



UrbaChina Newsletter



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2013-14 (April)

The Shanghai alleyway house: A vanishing urban vernacular
edited by Monique Abud

Bracken, Gregory. (2013) The Shanghai alleyway house : A vanishing urban vernacular. London : Routledge. 200 p. (Contemporary China series). ISBN 978-0-415-64071-8.

As a nineteenth-century commercial development, the alleyway house was a hybrid of the traditional Chinese courtyard house and the Western terraced one. Unique to Shanghai, the alleyway house was a space where the blurring of the boundaries of public and private life created a vibrant social community.

<http://urbachina.hypotheses.org/?p=3801>

Conference on the study of inequality in China
edited by Monique Abud

A conference on the study of inequality in China will be held at the University of Chicago Center in Beijing on Monday, June 17, 2013. It is organized by the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group, and co-sponsored by the University of Chicago Center in Beijing and the China Center for Economic Research.

<http://urbachina.hypotheses.org/?p=3813>

Gentrification in Peking and Paris (II)
written by Miguel Elosua

In both cities, housing conditions were poor before the start of the renovation work. In Paris, some inhabitants of the time qualified living conditions as deplorable and cholera epidemics ravaged the

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city. In Beijing, housing was old and maintenance was inadequate. Living space per capita was 3.6 square meters in 1978 (the standard was set at 9 square meters, but this was not respected in most cases).¹ In 1985, according to a nationwide survey, more than half of Beijing's residents did not have private kitchens, nearly two-thirds had no access to private toilets and only half had running water in the house.

<http://urbachina.hypotheses.org/?p=3736>

The Devouring dragon: How China's rise threatens our natural world

edited by Jacqueline Nivard

Craig Simons (2013), *The Devouring Dragon: How China's Rise Threatens Our Natural World*, St Martin's Press, 304 p.

Book review by Edward Wong

March 12, 2013

BEIJING — The rapid degradation of the environment in China has become a central topic of discussion this year. Air pollution in Beijing and other parts of northern China hit record levels in January.

<http://urbachina.hypotheses.org/?p=3758>

Taxis in Beijing

edited by Jacqueline Nivard

New rule to fine taxi drivers for refusals

China Daily, January 19, 2012

Starting on April 1, taxi drivers who, without justification, refuse to take passengers or deliberately take longer routes to increase fares could face fines up to 200 yuan (\$32), according to a new regulation by the transportation authority.

<http://urbachina.hypotheses.org/?p=3776>

Conflicts between government and residents during the urbanisation process

written by Chi-Han Ai

In most areas in China, a dual system of land ownership exists between urban and rural areas: state-owned land and collectively-owned land¹. When a certain level of urban development is reached, more land is required, and the rapid expansion of urban areas causes rural villages on the periphery of the city to be surrounded by high-rise buildings.

<http://urbachina.hypotheses.org/?p=3745>

Obesity: an urban planning issue

written by Sebastien Goulard



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Obesity is becoming a serious issue in China, especially for city dwellers, as a result of higher incomes, changes in consumer habits and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle. This trend has been widely discussed in Western newspapers, which describe the rapid transformation of a country where less than 50 years ago people were starving, but now suffer from over-consumption. <http://urbachina.hypotheses.org/?p=3729>

*Funded under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme, **UrbaChina** is a collaborative project managed by a consortium of 11 leading Chinese and European research institutions. **UrbaChina** analyses China's urbanisation trends for the next 40 years and define possible future scenarios with reference to concepts of sustainability.*

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