

**Official opening**  
**Friday September 8 at 3 pm**  
**The Danish Pavilion, Gardini di**  
**Castello, la Biennale di Venezia**



la Biennale di Venezia

10. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura  
Partecipazioni nazionali

# CO-EVOLUTION 协同进化

**Danish/Chinese Collaboration on** 丹麦 / 中国合作项目: 中国  
**Sustainable Urban Development in China** 可持续性城市发展

Curator: Henrik Valeur and UiD

Commissioner: DAC | Danish Architecture Centre

## The Danish Pavilion 2006

**Meet the new generation of young Danish architects!**

DAC | DANISH ARCHITECTURE CENTRE

## CO-EVOLUTION

A Danish/Chinese Collaboration on  
Sustainable Urban Development in China

### Press release

#### A CALL FOR CO-EVOLUTION

The Danish Pavilion this year is featuring a unique joint venture between China and Denmark. The CO-EVOLUTION exhibition shows how architects - cooperating with researchers and planners - are helping to meet the global challenges following in the wake of China's massive economic growth and the intended "welfare boost". The exhibition is the result of a project involving some of the most talented young Danish architects collaborating with students and professors from four top universities in China.

#### The Challenge

Within the next 20 years, some 400 million Chinese citizens are expected to join the global urbanization race and the Chinese government has set itself the goal of creating appreciably better living conditions for its 1.3 billion-strong population. The rapid and extensive urbanization processes currently underway in China are vastly increasing consumption of natural resources, putting tremendous pressure on local and global environments. However, while - on one hand - living conditions have already greatly improved, on the other there are serious challenges.

*"How can China proceed with its ambitious project to improve living conditions for its population without exhausting the very resources needed to sustain a better life?"*

This is the question that the Danish curator and architect Henrik Valeur asks with the exhibition entitled CO-EVOLUTION.

#### The Collaboration

Over the past six months four Danish architects' offices - representing some of the most promising young Danish talent - have been working with professors, PhD and post graduate students from four of the most prestigious Chinese Universities. The project teams, each representing a Danish architects' office and a Chinese university, have developed visionary proposals for sustainable urban development in the four Chinese cities of Beijing, Chongqing, Shanghai and Xi'an.

#### The Exhibition

The four teams are presenting new models for holistic, large-scale, urban planning; integrating local needs, knowledge and low-tech solutions with cutting-edge expertise and futuristic technologies. Furthermore, the four projects confront a wide variety of economic, environmental, social and cultural issues related to the rapid and extensive urbanization taking place in China.

The exhibition illustrates the value of sharing knowledge, ideas and experiences across borders. In this case the marriage between the Danish tradition for sustainable and humanistic architecture and planning with local Chinese knowledge and technical skills. The project also merges the values and aesthetic expressions of two different cultures.

CO-EVOLUTION was initiated by DAC - Danish Architecture Centre - and curated by the Danish architect Henrik Valeur, Director of UiD, who have been located in Shanghai throughout the process.



#### World tour

The world opening of CO-EVOLUTION will take place at the 10th International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale, where it will constitute Denmark's official contribution. In late September the exhibition will be displayed at the great, new Architectural Biennale in Beijing, and from mid-October CO-EVOLUTION will be displayed at the Danish Architecture Centre in Copenhagen.

#### UiD

UiD [un-identified] is a networking urban consultancy offering innovative research, concepts and strategies for the development of dynamic and diversified urban environments. UiD is especially interested in the potential of process thinking and the possibility of supporting a diversity of lifestyles through new design concepts and new tools of planning.

#### Danish Architecture Centre

The Danish Architecture Center (DAC) has been appointed commissioner of the Danish pavilion by the Danish Ministry of Culture.

DAC is a VISIONARIUM dedicated to innovating, communicating and promoting architecture.

DAC is core-funded by a partnership consisting of Realdania - the Danish Foundation for the Built Environment, the Danish Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs.

**Download press material, photos and catalogue • [www.dac.dk/co-evolution](http://www.dac.dk/co-evolution)**

# “How to improve people’s living conditions without exhausting the very resources needed to sustain a better life”

Curator, Henrik Valeur

**Title: Performative Urbanism**  
**Team: CEBRA and Tsinghua University**  
**City: Beijing**

*An attractive green city on 10 million m<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soil*



**Fatou** is an old, highly polluted industrial area situated in the green belt of eastern Beijing. The factories left behind over 10 million m<sup>3</sup> of polluted soil, enough to cover the entire city of Venice in a layer 2 m deep. Over the next 10-15 years the Fatou area is to be developed to create a new city.

**Performative Urbanism** consists of seven small urban districts organized according to principles of proximity and density to assure universal ease of access to public transport, recreational areas and the city centre.

Performative Urbanism presents a sustainable solution that permits the cleansing and recycling of polluted soil while simultaneously creating local jobs. Performative Urbanism also demonstrates how the use of a natural water-cleaning system can supply the city with 50% of its daily water requirements and illustrates how the city may become self-sufficient when it comes to its energy requirements.

The project operates on several scales; all of them integrated into the architectural master-plan to create an entirely new and beautifully topographically sculpted area in the generally flat city of Beijing.

**Title: Shanghai SubCity**  
**Team: EFFEKT and Tongji University**  
**City: Shanghai**

*An exciting new city wrapped in a beautiful eco-nature*



**Shanghai** has become one of Asia’s top lifestyle cities, featuring high-end entertainment and modern living conditions. In order to ease the pressure on the city, the local government is planning a number of sub-cities around the Shanghai-periphery.

**Shanghai SubCity** is a visionary proposal for the suburban district Jiading, next to Shanghai’s brand new \$320 million Formula 1-track. The project suggests a new type of suburb, a dense SubCity cluster combining urban and natural qualities. The new city proposal is shaped to resemble a giant logo, ‘Che’, the Chinese word for car. Besides serving to brand and identify the new SubCity, the shape of the sign allows close connections between nature and urbanity. The green eco-park surrounding the city serves both as a leisure park and an eco-system providing the inhabitants with renewable energy, water and recreational areas. At the same time the park works like a vast geo-thermal energy plant heating the city during winter and cooling it in the summer. This will cover the 75% of total energy consumption in buildings which is currently used on heating and cooling.

**Title: Magic Mountains**  
**Team: COBE and Chongqing University**  
**City: Chongqing**

*A proposal for a soft green revolution*



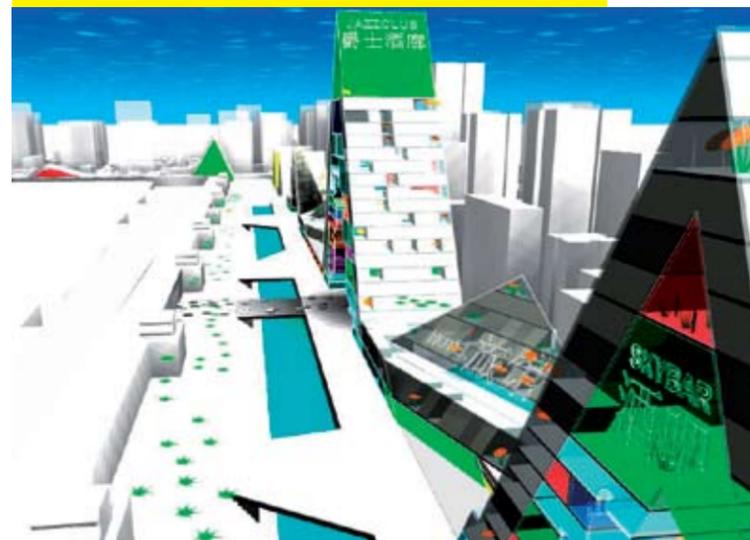
**Chongqing**, the biggest municipality in the world, is undergoing highspeed urban development. 50 million m<sup>2</sup> of floor space and 500 km of highways are being added to the urban landscape and 1,200,000 people are relocating to the city every year.

**Magic Mountains** is an urban design proposing a new “Green” Central Business District (G CBD). The G CBD district resembles the natural skyline of Chongqing, but with inhabited mountains. The mountain-peaks match the high-density centres; the mountains lower reaches resemble traditional Chinese neighbourhoods. The valleys are green open spaces accommodating the “living machine” – a system treating wastewater and generating renewable energy.

The inhabited mountains will reduce energy consumption by supporting passive cooling in summer and passive heating in winter. They are interconnected by a system of bicycle and pedestrian paths, and an efficient public transport system to minimize the need for transportation by car. Magic Mountains reduces the overall consumption of resources and energy by 22% and substitutes 11% conventional energy for renewable.

**Title: Citywall**  
**Team: TRANSFORM and XAUAT**  
**City: Xi’an**

*Countering the Effects of Mass-Tourism*



**Xi’an** is the most important historical centre in China. It attracts ever-increasing numbers of tourists. The historical city centre is surrounded by a city wall marking the border between ancient China and the new China emerging on the other side. Besides being affected by high levels of pollution, chaotic traffic and constant demands for improvements in general living-conditions, the city is also under pressure from steadily growing mass-tourism.

**Citywall** is a project proposing a new city wall around the existing historic one – a 14 km wide compactly-organized architectonic “belt”, providing transportation, accommodation, parks and squares, information centres etc. This belt will constitute a new infrastructure featuring light railways to minimize travel-time and replace the thousands of taxis now crowding the inner city and polluting it with noise and fumes. Citywall will sustain the image of a dense inner city while addressing the problems of noise and pollution.

The four projects can be said to describe a cross-section through “urban China” – from its historic center in Xi’an, to the new CBD across the river from the existing downtown in Chongqing, to the postindustrial periphery between the 4th and 5th ring road of Beijing and beyond to the postmodern subcity 30 km outside of Shanghai.

# CO-EVOLUTION CREDITS

## COMMISSIONER

DAC | Danish Architecture Centre  
[www.dac.dk](http://www.dac.dk)

## CURATOR TEAM

Henrik Valeur and UiD  
[www.uid.dk](http://www.uid.dk)

## PROJECT TEAMS ARCHITECTS + UNIVERSITIES

### Project team Beijing

CEBRA + Tsinghua University  
[www.cebra.info](http://www.cebra.info) • [www.tsinghua.edu.cn](http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn)

### Project team Chongqing

COBE + Chongqing University  
[www.cobe.dk](http://www.cobe.dk) • [www.cqu.edu.cn](http://www.cqu.edu.cn)

### Project team Shanghai

EFFEKT + Tongji University  
[www.efeekt.dk](http://www.efeekt.dk) • [www.tongji-caup.org](http://www.tongji-caup.org)

### Project team Xi'an

TRANSFORM + Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology (XAUAT)  
[www.transform.dk](http://www.transform.dk) • [www.xauat.edu.cn](http://www.xauat.edu.cn)

## SPONSORS

The Danish Ministry of Culture

The Danish Arts Foundation,  
The Committee for Architecture

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a strategic Danish foundation for the built environment

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## COORDINATION AND EXHIBITION STRUCTURE IN VENICE

M+B Studio  
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**We believe that the architect of the 21<sup>st</sup> century should be engaged and play an important role in what seems to be the most massive changes in the history of mankind – the sustainable development of better living conditions for the many.**

Kent Martinussen, CEO, Danish Architecture Centre

**A mix of Chinese style city-design and Danish innovation makes an artificial paradise.**

EFFEKT + Tongji

**The goal is to ride the speed and scale of Chinese development and use it to create a methodical approach towards high-speed sustainability.**

CEBRA + Tsinghua

**We need to acknowledge and take advantage of different experiences, ideas and knowledge if we are to create a sustainable future for all.**

Henrik Valeur, Curator

**A reflection of the past as a gate to the future?**

TRANSFORM + XAUAT

**There is no responsible alternative to a soft green revolution starting right now.**

COBE + CQU

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