

China Room REPORT 2021

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## **China Room**

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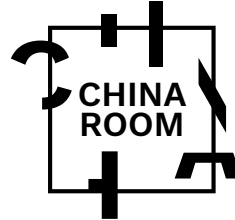
Politecnico di Torino / China Room REPORT 2021

Politecnico di Torino  
**China Room**  
**REPORT**  
**2021**

Edited by Edoardo Bruno, Camilla Forina, Marta Mancini



**Politecnico  
di Torino**



# **China Room**

## **REPORT**

### **2021**

**POLITECNICO DI TORINO**  
**China Room**

**REPORT 2021**

Edited by: Edoardo Bruno, Camilla Forina, Marta Mancini  
Graphic design: Camilla Forina  
Cover: Shougang Capital Steel Plant in Shijingshan District, Beijing, 2019 (credit: Francesco Merlini - Prospekt Photographers).

**China Room is a research center whose scholars belong to DAD - Department of Architecture and Design and DIST - Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning'**

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Department of Architecture and Design



Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning  
Excellence MIUR 2018-2022



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The publication collects the outputs of the research activities of the China Room of the Politecnico di Torino referring to the period 2017 - 2020. Texts, images and graphics are the result of the work of professors, researchers and PhD students of the China Room or of collaborations with students, institutions and external research groups.  
The aim is to present and disseminate the China Room's research themes and methods to the academic world.  
The information provided is intended as a general guide throughout a selection of a wider material production.

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December 2021.

**Greetings from Directors of the Departments**

by Andrea Bocco and Paolo Mellano

This first edition of the Report elaborated by China Room research group has been a significant opportunity to reflect on interrelations among research strands, geographies and disciplines. In the past five years, China Room has played a strategic role at the crossroads of Politecnico di Torino's DAD and DIST Departments, which promote the "science of project" as crucial to measure the impact of contemporary scientific challenges.

In this frame, China has offered a unique research occasion of methodological progress. Moreover, it has enabled to grasp phenomena whose intensity can no longer be neglected within an interconnected global world.

The research projects presented in this volume give substance to places and processes that — due to physical and cultural distance — are often only evoked and even misrepresented in the West. In this first Report, China emerges — in the unprecedented geopolitical chessboard of the third millennium — as the locus for the scientific community to verify and challenge methods and tools of investigation.

China's new transport infrastructures, for instance, as well as its stratified metropolises, provide 'accelerated' testing grounds where phenomena in transition tell a great deal about what the notions of territory, urbanity and living could transform into in the upcoming decades.

China Room has contributed to the international debate enriching the scientific literature through on-site design activities and processes, meetings and exchanges with authoritative figures of the academic and architectural scenes, set up of educational courses aimed at non-EU students, and the construction of an archive collecting maps, photographs and voices. In times when physical distance among nations is amplified by the pandemic, the projects developed by China Room enhance the importance of fieldwork research as a privileged point of view and source of data. They tell about the Chinese society at the very moment when it is realizing its own idea of modernity. China Room's

activities investigate the horizons of such modernity from within a “research laboratory”: this means acknowledging the irreplaceable value of places in the construction of knowledge.

The results of the research presented in this volume are the outcomes of the close collaboration among different disciplines: scrolling through the pages, it emerges that contact with the complexity of Chinese metropolises was possible mainly thanks to the intersection of scientific fields. A multidisciplinary approach put into practice, among other things, through the comparison among various scales of observation, and the different skills of China Room’s members, in the full spirit of polytechnic research.

Furthermore, this Report is an opportunity to show the results of the increasingly frequent exchanges that our Departments have had with China and other countries in the Far East. For almost a decade, China Room has been developing solid and durable relationships with eminent universities, such as Tsinghua University in Beijing, Tongji University in Shanghai and the South China University of Technology in Guangzhou, in the form of research, teaching and consultancy activities. China Room’s work merit consists of having evolved from working ‘for’ to working ‘with’ Chinese experts. This is an important change of perspective that has provided concrete feedback on the internationalisation of the research in our university.

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# Foreword

## China Room 2016 - 2021: China's opportunity to measure changes in city and architecture

by Edoardo Bruno and Camilla Forina

The China Room Report 2021 gathers the researches developed by the group since its constitution in 2016. The emergence of COVID-19 has profoundly affected the possibility of conducting on-site research after about a decade of intense exchanges with China. Although research projects, design explorations, doctoral theses and educational programs with partner institutions have not come to a halt, the necessity of systematisation of a long period of cooperation with China has gradually emerged. The report aims thus at identifying, through an archival operation, both continuities and discontinuities between different research outcomes, not only to define a “state of the art” of the group’s activities but also - and foremost - to set up new directions for future researches.

China Room observes urban phenomena and architecture in contemporary China - privileging on-site observation and applied experimentation. As a specific context of investigation, China is intended as an opportunity to observe, often at an accelerated speed, phenomena that emphasise global behaviours: in this framework, the group’s mission interprets thus China as an expanding laboratory where to question and test scientific positions.

As suggested by sinologist François Jullien, the encounter with China is an opportunity to unleash a “disruption of thought”. He invites to set aside western methodological paradigms in favour of external observation of the so-called “reality”. If on one hand, China cannot be considered a place to be “discovered”, on the other, today it represents a privileged locus to observe contemporary processes. According to this perspective, the Report’s investigations on different places, themes

and methods become the pretext to better understand the transferability of the collected theses; thus, the outputs of the research take on the character of valuable lessons, straightened through continuous refutations to not simplify their interpretations.

With the aim of sharing with a wider public the archive gathered over the years, the volume considers different research outputs as products constituting a sufficient critical mass to become generalisable research objects. Furthermore, they define a clear and transferable positioning within the scientific community. The contents are organised according to various interpretative lines that proceed simultaneously. In this sense, the book retraces the modalities through which the research group was constituted, privileging the programming of research as a method in itself capable of bringing innovation by alternating parallel experimentations. The map on pages 6-7 summarises this approach, depicting the trajectories of the single outputs inserted within the Report in the broader perspective of the research group’s practice: the attempt is to understand the relapse of each specific theoretical, applied, or didactic activity in the research sphere to highlighting the incremental and multidisciplinary pattern adopted so far.

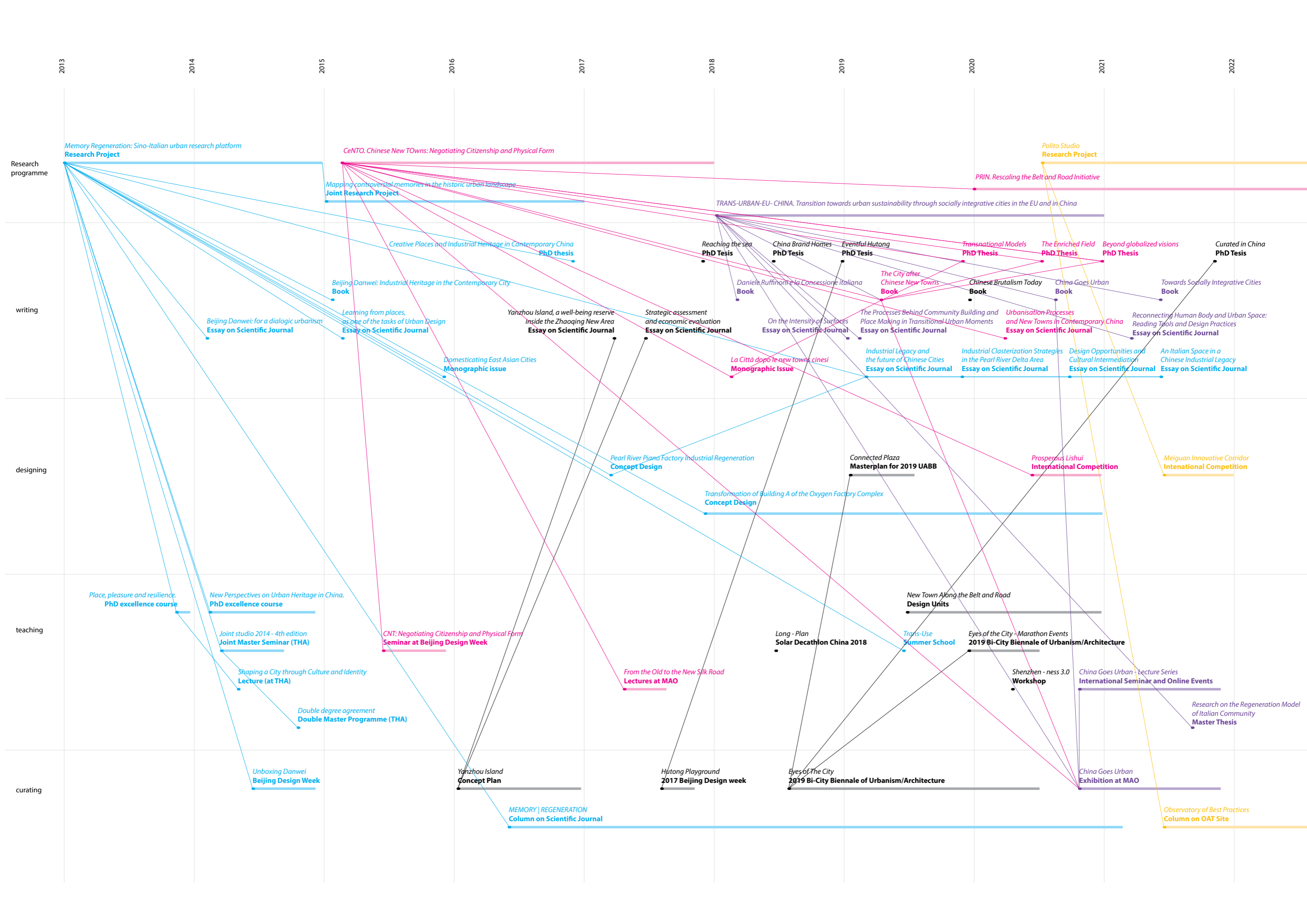
The chapters of the Report describe the research of China Room moving from the collective to the individual results carried out by the various researchers involved. The first chapter - Research Programs - shows the programs that mainly address the four research branches and various subsequent projects developed in China. These are thus to be considered as extended containers with international funding, developed through the consolidation of new institutional alliances that allow the China Room to increase its number of researchers and interests.

The subsequent four chapters - Writing, Designing, Teaching, Curating - explore the different activities through which the research was carried out. This preliminary taxonomy emphasises the heterogeneity of approaches that have allowed access to new sources and knowledge production. While writing and teaching are

<sup>1</sup> François Jullien has been invited on 28 September 2018 by FULL – the Future Urban Legacy Lab (Politecnico di Torino) to give the lecture “Comment être efficace? Entre modélisation et maturation (entre pensée européenne et pensée chinoise)”.

Next pages:

**Fig. 1** | Map of the main research projects developed within the China Room research group, 2013-2022 (credit: Camilla Forina - China Room).



actions commonly associated with academia, designing and curating define a broader practice that depicts an emerging modality in approaching scientific investigations in a multi competencies - design-oriented mode.

Through a chronological and categorised series, the sixth chapter organises all the outcomes of the research team: from the first contacts with China, through the institutionalisation of the team since 2016, up to the results achieved over the last years. The total amount of 187 products collected in about a decade perimeter the margins of a modest library depicting the main activities deepen so far.

The Report outlines some recurring themes in the research branches. What emerges is a particular attention to the phenomenon of Chinese urban expansion as a vast field of research capable of encapsulating the spatial contradictions derived from its rapid development. Research projects such as *TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA* supported by the European program Horizon 2020 and *CeNTO. Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form* or *HIGH-SPEED CHINA* have provided the methodological basis for the subsequent publication of *The City after Chinese New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China* (Birkhauser, 2019) and the curatorship of the exhibition *China Goes Urban* at the MAO Museum in Turin, through a series of educational workshops on the *New Town of Lanzhou* and the development of design proposals such as those for *Yanzhou Island* or *PROSPEROUS LISHUI* - which have recently won the third place in 2020 at the “Future Shan Shui City International Urban Design Competition”.

The attention to the Chinese city and architecture as a stratified system crossed by changes, demolitions and innovations is the theme that - stemming from the program *MEMORY | REGENERATION* - has led to the curatorship of a specific section of the Chinese magazine *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, the publication of the volume *Beijing Danwei. Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City* (Jovis, 2015), and international workshops such as *SHENZHEN-ness 3.0* or the *TRANS-USE SUMMER SCHOOL* - capable of suggesting operative

strategies for realising the *PEARL RIVER PIANO Factory-Industrial Regeneration* project.

Another relevant theme concerns Chinese architecture as an open platform facilitating the interaction between man and the built environment, defining a field where the direct experience of space defines its development. In this sense, the project *OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE. Building A of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air Venue* realised for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, the housing prototype *Long Plan* winner of the 2018 edition of Solar Decathlon China and the proposal *CONNECTED PLAZA for the transformation of Futian Railway Station* in Shenzhen represent cues that have allowed the critical positioning of the group as academic curator in *Eyes of the City* exhibition during the 2019 Edition of the Bi-city Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture.

Urban transformations, regeneration strategies, architecture as a human experience are some of the prompts that allowed China Room to continuously calibrate the observation of the Chinese context as an open field in which “unity and specificity” alternate, as the journalist Alberto Jacoviello recalls in his 1972 book *Capire la Cina*. The continuous movement between the general to the particular, the central and the peripheral, the recurrent and the exceptional, has emphasised the importance of transcalarity and transversality of research in architecture and urban studies. This first Report aims at underlining the strategic role of research both as a discovery and a systematisation of practices which allows to carry out scientific knowledge land design practices - and where the referred geography becomes the occasion to test instruments of investigation.

# Our Research

## **RESEARCH PROGRAMMES**

- [p. 14] **MEMORY | REGENERATION. Sino-Italian urban research platform**
- [p. 22] **CeNTO. Chinese New TOWns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form**
- [p. 30] **TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA. Transition towards urban sustainability through socially integrative cities in the EU and in China**
- [p. 36] **HIGH SPEED CHINA**
- [p. 40] **POLITO STUDIO**



# MEMORY | REGENERATION Sino-Italian urban research platform

## INTERNATIONAL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

**Timeline:** 2013-2015

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design**  
In collaboration with Tsinghua University (Beijing)

Developed for “Internazionalizzazione della Ricerca 2013” initiative  
Supported by Politecnico di Torino and Compagnia di San Paolo

### RESEARCH TEAM

#### COORDINATORS

Michele Bonino  
Zhang Li - Tsinghua University

#### MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

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Filippo De Pieri  
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Zhu Wenyi - Tsinghua University

*Text: Maria Paola Repellino*

The research platform *Memory | Regeneration* was the result of a partnership between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University (Beijing). The two universities have been collaborating for many years on joint education initiatives in the field of architecture – such as a joint design studio held for the first time in 2008, or the double degree program in architecture. Yet, it was first in 2013 that a grant from the Turin-based bank Foundation Compagnia di San Paolo supported the investigation of common questions and interests in the form of a research project. Industrial heritage sites in both China and Italy had been the focus of numerous China Room’s previous initiatives. Hence, the *Memory | Regeneration* project was the opportunity to extend this attention to the new collective undertaking. It was funded by Compagnia di San Paolo within the framework of the Politecnico di Torino programme for the internationalisation of the research, under the joint coordination of Michele Bonino and Zhang Li.

The multidisciplinary research investigated the role played by former industrial areas in the urban transformation of contemporary urban China. *Danwei* (work units) were the central organising element of cities during the socialist period. These areas acted simultaneously as units of production and of social control, distribution of urban welfare and attribution of specific rights of citizenship. They tended to be constructed as enclosed compounds and

**Cover |** The daily market in the residential area, Beijing No. 2 Textile Factory, Beijing, 2014 (credit: Jia Yue).



Fig. 1 | Community life in the residential area, Beijing No. 2 Textile Factory, Beijing, 2014 (credit: Jia Yue)

Fig. 2 | The production area of the Beijing No. 2 Textile Factory after the renovation in the Legend Town Culture Creative Industry Park, Beijing, 2014 (credit: Jia Yue)

Next pages:

Fig. 3 | The residential area limit, Shougang Ertong General Machinery Plant, Beijing, 2014 (credit: Jia Yue)

Fig. 4 | View of Beijing No. 2 Thermal Power Plant, Beijing, 2014 (credit: Jia Yue)

to deploy architectural typologies influenced by the mass-produced construction systems imported from the Soviet Union. Today, a large number of industrial *danwei* areas have disappeared but many of them can still be found strikingly intact or radically altered. Observing industrial *danwei* means to come to terms with a laboratory of urban design that is open to experiences of hybridisation between different forms of urban regeneration, and different approaches to conservation of physical and social memories. The research observed some *danwei* closely and argued that their hidden urban qualities could represent an important resource for the future transformation of the city.

In September 2014, some provisional results of the research were presented in the exhibition *Unboxing Danwei*, organised within the Beijing Design Week and promoted by the Italian Cultural Institute at the Embassy of Italy in Beijing.

The main outcome of the research program was the volume *Beijing Danwei. Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City*, published by Jovis Publisher, 2015. The book looks at the history and future of former *danwei* and presents exemplary strategies for dealing

with industrial heritage. In addition, a direct effect of this work was the participation into an international research project entitled *Mapping controversial memories in the historic urban landscape: a multidisciplinary study of Beijing, Mexico City and Rome* (January 2015 - December 2016), funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies and coordinated by Florence Graezer-Bideau (EPFL). Further outcomes of the collaboration were: a number of papers in Chinese, Italian, and international journals, the column *Memory / Regeneration* in the Chinese journal *World Architecture*, new editions of the joint studio, two PhD excellence courses held in Torino, and public seminars, conferences and debates organised in the two cities.





*The research investigated the role played by former industrial danwei areas in the urban transformation of contemporary city. Observing industrial danwei means to come to terms with a laboratory of urban design that is open to experiences of hybridization between different forms of urban regeneration, and different approaches to conservation of physical and social memories. The research observed some danwei closely, and argued that their hidden urban qualities could represent an important resource for the future transformation of the city.*



## Connected Outputs

**Lecture** | Bonino, M., *Shaping a City through Culture and Identity*, Asian Community International Lecture Series, Tsinghua University, 6th June 2014.

**Book Chapter** | Croset, P-A., M. Bonino and F. De Pieri. "Beijing Danwei: for a dialogic urbanism / Bei Jing Dan Wei-Dui Hua Xing Cheng Shi Zhu Yi." In *Urban Design* no. 1, edited by Zhu W., 35-46. Beijing: Tsinghua University Press, 2014.

**PhD excellence course** | Croset, P-A. and F. De Pieri. *New Perspectives on Urban Heritage in China*. Politecnico di Torino, February-December 2014. [Invited lecturers: Florence Graezer Bideau (EPFL), Roberto Malighetti (Università di Milano Bicocca), John Pendlebury (University of Newcastle)].

**Joint studio** | Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University, 2014 edition.

**Exhibition** | *Unboxing Danwei*. Beijing Design Week 2014, 26 September - 3 October 2014. Jointly organized by Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy.

**Article** | Bonino, M., P-A. Croset and M. P. Repellino. "Learning from places, as one of the tasks of Urban Design". *CHENGSHI SHEJI - "Urban Design"*, no. 2 (2015): 44-53.

**Book** | Bonino, M. and F. De Pieri (eds.) *Beijing Danwei: Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City*. Berlin: Jovis Verlag, 2015. [It includes contributions by M.P. Repellino].

**Monographic issue** | Bonino, M., and F. De Pieri (eds.). "Domesticating East Asian Cities", *Territorio*, no. 74 (2015).

**Joint research project** | *Mapping controversial memories in the historic urban landscape: a multidisciplinary study of Beijing, Mexico City and Rome*. January 2015-December 2016. [Funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies and coordinated by F. Graezer-Bideau (EPFL)].

**PhD Dissertation** | Repellino, M. P. "*Luoghi Creativi e Patrimonio Industriale nella Cina Contemporanea*." PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2016.

**PhD excellence course** | Zhang L. (Tsinghua University - Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino). *Place, pleasure and resilience. Comparison of pre-industrial views from China and the West*. Politecnico di Torino, 29 November - 3 December 2018.

**Double degree agreement** | Double Master Degree in Architecture between Politecnico di Torino (Department of Architecture and Design - DAD) and Tsinghua University (School of Architecture).

**Column** | "Memory | Regeneration" in the Chinese journal *World Architecture* [in English and Chinese; edited by A. Bologna, M. Bonino, P.A. Croset, with contributions by all the project members and international experts].



# CeNTO Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form

## INTERNATIONAL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

**Timeline:** 2015-2017

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design / Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning / China Room**  
In collaboration with Tsinghua University (Beijing), École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Developed for “La Ricerca dei Talenti” initiative  
Supported by Politecnico di Torino and Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino

*Text: Maria Paola Repellino*

### RESEARCH TEAM

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Valeria Federighi  
Filippo Fiandanese  
Francesca Frassoldati  
Leonardo Ramondetti  
Bianca Maria Rinaldi  
Astrid Safina  
Davide Vero

Xu Gaofeng, Liu Jian - Tsinghua University

Florence Graezer Bideau, Anna Pagani - École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

The research project *Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form* (CeNTO) was the result of a cooperative effort carried out by scholars from Politecnico di Torino, Tsinghua University of Beijing and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne between 2015 and 2017. Within Politecnico di Torino, the project implied the collaboration between the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) and the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST). It involved PhD candidates in “Architecture, History and Design” (DASP) and “Urban and Regional Development” (URD) and it was implemented thanks to a grant by the Politecnico di Torino and Fondazione CRT as part of the programme *La Ricerca dei Talenti*. The aim was to create a multidisciplinary and intercultural group of about twenty junior and senior scholars from the three academic institutions. Various disciplines related to urban China – such as architecture, urban design, urban geography, urban planning, urban sociology and landscape design – were joint in order to structure the research framework.

The study considered Chinese New Towns as a laboratory in and from which it is possible to observe features and current changes of contemporary cities: the operation of questioning new towns is a way to question what cities are (and what they have become) in China and elsewhere. The approach encourages not to focus on a single narrative or a single place, but to address its ability

**Cover** | The square in front of the high speed railway station, Zhengdong, Zhengzhou, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

*In the early twenty-first century the Chinese Government announced it would have built twenty new towns each year for the next twenty years: in total, approximately 400 new towns would have been designed and built before 2020. The international research considers Chinese new towns as a laboratory in which and from which it possible to observe features and current changes in contemporary cities: questioning new towns is a way to question what cities are (and what have they become) in China and elsewhere.*





at a seminar entitled *Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form*, held during the Beijing Design Week 2016, where discussions focused on what Europe can or cannot learn from Chinese urbanisation. The results were also illustrated during five lectures organised as part of the exhibition *From the Old to the New Silk Road* held in 2017 at the Museum of Oriental Art (MAO) in Turin. In the end, the main outcome of the research project was the volume *The City after Chinese New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China*, published by Birkhäuser, 2019.

**Fig. 2** | Central Business District of Zhengdong, Zhengzhou, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellicchia - Propekt Photographers).

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**Fig. 1** | Tongzhou New District viewed from the top of a tower, Tongzhou, Beijing, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellicchia - Propekt Photographers).

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**Fig. 3** | New residential towers in Zhengdong, Zhengzhou, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellicchia - Propekt Photographers).

to say things that surpass it, that also speak of other things, that link places and issues in an unusual open manner. In this sense, new towns help to better understand and reconsider the wider urbanisation processes and the forms and features of the project for the contemporary city, as well as the way in which it is now inhabited. In essence, Chinese new towns allow to rethink the ways of interpreting and designing the city. Mixing critical-descriptive and design-oriented approaches, the research focuses on three places — Tongzhou, Zhaoqing and Zhengdong — that have been analysed through extensive fieldwork by a substantial number of members of the group. The selection of three new towns does not provide a comprehensive atlas of the many situations or generalities of the

new towns in China. The three places, in fact, are neither exemplary nor representative: they are just specific sites from which to move questions that refer to broader, elusive problems and trends. During the two-year research period, the project boosted scholars' collaboration beyond the boundaries of their respective institutions by organising regular fieldwork in the three selected new towns of Tongzhou, Zhengdong and Zhaoqing. On-site research also included more extensive fieldwork performed by three PhD candidates involved in the project. A PhD thesis was set up by the Politecnico di Torino for each case study. In order to disseminate intermediate results, the research team also organised several cultural activities with larger audiences. For example, results were displayed

## Connected Outputs

**Seminar** | *Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form*, Beijing Design Week 2016. Seminar jointly organized by Politecnico di Torino in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy.

**Lectures** | within "From the Old to the New Silk Road" exhibition, Museum of Oriental Art (MAO), Turin, 2017.

**Monographic issue** | Bonino, M., F. Governa, A. Sampieri (eds.). "La città dopo le new towns cinesi", *Territorio*, 85 (2018). [It includes contributions by M. Bonino, F. Fiandanese, F. Governa, L. Ramondetti, A. Safina, A. Sampieri].

**Book** | Bonino, M., F. Governa and M. P. Repellino, A. Sampieri (eds.). *The City after Chinese New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2019. [It includes contributions by M. Berta, M. Bonino, F. Carota, V. Federighi, F. Fiandanese, F. Frassoldati, F. Governa, L. Ramondetti, M.P. Repellino, A. Safina, A. Sampieri].

**PhD Dissertation** | Fiandanese, F. "Transnational Models. A Study on Tongzhou." PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2019.

**PhD Dissertation** | Ramondetti, L. "The Enriched Field. Urbanising the Central Plains of China." PhD diss, Politecnico di Torino, 2020.

**PhD Dissertation** | Safina, A. "Beyond globalized visions: problematizing urban theory through spatial explorations of the Pearl River Delta." PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2020.

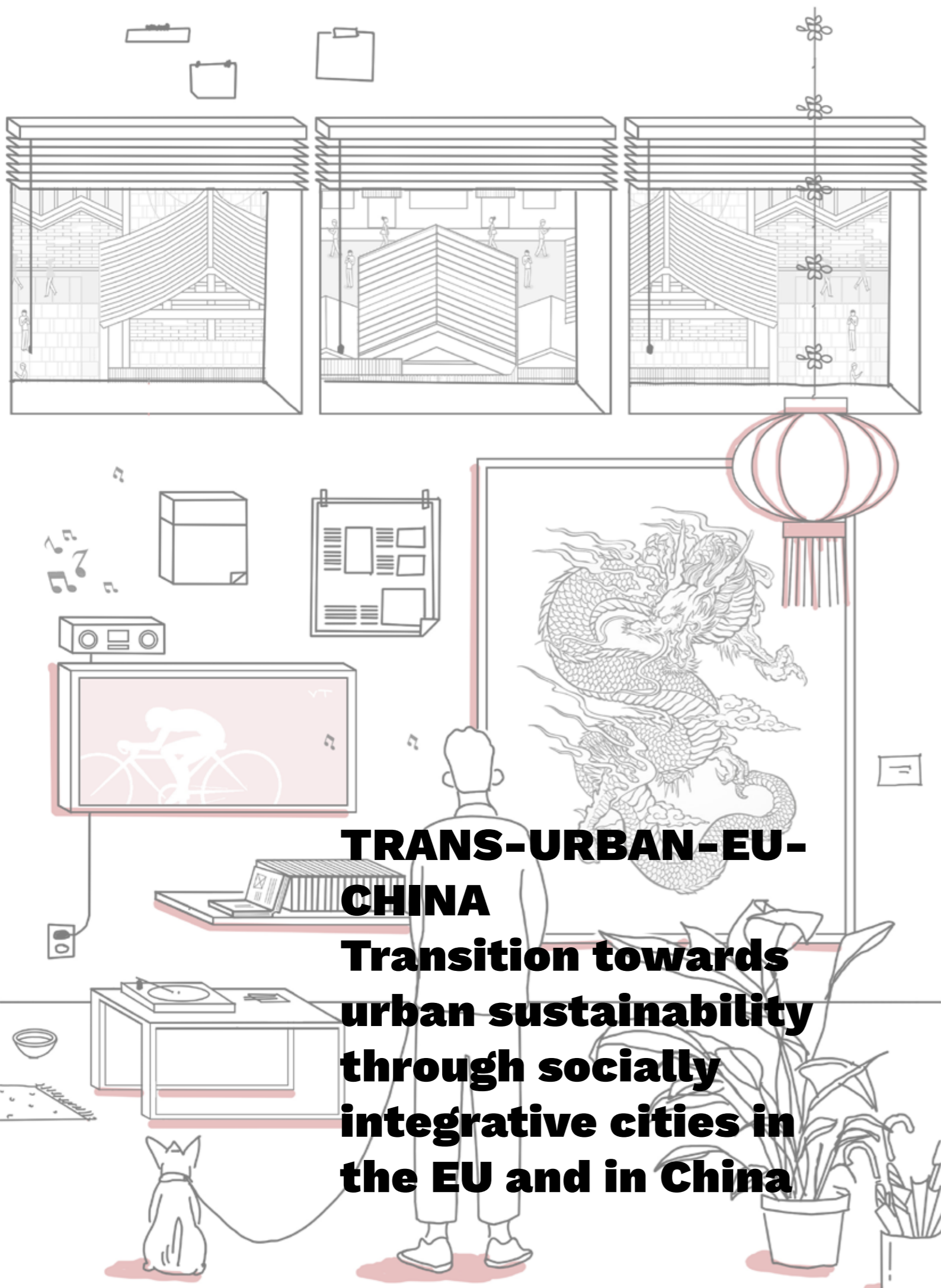


## **PRIN - Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: urbanisation processes, innovation patterns and global investments in urban China**

*Text: Francesco Carota*

The project, started in 2020, adopts an interdisciplinary approach consistent with the European research framework (EU, EUR 27370 EN, 2015) to integrate the exploration of the spatial dimension of the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI) with the analysis of the economic and geo-political data. A necessary integration between different disciplines is indeed required for the study of urban processes in China, and in particular, the study of the spatial transformations connected to the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI): the role that infrastructure acquires in the Chinese urban development, the assumptions and economic effects of the investments and the relationship between urbanisation and development dynamics. Focusing on urban China, the research will investigate the spatial dimension of the BRI, questioning how, and how much, such an imposing global investment is changing the places that are crossed and affected by it. The “spatialisation” of the BRI can be observed as a sort of ‘last step’ in the process of Chinese urbanisation, shaping increasingly polycentric and complex geographies of urbanisation within which a heterogeneity of socio-economic dynamics redefines the urban/rural divide physically. Within this framework, the research observes the urbanisation processes connected to the BRI, a strategy that is global in its forms and objectives but materialised in some specific spaces, thus transforming socio-spatial organisation (whether these spaces are crossed by railway tracks, defined by maritime and territorial hubs, or at the margins).

The research is coordinated by Politecnico di Torino in collaboration with the University of Macerata. Highly qualified in the study of industrial dynamics and foreign direct investments, the University of Macerata will focus on studying the role of cities within the BRI as focal areas of economic and scientific relation with Italy. In terms of innovation-driven growth, the team will benefit of the expertise of the Sino-Italian Innovation Base Camp (SIIB-Camp) — a project originated from the collaboration between the Sant’Anna School of Advanced studies (SSSA) in Pisa —, the Chongqing University (CQU) and the Bishan District (Chongqing).



**TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA**  
**Transition towards urban sustainability through socially integrative cities in the EU and in China**

**INTERNATIONAL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH**



**Timeline:** 2018-2021

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design / China Room**

In collaboration with Technische Universität Dresden (TUD), Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GMBH (AIT), Eurocities ASBL (EUR), Israel Smart Cities Institute (ISCI), Istituto di Studi per L'Integrazione dei Sistemi (I.S.I.S) – Società cooperativa (ISINNOVA), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Università di Macerata (UNIMC), China Academy of Urban Planning and Design (CAUPD), Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED), China Center for Urban Development (CCUD), Tongji University (CIUC), Tsinghua University (THSA).

Developed for Research and Innovation Action (RIA): “Cultural and Socio-Economic Aspects of Urban Issues in China”, call ENG-GLOBALLY-08-2016/2017: “EU-China cooperation on sustainable urbanisation”.

Supported by European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 770141.

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Michele Bonino - Coordinator  
 Alberto Bologna  
 Francesca Frassoldati  
 Francesca Governa  
 Maria Paola Repellino  
 Marco Trisciuglio

*Text: Maria Paola Repellino*

TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA addressed a foremost challenge of Chinese urbanisation: how to best design and turn cities into intelligent, socially integrative and sustainable environments. The uphold key objective of the project was to help urban stakeholders in Europe and China to create environmentally friendly, financially viable transition pathways towards socially integrative cities, for urban expansion as well as urban renewal. The project focused on: (a) community building and place-making in neighbourhoods; (b) bridging the planning-implementation gap in eco and smart cities; (c) land use planning and land management in new urban expansion and urban renewal areas; and (d) transition pathways to sustainable urban planning and governance. With eight European and six Chinese expert organisations, TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA consortium created new insights, practices and role models in sustainable urban transitions in China. In order to achieve the main objective, the project: (a) developed a systematic and comparative knowledge base on transition experiences in Europe and China; (b) advanced tools and measures to support transition, and tested them in Living Labs

Cover | Storytelling tool: Visual story of Shijia Hutong Museum, Beijing, 2020 (credit: Dalila Tondo for TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA).

in Chinese cities; and (c) elaborated related recommendations, discussed them with representatives of Reference Cities and a wider stakeholder community, and disseminated them through a variety of channels.

TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA consisted of six Work Packages strongly inter-linked among each other, multidisciplinary and inspired by transition principles. Politecnico di Torino with Tsinghua University led the Work Package 1: *Community building and place-making in neighbourhoods*. Research results included an overview over good practice examples in Europe and China, and a glossary of words and significant places related to integrated and design-oriented approaches that may contribute to create socially integrative neighbourhoods and cities, as well as related recommendations regarding applicable tools and visual stories for community building and social inclusiveness. More specifically, Politecnico di Torino developed Task 1.4: *Place-making and design of public space*. The research activities explored specific opportunities for intervention on public spaces in selected cases. In the placemaking project, urban public spaces were analysed as places of human activities where social interaction and participation happen. Moreover, the processes of social agreement for building new communities - as well as the forms of spatial organization where these agreements take place - were mapped. This work assessed the best practices in which place-making is influenced by the design quality of public spaces, and promoted spatial quality through a catalogue of design and planning approaches adapted to living conditions in China.

During the duration of the project, the TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA consortium conducted several activities. An internal Concept Group developed a shared understanding of the main principles and terms and defined the “socially integrative city”. This was especially useful because of the partners’ different cultural backgrounds and the differences in the use of use of words and notions in both parts of the world. In addition to the planned reports submitted to the European Commission and the large number of scientific publications, the main outcome was the book *Towards Socially Integrative Cities. Perspectives of Sustainable Urbanisation in Europe and China*

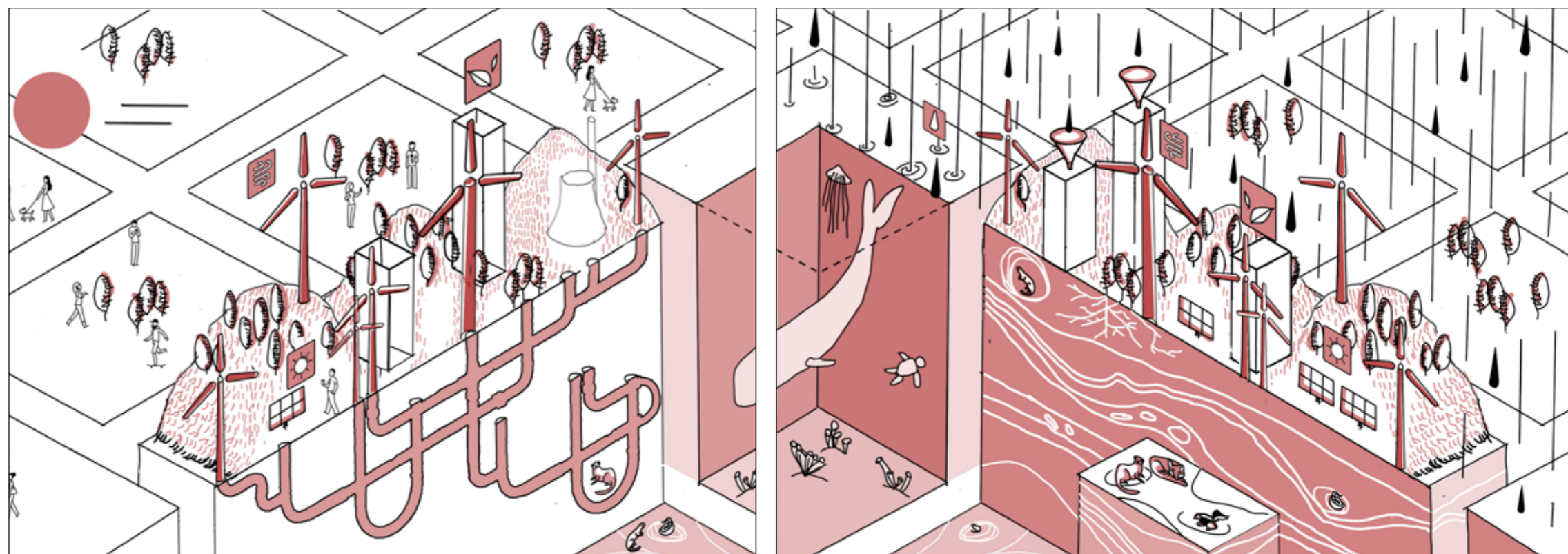
(MDPI 2021). The book illustrates the original research results of the project and consists of 15 chapters, written by joint European-Chinese teams. Furthermore, the project consortium provided a compendium of tools and measures to support the transition towards “socially integrative cities”. It comprises the definition of “socially integrative cities”, thirty tested tools — which have proven to be useful in a number of cities in Europe and China —, good practice examples, and further references for reading. Finally, policy briefs as well as guidelines for cities, storylines and recommendations regarding the transition towards socially integrative cities were elaborated. They contain a number of practical suggestions for strengthening urban sustainability and have been discussed with experts from practice, academia and the civil society in both parts of the world.



**One of the greatest challenges Chinese urbanisation is facing is how to best design and turn cities into “socially integrative” and sustainable environments. TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA aimed to help policy makers, urban authorities, real estate developers, public service providers and citizens in China to create socially integrative cities in an environmentally friendly and financially viable way. Moreover, it aimed at helping urban stakeholders in Europe to increase their knowledge about urban development in China and to reflect on approaches towards sustainable urbanisation.**

Fig. 1 | Common space co-building tool: Visual story of the community art in Stockport, Manchester, 2020 (credit: Dalila Tondo for TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA).

Fig. 2 | Adaptive reuse tool: Visual story of Shougang Park, Beijing, 2020 (credit: Dalila Tondo for TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA).



## Connected Outputs

**Book** | Bologna, A., and M. Bonino (eds.). *Daniele Ruffinoni e la Concessione italiana. Strategie, modelli, eredità di un progettista a Tianjin, Cina*. Genova: Sagep, 2018.

**Book** | Bonino, M., F. Governa and M. P. Repellino, A. Sampieri (eds.). *The City after Chinese New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2019.  
[It includes contributions by M. Berta, M. Bonino, F. Carota, V. Federighi, F. Fiandanese, F. Frassoldati, F. Governa, L. Ramondetti, M.P. Repellino, A. Safina, A. Sampieri].

**Article in Curated Column** | Repellino, M.P. "On the Intensity of Surfaces: Lycée Hôtelier de Lille by Caruso St John Architects." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 344, no. 02 (February 2019): 114-117.

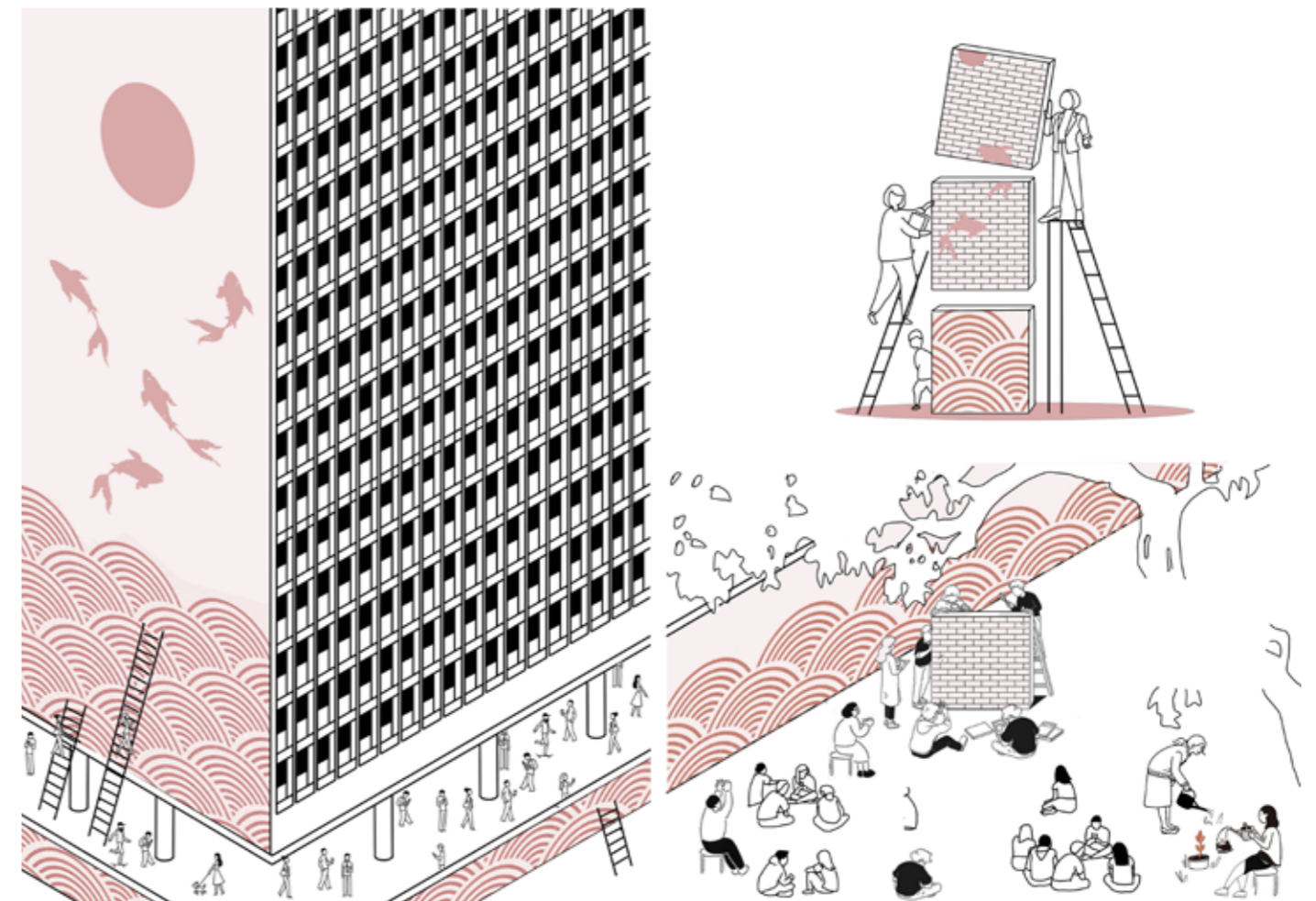
**Article** | Hamama B., M.P. Repellino, J. Liu and M. Bonino. "The Processes Behind Community Building and Place Making in Transitional Urban Moments: A Comparison Between China and Italy." *China City Planning Review*, no. 28 (2019).

**Book** | Bonino, M., F. Carota, F. Governa and S. Pellicchia (eds.). *China Goes Urban. La nuova epoca della città/The city to come*. Milano: Skira, 2020.

**Article** | Bonino, M. and M. Mancini. "Reconnecting Human Body and Urban Space: Reading Tools and Design Practices", *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 369, no. 03 (March 2021): 78 – 86.

**Book** | Bernhard M., J. Liu, J. Cai, P. Schiappacasse, H. Neumann, B. Yang (eds.). *Towards Socially Integrative Cities. Perspectives on Urban. Sustainability in Europe and China*. Basel: MDPI, 2021.

**Master Thesis** | Chen, S. *Research on the Regeneration Model of Italian Community – Take Turin and other cities as examples*. Master thesis, Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino, 2021.



**Fig. 3** | People-centred urban regeneration in historic district tool: Visual story of Trondheim, Norway, 2020 (credit: Dalila Tondo for TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA).

**Fig. 4** | Common space co-building tool: Visual story of the wall art in Xisanqi, Beijing, 2020 (credit: Dalila Tondo for TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA).



# HIGH SPEED CHINA

## INTERNATIONAL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

**Timeline:** 2019–2020

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**

In collaboration with MIT Sustainable Urbanization Lab, MIT Senseable City Lab

Supported by Seed Funding Program MITOR 2018

### RESEARCH TEAM

Michele Bonino  
Francesco Carota  
Valeria Federighi  
Matteo Migliaccio

*Text: Francesco Carota*

Carried on by the China Room - Politecnico di Torino, MIT Sustainable Urbanization Lab and MIT Senseable City Lab, the research was financed by the Seed Funding Program MITOR 2018 and developed through several exchange periods between researchers of the two universities in Boston and Torino, from January 2019 until December 2020.

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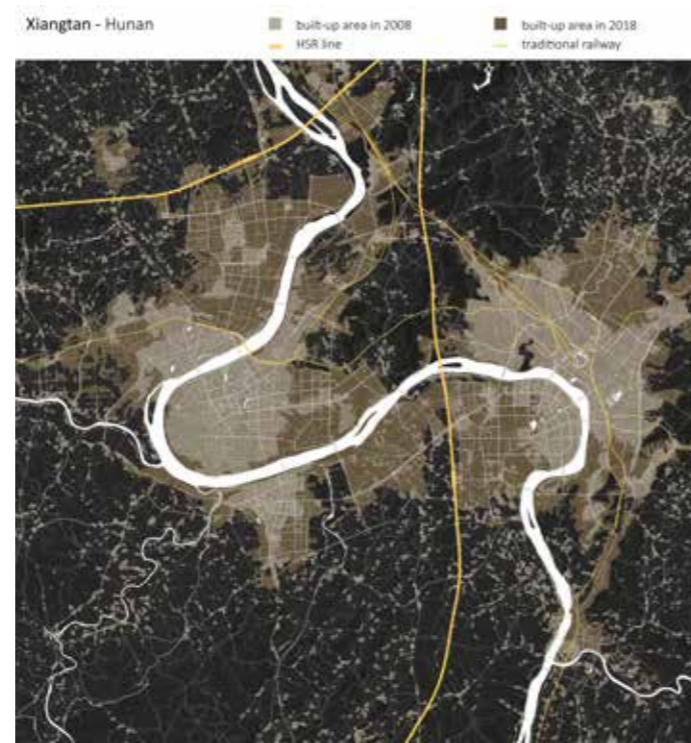
The new Chinese high-speed railway line represents one of the largest and most ambitious infrastructural plans of the last two decades. Launched by the Chinese Government in 2007, it has had the objective of reconnecting territories that had been excluded from intensive processes of rapid urbanisation. After little more than ten years, the infrastructural plan comprehends over 29.000 km of high-speed network which constitute the 64% of the total high-speed railways worldwide. The “High Speed China” study aimed at investigating what the impact of high-speed rail in China’s recent urbanisation is, and attempted to answer questions like: what effects do HSR networks have on urban form? What effects do they have on the factors determining urban vibrancy?

The diversified competencies of the three research centers allowed to undertake a multidisciplinary approach, based on both qualitative and quantitative analysis of spatial and macroeconomic data. More precisely, the phenomenon was questioned in terms of

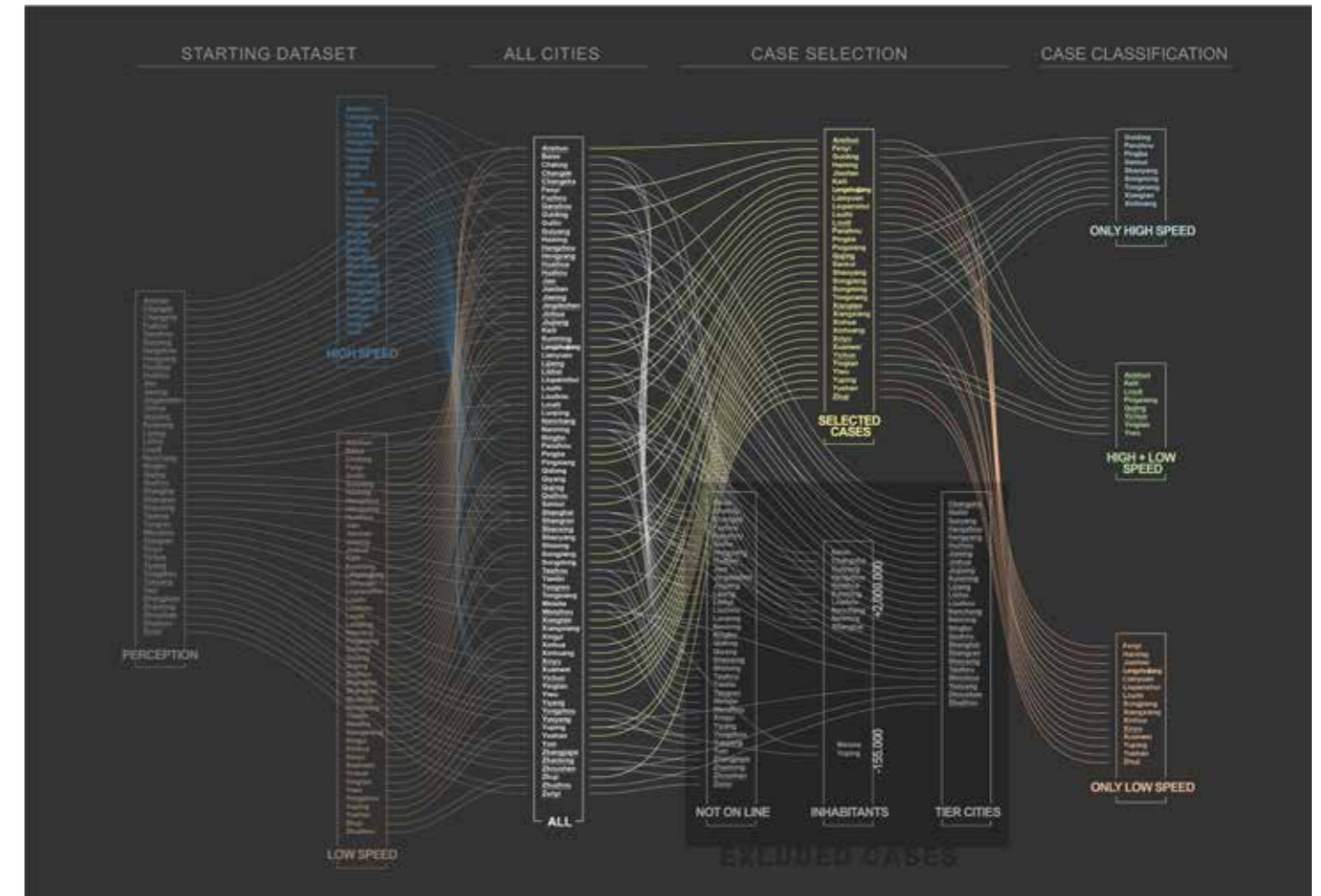
**Cover** | Spatialisation of new HSR stations (2008-2018), 2020 (credit: Matteo Migliaccio - China Room).

economic consequences through quantitative parameters related to urban vibrancy, and from a spatial perspective through the construction of diachronic maps that address the role of new HSR station in re-articulating urban morphologies of small towns and villages across the HSR line. Combining economic aspects and spatial transformations on the ground, the project looked at the process of socio-spatial restructuring of small cities and towns in the central areas of China as an effect of rapid and strong infrastructural development.

At the territorial scale, the first results of the research show how in the past ten years the urban centers connected to the high-speed network have enjoyed an increase of economic vitality and urban expansion, much higher than those excluded from the trafficking. Furthermore, these centers have undergone a total restructuring of their economic and social fabric, passing from a strong rural and industrial vocation to places for new forms of tourism and urban consumption. At the urban scale, however, it is possible to observe how the new high-speed station is an element capable of polarizing the direction of urban growth of the old city centers, just as the railway line delimits a clear boundary with respect to the land left for agricultural use. One of the main features of the new Chinese high-speed infrastructure lays, indeed, on the positioning of the stations with respect to existing city centers. The stations — often places with a very marked architectural character and surrounded by



several kilometers away from consolidated urban centers. Thus, they become the engine to initiate new processes of urban expansion of existing centers, or, in most cases, they are transformed into the center of gravity of new cities or areas of urban development, whose architectural features symbolically reflect the achievement of some forms of well-being and modernity. In conclusion, the high-speed infrastructure in contemporary China can be thought of not only as a sign on the territory, and its stations as physical spaces or material objects, but as a virtual network, result of a political will that intends to fill the economic and social imbalances between the large metropolises of the coast and the inland areas of the country.



**The research project “High Speed China” is part of the MITOR framework, a program funded and developed by China Room - Politecnico di Torino, MIT China Future City Lab and MIT Senseable City Lab. The project combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies in the analysis of recent urbanisation in China — in particular the development of China’s high-speed rail network related to economic and spatial development — and aims to answer to the following questions: what effects do HSR networks have on urban form? What effects do they have on the factors determining urban vibrancy?**

**Fig. 1** | Mapping urban growth 2008-2018 in Xiangtan and railways, 2020 (credit: Matteo Migliaccio - China Room).

**Fig. 2** | SUL’s Comprehensive HSR Database (credit: MIT).

**Fig. 3** | Selected cases from dataset, 2020 (credit: Matteo Migliaccio - China Room).



## INTERNATIONAL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

**Timeline:** 2020-2023

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room as advisor on Chinese academic and professional context**  
**In collaboration with OATO (Ordine degli Architetti di Torino)**

**Developed for Polito and OATO**

### RESEARCH TEAM

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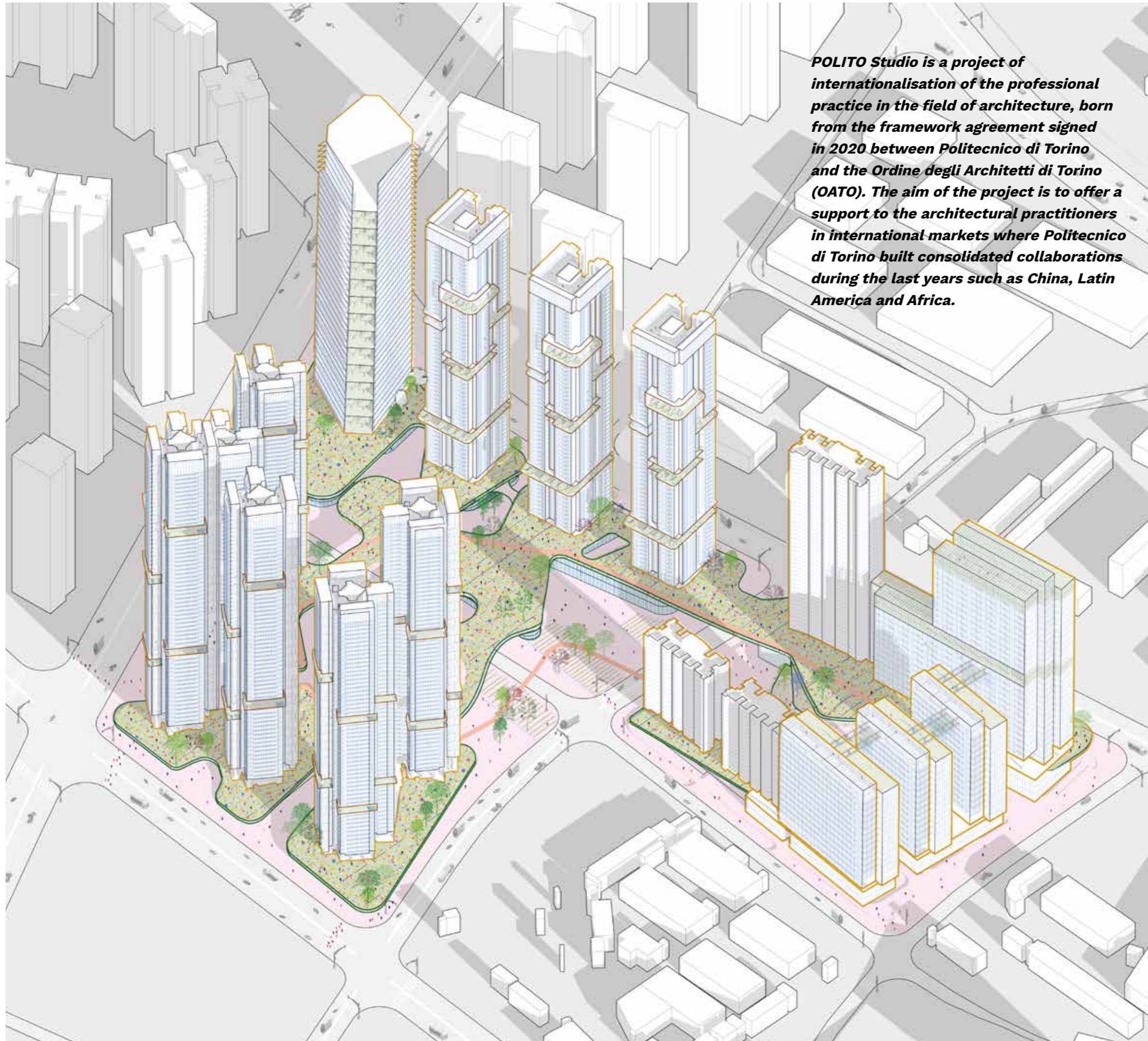
Laura Rizzi - OATO

*Text: Lidia Preti*

The relationship between academic and professional world in architecture is the object of a long disciplinary debate: on one side, the space for research available within the academy has led scholars to define boundaries for architectural culture that are increasingly separate from (rather than beneficiary for) the world of professional exchange. On the other, professional exchanges have been increasingly subject to the controversial mechanisms of the market. Chinese Design Institutes offer a notable exception, with a model that institutionally combines academic research and professional practice on a large scale. Through a collaboration between Politecnico di Torino (Polito) and Ordine degli Architetti di Torino (OATO), the POLITO Studio project aims to support professionals in international markets, and, more widely, create an incubator of opportunities for professionals and scholars to engage in joint activities.

To test this collaboration, the pilot case for the year 2021 is China, a country in which, in the course of the past ten years Politecnico di Torino consolidated a number of collaborations. For the first year of Polito Studio, twelve OATO registered architects – single or associated – were selected, and have been accompanied by the China Room Research group in applied projects in China, such as design competitions or design consultancies. Moreover, a number of professionals will participate in a two-year program of training activities, in the

**Cover** | Initial sketch for The competition "Fucheng Guanlan Industrial Reserved Industrial Land Project of Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor", 2021 (credit: sketch by Andrea Veglia - PAT Architetti).



***POLITO Studio is a project of internationalisation of the professional practice in the field of architecture, born from the framework agreement signed in 2020 between Politecnico di Torino and the Ordine degli Architetti di Torino (OATO). The aim of the project is to offer a support to the architectural practitioners in international markets where Politecnico di Torino built consolidated collaborations during the last years such as China, Latin America and Africa.***

form of workshops, as introduction to the Chinese market in order to acquire skills and background knowledge to face architectural competitions in China as a team. For the first time in the Italian panorama, a cooperation between professional practitioners, academic researchers and students is being framed in order to maximize the possibility for all actors involved to benefit from the competences of one another.

The first workshop was held in July 2021 as the primary occasion to familiarize with a design competition in China, focusing on the technical and procedural tools that are characteristic of Chinese architectural design competitions. In the framework of POLITO Studio, other initiatives have been parallelly launched. For instance, curricular internships which give master students from Politecnico di Torino the chance to be involved in real projects, thus enriching their educational path in architecture; and an “Observatory of best practices” that selects international case studies where the interaction between academia and practice takes place. Each case study is explored through an interview and a description of the specific structure, aims and methods. In the following years the project POLITO Studio will be experimented in other geographies such as South America and Africa.

**Fig. 1** | Axonometric view of the design proposal for the competition “Fucheng Guanlan Industrial Reserved Industrial Land Project of Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor”, 2021 (credit: Project by SCAD X TDH X WOWA Design, Image by Andrei Mihai Laikart and Sabina Faroppa).

## WRITING

- [p. 46] **Urbanisation processes and new towns in contemporary China: A critical understanding from a decentred view**
- [p. 50] **The City after Chinese New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China**
- [p. 56] **Chinese Brutalism Today. Concrete and Avant-Garde Architecture**
- [p. 62] **Beijing Danwei. Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City**



# Urbanisation processes and new towns in contemporary China: A critical understanding from a decentred view

## ARTICLE

**Timeline:** 2020

**Authors:** Francesca Governa, Angelo Sampieri

**Published on:** Urban Studies

**Quote:** Governa, Francesca and Angelo Sampieri. 2020. 'Urbanisation Processes and New Towns in Contemporary China: A Critical Understanding from a Decentred View'. *Urban Studies* 57 (2): 366–382.

*Text: Francesca Governa and Angelo Sampieri*

The article is one of the outputs of the research CeNTO (Chinese New Towns project) carried on by Politecnico di Torino with the Tsinghua University of Beijing and the The École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne between 2016 and 2019. The research by the Politecnico di Torino was part of the collaboration between the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) and the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), and it was implemented thanks to a grant by the Politecnico di Torino / Fondazione CRT as part of the program *La Ricerca dei Talenti*. The research involved PhD candidates and professors from the three academic institutions with the aim to create a group of about twenty junior and senior scholars who could organize regular fieldwork in the three selected new towns.

Tongzhou New Town (eastern expansion of Beijing), Zhaoqing New Area (approximately 20 km from Zhaoqing, Guangdong Province) and Zhengdong New District (Zhengzhou, Henan Province) have absolutely nothing in common: location, size, spaces, economies, inhabitants, time of construction and morphology. However, studying these places allows to identify two issues that still seem to be in need of investigation, both empirically and theoretically: the spatial features and the regional scaling-up of the Chinese urbanisation processes. While presenting these issues, on one hand, the article emphasises their

specificity in the investigated contexts and, on the other, it transcends these specific cases in order to question urban studies beyond the (alleged) exceptionality of Chinese urbanisation.

By adopting this approach, Chinese new towns become an object of study as well as a specific viewpoint from which to examine contemporary urbanisation and radically re-discuss old categories, conceptualisations and even the epistemology of the urban. They reflect the differentiated, varied and multi-scalar nature of urban reality and the multiple constitutive dimension of contemporary urbanisation that contains concentration and extension, agglomeration and dispersion. They represent an evolving urban world, both Chinese and global, physically peripheral compared with consolidated centralities; yet they also define 'new' centralities in a broader urban field. This multiple urbanity changes current urban reality and builds alternative urban orders.

Cover | Building a new road along the Jailu River near Zhengzhou, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

Next page:  
Fig. 1 | Fish ponds in Zhaoqing New Area, Zhaoqing, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).



*The article discusses the results of a research on Chinese New Towns focusing on three places: Tongzhou New Town, Zhaoqing New Area and Zhengdong New District. Through these places the article focuses on two main issues: the spatial features and the regional scaling-up of Chinese urbanisation processes.*

Connected Outputs:  
see records no. 76, 78, 98, 99, 132,  
133, 134

*This interdisciplinary publication explores the phenomenon of “Chinese New Towns” based on international research carried out by architects, planners and geographers. It focuses on psychological and social ramifications, for instance how New Towns change perceptions of the neighbourhood and proximity, and analyses how this new urbanity affects politics and the national narrative. The book examines the spaces of three new towns in detail – Tongzhou, Zhaoqing and Zhengdong – and then moves on to investigate both the exceptionality and the ordinariness of Chinese urbanisation.*

## **The City after Chinese New Towns: Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China**

### **BOOK**

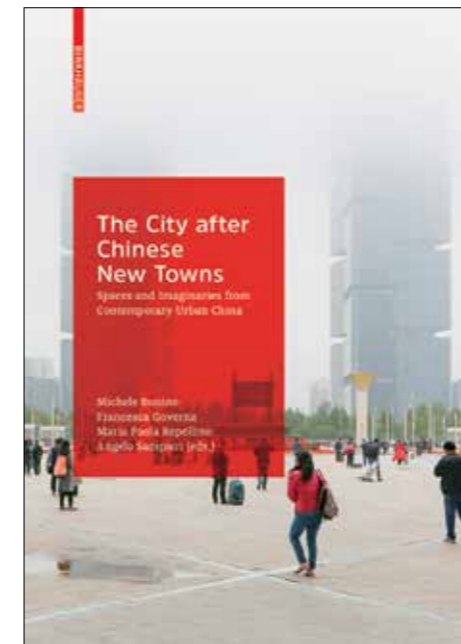
**Timeline:** 2019

**Authors:** Michele Bonino, Francesca Governa, Maria Paola Repellino, Angelo Sampieri (Editors)

**Publisher:** Birkhäuser

Supported by Politecnico di Torino and Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino

**Quote:** Bonino, Michele, Francesca Governa, Maria Paola Repellino and Angelo Sampieri (Eds.). *The City after Chinese New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China.* Basel: Birkhäuser, 2019.



*Text: Maria Paola Repellino*

The book is the main output of the research *Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form* (CeNTO), result of the collaboration among junior and senior scholars from Politecnico di Torino, Tsinghua University of Beijing and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne between 2015 and 2017. It was implemented thanks to a grant by the Politecnico di Torino - Fondazione CRT as part of the programme *La Ricerca dei Talenti*.

During the two-year research period, the

project boosted scholars' collaboration beyond the boundaries of their respective institutions by organising regular fieldwork in the three selected new towns.

By 2020, roughly 400 Chinese New Towns were planned to be built, representing an unprecedented urban growth. The government has been making a substantial effort to absorb up to 250 million people, chiefly migrants from rural parts of the country. Unlike in Europe and North America where new towns grew in parallel with local economies, the construction of contemporary Chinese New Towns was almost completed before people were allowed to move in. As a result, some of these massive developments were already inhabited while others were still empty.

This interdisciplinary publication explores the phenomenon of “Chinese New Towns” based on international research carried out by architects, planners and geographers. It focuses on psychological and social ramifications concerning, for instance, how New Towns change the perception of neighbourhood and proximity, and analyses how this new urbanity affects politics and the national narrative. The book examines the spaces of three new towns – Tongzhou, Zhaoqing and Zhengdong – and then moves on to question both the exceptionality and the ordinariness of Chinese urbanisation.

Exploring these places means trying to re-discuss traditional narratives and possibly



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chip away at them. How does Tongzhou affect Beijing? How does it decentralise and rebalance it? How does Zhaoqing contribute to the saturation of the Pearl River Delta? How can we say that Zhengdong enhances the centrality of Zhenzhou, of Zhongyuan? And yet, in a sort of enlarged exploded diagram, the narratives and representations of Chinese urban expansion seem to be incapable of recognising distances and differences, save the ones involving scale and measure: in China everything is bigger, but if we change lens, we basically always see the same objects. Revisiting Beijing, the Pearl River Delta and Zhengzhou is a way to get a better understanding of what these new towns do in these spaces, how they affect them and how they change them (if they do). It also allows us to re-discuss any old categories which are perhaps no longer suitable for describing contemporary cities. By adopting this approach, Chinese New Towns become an object of study as well as a specific viewpoint with which to examine contemporary urbanisation and tackle the fact that we need to radically rethink vocabulary, conceptualisations and even the epistemology of the urban. Chinese New Towns are neither

very exemplary nor new. When viewed from the point of view of the relationship they create with their environment, new towns do however appear more interesting than when observed within their boundaries. This is not due to any original traits they may have when compared to the external environment, but rather to the way in which their contradictory assertion pries open a world, and with it the language to describe it. Considered thus, New Towns are new. They oblige us to radically rethink how to interpret and make the city, whether in China or elsewhere.

**Fig. 2** | Daily life in a park of Tongzhou New District, Tongzhou, Beijing, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

**Fig. 3** | Masterplan of Zhaoqing City, 2015 – 2030 (credit: redrawn by Astrid Safina).

Previous page

**Cover** | Neighbourhood policeman, in Tongzhou New Town, Beijing, Beijing Municipality, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

**Fig. 1** | Book cover: The square in front of the high speed railway station, Zhengdong, Zhengzhou, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

Next page

**Fig. 4** | A man bends over to examine the subsoil on a construction site, Zhaoqing New Area, Zhaoqing, 2017 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).



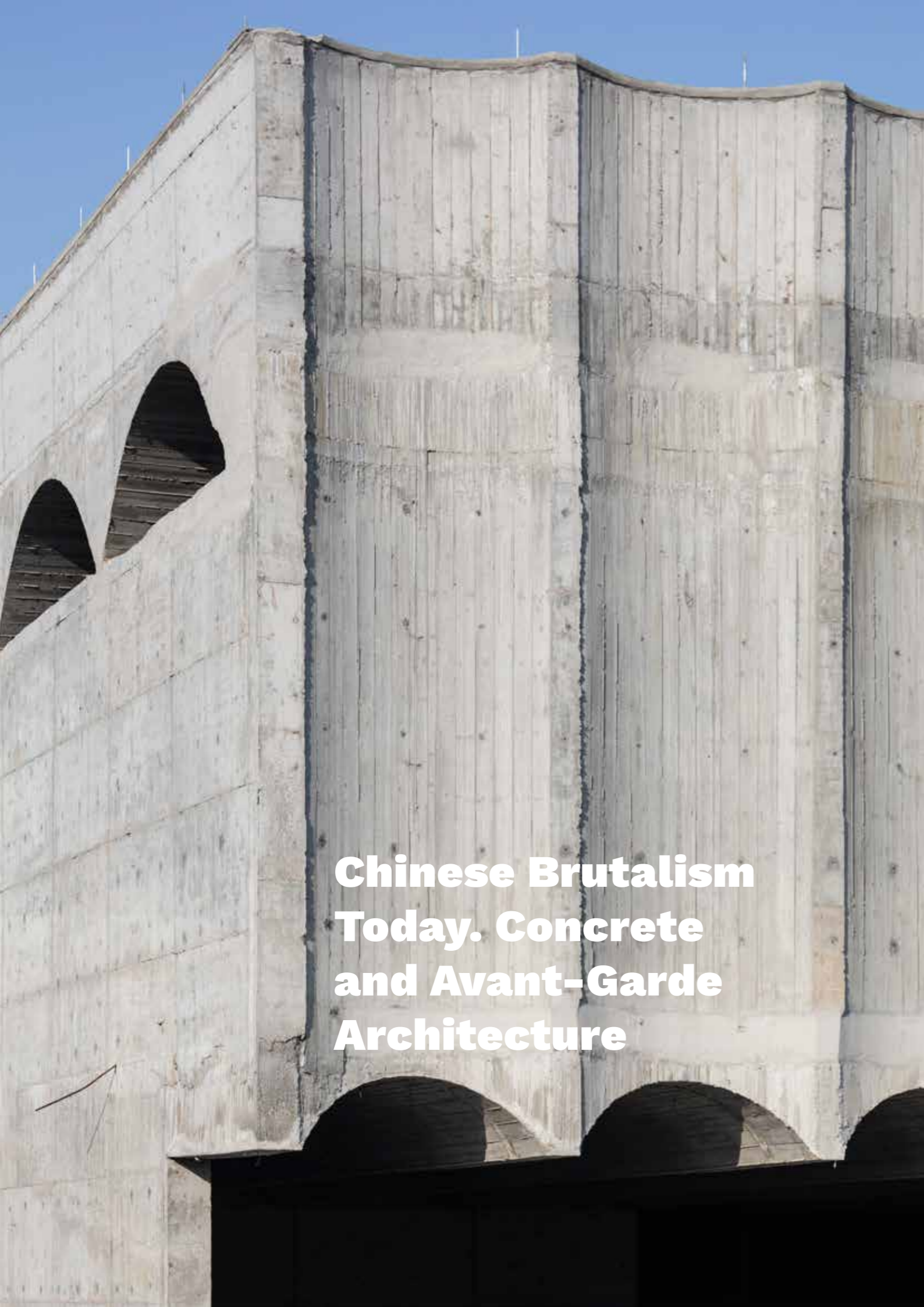
## Territorio Monographic Issue

Text: Astrid Safina

In the year 2018, preliminary research results were published in a special section entitled *La Città dopo le new towns cinesi* of the journal *Territorio* (85). This special section contains texts, an original collection of photographs and maps that cover different scales and observation perspectives. Overall, the special section is organized under the form of: one main article outlining research questions, theoretical and methodological framework, and contemporary Chinese urbanisation patterns; and three articles focused on each of the three cases studies, namely Tongzhou, Zhaoqing New Area and Zhengdong New District. The publication highlights the importance of looking at Chinese New Towns as potential litmus that absorb and echo the characteristics and contradictions of Chinese urbanisation processes. It enquires the theoretical construction behind the label “New Town” and the strong urban transition that China has faced in the past 30 years, positioning Chinese urbanisation between the idea of exceptionality and ordinariness.

Furthermore, the section provides a deep investigation of each case study. Tongzhou, at the eastern border of Beijing, is presented as a relevant case from where to look at the processes of suburbanisation, decentralization and expansion of the Chinese capital city both at the metropolitan and macro-regional scales. Zhaoqing New Area, located at western border of the Pearl River Delta, is presented as marginal and rural space that is progressively achieving a key regional role by saturating one of the last remaining undeveloped area of the Delta. Zhengdong New District, an emerging city in the Henan Province, is presented as a crucial infrastructural hub that has grown in recent years in order to enhance the infrastructural system of inner China and contribute to the construction of Zhongyuan, one of the largest and richest Chinese conurbations. By presenting these three new towns, the section also aims to showcase how the role, scale and goals of New Towns are variegated in relation to the regional features within which they are located.

Altogether, this special section is not limited to the study of geographical borders of Chinese administrations. Instead, it explores how questioning Chinese New Towns can be an important way of inquiring what cities are, what they have become, and what they can become not only in China, but also elsewhere.



# Chinese Brutalism Today. Concrete and Avant-Garde Architecture

## BOOK

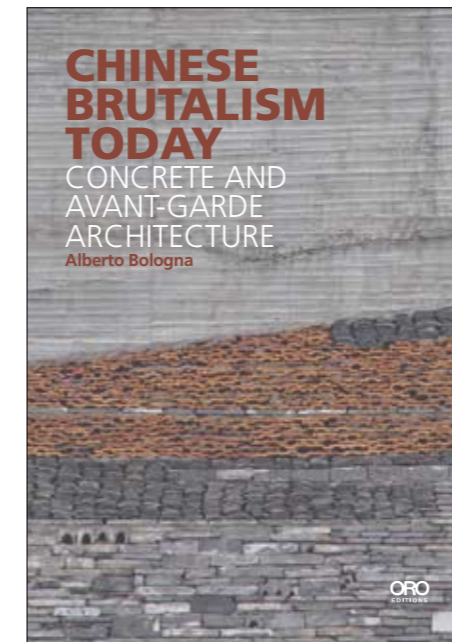
**Timeline:** 2019

**Author:** Alberto Bologna

**Publisher:** ORO Editions, San Francisco, 2019

Supported by Starting Grant DAD-PoliTO / bequest of Pierre-Alain Croset's DAD-PoliTO funds

**Quote:** Bologna, Alberto. *Chinese Brutalism Today. Concrete and Avant-Garde Architecture*, ORO Editions, San Francisco, 2019.



*Text: Alberto Bologna*

*Chinese Brutalism Today* represents one of the main outputs of the academic research elaborated by Alberto Bologna during the period he spent as Assistant Professor (RTDa) in Architectural and Urban Design at DAD-PoliTO (2017-2020), in the framework of new research relations establishment with China and, in particular, with Tsinghua University in Beijing. The frequent periods he spent in China have allowed Alberto Bologna to develop (also through the two architectural

design studios he held in 2018 and 2019 at the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University) a form of dialogue between design cultures with different roots (Western and Chinese). The research process was developed in collaboration with the current protagonists of avant-garde Chinese architecture - starting from the constructive aspects of their buildings - with the aim of understanding both the compositional and spatial reasons as well as the processual ones linked to the professional practice and production of architectural design in China today. This volume thus feeds into Alberto Bologna's distinctive line of research, which investigates the culture of design based on construction, through the relationship between tectonics and the conception of architectural space.

The research project that led to the writing of *Chinese Brutalism Today* was not intended to draw up a complete and exhaustive catalog of the exposed-concrete architecture produced in China in recent years - that would have been difficult and, certainly, devoid of critical sense. The speed and development of the design and construction processes that distinguish the current Chinese situation would have made the catalog obsolete and incomplete even before its publication. Therefore, the objective was to fill a knowledge gap around the understanding and interpretation of formalisms, compositional, and ornamental choices, purely Chinese, and being progressively defined by an elite

*China is the largest consumer of cement and concrete in the world, the use of which has peaked in the first two decades of the twenty-first century. Used for the construction of extensive infrastructure and buildings, over the last twenty years renowned Chinese architects have been working in and studying the constructive limits and spatial and superficial effects of exposed concrete, and, in the process, have created a wave of avant-garde architecture in China. Chinese Brutalism Today investigates the compositional, formal, and ornamental reasons for this architecture and its different surface finishes, from rough to smooth. This new wave of Chinese brutalism is, in large part, a regional evolution and development closely linked to local construction processes and the available labor force. The finished tectonics represent not only a way to read the architecture, but also reveals the complex decision-making processes and planning that led from the conception to construction of these buildings.*

**Fig. 2** | Long Museum in Shanghai; project by Atelier Deshaus, 2013 (credit: Atelier Deshaus).

Previous page

**Cover** | Taizhou Contemporary Art Museum in Taizhou, Zhejiang Province; project by Atelier Deshaus, 2017 (credit: Tian Fangfang - Atelier Deshaus).

**Fig. 1** | Book cover: Ningbo History Museum in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, 2018 (credit: Alberto Bologna).



group of designers now active in China. Formalisms which in recent years have been done through the use of the most common building material in that same geographic context. The investigation takes place through a critical reading - certainly very subjective - of architectures considered striking and significant to answer a question: is it correct and lawful to interpret certain compositional, formal, and ornamental choices, proper to exposed-concrete architecture produced in the last twenty years in China as the desire, more or less explicit, to build a new, easily recognizable and transmissible architectural language with strong identity values?

*Chinese Brutalism Today* was written with the aim of focusing on a series of critical analytical tools on the ways in which architectural design is practiced today in China, from the first phase of formal and spatial translation of the architect's creative impulses to their transposition into the built work. The aim was to understand the essence and reasons for a certain way of making architecture in China today, understanding formalisms not as the outcome of the investigation process, but as the starting point through which to set up a backward dialogue between architects and technicians with different backgrounds and approaches. Tectonics proved to be the ideal tool through which to communicate with Chinese colleagues. Starting from technical and construction issues, it was possible to open a dialogue that led to a better understanding of the various phases of the creative process followed by the architect in relation to the stimuli received from the client, the various negotiations that took place during the phases that led to the endorsement of the project by the Design Institute and the municipality, the technical limits that he had to face during the building site and the added value that he was able to grasp for the final architectural definition of his building. In the same way, it is from purely constructive issues that it has been possible to systematize a reasoning linked to the theme of the ornament and its reflections on the built space.



**Fig. 3** | Luyeyuan Stone Sculpture Art Museum in Chengdu, Sichuan Province; project by Jiakun Architects, 2018 (credit: Alberto Bologna).

**Fig. 4** | Ningbo History Museum in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province; project by Amateur Architecture Studio, 2018 (credit: Alberto Bologna).

**Fig. 5** | Seashore Library in Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province; project by Vector Architects, 2014 (credit: Xia Zhi - Vector Architects).

**Connected Outputs:**  
see records no. 76, 78, 98, 99, 132,  
133, 134





*“Beijing Danwei” looks at the history and future of former danwei and presents exemplary strategies for dealing with industrial heritage. Case studies show the problems that go hand in hand with transformation and present perspectives and potential with regard to usage and urban regeneration of Beijing. This publication was the result of a joint research between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University in Beijing.*

## Beijing Danwei: Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City

### BOOK

**Timeline:** 2015

**Authors:** Michele Bonino and Filippo De Pieri (Eds.), with contributions by Liu Boying (Tsinghua University), Pierre-Alain Croset, Lu Duanfang (University of Sydney), Gu Feng, Gary Hack (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Sun Haode (Tsinghua University), Thomas Herzog (Tsinghua University), Lu Quanqing, Liu Jian (Tsinghua University), Daniela Hidalgo Molina (Tsinghua University), Zhang Li (Tsinghua University), Arturo Pavani, Maria Paola Repellino, Li Weidong (Tsinghua University), Zhu Wenyi (Tsinghua University)

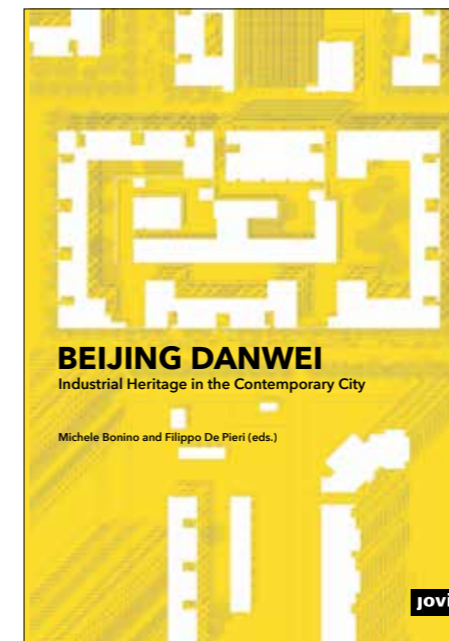
**Publisher:** Jovis

In collaboration with Tsinghua University (Beijing)

Supported by Politecnico di Torino and Compagnia di San Paolo

Developed for “Internazionalizzazione della Ricerca 2013” initiative

**Quote:** Bonino, Michele and Filippo De Pieri (Eds.). *BEIJING DANWEI Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City*. Berlin: Jovis, 2015.

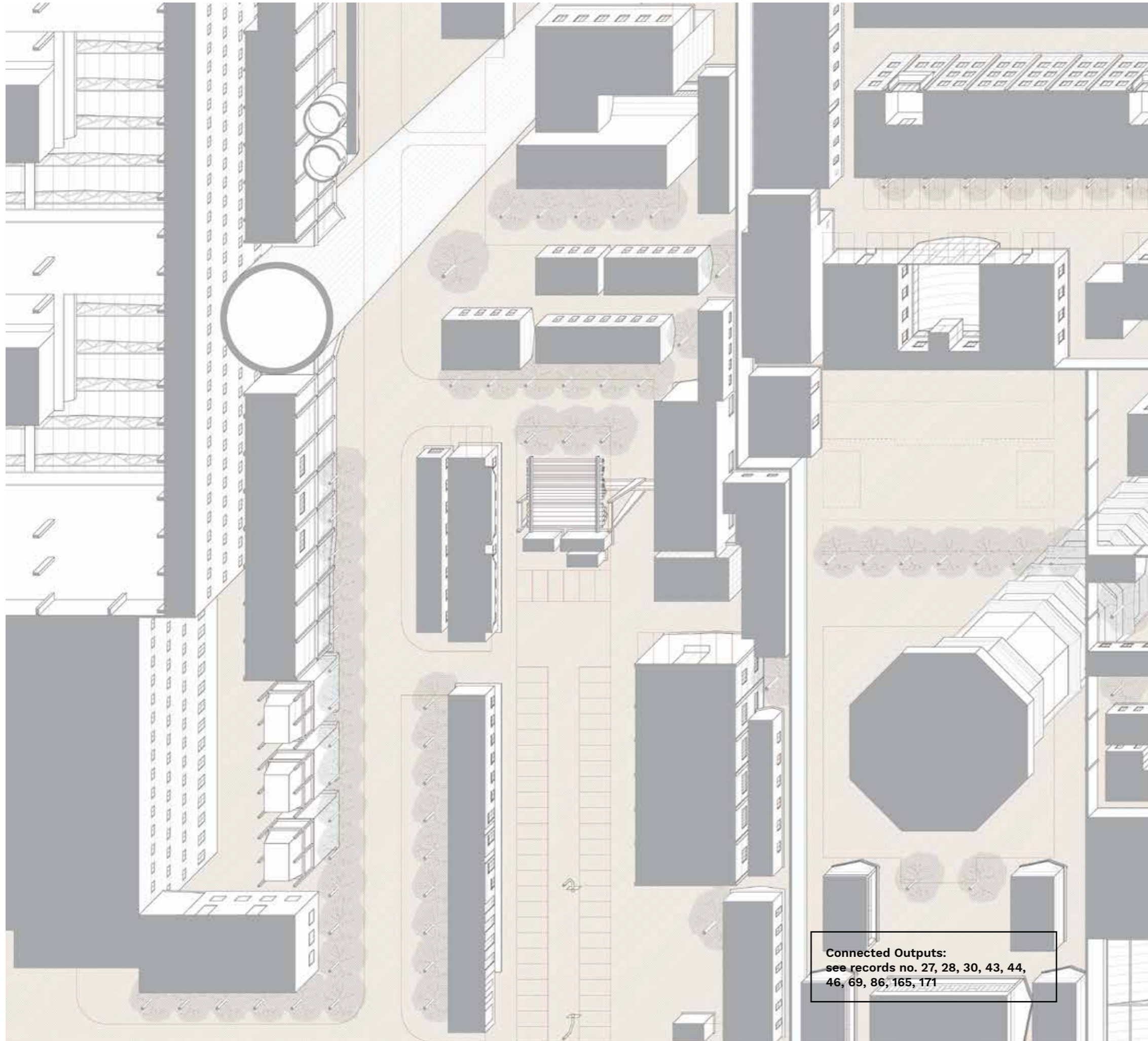


*Text: Maria Paola Repellino*

The publication of the volume *Beijing Danwei: Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City* was made possible by a grant from the Compagnia di San Paolo within the framework of the Politecnico di Torino program for the internationalisation of research. The book was part of the broader activities of the joint research platform *Memory / Regeneration*, carried out by scholars from the Department of Architecture and Design of the Politecnico

di Torino and the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University in Beijing from 2013 to 2015. Core participants to the project have been actively involved in the research, spending several months in field research activities, carrying on interviews with stakeholders, archival research and literature review. Seminars and exhibitions have been organized in both Beijing and Torino to discuss the hypotheses behind the work and present its results. The core group of Chinese and Italian researchers was regularly joined by international experts, some of which have been invited to contribute to the publication.

*Danwei* were urban sectors in China, characterized by close links between work, residence, and social facilities. They are the material product of socialist city planning and therefore provide an urban experience that forms a stepping stone between the hutongs of the imperial capital and the superblocks of the present-day metropolis. Contrary to the disused industrial sites in Western cities that often disrupt the continuity and scale of the urban fabric, the *danwei* have a much closer relationship to the historical, as well as the contemporary city. In modern-day Beijing, the *danwei* represents a unique experimental field of urban design. *Beijing Danwei* looks at the history and future of former *danwei* and presents exemplary strategies for dealing with industrial heritage. Case studies show



the problems that go hand in hand with transformation and present perspectives and potential with regard to usage and urban regeneration of Beijing.

The book opens with a series of essays written by leading members of the research group and invited experts that outline the role played by *danwei* areas in the history of modern Beijing, and discuss the challenges that the physical and cultural heritage of the collectivist era poses to present-day urban transformations. A detailed analysis of four case studies of former industrial *danwei* forms the core of the second part. The book ends with two epilogues, which put the previously collected materials in a wider perspective and elaborate on potential future scenarios. Urban *danwei*, which were distributed across the entire city and were multipolar from the very beginning, could possibly become a social laboratory of a new urbanity, a room for social and architectural creativity, able to invent new forms of community and sharing, new ways to enclose workspaces and residential spaces in one place. Visual analysis is an important aspect of the approach to urban studies championed by the book. Most of the illustrations have been especially produced for this publication. They consist in a large number of photographs, and in an equally relevant number of drawings and maps. The key images, by Maria Paola Repellino, are a series axonometric views of specific parts of the selected sites taken from below. These make it possible to appreciate the articulation of the collective spaces of the *danwei* and the relationship – both existing and potential – between former industrial areas and the city surrounding or penetrating them.

**Fig. 2** | Axonometric view from below of the production area limit, Beijing No. 2 Thermal Power Plant, Beijing, 2015 (credit: Maria Paola Repellino).

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**Cover** | The factory and the residential area, Beijing No. 2 Thermal Power Plant, Beijing, 2014 (credit: Jia Yue).  
**Fig. 1** | Book cover: BEIJING DANWEI Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City (credit: Maria Paola Repellino).

**Connected Outputs:**  
see records no. 27, 28, 30, 43, 44,  
46, 69, 86, 165, 171

## DESIGNING

- [p. 68] **PROSPEROUS LISHUI. Future Shan Shui City International Urban Design Competition**
- [p. 76] **CONNECTED PLAZA. A Masterplan for the Square of Futian Station for 2019 UABB**
- [p. 84] **OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE. Building A of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air Venue**
- [p. 92] **PEARL RIVER PIANO Factory Industrial Regeneration**
- [p. 100] **YANZHOU ISLAND. Concept Plan**



# PROSPEROUS LISHUI Future Shan Shui City International Urban Design Competition

## TWO STAGES INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION - Awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

**Timeline:** May – November 2020

**Location:** Lishui, Zhejiang, China

**A project by Politecnico di Torino/China Room and IAM-Institute of Mountain Architecture  
In collaboration with South China University of Technology**

**Organizer:** Lishui Municipal People's Government

**Co-Organizer:** Lishui Municipal Development and Reform Commission, Dwellings in Lishui  
Mountains Project Planning and Construction Leading Group Office

**Planning Execution and Organization:** Shanghai One-Tenth Art Space Co., Ltd.

**Media Support:** Architectural Practice Magazine, Architecture and Urbanism (a+u), iCity Smart  
City Knowledge Service Platform

### PROJECT TEAM

#### PROJECT LEADER

Sun Yimin - South China University of Technology

#### CHIEF DESIGNERS

Mauro Berta  
Michele Bonino

#### PROJECT MANAGERS

Edoardo Bruno  
Huang Yejiang, Zhu Xiaojing - South China University of  
Technology

#### PROJECT PLANNERS

Francesca Governa  
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#### PROJECT ARCHITECTS

Antonio De Rossi  
Roberto Dini  
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Martina Franco  
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### DESIGN TEAM

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Xia Sheng, Lv Yingyi, Chen Huirong, Zheng Wentian,  
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### ACADEMIC DESIGN BOARD

Alessandro Armando, Michela Barosio, Giulia Bertola, Daniela  
Bosia, Simona Canepa, Martina Crapolicchio, Massimo Crotti,  
Eleonora Gabbarini, Rossella Gugliotta, Roberta Ingaramo,  
Lin Yang, Paolo Mellano, Maicol Negrello, Francesco  
Novelli, Maria Paola Repellino, Ana Ricchiardi, Davide Rolfo,  
Francesca Ronco, Marco Trisciuglio, Zeynep Tulumen, Elena  
Vigliocco, Zhang Ting



**Fig. 1** | Rendering of a Logistic Hub in the Agricultural Valley (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room, South China University of Technology).  
**Fig. 2** | Prosperous Lishui overall masterplan (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti and Astrid Safina - China Room).

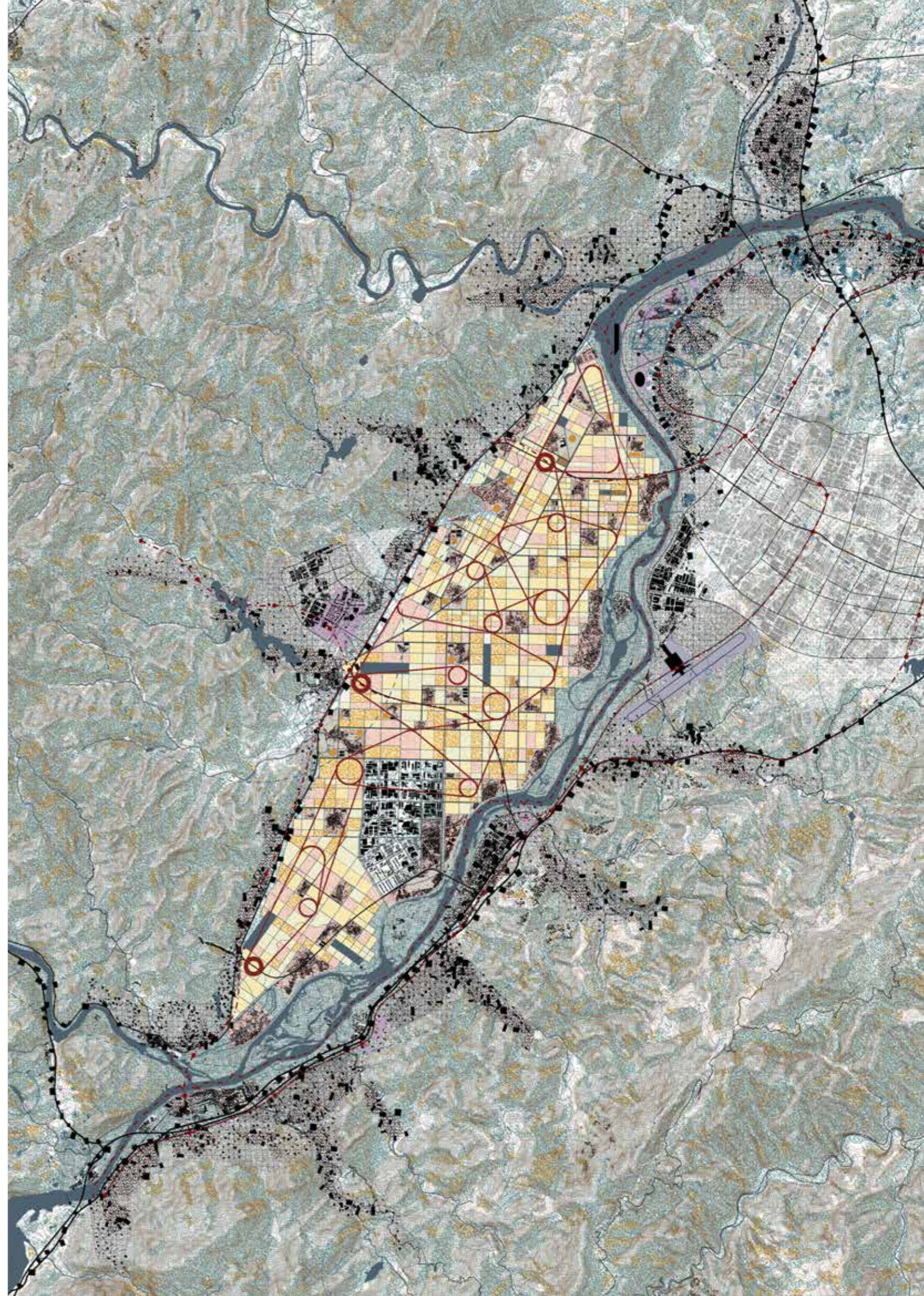
*Text: Edoardo Bruno and Camilla Forina*

The project *Prosperous Lishui. One valley, three landscapes* developed by Politecnico di Torino (China Room and IAM) and South China University of Technology was awarded the third prize on 3rd November 2020 at the Future ShanShui City International Urban Design Competition.

In May 2020, the Lishui Municipal government launched an international call to redesign an overall area of 152 square kilometers composed of several urbanised areas and a network of rural villages, spread within a still agricultural valley and surrounded by a

picturesque “alpine” landscape. Lishui valley is located in the southern Zhejiang province, on China’s Eastern Coastal Region. Thanks to the Ou river, meandering through the valley floor, and to its mountainous background, the city - with a population of 2,7 million - is famous for its “lucid waters and lush mountains”, together with a rich cultural heritage and an emerging new economy. The competition attracted over 140 Architecture firms from all around the world, being an almost unique opportunity to explore at the territorial scale the relations between urban development and preservation of the traditional landscape.

The team composed of scholars and students from the two universities designed a proposal based on the preservation of the vast agricultural plain - one of a very few flatlands



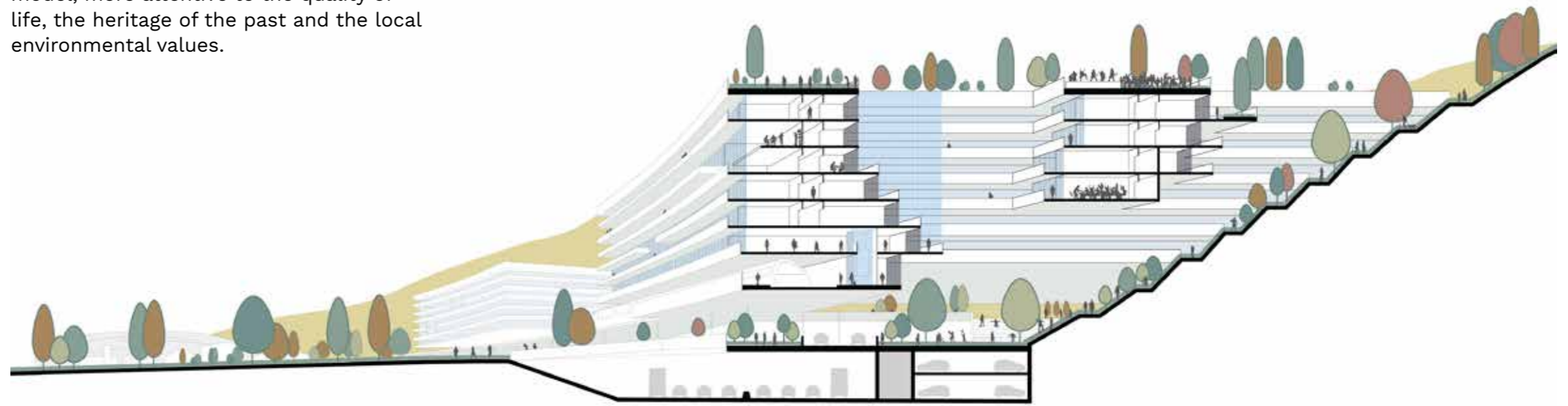
in southern Zhejiang – as the heart of a new ‘Prosperous Lishui’. The protection of the farmland, and of the riparian buffer, which is extremely important in terms of future agricultural production and environmental safeguard, led to the decision of concentrating the most part of the urbanisation, the public transportation system and the main facilities along the footslopes. The result was a new metropolitan-like area based on a linear urbanisation and consisting of three main spaces: the farmland, with the existing rural villages improved and equipped with new public facilities as the new center of the urbanisation, the residential settlements placed along the edges of the valley, and the network of environmental corridors permeating the entire valley.

The research for a new balance between city and countryside - not just conceived in terms of aesthetic matter, but in a broader sense, also from a social and economic point of view - was the main challenge of the proposal: a vision that identified Lishui Valley

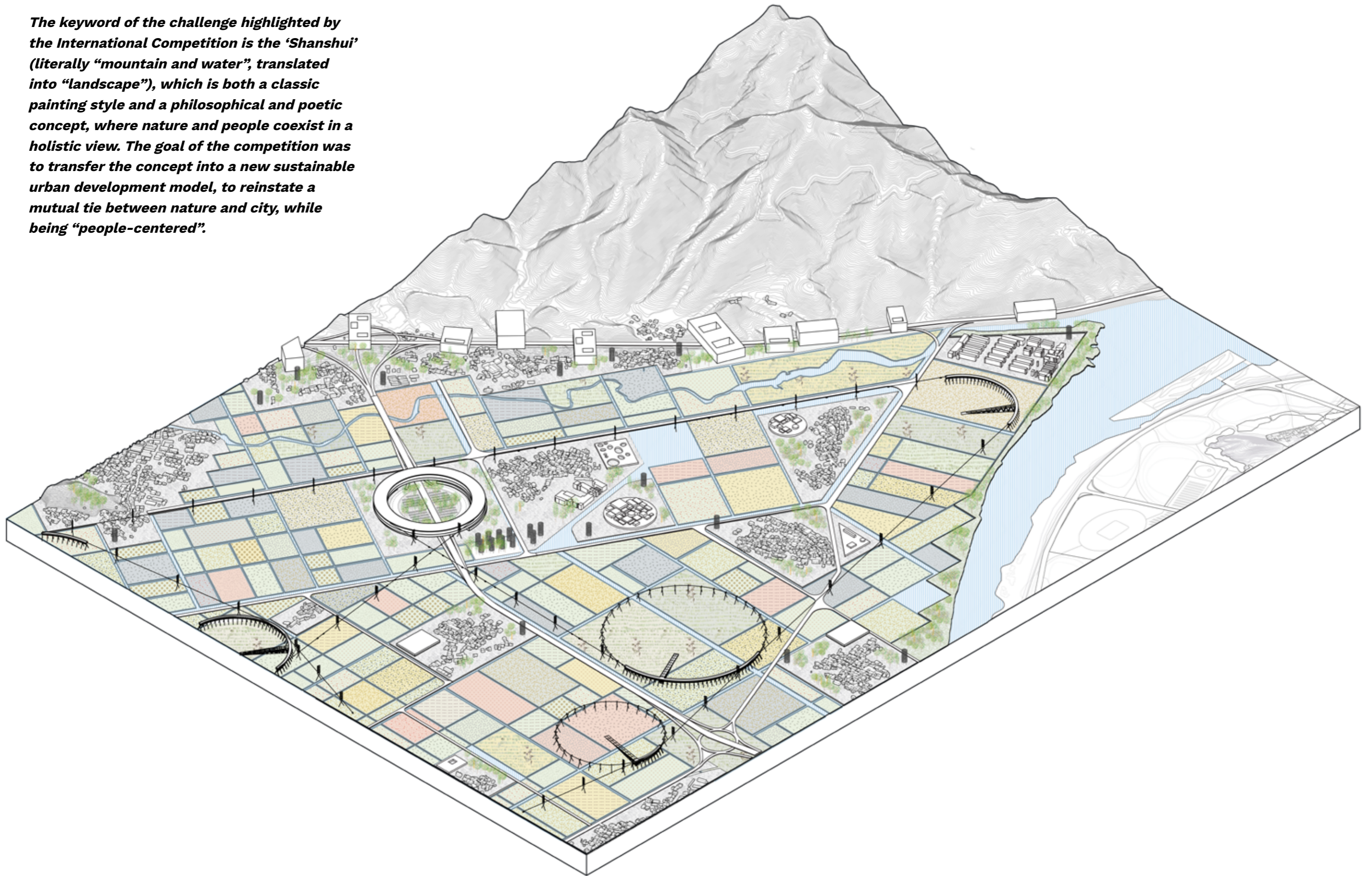
as an ideal place to reassert and practice the long-standing relationship between nature and artificial adaptation of the land to human needs through an innovative model. Therefore *Prosperous Lishui* is most of all a place to investigate the traditional aporia between conservation and innovation and to explore new possibilities for a new development model, more attentive to the quality of life, the heritage of the past and the local environmental values.

**Fig. 3** | Section of a High-Density Housing in Sidu Qingyun (credit: Camilla Forina - China Room).

**Fig. 4** | Rendering of the High-Density Housing in Sidu Qingyun (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room, South China University of Technology).



**The keyword of the challenge highlighted by the International Competition is the ‘Shanshui’ (literally “mountain and water”, translated into “landscape”), which is both a classic painting style and a philosophical and poetic concept, where nature and people coexist in a holistic view. The goal of the competition was to transfer the concept into a new sustainable urban development model, to reinstate a mutual tie between nature and city, while being “people-centered”.**



**Fig. 5** | Axonometric view of the northern part of the Agricultural Valley (credit: Martina Franco for China Room).



# CONNECTED PLAZA A Masterplan for the Square of Futian Station for 2019 UABB

## CONCEPT DESIGN

**Timeline:** November 2018 - November 2019

**Location:** Futian High Speed Train Station, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**  
In collaboration with Carlo Ratti Associati, South China University of Technology

Developed for Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2019

### DESIGN TEAM

#### DESIGNERS

Carlo Ratti Associati  
Politecnico di Torino/China Room  
South China University of Technology/School of Architecture  
Atelier Bow-Wow + Tokyo Tech Tsukamoto Lab  
NODE Architecture and Urbanism NODE  
Guangzhou Architectural Engineering Design Institute Co., Ltd

#### CREATIVE ADVISORS

HIL Architects HIL  
iNgAmE Office iNgAmE  
Italo Rota  
Vector Architects

#### Team Members:

Carlo Ratti, Michele Bonino, SUN Yimin  
Alberto Benetti, Edoardo Bruno, Andrea Cassi, Niccolò  
Centrone, Camilla Forina, Pietro Franceschini, Serena  
Giardina, Rui Guan, Stephanie Lee, Monica Naso, Federico  
Riches, Ina Sefgjini, Alessandro Servalli, James Schrader, Xu  
Chenyu

Atelier Bow-wow - Tokyo Tech Tsukamoto Lab (Urban  
Foresters Club - Architectural Design):  
Yoshiharu Tsukamoto (Atelier Bow-wow), Momoyo Kaijima  
(Atelier Bow-wow), Yoichi Tamai (Atelier Bow-wow), Diego  
Martín Sánchez (Atelier Bow-wow), Yeo Kai Wen (Tokyo Tech  
Tsukamoto Lab), Tong Man Kan, Amena Nadeem Rahman  
(Tokyo Tech Tsukamoto Lab), Hans Henrik Fricke (Tokyo Tech  
Tsukamoto Lab)

#### NODE (CITY THEATRE - Architectural Design):

Liu Doreen Heng, Huang Jie Bin, Huang Zan Ning, Ni Xiao Yi,  
Xu Jing Yue, Tan Shi Hui, Liu Yang, Peng Zi Qi, Yuan Wei

#### HIL Architects (rendering and on-site coordination):

Cheng Bo, Li Bo, Yu Dao (Lead Architects)  
Song Guohan, SUN Yaming, Wang Hao, Wu Yue, Yang  
Haotian, Yang Jintao

Guangzhou Architectural Engineering Design Institute Co.,  
Ltd (Construction Drawings):

Li Jing (Project Architect/Project Manager)  
Chen Ming, Luo Jixin, Ning Caihong, Wang Fuhai, Wang Jing  
(Lead Architects)  
Chen Xi, Fang Ziwei, Guo Shanshan, Hu Ruikai, Lai Yaqi, Li  
Jing, Liu Bin, Liu Hui, Lu Chao, Ning Caihong, Ning Chunling,  
Sun Jianjun, Xiao Long, Zhao Congbo, Zhu Yuanheng

Jiang & Associates Design (J&A) (Construction Drawing  
Indoor Exhibition)

#### COLLABORATORS

Italo Rota (Artistic Consultancy)  
Mieke Gerritzen, Luigi Savio (Graphic Design and Wayfinding  
system)  
Gary di Silvio, Pasquale Milieri, Gianluca Zimbardi, Matteo  
Migliaccio (Renderings)

Strongly characterizing contemporary Asian cities, the notion of “infrastructure” embodies a dualism: besides the overarching idea of connection operated by existing layers of hyper-mobility. Infrastructural elements may represent today a cut dividing - rather than unifying - urban space and the people who live them.

What does it happen when infrastructure becomes the leading element of urban design? Is it possible to combine this technocratic approach, to a more holistic experience of contemporary urban space?

This twofold reflection lays at the background of the Masterplan conceived for the Futian Railway Station area: a physical and social infrastructural project connects people and the spaces of the city, offering the possibility of “seeing” by experiencing subsequent different urban environments. The leading idea was to combine international designers and invited them to re-interpret the notion of “connection” through the creation of a promenade that sews otherwise fragmented spaces. Far from being merely intended as a technical unifying gesture, the infrastructure becomes a light sequence of elements whose social function does not deny - rather enhances - the multiple layers of connection in the contemporary hyper-city.

Working on the existing hard infrastructural core of Futian Railway Station, the new layers designed for UABB 2019 define an articulated configuration of progressively lighter elements.

Carlo Ratti Associati, Politecnico di Torino/ China Room and South China University of Technology designed a new access to the Station by reconfiguring the existing shelters and the entrance canopy. NODE Architecture and Urbanism developed a new stair connecting the Sunken Plaza with the Park, where terraces and slopes encourage the public to enjoy views of the surrounding CBD and where a central stage and the painted canvas designed by CRA would host public shows. Inside the Park, Atelier Bow-Wow proposed the “Urban Foresters Club” pavilion: a light social project aimed at displaying the

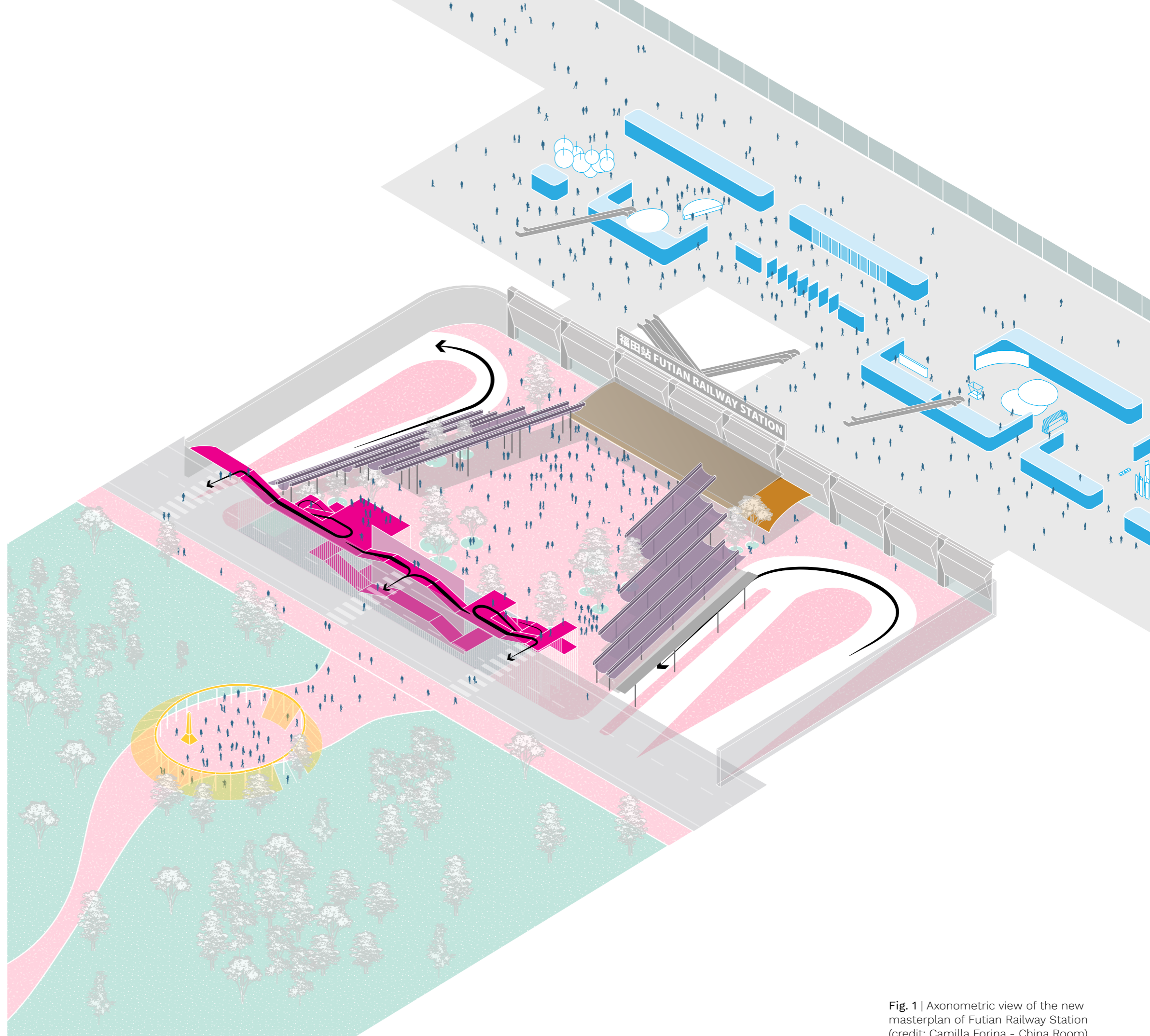


Fig. 1 | Axonometric view of the new masterplan of Futian Railway Station (credit: Camilla Forina - China Room).

process of forestry as a cycle.

The Sunken Plaza project continues inside Futian Station, reconfiguring the ways in which travelers experience its wide underground spaces through the design of “the Eyes of the City” section for the 2019 edition of the UABB. In order to combine the great event with the needs of the infrastructural hub, the curatorial team took inspiration from the spatial typology of the duty-free shops of airports and railway stations. The repetitive rhythm of the station’s structural grid is interrupted by a new volumetric element aimed at influencing routes and capturing the view of passengers. The exhibition space consists of a 400-meter corridor perforated transversely by multiple entrances that invite the spectator / user of the station / exhibition to follow non-linear paths. By interrupting the routine, the exhibition changes the station into a hub where it is impossible to avoid the encounter

with the artistic container.

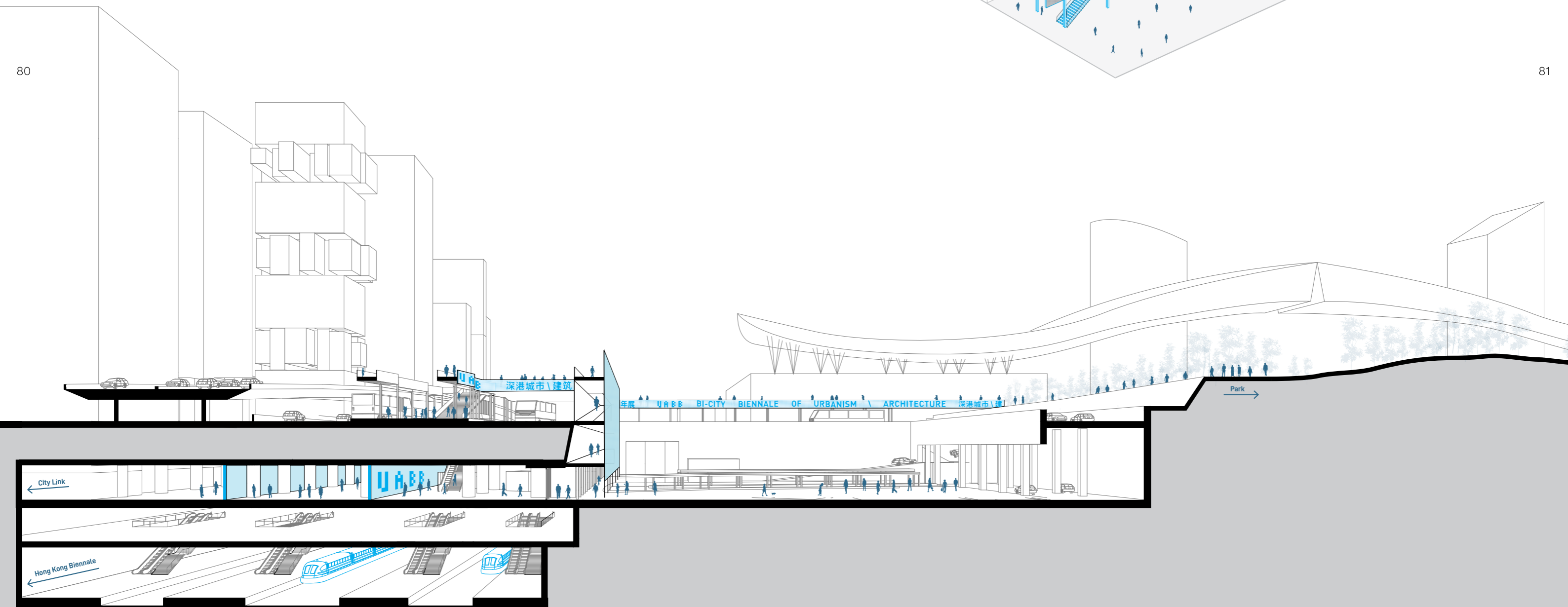
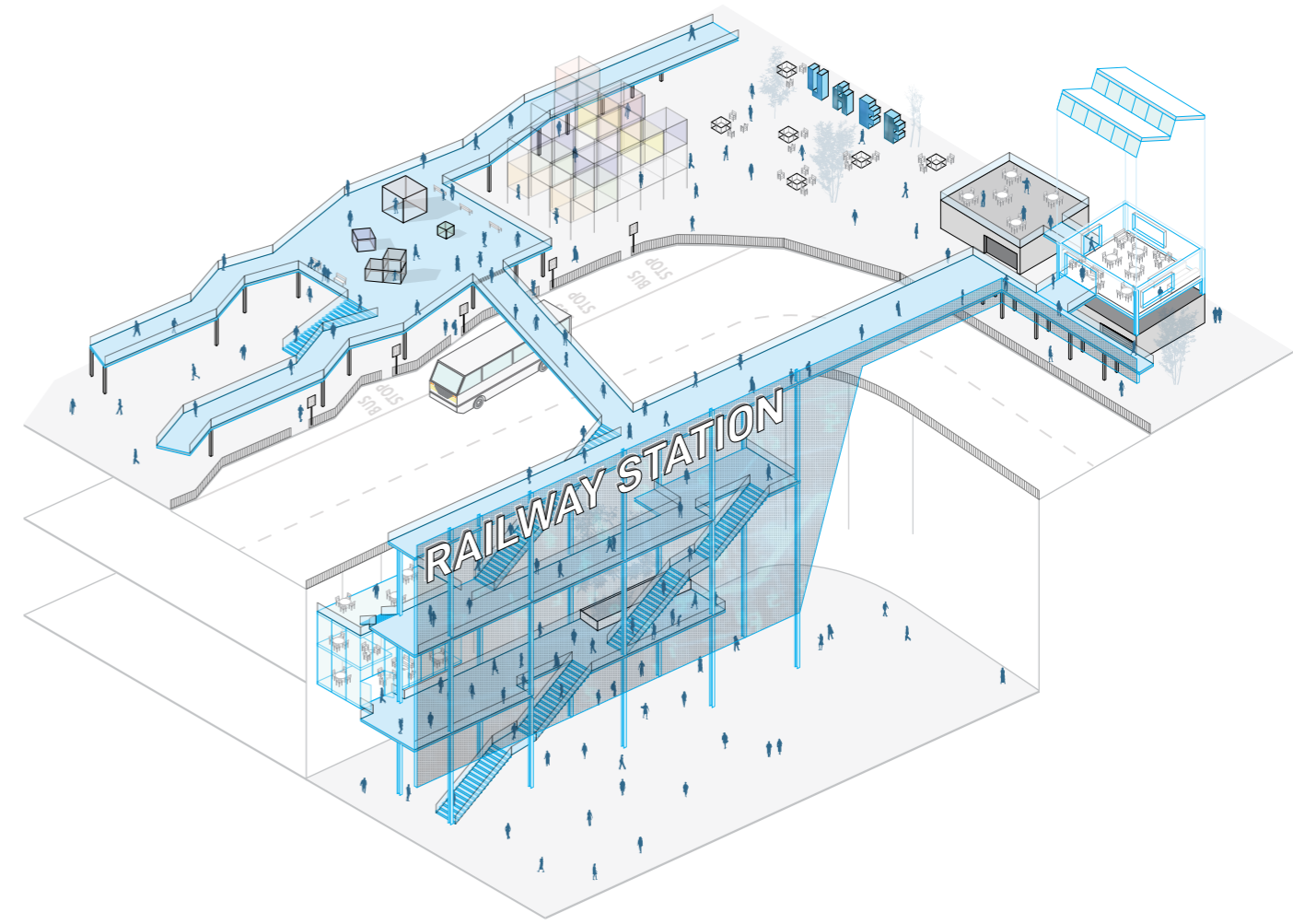
In addition, the notion of “care” in conceiving social connections is contextualized in the broader perspective initiated by UABB – Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2019 and in the conception of the exhibition as an experimental field to “curate” the city: though unrealized, the Masterplan for Futian High Speed Train will remain a legacy for the City of Shenzhen.

Fig. 1 | Axonometric view of the proposed connection between existing bus canopies and the main entrance of the station (credit: Camilla Forina - China Room).

Fig. 2 | Cross section of the new masterplan of the Sunken Plaza (credit: Camilla Forina and Alessandro Servalli for China Room).

Next page

Fig. 3 | Exhibition within the Futian Railway Station, 2020 (credit: UABB).



The Masterplan conceived for the Futian High-Speed Railway Station intended to transform an infrastructural hub into a performative platform, where spatial composition can be re-arranged according to users' daily habits. The strict functionalism of the station may host plug-in interventions. From the single node, a system of open-air activities are extended to the urban sphere, assembling a new public attractor capable of reinforcing an enriched social program.

# 御技术 RESISTING TECHNOLOGIES

深惠城际建设 双城双平台 (深圳) SHENZHEN (SHENZHEN)

6-5 →

7

This digital display features several panels. The top panel shows a blue and white architectural diagram with wavy lines. Below it are two panels with colorful rectangular blocks in shades of pink, purple, orange, and teal. A large number '7' is visible on the right side of the display. The bottom panel shows a 3D perspective of the colorful blocks.

# 人工生态 ARTIFICIAL ECOLOGIES

6 人工生态 ARTIFICIAL ECOLOGIES

This digital display features several panels. The top panel shows a blue and white architectural diagram with wavy lines. Below it are two panels with colorful rectangular blocks in shades of pink, purple, orange, and teal. A large number '6' is visible on the right side of the display. The bottom panel shows a 3D perspective of the colorful blocks.

↑ 铁路候车室 Railway Waiting Room

↑ 铁路到达口 A1-A2-B Railway Arrived Gate

↑ 饮水机 Drinking Water

↑ 卫生间 Restrooms

↑ 地铁 Metro

↑ 公交车 Bus

↑ 出租车 Taxi

↑ 出口 6 Exit

↑ 出口 7-13 Exit

↑ 无障碍电梯 Accessible Elevator

↑ 铁路候车室 Railway Waiting Room

↑ 铁路到达口 A1-A2-B Railway Arrived Gate

↑ 饮水机 Drinking Water

↑ 卫生间 Restrooms

↑ 地铁 Metro

↑ 公交车 Bus

↑ 出租车 Taxi

↑ 出口 6 Exit

↑ 出口 7-13 Exit

↑ 无障碍电梯 Accessible Elevator



# OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

## Building A of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air Venue

### DESIGN - INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE REGENERATION

**Timeline:** 2018-2021

**Location:** Shougang Steel Factory, Beijing, China

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**

**In collaboration with Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University and Atelier TeamMinus**

**Supported by Politecnico di Torino/Department of Architecture and Design**



BEIJING 2022



#### DESIGN TEAM

##### BUILDING A - ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Schematic Design: Politecnico di Torino (DAD - China Room)  
Principal Architects: Michele Bonino (coordinator), Edoardo Bruno  
Design Team: Camilla Forina (coordinator), Andrea Tinazzo, Alberto Bologna, Francesco Carota, Huishu Deng, Valeria Federighi, Maria Paola Repellino  
Construction Design: THAD

##### BIG AIR VENUE MASTERPLAN AND DESIGN COORDINATION

Atelier TeamMinus, THAD  
Principal Architect: Zhang Li  
Design Team: Dou Guanglu, Bai Xue (Sophia), Hu Po, Nie Shibing

##### BUILDING A - LIGHTING DESIGN

Zhang Xin Studio, School of Architecture, Tsinghua University

##### BUILDING A - STRUCTURAL DESIGN

Schematic Design: Walter Ceretto, Politecnico di Torino / Department of Structural, Construction and Geotechnical Engineering (DISEG). Construction Design: Li Guo, Pan Ping'an (THAD)

##### BUILDING A - PLANT DESIGN

Enrico Fabrizio, Politecnico di Torino / Department of Energy (DENERG)  
Construction Design: Xu Qing, Zhai Shasha - water supply and drainage; Jia Zhaokai, Liu Huili - HVAC; Wang Lei, Zhong Xin - electrics (THAD)

##### BUILDING A - DESIGN BOARD

Gustavo Ambrosini, Mauro Berta, Massimo Crotti, Davide Rolfo, Elena Vigliocco (rooftop); Pierre-Alain Croset (playground); Simona Canepa, Alessandro Mazzotta (façades); Elena Vigliocco, Rossella Maspoli (restoration); Michela Barosio, Giovanni Durbiano, Mario Grosso, Roberta Ingaramo, Paolo Mellano, Marco Trisciuglio, Manfredo di Robilant, Marco Vaudetti - Politecnico di Torino (DAD)

##### BUILDING A - MANAGEMENT

Politecnico di Torino - International Affairs Office - China Center

Cover | The Former cooling towers of the oxygen factory, fully preserved within the regeneration project, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).



首钢园  
SHOU GANG  
PARK

Fig. 1 | View of the Western facade,  
2021 (credit: Xue Ding).

*The redevelopment of the Oxygen Factory in Shougang started from reconsidering the industrial relic in terms of a performative platform, where the insertion of new functions may rise unforeseen potentialities in terms of public space composition. In this way the organization of the single building can re-enter within the wider program of the site, hybridizing local necessities into a urban design scale configuration.*



*Text: Edoardo Bruno and Camilla Forina*

The transformation of the Oxygen Factory, developed in collaboration with Tsinghua University, is part of the general recovery masterplan of Shougang, a former steel factory in the extreme west area of Beijing, for the Big Air venue in view of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games of Beijing 2022. The project involved the whole Department of Architecture and Design of Politecnico di Torino for design, structural and plant engineering consultancies, within a multidisciplinary and shared process. The project has given the possibility to define participatory processes within the Department of Architecture and Design of Politecnico di Torino, calling into action its faculties in organizing multidisciplinary roundtables and workshops, aimed to set preliminary guidelines and architectural proposals. The methodological relevance of this approach was unexpected: it requested disciplines to systematically confront each other in the short term and make consistent decisions moved forward to the dedicated design team.

The project intended to open the original building to the public visiting the competition site. For this reason, the building has been shaped according to two main considerations: passing from being an anonymous and closed volume into a public plaza, transforming itself into a sightseen point over Big Air Competitions.

The concrete columns with their regular rhythm, the mezzanine, the reticular beams of the roof and the tall ventilation towers have been preserved not as a separated industrial relic, but instead as pre-existing elements influencing the private/public circulation and distribution of functions.

Following these strategies, the intervention sought to respond to a simple question: how to preserve the space and the image of the Oxygen Factory, while hosting a dense program of activities for the Olympic event and post-game use? The project dealt with the existing structure in three ways with different densities to meet the requirements.

At the park level, spectators are welcomed

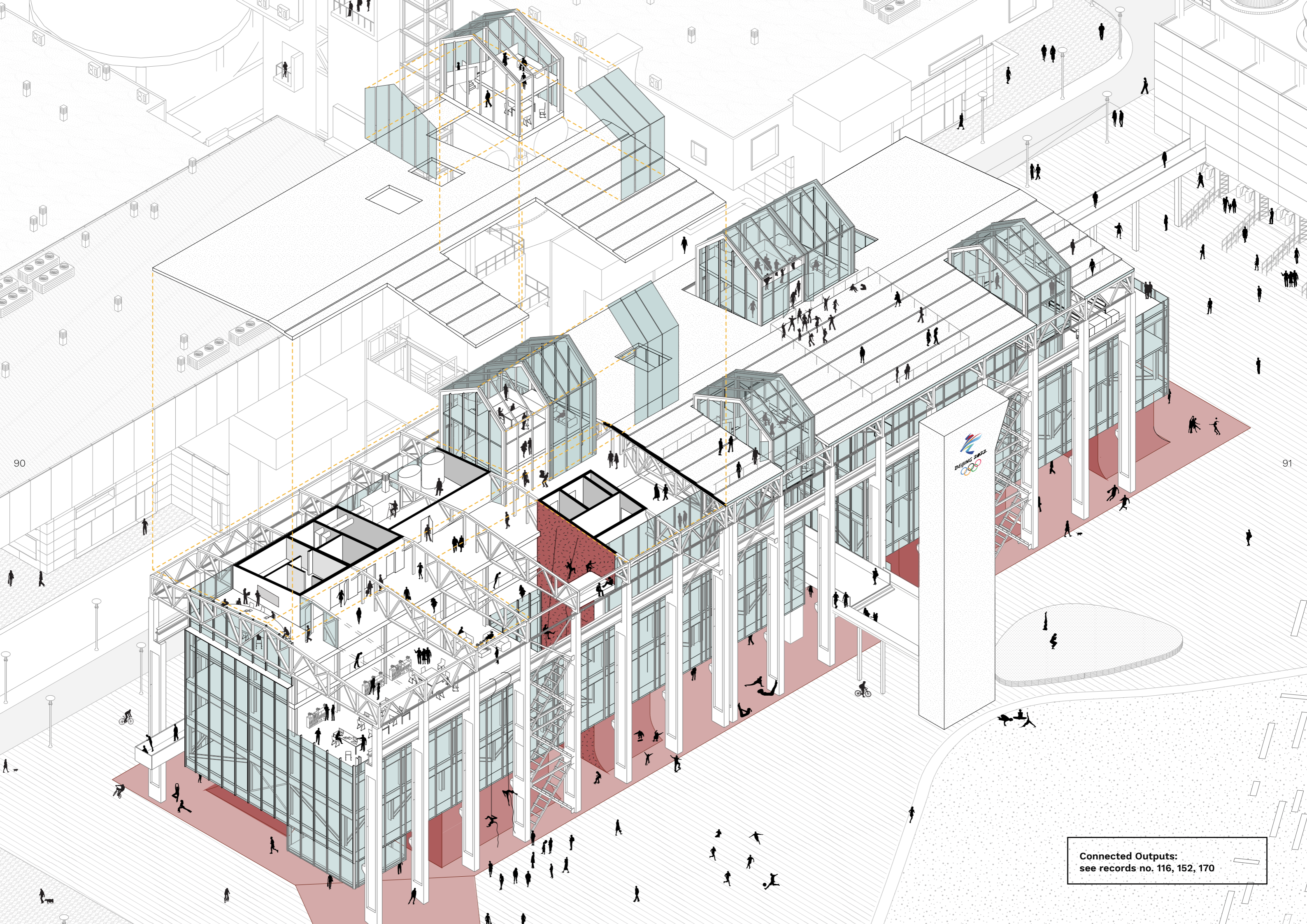
into the building under a covered, sizeable public space, which can be walked in every direction: an equipped playground that introduces the public to the pleasure of physical movement, to the experience of active health, and to the spirit of sports competition. Further up, starting from the current mezzanine of the factory, the dense program of offices, welcome-areas, and research center is housed into two large glass boxes, whose volumes float above the playground, within the structural skeleton of the factory. On the roof, small club-houses emerge in the landscape, offering the guests an exclusive experience looking towards the competition area and the river and the mountains.

The final image of the glass volume surpassing the boundary of the former factory and floating over the ground floor has been the result of an essential structural research. The new vertical distribution has become the central supporting element of the entire building, leaving the ground spaces as much as free as possible from visual barriers and therefore giving the possibility to be entitled as the first “public plaza” of the entire masterplan.

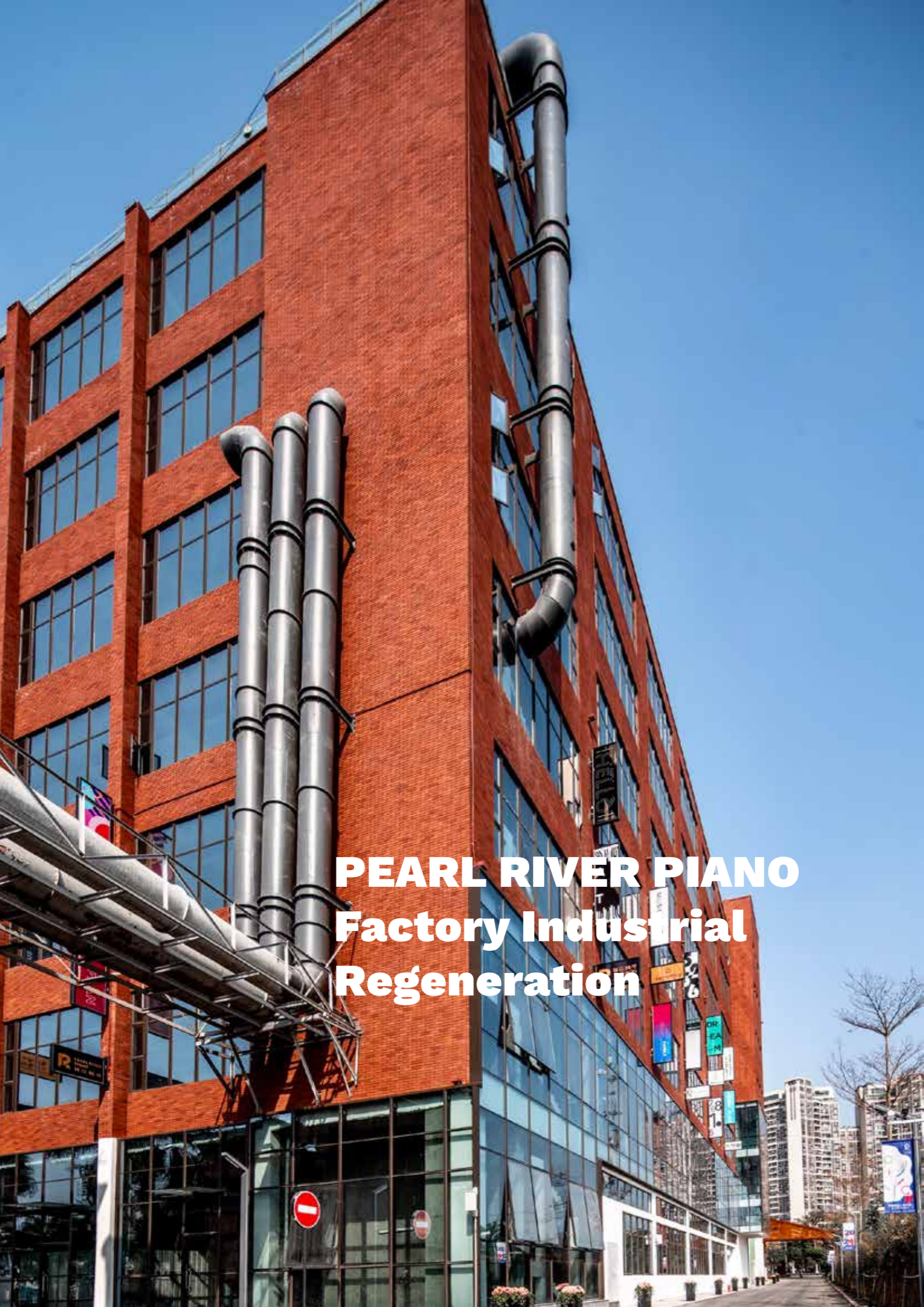
The project for the redevelopment of the Oxygen Factory in Shougang has defined how design can fully participate in retrieving industrial relics, prioritizing the experiential role of public spaces’ performance. On a wider sense, the project opens a reflection on the possibility to determine human-centered long-term strategies developed within the context of the organization of mega-events, with further implications on the current status of Chinese industrial regeneration processes.

Fig. 2 | View of the south facade, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

Next page  
Fig. 3 | Axonometric view of the design proposal (credit: Camilla Forina - China Room).



Connected Outputs:  
see records no. 116, 152, 170



# PEARL RIVER PIANO Factory Industrial Regeneration

## CONCEPT DESIGN - 1st Prize in International Competition

**Timeline:** 2017

**Location:** Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**

In collaboration with South China University of Technology

Developed for Pearl River Pianos Factory

### DESIGN TEAM

#### ACADEMICS

Michele Bonino  
Giovanni Durbiano  
Mauro Berta  
Sun Yimin - South China University of Technology

#### RESEARCHERS

Edoardo Bruno  
Francesco Carota  
Valeria Federighi  
Filippo Fiandanese  
Marta Mancini  
Maria Paola Repellino  
Guo Xiao - South China University of Technology

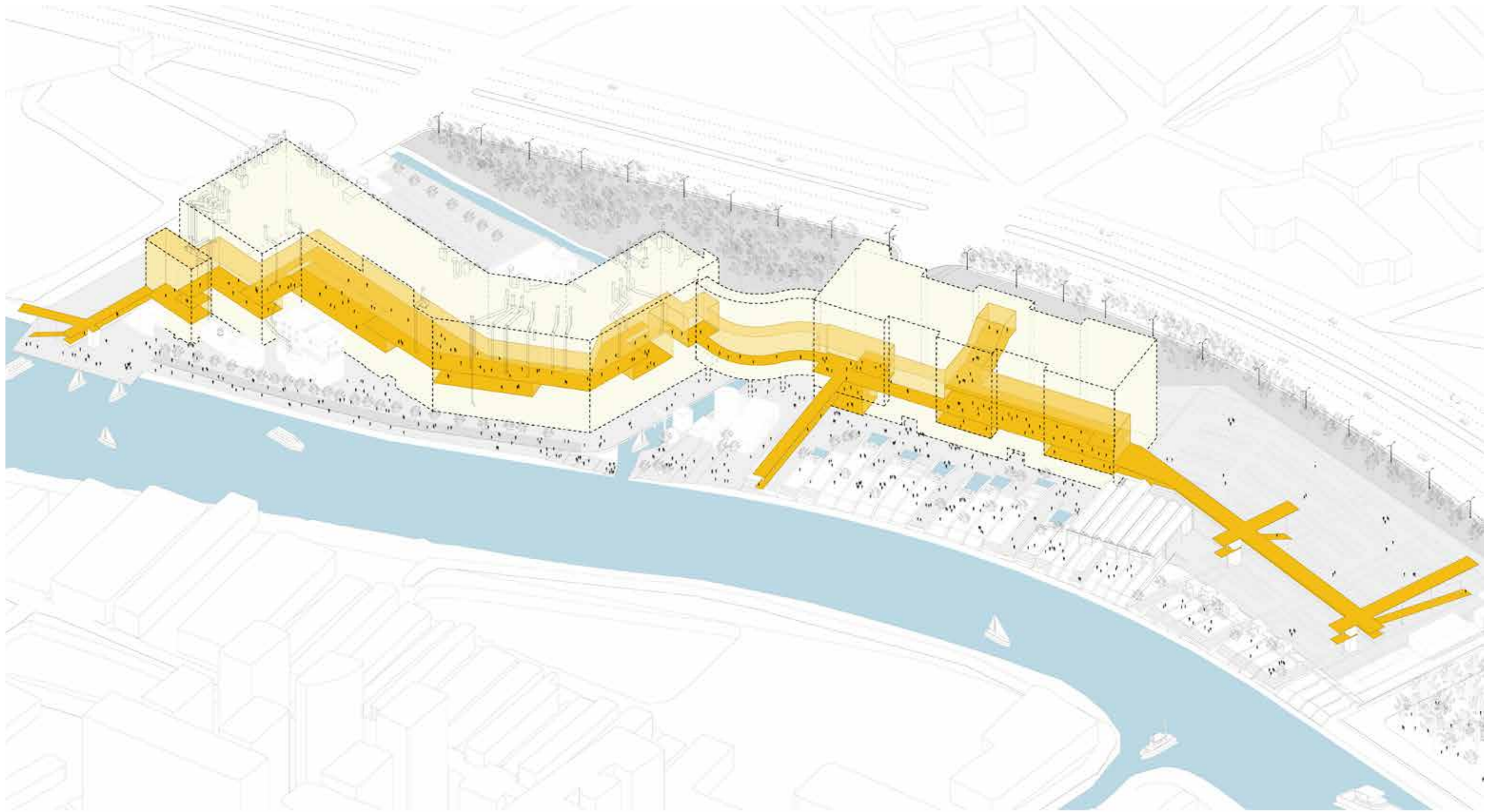
*Text: Edoardo Bruno*

The project dedicated to the transformation of the Pearl River Piano factory in Guangzhou, China into a new creative district, dedicated at the theme of music, was carried on by a joint team between Politecnico di Torino and South China University of Technology. The team, invited to take part to the International Competition, obtained the first prize gaining a certain relevance in one of the most extensive industrial regeneration of the city of Guangzhou.

The Pearl River Pianos is one of the leading companies in the field of pianos manufacturing, covering the 25% of the Chinese Market and the 12% of the global one. The factory covers an extension of 133.000 sqm meters, organised on 7 floors, and develops in plan for a total length of over 500 meters. After moving its production into the brand-new plant in Zencheng New Technological Zone, located in the very West sub-urbanized area of Guangzhou, the management of the plant was in search of a new program for the vast industrial site. The main strategy was to utilize the former know-how and brand identity of the factory to promote cultural entrepreneurship, activating the site as a catalyst for start-ups and innovative hubs.

The Piano Factory presented two exceptional potentials for transformation: its proximity to the river, which flows a few meters away, and its extensive longitudinal organization, underlined by the rails along which the pianos

Cover | View of the South-East facade after the trasformation, 2020 (credit: Freddy Curiél).



***The Pearl River Piano industrial regeneration project demonstrates how contemporary Chinese metropolis are reconfiguring the industrial sector together with its expansion, raising major concerns about the role of former brownfields encapsulated within new residential communities. It appears necessary to sort out new programs where multiple stakeholders re-imagine productive spaces into new entrepreneurial and long-term challenges. The proposal for the Pearl River Cultural Park intends design in a wider sense, capable of framing the architectural intervention as urban design activator.***

Connected Outputs:  
see records no. 142, 148

Fig. 1 | Axonometric view of the design proposal (credit: Camilla Forina and Riccardo Masala for China Room ).



Fig. 2 | View of the South-West facades after the transformation, 2020 (credit: Freddy Curiél).

Next Page  
Fig. 3 | Detail of one of the accesses to the elevated public street, 2020 (credit: Freddy Curiél).

used to move. How to take advantage of these features, within a design that minimises its impact on the factory and exploits the existing spaces best? An elevated street, similar to the ones facing some Italian medieval squares, has been located squares, runs through the entire factory, from the large parking in the north to the public transport hub in the south. It represents the spine that orders and connects all the functions of the Cultural Park, facilitating their use. It enhances some great advantages: it is barycentric to the section of the building, making high floors more accessible to the public; it releases the

ground floor from excessive pressure of the crowd, making it more flexible and permeable to the river; it creates a minimal but highly recognisable architectural sign on the facades while offering privileged views towards the river and the city. In this way, the organization of the indoor spaces of the factory have been framed as part of a larger urban system. Erasing the boundary between the factory as productive site and its neighborhood, the Cultural Park has become a new attraction capable of involving a larger community.

After being inaugurated on the 19th of April 2021, the Pearl River Pianos Company has, in a certain way, accepted the challenge to intend industrial regeneration as a process that may start from the consistent utilization of existing resources and heritage, giving space to unexpected public utilizations. This represents an important topic that China is absorbing along with its “New Normal” line of development, implicating a sustainable utilization of local resources to revamp urban quality. The project gave the possibility to deepen hypothesis on Chinese industrial regeneration from an applied research point

of view. The focus was on how large urban alliances made by public institutions, big State-Owned Enterprises (SOE), private management and investors, can cooperate to support the deployment of production in new sub-urban areas meanwhile assuring that former brownfield can re-enter into new urban programs.



## Industrial legacy in China: the case of Pearl River Piano

*Text: Maria Paola Repellino*

The case of Pearl River Piano, with the relocation of the production in a new plant in Zengcheng New Technological Development Zone and the renovation of the existing manufacturing unit in the Fangcun area for the creation of a cultural creative park, is at the centre of the micro-series of articles on the industrial legacy in China, curated by China Room fellows and published on the UrbanNext journal (2020). Pearl River Piano has been taken as a privileged observation point to explore how the relationships between production processes and the city have changed, what kind of spaces are present for possible architectural reuse, and more generally, what is the role of industrial legacy in the reconfiguration of such places.

In particular, the first essay *Industrial Legacy and the Future of Chinese Cities* by Maria Paola Repellino focuses on the case of Capital Steel Group (Shougang) and Pearl River Piano to investigate the re-articulation of the syntax between architecture, city and production, revealing how much the change of production processes has been contributing to the definition of spaces in contemporary China.

The second article *Industrial Clusterization Strategies in the Pearl River Delta Area: Reorganizing the Production of the PRP in Zengcheng NTDZ* by Monica Naso and Sohrab Ahmed Marri uses the case of the relocation and upgrading of the PRP Factory in Guangzhou as an interpretive lens to read what kind of trend is prevailing in the Greater Bay Area zone, involving the urban agglomeration of Guangzhou.

The third essay *Design Opportunities and Cultural Intermediation* by Edoardo Bruno and Francesco Carota reflects on the ability of the state-owned enterprise of drawing on its entrepreneurial history, widely expert in the music industry, to bring it closer to the entertainment sector, thus opening up the field to new investors.

The final article *An Italian Space in a Chinese Industrial Legacy: Designing the Italian Cultural Box within the Pearl River Piano Cultural Park* by Giorgia Cestaro and Michele Bonino introduces the results of planning an Italian Space within the Pearl River Piano Cultural Park as a model to transform former industrial spaces into flexible programs with the potential to enhance creative industry and new economies.

The plan focuses on the redevelopment of Yanzhou Island, one of the biggest islands of the Pearl River, located within the municipality of Zhaoqing New Area, a new town, currently under construction, of 115 square kilometers and an estimated population of 600000 new inhabitants. The plan transforms the island into a well-being ecological reserve that enhances the local agricultural activities as well as its environmental, historical and cultural value.

## YANZHOU ISLAND Concept Plan

### CONCEPT DESIGN

**Timeline:** 2016-2017

**Location:** Zhaoqing, Guangdong Province, China

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**

**Developed for Zhaoqing New Area Administration  
Supported by Politecnico di Torino**

#### DESIGN TEAM

Michele Bonino  
Francesca Governa  
Angelo Sampieri  
Francesco Carota - Project Manager  
Leonardo Ramondetti - Designer  
Astrid Safina - Designer

#### ADVISORS

Mauro Berta - Architectural Design  
Marta Bottero - Strategic Assesment and Economic Evaluation  
Federico Dell'Anna - Strategic Assesment and Economic Evaluation  
Elena Comino - Environmental strategy  
Maurizio Rosso - Hydraulics

#### COLLABORATORS

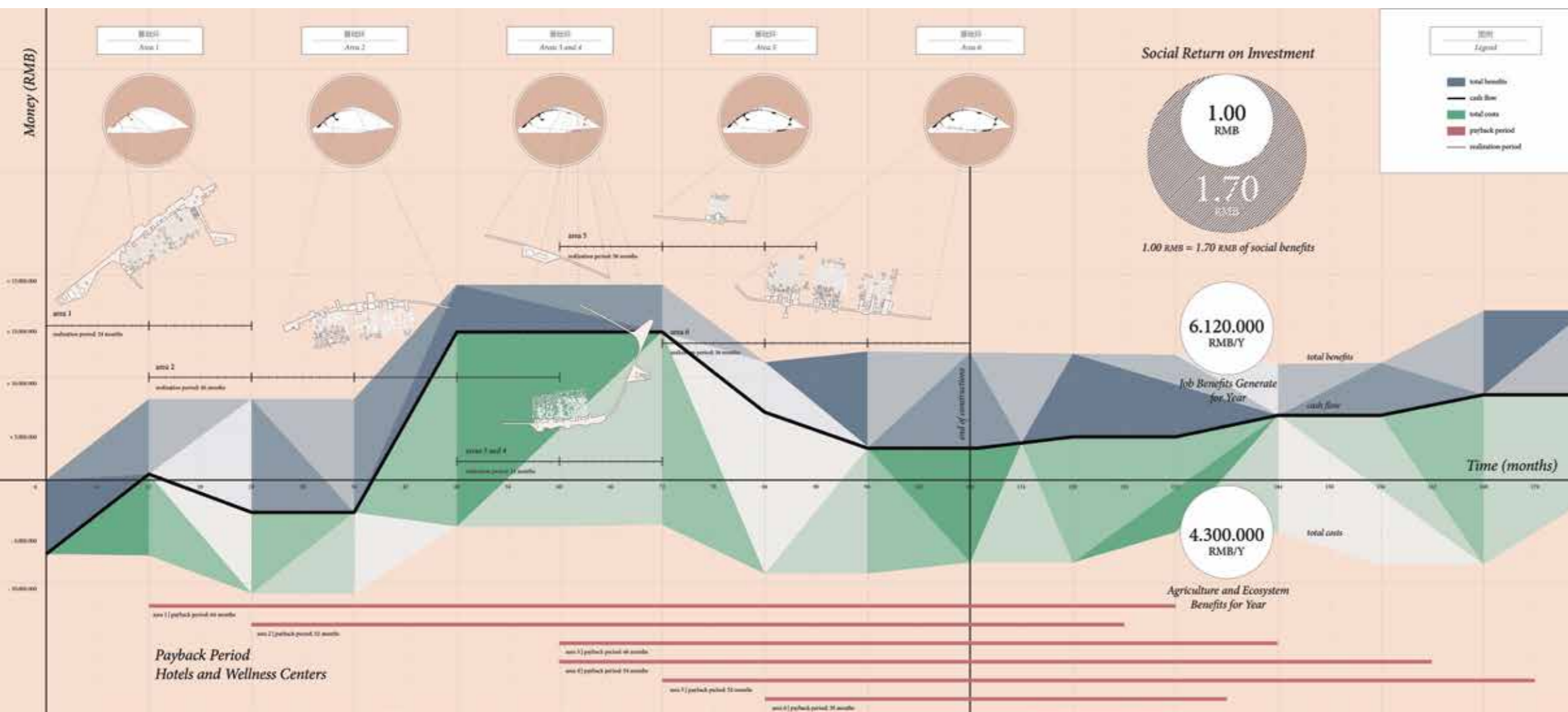
Ina Sefjini, Wenwei Yu, Maria Paola Repellino, Edoardo Bruno, Duong Nguyen, Matteo Migliaccio

*Text: Astrid Safina*

The multidisciplinary design team composed of geographers, urbanists, architects, economists; instead of following the common practice of tabula rasa, followed an approach that enhances the existing elements of the island. Rural villages, mobility infrastructure, economical activities and landscape values are reorganized and upgraded in pursual of a development model focused on environmental and social sustainability. In that sense, the proposal identifies three main areas of interest: a core mostly composed by villages, agricultural areas and fish farming; a fragmented riverbank characterized by fields, small woods and wetlands; and a mobility system mostly made of a perimetral road that contains a dense web of minute pathways.

The proposal deconstructs and reorganizes the three existing parts into three systems each with a peculiar functional structure. The result is a macro-system composed by an agricultural park, a soft perimeter and an infrastructural ring. The agricultural park consists of renewed villages capable of attracting new inhabitants and setting in motion eco-tourism activities, all contained within an extension of traditional crop fields that give value to local production and high value products. The soft perimeter consists of the external embankment that functions as a natural barrier against periodical floods. This perimeter contains a high biodiversity level, thought as a dynamic landscape capable of periodically renewing itself.

**Cover** | Rendering of the Internal Paths within the villages (credits: China Room).



Finally, the infrastructural ring consists in the main mobility corridor of the island, but not only. It also works as a shared public space where new facilities and thematic poles are organized, and as the contact point to mainland thanks to the presence of two marinas that allow the access to the island exclusively by boat. Putting a sustainable growth model at the center of the project's approach was crucial for reflecting on the current Chinese urbanisation that, since 2015, seems to be shifting towards more sustainable practices in order to better relate to urban and rural issues. Initiatives such as the *New Socialist Countryside Program*, or the *Beautiful Village* put forward in the search for a new rural future, confirming the logic of improving local rural conditions, starting from existing potentialities. The project operates in that line of thought; hence it offers one possible scenario to the many concerns regarding the new urbanisation in China. One that does not promote an intensive urban development, but instead encourages quality and sustainability over quantity and speed.

**Fig. 1** | Cashflow Analysis (credits: China Room).  
**Fig. 2** | Three Layers Composition of the design proposal (credits: China Room).  
**Fig. 3** | Rendering of the Internal Paths within the villages (credits: China Room).





**Connected Outputs:**  
see records no. 64, 103, 168

**Fig. 4** | Axonometric view of the infrastructural ring and waterfront (credits: China Room).  
**Fig. 5** | Masterplan (credits: China Room).

## **TEACHING**

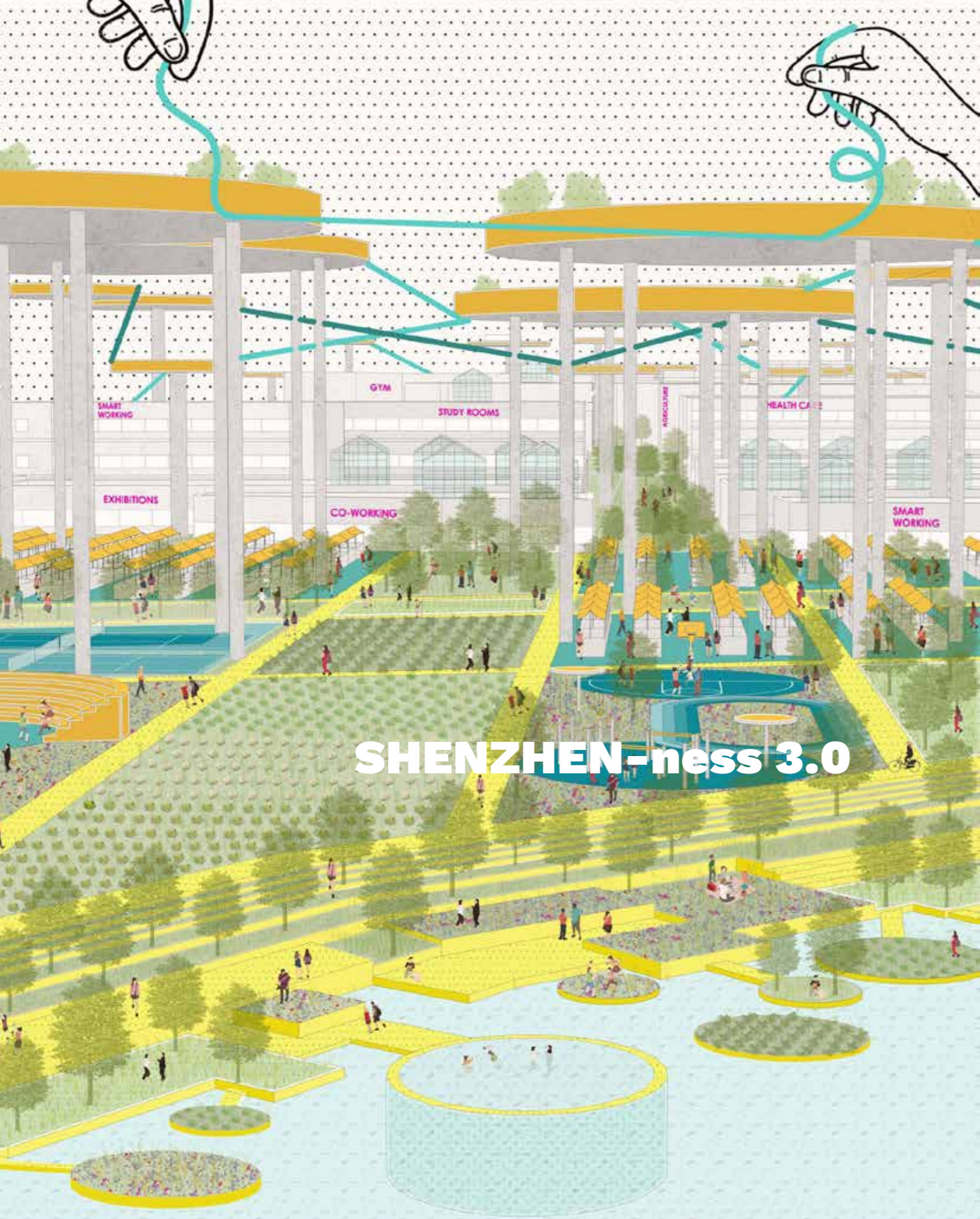
[p. 108] **SHENZHEN-ness 3.0**

[p. 114] **TRANS-USE SUMMER SCHOOL. TRANS-forming industrial legacy. Spatial and economic models of re-USE**

[p. 118] **NEW TOWNS ALONG THE BELT AND ROAD. Lanzhou**

[p. 126] **LONG PLAN. Solar Decathlon China 2018**

# THE LEVELS OF PUBLIC SPACE



## SHENZHEN-ness 3.0

### WORKSHOP

**Timeline:** September 4 - October 12, 2020

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room + FULL**  
In collaboration with Shenzhen University

#### TEACHING TEAM

Michele Bonino  
Francesco Carota  
Valeria Federighi  
Francesca Governa  
Silvia Lanteri  
Monica Naso

Doreen Heng Liu - University of Shenzhen  
Si Liu - University of Shenzhen  
Xinyue Gan - University of Shenzhen  
Yiqi Tao - University of Shenzhen

#### STUDENTS

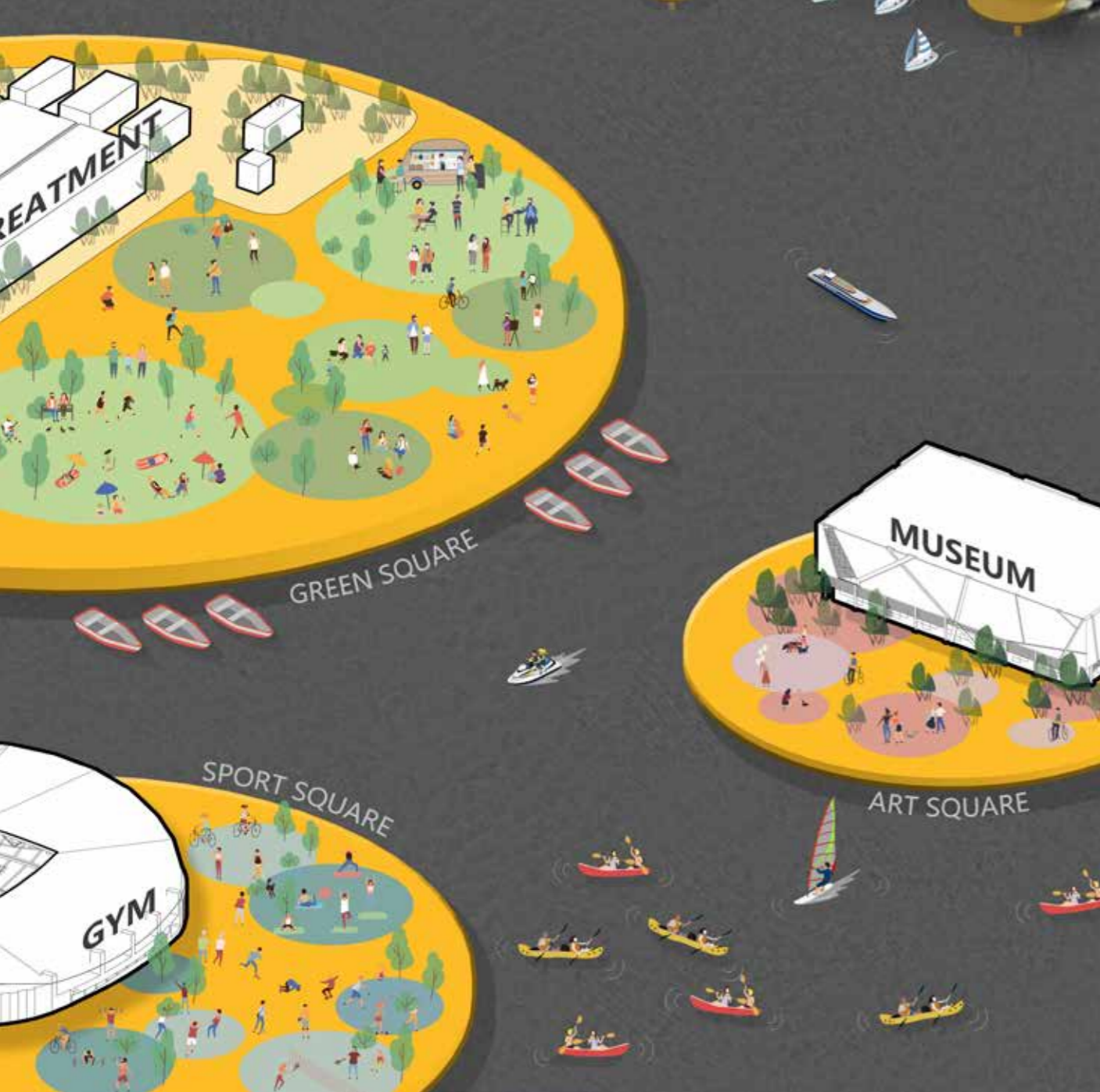
Raffaella Gorrasi, Stefano Mondozi, Annalisa Bertoglio,  
Alessandra Dinatolo, Federica Joe Gardella, Sebastian Silva -  
Politecnico di Torino  
Qinyu Cui, Yuchen Wang, Chuanze Lin, Shanyou Duan, Yirou,  
Zhang Xinyu Yang, Xiaohan Wang - University of Shenzhen

*Text: Valeria Federighi*

The workshop *SHENZHEN-ness 3.0* was organized by the China Room and FULL – Future Urban Legacy Lab at Politecnico di Torino in collaboration with Doreen Heng Liu and the Greater Bay Innovation Design Lab at Shenzhen University. The collaboration intended to analyze the post-covid situation in Shenzhen, the previously fastest growing city of China, where the pandemic had rapidly resulted in the increase of the vacancy rate of office buildings. Together with a diffuse lack of affordable housing in the city, this condition calls for rethinking residential and working paradigms in the space of the city. The Greater Airport Area from Bao'an district was selected as study site because of its centrality with respect to projected transformations at the urban scale. The workshop aimed to reflect on the deeper connection between living spaces, the infrastructure and the daily life, and to propose alternative urban scenarios for the post COVID-19 city.

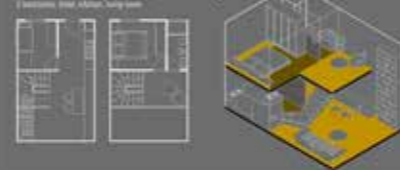
The workshop took place in the course of two weeks, during which six architecture students from Politecnico di Torino collaborated remotely with six architecture students from University of Shenzhen. Students were divided in mixed groups and worked on three areas of Shenzhen Bao'an district, addressing three main themes: 1. 'office spaces', where existing office buildings were analyzed through the lens of the in-person versus remote working paradigm; 2. 'public spaces', where urban

**Cover** | Prospective view of public space design proposal (credits: Alessandra Dinatolo, Annalisa Bertoglio, Dean Shanyou, Xiaohan Wang).



# AFFORDABLE INDUSTRIAL HOUSING 4.0

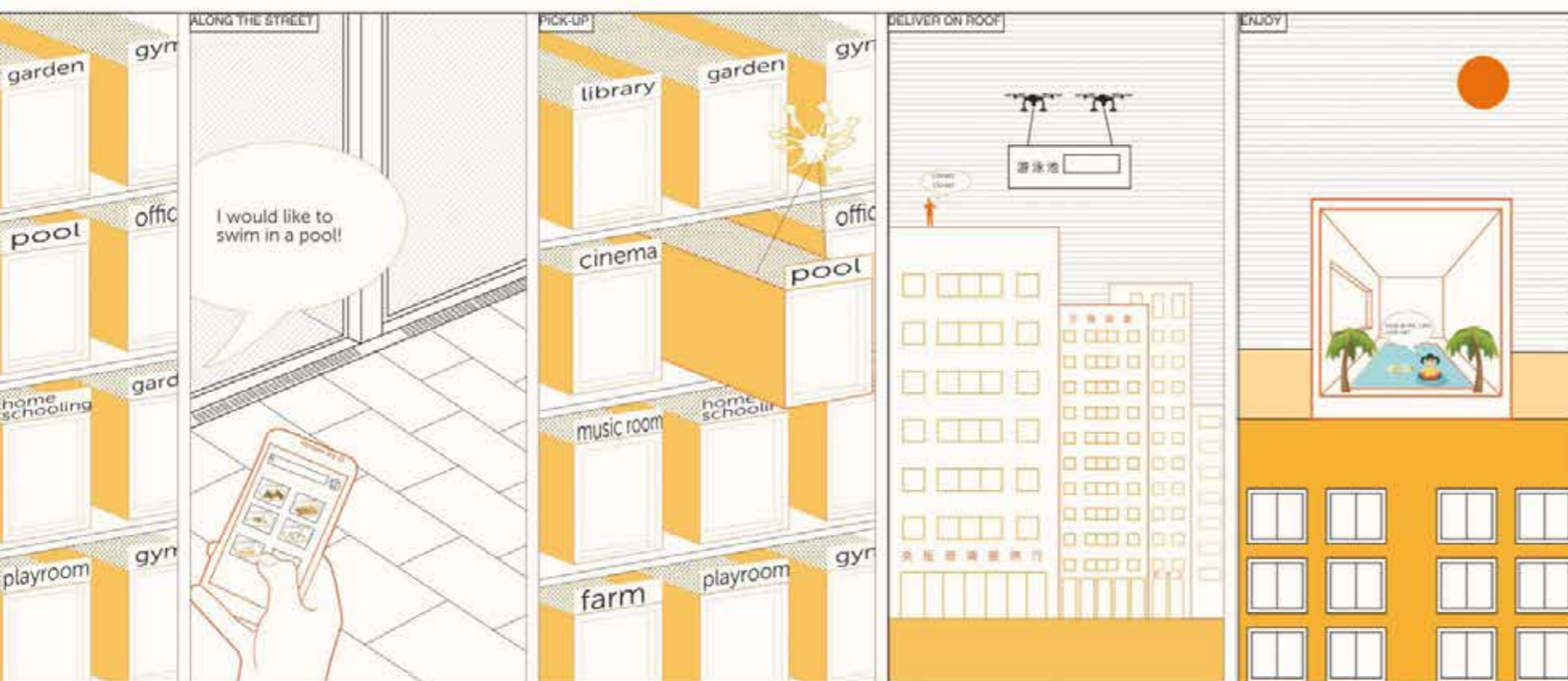
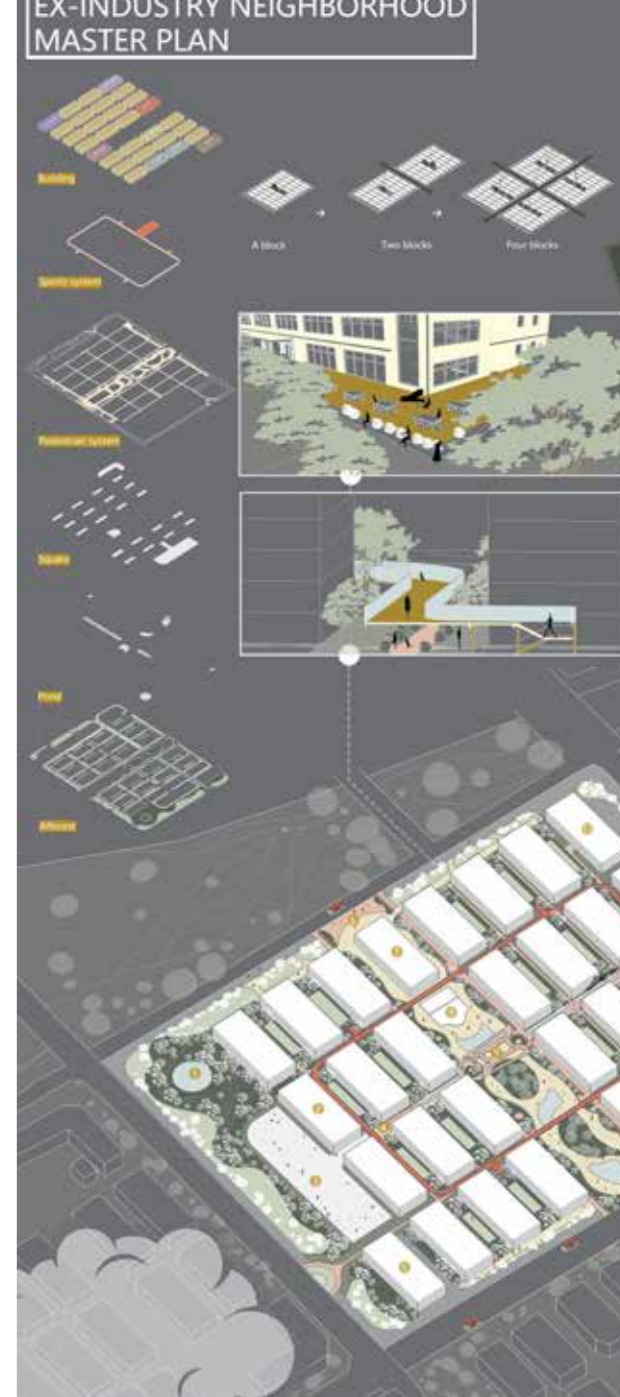
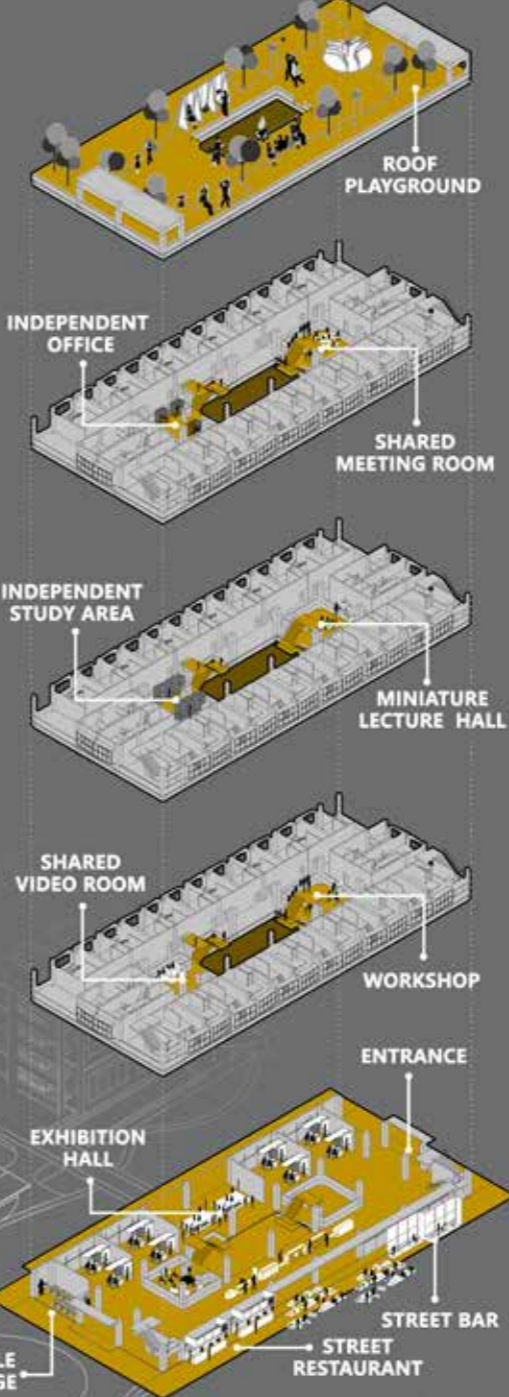
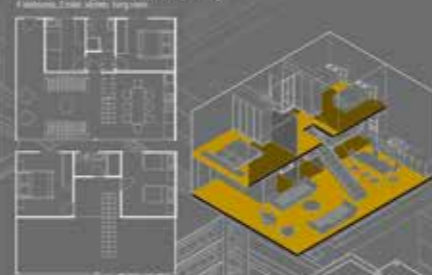
Small Family (4 people) // 60 mq



Big Family (5 people) // 100 mq



Co-housing (8 people) // 110 mq



*The outbreak of COVID-19 in China and then other countries all over the world in January 2020 rapidly became a public health emergency of international concern, and its effects on the texture of cities everywhere were immediately evident. In Shenzhen, the epidemic meant a sudden increase in the vacancy rate of office buildings that had symbolized the booming economy of the city. The SHENZHEN-ness 3.0 workshop intended to look at the way in which COVID-19 precipitated onto the space of the city, and propose different scenarios of transformation.*





**TRANS-USE SUMMER  
SCHOOL  
TRANS-forming  
industrial legacy.  
Spatial and economic  
models of re-USE**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL**

**Timeline:** July 10 - 24, 2019

**Location:** Toolbox Coworking, Turin

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room + FULL**

In collaboration with Technion Israel Institute of Technology (Haifa), Tsinghua University (Beijing)

Supported by the research agreement stipulated between DAD-Department of Architecture and Design of POLITO and Acciai Speciali Terni S.p.A.

Funds obtained by POLITO for the organization of the summer school, following participation in the competitive tender "Call for the assignment of grants economic for the realization of the Summer School - year 2019" promoted by the Internationalization Area of POLITO.

**TEACHING TEAM**

Alberto Bologna  
Luigi Buzzacchi  
Francesca Frassoldati  
Liu Jian - Tsinghua University  
Matteo Robiglio  
Tiziana Tosco  
Uri Cohen, Yaniv Edri, Ruth Liberty-Shalev - Technion Israel Institute of Technology  
Yehao Song, Zheng Xiaodi - Tsinghua University

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Alberto Bologna  
Michele Bonino  
Francesca Frassoldati  
Liu Jian - Tsinghua University  
Matteo Robiglio

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Laura Martini  
Caterina Montipò  
Maria Paola Repellino

**TUTORS**

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Deng Huishu - Tsinghua University  
Giorgia Greco  
Ruth Leonov - Technion Israel Institute of Technology  
Marta Mancini  
Matteo Migliaccio  
Lidia Preti

**STUDENTS**

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Yingnan Chu, Zhihao Huang, Zhengxiang Li - Tsinghua University  
Fabian Hilla Fella, Tamar Fradkin, Antonia Hassin Ella - Technion Israel Institute of Technology  
Dmytro Khyzhniak - University of Florence

*Text: Lidia Preti*

The interdisciplinary and international summer school *TRANS-forming industrial legacy. Spatial and economical models of re-USE* has been conceived and organized by the China Room research group and the FULL interdisciplinary research center (Politecnico di Torino). It involved the active co-participation of teachers, tutors and students of the School of Architecture, the Environmental Science School, the Department of Leadership and Organization Management of the School of Economics and Management (Tsinghua University) and the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning (Technion Israel Institute of Technology). The goal was the construction of spatial and economic models concerning the sustainable reuse of urban industrial legacies.

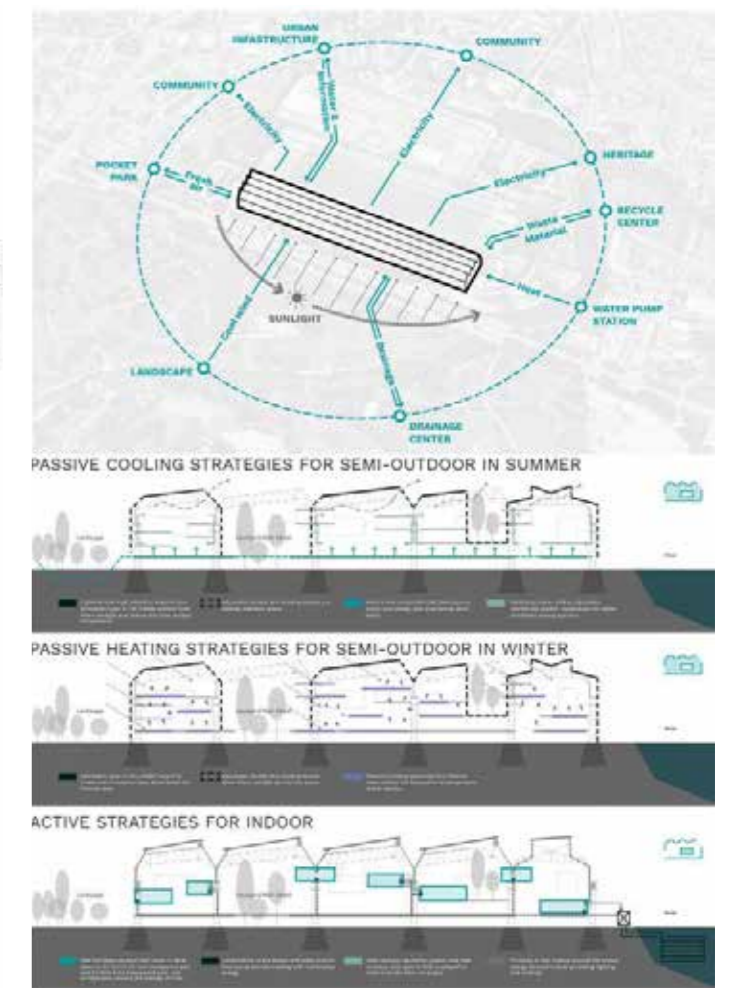
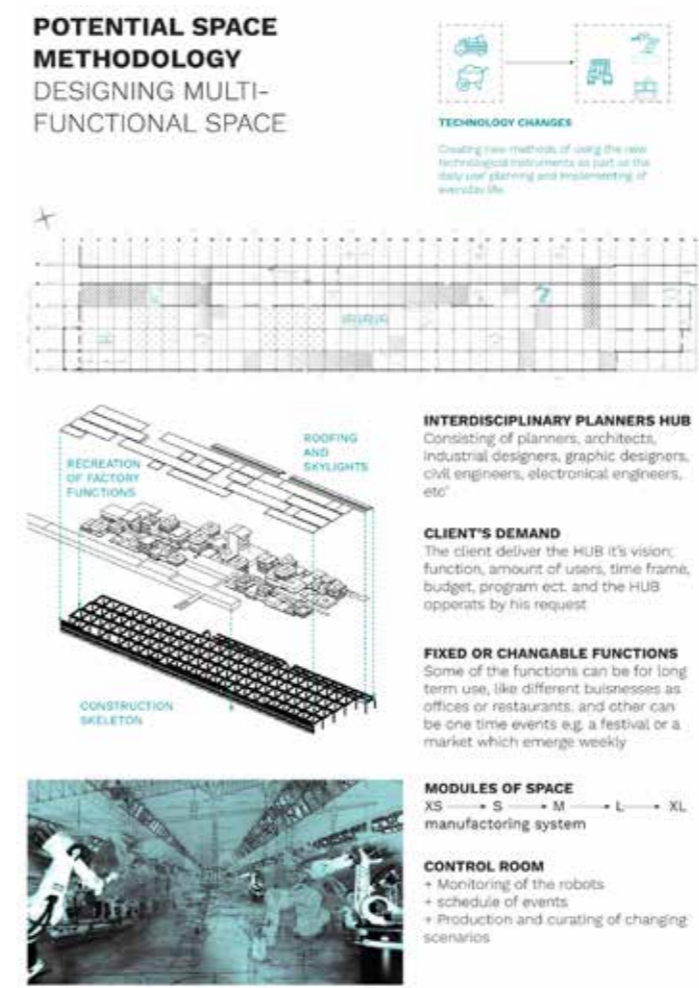
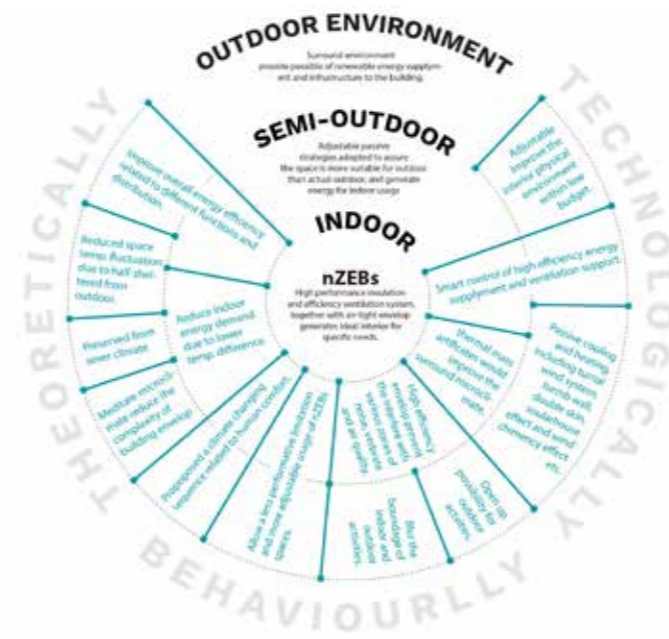
The interdisciplinary scientific and educational program-built interactions and synergies by addressing the following issues and objectives:

- understand how production has changed and what is the current relationship between production and city;
- identify the spatial transformations linked to the change of the productive activities;
- test methodologies to measure and represent the characteristics and transformations of production in the urban environment;
- clarify the role of industrial legacy in the change of production and its relations with urban transformations at different scales.

**Cover** | Group students brainstorming session at Toolbox, Turin, 2019 (credit: Lidia Preti).

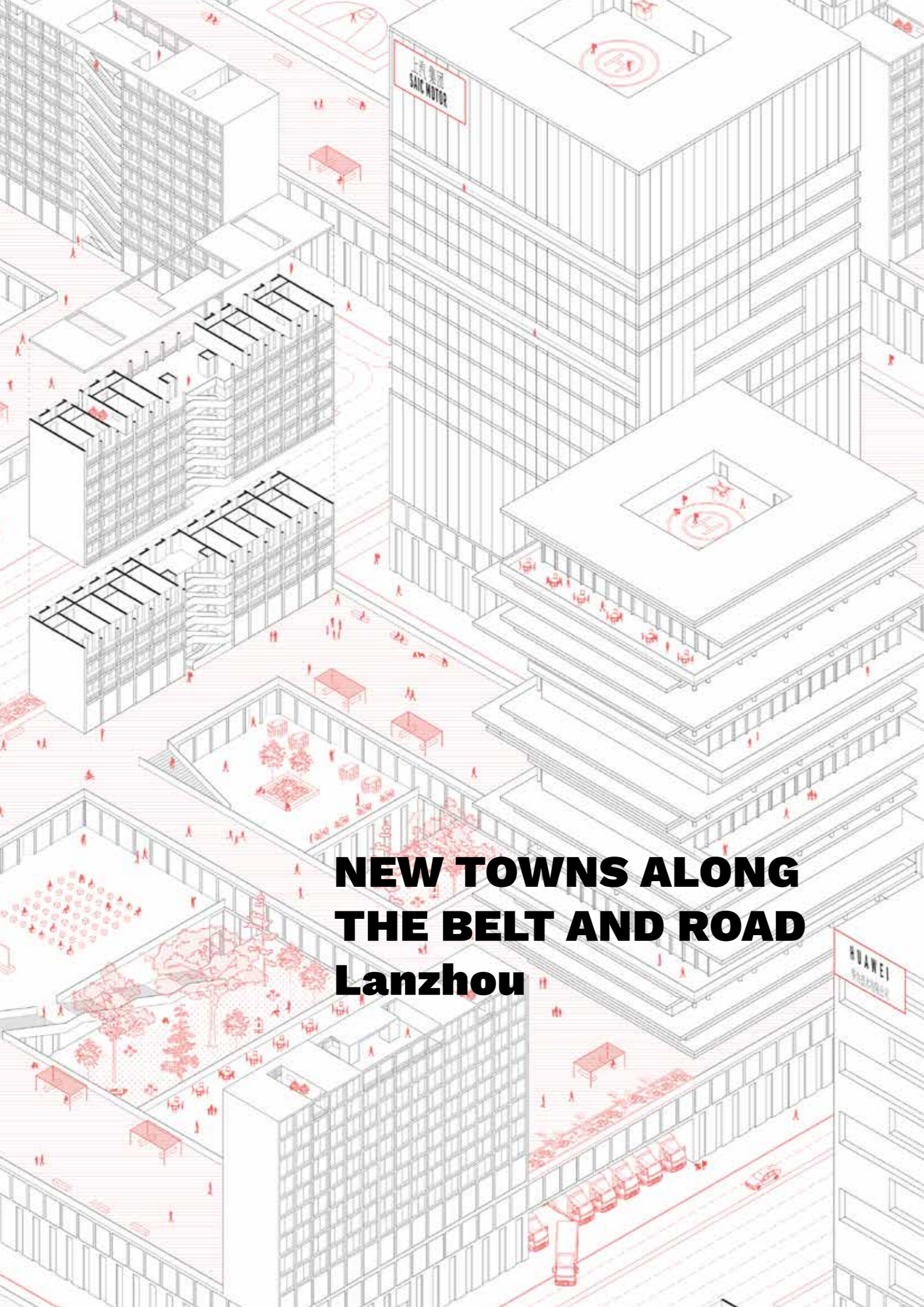
The set of these objectives has been pursued during the summer school by interweaving theoretical-methodological research with a “research by design” approach. Students with different backgrounds experimented trasversally with economic models, production managerial and architectural, construction, technological and infrastructural solutions within urban transformation.

The training activities of the summer school were divided into introductory frontal lessons, tutoring activities and site visits. The theoretical contributions provided by international professors from different scientific and disciplinary sectors aimed at setting up a methodological framework of scientific investigation. Starting from the analysis of renowned examples of urban industrial legacy, the participants progressively built a design toolkit (in organisational, architectural, urban, construction, environmental and economic sustainability terms) which highlighted future scenarios for the former ThyssenKrupp area in Torino.



*The summer school aimed to share, in an international framework, innovative tools and approaches for the design of financial instruments, environmental recovery procedures and urban master planning. The interdisciplinary scientific and educational program built interactions and synergies by addressing complex market conditions on large-scale industrial sites that symbolize controversial legacies. Participants focused on the analysis of case studies of urban industrial legacy and urban production transformation. They were asked to develop a toolkit in terms of architecture, urban planning, landscape design, management, environmental and economic sustainability.*

**Fig. 1, 2, 3** | Data elaboration and students' design proposal.  
**Fig. 4** | TRANS-USE Summer School booklet, 2019 (credit: Giorgia Greco, Marta Mancini, Matteo Migliaccio, Lidia Preti, Maria Paola Repellino).  
**Fig. 5** | Brainstorming session at Toolbox, Turin, 2019 (credit: Lidia Preti).



# NEW TOWNS ALONG THE BELT AND ROAD Lanzhou

## DESIGN UNIT

### Timeline:

A.Y. 2019-2020, second semester

A.Y. 2018-2019, second semester

### A project by Politecnico di Torino (DAD + DIST) / China Room

In collaboration with EPFL (College of Humanities and at the School of Architecture) and Università di Torino (Dipartimento di Culture, Politica e Società)

## TEACHING TEAM

Michele Bonino - architectural design  
Alberto Bologna - architectural design  
Angelo Sampieri - urban planning and design  
Francesco Silvestri (University of Turin) - governance of urban space (A.Y. 2018-2019)  
Arianna Ponzini (University of Turin) - governance of urban space (A.Y. 2019-2020)  
Florence Graezer Bideau (EPFL) - sociology of territory and environment

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Maria Paola Repellino - architectural design  
Leonardo Ramondetti - urban planning and design

Text: *Leonardo Ramondetti*

The Design Units Architecture and Urban Space (A.Y.s 2018-2020) were part of the master's degree program Architectural Construction City of Politecnico di Torino. Both Design Units centered on Chinese urbanisation, a topic investigated with the contribution of four disciplines: architectural design, urban planning and design, governance of urban space, and sociology of territory and environment. Particularly, the courses addressed the urban development of Lanzhou New Area: a new town for 300,000 inhabitants to be constructed over 821 square kilometers, located 80 kilometers north of the consolidate city of Lanzhou.

As for most of Chinese new towns, Lanzhou New Area is organized on a grid layout of four-lane roads defining plots of 500x500 metres. The Design Unit *Breaking the Grid* (A.Y. 2018-2019) investigated how to overcome the rigidity of such infrastructural pattern, rethinking the relations with the surrounding, and envisaging various ways of occupying the land in relation to multiple programs. Such exploration was centered on eleven areas located along the main east-west axis that crosses the new town, which was intended as the main strip of Lanzhou New Area.

Differently, the Design Unit *Five Infrastructural Nodes* (A.Y. 2018-2019) explored the relations between the new town of Lanzhou and the major infrastructures which are currently under construction to spatialize the Belt and Road Initiative: the airport, the high-speed railway

Cover | 'Living the Infrastructure'  
(credit: Ilaria Di Pietra, Chiara Di Presa, Esther Candela Ferrandez, Maria Soriano Ortega).

system, the new infrastructures for agricultural production, the new ecological areas, and the spaces for research and cultural activities. Within this framework the students had to envisage new ways of inhabiting such spaces, not considering them as technical zones, but parts of the city, that is, spaces open to different uses and functions.

The design activities carried on in the Design Units adopted an interdisciplinarity multi-scalar approach. Students were asked to engage with both the urban scale (30x30 km, 3x3 km and 500x500 meters), and the architectural one (1:200 and 1:100). Moreover, they were required to envision the possible dynamics of social integration, as well as the mechanisms of appropriation of new urban spaces and artifacts. The outcomes of the students' research and design activities were collected into several panels, maquettes, and videos to be exhibited in the Final Review of the master's degree program Architectural Construction City hold at Lingotto, Politecnico di Torino, on June 19th-20th, 2019, and, virtually, on zoom.us and telearchitettura.polito.it on June 10th-11th 2020. Furthermore, four projects of the Design Unit 2019-2020 were exposed at MAO – Museum of Oriental Art of Turin, in parallel with the exhibition *China Goes Urban. The city to come* (October 16th, 2020 – October 10th, 2021).

Finally, during these two years, the courses also promoted a large number of side activities. Above all, a series of lectures given by international scholars, including: *A History of Design Institutes in China. From Mao to Market* by Guanghui Ding (April 4th, 2019), *Poetry Reconnecting Time* by James Wei Ke-Chiasmus Partners (May 2nd, 2019), *Harmony in space, a book on Chinese Architecture* by Paolo Genovese (April 30th, 2020), and *Projects and Ideas in China, from kilometers to millimeters* Haohao Xu (May 14th, 2020).

*Lanzhou New Area is a new town for 300,000 inhabitants to be constructed over 821 square kilometers, located 80 kilometers north of the old city of Lanzhou. This urban development is intended as the gateway of the Belt and Road Initiative: a sort of living infrastructure to connect China to the rest of the world. The Design Units (A.Y.s 2018-2020) addressed this topic by investigating the relations between new infrastructures and new settlements in terms of urban and architectural design, social integration and urban policies.*

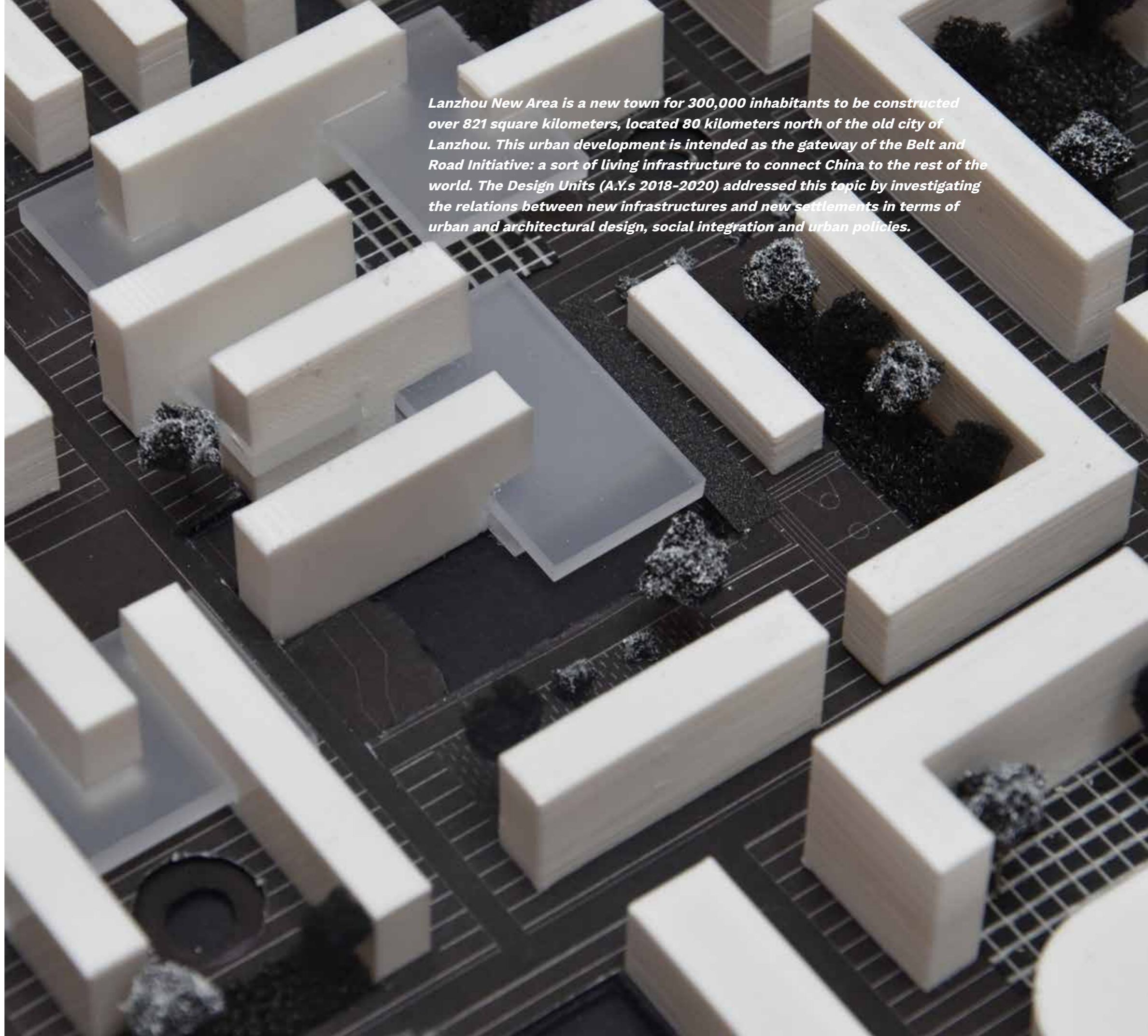
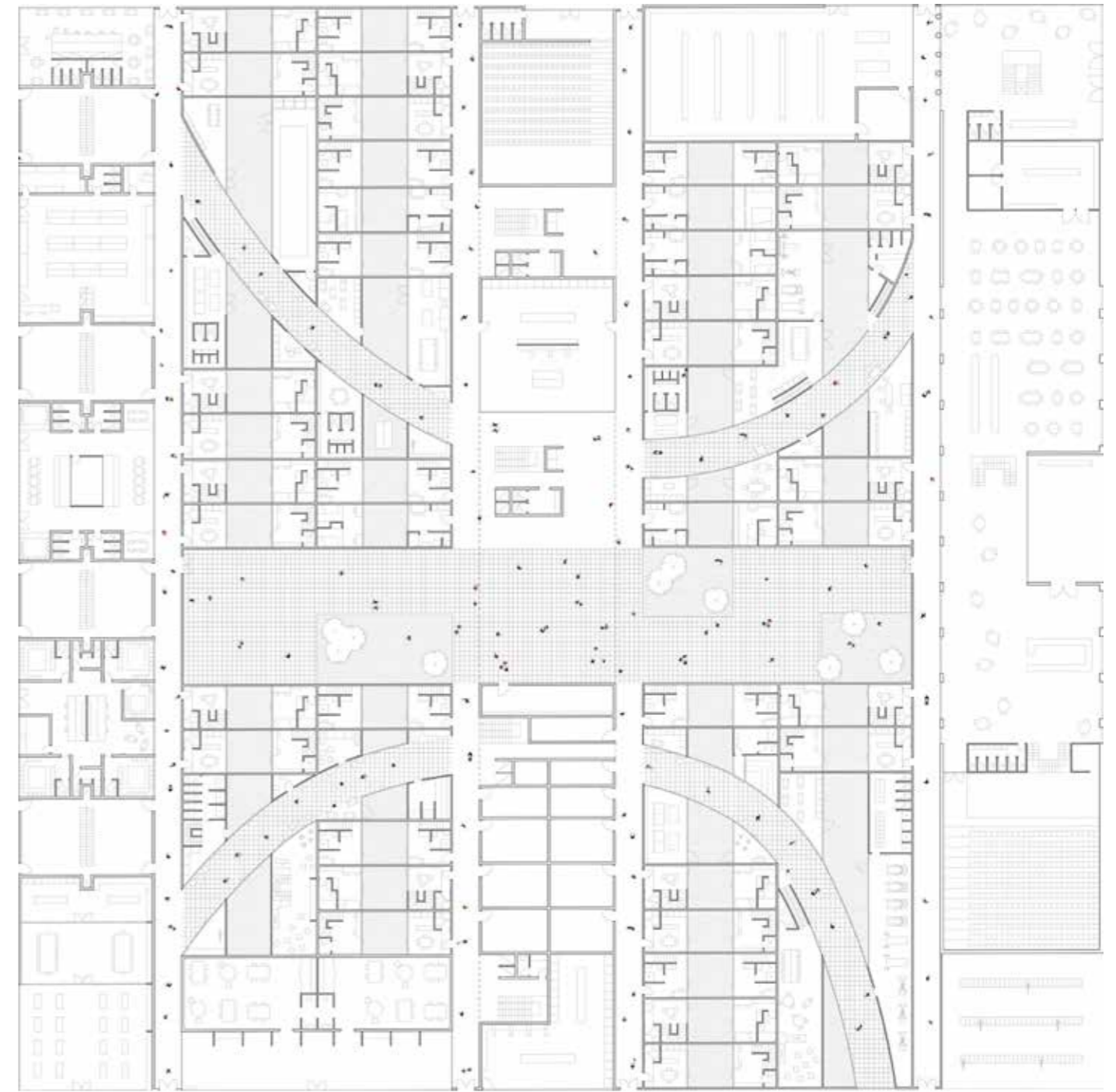


Fig. 1 | 'Opus Mixtum' (credit: Nicolò Marola, Lorenzo Rabagliati, Andrea Sanguedolce, Milda Urbonaviciute, Yang Yuqi).



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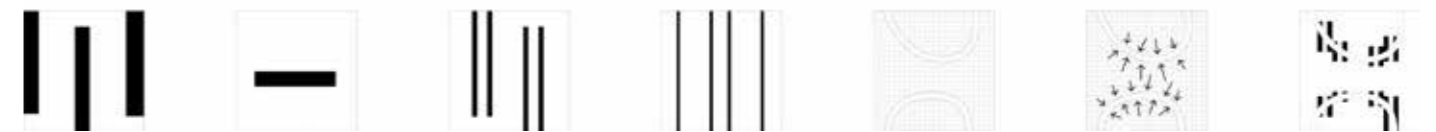


Fig. 3 | 'Of Enoughness: Islands' (credit: Simona Belluscio, Ahmed Mansouri, Riccardo Masala).

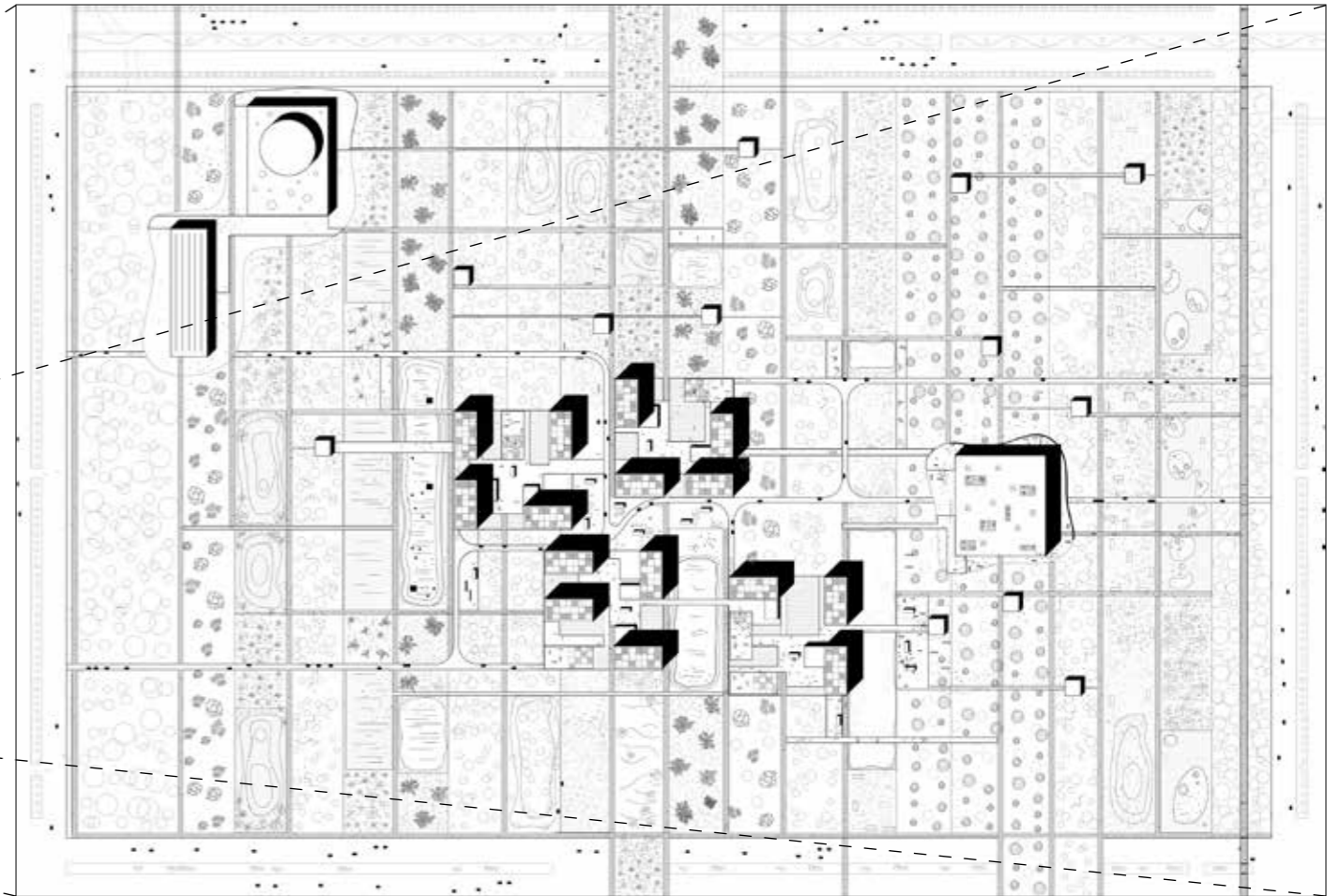
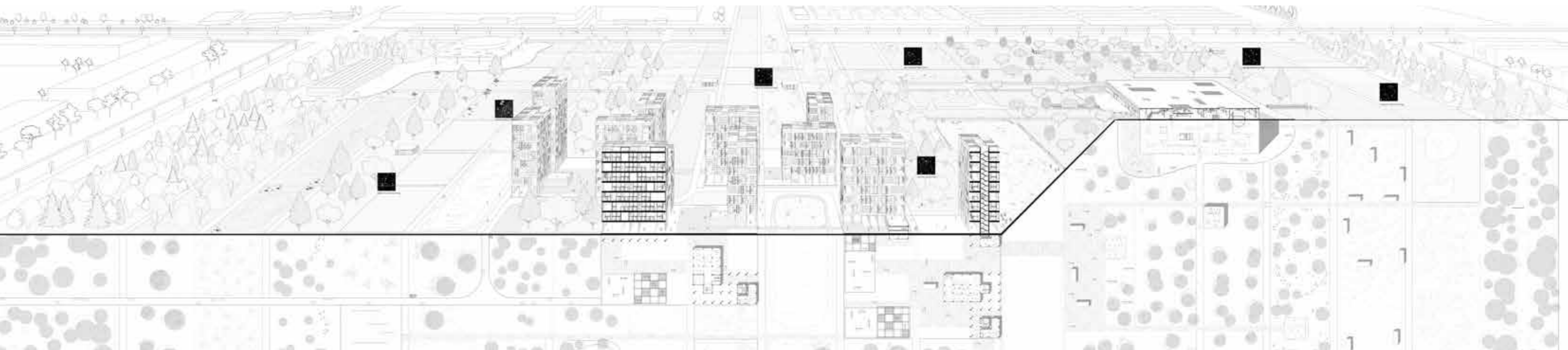


Fig. 5-6-7 | 'Peach Blossom Spring'  
(credit: Elisa Alzapiedi, David Dietrich,  
Martina Ponzo, Giulia Ravera).





# LONG-PLAN. Solar Decathlon China 2018

## INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIATE COMPETITION - Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

**Timeline:** 2018

**Location:** Dezhou, Shandong Province, China

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**  
In collaboration with South China University of Technology (Guangzhou)

**Developed for Solar Decathlon China**



### TEACHING TEAM

Mauro Berta - Scientific Coordinator  
Michele Bonino  
Orio De Paoli  
Enrico Fabrizio (DENERG)  
Marco Filippi (DENERG)  
Francesca Frassoldati  
Matteo Robiglio  
Valentina Serra (DENERG)  
Edoardo Bruno  
Sun Yimin - SCUT  
Wang Jing - SCUT  
Xiao Yiqiang - SCUT  
Xu Haohao - SCUT  
Zhang Yufeng - SCUT  
Zhong Guanqiu - SCUT

### LINKS-SITI RESEARCH GROUP

Romano Borchiellini (DENERG)  
Sergio Olivero  
Paolo Lazzeroni  
Federico Stirano

### STUDENTS

Lorenzo Ranzani, Adriano Aimar, Chiara Cordopatri - Architectural Design  
Carlo Alberto Monteverde, Irene Gramaglia - Structural Design  
Lucia Filippini - Outreach  
Andrea Bonetto, Valentino Attanasio, Ilaria Durando - Solar Application  
Marco Miliddi, Francesco Pino, Giacomo Sicardi - Simulation  
Lorenzo Civalleri, Alessio Messina, Ciro Lisciandrello - HVAC

Chengyu Chen, Chongwen Chen, Hexing Chen, Qingyuan Chen, Jianning Chen, Peiqian Chen, Xinru Chen, Wei Cheng, Meihui Deng, Yifan Deng, Sen Du, Xiangyu Du, Zhiqian Feng, Shizheng Geng, Junren Guan, Xiaoqing Guan, Fangmo Han, Xueying Han, Xinran He, Weixuan He, Yangzhi Hu, Feng Li, Hao Li, Lide Li, Jiancheng Lin, Jiqiang Lin, Jiahao Liu, Jie Liu, Kexin Liu, Liming Liu, Yilun Lu, Yongting Lu, Yankun Qiu, Yizhen Shao, Can Sun, Xueer Tang, Juntai Tian, Runxian Wang, Jiexuan Wu, Qirui Wu, Xinran Wu, Jun Xiao, Hengxin Xie, Anjiang Xu, Jiaxun Xu, Yue Xu, Zhixi Xu, Jiawei Xue, Yicheng Wang, Sishi Yang, Shuyan Yang, Zhu Yin, Yi Yuan, Xinyu Zhang, Yiping Zhao, Yun Zhuang, Yuxuan Zhuang

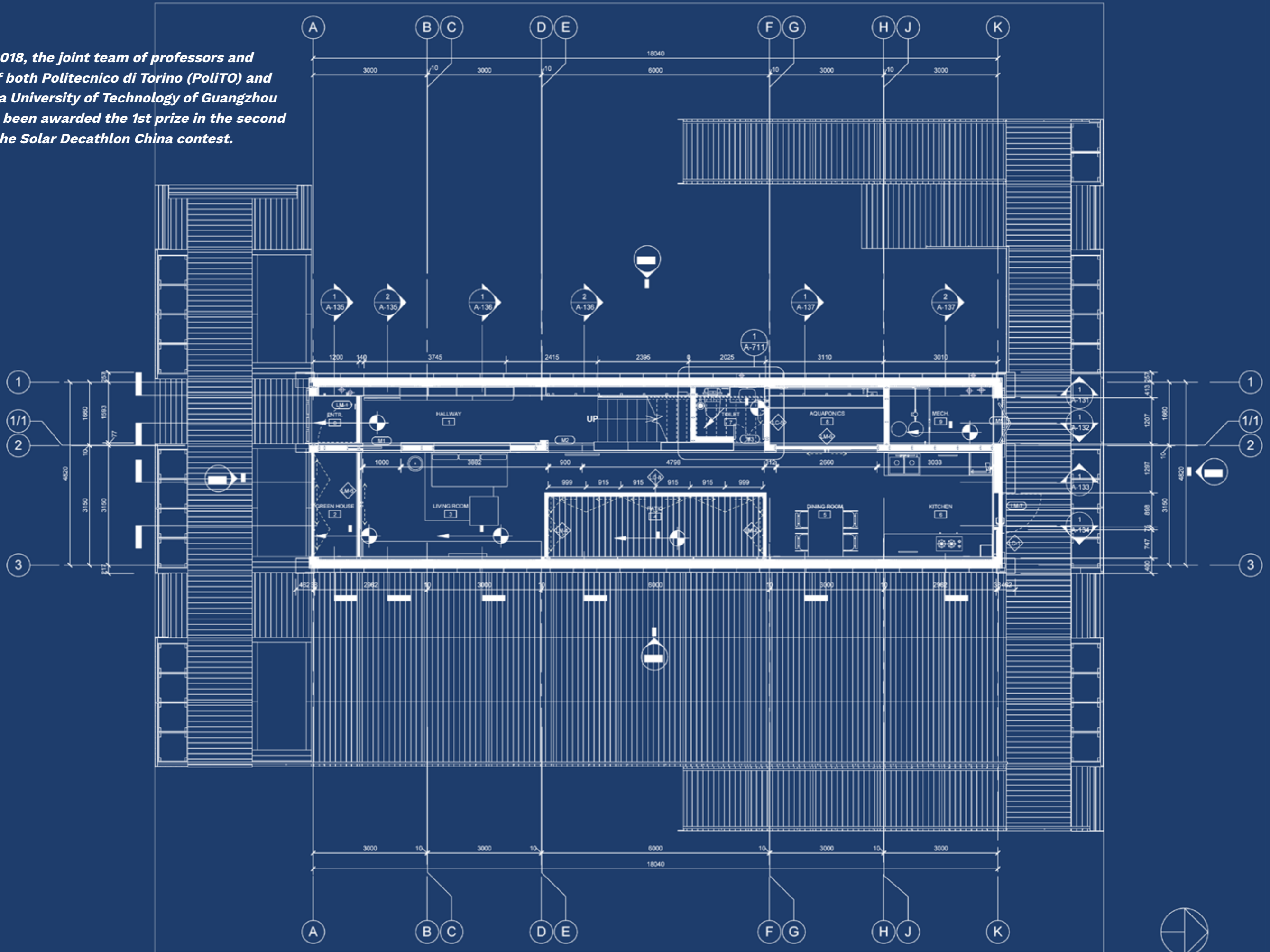
**Cover** | Photograph of the entrance of the modular housing, 2018 (credit: Xu Jiaxun).

*Text: Mauro Berta*

Solar Decathlon was launched for the first time in 2002 by the American Department of Energy. It was one of the most important international design competitions, addressed to teams of Architecture and Engineering professors and students. The objective was to design, build and run an NZEB (Net Zero Energy Building) single-family house exclusively powered by solar energy. During the competition, the buildings were inhabited by the team members. Moreover, they had to undergo 10 proofs whose results - assigned by a technical jury - took into consideration multiple aspects, such as: power generation, innovation, market appeal, overall architectural quality etc. SCUT-PoliTO's proposal tried to challenge the dominant model of the detached house — which would have entailed a wider land area exploitation — working instead on the “narrow house” typology (single-family terraced houses). This choice allowed to obtain a higher density, more privacy and a greater quality of the interior space, compared to the standards of a traditional apartment.

The house, named *Long Plan*, is equipped with an HVAC and Air Treatment system, but it can also take advantage of a passive cooling system, exploiting the natural convection. The internal patios host two vertical gardens, contributing to the optimisation of humidity and acoustics. A green wall close to the kitchen is used to cultivate vegetables with the aquaponic technique, which combines a traditional hydroponic cultivation and a fish

*In August 2018, the joint team of professors and students of both Politecnico di Torino (Polito) and South China University of Technology of Guangzhou (SCUT) has been awarded the 1st prize in the second Edition of the Solar Decathlon China contest.*



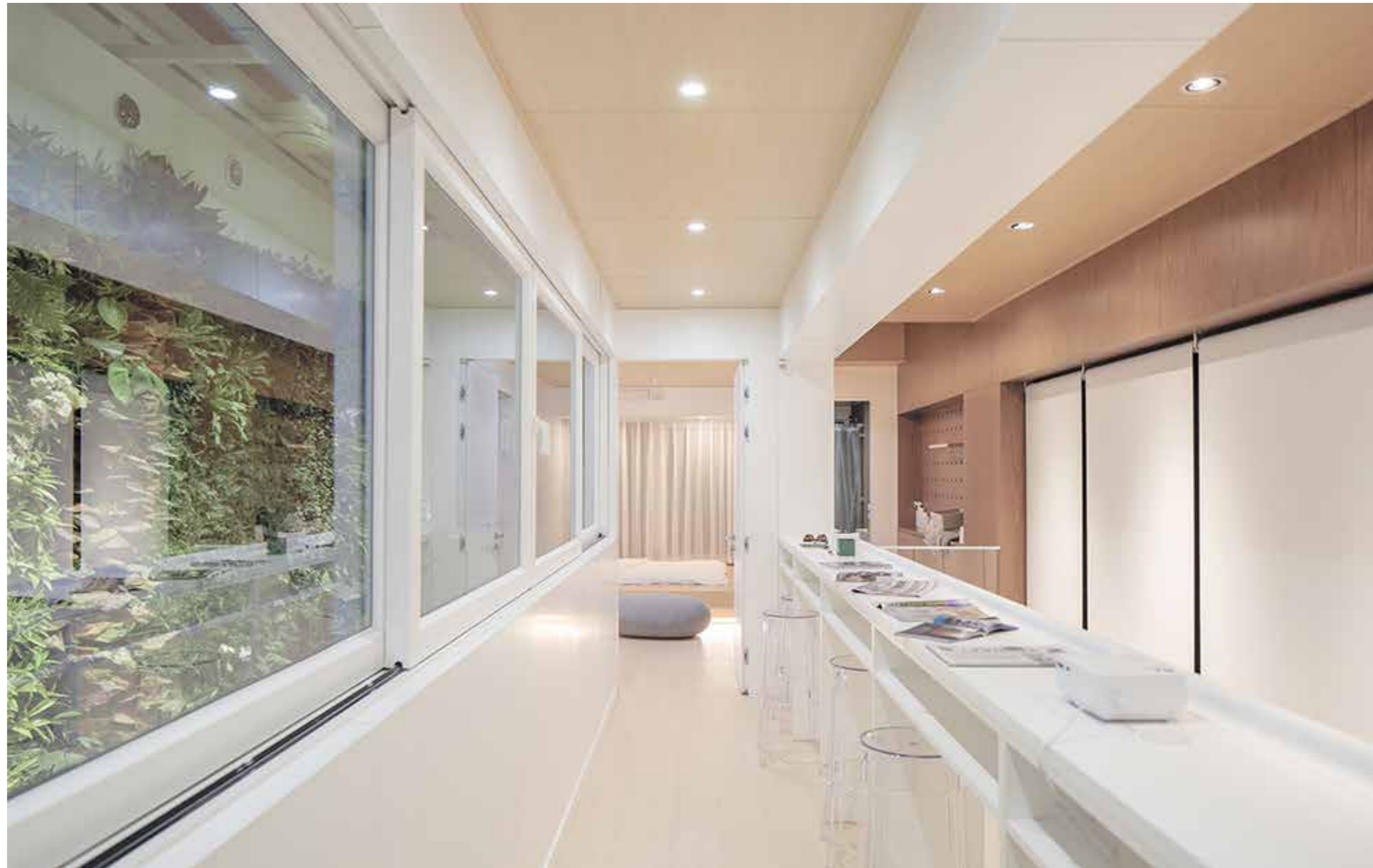
tank for aquaculture. In order to limit the heating peaks during the hot season the main patio is closed with a vacuum glazing, allowing a higher isolation. Heating is provided by a capillary tube system; the technical equipment is completed with a double side photovoltaic system, allowing to increase the installed power, thanks to the reflected radiation. The contribution of the different technologies to the optimisation of the internal microclimate are harmonised with the help of a domotic interface. This allows to save a relevant share of the produced energy, which - in a future application at the urban scale - could be shared among the members of the community.

Low rise and high density are, thus, the main features of this model that did not aim to address primarily the limited target of wealthy people, but, instead, the new middle-class market constantly growing in China and increasingly eager to access to higher standards of living. The trump card in the competition was the integrated design process, taking into consideration the architectural aspects, the energy efficiency and the technical integration. The interdisciplinary team of professors and students was awarded thanks to a high grade point average in all the proofs.

The competition was also an international showcase, because the buildings were open to the public, and they became, at the end of the exhibition, the core of a new solar neighborhood. In the sunny plain of Dezhou, in the Shandong Province, where the houses were built, 2 million visitors touched with their hands a new model of housing which does not represent a desirable future, but a current possibility, realised with technologies that are already available on the market.



**Fig. 2** | Photograph of the first floor, 2018 (credit: Xu Jiaxun).  
**Fig. 3** | Photograph of the bedroom, 2018 (credit: Xu Jiaxun).



## **CURATING**

[p. 134] **EYES OF THE CITY. Bi-city Shenzhen  
Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2019**

[p. 144] **CHINA GOES URBAN. The city to come**

[p. 156] **HUTONG PLAYGROUND. Beijing Design  
Week 2017**

[p. 162] **MEMORY AND REGENERATION. Column on  
World Architecture**

**05**



**EYES OF THE CITY**  
**Bi-city Shenzhen**  
**Biennale of Urbanism\**  
**Architecture 2019**

**CURATORSHIP**

**Timeline:** December 21, 2019 – April 18, 2020

**Location:** Futian Railway Station, Shenzhen

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**  
**In collaboration with Carlo Ratti Associati (CRA) and South China University of Technology (SCUT)**

**Developed for Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2019**

**CURATORIAL TEAM**

**CHIEF CURATOR**  
 Carlo Ratti

**ACADEMIC CURATORS**  
 Michele Bonino - Politecnico di Torino  
 Yimin Sun - South China University of Technology

**EXECUTIVE CURATORS**  
 Daniele Belleri - CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati  
 Edoardo Bruno - Politecnico di Torino  
 Haohao Xu - South China University of Technology

**HEAD CURATOR OF EDITORIAL AND EVENTS**  
 Valeria Federighi  
**HEAD CURATOR OF EXHIBITION AND GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
 Claudia Mainardi  
**HEAD CURATOR OF EXHIBITION AND ON-SITE COORDINATION**  
 Monica Naso  
**ASSISTANT CURATORS**  
 Erika Bettega, Camilla Forina, Xingxin He, Jiachen Lin, Xian Lu

**EXHIBITION VENUE DESIGN**  
 CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and Politecnico di Torino / China Room

**HEAD OF DESIGN**  
 Andrea Cassi  
**CREATIVE CONSULTANCY**  
 Italo Rota

**DESIGN TEAM**  
 James Schrader, Alberto Benetti, Niccolò Centrone, Rui Guan, Pietro Franceschini, Serena Giardina, Stephanie Lee, Federico Riches, Ina Sefgjini, Alessandro Servalli, Chenyu Xu  
**VENUE GRAPHIC DESIGN AND WAYFINDING SYSTEM**  
 Mieke Gerritzen, Luigi Savio

**RENDERINGS**  
 Gary Di Silvio, Matteo Migliaccio, Pasquale Milieri, Gianluca Zimbardi

**INFOGRAPHICS**  
 Professor Paolo Ciuccarelli's team at the Northeastern University's College of Arts, Media and Design in Boston

**EXECUTIVE DESIGN**  
 Jiang & Associates Design (J&A)

**PRODUCTION & CONSTRUCTION**  
**EXHIBITION PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
 Freddy Curiel - Lapis Bureau  
**VENUE PROJECT MANAGER**  
 Si Liu

**EXHIBITION PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS**  
 Yunqian Zhang, Yitong Wang, Lan Chang

**VENUE DEVELOPMENT**  
 Silkroad Vision Technology Co. Ltd

**FACIAL RECOGNITION PLATFORM**  
 Turingviz Technology (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd.

**LED SCREEN SYSTEM**  
 Hisense Tv

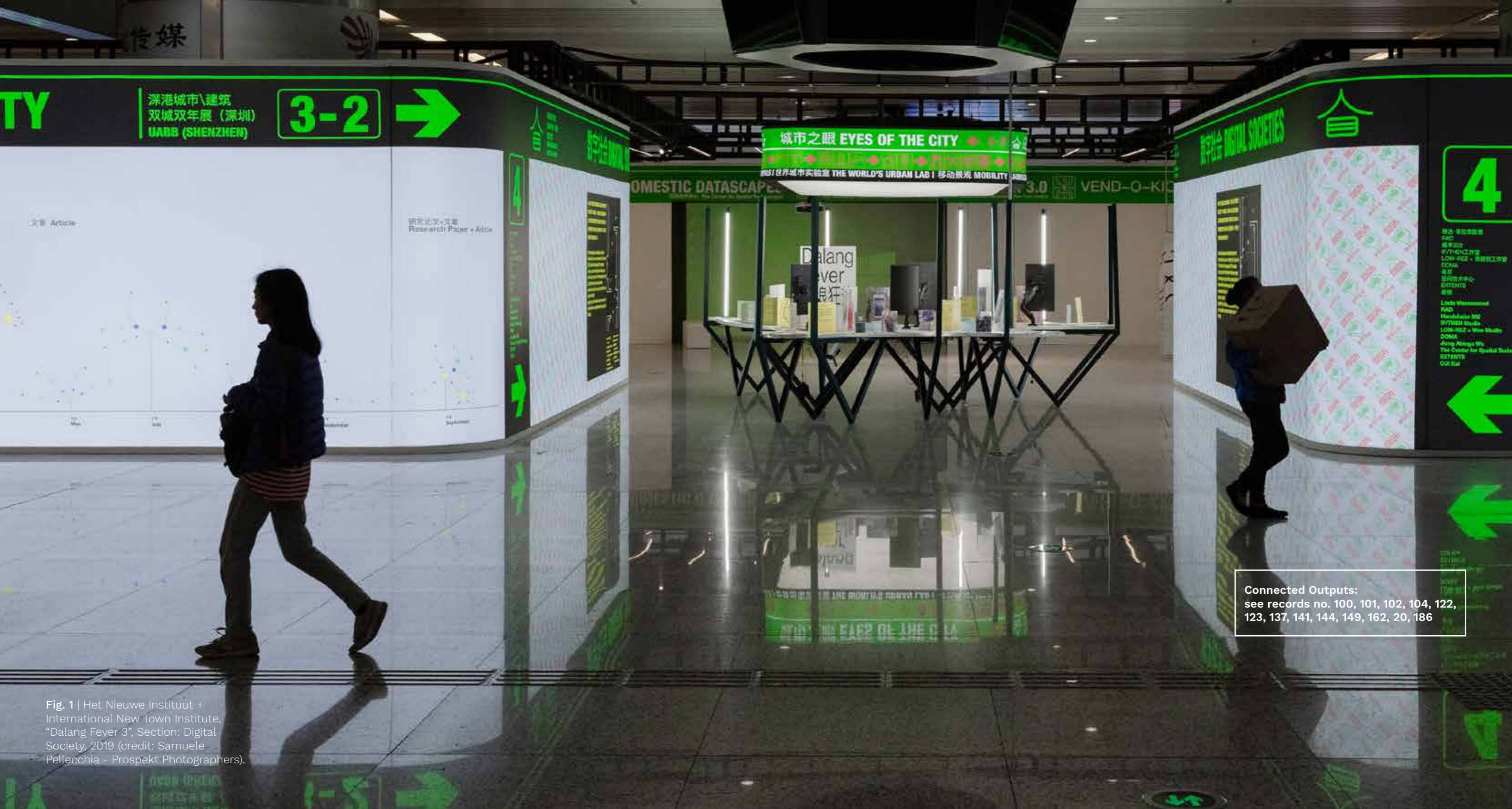
**CURATORS OF GBA ACADEMY**  
 Adalberto Del Bo, Marco Bovati with Florencia Andreola, Maria Vittoria Cardinale, Davide Castoro, Lorenzo Ceccon, Daniele Villa

**CURATORS OF SOFTWARE AS INFRASTRUCTURE**  
 Nick Axel, Nikolaus Hirsch

**CURATORS OF TENDER MACHINES**  
 Marina Otero Verzier, Nicholas Korody

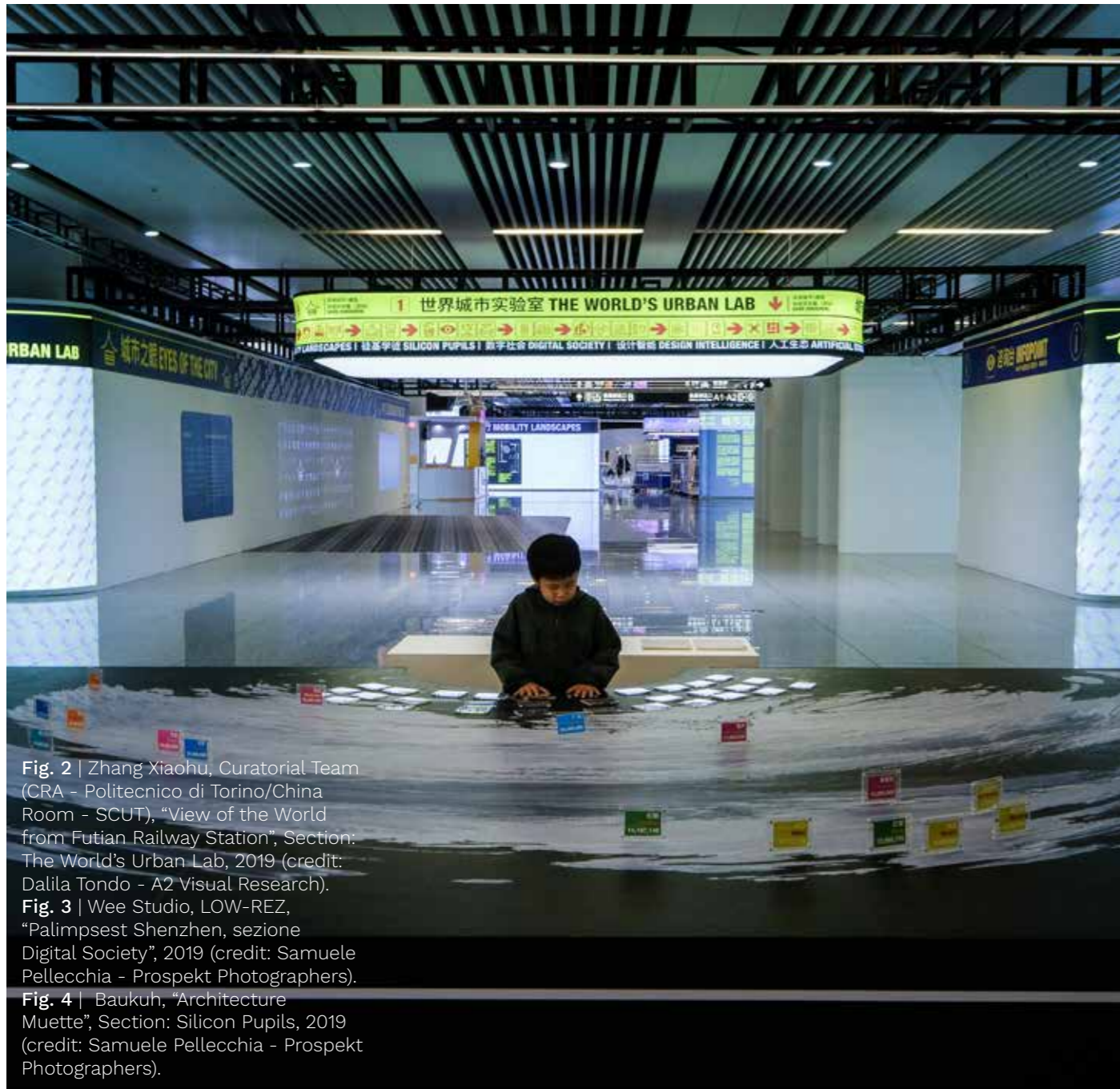
**PRESS OFFICE**  
 Aurora Percannella - CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati  
 Elena Foglia Franke - Politecnico di Torino

The title “Eyes of the City” took inspiration from the famous expression “eyes on the street” — formulated by Jane Jacobs in 1961 in “The Death and Life of Great American Cities” — in order to reframe the uneven relationship between the city and digital technology we are experiencing nowadays: the recent advancements of Artificial Intelligence, deep learning and imaging that are producing architectural spaces able to “see”. The main question by curators was: “after the “eyes on the street,” we are now entering the era of the “Eyes of the City.” What does it happen, then, to people and the urban landscape when the sensor-imbued city is able to gaze back?”



Connected Outputs:  
see records no. 100, 101, 102, 104, 122,  
123, 137, 141, 144, 149, 162, 20, 186

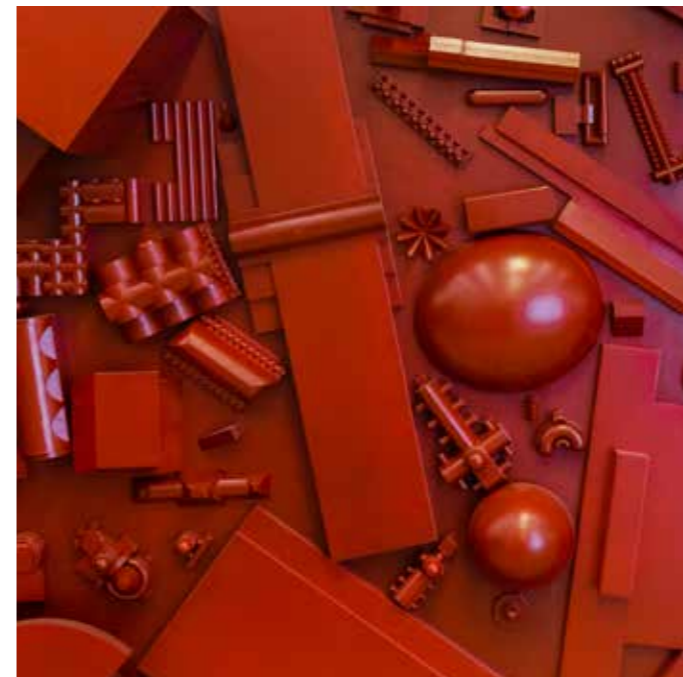
Fig. 1 | Het Nieuwe Instituut + International New Town Institute, “Dalang Fever 3”, Section: Digital Society, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).



**Fig. 2** | Zhang Xiaohu, Curatorial Team (CRA - Politecnico di Torino/China Room - SCUT), "View of the World from Futian Railway Station", Section: The World's Urban Lab, 2019 (credit: Dalila Tondo - A2 Visual Research).  
**Fig. 3** | Wee Studio, LOW-REZ, "Palimpsest Shenzhen, sezione Digital Society", 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).  
**Fig. 4** | Baukuh, "Architecture Muette", Section: Silicon Pupils, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).



emergence of the Internet of Things. This ushered in a series of radical changes in how we conceive, design and live the city. The curators of the *EYES OF THE CITY* pursued a method called "open curatorship" that consisted in a flexible, discursive approach. During the course of approximately eight months, the main curatorial statement was publicly challenged and ultimately enriched by the input of hundreds of participants. The debate was constructed around three main pillars. The first put on the forefront the role of invited "foundational contributors" worldwide: renowned scholars and practitioners responded to the curatorial statement, underlining the connection between the exhibition and a series of fundamental contemporary issues - surveillance, ecology, design methods, social engagement. The second focused on a triple "open call" - for research projects, design projects, and scientific papers. It gained almost 300 submissions from all around the world. About 50 research and design projects and 18 papers were finally selected to be fully displayed in the main venue. The third consisted in developing the exhibition through a "local production" principle, in which all the installations had to be constructed starting from the local creative industrial chain. Exhibitors were asked to create blueprints to support the development process while defining an open archive capable of diffusing DIY methodologies. This strategy aimed also to strongly reduce the carbon footprint of the entire exhibition, so that overseas shipping was avoided entirely.



The *EYES OF THE CITY* exhibition — along a marathon program of collateral events and seminars — aimed to experiment the implications of architects and designers in engaging with the new potentialities, as well as the threats, that technologies are posing in the way people experience the city. The main objective of the curatorial plan was to grasp emerging scenarios, inspiring participants and visitors to form an opinion and getting involved in the definition of how new technologies will shape cities in years to come.

Text: Edoardo Bruno

In 2018, China Room - Politecnico di Torino was entitled Academic Curator of the Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2019 (UABB). Together with Carlo Ratti Associati and the South-China University of Technology, they developed the exhibition , arousing reflections about contemporary urban and architectural spaces and upcoming new technologies. The exhibition project was part of the *URBAN INTERACTIONS* topic proposed by UABB for the 2019 edition. It opened on the 21st of December 2019 (and it should have closed on the 18th of April 2020) in Shenzhen, inside the main hall of Futian

High-Speed Railway Station. For the 2019 UABB, the curators of *EYES OF THE CITY* investigated how humans' relationship with the city might change when buildings become able to respond to our presence: a scenario that opened new, untapped opportunities and challenges. To put it in the words of Rich Gold (1995): "How smart does your bed have to be, before you are afraid to go to sleep?". All around the world, the last two decades have witnessed an increasing penetration of digital technologies in the physical space - a phenomenon often described as the

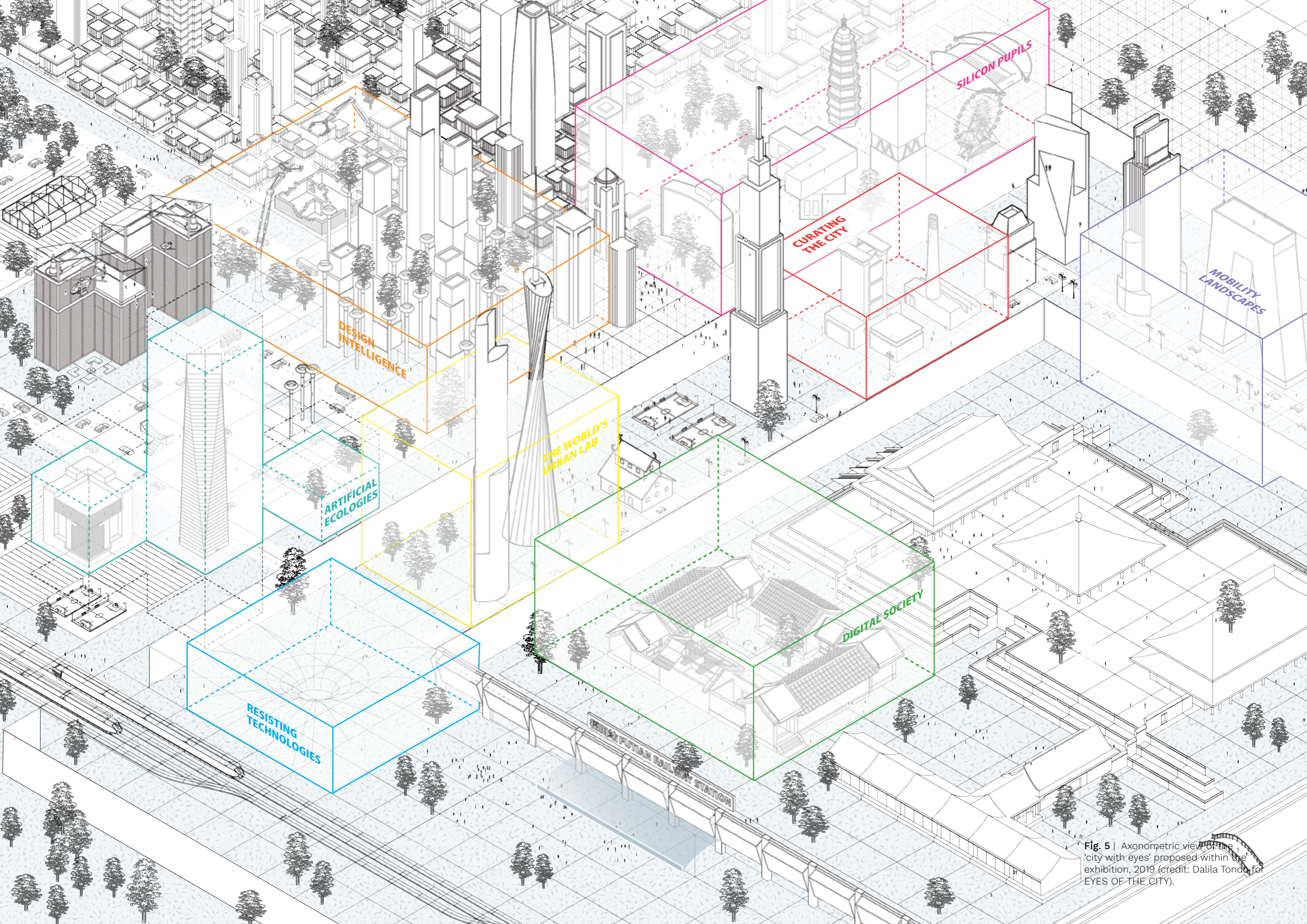


Fig. 5 | Axonometric view of the 'city with eyes' proposed within the exhibition, 2019 (credit: Dalila Tondo for EYES OF THE CITY).

# UABB 2019 - MARATHON EVENTS

Text: Camilla Forina

The program of events of the 2019-2020 Shenzhen Biennale has been curated by the **EYES OF THE CITY** team as a way to extend and reflect upon the main issues raised by the exhibition. The programme consisted in a series of three weekend 'marathons' of intensive panels, lectures and roundtables. They took place partially on-site and partially online from December 21st to April 18th.

The first marathon event coincides with the opening weekend. It was co-curated by the **EYES OF THE CITY** and the Ascending City teams and hosted exhibitors from both sections of the Biennale as well as renowned outside guests. The second marathon event revolved around a topic for discussion based on specific sections of the **EYES OF THE CITY** section, and was co-curated by the **EYES OF THE CITY** team and guest-curators e-Flux Architecture (Nick Axel and Nikolaus Hirsch). The third marathon event coincided with the closing event of the exhibition. It was co-curated by Marina Otero Verzier and Nicholas Korody. It explored some of the topics raised since the diffusion of the Coronavirus especially related to the role of technology, design and ethics.

**Guests:** OPENING EVENT (December 21-22, 2019) - Ole Bouman, Fabio Cavallucci, Betty Chen (Sidewalks Lab), Anna de Manincor (Zimmerfrei), Filippo De Pieri and Paolo Mellano (Politecnico

di Torino), Martijn De Waal (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences), Jun Fei (Central Academy of Fine Arts), Yang Feng (Guangdong), Françoise Ged (Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine contemporaine), Jianxiang He and Ying Jiang (O-Office), Wanyu He (XKool), Quanle Huang (Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts), Bao Li (Southeast University), Bing Li (Dalian University), Doreen Heng Liu (NODE), Andong Lu (Nanjing University), Andrei Martin and Gilles Retsin (PLP), Meng Yan and Liu Xiaodu (URBANUS Architecture & Design Inc.), Liam Young, Philip Yuan (Tongji University), Francois Penz (University of Cambridge), Stefanie Pieri (Arup), Emilie Rousseau (Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine contemporaine), Zhaohui Tang and Di Xu (South China University of Technology), Linda Vlassenrood (International New Town Institute), Weiren Wang (University of Hong Kong), Thomas Wong, Yibo Xu (Stefano Boeri Architetti), Jianqiang Yang (Dongnan University), Chunyan Zhang (Tianjin University).

**DIGITAL SOCIETY/SILICON PUPILS MARATHON** (January 11-12, 2020) - Nick Axel and Nikolaus Hirsch (E-Flux architecture), David Banks, Florence Bideau and Marc Laperrouza (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne), Monique Bolli (ETH Zurich), Xiaoyang Chen (Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts), Dennis De Bel, Fredrik Hellberg (Space Popular), Weiwen Huang (FuturePlus Academy), Zi Li (National University of Singapore), Zhisheng Liu (WAS INC.), Amelyn NG, Mary Ann O'Donnell, Clement Renaud, Lucia Tahan, Andrew Witt (Certain Measures), Helen Runting (Secretary), Andrés Jaque (Office for Political Innovation), Paola Viganò, Bingfeng Xu (Taobao Village, Junpu Village, Jiayang), Botao Zhong (Shenzhen University).

**PANDEMICS & THE CITY/TENDER MACHINES** (April 18, 2020) - Iva Bojic and Daniel Kondor (MIT - Senseable City Lab), Nicholas Korody (Adjustments Agency), Jian Liu (Tsinghua University), Bernhard Müller (Technische Universität Dresden), Marina Otero Verzier (Het Nieuwe Instituut), Annemie Wyckmans (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Chungyang Zhang (South China University of Technology).

深港城市\建筑双城双年展 (深圳) UABB (SHENZHEN) 城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY

城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY | 城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY | 城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY

eyes of the city

数字社会 / 硅基学徒

城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY 城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY

2020年1月11日至12日 JANUARY 11-12

深圳城市设计促进中心 SHENZHEN DESIGN CENTER

01.11 (周六 Saturday) 11:00-12:30  
多孔隙水平：未来的都市  
POROUS AND HORIZONTAL  
THE FUTURE OF THE METROPOLIS  
主讲嘉宾：皮拉·维加诺 (建筑分领域策展人)  
Speakers: Paola VIGANO (Architecture Curator of Tianjin Sub-venue)

01.12 (周日 Sunday) 10:30-12:30  
打造数字中国  
REALTIME: MAKING DIGITAL CHINA  
主讲嘉宾：克莱门特·雷诺、佛罗伦萨·比多、马克·拉珀鲁扎  
Speakers: Clement RENAUD, Florence BIDEAU, Marc LAPERROUZA

01.12 (周日 Sunday) 13:30-15:30  
在线城市主义——数字乡村现在和未来  
ONLINE URBANISM  
主讲嘉宾：钟涛、陈鹤阳、许少峰、李亮、刘世升  
Speakers: Botao ZHONG, Chenheyan CHEN, Bingfeng XU, Li Li, Zhaohang LIU

01.11 (周六 Saturday) 12:30-18:30  
软件基础设施  
SOFTWARE AS INFRASTRUCTURE  
由 E-Flux 建筑 (尼克·阿克塞尔 & 尼古拉斯·赫希) 主办；  
尼克·阿克塞尔主持  
Moderated by E-Flux Architecture (Nick AXEL & Nikolaus HIRSCH);  
Moderated by Nick AXEL

主讲嘉宾：  
黄伟文  
露西·塔班  
弗雷德里克·赫尔伯格  
马立安  
大卫·班克斯  
阿梅琳·恩格  
海伦·朗廷  
安德鲁·维特  
安德烈斯·雅克

学术论坛 MARATHON EVENT

DIGITAL SOCIETY/SILICON PUPILS

本活动由 2019 年深港城市 / 建筑双城双年展的“城市之眼”策展团队策展团队承办  
The marathon event is organized by the Eyes of the City curatorial team within the 2019-2020 UABB

UABB BI-CITY BIENNALE OF URBANISM/ARCHITECTURE 深港城市\建筑双城双年展

CARLO RATTI ASSOCIATI

POLITECNICO DI TORINO

e-flux architecture

闭幕论坛 1  
卫生与城市

闭幕论坛 2  
柔软的机器

城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY 城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY

2020年4月18日 APRIL 18

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm (UTC+8)

EVENT - SAVE THE DATE - ONLINE EVENT - SAVE THE DATE

线上闭幕论坛 FINAL EVENT

城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY 城市之眼 EYES OF THE CITY

closing symposium  
PANDEMICS & THE CITY  
lecture  
TENDER MACHINES

本活动由 2019 年深港城市 / 建筑双城双年展的“城市之眼”策展团队策展团队承办  
The marathon event is organized by the Eyes of the City curatorial team within the 2019-2020 UABB

UABB BI-CITY BIENNALE OF URBANISM/ARCHITECTURE 深港城市\建筑双城双年展

CARLO RATTI ASSOCIATI

POLITECNICO DI TORINO

e-flux architecture



# CHINA GOES URBAN

## The City to Come

### CURATORSHIP

**Timeline:** September 2020 – October 2021

**Location:** Turin, Piedmont, Italy

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**  
In collaboration with Propekt Photographers, Tsinghua University

**Developed for MAO Museo d'Arte Orientale**  
**Supported by Fondazione Torino Musei and Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**

#### CURATORIAL TEAM

*Text: Francesco Carota*

#### SCIENTIFIC CURATORSHIP

Michele Bonino  
Francesca Governa  
in collaboration with Maria Paola Repellino, Angelo Sampieri

#### ARTISTIC CURATORSHIP

Samuele Pellecchia  
in collaboration with Francesco Merlini

#### SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

Francesco Carota

#### CO-CURATORSHIP

Liu Jian  
in collaboration with Zhang Li, Fan Lu

#### COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

Angela Benotto, Delia Malfitano

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Samuele Pellecchia

#### MUSIC

Federico Chiari

#### GRAPHIC PROCESSING AND REPRESENTATIONS

Giorgia Greco, Nikos Katsikis, Lidia Preti, Leonardo Ramondetti, Astrid Safina

#### ARCHITECTURAL MODELS

Stefano Orizio

#### EXHIBITION DESIGN

BTTstudio, Giuseppe Mastrangelo, Giulia La Delfa, Niccolò Suraci, Cristiano Tosco  
in collaboration with Luca Barello

#### GRAPHICS

BTTstudio, Quirino Spinelli  
in collaboration with Roberto Clemente

#### WEB DESIGN

Francesco Merlini

#### EVENTS COORDINATION

Delia Malfitano, Lidia Preti

#### TRANSLATIONS

Erika Young (Breda & Young Srl)

#### TRANSPORT

Fercam S.p.A.

#### INSURANCE

AGE Srl

#### EXHIBITION STAGING

MODO Srl

#### AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT

Timpani Srl

**Cover** | New buildings with airplane in Tongzhou New Town, Beijing, Beijing Municipality, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

Curated by the Politecnico di Torino and by Propekt Photographers with Tsinghua University (Beijing), the exhibition was the result of years of research. It offered the public a new and broad perspective that traced a line of continuity between past, present and future, connecting the culture of traditional China with the impressive transformations of contemporary Chinese cities. This was an opportunity to deepen and question the challenges posed by the urban changes taking place not only in China, but all over the planet. Starting from the exploration of some new Chinese cities and the contradictions triggered by the frenetic processes of urbanisation and urban expansion, the exhibition aimed to stimulate a reflection on the city of today and the future.

Photographs and videos, installations, maquette, data and infographics drove visitors along two logical itineraries. The first one gradually deconstructed the idea that Chinese urbanisation is exceptional, starting from the reconstruction of an “exhibition hall” in which developers and public administrations “stage” the city. The diversity and exoticism normally associated with Chinese cities are then chip away. By showing the ordinary everyday life unfolding in the new settlements, videos, images, installations and explanations gradually made new Chinese urbanisations more “familiar”. The second itinerary begun with empty, distant and lifeless spaces. Gradually, however, the same spaces became



more animated: the photographs and videos narrowed the gap between the visitors and the persons portrayed, their faces, gestures and movements.

Tongzhou, Zhaoqing, Zhengdong and Lanzhou are the new towns where China Room started to explore and where the exhibition begun, moving from China to the world, and then back, from the world to the specific features of the new settlements.

In 1978, 18% of the population in China lived in urban areas. Since then, the number of inhabitants in cities has increased approximately 1% per annum and currently makes up 60% of the total population. New infrastructures and settlements have gradually modified the landscape, transformed property rights, swept away administrative boundaries, and “gobbled up” rural spaces and villages. Understanding the rapid, disruptive process of Chinese urbanisation is not easy. Existing categories and models are useless. If we believe it to simply be an exaggeration and a flaw, we are effectively ignoring the fact that it constitutes an epochal change - even deeper and harder due to the current pandemic - that redefines roles and relationships, not only from a geo-economic and geo-political point of view, but also from the point of view of culture, imagination and possibilities. *China Goes Urban* proposed to change viewpoint, to look at reality rather than pigeonhole it in predefined categories and models. It was an invitation to explore the world by travelling through the city and architecture of today and tomorrow. It did not provide answers. It interrogated and questioned. It highlighted the relationship between the specificities and differences of current global urbanisation. It indicated to what extent today changes in China are not foreign to us and to our existence in the world.

Fig. 2 | Photograph of the outfitting: Are You There? (credit: Camilla Bianchi).

Fig. 3 | Poster of the exhibition.

Fig. 4 | Photograph of the outfitting: *On the Road* (credit: Camilla Bianchi).

In the previous page:

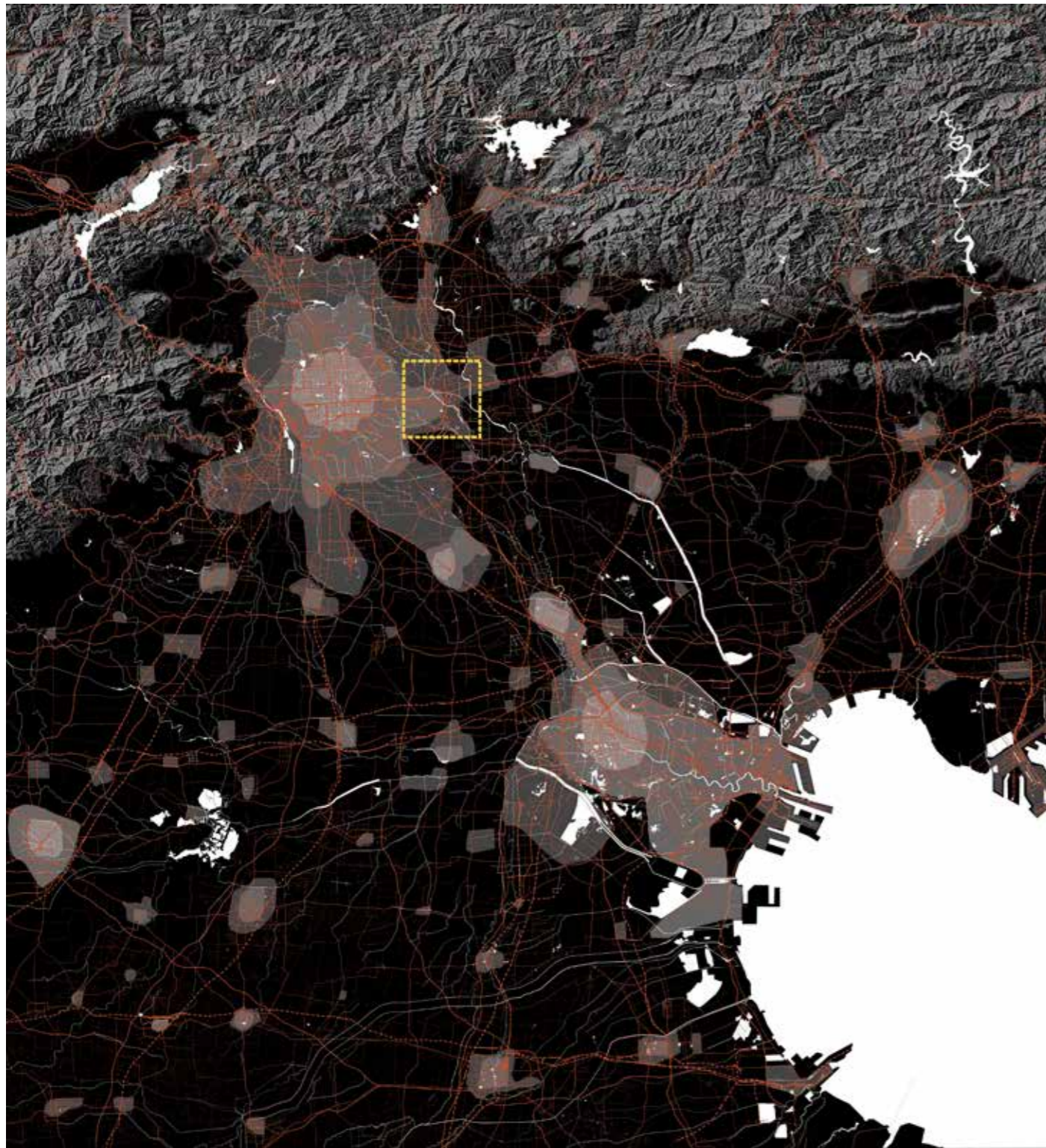
Fig. 1 | Photograph of the outfitting: *Entering an Exhibition Hall* (credit: Camilla Bianchi).





**China Goes Urban is an exhibition held at MAO Museo d'Arte Orientale di Torino, curated by Politecnico di Torino and by Prospekt Photographers with Tsinghua University in Beijing, thanks to the support of Fondazione Torino Musei and Intesa San Paolo. Through different media and materials, China Goes Urban drives the visitor to discover the contemporary Chinese City in relation to the phenomenon of the planetary urbanisation. China Goes Urban proposes to change viewpoint, to look at reality rather than pigeonhole it in predefined categories and models. It is an invitation to explore the world by travelling through the city and architecture of today and tomorrow and circumnavigating the concept of city.**

Fig. 5, 6, 7 | Photograph of the outfitting: *The City of Fragments*; *Urban Materials*; *What Is the City Turning Into?* (credit: Camilla Bianchi).



**Connected Outputs:**  
see records no. 138, 140, 160

**Fig. 9** | Tongzhou New Town and the regional urbanisation, 2020 (credit: Astrid Safina - China Room).  
**Fig. 10** | Farmers working near Zhongmu in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).  
**Fig. 11** | Earthmoving for the construction of a new block in Lanzhou New Town, Lanzhou, Gansu Province, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

# China Goes Urban - Lecture Series

Text: Maria Paola Repellino

A rich cycle of online events accompanied the exhibition *China Goes Urban. The City to Come*. The programme was structured in three different ways.

*Walking through the exhibition* collected debates between the curators and experts in the field of visual arts, urban studies and urbanism within the rooms of the museum.

*Lectures on city and innovations* gathered remarks on China and the world in the words of Politecnico di Torino scholars.

*Head to head interviews* collected dialogues and points of view on the places of Chinese urbanisation through academic, curatorial and photographic practice.


The lecture series offered to a wide audience multiple opportunities for debate and insight on the themes of the exhibition. Videos of the events are available online.

**Guests:** Alessandro Amaducci (Università di Torino), Giorgio Cuscito (Limes), Daniele Brombal (Università Cà Foscari), Augusto Cagnardi (Gregotti Associati International), Plinio Innocenzi (Università di Sassari), Roberto Pagani, Carla Bartolozzi, Giuseppe Carlo Marano, Francesca Frassoldati, Antonio di Campi, Marco Trisciuglio (Politecnico di Torino), Du Qian (Shanghai Jiaotong University), Bruno Briseghella (Fuzhou University), Camillo Nuti (Università Roma Tre), Giada Messetti, Steve Bisson (Paris College of Art), Alessandro Zanoni, Gary Hack (Massachusetts Institute

of Technology), Tim Oakes (University of Colorado Boulder), Ole Bouman (Design Society Shenzhen), Beatrice Leanza (MAAT di Lisbona), Stefania Stafutti (Università di Torino).

The International seminar *China Goes Urban - The City to Come* (11 November 2020) was organised as a special event within the framework of the lecture series. The seminar was an opportunity to discuss on the new urbanisation processes and their impact at the global level together with well-known experts in the field of urban studies, architecture and urban planning.

**Guests:** Ash Amin (University of Cambridge), Bian Lanchun e Liu Jian (Tsinghua University), Ann Forsyth (Harvard University), Lu Andong (Nanjing University), Bernhard Müller (Technische Universität Dresden), Brent D. Ryan (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Michele Bonino e Francesca Governa (Politecnico di Torino). Event in collaboration with Biennale Tecnologia.

→ PASSEGGIATE PER LA MOSTRA 

Discussioni tra le sale del museo, condotte da Claudio Jampaglia.

**Sabato 24 ottobre 2020 ore 15 | Leggere la città: da vicino, da lontano**  
con Alessandro Amaducci, Università di Torino, e Samuele Pellecchia, curatore della mostra

**Sabato 31 ottobre 2020 ore 15 | Il potere dell'infrastruttura**  
con Giorgio Cuscito, Limes, e Francesca Governa, curatrice della mostra

**Sabato 7 novembre 2020 ore 15 | Il sogno urbano**  
con Daniele Brombal, Università Cà Foscari, e Michele Bonino, curatore della mostra

**Sabato 14 novembre 2020 ore 15 | Materiali urbani e progetti di città**  
con Augusto Cagnardi, Gregotti Associati International, e Laura Lieto, Università di Napoli Federico II. Evento parte di Biennale Tecnologia

→ LEZIONI SU CITTÀ E INNOVAZIONE  

Osservazioni sulla Cina e sul mondo, nelle parole degli studiosi del Politecnico.


**Giovedì 19 novembre 2020 ore 17 | Città e innovazione**  
con Plinio Innocenzi, Università di Sassari, e Roberto Pagani, Politecnico di Torino e Addetto Scientifico del Consolato Generale d'Italia a Shanghai

**Giovedì 3 dicembre 2020 ore 17 | Ripensare il villaggio tradizionale cinese**  
con Carla Bartolozzi, Politecnico di Torino, e Du Qian, Shanghai Jiaotong University

**Mercoledì 9 dicembre 2020 ore 17 | Il progresso dell'industria delle costruzioni in Cina**  
con Bruno Briseghella, Fuzhou University, Giuseppe Carlo Marano, Politecnico di Torino, e Camillo Nuti, Università Roma Tre.

**Giovedì 17 dicembre 2020 ore 17 | Towards Socially Integrative Cities**  
con Francesca Frassoldati, Politecnico di Torino, e gli autori del nuovo libro sulle città sostenibili in Europa e in Cina (evento in lingua inglese).

**Giovedì 7 gennaio 2021 ore 17 | Un'idea orientale di postmodernismo**  
con Antonio di Campi, Politecnico di Torino

→ INTERVISTE DOPPIE 

Dialoghi e punti di vista sui luoghi dell'urbanizzazione cinese.

**Giovedì 14 gennaio 2021 ore 18 | Il modello Inner Mongolia: notizie dal fronte settentrionale**  
con Steve Bisson, Paris College of Art, e Alessandro Zanoni, art director e fotografo

**Giovedì 21 gennaio 2021 ore 18 | New Districts and Beautified Villages in Urban China**  
con Gary Hack, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, e Tim Oakes, University of Colorado Boulder (evento in lingua inglese)

**Giovedì 28 gennaio 2021 ore 15 | Displaying the City**  
con Ole Bouman, Design Society Shenzhen, e Beatrice Leanza, MAAT di Lisbona (evento in lingua inglese)

→ EVENTI SPECIALI 


**Mercoledì 11 novembre 2020 ore 14.30 - 19 | China Goes Urban - The City to Come**  
Seminario internazionale con noti esperti nel campo degli studi urbani, dell'architettura e dell'urbanistica.

Con Ash Amin, University of Cambridge, Bian Lanchun, Tsinghua University, Ann Forsyth, Harvard University, Liu Jian, Tsinghua University, Lu Andong, Nanjing University, Bernhard Müller, Technische Universität Dresden, Brent D. Ryan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, e Michele Bonino e Francesca Governa, Politecnico di Torino

Evento in collaborazione con Biennale Tecnologia (in lingua inglese)

**Giovedì 4 febbraio 2021 ore 18 | Conferenza conclusiva**  

Con Stefania Stafutti, Università di Torino, in dialogo con i curatori

 evento in presenza  evento in streaming

→ INFO

Informazioni dettagliate e aggiornamenti sul programma:  
[www.maotorino.it](http://www.maotorino.it)  
[www.chinagoesurban.com](http://www.chinagoesurban.com)

Per assistere agli eventi in presenza è obbligatoria la prenotazione all'indirizzo email: [tiziana.nosek@fondazionetorinomusei.it](mailto:tiziana.nosek@fondazionetorinomusei.it)

**International Seminar**

**Nov 11th 2020**  
Live streaming  
[www.chinagoesurban.com/seminar](http://www.chinagoesurban.com/seminar)

**Registration**  
<https://www.eventbrite.it/e/biglietti-chinagoes-urban-the-city-to-come-127437387657>

**China goes Urban**  
The City to Come

— Welcome | 2.30 PM  
■ Elisabetta Rattalino | Fondazione Torino Musei

— Introduction | 2.35 PM  
■ Francesca Governa | Politecnico di Torino

— Section 1 – Urban China and Urban Theories | 2.45 PM  
■ Ash Amin | University of Cambridge  
■ Lu Andong | Nanjing University  
■ Brent D. Ryan | Massachusetts Institute of Technology

— Concluding Remarks Section 1 | 4.15 PM  
■ Liu Jian | Tsinghua University

— Section 2 – Urban China and Urban Practices | 4.40 PM  
■ Bian Lanchun | Tsinghua University  
■ Ann Forsyth | Harvard University  
■ Bernhard Muller | TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA

— Concluding Remarks Section 2 | 6.10 PM  
■ Michele Bonino | Politecnico di Torino



# HUTONG PLAYGROUND

## Beijing Design Week

### 2017

#### INSTALLATION

**Timeline:** September 2017

**Location:** Beijing

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room**  
In collaboration with EPFL and Tsinghua University

Developed for Beijing Design Week, Baitasi Remade  
Supported by Beijing Design Week, Baitasi Remade

#### CURATORIAL TEAM

Michele Bonino  
Alberto Bologna  
Silvia Lanteri  
Marta Mancini  
Maria Paola Repellino

#### COLLABORATORS

Enrica Perrot  
Lidia Preti  
Florence Graezer Bideau - EPFL  
Deng Huishu - Tsinghua University

*Text: Silvia Lanteri*

Beijing Design Week (BJDW) is an annual event, that takes place in the fall season in Beijing. First launched as a pilot effort in 2009, it has quickly become the leading international platform for design in China.

*Baitasi ReMade*, as part of the event, is trying to improve this neighbourhood through design, pushing the architect-urbanist to give up his “demolisher-designer-constructor” role to become an “urban curator” able to transform the city through a sensible look.

Within this framework, the “Hutong Playground” installation is the result of the collaboration between Politecnico di Torino (joining the event for the fourth time) and the EPFL of Lausanne. It was a reflection on the theme *Making Neighborhood* proposed by the organization.

Each of the ten selected participants - Politecnico di Torino was the only Italian - was asked to turn one of the traditional courtyards into the exhibition ground. *Hutong Playground* created a new aggregation point for neighbourhood residents, transforming the traditional court space into a different place, where gameplay becomes the most important element.

The inner courtyard, enclosed by four buildings, contained an imaginary volume defined by the blue colour covering each surface. Placed in an apparently casual way - indifferently in between inside and outside of the buildings - it was intended as a playground that welcomed in the private and intimate part

**Cover** | On-site photograph of the temporary installation (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

of the house some elements commonly owned by the public space: ping pong, gymnastic equipment, Chinese chess, hopscotch. In this way the project intended to drag a fragment of urban vitality within the domestic sphere, scrapping and questioning the already unbreakable border between public and private dimensions. Interacting actively with the installation, the visitor was led to think about aggregation dynamics within this part of the city.

Observing Baitasi from within, this installation was the first occasion for the China Room to explore the relationship between the Beijing Design Week (BJDW) temporary event and long-term incremental urban transformations, in between the physical dimension of the city and its representation.

It offered the opportunity to reflect on the reciprocal intersection between processes of micro-urban regeneration and culture - considered as a means of urban narration and images production. Moreover, it was the starting point for some researches as the PhD thesis entitled *Eventful Hutong. Incremental Regeneration Processes for Dashilar and Baitasi within Beijing Design Week*.



*How to inject a public splinter into a domestic dimension?  
How to reinterpret an ancient small housing system inside a huge growing metropolis?  
These were the main questions the project intended to answer with simple moves, proposing some new points of reflection on the possible future for Beijing inner city.*

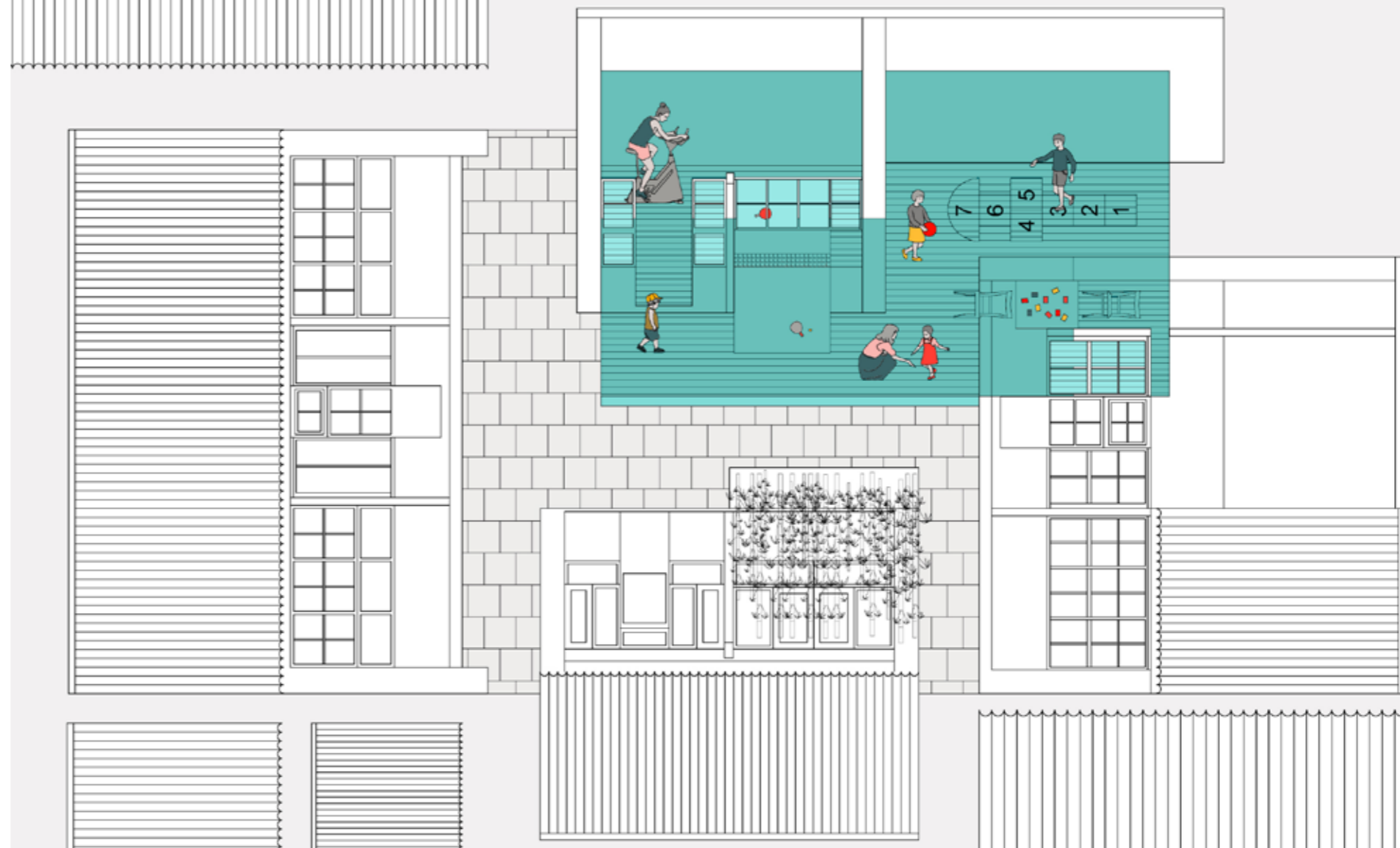
**Fig. 1** | Detail of a young visitor playing within the temporary installation (credit: Enrica Perrot).

**Fig. 2** | Detail of young visitors playing within the temporary installation (credit: Enrica Perrot)

**Fig. 3** | On-site photograph of the temporary installation (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).

**Fig. 4** | Visualization of the installation proposal (credit: Silvia Lanteri - China Room).

**Fig. 5** | On-site photograph of the temporary installation (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Propekt Photographers).





# MEMORY AND REGENERATION Column on World Architecture

2 0 2 0 0 2  
世界建筑  
World Architecture

当前社区中的建筑 | Architecture in Communities Today

## COLUMN

**Timeline:** 2015 - ongoing

**A project by Politecnico di Torino / (China Room)**  
In collaboration with Tsinghua University (Beijing)

Developed for *Shijie Jianzhu - World Architecture* ISSN 1002-4832

### CURATORIAL TEAM

*Text: Giorgia Cestaro*

### COLUMN EDITORS

Alberto Bologna - DiAP Sapienza Università di Roma  
Michele Bonino  
Pierre-Alain Croset - DASTU Politecnico di Milano  
Giorgia Cestaro

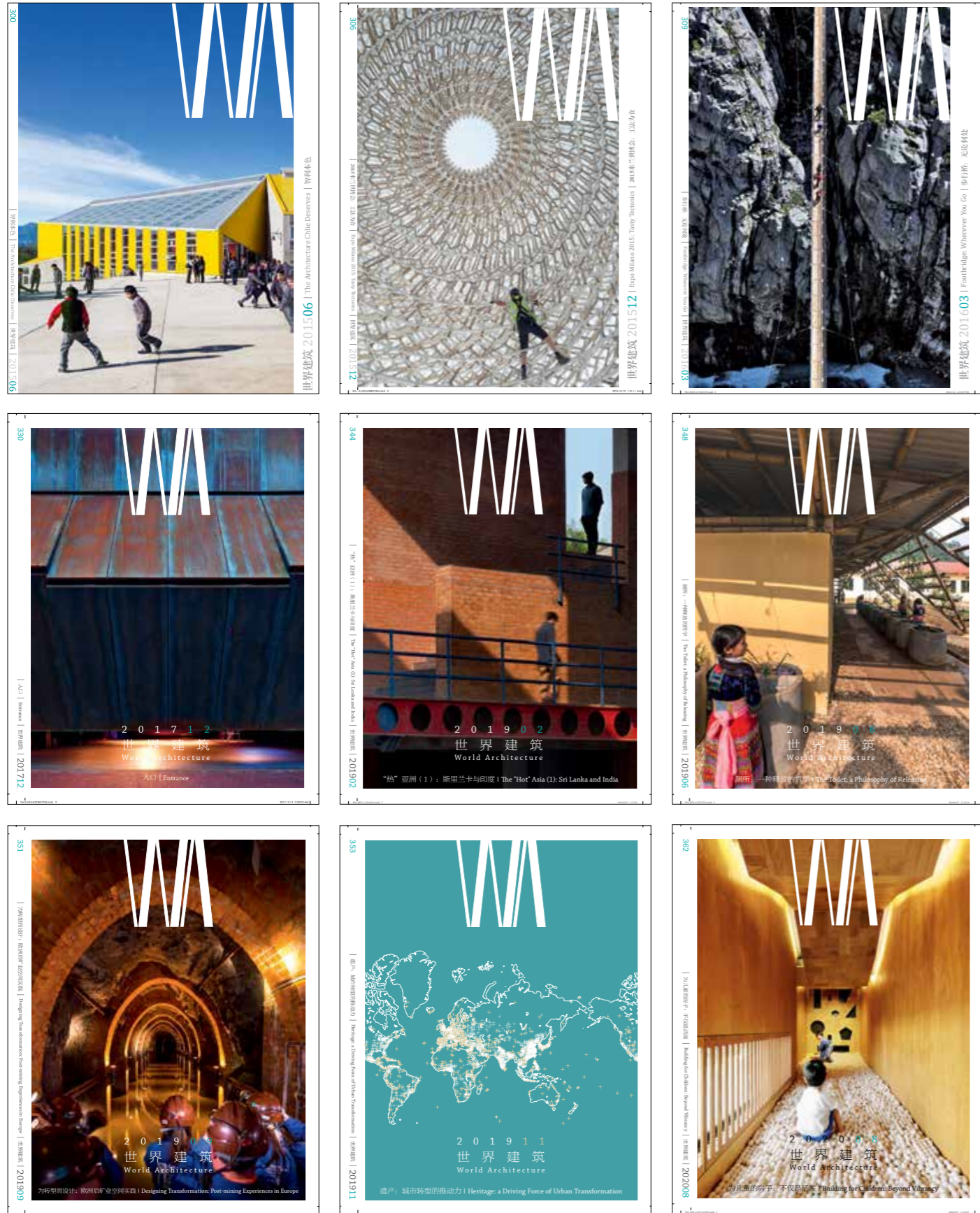
*World Architecture* is a scientific journal founded in 1980 in Tsinghua University, Beijing. It is a bilingual Chinese-English magazine, monthly published and well-known among the architectural scholars and professionals, both in China and abroad. Within this influential editorial framework, *Memory and Regeneration* is a column dedicated to the discussion on the regeneration of the existing built environment, an editorial project which contribute to raise a critical debate on the contemporary international experiences.

First published in 2015, *Memory and Regeneration* column became, over the years, a space of scientific discussion on the theme of urban regeneration. The column editors are keen to invite influential authors to debate on international urban and architectural regeneration works and practices, selecting relevant contributions and projects with the aim of providing the scientific and professional community with a complete and coherent picture of the world-wide contemporary scene on built environment redevelopment. Over the years, the column has not only reached a public composed by scholars and professional profiles of the disciplines of architecture, urban design and urban planning, has also engaged administration representatives for city planning, construction companies and students of international faculties and schools.

**Connected Outputs:**  
see records no. 31, 39, 47, 52, 58,  
67, 70, 97, 110, 111, 118, 128, 135, 139,  
150, 157, 167, 182, 184, 187

**Cover** | Cover - "Architecture in communities Today." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 356, no. 2 (February 2020).

**Memory and Regeneration is the column curated by Alberto Bologna, Michele Bonino and Pierre-Alain Croset on the world-wide known magazine SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture (ISSN 1002-4832). The aim of the editorial project is to present and discuss exemplary projects of urban regeneration and transformation of architectures, establishing a critical debate between China and the West on the redevelopment of the existing built environment.**



**Fig. 1 - 9** | Cover - "The Architecture Chile Deserves." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 300, no. 6 (June 2015).  
**Fig. 2** | Cover - "Expo Milano 2015: Tasty Tectonics." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 306, no. 12 (December 2015).  
**Fig. 3** | Cover - "Footbridge: Wherever You Go." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 309, no. 3 (March 2016).  
**Fig. 4** | Cover - "Entrance." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 330, no. 12 (December 2017).  
**Fig. 5** | Cover - "The "Hot" Asia (1): Sri Lanka and India." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 344, no. 2 (February 2019).  
**Fig. 6** | Cover - "The Toilet: a Philosophy of Releasing." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 348, no. 6 (June 2019).  
**Fig. 7** | Cover - "Designing Transformation: Post-mining Experiences in Europe." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 351, no. 9 (September 2019).  
**Fig. 8** | Cover - "Heritage: a driving force of urban transformation." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 353, no. 11 (November 2019).  
**Fig. 9** | Cover - "Building for Children: Beyond Vibrancy." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 362, no. 8 (August 2020).  
**Fig. 10** | Lycée Hôtelier de Lille by Caruso St John Architects, Lycee Gastronomique, 2019 (credit: Hélène Binet).

## **RECORDS**

**06**

## Before China Room

# 2008

**01. Article** | Ambrosini, G., M. Bonino and P-A. Croset. "Beijing-Torino Design Studio 2008". In *Cluster*, no. 07 (2008): 5.

**02. Book Chapter** | Bonino, M. "The Chinese Pavillon for the Shanghai 2010 World Expo". In *The Skira Yearbook of World Architecture. 2007-2008*, edited by L. Molinari, 1. Milano: Skira Editore, 2008.

**03. Article** | Bonino, M. "Pechino va oltre l'evento. Le molte facce di un evento speciale per la Cina". In *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, no. 63 (2008): 2.

**04. Article** | Bonino, M., and L. Tozzi. "Il futuro a Pechino. Tra ieri e domani la grammatica urbana di Yung Ho Chang". In *Il Manifesto*, no. 166 (July 2008).

**05. Article** | Frassoldati, F. "L'urbanizzazione nel delta dello Zhujiang (Cina): trasformazioni e sostituzioni funzionali in una regione economica emergente." In *Archivio di studi urbani e regionali*, no. 92 (2008): 5.

**06. Article** | Frassoldati, F. "Produzione agricola, produzione industriale. Suoli e strutture urbane nel Delta occidentale", in *Archivio di studi urbani e regionali*, no. 92 (2008): 125.

# 2009

**07. Book Chapter** | Ambrosini, G., M. Bonino and P.A. Croset. "Prologue." In *Olympeked. A study on After-Games Reutilization of Beijing 2008 Olympic Venues*, edited by Zhu W. J. Liu, L. Zhang and Y. Zhu, 2. Beijing: Tsinghua University Press, (2009).

**08. Book Chapter** | Ambrosini, G., L. Bazzanella, M. Bonino and P.A. Croset. "Riflessioni sulla distanza: due esperienze di didattica con facoltà asiatiche." In *La formazione a distanza dell'Architetto*, edited by Fabbri L. and M. Donato. Roma: Casa Editrice Università La Sapienza, 2009.

# 2010

**09. Article** | Bonino, M., and G.M. Chiri. "Cantiere Guangdong", In *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, no. 84 (2010).

**10. Book** | Frassoldati, F. *Persistence & Transition. Water, Farmland, and Human Settlements in the Zhujiang Delta*. Guangzhou: Sandu Publishing, 2010.

# 2011

**11. Book Chapter** | Ambrosini, G., L. Bazzanella, M. Bonino and P.A. Croset. "Bridging the distance. Recent teaching activities with Asian universities." In *E-learning for architecture*, edited by R. Belibani and S. Panunzi. Roma: Gangemi, 2011.

**12. Book** | Bologna, A., M. Bonino and M. Bruno (eds.). *Seoul Steel Life. Case a catalogo e stanze a noleggio. Houses by the book and rooms by the hour*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2011.

**13. Book** | Bonino, M. "Turin-Seoul: Catalogue Houses and Rooms for Hire." In *La nuova Torino - The new Turin*, edited by M. Brizzi and M. Sabini. Firenze: Alinea, 2011.

# 2012

**14. Article** | Bonino, M. "C'è un paese dove coesistono slum e grattacieli. Ecco come." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, no. 102 (2012).

**15. Article** | Bonino, M. "Ora la Cina esporta architetti. Wang Shu e la Tongji University." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, no. 109 (2012).

**16. Article** | Bonino M., and S. Wang. "Non demolite!" *IL SOLE 24 ORE "Domenica"*, no. 2 (September 2012).

**17. Article** | Bonino M., and F. De Pieri. "Shanghai tricolore." *Italic*, no. 2 (2012).

# 2013

**18. Book** | Bonino M., and F. De Pieri (eds.). *'La descrizione del mondo'. Reportage immaginari dalla città asiatica*. Politecnico di Torino, 2013.

**19. Monographic issue** | Bonino, M. (ed.) "Torino. Sustainable Strategies." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture 275*, no. 5 (May 2013).

**20. Conference Proceedings** | Bonino M. "Insegnamento e progetto tra Italia e città asiatica." In *L'architettura è un prodotto socialmente utile?, ProArch (IT), III Forum di ProArch, Società Scientifica Nazionale dei docenti di Progettazione Architettonica, SSD ICAR 14, 15 e 16, Torino 4-5 Ottobre 2013*. Torino: ProArch, 2014.

**21. Article** | Bonino M. "Nothing special: a different and long-term model of sustainability." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture 275*, no. 5 (May 2013).

**22. Article** | Bonino M. "Borrowed City." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture 279*, no. 9 (September 2013).

# 2014

**23. Article** | Bonino, M. "Le città cinesi e noi." In *Mondo Cinese. Rivista di studi sulla Cina Contemporanea. Le città proibite*, edited by P. Innocenzi, no. 154. Milano: Francesco Brioschi Editore, 2014.

**24. Lecture** | Bonino, M., *Shaping a City through Culture and Identity*, Asian Community International Lecture Series, Tsinghua University, 6th June 2014.

**25. Article** | Bonino, M., and F. Frassoldati. "Dagli inviati nella Bi-city Biennale cinese. Qui l'obiettivo è sempre il continuo cambiamento: vada come vada." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, no. 117 (Spring 2014).

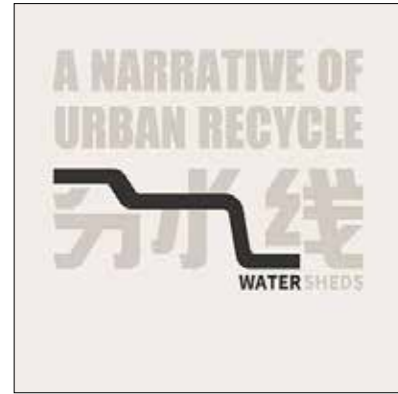
**26. PhD excellence course** | Croset, P-A. and F. De Pieri. *New Perspectives on Urban Heritage in China*. Politecnico di Torino, February-December 2014.  
[Invited lecturers: Florence Graezer Bideau (EPFL), Roberto Malighetti (Università di Milano Bicocca), John Pendlebury (University of Newcastle)]

**27. Book Chapter** | Croset, P-A., M. Bonino and F. De Pieri. "Beijing Danwei: for a dialogic urbanism / Bei Jing Dan Wei-Dui

Hua Xing Cheng Shi Zhu Yi." In *Urban Design* no. 1, edited by Zhu W., 35-46. Beijing: Tsinghua University Press, 2014.

**28. Exhibition** | *Unboxing Danwei*. Beijing Design Week 2014, 26 September - 3 October 2014. Jointly organized by Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy.

## 2015



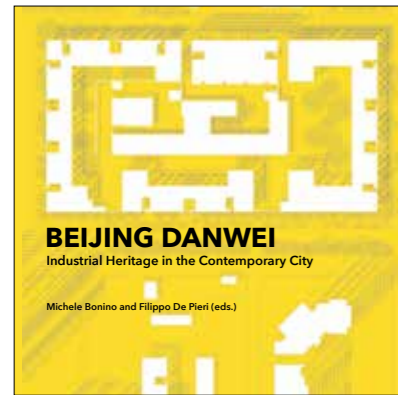
**29. Book** | Armando, A., M. Bonino and F. Frassoldati F. (eds.) *Watersheds. A Narrative of urban recycle*. Guangzhou: Sandu Publishing, 2015. [It includes contributions by M. Berta, V. Federighi]

The Watersheds project aimed to compare four urban regeneration processes between China and Italy: the book summarizes the results of the exhibition at the 2013 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism / Architecture in Shenzhen. Lizhiwan in Guangzhou, the Kai Tak canal in Hong Kong, the Sangone stream in Turin, and the Piave river between the provinces of Treviso and Venice have rediscovered the relationship of places with urban places waterways. The work unfolded in three parallel sections for each place: a photographic portrait of the spaces in transformation; an overview of the projects that have visualized and sometimes idealized the possibilities of change in those places; the representation of the protagonists and places of decisions in the transformation process that highlights the relationship between architectural design and real space, the imperfect overlap between inhabited places, formal projects and decision-making processes.

**30. Article** | Bonino, M., P.-A. Croset and F. De Pieri. "Pechino come arcipelago: la trasformazione delle danwei industriali." *Territorio*, no. XIX, (2015).

**31. Article in curated column** | Bonino, M. and P.-A. Croset. "Waterfronts: Regenerating the "Ribeira das Naus" in Lisbon." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 312, no. 06 (June 2015).

**32. Article** | Bosselmann, P., F. Frassoldati, P. Su and H. Xu. "Incremental transformation of a traditional village in China's Pearl River Delta." *Territorio*, no. 71, (2015): 121-129.



**33. Book** | Bonino, M. and F. De Pieri (eds.) *Beijing Danwei: Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City*. Berlin: Jovis Verlag, 2015. [It includes contributions by M.P. Repellino]

Beijing Danwei looks at the history and future of former danwei and presents exemplary strategies for dealing with industrial heritage. Case studies show the problems that go hand in hand with transformation and present perspectives and potential with regard to usage and urban regeneration of Beijing. This publication was the result of a joint research between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University in Beijing.

**34. Article** | Bonino, M., M. P. Repellino and P.-A. Croset. "Learning from places, as one of the tasks of Urban Design". *CHENGSHI SHEJI - "Urban Design"*, no. 2 (2015): 44-53.

**35. Book Chapter** | Bonino, M., D. T. Ferrando and L. Zhang. "Towards a Soft Model of Sustainability in Architecture." In *Architecture and Sustainability: Critical Perspectives for Integrated Design*, edited by A. Z. K. Allacker and K. Allacker. KULeuven Press, 2015.

**36. Monographic issue** | Bonino, M., and F. De Pieri (eds.). "Domesticating East Asian Cities", *Territorio*, no. 74 (2015).

**37. Conference Proceedings** | Bruno E. "Reaching the sea: Guangzhou southern expansion from rural industrialization to polarized strategical planning". In *Horizontal Metropolis: a radical project. Lausanne | 12, 13, 14 October 2015*, edited by M. Barcelloni and C. Cavalieri. Lausanne: UU2015, 2015.

**38. Book Chapter** | Bruno, E., V. Federighi and T. D. Nguyen. "Chinese approach in masterplanning the city walls preservation. The case study of Zhaoqing ancient city centre in perspective with the Italian experience." In *Architettura e Città. Problemi di conservazione e valorizzazione*, edited by A. Marmorì, L. Puccini and V. Scandellari, S. Van Riel, 213-221. Firenze: Altralinea

Edizioni, 2015.

**39. Article in curated column** | De Rossi, A., and R. Dini. "Regenerating the Alps: mountains as a place to live." *SHIJIE JIANZHU World Architecture* 314, no. 8 (August 2015): 164-167.

**40. Article** | Frassoldati, F. "The Village and the City. Exploring the Urban Multidimensionality of Guangzhou." *Territorio*, no. 74 (2015): 47-53.

**41. Joint research project** | *Mapping controversial memories in the historic urban landscape: a multidisciplinary study of Beijing, Mexico City and Rome*. January 2015-December 2016. [Funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies and coordinated by F. Graezer-Bideau (EPFL, Lausanne)]

**42. Article** | Mukerjee, S., and M. Bonino. "Observation on the Designs of Xiaoqinghe Wetlands International Workshop." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 04 (April 2015).

**43. Book Chapter** | Repellino, M. P. "Distretti Creativi e Patrimonio Industriale in Cina: Tattiche e Processi di Rigenerazione Urbana." In *Architettura e città. Problemi di conservazione e valorizzazione*, edited by A. Marmorì and L. Puccini, V. Scandellari, S. Van Riel, 223-230. Firenze: Altralinea Edizioni, 2015.

**44. Article** | Pavani, A., and M. P. Repellino. "Pechino: quattro racconti di danwei." *Territorio*, no. 74 (2015): 64-68.

**45. Design Competition** | *PINGDI 1.1: Alternatives for Low Carbon Architecture* (Shenzhen, China). A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room and South China University of Technology, 2015.

**46. Article** | Repellino, M. P. "Beijing N.2 Textile: una città in miniatura." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, May 10, 2015.

**47. Article in curated column** | Verdini, G. "Clichy-Batignolles, Paris: a case of successful inner-city regeneration." *SHIJIE JIANZHU World Architecture* 318, no.12 (December 2015): 124-127.

## October 17, 2016 / China Room Inauguration

## 2016

**48. Article** | Bonino, M. "Cronache cinesi. Luoghi e parole della trasformazione. 01/ dal lago Erhai, provincia dello Yunnan." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, no. 15 (March 2016).

**49. Article** | Bonino, M. "Cronache cinesi. Luoghi e parole della trasformazione. 02/ da Guangzhou e Hong Kong." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, 2016, no. 16 (May 2016).

**50. Book Chapter** | Bonino, M. "Interni urbani a Pechino. Una città di frammenti." In *Interni inclusivi. Dialoghi trasversali*, edited by A. Barbara, J. Ceseroli and S. Chiodo. Milano: Maggioli Editore, 2016.

**51. Article** | Bonino, M., and F. Frassoldati. "O-Office. L'arte prende il posto della seta." *Casabella* 858, (2016).

**52. Article in curated column** | Bordone, L., M. Cossu, and V. Mordenti. "Regeneration in Contemporary Rome: The Case of the Mattatoio." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 321, no. 2 (March 2015): 124-127.

**53. Article** | Bottero M., A. Armand, M. Bonino, F. Frassoldati, E. Bruno and V. Federighi "A hybrid evaluation approach for designing complex urban scenarios: application for the T.I.T. area (China)." *Procedia. Social and Behavioral Sciences*, no. 223 (2016): 929 - 935.

**54. Book Chapter** | Bruno, E. "Community, real estate pressure and the spatial reorganization: the case study of the 'village in the city' of Lijiao in Guangzhou". In *Inclusive/Exclusive cities*, edited by O. Marina and A. Armando, 346-365. Skopje: City of Skopje, 2016.

**55. Article** | Carota, F. "Oasification, in Cina la bellezza è in giardino." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, November 10, 2017.

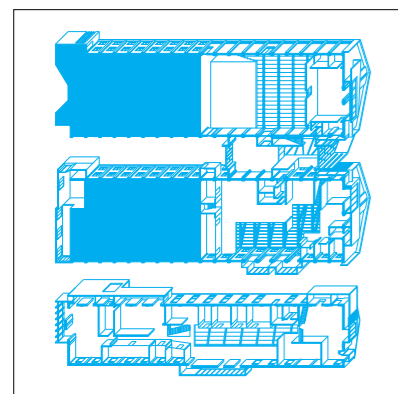
**56. Seminar** | *Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form*, Beijing Design Week 2016 (Beijing). [Jointly organized by Politecnico di Torino in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy]

**57. Book Chapter** | Frassoldati, F., and Dongjin Qi. "Rural-Urban Edge: A Review of Spatial Planning Representation and Policy Discourse in the Pearl River Delta." In *Urban China's Rural Fringe. Actors, Dimensions and Management Challenges*, edited by G. Verdini, Y. Wang, X. Zhang, 109-132. Abingdon: Routledge, 2016.

**58. Article in curated column** | Ognen, M., and A. Armando. "Spatial Practices of Exclusion and Inclusion in Skopje." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 326, no. 8 (August 2015): 112-117.

**59. Article** | Pavani, A., E. Bruno and G. Botti. "Regeneration of Urban Industrial Heritage: Redevelopment Trends between Europe and China, from Tourism to Production." *South Architecture Magazine*, no. 2 (2016): 61-66.

**60. Design Project** | *Yanzhou Island Concept Plan* (Zhaoqing, China). Politecnico di Torino / China Room, 2016-2017.



**61. PhD thesis** | Repellino, M. P. "Luoghi Creativi e Patrimonio Industriale nella Cina Contemporanea." PhD Diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2016.

In the Chinese city, culture has become a new driving force for economic development, but also a tool to exert strong control over the urban space during the last decade. The places showing these dynamics in a very clear way are the creative clusters. At the same time, these ones are a mix of highly profitable enterprises and well-controlled and repeatable spatial formulas, starting with a few models created by the central government. The concept of creative cluster shows how the transformation of former industrial areas plays a bigger role than the mere preservation and revitalization of their physical heritage. The creative clusters represent a powerful tool to ensure the valorization of real estate, places representing a promotional and political idea of heritage, labs for real innovation of spatial and functional models, and fenced areas for new economy.

## 2017

**62. Article** | Bonino, M. and F. Fiandanese. "La Cina e la scena dell'architettura globalizzata." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, May 2017.

**63. Article** | Bonino, M., Sixty Second Idea to Improve Architecture, *World Architecture -SHIJIE JIANZHU* 338, no. 08 (August 2017).

**64. Article** | Carota, F., L. Ramondetti and A. Safina. "Yanzhou Island: A well-being reserve inside the Zhaoging New Area." *Chengshi Sheji - Urban Design* 5, no. 13 (2017): 58-61.

**65. Article** | Fiandanese, F. "Tongzhou New Town." *Casabella* 871, no. 3 (2017): 60.

**66. Book Chapter** | Frassoldati, F., A. Armando, M. Bonino. "Carotaggio // Corsi d'acqua, processi urbani e progetti." In *Re-Cycle Italy*, edited by L. Fabian and S. Munarin. Siracusa: LetteraVentidue, 2017.

**67. Article in Curated Column** | Giammetta, S. "New Skin – Old Building: How European Cities are Changing Through Innovative Retrofit Building Systems." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 342, no. 12 (December 2017): 116-119.

**68. Installation** | *HUTONG PLAYGROUND*. Beijing Design Week 2017. A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with EPFL.

**69. Article** | Repellino, M. P. "Cluster creativi e industrie culturali in Cina." *Mondo Cinese* 161, year XLV, no. 1: 13-22.

**70. Article in Curated Column** | Repellino, M. P. "Chinese New Towns ieri e oggi, dall'ibrido storico al green." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, October 2017.

**71. Article** | Repellino, M. P., L. Martini and A. Mehan. "Growing environment culture through urban design processes." *NANFANG JIANZHU - South Architecture Magazine*, no. 2 (2017): 67-73.

**72. Lectures series** | within the exhibition "From the Old to the New Silk Road". MAO - Museum of Oriental Art (Turin), 2017.

**73. Seminar** | *Chinese New Towns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form*. Beijing Design Week 2016. Jointly organized by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy.

**74. Design Competition** | *Pearl River Piano Factory Industrial Regeneration* (Guangzhou, China). A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with South China University of Technology, 2017.

**75. Article** | Verdini, G., F. Frassoldati and C. Nolf. "Reframing China's heritage conservation discourse. Learning by testing civic engagement tools in a historic rural village." *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, no. 23 (2017): 317-334.

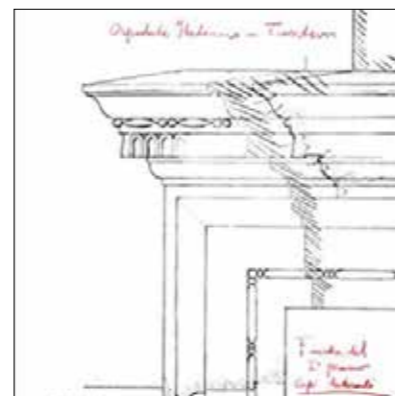
## 2018

**76. Conference proceedings** | Berta, M. and A. Bologna. "Imparare dal cantiere: Due esperienze di didattica hands-on in Cina." In *Imparare Architettura. I laboratori di progettazione e le pratiche di insegnamento. Atti del VII Forum di ProArch, Società Scientifica nazionale dei docenti ICAR 14, 15 e 16. Politecnico di Milano, 16-17 novembre 2018*, edited by J. Leveratto, V. Ferrari, F. Marchetti, C. Pradel and G. Orsenigo, 248-251. Roma: ProArch, 2018.

**77. Article** | Berta M., M. Bonino, V. Federighi and S. Marri. "I luoghi della Belt and Road. Trasformazioni architettoniche e urbane lungo le grandi infrastrutture intercontinentali, viste dall'Italia." *MONDO CINESE, Fondazione Italia-Cina XLVI*, no. 165-166 (2018).

**78. Article** | Bologna, A. "Vector Architects. Alila Yangshuo, Guangxi, Cina. L'ornamento attraverso l'iper-artigianalità." *Casabella*, no. 887-888 (July-August 2018): 26-39, 93-94.

**79. Book** | Bologna, A., and M. Bonino (eds.). *Daniele Ruffinoni e la Concessione italiana. Strategie, modelli, eredità di un progettista a Tianjin, Cina*. Genova: Sagep, 2018.



The area of the former Italian Concession in Tianjin, China, still keeps some of the buildings designed by the Turin engineer Daniele Ruffinoni between 1913 and 1915. Ruffinoni's professional career in Tianjin, until now almost unexplored, provides an opportunity to reflect on an intellectual and technical exchange between Italy and China and on its current meaning, as we increasingly question the opportunities offered by the great Asian country. This book aims to investigate a little-known, but no less significant, event in Italian architecture in the last century and the current state of these places, following recent processes of transformation. What were the reasons and the historical context in which the design of the former Italian concession in Tianjin took place? Who was Ruffinoni and how did he develop his professional activity in China? What methodological tools should be used for the critical reading of this story? What are the project strategies followed in the recent transformation of the former Concession?

**80. Article** | Bologna, A., and M. Bonino. "Retake history": la disneyficazione come strumento progettuale per il recupero della Concessione Italiana di Tianjin." *Atti e Rassegna Tecnica della Società degli Ingegneri e degli Architetti in Torino LXXII*, no. 2 (September 2018): 25-30.

**81. Monographic issue** | Bonino, M., F. Governa, A. Sampieri (eds.). "La città dopo le new towns cinesi", *Territorio*, 85 (2018). [It includes contributions by M. Bonino, F. Fiandanese, F. Governa, L. Ramondetti, A. Safina, A. Sampieri].

**82. Article** | Bonino M., Governa F., Sampieri A. "Exploring Chinese New Towns." *UrbanNext*, 2018.

**83. Article** | Bonino M., V. Federighi. "The Global Bottega. From Networks to Fluids, between Practice and Academia." *ARDETH*, no. 02 (Spring 2018).

**84. PhD Dissertation** | Bruno, E. "Reaching the sea. Peri-urban transformation in Guangzhou between planning visions and local negotiations", PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2018.



The research focuses on Guangzhou, which has been – together with other Pearl River Delta municipalities – a pioneer in transforming its urban environment in the last thirty years. The study's objective is to investigate how recent strategic urban planning visions aimed to expand the metropolis southward have affected Guangzhou's territory, promoting essential renovation projects. Chinese urban studies and the international literature have widely examined how this urban revolution has completely altered the landscape's morphology under the influence of the global market. However, at the same time, a lack of understanding of the processes behind its formation has been identified. Through an extensive utilisation of field research, the study aims to re-frame territorial peculiarities as an experimental field of stratification of meanings, struggling between new opportunities and profound debates, capable of combining local pragmatism and comprehensive visions and negotiating its role in the multiple influences of contemporary urbanisation.

**85. Conference Proceedings** | Bruno E. "Memory and regeneration through segregation: the heritage preservation in Lijiao Village in the City". In *[Co]habitation tactics: imagining future spaces in architecture, city and landscape: Tirana architecture week (TAW): international Scientific Conference*, edited by L. Pedata, E. Profido and L. Rossi, 371-380. Tirana: Polis Press.

**86. Design Project** | *Building A of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air Venue* (Beijing, China). Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) / China Room in collaboration with Atelier TeamMinus and Architectural

Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University (THAD), 2018.

**87. Article in Curated Column** | Fiandanese, F. and S. Lanteri. "Pechino, cronache dagli hutong." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, May 2018.

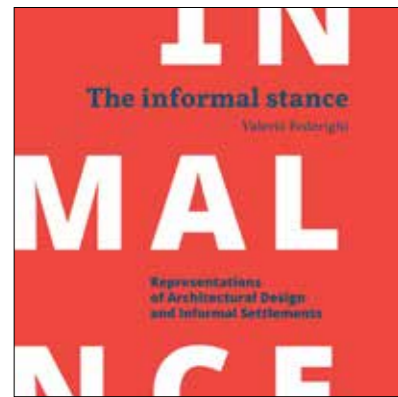
**88. Article in Curated Column** | Fiandanese, F. and S. Lanteri. "Cina, è tempo di biblioteche." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, May 2018.

**89. Book Chapter** | Frassoldati, F., and A. Ni. "Guangzhou." In *Potato plan collection. 40 cities through the lens of Patrick Abercrombie*, edited by M. Zuger and K. Christiaanse, 100-103. Rotterdam: Nai010 Publishers, 2018.

**90. Exhibition** | *From micro to macro: Italian designers in South China*. Shenzhen Design Week, 20 April 20 – 06 May 2018. Jointly organized by Politecnico di Torino / China Room, Tsinghua University, Consulate General of Italy, NABA (Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti-Domus Academy Milano), in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy.

**91. Book** | Federighi, V. *The Informal Stance. Representations of architectural design and informal settlements*. San Francisco: Applied Research and Design - ORO editions, 2018.

This book looks to the moment of encounter between architectural design and informal settlements as the most extreme demonstration of an increasingly evident disciplinary fascination for urban informality. It is an enduring fascination, arising from the need to test the boundaries of the discipline in the hope of finding it adaptable to change and willing to adapt. It is also a fascination that feeds off the gap that exists between the search for a renewed relevance of disciplinary tools, and the wider loss of faith in the project as a way to envision societal change. In fact, such fascination is played out within a seemingly structural contradiction: informal settlements originate as the effect of economic and political strategies that are deployed at the global scale; conversely, when dealing with informality, architecture searches for legitimization at the very small scale of the tactical and ultralocal. A relationship of inverse proportion is in place, between the constrained scope of architectural design and the scale of the issues it sets out to address.



**92. Article** | Santangelo, M. "Ethos of Scarcity: The Emergence of a Collective Emotion in Singapore." *Rivista geografica italiana* 125, no. 3 (2018): 353-367.

**93. Conference Proceedings** | Ramondetti, L. "Zhengzhou, Henan. Oltre la metropoli." In *Atti della XXI Conferenza Nazionale SIU. CONFINI, MOVIMENTI, LUOGHI. Politiche e progetti per città e territori in transizione*, Florence 6-8 giugno 2018, 152-160. Rome: Planum Publisher.

**94. Conference Proceedings** | Repellino M. P. and M. Bonino. "La China Room del Politecnico di Torino: Consulenze cinesi, o il progetto della domanda." In *La domanda di architettura. Le risposte del progetto (Atti del VI Forum della Società scientifica nazionale del progetto. Docenti ICAR 14 15 16. Roma, 29-30 settembre 2017)*, edited by G. R. Cellini, 28-31. Roma: ProArch, 2018.

**95. Design Project** | *Solar Decathlon China 2018* (Dezhou, China). Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with South China University of Technology, 2018.

**96. PhD excellence course** | Zhang L. (Tsinghua University - Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino). *Place, pleasure and resilience. Comparison of pre-industrial views from China and the West*. Politecnico di Torino, 29 November - 3 December 2018.

## 2019

**97. Article in Curated Column** | Bologna, A. "Adaptive Reuse Through the Critical Reinterpretation of the Load-Bearing Structure: Heatherwick Studio in King's Cross, London, UK." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 353, no. 11 (November 2019): 120-123.

**98. Book Chapter** | Bologna, A. "Nuove spazialità architettoniche nel tessuto urbano degli hutong. Il calcestruzzo faccia-vista per la ricerca di un linguaggio identitario." In *Valorizzazione, Transizione, Trasformazione. Scritti e progetti per Sewing a small town*, edited by A. Bologna, and C. Gavello, 137-148. Milano: FrancoAngeli, 2019.

**99. Article** | Bologna, A. "Vector Architects. Biblioteca sul litorale di Beidaihe, Cina. Tettonica e ricerca architettonica / Seashore Library, Beidaihe, China. Tectonics and architectural research." *L'industria delle costruzioni. Rivista bimestrale di architettura*, no. 468 (July - August 2019): 84-93.

**100. Article** | Bonino, M. and C. Ratti. "La città di domani avrà gli occhi." *La Stampa*, 09 Novembre 2019.

**101. Article** | Bonino, M. and C. Ratti. "Architettura, nasce in Cina la Biennale di domani." *La Stampa*, 23 Dicembre 2019.

**102. Article** | Bonino M., C. Ratti C. and V. Silvestrini. "Il destino delle città. Parola a Carlo Ratti e Michele Bonino." *Artribune*, December 2019.

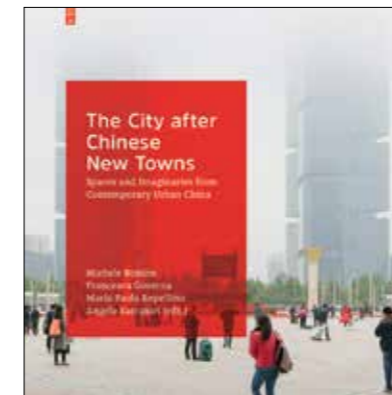
**103. Article** | Bottero, M., E. Comino, F. Dell'Anna, L. Dominici, and M. Rosso. "Strategic assessment and economic evaluation: the case study of Yanzhou Island (China)." *Sustainability* 11, no. 4 (2019): 1076.

**104. Article** | Bruno E. "Integrating AI and Deep Learning within Design Practice Processes: XKool Technology". *Ardeth*, n. 5 (2019): 221-226.

**105. Book** | Bologna, A. *Chinese Brutalism Today. Concrete and Avant-Garde Architecture*. San Francisco: ORO Editions. 2019.



China is the largest consumer of cement and concrete in the world, the use of which has peaked in the first two decades of the twenty-first century. Used for the construction of extensive infrastructure and buildings, over the last twenty years renowned Chinese architects have been working in and studying the constructive limits and spatial and superficial effects of exposed concrete, and, in the process, have created a wave of avant-garde architecture in China. Chinese Brutalism Today investigates the compositional, formal, and ornamental reasons for this architecture and its different surface finishes, from rough to smooth. This new wave of Chinese brutalism is, in large part, a regional evolution and development closely linked to local construction processes and the available labor force. The finished tectonics represent not only a way to read the architecture, but also reveals the complex decision-making processes and planning that led from the conception to construction of these buildings.

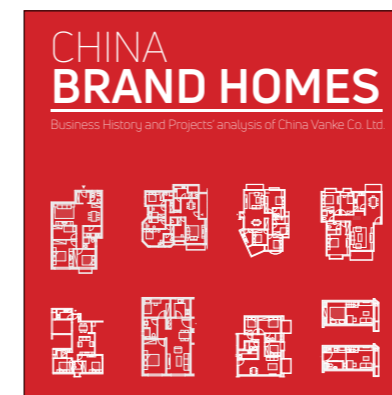


**106. Book** | Bonino, M., F. Governa and M. P. Repellino, A. Sampieri (eds.). *The City after Chinese New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2019.

[It includes contributions by M. Berta, M. Bonino, F. Carota, V. Federighi, F. Fiandanese, F. Frassoldati, F. Governa, L. Ramondetti, M.P. Repellino, A. Safina, A. Sampieri].

In the early twenty-first century the Chinese Government announced it had decided to build twenty new towns each year for the next twenty years; in total, approximately 400 new towns will be designed and built before 2020. The international research considers Chinese new towns as a laboratory in which and from which we can observe the characteristics and current changes in contemporary cities: questioning new towns is a way to question what cities are (and what have they become) in China and elsewhere.

**107. PhD Dissertation** | Carota, F. *China Brand Homes. Business history and projects' analysis of China Vanke Co. Ltd., 1988-2016*. Politecnico di Torino, 2019.



China Brand Homes focuses on the design, concepts and practices regarding housing supply developed by private real estate companies in China. The research is based on an historical analysis of one specific real estate company, namely China Vanke Co. Ltd., as well as an architectural and urban analysis applied to some of this firm's residential projects. esign of the Chinese houses in the post-reform era. Expanding from the specific case of Vanke, this dissertation seeks to discuss two broader academic issues. The first issue considers the innovative processes of a real estate enterprise and the role of a single company in shaping new housing designs, based on supply and demand transformations. The second issue, drawing from the review of the concepts of housing and architectural commodification, argues that real estate developers have shifted from approaching housing projects as commodities to considering them as brands of a business enterprise. Indeed, my research shows evidences that both one single firm's processes of innovation and branding practices effectively influenced and shaped the design of the Chinese houses in the post-reform era.

**108. Article** | Carota, F. "Cronache cinesi. Nella vecchia Canton la valorizzazione è a scala urbana". *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, April 2019.

**109. Conference Proceedings** | Carota, F., V. Federighi and M. Migliaccio. "The rearticulation of urban processes within

China's HSR small cities: empirical observations through data-informed diachronic maps." In *The Contemporary City | URBANPROMO XVI Edition*. Rome: Planum Publisher, 2019.

**110. Article** | Cestaro, G. "Memory and Regeneration. Introduction." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 348, no. 06 (June 2019): 114.

**111. Article in Curated Column** | Delemontey, Yvan. 2019. "The Pavillon Sicli in Geneva Comes Out of Its Shell." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 348, no. 06 (June 2019): 114-117.

**112. Exhibition** | *Eyes of the City*. Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen, China), December 2019 - March 2020. A project by Carlo Ratti Associati, Politecnico di Torino / China Room, South China University of Technology.

**113. PhD Dissertation** | Fiandanese, F. "Transnational Models. A Study on Tongzhou." PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2019.



TongzhouNew Town is rising as a pole of crucial importance in the Beijing Municipality network system. The once satellite town is now assuming a primary role in the vast area surrounding the Chinese capital, since in 2015 the Central Government chose it as the seat of the Beijing municipal offices. Observing Tongzhou on the field it is immediately perceivable that the rising city, its new urban spaces, are not clearly and immediately readable. The new town appears programmatically as an urban assemblage of different urban situations, deeply different among them, with a high level of fragmentation. Indeed, this condition is not exclusive of the Tongzhou case, but rather it is exemplificative of the transformation of the city spaces during the current worldwide globalising age. Therefore, by adopting Tongzhou as an exemplary case, the first objective of the research is to find a device able to investigate the production of the contemporary urban space in the globalised stage.

**114. Article** | Fiandanese, F., S. Lanteri and M. Naso. "Marchandiser l'utopie: trois outils de représentation du rêve urbain chinois." *Chantiers politiques*, no. 15 (2019): 64-72.

**115. Book Chapter** | Fiandanese, F. and S. Lanteri. "The Chinese perspective: possibilities to rethink urban practice and theory." In *Racines modernes de la ville contemporaine : distances et formes de résilience*, edited by P. Mantziaras and P. Viganò, 267-280. Geneva: MētisPresses, 2019.

**116. Article** | Forina, C. "Cronache cinesi. Per le Olimpiadi invernali Pechino imita la Ruhr." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, May 2019.

**117. Book Chapter** | Frassoldati, F. "The Yellow House: an ILAUD experiment in China." In *Giancarlo de Carlo and ILAUD. A moveable frontier. The International Laboratory of Architecture and Urban Design*, edited by Paolo Ceccarelli, 174-175. Milano: Fondazione OAMI, 2019.

**118. Article in Curated Column** | Garcia-Fuentes, J.-M. "Survival Through Design." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 351, no. 09 (September 2019): 100-105.

**119. Article** | Hamama B., M.P. Repellino, J. Liu and M. Bonino. "The Processes Behind Community Building and Place Making in Transitional Urban Moments: A Comparison Between China and Italy." *China City Planning Review*, no. 28 (2019).

**120. Article in Curated Column** | Lanteri, S., and M. Mancini. "Cronache cinesi. Così cambiano volto gli hutong di Pechino." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura, Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, March 2019.

**121. Article in Curated Column** | Lanteri, S. and M. Mancini. "Cronache cinesi. I lilong di Shanghai tra speculazione e valorizzazione." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, April 2019.

**122. Article** | Naso, M., H. Deng, V. Federighi and Francesca Frassoldati. "From Venice to Shenzhen: the localization of a global Biennale model." *XIN JIANZHU - New Architecture* 182, no. 1 (January 2019): 46-51.

**123. Article in Curated Column** | Naso, M. and L. Liu. "Chinese chronicles. The urban frenzy of Shenzhen." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, February 2019.

**124. Article in Curated Column** | Preti, L. "Pechino: così la Design Week cambia, in modo soft, il volto degli hutong". *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, November 2019.

**125. Article** | Ramondetti, L. "La città asiatica del XXI secolo attraverso tre progetti di Arata Isozaki." *Territorio*, no. 90 (2019): 7-20.

**126. Article in Curated Column** | Repellino, M. P. "Cronache cinesi. È l'ora della conservazione critica." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, February 2019.

**127. Article in Curated Column** | Repellino, M. P. "I nuovi musei cinesi: scatole iconiche in cerca di contenuti." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, December 2019.

**128. Article in Curated Column** | Repellino, M.P. "On the Intensity of Surfaces: Lycée Hôtelier de Lille by Caruso St John Architects." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 344, no. 02 (February 2019): 114-117.

**129. Conference Proceedings** | Repellino M. P. and M. Bonino. "The City after Chinese New Towns' e l'insegnamento della progettazione architettonica." In *Imparare Architettura. I laboratori di progettazione e le pratiche d'insegnamento*. Atti del VII Forum di ProArch, Società Scientifica nazionale dei docenti ICAR 14, 15 e 16. Politecnico di Milano, 16-17 novembre 2018, edited by J. Leveratto, V. Ferrari, F. Marchetti, C. Pradel and G. Orsenigo. Milano: ProArch, 2019.

**130. Book Chapter** | Santangelo, M. "Urban Landscapes in High-Density cities. Parks, Streetscapes, Ecosystems." In *Urban Landscapes in High-Density cities. Parks, Streetscapes, Ecosystems*, edited by B.M. Rinaldi and P. Y. Tan, 16-24. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2019.

**131. Summer School** | *TRANS-forming industrial legacy. Spatial and economic models of re-USE. Interdisciplinary and international summer school*. Politecnico di Torino, 10-24 July 2019. Organised by Politecnico di Torino, Technion Israel Institute of Technology – Faculty of Architecture and Town planning and Tsinghua University – School of Architecture, School of economics and management.

## 2020

**132. Article** | Bologna, A. "Vector Architects. Centro culturale alla Nankai University, Tianjin. Haibing Center, Nankai University, Tianjin." *L'industria delle costruzioni. Rivista bimestrale di architettura*, no. 471 (January - February 2020): 40-51.

**133. Article** | Bologna, A. "OPEN Architecture. Museo di arte contemporanea a Beidaihe, Qinhuangdao. UCCA Dune Art Museum, Beidaihe, Qinhuangdao." *L'industria delle costruzioni. Rivista bimestrale di architettura*, no. 471 (January - February 2020): 58-65.

**134. Article** | Bologna, A. "La definizione spaziale attraverso l'ornamento. La qualità superficiale nella cultura progettuale dell'architettura cinese d'avanguardia." *GUD. Genova Università Design - A magazine about Architecture, Design and Cities*, no. 2 (November 2020): 154-163.

**135. Article in Curated Column** | Bologna, A. "Adaptive Reuse Through 'Raumplan': LocHal in Tilburg, the Netherlands." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 366, no. 12 (December 2020).

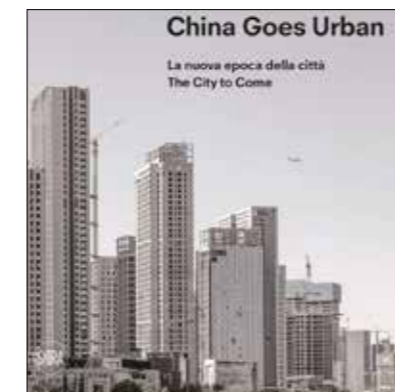
**136. Article** | Bonino M. "Dopo 70 viaggi e permanenze vi racconto la Cina com'è: 6 'casi'." *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, no. 407 (Aprile 2020).

**137. Article** | Bonino, M., E. Bruno, V. Federighi, C. Forina and M. Naso. "NEW PUBLIC SPACE IN THE CITY WITH EYES." *Strelka Mag*, 18 May 2020.

**138. Article** | Bonino M, F. Governa and S. Pellicchia. "China goes Urban. The new era of the city' on display at the Museum of Oriental Art in Turin", *DOMUSweb*, November 2020.

**139. Article in Curated Column** | Ruiz Bazán, I. "Cartagena: Transparency as a Strategy." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 360, no. 06 (June 2020): 106-109.

**140. Book** | Bonino, M., F. Carota, F. Governa and S. Pellicchia (eds.). *China Goes Urban. La nuova epoca della città/The city to come*. Milano: Skira, 2020.



In 1978, 18% of the population in China lived in urban areas. Since then, the number of inhabitants in cities has increased approximately 1% per annum and currently makes up 60% of the total population. New infrastructures and settlements have gradually modified the landscape, transformed property rights, swept away administrative boundaries, and "gobbled up" rural spaces and villages. Understanding the rapid, disruptive process of Chinese urbanisation is not easy. Existing categories and models are useless. If we believe it to simply be an exaggeration and a flaw, we are effectively ignoring the fact it constitutes an epochal change - even deeper and harder due to the current pandemic - that redefines roles and relationships, not only from a geo-economic and geo-political point of view, but also from the point of view of culture, imagination and possibilities. China Goes Urban proposes to change viewpoint, to look at reality rather than pigeonhole it in predefined categories and models. It is an invitation to explore the world by travelling through the city and architecture of today and tomorrow. It does not provide answers. It interrogates and questions. It highlights the relationship between the specificities and differences of current global

urbanisation. It indicates to what extent today changes in China are not foreign to us and to our existence in the world.

**141. Book chapter** | Bonino, M., C. Ratti And Y. Sun. “Eyes of the City” Section – Curatorial Statement.” In *Urban Interactions: 2019 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism Architecture (Shenzhen)*, edited by Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture Organizing Committee. Beijing: China Architecture and Building Press, 2020.

**142. Article** | Bruno, E. and F. Carota. “Design Opportunities and Cultural Intermediation”. *UrbanNext*, 2020.

**143. Article** | Bruno, E. and D. Tondo. “Senza mostrare i muscoli”: i progetti di rigenerazione di Tao+C e AZL nel solco della “prosperosa società” della Cina contemporanea”. *Archalp*, n. 4 (2020): 87-94.

**144. Conference Proceedings** | Bruno, E., V. Federighi, C. Forina, M. Naso and M. Bonino. “Platform, Container, Environment. 2019 Shenzhen Biennale As Innovation In Practice”. In *EAAE-ARCC International Conference & 2nd Valencia International Biennial*, edited by I. Cabrera i Fausto, E. Fenollosa Forner, A. Mas Tomás, J. M. Barrera Puigdollers, L. Bosch Roig, J. L. Higón Calvet, A. Llorca Ponce, M. T. Palomares Figueres, A. Portalés Mañanós and J. M. Songel González, 88-97. Valencia: Editorial Politecnica de Valencia, 2020.

**145. Conference Proceedings** | Carota, F., V. Federighi and M. Migliaccio. “The rearticulation of urban processes within China’s HSR small cities: empirical observations through data-informed diachronic maps”. In *LA CITTÀ CONTEMPORANEA: UN GIGANTE DAI PIEDI DI ARGILLA | URBANPROMO XVI EDIZIONE PROGETTI PER IL PAESE*, Torino, 15 Novembre 2019, 96-113.

**146. Article** | Carota, F., and M. Migliaccio. “Il secolo dell’alta velocità cinese.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, February 2020.

**147. Article in Curated Column** | Carota, F., and M. P. Repellino. “Pechino-Daxing, aeroporto da primato.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, March 2020.

**148. Article** | Cestaro, G. and M. Bonino. “An Italian Space in a Chinese Industrial Legacy: Designing the Italian Cultural Box within the Pearl River Piano Cultural Park.” *UrbanNext*, 2020.

**149. Article** | Cestaro, G. “Biennale di Shenzhen: in Cina si parla di architettura.” *Artribune*, 04 October 2020.

**150. Article** | Cestaro, G. “Memory and Regeneration.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 363, no. 09 (2020): 108-109.

**151. Exhibition** | *China Goes Urban. The City to Come* (Turin). September 2020 – October 2021. A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with Prospekt Photographers, Tsinghua University.

**152. Article** | Deng, H., M. Mancini, L. Zhang and M. Bonino. “Beijing 2022 between urban renovation and Olympic sporting legacy: the case of Shougang - From space for event to space for health and leisure.” *Movement & Sport Sciences - Science & Motricité*, 2020.

**153. Article** | Iacovone, C., A. Valz Gris, A. Safina, A. Pollio and F. Governa. “Breaking the distance: Dialogues of care in a time of limited geographies.” *Dialogues in Human Geography* 10, no. 2 (2020): 124-127.



**154. PhD Dissertation** | Lanteri, S. “Eventful Hutong. Incremental Regeneration Processes for Dashilar and Baitasi within Beijing Design Week.” PhD diss, Politecnico di Torino, 2020.

Observing Beijing from within – with a focus on Dashilar and Baitasi neighbourhoods – this research explores the relationship between the Beijing Design Week (BJDW) temporary event and long-term urban transformations, oscillating between the physical dimension of the city and its representation. The work aims to reflect on the reciprocal intersection between culture – considered as a means of urban narration and images production, managed by different stakeholders – and processes of city regeneration, dealing both with political and social phenomena of gentrification, and spatial and architectural production.

**155. Conference Proceedings** | Lanteri, S. and M. Naso. “Images and narratives shaping the Chinese city-scape”. In *IConA International Conference on Architecture December 18-19/2019*, edited by F. Addario, E. Marani, A. Oltremarini and G. Quintiliani, 214-221. Roma: IConA, 2020.

**156. Article** | Lu, X. and M. P. Repellino. “La Cina post Covid-19: un nuovo ‘New Deal!’” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, May 2020.

**157. Article in Curated Column** | Moretti, B. “The FRAC of Dunkirk by Lacaton & Vassal: About Incommensurability, Duplication and Openness.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 356, no. 02 (February 2020): 114-119.

**158. Article in Curated Column** | Preti, L. “Shanghai, dall’Expo 2010 all’Expo Cultural Park”. *Il Giornale dell’architettura*,

January 2020

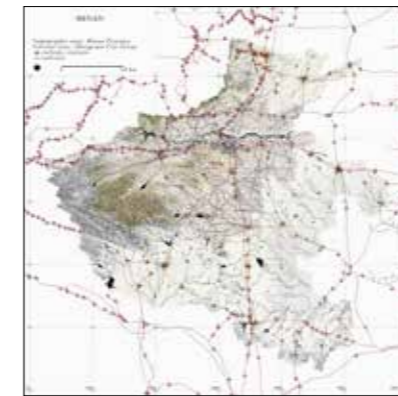
**159. Design Competition** | *PROSPEROUS LISHUI*. Future Shan Shui City International Urban Design Competition (Lishui, Zhejiang, China), May – November 2020. A project by Politecnico di Torino/China Room and IAM-Institute of Mountain Architecture in collaboration with South China University of Technology.

**160. Article** | Ramondetti, L. “Spazi che non possono essere ignorati. Riflessioni sulla mostra ‘China Goes Urban!’” *Planum* 40, no. 2 (2020): 1-16.

**161. Article** | Ramondetti, L. “Airport City: il caso di Zhengzhou.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, February 2020.

**162. Article** | Ratti, C., M. Bonino, Y. Sun, D. Belleri, E. Bruno, H. Xu, V. Federighi, C. Mainardi, M. Naso, E. Bettega, C. Forina; X. He, J. Lin and X. Lu. “What Futures for Architecture Biennales? Lessons Learned from the 2019-2020 Shenzhen Biennale.” *Archdaily*, August 2020.

**163. Article** | Repellino, M. P. “Cina, stop a supertall e fake.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, July 2020.



**164. PhD Dissertation** | Ramondetti, L. “The Enriched Field. Urbanising the Central Plains of China.” PhD diss, Politecnico di Torino, 2020.

The dissertation focuses on the spatial transformations occurring in the Central Plains of China, Henan Province. In the last three decades the Central Plains have become the new frontier of Chinese urbanisation: a testbed for new policies and spatial development. As a result, the Central Plains is now an urban agglomeration that produces 3.06 percent of China’s GDP and is home to 45.5 million inhabitants of which 30 percent are considered ‘urban population’. In this area of 58,400 square kilometres, the current policies aim to urbanize 4,902 square kilometres to host new inhabitants, new economies and to promote new ways of living and social constructions. Based on detailed descriptions that explain the relationship between the current policies, economies and societies, and the transformations affecting the physical space, the dissertation provides an interpretation that seeks to set out an argument to open up further reflections on what Chinese urbanisation entails for the contemporary city, and more in general, for our way of constructing, living and perceiving it.

**165. Article** | Repellino, M. P. “Industrial Legacy and the Future of Chinese Cities”. *UrbanNext*, March 2020.

**166. Article in Curated Column** | Repellino, M. P. “Infrastrutture Made in China.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, February 2020.

**167. Article in Curated Column** | Rinaldi, B. M. “A Green Dock for the City of Docks: Atelier Loidl’s Baakenpark, HafenCity Hamburg.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 363, no. 09 (September 2020): 108-111.



**168. PhD Dissertation** | Safina, A. “Beyond globalized visions: problematizing urban theory through spatial explorations of the Pearl River Delta.” PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2020.

Based on the idea of infusing urban theory with the geographical knowledge embedded within physical space, the thesis uses and inquires the Pearl River Delta in southern China, to construct and argue through the use of visual methods, in-depth fieldwork and spatial explorations, the necessity of raising alternative interpretations of the urban that are ground-based. It does such operation not from the center of the Delta, but from a peripheral point of view based in Zhaoqing City; the less economically and industrially developed municipality of the Delta.

**169. Workshop** | *SHENZHEN-ness 3.0*. Politecnico di Torino - Shenzhen University, 4 September - 12 October 2020. A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room + FULL in collaboration with Shenzhen University.

## 2021

**170. Article** | Bonino, M. and M. Mancini. “Reconnecting Human Body and Urban Space: Reading Tools and Design Practices”, *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 369, no. 03 (March 2021): 78 – 86.

**171. Article** | Bonino, M., Repellino M. P. “The Danwei System. Living with Production.” *ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN* 91, no. 05

(2021).

**172. Article** | Bonino M. "From Practice to Method: Liang Sicheng's Legacies in Integrating Knowledge for Architectural Education." *JIANZHU XUEBAO - The Architectural Society of China* 634, no. 09 (2021).

**173. Conference Proceedings** | Bonino M., Federighi V., Forina C., Preti L., Polito Studio. "Progettare l'internazionalizzazione della pratica di architettura fra università e ordine professionale". In *DESIGN | RESEARCH | LANGUAGES. Architectural design as research product and possible communication tools*, Associazione Scientifica ProArch, Proarch 4. Webinar Meeting. *PROGETTO | RICERCA | LINGUAGGIO Progetto architettonico come prodotto di ricerca e possibili strumenti della comunicazione. Online Webinar, Ferrara (IT) 4, 11, 18 e 25 Novembre 2020*, edited by M. Ferrari, E. Guidetti, A. Tessari and E. Verzella, 264 - 269. Ferrara: ProArch, 2021.

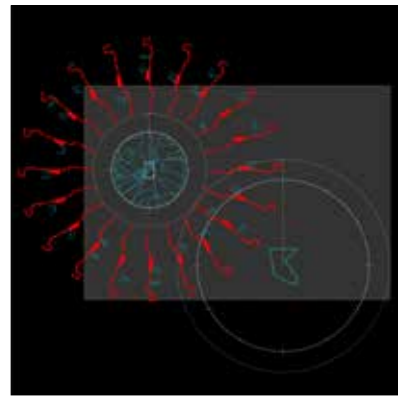
**174. Book chapter** | Bonino M. and M. Naso. "Is Capitalism a Barrier for Creating Great Urban Areas?" In *REOpening of a City. 33 Voices on How to Shape a New Urban Life within Empty Spaces*, edited by Jenny Grettve. Malmö: Jenny Grettve studios, 2021.

**175. Book** | Federighi, V., M. Naso and D. Belleri (eds.). *The Eyes of the City: Architecture and Urban Space after Artificial Intelligence*. Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2021. [It includes contributions by M. Bonino, E. Bruno, C. Forina]



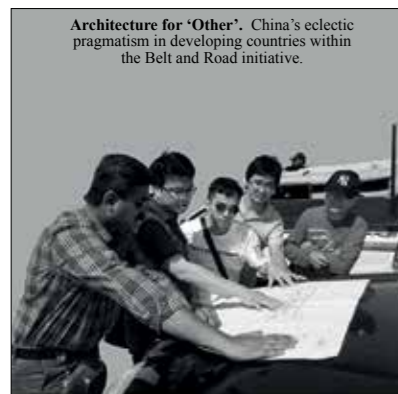
What effects does digitization have on architecture? What role does artificial intelligence play in designing urban spaces? And how does this change the lives of people in the city? The Shenzhen Bi-City Biennial of Urbanism/Architecture 2019 addressed these questions and developed a multifaceted, multidisciplinary panorama of our present time and its visions of the future. The focus was on the new, omnipresent visibility of architectural spaces and their associated responsiveness. Individualized design strategies, altered forms of behavior, and new movements through urban space are encountered. Dystopias and utopias, chances and risks meet to draw a panorama of the city of tomorrow. This illustrated book compiles the contributions to this unique project and makes them hauntingly tangible, page by page. THE SHENZHEN BI-CITY BIENNIAL OF URBANISM/ARCHITECTURE was founded in 2005 and is dedicated to the exploration of urban space in all its facets. Alternating between the cities of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and with an ever-changing team of curators, it is a focal point for contemporary and future architecture.

**176. PhD Dissertation** | Mancini, M. (2021). "Human body's movement: a lens to read space. Enquiry on a reading tool to rethink the design of urban public space." PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2021.



In an era of fast-pace urbanisation processes, urban public space design gives little attention to the quality of the "space of the body" or the "space of bodily inter-action". The thesis addresses such macro-scale question through the elaboration of a micro-scale tool. It focuses on the implementation of a methodological approach to support designers to "read" and design space from a more "human-centred" perspective. Considering human spatial experience as a result of sensorial perceptions channelled through bodily movement, the moving body becomes carrier of implicit spatial knowledge and, therefore, subject of investigation. The dissertation overcomes the static, visual, formal, aesthetic understanding of architecture and embeds the moving body in design principles in order to make spatial dynamics visible. Interpreting space from a "human" perspective potentially leads to new considerations that otherwise would remained implicit and unexplored.

**177. PhD Dissertation** | Marri, S. A. "Architecture for "Other". China's eclectic pragmatism in developing countries within the framework of the Belt and Road initiative". PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2021.



Architecture for "Other". China's eclectic pragmatism in developing countries within the Belt and Road initiative.

This dissertation explores China's architectural aid in less developed countries as a form of development cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). BRI aims to enhance cross-border trade, infrastructure development and economic cooperation. The architectural project under BRI presents rapid hitech constructions, reduced investment and more beneficial prospects. BRI depicts an innovative institutional framework for construction projects where both receiving and donor side engage at various stages, cooperate, exchange knowledge and demonstrate an exciting mechanism through which architecture and knowledge flow. This research critically examines the architecture exchanges under BRI as a development aid discourse. This study underlines peculiar scientific inquiry, intending to shed new light on the effects of globalization as well as the transcultural processes within specific sociocultural and political processes.

**178. Article** | Bruno, E. and F. Carota. "Regeneration versus demolition. Strategies, actions and local practices on Yongqing Fang Site", *AGATHÓN | International Journal of Architecture, Art and Design*, no. 09 (2021): 146-157.

**179. Book chapter/Conference Proceedings** | Cestaro, G. "Storia della città orientale. Rileggere le geografie della ricerca sulla città cinese." In *La città globale. La condizione urbana come fenomeno pervasivo / The Global City. The urban condition as a pervasive phenomenon* vol. C, edited by M. Pretelli, R. Tamborrino, I. Tolic, Torino, 372-378.

**180. Article** | Cestaro, G. "Corea del Nord. Fare arte e architettura in dittatura." *Artribune*, no 61 (2021): 66-75.

**181. Article** | Cestaro, G. "Streets for People." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 371, no. 6 (June 2021): 108-111.

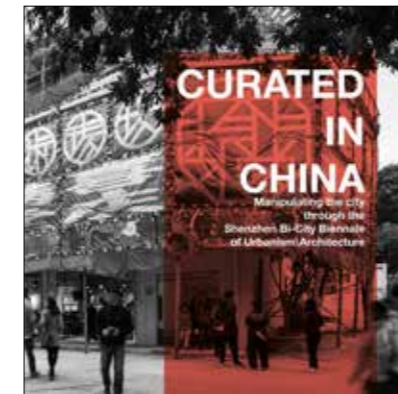
**182. Article in Curated Column** | Dahl, P.-J. "Post-Pandemic Urbanism: Regenerating Suburbia Through ADU Architecture". *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 373, no. 8 (August 2021): 108-113.

**183. Book chapter** | Federighi, V. "Resisting from Within: The Ita Thao house and settlement as breeding ground for design innovation." In *Activism at Home: Architects dwelling between politics, aesthetics, and resistance*, edited by I. Doucet and J. Gosseye (eds.), 272-281. Belin: Jovis Verlag, 2021.

**184. Article in Curated Column** | Giannetti, I. "The Regenerative Role of Tectonics: From Post Office to the Utrecht Central Library by Rijnboutt Architects." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 368, no. 3 (March 2021): 114-117.

**185. Book chapter** | Hamama, B., M- P. Repellino, J. Liu and M. Bonino. "Transformative Factors of Post-Industrial Urban Spaces in China and Italy". In *Towards Socially Integrative Cities. Perspectives on Urban. Sustainability in Europe and China*, edited by B. Müller, J. Liu, J. Cai, P. Schiappacasse, H-M. Neumann and B. Yang, 159-179. Basel: MDPI, 2021.

**186. PhD Dissertation** | Naso, M. "Curated in China. Showing off the city through the Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture". PhD diss., Politecnico di Torino, 2021.



The research explores the spatial and political agency of the Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2019 since its foundation, unlocking the event's faceted nature and inherent contradictions through simultaneous narratives, scales and perspectives. Epitomising Shenzhen's ambitions as a world-class city, the Biennale aims at actively building a relationship between architecture and socio-spatial issues as a device to both investigate the city's hypertrophic development and manipulate its urban fabric. Spaces transformed by the exhibition propel an idealised narrative of visual delight and urban extravaganza; at the same time, they embody the interlocking of multiple intellectual, corporate and institutional actors who use the event to pursue different objectives. The work shows the layered frictions between an ephemeral event's narrative apparatus and its physical outcomes, questioning the relationship between biennials as theoretical platforms and their agency in real urban spaces.

**187. Article in Curated Column** | Reale, L. "The Street as a Common Space: Three Projects by Orizzontale Architects' Collective." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 371, no. 6 (June 2021): 112-115.

# About China Room

**MISSION** China Room is a research hub at Politecnico di Torino that focuses on Chinese architecture and urbanism. Its activities span between Research, Education, and Practice.

China Room aims at strengthening the collaboration with Chinese universities, scholars and public institutions, thus contributing to redefine the global academic debate. The goal is to be an active hub of competencies as well as a repository of information, prompting scholars exchanges and mutual understanding.

**PEOPLE** China Room involves both senior and junior researchers: professors, PhD students, master students, visiting scholars and trainees with a broad range of disciplinary approaches (architects, planners, geographers, historians). The research fields of *City and Urbanization*, *Future of the Past* and *The Body of Architecture* together with education programs and design activities, represent the main scope within which China Room researchers organize their area of interest.

**NETWORK** China Room has several years of experience in joint researches and collaborations with colleagues and institutions in China and in other countries. Long-lasting cooperation with Tsinghua University, South China University of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology are among the experiences that are currently shaping a broad network of partners.

# People

**Marco SANTANGELO** - Director



Marco Santangelo is a geographer and associate professor at the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning – DIST – of the Politecnico and University of Torino. His research interests regard cities transformation in the current phase of economic restructuring, and human-space-technology interactions and the role of digitalization in the changing urban structure. He has been visiting professor at the National University of Singapore (2017), the University of Tokyo (2018), and the Queensland University of Technology (2019). He is the chairperson for the PhD programme in Urban and Regional Development and the vice-coordinator of the School of Planning and Design.

**Maria Paola REPELLINO** - Executive Director



Maria Paola Repellino, Architect and Ph.D. in 'Architecture and Building Design' (2016); Research Fellow at the Politecnico di Torino where she is Executive Director of the 'China Room' research group and a member of the 'Future Urban Legacy Lab'. Visiting Scholar at the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University in Beijing (2014). Her research work focuses on the role of industrial legacy in redefining the relationships between architecture, city and production in contemporary China. Her main publication to date is the book *The City after Chinese New Towns* (Birkhäuser 2019, ed. with M. Bonino, F. Governa, A. Sampieri).

**Michele BONINO** - Research Coordinator



Michele Bonino, architect and PhD in History of Architecture, is Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Design and Rector's Delegate for International Relations with China and Asian Countries at the Politecnico di Torino. He was Visiting Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, Boston 2016) and Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University (Beijing 2013 and 2014). He was the Politecnico di Torino's coordinator for the international project "Transition toward Urban Sustainability through Socially Integrative Cities in the EU and in China" (financed by the Horizon 2020 research program), and he is leading the design of the "Olympic Experience" building in Shougang for the XXIV Olympic Winter Games in Beijing. Among his recent books are *The City after Chinese New Towns* (Birkhäuser 2019, with F. Governa, M.P. Repellino, A. Sampieri) and *Beijing Danwei. Industrial Heritage and the Contemporary City* (Jovis 2015, with F. De Pieri).

**Francesca FRASSOLDATI** - Research Coordinator



Francesca Frassoldati, Associate Professor, works at the School of Architecture of Politecnico di Torino since April 2016. Previously, she worked for 8 years at the South China University of Technology. Out of a long-term commitment to understanding processes, tensions, and spatial effects of socio-economic transformations in the habitable world, her major lines of work address rural-urban interaction and urban transformation processes, with particular emphasis on the use of spatial design in public discourse. Since 2016 she is member of the Future Urban Legacy Lab and serves as editor-in-chief of *Ardeth-Architectural Design Magazine*.

**Francesca GOVERNA** - Research Coordinator



Francesca Governa, PhD, Urban Geographer and Professor of Economic and Political Geography at the Interateneo Department of Planning Sciences and Territorial Politics - DIST, Politecnico di Torino. She is part of the China Room and is the deputy director of FULL - Future Urban Legacy Lab, an interdepartmental research centre that brings together architects, engineers, economists, geographers and planners to study the main challenges of a rapidly urbanising world. She is engaged in national and international research activities on four main topics: local development processes and policies; urban margins and spatial justice; urban development and redefinition of the city; urban China and urbanisation processes in the Global South. She has authored about 200 scientific publications and is currently in charge of a three-year research programme on Chinese urbanisation processes related to the New Silk Road. She has carried out field research in European, North African and Chinese cities.

**Angelo SAMPIERI** - Research Coordinator



Angelo Sampieri, Architect, holds a PhD in Urban Planning from the Luav University of Venice. Since 2008 he has been teaching at the Politecnico di Torino where, since 2014, he has been Associate Professor of urban planning at the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST) and member of the board of the interuniversity Ph.D. program in Urban and Regional Development (URD). His research deals with theories, cultures and techniques of contemporary urban planning and design. Since 2016 he has been a member of the China Room research group of the Polytechnic of Turin within which he observes the urbanisation processes in contemporary China. He's actually working on the research project 'Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: urbanization processes, innovation patterns and global investments in urban China' (2020- 2023).

**Mauro BERTA** - Head of Design



Mauro Berta, Architect Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Architectural and Urban Design and Head of Design of the China Room of the Politecnico di Torino. He works mainly on urban regeneration and sustainable design. Visiting researcher and lecturer in several Universities in China and Japan; scientific responsible and visiting professor of the Dual M.Sc. in Urban Design between South China University of Technology of Guangzhou and Politecnico di Torino. He was scientific coordinator of the winning team of "Solar Decathlon China 2018" and he has been awarded in several international competitions. He authored and co-authored about 120 scientific works.

## Alberto BOLOGNA - Former Fellow



Alberto Bologna, architect, Ph.D., is an RTDb researcher in architectural and urban composition (ICAR / 14) at the DiAP-Sapienza Università di Roma. He was RTDa researcher in architectural and urban composition (ICAR / 14) at the DAD-Politecnico di Torino (2017-2020), visiting scholar at the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University in Beijing (2018-2019), adjunct professor at the Turin Polytechnic, Milan Polytechnic, Genoa University, Ferrara University, SUPSI-University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Italian Switzerland and post-doc researcher at the EPFL-École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (2011-2015). He is a correspondent for "Archi. Swiss magazine of architecture, engineering and urban planning". Among his books: "Pier Luigi Nervi negli Stati Uniti" (Firenze University Press, 2013), "The rhetoric of Pier Luigi Nervi. Concrete and ferrocement forms" (with R. Gargiani, Routledge, 2016), "The resistance of Laugier. The classicism of Murrutt" (LetteraVentidue, 2019) and "Chinese Brutalism Today. Concrete and Avant-Garde Architecture" (ORO Editions, 2019). He focuses his research on themes of urban regeneration, on languages, and the relationship between structural conception, tectonics, ornament, and spatial quality in contemporary architecture.

## Edoardo BRUNO - Fellow



Edoardo Bruno is an architect and assistant professor at Politecnico di Torino. He received a MArch and a Ph.D. from the same university, with a dissertation on the Guangzhou southern urban extension. From 2015 he has been responsible for the activities of the South China – Torino Collaboration Lab, and was among the curators of the Italian Pavilion realized during the 2018 Shenzhen Design Week. As part of the China Room research group, he was a project architect for the transformation of the Oxygen Factory within the Big Air Venue for the XXIV Olympic Winter Games, Shougang - Beijing 2022 and Executive Curator for the exhibition "Eyes of the City" for 2019 Edition of UABB Shenzhen Biennale.

## Francesco CAROTA - Fellow



Francesco Carota is research fellow at the China Room, Politecnico di Torino. His research focus on the real estate and housing industry in post reform China, investigating the role that single real estate developers had in shaping commercial houses and the built environment during the recent period of market formation and transformation. He is teaching assistant at the Atelier of Architectural Design at the Politecnico di Torino. He received his Ph.D. in Architecture, History and Design from Politecnico di Torino in 2019. During extensive sojourns in China, he has been visiting scholar at the South China University of Technology and co-curator of the Italian Pavilion at the Shenzhen Design Week – 2018 Edition. He worked as architect and visual artist in several architectural firms and he is co-founder of the design studio Cargo Visual Office.

## Valeria FEDERIGHI - Fellow



Valeria Federighi is an architect and assistant professor at Politecnico di Torino, Italy. She received a M.Arch. and a Ph.D. from the same university, and a Master of Science in Design Research from the University of Michigan. Her research work focuses on trajectories of expanded practice in architecture. She is on the editorial board of the journal *Ardeth – Architectural Design Theory* – and she is part of the 'China Room' research group. Her main publication to date is the book "The Informal Stance: representations of architectural design and informal settlements," Applied Research&Design, ORO Editions 2018.

## Filippo FIANDANESE - Former Fellow



Filippo Fiandanese is a PhD candidate in Architecture, History and Design at Politecnico di Torino. He obtained in the same university a Master of Science in Architecture. Construction and City, after a studying experience at the Université de Mons (Belgium). He graduated in 2014 with a final thesis developed in collaboration with the Tsinghua University, Beijing. He had working experiences in architectural agencies in Italy and Belgium. Since 2015 he is investigating the transnational models adopted in the urban design of Tongzhou New Town, Beijing, in the framework of CeNTO (Chinese New Town) research program. He also wrote about Chinese architecture and about sales and property development in public real estate market.

## Silvia LANTERI - Former Fellow



Silvia Lanteri graduated in Architecture at the Politecnico di Torino with the thesis "Through a Beijing fragment. The danwei of Textile Factory" in collaboration with Tsinghua University. She is currently a Phd Candidate in Architecture. History and Project at Politecnico di Torino, where she explores recent urban transformations of the Beijing historic city centre. Member of the China Room and the SCTCL, she participates in projects and installations. Over the years she collaborated as teaching assistant in between Politecnico di Torino and Politecnico di Milano, approaching different issues and experimenting various didactic methodologies in both architectural composition and urban design. As a freelance architect, she is involved in mixed research+design projects and competitions.

## Leonardo RAMONDETTI - Fellow



Leonardo Ramondetti, architect, graduated with a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Development from Politecnico di Torino and Università di Torino, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST). His field of research is contemporary urban design theories and planning cultures, with particular interest in the Chinese context. As a postdoctoral scholar, he is currently working at the research project of national relevance (PRIN) Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: urbanization processes, innovation patterns and global investments in urban China (2020-2023) carried out by Politecnico di Torino and Università di Macerata, and financed by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research. He is the author of the book *The Enriched Field. Urbanising the Central Plains of China* (Birkhäuser, 2022).

## Astrid SAFINA - Fellow



Astrid Safina is an urban scholar currently studying urban-rural relations and the spatial effects mega projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative, have in urbanisation. Since 2020, she holds a PhD in Urban and Regional Development from the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning at the Politecnico di Torino with a dissertation that inquired the gap between global theories such as "global city-regions" and the spatial characteristics of global places such as the Pearl River Delta. In 2015 she obtained a Bachelor degree in Architecture from the "Universidad Central de Venezuela" and a Master Degree in Architecture Construction City from Politecnico di Torino under a double degree program. She has been Visiting Senior Student at the South China University of Technology in Guangzhou, China, during 2017 and 2018.

### **Giorgia CESTARO - Junior Fellow**



Giorgia Cestaro is a PhD candidate in Architecture. History and Project within the special joint PhD research program “Transnational Architectural models in a globalized world” between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University of Beijing. Art historian, graduated at Ca’ Foscari University in Venice, she spent three years working in Beijing as School Coordinator of the Italian Embassy School. Her deep interest on Chinese Architecture and Cultural Heritage brought her to focus the research activity on conservation philosophy in China and its practices on management. She is part of China Room, Politecnico’s research group, as junior fellow.

### **Camilla FORINA - Junior Fellow**



Camilla Forina, B.Arch at Roma Tre University and M.Arch with honours at Politecnico di Torino, since 2019 is a Ph.D. candidate in “Architecture. History and project” at Politecnico di Torino for the double Ph.D. programme “Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World” between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University of Beijing. Her research is part of a wider research project launched in 2019, which intends to deepen the opportunities and potentialities of a community of practice mediating between Academia and Profession, specifically investigating the mutual effectiveness of an active empirical experimentation within Architecture learning and training process. She participated in the transformation of the Oxygen Factory within the Big Air Venue for the XXIV Olympic Winter Games, Shougang - Beijing 2022 and has been Assistant Curator for 2019 UABB Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture within the exhibition “Eyes of the City”.

### **Matteo MIGLIACCIO - Junior Fellow**



Matteo Migliaccio is a PhD candidate in “Architecture. History and Design” at Politecnico di Torino in which it investigates the influence of infrastructure development related to Chinese settlements in rural provinces. He studies architectural and urban phenomena in contemporary China after a master degree in “Architecture Construction and City” at the Politecnico di Torino. In 2019 he was visiting PhD researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Mitor project of China Room. He collaborated on various research and design activities with the DIST and DAD departments, focussing on mapping, data visualization, architectural and urban representation.

### **Monica NASO - Former Fellow**



Monica Naso is Architect and Ph.D. in “Architecture. History and Project” at Politecnico di Torino, she received a MArch with honours from the same university and had several professional experiences in Paris and Turin. Her current research, ‘Displaying the con-temporary city: UABB Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2005-2019’ deals with the interaction between ephemeral spectacles and the production of space in contemporary cities. She takes part in international and interdisciplinary research & design projects, and she was among the curators of the Italian Design Pavilion at the Shenzhen Design Week 2018. She was Head Curator of Exhibition and on-site coordination for the 2019 UABB Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture “Eyes of the City” exhibition.

### **Xian LU - Junior Fellow**



Xian Lu is in a joint Phd program in “Architecture. History and Project” at Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University. Trained as an architect in Italy, her research focuses on transnational architectural models in a globalized world, especially on the new waves of urbanisation and emerging architectural typologies/models in China. She received her Bachelor and Master degree in Italy in Architecture and Engineering from the University of Ferrara. Her master’s dissertation discusses the urban transformation through curatorial practices in China through a venue design for the Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen). She worked as head of international affairs for the Guangdong Decoration Industry Association and as assistant curator for the “Eyes of the city” curatorial team in the 2019 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen).

### **Marta MANCINI - Fellow**



Marta Mancini is PhD of DASP – Programme in “Architecture. History and Project” at Politecnico di Torino since 2017 and part of the “Joint Research Project with Top Universities – Human body and urban space”, under the supervision of Prof. Michele Bonino and Prof. Zhang Li (Tsinghua University). Her research focuses on the relationship between human body movement and spatial design quality, investigated through an interdisciplinary approach by means of dance choreographic tools. Since 2014, she has worked in architectural offices and collaborated with research and design groups, both in Italy and China. She has participated to international exhibitions, conferences and workshops.

### **Lidia PRETI - Junior Fellow**



Lidia Preti obtained in 2019 the Master’s Degree in City Construction Architecture at the Politecnico di Torino as part of the double degree program stipulated with the Tsinghua University of Beijing with a thesis on one of the historical districts of the city of Beijing. She is currently a PhD student in “Architecture. History and Design” at the Polytechnic of Turin where she carries out the joint PhD with the Tsinghua University of Beijing with the curriculum “Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World”. Since 2019 you have been collaborating with the China Room research group of the Politecnico di Torino.

### **Shorab Ahmed MARRI - Former Fellow**



Sohrab Ahmed Marri was born in Quetta, Pakistan in 1989, he has studied architecture at the Politecnico di Torino, where he is graduated with a thesis in “Chinese Nature philosophy and its role in Contemporary architecture practice in China”. In 2017, he began his doctoral research at the Politecnico di Torino under China Room research group, investigating the China architectural export with in frame work of Belt and Road Initiative.

### **Agostino STRINA - Junior Fellow**



Agostino Strina is an architect and a PhD Candidate in Urban and Regional Development at Politecnico di Torino. He holds a master's degree in Architecture for the Sustainability Design with a thesis focused on the internal areas of Sardinia, with the aim of rethinking some trajectories of regional development. His research deals with theories and cultures of contemporary urban design, with a particular focus on the relation between urban and rural, investigating the role of production landscapes and infrastructures. On these issues he is conducting his research at FULL - Future Urban Legacy Lab. He is teaching assistant in Urban Planning at Politecnico di Torino and, since January 2021, he is member of Politecnico's research group China Room, as junior fellow.

### **Ling XIANG - Junior Fellow**



Ling Xiang was born in Hubei, China (1994). Came to Italy in 2013 for his university career, and in 2018 graduated with the Thesis "Reinterpreting the Past: An integrated approach to urban transformation in historical Suzhou".  
Ling Xiang Worked for 2 years as a freelance Architect in Archiland Studio (Turin) as a project manager dealing with architectural projects in China.  
At present, Ling Xiang is a PhD student in Architecture, History, and Project within the special research program titled "Revolutions and transformations of home design in China different social, cultural and economic contexts" collaborated between Politecnico di Torino and the Chamber of commerce of Turin. The research work is intended to assess housing design strength and potentialities in Chinese housing markets, and homebuyer targets definition, as well as the production of tailor-made marketing strategies.

### **Hanqing ZHAO - Junior Fellow**



Zhao Hanqing is a PhD candidate in 'Architecture. History and Project' at Politecnico di Torino in which explore the interactive transformation of urban and rural spaces. After he graduated in Master's Degree of Design with a final dissertation which dealt with the service design of rural community under the centralized living mode in Southeast University(China) in 2020, he began his doctoral research under China Room research group.

Newcomer Junior Fellows - **Yetong HUANG, Francesca LA MONACA, Giulia MONTANARO and Yi Cheng WANG**

# Afterword

## China Room's methodological challenges and new research trajectories

by Marta Mancini and Maria Paola Repellino

The Report 2021 has been not simply a “product” of the research but rather a “tool” aiming to support the systematization of concluded, ongoing and potential future development of China Room's projects, enhancing long-term collaborations with institutions, external scholars, professionals and students from all over the world.

Different opportunities have been channeled towards a consistent range of research topics that have put at the core the Chinese urban, economic, social, cultural context. China, conceived not as a “topic” but as a “place” where processes happen with a unique speed and intensity.

Operating in such theoretical frame, the break out of the pandemic and the prolonged travel restrictions have represented a drastic change in China Room's methodological approach. The impossibility of having direct access to places, documents and people during periods of fieldwork has impacted on the amount, articulation and accuracy of available data. Consequently, the global conditions of the past two years have implied actions of adaptation, adjustment and strive for novel experimental paths and strategies.

Although the Chinese context remains today the main subject of interest, China Room's members wonder how to evolve and redirect both structured and upcoming researches, what tools and methodologies to apply and implement, what research topics to focus on. Should the research move to different geographical areas which today are more easily accessible? Should the research pursue new means and operative procedures? Should the research take advantage of the obstacles and address other contemporary urban questions?

Some of the ongoing projects have found ways to overcome physical distances and exploit media of communication. For instance, Polito Studio and Piemonte Home Design— a project that supports design, furniture and construction enterprises of the Piedmont Region (Italy) in the Chinese and Russian markets and focuses on the creation of new housing models — have managed to mature despite the restrictions, strengthening previous collaboration opportunities with Chinese institutions and companies. Furthermore, the agreement with Tsinghua University (Beijing) on the set up of the Urban Ergonomics Lab — an experimental multidisciplinary laboratory that aims to investigate design infrastructures for well-being in contemporary urban life, with the objective of improving the relationship between the human body with the built environment — is the result of an uninterrupted and multiform cooperation that projects, to the coming future, interests shared among different urban geographies. In addition, the ongoing research program *Uses of Cultural Heritage at the Winter Olympics of Beijing 2022* in collaboration with École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (coordinator), UCL, ETH and Tsinghua University, exploits China Room's acquired knowledge on the topic of industrial legacy reuse in some specific sites — such as the one of Shougang (Beijing), playground of a number of various connected research activities —, to relaunch the discussion on post-game use of cultural and leisure parks.

On the contrary, the scholars taking part to the ongoing interdisciplinary PRIN project *Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: urbanization processes, innovation patterns and global investments in urban China* have been very concerned about the potential reorganization of the path to follow. How to investigate the spatial implications of the BRI investments in infrastructures and urbanisation processes in inaccessible places? Could the original research questions be moved to other territories? The option of investigating the spatial effects of Chinese policies and investments outside China opens up new research trajectories. China, in fact, is not only seen as a “place”, but as a “source” of massive financial speculations that do not only concentrate on the national territory, yet extend to global networks, fostering novel urban phenomena.

China Room's early investigation on the city and contemporary urbanisation, and on the relationship between the human body and architectural and urban space, has been a first approach to the research by joint senior and junior scholars. Today, these branches have evolved, nourished by new research topics. The attention has extended to different scales and moved onto the relationship between city and countryside, the spatial implications of infrastructural networks, the innovation of the design practices and the experimentation of new housing models.

Nevertheless, the unfolding of the research has been guided by three factors that will remain firm and characterize China Room's approach. First, China will still be the privileged lens through which to observe the complexity of architectural and urban phenomena on a global scale. Second, interdisciplinary studies will guide the research as a tool for investigating complexity across different scales and competences. Third, the synergic balance among research, design experimentation, teaching and cultural activities will keep on marking out China Room's contribution to the international debate.

China Room's members look forward to elaborating and presenting the outputs of the ongoing researches in the next edition of the Report.