

Vertical Cities Asia Symposium – Abstracts of Jury

Title: My Works in City China — Reconstruction of the Living Space Vertically

Author: Prof. Wang Shu

Abstract:

In Asia, particularly in China, the original structure of cities is changing in general. Such change happens simultaneously with architectural massive constructions. The process of the change and disintegration of the city structure, way of life and the architecture language is the subject that contemporary architecture is facing directly now, no matter we desire or not. It is interesting that the various possibilities of different times and directions exist at the same time. Huge amount of population and serious shortness of city land makes it inevitable of the tendency that the living space develops vertically.

After the simple functional effectiveness and modern illusion, architecture calls for a way to return the alienated way of living back to real city life and local environment. Therefore, the vital problem to think about for the contemporary high-rise building, especially residential building in city China is the reconstruction of a certain localized living world. During the past ten years, Amateur Architecture Studio has developed an innovative and site specific experiment methodology. Practice, combined with parallel research on contemporary urban and rural architecture, begins with -scale architectural experiments, which are implemented into specific metropolitan public spaces and high-rise residential dwellings.

These experiments will ultimately be carried out on an urban scale, over an entire city. The studio seeks answers to such questions as how to locally reconstruct the unique urban fabric in Chinese cities where the original Chinese building ideology that is interdependent with the natural landscape to contemporary conditions in China, how to cope with large scale demolition and reconstruction in Chinese cities, how to reinterpret the tradition of local design by introducing a way to recycle buildings, and proposed firmly the concept of “Rebuilding Contemporary Local Chinese Architecture”.

Key words:

Change, Vernacular Tradition, Renewable Construction, nearness living places, Living World, localized construction