

Small Settlements and the Cultural Dimension of Urbanisation Case studies in China and Europe

Cité de l'Architecture & du Patrimoine
Paris, 18th February 2016

The Hangzhou Declaration, which followed the UNESCO Conference on '*Culture for Sustainable Cities*' (December 2015), advocates for the full integration of cultural heritage, culture and creativity into the 'New Urban Agenda', to be adopted at the UN-Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

In order to prevent standardized and prescriptive urban models, which are particularly affecting large portions of the world under the thread of massive urbanization, one of the strategic key-points to pursue is to acknowledge the cultural value of small settlements and landscapes, strengthening their relationships with cities.

China, in this respect, is probably one the most interesting case to observe. It is still a country with one of the highest countryside-city migration trend and evident urban-rural contradictions, but it is has been recently object of an unprecedented political attention to the conservation of its cultural roots. For this reason several questions are arising regarding the future of a rich and diverse legacy of rural villages with historic characteristics or, more in general, small settlements and towns, which are still present across the country. These questions are related to their regional location, their integration in complex urban systems and their equipment of local tangible and intangible resources.

The future of these settlements will be ultimately related to their local aspirations and to the development model they will be persuaded to follow: place-based or globalized ones. However, while the risk of utilizing local culture and heritage for over-commercialization or tourism over-exploitation is surely very high, new alternative and more sustainable approaches to local cultures are emerging.

The aim of the Europe-China International Seminar in Paris is to collect these cases in the attempt to learn from China by comparing them with European good practices.

Co-Chairs:

Françoise Ged, directrice Observatoire de l'architecture de la Chine contemporaine, Cité de l'Architecture & du Patrimoine – Paris (France)

Giulio Verdini, Associate Professor in Urban Planning and Co-Director of the Research Institute of Urbanisation at Xi'an Jiaotong – Liverpool University - Suzhou (China)

Speakers :

Soizik Bechetoille, architecte du patrimoine, doctorante à l'École pratique des hautes études, Centre de recherche sur la civilisation de l'Asie orientale, Collectif Circumpat

Vincent Bradel, architecte, professeur à l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nancy

Paolo Ceccarelli, Emeritus Professor of Spatial Planning at the University of Ferrara (Italy) and UNESCO Chair in 'Urban and Regional Planning for Sustainable Local Development'

Francesca Frassoldati, Associate Professor at Polytechnic University of Turin and Visiting Professor at the State Key Laboratory of Subtropical Building Science of Guangzhou

Bruno Hubert, architecte, professeur à l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris Malaquais

Tiffanie Le Dantec, architecte du patrimoine, doctorante en architecture, Collectif Circumpat

Alain Marinos, architecte et urbaniste, conservateur général du patrimoine honoraire, délégué national des Petites Cités de Caractère de France

Laurent Mazurier, directeur de l'Association Petites Cités de caractère de France, consultant en tourisme

Zhang Min, PhD Candidate at the University of Rovira y Virgili in Spain

Maria da Graça Moreira, Assistant Professor at the University of Lisbon

Lucie Para, chargée de mission action internationale, Réseau des Grands Sites de France

Program of the seminar

9h45 coffee, tea, welcome

10h – 10h30 Introduction: the outcomes of the Hangzhou Conference
Objectives of the seminar, Giulio Verdini & Françoise Ged
Presentation of the participants

10h30-13h - "Learning from China"

- 1) *Villages in the Zhujiang Delta*, Francesca Frassoldati
- 2) *Villages in Yunnan*, Zhang Min (Lucy)
- 3) *Tongli (Jiangsu), Guizhou and Anhui cases*, Françoise Ged
- 4) *Villages in the Yangzi Delta*, Giulio Verdini
- 5) *Urbanity of villages in Zhejiang Province*, Bruno Hubert
- 6) *Zengchong, a Dong village on the edge of modernity*, Tiffanie Le Dantec & Soizik Bechetoille

Discussions

The presentation could be in English with short resume in French or in French with short resume in English to permit more exchanges between participants.

13h-14h30 –lunch in Salon Eiffel

14h30-16h30 - « Creativity, innovations for minor settlements » studies cases in Europe

- 7) *Cultural issues in « Petites Cités de Caractère » of France*, Alain Marinos
- 8) *The case of Santarém in Portugal*, Maria da Graça Moreira
- 9) *Heritage sites as leverage for local sustainable development: the Grands Sites de France's innovative approach*, Lucie Para
- 10) *A student workshop as a medium to reactivate land and landscape values*, Vincent Bradel
- 11) *3 cases in Italy*, Paolo Ceccarelli

Discussions

16h30-17h coffee-tea break

17h-17h30

- 12) *New tools for news uses of rural areas*, by Laurent Mazurier

Discussions

17h30- 18h20 – next steps

- 1) Dissemination strategy
- 2) Consolidation of the network

Pour ceux qui veulent profiter d'être à la Cité, nous recommandons

18h30–20h30 : « Patrimoine et climats, voyage en Absurdie »

Conférence de Benjamin Mouton, cours publics de l'École de Chaillot, auditorium de la Cité