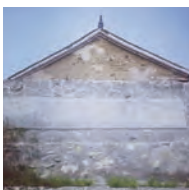
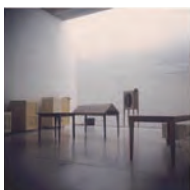
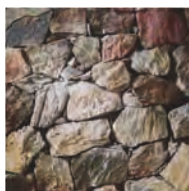
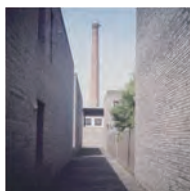
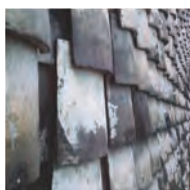
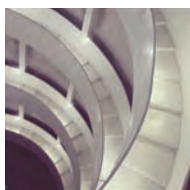
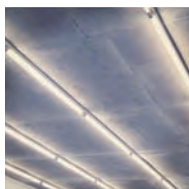
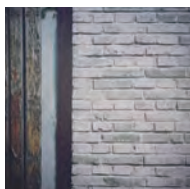
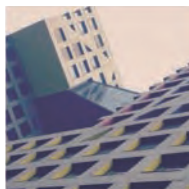
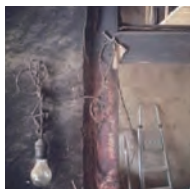
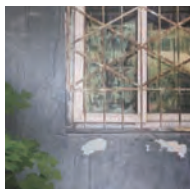


USC American Academy in China
Report 8



AAC

USCArchitecture



AAC

**USC AMERICAN ACADEMY IN CHINA
REPORT 8**

**THE USC
AMERICAN
ACADEMY IN
CHINA IS
THE FLAGSHIP
FOR
THE SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE'S
GLOBAL
AGENDA.**

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

THE USC AMERICAN ACADEMY IN CHINA (AAC) IS THE FLAGSHIP FOR THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE'S GLOBAL AGENDA.

AAC offers design research in the form of studio and creates scholarly exchange through forums and exhibitions. While the former engages urgent issues emerging in the design community worldwide, the latter offers a stable and sustainable academic context in China.

The 2014 theme, China In Flux: Mapping the Middle Zone, is an exploration into the idea of in-betweenness as exemplified by the transformations occurring between traditional urban fabric and ongoing, contemporary countryside initiatives, as well as between the core and periphery of the city. The binary relationship between urban and rural landscapes is changing and in flux, resulting in a new condition that is defined by blurred zones and ambiguous territories.

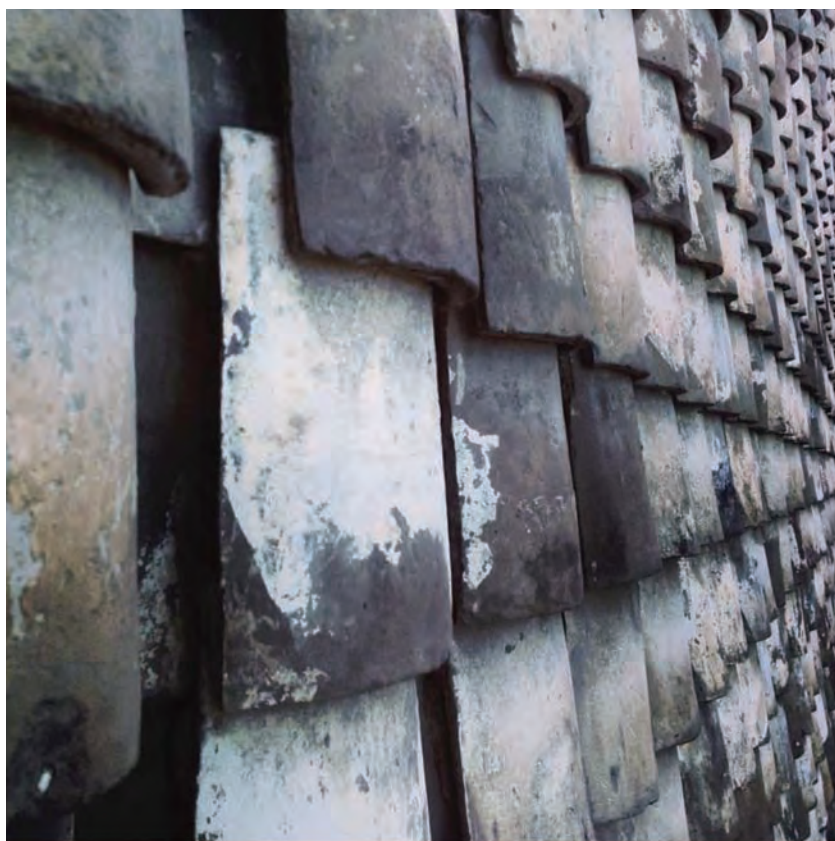
Clearly, a new model for sustainable environments is a topic of grave importance for our cities today. This year, the focus was on generating new hybrid forms and prototypes for environmentally sustainable building-landscapes, culminating with a design workshop, exhibition and book, Beijing House Types. The goal was not only to critically examine and analyze past precedents and current examples, but also to offer innovative and alternative visions to current models.

Through design workshops, exhibitions and symposia, AAC continues to collaborate with local practitioners and universities as well as cultivate new global alliances with industry and institutions in order to foster design innovation and excellence. With the ever-increasing growth of China's middle-class, developing sustainable models for growth that increase the quality of our environment and life experience, simultaneously, hand-in-hand, is central to our mission.

Qingyun Ma, AIA

Founder, USC American Academy In China

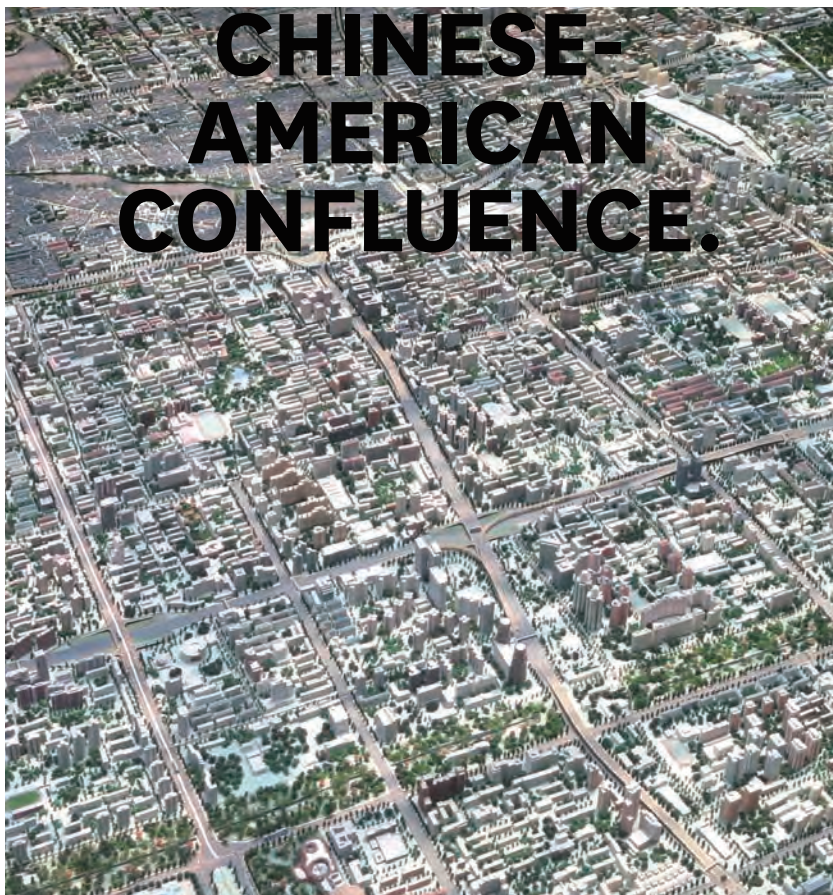
Dean, Della & Harry MacDonald Chair, USC School of Architecture



CONTENTS

5	LETTER FROM THE DEAN
9	MISSION STATEMENT
11	AAC OVERVIEW
15	AAC HIGHLIGHTS
18	AAC EXHIBITION AND DESIGN WORKSHOP
24	GSAP OFFICE AND STUDIO VISITS
30	FIELDWORK: RURAL / URBAN
38	DESIGN RESEARCH
58	LIST OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
61	FUTURE PLANS
63	FUTURE FUNDING

THE 21ST CENTURY IS THE CENTURY OF CHINESE- AMERICAN CONFLUENCE.



MISSION STATEMENT

THE 21 ST CENTURY IS THE CENTURY OF CHINESE-AMERICAN CONFLUENCE.

With that comes both challenge and opportunity. Historically, the arts and humanities have been the most powerful language in the world to engage disparate peoples, to inspire, to find universal themes and to reinforce our shared humanity.

Founded in 2007 by Dean Qingyun Ma of the USC School of Architecture, the USC American Academy in China (AAC) was established as the primary destination for universities throughout the United States and world to study architecture, the arts, and humanities in China. AAC is dedicated to the advancement of scholarly exchange and research in these fields.

The USC American Academy in China is a permanent institute in China dedicated to interdisciplinary exchange, innovation, and research in the arts, architecture, and humanities. Founded in 2007 by Dean Qingyun Ma, it is the first-of-its-kind institution devoted to fostering explorations that deepen understandings of China's past, present, and possible futures across a broad spectrum of disciplines—all under one roof. This singular institution will bring together international scholars, architects, and artists with their Chinese counterparts for immersive, cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary investigations that seek to learn from China rather than imposing western modes of knowledge upon it.

The American Academy in China seeks to position itself as the preeminent global institution for research and creative production concerning China, one of the most rapidly changing nations on Earth. Just as the American Academy in Rome is important for understanding the legacy of the west, the American Academy in China is vital for understanding contemporary China, its path moving forward, and its significance to the world.



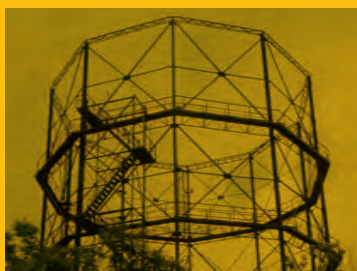
AAC OVERVIEW

2014 INAUGURATED A NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS IN BEIJING'S 751 D-PARK.

2014 marked a new chapter in the evolution of AAC. This past summer we launched a new base of operation in Beijing in the 751D-Park design district, at @ALL Gallery. On the occasion of our new setting, we've set our focus on topics and issues of critical relevance to the contemporary Chinese urban landscape. This involves projects and events that ranged in scale and scope from engaging in fieldwork in rural villages, to analyzing traditional and contemporary Beijing house types, to designing prototypes for new hybrid dwelling typologies at the urban periphery.

The theme for AAC 2014, *China In Flux: Mapping the Middle Zone* explored the urban current transformations occurring in urban and rural China. Specifically, the focus was on the middle zone—the rapidly changing area between the megacity and the urban periphery. The questions we posed were: What defines the territory of the middle?

Can we imagine a new model for the development of the middle zone in major Chinese cities, one that aims for quality over quantity? And finally, what are some strategies and tactics for producing new models and prototypes for a sustainable and informal type of rural urbanism?



AAC OVERVIEW

This is the eighth consecutive year that a group of students from the USC School of Architecture traveled to China to study and collaborate with students from several Chinese universities at the AAC. This year, the AAC and GSAP engaged in design research at multiple scales, with projects that examined the point of contact between contemporary and traditional spatial forms and typology and resulted in the publication, *Beijing House Types*. The 2014 program consisted of several distinct yet interrelated programs and events, all of which we held at our new facility in Beijing @ ALL: an exhibition of work by the USC China GSAP Lab, *China in Flux: Mapping the Middle Zone*;" a one-day strategic collaborative planning design workshop titled *Future Underground!*, led by Neville Mars and Daan Roggeveen of MARS + MORE, with USC students and participants from eight Chinese universities; and, the 2014 AAC Forum, a juried discussion of design proposals produced during the workshop led by members of the Beijing design community including: Benjamin Claeys, Roberto Bannura, Steven Holl Architects Beijing, Eva Castro, Plasma Studio / AA, Lin Xin Lu, Moujiti and, Wenyi Wu, URBANUS.

Looking ahead toward AAC 2015, the intent is not only to build upon the success of 2014 with our design research on the middle zone, but also continue to develop and expand the program in order to foster new relationships and collaborations between Chinese universities and architectural practices. The eventual aim—as Dean Ma has sketched out—is the establishment of a permanent academic resource in China, one that supports the activities of students and faculty from USC as well as academic institutions from all over the world.

CHINA IN FLUX: MAPPING THE MIDDLE ZONE



AAC 2014 HIGHLIGHTS: EXHIBITION & DESIGN WORKSHOP / FORUM

CHINA IN FLUX: MAPPING THE MIDDLE ZONE

The AAC exhibition, China In Flux: Mapping the Middle Zone opened @ ALL Gallery in Beijing's 751D-Park design district on 26 July, 2014. A book of analytical drawings examining traditional, modern and contemporary dwelling typologies titled, "Beijing House Types," produced by students from the USC China Lab was exhibited alongside their design proposals for new hybrid typologies and Instagram work, Close Readings.

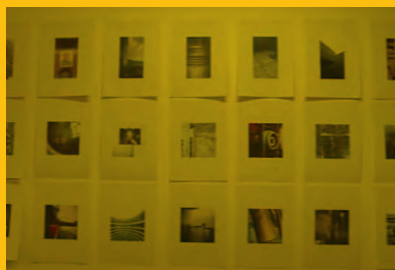
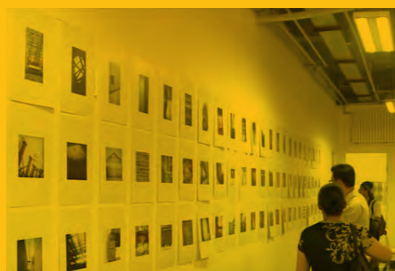
FUTURE UNDERGROUND

Also, on Saturday, 26 July 2014, the AAC hosted Future Underground!, a strategic collaborative planning design workshop led by Neville Mars of MARS Architects and Daan Roggeveen of MORE Architecture, two Dutch architecture offices based in China who have been commissioned to develop an urban vision for a historical Beijing district. This will be the framework for a broad team of Dutch and Chinese experts working together in a unique collaborative process of strategy development applied to revitalize 798 area, the role model of China's creative industries. Architecture students from several universities including Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing University of Engineering and Architecture, Tsinghua University, and, University of Southern California worked in teams over the course of a day to generate proposals. In the afternoon, the teams presented their projects to a distinguished panel of architects from the local design community.





AAC EXHIBITION AND DESIGN WORKSHOP







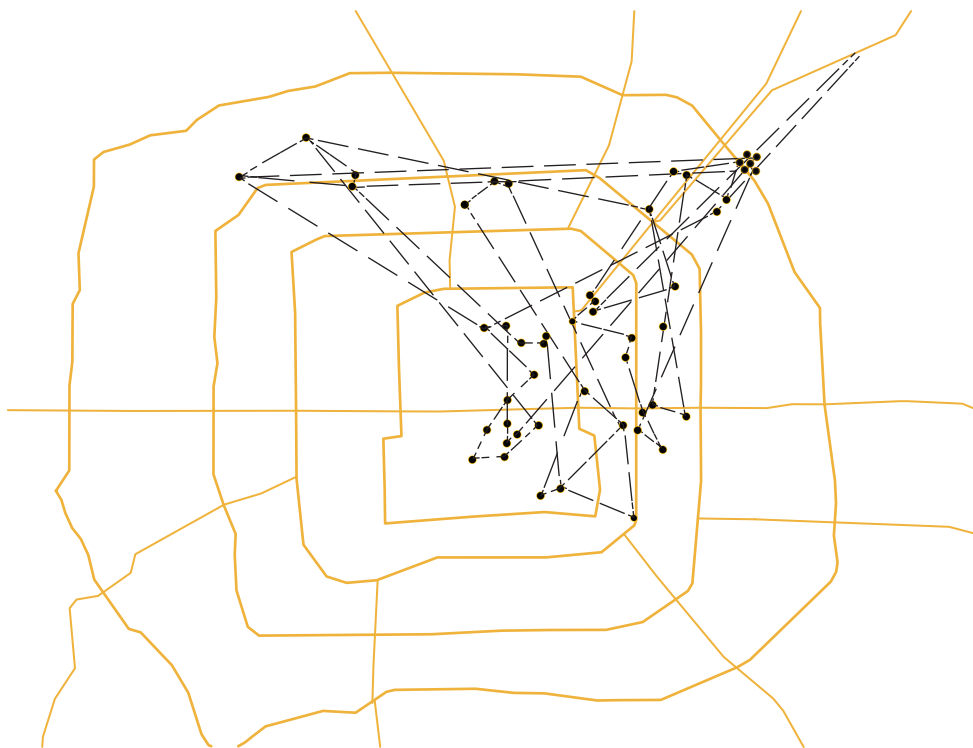






GSAP OFFICE & STUDIO VISITS: ART / ARCHITECTURE

In the endeavor to acquire insights into the contemporary architectural landscape in China as well as to meet some of the key figures for potential collaborations in the future, we visited over 20 architecture offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing. Additionally, we visited several artists at their studios as well as a bamboo fabrication company in Caochangdi responsible for fabricating Urbanus' Identity Pavilion installation for the Barcelona BCN Re.SeT exhibition.



17 June



B.A.S.E. Beijing _
Robert Mangurian & Mary-Ann Ray

The group spent time during our first week in Beijing with Robert & Mary-Ann of Beijing Architecture Studio Enterprise (B.A.S.E.). In addition to a great introduction to Caochangdi, we took a day trip to the rural villages that they've been researching and doing work in: Zenshu Township Village, Shang Shui Gou (Upper Water Valley Village), Cheng Gou Wan (Scale Hook Bay Village).

18 June



258 FAKE _
Ai Weiwei

The group met with Ai Weiwei at his studio in Caochangdi and had an informal Q&A session with him; among other things he took Leg Gun photos of the group and posted them on his Instagram site.



Naihan Li & Co. _
Jing Jing Li

The group met with Jing Jing and Jermey Wingfield and received a private tour of their Ai Weiwei apartment and new furniture fabrication factory.

19 June



Steven Holl Architects Beijing _
Roberto Bannura

Design Director, Roberto Bannura gave the group a comprehensive tour of Linked Hybrid and the office including a presentation of past and current projects.

20 June



Tsinghua University Solar _
Decathlon Team

The group met with several faculty members of the Tsinghua Solar Decathlon team and received a presentation about the project in their 0-House on the Tsinghua campus.

20 June



Atelier FCJZ _
Yung Ho Chang

The group met with Yung Ho at his new office and had an informal conversation about how he got involved in architecture along with how his career has unfolded and developed.

28 June



BUCEA _
Dean Liu Linan, Vice Dean Ma Ying and Prof. Qi Ying

We met with the Dean and Vice Dean of BUCEA in order to get a tour of the department and discuss ideas for collaborating in the future.

1 July



Standard Architecture _
Zhang Ke

The group received a detailed tour of the office by Senior Architect Felix Cruz, including a presentation of past and current work.



MAD _
Ma Yansong

The group received an office tour from Tammy Xie.



Urbanus Beijing _

We had a very good introduction and overview of URBANUS' work by Li Tu, and an illuminating conversation about working in China with Wenyi Wu, one of the heads of the Beijing office.

4 July



Atelier Deshaus_

The group met with Yifeng Chen at their office in Shanghai; he presented their past and recent work including the newly completed Long Art Museum in West Bund.



Mars Architects _

Met with Neville Mars at his office and had a very interesting conversation about China's "middle zone."



MORE Architecture_

The group also met with Daan Roggeveen, briefly discussed the work he's doing in Africa including the recent issue of Urban China that he edited.

5 July



MADA s.p.a.m._

The group met with Arron Mu and got a comprehensive tour of the office and an overview of past and current work.

7 July



AZL Architects _

Zhang Lei

Zhang Lei gave a memorable presentation on the work of the office including an informal overview of the evolution of independent practices in China.

10 July



Gang Zhu Bamboo Factory _
(fabricator for Urbanus)

The group met with Zhong Wang at his office in Caochangdi and received a PPT presentation on the history of the company as well as projects they are currently working on.



Trace Architecture Office (TAO) _
Li Hua

The group visited TAO in Ai Weiwei's Grey Brick Gallery compound; Ruoxing Li gave a presentation of the work.

18 July



Max Office _
Shoupin Zhang

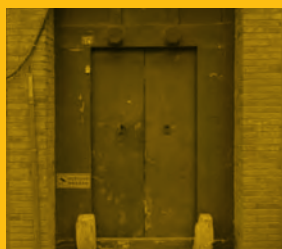
The group visited with Shoupin Zhang at Max Office; Senior designer Jingyan Wang gave us a PPT presentation of the C.A.N. book in-progress.

22 July



Vector Architects _
Dong Gong

We met with Dong Gong at his office near Sanlitun; Dong presented several recent projects and gave us a tour of his new office.



META-Project _
Wang Shou

We met with Wang Shou for tea in his hutong office and had a very good conversation about the architectural scene in Beijing.

22 July



Three Shadows Photography Art Center _ Rong Rong

Sheila Lan gave us a private tour of the galleries, archives, library, and bookstore.

We met briefly with Rong Rong as he was printing for a new show of his work that was opening on Saturday, Wednesday July 30.

30 July



Open Architecture _ Li Hu

The group met with principal Li Hu, who gave us a tour of their offices in White Momo along with an informal presentation of their past and current work.



Plasma Studio _ Eva Castro

We met briefly with Eva Castro and staff at her office in White Momo.

31 July



China Architecture Design & Research Group _

We met Zhang Aihua, Jia Meng and others including a former USC student that Gary Paige had in graduate design studio. They presented some of the research that they're involved in as well as several projects they're currently working on in urban and rural China.



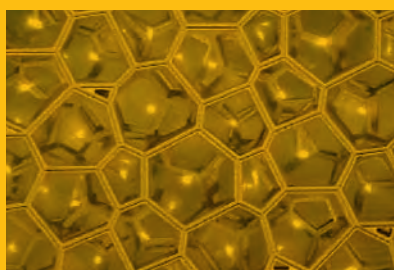
Studio Pei-Zhou _ Pei-Zhou

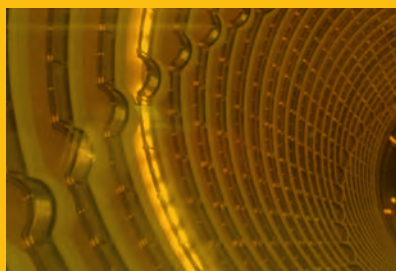
A couple of us met with Pei Zhou at his office. He gave us a personal tour and discussed past and current projects in the office.

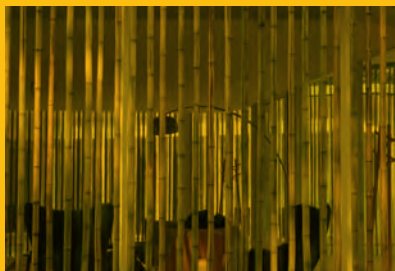
FIELDWORK: RURAL / URBAN

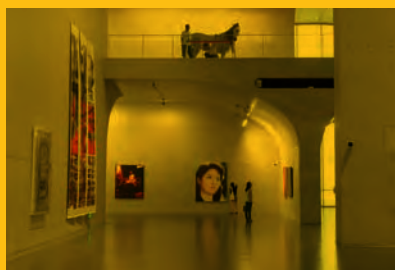
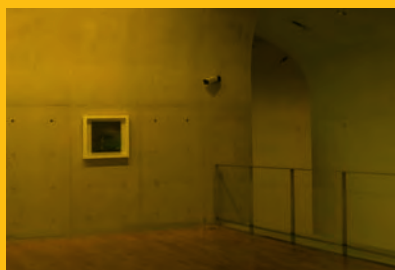








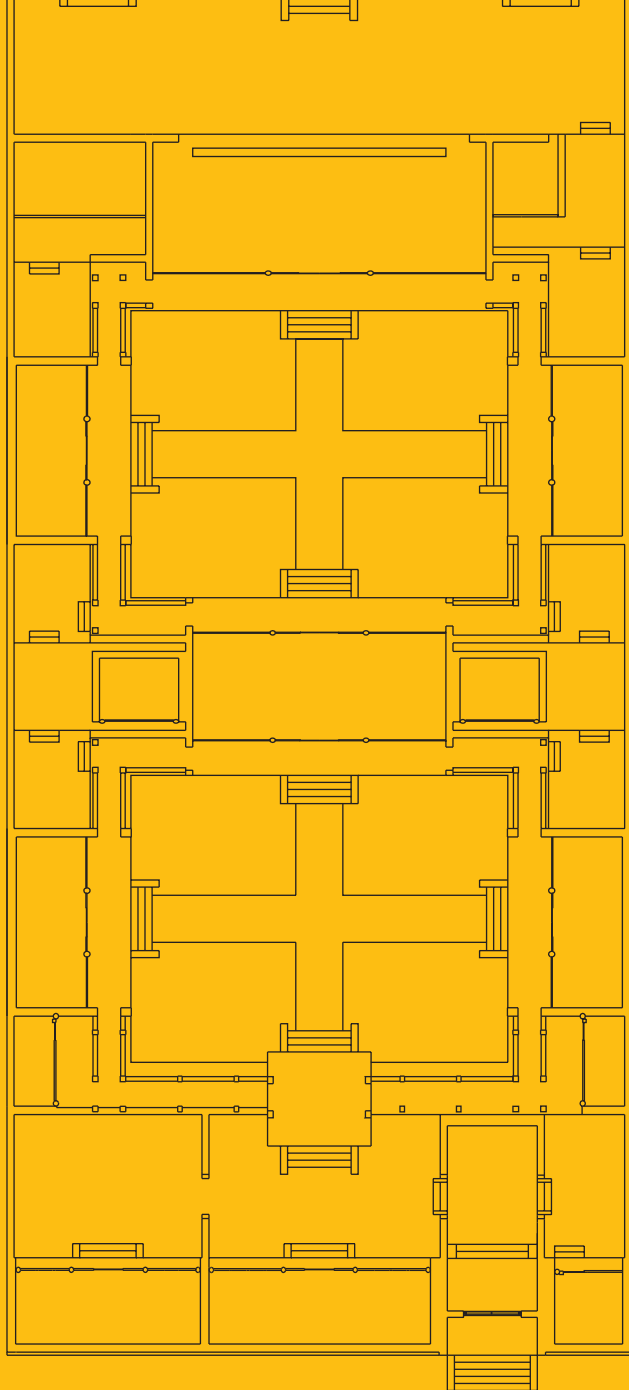


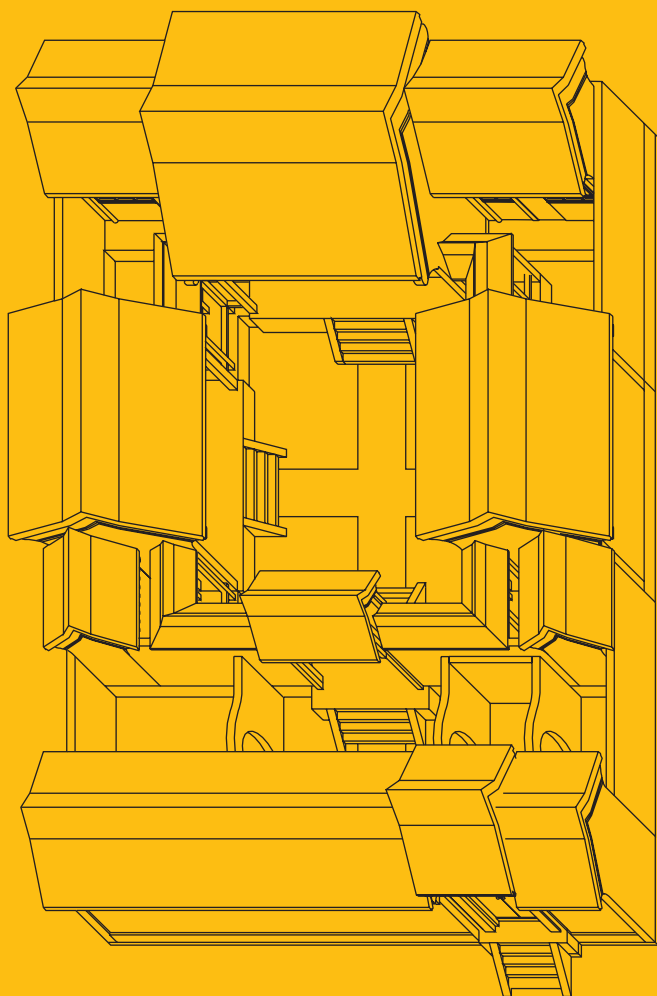


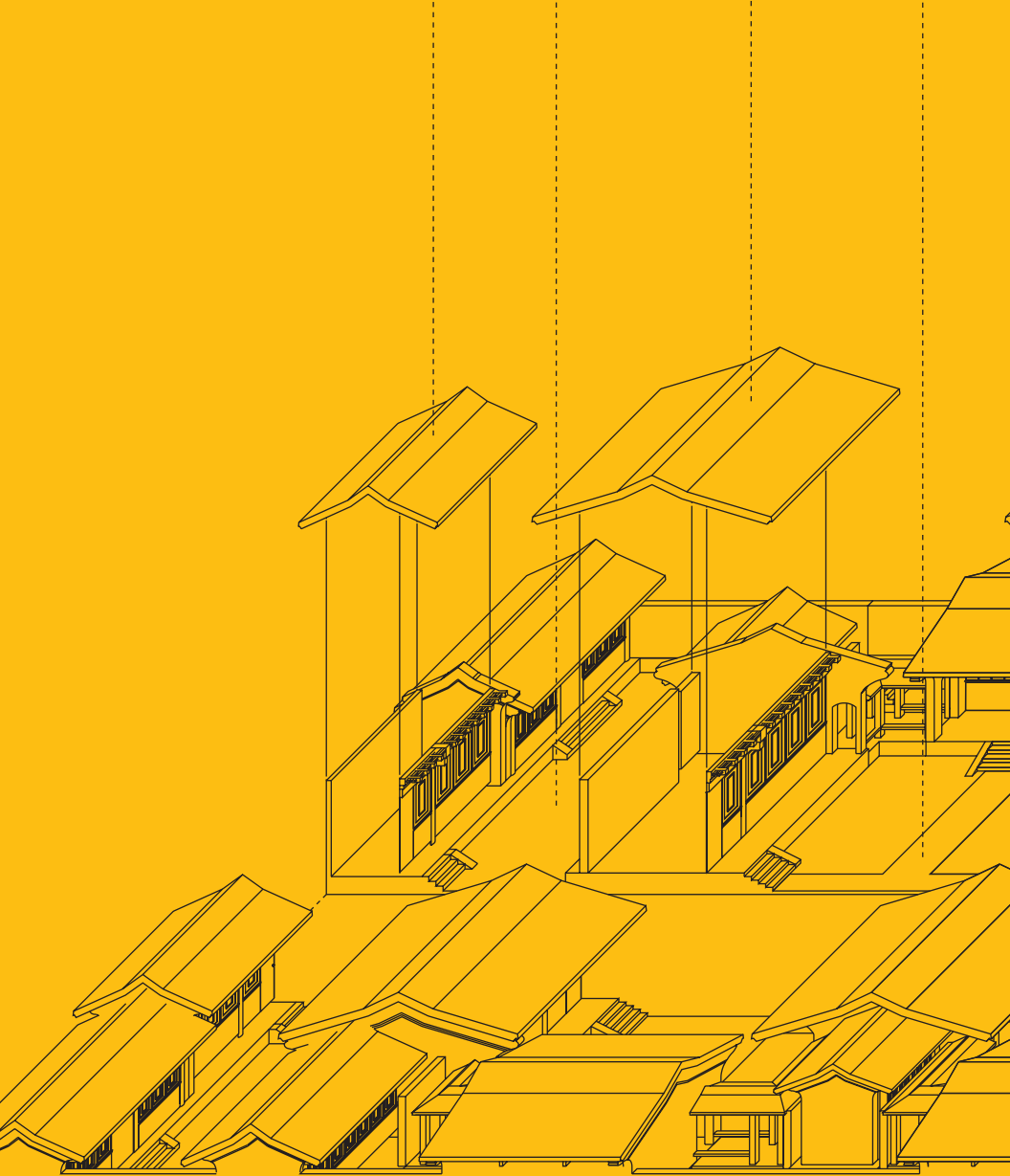
DESIGN RESEARCH: BEIJING HOUSE TYPES

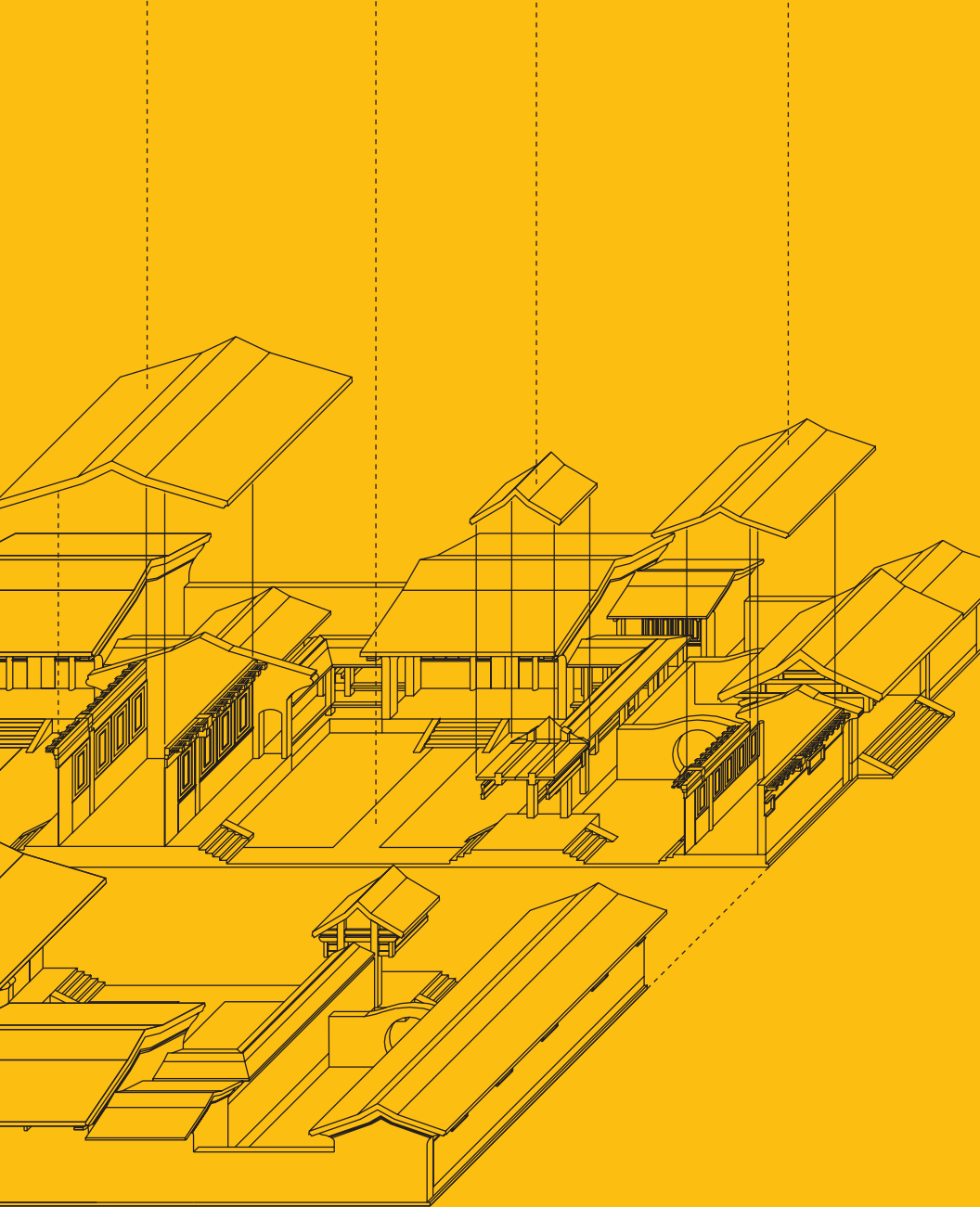


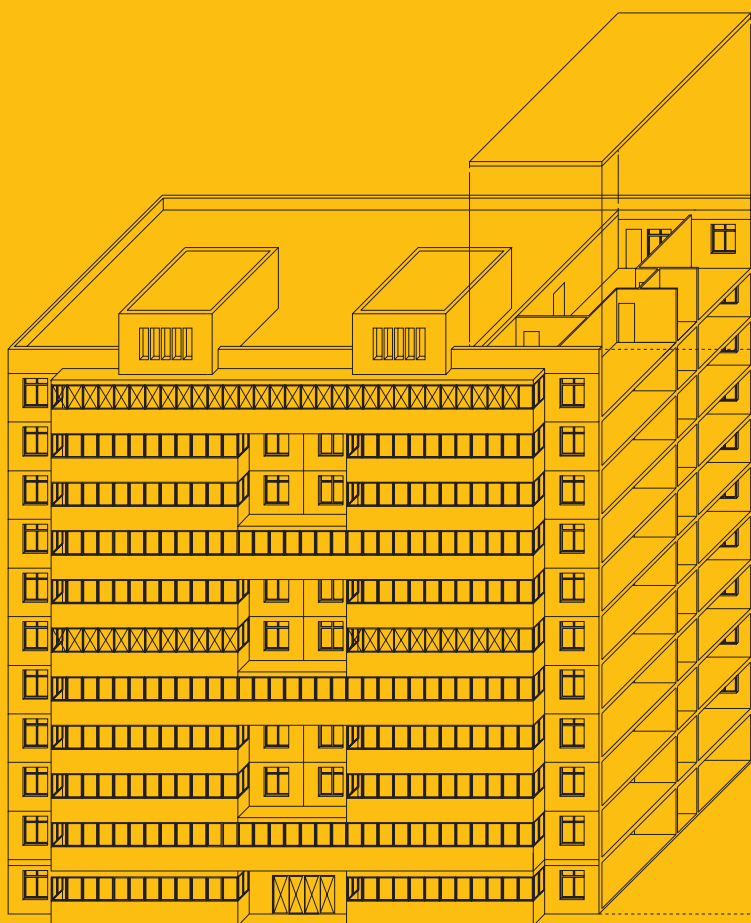


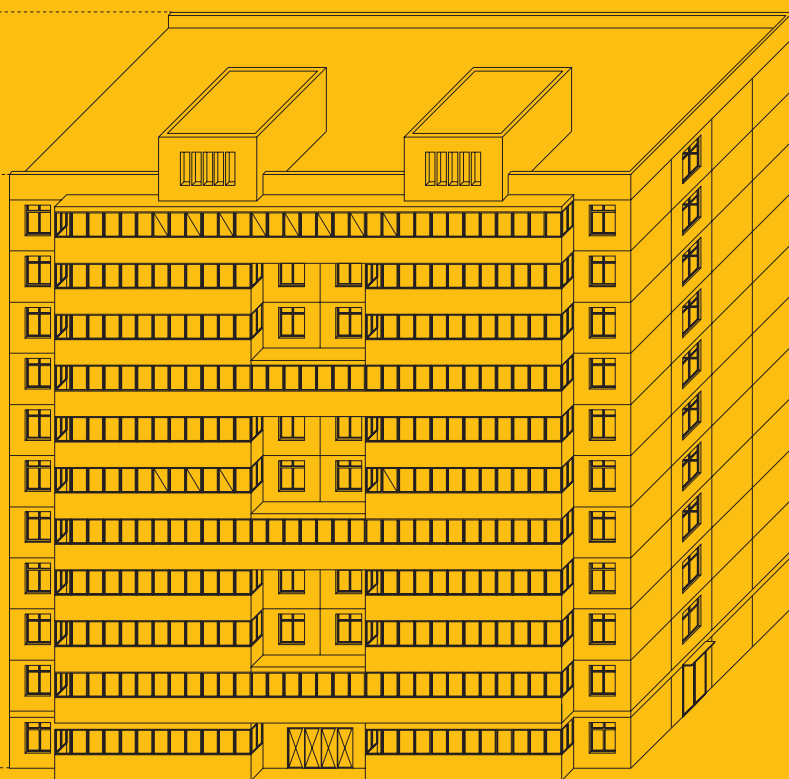


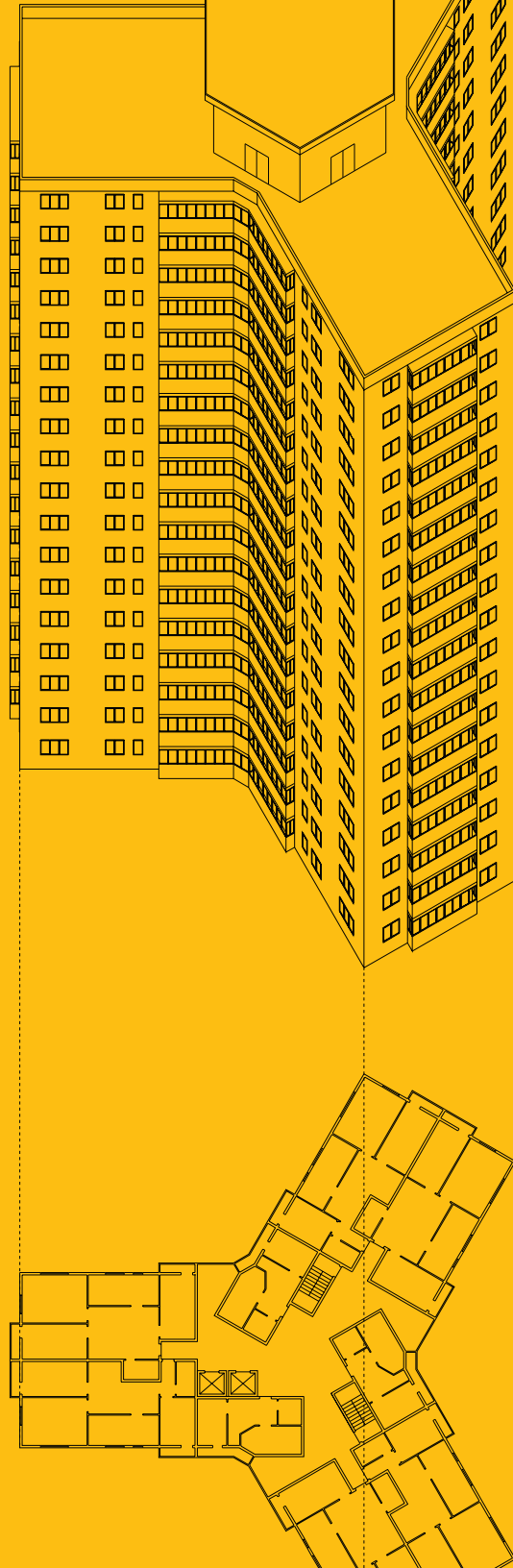


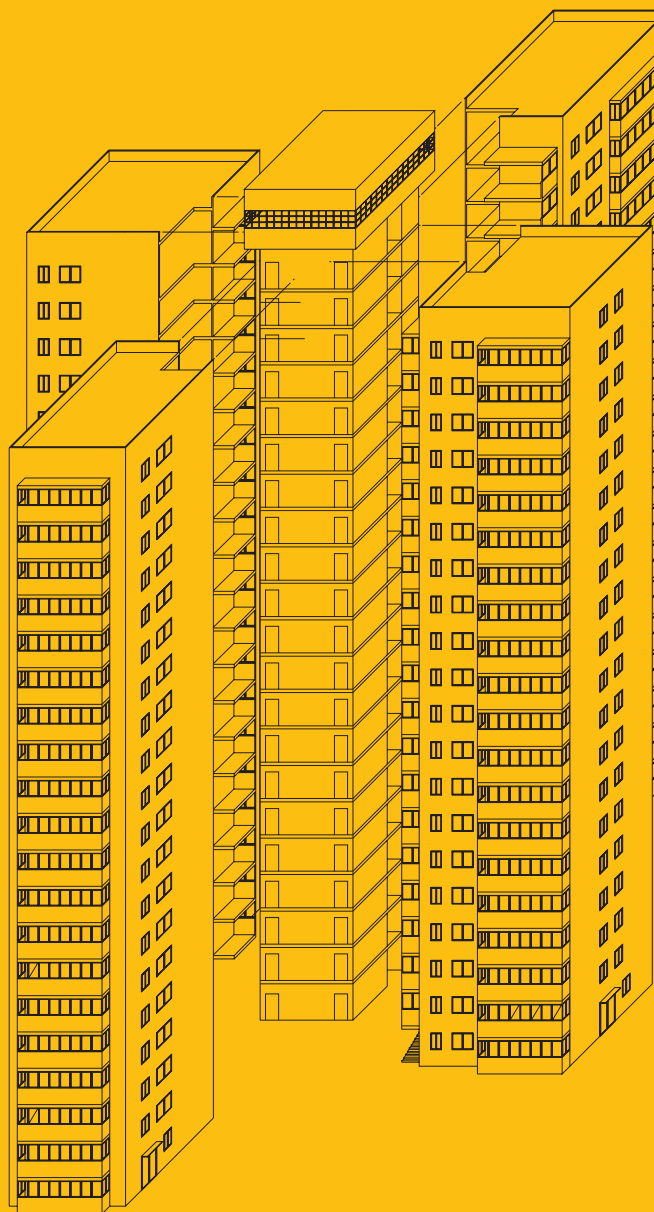








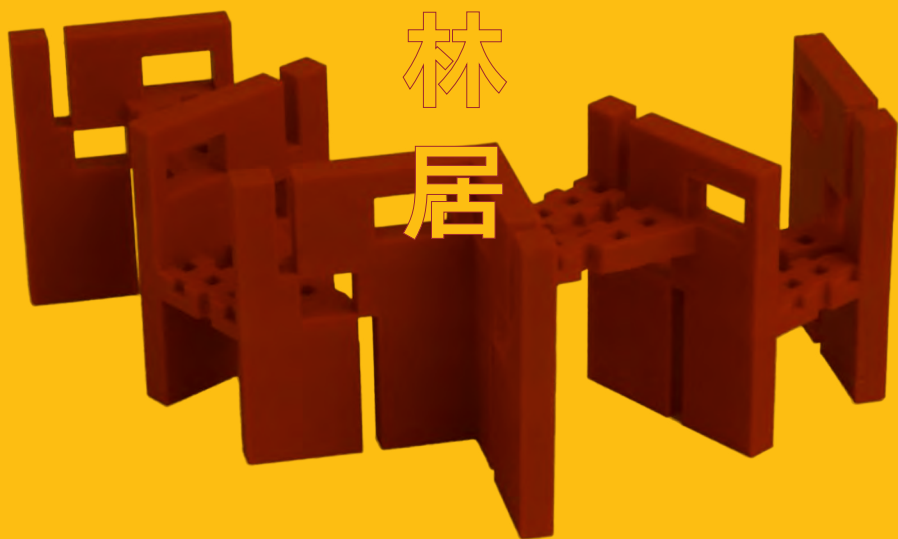




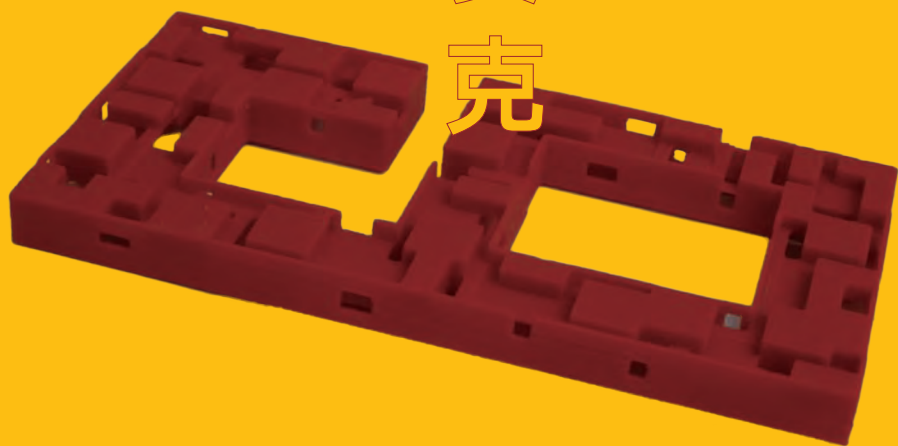




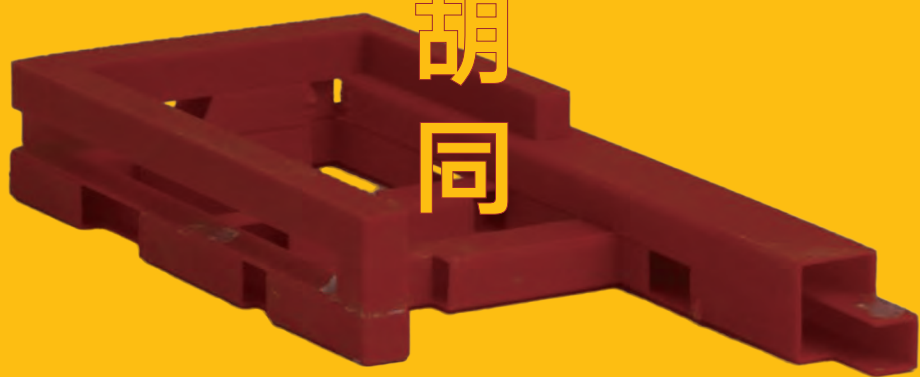
都市 林 居



马赛克



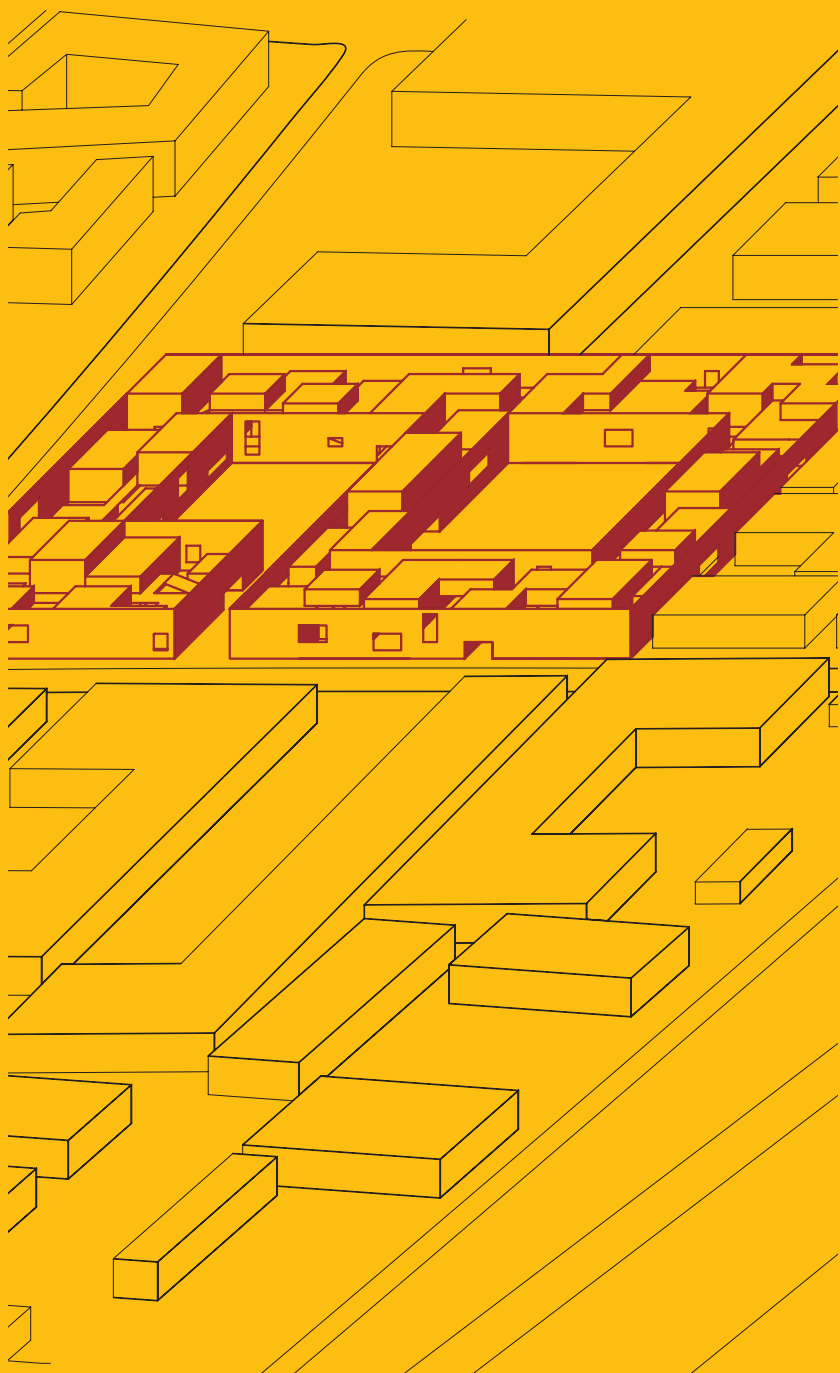
非常胡同

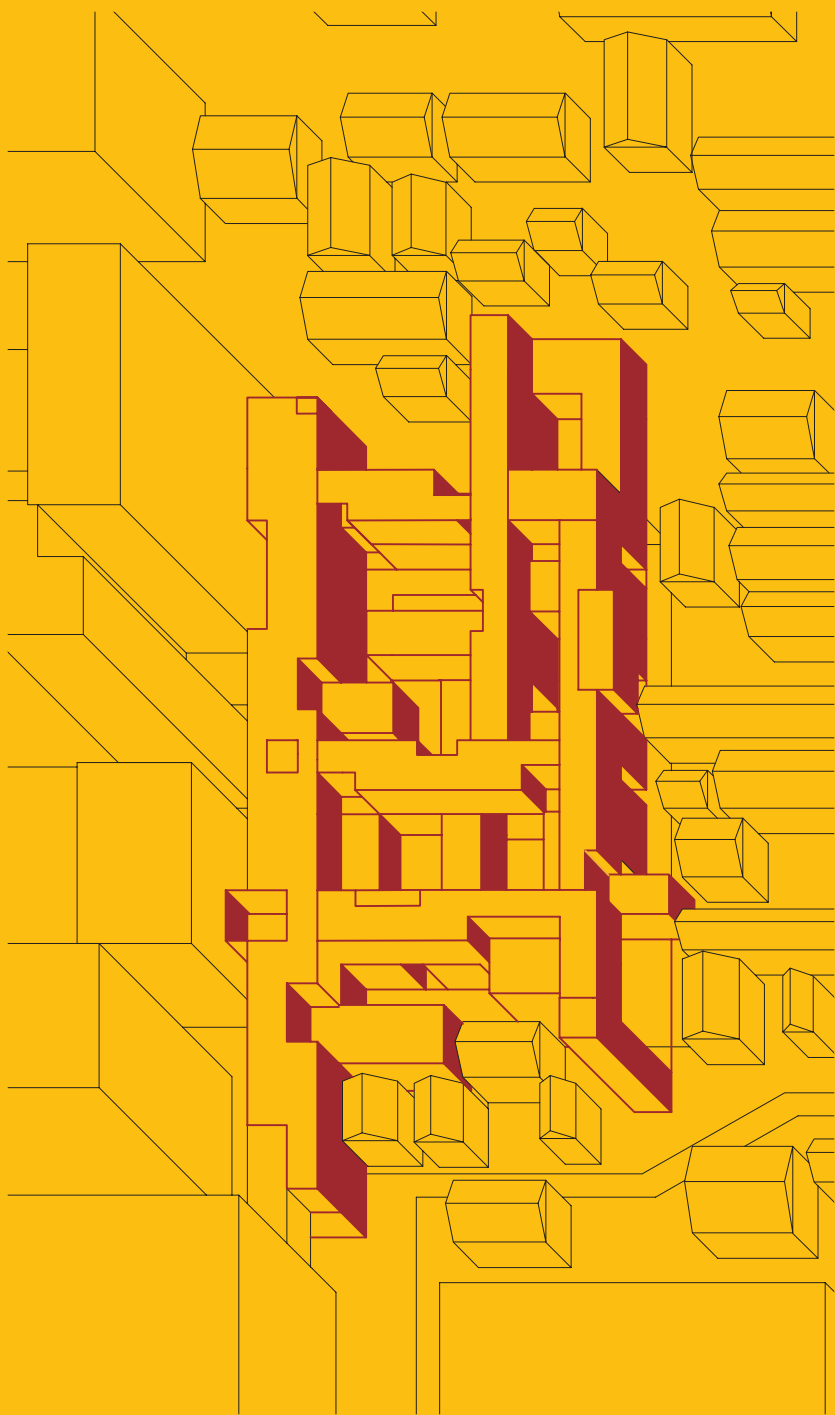


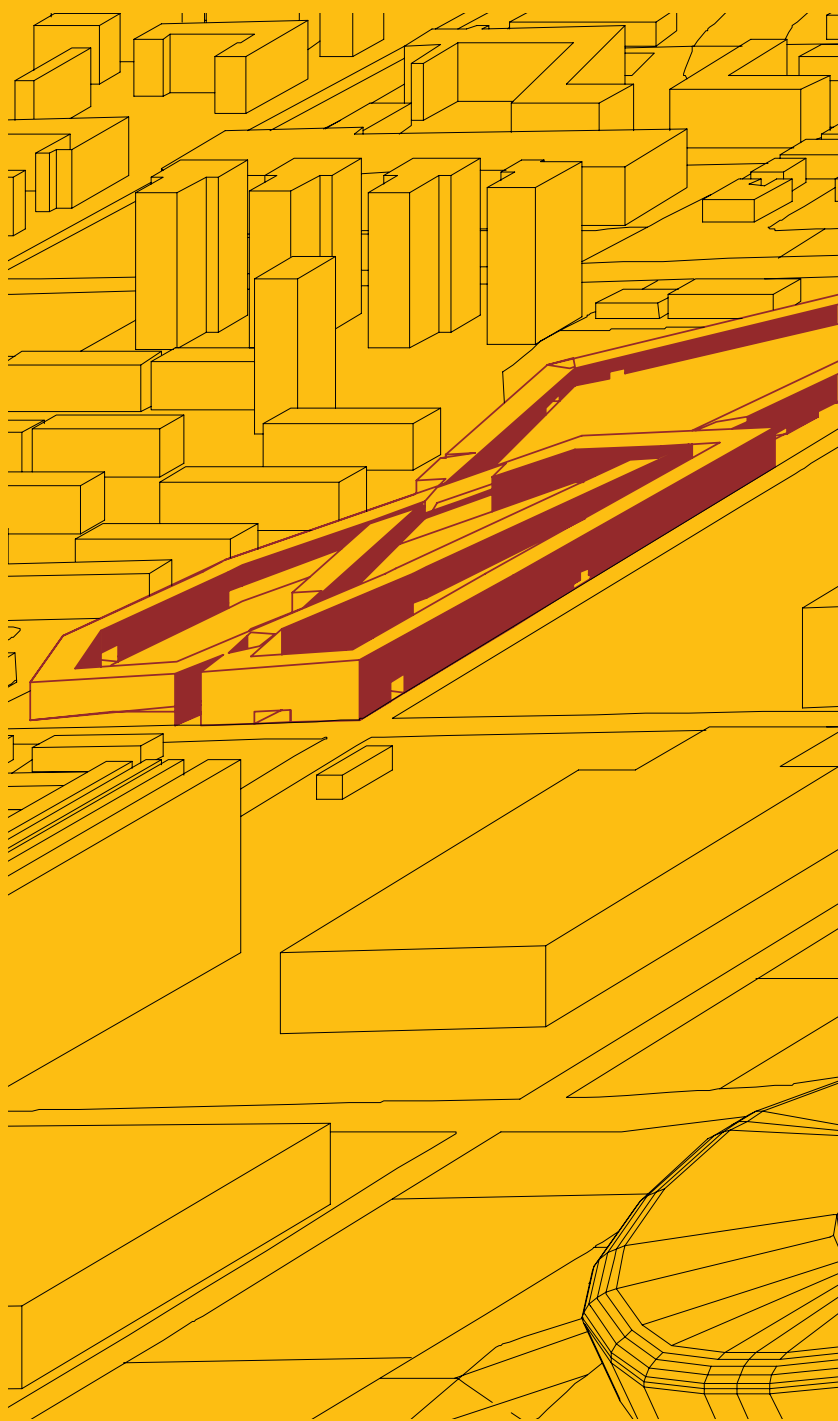
连结







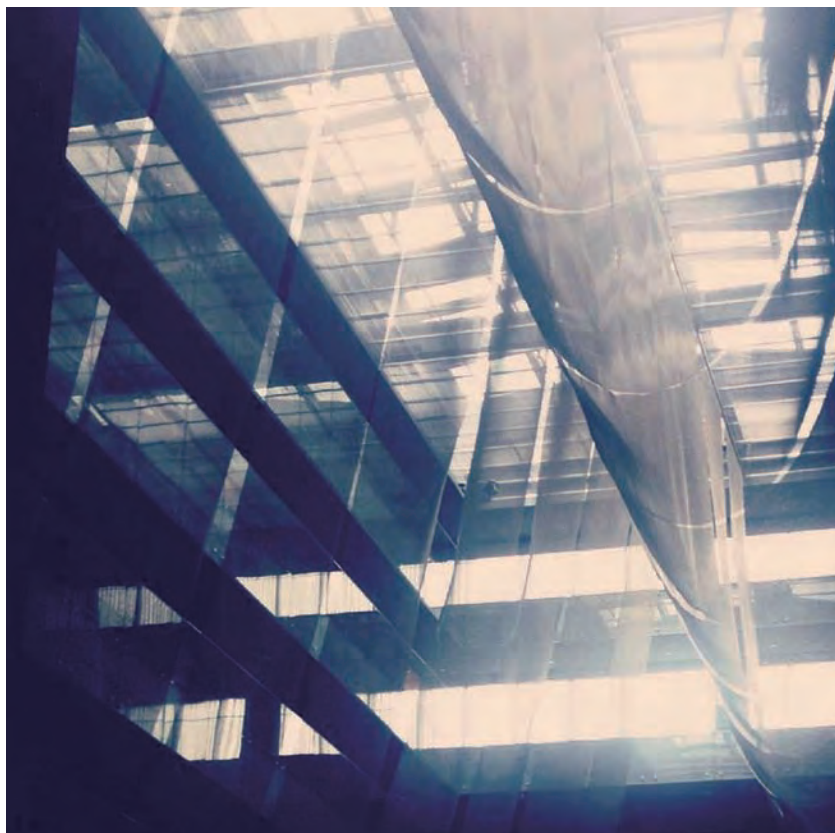




LIST OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

To date, over 40 institutions worldwide have participated with the AAC in different scholastic engagements, forums, exhibitions, and workshops in China. These institutions include:

Architectural Association School of Architecture
B.A.S.E. Beijing
Bartlett School of Architecture
Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture (BUCEA)
Beijing Forestry University
Beijing Jiaotong University
Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA)
CITA: Center for Information Technology and Architecture
Columbia University
Cuikai Studio
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dessau Institute of Architecture
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris-
Malaquais Feng Chia University, Taiwan
Harvard Graduate School of Design
Hebei University of Technology
Hong Kong University
INHA University, Korea
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Peking University
Princeton University
Sichuan University
Southern California Institute of Architecture
Seoul National University
Nanjing Southeastern University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Architecture
Royal Melbourne Institute of Architecture
Shandong Jian Zhu University
South China University of Technology
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
Tianjin University
Tongji University
Tsinghua University
TU Delft Universidad
Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina
University of Brighton
University of California at Berkeley
University of Edinburgh
University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
University of Michigan - Taubman College of Architecture and Urban
Planning University of Pennsylvania
University of Stuttgart - Institute for Computational Design
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
University of Toronto
Woodbury University
Yale University



FUTURE PLANS

What are the long-range plans for AAC? Although currently USC is the founding institution and principal organizer of AAC, the future outlook of AAC is an independent entity with its own operation system and academic mission, comparable to that of the American Academy in Rome. Although the structure of the two academies may be dissimilar, AAC has a parallel goal: humanistic architecture and idealistic cities in a time and place that is not Western. For the American Academy in China, the larger agenda is that of partnership: embracing other schools and programs under the larger banner of AAC.

The University of Southern California is establishing AAC as a vital initiative to its overall global agenda. A two-year funding annual giving program has been established to support an AAC director, faculty, staff, programs, and scholarships. Federal, corporate and individual grants are currently being sought and will be a continuing source of revenue for the continuity of research and academic enrichment of AAC programs.

In addition, a five-year program is planned towards creating a base facility. Also, as AAC develops, the current student programs will transition and expand towards a permanent research base for scholars.

Like the USC US-China Institute (www.china.usc.edu), a long-term commitment by the university to AAC is being ensured by endowments now being sought for its support. Program, faculty, scholarship and facility endowments will enable the program to continue and expand for the academic enrichment of future generations of scholars.

USC AMERICAN ACADEMY IN CHINA



FUTURE FUNDING

USC AMERICAN ACADEMY IN CHINA

The USC American Academy in China (AAC) is an international program of the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Programs of AAC are enabled and enriched by support through private philanthropy—individual, corporate and foundation gifts. Gifts to the University of Southern California in support of AAC provide funding for faculty, research, symposia, workshops, exhibition along with scholarships and traveling fellowships for students studying in China. As a private non-profit 501.c3 institution, USC is able to accept gifts from any country and in any currency. A gift may be composed of cash, appreciated U.S. securities, real estate, trusts, bequests or a combination of devices that best suits the donor. What is more, cash and gifts of appreciated assets may provide considerable tax advantages to the donor. To learn more about making a gift to support the USC American Academy in China, you may contact:

KERRY NEAL

Senior Director of Development
USC School of Architecture
Watt Hall, Suite 204
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0291
T: (213) 740-2097
E: kerry.neal@usc.edu

CONTACT INFO

For more information:
Gary Paige
Academic Director, AAC
T: (310) 488-4516
E: paigegary@gmail.com

