

Informal Territory

Urban China

Urban China is a magazine on the intertwining relationship between formal and informal, top-down control and bottom up out-of-control in the contemporary Chinese context. In the previous issues as well as the derivatives, the topic has been consistently involved in different perspectives. In the forum “Informal Territory” in Kassel, Urban China is going to present the following topics:

History

Informal China

– A History on Control & Out-of-Control

Paper by Jiang Jun, the Chief-Editor of Urban China, submitted to the *Ubiquitous China* issue of Volume magazine in Oct. 2006

To research China, we must look at its means of control. It is very difficult to find another civilization in history like China's, which has been extremely meticulous about control for thousands of years. This control is not only on political and ideological levels, but is also present in material and spatial realms: from macro-scale urban planning, meso-scale traditional construction rules, to countless micro-scale details of daily life. In an integrated archetype of traditional Chinese society, control is almost omnipresent. In this context, a discussion on “informal China” cannot be limited only to the “informal” aspect, but should look at the dialectical interaction between “control” and “out-of-control”: if we regard one force as the counterforce of the other, then countless scattered, trivial counter-forces can make up the mirror image of the force. Through this verification that approaches the center from the margins, what we see is not only the mechanism of the emergence of informal forces, but more importantly, in which manner and in what context of control this mechanism operates. If control constitutes one aspect of China, how do “informal forces” constitute the other aspect of it?



Architecture

Informal China

– Subliminal Inventions in China on Objects, Architecture, Urbanism

Special Issue 10 of Urban China & Underline Office submitted to the China Contemporary Exhibition (Architecture) in NAI, Jun. 2006



Product

Made In China

– Reality and Ideality of the World Factory

An Urban China issue 07 on how Chinese peasants make products in the Chinese Villages which motivates the world biggest manufacture in the global backyard and impacts the domestic and global market.

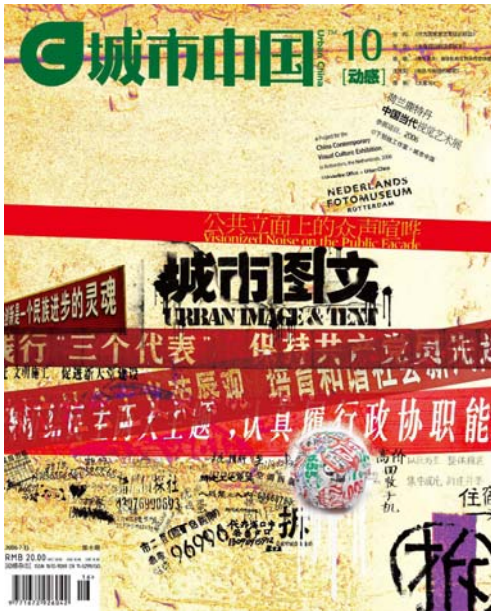


Image

Urban Image & Text

- Visualized Noise on the Public Facade

Special Issue 10 of Urban China & Underline Office submitted to the China Contemporary Exhibition (Architecture) in Fotomuseum, Jun. 2006



Slogan Urbanism

- The Disciplinary Management of Chaos

Paper by Jiang Jun, the Chief-Editor of Urban China, submitted to the *AI Manakh* issue of Volume magazine in May. 2007

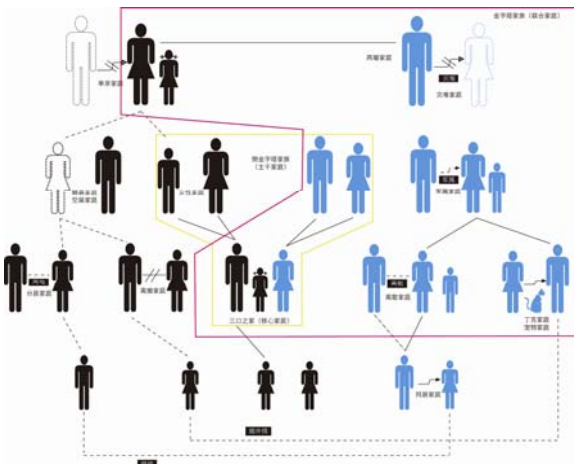
[Slogan Urbanism - The Disciplinary Management of Chaos.doc](#)

Autonomy

Chinese Family

- Chinese Pedigree under the Impact of Modernization

Special Issue 19 of Urban China submitted to the Kassel Documenta 12, Jun. 2007



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