

“2011深圳·香港城市\建筑双城双年展”

“ 2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture ”

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



**2011 SHENZHEN & HONG KONG  
BI-CITY BIENNALE OF URBANISM\ARCHITECTURE  
ANNOUNCES EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS**

**EXHIBITION DATES: DECEMBER 11, 2011 – FEBRUARY 18, 2012**

**VERNISSAGE: DECEMBER 8-11, 2011**

**CHIEF CURATOR: TERENCE RILEY**

**Shenzhen, China, December 1, 2011**– The Organizing Committee of the **Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale Of Urbanism\Architecture** are pleased to announce the opening of the fourth edition of the Biennale, organized by the Chief Curator **Terence Riley**. Selected from an international call for proposals, Mr. Riley is the first non-Chinese curator of the **Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale Of Urbanism\Architecture**. Riley is an architect and partner in the architectural firm K/R, and the former director of Miami Art Museum. As the Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, he played a key role in overseeing MoMA's 2004 expansion project.

**“Architecture Creates Cities. Cities Create Architecture”** is the title and theme of the **2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture**. The Biennale will portray the unending interaction between architecture and cities, while taking on the discussion of sustainability and urban vitality. Juxtaposing that interaction found in Chinese cities, including Shenzhen and Hong Kong, with that of other cities around the world, the pervasive theme will be seen in the Biennale’s exhibitions, publications and related events. Designed for the Biennale by **wx-design**, the logo of the Biennale graphically interprets the theme by stringing two sentences together in the form of a Möbius strip.

“The curatorial program for the 2011 Biennale expands the concepts established in the previous three editions, highlighting the significance of Urbanism/Architecture on a broader international

and contemporary scale” said **Feng Yueqiang**, an architect from the Biennale’s Academic Committee.

Riley has conceived of a program that includes more than 30 exhibitions, symposiums, panel discussions and performances. He has appointed a number of scholars, architects and artists as members of the curatorial team, including **Jeffrey Johnson** (Director of China Lab, Columbia University), **Dr. Tang Keyang** (Curator of China Pavilion, 12th Venice Architectural Biennale), **Li Xiangning** (Professor of Theory and Criticism, Tongji University), **Qingyun Ma** (Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Southern California), **Dr. Mary Ann O’Donnell** (Research Associate, College of Arts, Shenzhen University), **Jonathan Solomon** (Acting Head of the Department of Architecture, Hong Kong University), **Rochelle Steiner** (Dean & Professor, Roski School of Fine Arts, University of Southern California) and **David van der Leer** (Assistant Curator of Architecture and Urban Studies, Guggenheim Museum), among others.

### **Vernissage Highlights**

The vernissage of the **2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture** will begin on **December 8, 2011** in **Shenzhen Citizen’s Plaza** with a series of events, lectures, panel discussions, and performances by many Biennale participants and notable figures in the field of architecture such as: CoopHimmelb(l)au co-founder **Wolf Prix**, International New Town Institute Director **Michelle Provoost**, Harvard University’s **Winnie Wong**, Chinese-American design curator and critic **Aric Chen**, and Hong Kong Biennale curators **Gene King** and **Anderson Lee**, among others.

### **Exhibition Descriptions**

The **Special Plaza Project** is a temporary installation on Citizen's Plaza in Shenzhen by John Bennett and Gustavo Bonevardi. Built entirely of reusable brightly colored safety cones, these iconic objects are toppled, precariously balanced or decoratively arrayed in floral patterns throughout the plaza. This large and ceremonial public space is transformed by a small common object that can be found on any street and forms an open, welcoming composition that everyone is invited to enter and explore.

The **Ultra-Light Village** includes five architects and/or teams of architects who explore Buckminster Fuller’s famously polemic question: “How much does your building weigh?” Each participant was selected to express their ideas in full-scale within an important civic space based on their ability to design innovative structures using the lightest weight materials and proficiency in communicating their ideas through efficient building practices. The **Ultra-Light Village** will be constructed on the upper plaza of the Shenzhen Civic Center.

**Chinese Cities in Two Views**, curated by Keyang Tang, presents the history of urban China from two correlated approaches—the sum of all its historical fragments and as a constantly changing entity. The purpose of **Chinese Cities in Two Views** is not only to provide established perspectives of a city but also to examine how it has transformed through time.

**8 Urban Plans** presents a broad snapshot of urbanism in China today. Curated by Jeffrey Johnson and Xiangning Li with projects by James Corner Field Operations, Atelier FCJZ, David Chipperfield Architects, Steven Holl Architects, and collaborations between Urbanus and OMA, Qi Xin Atelier and Fang Media, WSP and Woods Bagot Asia, Wu Zhiqiang and Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute, **8 Urban Projects** will illustrate how China’s unique conditions and challenges have generated new urban modalities. Each project has been selected based on

a set of critical issues or themes such as community, lifestyle, identity, harmony, ecology, economy, temporality, and preservation that define the urban project in China today.

For ***Informal China*** curators Jiang Jun and Su Yunsheng present a multidisciplinary examination of the rapid state of change in China based on the editorial work of *Urban China* magazine founded in 2005. *Urban China* aims to be a global think tank for artistic production and urban activism that offers ways of understanding not only China's sociopolitical conditions but also how individuals can have more influence on where and how we live. The exhibition *Informal China* could be taken as a magazine "remixed" in the form of wallpaper, which offers a concise narrative of the history of China's urbanization, presented as an ongoing struggle between systems of control and *laissez-faire*, literally "let it be."

**The Ghana ThinkTank**, founded by John Ewing, Carmen Montoya and Christopher Robbins, is a network of third world think tanks devising solutions for first world problems. For the Biennale The Ghana ThinkTank will feature: ***Developing the First World***, an exhibition consisting of stylized displays demonstrating each stage of the process of solving first world problems from a third world perspective.

Curated by David van der Leer, ***And then it became a city*** explores the development of new towns and their cross-cultural commonalities. *And then it became a city* includes newly commissioned works by international videographers who have analyzed, and documented everyday life in the six planned cities under the age of sixty which are explored in *6 Under 60*.

*And then it became a city* is organized in tandem with *6 Under 60*, curated by Rochelle Steiner.

***6 Under 60***, curated by Rochelle Steiner, with a core team of Stefano di Martino, Scott S. Fisher and Jennifer Stein, explores Chandigarh (India, 1953), Brasilia (Brazil, 1960), Gaborone (Botswana, 1964), Almere (Netherlands, 1976), Shenzhen (China, 1979), and Las Vegas (US, 1960s); which have become vibrant and thriving cities since the 1950's. The project will consider the evolution of these cities – the trajectory from their original mission to what they have become with local and expanding global considerations.

***Go West*** curators Michiel Hulshof and Daan Roggeveen explore the similarities between the Chinese city of Shenzhen and the Dutch Flevoland city of Almere. In spite of these similarities, both urban areas have developed in very different ways. *Go West* puts the economic, social, spatial and ecological developments of Shenzhen and Flevoland into perspective.

Curated by Terence Riley, ***The Street*** is a series of facades created by young and emerging architects. Inspired by Paolo Portoghesi's first modern architecture biennale of 1980, *The Street* has been designed by the 12 architects selected by the curator in consultation with leading critics worldwide. The installations and facades create the "street" as the "street" provides the structural basis of the architecture. The participating architects are: Atelier Deshaus, Alejandro Aravena, Fake Industries Architectural Agonism, spbr, SO-IL, J. Mayer H., JohnstonMarkLee, Open Architecture, Aranda Lasch, MAD Architecture, Mass Studies, and Hashim Sarkis Studios.

***Boom Shenzhen!*** curator Mary Ann O'Donnell brings together five elements which implore the idea of a timeline to contextualize the lived, environmental, and philosophical meanings of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone's short, yet volatile history.

Reflecting this Biennale's theme *Architecture creates cities. Cities create architecture.*, **Shenzhen Builds** presents five major projects for Shenzhen that are currently in progress. Addressing how the scale of certain projects in contemporary architecture is such that the architect becomes not only a designer of buildings but also a city planner and landscape architect. *Shenzhen Builds* is curated by Terence Riley, with projects from Coop Himmelb(l)au, Massimiliano Fuksas Architetto, Atelier FCJZ, Urbanus and OMA.

The 1980 Venice Biennale, *The Presence of the Past*, featured the *Strada Nuovissima*, which addressed the central themes coursing through the field of architecture at the time. Curated by Aaron Betsky, ***The Presence of the Past Revisited*** features interviews with Denise Scott Brown, Frank O. Gehry, Michael Graves, Allen Greenberg, Leon Krier, Thomas Gordon Smith, Robert A.M. Stern, and Stanley Tigermann—many of the *Strada's* lasting participants.

Organized by the University of Hong Kong, ***Counterpart Cities*** brings together six design teams from Shenzhen and Hong Kong to research and propose collaborative responses to the systemic challenges of Climate Change in the region. The design teams explore architectural futures for three systems characterizing the interdependent relationship between Shenzhen and Hong Kong: freshwater provision, ports infrastructure, and the ecology of deep bay. *Counterpart Cities* was curated by Jonathan Solomon and Dorothy Tang and includes work by Tom Verebes, Stefan Al, Vincci Mak, Doreen Liu, Feng Guochuan, and Zhu Xiong Yu.

***The Favela Painting Project*** started in 2005 in Rio de Janeiro as a way of using art as a catalyst for social change. Together with local youth, Dre Urhahn and Jeroen Koolhaas created monumental murals in Rio's urban landscape bringing international awareness to the city's sprawling ghetto. Koolhaas and Urhahn will be completing a project for the Biennale.

The ***Rebirth Brick*** program started in July 2008, after the May 12<sup>th</sup> earthquake in Wenchuan county, China. The program was originally designed to help local communities conduct independent production and reconstruction work. Made with rubble, aggregate, stone and straw, the bricks are now used and manufactured to rebuild the damaged cities. *Rebirth Brick* was curated by Jiakun Liu.

***Housing an Affordable City***, an exhibition curated by Juan Du, brings together politicians, entrepreneurs, scholars, architects, planners, engineers, developers, and the public to examine the challenges and opportunities of providing low and mid-income housing in the dense environment of the contemporary city. The exhibition presents winning proposals of Shenzhen's "1 Unit -100 Families-10000 Residents Affordable Housing Design Competition".

***Reclaim***, the pavilion from the **Kingdom of Bahrain** is intended to stimulate a debate on future planning policies as an investigation into the socio-political changes that have led to the current state of affairs. Beyond the ecological implications of land reclamation, it is an investigation into these resulting social implications through the value given to the coast as a public space. *Reclaim* was commissioned by Sh. Mai Al Khalifa and curated by Noura Al Sayeh and Fuad Al Ansari. *Reclaim* made its debut at the 2010 Venice Biennale and won the Golden Lion award best national participation.

***A House***, the pavilion from the **Netherlands**, showcases a unique project in which The Netherlands Architecture institute (NAi) brought five Dutch architecture offices together with five Chinese firms for a project to be realized in Beijing. The exhibition focuses on the

process of working together to find a common language as well as shed light on the poor conditions in which low-income recent college graduates are living today, and what their improved housing of tomorrow could be.

***Gimme Shelter!***, the pavilion from **Chile** was commissioned by Cristobal Molina Baeza and curated by Sebastian Irrarázaval and Hugo Mondragón to address the shelter as a place that offers the most essential relief, a place where people go in search of protection. *Gimme Shelter!* is a series of projects, visual pieces and technological innovations that explore experimental languages, culturally rooted in Chilean cities and landscapes.

The pavilion from **Finland** features two exhibitions curated by Martta Louekari: ***Newly Drawn - Emerging Finnish Architects*** introduces the most interesting young, upcoming Finnish architects, their latest projects, visions and ways of working. ***Solution Finland: The Welfare Game (Solution 239-246)***, written by Martti Kalliala, Jenna Stuela, and Tuomas Toivonen, proposes eight and a half solutions to their native country's quandaries, ranging from the practical, to the absurd and the earnest, if far-reaching.

For ***Housing in Vienna: Innovative, Social and Ecological***, the Austrian Pavilion Curator, Dietmar Steiner provides an extensive overview of social housing in Vienna from its origins to the present. It features 29 subsidized housing projects, each selection an example of common Viennese housing; from theme and garden estates and housing on the city's periphery to resource-saving condominiums and the development of entire city district.

### **About the Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture**

The Biennale responds to the rapid urbanization of the Pearl River Delta, where Shenzhen is located. The biennale considers the ways urban designers and architects face the challenges brought on by unprecedented urbanization in which global warming and sustainable development have become keywords. These issues are more significant and challenging in the context of China's great resource shortage and are addressed in the various exhibitions, projects and discussions that occur as part of the biennale. The Biennale is the first international public event to focus on urbanism as an ongoing theme to explore issues of the city as an active agent in contemporary culture.

### **About Terence Riley**

Terence Riley is a partner in the architectural firm K/R, working on commissions in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He is an internationally recognized leader in the fields of design and architecture. In addition to the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Miami Art Museum, he has played a lead role in the architect selection for numerous institutions including, the Reina Sofia Museum of Art, Madrid, Spain, and the Parrish Museum of Art, Southampton, NY. He has served on many architectural juries and was chairman of the jury for the 2002 Venice Biennale and the jury for the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon, Washington, DC.

**Main Venue:** Shenzhen Civic Square  
**Other Venues** OCT Loft B10  
OCAT Halls A and B  
**Organized by:** Shenzhen Municipal Government  
**Supported by:** Shenzhen Municipal Government  
Culture, Sports and Tourism Administration of  
Shenzhen Municipality  
**Co-Organized by:** Shenzhen Media Group  
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To learn more about the Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture, visit <http://www.szhkbiennale.org/en/>

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