China: The Chinese Cosmopolitan City

Instructors
Shiqiao Li (lishiqiao@virginia.edu)
Esther Lorenz (e.lorenz@virginia.edu)

Research Methods (1 credit)
ARH 5606 Chinese Architecture and Culture (3 credits)
ARCH 5608 Urban Research Workshop (3 credits)

Time:
May 31 to June 30, 2018

Itinerary:
Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Yiwu, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong
Program Summary
After three decades of rapid development, the Chinese urbanization seems to have entered into a new phase, which is characterized by cosmopolitanism. While earlier examples of world cities in Asia such as Hong Kong and Singapore are illuminating, Chinese cities engage with this profound transformation from social and cultural conditions not formulated by colonialism. The 2018 China Program investigates this new stage of Chinese urbanization, particularly in the context of increasing infrastructural integration of the world ambitiously planned by China's Belt and Road Initiative. The UVA Architecture's China Program will focus on influential factors of urban change: the flows of labor, goods, and innovation which resulted Chinese cities adapting its spaces for new realities. We will examine the instruments and institutions of the world system, and study the spatial modifications in the Chinese city that anticipate a new era of urbanization not marked by quantitative increase but by cultural change. These goals will be accomplished by documentation of urban change, analyses of architectural developments, and understanding of cultural encounters in the context of global economic change.

Participating students will have opportunities to work with students and professors in China, visit established design firms and smaller innovative practices as well as their building sites.

Classes
All participating students are enrolled in the following courses:

1. A Research Methods Module before departure (1 credit):
   - Readings of selected literature on Chinese urbanization (pre-departure)
   - Training in documentation techniques (pre-departure)
   - Discussions of research directions before departure (pre-departure)
   - Preliminary research and visualization (pre-departure)
   - Planning and installation of an exhibition at the UVA School of Architecture in September 2018 (postreturn)

2. Research on migration and cultural change for ARH 5606 Chinese Architecture and Culture (3 credits)

3. Urban research and analyses for ARCH 5608 Urban Research Workshop (3 credits)

Outcome
Research conducted in UVA, Yiwu and Guangzhou will be presented and reviewed at South China University in Guangzhou. All these research outcomes will be brought to UVA through an exhibition at the Elmaleh Gallery.

Apply at UVA ISO: http://www.virginia.edu/studyabroad/

Bibliography
(Additional readings will be handed out at the Research Methods Module)

Required Books:
Li Shiqiao, Understanding the Chinese City (Sage, 2014)
Esther Lorenz and Li Shiqiao, eds., Kowloon Cultural District, An Investigation into Spatial Capabilities in Hong Kong (MCCM, 2014)

Africa in China:
Chinese Urbanization:
Thomas Campanella, The Concrete Dragon (Princeton Architectural Press, 2008)
Barry Naughton, The Chinese Economy (The MIT Press, 2007)
Weiping Wu and Piper Gaubatz, The Chinese City (Routledge, 2013)

Historical Background:
Jonathan Spence, The Search for Modern China (W.W. Norton, 1991)
F. W. Mote, Imperial China 900-1800 (Harvard University Press, 1999)
Timothy Brook, The Confusions of Pleasure, Commerce and Culture in Ming China (University of California Press, 1999)
George Clunas, Empire of Brightness, Visual and Material Cultures of Ming China, 1368-1644 (University of Hawaii Press, 2007)
Peter Rowe and Seng Kuan, Architectural Encounters with Essence and Form in Modern China (The MIT Press, 2004)
Nancy Steinhardt, ed., Chinese Architecture (Yale University Press, 2002)
Liang Ssu-ch'eng, Chinese Architecture: A Pictorial History (The MIT Press, 1984)