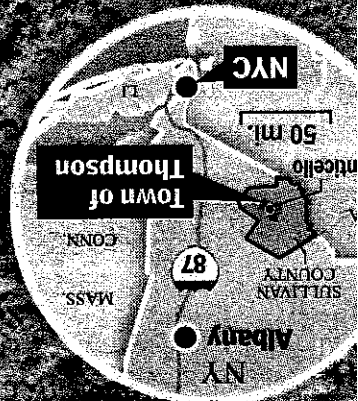


CHINA? TOWN



SWEET & SOUR: China City, as depicted here on a promotional Web site, could mean lots of money — and controversy — in tiny Thompson.

Theme city in Catskills

ing to a "Temple of Heaven" and \$20 million to construct a "Forbidden City." It also projects \$65 million from the US government. "It's multiple phases. No project is going to happen in one day. It's going to be step-by-step," Li told The Post, saying the amusement park component would get built in a later phase. The plan is now under consideration by the leaders of Thompson, population 15,000. It's already getting a lot of opposition. "It actually seems surreal but million — with \$10 million go-an initial investment of \$325 China City's Web site projects where she pitched the plan. Town Council meeting in May [to] go with it," Li said at a building and will have rides. "Each dynasty will have its senting the major Chinese dy-nese zodiac while another would mark parts of the Chi-side New York City, as one area trip to China just 90 miles out- "The place would feel like a tail center and, possibly, a ca-

unfortunately, it is real," said Paula Medley, a local environmental activist. "This is kind of a combination of pie-in-the-sky and ethnic solidarity and showmanship and a federal program that sort of facilitates this sort of thing," said David North, who authored a report picking apart China City's proposal for the Center for Immigration Studies. Others questioned its link to the federal visa program, known as EB-5. "It sounds like an EB-5 scam," said Laura Cornuzi, a New York City attorney who vacations in the area. "The financials don't really support the \$6 billion project," Thompson's Town Council has had at least five meetings on the project, with the latest Tuesday night. Li would not reveal the number of investors she has lined up, but she said most were Chinese nationals. *geoff.earle@nypost.com*

By GEOFF EARLE
at's missing is a Great
ong Island business-
wants to build a mas-
titled "Disneyland" in
skills — including an
gent park and a "Forbid-
y" laid out according to
principles of feng shui.
China City of America
could bring thousands
thy Chinese immigrants
tiny Sullivan County
Thompson under a fed-
gram that lets foreign-
t visas by investing
0 in the United States.
mastermind behind the
Sherry Li, claims the
ment would draw
on in foreign investment.
can kind of view it as a
concept of Disney," she
o it's going to have lot of
ons of families."
designs for China City
a college, 1,000 resi-
a Chinese-themed re-