ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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BEIJING, CHINA

28 JANUARY – 5 FEBRUARY 2012

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Neo-centre

28 January – 5 February 2012
Tsinghua Architectural Design & Research Institute and Institute of International Engineering Project Management, Tsinghua University

The programme will investigate how to inject the intelligence and automation of computational design into more practical and comprehensive models through experimentation on a high-density redevelopment. With Beijing as our testbed we will look at current plans to diminish the bottleneck that has suffocated the growth of the city centre by creating 11 new distributed city centres.

According to city planning policy, Tongzhou will be the paradigm among these new centres. In 2010 the local government adopted the concept of 'River of Time and Space' – a play on the history and culture of Tongzhou Canal – as the basis of their new urban plan. Associated with this are four themes: Shadow of Islands, Shadow of Pagoda, Shadow of Buildings and Shadow of Trees. Rather than interpreting this scheme from a metaphorical perspective, however, the workshop aims to explore a series of generic computational models in neighbourhood scale integrating parameters that are extracted from social and economic dimensions. We will explore three main issues: 1. The use of computational processes to generate time-dependent outcomes that respond to changing conditions with minimum redundancy and maximum capacity – as an alternative to one-off development. 2. The potential of computational design to achieve social integration and maintain social diversity on the basis of communal integrity. 3. Boosting economic growth – can we use computational design to stitch an economically robust higher-density district into the city?

Participants will compare the history of new city centres in Beijing and in the West and analyse the Tongzhu planning scheme. Although several computational tools will be taught (among them Rhino Scripting and Grasshopper, Processing and Maya), it is more important to grasp the merits of computational thinking as a way of delivering creative proposals.

The workshop is open to current students, postgraduates and young professionals with architectural background. All applicants should submit a CV, personal statement of the expectation from this workshop and a couple of sample projects demonstrating design ability and digital skills.

Applications
The deadline for applications is 13 January 2012. Application forms and additional information are available online at: www.aaschool.ac.uk/beijing and applications can be submitted to: visitingschool@aaschool.ac.uk

All participants travelling from abroad are responsible for securing any visa required for entry to China, and are advised to contact their home embassy early. After payment of fees, the AA School can provide a letter confirming participation in the workshop.

Accommodation & Costs
The AA Visiting School requires a fee of £695 per participant, which includes a £50 Visiting Student Membership, payable online at: www.aaschool.ac.uk/beijing. Fees do not include flights or accommodation, but accommodation options can be advised. Students need to bring their own laptops, digital equipment and modelmaking tools. Please ensure this equipment is covered by your own insurance as the AA takes no responsibility for items lost or stolen at the workshop.

More Information
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