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29 November 2026



Politecnico di Torino

China Room REPORT 2024

Edited by Camilla Forina and Leonardo Ramondetti

Politecnico di Torino

CHINA ROOM

REPORT 2024

Foreword from the Directors of the Departments
by Andrea Bocco (DIST) and Michele Bonino (DAD)

The second edition of the *China Room Report* illustrates the consolidation of the activities of this research group in investigating Chinese development, with valuable contributions to architecture and urban debates. The achievements obtained and the work conducted invite us to reflect on two subjects: the research opportunities arising by expanding Politecnico di Torino's reach into novel contexts, building new relationships and maintaining established partnerships also in difficult times; and the high-quality results achieved fruitfully combining different expertise and disciplines.

Since its foundation in 2016, the China Room research group has been working to foster research collaboration between Politecnico di Torino and Chinese/international institutions. Over the last two years, through cooperation with the university-level China Centre and the broader support of Politecnico di Torino, this objective has been pursued by consolidating long-lasting partnerships, such as those with the Tsinghua University and the South China University of Technology, and establishing new agreements in the fields of Architecture and Urban Planning, such as that with the Harbin Institute of Technology. Thanks to these initiatives, multiple shared education programs have been launched, such as MSs, double degrees, and PhD exchanges.

At the same time, scholars from the China Room have contributed to initiatives such as collaboration in research programs, consultancy in design projects, participation in international competitions, curatorship of exhibitions, and other activities. This report showcases the variety and richness of projects and people involved, elucidating the importance of cultivating connections with Chinese institutions to create new research opportunities. While the efforts to strengthen relationships with China continue, the research group have recently broadened its horizons by engaging with scholars studying Chinese urbanisation and architecture from non-Chinese institutions and addressing urban and architectural themes emerging from the Global China, i.e., Chinese influence worldwide. These novel collaborations and fields of inquiry have opened up new possibilities while consolidating the presence of the China Room in the international community.

The new opportunities and challenges brought about by the China Room activities have been addressed by the rich and interdisciplinarity expertise of the research group. The China Room comprises of people from the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) and the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning at Politecnico di Torino (DIST). Architects, geographers, historians, and urbanists have worked side by side in research, design projects, and education, as well as in disseminating the findings of these activities to academic and non-specialist audiences. This collaboration is challenging as it requires coordination among disciplines, research methods, and investigation tools. In this respect, China Room is a successful example of how the combination of expertise can produce valuable contributions to academic and applied research while helping engage positively with scholars and practitioners from other contexts.

After almost a decade of activity, despite the intricacies of conducting research in China during the pandemic and post-pandemic period, we trust that the future work of the China Room will continue further to build bridges between Chinese and Italian institutions and to cement the role of the group as leading research centre on Chinese urbanisation and architecture.

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Introduction

by Camilla Forina and Leonardo Ramondetti

The *China Room Report 2024* curates the research conducted by the group between January 2021 and December 2023, a period which witnessed a significant shift in research methods and topics. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and closure of the Chinese borders which last until January 2023, carrying out in-depth fieldwork and visits were impossible, thus hampering our research activities. However, this period also allowed us to systematize and disseminate previous research findings, and lead to development of novel alternative investigative methods different to those adopted by China Room's scholars since 2016. Parallelly, change in geopolitics, the internationalization of Chinese investments, and the cooling down of domestic urban growth have led the group to reframe its research projects and reassess some of the assumptions that characterized its previous studies. While we still consider China as a privileged context to observe some of the most radical features of phenomena occurring globally – especially regarding urbanization processes, design culture, and architecture experimentation, we also took an interest in investigating how China-driven transformations are affecting the city and the design practice outside of Chinese boundaries.

The activities conducted by the China Room over the last three years manifest this turning point, as showed by the materials in this Report. On the one hand, books such as *Fun Mill: The Architecture of Creative Industry in Contemporary China* (2022) by Maria Paola Repellino, *The Enriched Field: Urbanising the Central Plains of China* (2022) by Leonardo Ramondetti and *Curated in China: Manipulating the City through the Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/ Architecture* (2024) by Monica Naso are the culmination of research conducted in China before 2020. On the other hand, the research started after 2020, such as the Research Project of National Relevance (PRIN) *Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization Processes, Innovation Patterns and Global Investments* coordinated by Francesca Governa and Francesca Spigarelli, and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Sinofinancialization and Urban Change in Addis Ababa and Nairobi: An Ethnography of Private Chinese Capital in African Cities by Andrea Pollio, have engaged with novel contexts to meet the quest for alternative fields of inquiry and the increasing interest in urban processes driven by Chinese initiatives outside the country. These studies have opened new vistas, leading the group to investigate China-driven urban transformations in Southern Europe, Africa, and Central Asia.

While expanding China Room horizons, these novel research paths have not halted the studies on urban China and Chinese architecture. These have been carried out compensating fieldwork constraints with a stronger collaboration with Chinese institutions and local partners. In this respect, applied research and teaching activities have played a leading role. The project *Prosperous Lishui: Envisioning New Relations between Urban and Rural Areas* is an example of this trend: based on a long-lasting partnership with the South China University of Technology (SCUT), China Room participated in the development of an urban scenario for the international competition *Future Shan-shui City: Dwelling in Lishui Mountains*, launched by Lishui Municipality in 2020. The project was awarded the third prize and became the subject for further studies conducted within the MSs Architecture, Construction City at Politecnico di Torino and Co-Run Double Degree Program at SCUT. These activities were the starting point for further research leading to the publication of the book *Prosperous Lishui: A Project for Suburban China* (2023) by Mauro Berta, Edoardo Bruno, and Leonardo Ramondetti, which also includes an essay by Gong Dong, founder of Vector Architects and visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino (AY 2020-2021). Similar conditions have characterized the architectural project for the *Main Workshop of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air Venue*. In partnership with Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University and Atelier Team Minus, China Room was involved in the renovation of an industrial building for the visitor center of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. The project was inaugurated in 2022, and this experience led to the publication *The Story of a Section: Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory* (2022) by Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno, Alessandro Armando, and Giovanni Durbiano. At the same time, due to these experiences, a wider reflection on the synergy between academic and design practices have been initiated, such as the launch of the Polito Studio initiative in collaboration with the Turin Chamber of Architects (OAT). Within this institutional framework, other projects and international competitions were undertaken, overcoming the challenge of on-site work limitations through collaboration with local partners, and simultaneously laying the foundation for doctoral research.

The following pages collect the results of the aforementioned research activities. The introductory section illustrates the research projects carried out over the three years. These initiatives have strengthened the relations with Chinese partners, while expanding the reach of China Room's research far beyond scholars focusing solely on China. The main outcomes of these studies are presented in the following section, according to a taxonomy organizing the activities carried out by the research group into five typologies: publications, projects, education, exhibitions, and lecture series, conferences and workshops.

In gathering and systematizing the work conducted over the last three years, it has become clear that the China Room is now facing another turning point. The season of restrictions is behind us, and new research projects have just begun. Half of China Room scholars were back in China in 2023, and other fieldtrips are planned for the year to come. However, while Chinese re-openness bodes well, the conditions for conducting research are yet unclear. Contemporary China looks radically different from the one we are familiar with: the economy is facing a downturn, the real estate market is in a crisis, and the social divide is exacerbating. This climate of uncertainty and expectation invites us to pay attention to the changing urban settings, to explore the new challenges posed to and by Chinese development, and to test novel research hypotheses; in short, to remain anchored to the field. In parallel, the work on Global China cannot be abandoned, along with the efforts made to bring Chinese issues into the wider frameworks of architectural and planning cultures, as well as urban and geographical debates. To nourish and expand these lines of research, making them constitutive and complementary fields of study at China Room, is the main challenge for the years to come. At the same time, it is also a great opportunity for a consolidated research group that aims to continue working on China while speaking to the world.

Re-search

Pro-grams

12 **Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization processes, innovation patterns and global investments**

18 **Polito Studio: Architectural design and academic practices**

22 **Piemonte Home Design: Housing and domestic spaces in contemporary China**

28 **Sinofinancialization and urban change in Addis Ababa and Nairobi: An ethnography of private Chinese capital in African cities**



Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization Processes, Innovation Patterns and Global Investments

Cover | FREEeste, Trieste, 2022
(credit: Leonardo Ramondetti- China Room).

RESEARCH PROJECT

Period: 2020-2024

Other institution: Università di Macerata (Department of Law + China Center)

Project Grant: Italian Ministry of Education - Research Project of National Relevance (PRIN)

Funding: €524.270

RESEARCH TEAM

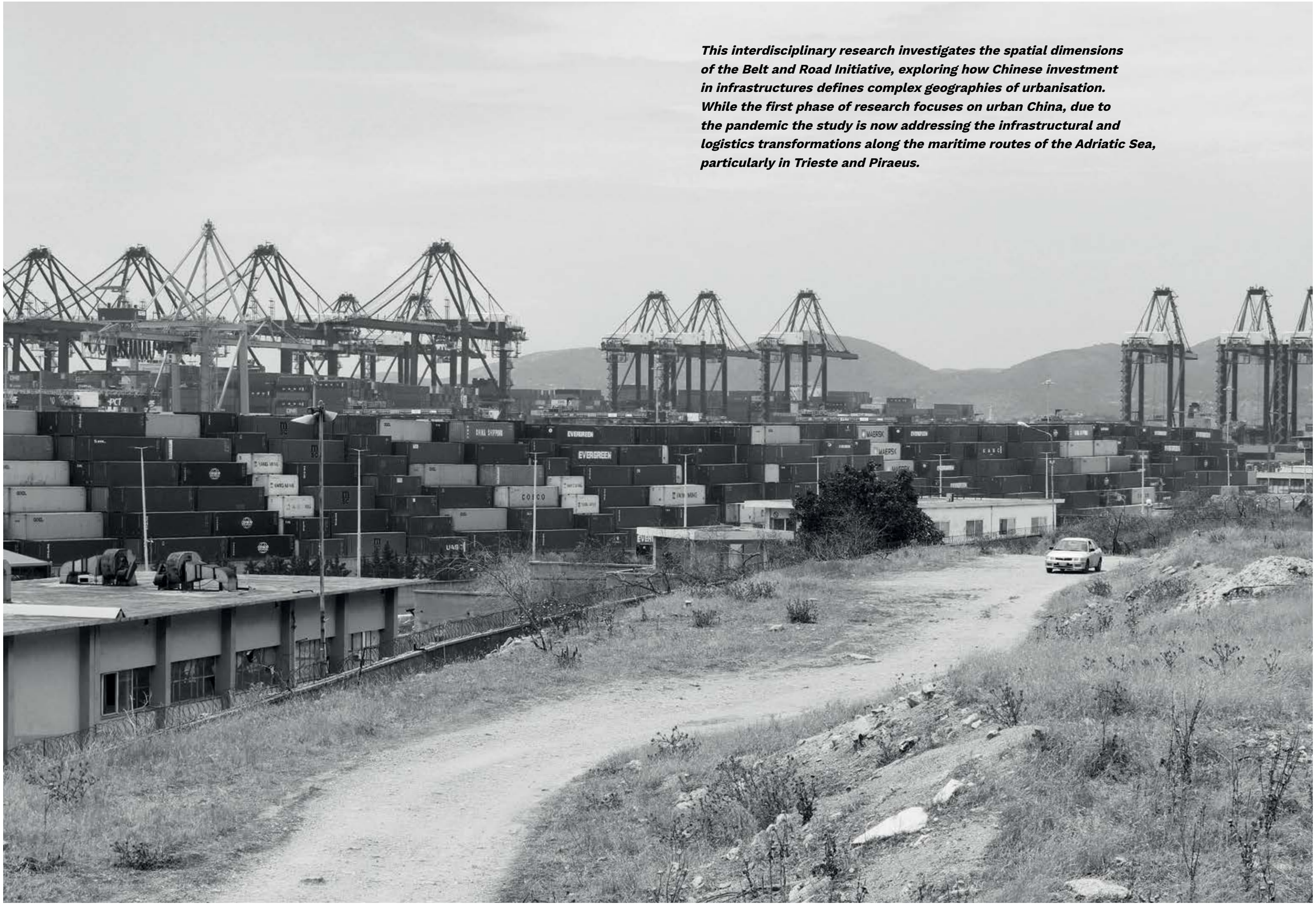
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS
Francesca Governa
Francesca Spigarelli - Università di Macerata

RESEARCH FELLOWS
Selusi Ambrogio - Università di Macerata
Michele Bonino
Francesco Carota
Francesca Frassoldati
Sofia Leoni
Lidia Preti
Leonardo Ramondetti
Astrid Safina
Gianluca Sampaolo - Università di Macerata
Angelo Sampieri
Alberto Valz Gris

The interdisciplinary research *Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: urbanization processes, innovation patterns and global investments* was the result of a collaboration between the China Room at Politecnico di Torino and the China Center at Univerisità di Macerata, which led to the successful application for the Research Project of National Relevance (PRIN) grant, funded by the Italian Ministry of Education in 2017. The project was to investigate the spatial dimensions of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) exploring how Chinese investment in infrastructure defines complex geographies of urbanisation. While the BRI is global strategy in its forms and objectives, it materialises in specific settings, transforming socio-spatial organisation. To explore these novel urban configurations, an interdisciplinary research group was set up, including twelve scholars across the fields of urban geography, urban and landscape planning, architecture, economy, and sinology. Within Politecnico di Torino, the project involved three Professors, and four Post-doc researchers at the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST) and the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD), along with two PhD candidates from the doctoral programs Architecture. History and Design (DASP) and Urban and Regional Development (URD).

Since the beginning, the research encountered several challenges. Due to delay in funding delivery, the projects started only in late 2019. According to the initial proposal, the study was to be carried out in China, to investigate the BRI-driven urban transformations in the cities of Chongqing, Lanzhou (Gansu Province), and Zhengzhou (Henan Province). However,

This interdisciplinary research investigates the spatial dimensions of the Belt and Road Initiative, exploring how Chinese investment in infrastructures defines complex geographies of urbanisation. While the first phase of research focuses on urban China, due to the pandemic the study is now addressing the infrastructural and logistics transformations along the maritime routes of the Adriatic Sea, particularly in Trieste and Piraeus.





the pandemic made China inaccessible and fieldwork impossible. This led the team to reconsider the research program and its objectives, reorganising the study in two phases.

The first still focused on urban China, drawing upon the work conducted over the previous years, and adopting investigative methods alternative to the direct observation of urban phenomena. These methodologies were then employed to investigate the architectural development promoted along the main infrastructural corridors of the BRI. This phase of research led to the publication of the article *Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative in urban China: the local complexities of a global project* by Astrid Safina, Leonardo Ramondetti and Francesca Governa for the special issue *One decade of Belt and Road Initiative* for *Area Development and Policy*; the book *Grounding the Belt and Road Initiative: A Guide to the Architecture of the New Silk Road* edited by Michele Bonino and Francesco Carota; and the book *The Enriched Field: Urbanising the Central Plains of China* by Leonardo Ramondetti.

Beginning in 2022, the second phase of the research addressed the infrastructural and logistics transformations along the maritime routes of the Adriatic Sea, particularly in the port of Trieste (Italy) and Piraeus (Greece). These hubs, part of the so-call Adriatic Corridor, have been the target of investments and initiatives promoted by China to boost logistics and infrastructural development. In Piraeus, the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) owns the majority of the port since 2016, and it has transformed this infrastructure into one of the major Mediterranean terminals for transhipment operations. Trieste was the Italian spot of the BRI according to the 2019 memorandum of understanding, and it was planned to be the entry point of Chinese goods to Mitteleuropa. By the means of fieldwork and direct observation, the research team has investigated the different urbanities and spatial features brought about by the two types of infrastructure-led development, and the role and presence of China in these two contexts. This led to the publications of the special issue *Global infrastructures and urban transformations. Piraeus, Trieste, and the 'Adriatic Corridor'* edited by Francesca Governa and Angelo Sampieri for *Territorio*, the chapter *Beyond the logistical monolith: Multiplicity and differentiation along the Adriatic Corridor* by Francesca Governa, Leonardo Ramondetti, Astrid Safina, Angelo Sampieri, and Alberto Valz Gris for the book *The Material Geographies of the Belt and Road Initiative: Infrastructures and political ecologies on the New Silk Road* edited by Elia Apostolopoulou, Han Cheng, Jonathan Silver, Alan Wiig; and *Untangling infrastructure networks through critical cartographies: The Port of Trieste, Italy* by Leonardo Ramondetti for the special issue *Networks* edited by Ling Bian for the Annals of the American Association of Geographers.

Fig. 2 | Arvedi Steel MIll, Trieste, 2022 (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - China Room).

Previous pages:
Fig. 1 | Terminal 3, Port of Piraeus, 2022 (credit: Alberto Valz Gris - China Room).

Main Outputs

Lecture series | *Future Paths for Chinese Cities* (March-April 2021) organized by Politecnico di Torino (DIST + DAD + China Room research group) and Università di Macerata (China Center) with Profs Liu Jian (Tsinghua University), Xuefei Ren (Michigan State University), Lv Ping (University of Chinese Academy of Sciences), and Wang Shifu (South China University of Technology).

Book | Ramondetti, L. *The Enriched Field: Urbanising the Central Plains of China*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2022. ISBN 978-30-35624-91-5.

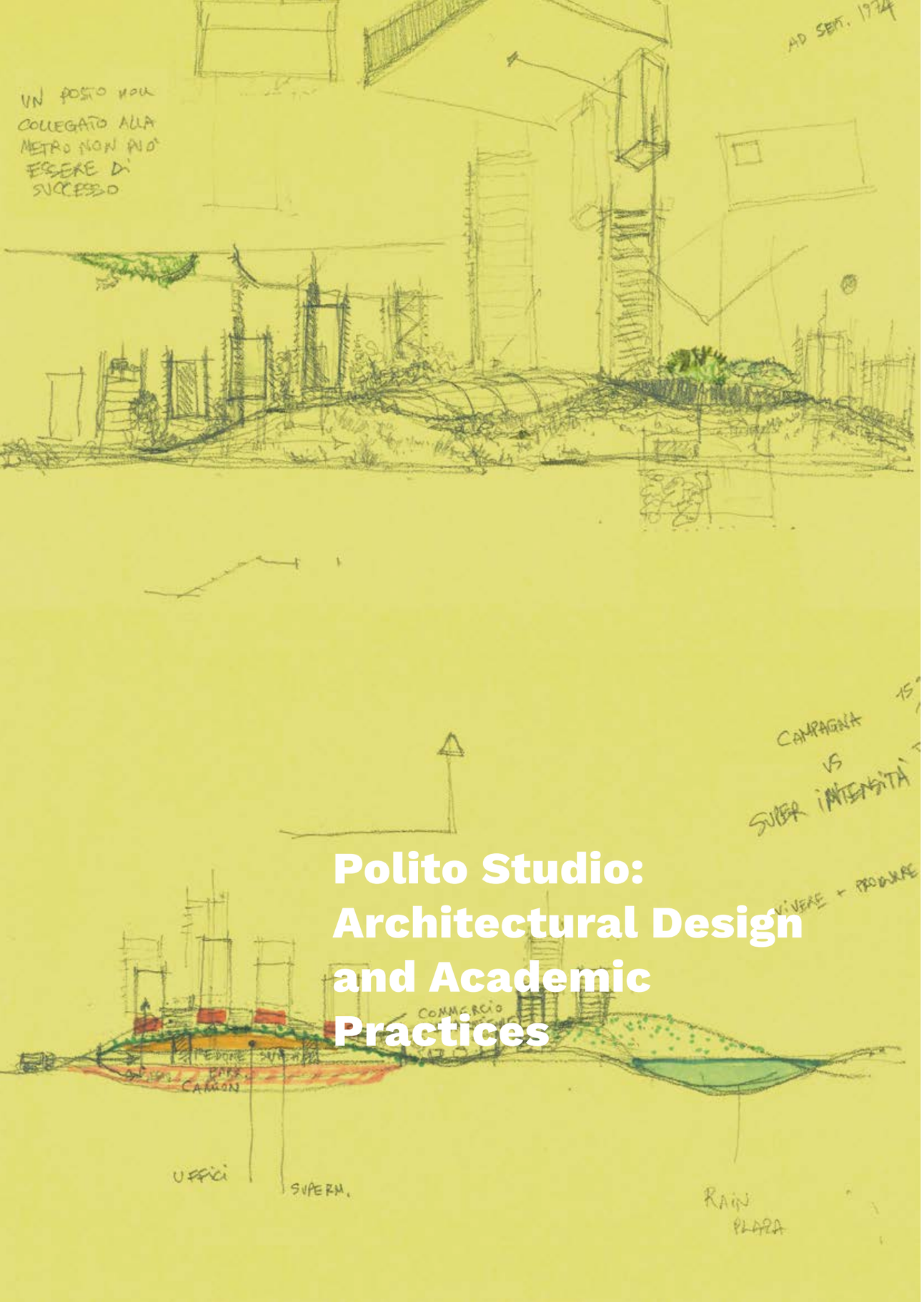
Article | Safina, A., L. Ramondetti, and F. Governa. "Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative in urban China: The local complexities of a global project." *Area Development and Policy*, advanced online publication (March 2023): 1–18. DOI: 10.1080/23792949.2023.2174888.

Special Issue | Francesca, G., and A. Sampieri (eds.). "Global infrastructures and urban transformations. Piraeus, Trieste, and the 'Adriatic Corridor'." *Territorio,* no. 103(2023): 23-52.

Book | Bonino, M., and F. Carota (eds.)(2024). *Grounding the Belt and Road Initiative: A Guide to the Architecture of the New Silk Road*. Basel: Birkhäuser. ISBN 978-30-35626-69-8.

Book chapter | Governa, F., L. Ramondetti, A. Safina, A. Sampieri, and A. Valz Gris. "Beyond the logistical monolith: Multiplicity and differentiation along the Adriatic Corridor". In *The Material Geographies of the Belt and Road Initiative: Infrastructures and political ecologies on the New Silk Road*, edited by E. Apostolopoulou , H. Cheng, J. Silver, and A. Wiig. London: Routledge, 2024.

Article | Ramondetti, L. "Untangling infrastructure networks through critical cartographies: The Port of Trieste, Italy". *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, Advanced online publication (2024). DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2023.2289985.



Polito Studio: Architectural Design and Academic Practices

RESEARCH PROJECT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INITIATIVE

Period: 2020-ongoing

Other institution: Ordine degli Architetti di Torino

Project Grant: Politecnico di Torino

Funding: €120.000

RESEARCH TEAM

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS
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Valeria Federighi

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Antonio Cinotto - OAT
Valeria Federighi
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Roberta Ingaramo - OAT (2021-ongoing)
Peter Jaeger - OAT (2021-ongoing)
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Francesca De Filippi (DAD)

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Edoardo Bruno
Camilla Forina
Xian Lu
Lidia Preti

ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS 2021-2023

2MIX Architetti
Archisbang
BLA Balance Architettura
BDR Bureau
Corbellaro SA
De Ferrari Architetti
Eudes Margaria
Gianpiero Moretti
PENNAZIO architects+engineers
PAT. Architetti
Studio Cavaglion
Studio Vaj

The relationship between the academic and professional realms of architecture has been a subject of extensive disciplinary debate. On one hand, the academic setting, with its space for research, has led scholars to establish boundaries for architectural culture, often growing apart from rather than benefiting the professional sphere. Conversely, professional exchanges have become increasingly influenced by the contentious mechanisms of the market. In a collaborative effort between Politecnico di Torino (Polito) and Ordine degli Architetti di Torino (OAT), the POLITO Studio project aims to not only support professionals but also serve as an incubator for opportunities where practitioners and scholars can engage in collaborative activities exploring international markets often difficult to enter.

The project takes inspiration from global examples where the division between the academic and professional spheres occurs with fewer limitations. The first reference is that of Chinese Design Institutes, probably the most extensive example of the interconnection between academia and practice. The second example considered is PennPraxis, established in the early 2000s as an operational research arm of the Stuart Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, thanks to the intuition of Professor Gary Hack. Taking inspiration from these innovative instances observed around the world, Polito Studio represents the first trial in the Italian panorama intending to create a replicable model aiming to optimize the innovative capabilities of both professional and academic practices, bringing them together in collaborative groups and exposing them to

global opportunities.

The first group was selected in 2021 and dedicated to working with Chinese partners. The first cohort started with a design competition in September 2021 followed by the second phase in October. The group confirmed the potentiality of the Polito Studio experiment: participants working together sharing their expertise contributing to the overall group, working at the transnational scale becoming competitive in international markets often predominated by large architectural firms. In 2023 ended the first participation round that can count - in the first two years - the participation in two international competitions (Meiguan Innovative Corridor, Beyond Yue / Janhu Revival Planning and Design Competition) and the more recent participation in the Shenzhen Biennale with the GBA Uninterrupted installation. The event held at SETA in March 2023, represented an occasion to wrap up the activities of the first mandate and to present the TDH (Turin Design Hub), a group of 12 professionals that, together with the China Room research group, will continue the collaboration beyond the initiative.

Main Outputs

Conference | *Practicing Research - Research in Practice*. Jointly organized by Politecnico di Torino / China Room, Turin Chamber of Architects (OAT) in collaboration with Lund University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Architects Scania; supported by FOJAB Arkitekter. UIA Copenhagen 2023, July 3rd 2023.

Design Competition | *Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor*. Architectural Scheme and Design Development of Fucheng Guanlan Industrial Land Development Overall Interest Coordination Project of Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor (Plots 01-03).
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with SCAD - Architectural Design & Research Institute of SCUT Co., Ltd. and TDH - Turin Design Hub (PAT Architetti, Gianpiero Moretti, Edoardo Pennazio, Studio Cavaglion, Francesco Vaj). August – December 2021

Design Competition | *Archipelago Jianhu: A Permanent Vitality.* “Beyond Yue|Jianhu Revival” Shaoxing Jianhu Planning and Design.
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with Architectural Design & Research Institute of SCUT Co., Ltd. and Turin Design Hub (2MIX Architetti, Archisbang, Balance Architettura, Corbellaro SA, Gianpiero Moretti, Studio Cavaglion). January – May 2022.

Installation | *GBA Uninterrupted* at Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2022 ‘Urban Cosmologies.’
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with South China University of Technology / Research Center of Architectural History and Culture, Turin Chamber of Architects and Turin Design Hub. October 22, 2022–March 26, 2023.



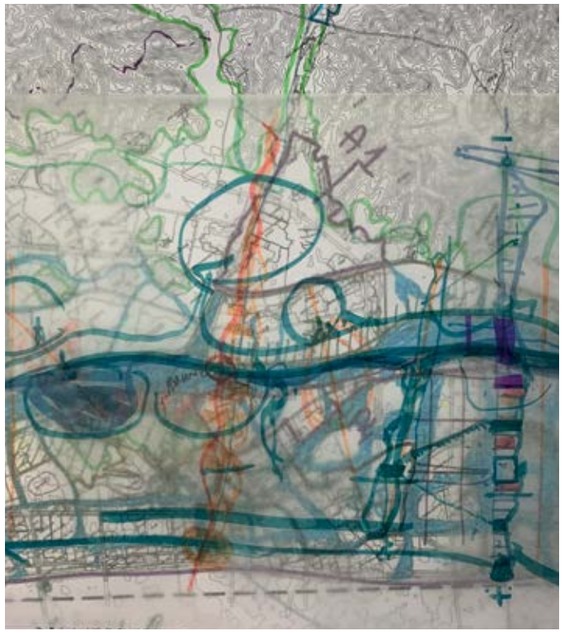








Fig. 1-3 | Pictures of the formative workshops and design meetings (credit: Lidia Presti - China Room).
Fig. 4-5 | Sketches for the “Archipelago Jianhu” proposal (credits: TDH).

Previous page:
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).

Piemonte Home Design: Housing and Domestic Spaces in Contemporary China

RESEARCH PROJECT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Period: 2019-ongoing

Other institution: Turin Chamber of Commerce

Project Grant: Turin Chamber of Commerce

Funding: €94.513

RESEARCH TEAM

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Michele Bonino
Francesca Frassoldati

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Francesca Carota
Ling Xiang
Francesca La Monaca

PARTNERS

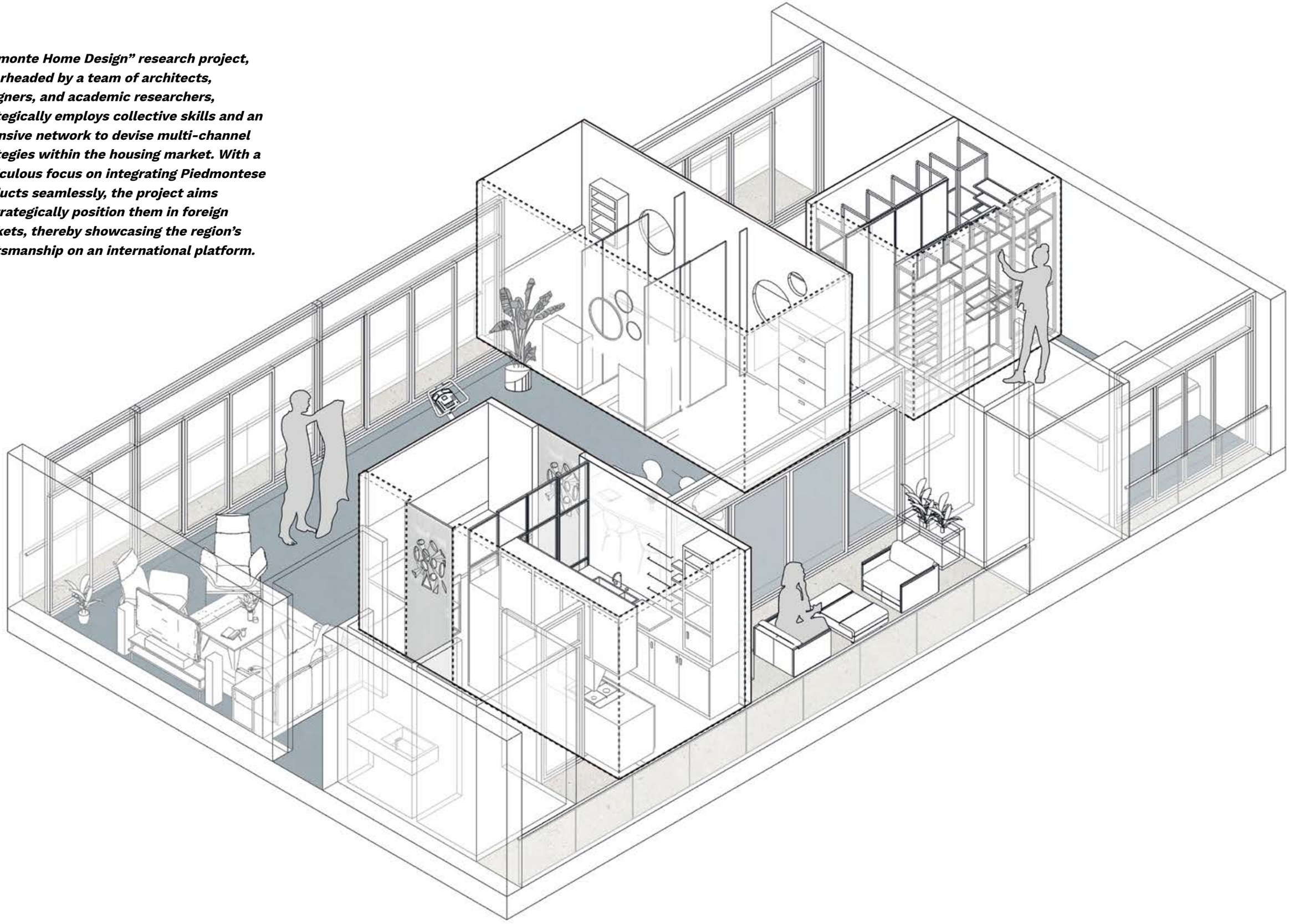
Italian-Russian Chamber of Commerce
Calibro Zero
Gianmarco Cavagnino
Arcos Interior
Istituto Europeo del Design

COMPANIES

13 Ricrea
3D Legno
Agena S.r.l.
Alessandra Scarfò Design
Atelier Caruso
Bellanda S.r.l.
Boschis 1913 S.r.l.
C.I.S.L.A. S.r.l. - HFB
Cavallaro Casa S.n.c.
Cnamole Design
Consorzio Saluzzo Arreda
Covema Vernici
Dorodesign
Expo S.r.l.
FAP Ceramiche
FAP2 S.n.c.
Ferrerolegno S.p.a.
Frank&Frank
Ghi Group
Il Giardino di Legno
Lucifero Illuminazione
Maison Claire
Marzia Boaglio
Masserano
Metaldesigner
Nuova Osmo S.r.l.
Pininfarina Architecture
Quadrilatero S.r.l.
Rubinetteria Giulini Giovanni S.r.l.
Sea & Symphony S.r.l.
Skin New Design Ciffo X Sargomma
Testatonda
Thalia Industrial Design
Vistadipunto

Cover | Collage made from partner products (credit: Francesca La Monaca - China Room).

“Piemonte Home Design” research project, spearheaded by a team of architects, designers, and academic researchers, strategically employs collective skills and an extensive network to devise multi-channel strategies within the housing market. With a meticulous focus on integrating Piedmontese products seamlessly, the project aims to strategically position them in foreign markets, thereby showcasing the region’s craftsmanship on an international platform.



The “Piemonte Home Design” initiative, devised and coordinated by the Turin Chamber of Commerce, stands as a comprehensive business development program encompassing 32 Piedmontese companies within the home sector, all committed to penetrating the market landscape of China. The central aim of this initiative is to strategically position these enterprises within foreign markets, employing an examination of their product potential across the targeted regions.

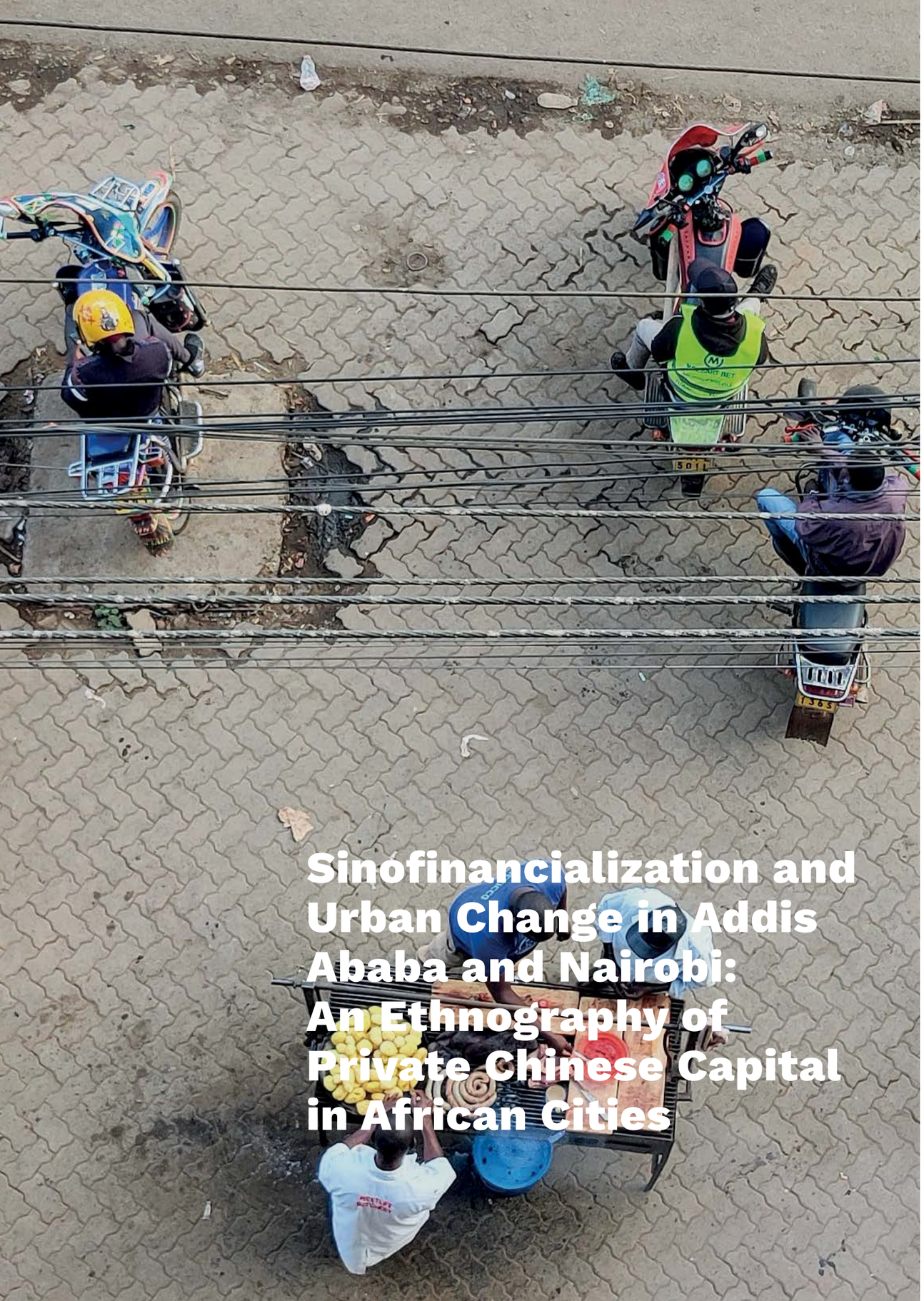
The coordinated collaboration among universities, institutions, and project partners aims to highlight the exceptional quality of Piedmontese craftsmanship on a global scale. This effort is instrumental in cultivating an international presence and reputation for the participating companies, thanks to the insights uncovered by the researchers involved.
Politecnico di Torino and China Room collaborate in conducting an analytical-exploratory survey delineating the intricacies of the real estate market in China. This research unravels the foundational macroeconomic dynamics and the relevant institutional framework governing the industry. It identifies market trends, pivotal stakeholders, and the intricate dynamics that shape their interactions. This comprehensive approach involves employing analytical and interpretative tools, analyzing a carefully chosen selection of residential interventions developed over the past decade, and conducting interviews with leading design studios active in China. The findings from these case studies will be synthesized into a compelling book showcasing exemplary architecture that accurately reflects current market trends.

With a thorough understanding of standard market practices and competitive factors, the project aims to devise housing solutions that synergistically and coherently integrate regional productions.
Through critical reflection, Politecnico di Torino is tasked with designing a model house composed of Piedmontese productions explicitly tailored for the Chinese market. This initiative led to the creation of the “Plug-in House,” a modular residential solution challenging traditional notions of domestic space. Launched in 2020, this model highlights the versatility of interchangeable internal components, encompassing bathroom, kitchen, and storage areas. These Plug-in elements serve as activators within domestic spaces, fostering harmonious and proactive coexistence by integrating physical space with activities. The concept of efficient capsules condensing domestic space can influence perceptions of current and future living environments, catering to the needs of the Chinese market.
Moreover, the research activities associated with Piemonte Home Design aim to engage Chinese developers to facilitate the transfer of Piedmontese products and skills to the Chinese market. This initiative has resulted in establishing two PhD scholarships, forging new agreements with local companies, a partnership between the Polytechnic and Guangdong Overseas Architecture Design Institute Co., Ltd., and opportunities for foreign studios to visit the local territory.



Fig. 2 | Collage made from partner products (credit: Francesca La Monaca - China Room).

Previous pages:
Fig. 1 | Axonometric view of the plug-in house proposal (credit: China Room).



Sinofinancialization and Urban Change in Addis Ababa and Nairobi: An Ethnography of Private Chinese Capital in African Cities

Cover | Platform riders in Kenya increasingly operate in last-mile logistics operations run by Chinese startups (credit: Andrea Pollio - China Room).

EU FUNDED research

Period: 2020-2023

Other institution: University of Cape Town (African Centre for Cities)

Project Grant: MSCA-IF Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (ID: 886772)

Funding: €194.433

RESEARCH TEAM

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Andrea Pollio

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATORS
Francesca Governa
Liza Rose Cirolia - ACC

How is urban Africa changing in an increasingly technologically sinocentric world? To answer this question, SURGE was a research project on the transformations driven by private Chinese technocapital in East Africa. Specifically, SURGE studied the operations of Chinese tech entrepreneurs and investors in Nairobi (Kenya), a city that has emerged both as one of Africa's innovation hubs, and as a key site of Global China's digital footprint.

To date, most academic research on Kenya-China relationships has dominantly focused on major government-driven investments, given the high stakes and incredible visibility of these projects, ranging from the recently inaugurated Nairobi expressway (2022) to the Standard-gauge railway that now connects Kenya's capital to the port city of Mombasa (2017). Lesser attention has been paid to the ways in which Nairobi, and Kenya broadly, have become experimental testbeds for Chinese technology companies and digital entrepreneurs seeking to expand into African markets. From innovation in financial technologies such as cross-border payments, to last-mile logistics platforms, from low-cost internet provision to e-commerce, Nairobi's Silicon Savannah now hosts a very unique, high-tech fragment of what sociologist C.K. Lee has called "Global China".

My study, an ethnography of Chinese technocapitalism and its encounter with Nairobi's existing digital innovation landscape, aims to demystify simplistic anxieties about China's presence in Africa and beyond, while providing a fine-grained, grounded reflection on the multifarious ways in which cities become the foil for technopolitical and geopolitical shifts.



Fig. 1 | The construction site of Kenya's national data centre, funded by a Chinese loan and delivered by Huawei (credit: Andrea Pollio - China Room).

Main Outputs

Article | Huang, Z., and A. Pollio. "Between highways and fintech platforms: Global China and Africa's infrastructure state." *Geoforum*, no. 147(December 2023): 103876.

Article | Pollio, A., L. R. Cirolia, and J. Ong'iro Odeo. "Algorithmic Suturing: Platforms, Motorcycles and the 'Last Mile'in Urban Africa." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 47(6)(2023): 957-974.

Book chapter | Pollio, A. "The Digital Silk Road as Planetary Intelligence: A Story of China in Africa". In *Parables of AI in/from the Majority World*, edited by R. Singh, R.L. Guzmán, and P. Davison, 88-99. New York: Data & Society Research Institute, 2022.

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Out-puts

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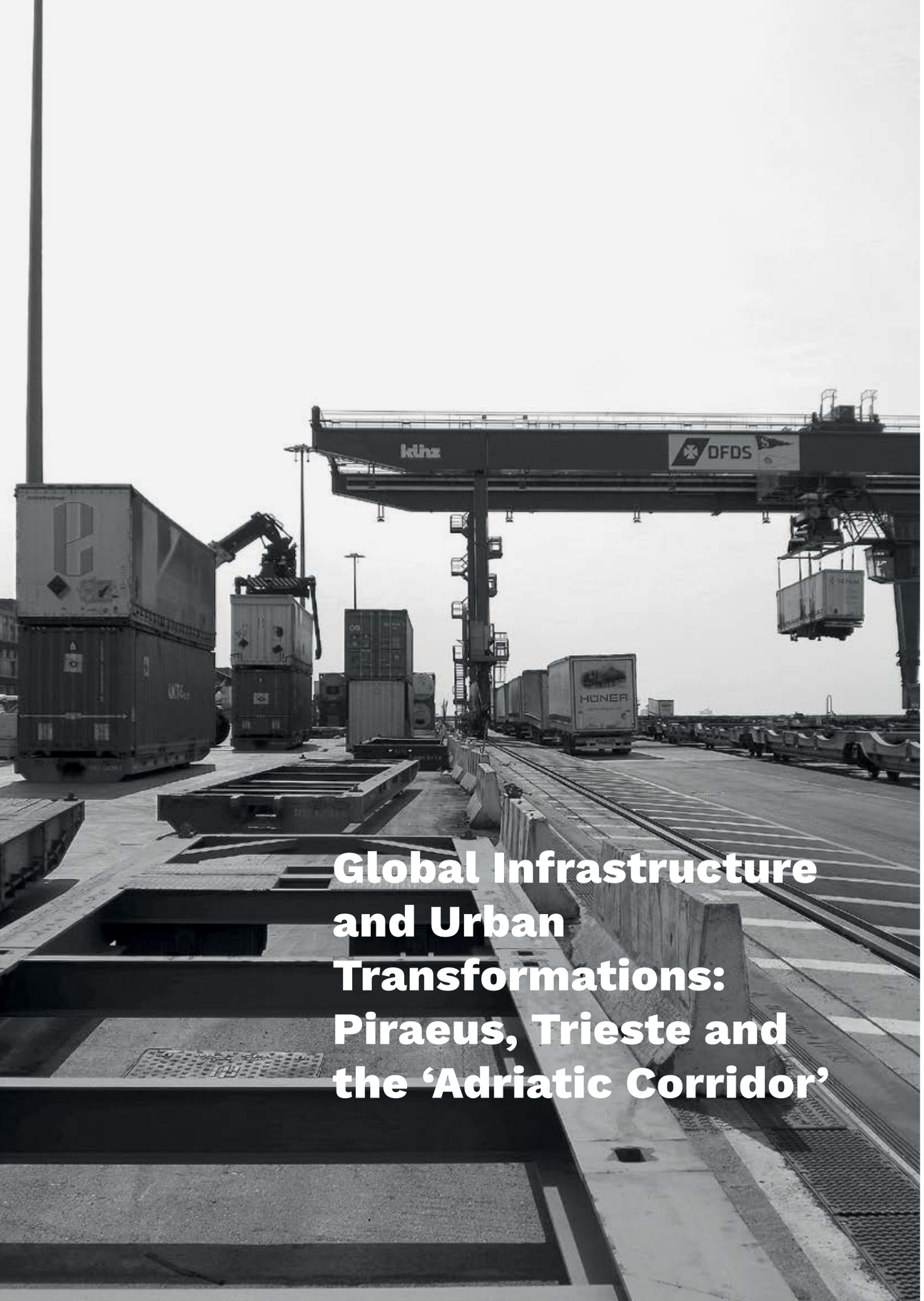


Global Infrastructure and Urban Transformations: Piraeus, Trieste and the ‘Adriatic Corridor’

SPECIAL ISSUE

Year: 2022

Editors: Francesca Governa and Angelo Sampieri

Published in: Territorio

Research project: Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization Processes, Innovation Patterns and Global Investments

Citation: Governa, F., and A. Sampieri (Eds.). “Infrastrutture globali e divenire urbano. Pireo, Trieste e il ‘Corridoio Adriatico’” *Territorio*, no. 103(2022): 23-30. **DOI:** 10.3280/TR2022-103002OA

As a collection of five journal articles published on Territorio, this study explores the role of BRI in the expansion of logistical infrastructure and its effects on urbanization. The collection scrutinizes spatial transformations in the ports of Piraeus and Trieste along the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, examining global flows and their complex relationships with economic forces, development policies, and various forms of urbanization. Across the five articles, the term ‘Adriatic Corridor’ is critically adopted to highlight the composite and fragmented nature of this maritime infrastructure. Through the analysis of the Piraeus and Trieste ports, these articles reveal a nuanced phenomenology of new spaces and socioeconomic conditions influenced by international investments intersecting with existing local and national dynamics. Despite differing contexts, the study emphasizes the commonality in their functions and their role in reshaping urbanization processes in the context of the broader expansion of logistics infrastructure. The focus on these two distant yet closely connected spaces sheds light on the spatialization of economies and the role of logistics in shaping novel and underexplored urbanization processes.

This collection presents four empirical cases. Since 2009, COSCO Pacific has incrementally controlled Piraeus Port, fueling economic growth and intertwining port operations with the urban fabric of Piraeus. The port’s expansion seeks new urban spaces, resulting in both integration and social conflicts. To its North, Aspropyrgos illustrates how logistics operations generate diverse, blurred spaces oscillating between formality and informality, producing varied urban conditions. Meanwhile, Trieste Port, a key ‘Adriatic Corridor’ gateway, undergoes substantial transformations, evolving into composite and hybrid spaces as it establishes new relations with global networks. The FREEeste freight hub, connected to the port, exemplifies the inland dispersion of port activities, prompting an investigation into extended spatial and temporal dimensions, framing Trieste within broader transit flows and industrial history.

In Piraeus, the logistics system extends beyond port boundaries, creating informal economic forms and addressing space constraints. Conversely, Trieste’s logistic growth, mainly occurring on the fragile Karst plateau, involves careful planning to integrate logistics with manufacturing. The results of our empirical investigation emphasize changes in functions, aesthetics, and the labor force within port confines. Transformation in Aspropyrgos is driven by informal actions outside logistic spaces, while at FREEeste, it is endogenous, promising internal growth without expanding beyond its confined space. The goal is not merely to identify patterns or variations but to reveal the profound impact of non-monolithic transformations that influence surrounding areas. Piraeus

and Trieste's logistics machines are seen as part of a broader urban system, contributing to socio-spatial imbalances and global value chains. While ports are compact, well-defined, and connected to global trade networks, they also harbor new uses, markets, and economies, reflecting a novel urban condition. This complexity necessitates an investigation beyond technical aspects, focusing on socio-spatial implications and interdependencies between distant spaces. Understanding this interplay allows for the reconstruction of motives, providing insights for potential governance efforts.

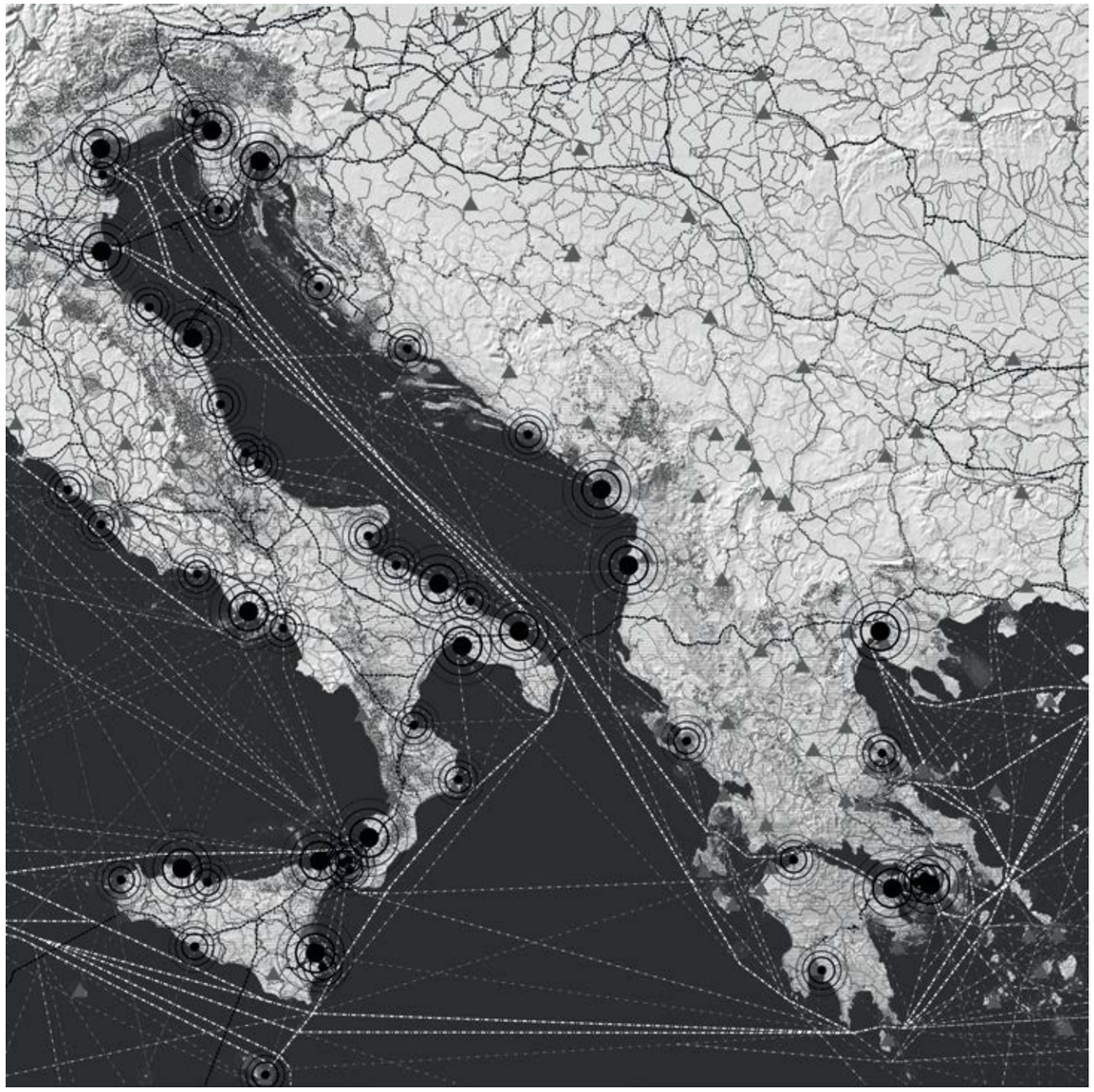
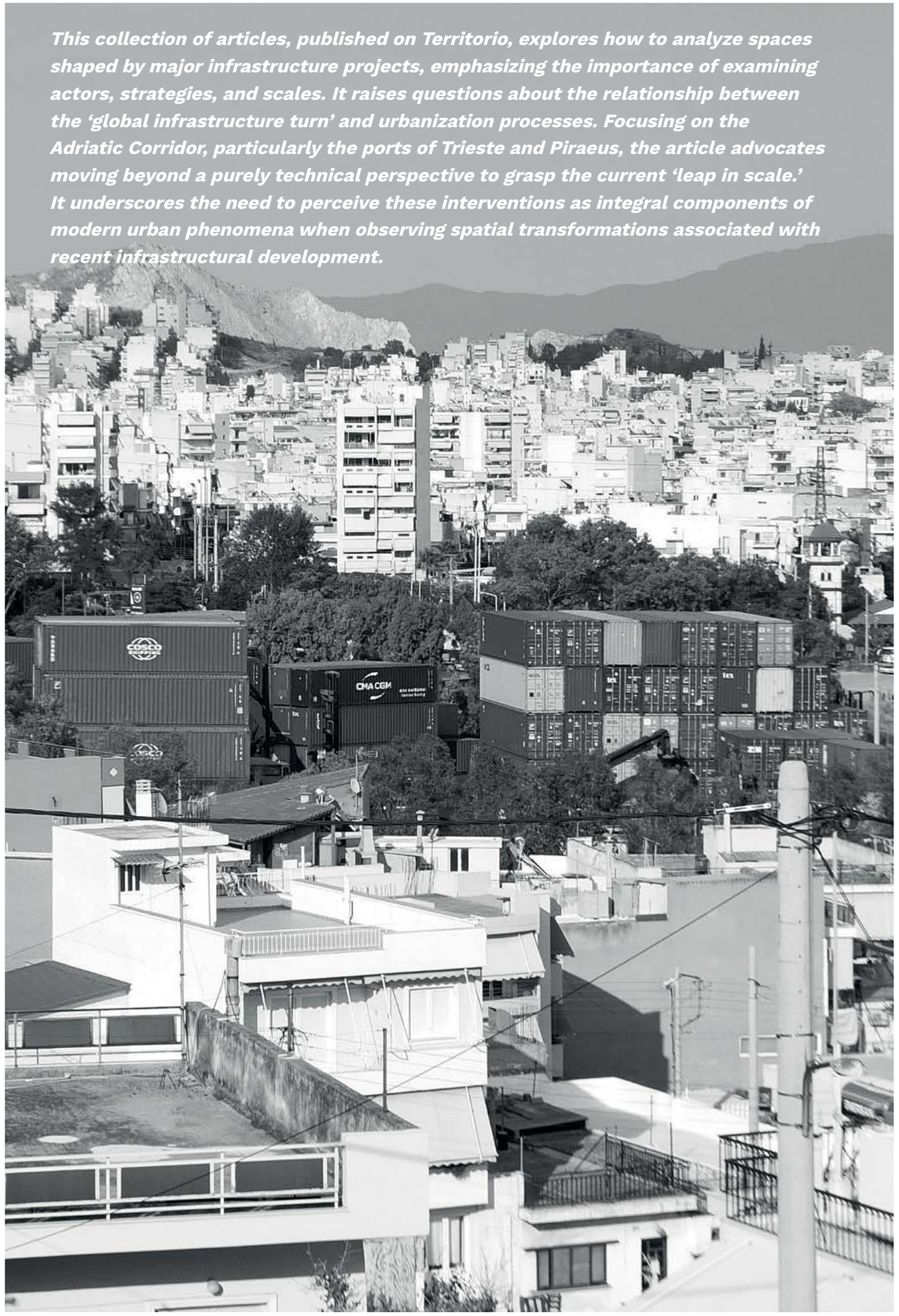
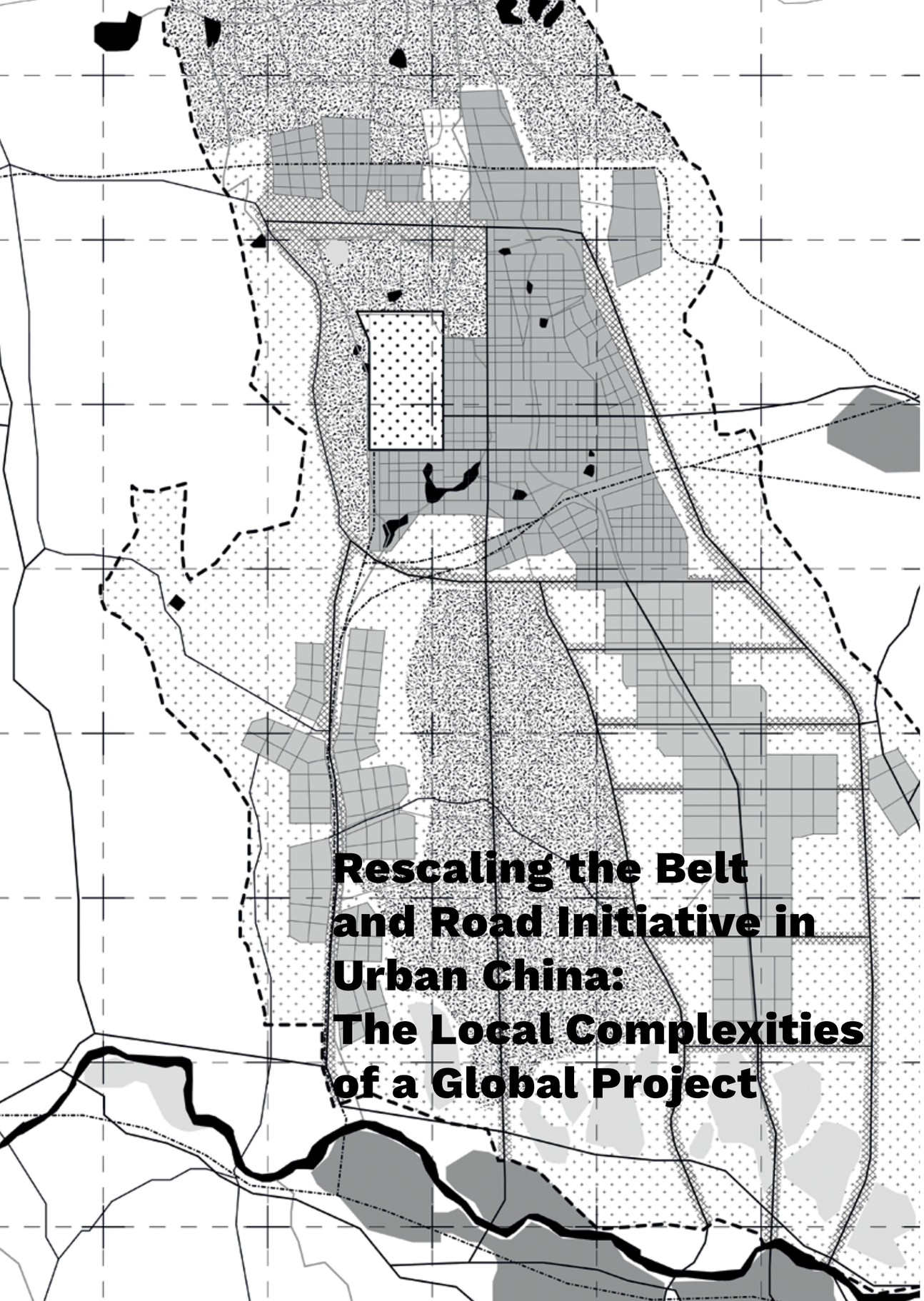


Fig. 1 | The 'Adriatic Corridor' (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - China Room).
Fig. 2 | Container on the highway (credit: Alberto Valz Gris - China Room).

Previous pages:
Cover | Dockside (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - China Room).

This collection of articles, published on Territorio, explores how to analyze spaces shaped by major infrastructure projects, emphasizing the importance of examining actors, strategies, and scales. It raises questions about the relationship between the 'global infrastructure turn' and urbanization processes. Focusing on the Adriatic Corridor, particularly the ports of Trieste and Piraeus, the article advocates moving beyond a purely technical perspective to grasp the current 'leap in scale.' It underscores the need to perceive these interventions as integral components of modern urban phenomena when observing spatial transformations associated with recent infrastructural development.





Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative in Urban China: The Local Complexities of a Global Project

ARTICLE

Year: 2023

Authors: Astrid Safina, Leonardo Ramondetti, and Francesca Governa

Published in: Area Development and Policy

Research project: Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization Processes, Innovation Patterns and Global Investments

Citation: Safina, A., L. Ramondetti, and F. Governa. 2023. “Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative in Urban China: The Local Complexities of a Global Project.” *Area Development and Policy*, advanced online publication (March 2023): 1–18. DOI: 10.1080/23792949.2023.2174888

The article is one of the outputs of the research Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization Processes, Innovation Patterns, and Global Investments carried on by Politecnico di Torino and Università di Macerata since 2020 thanks to a grant that awarded the project as a Research of National Relevance (PRIN) by the Italian Ministry of Education. The article is part of a special issue of the journal Area Development and Policy that reflects on the transformation, implications, and future of the Belt and Road Initiative 10 years after its announcement. This work builds upon past fieldwork and research experience of the research group. Involving professors and post-doctoral researchers from the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST).

The aim of the article is to present a more textured and nuanced reading of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by emphasizing the multiplicity of spatialities brought about by this initiative and by rescaling it in three specific contexts, namely Liangjiang New Area (Chongqing Municipality), Lanzhou New Area (Gansu Province), and Zhengbian New District (Henan Province). These three places are analyzed under two analytical strategies: the materialization of infrastructures; and the redefinition of the urban–rural divide. Using these two lenses, it is possible to observe the BRI beyond existing geopolitical and geoeconomics perspectives and address it as an urban agent capable of producing differentiated, non-linear, and uneven urban transformation processes.

By recognizing the multiple spatialities of the BRI, the article highlights two main issues. First, the necessity to construct detailed descriptions that highlight the relation between new spaces, policies, and economic developments, especially regarding global infrastructures such as the BRI. Second, the importance of building a much richer taxonomy to evaluate if and to what extent our interpretative frameworks can be stretched, pulled, twisted, and contorted to fit the emerging urban reality (in China as elsewhere). By following these considerations, the article invites go beyond to favor the construction of multiple urban narratives and eventually create a new shared language representative of our diverse and complex urban condition.

Cover | Plan of Lanzhou New Area, 2023 (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - China Room).

This article addresses the infrastructure-led developments and urban–rural relations in Liangjiang New Area (Chongqing municipality), Lanzhou New Area (Gansu province), and Zhengbian New District (Henan province) to study the complex and multifaceted interactions of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with specific contexts and pre-existing trends. What results are a vision beyond monolithic geopolitical and geoeconomic terms and the necessity of nuanced and textured readings to embrace the diversity of urbanizations emerging along the BRI.

Fig. 1 | Construction site in Lanzhou New Area (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Prospekt Photographers).

The Enriched Field: Urbanising the Central Plains of China

BOOK

Year: 2022

Author: Leonardo Ramondetti

Publisher: Birkhäuser, Basel

Research project: Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization Processes, Innovation Patterns and Global Investments

Citation: Ramondetti, Leonardo. *The Enriched Field: Urbanising the Central Plains of China*, Basel: Birkhäuser, 2022. **DOI:** 10.1515/9783035624922



The Enriched Field: Urbanising the Central Plains of China is one of the main outputs of the academic research conducted by Leonardo Ramondetti during his PhD (2016-2020) under the research *Chinese New TOwns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form (CeNTO)* and the initial phase of his postdoctoral fellowship (2020-2022) under the project *Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanisation processes, innovation patterns and global investments*.
The book explores the massive urban growth that characterised the Central Plains of China, in Henan. This primarily agricultural province in the lower reaches of the Yellow River is now subjected to radical transformations: new towns are built, extensive suburbanization processes occurred, and agricultural spaces are radically altered by the construction of new rural settlements. This development is giving shape to a new landscape which is a far cry from the traditional Chinese city, as well as from other urbanisation pattern ever emerging in other parts of the world. Benefiting from a 5-month visiting period at the Tsinghua University (School of Architecture), this publication investigates such an unprecedented condition based on fieldwork carried out over four years in Zhengzhou, Kaifeng, Zhengdong New District, Zhengbian New District, and many other places in the Central Plains.

In detail, the book first offers a critical reading of the Central Plains though cartographies and datascapes. It then traces back the urban development in the area by delving into the policies, plans, and projects developed over the last century. Finally, it explores in great detail the urban layout and architecture by examining the spaces of new infrastructures, housing, and production and their socio-spatial implications.

Based on a rich collection of original documents, maps, and photo essays, these three investigations are adopted to elaborate an interpretative hypothesis about the ongoing urban transformations. This assumes

Over the last twenty years, unprecedented urban growth has been transforming China: new towns dot the landscape, suburbanisation is exploding everywhere, and new ways of building on and living in agricultural spaces are transforming rural areas. The Central Plains in Henan Province is at the frontier of these developments. The formerly agricultural region is undergoing radical changes that are giving rise to a new landscape unlike anything ever seen in twentieth-century China or anywhere else in the world.

This publication explores these new conditions based on four years of research and fieldwork. It examines the socio-spatial implications of national and local policies and planning, and investigates the newly built infrastructures, housing, and production spaces. With a rich collection of original maps and photo essays, this book offers a fresh perspective on the Chinese city and a stimulating basis for reconceptualising urban and architectural design.

Fig. 2 | Tushandian New Agricultural Town, Zhongmu County, 2019 (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - China Room).

Previous pages:
Cover | Yanzhang New Agricultural Town, Zhongmu County, 2019 (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - - China Room).
Fig. 1 | Book cover.



the Central Plains of China as an enriched field, where the term enriched refer to the current transformation in the infrastructural systems, housing, and production spaces. The current expansion of infrastructure is not only equipping the entire area with a wide variety of facilities and conveniences, but is also disseminating a new type of environmental comfort that reflects China's newfound appreciation of quality over quantity, in turn producing an enrichment of the environment. Within this enhanced surface, every single artefact is rendered unique through the adoption of a specific imaginary. This is evident in the rich aesthetics of new housing which, by mixing global and local characteristics, exploits the power of symbols to produce branded living spaces. The result is an enrichment of the everyday that is created by the reciprocal differences between urban elements and the wide variety of unique spaces that make up the landscape. Similarly, by hybridising uses and functions, the new production sites become gigantic creative clusters capable of being performative, while exalting the latest advances in culture, technology, and art: in other words, an enrichment of the experience. These different forms of enrichment transform all parts of the landscape from raw space into clearly recognisable and legible places instilled with their own stories and identities. In light of this, the space of the Central Plains of China can be seen as enriched: in performance, materiality, and practices and, above all, in stories, images, and interpretations.

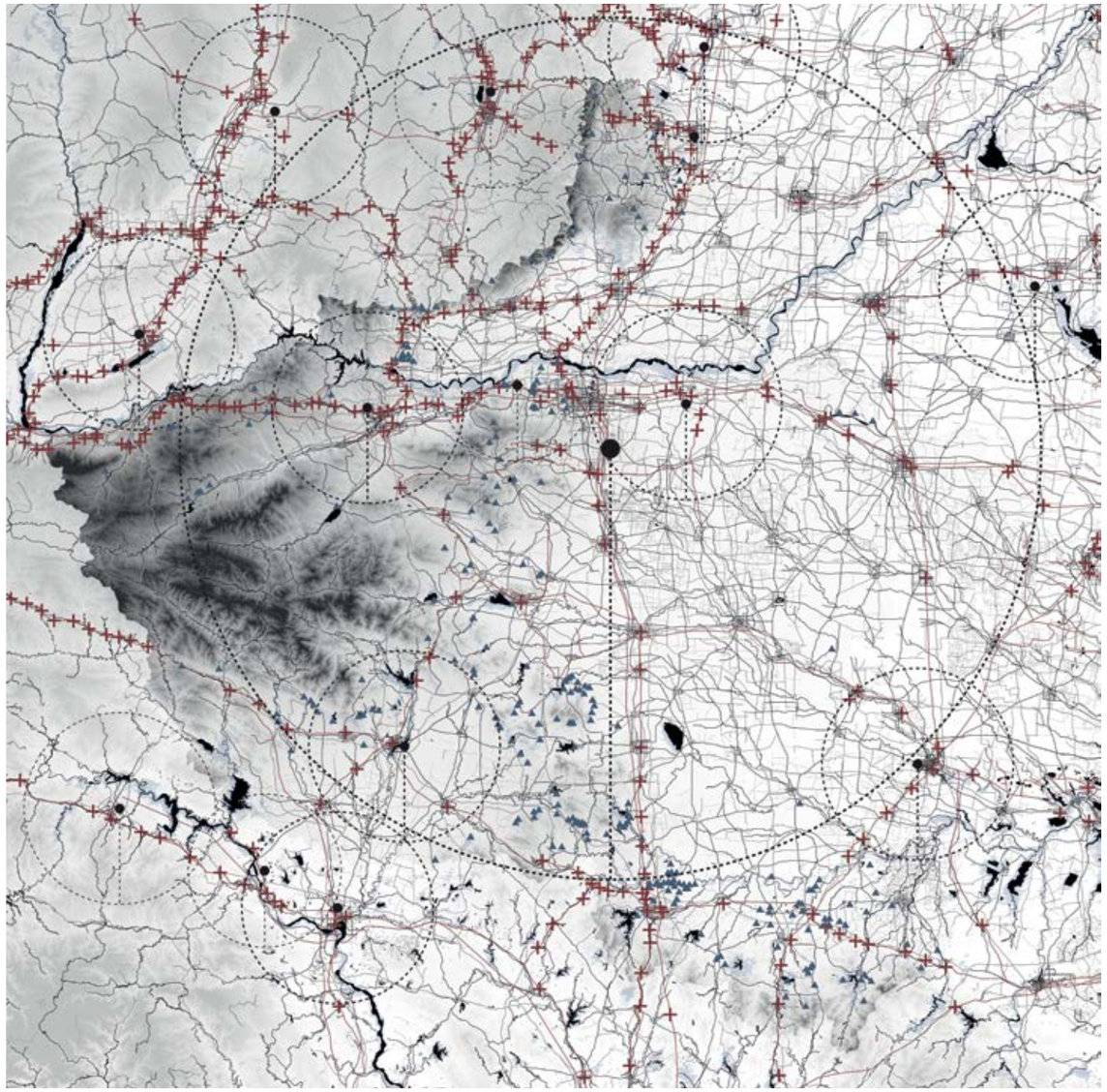


Fig. 3 | Xiong'er River, Zhengdong New District, 2019 (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - China Room).
Fig. 4 | The Central Plains of China. Infrastructure and Energy Network (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti - China Room).

Between Highways and Fintech Platforms: Global China's and Africa's Infrastructure State

ARTICLE

Year: 2023

Authors: Zhengli Huang (Tongji University) and Andrea Pollio

Published in: Geoforum

Research project: Sinofinancialization and Urban Change in Addis Ababa and Nairobi: An Ethnography of Private Chinese Capital in African Cities

Citation: Huang, Z., and A. Pollio. "Between highways and fintech platforms: Global China and Africa's infrastructure state." *Geoforum*, no. 147(December 2023): 103876. DOI: 10.1016

The notion of 'Chinese infrastructure' investment in Africa is commonly associated with images of expansive construction sites, bringing radical change in the physical landscape of both urban and rural settings. Highways, railways, and ports built by Chinese companies and funded by Chinese loans are the visual currency of an almost two-decade-long transport infrastructure bonanza in several African countries. While these projects have been sometimes celebrated as achievements of development, and south-south cooperation, they have also been critiqued for leading to displacement, restructuring of land ownership, increasing debt pressures, and a reconfiguration of local governments' fiscal and everyday politics. Less visibly, however, China has also been an important financier and contractor of digital infrastructure including the hardwire broadband that now provides the regional and global backbone of Africa's Internet connectivity. Moreover, Chinese technology companies have also radically diversified their African footprint, supporting the development of local innovation through entrepreneurial incubators, venture capital facilities, and offshored R&D (research & development) units.

In this paper, we juxtapose two different sectors of China's economic presence in Africa: transport and digital infrastructure. Using the case of Kenya, a country that hosts several flagship corridors funded by Chinese loans and where Chinese "digital champions" have been active for two decades, we highlight some of the differences and similarities between these two forms of China's going-out capitalism in the continent.

Our argument is that these 'varieties of capital' are conterminous, and they operate through both strategic and contingent overlaps within the same 'state-market nexus' and at the interface with programmes and goals of the African 'infrastructure state'. To illustrate this point, we draw on a comparative research effort inspired by a growing body of scholarship that has been labelled under the tag of 'Global China' and by a political economy reading of 'the market-in-state' system. This paper thus contributes empirically and conceptually to de-essentializing the Chinese presence in the African continent by recognizing the contextual agencies that shape it —the ambitious developmental agendas of the African state, in particular— as well as the interplay between its different corporate forms.

This paper is the result of an ongoing collaboration between Andrea Pollio (DIST/ACC) and Zhengli Huang (Tongji/Bristol).

Cover | The Nairobi Expressway under construction in 2021. The project was funded and delivered by China Road and Bridge Corporation CRBC (credit: Andrea Pollio - China Room).



Curated in China: Manipulating the City through the Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture

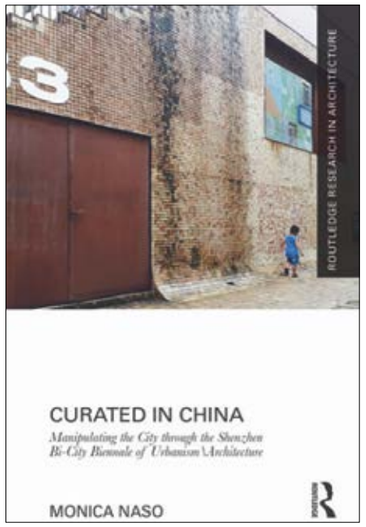
BOOK

Year: 2024

Author: Monica Naso

Publisher: Routledge

Citation: Naso, M. ***Curated in China. Manipulating the City through the Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture***. **London and New York: Routledge, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-032-46258-5**



The book is the output of a Ph.D. research conducted by the author from 2017 to 2021 and her experience as Head of Curation and On-Site Coordination of the “Eyes of the City” exhibition, one of the two main sections of the 2019 Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/ Architecture themed “Urban Interactions.” The drawings are realized by Luca Naso and Cecilia Bagnolatti.

Curated in China provides an in-depth observation of an architecture and urbanism exhibition with transformative objectives.
It uses simultaneous narratives to explore different scales and perspectives of the layered spatial agency that the Biennale, as a temporary event, gradually established in the city between 2005 and 2019.

Encapsulating Shenzhen’s ambitions as a world-class city, the Biennale aims to actively build a relationship between architecture and the city’s socio-spatial issues related to its hypertrophic development. Spanning a time horizon of 14 years and 9 Biennale editions, *Curated in China* dovetails the observation of the event’s main themes and curatorial ambitions with exploring the exhibition’s spatial agency – focusing on the sites the event has manipulated over time.
The book positions the Biennale as a layered urban device transcending its limited temporal dimension, unfolding its dual character of “worlding practice” and “spatial practice.”

Curated in China adopts a multi-layered approach in exploring a robust case as a controversial urban, spatial, and cultural phenomenon – triggering a transnational reflection on how temporary events influence the shaping of contemporary urban landscapes.

Although focusing on the Chinese city, it offers a meditation on how an event can cross multiple scales and set up dense spatial and relational networks. The Biennale’s spatial narratives unlock a new perspective on the professionalization of the “architecture of

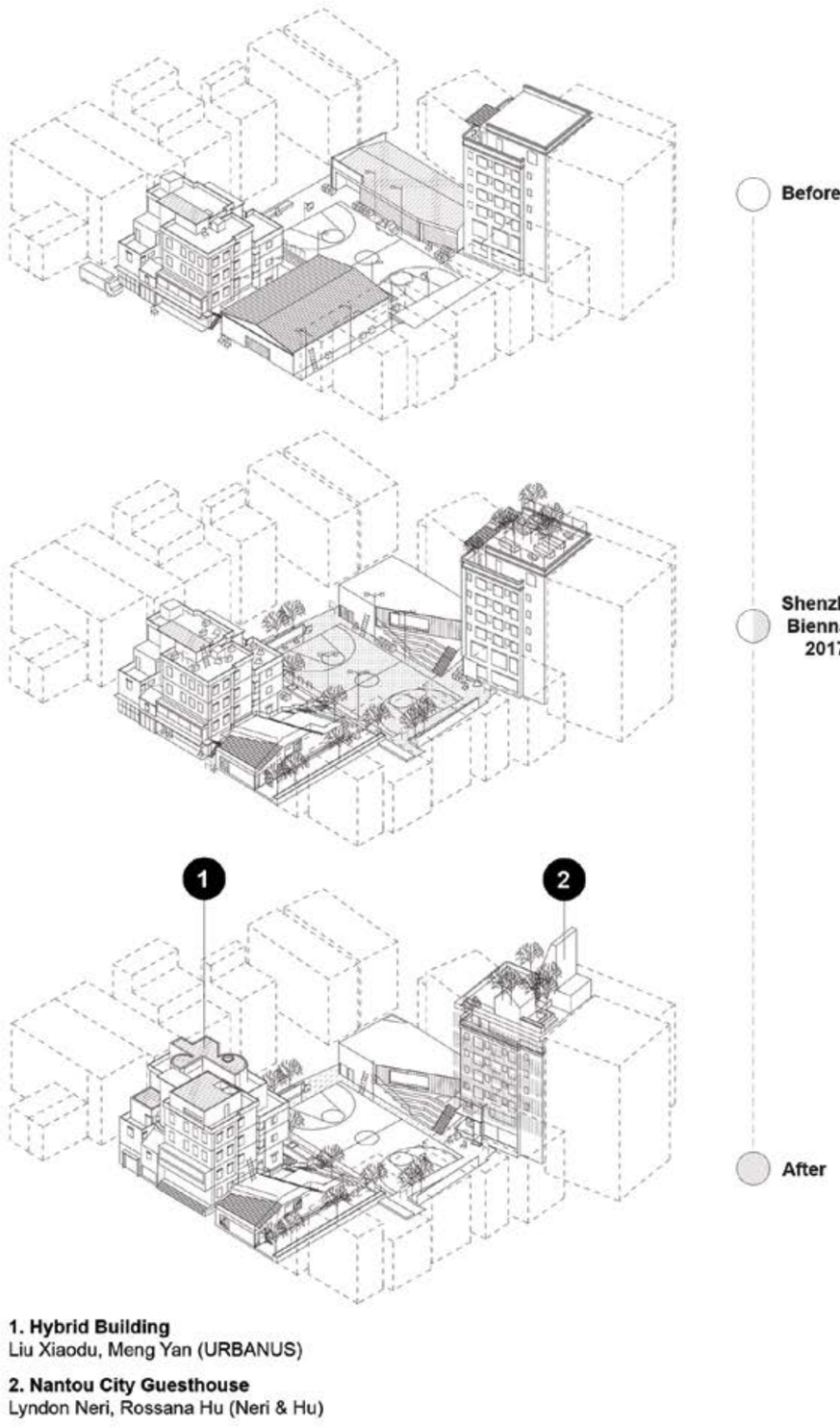


spectacle” that characterizes contemporary events worldwide. It also questions the notion of exceptionalism permeating urban events, observing them as elements that exploit their alleged uniqueness and their pervasive presence (in “over-curating” contemporary cityscapes) not to represent an alternative to but rather perpetuate and strengthen the existing ordinary (political, economic, exclusionary) processes that rule contemporary cities.

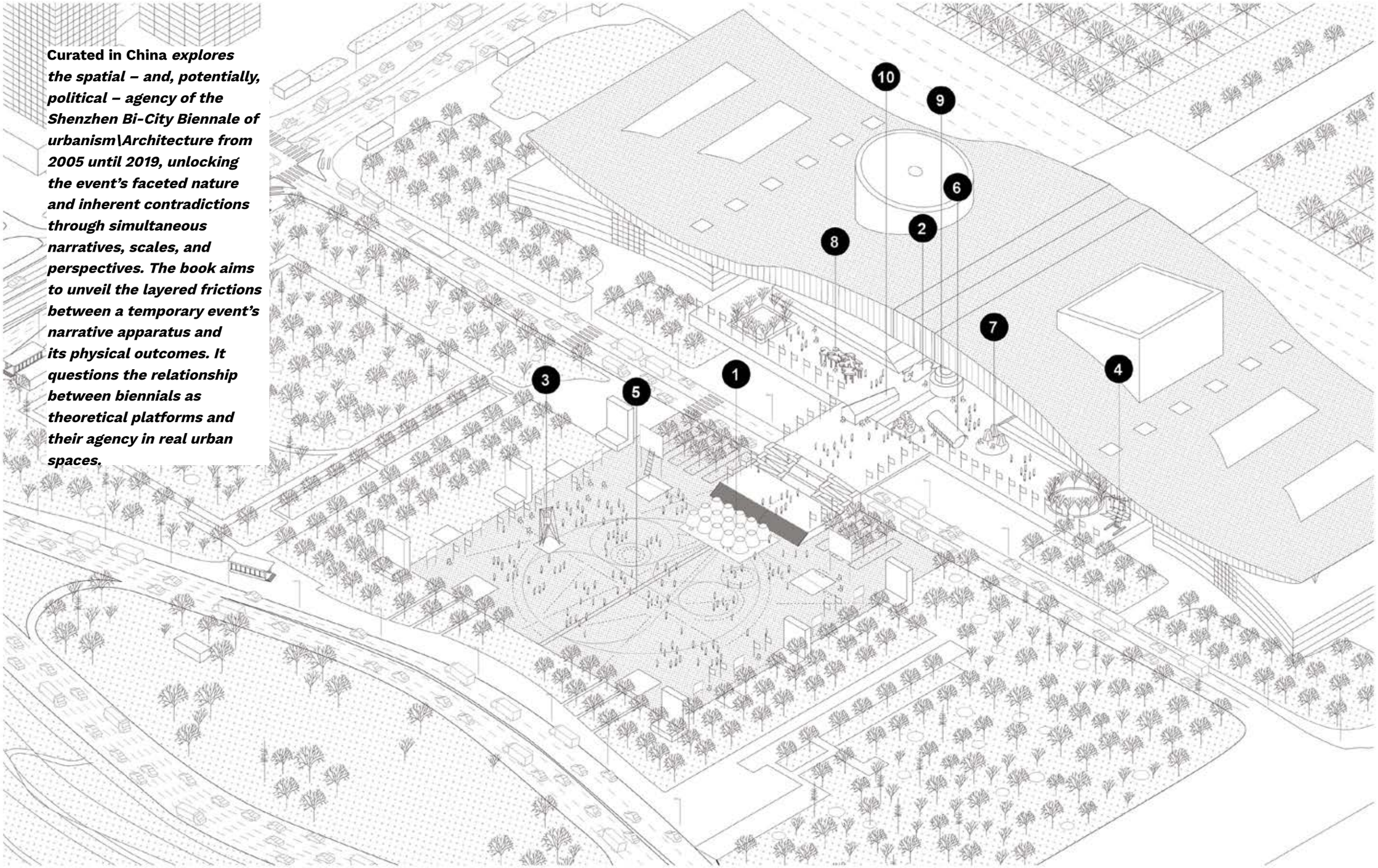
Fig. 2 | View of Baode Square designed by URBANUS in Nantou during the 2017 Shenzhen Biennale (credit: URBANUS).
Fig. 3 | Axonometry of the transformations in Baode Square – 2017 Shenzhen Biennale (credit: Luca Naso and Cecilia Bagnolatti).

Previous pages:
Cover | View of OCT-Loft Creative Park designed by URBANUS (credit: Monica Naso).
Fig. 1 | Book cover.

Next pages:
Fig. 4 | Axonometry of the Shenzhen Civic Square in CBD – 2009 and 2011 Shenzhen Biennale (credit: Luca Naso and Cecilia Bagnolatti).



Curated in China ***explores the spatial – and, potentially, political – agency of the Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of urbanism\Architecture from 2005 until 2019, unlocking the event's faceted nature and inherent contradictions through simultaneous narratives, scales, and perspectives. The book aims to unveil the layered frictions between a temporary event's narrative apparatus and its physical outcomes. It questions the relationship between biennials as theoretical platforms and their agency in real urban spaces.***



UABB 2009

1. Medular Pavilion
Maurer United Architects

2.Snow Bull Station
Rigo 23

3. Creature
Triptyque

4. Double Happiness
Bureau des Mésarchitectures

UABB 2011

5. 10,000 Flower Maze
John Bennet, Gustavo Bonevardi

6. Home-for-All
Amateur Architecture Studio

7. Centrifugal Village
Clavel Arquitectos

8. Modular Pavilion-Variation 18
MOS

9. Oximor Pavilion
OBRA

10. Gizmo
Studio Up

Prosperous Lishui: A Project for Suburban China

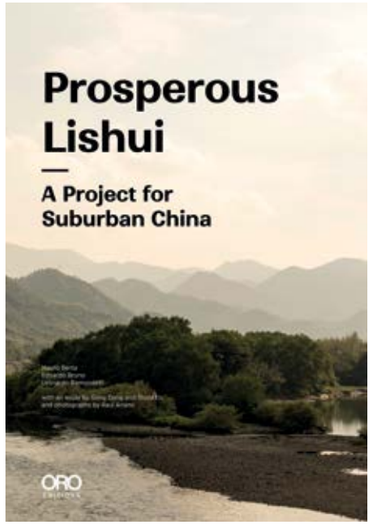
BOOK

Year: 2023

Authors: Mauro Berta, Edoardo Bruno, and Leonardo Ramondetti

Publisher: ORO Editions

Citation: Berta, M., E. Bruno, and L. Ramondetti. ***Prosperous Lishui: A Project for Suburban China***. Los Angeles: ORO Editions, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-957183-36-7



Prosperous Lishui: A Project for Suburban China explores the ongoing processes of suburbanisation in Lishui Valley based on three years of design, research and teaching activities carried out by Politecnico di Torino and South China University of Technology since 2020. With a rich collection of original essays and projects, this book combines reflexive knowledge, critical imagination, and design experimentation to provide scenarios for Chinese suburban development.
The book reflects on the changing urban conditions of today's China, and the challenges these pose to planning, urban design, and architectural practices. The unprecedented growth faced by the Chinese cities in the last decades entailed serious consequences: economic and social disparities, environmental crises, and demographic imbalances between the rural and the urban areas. These concerns together with a growing awareness of the intrinsic unsustainability of Chinese economic model, has stimulated debate on how redefining the approach to urban development.

The book addresses this issue based on the current urban transformations in Lishui. In 2020, this minor municipality of Zhenjiang Province launched the international competition *Future ShanShui City: Dwellings in Lishui Mountains*. In line with the main policies enacted at national level, this competition highlights the need of new spatial relations between urban and rural. This approach invites to image a radical reconfiguration of the suburban spaces, giving rise to an unprecedented landscape where urban services are integrated in the countryside areas, and, vice versa, agriculture and environmental elements are part of the city. This theme has been at the core of the project *Prosperous Lishui* developed by Politecnico di Torino in collaboration with SCUT.
Building upon this experience, the book investigates the current urban conditions in Lishui, and proposed an alternative vision for development. First, an essay accompanied by Raul Ariano's photographs introduces the urban transformations of the last decades and

The book reflects on the changing urban conditions of today's China, and the challenges these pose to planning, urban design, and architectural practices.

The unprecedented growth faced by the Chinese cities in the last decades entailed serious consequences: economic and social disparities, environmental crises, and demographic imbalances between the rural and the urban areas. These concerns, together with a growing awareness of the intrinsic unsustainability of Chinese economic model, has stimulated debate on how redefining the approach to urban development.

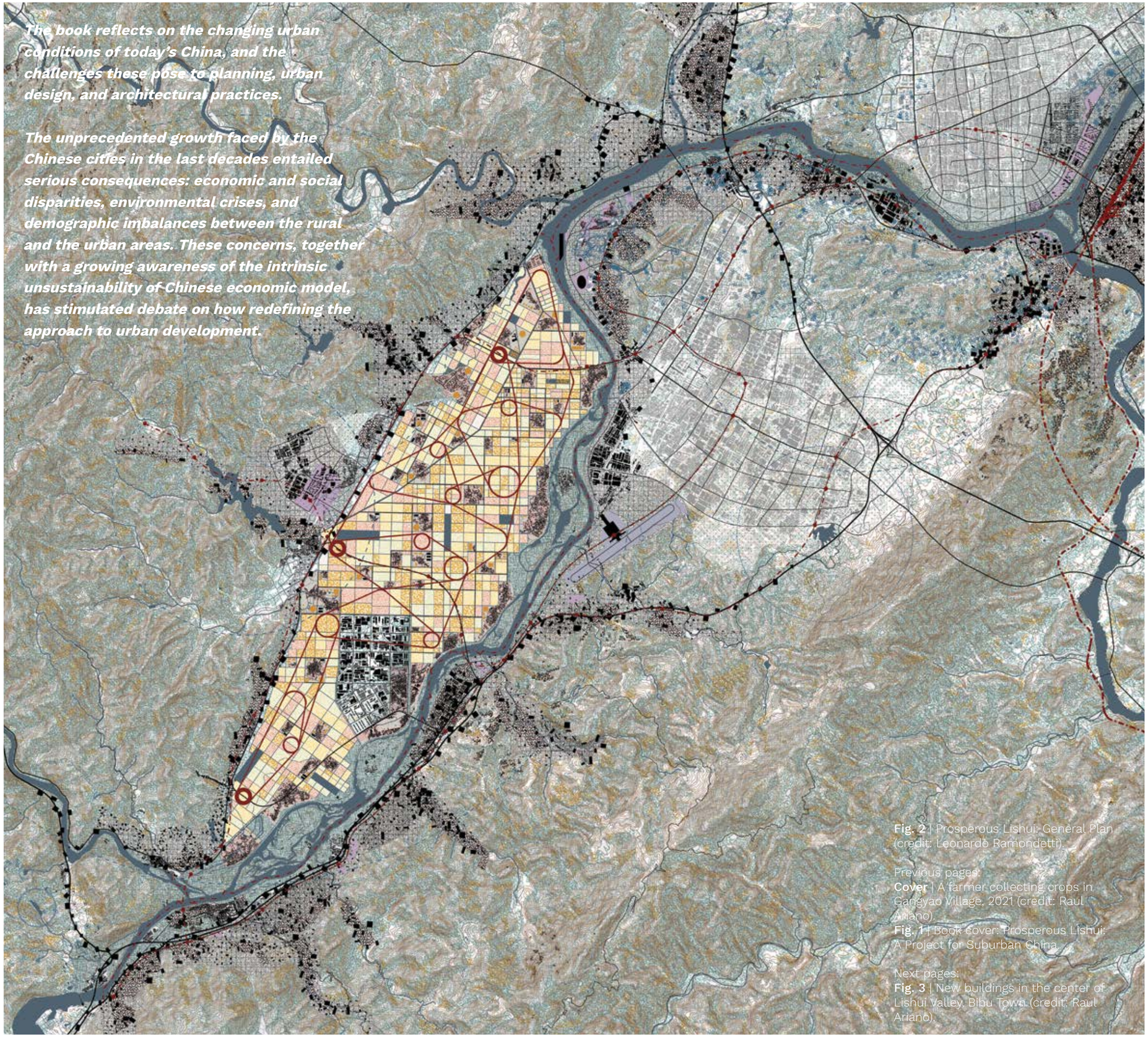


Fig. 2 | Prosperous Lishui: General Plan (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti).

Previous pages:
Cover | A farmer collecting crops in Gangyao Village, 2021 (credit: Raul Ariano).
Fig. 1 | Book cover: Prosperous Lishui: A Project for Suburban China.

Next pages:
Fig. 3 | New buildings in the center of Lishui Valley, Bibu Town (credit: Raul Ariano).

explores the features of today's landscape. The urban project *Prosperous Lishui* is then presented. The proposal envisions an urbanised agricultural landscape where new settlements and facilities coexist with high-tech farms and traditional villages. In this regard, most of the flatland is reserved for agriculture, while new developments are situated either along the existing mobility infrastructures at the foot of the mountains, or on the slopes. These topics are explored in detail in the second part of the book, including projects developed through the MS Theses Lishui Living Lab (2020-2022) and the courses in Architecture and Urban Space at the MS in Architecture Construction City at Politecnico di Torino and Urban Design at the Co-Run Program in Urban Design at SCUT (AY 2021/2022). Finally, an essay by Gong Dong and Shida Liu (Vector Architects) discusses the current architectural practice in Chinese suburban areas, drawing upon the design and construction of Alila Yangshuo Hotel.

By the means of the *Prosperous Lishui* project and its ancillary design explorations, the book aims to open up a critical reflection on two topics. The first, of a theoretical and speculative nature, regarding the features of the ongoing urban transformations in Chinese suburban areas, owning to the current changes in agricultural industry and housing market. The second, of a pragmatic and design-oriented nature, regards the possibility to envision new relationships between urban and rural spaces through design practices and urban visions. Besides providing a representation of the current urban transformations and a vision for alternative development, this book frames Chinese suburbanisation as a complex space full of potentials and problems, hence, a space deserving of great attention.



Fun Mill: The Architecture of Creative Industry in Contemporary China

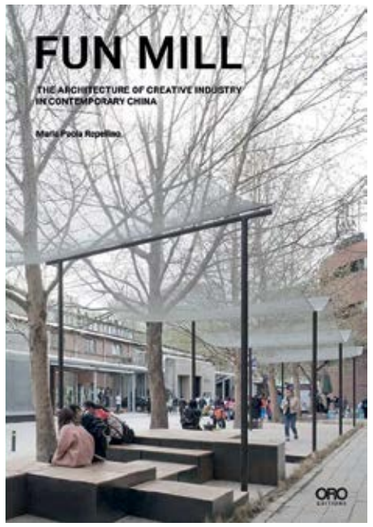
BOOK

Year: 2022

Author: Maria Paola Repellino

Publisher: ORO Editions

Citation: Repellino, M. P. *Fun Mill: The Architecture of Creative Industry in Contemporary China*. San Francisco: ORO Editions, 2022. ISBN: 978-1-9540-8127-7



The promotion and development of creative industries has played a crucial role in the economic transition that has seen the manufacturing industry shift from “Made in China” to “Created in China”. In the past decade this has led to the explosive growth of creative industries and their physical transposition into cities: highly specialised companies in the cultural sector have grouped together as ‘creative clusters’ in well-defined urban environments. Often located in former industrial zones, these creative clusters have proved to be a successful way to enhance abandoned real estate in major cities. Injecting new ideas into old factories has ensured their immediate reuse and transformation, which in turn has gradually increased land value. As a result, new real estate investments—shopping centres, multifunctional complexes, recreational and residential structures—have sprung up either inside or around these areas, re-enhancing urban environments not always centrally located. Hundreds of creative clusters—arts districts, cultural areas, media bases, incubators and parks for creative industries, or fun mills—still continue to proliferate and trigger real estate enhancement strategies by reinventing important city districts.

The theory proposed in this book is that transforming existing real estate by promoting creative clusters produces not only functional innovation, enhanced infrastructures and increased land values, but is also an interesting field for architectural experimentation, one which has been exploited by numerous professional Chinese studios that have proposed innovative solutions. New sensitivities have been tested in these areas, initially involving an unusual focus on contexts, existing real estate, and enhancement through renovation. In this unique ‘workshop’ the architectural project tackles problems of the conservation and enhancement of the past by building new narrations of traditional, twentieth-century Chinese architectural culture. In this case architecture and urban projects are introducing into the international


西村艺术空间
KELME

debate situations that do not only involve incomparable individual buildings, but require a separate, much broader critical discussion. More than any other, these sites make it possible to observe recently created small and medium-sized studios manned by young professionals—a far cry from the gargantuan government structures of local design institutes, but better equipped to critically interact with the requirements of the client and the context in question.

In particular, the core of the book discusses three recurrent methods used by architectural projects to reconfigure space. The first deals with the exceptional nature of architectural objects involved in the transformation of the cluster: extremely high quality and very strong expressive architecture—landmarks with a characteristic formal tone that imbue the area with a certain protagonism. The end result is often a collection of sophisticated interventions (in the same cluster); which explore new formal solutions and typological hybrids while experimenting with building materials and techniques. The design aspect focuses primarily on the elegant aesthetics of the buildings. The second method involves the search for a radical variation of scale compared to the one that characterised the industrial zone. A scale capable of hosting practices and uses that differ from those used in the manufacturing industry. This obviously involves reduction, fragmentation and miniaturisation of existing industrial spaces (usually very enormous). The challenge is to find a new order compared to pre-existing logic, a new distance between the parts, and a better relationship between the infrastructures in the cluster and those around it. Architecture becomes a fertile exercise in the measurement of spaces and materials; a project to re-proportion the solid and empty spaces, volumes, and open spaces. Finally, the third method involves greater demarcation of the edges of the cluster area—a sort of distancing from the city around it. With differing degrees of experimentation the project tends to renew the model of the (variously) compact block, often searching for denser construction around the perimeter of the area, as if to mark its boundaries.

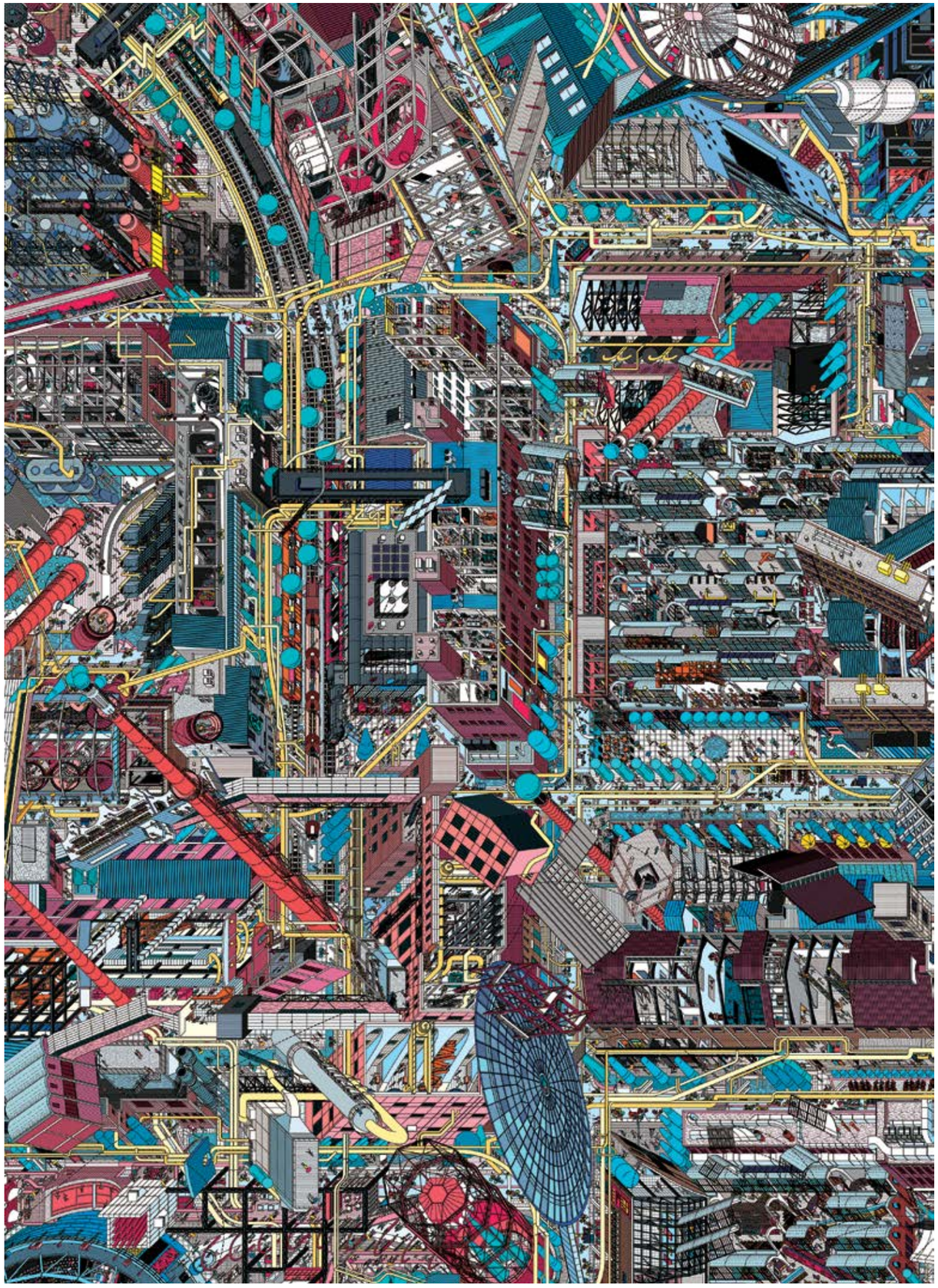


Fig. 3 | Beijing 798 Art Zone, 2019 (credit: DAS - Drawing Architecture Studio).

Previous pages:
Cover | M Woods entrance Revitalization in Beijing 798 Art Zone, 2016 (credits: Vector Architects).
Fig. 1 | Book cover.
Fig. 2 | West Village renovation in Chengdu, 2014 (credit: Liu Jakun).



The Story of a Section: Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory

BOOK

Year: 2022

Authors: Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno, Alessandro Armando, and Giovanni Durbiano

Publisher: ORO Editions

Citation: Bonino, M., E. Bruno, A. Armando, and G. Durbiano. ***The Story of a Section: Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory***. Los Angeles: ORO Editions, 2022. ISBN: 978-1-954081-73-4



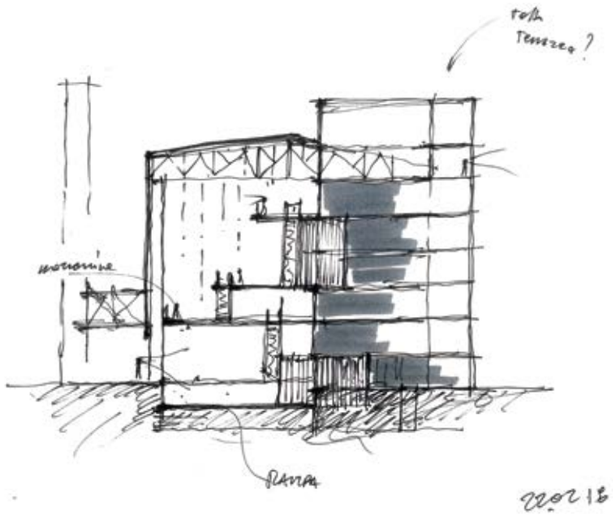
The Story of a Section started with the oral confrontation between the researchers involved in the design phase, Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno, Camilla Forina, and two colleagues, Alessandro Armando and Giovanni Durbiano, who recently published a book on the theory of design practice (*Teoria del progetto architettonico: dai disegni agli effetti*, Carocci, 2017). Under this perspective, its genesis was not of a theoretical but ethnographic nature, establishing a way of recording the work from within the architectural production.

The book is an experiment on constructing a text starting - exclusively and strictly - from the materials of an architectural project. The iconographical apparatus and the structure of the volume underline this objective, giving the reader the experience of being immersed in continuous step-motions modifications. The progression is depicted from the peculiar point of view of the main transverse sections of the building, which represent the control room in the hands of the designers to support the progression of their decision-making. To make this more and more straightforward, the volume contains an appendix curated by Camilla Forina, which collects and organizes all the documents produced by the design team as a parallel narrative plot.

Therefore, the book is born from a documentary archive, where each recording establishes times, methods, and connections between the subjects involved. The intuition that forms the book's methodological basis starts from the need to trace all the actions, negotiations, and traces that nestle around the project to demystify its final production as an exclusive authorial consequence. Therefore, the architectural project is presented not as an unexpected discovery resulting from a vision of the isolated designer but rather the concatenation of circular and recursive choices where subjects and exchanged documents define its sphere of production. For this reason, like any production process, it is possible to verify some recurring

conditions, an agency of the project itself, whose mechanisms can be transferred and reproduced as a scientific object.

The volume allows us to frame the architectural project as a set of strategic moves placed in succession that deal with the outside world at an economic, political, and social level. Measuring its effectiveness means demonstrating the existence of a transmissible trajectory that can be derived from the effects. According to this, *The Story of a Section: Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory* traces design as a transparent, categorizable archive reconfiguring the architect's role as a socio-technical profession, analyzed during its action and not when the effects are over. Moreover, the book tests the limits of collective and disciplinary alliances within Academia to fulfill demanded design consultancies: an experiment later replicated in other applied research projects led by China Room, where the enlargement of the design team (i.e. for the competition "Future Shan-Shui City International Urban Design Competition" or within Polito Studio initiative), defined significant advantages in the Chinese market. In addition, the volume gave the chance to jump into the production of a mega-events public project in China, overviewing which dedicated institutions and procedures hide behind its contemporary architectural production.



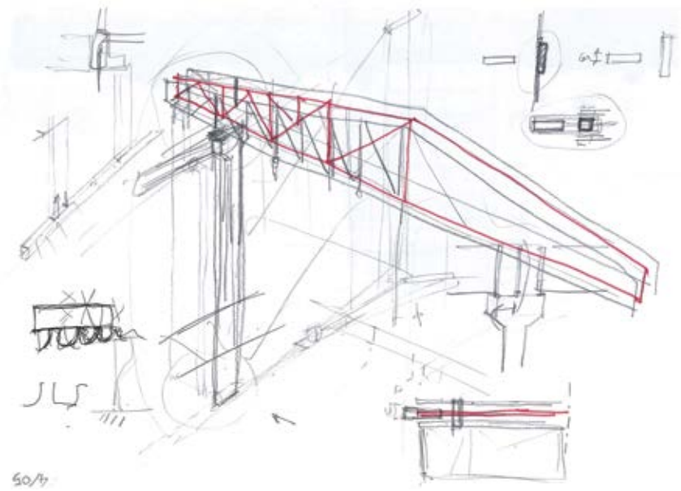
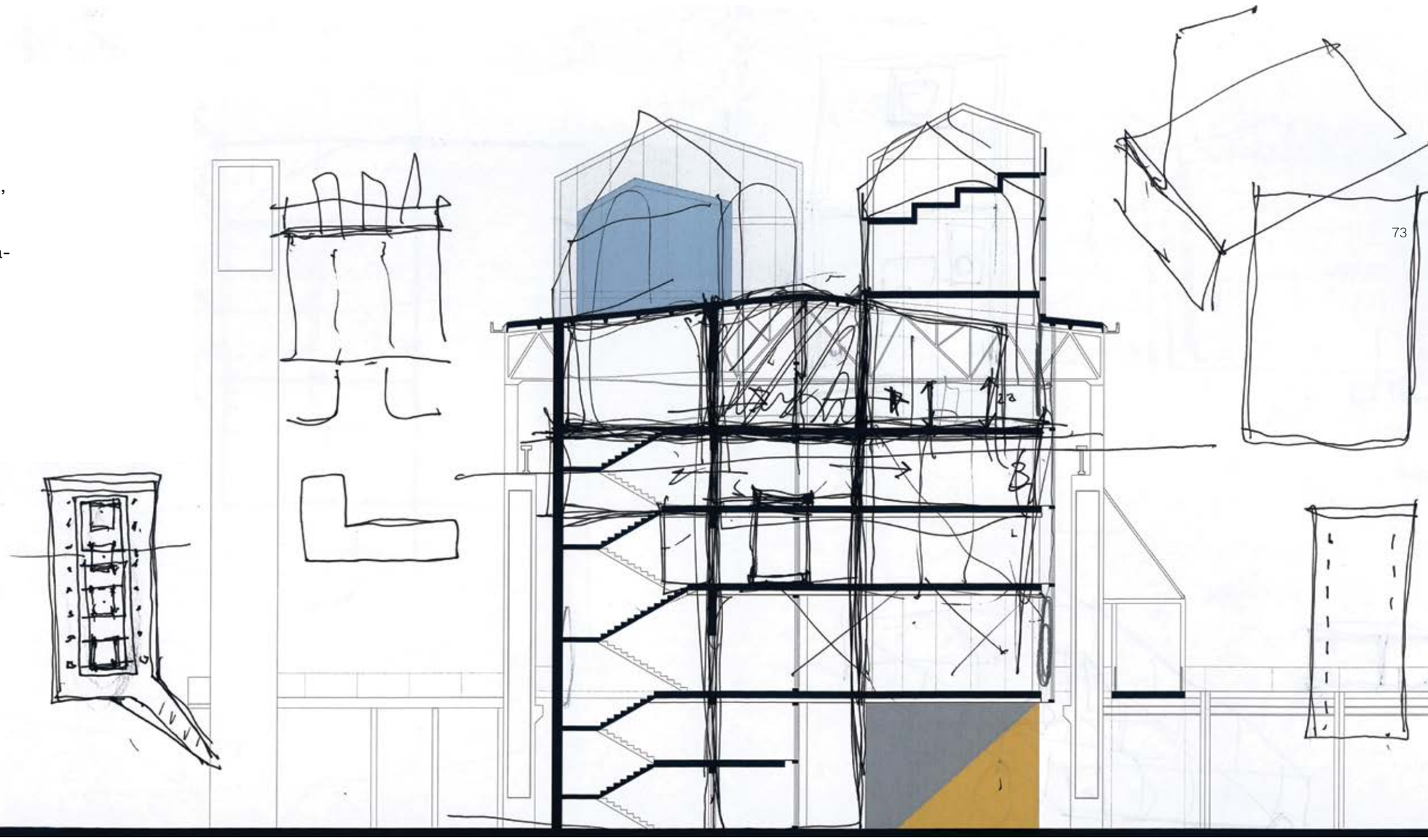


Fig. 2 | Design sketch, 2019 (credit: Massimo Crotti - DAD).
Fig. 3 | Design sketch, 2019 (credit: Walter Ceretto).
Fig. 4 | Design sketch, 2019 (credits: China Room).

Previous pages:
Cover | Design sketch, 2019 (credits: China Room).
Fig. 1 | Book cover.

Next pages:
Fig. 5 | Shougang Olympic area, 2019 (credits: Zhang Li).





The book was born during the project experience developed by China Room in 2018 for transforming the former Building A of the Shougang Steel Factory into the Visitor Centre for the Shougang venue of the XXIV Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Within the process of reutilization of the abandoned building, the China Room team unveiled how Academia is able to conduct real transformation projects through research concerning professional practice modalities.



Eyes of the City: Architecture and Urban Space after Artificial Intelligence

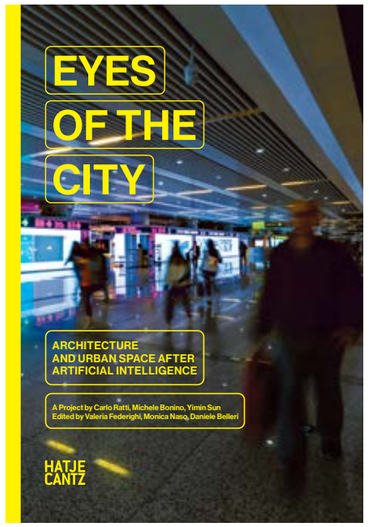
BOOK

Year: 2021

Editors: Valeria Federighi, Monica Naso, and Daniele Belleri

Publisher: Hatje Cantz Verlag GmbH

Citation: Federighi, Valeria, Monica Naso, and Daniele Belleri (Eds.). ***EYES OF THE CITY Architecture and Urban Space after Artificial Intelligence.*** **Berlin: Hatje Cantz, 2021. ISBN: 978-3-7757-4880-3**

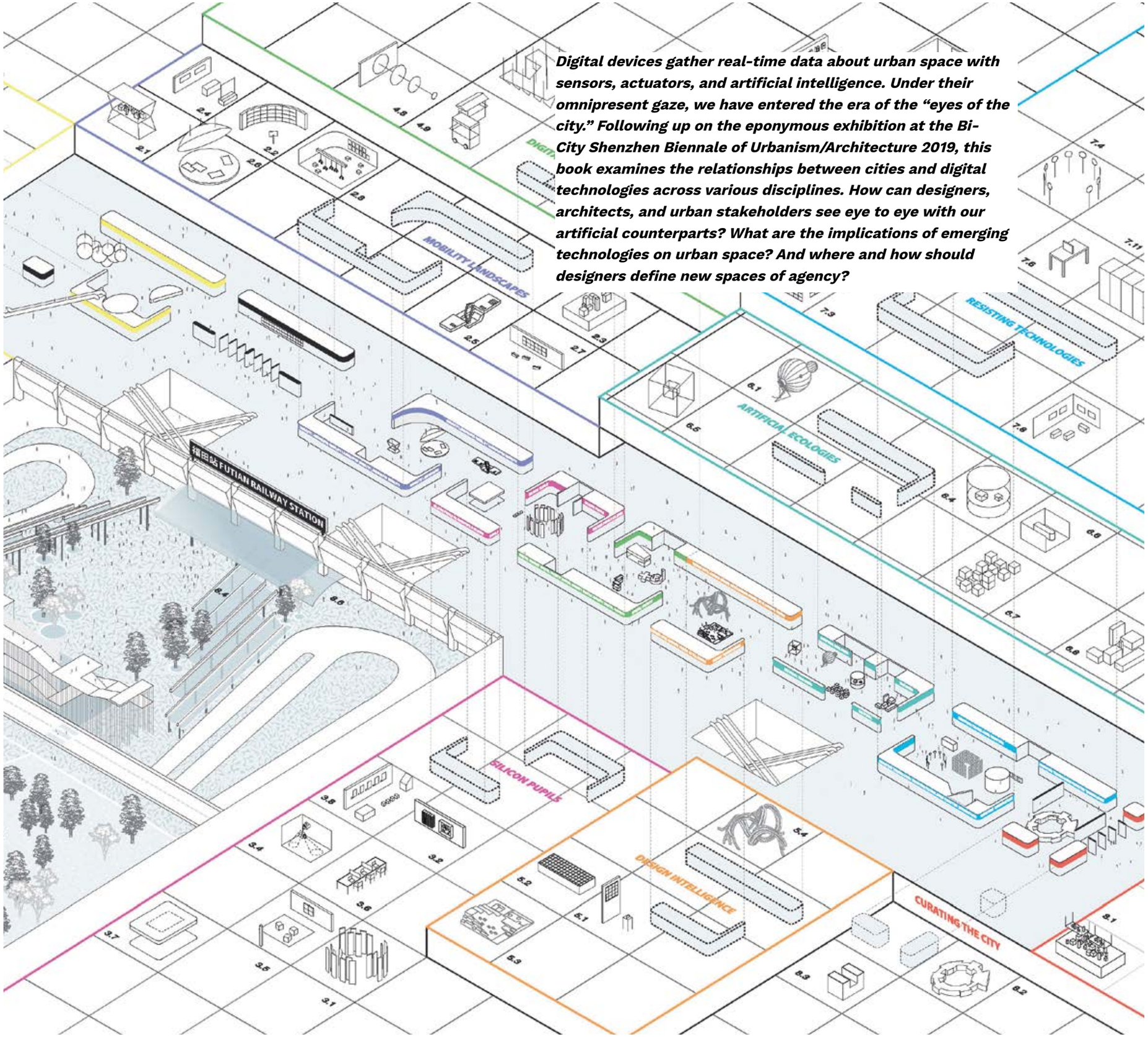


Eyes of the City: Architecture and Urban Space after Artificial Intelligence is the final outcome of a two-year curation work for 2019 UABB Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture Shenzhen, carried out by CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati, Politecnico di Torino-China Room, South China University of Technology (Guangzhou). The book tells the story of *Eyes of the City*—an international exhibition on technology and urbanism held in Shenzhen during the winter of 2019 and 2020, with a curation process that unfolded between summer 2018 and spring 2020. Conceived as a cultural event exploring future scenarios in architecture and design, Eyes of the City found itself in an extraordinary, if unstable, position, enmeshed within a series of powerfully contingent events—the political turmoil in Hong Kong, the first outbreak of COVID-19 in China—which impacted not only the scope of the project, but also the global debate around society and urban space.

As a book mainly edited by “Eyes of the City” Curatorial Team, this was not intended to be the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale Official Catalogue , but rather aimed at opening broader perspectives: it explores different topics, adopting “Eyes of the City” as trans-scalar and multidisciplinary interpretative key that allows to rethink the ways of understanding and conceiving the city as a complex entanglement of relations.
In its structure and contents, the book challenges the traditional notion of “exhibition catalogue” but rather it crosses the three temporal and conceptual dimensions tackled by the exhibition as a whole: from the *ex ante* reflection expressed in the curatorial statement, through an in-depth reflection of the exhibition not only as a discursive but also as a spatial venue, to an ex-post critical reflection nurtured by the outcomes of the exhibition and by the contingencies that affected its making-of.

The book attempted to work on two levels: as product of the built exhibition, and as scientific exploration of the social impact

of emerging technologies onto urban space. It was intended to appeal to both arts and science enthusiasts, and to the academic world, contributing to the international debate around the proliferation of Biennales, which are among the platforms that foster and spread disciplinary and interdisciplinary innovation. AI, Facial Recognition, Deep Learning, LIDAR scanning technology, are progressively becoming part of a multidisciplinary knowledge that is tentatively analysing how these systems can impact future urban scenarios.

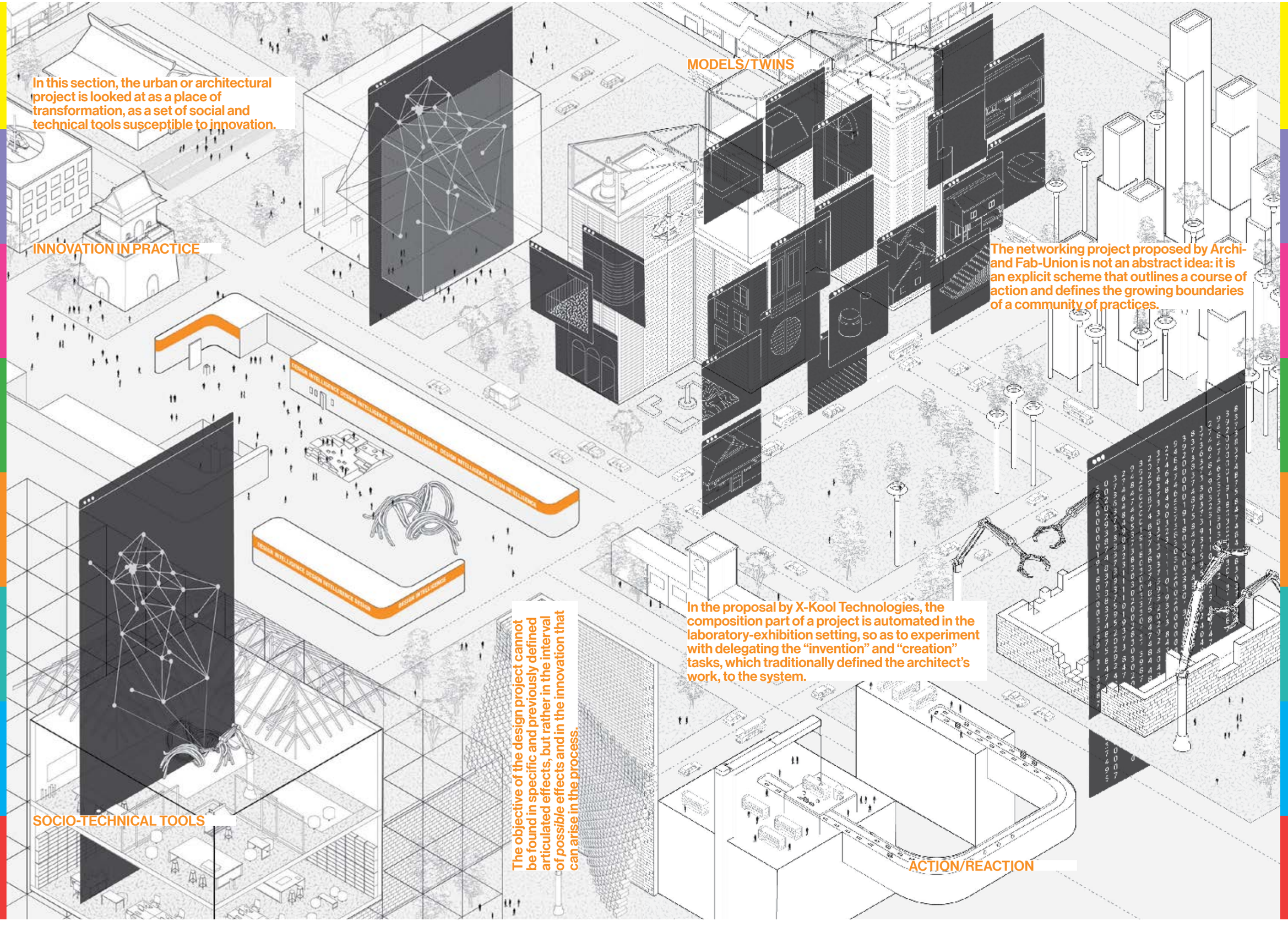


Digital devices gather real-time data about urban space with sensors, actuators, and artificial intelligence. Under their omnipresent gaze, we have entered the era of the "eyes of the city." Following up on the eponymous exhibition at the Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2019, this book examines the relationships between cities and digital technologies across various disciplines. How can designers, architects, and urban stakeholders see eye to eye with our artificial counterparts? What are the implications of emerging technologies on urban space? And where and how should designers define new spaces of agency?

Fig. 2 | Re-elaboration of the *Eyes of the City* exhibition (credit: Dalila Tondo based on the studio drawing by Camilla Forina).

Previous pages:
Cover | *Eyes of the City*'s info point, designed by MVRDV (credit: Prospekt Photographers).
Fig. 1 | Book Cover.

Next pages:
Fig. 3 | Re-elaboration of the Design Intelligence section of the *Eyes of the City* exhibition (credit: Dalila Tondo).


In this section, the urban or architectural project is looked at as a place of transformation, as a set of social and technical tools susceptible to innovation.
INNOVATION IN PRACTICE
MODELS/TWINS
The networking project proposed by Archi- and Fab-Union is not an abstract idea: it is an explicit scheme that outlines a course of action and defines the growing boundaries of a community of practices.
SOCIO-TECHNICAL TOOLS
The objective of the design project cannot be found in specific and previously defined articulated effects, but rather in the interval of *possible* effects and in the innovation that can arise in the process.
In the proposal by X-Kool Technologies, the composition part of a project is automated in the laboratory-exhibition setting, so as to experiment with delegating the "invention" and "creation" tasks, which traditionally defined the architect's work, to the system.
ACTION/REACTION

02 // Projects

84 Archipelago Jianhu: A permanent vitality

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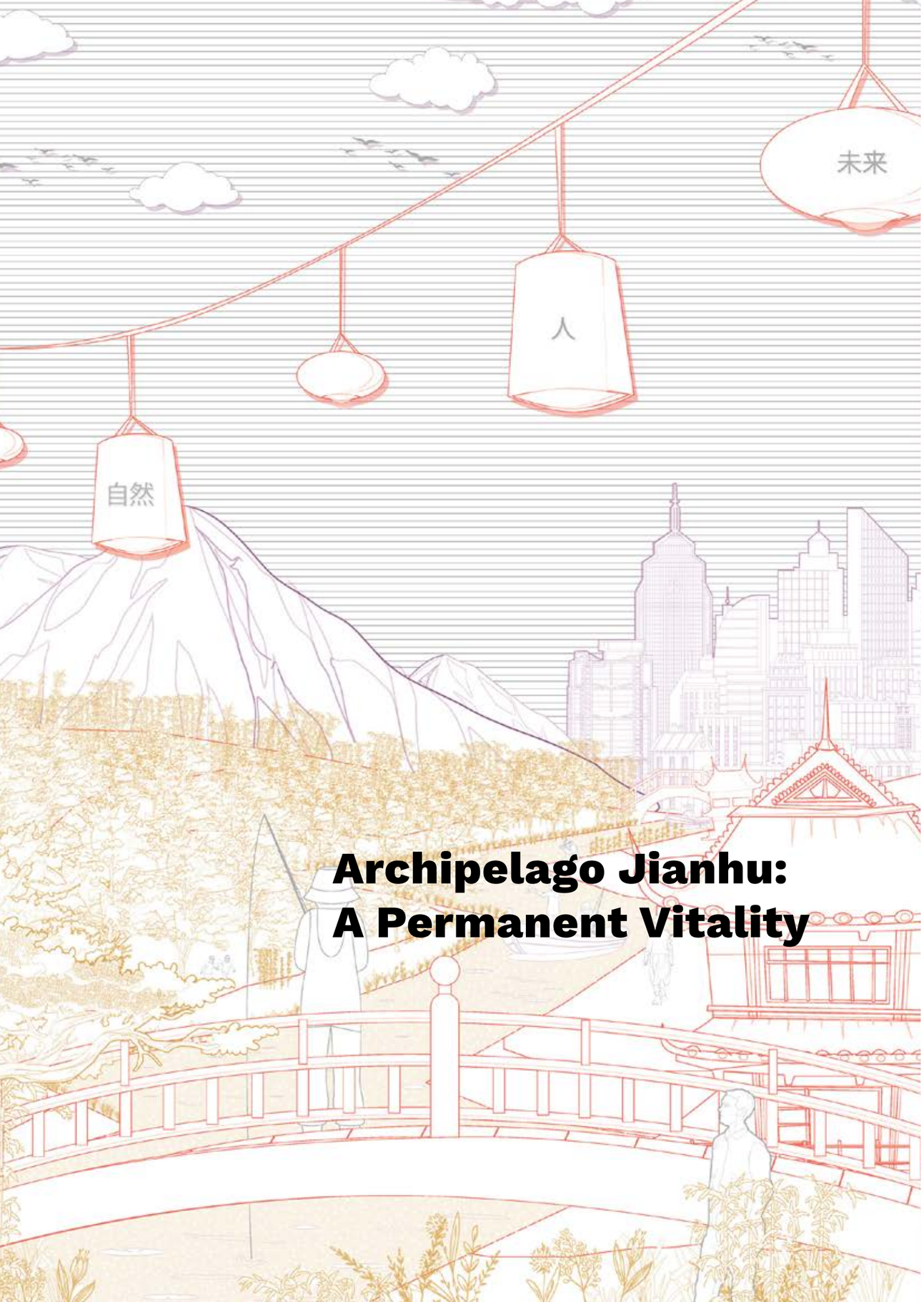
100 Prosperous Lishui: Envisioning new relations between urban and rural areas

106 Olympic experience: Main workshop of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air venue



Archipelago Jianhu: A Permanent Vitality

URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Period: January – May 2022

Location: Jianhu, Keqiao District, Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province, China

Developed for: 'Beyond Yue|Jianhu Revival' Shaoxing Jianhu Planning and Design

Organizer: People's Government of Keqiao District, One-tenth Art Company, and Jianhu Tourist Resort Management Committee

In collaboration with: Architectural Design & Research Institute of SCUT Co. Ltd. and Turin Design Hub

Research project: Polito Studio: Architectural Design and Academic Practices

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
Edoardo Bruno, Camilla Forina, Xian Lu
2MIX Architetti, Archisbang, Balance Architettura, Corbellaro SA, Gianpiero Moretti Architetto, Studio Cavaglion - TURIN DESIGN HUB

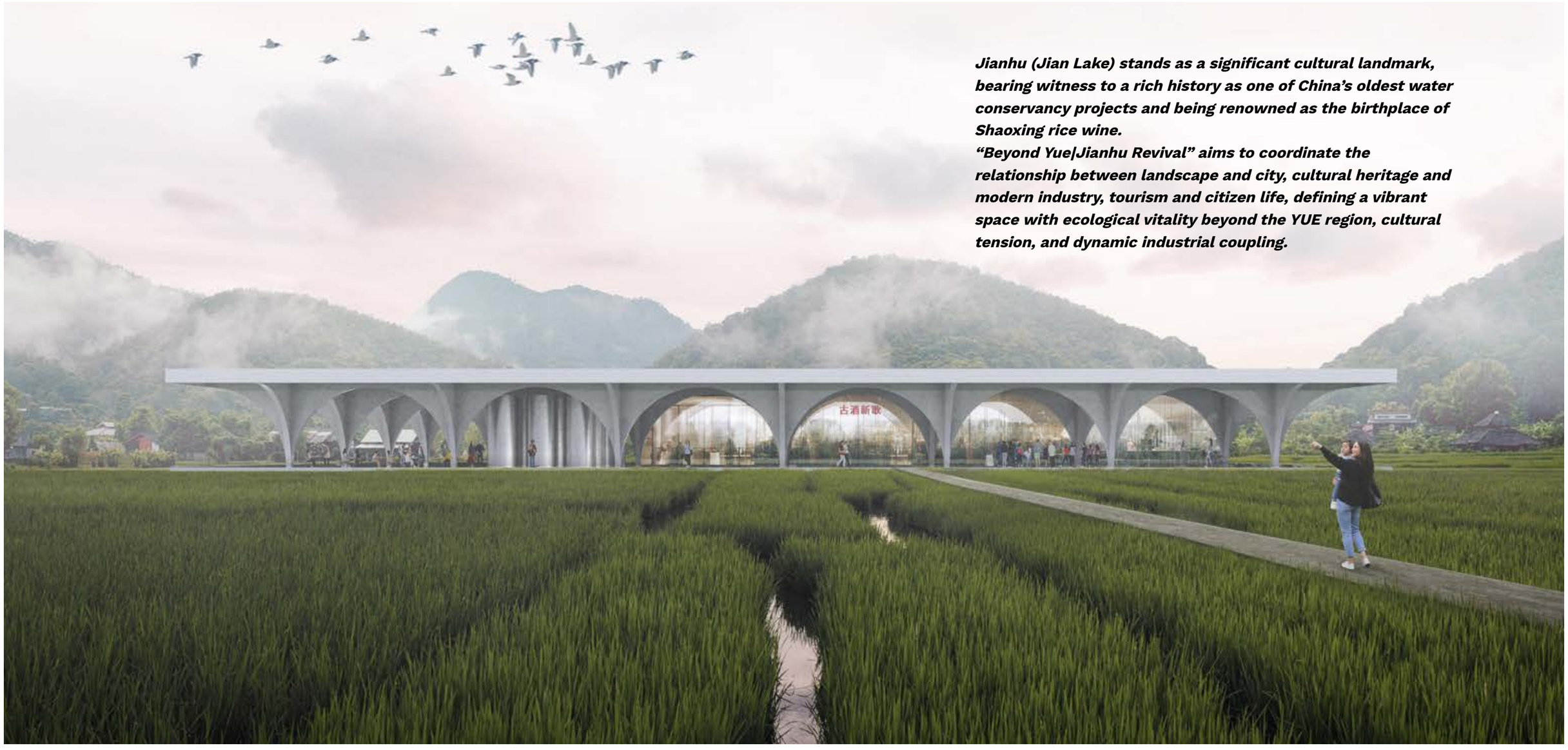
COLLABORATORS
Davide Borra, Liu Ming, Liu Xiao, Shi Yongde, and Wang Yixuan

Cover | Urban planning node: Touristic Spiral (credit: TDH X SCUT X China Room)

Archipelago Jianhu represents the second project developed within the Polito Studio framework. It has been hence a collaborative effort involving OAT and TDH, the consortium of professional firms enrolled in the program. Furthermore, the Jianhu project engaged other professors from Politecnico di Torino as discussants, to further exolore the issues araised by the competition and the possible design solutions.

Initiated in December 2021 by the People's Government of Keqiao District (Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province), the *Beyond YUE|Jianhu Revival* competition centers on a project site spanning the shores of Jianhu Lake, covering a total area of 15 kmq. Recognized as the birthplace of Shaoxing rice wine, it holds a significant tourist and industrial importance. In this perspective, among the competition requests was the enhancement of an harmonious interplay between landscape and city, cultural heritage and modernity, tourism and citizens' lives: a vibrant space pulsating with ecological and cultural vitality, and dynamic industrial synergy.

The proposal developed by the team, strategically leverages the inherent potential of the location serving as a convergence point for various spatial realities. Longitudinally connecting the expanding metropolitan regions of Hangzhou and Shaoxing, it establishes new transversal development axes that amplify the local characteristics. In this



Jianhu (Jian Lake) stands as a significant cultural landmark, bearing witness to a rich history as one of China's oldest water conservancy projects and being renowned as the birthplace of Shaoxing rice wine.
"Beyond Yue|Jianhu Revival" aims to coordinate the relationship between landscape and city, cultural heritage and modern industry, tourism and citizen life, defining a vibrant space with ecological vitality beyond the YUE region, cultural tension, and dynamic industrial coupling.

scheme, water organizes and delineates the plots of the "Archipelago Jianhu," while four robust development axes constitute the foundational elements of the new urban structure, stretching from the northeast towards the mountains. These primary axes foster improved connections with neighboring districts, enhancing the internal road network to uplift the overall livability of the area.
A "smart densification" strategically aligns with these paths, concurrently encouraging lighter urbanization around green spaces and agricultural areas.
In tandem with the project's design outcome, it is pivotal to further mention the employed working system that prompted the inclusion of professionals and scholars, broadening the discourse to include educators outside the project team. This additional level of collaboration aimed to expand the project's horizons by facilitating interactions across diverse knowledge domains and anticipating the effects that such interactions might trigger. It streamlined the conversion of theoretical-critical knowledge into practical applications, fostering the exchange of ideas, skills, and abilities, in essence the implementation of an innovative model for knowledge generation.
By seamlessly integrating local knowledge, scientific expertise, and industrial experience, the interactions launched by Polito Studio strives to cultivate new skills and strengthen cross-sectoral collaborations with businesses and universities, thereby promoting growth and fortifying the overall ecosystem of professional and scientific knowledge.

Fig. 2 | Urban Planning Nodes: 'city to respect' (credit: TDH X SCUT X China Room).

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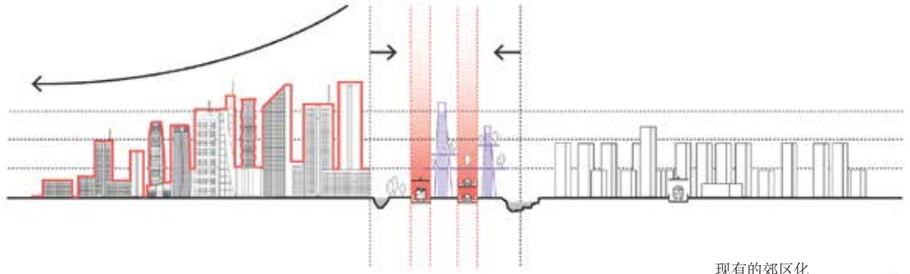
Fig. 3-4 | Urban Planning Nodes: 'future city' and 'touristic spiral' (credit: TDH X SCUT X China Room).





A

一个新的极点将作为区域连接和最新的当地城市结构之间的基础设施交汇点

A new pole will serve as an infrastructural interchange between regional connections and the latest local urban structure.

B

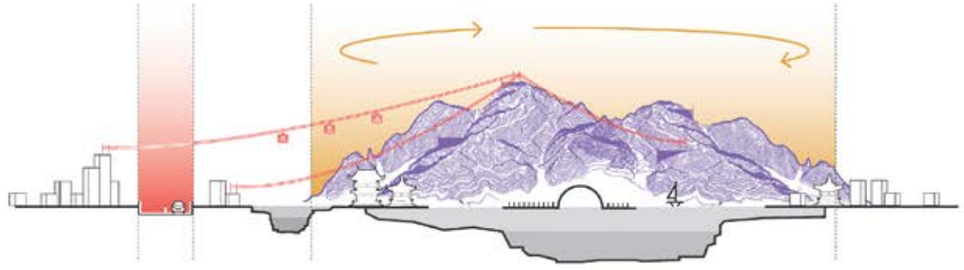
它将成为现有城市结构和新城区之间的缓冲地带，通过线性生态廊道促进新公共设施的布局。

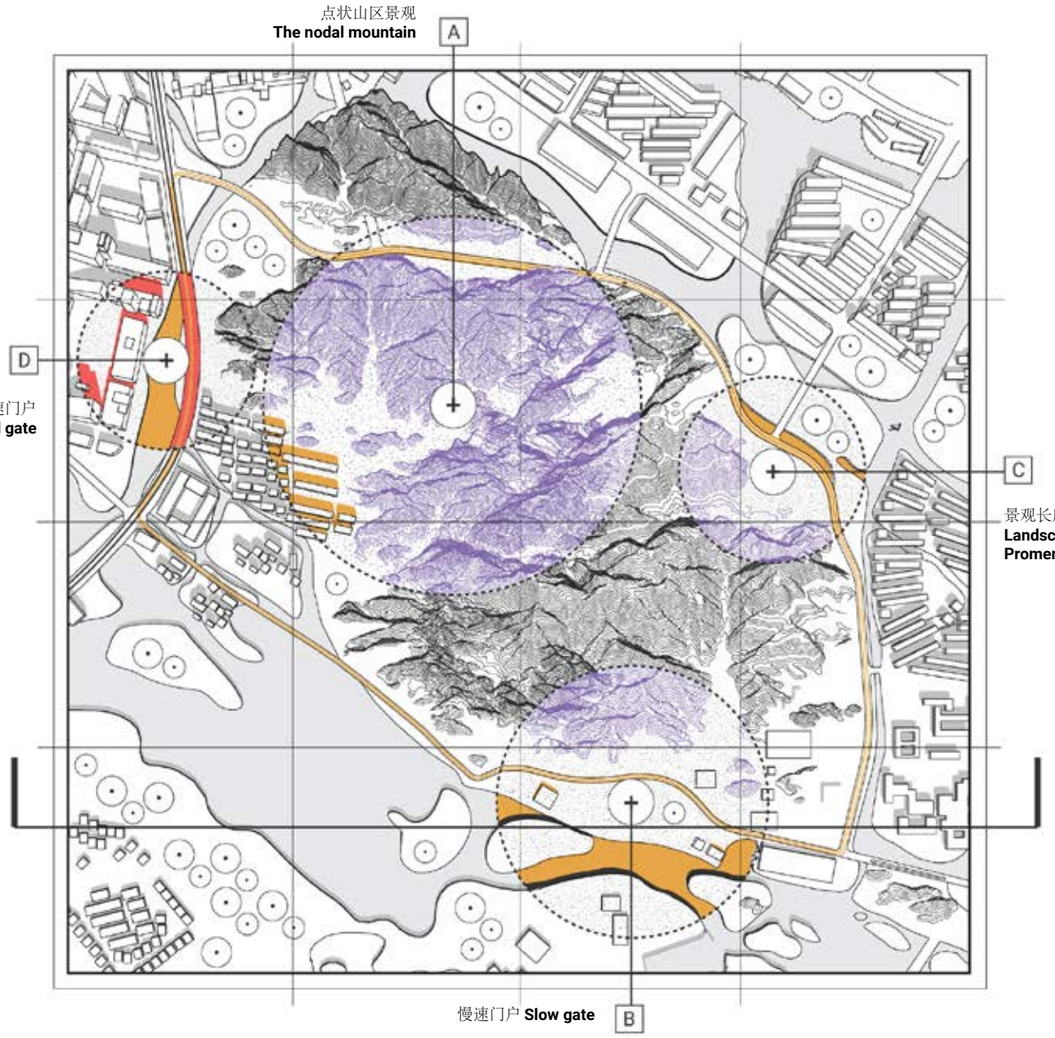
It will be the buffer zone between existing urban structures and the new city, facilitating the distribution of new public facilities with linear eco-corridors.

C

高层及高密度的未来城将承载一个充满活力的公共空间，与水资源和高速连接直接相连。

Its high-rise density will host a vibrant public space directly connected with water resources and high-speed connections.





A

这是一个在低密度城市策略下诞生的独特景观，是一个生态集群和一个主要的旅游点。

It is a landscape feature emerging from low-dense urban strategies, defining an ecological cluster and a primary touristic spot.

B

通过保护性策略的及时干预，对水系的强化使得慢速的观光网络与周边的自然资源成为一体。

The reinforcement of the waterways permits connecting the slow tourist network with nearby natural resources thanks to punctual interventions based on preservation strategies.

C

基础设施接入景观，被视为它的延续，并设置观景点和促进慢行的交通策略。

Infrastructural connections will be imagined to dissolve themselves in continuity with landscape resources, juxtaposing observation spots and promoting slow traffic strategies.



Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Period: August – December 2021

Location: Longhua District, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China

Developed for: Architectural Scheme and Design Development of Fucheng Guanlan Industrial Land Development Overall Interest Coordination Project of Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor (Plots 01-03)

Organizer: Shenzhen Longhua Talents Housing Co., Ltd.

In collaboration with: Architectural Design & Research Institute of SCUT Co. Ltd., Turin Design Hub, Shenzhen Wowa International Engineering And Design Co. Ltd. Guangzhou Company, and CZ Studio

Research project: Polito Studio: Architectural Design and Academic Practices

Awarded 4th Prize - RMB300.000/€38.359

CHIEF DESIGNER
Sun Yimin - SCUT

PROJECT LEADER
Yang Meng - SCUT

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS
Edoardo Bruno
Yang Meng, Xu Weirong - SCUT
Jacopo Testa - PAT Architetti

PROJECT MANAGERS
Deng Fang - SCUT
Chen Junhao - Wowa International

RESIDENTIAL AND OFFICE DESIGN ADVISOR
Yang Xin - Wowa International

ECO-STRATEGIES DESIGN ADVISORS
Francesca Thiebat, Corrado Carbonaro, and Lorenzo Savio -Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
Camilla Forina, and Xian Lu with Haochen Bai, Haoyan Chen, Sabina Faroppa, Andrei Mihai Laikart, Chaojin Ruan, Peining Wang, and Ming Zhao - China Room

Paolo Ceccon, and Laura Zampieri with Francesca Bortolato, and Gabriela Gomez - CZ Architects

Gianpiero Moretti with Samuel Bernier-Lavigne, Maxime Lebel, and Étienne Gelinas

Andrea Veglia, and Jacopo Testa with Lorenzo Buonomo, Fabrizio Davino, Nicolò Radicioni, Angelica Rossi, Fulya Tanyel, and Giuseppe Veglia - PAT Architetti

Edoardo Pennazio with Bingqi Liu - PENNAZIO architects+engineers

Francesco Carota, and Xiang Ling with Beini Guo, Jihao Zhong, Zhang Shuyu, Xing Tongxin - Piemonte Home Design

Deng Fang, Liang Zhanyi, Liu Qing, and Liang Shudi - SCUT

Giovanni Cavaglion, and Emanuele Cavaglion with Xiaoxu Liang - Studio Cavaglion

Francesco Vaj with Lishui Xue - Studio Vaj

Yang Xin, Chen Junhao, Ke Liang, Li Borong, Wu Siqing, and Nie Fangbin - Wowa International

Cover | Axonometric view of the design proposal (credit: TDH X SCUT X China Room)

In September 2021, the initiative POLITO Studio —the collaboration between Politecnico di Torino and Turin Chamber of Architects aimed at fostering technology transfer in the field of architecture—, achieved its first major success. Within the label TDH - Turin Design Hub, the twelve architecture firms selected by the programme participated under the guidance of Chinaroom and in collaboration with South China University of Technology (SCUT) in an influential Chinese urban development competition for Jiulongshan Intelligent Technology City in Shenzhen. This initiative marked the debut of POLITO Studio, and was structure through a first phase centered onto formative workshops and a second more operative phase addressing the competition requests. The workshops held in July and September 2021 focused on essential cultural, technical, and procedural tools for architectural competing in China. In early 2022, TDH tackled the architectural and urban design competition *Architectural Scheme and Design Development of Fucheng Guanlan Industrial Land Development Overall Interest Coordination Project of Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor (Plots 01-03)*, commissioned by the Shenzhen government's public housing enterprise.

The Meiguan corridor is an area of about 10 hectares in the northeast segment of Longhua district in Shenzhen. The project is part of a high-tech-oriented urban renewal of larger 68-hectare area. In response to the project's high density requirements, the design proposal created a permeable central hub within the planning grid. This innovative approach amalgamates residential, office, industrial, and retail functions through a unique tower-building platform concept, fostering a dynamic and uninterrupted urban flow, ultimately forming an open urban courtyard. This design not only ensures the provision of public amenities but also preserves residents' private spaces. The project also includes top-tier community public services, promotes the development of a diverse urban service cluster, and serves as a landmark exemplifying the integration of industry and urban development.

The design elaborated by the team achieved fourth place among a pool of 21 contenders, serving as another significant outcome of a collaborative endeavor. Furthermore, the numerous collaborations initiated during the design process, not only among the initial partners (such as SCUT) but also with external contributors who gradually became involved in the design (such as Shenzhen Wowa International Engineering and Design, Piemonte Home Design, CZ Studio, and Polito's scholars Francesca Thiebat, Corrado Carbonaro, and Lorenzo Savio), facilitated and enriched the transfer of design knowledge between academia and practitioners. This transcended geographical and disciplinary boundaries, fostering a meaningful exchange of expertise.

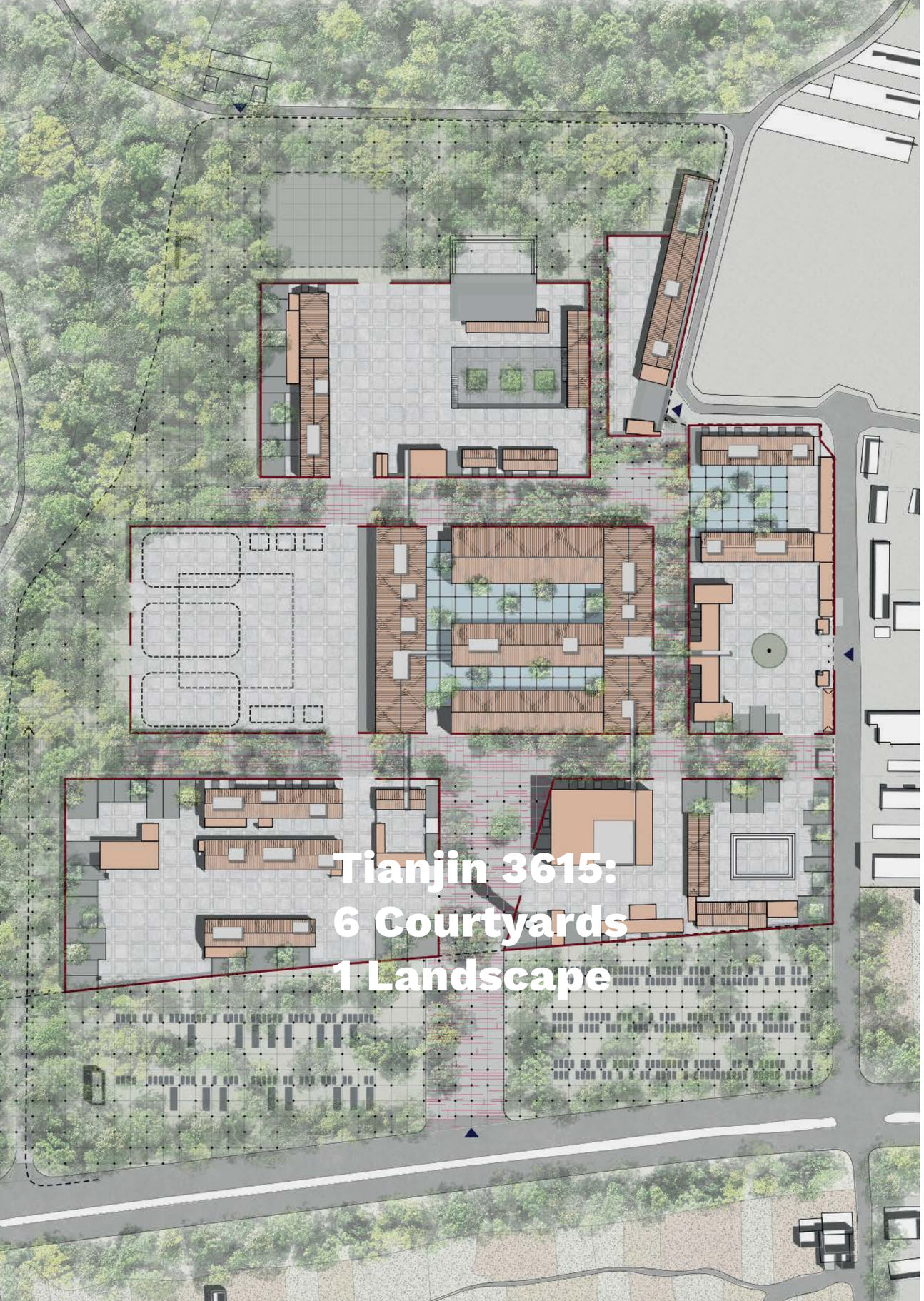




Fig. 1 | Perspective view of the commercial area at the ground floor (credit: TDH X SCUT X China Room)
Fig. 2 | Perspective view of the public park covering the commercial area (credit: TDH X SCUT X China Room)

Next pages:
Fig. 3 | Perspective section of the commercial area (credit: TDH X SCUT X China Room)





ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Period: January – May 2022

Location: Jizhou District, Tianjin, within the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Economic Circle, China

Developed for: 3615 Safety and Emergency Innovation Incubator Park Tianjin

In collaboration with: Quarta & Armando Architecture Design Research

RMB290.000/€37.077

PROJECT LEADERS
Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
Giulia Montanaro (coordinator), Xian Lu

LOCAL ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGN
Michele Armando, Gianmaria Quarta, Gu Tao - Quarta & Armando Architecture Design Research

COLLABORATORS
Federico Asinelli, Federico Belfiore, Enrico Massetani, Zihe Wang, Rui Xu, Jiang Ye, Yelin Zhang

Cover | 6 Courtyards 1 Landscape, masterplan (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room)

The conceptual design for the regeneration of the former industrial district of Tianjin Ditiantai 3615 Machinery Co. founded in 1987 was developed by the Department of Architecture and Design China Room in collaboration with local architects Michele Armando, Gianmaria Quarta e Gu Tao. The complex is located in Jizhou District, Tianjin, China, and is currently isolated in a rural setting and in an advanced state of decay. The site has been selected for an innovative development that aims to create a ‘Safety and Emergency Innovation Incubator Park’, a place for researching and innovating in a variety of fields related to Safety and Emergency Management. The aim of the project is to give a new identity to a place. The design was carried out between January and May 2022.

The project concept is based on an organisation of six thematic courtyards, effectively conceived as public squares. They act as a morphological device that promotes a new order between internal and external functions to maximise the recombination of flexible spaces and ensure a precise corporate dynamic. This approach reassembles the existing factory buildings into a small-scale urban system, where landscape and vegetation seemleessly merges with the urban environment from the west.
The ground floor space is systemised by a continuous facade that is treated differently according to the courtyard function it identifies. The thickness developed between it

The concept regeneration design of the former 3615 Industrial, located in Jizhou District, Tianjin, China, was developed by the Department of Architecture and Design China Room in collaboration with a local architectural office, Quarta & Armando Architecture, between January and May 2022. The site has been selected for the development of a 'Safety and Emergency Innovation Incubator Park'. The aim is to promote the reuse of existing resources through courtyards as a morphological device.

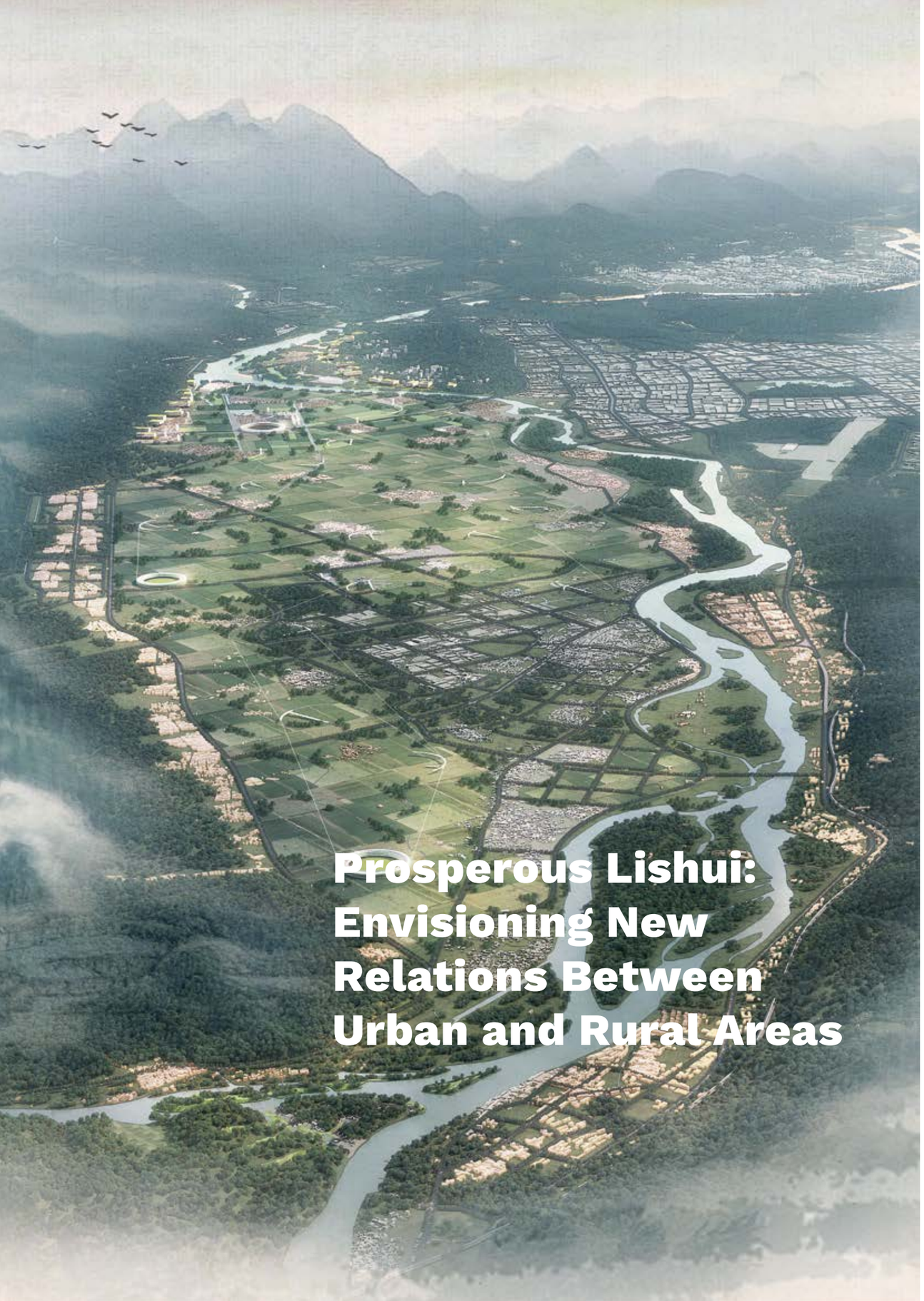
and the existing buildings becomes a denser design space for the resolution of necessary extensions or technical spaces.

This design research promoted the imperative of systematically reorganising existing resources through a thoughtful approach. This important issue emerging in the Chinese context for more sustainable architectural and urban developmen highlights the potential of industrial regeneration in China from an applied research perspective. The focus was on identifying the most effective way to meet the client's need in a complete transformation of the original functions with their concrete implications. In this perspective, the systematic role of the six courtyards was an effective design strategy to manage the space at different scales, carried out through a careful design of "interstitial" spaces, a theme that can extend this experience to future critical reflections and considerations.

Fig. 1 | 6 Courtyards 1 Landscape, axonometric view of the design proposal (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room).

Fig. 2 | 6 Courtyards 1 Landscape, rendering of one of the public courts (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room).





Prosperous Lishui: Envisioning New Relations Between Urban and Rural Areas

URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Period: May – November 2020

Location: Lishui, Zhejiang, China

Developed for: Future Shan Shui City International Urban Design Competition

Organizers: Lishui Municipal People's Government, Lishui Municipal Development and Reform Commission, Dwellings in Lishui Mountains Project Planning and Construction Leading Group Office

In collaboration with: Politecnico di Torino / Institute of Mountain Architecture and South China University of Technology

Awarded 3rd Prize - RMB800.000/€102.337

PROJECT LEADERS
Michele Bonino
Yimin Sun - SCUT

PROJECT MANAGERS
Mauro Berta, Edoardo Bruno
Huang Yeqiang, Zhu Xiaojing - SCUT

URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN
Leonardo Ramondetti, Angelo Sampieri
Ping Su, Chunyang Zhang - SCUT

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
Antonio De Rossi, Roberto Dini, Camilla Forina, Martina Franco, Ziyu Lin, Xian Lu
Haohao Xu, Qunjie Zhang - SCUT

CONSULTANTS ON CHINESE URBANIZATION PROCESSES
Astrid Safina, Francesca Governa

COLLABORATORS
Simona Belluscio, Huirong Chen, Weiying Chen, Alessandro Delforno, Manjiao Huang, Yingyi Lv, Ahmed Mansouri, Riccardo Masala, Matteo Migliaccio, Lidia Preti, Piera Elisa Ragusa, Ottavia Valz Gris, Sheng Xia, and Andrea Zegna, Wentian ZhengHuang Manjiao, Chen Weiying

ACADEMIC BOARD FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
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 Trisciuoglio, Zeynep Tulumen, Elena Vigliocco, Zhang Ting - Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design

Cover | Prosperous Lishui overall view (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room, South China University of Technology)

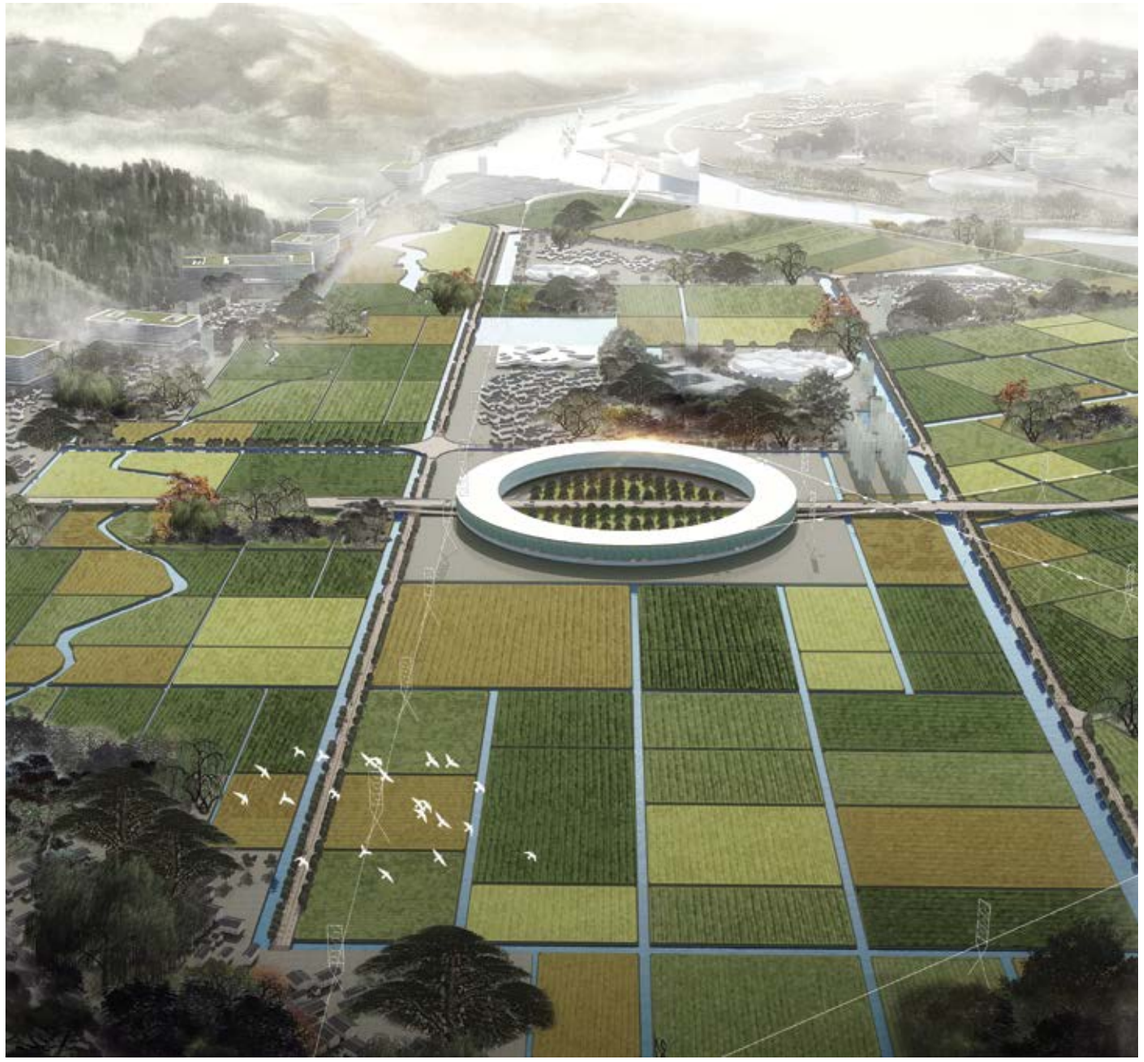


Fig. 1-2 | Logistic Hub in the Agricultural Valley (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room, South China University of Technology).

The project *Prosperous Lishui* 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 proposal is based on the preservation of the vast agricultural plain - one of a very few flatlands in southern Zhejiang – as the heart of a new developemnt. 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.

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".

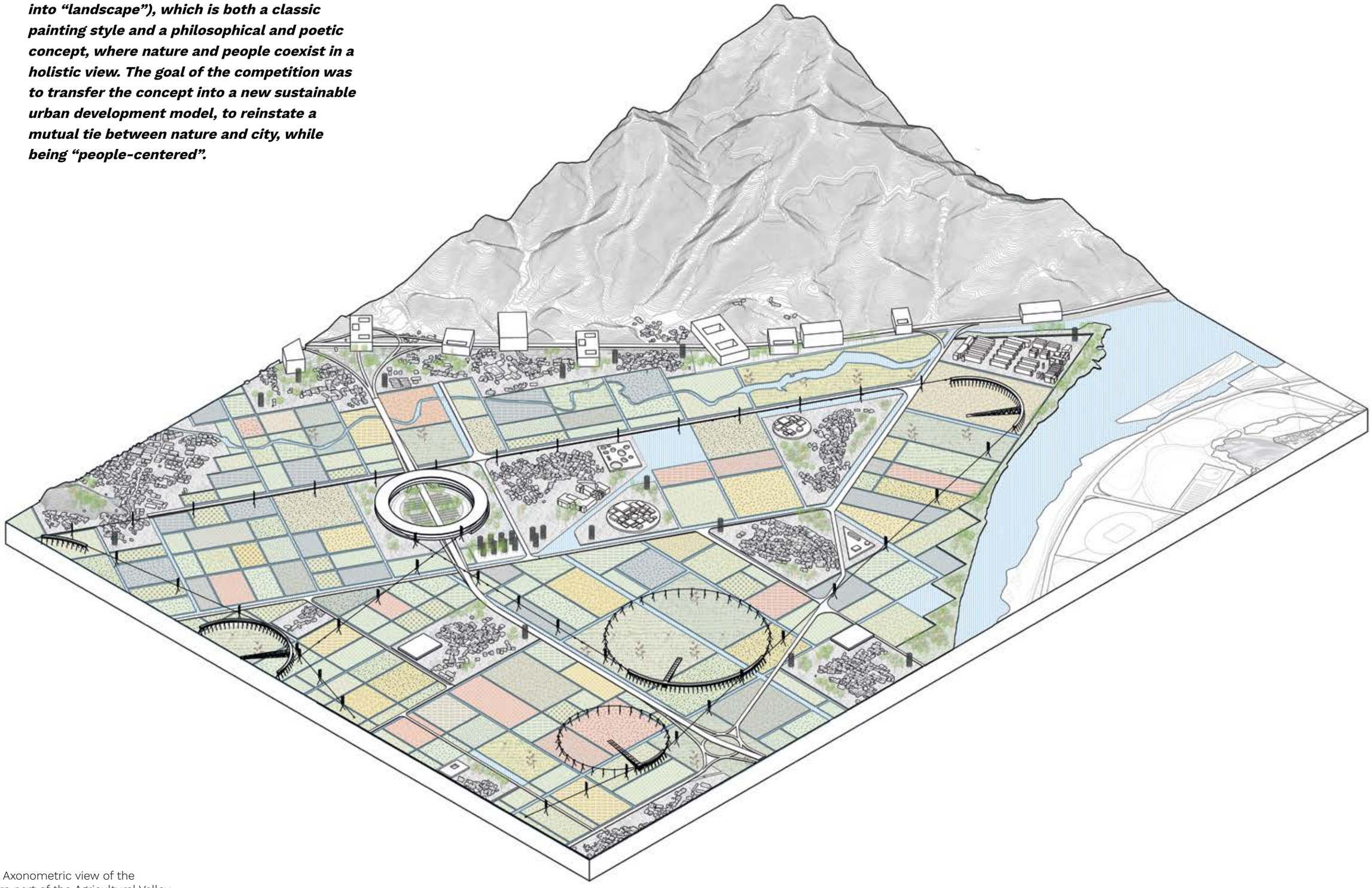
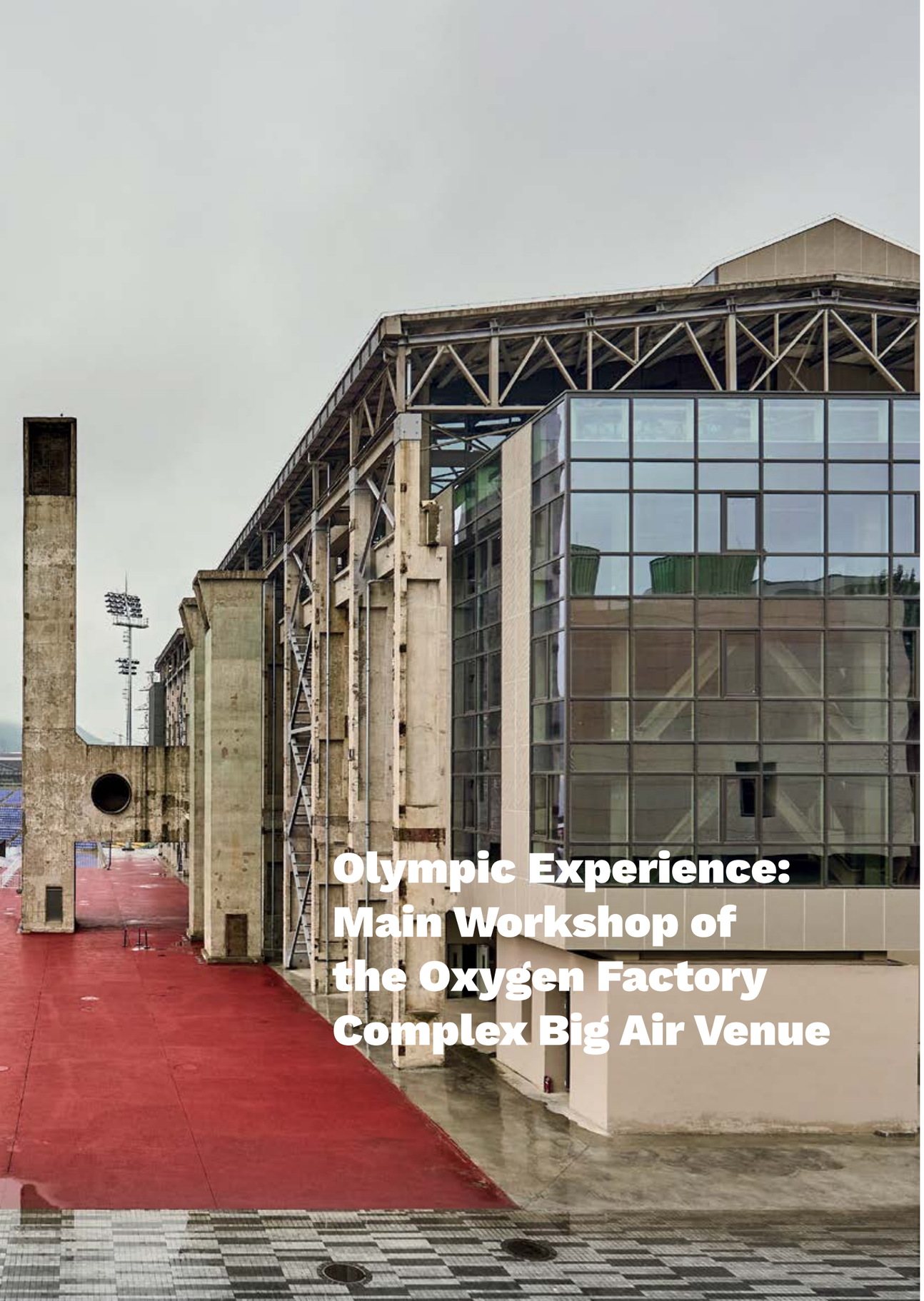


Fig. 5 | Axonometric view of the northern part of the Agricultural Valley (credit: Politecnico di Torino - China Room, South China University of Technology).



Olympic Experience: Main Workshop of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air Venue

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Period: 2018-2021

Location: Shougang Steel Factory, Beijing, China

Developed for: Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University for XXIV Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022

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

RMB586.000/€74.961

BUILDING A

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS
Michele Bonino (coordinator), Edoardo Bruno

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
Camilla Forina, Andrea Tinazzo, Alberto Bologna, Francesco Carota, Huishu Deng, Valeria Federighi, Maria Paola Repellino, Zhang Li, Dou Guanglu, Bai Xue, Hu Po, Nie Shibing

STRUCTURAL DESIGN
Walter Ceretto, Li Guo, Pan Ping'an

WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE
Xu Qing, Zhai Shasha

HVAC
Enrico Fabrizio, Jia Zhaokai, Liu Huili

ELECTRICAL DESIGN
Wang Lei, Zhong Xin

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
Zhang Xin Studio, THUPDI

LIGHTING DESIGN
Zhang Xin Studio, School of Architecture, Tsinghua University

ACADEMIC BOARD FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
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 Trisciuoglio, Manfredo di Robilant, Marco Vaudetti - Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design

MANAGEMENT
Politecnico di Torino - International Affairs Office - China Center

BUILDING A IS PART OF THE BIG AIR VENUE MASTERPLAN FOR BEIJING 2022 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

DESIGN COORDINATION
Atelier TeamMinus, THAD

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT
Zhang Li

DESIGN TEAM
Dou Guanglu, Bai Xue, Hu Po, Nie Shibing

Cover | The Main Workshop of the oxygen factory during the transformation, 2019 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Prospekt Photographers).





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 Department of Architecture and Design of Politecnico di Torino for design, structural and plant engineering consultancies, within a multidisciplinary 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.

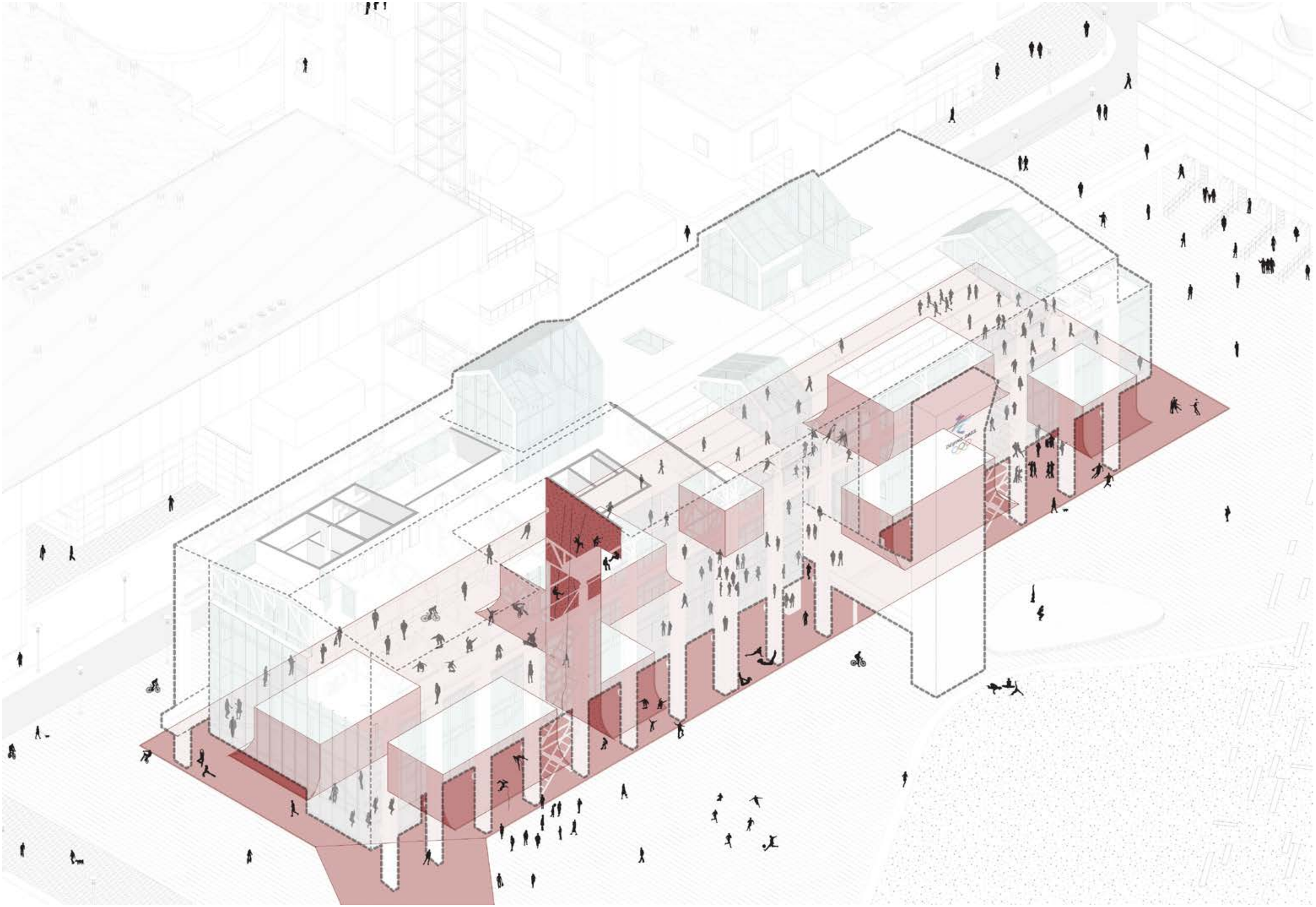
At the park level, spectators are welcomed into the building under a covered, sizeable public space, which can be walked in every direction: an equipped playground that introduces the public to the pleasure of physical movement, to the experience of active health, and to the spirit of sports competition. 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 east facade, 2021 (credit: Xue Ding).

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

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



03 // Education

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Co-Run Program: Double Master of Science in Urban Design

DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Master of Science: Join Master of Science between Politecnico di Torino and South China University of Technology

AY: 2020-2021 - ongoing

PROFESSORS

Mauro Berta (coordinator), Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno, Yi Huang (SCUT), Maria Paola Repellino, Yimin Sun (SCUT), Ping Su (SCUT), Ruifeng Tian (SCUT), Haohao Xu (SCUT), Cheng Wei (SCUT) - architecture

Marta Bottero, Federico Dell'Anna - economic evaluation

Francesco Novelli, Emanuele Morezzi - architectural heritage

Emiliano Matta - structural design

Cover | Royal Tobacco Factory of Torino. Masterplan for the renovation (credit: Nie Ziyi, Liu Ziyi, Wu Junsha, Wan Jinqiao, Pang Xinyi, Wang Qin).

The overall topic of the Design Studio, which brings every year 30 students to work on either Chinese or Italian case studies, is urban regeneration in suburban areas; the site chosen for the last edition of the course is the expected renovation of the former and now disused "Reale Manifattura Tabacchi" (Royal Tobacco Factory) of Torino, which will be converted in the next years into a new cultural district, mainly dedicated to host the archives of the two universities of the city as well as those of the local tribunal. Despite its peripheral location, the site holds a great interest, both from the architectural and urban points of view. The whole compound of the factory is the result of several historical phases of transformation: starting from the construction of the first buildings, on the grounds of the former "Viboccone" palace, in 1758; passing through the further extensions of the XIX century; until the last transformations of the XXth century, including the reconstruction of the northern and north-eastern wings, designed by the renowned structural engineer Pierluigi Nervi after the damages of the WWII bombings.

Besides the importance of the complex historical layering of the site, and besides the architectural relevance of its single parts, the Manifattura Tabacchi has been a crucial debate topic for the local planning for a long time. First because it is a wide derelict area, facing one of the most important environmental resources of the city, the Po

river park, but mainly because it assumes a major importance in the regeneration process of the whole surrounding neighbourhood and in the reorganization of the network of the cultural facilities at the urban scale (especially after the decision of the municipality to locate close to the factory one of the future stations of the new subway line, which is supposed to be completed in the next years). The Manifattura Tabacchi, thus, can be seen as a “grey” area - both in a metaphorical sense (the unhealthy smoke of the millions of cigarettes and cigars that came out of its gates for about two centuries), and in the proper meaning (following Jane Jacobs’ famous definition of the “grey zones” of the city) – which is supposed to be converted in a new “green core” of the district, aimed at reactivating the regeneration process of the surroundings, and particularly the requalification of the nearby former industrial village, which is now part of the city fabric and which is still recognizable in its morphology.

The students’ works started with a wide investigation on the factory and on the surrounding zone - made through historical maps, planning documents, data and figures etc. – and with a deep analysis of the spaces required by the main program. The Urban Design Studio, lead by Prof. Mauro Berta, is one of the courses included in the SCUT/ PoliTO Master’s Degree program in Urban Design, a Master’s Double Degree course founded and managed by the two universities. Politecnico di Torino, through its international research platform “China Room”, and South China University of Technology share a long standing cooperation that led, in more than a decade, of collaboration the research groups of both universities to share a number of research and didactic activities. The other course given by Italian professors within the M.Sc. program are: Infrastructural Design Studio, Urban Economy, Urban Restoration. A the end of their academic path the students prepare their final dissertation under the joint guide of the professors of both universities.

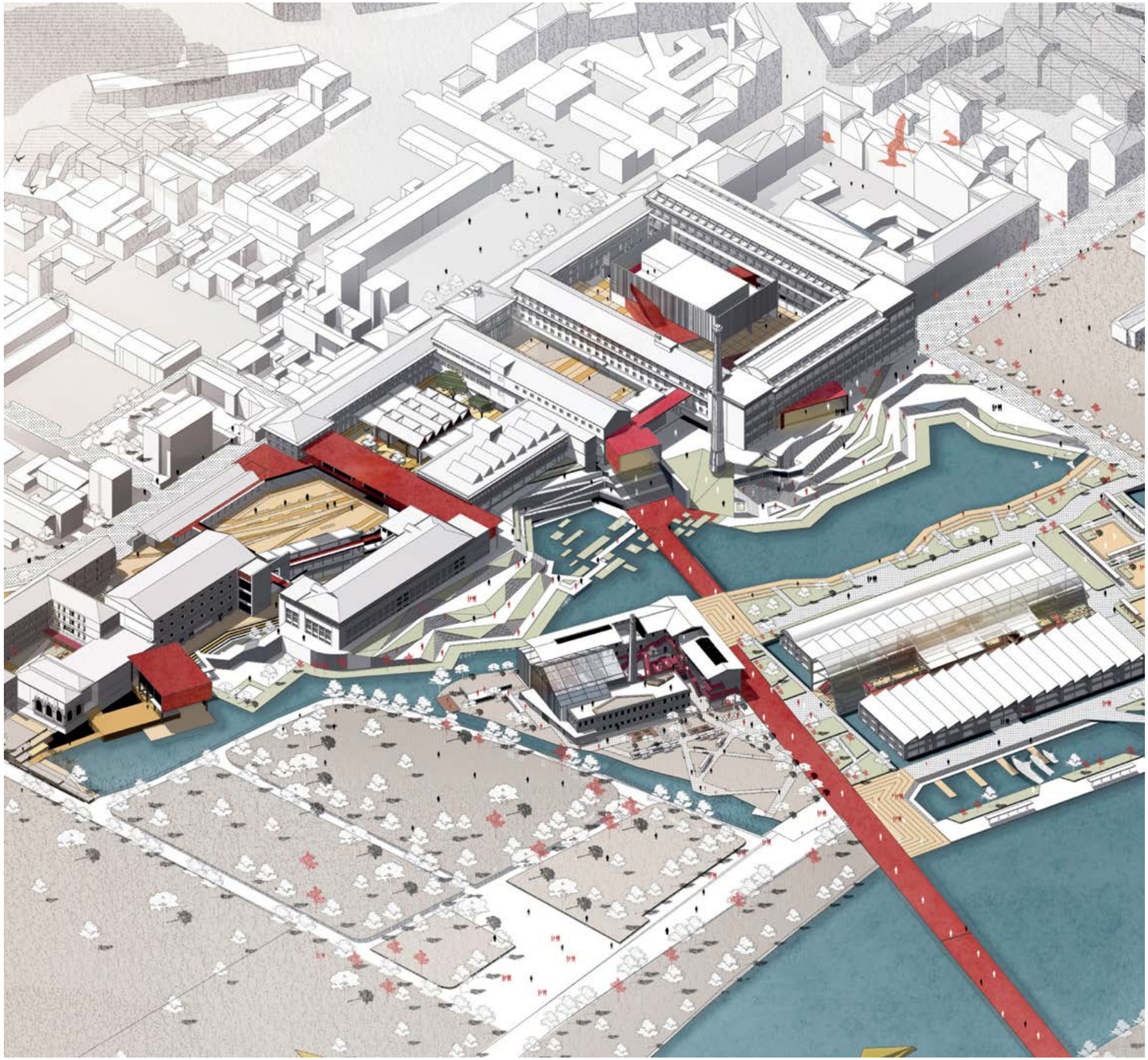
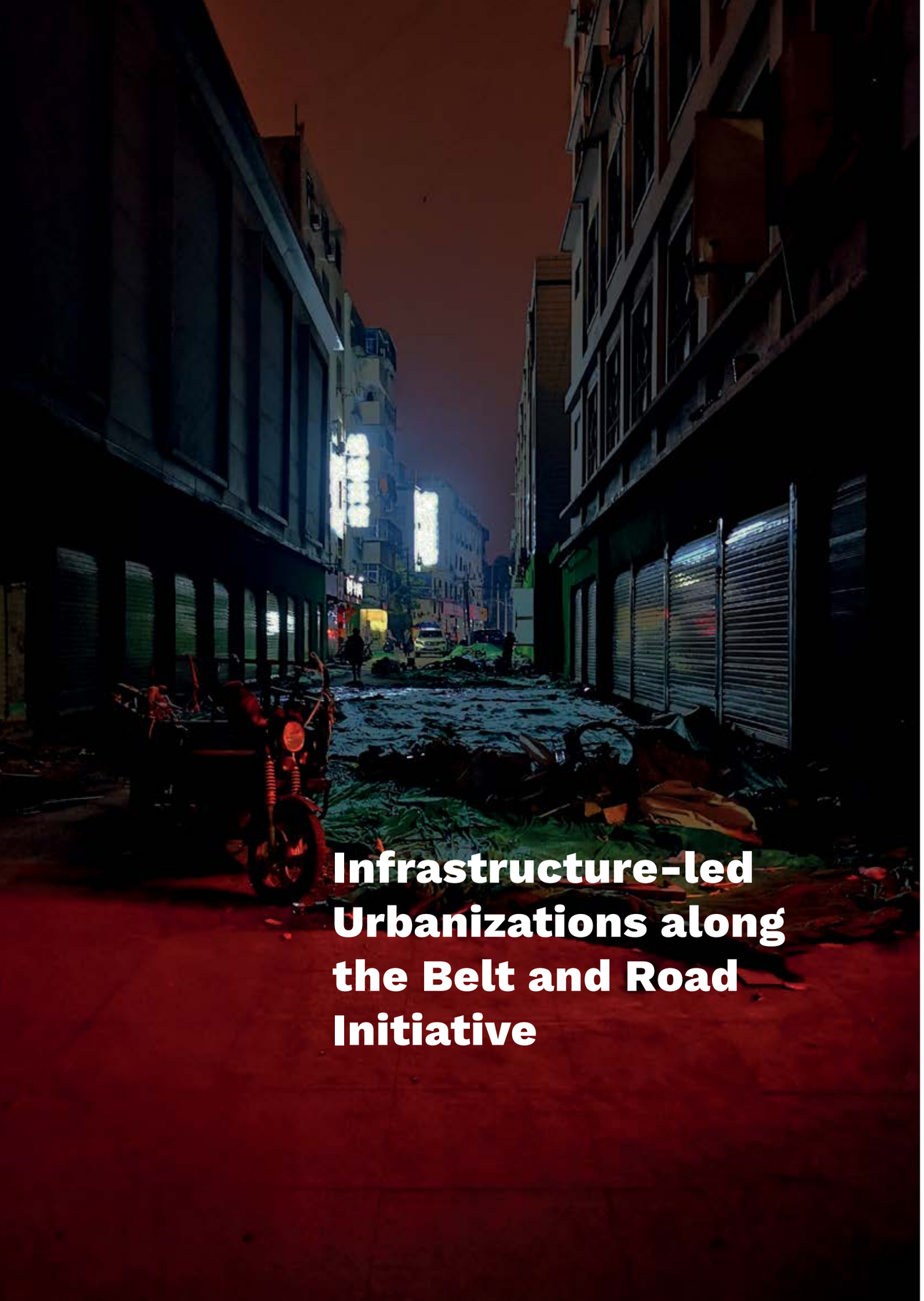


Fig. 1 | Royal Tobacco Factory of Torino. Masterplan for the renovation (credit: Liang Jinhu, Zeng Zezhong, Wang Lifan, Huang Luohuai, Xie Gehang).



Infrastructure-led Urbanizations along the Belt and Road Initiative

MASTER COURSE

Institution: École d'Urbanisme de Paris (UGE + UPEC)

MSs: Urban Planning and Urban Studies

Period: February-March 2024

Course: Urban studies: Emerging issues and challenges

Module: Infrastructure-led urbanizations along the Belt and Road Initiative

LEADING PROFESSORS
Martine Drozdz and Jonathan Rutherford (UGE) - module: urban studies

GUEST PROFESSORS
Leonardo Ramondetti - module: Infrastructure-led urbanizations along the Belt and Road Initiative
Claire Simmoneau (LATTS) - module: The post-colonial city

The module *Infrastructure-led urbanizations along the Belt and Road Initiative* seeks to develop a critical understanding of the novel spaces and forms of urbanisation produced by contemporary large scale-infrastructural programs. The course examines the spatial impact of the global flows, economic forces, developmental policies, and social expectations inherent to infrastructural initiatives, and the urbanities they generate. Firstly, participants are provided with an overview on the current debate on global infrastructural programs, and introduced to the spatial implications of these initiatives. To ground a debate on the issues related to infrastructural megaprojects, the Belt and Road Initiative will be taken as a case study. Two lectures will illustrate the urban transformations brought about by this infrastructural program in China (with a focus on the Henan Province), and in the Adriatic region respectively. These will form the basis for a discussion of the multiple urbanities arising from this infrastructure initiative.

Each session has two parts: a thematic lecture, followed by a roundtable. Students will be organised in two group, and each will be asked to read a selected book chapter in advance, and the second part of the lesson can be dedicated to discussion.

Cover | Zhengzhou, 2019 (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti).

Suburbanisation Processes in Contemporary China: Chengxiang Old Town

DESIGN UNIT

Master of Science: Architecture Construction City at Politecnico di Torino

AY: 2021-2022

PROFESSORS
Michele Bonino and Gong Dong (Vector Architects) - architecture
Angelo Sampieri - urban planning and design

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Zhengsi Liu, Shida Liu, Maria Paola Repellino and Lidia Preti, Siyuan Xi, and Han Zhang - architecture
Leonardo Ramondetti and Agostino Strina - urban planning and design

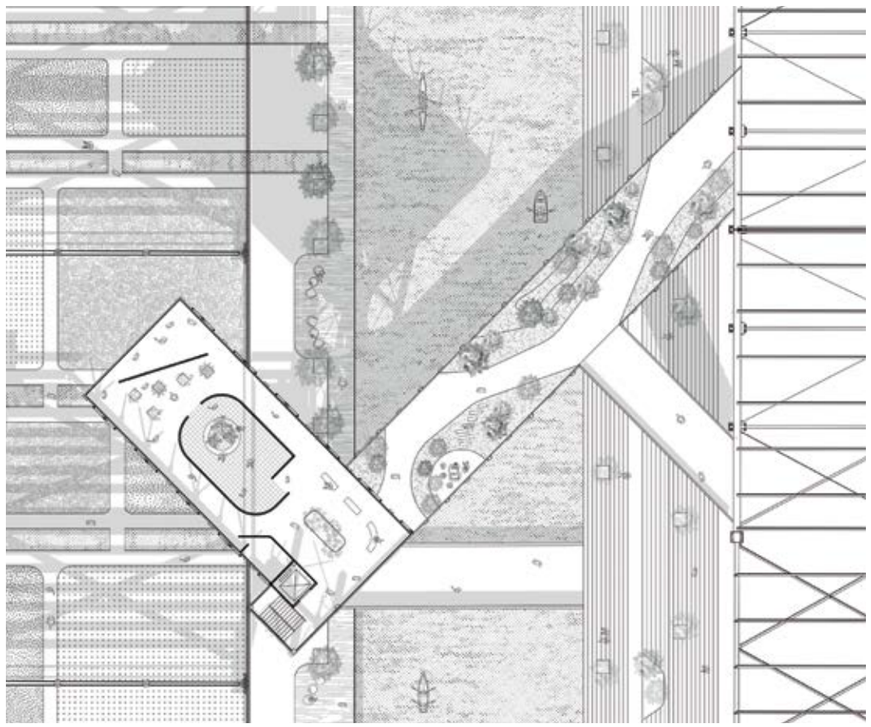
Cover | Natura Interludio, topography over time (credit: Inés Valero, Cristina Rodriguez, Jaime de la Torre, María Fernández).

Suburbanization in China has developed since 1980, responding to the country's rapid economic growth. By involving Gong Dong, founder of the Beijing studio Vector Architects, as Visiting Professor, the Design Studio aimed to address the most recent changes of this phenomenon: the emergence of vast industrial parks, large-scale transportation infrastructures, and mass-producxed housing estates that intersect and often collide with suburban villages' unique characteristics (environmental, social, and economic). This novel interplay necessitates new projects, both at the territorial and architectural scale, to propose scenarios in which old and new spaces can coexist and generate greater formal and functional quality of life.

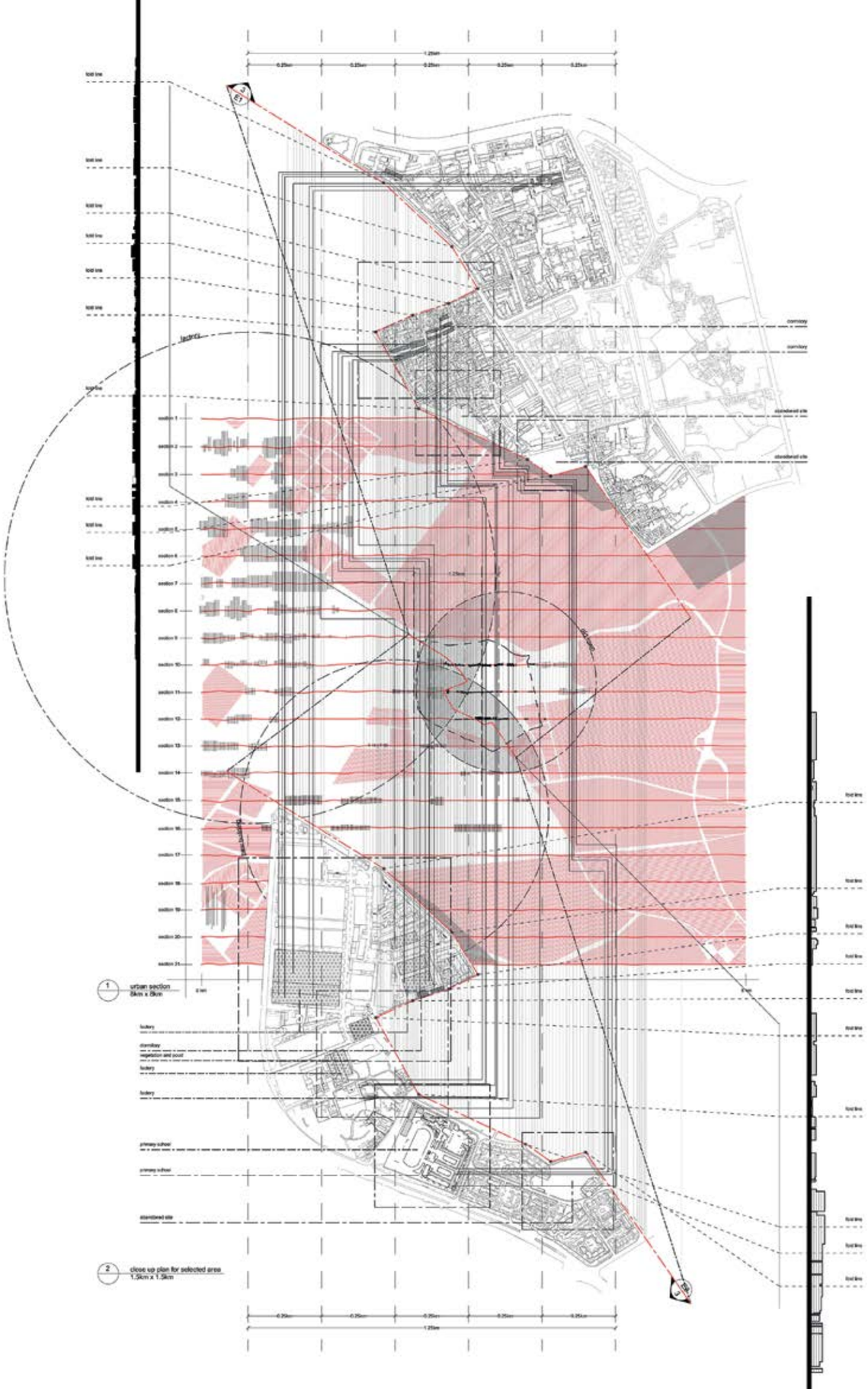
To do this, during fifteen weeks, 54 students are organized into groups and carried out four architectural and four urban planning exercises. In the initial phase of the investigation, students are asked to develop a technically coherent representation of the space to be designed and to raise questions relevant to the design. The primary attention is given to different territorial systems and patterns: topography, water, mobility, nature, and built space. At the same time, students are invited to undertake an observation of ways of life and daily practices in Chengxiang. In the second part of the Studio, students are asked to develop an urban design strategy for the suburban condition, in consistency with some of the topics that emerged during

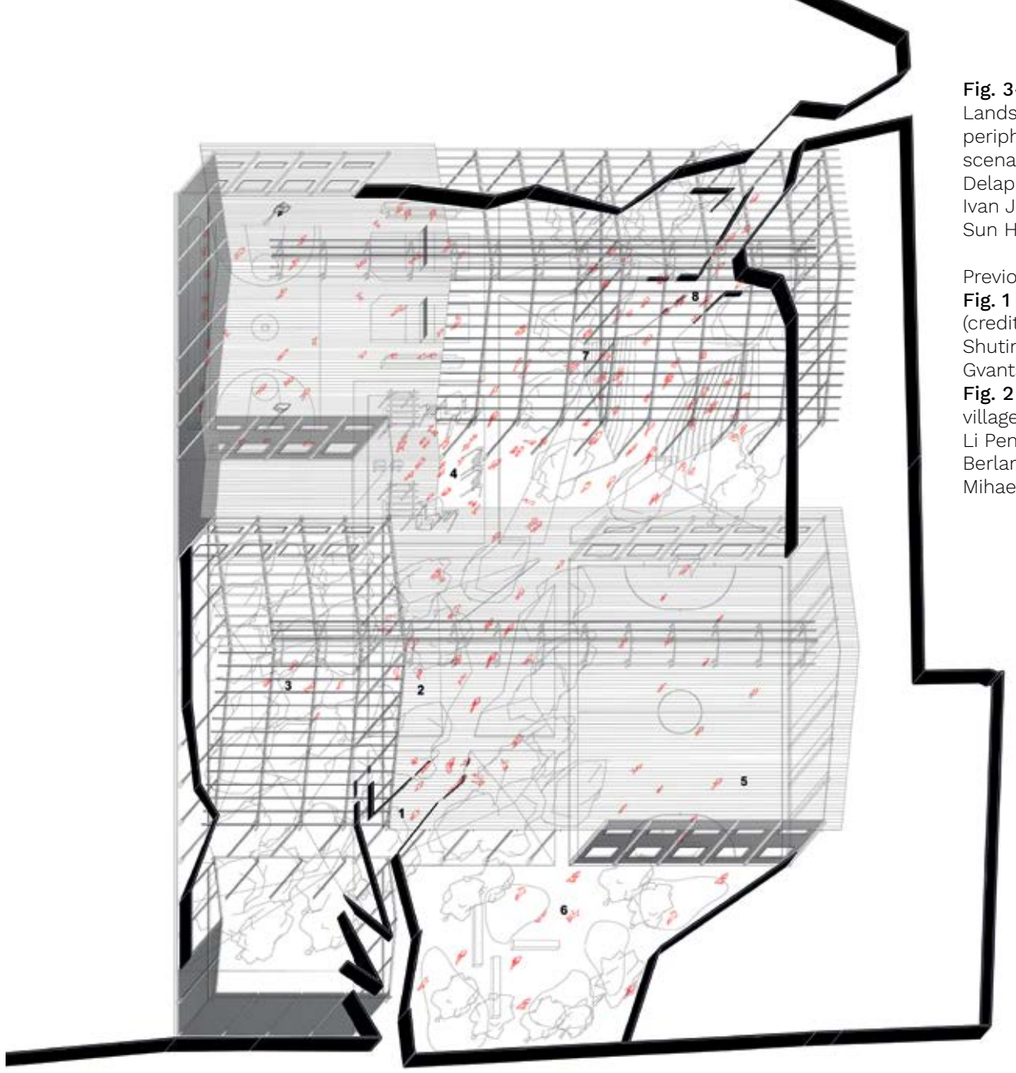
the investigation phase, and then provide an architectural intervention that can enrich and deepen the urban scenarios proposed. Throughout the course, lectures and seminars help in defining the theoretical framework, both through a general exploration of the topic of suburban urbanization in China and through case study projects. In particular, the contribution of Architectural Design presents a series of public spaces and buildings for social activities in the fringes between urban and rural. The contribution of Urban Planning focuses on the emerging transformations in suburban areas and on how contemporary urban design aims to address them, both in the East and in Western countries.

Each scenario developed by the student groups explores new relationships between architecture and urban space. Each project develops a specific theme, such as new residential models, new industrial and logistics settlements, new environmental infrastructures, new public spaces, and new mobility infrastructures. Materials, tectonics and architectural tones are at the heart of each project to establish a new relationship with the existing built environment.









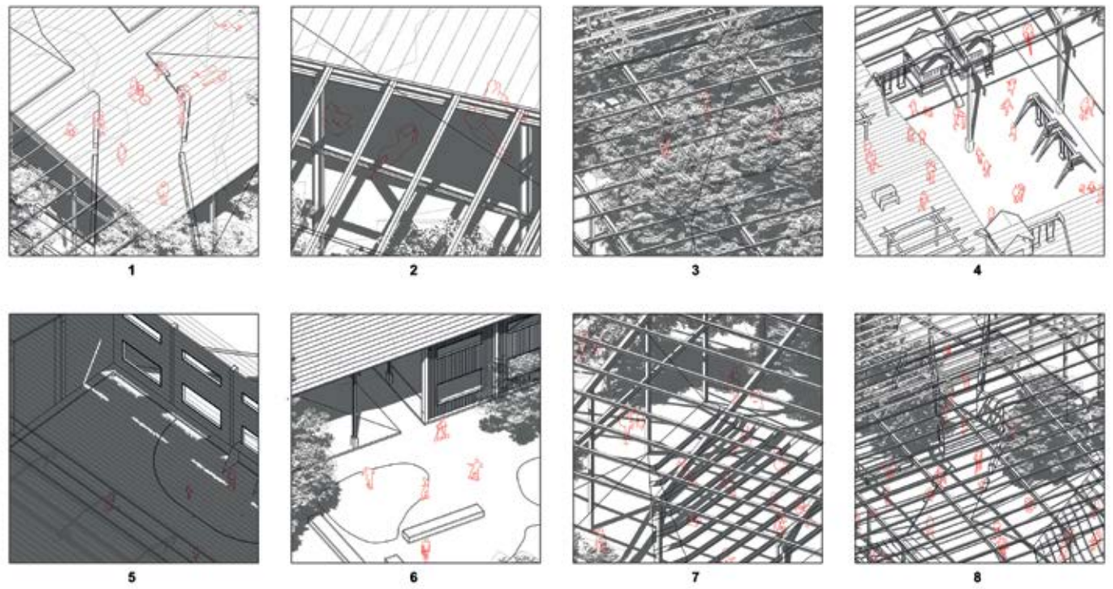
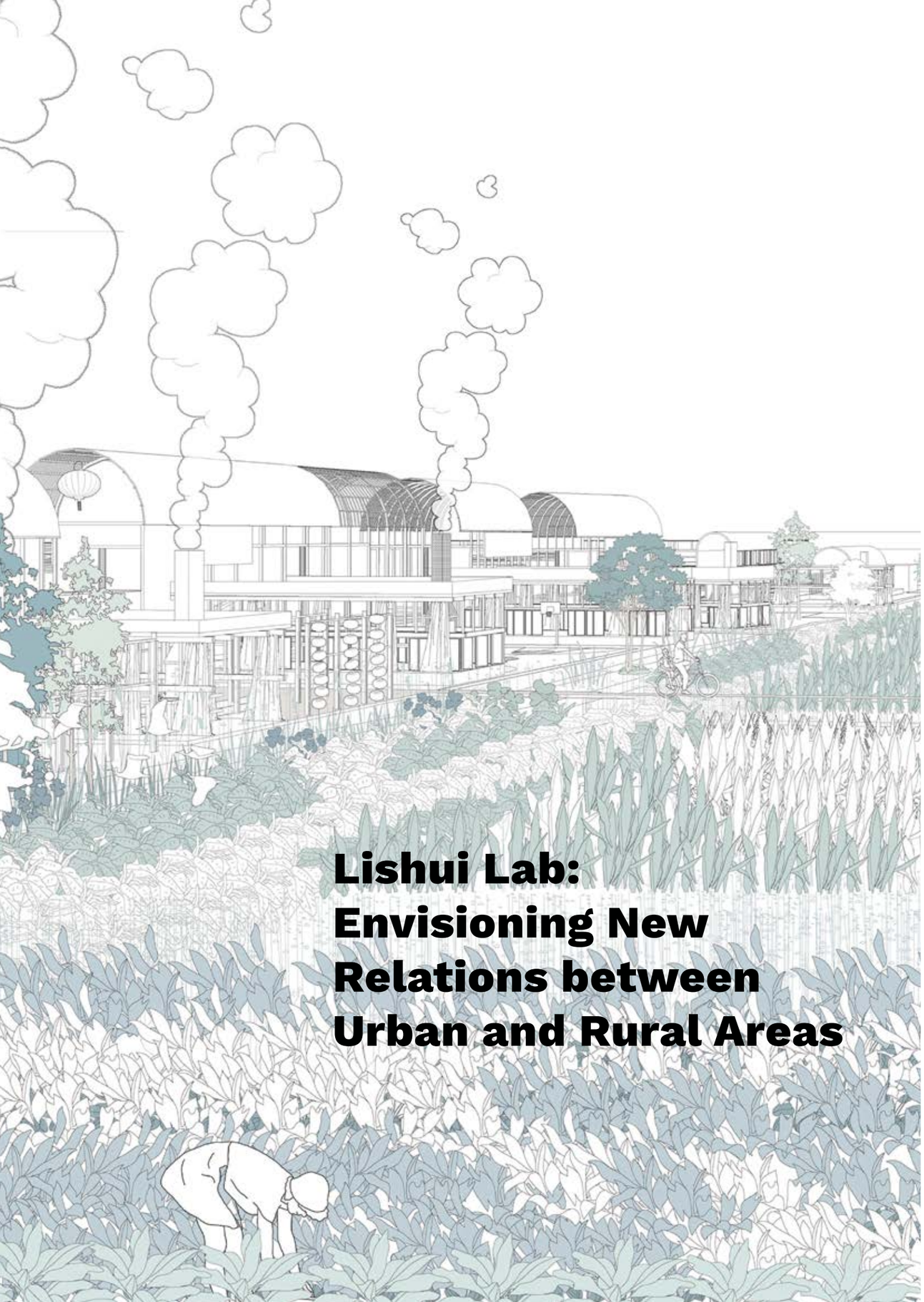


Fig. 3-5 | Forgotten Landscape, Urban periphery and new urban scenario (credit: Warre Delaplace, Au Chun Hung, Ivan Jovanovic, Au Yeung Sun Hei).

Previous pages:
Fig. 1 | Medium, new bridge (credit: Giorgi Chachanidze, Shuting Lin, Wenjun Song, Gvantsa Tskipurishvili).
Fig. 2 | Middle Ground, village configuration (credit: Li Pengqian, Han Xiaowei, Berlan Ioana, Burca Ioana-Mihaela).



Lishui Lab: Envisioning New Relations between Urban and Rural Areas

DESIGN UNITS AND MASTER THESIS LABORATORY

Master of Science: Architecture Construction City at Politecnico di Torino and Co-Run Program with South China University of Technology

AY: 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

PROSPEROUS LISHUI: ENVISIONING NEW RELATIONS BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA
PROFESSORS
Michele Bonino and Alberto Bologna - architecture
Angelo Sampieri - urban planning and design
Bianca Maria Rinaldi - landscape design
Florence Graezer Bideau (EPFL) - sociology

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
Maria Paola Repellino and Lidia Preti - architecture
Leonardo Ramondetti and Agostino Strina - urban planning and design
Manuela Ronci - landscape design

PROSPEROUS LISHUI: LIVING THE INFRASTRUCTURE
PROFESSORS
Mauro Berta - architecture
Edoardo Bruno - architecture

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Ottavia Valz Gris - architecture

PROSPEROUS LISHUI: LISHUI LIVING LAB
SUPERVISORS
Michele Bonino and Mauro Berta - architecture
Angelo Sampieri - urban planning and design

COORDINATORS
Edoardo Bruno and Camilla Forina - architecture
Leonardo Ramondetti - urban planning and design
Astrid Safina - urban geography

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
Matteo Migliaccio and Lidia Preti - architecture
Agostino Strina - urban planning and design

Drawing upon the work conducted for the competition *Future Shan-Shui City: Dwellings in the Lishui Mountains*, the research has been continued in classes and workshops held in the academic years of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 within the MS Architecture Construction City at Politecnico di Torino and the MS Co-Run at South China University of Technology (SCUT). This entailed three main activities: the courses *Prosperous Lishui: Envisioning new relations between urban and rural areas in contemporary China* and *Prosperous Lishui: Living the infrastructure*, as well as the master theses laboratory *Lishui Living Lab*. These activities allowed the occasion to explore opportunities, test limits, and envision alternatives to the project Prosperous Lishui. Based on the design strategy drafted for the competition, students were asked to develop new scenarios by proposing novel landscape organization and architecture.

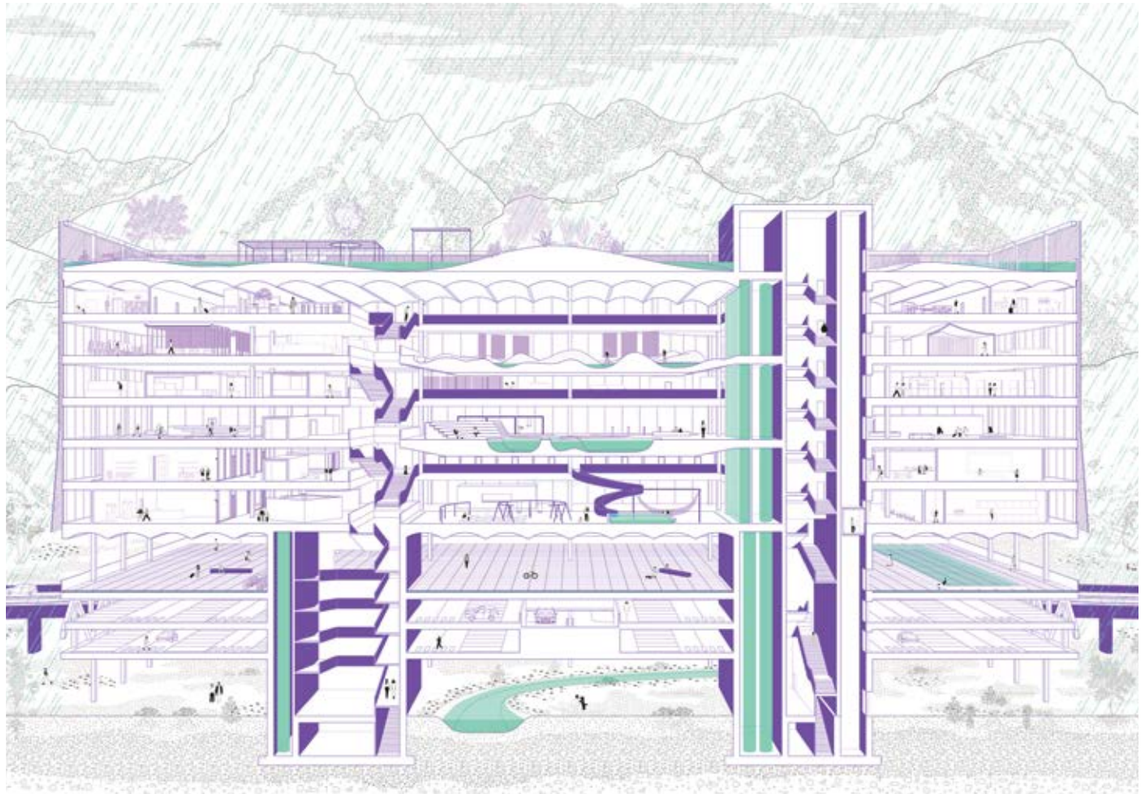
The course *Prosperous Lishui: Envisioning new relations between urban and rural areas in contemporary China*, within the MS Architecture Construction City at Politecnico di Torino, has delved into the themes identified in the competition. It has developed in the proposal *Prosperous Lishui*, through the indication of ten areas of 2x2 kilometres inside the agricultural plain, where students have been encouraged to develop an urban and architectural project. Parallely, the course *Prosperous Lishui: Living the infrastructure* within the MS Co-Run at SCUT focused on the

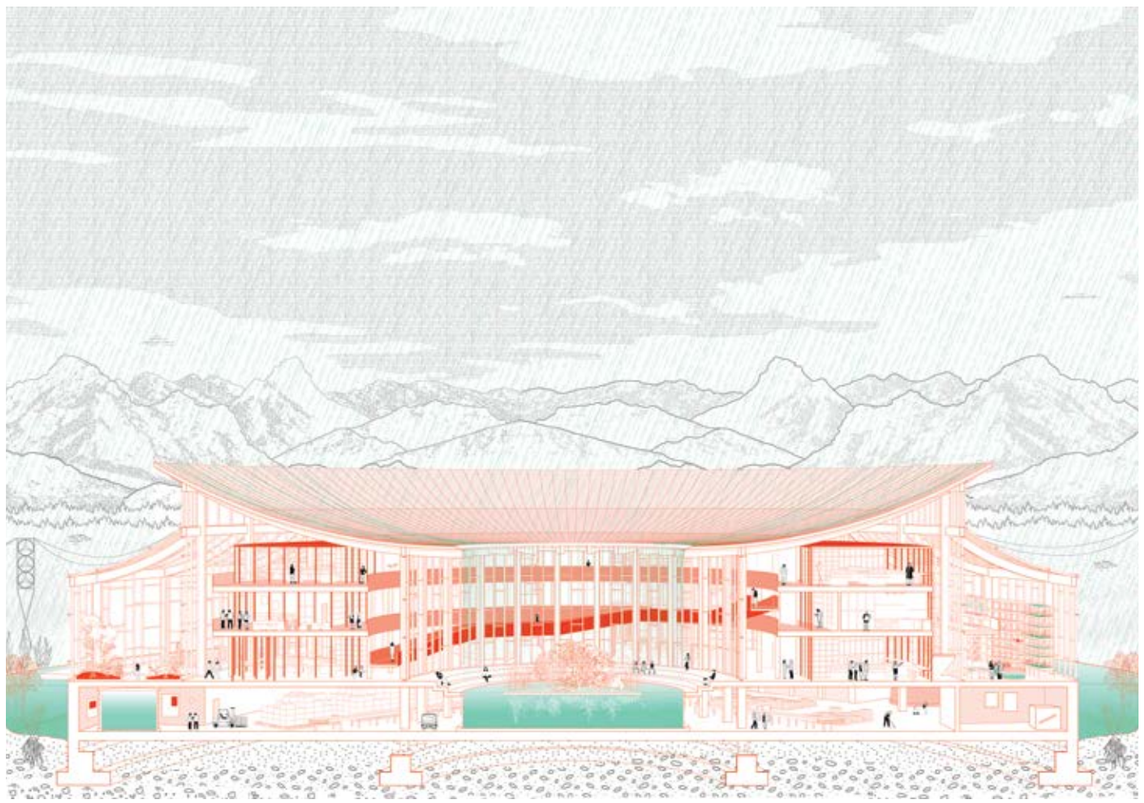
creation of an ecological corridor along the Ou River while developing the existing systems of rapid mobility. These two courses took place parallelly and included shared lectures along with moments of exchange and discussion culminating in the final reviews. These experiences were followed by the master theses laboratory *Lishui Living Lab*, involving 11 students, several working towards a double degree in coordination with extra-European institutes. The complex of these initiatives has made it possible to discuss the various themes identified in the Prosperous Lishui project, providing different interpretations, and pointing to new architecture and urban themes.



Fig. 1 | The Agricultural Hub (credit: Irena Shehu, Wenwu Wang and Jingyan Zhou).

Previous pages:
Cover | Farming an Online Word (credit: Jingzhe Dong and Chen Yang).





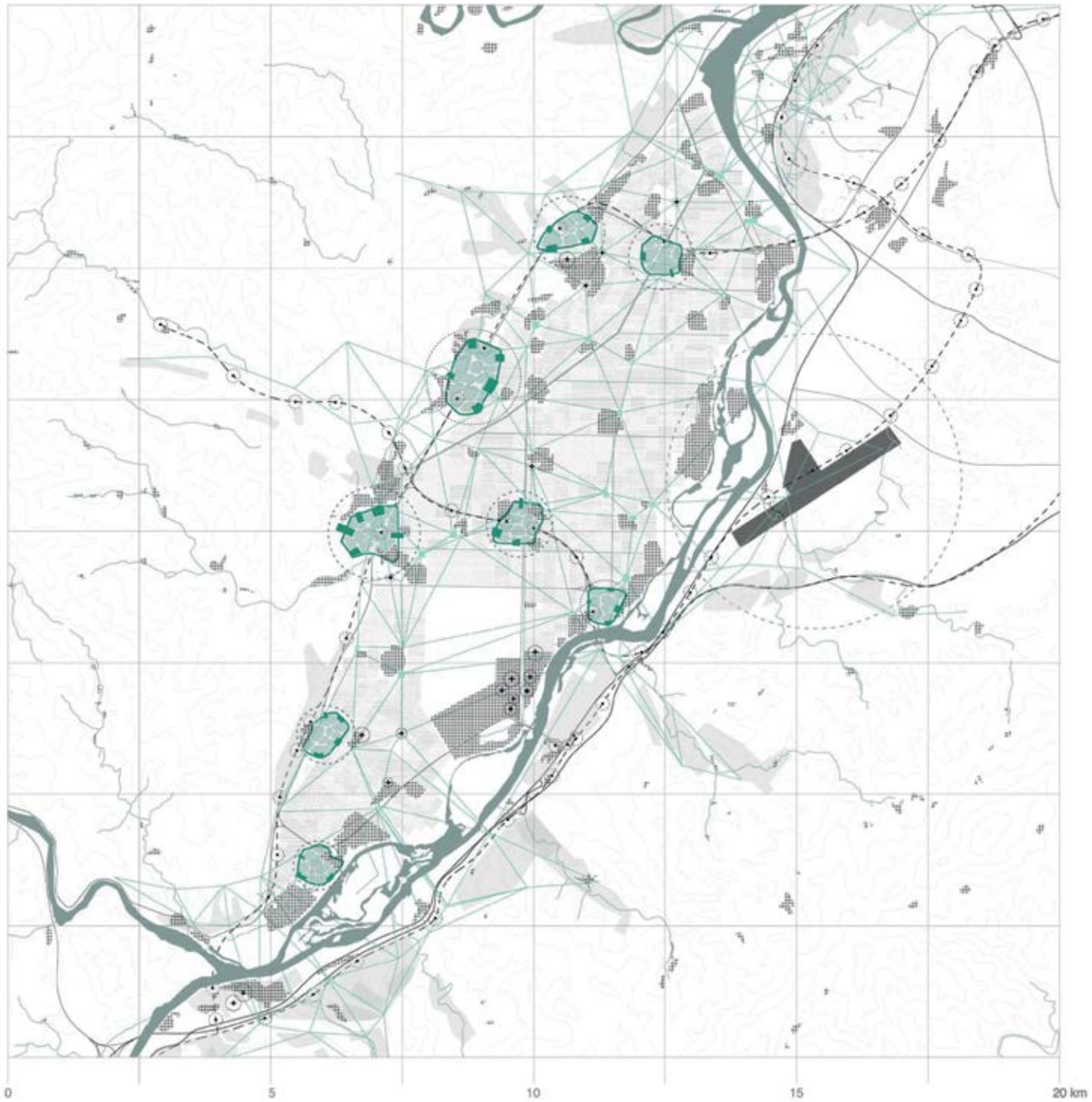
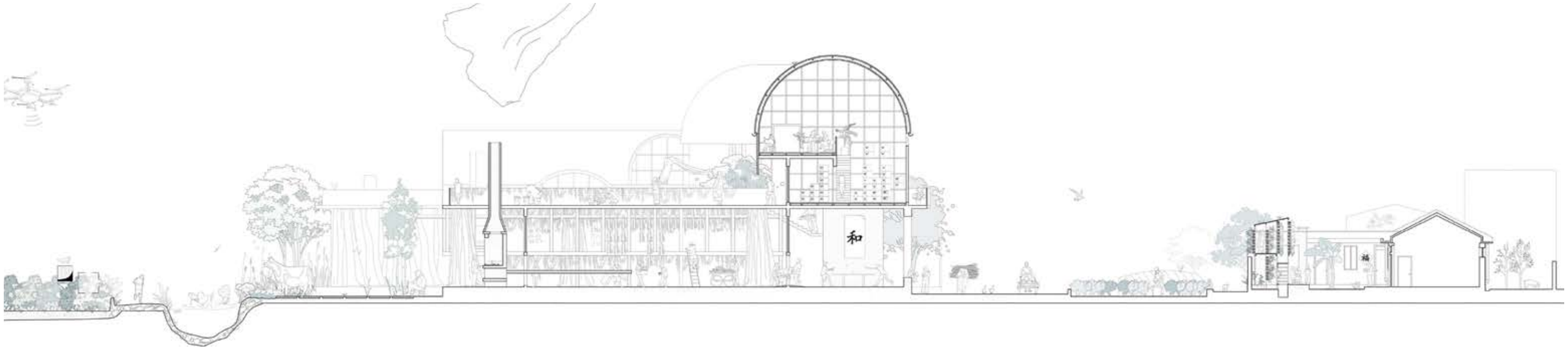


Fig. 2-3 | Collecting Every Single Drop (credit: Chiara Di Presa and Francesca Merico).
Fig. 4 | Weak and Diffuse Facilities (credit: Chiara Lasorsa, Alessandra Murgia, Aqsa Mushtaq and Igli Shehi).

Next pages:
Fig. 5-6-7 | Farming an Online Word (credit: Jingzhe Dong and Chen Yang).



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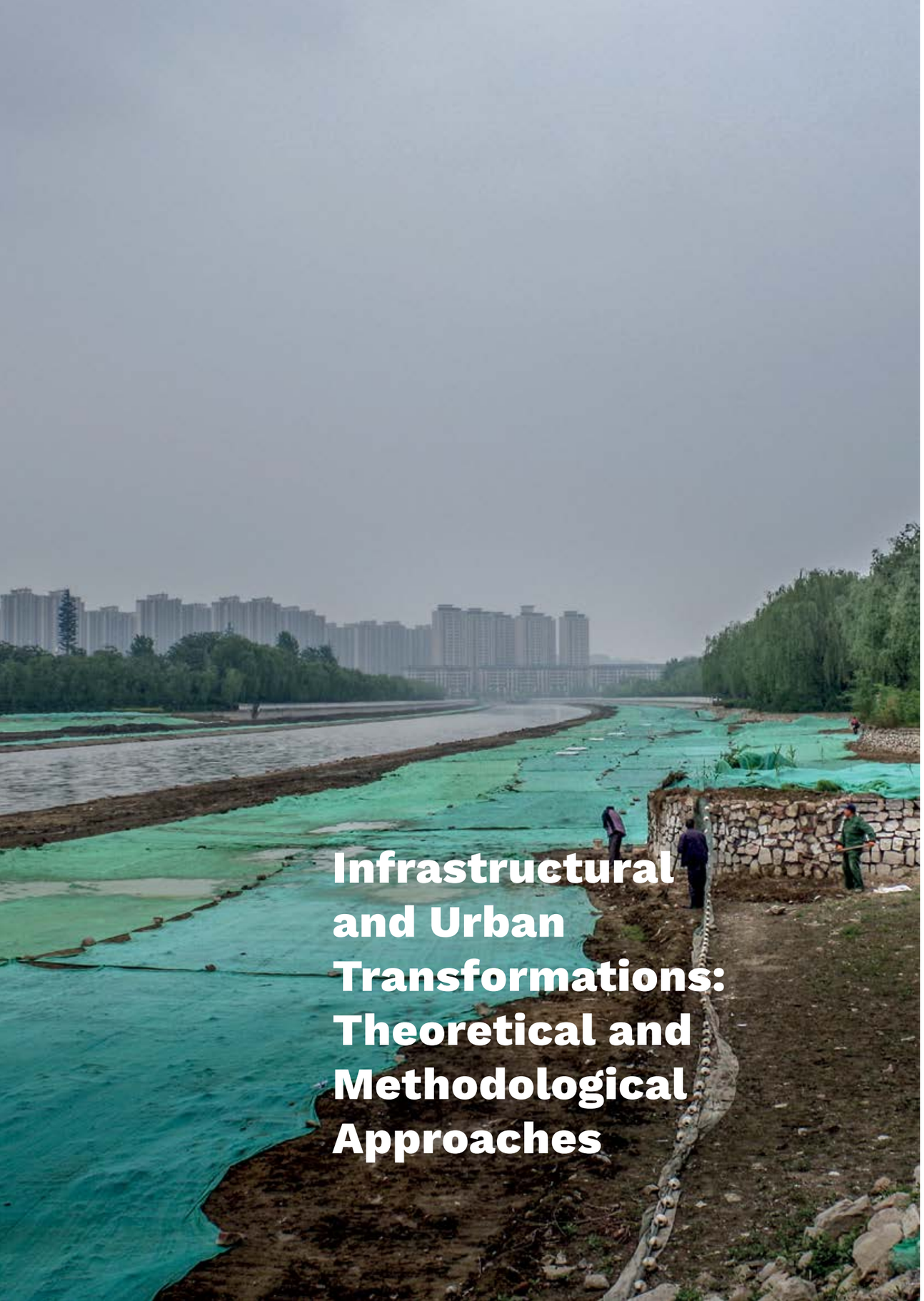


Infrastructural and Urban Transformations: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches

DOCTORAL COURSE

Doctoral Programme: Urban and Regional Development

AY: 2023-2024

Grant: Visiting Professor Scholarship from the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning

ORGANIZERS
Leonardo Ramondetti, Daniel Florentin (École des Mines de Paris)

GUEST LECTURERS
Olivier Coutard (Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés), Andrea Pollio

A number of scholars within the social sciences have remarked that we are in the midst of both an infrastructural moment, with massive symbolic and financial investment in, especially, energy, digital and transport infrastructures, and an infrastructural turn, with a growing and increasingly diverse use of the notion in various research areas. Indeed, infrastructures have been at the forefront of major, and interrelated transformations for several decades, from the intensification of global environmental changes (such as climate change) and responses to these changes to the ongoing, multifaceted digital transition, through accelerated processes of urbanization, and increased economic and metabolic globalization. This context has fuelled a renewed interest in infrastructures in public and academic debates.

This doctoral course reflects and builds on this context: it first offers the Ph.D Candidates an overview on the current debate in infrastructure studies, and discuss some of the methods adopted by scholars to investigate and problematize infrastructure development.

Cover | Xiong'er River, Zhengdong New District, 2019 (credit: Leonardo Ramondetti).



Unboxing Chinese Architectural Practice



DOCTORAL COURSE

Doctoral Programme: Architecture. History and Project

AY: 2021-2022

Grant: Visiting Professor Scholarship from the Department of Architecture and Design

ORGANIZER
Michele Bonino

GUEST LECTURER
Gong Dong (Vector Architects)



The close and fruitful academic collaboration between Gong Dong and the School of Architecture of Politecnico di Torino started in early 2018, followed by his visiting professorship at the School of Architecture during the academic year 2021-2022. During his professorship at Politecnico di Torino, the doctoral course organized for the fall semester explored themes ranging from the connection with local traditions and spaces to professional practices. The Ph.D. seminar series, called ‘My Observation and Practice’, was articulated in three seminars that compared traditional Chinese architectural locations with recent projects by the Beijing-based office Vector Architects. Additionally, two dialogue seminars featured Gong Dong in conversation with significant figures from the Chinese contemporary architectural scene: Jie Zhang, professor from Tsinghua University and also the Dean of School of Architecture and Urban Planning at Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, and Jiakun Liu, founder and principal architect of Jiakun Architects. Moreover, the doctoral course included a discussion seminar on ongoing Ph.D. research covering different topics.

The Ph.D. seminar was articulated in three lectures engaging each time external discussant to create a dialogue around the discussed topics together with the Ph.D. candidates participating in the seminars. The lectures focused on three distinct historically significant spatial locations: Wuxi Huishan

The doctoral course Unboxing Chinese Architectural Practice (A.Y. 2021-2022), was part of the course catalogue of the Doctorate Research program in Architecture. History and Project of Politecnico di Torino. The course intended to delve into various aspects of architectural practice in China through the perspective of one of the key protagonists of the architectural scene in contemporary China: Gong Dong, founder / design principal of Vector Architects, and he was elected as the Foreign Member of French Academy of Architecture in 2019.

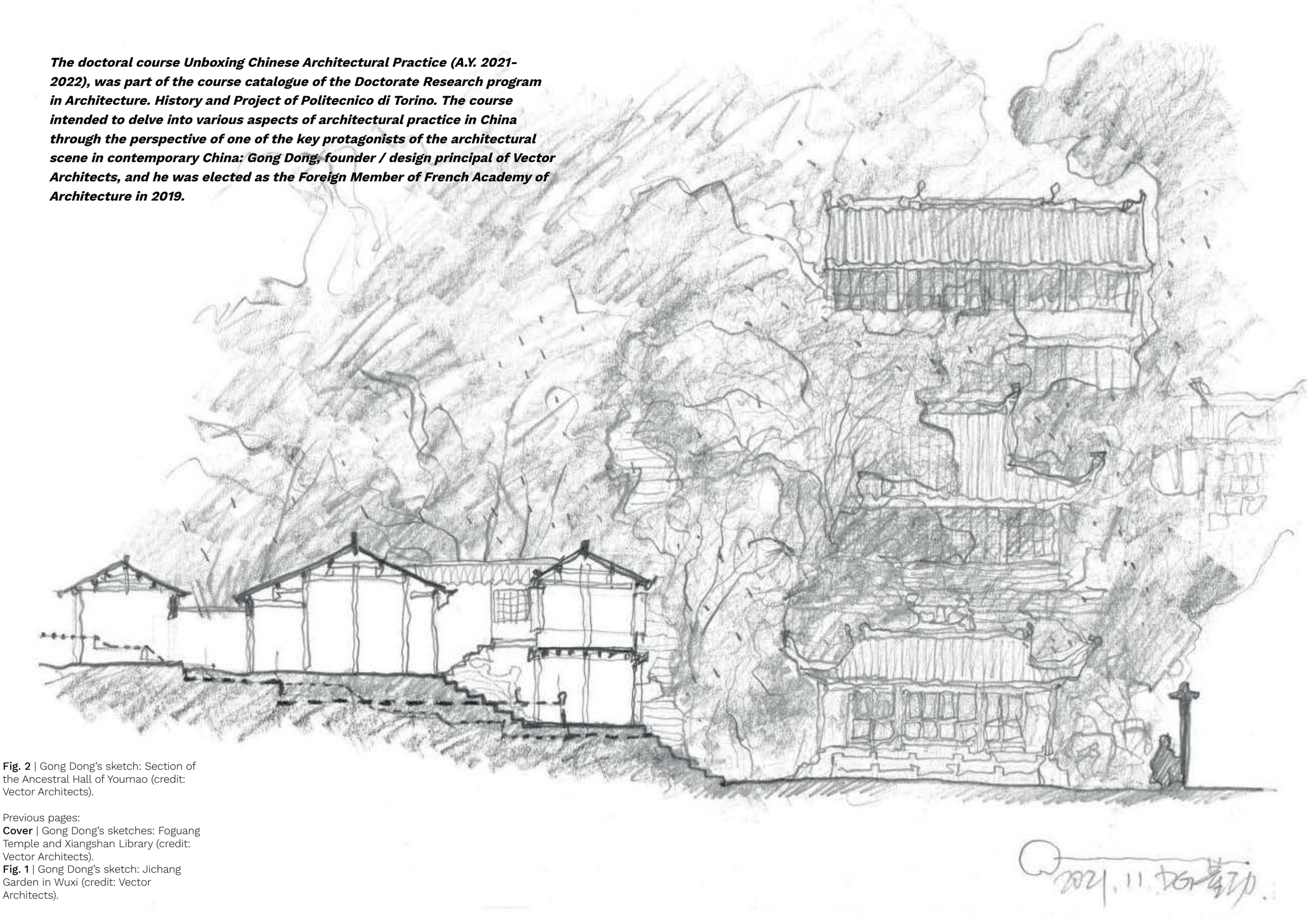


Fig. 2 | Gong Dong's sketch: Section of the Ancestral Hall of Youmao (credit: Vector Architects).

Previous pages:
Cover | Gong Dong's sketches: Foguang Temple and Xiangshan Library (credit: Vector Architects).
Fig. 1 | Gong Dong's sketch: Jichang Garden in Wuxi (credit: Vector Architects).

Ancient Town (situated at the foothills of the Xihui Mountains in Wuxi, adjacent to the Grand Canal), Chengdu Dujiangyan (ancient hydraulic engineering marvel), and Mount Wutai Foguang Temple(also called Buddha Light Temple), carved into the side of the mountain. The description of these places was supported by reflections from on-site visits and a deep understanding of the area conveyed to the students through the sharing of numerous images, videos, and hand-drawn sketches.

Reflecting on architectural projects situated in areas distant from fast-growing cities and urban centers has emerged as an extremely relevant topic in contemporary China. In this perspective, the doctoral course and the numerous discussions that emerged, have been a fruitful opportunity for the Ph.D. candidates to reflect upon spaces through the lens of an architect. Some of the key topics addressed during the Ph.D. course were also explored in the design unit of the spring semester titled “Projects for Suburban China: ChengXiang Old Town, Chengdu.” This unit was jointly led by Professor Michele Bonino, Professor Angelo Sampieri, and Gong Dong. The focus of the design unit addressed real design problems at different scales, ranging from large-scale urban spaces to specific architectural interventions. For an architect, it is crucial to eventually achieve a balance between two parallel trajectories – rational, scientific, and strategic thinking on one hand, and emotional, atmospheric, and placemaking thinking on the other. Hence we encouraged them to present integrated, comprehensive, and coherent thinking at both the design and logical levels.

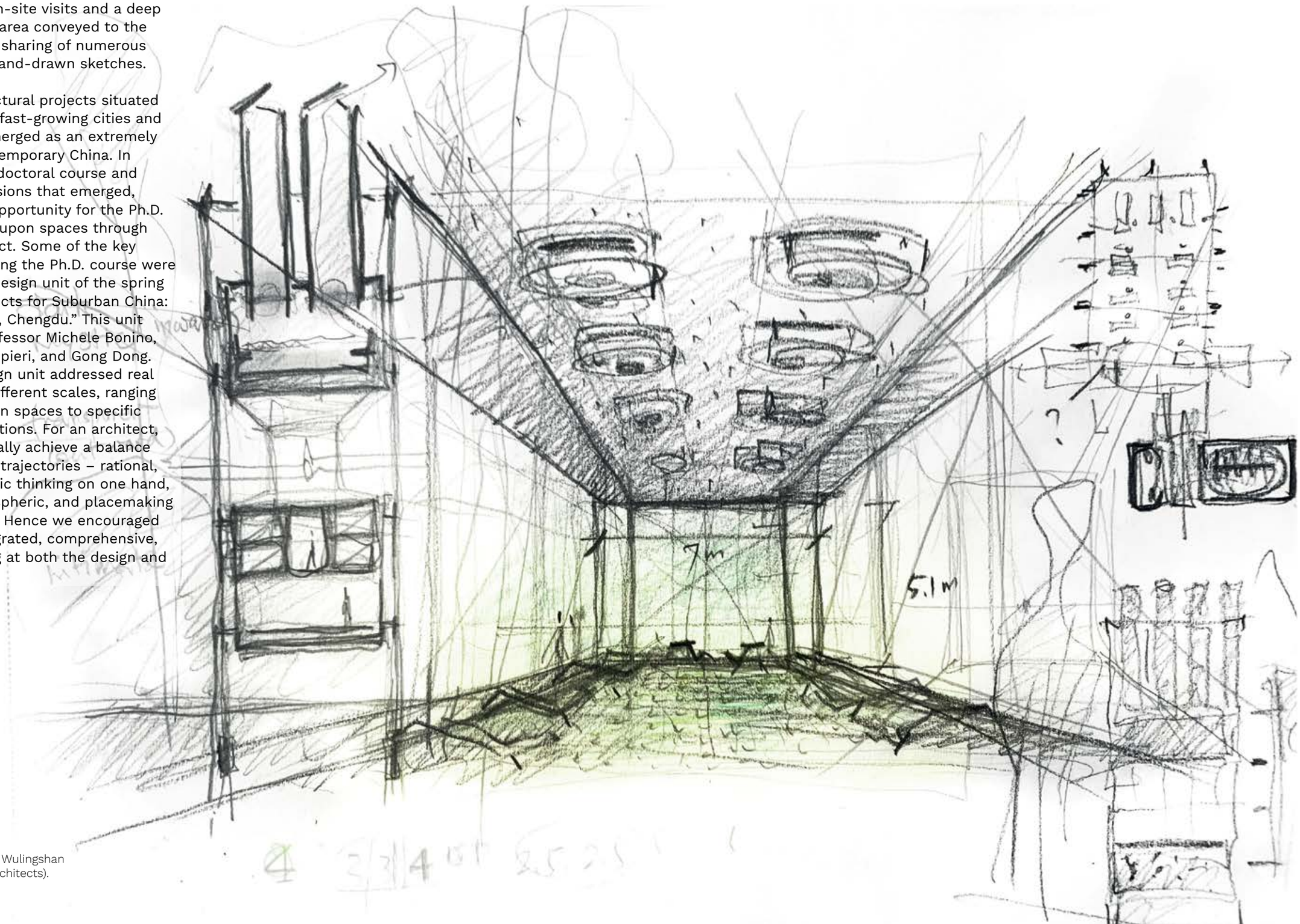
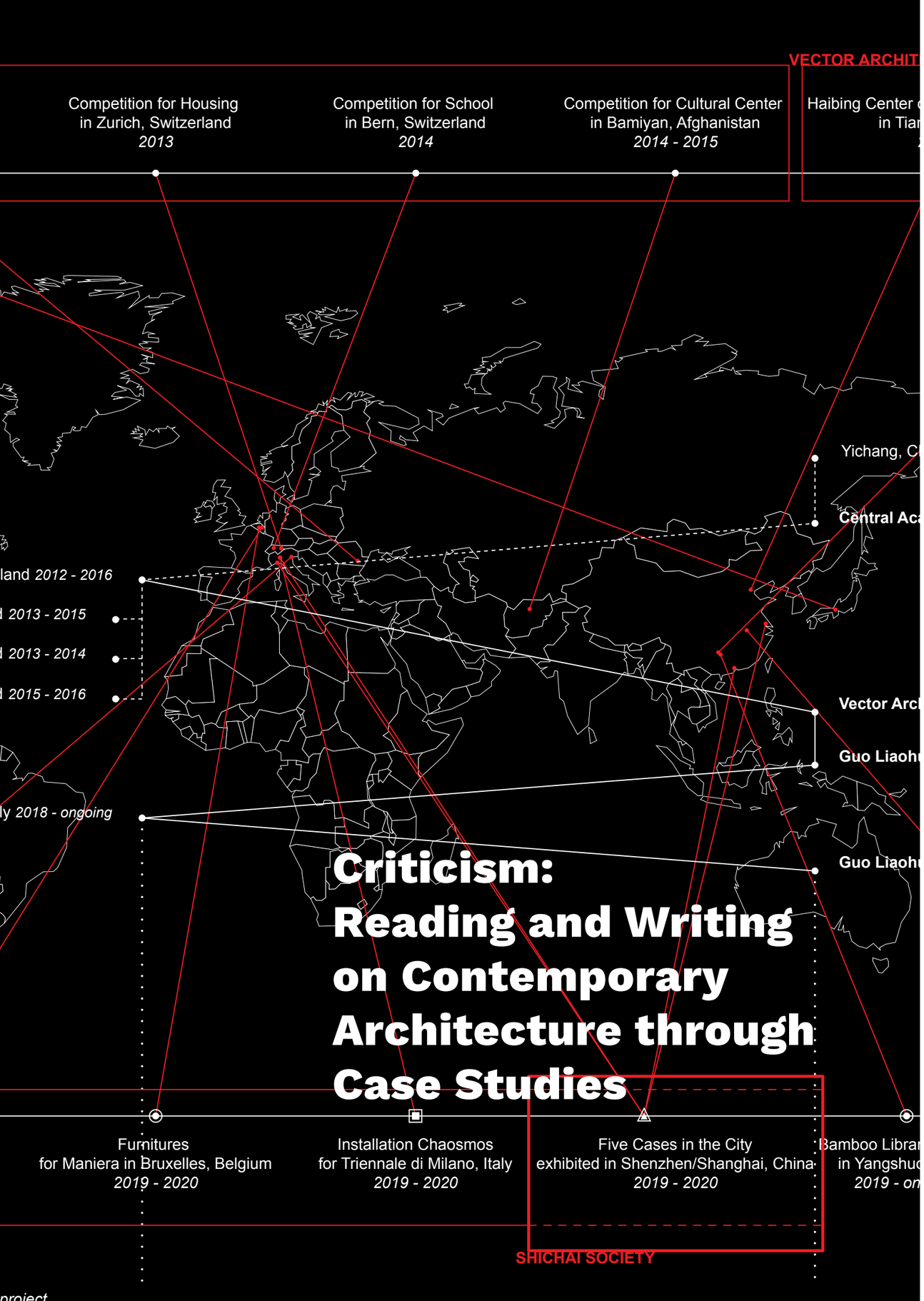


Fig. 3 | Gong Dong’s sketch: Wulingshan Bathhouse (credit: Vector Architects).



DOCTORAL COURSE

Doctoral Programme: Architecture. History and Project

AY: 2020-2021

Grant: Visiting Professor Scholarship from the Department of Architecture and Design

ORGANIZERS
Michele Bonino, Xu Haohao (South China University of Technology)

GUEST LECTURERS
Wang Fangji (Temp Architects), Liaohui Guo (Francesca Torzo Architetto), Jianxiang He (O-Office), Doreen Heng Liu (Node Architecture & Urbanism), Xinggang Li (China Architecture Design & Research), Kenan Liu (Atelier XUK), Yizhi Xiao (Atelier Y), Bin Zhang (Atelier Z+)

The doctoral course emphasized criticism as a pivotal method for reading and understanding architecture. It attracts the attention of the relation between theory and design, by introducing work of theoretic writing where an abstract thinking recreates analogously the process of design. The approaches of criticism firstly regards a theoretical reference and a verification of its projection to the design. Secondly it evokes an anthropological research on architects, their experiences and apprehensions, operations and actions. And a third approach is to demonstrate the ideas of the architects as well as the mechanic process of design. The keypoint of the course was to put attention to the basic topics of architectural design, through keywords, encouraging the comparative reading of different texts for mapping authors' ideas relating individual expansions and explanations. Such an approach was not intend to find a direct connection between Chinese and European criticisms, rather a re-critic to launch a solid valuable analogy.

Throughout the course, students were tasked with complementing lectures by conducting further interviews and engaging in discussions with the architects, hence delving deeper into the content through case studies, text analysis, and explorative mappings.

Cover | Map retracing architect Liaohui Guo professional experience (credit: Camilla Forina, Xian Lu and Lidia Preti - China Room).

04 // Exhibitions

148 Design Assemblies at Singapore Design Week

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Design Assemblies at Singapore Design Week

INSTALLATION

Period: September, 22nd-25th, 2022

Venue: Stamford Arts Center, Singapore

Developed for: Singapore Design Week

In collaboration with: Calibro Zero Design Office

Grants: Club Asia, ID Integrated, Bonucchi e Associati, and under the patronage of the Embassy of Italy in Singapore

Research Project: Piemonte Home Design. Housing and Domestic Spaces in Contemporary China

CURATORIAL TEAM
Francesco Carota – University of Kansas
Francesca Frassoldati

EXHIBITION DESIGN
Calibro Zero Srl.

DESIGN TEAM
Beatrice Armano, Margerita Iperique, Davide Martignetti

EXHIBITION PRODUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION
ID Integrated Co. Ltd.

PRESS OFFICE
COCO PR Agency

MAIN SPONSOR AND PROMOTER
Camera di Commercio di Torino

PARTNERS
Italian Embassy in Singapore, Club Asia, Bonucchi e Associati

Cover | The flexible space, a collage of the kitchen of the plug-in house model conceived for the Piemonte Home Design project, showcased at Singapore design Week 2023 (credit: Francesca La Monaca, Wang Chenhao - China Room).

“Design Assemblies” was conceived as a platform to re-establish the connection between interior designers, furnishing manufacturers, and the concept of domestic space. The Piemonte Home Design initiative, supported by the Polytechnic of Turin and the Turin Chamber of Commerce, is where it all began. Its goal is to bring together the numerous small and medium-sized businesses that make standalone items or component parts for homes. In spite of their ability to innovate, advance industrial competency, and have commercial significance, these goods and their creators are sometimes overlooked in the absence of the “infrastructure” of design that would enable their assembly and acknowledgment. The “Plug-in House” arrangement of the “Design Assemblies” exhibition celebrates their design prowess and production history. The “Plug-in House” develops as a system of multifunctional partitions that makes it simple to rearrange living areas to suit changing demands and circumstances without having to make changes to permanent structures.

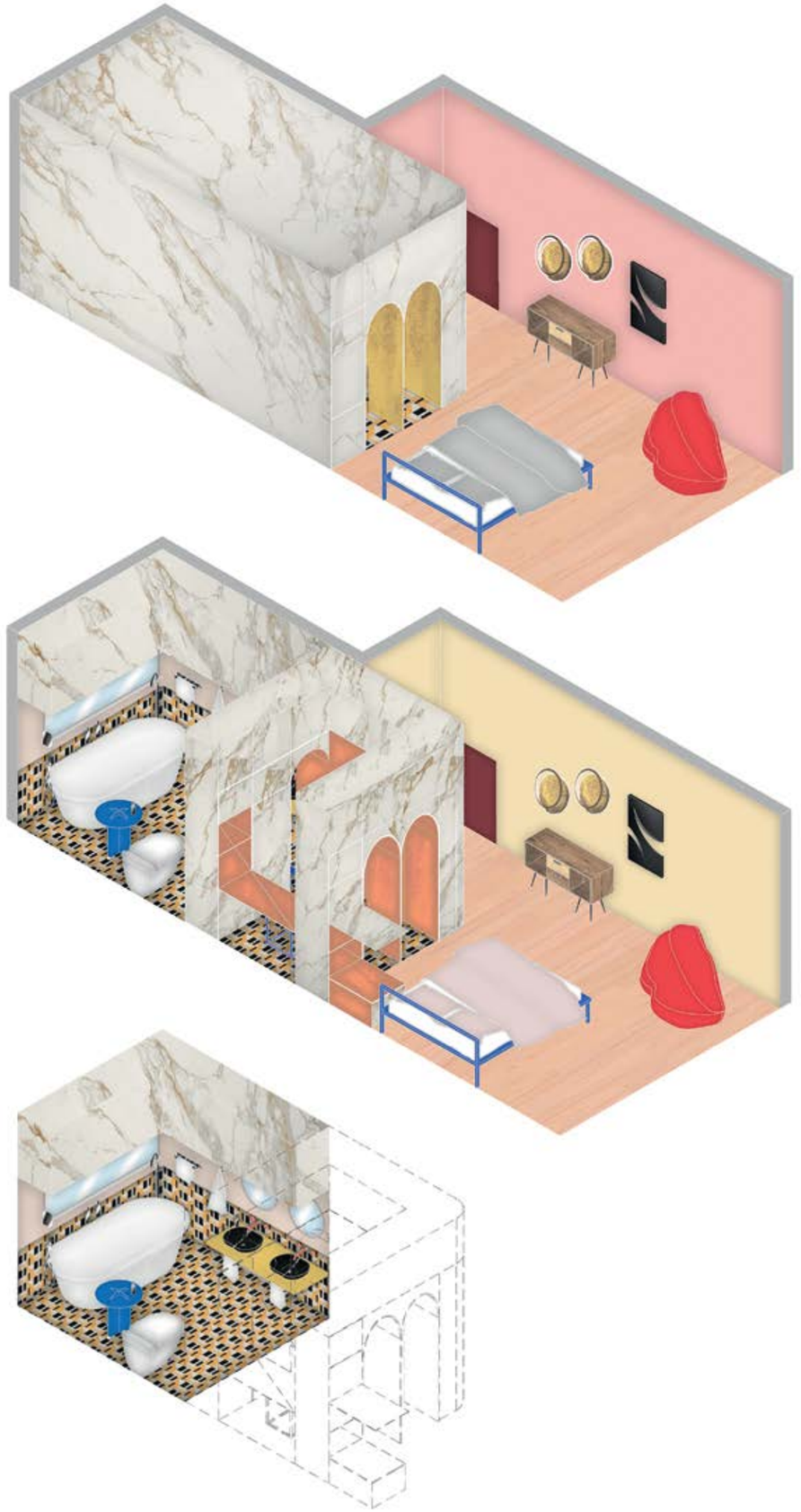
The “Plug-in House” develops as a modular solution that, in addition to redefining domestic space conventions, enables a throughout investigation of the varied uses of living spaces that are typically conceived for a single designated function at a time, such as the kitchen for food preparation, wardrobes for storing and hiding extra-items, and the bathroom for personal

hygene purposes only. The “Plug-in House” was developed in partnership with a design firm that is significant to China’s real estate housing market. It addresses the needs for interior spaces to be more flexible in order to accommodate residents’ needs while adhering to the traditional collective housing models that currently define the majority of the largest cities in Asia.
The “Design Assemblies” exhibition served as a meeting point of over thirty companies from the Turin region and the “made with care” narrative that defines Italian architecture and product design, with the growing focus on home design that is meant to last and support homeowners through various stages of their lives. Unlike conventional masterpieces’ exhibitions and collections, “Design Assemblies” purposefully avoided highlighting well-known designers and brands. Rather, the aim was to present house design as a communal asset that stems from the capacity of making and adapting expertise to new requirements, enhancing modern, handmade, and inventive creations. The group showcased a completely furnished home model that was meant to be a playful space that emphasizes a holistic approach to design in order to maximize the possibilities of every compomnent in constantly eveolving domestic landscapes.

Attendees of Singapore Design Week had the chance to experiment with a variety of forms, colours, and materials that were on hand to help define their moodboard for their ideal home. They explored in the “Design Assemblies” exhibit the historical foundations of the Piedmont furniture industry as well as the cultural and architectural context in which it flourished. Furthermore, meetings with local practitioners during the event enriched the Piemonte Home Design proposal.

Fig. 1 | Piemonte Home Design installation at Singapore Design Week 2023 with ‘Design Assemblies’ exhibition (credit: Camera di Commercio).
Fig. 2 | Detail of an example of a plug-in bedroom designed for the Piemonte Home Design project, exhibited at Singapore Design Week 2023 (credit: Francesca La Monaca, Wang Chenhao - China Room).







GBA Uninterrupted at Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2022

INSTALLATION

Period: October 22, 2022–March 26, 2023

Venue: Jinwei Brewery District, Luohu District, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China

Developed for: Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2022 ‘Urban Cosmologies’

In collaboration with: South China University of Technology / Research Center of Architectural History and Culture and Turin Chamber of Architects

Grants: Innovation Institute of Guangdong Yuehai Land (Li Yonggang, Chen Nianhong, Li Cheng, Li Tingyang, Luo Qin, Xu Yijuan, Yi Panxin, Cheng Zhidi, Lai Yufei)

Research Project: Polito Studio. Architectural Design and Academic Practices

CURATORIAL TEAM

CHIEF CURATORS
Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno

EXECUTIVE CURATOR
Sofia Leoni

DESIGN TEAM
Lu Xian, Matteo Migliaccio

EXIBITORS
2MIX Architetti, Archisbang, Balance Architettura, BDR Bureau, Corbellaro SA Architettura, Gianpiero Moretti Architetto, PAT Architetti Associati, PENNAZIO architects+engineers, Studio Cavaglion - Turin Design Hub

COLLABORATORS
Wu Yingqian, Zhang Xian, Zhou Xinyue

Cover | GBA Uninterrupted installation exhibited in 2022 UABB venue in Shenzhen, 2022 (credit: UABB).

In a time of significant systemic change, the architecture and urban design approach requires adjustments. This imperative is emphasized by the ninth Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture in Shenzhen, held at the Kingsway Brewery in Shenzhen, one of the largest urbanized regions in the world - namely the Pearl River Delta Greater Bay Area. The Biennale curators, Andong Lu, Zigeng Wang and Aric Chen, invited the architectural firms of TDH - Turin Design Hub (2MIX Architetti, Archisbang, Balance Architettura, BDR Bureau, Emanuele and Giovanni Cavaglion, Corbellaro SA Architettura, Gianpiero Moretti, PAT Architetti Associati, Edoardo Pennazio), coordinated by Politecnico di Torino and South China University of Technology, to study the recent urbanization palimpsest stratification of three abandoned industrial sites located in the Greater Bay Area and to develop visions looking ahead to 2050.

The exhibition draws inspiration from the research “Rome interrupted” conducted in 1978 by Piero Sartogo and Costantino Dardi which asks renowned architects to reflect on Rome’s urban decline and proposes a reimagining of the city based on the ancient Nolli Map (1748).
On a similar level, three sites within the GBA—Kingway Brewery, the former Guangzhou Baiyun Airport, and the Sugar Factory in Jiangmen— are selected and arranged into nine squares, each measuring 200x200 meters. Each architecture studio is invited to design

a single “square” with a 25-year temporal perspective, interacting with others to create an interrupted landscape in the form of a continuous perspective section, inspired by traditional shanshui paintings (山水)
The result is the “GBA UNINTERRUPTED” installation, which takes the form of a large backlit lamp with a circumference of 9 meters supported by a vertical wall, positioned in the main pavilion of the Biennale. While the wall recreates an archaeological excavation, proposing a continuous plan of the three sites where different eras overlap in an ecological palimpsest, even showcasing the materiality of the soil, the lamp acts as a tool for interaction with the viewers. Indeed, they can, by rotating it, scroll through the different images created by the architects.

The work invites the Biennale audience to reflect on the spatial and temporal continuity latent in disused industrial spaces, revealing renewed patterns of human settlement, new urban functions, and the relationship between the public and individuals.
If “Rome Interrupted” states that Rome stopped to produce urban quality 2.5 centuries before and asks the participants “what if” in terms of designing the contemporary city by reimagining it based on the ancient Nolli Map (1748), GBA UNINTERRUPTED investigates the potential continuity between the past and future offered by industrial regeneration, within a perspective of 25 years. The exhibition develops how a continuous urban landscape, where tabula rasa is avoided, and the future embeds memories. Similarly an archaeological excavation, GBA UNINTERRUPTED solicits the coexisting of heterogeneous urban layers instead of uncontrolled destruction and promotes large-scale and multi-level connections without forgetting local contingencies.

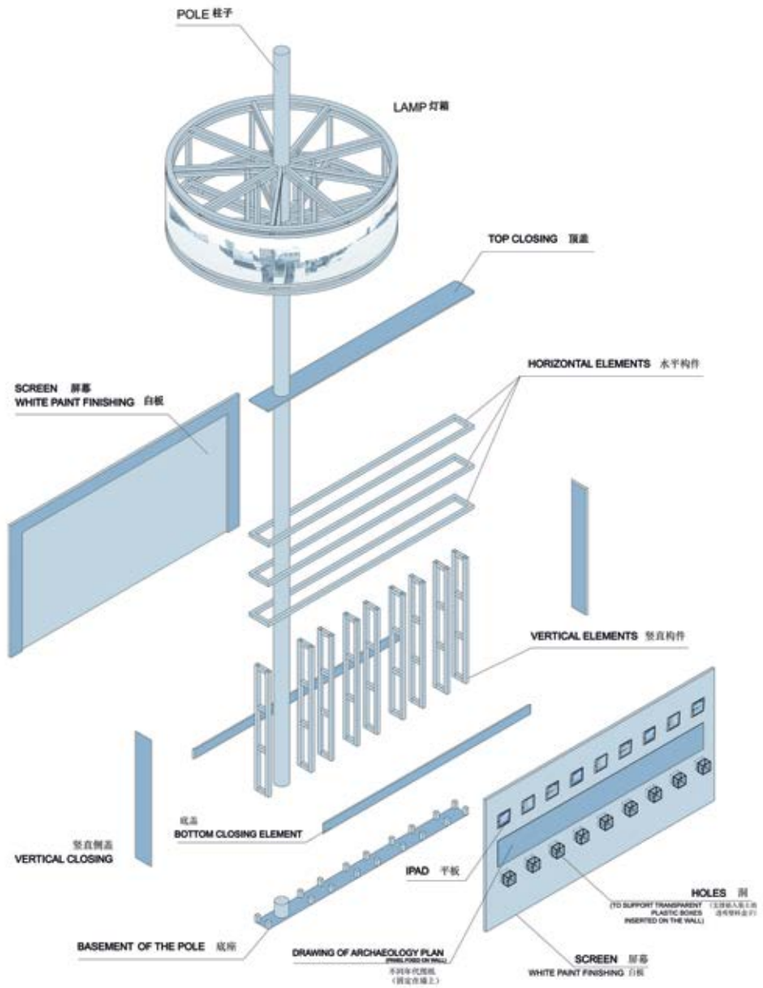


Fig. 1 | Exploded axonometric diagram showing the main elements composing the tectonic of the installation (credit: Sofia Leoni, Wu Yingqian, Zhang Xian, Zhou Xinyue - China Room).
Fig. 2 | GBA Uninterrupted installation, detail of the lamp, 2022 (credit: UABB).
Fig. 3 | Section of the GBA Uninterrupted imagined by the exhibitors (credit: TDH - TURIN DESIGN HUB).

Next pages:
Fig. 4 | GBA Uninterrupted installation, detail of the lamp, 2022 (credit: UABB).







The ninth Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/ Architecture (Shenzhen), which opened its doors in December 2022 and ran until March 2023, presented "Urban Cosmologies" as a concept that incorporates both spatial and temporal interdependence, rooted in traditional Chinese cosmologies. "GBA UNINTERRUPTED" responds critically by proposing a sense of continuity bridging the past and future through industrial regeneration. Inspired by Piero Sartogo's 1978 research, 'Rome Interrupted,' it observes the emergence of renewed landscapes of development, suggesting the soil as both a substance and a palimpsest of different times.



Living courtyard at Biennale di Venezia 2021

INSTALLATION AND ON-SITE SUPERVISION

Period: 2020-2021

Venue: Chinese Pavillion, Giardini della Biennale, Venice, Italy

Developed for: Chinese Pavillion, Biennale di Venezia 2021

In collaboration with: Atelier TeamMinus

CHINESE PAVILLION
CHIEF CURATOR
Zhang Li - TeamMinus

ON-SITE SUPERVISION
Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno, Marta Mancini

COLLABORATORS
Ahmed Mansouri, Ottavia Valz Gris, Xiang Zhang, Ziyue Yu

***SHOUGANG LIVING-COURTAYRD* INSTALLATION**
Michele Bonino, Edoardo Bruno, Camilla Forina, Giorgia Greco, Marta Mancini

Cover | Chinese pavillion in Biennale di Venezia 2021, 2021 (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Prospekt Photograpers).

The 2020 Biennale di Venezia was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, being later postponed to 2021. Within this global framework, the curatorial team for the Chinese Pavilion, led by Prof. Zhang Li, Dean of the School of Architecture – Tsinghua University, did not have the chance to move to Europe to fulfill its construction. Their proposal, "*Yuan-er*, a courtyard-ology: from the mega to the micro", specifically entitled to investigate the socio-spatial role of the courtyard typology at urban and building scale, struggled with its on-site development due to logistics and overseas flight constraints, therefore requiring external support and design supervision.

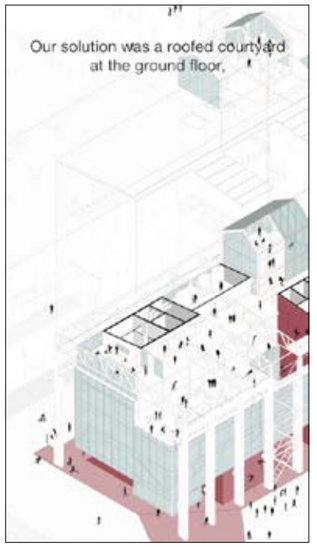
Under these circumstances, in 2021, China Room has been asked to support the curatorial team at local implementation, supervising the construction process at the Arsenale. For this specific task, a dedicated team of researchers, Ph.D. and master students was organized, considering their past experiences in the research of Chinese urbanism, public exhibition management (i.e., Eyes of the City Shenzhen Biennale in 2018-19 and Beijing Design Week 2018), executive design and as-built reporting. Besides this role, the China Room also exhibited an in-depth analysis of its project developed for the Shougang Winter Olympic venue: where the main objective was to investigate how the single building hosted, within its tectonic, spatial arrangements connotated by urban significances, sequences where user interactions are linked to

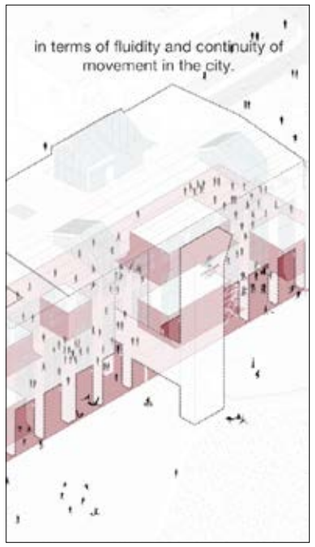
heterogenous courtyards.
The China Room's contribution consisted of three video-narratives related to the main topic of the exhibition, working on the concept of the *courtyard* not only as architectural typology but as a concept of *living* space. The work started from the *courtyards* of Beijing Forbidden City, seeing them as bounded "theaters" of human experiences. Moving to the Italian context, like Turin, *courtyards* are embodied by the historical piazzas: fluid sequences of open-closed visuals, *urban courtyards* for gathering and socializing. Finally, the work focused on the project in Shougang, Beijing, in collaboration with Tsinghua University, showing the challenge: how to open a former industrial factory to a new public function? The solution brought together the idea of a *living courtyard*, a container of human experience, with the *urban courtyard*, in terms of fluidity of movement in the city. The result was a roofed *courtyard* on the ground floor, engaging people in open-air activities and opening up to the community as a *public courtyard*.

The Shougang project, displayed in the Chinese Pavilion at the Biennale di Venezia among relevant Chinese architects and researchers, represented a milestone achievement for China Room. The video narratives joined the many other voices collected in the "Together We Learn" section of the Pavilion, where the concept of the "yuan-er / courtyard" has been explored as a collective force embedded in architectural design. This result ties the institutional relations raised since the China Room's establishment and the connection within the contemporary Chinese architectural debate, where human-centered design development became a methodological and critical point of view. That aspect acquired a more profound significance considering the main title, "How We Will Live Together," selected for Biennale di Venezia 2021. The development of the on-site supervision for the China Pavilion raised unexpected values for the China Room research team, playing the role of operative bridge between China and Italy, conjugating cultural and academic institutions around research topics within an overseas framework.



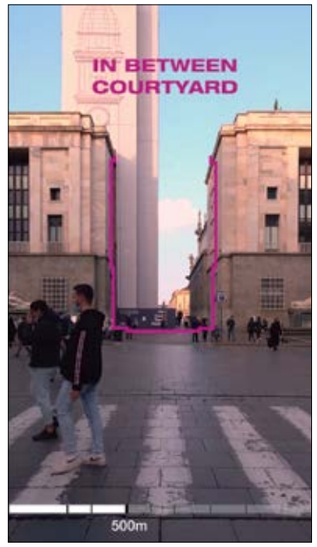






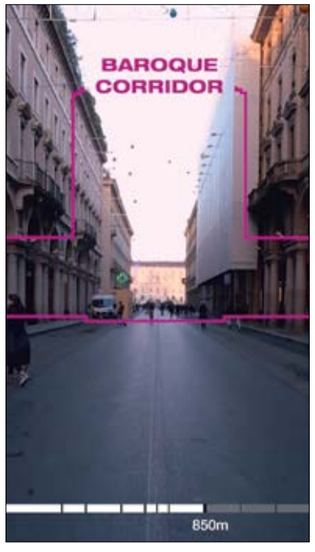












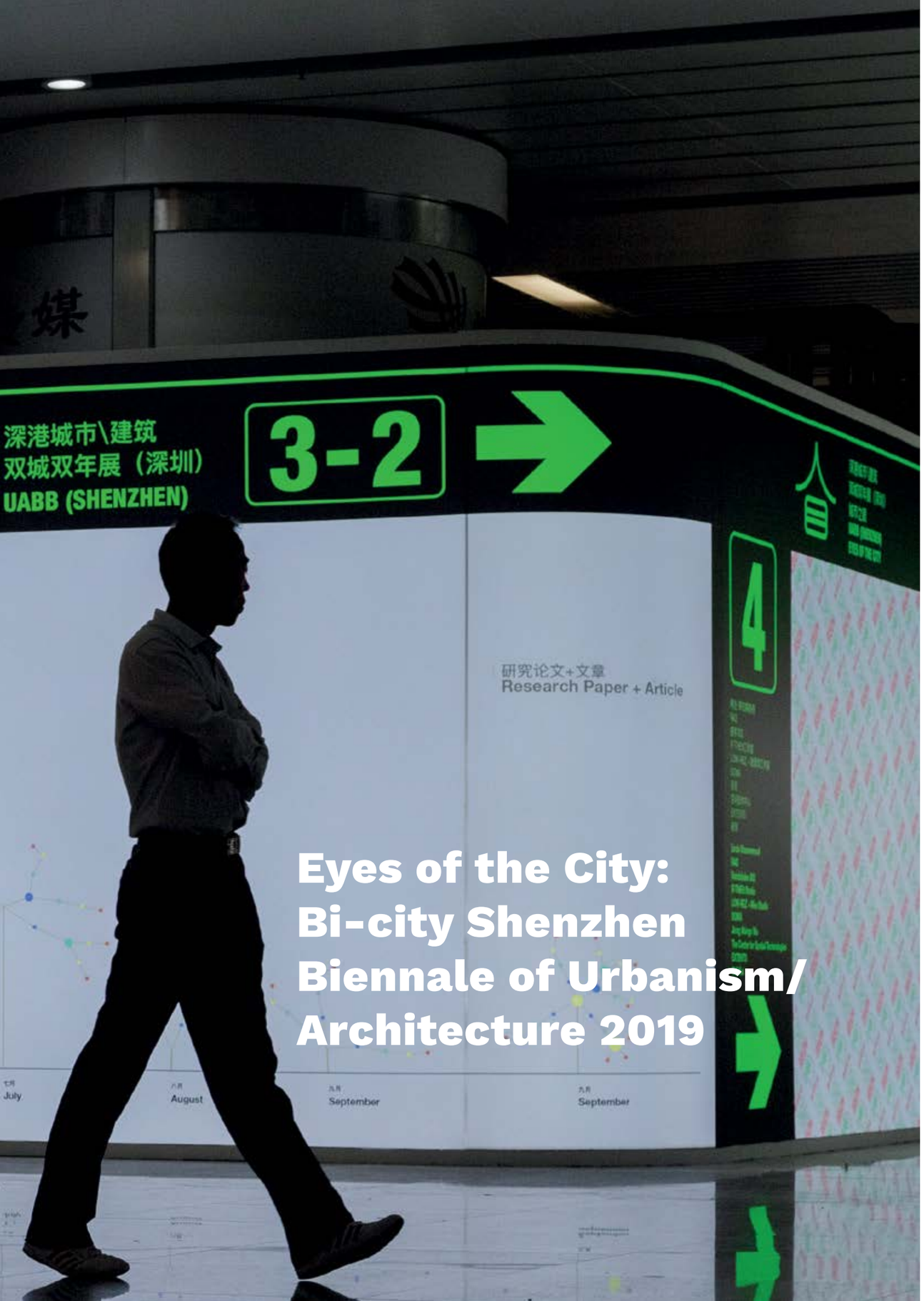




The 2020 Biennale di Venezia has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, being later postponed to 2021. Within this global framework, the curatorial team for the Chinese Pavilion, led by Prof. Zhang Li, Dean of the School of Architecture – Tsinghua University, did not have the chance to move to Europe to fulfill its construction. Their proposal, "Yuan-er, a courtyard-ology: from the mega to the micro", specifically entitled to investigate the socio-spatial role of the courtyard typology at urban and building scale, struggled with its on-site development due to logistics and overseas flight con-straints, therefore requiring external support and design supervision.

Fig 13 | Internal perspective of the RPC Pavilion, with a giant red metal structure that welcome visitors to enter within inner rooms for contents (credit: Samuele Pellecchia - Prospekt Photograpers).

Previous pages:
Fig 1-12 | Screenshots of the Shougang living-courtayrd video narratives exibited in the Chinese Pavillin at Biennale di Venezia 2021 (credit: China Room).



Eyes of the City: Bi-city Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/ Architecture 2019

EXHIBITION

Period: December 21, 2019 – April 18, 2020

Venue: Futian Railway Station, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China

Developed for: Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2019

In collaboration with: Carlo Ratti Associati and South China University of Technology

CURATORIAL TEAM

CHIEF CURATOR
Carlo Ratti

ACADEMIC CURATORS
Michele Bonino
Yimin Sun - SCUT

EXECUTIVE CURATORS
Daniele Belleri - CRA
Edoardo Bruno
Haohao Xu - SCUT

HEAD CURATOR OF EDITORIAL AND EVENTS
Valeria Federighi

HEAD CURATOR OF EXHIBITION AND GRAPHIC DESIGN
Claudia Mainardi - CRA

HEAD CURATOR OF EXHIBITION AND ON-SITE COORDINATION
Monica Naso

ASSISTANT CURATORS
Erika Bettega, Xingxin He - CRA
Camilla Forina, Xian Lu, Jiachen Lin

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

HEAD OF DESIGN
Andrea Cassi - CRA

CREATIVE CONSULTANCY
Italo Rota

DESIGN TEAM
James Schrader, Alberto Benetti, Niccolò Centrone, Rui Guan, Pietro Franceschini, Serena Giardina, Stephanie Lee, Federico Riches, Ina Sefgjini, Chenyu Xu - CRA
Alessandro Servalli

VENUE GRAPHIC DESIGN AND WAYFINDING SYSTEM
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RENDERINGS
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Matteo Migliaccio

INFOGRAPHICS
Paolo Ciuccarelli - Northeastern University's College of Arts, Media and Design

EXECUTIVE DESIGN
Jiang & Associates Design

PRODUCTION & CONSTRUCTION

EXHIBITION PRODUCTION MANAGER
Freddy Curiél - Lapis Bureau

VENUE PROJECT MANAGER
Si Liu

EXHIBITION PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Yunqian Zhang, Yitong Wang, Lan Chang - SCUT

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 - Politecnico di Milano

CURATORS OF SOFTWARE AS INFRASTRUCTURE
Nick Axel, Nikolaus Hirsch - e-FLUX

CURATORS OF TENDER MACHINES
Marina Otero Verzier, Nicholas Korody

PRESS OFFICE
Aurora Percannella - CRA
Elena Foglia Franke - DAD

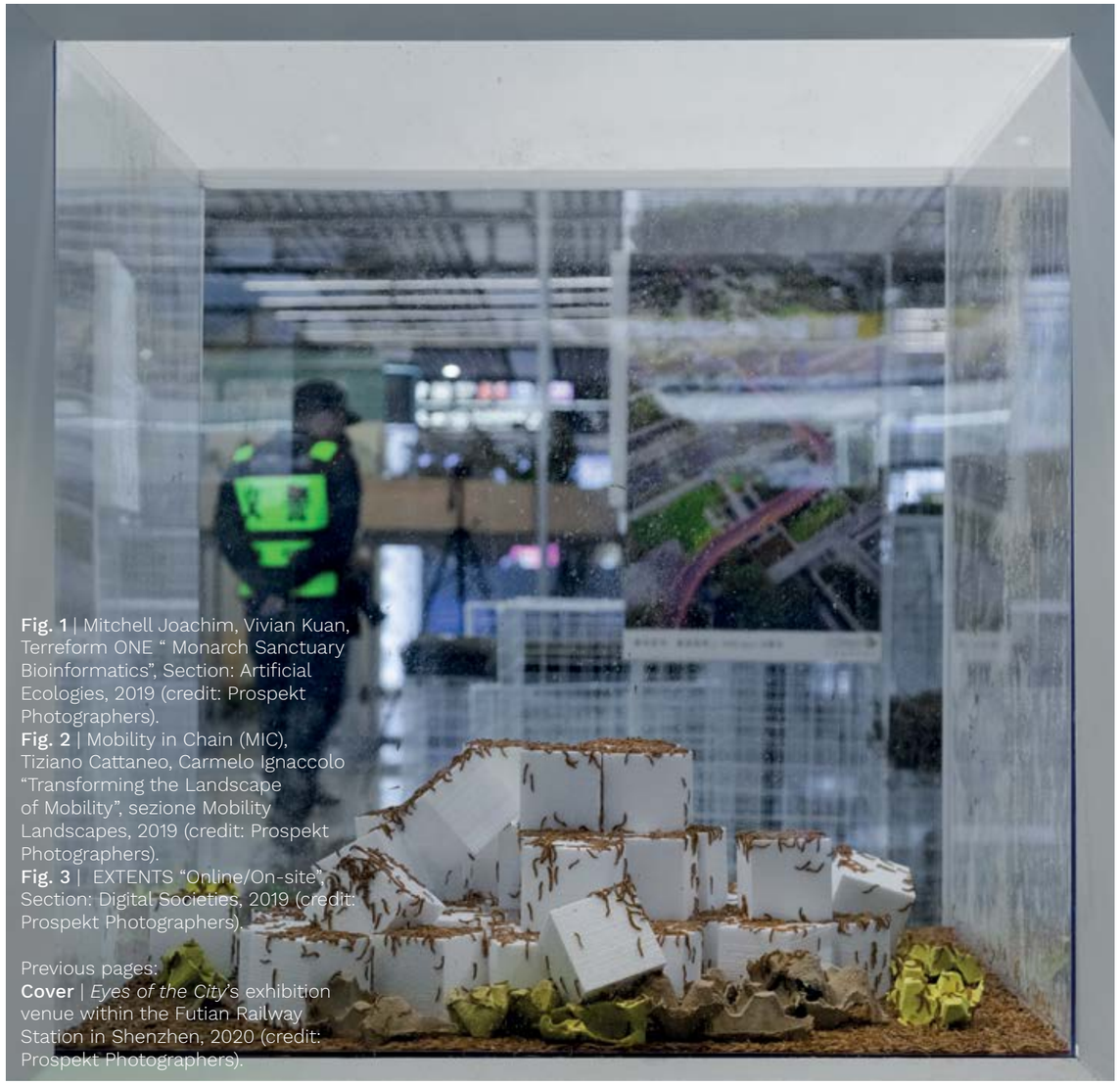

Fig. 1 | Mitchell Joachim, Vivian Kuan, Terreform ONE " Monarch Sanctuary Bioinformatics", Section: Artificial Ecologies, 2019 (credit: Prospekt Photographers).
Fig. 2 | Mobility in Chain (MIC), Tiziano Cattaneo, Carmelo Ignaccolo "Transforming the Landscape of Mobility", sezione Mobility Landscapes, 2019 (credit: Prospekt Photographers).
Fig. 3 | EXTENTS "Online/On-site", Section: Digital Societies, 2019 (credit: Prospekt Photographers).

Previous pages:
Cover | *Eyes of the City*'s exhibition venue within the Futian Railway Station in Shenzhen, 2020 (credit: Prospekt Photographers).

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 at night?".
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 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 aroung 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 shippingm 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.

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?”



Fig. 4 | *Eyes of the City*’s exhibition venue within the Futian Railway Station in Shenzhen with infographics by Paolo Ciuccarelli, 2020 (credit: Prospekt Photographers).

05 // Lecture Series, Conferences and Workshops

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FUTURE PATHS FOR CHINESE CITIES

Lecture series

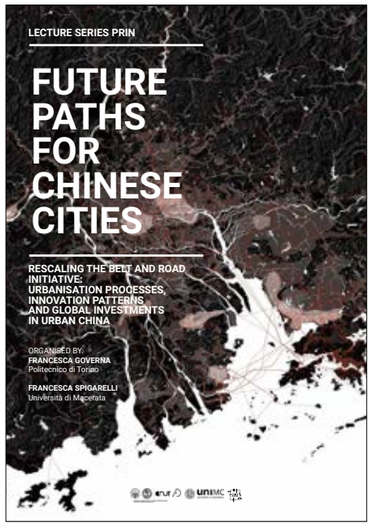
Period: March-April, 2022

Coordinators: Francesca Governa and Francesca Spigarelli

Organizers: Selusi Ambrogio, Francesco Carota, Francesca Frassoldati, Leonardo Ramondetti, Astrid Safina, and Angelo Sampieri

Guest lecturers: Jian Liu - Tsinghua University, Xuefei Ren - Michigan State University, Ping Lv - University of Chinese Academy of Science, Shifu Wang - SCUT

In collaboration with: Università di Macerata



This lecture series is one of the events organized under the framework of the research Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative: Urbanization Processes, Innovation Patterns, and Global Investments carried out by Politecnico di Torino and Università di Macerata. The series of lectures took place during the year 2021, and it was attended by students, PhD candidates, Post-doctoral researchers, and professors from the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) and the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST).

The lecture series included four online seminars and involved several international scholars discussing the main urban trends and transformations occurring in Chinese cities from different fields, such as urban sociology, architecture, urban economics, and urban planning. Prof. Liu Jian (Tsinghua University) and Prof. Ren Xuefei (Michigan State University) discussed Chinese cities' response to Covid-19 and the main challenges posed by the pandemic. Prof. Lv Ping (University of Chinese Academy of Science) introduced how foreign direct investments shape urbanization processes along the Belt and Road Initiative. And finally, Prof. Wang Shifu's (South China University of Technology) seminar addressed the contemporary change in spatial practices based on Chinese experiences.

Two main results emerged from the different seminars. First, was the dynamic scenario Chinese Cities were facing concerning Covid-19 as well as the variety of responses and urban transformations that were taking place at multiple scales and through manifold timelines. Second, the importance of continuous dialogue and international academic exchange in the face of the mobility restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

INFRASTRUCTURES AND CITIES: RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE AND FORMS OF INQUIRY

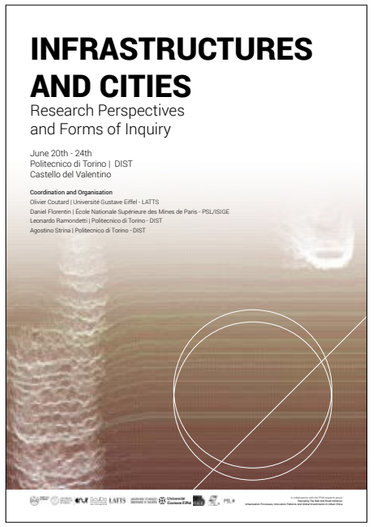
Conference

Period: June, 20-24th, 2022

Organizers: Olivier Coutard, Daniel Florentin, Leonardo Ramondetti, and Agostino Strina

Keynote speakers: Olivier Coutard and Daniel Florentin

In collaboration with: Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés (CNRS + ENPC + UGE), École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris (PSL/ISIGE)



The conference hosted urban planners, architects, geographers, anthropologists, economists, engineers, ethnographers from more than thirty universities worldwide to discuss their ongoing research into the relationships between infrastructures and cities. The theoretical implications emerging from investigations on specific conditions through different methods of inquiry were presented in four parallel sessions, and then discussed in four plenary sessions. Ongoing research from PhD in Urban and Regional Development of the Politecnico di Torino joined the seminar to form a common framework that, without establishing rigid categorisations, aimed to create the basis for discussion on the notion of infrastructure, and its progressive and problematic enlargement of meanings. The outcomes of the seminar also helped to define the hypotheses of the *Handbook on Infrastructures and Cities* edited by Olivier Coutard and Daniel Florentin (Edward Elgar, 2024).

The conference focused on four topics. Firstly, the fall of large technical systems order, and how the debate on infrastructures emphasises the processes associated with the material and ideal departure from large-scale and centrally planned, and managed technical systems providing a homogeneous service. Second, infrastructural metabolism and resources exploitation, particularly investigating what metabolic approaches can bring to the understanding of infrastructural and urban changes, and infrastructural management. Third, infrastructural maintenance, to explore the adjustments and rearrangements through which infrastructures are constantly reconfigured and transformed. Finally, infrastructural citizenship, negotiation, and violence, that is, exploring the societal implications of this fundamental ambivalence of infrastructures.

COMPARATIVE DIALOGUES ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE-LED URBANIZATION OF GLOBAL CHINA

International workshop

Period: September, 21st-23rd, 2022

Organizers: Andrea Pollio and Simone Vegliò

In collaboration with: Malmö University, Sheffield University

This international workshop brought together scholars from several institutions across Europe, joining expertise ranging from urban China to the geographies of infrastructure-led development. It explored the “urbanization” of Chinese investments worldwide by gathering both established and early-career scholars who have been analyzing the topic in different regions of the world. By looking at several locations and projects, the workshop opened a comparative perspective on the multiple ways in which China’s economic and financial expansion is globally enacted, and discussed how researchers think of the methodological strategies that best help the navigation of these complex physical and intellectual geographies.

This workshop critically explores the global implications of Chinese investments within the framework of “Global China.” It scrutinizes how diverse cultural, economic, and political factors influence the urbanization of Chinese infrastructure investments across different regions and historical periods. The discussions delve into questions surrounding the intersection of physical and digital logistics along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the underlying rationalities shared among various infrastructures. Emphasizing research strategies capturing the contingent nature of Silk Road infrastructure and urban geopolitics, the workshop also questions the suitability of the European critical toolkit. It advocates for a broader perspective, incorporating China’s narratives of global modernity and postcolonial viewpoints. The workshop aims to challenge conventional notions of North and South in light of these global flows. Encouraging participants to share expertise on specific regions, the workshop offers diverse insights into the multifaceted unfolding of China’s economic and financial expansion globally, fostering a nuanced understanding of this intricate phenomenon.

The workshop addresses these issues through three broad tracks. Firstly, it investigates the potential of urban corridors as an entry point into the geographies of global China, asking in what way(s) a focus on global infrastructure sheds light on current political-economic transformations. Secondly, it reflects on the methodologies deployed to investigate these issues, discussing positionality and ethics and focusing on the comparative potential of studying China within itself or in its geographical articulation abroad. Thirdly, it tracks the politics and theories connected to the study of Global China from the outside, asking what are the key theories and bodies of work that urban research on Global China might contribute to. Through these critical reflections across three days, the workshop aims at establishing an international research network on global urban infrastructures.

SILK ROAD CITIES AND BEYOND: NEW DIALOGUES ON THE URBAN GEOGRAPHIES OF INFRASTRUCTURE-LED DEVELOPMENT

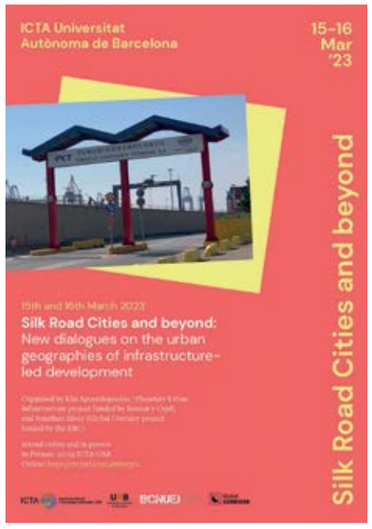
Conference

Period: March, 15-16th, 2023

Organizers: Elia Apostolopoulou, Francesca Governa, Bowen Gu, and Jonathan Silver

Keynote speaker: Seth Schindler

In collaboration with: Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Sheffield University



Based at the Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals (ICTA UAB), this two-day workshop aimed to address critical gaps in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) scholarship, focusing on its underexplored aspects. It explores how the BRI, as a catalyst for infrastructure-led development, is shaping unprecedented global urban landscapes, its profound impact extending to urbanization patterns across cities worldwide. Additionally, the workshop opened up to a decolonial analysis, examining how infrastructure-led urbanization reshapes patterns of urban inequality beyond China’s borders, spanning regions in the South and North. It intervenes by scrutinizing emerging urban forms resulting from infrastructure investments, leveraging the participants’ regional expertise. This intervention contributes to a more nuanced understanding of evolving urban landscapes, establishing a comparative platform rooted in Silk Road Urbanism, fostering sustained dialogue across diverse regions and knowledge traditions. Through a regional focus, this workshop proposes a comparative platform with empirical evidence on Silk Road Urbanism from four continents (Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe). Throughout these sessions, chaired by experts in the field, the program seeks to facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue and enhance our understanding of the intricate interactions between infrastructural developments and urban political ecologies across diverse global contexts. The leading goal of this workshop is to establish a much needed platform to open up new dialogues on the urban geographies of infrastructure-led development. By bringing together scholars that have been actively engaging in this new research frontier, its aim is to build a new, international network that would create a space for critical debate on the theoretical and empirical challenges of conducting research on infrastructure-led urbanisation, supporting long-term collaboration in a variety of forms (e.g., future events, common publishing initiatives, joint applications for research grants).

PRACTICING RESEARCH - RESEARCH IN PRACTICE

Conference

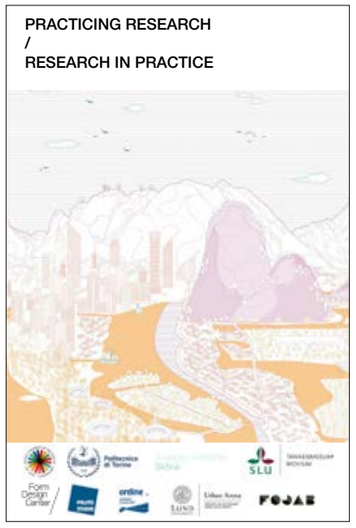
Period: July 3rd, 2023

Organizers: Michele Bonino, Caroline Dahl, Per-Johan Dahl, Valeria Federighi, Agneta Hammer, Peer Jaeger, Andrew Karvonen, Harald Klein, Gianmarco Perrone, and Laura Rizzi

In collaboration with: Turin Chamber of Architects, Lund University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Architects Scania

Keynote speakers: Paola Alfaro-d'Alençon - Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and P. Universidad Catolica de Chile, Liu Jian - Tsinghua University, Joachim Lundquist - FOJAB Architects, Finn Williams - City of Malmö

The event was part of UIA World Congress of Architects Copenhagen 2023



In an increasingly complex world, the design disciplines often remain tied to rigid modes of practice. Among these is the growing weakness of the collaboration between professional and research environments, which instead scholars indicate as a potential ground for innovation due to their complementary nature and the different types of expertise they nurture. How could we reframe and rethink architectural design to strengthen the relationship between research and practice? How could this interaction innovate the practice and the architecture discipline from a global perspective? How can such collaborative experiments enhance the quality, resilience and equality of the places we inhabit?
Framing design as a place for collaboration, where competences can be shared, mixed and innovated, the Practicing research / Research in practice event featured a roundtable in which five experimental practices discussed possible futures for the discipline, in between institutions, universities, and practitioners.

For the China Room, this event was part of a wider struggle to understand the possibility for contaminating practice and research, as carried out within the project Polito Studio. Through a direct confrontation with similar experimental practices around the world, topics as diverse as day-to-day feasibility and large-scale sustainability were touched upon: when looked at through a pragmatic lens, values appear as continuously constructed and negotiated through an incessant chain of actions and exchanges. It is from this perspective that the discussion tried to test the possibilities: not what should be done, but rather what is being done and what can be done by setting things in motion, here and now.

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Francesca GOVERNA - Director



Francesca Governa, PhD, Urban Geographer and Professor of Economic and Political Geography at the Interateneo Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning - DIST, Politecnico di Torino, is the director of the China Room. She is engaged in national and international research activities on four main topics: local development processes and policies; global infrastructure and urbanization processes; urban China and urbanisation processes in the Global South. She has authored about 200 scientific publications and she is the Principal Investigator of various research program at national and international levels. She has carried out field research in European, North African and Chinese cities.

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Camilla FORINA - Coordinator of the Design Activities



Camilla Forina, B.Arch at Roma Tre University and M.Arch with honours at Politecnico di Torino, is research assistant at Politecnico di Torino, and Ph.D. candidate at Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University (Beijing) in the double Ph.D. programme “Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World”. Since 2023 she is also coordinator of the research activities of the China Room research group. Her research is part of the Polito Studio framework, aiming to explore the opportunities and potentialities of a community of practice that mediates between academia and the profession specifically investigating the effectiveness of design projects as research activities. 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 exhibtiion “Eyes of the City”.

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Leonardo RAMONDETTI - Coordinator of the Research Activities



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 focus on the processes of infrastructure-led urbanisation. 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).

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Mauro BERTA - Fellow



Mauro Berta, Architect Ph.D., Associate Professor of Architectural and Urban Design and Head of Design of the China Room of the Politecnico di Torino, Scientific Board member of Politecnico’s FULL - Future Urban Legacy Lab, member of Politecnico’s Japan Hub. He works mainly on urban regeneration and sustainable design. Scientific responsible and visiting professor of the Dual M.Sc. in Urban Design co-run by South China University of Technology of Guangzhou and Politecnico di Torino; visiting lecturer in several other Universities in China, Japan and Philippines. He was scientific coordinator of the winning team of “Solar Decathlon China 2018” and he has been awarded in several international design competitions. He authored and co-authored about 130 scientific works.

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Michele BONINO - Fellow



Michele Bonino, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, is the Head of the Department of Architecture and Design and the Director of the China Center at Politecnico di Torino. He was Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University and Visiting Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. On behalf of the Politecnico di Torino, he was principal architect for the transformation of the Oxygen Factory within the Big Air Venue for the XXIV Olympic Winter Games - Beijing 2022, and Academic Curator of the 2019 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture - Shenzhen (with Sun Y.). He was invited to the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2004, 2010, 2012, 2021. His current research focuses on the innovation of design and its practices according to models of transnational exchange. Among his recent books, *The Story of a Section. Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory* (ORO 2022, with E. Bruno, A. Armando, G. Durbiano), *China Goes Urban. The City to Come* (Skira 2020, with F. Carota, F. Governa, S. Pellecchia).

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Edoardo BRUNO - Fellow



Edoardo Bruno is an architect and post-doc researcher at Politecnico di Torino. He received a MArch and a Ph.D. in the same institution, 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.

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Francesco CAROTA - Fellow



Francesco Carota, Ph.D, is Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture & Design, University of Kansas. His work focuses on the design and understanding of the intertwined relations that weave architecture and urban development process together, particularly in China and more recently in less developed countries. On these topics, he published a variety of academic articles and he coedited the volume *China Goes Urban. The City to Come* for Skira Editore. He was scientific director of the *China Goes Urban* exhibition at MAO (Turin) in 2020, co-curator of the Italian Pavilion at the 2018 Shenzhen Design Week, and co-curator of the exhibition *Design Assemblies* at the 2023 Singapore Design Week. He works as a licensed architect, and he is the cofounder and principal of the architecture and design firm Calibro Zero Srl. His work appeared in different media sources, and among the many the Italian magazine *Domus*, the Singapore based *d+a Design and Architecture*, the fashion magazine *Vogue* and the architecture platform *Archdaily*.

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Giorgia CESTARO - Fellow



Giorgia Cestaro obtained a Ph.D. in Architecture. History and Project from Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University of Beijing, as the first candidate of the Joint PhD program in Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World. Since 2015 she has been living between China and Italy. After her MA in History of Art at Ca' Foscari University in Venice, she worked at the Italian Embassy in Beijing, firstly as Coordinator of artistisc activities of the Italian School, later- after obtaining the P.hD-, as part of the Italian Cultural Office staff. Her deep interest on Chinese architecture and cultural heritage brought her back to the academic activity, focusing the research work on transnational models of heritage conservation practice. Contributing writer for different Art and Architectural magazines, she is co-curator of the editorial column "Memory and Regeneration" in World Architecture journal (世界建筑) and she is a post-doctoral researcher coordinating the first architectural exhibition program of Andrea Palladio in China.

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Huishu DENG - Fellow



Huishu Deng is a post-doctoral researcher on architecture, who is involved in the SNSF project collaborating with the HAT Group at the College of Humanities, EPFL, Switzerland. She is also a core member of the Urban Ergonomics Lab at Tsinghua University, China. Trained as an architect and architectural researcher, she received her Ph.D. in Architecture from Tsinghua University with a thesis on the essential spatial conditions for spontaneous urban leisure physical activities through the methods of motion tracking and simulation. Since 2016, she has also worked in the architectural design and planning group for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. She is now conducting interdisciplinary research between architecture and digital humanities, focusing on the analysis of place attachment, spatial cognition, and aesthetic experience through digital tools.

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Antonio DI CAMPLI - Fellow



Antonio di Campli is Assistant Professor in Urban Planning at the Polytechnic of Turin, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), Italy. He has been professor and developed research activities in various universities in Italy, Switzerland, Colombia and Ecuador. His research interests lie at the intersection of urban studies, urban planning and the social sciences and concern issues of 'coexistence of differences', conflicts and interactions between ecologies, economies and practices of spatial production, investigated mainly through decolonial and Southern epistemologies.
He is currently working on research project on the relationship between debt and space focusing on private indebtedness and habitat production processes in non-Western contexts.

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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 and social innovation in architectural design. She is in the editorial board of the journal Ardeth, and she is part of the China Room and tdpLAB research groups. She is the author of *The Informal Stance: Representations of Architectural Design and Informal Settlements* (ORO Editions, 2018) and *The Detroit Great Game: Explorations around architectural design and its agency* (AADR, 2022), and co-editor of *The Eyes of the City: Architecture and Urban Space after Artificial Intelligence* (Hatje Cantz, 2021).

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Francesca FRASSOLDATI - Fellow



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.

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Andrea POLLIO - Fellow



Andrea is a former Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow jointly at the African Centre for Cities (University of Cape Town), and at the department of Urban and Regional Studies (DIST) of Politecnico di Torino. He is currently research associate at the ACC, and Assistant Prof of Economic Geography (RTDb) at Politecnico di Torino. His research works broadly address the interface between technology, development, statecraft and urbanization in Africa, with a focus on the influence of Chinese capital.

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Maria Paola REPELLINO - Fellow



Maria Paola Repellino, Architect and Ph.D. in 'Architecture and Building Design' (2016); Research Fellow at the Politecnico di Torino where she was 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 architectural and urban design cultures, with particular emphasis on the contemporary urban transformation processes. Her main publication to date are the book *Fun Mill: The Architecture of Creative Industry in Contemporary China* (ORO Editions 2022); *The City after Chinese New Towns* (Birkhäuser 2019, ed. with M. Bonino, F. Governa, A. Sampieri).

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Astrid Safina, urban geographer, PhD Urban and Regional Development from Politecnico di Torino and Università di Torino, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST). Currently, she is a post-doctoral researcher at Sapienza University (Rome). She has been post-doctoral researcher at Politecnico di Torino (2020-2023), visiting scholar at South China University of Technology (2017-2018), and junior research assistant at the Department of Urban Studies at the Faculty of Architecture of Universidad Central de Venezuela (2012). Her research collocates at the intersection of Chinese urbanization processes, infrastructural studies, global urbanism, and the spatial effects global processes have on the ground. Her most recent work includes the Rescaling of the Belt and Road Initiative, specifically looking at the complexities of infrastructural and logistical spaces in Europe. Currently she is working on the Horizon project Reframing Non-Metropolitan Left Behind Places Through Mobility and Alternative Development (RE-PLACE).

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Angelo SAMPIERI - Fellow



Angelo Sampieri, Architect, holds a PhD in Urban Planning from the Iuav 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).

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Marco SANTANGELO - Fellow



Marco Santangelo is a geographer and Full 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.

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Alberto VALZ GRIS - Fellow



Alberto Valz Gris is a critical urban geographer, currently a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Politecnico di Torino. He holds a Ph.D. cum laude in Urban and Regional Development and an MSc in Architecture from Politecnico di Torino, as well as an MA in Fine Arts from the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam. His research is concerned with the intersection of urbanisation processes, natural resource extraction and infrastructure building. His recent projects have explored the dynamics of natural resource extraction and the layered histories of infrastructural development drawing on fieldwork in different contexts, such as the boom of lithium extraction in the Atacama (Argentina and Chile) and the urban outcomes of port expansion in Piraeus (Greece). Alberto's work has appeared across media such as journals, online publications and radio programmes.

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Saurajeeta BOSE PAUL - Junior Fellow



Saurajeeta Bose Paul is a student in the double Ph.D programme of 'History, Theory and Project' at Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University for the theme of 'Urban Heritage and Legacy between Asia and Europe'. She is interested in the relationship between modernity and heritage in the BRICS and the role of specialized press for knowledge exchange.
She is an architect from India, and contributed to the publication titled *Indigenous Habitat: Vestiges of Tribal Life in India's North East* as a researcher. She completed her Masters from Politecnico di Milano, with her thesis titled *Building a New Discourse* wherein she studied the Indian architectural journals published from 1980-2000 to mark the transition of the power structures and the policies transforming architecture and its related discourse post the economic liberalization and globalization in the India.

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Dingran CHEN - Junior Fellow



Dingran Chen is currently a PhD candidate in the Architecture, History and Project program at Politecnico di Torino. His research is concentrated on urban design and conservation, employing transdisciplinary approaches to investigate the application of innovative urban design strategies for the conservation and revitalisation of historic districts. He obtained a master's degree from the Architecture Construction City program at Politecnico di Torino in Italy and a bachelor's degree in architecture from Huaqiao University in China. During the interim period between completing his bachelor's degree and commencing his master's studies, he worked as an architect and urban designer in an architectural design and research institute in China.

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Cao GAN - Junior Fellow



Cao Gan is an urban design architect and currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Urban Planning in the School of Architecture in Tsinghua University of China. She is also pursuing a joint program with Politecnico di Torino of Italy with the curriculum "Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World". She received her B.Arch in the School of Architecture in Tsinghua University of China. During her Bachelor's, she studied at Technical University of Munich in Germany for one semester, where she developed her interest both in urban design and European cities. Her research interest lies in the fields of the cultural vitality construction of public spaces as well as urban regeneration of old neighborhoods and communities in China. Her current research delves into exploring the interaction between urban festivals and events and public spaces in Beijing in response to the global trend of urban festivalisation in the post-industrial society.

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Giorgia GRECO - Junior Fellow



Giorgia Greco graduated with honors in 2019 from Politecnico di Torino with her thesis *The global city as domestic space. Living in Shitaya-ku and Mukodai-cho, Tokyo* winning the 2020 Architecture Thesis Award. For her fieldwork she was a visiting student at The University of Tokyo. From 2020 she worked as co-Editor-in-chief for a Publishing House specialized in docu-videos on architecture and landscape, endorsed by CNAPPC and American Institute of Architects. She worked with China Room as motion graphic designer for the exhibition *China Goes Urban* held at at MAO (2020) and the installation for the Chinese Pavilion at Biennale di Venezia 2021. Giorgia Greco also won design competitions and co-founded a Cultural Association exploring multimedia projects. She is PhD candidate at Politecnico di Torino 'Architecture. History and project' in the dual program Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World with Beijing Tsinghua University.

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Francesca LA MONACA - Junior Fellow



Francesca La Monaca, a Ph.D. student at the Department of Architecture, History, and Design of the Polytechnic University of Turin, holds a Bachelor's degree in Architectural Design and a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Milan. During her master's and Ph.D., she supplemented his education with international experience as a visiting student at Tongji University in Shanghai and South China University of Technology in Guangzhou. She is currently engaged in research sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on the Chinese Real Estate market as part of the "Piemonte Home Design" project. Her research explores the integration of traditional Chinese architecture and landscape elements into contemporary residential design, with a specific focus on gardens. Her investigation expresses an interest in the recovery of past cultural features and indicates a commitment to defining certain contemporary architectural practices through cultural consideration.

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Valentina LABRIOLA - Junior Fellow



Valentina Labriola is a Landscape Architect and currently a PhD candidate in “Architecture. History and Project” at Politecnico di Torino. She is pursuing a joint program with the Tsinghua University of Beijing with the curriculum “Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World.” She earned a B.Sc in Architectural Design and a M.Sc in Landscape Architecture at Politecnico di Milano. During her Master’s, she studied at Tongji University in Shanghai, where she developed an interest in China. She pursued this interest through a Research Grant at Politecnico di Milano, where she collaborated with several Chinese and European Universities. Her research interest lies in exploring the dialogue between architecture and media, with a focus on the interaction between literature and urban imaginaries.

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Sofia LEONI - Junior Fellow



Sofia Leoni is an architect and PhD Candidate in Urban and Regional Development at Politecnico di Torino and part of the China Room research group since 2022. She received both her M.Arch. and B.Arch at Politecnico di Torino, after different period of studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing and at La Cambre-Horta, Faculté d’Architecture, Université Libre de Bruxelles. During her studies, she was involved in different architecture competitions, many activities in the academic environment and curatorial design. Her interest relies in the field of theories and cultures of urban design, with particular attention to processes of urbanization occurring in China and Asia. Her current research delves into the spatial effects associated to the logistic turn in rural areas of f the Southeast coast of China, particularly within the initiative ‘Rural Taobao,’ promoted by the hi-tech company Alibaba, which aims to revitalize and transform rural economies by leveraging e-commerce platforms by extending the Taobao marketplace.

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Xiang LING - Junior Fellow



Ling Xiang, born in Hubei, China, in 1994, is a registered architect in Italy and a Ph.D. candidate in “Architecture, History, and Project” at the Politecnico di Torino. Ling completed his master degree with honors in 2018, thanks to a thesis developed in collaboration with the Chinese University of Hong Kong.
Since 2019, Ling Xiang has engaged in collaborations with several professional studios in Turin and works as a freelance architect, serving the local Chinese community in Italy. In 2020, he started the PHD research at the Politecnico di Torino within the China Room research group, focusing on urban living spaces in China. His research, titled “DOMESTIC SPACE IN TRANSITION: BATHROOM DESIGN EVOLUTION IN CHINA’S URBAN HOUSING MODELS SINCE 1949,” falls under the “Piemonte Home Design” framework promoted by the Chamber of Commerce of Turin and the Politecnico di Torino.

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Xian LU - Junior Fellow



Xian Lu is a XXXVI cycle PhD student of Architecture at Politecnico di Torino under the joint PhD research curriculum “Transnational Architectural Models In A Globalized World” with Tsinghua University. She is a junior research fellow in the China Room research center. Registered Architect in Italy and UK, she graduated from the University of Ferrara, and her re-search focuses on emerging architectural typologies and transnational models, especially connected to leisure and consumption. Since 2020, she is a representative of the Politecnico di Torino in a 4-year research project on the Winter Olympics led by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland, focusing on urbanization and architectural changes related to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. She is currently focusing on ski re-sort architecture in China.

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Xiaohan MEI - Junior Fellow



Xiaohan Mei was born in China in 1995, and graduated from Tsinghua University with a bachelor degree of architecture in 2018. Now she is a joint Ph.D. candidate of Tsinghua University and Politecnico di Torino, as well as a member of Urban Ergonomics Lab, Tsinghua University.
She got her start in Urban Ergonomics and Design Science by taking part in the design and research for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, and now focuses on the study of quantifying and predicting spatial experience by urban ergonomic methodology, particularly regarding wayfinding mechanisms and route preferences in underground public space. She attempts to provide a preliminary data-based explanation and model from a spatial-cognitive perspective for the representations of users’ wayfinding patterns, which is expected to be applying to high-quality underground public space design interventions.

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Giulia MONTANARO - Junior Fellow



Giulia Montanaro obtained in 2020 the Master’s Degree in Building Engineering and Architecture at Università di Pavia with honour and Master’s Degree in Architecture at Tongji University in Shanghai as part of the double degree program stipulated between the two univer-sities with a thesis entitled “Architecture Beyond: Italian Architects and Practices in Shanghai”. She is an engineer currently enrolled in a PhD program in “Architecture. History and Design” at Politecnico di Torino in the joint PhD program in the field of Architecture between Politec-nico di Torino and Tsinghua University that created a specific PhD curriculum named “Trans-national Architectural Models in a Globalised World”. Since 2021, she has been collaborating with the China Room research group of the Politecnico di Torino.

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Lidia PRETI - Junior Fellow



Lidia Preti completed her master’s degree in ‘Architecture Construction City’ in 2019 at Politecnico di Torino, as part of the Double Degree program established with Tsinghua University in Beijing. Her master’s thesis delved into one of the historical districts of Beijing. Currently, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Architecture, History, and Project as part of the joint Ph.D. research program ‘Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World’ between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University in Beijing. Her research focuses on Rural Revitalization practices in Contemporary China, with a specific interest in the engagement of practitioners and academic institutions in these processes. She lives between Italy and China where she spent an extended period of time in Beijing over the past few years, specifically at the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University. Since 2019, she has been actively engaged in research activities with the China Room research group at Politecnico di Torino.

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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.

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Yicheng WANG - Junior Fellow



Yicheng Wang is a Ph.D. in the program “Architecture. History and Project” at Politecnico di Torino and a joint Ph.D. candidate with South China University of Technology, joined the China Room research group in 2021. She has been the project manager of the collaborative team between POLITO and SCUT, contributing to the Net-Zero-Energy house ‘LONG-PLAN’ for Solar Decathlon China 2018. Currently, her research is about performance-oriented design theories and practices for large-space public buildings, focusing on developing architectural strategies and design methods to address the challenges posed by climate change.

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Xinwen ZHANG - Junior Fellow



Zhang Xinwen is a first-year Phd student in the field of Architecture at Politecnico di Torino, currently pursuing a Ph.D. in “Architecture, History, and Project.” She earned her master’s degree at the Politecnico di Milano majoring the Landscape architecture. Land landscape Heritage. where her thesis was focused on “ Temporary Design and the Olympics: A Research by Design Proposal for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games.” Inspired by this research and based on her academic background, she is now preparing to further investigate the relationship between mega-events and industrial heritages, aiming to address the relative research gaps in this realm.

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Yixin ZHANG - Junior Fellow



Yixin Zhang is a joint PhD candidate at Tsinghua University and Politecnico di Torino. With a background in both architecture and urban planning, she focuses on employing technological solutions to address challenges in the human living environment. Her research interests include urban renewal and 15-minute city. The exchanges at Taiwan’s Chaoyang University of Technology and Japan’s Hokkaido University, coupled with her studies in Europe, has positioned her to conduct comparative research that bridges Eastern and Western perspectives. She has published several articles in SCI and SSCI journals and has been involved in multiple domestic and international projects. She has been recognized with the Tsinghua University National Scholarship.

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Hanqing ZHAO - Junior Fellow



Zhao Hanqing was born in China in 1995, whose academic journey has traversed the realms of design, architecture, and cultural studies. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in ‘Architecture, History, and Project’ at Politecnico di Torino. He earned his Design Master’s Degree at Southeast University in China. His doctoral research is centered on “The interactive transformation of urban and rural spaces: Questioning authenticity and (post-)productivism between Italy and China.” He has conducted an investigation into the transformations in the urban-rural interactions within the context of socio-economic transitions faced by rural areas in China and Italy. His research places particular emphasis on discerning the impact of divergent cultural contexts on the social structures of rural communities.

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Former Fellows - **Alberto BOLOGNA, Filippo FIANDANESE, Yetong HUANG, Silvia LANTERI, Marta MANCINI, Matteo MIGLIACCIO, Monica NASO, Sohrab Ahmed MARRI**

Former Visiting Professors - **Gong DONG, Haohao XU, Zhang LI, Jiang FENG, Jing YANG**

Scientific Advisors - **Van CHAN, Pierre-Alain CROSET, Per-Johan DAHL, Roberto PAGANI**

China Room activities are supported by Politecnico di Torino / China Center

LIBRARY **The China Room Library is an ever growing collection of books dedicated to East, South and Central Asian architecture and urbanisation. It is home to the China Room Fund, supported by the Central Library of Architecture and the Department of Architecture and Design at the Politecnico di Torino.**

The China Room Fund caters to multidisciplinary research supported by a wide selection of books, magazines, as well as Master & Ph.D. theses carried out or supervised by members of the China Room. The collection is regularly updated and aligned with the research interests of affiliated researchers and teachers working on a wide spectrum of topics centred around the contemporary urban processes and policies in China and East Asia. The library expands across multiple themes, for instance History of Architecture and Conservation Practices, Urban and Regional Studies, Geography, Art and Curatorial Studies, Urban Economics and International Relations. Moreover, it also comprehends the publishing works of the associated research group.





Notable books in the collection include *Chinese Architecture: a history* by Nancy Steinhardt, *Rural Urban Framework: Transforming the Chinese Countryside* by Joshua Bolchover and John Lin, and *China's Urban Communities: Concepts, Contexts, and Well-being* by Peter Rowe, Ann Forsyth, Har Ye Kan.

The library also carries magazine subscriptions and institutional periodicals. Titles such as *Times + Architecture*, *World Architecture Magazine*, *Chinese City Planning and Review* and *Urban Wisdom Advancing with China* adorn the shelves together with special issue of of international and Italian magazines, providing an overview of the latest design trends and discourses related to architecture and urban planning in China.

Publications

Before China Room

2008

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

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.

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.

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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.

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

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.

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2010

Article | Bonino, M., and G.M. Chiri. “Cantiere Guangdong.”, In *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, no. 84(2010).

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

2011

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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.

Book Chapter | 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

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

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

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

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

2013

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

Monographic issue | Bonino, M. (ed.) “Torino. Sustainable Strategies.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture,* no. 275(2013).

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

Article | Bonino M. “Borrowed City.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 279(2013).

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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.

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.

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).

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.

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

Book | Armando, A., M. Bonino and F. Frassoldati (eds.) *Watersheds. A Narrative of urban recycle*. Guangzhou: Sandu Publishing, 2015.

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.

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

Book | Bonino, M. and F. De Pieri (eds.) *Beijing Danwei: Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City*. Berlin: Jovis Verlag, 2015.

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.

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.

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. Leuven: KULeuven Press, 2015.

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

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.

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.

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. Marmori, L. Puccini and V. Scandellari, S. Van Riel, 213-221. Firenze: Altralinea Edizioni, 2015.

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

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

Article | Mukerjee, S., and M. Bonino. “Observation on the Designs of Xiaoqinghe Wetlands International Workshop.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 298(2015).

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. Marmori and L. Puccini, V. Scandellari, S. Van Riel, 223-230. Firenze: Altralinea Edizioni, 2015.

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

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

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

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2016

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).

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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.

Article | Bonino, M., and F. Frassoldati. “O-Office. L’arte prende il posto della seta.” *Casabella,* no. 858(2016).

Article in curated column | Bordone, L., M. Cossu, and V. Mordenti. “Regeneration in Contemporary Rome: The Case of the Mattatoio.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 321(2016): 124-127.

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.

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.

Article | Carota, F. “Oasification, in Cina la bellezza è in giardino.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, November 10, 2017.

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.

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

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.

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

Article | Bonino, M. and F. Fiandanese. “La Cina e la scena dell’architettura globalizzata.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, May 2017.

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

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

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

Article | Repellino, M. P. “Cluster creativi e industrie culturali in Cina”. *Mondo Cinese*, no. 161(2017): 13-22.

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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

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.

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).

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.

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?

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(2018): 25-30.

Monographic issue | Bonino, M., F. Governa, A. Sampieri (eds.). “La città dopo le new towns cinesi”, *Territorio*, no. 85(2018).

Article | Bonino M., Governa F., Sampieri A. “Exploring Chinese New Towns.” UrbanNext, 2018.

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

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.

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, 2018.

Article in Curated Column | Fiandanese, F. and S. Lanteri. “Pechino, cronache dagli hutong.” *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, May 2018.

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

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.

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

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, 2018.

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.

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.

2019

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*, no. 353(2019): 120-123.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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*, no. 11(4)(2019): 1076.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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 perceivablethat 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.

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.

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. Geneve: MētisPresses, 2019

Article | Forina, C. “Cronache cinesi. Per le Olimpiadi invernali Pechino imita la Ruhr”. *Il Giornale dell’Architettura*, May 2019.

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.

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

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).

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.

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.

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*, no. 182(2019): 46-51.

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

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.

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

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

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

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*, no. 344(2019): 114-117.

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.

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.

2020

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.

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.

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.

Article in Curated Column | Bologna, A. “Adaptive Reuse Through ‘Raumplan’: LocHal in Tilburg, the Netherlands.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 366(2020).

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

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.

Article | Bonino M, F. Governa and S. Pellecchia. “‘China goes Urban. The new era of the city’ on display at the Museum of Oriental Art in Turin”, *DOMUSweb*, November 2020.

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

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.

Book | Bonino, M., F. Carota, F. Governa and S. Pellecchia (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.

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

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.

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.

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*, edited by M. Talia, 96-113. Rome, Milan: Planum Publisher, 2020.

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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.

Article | Governa, F., and A. Sampieri. ‘Urbanisation Processes and New Towns in Contemporary China: A Critical Understanding from a Decentred View’. *Urban Studies* 57, no. 2(2020): 366–382.

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.

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.

Article | Lu, X. and M. P. Repellino. "La Cina post Covid-19: un nuovo 'New Deal'." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, May 2020.

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

Article in Curated Column | Preti, L. "Shanghai, dall'Expo 2010 all'Expo Cultural Park". Il Giornale dell'architettura, January 2020

Article | Ramondetti, L. "Spazi che non possono essere ignorati. Riflessioni sulla mostra 'China Goes Urban'." *Planum*, no. 40(2)(2020): 1–16.

Article | Ramondetti, L. "Airport City: il caso di Zhengzhou." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, February 2020.

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.

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.

Article | Repellino, M. P. "Cina, stop a supertall e fake." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, July 2020.

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

Article in Curated Column | Repellino, M. P. "Infrastrutture Made in China." *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*, February 2020.

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*, no. 363(2020): 108-111.

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 rasing 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.

2021

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

Article | Bonino, M., Repellino M. P. "The Danwei System. Living with Production." *ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN* 91, no. 05 (2021).

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

Conference Proceedings | Bonino M., V. Federighi, C. Forina, and L. Preti. "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.

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.

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.

Article | Carota F., F. Frassoldati, M. Bonino, and X. Ling. "Accedere al mercato della casa in Cina attraverso la ricerca sul progetto di architettura. Il programma multidisciplinare Piemonte home design." *Territorio Italia*, (2021): 145-165. DOI: 10.14609/Ti_1_21_6i

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, 372-378. Torino: AISU International, 2021.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Book chapter | Frassoldati F. "La terra, il villaggio e gli agenti del cambiamento." In *MAPPE E SENTIERI. UN'INTRODUZIONE AGLI STUDI URBANI CRITICI,* edited by B. Pizzo, G. Pozzi, and G. Scandurra, 81-104. Firenze: Editpress, 2021.

Article | Huang, Y., W. Zhuang, and M. Bonino. "Architect Responsibility System in the Existing Building Renovation. A Probe into the Success of Eataly Turin Lingotto." *JIANZHU XUEBAO*, no. 24(February 2021): 75-79.

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.

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.

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.

Article | Ramondetti, L., E. Bruno, and A. Safina. "Prosperous Lishui: ripensare il rapporto tra urbano e rurale nella Cina contemporanea." *Territorio,* no. 98(2021): 110-122. DOI: 10.3280/TR2021-098017

Conference Proceedings | Ramondetti L. "Progettare attraverso i dati: Infrastrutture, piattaforme logistiche, spazi per la produzione e new towns". *XXIII Conferenza Nazionale SIU: Downscaling, Rightsizing,* 81-89. Rome: Planum Publisher, 2021.

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.

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.

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.

Article | Ramondetti, L. "Il potenziamento dello spazio rurale nella Cina contemporanea: Yanming Lake Town, Henan". *Contesti: Città, territori, progetti*, 2(2021): 115–128. DOI: 10.13128/contest-12967

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

Article | Zhang, Y., L. Du, and J. Liu. "Identifying the Reuse Patterns of Coal Mining Subsidence Areas: A Case-Study of Jixi City (China)." *Land Degradation & Development*, no. 32(17)(2021): 4858-4870. DOI: 10.1002/idr.4060.

Article | Zhang, M. Q., X. H. Mei, L. B. Pang, and L. Zhang. "The Zhangjiakou Zone: A Winter Sports Competition Zone Masterplan for Long-Term Local Development." *Architectural Journal*, no. Z1(2021): 134-141.

Article | Zhang, L., C. Wang, and X. H. Mei. "Zhangjiakou National Ski Jumping Center: An Iconic Mountainous Venue Design for the OWG." *Architectural Journal,* no. Z1(2021): 150-154.

Article | Zhang, L., H. S. Deng, X. H. Mei, and Q. X. Xie. "Urban Ergonomics and Subterranean Space Design: A Preliminary Study on Empirical Methodologies and Design Making Patterns." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 368(2021): 19-23+126.

2022

Article | Chen, M., C. Gan, and L. Bian. "Research on Identification and Type Analysis of "Double Aging" Neighborhoods in the Central Zone of Beijing." *Urban Development Studie*s, no. 26(October 2022): 167-184.

Book Chapter | Bertola, G., A. Capalbo, E. Bruno, and M. Bonino. "Architectural Maquette. From Digital Fabrication to AR Experience". In *REPRESENTATION CHALLENGES New Frontiers of AR and AI Research for Cultural Heritage and Innovative Design*, edited by Giordano A., M. Russo, and R. Spallone, 425-432. Milano : FrancoAngeli, 2022.

Article | Bonino, M., and P.A. Croset. "Médiathèque Charles Nègre, Grasse, France." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture* 379, no. 01(2022): 98-103.

Book Chapter | Bonino, M. "Visitor Center per i XXIV Giochi Olimpici Invernali." In *Italian Design Day. Ri-generazione. Design e nuove tecnologie per un futuro sostenibile,* edited by Fondazione ADI, Collezione Compasso d'Oro, ADI Associazione per il Disegno Industriale, 25. Milano: ADIper s.r.l, 2022.

Book | Bonino, M., E. Bruno, A. Armando, and G. Durbiano. *The Story of a Section. Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory.* San Francisco: ORO Editions, 2022.

The book was born during the project experience developed by China Room in 2018 for transforming the former Building A of the Shougang Steel Factory into the Visitor Centre for the Shougang venue of the XXIV Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Within the process of reutilization of the abandoned building, the China Room team unveiled how Academia is able to conduct real transformation projects through research concerning professional practice modalities. The book is an experiment on constructing a text starting - exclusively and strictly - from the materials of an architectural project. The iconographical apparatus and the structure of the volume underline this objective, giving the reader the experience of being immersed in continuous step-motions modifications. The progression is depicted from the peculiar point of view of the main transverse sections of the building, which represent the control room in the hands of the designers to support the progression of their decision-making.

PhD thesis | Cestaro, G., "Protection and management of industrial heritage in China. History, practice, and meanings." PhD Diss., Politecnico di Torino - Tsinghua University, 2022.

Over the past two decades, China has undergone a rapid process of urbanization coupled with the deindustrialization of its urban areas, so that "industrial heritage" has attracted much more attention by government, scholars and institutions. Consequently, the protection of industrial heritage has emerged as a critical issue, not only fueling contemporary international debates but also constituting a newfound objective for the Chinese government, as evidenced by recent regulatory measures which have been deeply analyzed by this study. The research aims to reproduce the discourse on Industrial heritage in China in light of the new legal tools adopted by the country at the national level to the scope to identify, protect and manage its industrial legacy. Indeed, the research not only delineates the current status of China's industrial heritage practices through an updated census of all 164 nationally listed industrial heritage sites, it but also provides an analysis of the process of industrial heritagization. This analysis adopts various perspectives, oscillating between the international and transnational lenses and the local-state and national-level viewpoints. Through this comprehensive approach, the study contributes to a nuanced understanding of China's evolving relationship with its industrial legacy.

Article in curated column | Cestaro, G., 2022. "Between Architecture and Territories." *SHIJIE JIANZHU-World Architecture*, no. 384(2022): 96.

Book Chapter | Cestaro, G., and H. Roux. "Shougang: promoting industrial heritage at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games." In *BEIJING22. Speculative Grounds: positions on Beijing's transformation,* edited by A. Eschbach, 125-129. Zurich, Beijing: Tria Publishing Platform, 2022.

Article | Cestaro, G. "Shougang: l'ex sito industrial che fa da sfondo alle Olimpiadi di Pechino." *Artribune Magazine* (online), February 16th, 2022.

Article | di Campli, A. "The Chinese Connection." *Territorio,* no. 103(2022): 177-179.

Book | di Campli, A., and C. Boano (Eds.). *Decoloniare l'urbanistica.* Siracusa: Letteraventidue, 2022.

This book attempts to reshape certain narratives that presently define Western design discourse by introducing new myths aimed at forging a compassionate and coexistent future. Constructed collaboratively with multiple threads, the book reimagines urban and architectural design in its intimate, relational, and reparative dimensions. It amplifies specific possibilities of spatial thinking through strategies that suggest an animalistic and alienating movement and action. In the midst of an unstable situation, like the one we currently face, these design qualities and dimensions can foster improved relationships among differences, various collectives, subjects, and imaginaries. Ultimately, they can encourage greater solidarity among different forms of life. Coexistence, in other words, represents the design of radical intimacy.

Book chapter | Lu, X., and Zhang, M. "Chongli and Yanqing: Rapid Transformation in Mountain Areas of Beijing Winter Olympics." In *BEIJING22. Speculative Grounds. Positions on Beijing's Transformation*, edited by A. V. Eschbach, and A. Angerer, 121-125. Zurich, Beijing: Tria Publishing Platform, 2022. ISBN: 978-3-16-148410-0.

Article | Mei, X. H., and M. Q. Zhang. "New Technology Realization of Artificial Profile Track Venues." *International Talent,* no. 01 (2022): 24-26.

Book chapter | Pollio, A. "The Digital Silk Road as Planetary Intelligence: A Story of China in Africa". In *Parables of AI in/from the Majority World*, edited by R. Singh, R.L. Guzmán, and P. Davison, 88-99. New York: Data & Society Research Institute, 2022.

Book | Ramondetti, L. *The Enriched Field: Urbanising the Central Plains of China*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2022. DOI: 10.1515/9783035624922

Over the last twenty years, unprecedented urban growth has been transforming China: new towns dot the landscape, suburbanisation is exploding everywhere, and new ways of building on and living in agricultural spaces are transforming rural areas. The Central Plains in Henan Province is at the frontier of these developments. The formerly agricultural region is undergoing radical changes that are giving rise to a new landscape unlike anything ever seen in twentieth-century China or anywhere else in the world. This publication explores these new conditions based on four years of research and fieldwork. It examines the socio-spatial implications of national and local policies and planning, and investigates the newly built infrastructures, housing, and production spaces. With a rich collection of original maps and photo essays, this book offers a fresh perspective on the Chinese city and a stimulating basis for reconceptualising urban and architectural design.

Article | Valz Gris, A., C. Iacovone, F. Governa, A. Pollio, and A. Safina. "Il 'campo' geografico di un'etnografia sottile: cinque esperimenti di fieldwork." *Rivista geografica italiana*, CXXIX, no. 1(2022): 5-31. DOI: 10.3280/rgioa1-2022oa13364

Article | Huang, Y., W. Zhuang, and M. Bonino. "Coping Practice of Architectural Programming in Urban Renewal: A Renovation Case of Enrico Fermi School in Turin." *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 380(2022): 84-91.

PhD thesis | Huang, Y. "Research on Function Identification and Decision-making Mechanisms of Existing Building Renovation Based on Architectural Programming Theory". Politecnico di Torino - Tsinghua University, 2022.

After nearly forty-year rapid urbanization, building stock in China has reached a tremendous quantity and numbers of existing buildings become obsolete or even abandoned. Due to the lack of sound regulations and scientific methods for decision-making, some problems of identifying functions in renovation projects have occurred over the past few years, such as biased pursuit of a single benefit, homogeneous and repetitive reuse strategies, and so on. It requires a rational and scientific approach for decision-making in the pre-design phase of complex renovation projects. To cope with these

problems, the thesis researches on the process and decision-making methods regarding renovation function programs in the renovation pre-design phase based on architectural programming theory. It extends architectural programming theory from universal construction projects to renovation projects, contributing to structure an updated architectural programming framework for renovation and to provide corresponding methods to support rational and effective decisions for renovation programs.

Conference Proceedings | Ramondetti L. “La ridefinizione degli spazi della logistica contemporanea: Il porto di Trieste”. In *Atti della XXIV Conferenza Nazionale SIU: Dare valore ai valori in urbanistica*, 77-83. Rome: Planum Publisher, 2022.

Article | Zhang, L., H. X. Deng, and X. H. Mei. “Urban Ergonomics: A design science on spatial experience quality”. *Chinese Science Bulletin*, no. 67(2022): 1744-1756.

Article | Zhang, L., Y. F. Zhu, Q. X. Xie, and X. H. Mei. “Ergonomic Analysis in the Design Process of Big Air Shougang”. *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 06(2022): 38-43.

Article | Zhang, L., Q. X. Xie, H. S. Deng, X. H. Mei, L. B. Pang, and Y. Ye. “An Ergonomic Analysis Approach for Spatial Experience Proof”. *SHIJIE JIANZHU - World Architecture*, no. 387(2022): 42-47.

Conference Proceedings | Zhao, H., and F. Frassoldati. “Super authentic ancient town. The case of Wuzhen in China.” In *Adaptive Cities Through The Post Pandemic Lens. Times And Challenges In Urban History (10th AISU Congress Proceedings. Torino, 6-10 September 2022),* edited by R. Tamborrino, C. Cuneo, and A. Longhi, 898-899. Torino: Aiusu International, 2022.

2023

Book | Berta, M., E. Bruno, and L. Ramondetti. *Prosperous Lishui: A Project for Suburban China*. Los Angeles: ORO Editions, 2023.

The book reflects on the changing urban conditions of today’s China, and the challenges these pose to planning, urban design, and architectural practices. The unprecedented growth faced by the Chinese cities in the last decades entailed serious consequences: economic and social disparities, environmental crises, and demographic imbalances between the rural and the urban areas. These concerns, together with a growing awareness of the intrinsic unsustainability of Chinese economic model, has stimulated debate on how redefining the approach to urban development. With a rich collection of original essays and projects, this book combines reflexive knowledge, critical imagination, and design experimentation to provide scenarios for Chinese suburban development.

Article | Carota, F., and F. Frassoldati. “FREEeste e l’introduzione di nuovi processi produttivi nel porto di Trieste’” *Territorio*, no. 103(2022): 49-52. DOI: 10.3280/TR2023-103006

Article in curated column | Cestaro, G. “Circus spaces and future perspectives.” *SHIJIE JIANZHU- World Architecture*, no. 397(2023): 106-107.

Article | Cheng, X. X., X. H. Mei, and L. B. Pang. “Serving the construction of Beijing Winter Olympic Games and cultivating multidisciplinary cross-scale design innovation talents”. *Journal of Architectural Education in Institutions of Higher Learning,* no. 01(2023): 96-105.

Conference Proceedings | Federighi, V., L. Preti, C. Forina, M. Bonino, P. Jaeger and L. Rizzi. “Polito Studio, a Collaborative Experiment Be-tween Academia and Practice.” In *Design for Resilient Communities. Proceedings of the UIA World Congress of Architects Copenhagen 2023*, edited by A. Rubbo and J. Du, 901-916. Berlin: Springer, 2023.

Article | Governa, F., and A. Sampieri. “Infrastrutture globali e divenire urbano. Pireo, Trieste e il ‘Corridoio Adriatico’.” *Territorio*, no. 103(2022): 23-30. DOI: 10.3280/TR2022-103002OA.

Article | Huang, Z., and A. Pollio. “Between highways and fintech platforms: Global China’s and Africa’s infrastructure state”. *Geoforum*, no. 147(2023): 103876.

Article | Mei, X. H., and L. B. Pang. “Diagrams of Spatial Experience Based on Mathematical Models”. *Nexus Network Journal*, no. 25(Suppl 1)(2023): 407-414.

Book chapter | Pollio, A. “The Digital Silk Road as Planetary Intelligence: A Story of China in Africa”. In *Parables of AI in/from the Majority World*, edited by Singh, R., Guzmán, R.L., and P. Davison, 88-99. New York: Data & Society Research Institute, 2022.

Article | Pollio, A., L. R. Cirolia, and J. Ong’iro Odeo. “Algorithmic Suturing: Platforms, Motorcycles and the ‘Last Mile’ in Urban Africa.” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, no. 47(6)(2023): 957-974.

Article | Ramondetti, L. “Il ruolo delle dinamiche logistico-produttive nella riconfigurazione del porto di Trieste.” *Territorio*, no. 103 (2022): 41-48. DOI: 10.3280/TR2023-103005

Article | Ramondetti, L. “Plans and projects for the Central Plains of China: New forms of extended urbanisation in Zhengzhou metropolitan region”. *Transactions in Planning and Urban Research*, no. 2(1)(2023): 37–52. DOI: 10.1177/27541223231151442. ISSN: 2754-1223

Article | Ramondetti, L. “Envisioning rural futures: Lishui and the Future Shan-shui City competition”. *Journal of Chinese Architecture and Urbanism*, no. 5(3)(2023), Advanced online publication. https://doi.org/10.36922/jcau.0957

Article | Safina, A. “Formalità e informalità dentro il sistema logistico Pireo-Aspropyrgos.” *Territorio,* no. 103(2023): 37- 41. DOI: 10.3280/TR2023-103004

Article | Safina, A., L. Ramondetti, and F. Governa. “Rescaling the Belt and Road Initiative in urban China: The local complexities of a global project.” *Area Development and Policy*, advanced online publication (March 2023): 1–18. DOI: 10.1080/23792949.2023.2174888.

Article | Valz Gris, A. “Cosco e l’urbanizzazione ‘Turbolenta’ Del Porto Del Pireo.” *Territorio*, no. 103(2022):31-36. DOI: 10.3280/TR2023-103003

Article | Valz Gris, A. “Beyond the boom: Genealogies of corridor urbanism in the making of the Lithium Triangle, Argentina and Chile”. *Geoforum*, advanced online publication no. 147(2023). DOI: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2023.103913

Article | Zhang, W., C. Zhang, and Y. Wang. “Study on Simulation and Design of Natural Ventila-tion for Patio Space of Multi Corridor Inpatient Building in Humid and Hot Areas”. *Journal of South China University of Technology - Natural Science Edition*, no. 51(04)(2023):61-70.

Article | Zhang, Y., S. Yan, J. Liu, and P. Xu. “Popularity Influence Mechanism of Creative Industry Parks: A Semantic Analysis Based on Social Media Data.” *Sustainable Cities and Society*, no. 90(2023): 104384-104395.

2024

Book | Naso, M. *Curated in China. Manipulating the City through the Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture*. London and New York: Routledge, 2024.

The book is the output of a Ph.D. research conducted by the author from 2017 to 2021 and his experience as Head of Curation and On-Site Coordination of the “Eyes of the City” exhibition, one of the two main sections of the 2019 Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture themed “Urban Interactions.” Curated in China explores the spatial – and, potentially, political – agency of the Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of urbanism\Architecture from 2005 until 2019, unlocking the event’s faceted nature and inherent contradictions through simultaneous narratives, scales, and perspectives. The book aims to unveil the layered frictions between a temporary event’s narrative apparatus and its physical outcomes. It questions the relationship between biennials as theoretical platforms and their agency in real urban spaces.

Article | Ramondetti, L. “Untangling infrastructure networks through critical cartographies: The Port of Trieste, Italy”. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, advanced online publication, (2024): 1–18. DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2023.2289985

Book Chapter | Ramondetti, L. “Landscape interpretations of infrastructure-led developments: Plans, spaces and appropriations in contemporary China”. In *Handbook on Infrastructures and Cities*, edited by O. Coutard, and D, Florentin, 158-175. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024.

Events

PhD course | *New Perspectives on Urban Heritage in China*. Politecnico di Torino / Doctoral Program in Architecture History and Project, February-December 2014.
[Organizers: Pierre-Alain Croset, Filippo De Pieri. Guest lecturers: Florence Graezer Bideau (EPFL), Roberto Malighetti (Università di Milano Bicocca), John Pendlebury (University of Newcastle)]

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

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

Seminar | *Chinese New TOwns: Negotiating Citizenship and Physical Form*. Beijing Design Week 2016. Jointly organized with Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy.

PhD course | *Place, pleasure and resilience. Comparison of pre-industrial views from China and the West*. Politecnico di Torino / Doctoral Program in Architecture History and Project, November-December 2018.
[Lecturer: Li Zhang (Tsinghua University - Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino)]

Book Launch | *Oltre la Grande Muraglia. Uno sguardo sulla Cina che non ti aspetti*. Politecnico di Torino / Lecture series LiberiLibri, 25 February 2019.
[Guest author: Alberto Bradanini]

PhD excellence course | *The City after Chinese New Towns*. Politecnico di Torino / Doctoral Program in Urban and Regional Development, February-May 2019.
[Organizers: Francesca Governa, Leonardo Ramondetti, Astrid Safina, Angelo Sampieri. Guest lecturers: Xuefei Ren (MIT), Austin Williams (Kingston School of Art in London), Dingliang Yang (University of Minnesota)]

PhD excellence course | *How to study contemporary China? Methods of scientific research in architecture*. Politecnico di Torino / Doctoral Program in Architecture History and Project, February-May 2019.
[Organizers: Alberto Bologna, Michele Bonino, Francesca Frassoldati. Guest lecturers: Guanghui Ding (Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture), Dong Gong (Vector Architects), Carine Henriot (Sorbonne Universités), Christopher Lee (Serie Architects London)]

Lecture | *Entangled memories in the Bell and the Drum Towers in Beijing*. Politecnico di Torino / Lecture series Architecture Construction City, 14 March 2019.
[Guest lecturer: Florance Graezer Bideau (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne)]

Lecture | *A History of Design Institutes in China*. Politecnico di Torino / Lecture series Architecture Construction City, 4 April 2019.
[Guest lecturer: Guanghui Ding (Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture)]

Book Launch | *The City after Chinese New New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China*. Politecnico di Torino, 17 April 2019.
[Guest discussants: Stefano Corgnati (Politecnico di Torino), Carine Henriot (Sorbonne Universités)]

Book Launch | *The City after Chinese New New Towns. Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 25 April 2019.

Lecture | *Poetry Reconnecting Time*. Politecnico di Torino / Lecture series Architecture Construction City, 2 May 2019.
[Guest lecturer: James Wei Ke (Chiasmus Partners)]

Lecture | *AI, big data and super-platforms: the impact of digital China at domestic and global level*. Politecnico di Torino / Lecture series Architecture Construction City, 15 May 2019.
[Guest lecturer: Francesco Silvestri (Zhejiang University)]

Book Launch | *Daniele Ruffinoni e la Concessione italiana. Strategie, modelli, eredità di un progettista a Tianjin, Cina*. Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale, 31 May 2019.

Summer School | *TRANS-forming industrial legacy. Spatial and economic models of re-USE. Interdisciplinary and international summer school*. Politecico di Torino, 10-24 July 2019. Jointly organized with Politecnico di Torino / FULL, Technion Israel Institute of Technology – Faculty of Architecture and Town planning and Tsinghua University – School of Architecture, School of economics and management.
[Guest lecturers: Federico Accorsi (Politecnico di Torino), Daniele Campobenedetto (Politecnico di Torino), Uri Cohen (Israel Institute of Technology), Chiara Crovini (Università degli Studi di Torino), Giulietta Fassino (Urban Lab Torino), Enrico Ferraris (Museo Egizio), Ruth Leonov (Israel Institute of Technology), Ruth Liberty-Shalev (Israel Institute of Technology), Chiara Lucchini (Urban Lab Torino), Marianna Nigra (Politecnico di Torino), Yehao Song (Tsinghua University), Nannina Spanò (Politecnico di Torino), Tiziana Tosco (Politecnico di Torino), Franziska Uwis (Thyssenkyupp), Xiaodi Zheng (Tsinghua University)]

Lecture | *Umanesimo, Post-Umanesimo, Hyper-Umanesimo nella Terra di Mezzo. La Cina della transizione estrema e dell'estrema innovazione*. Politecnico di Torino, 23 September 2019.
[Guest lecturer: Paolo Vincenzo Genovese (Tianjin University)]

Workshop | *Italian Cultural Box at Guangzhou Pearl River Piano Cultural Park*. Jointly organized with Città di Torino / Torino City Of Design 2019, Pearl River Group. Circolo del Design, 9-12 October 2019.

Lecture | *From Unprecedented to Innovative. The Rise of Shenzhen and its Central Role in the Great Bay Area*. Politecnico di Torino, 4 November 2019.
[Guest lecturer: Xiangming Chen (Trinity College, Connecticut, Fudan University)]

Lecture | *Blue Skies over Chinese Cities: Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability*. Politecnico di Torino, 5 November 2019.
[Guest lecturer: Siqi Zheng (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)]

Seminar | *Eyes of the City Opening Event*. Jointly organized with Carlo Ratti Associati, South China University of Technology. Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture / Eyes of the City Marathon series, 21-22 December 2019.
[Guest speakers: Ole Bouman (Design Society Shenzhen), Fabio Cavallucci, Betty Chen (Sidewalks Lab), Anna de Manincor (Zimmerfrei), Filippo De Pieri and Paolo Mellano (Politecnico di Torino), Martjin De Waal (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences), Jun Fei (Central Academy of Fine Arts), Yang Feng (Guangdong), Francoise 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)]

Seminar | *Digital Society/Silicon Pupils*. Jointly organized with Carlo Ratti Associati, South China University of Technology, Nick Axel and Nikolaus Hirsch (E-Flux architecture). Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture / Eyes of the City Marathon series, 11-12 January 2020.
[Guest speakers: 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, Jieyang), Botao Zhong (Shenzhen University)]

Book Launch | *Chinese Brutalism today: Concrete and Avant-Garde Architecture*. Politecnico di Torino / Bachelor in Architecture, 23 January 2020.
[Author: Alberto Bologna. Guest speakers: Sergio Pace, Marco Trisciuoglio, Giuseppe Carlo Marano (Politecnico di Torino)]

Lecture | *Il Macrolotto 0 e il progetto per il nuovo Distretto Creativo di Prato*. Politecnico di Torino / Lecture series LiberiLibri, 5 February 2020.
[Guest speaker: Valerio Barberis (Città di Prato)]

Seminar | *Pandemics & The City/Tender Machines*. Jointly organized with Carlo Ratti Associati, South China University of Technology. Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture / Eyes of the City Marathon series, 18 April 2020.
[Guest speakers: 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), Chunyang Zhang (South China University of Technology)]

Book Launch | *Chinese Brutalism today: Concrete and Avant-Garde Architecture*. Università IUAV di Venezia / IUAV PHD Talks, 11 May 2020.
[Author: Alberto Bologna. Guest speakers: Benno Albrecht (IUAV), Antonella Diana (Università Cà Foscari)]

PhD course | *Criticism: A reading and writing on contemporary architecture through case studies*. Politecnico di Torino / Ph.D. Programme in Architecture History and Project, November-December 2020.
[Organizer: Haohao XU (SCUT - Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino). Guest lecturers: Wang Fangji (Temp Architects),

Liaohui Guo (Francesca Torzo Architetto), Jianxiang He (O-Office), Doreen Heng Liu (Node Architecture & Urbanism), Xinggang Li (China Architecture Design & Research), Kenan Liu (Atelier XUK), Yizhi Xiao (Atelier Y), Bin Zhang (Atelier Z+)]

Workshop | *SHENZHEN-ness 3.0*. Jointly organized with Politecnico di Torino / FULL and Shenzhen University. Politecnico di Torino and Shenzhen University, 4 September - 12 October 2020.

Debates | *Walking through the exhibition*. Jointly organized with Prospekt Photographers, Tsinghua University. Museo di Arte Orientale (Torino) / China Goes Urban Event series, October-November 2020.
[Guest speakers: Alessandro Amaducci (Università di Torino), Daniele Brombal (Università Cà Foscari), Augusto Cagnardi (Gregotti Associati International), Giorgio Cuscito (Limes), Laura Lieto (Università di Napoli Federico II)]

Lecture series | *Lectures on City and Innovations*. Jointly organized with Prospekt Photographers, Tsinghua University. Museo di Arte Orientale (Torino) / China Goes Urban Event series, November 2020-March 2021
[Guests speakers: Plinio Innocenzi (Università di Sassari), Carla Bartolozzi, Antonio di Campli, Giuseppe Carlo Marano, Roberto Pagani, and Marco Trisciuoglio (Politecnico di Torino), Du Qian (Shanghai Jiaotong University), Bruno Briseghella (Fuzhou University), Camillo Nuti (Università Roma Tre), Giada Messetti, Gary Hack (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Stefania Stafutti (Università di Torino)]

Seminar | *China Goes Urban - The City to Come*. Jointly organized with Prospekt Photographers, Tsinghua University. Museo di Arte Orientale (Torino) / China Goes Urban Event serie and Biennale Tecnologia, 11 November 2020.
[Guest speakers: Ash Amin (University of Cambridge), Bian Lanchun and Liu Jian (Tsinghua University), Ann Forsyth (Harvard University), Lu Andong (Nanjing University), Bernhard Müller (Technische Universität Dresden), Brent D. Ryan (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)]

Debates | *Double Interviews*. Jointly organized with Prospekt Photographers, Tsinghua University. Museo di Arte Orientale (Torino) / China Goes Urban Event serie, January 2020.
[Guest speakers: Steve Bisson (Paris College of Art), Ole Bouman (Design Society Shenzhen), Gary Hack (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Beatrice Leanza (MAAT), Tim Oakes (University of Colorado Boulder), Alessandro Zanoni]

Seminar | *China Goes Urban Closing Event*. Jointly organized with Prospekt Photographers, Tsinghua University. Museo di Arte Orientale (Torino) / China Goes Urban Event serie and Biennale Tecnologia, 4 February 2021.
[Guest speaker: Stefania Stafutti (Università di Torino)]

Lecture series | *Future Paths for Chinese Cities*. Jointly organized with Università di Macerata. Politecnico di Torino, March-April 2021.
[Guest lecturers: Liu Jian (Tsinghua University), Ren Xuefei (Michigan State University), Wang Shifu (South China University of Technology), Lv Ping (University of Chinese Academy of Science)]

Lecture | *From Formal Urbanism to Informed Spatial Practice*. Politecnico di Torino / Dual Master's Degree Program in Urban Design, 24 March 2021.
[Guest lecturer: Jason Hilgefort]

Lecture | *Social Architecture*. Politecnico di Torino / Dual Master's Degree Program in Urban Design, 31 March 2021.
[Guest lecturer: William Ti Jr.]

Lecture | *Il Nuovo nel Vecchio. La Città del Futuro*. Politecnico di Torino / Biennale Tecnologia, 10 October 2021.
[Guest lecturer: Gong Dong (Vector Architects - Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino)]

Lecture | *New Into Old*. Politecnico di Torino, 12 November 2021.
[Guest lecturer: Gong Dong (Vector Architects - Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino)]

PhD course | *Unboxing Chinese Architectural Practice*. Politecnico di Torino / Doctoral Program in Architecture History and Project. Politecnico di Torino, November 2021-June 2022.
[Lecturer: Gong Dong (Vector Architects - Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino)]

Book Launch | *The Story of a Section. Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory*. University of Nottingham / 2022 ABE TALK, 12 April 2022.

Lecture | *Between the past and the future – searching for a contemporary Chinese Urbanism*. Politecnico di Torino / Master Degree in Architecture Construction History and Doctoral Program in Architecture History and Project. Politecnico di Torino, 21 April 2022.
[Guest Lecturer: Zhang Jie (Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture)]

Lecture | *Human-machine Collaborative Intelligence*. Politecnico di Torino / Lecture series Architecture Construction City, 21 April 2022.
[Guest Lecturer: Philip F. Yuan (Tongji University)]

Book Launch | *The Story of a Section. Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory*. H22 City Expo in Helsingborg (Sweden), 9 June 2022.

Conference | *Infrastructures and Cities: Research Perspective and Forms of Inquiry*. Jointly organized with Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés (CNRS + ENPC + UGE), and École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris (PSL/ISIGE). Politecnico di Torino, June 20-24th 2022.

International Workshop | *Comparative Dialogues on The Infrastructure-Led Urbanization of Global China*. Jointly organized with Malmö University / Institute of Urban Research, and Sheffield University / Urban Institute; supported by Malmö University / Institute of Urban Research. Malmö University, September 21st-23rd 2022.

Lecture | *One World, Two Futures*. Politecnico di Torino, 3 November 2022.
[Guest Lecturer: Martijn De Geus (Tsinghua University)]

Seminar | *Looks to the East. Urban architectures and processes in contemporary Asia*. Politecnico di Torino / Biennale Tecnologia, 12 November 2022.

Seminar series | *China Room meets Turin 3 Public Events in Town*. Jointly organized with Circolo dei Lettori, CultLab and Seta. January-March 2023.
[Guest discussants: Marco Cantamessa (Politecnico di Torino), Maurizio Ferraris (Università di Torino), Enrico Molteni]

Book Launch Series | *The Story of a Section. International Release Tour*. Manchester University, Universiy of Salford, Universidad de Monterrey, EPFL, Fojab Arkitekter, Lund University, Politecnico di Milano, Beijing Jiaotong University, February-April 2023.

International Workshop | *Silk Road Cities and Beyond. New Dialogues on the Urban Geographies of Infrastructure-led Development*. Jointly organized with Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona / Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals, and Sheffield University / Urban Institute; supported by Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona / Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals. Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, March 15-16th 2023.

Conference | *Practicing Research - Research in Practice*. Jointly organized with Turin Chamber of Architects, Lund University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Architects Scania; supported by FOJAB Arkitekter. UIA Copenhagen 2023, July 3rd 2023.
[Guest speakers: Ilaria Ariolfo (OAT), Paola Alfaro-d'Alençon (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and P. Universidad Catolica de Chile), Liu Jian (Tsinghua University), Joachim Lundquist (FOJAB Architects), Kristoffer Nilsson (Swedish Architects Scania), Finn Williams (City of Malmö)]

Seminar Series | *China Room Seminar Series 2022/2023*. Politecnico di Torino, May 2023-July 2023.

Seminar Series | *China Room Seminar Series 2023/2024*. Politecnico di Torino, September 2023-July 2024.

Exhibitions

Exhibition | *Unboxing Danwei*
A project by Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy

Period: 26 September - 3 October 2014
Location: Beijing, China
Developed for: Beijing Design Week 2014 “Urban Future, Smart Design”

The *Unboxing Danwei* exhibition provided an occasion to showcase initial findings from a broader research initiative funded by the Turin-based bank foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo. This research aimed to delve into the legacy of industrial heritage in contemporary China. Specifically, the focus was on the former industrial danwei areas of Beijing, outlining *danweis* historical significance in the context of modern Beijing. The research also delved into the challenges posed by the physical and cultural heritage of the collectivist era, examining how these challenges intersect with current urban transformations.

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

Period: 2017
Location: Beijing, China
Developed for: Beijing Design Week, Baitasi Remade
Curatorship; Schematic Design; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design

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. *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.

Exhibition | *From micro to macro: Italian designers in South China.*
A project by by Politecnico di Torino / China Room, Tsinghua University, Consultate General of Italy, and NABA (Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti-Domus Academy Milano) in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy.

Period: 20th April – 06th May 2018
Location: Shenzhen, China
Developed for: Shenzhen Design Week
Curatorship; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design

The Italian Pavilion, titled “From Micro to Macro: Italian Designers in South China,” intended to highlights the strong presence of Italian professionals in Southern China, operating across various design sectors. It underscores the ability of an individual designer to manage the design process by adopting an approach that proves relevant at different scales, demonstrating flexibility and consistency. The exhibition showcases the work of 12 design studios, showcasing their cross-scale vision and their unique ability to establish a particular relationship with the environment in which they operate, seamlessly transitioning from the “Micro to Macro” and vice versa.

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

Period: 20th December 2019 - 8th March 2020
Location: Futian Railway Station, Shenzhen
Developed for Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture 2019.
Client: Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government
Curatorship; Concept design; Schematic Design; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design; On-site Supervision

The project is part of “URBAN INTERACTIONS”, the topic raised by UABB for its 2019 edition, opened on 20th December until 8th March. At the 2019 UABB, the Carlo Ratti, Politecnico di Torino and South China University of Technology, investigated how our relationship with the city might change, when buildings become able to respond to our presence. The 2019 UABB explored the new phenomena brought about by digital revolution that unfolded in parallel with Shenzhen’s growth, reflecting on urbanism and architecture in ways beyond physical boundaries, discussing how people can be empowered to become the true subject of our digital-physical cities.

Exhibition | *China Goes Urban. The City to Come*
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with Prospekt Photographers, Tsinghua University.

Period: September 2020 – October 2021
Location: Turin, Piedmont, Italy
Developed for: MAO Museo d’Arte Orientale
Curatorship; Concept design; Schematic Design; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design; On-site Supervision

China Goes Urban is an exhibition held at MAO Museo d’Arte Orientale di Torino. 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.

Installation | *GBA Uninterrupted*
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with South China University of Technology (SCUT) / Research Center of Architectural History and Culture and Turin Chamber of Architects (OAT).
Supported by Innovation Institute of Guangdong Yuehai Land (Li Yonggang, Chen Nianhong, Li Cheng, Li Tingyang, Luo Qin, Xu Yijuan, Yi Panxin, Cheng Zhidi, Lai Yufei).

Period: December 2022 - March 2023
Location: Shenzhen, China
Developed for: Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2022 ‘Urban Cosmologies’
Curatorship; Schematic Design; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design

The ninth Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen), which opened its doors in December 2022 and ran until March 2023, presented “Urban Cosmologies” as a concept that incorporates both spatial and temporal interdependence, rooted in traditional Chinese cosmologies. *GBA Uninterrupted* responds critically by proposing a sense of continuity bridging the past and future through industrial regeneration. Inspired by Piero Sartogo’s 1978 research, ‘Rome Interrupted,’ it observes the emergence of renewed landscapes of development, suggesting the soil as both a substance and a palimpsest of different times.

On-site Supervision | *Living courtyard*. Chinese Pavilion at Biennale di Venezia 2021
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with Atelier Teamminus

Period: 2020-2021
Location: Venice, Italy
Developed for: Zhang Li (Atelier Teamminus), Curatorial Team, China Pavilion at Biennale di Venezia 2020
Curatorship; Schematic Design; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design

The 2020 Biennale di Venezia has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, being later postponed to 2021. Within this global framework, the curatorial team for the Chinese Pavilion, led by Prof. Zhang Li, Dean of the School of Architecture – Tsinghua University, did not have the chance to move to Europe to fulfill its construction. Their proposal, *Yuan-er, a courtyard-ology: from the mega to the micro*, specifically entitled to investigate the socio-spatial role of the courtyard typology at urban and building scale, struggled with its on-site development due to logistics and overseas flight con-straints, therefore requiring external support and design supervision.

Design Projects

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.

Period: 2015
Client: Shenzhen ILCC Planning & Construction Leaders Office
Location: Shenzhen, Guandong Province, China
Scope: Urban planning
Function: Residence, office, industry, and retail
Area: 147,000 sqm
Concept design

The target of the competition was the creation of both strategies and design solutions for a new comprehensive Low Carbon area located in the Longgang District of the city of Shenzhen. The solutions provides by the project intend to mix the traditional pattern of the Cantonese corridors, that juxtaposing different blocks side by side along the main wind flows it's possible mitigate the high temperature of the tropical climate, and a multifunctional distribution enhancing neighbourhood mobility as key strategy for sustainability.

Design Project | *Yanzhou Island Concept Plan* (Zhaoqing, China).
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room, 2016-2017. Developed for Zhaoqing New Area Administration

Period: 2016 - 2017
Client: Zhaoqing New Area Administration
Location: Yanzhou Island, Zhaoqing, Guandong Province, China
Scope: Urban planning
Function: Residence, office, industry, and retail
Area: 3,300,00 sqm
Concept design

The masterplan for the redevelopment of Yanzhou Island in Zhaoqing, in the Chinese province of Guandong, was born within the frame of a solid collaboration between the South China-Torino Collaboration Lab and the Zhaoqing New Area Administration. The Lab was involved both as a consultant and a research structure, in several urban projects developed by the city of Zhaoqing as – for instance – the historical city wall redevelopment. The core of the collaboration between the two institutions is to bring new elements of design quality and visions in the Chinese city making.

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. [Awarded 1st Prize]

Period: 2017
Client: Guangzhou Pearl River Piano Group Co., Ldt.
Location: Yuwei West Road, Liwan, Guangzhou, Guandong Province, China
Function: centre for culture, music and incubators
Scope: Architectural design
Area: 133,075 sqm
RMB46.900/€5.999
Concept design; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design

The project, for 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 Universities Politecnico di Torino and South China University of Technology. 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 Piano Factory has two exceptional potentials for the transformation: its proximity to the river, which flows a few meters away, and its impressing longitudinal organization, underlined by the rails on which the pianos were running. An elevated street runs through the entire factory, from the large parking lot to the north and the public transport hub to the south.

Design Project | *Main Workshop of the Oxygen Factory Complex Big Air Venue* (Beijing, China).
A project by 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).

Period: January 2018 - December 2020
Client: Shougang Building & Construction Investment, Ldt.; Olympic Committee; Tsinghua University
Location: Shougang Steel Factory, Beijing, China
Scope: Architectural design
Function: cultural centre, exhibition hall
Area: 9,076 sqm
RMB586.000/€74.961
Concept design; Schematic Design; Artistic Direction during the Construction Design

The project, part of the general recovery masterplan of a former steel factory for the Big Air venue in view of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games of Beijing 2022, intended to open the original building to the public visiting the competition site; for this reason, the building has been shaped under 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 portions able to influence the private/public circulation and distribution of functions.

Design Project | *Solar Decathlon China 2018* (Dezhou, China).
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with South China University of Technology, 2018. Developed for Solar Decathlon China [Awarded 1st Prize]

Period: February 2016 – August 2018
Client: China Overseas Development Association
Location: Dezhou, Shandong Province
Scope: Architectural design
Function: temporary residential unit
Area: 500 sqm
RMB1172.000/€149.923
Concept design; Schematic Design; Construction Drawings; On-site Supervision

In August 2018 the joint team of professors and students of both Politecnico di Torino (PoliTO) and South China University of Technology in Guangzhou (SCUT) has been awarded the 1st prize in the second Edition of the Solar Decathlon China contest. Solar Decathlon was launched for the first time in 2002 by the American Department of Energy and it spread rapidly in 5 other parallel editions in Europe, China, South America and Caribbean, Middle East and Africa; it is one of the most important international design competitions, addressed to teams made of students and professors coming from the courses of Engineering and Architecture of the worldwide major Universities. The objective is to design, build and run an NZEB (Net Zero Energy Building), a single-family house exclusively powered by solar energy.

Design Competition | *Prosperous Lishui*. Future Shan Shui City International Urban Design Competition.
A project by Politecnico di Torino/China Room and IAM-Institute of Mountain Architecture in collaboration with South China University of Technology. [Awarded 3rd Prize]

Period: May – November 2020.
Location: Lishui, Zhejiang, China
Scope: Urban planning and architectural design
Function: residential, agricultural production, high-tech industry
Area: 152,000,000 sqm
Client: Lishui Municipal People's Government
RMB800.000/€102.337
Concept design

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". The proposal is based on the preservation of the vast agricultural plain - one of a very few flatlands in southern Zhejiang – as the heart of a new developemnt. 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.

Design Competition | *Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor*. Architectural Scheme and Design Development of Fucheng Guanlan Industrial Land Development Overall Interest Coordination Project of Meiguan Innovative Industry Corridor (Plots 01-03).
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with SCAD - Architectural Design & Research Institute of SCUT Co., Ltd. and TDH - Turin Design Hub (PAT Architetti, Gianpiero Moretti, Edoardo Pennazio, Studio Cavaglion, Francesco Vaj); Residential and Office Design: Shenzhen Wowa International Engineering And Design Co., Ltd.Guangzhou Company; Interior residential design: Piemonte Home Design; Landscape Design: CZ Studio; Eco-strategies: Francesca Thiebat, Corrado Carbonaro, and Lorenzo Savio -Politecnico di Torino / DAD - Department of Architecture and Design. [Awarded 4th Prize]

Period: August – December 2021
Client: Shenzhen Longhua Talents Housing Co., Ltd.
Location: Longhua District, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China
Scope: Architectural design
Function: Residence, office, industry, and retail
Area: 102,400 sqm
RMB300.000/€38.359
Concept design

The Meiguan corridor is an area of about 10 hectares in the northeast segment of Longhua district in Shenzhen. The project is part of a high-tech-oriented urban renewal of larger 68-hectare area. In response to the project's high density requirements, the design proposal created a permeable central hub within the planning grid. This innovative approach amalgamates residential, office, industrial, and retail functions through a unique tower-building platform concept, fostering a dynamic and uninterrupted urban flow, ultimately forming an open urban courtyard. This design not only ensures the provision of public amenities but also preserves residents' private spaces. The project also includes top-tier community public services, promotes the development of a diverse urban service cluster, and serves as a landmark exemplifying the integration of industry and urban development.

Design Competition | *International Competition for The Urban Design of Jiuwei International Headquarters Plot Area in China*
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with Tsinghua Yuan

Period: February-May 2023
Client: People's Government of Bao'an District; Bao'an Administration of Planning and Natural Resources Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality; Shenzhen Bao'an Bay Area Development Services Centre
Location: Bao'an District, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China
Scope: Urban planning
Function: Headquarters, offices, laboratories, commercial and retail
Area: 2,600,000 sqm
Concept design

The Jiuwei International Headquarters Area competition is centered around a space poised to host the functional and regional headquarters of enterprises, international organizations, and institutions with global strategies in the years to come. Situated within the Shenzhen Airport Economic Zone, a focal point of Shenzhen's development efforts, it is a key component of the city's planned headquarters clusters. The project's objective is to establish a sustainable waterfront headquarters, incorporating biophilic design, adaptable workspaces, and eco-friendly practices. The overarching goal is to seamlessly merge technology, wellness initiatives, and community involvement to enhance the office environment. This approach aims to mirror the enterprise's identity, embracing modernity and openness, all while optimizing the natural features of the site.

Design Project | *6 COURTYARDS 1 LANDSCAPE* 3615 Safety and Emergency Innovation Incubator Park Tianjin
A project by Politecnico di Torino / Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) / China Room in collaboration with Quarta & Armando architecture design research.

Period: January - May 2022
Client: Tianjin 3615 Emergency & Rescue Industrial Ltd
Location: Jizhou District, Tianjin, within the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Economic Circle, China
Scope: Architectural design
Function: Laboratories, office, industry, and retail
Area: 113,486 sqm
RMB290.000/€37.077
Concept design

The site has been selected for an innovative development that aims to create a 'Safety and Emergency Innovation Incubator Park', a place for researching and innovating in a variety of fields related to Safety and Emergency Management. The aim of the project is to give a new identity to a place, the project concept is based on an organisation of six thematic courtyards, effectively conceived as public squares. They act as a morphological device that promotes a new order between internal and external functions to maximise the recombination of flexible spaces and ensure a precise corporate dynamic. This approach reassembles the existing factory buildings into a small-scale urban system, where landscape and vegetation seemleessly merges with the urban environment from the west. The ground floor space is systemised by a continuous facade that is treated differently according to the courtyard function it identifies.

Design Competition | *Archipelago Jianhu: A Permanent Vitality.* "Beyond Yue|Jianhu Revival" Shaoxing Jianhu Planning and Design.
A project by Politecnico di Torino / China Room in collaboration with Architectural Design & Research Institute of SCUT Co., Ltd. and Turin Design Hub (2MIX Architetti, Archisbang, Balance Architettura, Corbellaro SA, Gianpiero Moretti, Studio Cavaglion)

Period: January – May 2022
Client: People's Government of Keqiao District, Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province and One-tenth Art Company
Location: Jianhu, Keqiao District, Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province, China
Scope: Conceptual planning and urban design
Function: Residential, manufacturing, agricultural production
Area: 35,400,000 sqm
Concept design

Jianhu (Jian Lake) stands as a significant cultural landmark, bearing witness to a rich history as one of China's oldest water conservancy projects and being renowned as the birthplace of Shaoxing rice wine. "Beyond Yue|Jianhu Revival" aims to coordinate the relationship between landscape and city, cultural heritage and modern industry, tourism and citizen life, defining a vibrant space with ecological vitality beyond the YUE region. The proposal developed by the team, strategically leverages the inherent potential of the location serving as a convergence point for various spatial realities. Longitudinally connecting the expanding metropolitan regions of Hangzhou and Shaoxing, it establishes new transversal development axes that amplify the local characteristics. A "smart densification" strategically aligns with these paths, concurrently encouraging lighter urbanization around green spaces and agricultural areas.

Afterword

by Francesca Governa

The China Room is now a research center recognized both nationally and internationally. Even in these years that have not been easy for anyone, and particularly for those of us who make research in China our thematic and problematic focus of attention, we have managed to carry out many activities of various kinds as this report shows. This is, of course, a source of pride and satisfaction, but at the same time it prompts us to continue our activities by pursuing some lines of research and some activities that seem to us to be particularly promising.

For example, during the pandemic period we could not conduct field research in China. This led us to shift the focus of our attention to China's role in the world, in the field of architecture, urbanization processes, and more generally to the need to understand and interpret China's role as a global player in geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics. The Global China debate provides a backdrop with which we need to engage, while using the 'toolbox' of different disciplinary knowledge that animates the China Room. At the same time, the increasingly pressing need to deepen our knowledge of urbanization processes and architectural practices outside the so-called "Global North" is a path that increasingly deserves to be followed, inserting our activities in strands of discussion, research and practice that are as lively as ever. This is also important from a didactic point of view: the exchange and the intersection of experiences of the students who populate the classrooms of the Politecnico increasingly push us to the international openness of our gaze, in our respective disciplinary fields.

Over the past few years, the China Room has become increasingly inclusive and the number of researchers who refer to it, both within our university and outside, has grown. PhD candidates and post-doctoral scholars, master's students and visiting scholars are the "engine" of the China Room every day, they propose activities, and are active participants in seminars and discussions. Project consulting and applied research activities involve senior and junior researchers in a continuous exchange of skills and experience, relating to commissions and institutions at local and international levels.
Building an open space for discussion and confrontation beyond academic roles, all learning together how to be in this complicated world by doing 'well' our work, whether that of the architect, the urban planner or the geographer, is the goal we set for the coming years, continuing the activities reported in this report, imagining new ones, and involving all those who would like to be part of our many activities, whether by actively participating in academic research and field projects, or by discussing with us our work and the lines along which to continue our exploration of the urban and architectural dimensions of China, outside and inside China in itself.

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