WSET-LINE STUDIO

Venice Architecture Biennale 2020

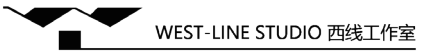
Co-founder



Haobo Wei

WEST-LINE STUDIO 西线工作室


La Biennale di Venezia
Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico


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20-apr-20 partenza
Prot. n **764** P

China Arts and Entertainment Group Ltd. (CAEG)
Commissioner
People's Republic of China
biennalecn@126.com

Venice, 20th April 2020

Dear Commissioner,

I hope this message finds you, your colleagues, your family and your friends all well and safe in these difficult times.

I am contacting you, first of all to express all the solidarity and gratitude from La Biennale di Venezia and to introduce myself as new President looking forward to working with you in the best possible way.

We are all working hard to give a positive answer to the challenging questions that emerged from this difficult worldwide situation, especially given that La Biennale di Venezia organizes International Exhibitions and Festivals bringing together in Venice participants coming from many Countries. We are convinced that it constitutes an opportunity for the necessary renewal, to overcome a crisis that started as a health emergency and which is now rapidly becoming economical, social, political and, of course, cultural.

Biennale Architettura is going to be the first international cultural event after the beginning of the crisis and we want to build on this opportunity to make people more confident about the future.

We are continuously working to make sure that people will have the chance to meet again at the Biennale Architettura 2020, to engage with each other in the real space, after many months of social distancing and following safety rules and protocols.

On March 4th, when we moved the opening to August 29th 2020, we did that for the purpose of maximizing the participation of all the involved National Participants, including countries and visitors coming from all over the world. We have promptly reorganized our work and are planning accordingly. Now we are focusing, together

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with the participating countries and the participants of the International Exhibition, on meeting this deadline while continuing to follow the new timeline. We hope that the preparation of your National Participation is going on well, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

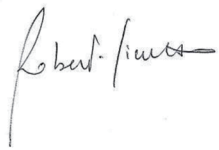
Thanks to the ongoing collaboration of all involved parties, we can ensure that all the necessary preparatory stages are carried out and guarantee the opening of the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, with a preview from the 26th to the 28th of August and opening to the public on Saturday 29th of August. Joern Brandmeyer – head of the Visual Arts and Architecture Department - will be at your disposal for all information and questions in the following weeks, and we will get you updated on the next steps.

Myself and all the staff and offices involved are also constantly available – in remote working currently –to support your participation.

I look forward to meeting you in Venice for the opening of the 17th International Architecture Exhibition.

All my very best,

Roberto Cicutto
President



魏浩波
WEI Haobo



1970 年生于中国贵阳

魏浩波，西线工作室创始人，西线工作室首席建筑师，教授级高级建筑师，国务院政府特殊津贴专家，WAN Award 国际评委；其长期致力于次文化圈层乡土带的建筑研究与实践；曾获 2020 英国公民信托奖国际奖、2019 年世界建筑新闻奖年度建筑师大奖唯一金奖、2019 年世界建筑新闻奖小空间建筑类唯一金奖 、2018 年德国国家设计奖建筑类最高奖唯一金奖、2018 年欧洲杰出建筑师奖最佳公共建筑类大奖、2018 年和 2019 年欧洲杰出建筑师奖最佳综合建筑类大奖、2017 年 ArchDaily 中国建筑年度大奖冠军等等几十项国际大奖；其作品收录于 Phaidon 出版社的《STONE》、《ARCHITIZER: The World’s Best Architecture》、《RED Architecture in Monochrome》 与《Chinese Brutalism Today》，《Casabella》，《Arquitectura Viva》，《Doums》，《Deatil》等国际专业书刊与媒体；受邀参展 2020（IAA）雅典国际建筑展、2018 年米兰设计周亚洲展、中华人民共和国文化和旅游部主办的第三届中国设计大展及公共艺术专题展、“2013 与 2007 深圳 · 香港城市建筑双城双年展”等众多展览。

Born in Guiyang, China in 1970

WEI Haobo is the founder and chief architect of West-line Studio, as professor, as special allowance expert of the State Council, and a World Architecture News (WAN) Awards Juror. He has long been devoted to research and work on local vernacular architecture and subcultures’ diversity. Among the many awards won, there are 2020 Civic Trust Award - International Award, the Wan Award 2019 - Architect Practice of the Year - Gold, Wan Award 2019 - Small Space – Gold, German Design Award 2018 - Architecture - Gold, LEAF Award 2018 - Best Public Building - Winner, LEAF Award 2018 and 2019 - Best Mixed Use Building - Winner, ArchDaily China Building of the Year Awards 2017 - 1st Place. His works appeared on many magazines and publications: *STONE* (Phaidon, 2019), *ARCHITIZER: The World’s Best Architecture*, *RED - Architecture in Monochrome* (Phaidon, 2018), *Chinese Brutalism Today*, *Casabella*, *Arquitectura Viva*, *Domus*, *Detail* among the others. He was invited to the International Architecture Award Winners Exhibition (Athens 2020), the Asia Design Pavilion (Milan Design Week 2018), the 3rd China Design Exhibition 2019, and the Shenzhen · Hong Kong Urban Architecture Biennale in 2007 and 2013.

WEST-LINE STUDIO 西线工作室

谢劲松
XIE Jingsong



1971 年生于中国贵阳

谢劲松，西线工作室创始人，西线工作室主持建筑师，教授级高级建筑师，中国建筑学会建筑师分会理事，美国景观设计师协会会员；毕业于西安建筑科技大学；曾获 2020 英国公民信托奖国际奖、2018 年世界建筑新闻奖建筑立面类金奖、2018 年世界建筑新闻奖公民建筑高度赞誉奖、2019 年 A+Awards 石头建筑类大奖 、2020 年德国国家设计奖城市空间与基础设施类优胜奖、2020 年德国国家设计奖建筑类优胜奖、2019 年美国建筑大师奖改造与修复类优胜奖等等。受邀参展 2020（IAA）雅典国际建筑展、2018 年米兰设计周亚洲展等众多展览。

Born in Guiyang, China in 1971

XIE Jingsong is the founder and lead architect of West-line Studio and as professor of architect. She is a director of the Institute of Chinese Architects (ASC) and a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). She graduated from Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology. Among the many awards won, there are the 2020 Civic Trust Award-International Award, Wan Awards 2018 - Facade - Winner, Wan Awards 2018 - Civic Buildings - High Commended, A+Awards 2019 - Architecture + Stone - Winner, German Design Award 2020 - Urban Space and Infrastructure - Winner, German Design Award 2020 - Architecture - Winner and Architecture MasterPrize 2019 - Restoration & Renovation - Winner. She was invited to the International Architecture Award Winners Exhibition (Athens 2020) and participated in the Asia Design Pavilion (Milan Design Week 2018).

West-line Studio has always been paying attention to the basic working pattern - ‘Commune by Regional Tie’: 'Site' Order + Mnemonic System of 'rite'. This reflecting West-line Studio’s attempts to solve the problems caused by the mutual conflict between the two social structures: universal society/subculture rural society in the southwest China, and the effort to protect and co-grow the model of human survival in various subculture regions.

车田村文化中心
CHE TIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

文化中心位于中国西南部的车田村，距贵州省省会贵阳 30 公里。这个村庄有 400 多年的历史，因使用当地材料建造的“石房”而闻名。村庄有 207 户村民，其中 41 户属于苗族，苗族是中国最古老的少数民族之一。由于村落凝聚力与归属感的丧失，石头院落的大面积毁坏，以及社区治理的缺失，需要重拾深刻影响村落传统格局的以故宫为原型的“共同体”象征性“院儿”结构，重建共同体生活模型，重生石造技艺。文化中心的建筑以 40 厘米厚的墙壁为强烈特征，根据当地的传统方法建造，使用的石头来自村庄的矿井。这种石头有一个非常独特的蓝色阴影，被称为“蓝色的石头”。坚硬密实的石材营造出一种私密的内部空间，并显示出建筑师对车田村历史悠久的砌石传统的深切敬意。

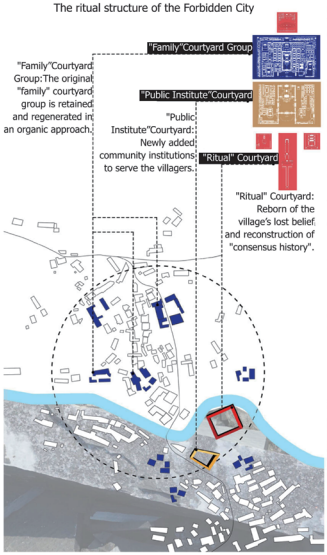
The cultural center is located in the rural Chetian Village, 30 km from Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou province, in South-West China. The village has more than 400 years of history and is famous for its 'stone houses' built with local materials. 41 families, out of the 207 living in the village, belong to the Miao (苗) ethnic minority, Miao is one of the oldest minority groups in China. To confront the diminishing village's cohesion and sense of belonging, the large-scale decaying and damage of stone buildings with courtyards, as well as the absence of commune governance, it is necessary to resurrect the symbolic "Yuan-er/courtyard" structure of "commune", that profoundly affects the traditional pattern of villages based on the Forbidden City in the local history, to rebuild a model of commune life as well as to reactivate the stone craftsmanship. The architecture of the cultural center is strongly characterized by 40 cm thick walls, built according to the local traditional methods, using the stone coming from the village's pit. The stone has a very unique blue shade, which is called "blue stone". The strong and obsessive presence of the stone creates an intimate interior space and shows the architects' deep respect for the historical masonry traditions of Chetian Village.


Each one and every hand


Ritual dance


Texture

Chetian Cultural Center -
Porosity of Symbolic "Yuan-er" Structure from the Forbidden City




Light and stone lane

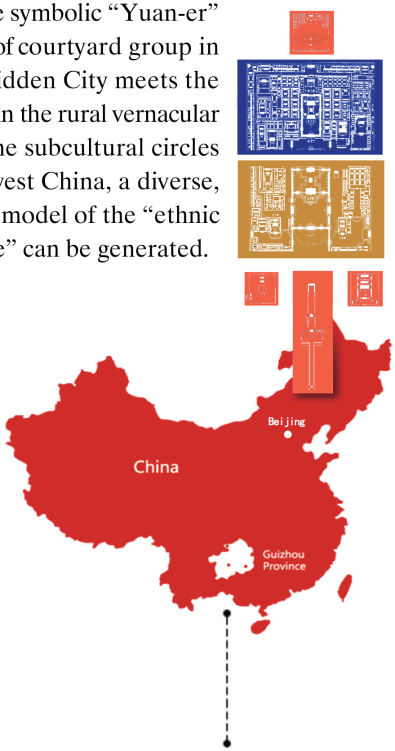

Stone courtyard


The cultural center in the village

Encounter …

In vernacular region of subcultural circle

When the symbolic “Yuan-er” structure of courtyard group in the Forbidden City meets the "locality" in the rural vernacular area of the subcultural circles in southwest China, a diverse, nostalgic model of the “ethnic commune” can be generated.





Tunbao Regional Settlement ——

Meet the cultural circle of the "karst landform".



Qingyan Old Town ——

The encounter between multiple religions and traditional craftsmenship.



"Stone Stack" in Chi shui ——

Meet the wharf of salt transport.

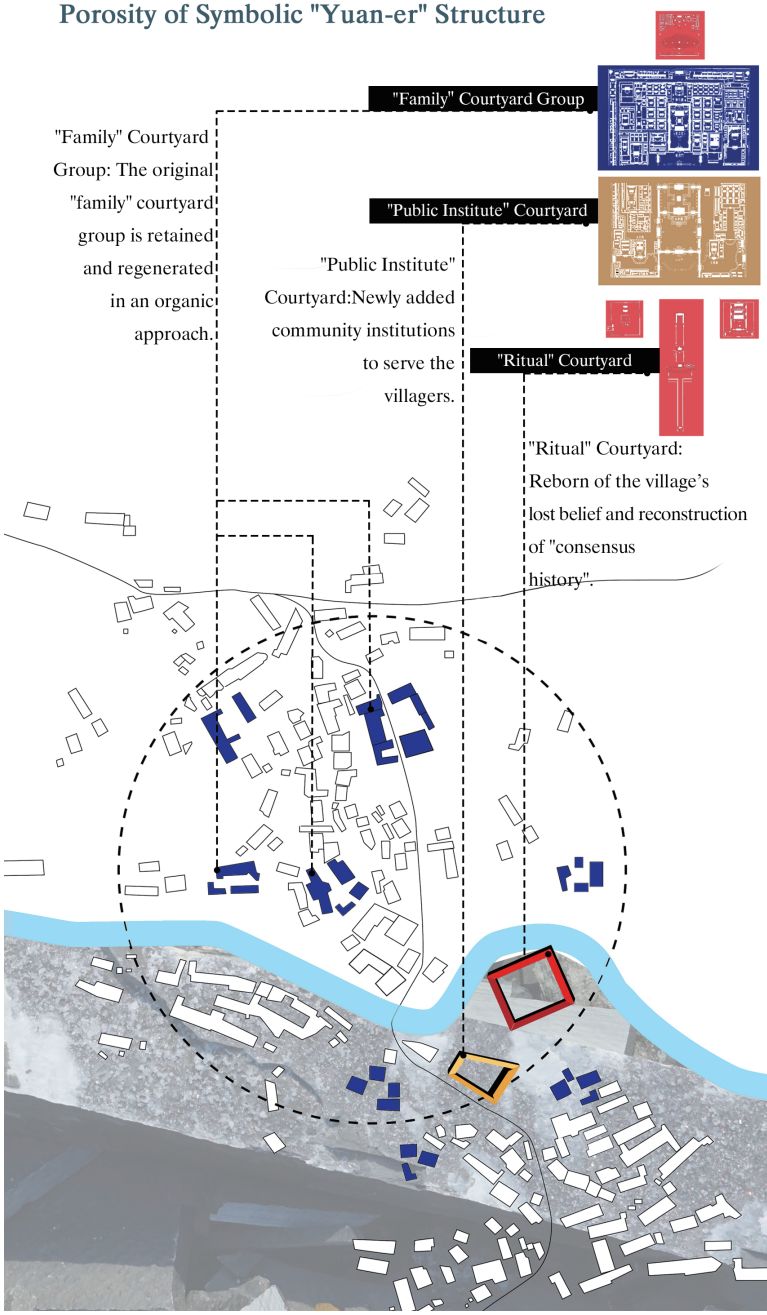






Chetian Cultural Center --

Porosity of Symbolic "Yuan-er" Structure





HOW WILL WE LIVE TOGETHER?

In the last period we have been called to reinvent our way of life, our daily life, our social behaviors and, also, the places of living. The theme of the issue Number07 of AGORÀ magazine, taken from that of the seventeenth Venice Architecture Biennale curated by Hashim Sarkis, today more than ever has taken on new values and meanings. "How will we live together?" it is a question that we all asked ourselves during the lockdown that marked the epidemiological emergency we are still fighting today. This question, between June and September 2020, has changed. From "how will we live together?" it turned into "how are we living together?". In a way, the question we asked ourselves during the lockdown was answered in the months of summer freedom, but at the same time it changed into a new question saturated with anguish and fear. Today, all of Italy is under restrictions due to an enemy that is severely hurting the whole world. An enemy that attacks on every front (political, economic, social, etc…) and that makes us ask, once again: "how will we live together?"

The virus is proof that we are all united and connected. We learned that we are ready to upset our lives, to accept very heavy restrictions in favor of the common good, we learned that physical distance and social distance are complementary but not the same thing, that the jobs indispensable to society are often those jobs without any protections (shop assistants, porters, riders, etc …), that we need to reformulate the urban contract stipulated between women-men and the environment, that living together also includes nature, that one is worth one is a lie, that we need others to survive, that reality can overcome dystopia, we also learned many other concepts that you will read in this publication.

Probably, until autumn 2021, we will continue to live in a semi-quarantine situation, it will be a psychologically devastating experience, so profound that the city as we know it will change drastically. However, like any traumatic experience, the possibility is offered to understand what the problems of the previous condition were, in order to change them. This event places the end of the twentieth century, of a certain type of city, economy and society in favor of something totally new, of which we do not yet know the name. Or everything returns as before, with even more desire to produce, to have fun, to attack the planet, or nothing will be the same as before, including the way we will live together!

Editorial: Duccio Prassoli, Marco Grattarola

Cover: Samuele Pellecchia, How will we live together?, Milan, 2021



AGORÀ talk: Learning from China

DESCRIPTION

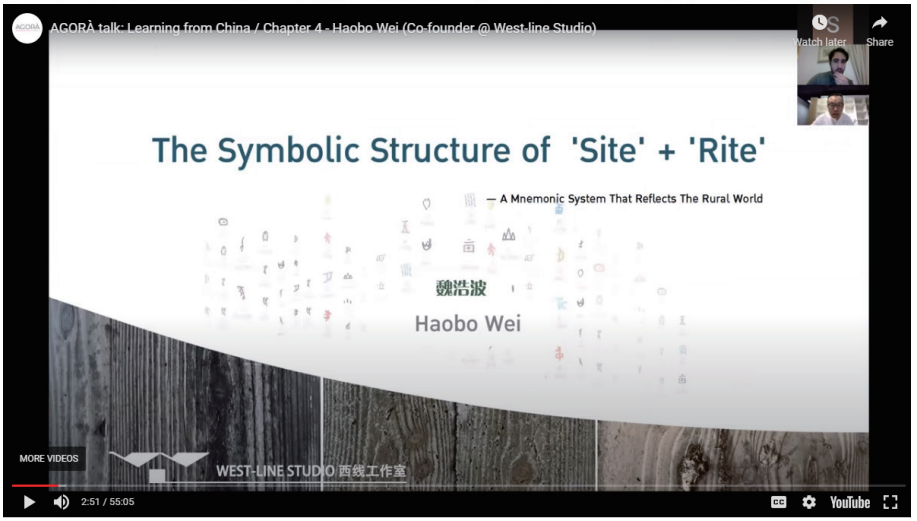
AGORÀ talk: Learning from China aims to be an opportunity for encounter between Western and Chinese cultures, overturning the usual intellectual relationship: Western culture will listen to the Asian one, first trying to understand, and then asking questions in order to understand better what Asian culture has to say about itself. This exercise will also be useful for Chinese guests, who are trying to develop a new architectural / cultural identity at this historic moment.

Therefore, the event stands as an educational opportunity both for the premises and for the modalities, in fact the guests will prepare five lessons specifically for this occasion, and their purpose will be to educate the participants on the issues that are driving contemporary Chinese architecture.

China has been, and still is, a place of architectural experimentation where different realities coexist; from hyper-dense urbanization to rural villages. Currently in China new issues are taking shape with which we must necessarily deal with, especially in a globalized world that sees the Chinese influence more and more preponderant: the phenomenon of the New Towns, the search for a national architectural language that distances itself from Western influence, the recent tendency to reject new anonymous megastructures, the near Green turn of Architecture. In China, the urbanization rate is 58%, returning a living laboratory to use as a litmus test to understand how we will live together, and which shows how the contemporary model of the city is moving towards the East.

THE SYMBIOTIC STRUCTURE OF "SITE" + "RITE"– A Mnemonic System That Reflects The Rural World": The specific "locality" mode of the mountain settlements in the rural region of Southwest China, and the "ritual" habits structure of the unique community of the local people. Haobo Wei is Chief Architect and co-founder of West-line Studio, professor at Tiangong University and Guizhou University, postgraduate's tutor at Chongqing University, Special Allowance Expert of the Chinese State Council, expert of Experts Committee Architectural Society of China, and the judge of WAN, UNI International juror, Rethinking The Future (RTF)Global Architecture & Design Awards juror, etc. Haobo Wei established with its West-line Studio the basic working mode of "Commune by regional ties + Geopolitical Order + Public Life Mode + Compound Construction" providing a positive exploration way for the protection of human survival model in the subculture circle and the development of a modern symbiotic growth. Among the prizes won, there are the 2021 Civic Trust Award International Awards Winner, 2019 Wan Awards – Architect / Practice Of the Year – Gold, 2018 LEAF Awards – Best Public Building – Winner, 2018 German Design Award – Architecture – Gold, 2018 A+Awards – Architecture Stone/Concrete – Winner, etc.






AGORÀ talk: Learning from China / Chapter 4 - Haobo Wei (Co-founder @ West-line Studio)
Watch later
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18:32 / 55:05
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