THE USC AMERICAN ACADEMY IN CHINA (AAC) IS THE FLAGSHIP FOR THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE’S GLOBAL AGENDA.

It offers design research in the form of studio and creates scholarly exchange through forums and exhibitions. While the former engages in urgent issues emerging in the design community worldwide, the latter offers a stable and sustainable academic context in China. 2013 exemplifies the immersion in a design-build agenda that merges with the latest digital technology in manufacturing and construction.

AAC continues to cultivate partnerships with emerging local industries in digital fabrication and construction and global institutions that share the same interest and confidence in China’s role in shifting the paradigm. With the urbanism of 500 million still on the horizon, a brand new industry that meets the urban growth without sacrificing environmental quality and human sensitivity is imagined and examined.

AAC continues and continues to imagine and examine.

Qingyun Ma, AIA
FOUNDER, USC AMERICAN ACADEMY IN CHINA
DEAN, USC SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND DELLA & HARRY MACDONALD CHAIR.
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AAC MISSION STATEMENT

THE 21ST CENTURY IS THE CENTURY OF CHINESE-AMERICAN CONFLUENCE.

With that comes both challenge and opportunity. Historically, the arts and humanities have been the most powerful language in the world to engage disparate peoples, to inspire, to find universal themes and to reinforce our shared humanity.

Founded in 2008 by Dean Qingyun Ma of the USC School of Architecture, the USC American Academy in China (AAC) was established as the primary destination for universities throughout the United States and world to study architecture, the arts, and humanities in China. AAC is dedicated to the advancement of scholarly exchange and research in these fields.
2013 MARKED THE SEVENTH YEAR OF AAC’S INVOLVEMENT IN CHINA.

In many ways the AAC 2013 represented the consolidation of the pattern of development of previous years with a further international conference and exhibition linked to USC’s Graduate Studies Abroad Program in China. It also built upon the previous year’s collaboration with the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University in Shanghai.

The theme for AAC 2013 – ‘Interactive Shanghai’ – built upon the experience of the previous year where an interactive installation had been constructed as part of the AAC exhibition in MoCA Shanghai. The AAC 2013 exhibition, ‘Interactive Shanghai’, held in the CAUP Exhibition Space, Tongji University was dedicated totally to interactive installations. The exhibition set another important precedent for AAC in being the first international exhibition to bring together interactive work from some of the leading universities in the world, including Harvard GSD, Princeton, Columbia GSAPP, Architectural Association, UCL Bartlett, Tsinghua University, Tongji University, SCUT, TU Delft, DIA, RMIT and USC.

The AAC 2013 ‘Interactive Shanghai’ symposium was held to coincide with the exhibition opening, and boasted as its keynote speaker, Philip Beesley, one of the leading interactive designers in the world. Also involved were Chinese interactive designers, Yu Lei, Gang Song and Philip Yuan, showing that China has become a real center for interactive design.

Building upon the successful AAC publications of the previous year, a further AAC book was published by Tongji University Press, Digital Workshops in China, edited by Philip Yuan and Neil Leach. The book offered an overview of the proliferation of digital workshops that have sprung up in China over the past few years – including GSAP Shanghai – making China one of the world centers for digital design.

AAC 2014 will build still further on the successes of the past, and will aim for even more significant achievements and accolades. The eventual aim – as Dean Ma has sketched out – is the establishment of a permanent academic resource in China, one that supports the activities of students and faculty from not only USC, but also academic institutions from all over the world.

Neil Leach
AAC COORDINATOR
The Interactive Shanghai AAC 2013 Exhibition opened in the CAUP Exhibition Space, Tongji University on 9 August 2013. Interactive installations from the GSAP Shanghai Fabrication Workshop by students from USC, Tongji, SCUT and Dessau Institute of Architecture were exhibited alongside videos of interactive work from many of the leading schools of the world, including the AA, Bartlett, CITA, RMIT, Stuttgart, Columbia, Princeton, Harvard, Michigan, RPI, TU Delft, Paris Malaquais and Tsinghua University. Shown here are the two USC installations.
The AAC 2013 Forum, Interactive Shanghai, was held at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai, on 9 August. Philip Beesley (University of Waterloo) was the keynote speaker. He was joined by Qingyun Ma (USC), Gail Borden (USC), Matias del Campo (SPAN), Neil Leach (USC), Gang Song (SCUT), Philip Yuan (Tongji) and Yu Lei (Tsinghua). The Forum was followed by the opening of the Interactive Shanghai AAC 2013 Exhibition in the CAUP Exhibition Space, Tongji University.
AAC Forum
3pm 9 August

Philip Beesley
Ali Rahim
Matias del Campo
Dean Ma
Philip Yuan
Gang Song
Neil Leach

Main Auditorium
CAUP
Tongji University
Shanghai

AAC Exhibition
6pm 9 August

Refreshments will be served

CAUP Exhibition Space
Tongji University

AAC Director
Dean Ma

AAC Coordinator
Neil Leach
leachneil@gmail.com

In collaboration with Tongji University

AAC 2013
INTERACTIVE SHANGHAI

USC School of Architecture

AAC Haworth
Eddie Wang

AECOM
LACESCPE
INSTRUCTORS: NEIL LEACH • BIAYNA BOGOSIAN • SU QI
STUDENTS: ANQI YU, JAMES MERRIMAN, JIAHONG HE, JIE XIONG, DI MENG, LI LI, TIM DUAN
GSAP FIELD TRIP TO E-GROW

USC students are currently undertaking a Fabrication Workshop as part of their Shanghai Graduate Studies Abroad Program. On 17 July they visited the E-Grow factory near Shanghai and were taken on a tour by Jerry Ku who has developed a system for fabricating GRC and GRP panelling systems using wax based CNC milled molds. In this photo can be seen interior furnishings for a project by Zaha Hadid Architects.
### AAC Timeline

#### 2007

**MAY 16 – AUG 7**  
Hainan Delta Force  
Hainan Summer Graduate Design Studio  
AAC Delta Investigation and Inquiry Program (DIIIP)

**AUG 27 – DEC 19**  
Eco Power Module City  
Hainan Graduate Design Studio  
AAC Graduate Studio Offering

**DEC 8, 2007 – MAR 9**  
City of Exploration and Regeneration  
Shenzhen-Hong Kong Biennale  
AAC Exhibition Series

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| JUNE 9 – JULY 4 | Momentary Urbanism Design Workshop  
798, Beijing, China  
AAC Delta Investigation and Inquiry Program (DIIIP) |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| JULY 11 | Is Another City Possible?  
798, Beijing, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| JULY 4 | Transformative Architecture  
798, Beijing, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| JULY 6 | What is Next  
Lijiang, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |

#### 2008

**JUNE 22 TO JULY 17**  
Emergent Urbanism – 2008  
Beijing Olympic Park  
Design Workshop  
Beijing, China  
AAC Graduate Studies Abroad Program

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<th>Date</th>
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| JUNE 24 | Urban Collision  
Shanghai, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| JULY 27 | LASH 1 – Los Angeles vs. Shanghai: Who is the Cultural Capital of the Pacific Rim?  
Shanghai, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| AUG 25 – DEC 17 | 1865  
Nanjing Graduate Design Studio  
AAC Graduate Studio Offering | 798, Beijing, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| AUG 23 – SEP 20 | Divergent Convergence – Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall  
Beijing, China  
AAC Exhibition Series | 1865  
Nanjing Graduate Design Studio  
AAC Graduate Studio Offering |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| AUG 23 | Divergent Convergence – Act Two  
Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall  
Beijing, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| DEC 1 – FEB 10 | Creative Nature – 2010 Xi’an International Horticultural Exposition Workshop Design Workshop  
Xi’an, China  
AAC Design Workshop | 1865  
Nanjing Graduate Design Studio  
AAC Graduate Studio Offering |                            | AAC Forum Series     |

#### 2009

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<th>Date</th>
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| JAN 16 | LASH 2 – Translative Sub-urbanism of Los Angeles and Shanghai USC, Los Angeles  
AAC Forum Series | 798, Beijing, China  
AAC Forum Series |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
| MARCH 16 – 21 | GSD China  
Shanghai, China  
AAC Design Workshop | 1865  
Nanjing Graduate Design Studio  
AAC Graduate Studio Offering |                            | AAC Forum Series     |
LIST OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

To date, 36 institutions worldwide have participated with the AAC in different scholastic engagements, forums, exhibitions, and workshops in China.

These institutions include:

Architectural Association School of Architecture
B.A.S.E., Beijing
Bartlett School of Architecture
Beijing Jiaotong University
Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing
CITA: Center for Information Technology and Architecture
Columbia University
Cuikai Studio
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dessau Institute of Architecture
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture Paris-Malaquais
Feng Chia University, Taiwan
Harvard Graduate School of Design
Hong Kong University
INHA University, Korea
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Peking University
Princeton University
Southern California Institute of Architecture
Seoul National University
Nanjing Southeastern University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Architecture
Royal Melbourne Institute of Architecture
St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
South China University of Technology
Tianjin University
Tongji University
Tsinghua University
TU Delft
Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina
University of Brighton
University of California at Berkeley
University of Edinburgh
University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
University of Michigan - Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
University of Pennsylvania
University of Stuttgart - Institute for Computational Design
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
University of Toronto
Woodbury University
Yale University
FUTURE PLANS

What are the long-range plans for AAC? Although currently USC is the founding institution and principal organizer of AAC, the future outlook of AAC is an independent entity with its own operation system and academic mission, comparable to that of the American Academy in Rome. Although the structure of the two academies may be dissimilar, AAC has a parallel goal: humanistic architecture and idealistic cities in a time and place that is not Western. For the American Academy in China, the larger agenda is that of partnership: embracing other schools and programs under the larger banner of AAC.

The University of Southern California is establishing AAC as a vital initiative to its overall global agenda. A two-year funding annual giving program has been established to support an AAC director, faculty, staff, programs, and scholarships. Federal, corporate and individual grants are currently being sought and will be a continuing source of revenue for the continuity of research and academic enrichment of AAC programs.

In addition, a five-year program is planned towards creating a base facility. Also, as AAC develops, the current student programs will transition and expand towards a permanent research base for scholars.

Like the USC US-China Institute (www.china.usc.edu), a long-term commitment by the university to AAC is being ensured by endowments now being sought for its support. Program, faculty, scholarship and facility endowments will enable the program to continue and expand for the academic enrichment of future generations of scholars.

FUNDING THE FUTURE OF THE USC AMERICAN ACADEMY IN CHINA

The USC American Academy in China (AAC) is an international program of the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Programs of AAC are enabled and enriched by support through private philanthropy—individual, corporate and foundation gifts.

Gifts to the University of Southern California in support of AAC provide funding for faculty, research, symposia, workshops, exhibition along with scholarships and traveling fellowships for students studying in China.

As a private non-profit 501.c3 institution, USC is able to accept gifts from any country and in any currency. A gift may be composed of cash, appreciated US securities, real estate, trusts, bequests or a combination of devices that best suits the donor. What is more, cash and gifts of appreciated assets may provide considerable tax advantages to the donor.

To learn more about making a gift to support the USC American Academy in China, you may contact:

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