

# A TOOLKIT ON COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR SOCIALLY INTEGRATIVE CITIES



## **Produced by:**

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## **Supported by:**

European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme: Transition towards Urban Sustainability through Socially Integrative Cities in the EU and in China,  
Urban-Rural Community Development and Governance Committee of Chengdu Municipal CPC Committee,  
Urban-Rural Community Development and Governance Committee of Chengdu Wenjiang District CPC Committee

*The aim of this guidebook is to provide a **TOOLKIT ON COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR A SOCIALLY INTEGRATIVE CITY (SIC)**, based on good practices in Europe and China.*

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**In a nutshell, the tools that identify a transition process for a SIC are:**

- public engagement,**
- formal and informal education,**
- tangible and intangible heritage preservation**
- place-making and design of public spaces**

Each tool is illustrated by **two places in Europe and China**, that show different ways in which a real transition process can generate a high quality and sustainable urban space.

The interest is not describing places for what physically they are, but in **comprehending tools of social integrative practices** to be considered in the process of community design.

A **SOCIALLY INTEGRATIVE CITY (SIC)** is normally identified by people, space and institutions. People occupy space and both are influenced by institutions through their organizations and set of rules. Good practices demonstrate that Socially Integrative Cities can be achieved through the **acceptation of diversity, combining social structure and social cohesion.**

From a spatial point of view, Socially Integrative Cities can be achieved through a **sense of belonging and mix of functions.** Organization and rules should encourage the **integration** of residents into **decision making system** and joint responsibilities of owners and residents, and give more rights to residents and more dialogue within the **local community.**

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# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

**Public Engagement helps the integration of residents (including migrants) into decision making system, that means not only rights and responsibilities, but also more dialogue within the local communities** (e.g. with the help of NGOs architects, urban planners, experts and local community have the opportunity to **discuss together about planning and decision actions**).



## Svartlamon ecological area Svartlamon, Norway

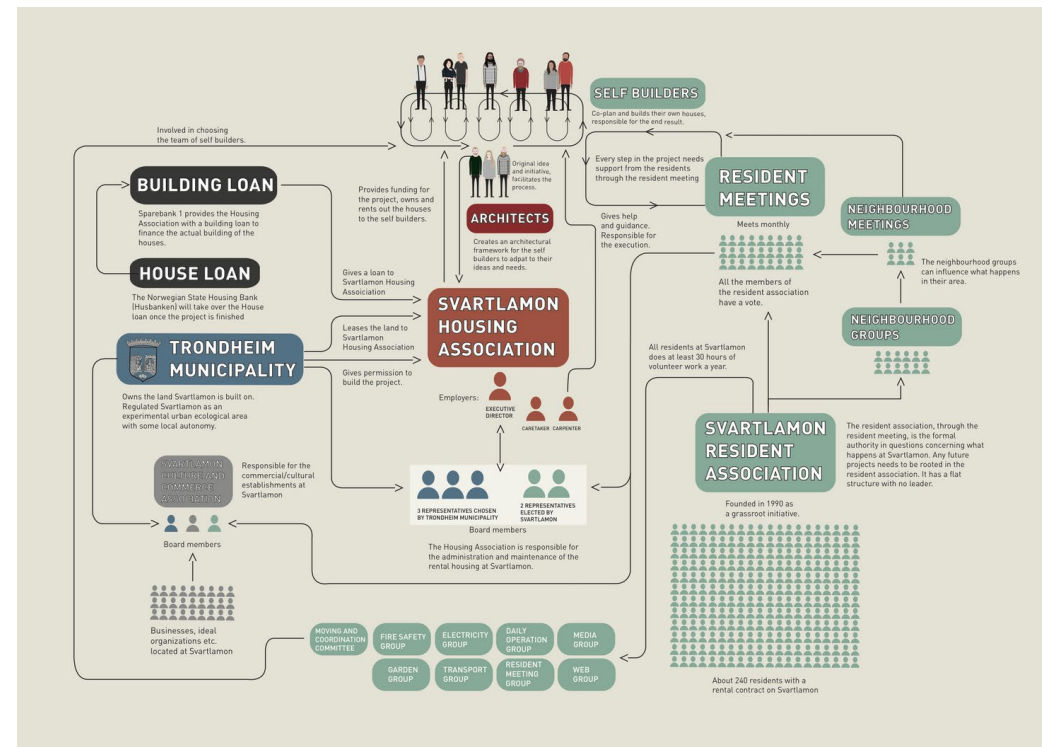
Svartlamon is Norway's first urban ecological area, prioritising environmental sustainability with a flat organisational structure, a transparent economy, low standards and cheap rents. The area is a result of many years of **political struggle**, which culminated in 2001 when the city parliament decided to **rehabilitate (not demolish)** the existing buildings and develop the area as an **experimental arena for city ecology** (has a very special regulation plan 'REGULERINGSPLAN'). Svartlamon is (legally) administered by means of two trusts (one for commercial properties and one for housing) where the **inhabitants and the city parliament both elect members of the steering committees**. Internally the area is structured with a **HOUSING ASSOCIATION** where all inhabitants are members, and there is a monthly '**DISTRICT MEETING**' where decisions pertaining to

the area are made, following the **consensus principle**. Amongst the many **local initiatives**, an experimental project worth mentioning is the **6 SELF-BUILT HOUSES** (one of which is for common use, the other five are homes) that was finished in 2017. This project originated from the idea that **RESIDENTS PARTICIPATION IN DESIGNING AND BUILDING** increases **sense of ownership** and improves the **local community life**. This way of organising building-projects has a long history in Trondheim (and Norway as a whole), with people (future neighbours) **coming together to build their own communities** in order to pool resources and spread risk.

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[www.eksperimentboliger.no](http://www.eksperimentboliger.no)

(Author: Marius Korsnes, NTNU)



## Da-Shi-Lar Beijing, China

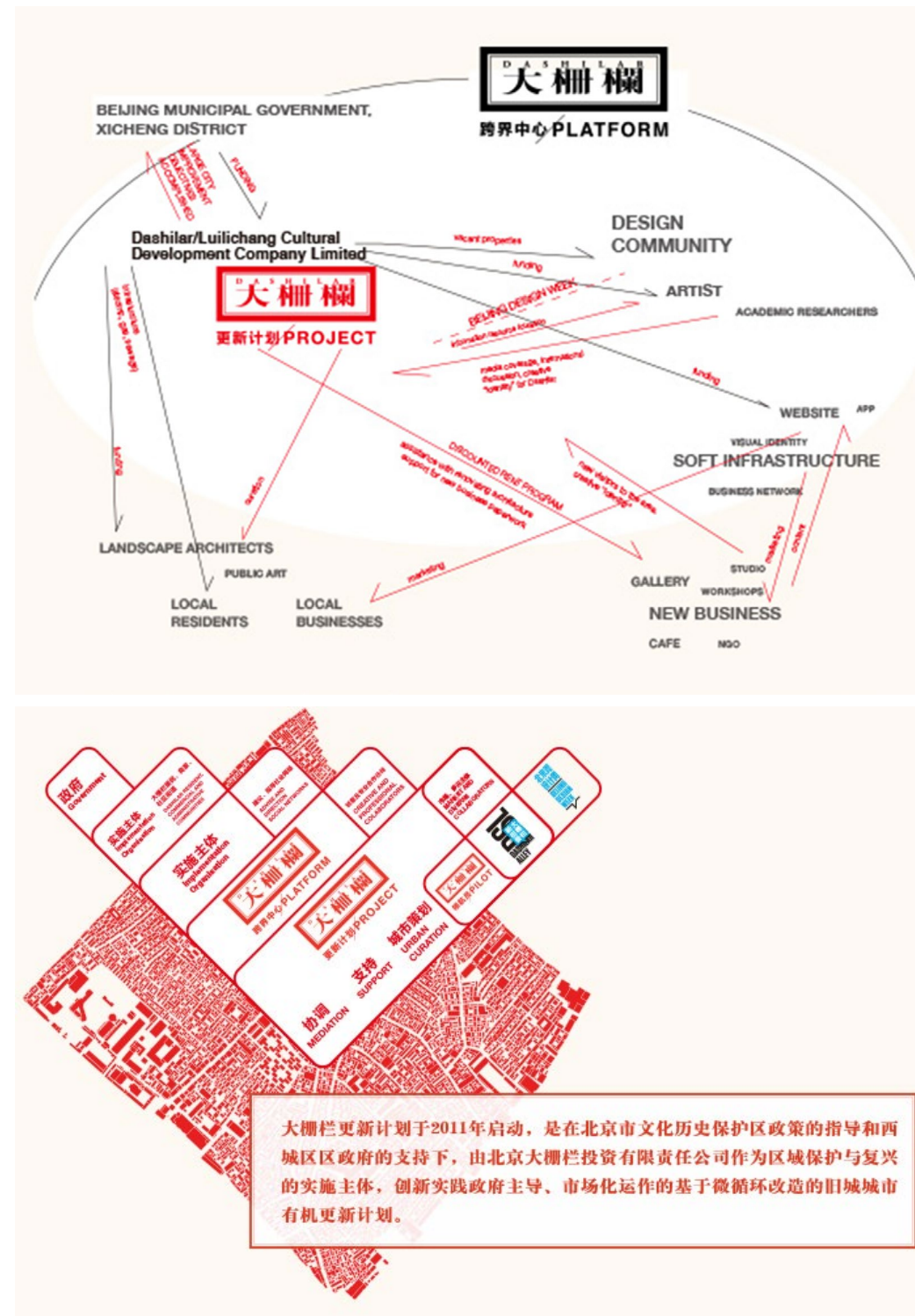
One of the most important features of urban regeneration of **Da-Shi-Lar area** in Beijing is to transform the former approach of large-scale demolition and redevelopment into a more flexible and more resilient way such as the **“systematic planning and organic renewal”**. The urban regeneration of the site can be divided into three **PHASES: pilot practice, community participation and integrated development**.

In the first phase, much attention was paid to improve people's living conditions and solve the problem of **relocation and compensation** for residents who were voluntary to move, so as to release some development space. At the same time, the improvement of the **infrastructure** was initiated, the **“DA-SHI-LAR PLATFORM”** was established, and several key issues were explored through **small-scale trials** including how the old buildings can be renovated, what kind of business can enter and how

to enter. The establishment of such a platform not only **links together different stakeholders** to participate into the process in different stages with different responsibilities clearly defined, at the same time, it also **attracts a large amount of diverse social groups and resources into the whole process**.

In the second phase, the goal of **community building** and the new mode of **MULTI-PARTY COOPERATION** were proposed. In the third phase, on the basis of **local participation**, the government retreated to the role of supervision, public service provision and management, **FORMULATING THE RULES** for urban planning, industry operations, etc., leaving space for the community itself to prosper.

[www.dashilar.org.cn](http://www.dashilar.org.cn)  
(Author: LIU Jiayan & LIU Jian, TSHA)



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# FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION

Formal and Informal education – as **schools, museums, makers spaces** – helps to promote the **inclusion** and **integration** of its inhabitants; allows each person to realize the potentials, capabilities and rights **to lifelong education** within the community; promotes the **self-construction** of the sense of community.



## Scarabò festival Macerata, Italy

**Scarabò** is a **FESTIVAL OF EDUCATION**, held in Macerata every year on May. It proposes about **40 EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS** dedicated to children, families, teachers, educators and citizens. Scarabò is in line with the idea of **educating city**, from the beginning to its most recent developments, intertwining with the perspective and objectives of **lifelong education**. Scarabò's connection with the concept of educating city still goes along with stimulating a possible **relationship between urban planning, architecture and pedagogy**. The decision to place the event in the **historic centre** of the town is not random. The goal, above all, is to allow for the **EDUCATIONAL REDISCOVERY OF SPACES** usually used in other ways and for other purposes, as well as to rediscover tout court some spaces forgotten by a citizenship that tends to decentralize, relocating

in the suburbs. It is also the case of **sparsely frequented spaces**, or hidden in a manner of speaking, but not less important is the intention to lead the city to pedagogically reflect on the opportunity of an **urban design that will be able to outline the physical spaces as spaces in line with different educational needs**.

Scarabò promotes the **inclusiveness**, that is the attitude, on the one hand, to make differences interact and reconcile as for a better **integration and social cohesion** and, on the other hand, to initiate learning situations useful to encourage the development of **ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION**.

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[www.scarabo.it](http://www.scarabo.it)  
(Author: Fabrizio d'Aniello, UNIMC)



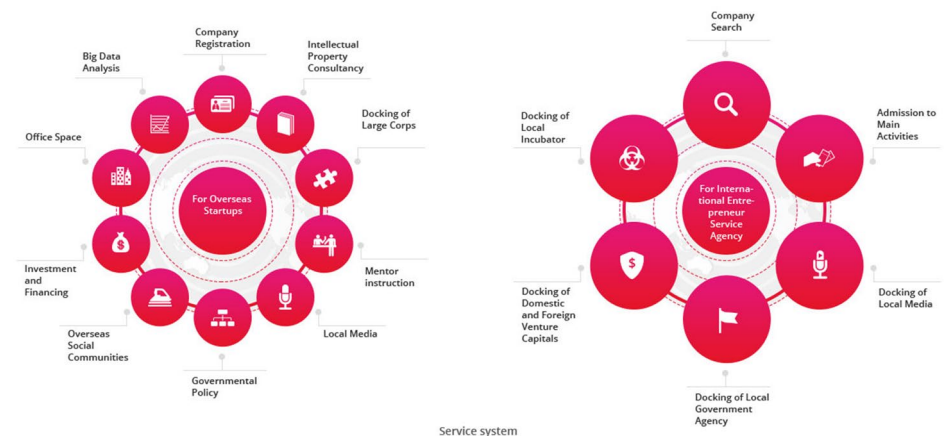
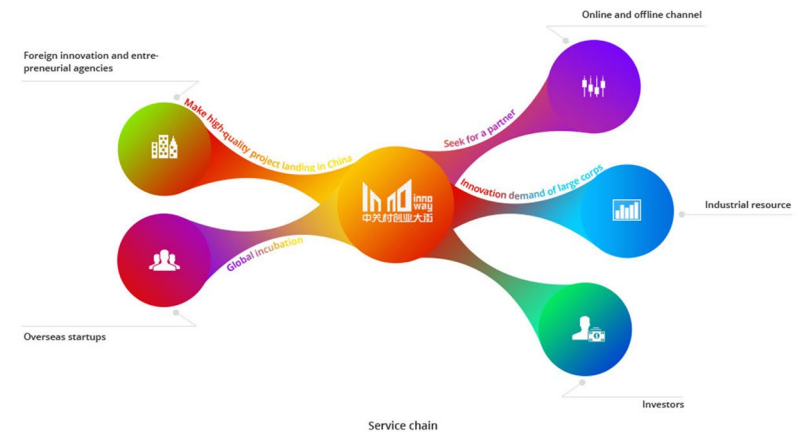
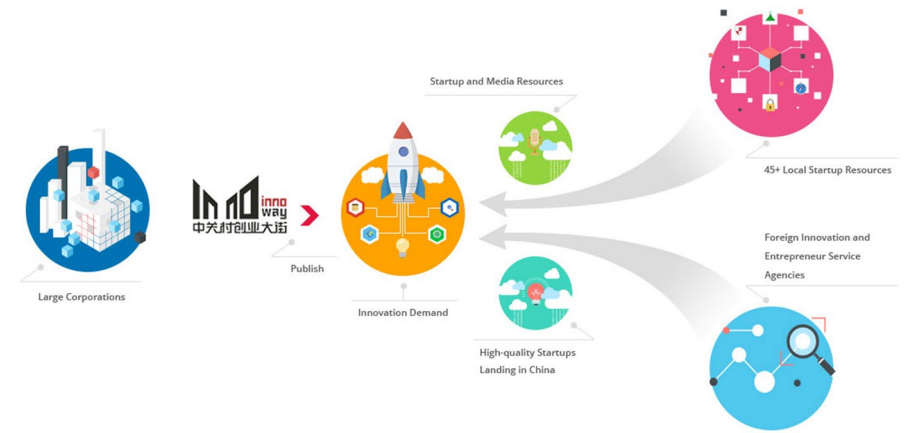
## Zhongguancun Inno Way makerspace Beijing, China

In China, a more inclusive city always means to provide the same development opportunity for people from different backgrounds, especially for people from rural areas. Lately, **new technologies and new platform create new chances** for Chinese cities to become more inclusive.

Zhongguancun Inno Way is a cluster of **MAKERSPACE**. It has gradually assembled a total of 45 entrepreneur service agencies including Garage Café, 36Kr, Entrepreneur's Training University, Tsinghua SEM X-elerator, Legend Star and Shengjing International Innovation Incubator and totally incubated 1900 start-ups including 222 overseas teams. Zhongguancun Inno Way provides **services to start-up companies**. One is entrepreneurship and innovation management service, including training, broadcasting, incubation, community, exhibition, etc. The other one is investment service.

There are specific investment platforms which provide all kinds of investment plan to start-up companies in different stage. Makerspace is an **OPEN SPACE** for everyone who wants to get useful technical knowledge or to learn entrepreneurship experience and it can be taken as a perfect **PLACE OF LEARNING-BY-DOING**.

[www.z-innoway.com](http://www.z-innoway.com)  
(Author: XU Zhuqing, CASTED)





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# HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Heritage Preservation leverages on **touristic promotion** through practices such as culturally sensitive **renovation** and **urban place-centring** of designated sites and **events**, related to **tangible and intangible** cultural heritage.

## Røros

Røros, Norway

Røros is a **well-preserved urban village**, inscribed on **UNESCO World Heritage List** in 1980. It represents a unique adaptation to harsh Norwegian mountain life by a combination of urban farming and mining. There is an on-going discussion between professionals, politicians and local owners concerning **how and what to preserve**. This includes **TANGIBLE ASPECT** from what kind of windows are acceptable, what colour is the original to what kind of new buildings should be allowed. That many of the houses and the ground are in private ownership adds to these disagreements. An **INTANGIBLE ASPECT** is also a part of this. There are for example residence requirements for anyone buying a house inside the town centre, requiring the buyer to live there at least 6 months of the year. This is to avoid Røros becoming a holiday resort.

Being on UNESCO's World Heritage List comes with responsibility. To increase the importance and **value** of the site the area under **preservation** was recently extended to include a **BUFFER ZONE**, identical to the old "Circumference". This is the area where the Copper Work was given privileges to water, forest and workers. This gives us an almost complete picture of human adaptation in a remote area with extreme weather condition. It now includes the mining, smelter, transport systems, cultural landscape, technology and a way of life.

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[whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org)  
(Author: Lisbet Savarlia, NTNU)





## Xi'an Bei Yuan Men Historic District

The Muslim District, Xi'an, China

The Muslim District is situated in the city centre of Xi'an, where a considerable number of Hui-Chinese and Han Chinese are living together. Approximately 10 mosques, many historic courtyard houses and traditional shops are well preserved there. It is a good example of **living historic district and minority neighbourhoods**.

There are **BUILDING REGULATIONS** for the area, which unfortunately are not always followed. One is the heights of the buildings. Especially around the monuments, houses should not exceed a certain height. It is meant as a **BUFFER ZONE TO PROTECT THE MONUMENTS**. Also the permitted number of floors outside the buffer zone is not always followed. **NEW ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND MATERIALS** are introduced, breaking with the **tradition**. As people get richer, they also can afford a more comfortable life. Sometimes the preferred style

is a more modern one, similar to what you find outside the district. This in turn makes the place less interesting to visit, both for tourists and locals, **AFFECTING THE BUSINESSES**.

The Muslim District in Xi'an is a unique area. Even though it is facing some problems, it is a place well worth **taking care** of.

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[www.serioustrip.com](http://www.serioustrip.com)

(Author: Lisbet Savarlia, NTNU)





## Shougang Park

Shijingshan District, Beijing, China

Shougang Park, a former steel manufacturing site, is located in Shijingshan District of Beijing, at the west end of Chang'an Avenue. Covering a total area of 8.63km<sup>2</sup>, it is divided into north and south districts by the Chang'an Avenue. A decision about reduction on production and relocation was made because of the **2008 Olympic Games**. It was then totally shut down in 2010. Now, a **new opportunity of redevelopment** is coming forth with the **2022 Winter Olympics**. The latest Urban Master Plan of Beijing (2016-2030) defines the Park as a High-end Industrial Comprehensive Service Area of New Shougang (HICSANS), which highlights the **preservation and renovation of industrial heritage** with focus on the north district.

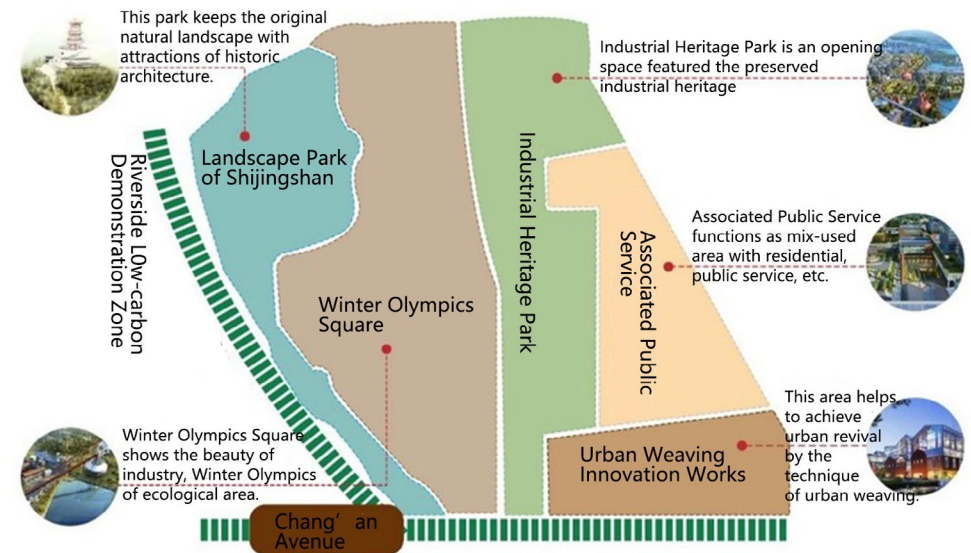
Approach of "Closed and Transformed", was applied to the north district. According to 'the Detailed Plan of HICSAN - The North District' that was officially approved in November 2017, the

**overall plan of renovation includes five sections:** Winter Olympics Square, Industrial Heritage Park, Associated Public Service, Urban Weave Innovation Works, and Landscape Park of Shijingshan. The proposal would inject new vitality into the Shougang Park. The renovation mainly targets some typical buildings, including Xishi Silo, Powder-processing Workshop, Gas Workshop, Coal Workshop, Coal Station, no.3 star furnace and Xiuchi Pond, Frit Workshop, and Coking Workshop.

Today, the previous 'steel base' is transforming to a **new green ecological area**, and the traditional industrial park in the past is becoming to a new '**magnetic field**' to **attract high-end industries**, as a **new land-marks of urban revival of Beijing**.

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(Author: LEI Yanhui & LIU Jian, TSHA)



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# PLACE-MAKING AND DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES

Place-making and Design of Public Spaces allow to map **processes of social agreement** for building new community and **spatial organization** where those agreements take place. Taking the **human scale as a main principle**, contemporary urban design should promoting the cultural tradition of the city as a place of human activities.



## Macrolotto 0

Prato, Italy

Today, Prato is the third largest Chinese community in Europe. In particular, the part of the city that extends westwards from the mediaeval walls has been named "Macrolotto 0" by the urban planner Bernardo Secchi in 1996 during the elaboration of the Masterplan. Secchi described the **Macrolotto 0 as an "inner outskirts" without public spaces and not integrated** with the surrounding urban fabric. While Macrolotto 0 has been the place where the traditional industrial district took place, nowadays it is the centre of the challenge facing **the social-economical transformations** of Prato, related both to the pronto moda emerging and to the **need of integration** of the Chinese Community in a middle-size Italian city.

The local government aimed to re-shape the Macrolotto 0 as a creative district, in which **culture and creativity are used as tools of**

**integration** between Italian and Chinese communities. In recent years, the City of Prato was working on an ambitious project, called "Macrolotto Creative District", covering an area of 44 hectares and based on the **role of public space as a backbone of the transformation and place-making strategy**. The project includes the construction of a new **LARGE SQUARE**, the **RECOVERY OF FORMER INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS** to accommodate **spaces for aggregation and sociality, a METROPOLITAN MARKET, a MEDIA LIBRARY and a CO-WORKING PLACE**, as well as interventions for **SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY** such as the creation of an area "30 km/h" and pedestrian and cycle paths.

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[www.cittadiprato.it/IT/Sezioni/581/Macrolotto-Creative-District/](http://www.cittadiprato.it/IT/Sezioni/581/Macrolotto-Creative-District/)  
(Author: Michele Bonino & Francesca Governa, POLITO)





## Monte Carasso

Monte Carasso, Switzerland

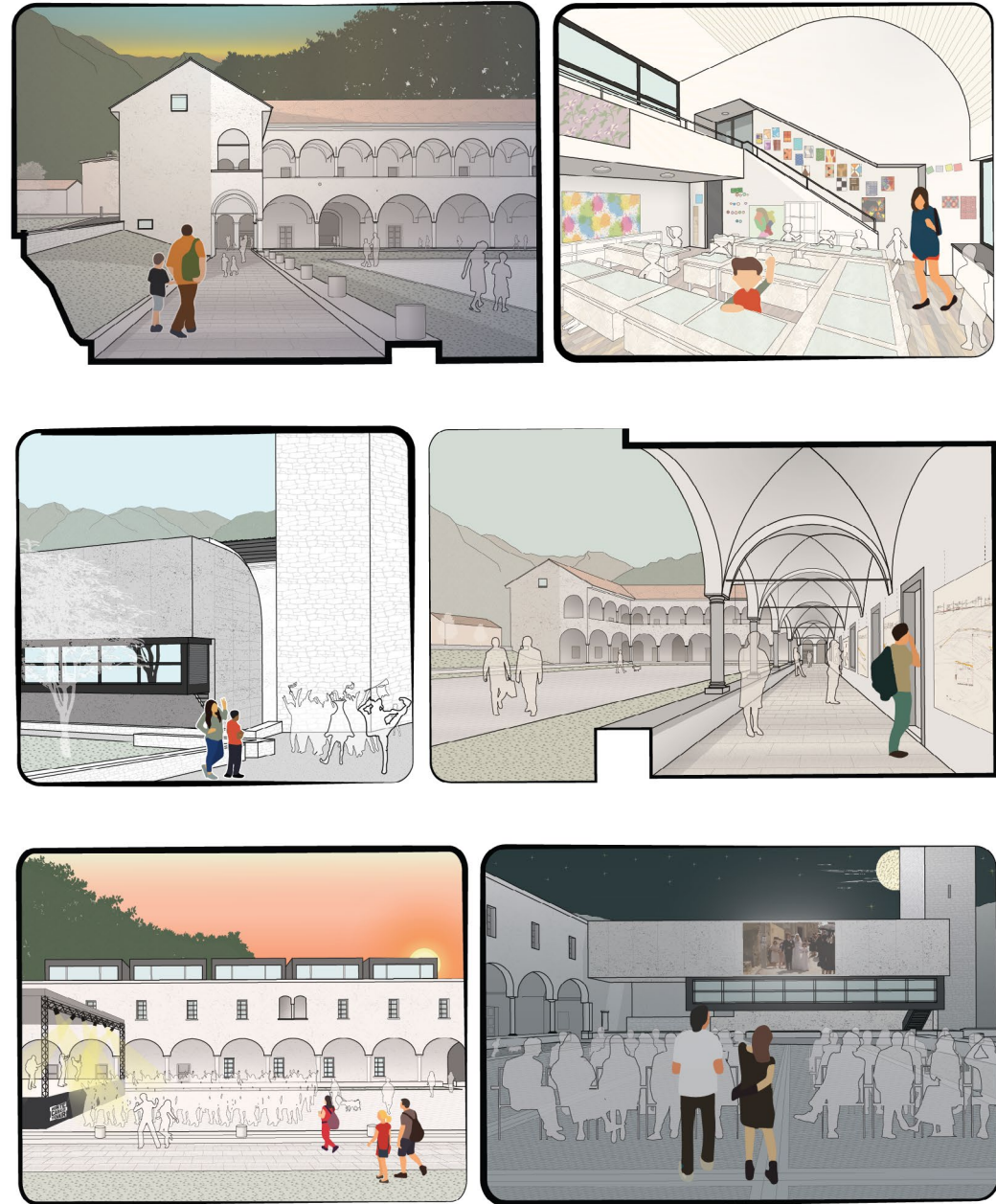
In Switzerland, Monte Carasso reveals a transformative urban model that leverages the **public dimension of the intervention**. Since 1979, this municipality has undergone a radical change, moving from being a small rural village to a **place of social and cultural aggregation**. The proposal elaborated by Snozzi gave the small village an **urban centre** that it had never had, as well as a **QUALITY OF ARCHITECTURE** widespread and confident in **MODERNITY**. The project led to the change of the existing **URBAN PLANNING TOOL** and to the formulation of a **NEW REGULATORY PLAN**. The design concept aimed to build an **urban centrality** through the **REUSE** of the convent and the **INVOLVEMENT** of the church and cemetery nearby. The exaltation of these three **MONUMENTAL ELEMENTS** allowed to generate a **centre** capable of arousing among the citizens a **sense of belonging**

previously absent.

With the **renovation** of the convent into a school from 1993, the interior space of the cloister began to be used not only as a school courtyard, but also a venue for many other **COLLECTIVE ACTIVITIES**. Observing this unexpected phenomenon, Snozzi recognized the **urban value of this authentic public "PIAZZA"** and linked it with a small park to the south. The architect therefore proposed to build an **extension** of the school in front of the church, in order to keep the south side of the old cloister accessible. The new building further emphasized the **idea of a square**, as it provided compactness and a **NEW VIEW TO THE PUBLIC SPACE**.

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*Drawing by Camilla Forina  
(Author: Alberto Bologna & Maria Paola Repellino, POLITO)*



## Ju'er Hutong

Dongcheng District, Beijing, China

The Ju'er Hutong, neighborhood of pre-historical **courtyard houses**, dating back to the Yuan Dynasty and consisting of a block of more than 8 hectares, represented one of the first experimental sites chosen by Dongcheng District in 1989 to test the **metabolic and holistic renewal approach** in contraposition to the demolition and rebuilding strategy. The Ju'er Hutong was in effect part of a large scope of Beijing during the 1980s, when it started its urban redevelopment plan with the '**Old and Dilapidated Housing Redevelopment**' projects aiming to improve the quality of the residential areas and meet the pressing housing demand. Several projects were rebuilt following the philosophy of '**repair the old and make it look old**'.

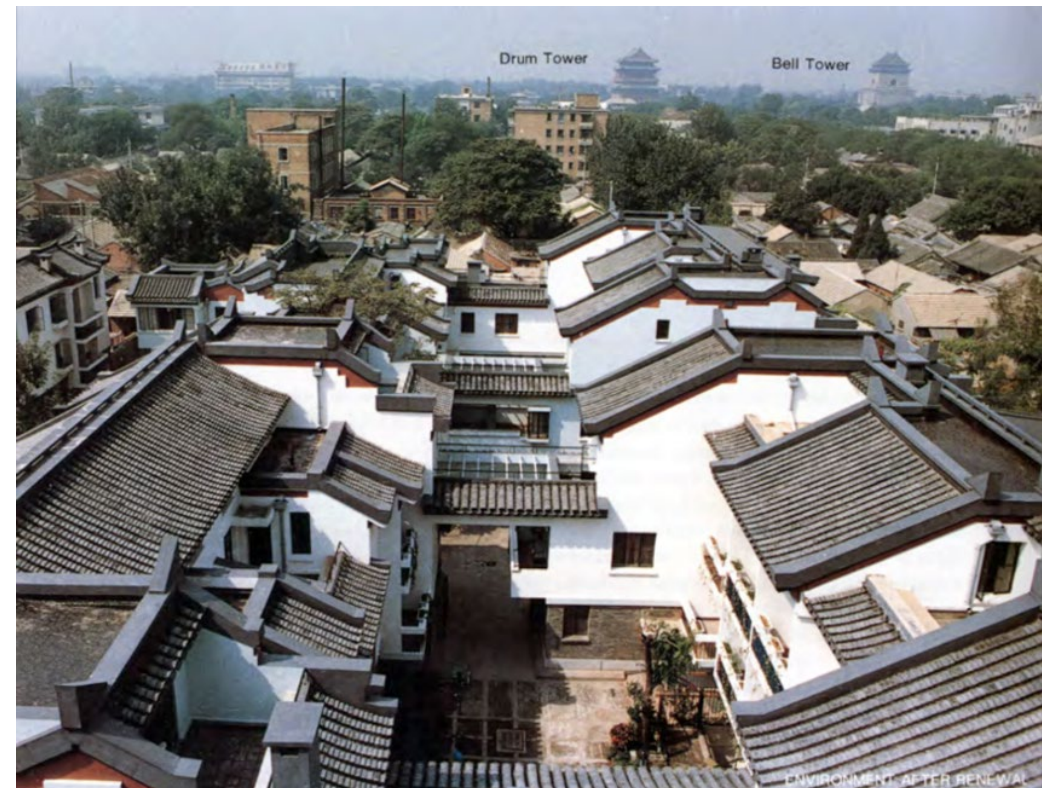
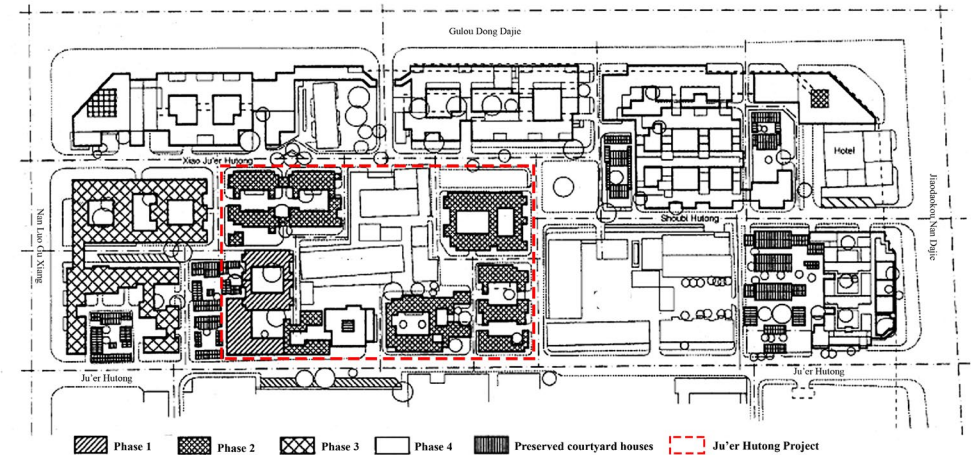
The Ju'er Hutong project was built under the so called '**organic**' **renewal concept**, which consisted in borrowing traditional architectural

styles and elements from the pre-existing urban forms. The Ju'er Hutong was designed according to the **New Siheyuan concept**, or new courtyard prototype mimicking the enclosed physical form of the traditional siheyuan neighborhoods. The leading architect of the project, **Wu Liangyong**, identified **three main objectives for the Ju'er Hutong renewal strategy**: to improve the living conditions of the community, to foster the **sense of community** and sense of belonging among the residents, and to find a **balance between private and public spaces** within the new siheyuan.

The Ju'er hutong achieved a balance between the historical and economic dimensions, the social and cultural aspects, community life and privacy, supporting a living, vibrant multi-cultural neighbourhood.

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(Author: *Badiaa Hamama & LIU Jian, TSHA*)





## Xiaopu Village

Tongzhou District, Beijing, China

Xiaopu village, located in the Eastern suburb of Beijing, is an example of how an **underdeveloped village** have been transformed into a global **center for contemporary art** and one of the **biggest artist community in China**. Promoted in 2006 by the Town Government of Songzhuang in Tongzhou District, it was transformed into one of the first eleven **cultural and creative industry clusters** in Beijing. Songzhuang artist village matured in the 1990s, in the context of China's opening to **marketization and globalization**.

The conversion of Xiaopu village into an artist village, reflected also the growing **interest of China in the creative industry sector** starting in the years 2000s, and specifically of the local authorities seeking to grasp the benefits that could have derived from the creative industry sector.

With the rapid conversion of land

from collective ownership to public ownership, many changes occurred in the socio-spatial urban fabric of Xiaopu village. Initially, originated from the desire of an **independent community of artists** with the intent to form an **autonomous and alternative space for creativity and lifestyle**, Songzhuang artist village experienced a **rapid process of institutionalization and commercialization**, which transformed it from an autonomous artists' community and undeveloped rural village into an **officially recognized art establishment and economic growth engine**, threatening the artists' community due to the rising land prices.

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(Author: *Badiaa Hamama & LIU Jian, TSHA*)





## Qianmen Sanlihe Park

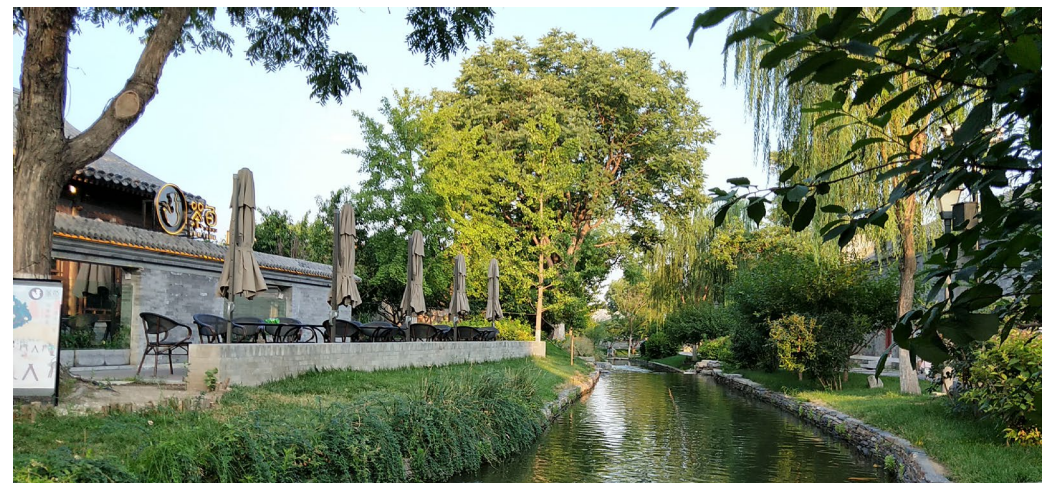
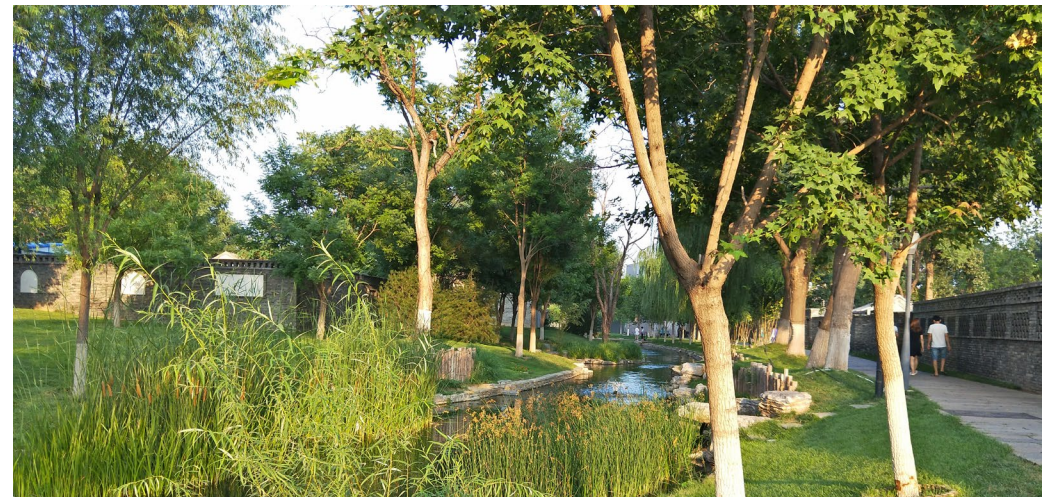
Dongcheng District, Beijing, China

Qianmen Sanlihe Park is one of the nearest **historic and cultural preservation** areas to the Tiananmen Square, with rich residences of celebrities and **well-preserved city urban fabric of traditional Hutongs**. However, the holistic public environment was poor, manifesting the lack of public places and green spaces. Therefore, the public well-being is the foremost important task for the whole area. Based on the idea of '**Old Hutong, New Life**', the regeneration project of Sanlihe Park aims to **improve human settlements**, to **increase public places**, and to **upgrade infrastructure** by **urban restoration and urban repair** rather than large scale demolition and redevelopment. The river system is laid out around buildings, with flora planted on both riverbanks. The elements of water system, **waterfront space**, courtyard, Hutong, and views of surroundings have been considered comprehensively

and combined altogether in order to **preserve the morphology of 'alley-courtyard'** of old Beijing city. Made by **traditional materials** like bricks and tiles, the **building texture** is dominated by **grey color and pitched roof**. Moreover, the park highlights waterfront spaces by approaching **cohesion between courtyard-front water and door-front water**, meanwhile achieving the renovation and organic renewal of traditional architecture. The construction began from 2016 and ended at April 2017. A brand-new image of a beautiful river running through the alley decorated by grey bricks and tiles recreates a **landscape of waterfront alley and courtyard family**, which improves the conditions of dwelling and the quality of life in this area.

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(Author: LEI Yanhui & LIU Jian, TSHA)



Analysis included in this booklet are useful to define a **TOOLKIT ON COMMUNITY BUILDING for socially integrative cities**, that comprehends opportunities and challenges of public engagement; the role of educational system in the networks of citizens living in urban areas; experiences on active preservation of cultural heritage; and place-making process influenced by the design of public spaces, including processes of negotiation of citizenship rights and social agreement.

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[www.transurbaneuchina.eu](http://www.transurbaneuchina.eu)

The project *'Transition towards urban sustainability through socially integrative cities in the EU and in China'* has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 770141. The material reflects only the authors' views and the European Union is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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