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CITYMAKERS
Recommendations
April 2018

CITYMAKERS RECOMMENDATIONS

CITYMAKERS China – Germany, the Sino-German interdisciplinary program on global learning for urban innovations initiated by Robert Bosch Stiftung and implemented by CONSTELLATIONS International GmbH, presents the following observations, analyses and recommendations. This second edition of the CITYMAKERS-Recommendations is based on over 30 oral interviews conducted during the program's second year (April 2017–2018), built on the proceedings from a further 30 interviews from the first year (2016–2017) and the results of three incubator projects, plus observations and insights gained by the CITYMAKERS China – Germany core team during various meetings and events. → www.stadtmacher4986.com

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Silvan Hagenbrock, Michael Leischner, WANG Keyao on a walk through the muslim quartier in Xi'an.



Xi'an City Wall



Eva Sternfeld talking to kids at Dahua 1935



Exhibition by SONG Qun on Locality at Xi'an National Digital Publishing Base



SONG Qun, Michael Leischner and LU Xiao at Zhijian Workshop Space Xi'an preparing the photo exhibition CONTEXT AS CONTENT



Dortmund connection, Michael Leischner and Silvan Hagenbrock

Dahua 1935 tour by architect WANG Keyao, Xi'an



INTRODUCTION

CITYMAKERS CHINA – GERMANY

Why?

Three insights led to the program's design in 2016. First, technological innovation needs to be complemented by social innovation and a more holistic view to sustainable development. Second, a large group of people who studied architecture, urbanism, and city planning between China and Germany are a potential leverage point for stronger Sino-German people-to-people relations. Third, creativity, culture and diversity are transversal design parameters whose power to generate impact is underestimated. Today's CITYMAKERS' mission: To grow and enable a network of pioneering citymakers across disciplines who create novel models for livable cities.

What is the outcome so far?

Stories of pioneers to share – Although neither mainstream nor against the mainstream yet, there is a **critical mass** who are seeking **fresh approaches** and **nudging the status quo**. CITYMAKERS China – Germany has scouted and recorded the stories of 70 inspiring citymakers.



contribution of our guest editor, confirms and elaborates on this concept.

What is important now?

Top-down bottom-up cooperation – Multi-stakeholder cooperation and an **integrated strategy for German actors** from the third, private and public sectors are not only a potential for innovation but also risk management measures for protecting and expanding spaces for bottom-up non-government citymakers. CITYMAKERS China – Germany will be part of the government-endorsed Sino-

German Urbanization conference at the end of 2018 in China. In general, **strategic partnerships** with other actors will become more important in the future.

Scalable social impact – CITYMAKERS China – Germany has identified a number of good stories and practices. But are good practices scalable? More social impact investment can spread practices for common good. A field of support for CITYMAKERS China – Germany to cultivate.

Focus on a shared value compass – In times of increasingly fundamental divide, it is important to focus on the values we share as human beings. The **UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030)** describe a shared value compass for livable city partnerships.

Making Cities – Making Friends – Collaborating on projects with a shared vision is the best way to turn strangers into trusted peers or (old) friends. And when there are no concrete projects, staying in touch is important. The ongoing CITYMAKER China – Germany dialogues and interviews help build further relations and create a feeling of belonging to the same community. Joint actions are the result – not the start – of good partnerships.

Katja Hellkötter, Founder CONSTELLATIONS International, Co-Initiator and Program Director CITYMAKERS China – Germany

Three questions for Sandra Breka, Member of the Board of Management, Robert Bosch Stiftung



Photography: Robert Bosch Stiftung

development of solutions. Urban growth and the concomitant issues mentioned above are among these global challenges. With the CITYMAKERS China – Germany project, the Robert Bosch Stiftung aims to create more livable cities by facilitating exchange and the implementation of ideas on sustainable urban development in China and Germany. We hope to improve the work of existing and to support the development of new partnerships, creating a growing network of responsible CITYMAKERS between China and Germany.

1. Urbanization is one of the most pressing dynamics in the world. In China, urban growth has accelerated at an astonishing speed: In 2005, 40% of the population lived in urban areas; today it is close to 60% (that is over 800 million people). What would you say are the biggest challenges related to this phenomenon? Rapid urban development in China, but also in Germany, has led to manifold challenges, ranging from adequate housing for a growing population to the provision of infrastructure and, among others, questions of climate change mitigation. An issue that is often overlooked however, is that of how to include the very diverse range of stakeholders in the city to create a livable and sustainable environment. In this process of rapid growth, the voices of many people remain unheard. Thus, I believe one of the main challenges we face is the integration of different perspectives and practices into city making, whether it is in China, in Germany or anywhere else.

2. International understanding and city making: What is your ambition as Robert Bosch Stiftung to contribute in this field and which impact do you wish to create through programs such as "CITYMAKERS China – Germany"? One of the Robert Bosch Stiftung's main fields of engagement is that of international understanding. We believe that global challenges can only be solved through cooperation across borders and cultures. Our objective is to facilitate multilateral and interdisciplinary exchange among stakeholders, contribute to sustainable partnerships and the joint

3. Looking at the project CITYMAKERS China – Germany as one of the many projects that Robert Bosch Stiftung supports: Where do you see opportunities for synergies, joint learning or even partnerships with other Robert Bosch supported programs? The platform created by the CITYMAKERS China – Germany offers the possibility to share experiences from other projects supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung: **Actors of Urban Change** is a project that focuses on fostering collaboration between urban stakeholders across Europe by promoting cultural activities; **Baladiya** supports urban experts from Northern Africa in exchanging ideas and solutions for urban challenges with one another as well as German experts. Apart from these projects with an urban focus, we have extensive connections to a very diverse range of civil society and policy makers across East Asia as well as South and South East Asia. CITYMAKERS China – Germany can be a great partner for these programs and a fantastic network for many of our stakeholders to join. To help the network of CITYMAKERS China – Germany grow, I believe it needs to develop into a multilateral platform.

Further thematically related programs supported by Robert Bosch Stiftung

- **Actors of Urban Change:** www.mitost.org/kulturaustausch/actors-of-urban-change.html
- **Grenzgänger:** www.lcb.de/autoren/grenzgaenger/
- **SPIELRAUM:** www.bosch-stiftung.de/spielraum/
- **Baladiya:** www.baladiya.eu/index.php/de

HORIZON

Witnessing emerging initiatives, which upcoming trends do we see?

Essen won the title of Europe's Green Capital City in 2017, honoring its successful transformation. The vast industrial landscape in China is just starting its **structural transformation**, drawing a parallel with Germany's Ruhr Valley in the early 1960s. The example of Xi'an Dahua Cotton Mill refurbishment → STADTMACHER-Blatt #2 2017/4 highlights the trend.

Culture is a common wish for urban development in China. A middle-class consumer culture of aesthetic economy (Visual aesthetics of a product adds value to the product and makes it) has emerged and tabula rasa urban renewal increasingly endangers the existing folk culture. While **street food** as a living culture is disappearing in China, students in Weimar have imported it with their project, Angerollt (Rolled Up). The Oral History Project in Wuhan → p. 22, Bendi-Local team's documentation of Xi'an's street culture and Nantou Ancient City at the 7th Shenzhen Biennale in 2017 are all efforts to preserve or archive **the culture of everyday life** that is disappearing in China → STADTMACHER-Blatt #2, #3 2017/4, 2017/10.

The countryside is the social and local focus. Under the motto "Think Global – Build Social", Austrian architect Anna Heringer finished **three hostels** with **local** and **low-tech materials** like bamboo and adobe in the Chinese village of Baoxi in 2016. In Xi'an, EURASIA University summer courses visited rural county Wangjiawan in Foping, Shanxi, to help the local community find innovative local development opportunities → STADTMACHER-Blatt #3 2017/10.

Formats enabling experiments and **knowledge transfer** are of further interest. The translation of "Schichten einer Region" and "Handbook Urban Design", two books published by Prof. Christa Reicher (TU Dortmund), is one such format. From CityToolBox as a knowledge database for urban projects → Ways of Learning City, p. 30 to using a game format to coordinate complex needs in school design in the project GENIUS, one part of the City of Tomorrow projects of BMBF, the potential of digital tools is increasingly being recognized.

For a more detailed description of and information on the projects and initiatives mentioned see the CITYMAKERS China – Germany website: → www.stadtmaecher4986.com

by CITYMAKERS China – Germany Guest Editor **ZHANG Zhen**, Research and Teaching Assistant, Department of Theory of Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, RWTH Aachen University and **Silvan Hagenbrock**, B.Sc. Urbanistik, CITYMAKERS China – Germany Editor

KEY OBSERVATIONS

TERRAIN

Examining the urban development status quo, what topics do we record?

Partnership and exchange is an ongoing urbanization and development topic for both China and Germany. China's footprint in global affairs is expanding, as manifested in the Belt and Road Initiative and infrastructure investment in Africa. Germany is developing networks (e.g. NAX (Netzwerk Architektur Export)) to support German architects and planners entering international markets, including China. Among numerous bilateral initiatives and projects, CITYMAKERS China – Germany has engaged in enabling individual citymakers and move from ideas to actions → See Ways of Learning Cities, p. 30

Urban dwellers with isolating routines (standardised way of living) and cybersecurity concerns increasingly long for **community** and are searching for alternative forms of **the collective**. The relevance of the **German Genossenschaft** and **Baugruppe** is worth exploring for China. In Berlin, the Holzmarkt **community project** is becoming a testing field for regulations and development modes → STADTMACHER-Blatt #3 2017/10; in Dortmund, turns local **public spaces** into melting pots of collective exchange and action → STADTMACHER-Blatt #2 2017/4.

Green is the color of hope. In the Global Field (Weltacker) Club, everything that one person eats and wears in one year must be statistically grown on an area of 2,000 m². From InselGarten in Berlin Schöneberg to Ecoland Club (China's first community gardening project) and from a feasibility study of **urban farming** in local neighborhoods to UPFARMING research examining potential rooftop spaces, a central focus is green inside and outside the city → STADTMACHER Urban Farming Incubator, p. 26.

GAPS/BLINDSPOTS

Reviewing project realities, what difficulties and blind spots have we discovered?

Urban renewal remains a controversial theme in China, where culture and existing contexts are often sacrificed to political and commercial interests under the guise of urban development. Reconstructed historical sites, living in green areas or on the water are branding instruments, driving real estate prices upward and pushing low-income groups to city outskirts that lack a basic infrastructure. As LIANG Jingyu said: "It is a tradition in China that every new dynasty destroys the old and creates something new." Michael Leischner answers: "Please let your impressive city wall stay and do not sacrifice it to short-term, transient capitalistic bubbles." → interviews at www.stadtmaecher4986.com

Environmental issues, especially **waste disposal**, remain China's greatest challenge, as shown in the impressive film "Plastic China" by WANG Jiuliang. Policy, industry interests and public awareness have not yet combined to support successful **recycling** systems in China. With this in mind, Aobag, the initiative that gives citizens cashback for using reusable bags, is especially innovative. **Water shortages** and **water security** also deserve attention. LE SHUI XING explores Beijing's waterscape via strollology, revealing a sinking water level and water pollution. → interviews at www.stadtmaecher4986.com

Participation marks an area of fundamental difference between China and Germany. Journalist SHI Ming points out → STADTMACHER-Blatt #3 2017/10 that societal issues need communication, but the space and channels for describing and solving the problems are missing or blocked, creating a dilemma. Contemporary global issues can no longer be confronted without citizen participation and once the wish to participate has been expressed, its organization, form and degree need to be explored.

Aging society, energy transition and urban-rural cooperation

Looking at blind spots to find shared concerns within Sino-German innovation cooperation

Prof. Dr. Doris Fischer is the head of the Expert Group of the Sino-German Innovation Platform initiated in 2011 by the German Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (BMBF) and the Chinese Ministry for Science and Technology (MOST) as one of the key bilateral dialogue mechanisms in the frame of Germany's and China's strategic partnership. Fischer is also the Chair of the China Business and Economics Faculty at the University of Würzburg, where one of her current research focuses on ecological sustainability aspects for innovation systems. The interview below was a conversation between Doris Fischer, Magali Menant and Katja Hellkötter on the occasion of the 5th Sino-German Innovation Conference in Beijing in February 2018. Relevant future city-making collaboration topics that Fischer suggests include: urban-rural cooperation, energy transition and aging society.

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→ Sino-German Innovation Platform: www.plattform-innovation.de

8 **Where do you see untapped potential for collaboration in the field of sustainable urban development between China and Germany?** I do not claim to have a complete overview of all collaborations on sustainable urban development. However, I do think that we need improvements and innovation with regard to urban transportation, waste management and living/care for seniors in both countries. The challenges are not necessarily the same, but probably comparable. For China this means: How can we prevent all those second and third tier cities from undergoing the same cycle in transportation as Beijing and reshaping the cities in order to best accommodate private car use, only to realize later that this is detrimental to urban life quality?

Transportation and waste management are topics dealt with in cooperation projects. How do we best reduce waste? Both in Germany and China, consumers underestimate the waste problem because they do not see it. In Germany we are used to separating our garbage, but the ban by China on waste imports has highlighted the fact that while a good waste collection system can improve the use of waste, it does not make it disap-

pear. Much of the waste is just moved to another place. It's the same in China: The incredibly efficient informal waste system means that the waste disappears from the cities, but urban residents do not know where it goes. This not only increases the rural urban divide – as rural areas suffer most from waste disposal – it also leads to a misjudgment about the scale of the problem.

“There is another issue that troubles me. Given its urban infrastructure, how can China cater to the needs of an aging society in terms of residential housing and transport?”

I have been wondering for some years why the high-rise residential buildings in German towns are often seen as focal areas of social conflict, while this does not (yet?) seem to be the case in China. This latter aspect is not necessarily related to the aging society problem, but it may become related once we reach the stage where China faces increasing maintenance problems for all these rapidly-built residential buildings.

In the long run, tearing down buildings to create new ones will not be sustainable. Maintenance will become a (costly) issue. Who is going to pay for it? How will the older generation live if the buildings lose their appeal and functionality?

Another topic that will trouble us for decades to come is water – both in terms of its quantity and quality. Furthermore, how do we ensure that by making China more sustainable, we (that is China and other industrialized countries) do not just shift the problems to other countries or continents? China has tended to adopt a strategy of “developing first and cleaning up later”. If China seriously wants to become environmentally sustainable and develop further at the same time, how does this work without transplanting the unsustainable aspects of development into other countries? Will Chinese and international MNEs “behave better” in the course of Africa's development?

You advise the German government. What are your three recommendations for deepening the collaboration with China on sustainability in general?

My advisory function for the German government is on topics related to innovation, not sustainability as such. Therefore, repeating the importance of sustainability is an ongoing concern from my side. In this context, I particularly suggest collaboration in the fields of energy transition and the ageing society. Both are central concerns affecting the future of China and Germany, and both demand social, technical and economic innovation.

How could we innovate in the cooperation itself?

By undertaking more cooperative projects in which researchers from both sides look into issues in each of the two countries. Tripartite projects, in which researchers and cases from other countries are taken on board, are also very helpful in developing mutual understanding and new ideas.

The program CITYMAKERS China – Germany China – Germany is emphasizing social innovation and culture as a “fourth pillar of sustainable urban development” complementary to technological innovation and as a transversal topic. How do you reflect on this and where do you see the chances and boundaries for this more holistic approach? Very important! The ultimate rationale of sustainable urban development must be the quality of life in the cities.

“Against the background of how our cities have evolved in the past, I would argue that looking at cities from the perspective of pedestrians, public transport users and cyclists would help a lot to improve life in the city.”

And talking about science: Where do you see the need and the chances for integration of social sciences and cultural studies into the Sino-German discourse on sustainable urban development? Very important, but difficult, since social sciences are seen in China as much more “political” than natural sciences. Or at least that is what the Chinese side assumes. My suggestion for the aging (urban) society takes this into account. This could be a topic where social science cooperation is feasible. Urban-rural cooperation in development – regarding the question of how to prevent urbanization from resulting in neglect of the countryside – could also be a topic for such integration in addition to energy transition: emphasis on renewable energies changes the power logics and economic rents within formerly centralized grid systems.

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Further bilateral platforms with relevance for city making

- **Sino-German Urbanization Partnership:** www.giz.de/en/worldwide
Contact in China: peter.sailer@giz.de; Contact in Germany: daniel.krahl@giz.de
- **Sino-German Environment and Climate Partnerships:** www.environmental-partnership.org
Contact: ursula.becker@giz.de
German ministry-endorsed programs with relevance for Sino-German city making:
- **Sino-German ALUMNI Network for Architecture & City planning (BMBF)**
www.china.tu-berlin.de/menue/urbanixx/
- **City of Tomorrow (BMBF) – Campaign:** www.research-in-germany.org/shaping-the-future

360° KEY VOICES

Below voices are part of the interviews that have been conducted between December 2016 and March 2018 with these interviewees and that had been published in full length on the CITYMAKERS China-Germany website.

→ See website www.stadtmacher4986.com for complete text interviews.

Dr. Peter Sailer, GIZ Beijing, Director, Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership: “The Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership is primarily driven by the Chinese and German governments to enable and nurture the essential political dialogue and exchange on approaches and instruments for advancing sustainable, integrated and climate-friendly urbanisation in both countries. This presents the chance of embedding and interlinking the political transfer of knowledge, experiences and best-practices for sustainable urbanisation into wider public debates, essentially driving forward the scientific as well as practical engagement with high-value topics, such as green building, urban regeneration and age-friendly urban living and housing.”

Dr. Katja Levy, Associate Professor, Chinese Politics & Law, FU Berlin: “To make comparisons of how the governments in Germany and China outsource public services to organizations from civil society, and to **examine the creative space available to these civil society agents.**”

Dr. Philipp Misselwitz, Chair of Habitat Unit, Institute for Architecture, Technical University Berlin: “We are **too city-focused** and tend to forget **the flip side of urbanization: the fact that rural areas are left behind.**”

Prof. Christa Reicher, Head of Urban Design, School of Spatial Planning, TU Dortmund: “There should be a stronger focus on **the design of integrated planning processes** as well as on culture as an important local soft factor that needs integration into city planning as well.”

Prof. HAO Chunyi, Vice Dean, Art & Design Department, EURASIA University Xi’an: “We need more enterprises with an **awareness of social urban responsibility.** The main question is how to find the right partners for social innovation in real estate development.”

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Johannes Pflug, China Representative, Duisburg Municipality: “The most important is the mutual exchange of experience and **people-to-people relations.** Both foreign ministries launched a new “people-to-people dialogue mechanism” last year. Hopefully there will be synergies with your program.”

Prof. WU Siegfried Zhiqiang, Vice President Tongji University, Founder of the Sino-German Future Cities Alliance: “We need to bring in **the mayors as key actors into collaboration projects**—not only research and industry stakeholders, but also the **decision makers** and city leaders.”

University Cooperations

Municipal Cooperation

Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

Michael Leischner, Head of Environment & Climate Protection, Dortmund Municipality: “We do have a range of valid experience to share, such as the **reuse of industrial wasteland** and industrial relics or the renaturation of waste water sewage systems, or the enhancement of the **cultural value of a whole industrial region.**”

Dr. Gabriele Goldfuß, Head of European and International Affairs, Leipzig Municipality: “To implement a joint project within a network of creative people, academics, sinologists, city planners and developers who work between Germany and China: This **diversity of stakeholders** would fascinate me.”

Dr. Doris Fischer, Head of Expert Group, Sino-German Innovation Platform, BMBF-MOST: “We need to look at what the **consequence on society** will be from the way we build cities today.”

Gunther Adler, former State Secretary Ministry of Environment (BMUB), now State Secretary for Construction at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community: “Any encounter or conference needs a **follow-up** to result in a useful partnership.”

LIU Nanxing, Program Officer, International Cooperative Affairs, Training Center of the Office of the Leading Group for International Intellectual Resource: “Under the umbrella of the **New Silk Road Initiative** it is possible to implement international projects that support ‘capacity building’ between cities and local enterprises.”

360° KEY VOICES

WANG Jianchao, Founder of Aobag, Beijing: “The current recycling system in Germany is a result of **the combination of policies, industry interests and public awareness**. This knowledge is helpful for us to drive the process in China in the future.”

SONG Qinghua, Co-Founder, Shining Stone Community Action: “**Decision-makers lack the conviction** that citizens can successfully join the government in the making of their city.”

Kristof Schmid, Real estate development sector expert: “My suggestion: A regular German-Chinese forum for **alternative development models** in China where attention and awareness for this topic in China is raised.”

Dr. Ing. Susanne Hofmann, Architect, Founder of dieBaupiloten BDA: “The Chinese architects were very curious about cooperating with educators in a participatory process. It would be a great chance to do a real project in China to **test participatory architecture**, e.g. designing a school together.”

WANG Keyao & ZHANG Rubing, Xi'an architects, German Chancellor Fellowship Holders, Xi'an: “There are many experiences, cases and research papers on **how to reuse old buildings** and industrial heritage. All these aspects are valuable for Chinese cities to learn from German cities.”

Benjamin Scheerbarth, Project Manager, Holzmarkt Berlin: “We need **specifications in the building law** for innovative concepts.”

Urbanists & Architects
A

LIANG Jingyu, Architect, Founder of Approach Architecture Studio: “There is a **lack of effective mechanisms** for public participation and interaction with inhabitants, both of which would contribute to urban self-improvement.”

ZHANG Pengju, Architect, Inner Mongolia University of Technology, Hohhot: “The inhabitants of an area have certain habits and a certain behavior when they use a building. These are part of the **local culture and have to be taken into account** and improved during the planning process.”

An-He Kinzelbach, Architect, Founder of Studio KNOWSPACE, Berlin: “Projects that are relevant for both countries are those that concern affordable housing of the future, as well as living and city in the context of an aging society.”

LIU Jiakun, Architect, Founder Jiakun Architects, Chengdu: “Since the administration in China strives for a lower building density, the result – **more open space** – is basically good.”

activists,
(social) entrepreneurs,
community organizers



Marionka Pohl, community organizer, Deutsches Institut für Community Organizing (DICO), Founder of the “Bürgerplattform Spandau”: “First, it is all about **listening**.”

乐水行, Beijing Walk Water Wonderful: “The awareness that **water arteries, as lifelines of the city**, need to be protected and must be strengthened in both countries.”

SHI Ming, Journalist, Berlin: “The participation of citizens, which is often considered an important part in development initiatives, also in China, only happens when the elites think that they can offer a solution—if it happens at all. However participation **needs to start with asking the right questions**.”

Malina Becker, Editor: “Chinese films are rather unknown in Germany. **Film festivals like Chai.China** in Leipzig are a way for joint Sino-German cultural city experiences.”

Sebastian Köbe, Urban Scriber, Robert Bosch Lecturer, Chengdu: “There are many abandoned buildings in Chengdu that have a unique charm. I would like to rediscover these spaces together with local artists, imagine how they could be used in new creative ways to **raise public awareness of spatial resources** in the urban context.”

Artists & Creatives



Roman Hagenbrock, copy & waste, Theatre Collective, Berlin: “As copy & waste **we could rent a shop and open a ‘copy shop’**, which would reflect on the ‘copy culture’ that extends into different areas like fashion design, film, architecture and so on.”

SONG Qun, Curator, Founder of Xi'an an Urban Memory Museum and 本地: “Many times things change so fast that there is **no time for remembering**.”

Jens Thomas, Chief Editor, Creative City Berlin: “How can concepts of sustainability in the field of culture or creative industries be conceived transnationally, so that it is **possible to set international standards?**”

WU Yimeng, Designer, Artist, Founder of Studio WU 無, Berlin: “I imagine a project that combines **urban gardening and sketching** in the city, with participation by the local residents — that's to say where people together grow flowers and vegetables in their neighborhoods and draw together.”

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The Mayor: Supporting green innovation eco-systems, enabling entrepreneurs

Ramona Pop, Vice Mayor, City of Berlin

You are travelling to China in April to open a representative office for Berlin in its partner city Beijing. What are your plans? We plan to support company founders from Berlin as they expand into the Asian market. With the new Berlin Economic Representative Office in Beijing we want to provide a platform to facilitate engagement with Chinese partners, both with businesses and city administrations. Our focus topics: electromobility, energy, the environment and startups.



Photography: SenWEB

medium-sized businesses, startups and scientists with the aim of developing new digital business models or advancing existing ones. And third, entrepreneurs play an important role as catalysers for innovations. Berlin is the start-up capital of Europe! We have set up various support programs.

Exactly how do you support entrepreneurs between Berlin and China?

We have launched two relatively large initiatives: One is the Startup Asia Berlin (SUAB) project, initiated by my office. It will be implemented by the Berlin local NGO called enact e.V.. The project will interconnect the ecosystems of Berlin and India (Bengaluru) and Indonesia (partner city Jakarta) and China (Beijing, Shenzhen and Hong Kong). The other is StartAlliance, an initiative of the Startup Unit at Berlin Partner for Business and Technology, which cooperates with a range of incubators and accelerators.

The intention of my trip to China in April is also to accompany this engagement from a political perspective. We want to create favourable general conditions for companies and cultivate the relationships with partners in China. Political encounters also pave the way for economic collaboration. Of course, the initiative must come from the companies themselves.

What do you personally find interesting to learn from China? China has been making great strides in the field of electromobility – I would like to find out how they have achieved this shift, examining its impact on various areas and whether or not some of their activities could be a model for Germany and in particular, Berlin.

What does “smart city” mean to you? How does it connect to these topics? Cities are responsible for around 75% of the global energy and resource requirements. At the same time, the spatial proximity of suppliers and consumers is a good prerequisite for implementing integrative concepts. As experimental places cities have an important role. Berlin is already a laboratory: the city is focusing on using its resources optimally to boost the quality of life it offers.

What can city mayors do to promote ecosystems for innovative city making? And which lessons learned would you share with your Chinese partners? First, we are modernizing Berlin with ecology in mind. By opening up the public utility company, we have driven the energy transformation. Berlin residents can now use local green electricity. We have created a modern energy provider for the city that is also an important player in energy upgrades for public buildings. We are developing clean public transport concepts, e.g. the conversion of the bus fleet to electric drives. Second, digitalization is a prerequisite for the energy transformation and innovative city-making. We have created a platform for collaboration among

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- Since December 2016 **Ramona Pop** has been a mayor of Berlin and Senator for Economy, Energy and Public Enterprises. She is a member of the Alliance '90/The Greens party (since 1997). Pop studied political sciences in Münster and at the Freie Universität Berlin.
- Read the full interview in German & Chinese on: www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language1/html/55104.asp

The Architect as Creative Thinker: Called to inspire and love people

DONG Hao, Co-founder of Crossboundaries, Beijing

→ **DONG Hao** received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the Beijing Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture and a master's degree in architecture from Pratt Institute in New York. After living and studying in the U.S. for almost 5 years, he returned to China in 2002. DONG Hao began working at major state-owned design enterprise Beijing Institute of Architectural Design in 2003. He co-founded Crossboundaries, based in Beijing, in 2005 and is managing director of the Beijing office. He teaches at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and Tsinghua University.
→ h.dong@crossboundaries.com / www.crossboundaries.com

What do architects/urbanists need to make livable cities?

Mostly, they need to care about, love and understand human beings. All the stakeholders must share an understanding of the whole picture: humanity is the center and money is secondary. Then they can locate the equilibrium in the spectrum of nature vs. infrastructure and leverage the elements' synergies.

How do you value your personal contribution to making livable cities?

As designers, we are shapers that inspire people. Regardless of the scale of the project – be it a chair or a city – the sole purpose must be to create a whole organism with a relationship to individuals and society. When the true starting point and goal revolves around this concept, everything else falls into place: the requirements for shelter, preservation of nature and utilization of resources.

Your architecture creates spaces for living and learning and not static physical structures. Is this approach acknowledged in China's architectural world? The industry is shifting from a value placed on the constructed materials to the more “invisible” volume they create. As Confucius said: “A house is defined by walls while its use depends on the empty space within. Therefore, take advantage of what is there by making use of what is not.”

What are the biggest obstacles to and opportunities for creating cities? The biggest obstacle we face is the recalibration of all stakeholders – moving them toward



Photography: crossboundaries.com

the same goal and moving the goal away from purely financial short-term motives. We invite our clients to explore Chinese modernity and tradition with us, defining value that is not just measured in RMB.

You also teach at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. How can education become more innovative?

My experience says that students' perception of architecture is typically limited to concrete and engineering. I think a lot of this is due to a lack of social understanding as individuals and a collective. We need to teach the basics and subtlety of human needs.

The Western notion of public spaces is related to rights to the city. Is it possible in Beijing to appropriate space temporarily? Yes. Absolutely. I see it already creeping back into the formalized urban fabric of Beijing: from line dancing groups populating the streets to self-appropriated outdoor lounges in the neighborhoods.

What is your vision for Sino-German cooperation? Education for everyone – including myself! We need to continually evolve and adapt. The Internet has voided the need for knowledge, yet knowledge-based learning is still prevalent in many mindsets and education systems. I would like to see the methods of design thinking and enterprise education embedded in everyone's lives, across all fields as basic tools for all to master.

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The Acupuncture Architect: Obligated to heritage sensitivity and rural identity

XU Tiantian, founder DnA Design and Architecture

→ **XU Tiantian** is the founding principal of DnA_Design and Architecture. Born in 1975 in Fujian, XU Tiantian received her M.A. in Urban Design from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and her Baccalaureate in Architecture from Tsinghua University in Beijing. The award-winning architect has engaged extensively with rural revitalization processes in Songyang. In March 2018, an exhibition about this work, “Rural Moves – The Songyang Story,” opened at Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin. → dna_beijing@126.com / www.designandarchitecture.net

XU Tiantian, you are the founder of the architecture studio DnA_Design and Architecture in Beijing. Which project in your portfolio is the most important to you? The Songyang project. For over four years, we have been working intensively to put an architectural “acupuncture strategy” in place to revitalize the rural Songyang area as part of an ongoing process with the local community and local government. Using vernacular material and construction techniques, public buildings are integrated into the historical context. They serve the local community by restoring its rural identity and stimulating economic development there.



Photography: XU Meng

craftsmanship. Can you share the insights you've gained from your project? “Rural” has been a forgotten land for decades, in China and worldwide. There have been different methods of action in some regions, for example, the tourism development in “Swiss rural,” and public art programs in “Japanese rural” projects. Our

architectural acupuncture strategy in Songyang is not only about rural construction; more importantly, it is a new program that meets the needs of the local community by integrating local crafts and heritage. This is unusual for architects because we are used to working with a given assignment and defined projects. However, the process engages the participation of local villagers and also benefits the understanding of design on all sides.

If we did a collaborative format between China and Germany in the field of art village and/or rural development, what experience and knowledge could you bring from China and what would you like to hear or see in Germany? The rural situation is different in both countries. An international collaboration on rural development with cultural exchange would be a good strategy and an exciting kick-off for a local rural community.

Which structures and institutional/organizational setups for cooperation with China are important for both top-down and bottom-up city-to-city cooperation? Perhaps a research institute?

In Europe, the term “genius loci” is often a starting point of architectural design in both the urban context and in landscapes: the historical and present contexts are crucial. Do you agree? After working a few years in an area like Songyang, I have to rethink the definition of context. In rural China, when the whole village with hundreds of years of history and a population of hundreds could be only one or a few big families, context is not only the spatial structure or landscape, but also layers of history, generations, pride and honor. Architecture can and is obligated to connect with the past in order to serve the present and lead to a better future.

In the current age of post-industrialization, the suburb in China is has been witnessing examples of alternative sustainable development with small-scale architecture, innovative building technology and a revival of traditional, virtually forgotten,

The Educator: Moving to the next level of Sino-German collaboration in education for architecture & city planning

Prof. CAI Yongjie, Tongji University

Photography: Prof. SONG Dexuan

increase ceiling height have been popular for a long time. But in China very few architects know about them.

Where do you see untapped potential for collaboration? China has learned a lot from Western countries – we have virtually adopted the complete German Federal Building Code (BauGB). I feel that Sino-German cooperation now has to intensify the countries’ mutual understanding and ways of learning.

If you had to develop a new Sino-German program for innovation in education ... I feel the learning systems in China and Germany are very different with regard to innovation in education, so a combination of both would be good. The in-depth, technique-oriented German way of learning in combination with the flexible and pragmatic way in China would make an excellent combination.

What are the strengths of collaboration between Germany and China in the field of architecture and city planning? German universities are very detailed, focused and skilled in engineering, building design, building construction and long-term strategy, while Chinese architecture is diligent and eager to learn and adapt. Is a nation capable of learning? You can find out about the experiences and knowledge of other countries like Germany but it is not the same as first-hand experience. The point is: Can China avoid making urban planning mistakes by pooling knowledge from other countries or do we have to make our own mistakes? When I was a student, my German professor sometimes gave us examples of urban planning errors detected in German cities to avoid, but it was and still is difficult to give advice like this in China. It is easy to transfer technical knowledge but experience and profound understanding is difficult to transfer: this requires a lot of time and patience.

Even though Chinese planners are very interested in German knowledge, they have their own way of thinking, want to gather their own experience. In China, steel frame construction was very quickly adapted from Western architecture and further developed. In German architecture, skeleton structures with load-bearing columns and ceilings to



How about a Sino-German summer campus not for students but for educators and curriculum designers on the question of “How to leverage 20 plus years of Sino-German cooperation in architecture and city planning education?” That would indeed be a very interesting activity.

→ **Professor CAI Yongjie** is the head of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University Shanghai. His research fields are Urban Design, Public Space, Architectural Design, incl. Urban Sociology and Traditional Urban Space. With doctoral studies in Germany (TU Dortmund) Prof. CAI not only teaches courses on “Comparison of Chinese and German Architecture” but is also involved in Sino German education cooperation, e.g. setting up double degree programs with TU Berlin and Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. His dedication to education was acknowledged in several awards e.g. the Prize for “Establishing the cultivation system for human quality in architectural education (2005). CAI Yongjie is originally from Chengdu, Sichuan Province. → cjy@tongji.edu.cn → **Tongji University Shanghai, CAUP:** www.en-caup.tongji.edu.cn → **Further resources:** URBANIX – A new German-Chinese Alumni Network for Architects, Urbanists and City Planners! Funded by BMBF and hosted by the CHINA CENTER at TU Berlin: www.china.tu-berlin.de/menue/urbanix/

The Sustainable City Collaborator: Expertise and advocacy for urban transition partnerships

Roman Mendle, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI acts as “cooperation architect” for sustainable cities: you recently launched the Urban Transitions Alliance with 11 cities from the U.S., Europe and China. Which building blocks do urban transition partnerships require to be successful? Urban transitions are the continuous process of change that cities are subject to, but that they can also steer towards normative goals such as urban sustainability and quality of life. One key building block is connecting community actors with multiple departments and utilities, civil society, researchers, other knowledge owners, entrepreneurs, etc. Co-defining a joint vision – serving as a compass of shared values – is a second major building block. A third one: identifying potential to leverage opportunities in the interest of all. A more comprehensive concept than a business case.



Photography: ICLEI

When speaking about sustainable cities in China and Europe, are we talking about the same when we say the same? Despite many differences – paradigms, operational frameworks, circumstances – I would like to stress that we share fundamental values. The global sustainability agenda is an example.

The laws of nature, scientific facts, basic human needs and environmental realities are the same everywhere. Collaboration will only be difficult if we allow ourselves to deviate from these shared realities in our thinking by buying into stereotypes or creating assumptions before we try to understand the actual meaning behind the words we both say.

If you could suggest one type of project for CITYMAKERS China – Germany, what would that be? An advanced capacity development program for experienced practitioners in Sino-German relations that further breaks down stereotypes, develops active listening skills and opens minds for other ways of thinking about or looking at urban realities.

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As CEOs of cities, mayors are a key focus of your advocacy efforts for sustainable cities. Which incentive mechanisms are effective at turning mayors into pioneering citymakers? Mayors are actually very different from CEOs. They are advocating for and keepers of their constituency’s wellbeing for present and future generations. Citizens cannot be compared to employees or users. Cities are homes, not enterprises. There are many things we can support pioneering mayors: from making their voices heard to supporting them in financing and implementing ambitious local campaigns.

- **Roman Serdar Mendle** is a sustainability scientist and China expert who is the Smart Cities Program Manager at ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. His team enables the 1,500 cities in the ICLEI network to navigate the smart cities space by applying a critical sustainability lens, creating collaboration and knowledge exchange opportunities for cities across the globe. The ICLEI China office, for which Roman serves as a liaison person, was established and registered in 2018 in Beijing. → roman.mendle@iclei.de / www.iclei.org
- **ICLEI in China:** eastasia.iclei.org/about/iclei-china.html. ICLEI, iclei-china@iclei.org

Photography right side: Li Xin, CITYMAKERS Xi’an Map & Meet, July 2018



INCUBATOR PROJECTS



Exploring alternative ways of living, working and sharing in Chinese cities

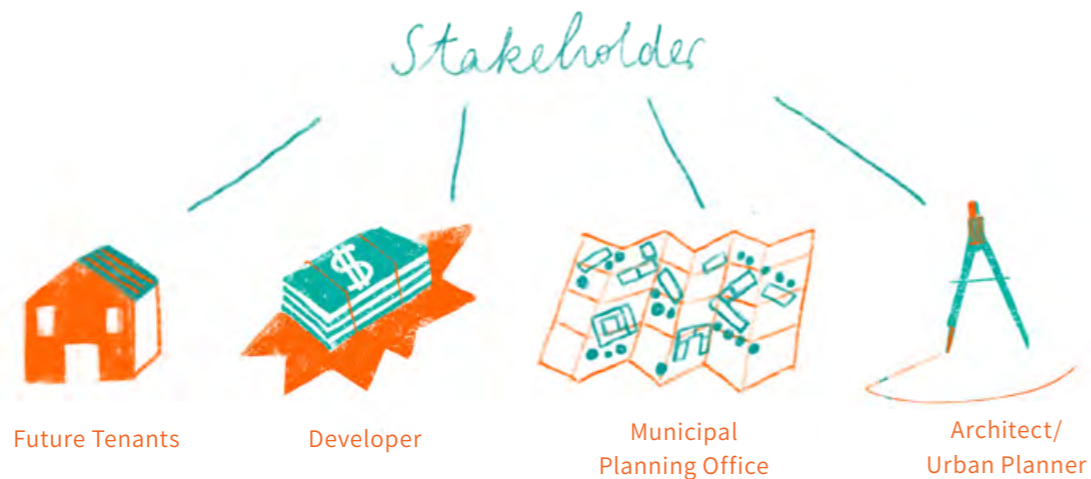
The project discusses and conceptualizes a **novel resident-centered building type** in China – a collective architectural space based on common visions of sharing time and space, built and inhabited by collective, private clients. Inspired by existing innovative German co-housing models, Future of Living explores **how elements and qualities from German cases can be employed** to make housing and living in Chinese cities more socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and financially affordable, and thus become an asset for cities.

STATUS QUO

→ We have identified four **key groups of stakeholders** needed to implement an innovative housing project: the community of future tenants, the developer or sponsor of the project, the municipal planning office and the architect / urban designer. In December 2017 we held a focus group event with developers, architects and urban planners in Beijing at the office of Crossboundaries in Beijing in order to present our analysis, hear opinions and discuss. Via an online questionnaire we also obtained the opinions and preferences of potential residents. We also organized a **joint architecture design studio** at **Tongji University Shanghai** and **Bochum University of Applied Sciences**.

→ The architectural design studio at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP), Tongji University Shanghai started on March 8th 2018. The studio at Bochum University of Applied Sciences began in the first week of April.

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Fotography: Mini Liu

Photography: Alexandra Widrat



CITYMAKERS China – Germany focus group event with developers, architects and urban planners in Beijing at the office of Crossboundaries in Beijing, Dec. 2017



Fotography: Mini Liu

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CITYMAKERS Future of Living members

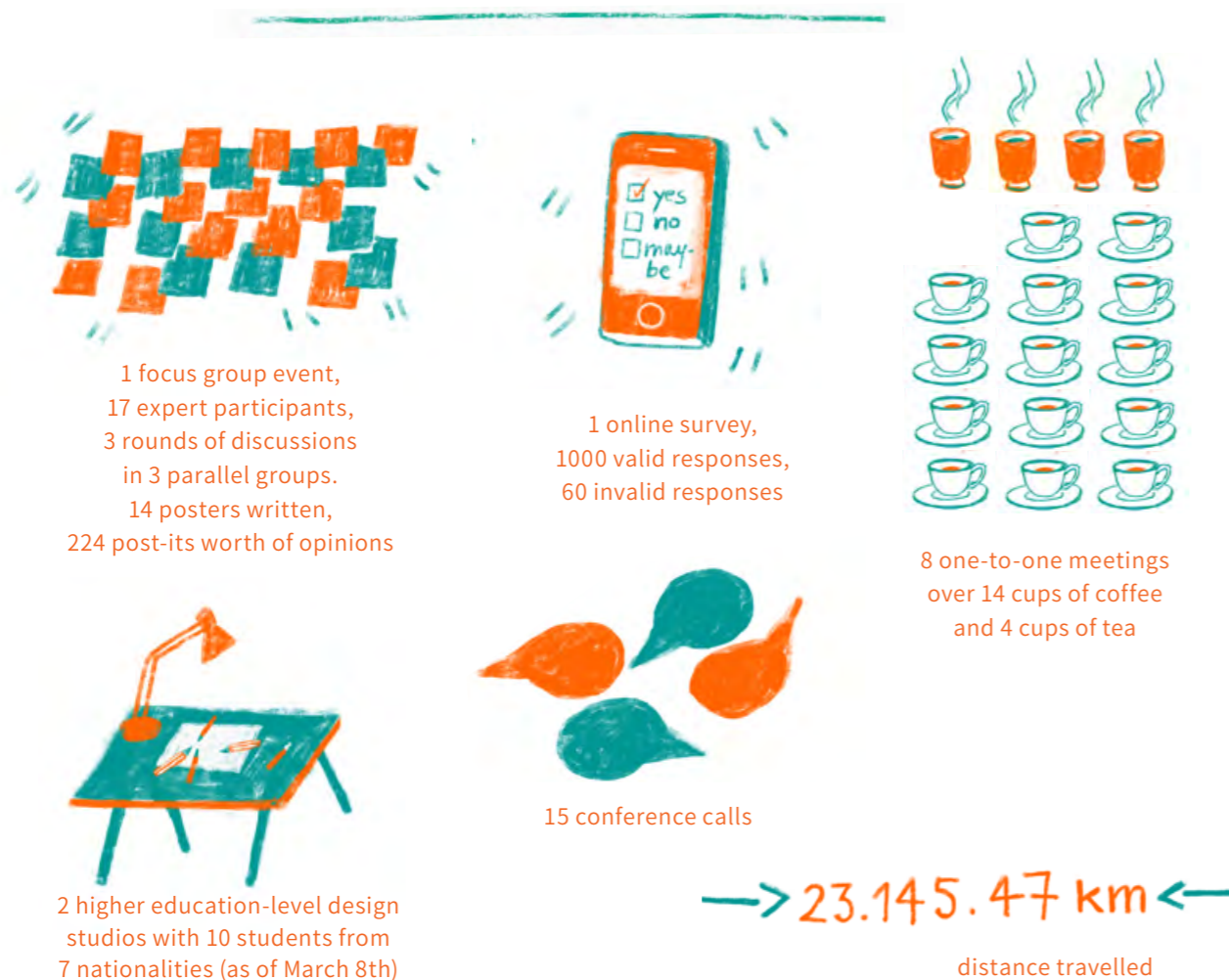
Dr. Iris Belle, Assistant Professor, Tongji University, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Shanghai, Belleiris@tongji.edu.cn
Binke Lenhardt, Co-Founder Crossboundaries, Beijing, b.lenhardt@crossboundaries.com
Prof. Erhard An-He Kinzelbach, Bochum University of Applied Science & Founder of Knowspace Berlin, ea@knowspace.eu

INCUBATOR PROJECTS

FUTURE

- In June 2018, the architecture students participating in the joint Bochum-Tongji design studio will meet in Shanghai to exchange ideas, explore site options, refine their designs and present them to invited experts. Their activity will play a key part in sustaining the discussion with the focus on group members, especially developers and consultants to municipalities. The aim is to eventually produce a prototype, either as an exhibit at a real estate fair or an architectural biennale, or as a 1:1 scale building.

DATA



LESSONS LEARNED

- During the focus group event and individual conversations, experts were supportive of our idea, but cautioned that any such project needed to be **backed by a profit-making business plan**. Almost half of the 1,000 Chinese **respondents to our online survey** said they would be willing to pay even more for housing than they do now if shared living would provide them with access to better facilities and a more inspiring community of neighbors and, in this way, improve their overall quality of life.

- Our biggest concern is that the **existing competition** in China's housing market, combined with the Chinese zoning regulation and land lease system, will make it hard to come up with a competitive business model. In addition to traditional homeownership, competition comes from developer owned and operated standardized houses like Xiaomi's You+ or Vanke's Port Apartments. These cater to white-collar, childless young professionals from the post-1990s generation, but offer them no long-term perspective in the sense of knowledge of the surroundings or interaction with their neighborhood. We plan to propose a building type aimed at a wider segment of the population, one that will also integrate children and the elderly and include long-term lease or ownership options.
- The Future of Living project is closely tied to **real estate construction**. Key challenges for such a project are access to land, financial capital, and in contrast to other real estate projects, sparking the commitment of future residents to subscribe to and design a concept of sharing. We think the project is progressing well, even though we cannot dedicate ourselves to it full time.
- When drafting our project proposal, we underestimated how many steps would be required during the process of soliciting interest. We found that it is not only important to **build and grow a community of Future of Living experts** within the established circle of architects, developers and interested residents, but also to sustain a discussion that goes beyond a one-off focus group event. In order to generate material to keep this discussion alive, we are now running the joint architecture design studio.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- For the city making cooperation between Germany and China in 2018/2019 we recommend **expanding the network of participants**, particularly bringing in more representatives from municipalities, who have an interest in studying and possibly being part of trials for the Future of Living concept.
- To move on to implementing our project, we will need more publicity. We ideally want to promote Future of Living at exhibitions and industry trade fairs, and produce a print publication to fuel the debate in professional circles and among potential future residents.
- In order for Future of Living to have **more relevance in the frame of Sino-German urbanization** and cross-city cooperation, we recommend that adding co-housing projects to the itineraries of Chinese delegations to Germany, and turning the creation of affordable and socially integrated mixed-use housing projects into a regular topic for delegations. Financing co-housing, through special loans, like those already offered by some German credit institutions, should be on the agenda of Chinese delegations from the financial sector.
- If money, land and land-use regulations were not an issue, we would propose the following next step: the project should be to promote the idea of living, working and sharing in one building on WeChat, and call for volunteers who are willing to conceptualize a community, cast them, and design and construct a building to suit their needs. This would be the most direct way to show municipalities, architects and citizens how they can create better places, better lives and a better future.

INCUBATOR PROJECTS



Shared Heritage

The Wuhan Narrative culture and identity incubator team acts on the assumption that **culture is at the heart of the liveable city** and expresses the state of social, civil and urban development. It also represents the contemporary and historic values of a society. Cultural heritage is part of a city's identity and contains "cultural narratives" that are embedded in the built environment. Architecture from all epochs can act as a carrier of stories and become an important witness to history. It can be read, interpreted and understood within the local community and by outsiders. The goal of the team is to make the **cultural memory** of the city visible to the citizens and visitors of Wuhan and to use the surviving **buildings as witnesses** to a productive debate on the issues of culture and identity in urban space.

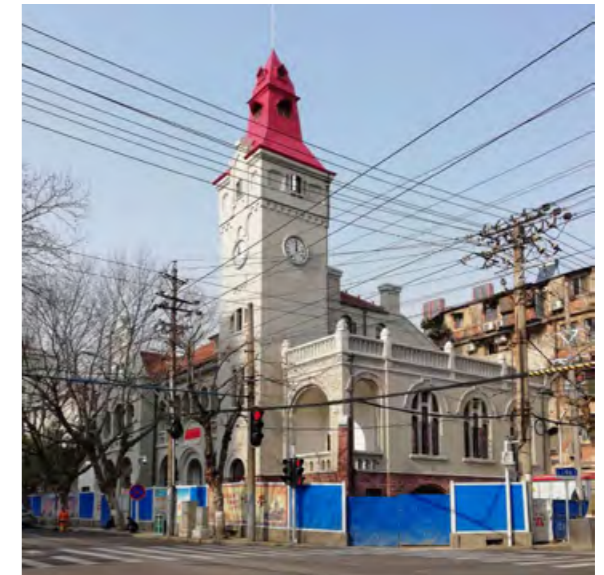


Photography: YANG Fan

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CITYMAKERS WUHAN NARRATIVE group members

Dr. Eduard Kögel, urban planner, architecture historian, publicist and curator
YANG Fan, founder of CECP Wuhan (China Endangered Culture Protectors)
Dr. Ines Eben von Racknitz, scholar, sinologist & historian, professor at Nanjing University
Silvan Hagenbrock, B.Sc. Urbanistik, CITYMAKERS China – Germany Editor



The former German town hall, designed by Lothar Marcks & Busch in 1909, is now under reconstruction. Courtesy of CECP/Wuhan. © Yang Fan.



The Deutsch-Asiatische Bank building in Hankou was designed by German architects Becker & Baedeker in 1908 and destroyed on 18 December 1944 in an air raid. Courtesy of the Historic Institute of Deutsche Bank Frankfurt. © Deutsche Bank AG, Historisches Institut.

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In October 1895, the first German Concession in China was established in Hankou, today part of Wuhan. The second followed in Tianjin only a few weeks later, before Qingdao was established in March 1898. In Wuhan, the German Concession was one of the five concessions by foreign powers (Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Japan). It continued under German administration until 1917 and during WWII large-scale bombing destroyed most of the building. To return this history to today's discourse and evaluate the remaining heritage, we undertook basic research on site in Wuhan and in public and private archives in both China and Germany.

The remaining buildings from the German period are few, but they can be used as a critical reference for a fruitful debate on history and memory and an academic exchange on the **shared heritage** of China and Germany. With more background information, **the built environment as an "open campus"** can contribute to educating young people and stimulate debate on history and identity and in a broader, even global sense, on colonialism and national identity. By providing new insights we hope to sensitize administrations and citizens to the value of the remaining traces. They include traces in the built environment on site and in intangible heritage, hidden in private memories and stories related to the buildings.

INCUBATOR PROJECTS

STATUS QUO

- German archive searches brought information about the founding of the German concession and some of the associated plans, photos and documents to light. Part of the material is in the Political Archive of the Foreign Office, part is in the archive of the Reichstag, some is in the Secret State Archives Prussian Cultural Heritage and some is in the private collection of Studienwerk Deutsches Leben in Ostasien. Further materials were also found in the Federal Archives in Koblenz and Berlin and newspapers held at the Staatsbibliothek Berlin are currently being evaluated. There are also many technical reports and experience reports in various publications from the era. As part of this project, the materials were **localized in libraries** and the **archives mentioned**. Due to their size and the available funds, they could only be partially developed and require further investment of time and research. On site, our group mapped the remaining traces and collected stories that will contribute to the identity discourse as **oral history**.

LESSONS LEARNED

- An important lesson from this project was the realization that a great deal of the historical information stored in German archives is **unknown to the public** and simply **inaccessible to Chinese experts**. On the one hand, the language barrier makes it difficult for them to argue their case; on the other hand, contextualization requires specific knowledge of German history and Chinese circumstances alike. Without this basic information, it is difficult to convince the local administration in Wuhan of the importance of existing tracks and source materials. The administrative and political history of the German Reich in Wuhan lasted 23 years. As a result, German traces were transformed early on and placed in a new context of the history of the Republican period and “Red history”, the narrative of Chinese history told within the framework of the Communist Party’s evolution.
- Like all Chinese cities, Wuhan is undergoing a dynamic process of urbanization in which many historic sites are being radically altered or disappearing altogether. The few surviving German places of remembrance offer an opportunity to define a **critical framework of discourse** that encourages the preservation and analysis of historical memories. A city also reveals itself through the complexity and inconsistency of its development, which can establish itself in its productive discourse as a generator of an urban identity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend establishing a **platform on the topics of shared heritage**, conservation strategies, tourism and identity. Together with local activists, the city administration and experts, German partners have the opportunity to shape the discourse that will culminate in mutual learning and understanding here.
- As a next step, it makes sense to embed our findings in a broader and more **global framework** by asking universities to sponsor workshops with students in order to flesh out and verify the information now available. Other local groups working on heritage (also in the French, British and Russian concessions) as well as the local administration should also be integrated.
- The **Goethe Institut** could co-support on-site events in the frame of its cultural dialogue activities in order to publicize the newly found information locally.
- We plan to initiate a **critical discourse that leads to local action** and projects abroad. The Chinese public’s mind on how to deal with colonial history must be changed and we need to a **sense of responsibility** for a shared heritage in Germany. We will activate different media and develop appropriate tools. An exhibition of the materials found in Germany and China would be a good place for bringing the interested public and the various actors together.

Wuhan Local Voice

YANG Fan, Founder of China Endangered Culture Protectors and Wuhan Heritage Walks



YANG Fan, what is the city of Wuhan’s cultural heritage? The largest city in central China, Wuhan has over 5,000 years of history. It was actually three cities (Wuchang, Hankow, Hanyang) that merged in 1927 to become an interim national capital. After a long period of political turmoil, most of Wuhan’s ancient buildings disappeared. However, most of the historical buildings in the Hankow concessions remained. The cultural value of these buildings was ignored. They were regarded as symbols of the humiliation of foreign invasion. For a very long time, there were no regulations to protect the buildings’ architectural integrity. Many were in such bad condition that they are now called “shantytowns” (棚户区). Since the end of the Cultural Revolution in the late 1970s, a movement to protect these buildings as cultural heritage has grown. The government is becoming aware of the value of these buildings for boosting the city’s appeal. The real estate industry is also driving a gentrification movement. Because of their premium locations, many shantytowns have been bulldozed to make way for new buildings. The remaining buildings were so heavily renovated or “beautified” that their historical authenticity was tarnished. This is the greater challenge faced by the buildings and areas of Wuhan that are part of its cultural heritage. It must be addressed immediately to prevent massive scale “cosmetic surgery” on most of Wuhan’s cultural heritage.

What is the relevance of cultural heritage in Wuhan – to you, the residents of Wuhan and the city’s government? Cultural heritage in Wuhan is evidence of the past and a signpost to the future. It would be horrible to live in a city with no trace of the past. The way cultural heritage is treated shows the way to treat humanity. Wuhan’s government regards cultural heritage as one of the city’s important assets and wants to leverage it

to make the city more attractive. It also wants to use cultural heritage as a tool for boosting the real estate and creative industries. **But it has a strong** political orientation and typically lacks experience in managing cultural heritage in a useful way for the market or international actors.

Former German Concession: What is the current situation? The German Concession in Wuhan was the target of large-scale bombing in 1944. Many buildings were destroyed. Interestingly, the former German Consulate General building is probably the best preserved of its kind in Hankow, as it is now the seat of the Wuhan municipal government.

Your wish and suggestion for Sino-German cooperation? I think the greatest value of cooperation with Germany and CITYMAKERS China – Germany is that we can learn from your view of cultural heritage. Especially in how public opinion is respected and how NGOs and civil societies can be an important factor. It is really driven by individuals and organizations of free will. I do believe that this is the best way to protect our true heritage. I hope in the future we can keep up the good work, as CECP has volunteers across China now. My wishes are: 1. To expand the project to other cities like Qingdao, Jinan with rich German heritage; 2. Start developing an online platform so we can use the internet to connect people and facilitate information sharing; 3. We hope to have more German volunteers join this project, or even come to China to work with us.

- **YANG Fan, wuhantime@gmail.com**
CECP – China Endangered Culture Protectors:
www.icecp.org

INCUBATOR PROJECTS



Food and thus food security is a basic need that affects everyone. This has led to the global urban farming movement. The Urban Farming Incubator is looking for **scalable solutions for urban farming** by creating a **platform for knowledge exchange** between China and Germany. Our purpose is to help social entrepreneurs achieve social, environmental, and economic benefits by creating community gardens. UFI's Shanghai-based and Berlin-based teams support each other. The Shanghai team primarily focuses on creating a prototype and a social business plan while the Berlin team's main thrusts are information research and creating a manual on how to set up an urban farming garden.

The research results (manual guide, interviews, reports & workshops) and documentation of our garden demo in Shanghai and Berlin are available at:

→ www.urbanfarmingincubator.com

STATUS QUO

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Sino-German Garden Demo

Shanghai

→ UFI developed a business plan for scaling up community gardening at a Chinese school. We held a workshop on Nov. 1, 2017. The initial project proposal was for a roof garden at the Design and Innovation Institute, Tongji University Shanghai. Because there was no information on the roof's load-bearing capacity, we scratched the first proposal and turned to a roof garden solution at Shixi Primary School. That winter, the school, WeGarden (a Shanghai-based social enterprise dedicated to the promotion of community gardens) and UFI collaborated on building a green school roof garden. Eight prototype wooden planting boxes were set up on the school roof.

Berlin

→ We're happy to have found a place for our Sino-German Garden Demo in Max-Pflanzen Garden, a community garden on the Max-Planck Gymnasium grounds in Berlin-Mitte. The garden has a total area of 400 m² and a young, intercultural team of volunteers has been tending it since 2015. We have installed cold boxes for planting Chinese and German vegetables there. A special vegetable box will be part of the Global Field's "Cropland Buffet" event: we are going to plant all the ingredients necessary for the popular dish "yu xiang qie zi" (fish-flavored eggplant)!

Photography: Claire Diebel, preparing workshop on urban farming business models in Shanghai



Workshop on urban farming business models in Shanghai



Installing raised bed boxes on the rooftop of Shixi Primary School



Berlin team meet-up after DIY raised bed workshop.



Building a coldbox in Max-Pflanzen Garden

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CITYMAKERS urban farming incubator members

Dr. PAN Tao, founder of Institute of Sustainable Environment and Energy, owner of Ecoland Club Farm

Claire (Kelai) Diebel, M.A. Tongji University 2016 in Architecture, founder of www.upfarming.net

WU Yi Meng, designer, founder of Studio Wu 無 (Berlin), art director of CITYMAKERS China-Germany

GONG Wenye, landscape architect degree from TU Berlin, urbanist

Dr. CHENG Yi Heng, adjunct Professor at Tongji University Shanghai in the College of Design & Innovation

Dr. Eva Sternfeld, senior consultant on China urban and rural development, environmental protection and food safety

Cecilia Antoni, cultural manager, author, filmmaker and expert on cooking with pulses (beanbeat.de)

Maxim Paul, student of Horticulture at Humboldt University of Berlin

INCUBATOR PROJECTS

ACTIVITIES

- Shanghai Urban Farming Business Plan Development Workshop (Nov. 1)
- Participated in International Urban Farming Conference in Berlin (Sept. 11–12)
- Joined Global Field Club (Weltacker Club) Berlin
- Took part in the Global Field's Cropland Buffet Workshop (February 2018)
- Building a cold box workshop in Max-Pflanzen Garden (March and April 2018)
- **Places visited, persons interviewed:**
 - Tracey's Rooftop Restaurant in Chengdu (interview)
 - Dr. LIU Yuelai, founder of Clover Leaf NGO Shanghai (interview)
 - Global Field – Weltacker (several meetings, interview)
 - Goodbank Restaurant – infarm Berlin (food test)
 - Gartenarbeitsschule Friedrichshain (visit and interview)
 - Garden blogger Caro from www.hauptstadtgarten.de (Interview)
- **Activity planned for Asia Pacific Week on 28. April:**
 - A guided tour about community gardening places in Mitte
 - Cross-cultural planting & gardening workshop in Max-Pflanzen Garden



FUTURE

- **“Intercultural education in the garden”** is the proposed focus of UFI's second year. Options including building “garden partnerships” between the two garden demos in Berlin where parallel events and exchange could happen: for example, schoolchildren in China could plant a German dish or German vegetables.
- **Shanghai:** Upgrade the ShiXi school roof garden towards an **educational base for nature-related science technology engineering math (STEM)** courses. Develop Garden+STEM curriculum with school teachers and promote roof garden education to more Chinese and international schools.
- **Berlin:** We would like to maintain our garden demo in Max-Pflanzen Garden and launch it as a **“Classroom under the Tree”** with regular workshops and events held by different experts in order to learn about the following topics in an intercultural environment: ecology and city life / healthy food / nature & culture

DATA



9 cold boxes and
2 raised beds built



6 core team members
(2 in Shanghai, 4 in Berlin),
3 additional members



10 urban garden cases
collected from China and
10 from Germany

Arable land required for “yu xiang qie zi” (fish-flavored eggplant) with rice (1 serving)

	Arable land required (m ²) per kg	Arable land (m ²) per portion	List of plants
Chillis green 3	0.439	0.004	1 plant
Eggplant (200 g)	0.256	0.051	1 plant
Garlic (15 g)	0.382	0.005	1 plant
Ginger (15 g)	0.935	0.014	1 plant
Rice (150 g)	1.471	0.206	2 rows 48 cm
Soybeans 10 g	5.55	0.055	1 plant
Sunflower oil 20 g	6.41	0.11	2 plant
Total		0.445	

Source for yield 2014–2016: <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QC>



LESSONS LEARNED

- It is difficult to find a business model for building and operating a community garden outside of community volunteers. Foundations and corporate CSR can provide some of the funding but more volunteer work needs to be facilitated by local NGOs.
- It is not easy to communicate between Berlin and Shanghai because of the distance. We've found that it makes more sense to have mixed Sino-German teams in both countries working at local places supporting and learning from each other. The knowledge can be compiled in one medium (website, etc.) and shared with the public. **Act local – think cross-cultural**
- It took some months and effort to find “common ground” – a place to start a **garden demo** in both cities. Once the locations were confirmed, the real work of setting up a garden started (hard but fun).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The scalable model of the school roof garden program needs to be **integrated into the school curriculum** for a sustainable impact. Teachers are the major driving force for roof garden operation, therefore **teacher training (TT)** will be a major target of UFI input.
- **Less is more:** Start with a small project that can be realized in a limited time and can “grow” organically through scaling.
- Try to meet your partners from China/Germany for several days. **Start DOING projects together in real life** and places outside the conference hall and offices. Visit interesting people and places together.
- Share the experiences from your project in an authentic way: DIY workshops, guided tours, etc.

FACILITATING LEARNING CITIES

PROCESSES AND TOOLS FOR CITIES AND CITYMAKERS

by Bettine Marissen, Katja Hellkötter

MAPPING – Investigating & cultivating the field

Interviews –
Engaging in conversations

Why Dialogues are not events but ongoing processes of exchange between people. Quality exchange can only happen when each side understands the other's perspective. Conversations are the first step to collaboration.

What Interviews based on well-prepared, upfront questions to people and stakeholders relevant to your field of city-making. Related tools: Stakeholder or dialogue interviews, Empathy Maps.

Example With more than 70 interviews conducted in the program's 2 years, CITYMAKERS China – Germany platform is a major source of qualitative information. The interviews have also led to relationships and some joint activities.

Landscape framework – Mapping strategically and visually

Why Understanding our field of action, the ecosystem of stakeholders and interrelationships is necessary for strategic planning but it is not easy, and communicating the bigger picture to third parties (internal or external) is even more challenging.

What A structured matrix based on the landscape/garden metaphor developed by CONSTELLATIONS. It uses landscape categories such as macroclimate (political influences) and topography (megatrends) for analysis accompanied by scribing.

Example Applications to EU-China Cultural Landscape (2014) and various CITYMAKERS China – Germany mappings based on the landscape approach (incl. Recommendations 2016).

MEETING – Building relationships, curating communities

Pop-ups and Map & Meets
– Reaching out, seeding ideas

Why How do we multiply and spread the ideas of an initiative like CITYMAKERS China – Germany without infinite resources? How to meet the challenge proactively, with the potential of motivated citymakers who need a bit of stimulus to take action?

What Network approaches to grow initiatives (snowball effect). Pop-ups (more spontaneous) and Map & Meet (more planned) are two informal, low-cost formats for outreach and creating ownership among local citymakers.

Example CITYMAKERS Map & Meet Leipzig (Dec. 2017) hosted with the local Confucius Institute was the stimulus for holding regular informal meetings for people interested in China (as of March 2018).

Top-down bottom-up
– Connecting the dots transversally and vertically

Why Exchange among all stakeholders is the key to successful cooperation and sustainable results. New thinking needs new groupings of people to discover hidden potential and synergies.

What Multi-stakeholder meetings designed with thoughtful, curatorial effort can have different layers or parallel formats combined creatively inside and outside in the city. Other tools: stakeholder interviews, generative facilitation, Art of Hosting.

Example CITYMAKERS China – Germany kick-off Meet-Up in Berlin in 2016, supported by the Berlin state government and other stakeholders.

After two years of running the CITYMAKERS China – Germany program, we can recommend a number of support mechanisms and tools to facilitate the learning of cities and their actors – between countries such as China and Germany, as well as on a global scale. Some of the tools were developed specifically within the program, but many are based on the CONSTELLATIONS founders' and associated partners' 20 years of experience in Sino-European collaboration.

MULTIPLYING – Collaborating to boost impact

CITYMAKERS Recommendations
– converge and communicate

Why CITYMAKERS China – Germany has value to contribute to Sino-German cooperation for sustainable cities. But its knowledge must be condensed and crystallized to reach decision makers.

What A method of managing and converging information resulting from a co-creative process. Analyzing what is now (status quo), sensing what is emerging (future) and exploring the gaps. Metaphor: "Looking through a magnifying glass" for the details and a "telescope" for the bigger picture. Related tools: Listening, SWOT analysis.

Example CITYMAKERS Recommendations 2016, Recommendations 2018.

Strategic partner circles – Practicing ecosystem awareness

Why In times of high interconnectivity and a shift from ego to ecosystem as an organizing principle and structure, actors can never act alone. We are all part of and dependent on a larger system of stakeholders and circumstances.

What Collaborative leadership, platform models. Resources: "Network-Thinking – Beyond Brockhaus Thinking" (2017) by Uli Weinberg, or "Leading from the Emerging Futures – From Ego to Eco-Systems Economics" by Otto Scharmer (2013).

Example CITYMAKERS China – Germany are in constant dialogue, in particular with actors that have a nucleus function in the ecosystem: GIZ and the Urbanization Partnership, ICLEI, NAX, DENA, TU Berlin's China Center, the HABITAT Chair at TU Berlin, Tongji University Shanghai, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and BMBF City of Tomorrow projects, for example.

MAKING – Incubating ideas into actions

CITYMAKERS Incubator
– Team up, move on

Why Conference and workshops generate good ideas. The challenge is how to follow up on a good idea and incubate it into a real, actionable project.

What Mobilize or curate teams of four to six members, Germans and Chinese; project coaching (online or offline), seed money as project development money to move from idea to feasible plan.

Example CITYMAKERS China – Germany currently supports three Sino-German focus groups: Wuhan Narrative on cultural memory, the Future of Living and Urban Farming Incubator Shanghai and Berlin.

CITYToolBox – Find inspiration, take action

Why Lot of best practice databases and archives exist. But where are the stories that really move and inspire people, leading to action and change?

What A format that scouts innovative projects beyond the mainstream and tells stories of daring, change-making ideas with the potential to be used as examples.

Example The CityToolBox learning platform encourages young Europeans to take action in the city. It provides them with the know-how they need to become urban transformation protagonists.



OUR THEMES

By **ZHANG Zhen**, Research and Teaching Assistant, Department of Theory of Architecture, RWTH Aachen University and CITYMAKERS China – Germany Guest Editor

Two years ago, the program embarked on the “citymaker” concept putting “livability of cities” at its center of attention, as Katja Hellkötter and Dr. Eduard Kögel indicated in the introductory article → www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language1/downloads/Einfuehrungsgedanken_STADTMACHERChina.pdf to the program in 2016. The focus was on initiatives and citizens’ activities at the grassroots level as well as on entrepreneurs searching for a deeper meaning of life through their own practices, and in the process, changing the microenvironment beyond the impact of architects and planners. Two years later, “social innovation complementary to technological innovation” is still the key concept, reinforced by interviews with a series of voices that emphasize the importance of culture, communication and community in the practice of city-making.

With the following reflection on twelve selected topics, we describe the most relevant key words. Some of the topics, such as participation, the collective, memory of the city and urban metabolism, are already CITYMAKERS China – Germany feature articles, while others must still be explored.

1

Place-making

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We all agree that our built environment influences our view of life and daily practices, which implies that we need to examine how places that produce certain ways of lives are articulated. The term “**place-making**” does not define a place as a structure subordinated to society. Instead, it recognizes the “**intrinsic logic of cities**” (“Eigenlogik” by Martina Löw and Helmuth Berking, 2008), inviting us to study how places influence people’s daily practice in order to create places that make a positive impact on people’s lives.

Some questions for CITYMAKERS China – Germany emerge: What are good examples of place-making in China and in Germany? How are these places articulated? Under which political, economic and social circumstances were the places born? What general knowledge must we acquire to learn how to place-make and adapt it to other circumstances?

2

Everyday life

Modern and post-modern characteristics co-exist in China’s modernization process – functional houses and cities are erected and juxtaposed with emblematic city images. The sleek modernists were not particularly fond of their users’ **everyday life**, while the post-modernists seemed more interested in semiotics than real human beings. In “Flesh and Stone” (1996), Richard Sennett asked “how women and men moved in public and private spaces, what they saw and heard, the smells that assailed them...” Certainly the description is deeply rooted in Western civilization and just as certainly, daily life unfolds differently in different cultural, social and built contexts. Nevertheless, focusing on the everyday life of people is a common effort. How can our knowledge of people’s **everyday life practices** help create better everyday lives?

3

Home

Few people today have a home like a farm in the German countryside or a courtyard house in Peking where generations live together and things stay as they have always been. Modern society is characterized by **migrant populations** that end up in new environments – willingly or not. Take the migrant laborers in Germany’s Ruhr Valley at the end of the 19th century and again in the 1960s and ’70s, the young students and employees in cities, and especially, the migrant population in China’s big cities for example. In some cases the circumstances are temporary but in others, going back to a much changed and “lost” homeland is no longer an option. They confront present realities and build a **home** wherever and in whatever life phase they are. What does “home” mean, what are its built and social elements, and how can people build homes in terms of apartments, neighborhoods, cities and social ties?

5

Participation

In Germany, **participation** in the planning process has deep roots, although recent discussions point to long planning process and unforeseeable delays. In China, the consensus is that more participation is needed and wanted. Societal and environmental challenges can only be overcome if citizens act within their own daily lives, reduce consumption and take recycling seriously.

Citizenship awareness is a crucial point and can only be achieved through education in a broad sense. Can **integrated planning** be an education process where expert knowledge is communicated with citizens in everyday language? To what extent can top-down and bottom-up approaches complement each other? What are the various models of participation? What are the most favorable organizational setups and communication structures? Which methods or tools are available for knowledge transfer?

4

Affordable housing

In the past five years, rents in Berlin have risen by almost 30 percent. In China, high-rise apartment construction follows the logic of real estate development. On the one hand, this results in a lack of apartment typologies that meet real demand and on the other hand, “ghost cities” emerge. Recognizing both countries’ common demand for **affordable housing**, CITYMAKERS China – Germany incubated the Future of Living program → p. 18 to find answers to questions such as: Which housing typologies suit the future? What policies are needed? Which actors should be brought together? And on another level, how can abandoned structures be adapted and ghost cities experience a revival? Are there good examples of the structural and functional conversion of existing buildings, perhaps from eastern Germany? What techniques of building preservation and use conversion programs are available?

6

The collective

Kinship no longer serves as society’s main structure and our warmly embraced modern freedom raises the question of how to regenerate **the collective**. In highly developed societies like Germany, free individuals refuse obligatory boundaries but long for togetherness. In China, a large floating population lives in increasing isolation.

How can the collective revive the balance between social and private demands? What forms of collectiveness exist? Do historical typologies such as China’s Tulou, the socialist commune and the neighborhood settlements of the Soviet Union models provide relevant material for study? Can gated communities be adapted? What are the conceptual differences, lexical origin, archetypes and built forms of the collective in Chinese and European cultural traditions? Are the German **Genossenschaft** and **Baugruppe** transferable to the Chinese context?

7

Urban & rural

Election results everywhere clearly reveal the gap between **urban and rural areas**, or the global economy's winners and losers. **Heimat** is increasingly popular in Germany's public discourse. Nostalgia for a faraway past and faraway land is both a yearning for an idealized paradise that never really existed and a form of escapism from current dissatisfaction. As depicted in the novel "Unterleuten" by Juli Zeh (2016), rural areas are less ideal landscapes than they are struggling realities of life.

In China, urbanization and industrialization have been key words of the past forty years. The countryside suffers from a shrinking labor pool and low education standards, missing development chances and confronted with the aging problem. **Rural areas** must re-focus and examine the other side of the urbanization coin to find an alternative means of survival. Can we talk about a synthesis of the traditional and the modern? Can rural areas complement urban areas, not as objects of nostalgia but as constructive elements of a more balanced life?

8

Material & virtual

Traditional techniques, folk wisdom and the tacit knowledge of daily life are things from which we can gain knowledge. Research in **material culture** helps to decipher the anthropological, historical or social conditions embedded in artifacts.

With the help of the emerging technology of augmented/virtual reality, how can we see through these "things" and understand/present what lies behind them? And how can a synthesis of traditional craftsmanship and new methods of digital production emerge? How can aspects of anthropological ethics become an integral part of further high-tech development?

9

Memory of the city

A city is an overlay of systems, people, and time – and precisely this overlay is what makes a city rich. The mature technical and legal experiences of Germany in **historic preservation** went through an accumulating process following the destruction of the world wars and the rapid post-war reconstruction. Especially since the late 1970s, radical urban renewal for myopic economic gain has swept through China, ignoring existing and historically valuable structures. The CITYMAKERS China – Germany Cultural Heritage incubator group → p. 22 is investigating the memory of the city Wuhan.

When will the radical action of “拆” be systematically re-examined and the **memory of the city**, the people and their past naturally unfold? How can flaneur and strollology help to discover a city's past (and present)? How can cities tell their stories to both citizens and visitors and how can real life be balanced or integrated with tourists' experiences without creating open-air museums? The abundant examples of preservation in Germany provide a rich spectrum of how people have encountered history and its relics, and how moments of history can be preserved, remembered and in the best cases, become part of contemporary life.

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Decentralization

Unlike French or English spatial structure, German urbanization is characterized by decentralization and the relative autonomy of federal states. Subsequently, small cities do not become the hinterland of big cities but explore their own advantages with abundant cultural and social programs. Chinese cities need to give up branding activities or setting up flagship icons merely to attract investment, and instead find real intrinsic benefits as drivers of long-term development.

Currently there are 105 **city partnerships** between Germany and China. The similarities and differences among them enable mutual learning, exchange, and perhaps complementary support. How can cities find out their intrinsic potential and be active in their own development? Can CITYMAKERS China – Germany help to draw potential partners together and identify similarities, differences, and potential fields of collaboration?

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Concrete utopia

“A **social contract** for sustainability” was called for in the first WBGU (German Advisory Council on Climate Change) factsheet in 2011. In other words, individuals and civil society groups, governments and the international community, business and science must take on shared responsibility for **transformation**. The potential of scientific advice is seen in “identifying policy options” through “analyzing complex information, offering integrated solutions, exploring opportunities and communicating results effectively.”

We need options and visions – not Utopia as an output of romanticism and ideology or a dystopia of technocracy. Instead, a “**concrete utopia**” that is not based on an actual or common framework but could be realized given the right framework and circumstances of collaboration among involved participants. CITYMAKERS China – Germany could engage in bridging theory and practice in this sense, finding models and supporting their realization in China and Germany.

11

Urban metabolism

Like ecology systems and human beings, cities constantly absorb and discharge substances and energy. **Carbon footprints** are not just abstract numbers. Everything we eat, wear and use (even the Internet) has a footprint: it comes from somewhere and eventually ends up somewhere.

In China, a middle-class consumer group is becoming mainstream, following the modern Western lifestyle with a high energy footprint and high consumption. However, the traditional frugal and durable lifestyle is a virtue and can be made compatible with modern needs. How can a **circular economy** be realized? The Urban Farming Incubator → p. 26 of CITYMAKERS China – Germany searches for answers and translates them into action.

ABOUT

Program Initiator & Supporter

Robert Bosch Stiftung: The program CITYMAKERS China – Germany was initiated by the Robert Bosch Stiftung in 2016. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. To this purpose, it develops and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives that have similar goals. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, science, society, education, and international relations. Moreover, in the coming years, the foundation will increasingly direct its activities on three focus areas:

- Migration, Integration, and Inclusion
- Social Cohesion in Germany and Europe
- Sustainable Living Spaces

Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested more than 1.4 billion euros in charitable work. → www.bosch-stiftung.de

Concept and Implementation

CONSTELLATIONS International: The program CITYMAKERS China – Germany is conceptualized and implemented by the agency CONSTELLATIONS International headed by Katja Hellkötter and Magali Menant. The CONSTELLATIONS team is specialized in Sino-German/European collaboration design and facilitation at the interface of society, business and education. → www.constellations-international.com

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English-language editorial team: Kate Abbott, www.kommunikat3.de, Duncan Hewitt
Art direction & layout: Studio WU 無 (Berlin), www.studiowudesign.com

April 2018



MAKING CITY – MAKING FRIENDS

Informal gathering of citymakers in Xi'an, July 2017

The questions:

How can we understand locality in times of vast urbanization?
What are the traces of local identities in Xi'an's public space?
What does "local" actually mean?

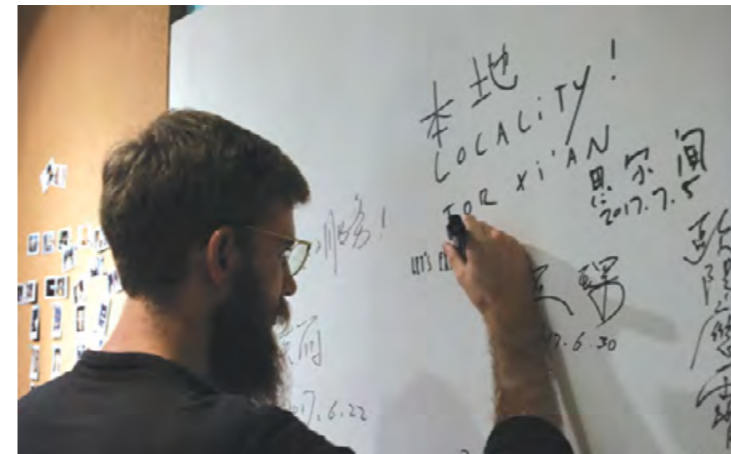
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Xi'an City Wall



Gunnar Grandel – Kollektiv RAUMSTATION



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