

Recovering China's Landscapes: A Symposium

Renewing Confucian values of harmony and balance in nature through architecture and design



'Recovering China's Landscapes' builds on a 2015 UB architecture studio on Xixinan, a rapidly growing rural village outside Beijing. This photo by student Eliana Drier captures an almost sculptural terraced rice field in the village, reflecting China's ancient traditions of living with the land.

October 26 | 3:30 - 7:30 pm | Hayes Hall 403 | UB South Campus

World-renowned practitioners and scholars will discuss their work through the lens of renewed relationships between nature and culture, and examining new models operating at the intersection of urban design, planning and ecological systems.

There has been a recent movement back to the countryside in China, as well as a reconnecting with the agricultural landscape for food and clean air, as intellectuals, artists and the elite are seeking retreat from the ills of the industrialized Chinese cities. What are the ways in which we can engage, through design, sustainable solutions and hybrid interventions into this landscape?

Program

Panel discussion: 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Presenters

Elisabeth Condon, Artist | Ou Ning, Columbia GSAPP

Discussants

Millie Chen, UB Department of Art | Kristin Stapleton, UB Department of History | Li Yin, UB Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Keynote lecture: 6 pm - 7:30 pm

"Art of Survival and Its Deep Forms"

Kongjian Yu, Peking University, Turenscape

Recovering China's Landscapes A Symposium October 26, 2016



Learn more about our featured guests

**Kongjian Yu, FASLA | Peking University |
Turenscape**



Kongjian Yu is Changjiang Chair Professor of the Ministry of Education of China, One Thousand Talents of China, selected by The Ministry of Technology; and is the founder and dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Peking University. He founded Turenscape, an internationally awarded firm providing architectural, landscape and urban design services. Yu is a globally celebrated leader in ecological planning and design.

Elisabeth Condon | Artist

Elisabeth Condon is a painter, traveler, and Chinese scroll aficionado, whose work re-interprets Chinese principles of balance for an information-saturated world. Condon received the 2015 New York Pulse Prize for the body of work she created during a six-month residency at the Swatch Art Peace Hotel Shanghai in 2014.

Ou Ning | Columbia GSAPP

Ou Ning is a multi-disciplinary practitioner from China. As an artist and filmmaker, he is known for the urban research and documentary projects such as San Yuan Li (2003), commissioned by the 50th Venice Art Biennale;

Meishi Street (2006), commissioned by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes and premiered in MoMA New York.

Millie Chen | UB Department of Art

Millie Chen is a visual artist and professor in UB's Department of Art. Her installations, videos, and interventions are intended as sensorial experiences that prod the perceptual and ideological assumptions of the audience. She has exhibited her work across the U.S., Canada, and China, and in Mexico, Brazil, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, and Japan.

Kristin Stapleton | UB Department of History

Kristin Stapleton is associate professor of history at the University at Buffalo. Her research focuses on the transformation of Chinese cities and urban culture across the twentieth century, particularly in the interior of China. She is the author of *Civilizing Chengdu: Chinese Urban Reform, 1895-1937* (2000) and *Fact in Fiction: 1920s China and Ba Jin's Family* (2016). Her current projects include a study of how cities were affected by the 1950s project to introduce socialism in China. She serves on the International Advisory Committee of the Urban China Research Network based at University at Albany. [Read more](#)

Li Yin | UB Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Li Yin is associate professor of urban and regional planning at UB. Her research focuses on practical applications of spatial models, joining amenity and location theory with applied GIS and simulation methods to explore the complexity and dynamic processes of urban systems for environmental planning, urban design, and sustainable development.

Related: Global studio designs for China's return to the

countryside

A recent UB architecture studio proposed development and design interventions for ecological, social, cultural and economic assets in Xixinan, a rural village outside Beijing. Their clients-collaborators were Xixinan village leaders and the internationally regarded landscape architect Kongjian Yu.

[Read more](#)

'Recovering China's Landscapes' is co-sponsored by the School of Architecture and Planning, the [UB Confucius Institute](#) and UB's [Asian Studies program](#).