

CONTEMPORARY CHINESE CITY

Columbia University / GSAPP

A4356 / Spring 2016

Mondays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 300 Buell South

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During the past two decades, China's economic growth has fueled an unprecedented urban expansion. Never before at this scale and sustained pace has the world experienced such a project. This growth is projected to continue at an accelerated pace as more and more rural Chinese migrate to the urban areas. By 2030, China's urban population could balloon to almost 1 billion people, nearly double what exists today. This seminar will explore how the mechanisms of this rapid urbanization have created new urban models, and how the resultant forms and patterns might influence cities of the future as the world becomes ever more urbanized.

The seminar will be organized by topic, with each session dedicated to a specific subject or phenomenon. The course will utilize multiple source disciplines to discuss each topic, including film, architecture, urban planning, landscape, politics, etc. Relevant to the topic of discussion, guest speakers may participate in the seminar to offer their insight and expertise. Parallel with the course topics will be viewings of contemporary Chinese films from a new generation of urbane filmmakers.

PROJECT: URBAN FUTURES

The case study projects for the seminar will combine the critical topics of the class with the lens of contemporary Chinese films. Based on class topics, through the critical analyses of the selected architectural/urban projects and the urban spaces in selected films, a future urban condition will be imagined and elaborated. What can be learned from the contemporary Chinese city? How might it inspire for the future city?

Students will work in groups of approximately 4-5 people per team. By lottery, each team will select a topic and 3 corresponding case study projects and film from the list below. The team is responsible for researching the selected projects and viewing the film and analyzing them through the critical lens of the associated class topic. The project will be presented in three parts.

Part I: Film

5-minute presentation in class

Each team will briefly introduce the plot, identify and describe a specific moment/sequence/space, etc in the film that you feel reflects the associated topic and present it in the corresponding class session.

Part II: Midterm Presentation

Feb. 22, 10-15-minute presentation in class

Each team will introduces the background of their 3 case study projects, identify and research the main problem/feature/context responding to the associated urban topic through graphic illustrations and texts, with the help of other media such as references/videos, etc.

Part III: Urban Futures: Final Presentation

May 02, 10-15-minute presentation in class

Based on Part I and Part II, each team will select 1 case study project from their mid-term projects, fine-tune and integrate the film and case study research to further specify an investigation interest under their critical topic and derive a future urban condition which reflects the team's vision of the city of the future. This can be visually illustrated by drawings, animations, video, etc.

Final Report

Due May 6, 10 pages approximately

Each team will submit a final report to summarize their works of the semester. The report should include graphic illustrations, images and corresponding written text.

GRADING

Attendance and Class Participation	20%
Part I: Film	10%
Part II: Midterm Presentation	20%
Part III: Urban Futures: Final Presentation	25%
Final Report	25%

SCHEDULE + CLASS TOPICS:

Jan. 25_Session 1	Lecture/Q&A: Contemporary Chinese Cities, Introduction
Feb. 01_Session 2	Lecture/Q&A: Brief History of Chinese Cities
Feb. 08_Session 3	Lecture/Q&A: New Urbanisms? _Megacities / Urban Clusters / Urban-Rural / Infrastructure /

- Feb. 15_Session 4 Lecture/Q&A: **Big & Fast** _Tabula Rasa / Megablock / Migration / Urban Villages
- Feb. 22_Session 5 Guest Speaker: Grahame Shane, Dennis Crompton: *Big & Fast and Mega Structure*
- Feb. 29_Session 6 Guest Speaker: Adam Frampton, Only-If (only-if.org): *Cities Without Ground: A Hong Kong Guidebook.*
Casey Mack, Popular Architecture: *Artificial Ground, Japan*
- Mar. 07 *NO CLASS – Advanced Studio VI Travel Week*
- Mar. 14 *NO CLASS – Spring Break*
- Mar. 21_Session 7 **Midterm Presentation**
- Mar. 28_Session 8 Lecture/Q&A: **Utopia and New Towns** _ Satellites / Ghost Towns / Boast-opolis / Generic city / CBD / Cultural Districts
- Apr. 04_Session 9 Guest Speaker: Xiangning Li
- Apr. 11_Session 10 Lecture/Q&A: **The Question of Preservation**_ Top-down / Bottom-up
- Apr. 18_Session 11 Lecture/Q&A: **Leisure and a Culture of Consumption** _ Automobile / Shopping Space = Public Space
City and Nature _ Gardens / Feng Shui / Environment / Farming
- Apr. 25 *NO CLASS – Studio Final Review Week*
- May 02_Session 12 **Urban Futures: Final Presentation**

(Additional class content and readings are located in Class files/Share files.)

TOPICS + FILMS + CASE STUDY PROJECTS –TBC

TITLE/THEME	FILM	TOPICS	CASE STUDY PROJECTS
New Urbanisms?	Jia Zhangke, I wish I knew (海上傳奇), (2010)	Megacities	Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen,
	Fan Lixin, Last Train Home (歸途列車), (2009)	Urban Clusters	Pearl River Delta, Yangtze River Delta, Bohai Economic Rim
	Ying Liang, The Other Half (另一半), (2006)		
Jia Zhangke, The World (世界), (2004)	Infrastructure	Elevated walkways + Central Escalator, Hong Kong, Three Gorges Dam, Yichang, High-Speed Railway Stations, Nation-wide,	
Big & Fast	MAP Office, City of Production, (2009) http://vimeo.com/84745448	Megablock	Linked Hybrid, Beijing, Jianwai SOHO, Beijing, Raffles City, Chengdu, Union Square, West Kowloon, Hong Kong, Kowloon Walled City, Hong Kong,
	Jia Zhangke, Still Life (三峽好人), (2006)	Urban Villages	Kowloon Walled City, Hong Kong, Dafen Village, Shenzhen, Shi Pai Village, Guangzhou,
Wong Kar-wai, Chungking Express (重慶森林), (1994)			

Utopia and New Towns	Miao Wang, Beijing Taxi (北京出租車), (2010)	Satellites	Tongzhou District, Beijing, Anting, Feng Cheng, Songjiang, etc., Shanghai
	Jia Zhangke, 24 City (二十四城記), (2008)	Ghost Towns	Ordos, Inner Mongolia, Thames Town, Shanghai,
		CBD	Beijing CBD Planning, Beijing Yujiapu CBD, Tianjin, Lujiazui CBD, Shanghai
		Cultural Districts	West Kowloon Cultrual District, Hong Kong 798 Arts District, Beijing, OCT, Shenzhen,
The Question of Preservation	Zhou Hao, The Chinese Mayor (中国市长), (2015)	Top-down	Qianmen Street, Beijing Wang Fu Jing Street, Beijing Wu Dao Ying Hutong, Beijing Lijiang Old City, Lijiang Kuan Zhai Xiang Zi, Chengdu
	Ou Ning, Meishi Street (煤市街), (2007) Chen Kaige, 100 Flowers Hidden Deep (百花深處), (2002) Zhang Yang, Shower (洗澡), (1999)	Bottom-up	OCT, Shenzhen, 798 Arts District, Beijing Amanfayun Hotel, Hangzhou, Dashilar District, Beijing Nanluoguxiang, Beijing, Xintiandi, Shanghai, Bishan Commune, Huangshan,
Leisure and a Culture of Consumption	MAP Office, Runspace, (2011) http://vimeo.com/30825450 MAP Office, City of Consumption, (2004) http://vimeo.com/84094807	shopping space = public space	Guardian Art Center, Beijing, Sanlitun Tai Koo Li, Beijing, The Place, Beijing, Parkview Green, Beijing, Xintiandi, Shanghai, The New Century Global Centre , Chengdu, New South China Mall, Dongguan, OCT Bay, Shenzhen, IFC, Hong Kong, Langham Place, Hong Kong,
City and Nature	Zhao Liang, Behemoth (悲兮魔兽), (2015)	Gardens	Suzhou Museum, Suzhou, Red Brick Museum, Beijing, Chi Lin Nunnery, Hong Kong China Academy of Art, Xiangshan Campus, Hangzhou,
	Baichwal, Jennifer, Manufactured Landscapes, (2006)	environment	Quarry Garden in Chenshan Botanical Garden, Shanghai Vanke Center, Shenzhen, Xixi Wetland, Hongzhou, Hong Kong Wetland Park, Hong Kong, Shan-Shui City by MAD Architects, West Kowloon Cultrual District, Hong Kong
	Groen, Elke and Ina Ivanceanu: Every Seventh Person, (2006)	farming	Huaxi Village