

CROSS-CULTURAL COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING IN QUANZHOU, FUJIAN, CHINA A Second Look, Based on a Studio Undertaken Summer, 2004

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ABSTRACT

This presentation will follow up on the topic presented at the 4th Pacific Rim Participatory Community Design Conference in December 2002 in Hong Kong. At that time, Prof. Abramson introduced the emergence of opportunities for community-based design and planning in the city of Quanzhou, in Fujian Province China, with the support of a local planning authority that is increasingly open to direct engagement between outside academics, professionals and local residents. By the time the 5th Conference will be held in September 2004 in Seattle, it is expected that an unprecedentedly interdisciplinary and international group of teachers and students¹ will have gathered again in Quanzhou for a “visioning” exercise in which different stakeholder groups in two communities – one in the historic city center, and one in an industrializing peri-urban village – will meet with students to find graphic and text expression for their particular idea of beneficial urban development. The results of this exercise are expected to be mounted in a public exhibition for open discussion of what developmental direction the city should take in neighborhoods such as these. It is also expected that the exhibition may be a centerpiece for a national conference in Quanzhou on “democratization of the urban planning decision-making process in China” sponsored by the Urban Planning Association of China and the Ford Foundation. This presentation will review what actually happens in Summer 2004, by focusing on how field studies by North American students in concert with Chinese students were combined with a grant from a major international NGO to promote community participation in urban planning governance in China. The presentation will also focus on: the format of the design

and/or planning “studio,” “charrette” and “workshop;” the integration of pedagogical short term studio projects abroad into longer term international professional/research collaborations, and how being integrated into such collaborations can complicate and benefit both pedagogy and local communities; problems relating to the “assymetry” of travel opportunities between studio participants in affluent and in less affluent countries; differences in the way the discipline(s) of planning are defined in host and visiting countries, and how this affects local community involvement and international collaborative student projects; and finally, the relevance of multidisciplinary itself to the liberalization of planning activities, and the formation of student teams to help overcome barriers in culture and language.

ENDNOTES

¹The students who participated in the studio include:

National Taiwanese University Building and Planning Foundation, Taipei: Huang Chiung-hui, Masters Student; Hsu Chun-yu, Planner; Lee Yen-ju, Masters Student; Teng Chia-ling, Masters Student
Sichuan University: Xin Jianan, Bachelors Student In Forestry, University Of Washington-sichuan Exchange Program; Assistant Coordinator

Southeast University School of Architecture, Nanjing: Ding Li, Masters Student In Urban Planning; Hu Mingxing, Postdoctoral Researcher; Wu Ping, Masters Student In Architecture; Xu Yehe, Masters Student In Architecture

University of British Columbia School of Community and Regional Planning: Leslie Shieh, Doctoral Student

University of Washington: Will Buckingham, Masters Student In International Studies–china Studies; Sylvia Ya-ting Chan, Masters Student In Urban Planning; Sophia Lan-yin Chen, Masters Student In Urban Planning; Richard Cochrane, Masters Student In Public Affairs And Urban Planning; Andrea Flower, Masters Student In Urban Planning; Katie Idziorek, Masters Student In Architecture; Elizabeth Jackson, Bachelors Student In Art History; Laurie Karlinsky, Masters Student In Urban Planning; Liz Maly, Masters Student In Architecture; Eden Mercer, Masters Student In Public Affairs; Christie O'brien, Masters Student In Urban Planning; Marc Philpart, Masters Student In Public Affairs; Essence Pierce, Masters Student In Public Affairs And China Studies; Jayde Lin Roberts, Doctoral Student In The Built Environment; Studio Teaching Assistant And Facilitator; Lee Roberts, Masters Student In Architecture And Urban Planning; Carl See, Masters Student In Public Affairs; Makie Suzuki, Masters Student In Landscape Architecture; Candy Wang, Masters Student In Architecture