

# 我 Building 们 a future 的 countryside 乡村

PAVILION OF CHINA  
第16届威尼斯国际建筑双年展中国馆



la Biennale di Venezia

16. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura

Partecipazioni Nazionali

Pavilion of China  
16th International Architecture Exhibition  
La Biennale di Venezia

## BUILDING A FUTURE COUNTRYSIDE

May 26–November 25, 2018  
Preview Days: May 24–25, 2018

“The motivation for this exhibition is more than just *xiangchou*, a Chinese term that refers to nostalgia for rural lands. We return to the countryside where Chinese culture originated to recover forgotten values and overlooked possibilities; from there, we will build a future countryside.” - **Li Xiangning** (Curator)

One of the major challenges facing contemporary built environments is the future of rural development. In China, the countryside has become a new frontier for experiments in this area, and the country is developing its countryside at a speed and scale unseen in the West. Drawn by the promise of boundless opportunity, architects, artists, developers—as well as capital flow—are converging in rural areas across the nation.

The return to pastoral life has long been an ideal of Chinese literary tradition. In modern times, living in rural areas typically involves aspects such as policy, capital, infrastructure, and technology. While modernization and technological progress promise us better lives with modern living conditions, they also, to some extent, sever the link between rural life and tradition. **Faced with mass-produced rural housing brought on by urbanization, architects attempt to find a middle ground between tradition and modernization, taking advantage of modern technology in search of a vernacular connection.**

From the great yellow expanse of the Loess Plateau to the water towns south of the Yangtze, from the vast and abundant plains of northeast China to the green and beautiful farmlands of the south, hundreds and thousands of villages have become sites for industrial development, self-building, and cultural creation. These sites enjoy tremendous opportunities offered by technological innovations, including the internet, logistics systems, and sharing economies. The development of the countryside in contemporary China is unprecedented in both its scale and its approaches. More importantly, this development anticipates a new solution grounded in China’s unique conditions.

Building a Future Countryside depicts the countryside of contemporary China through six episodes: **poetic dwellings, local production, cultural practices, agricultural tourism, community reconstruction, and future exploration.** This exhibition outlines a freespace for opportunity and anticipates future development.

## MAIN PROJECTS

Entering the Pavilion, following the exhibition's route, the main projects are:

**Wood Kiln Bing Ding** by Zhang Lei, AZL Architects

**Xinzhai Coffee Manor** by Hua Li, Trace Architecture Office - TAO

**An Old-new House** by John Lin + Joshua Bolchover, Rural Urban Framework

**Cidi Memo, a Town of Memory** by Liu Yuyang, Atelier Liu Yuyang Architects

**Mountain Dwelling. Waterside Dwelling. Forest Dwelling** by Dong Yugan

**In Bamboo** by Philip F. Yuan, Archi-Union Architects, co. Ltd

Outside the China Pavilion, in the garden:

**Cloud Village** by Philip F. Yuan, Archi-Union Architects, co. Ltd

## LI XIANGNING, CURATOR

Dr. Li Xiangning is Deputy Dean and Full Professor in History, Theory and Criticism at Tongji University College of Architecture and Urban Planning. He is a member of CICA (Comité International des Critiques d'Architecture), he has worked as curator for numerous exhibitions and has published widely on contemporary Chinese architecture and urbanism. He is Chief Editor of Architecture China and President of Architecture China Foundation. Furthermore, he has been working with international museums and institutes and he has been a jury member to many international awards and competitions.

## PAVILION OF CHINA - 16TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

**Commissioner:** China Arts and Entertainment Group (CAEG)

**Deputy Commissioner:** Li Jinsheng, Wang Chen

**Assistant commissioners:** Huang Xiaogang, Liu Zhenlin, Li Rui, Yang Xin, Xie Yanyi, Li Yunyun, Zhang Ziwei

**Collaborators:** Zhu Di, Zheng Hao, Wang Mingxian, Zhu Wenyi, Shi Jian, Li Hu

**Curator:** Li Xiangning

**Assistants to the Curator:** Yao Weiwei, Mo Wanli, Gao Changjun

**Research Team:** Zhang Xiaochun, Lin Lin, Deng Yuanye

**Display Design:** Liu Yuyang, Zhang Ziyue

**Graphic Design:** Ni Minqing, Li Jixin

**Exhibitors:** Dong Yugan, Hua Li, Liu Yuyang, Philip F. Yuan, Rural Urban Framework, Zhang Lei, Atelier Archmixing, Atelier Deshaus, Chen Haoru, China New Rural Planning and Design, Dong Gong, Drawing Architecture Studio, Hsieh Ying-Chun, Jin Jiangbo, Li Yikao, Li Xinggang, Seung H-ang, Nishizawa Ryue, Li Zhenyu, Lyu Pinjing, Naturalbuild, O-office Architects, temp architects, Xu Tiantian, Zhang Li, Zhao Yang, Zhu Jingxiang

**Supporter:** Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China

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