

The 'Village in the City' is surely as a specific as a spectacular urban form that is generated by the particular urbanization process that China is undergoing during the last two decades. The massive scale and the unprecedented speed of such urbanization implies an incredible multiplicity of 'villages in the city'. As such, there are as many counter figures as there are 'regular' and normalized 'urban' environments that engulf these villages, and thereby catalyze their peculiar, complementary forms of development. *Village in the City* opens a window on recent research on the dynamic transformation processes of this specific contemporary Chinese phenomenon that is simultaneously fascinating and frightening. Design research finally demonstrates alternative development modes for this particular urban form from which rampant energy overflows and that anyway and anyhow has to be appreciated for the vivacity / liveliness with which it induces into the contemporary Chinese city.

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Urbanus Research Bureau (URB) was founded in 1999 under the leadership of partners Xiaodu Liu, Yan Meng and Hui Wang. It is recognized as one of the most influential architecture practices in China. The works of Urbanus have been recognized with numerous prestigious architecture prizes, exhibited and published worldwide. URB focuses on the contemporary urban China phenomenon including: creative city development, post-urban village development and typologies for hyperdensity.

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Kongjian Yu received his DDes at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD). He is the founder and dean of the School of Landscape Architecture at PKU, and now the College of Architecture and Landscape and founder of the global practice Turenscape. Through his research and projects, Yu tries to reconstruct ecological infrastructure across scales, particularly water associated landscapes in China, and to define a new aesthetic based on environmental ethics. He is currently teaching at Harvard Graduate School of Design as a visiting professor.