

gisch angebauten Produkte kaufen, sondern diese auch selbst auf kleinen Feldern anbauen können. Die Farm beteiligt sich an einem Bauernmarkt in Peking und propagiert alternative und ökologische Anbauformen. Es handelt sich um eine staatliche Einrichtung, eine Versuchsfarm der Pekinger Renmin-Universität, deren Studierende als PraktikantInnen zusammen mit WanderarbeiterInnen auch das Personal stellen.

Eva Sternfeld, Jochen Noth

## **East.West RURBANITY — Towards a Sustainable Future for Rural and Urban Settlements. A Gift from the Past for the Future: Cultural Heritage as a Source for Future Scenarios**

Vienna, Palais Ferstl, May 23, 2016

Oikodrom – *The Vienna Institute for Urban Sustainability* was the convener of the “East.West Rurbanity” conference. Based on their long term research activities in the European Union project SUCCESS, this conference was organized in cooperation with their Chinese partners *Zhengzhou Culture Heritage Bureau, Institute of sustainable towns and villages, Zhengzhou University, and Henan ZXYZ Design Co. Ltd.* as well as *Dengfeng Culture Heritage Bureau, Xinyang Culture Heritage Bureau, and Minquan Village Community*. This was furthermore the starting point of a program on *East/West Rurbanity*, a program which provides the opportunity for researchers from various academic backgrounds to deepen their previously gained knowledge and experiences about sustainable settlements from research to implementation — which included case studies in Austria (Vienna, Tulln and Hartberg) from May 24 until May 28, 2016. However, target of this conference was, besides presenting on-going and finalized projects on rural and urban settlements in Austria and China, discussing recommendations for new ideas on tangible and intangible cultural heritage as a source for future urban development.

This welcoming conference on May 23, 2016 was inaugurated by Heidi Dumreicher, founding director of Oikodrom, and followed on by the impulse talk by her Chinese cooperation partner Lu Hongyi. Lu Hongyi addressed her speech on “Method & Tool — the framework of the preservation and upgrading of Chinese traditional dwellings”, presenting results of a Chinese government supported project on the preservation of in/tangible cultural heritage as well as on the enhancement of the quality of housing and people’s living. Based on several field studies, this research project covers various geographic and climatic environments, and thereby the environmentally determined architectural characteristics of building material, lightning, heating, ventilation and isolation in each of the chosen localities has been taken into account. This accumulated knowledge will help to further develop specific traditional building techniques. Additionally, cooperation with local craftsmen and farmers assures the appropriate application of the upgraded building techniques. The following vivid discussion focused on the changing social organization of China’s rural population regarding their economic activities.

In line with a pattern of alternation between Chinese and Austrian speakers, the second presentation was given by Gundula Prokop, Senior Expert at the Department of Sustainable Urban Development of the Austrian Environment Agency. In regard to “Cities in Change”, she introduced three examples of successful restructuring in urban areas, such as making use of underused or vacant houses as an answer to spatial limitations in Silz, Tyrol; infill-development and recycling of brown-field areas in Mistelbach, Lower Austria; and promoting economic incentives as a means of reviving the city centre of Lienz, East Tyrol, thus coun-

tering the local doughnut effect. She further highlighted the need of compact settlement development. Among the aspects of lively discussion among the international participants were the Austrian concept of owning an own house with garden, and the ratio of state-owned and private property in China.

The third speech on “Fangding’s Experiment — a sustainable upgrading process in a traditional village” was given by the Chinese architect Tang Li. Concentrating on the reorganization of rural living structures, the technological optimization of traditional construction materials, and the remodeling of the surrounding environment as a means of incorporating it in the overall upgrading-process of agricultural dwellings, Tang Li and her team chose the village of Fangding in Henan province as the venue for their case study. The ensuing points of debate comprised the suitability of different types of toilets — such as the dry toilets in Mexico (Heidi Dumreicher) and the composting toilets in Tibet (Ute Wallenböck) — and sewage disposal systems according to the geographical circumstances, and the significance of various forms of windows for insulation purposes.

Next in turn was Benjamin Steuer, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. Based on in-depth research in several Chinese metropolises, he outlined China’s informal garbage collecting system, paying special attention to one of its key components, the waste pickers. Subsequently, mainly questions by the Chinese participants came up, centered on the process of the field study, e.g. the methods of conducting interviews and calculation or the reliability of the interviewees.

The final presentation was jointly held by Yang Xiaolin and Li Jiandong from the Department of Urban and Rural Planning of Zhengzhou University. Introducing a traditional village in rural Henan, they illustrated their main concerns about the preservation of local custom in pace with modernization by making use of the venue’s cultural heritage in promoting tourism, and the upgrading of public space and agricultural production systems by taking advantage of the region’s rich natural resources.

To summarize, the conference offered interesting refreshing perspectives on the status of in/tangible cultural heritage, vernacular architecture, as well as sustainable urban and rural development in Austria and China. In fact, the conference was an enriching event. And since almost two third of the presentations and the discussions were held in Chinese, Heidi Dumreicher asked in her closing remarks to keep working on a Chinese-English Thesaurus to avoid possible misunderstandings.

Ute Wallenböck and David Emminger

## **Conference on the 50th Anniversary of the Chinese Cultural Revolution: New Perspectives on Provincial and Local Histories**

University of Cologne, April 22–24, 2016 (Organized: Prof. Felix Wemheuer, Chair for Modern China Studies, Seminar of East Asian Studies)

While most of the existing scholarship on the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976) is focused on Beijing and Shanghai, little is known about developments in the provinces and the countryside. The Chinese and English memory literature also has a strong bias toward the urban elites and the Beijing Red Guard Movement in August 1966. However, few academic studies have been published regarding the civil war in 1967 and the role of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA). For decades, Western research on Maoist China was dominated by political scientists. But since the early 2000s, a new generation of scholars have gained greater access to archives than previously possible. As a result, doing research on local histories the Mao era is an