

The future of Living : Together

Instructor: Iris BELLE (Asst. Prof. Dr. Dipl. Ing.)
Duration: 17 weeks [08.03.2018 – 28.06.2018]
Thursdays from 13:30-17:30
Workload: Studio Time: 4.0 hours/week
Individual Studies: 9.0+ hours/week
Participation: 10 students (no restrictions)

In this design studio we examine successful co-housing projects in Germany and explore possibilities of bringing elements from these projects to China. Each student will develop an architectural design proposal and conceptualize an inspiring living environment for a residential community that integrates citizens across social and age divisions, is environmentally sustainable and economically affordable.

Point of departure and relevance:

Living in the city is synonymous with access to ideas, innovation processes, with flourishing in a community of like-minded peers. For most citizens, who have moved to the large cities of this world in pursuit of their dreams, the reality looks different. They live in uniform buildings at the periphery, commute long distances to work, are home only to sleep and have neither time nor energy to be inspired and play an active part in any community. Yet, they have to pay high rents or mortgages and their lifestyles consume unreasonable amounts of energy. Economies of scale and logics of supply and demand put the citizen in the role of the consumer, who has to put up with whatever he or she can afford.

In his seminal lecture "Bauen Wohnen Denken" (Build Live Think) German philosopher Martin Heidegger explored the connection between the way we live and the way we create our buildings. He observed that traditionally, people's lifestyles and environments shape the way they construct their homes and work places. What happens if residents' desires, needs and their capacity to share and exchange become again the starting point for architectural design?

In Berlin, approximately 1'000 self-determined co-housing projects have contributed since the 1970s to the globally positive perception of the city. In this alternative style of constructing, a group of future residents agrees on how they want to lead their lives together, share skills, share time, share space and costs with each other and with their district neighbors. Their utopia of community living forms the basis for the architectural design. By sharing they manage to cut costs, reduce energy

consumption and foster interaction between different age and economic groups. Utopia becomes real living. Citizen-centered building projects make Berlin a nice city to live in. Co-housing is no longer a niche phenomenon but location asset for cities. But mediating and extracting common goals and interests of a group and putting them into spatial design is a special skill only few architects are trained to master. This course will give students some first insights into the topic.

Learning objectives:

On successful completion of the course a student will have:

- 1 studied cases of built and inhabited alternative housing concepts in Germany and China;
- 2 developed an understanding for the process of architectural design led by user needs;
- 3 discussed the possibilities and limitations of the sharing economy along the lines of private, semi-private and public, to reduce cost of building, cost of living, cost of building operation by negotiating and agreeing to a set of goals and formulating rules for community living;
- 4 formulated a plausible scenario for a shared community addressing problems of housing and living in a Chinese municipality;
- 5 designed and presented an architectural and urban design concept in drawings, renderings, text and model.

Requirements

Students are required to attend all studio sessions and participate in class, weekly desk crits and reviews. Out-of-studio time is required for case study analysis assignments, pro-actively conceptualizing designs and preparing sketches and study models, and completing design drawings and models.

Project background

The design studio builds on the research project “Future of Living” led by Iris Belle (Tongji University), Erhard An-He Kinzelbach (Bochum University of Applied Sciences/ KNOWSPACE, Berlin) and Binke Lenhardt (Crossboundaries, Beijing). The project was conceived in the frame of the program CITYMAKERS China-Germany, co-initiated by Robert Bosch Stiftung in partnership with CONSTELLATIONS International and awarded an incubation grant.

Approach

This design studio will be held as a joint studio at CAUP Tongji and at the Bochum University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Erhard An-He Kinzelbach. Exchange of ideas will take place in online tandem meetings and ideally in a joint project review (TBC).

Tentative schedule

Week	Date	Day	Special Event
			Winter Vacation
01	8. Mar	Thu	Kick-off
02	15. Mar	Thu	Site Visit
03	22. Mar	Thu	Case analysis (site integration) / Concept development
04	29. Mar	Thu	Case analysis (privacy) / Concept development
05	05. Apr	Thu	Vacation
	06. Apr	Fri	Vacation
	07. Apr	Sat	Vacation/ Tomb-Sweeping Day 清明节
05	8. Apr	Sun	Concept development / Case analysis (flexibility)
06	12. Apr	Thu	Concept development / Case analysis (ownership)
07	19. Apr	Thu	Concept development / Case analysis (project cost)
08	26. Apr	Thu	MIDTERM REVIEW
09	03. May	Thu	Concept adjustment
10	10. May	Thu	Concept deepening
11	17. May	Thu	Concept deepening
12	24. May	Thu	Concept deepening
13	31. May	Thu	Concept deepening
14	07. Jun	Thu	Concept deepening
15	14. Jun	Thu	Drafting and model building for submission
16	21. Jun	Thu	Drafting and model building for submission
17	28. Jun	Thu	FINAL REVIEW