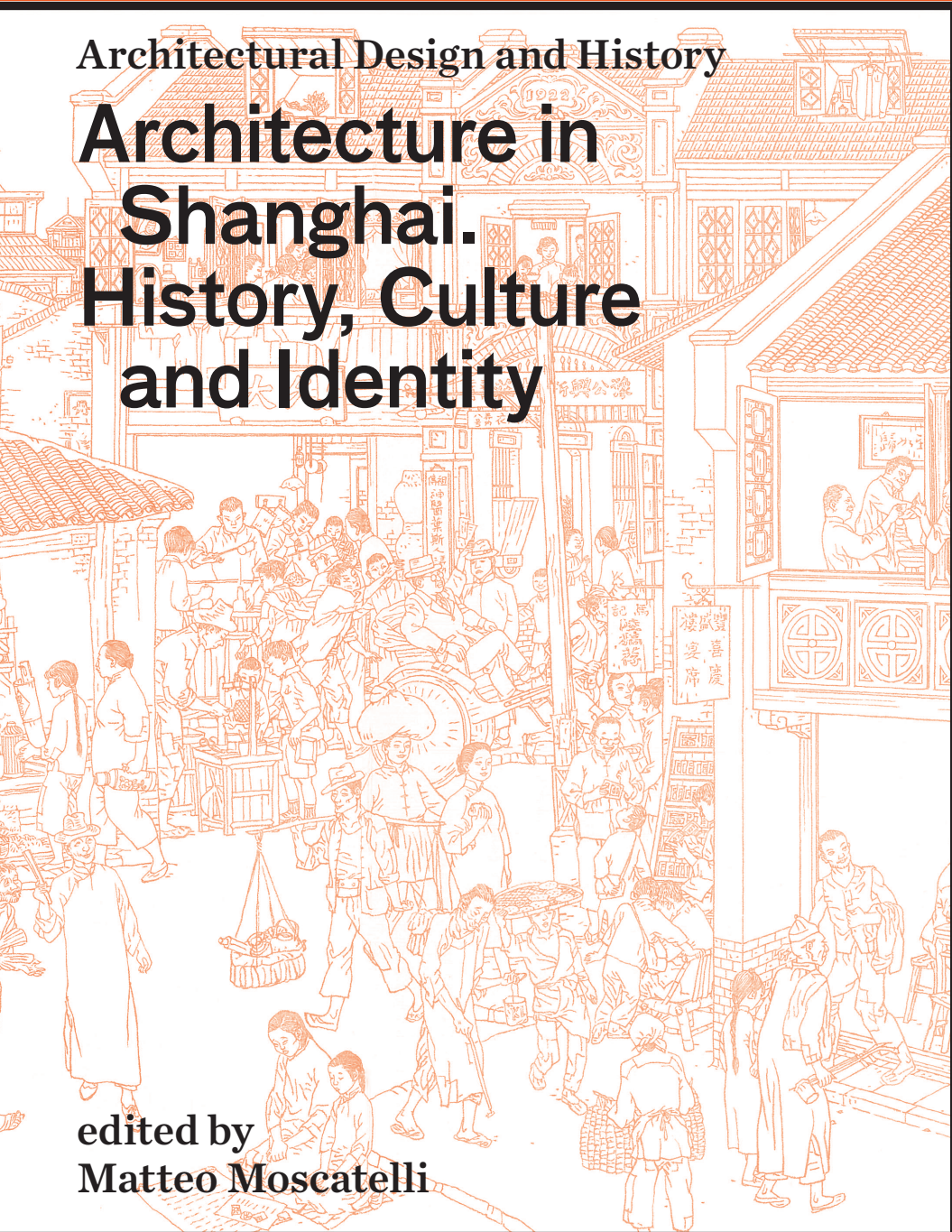


Architectural Design and History

Architecture in Shanghai. History, Culture and Identity

edited by
Matteo Moscatelli

FrancoAngeli



Architectural Design and History

The bookseries *Architectural Design and History* intends to explore the relationships between architectural design and the contemporary city, with a particular focus on the contexts where urban transformations relate to the preservation and promotion of historical heritage. By intersecting various theories, techniques and practices, the contributions aim at unfolding the complex identity of the architectural culture, fostering connections and exchanges among different disciplines, and enhancing a strategical and evolutionary conception of architectural heritage.

The bookseries is promoted by the Polo Territoriale di Mantova of Politecnico di Milano, which is the seat of the UNESCO Chair in Architectural Preservation and Planning in World Heritage Cities.

All the published volumes undergo a blind peer-review process, which the Scientific Committee manages through the cooperation of qualified external referees.

Scientific Committee

Federico Bucci (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)
Jean-Philippe Garric (Université Paris-1, France)
Marcela Hurtado (Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Chile)
Guillermo Aranda Mena (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia)
Yael Moria (Shenkar College, Israel)
Eduardo Souto de Moura (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)
Elisa Valero Ramos (Universidad de Granada, Spain)
Jian Long Zhang (Tongji University, China)

Architectural Design and History

**Architecture in
Shanghai.
History, Culture
and Identity**

edited by
Matteo Moscatelli

FrancoAngeli

Architecture in Shanghai.
History, Culture and Identity
edited by
Matteo Moscatelli

Editorial coordination
Elena Montanari

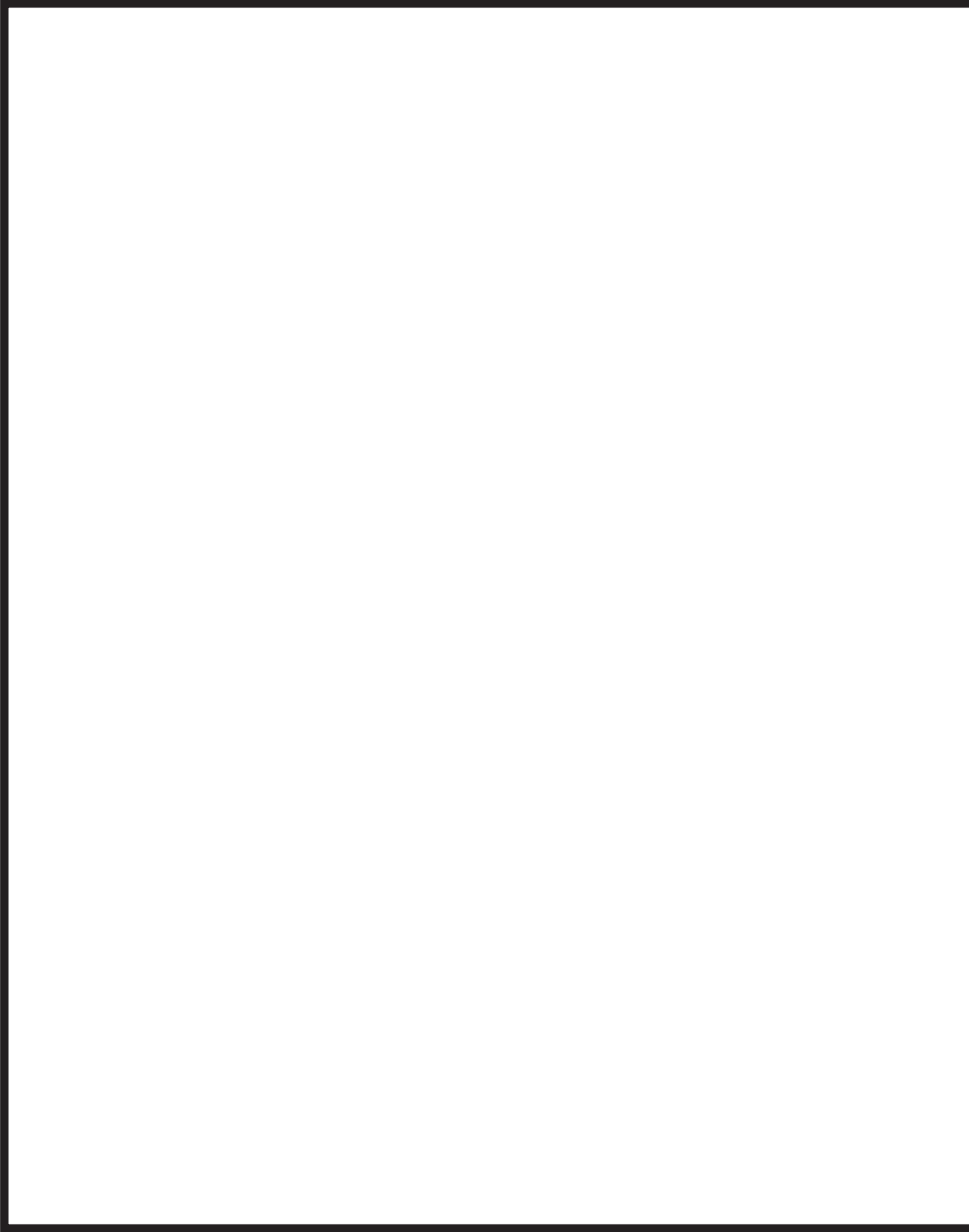
Graphic design
Tassinari/Vetta

In the cover
He Youzhi, *Street Life*, 2002

Copyright © 2019 by FrancoAngeli s.r.l., Milano, Italy.

L'opera, comprese tutte le sue parti, è tutelata dalla legge sul diritto d'autore. L'Utente nel momento in cui effettua il download dell'opera accetta tutte le condizioni della licenza d'uso dell'opera previste e comunicate sul sito www.francoangeli.it.

7	Shanghai, China: Heritage and the City Federico Bucci	99	Waterfront Projects by Atelier Deshaus Tony Giannone
17	The Vanishing Identity. Birth, Development and Disappearance of the <i>Lilong</i> Housing in Shanghai Matteo Moscatelli	121	The Shanghai Urban Evolution. Micro Regeneration of the Waterfront Space Jianlong Zhang
53	The Linear Element. The Relationship between Tradition and Design in the Architecture of Liu Yuyang Luigi Spinelli	143	Anchoring and Dissociation. Shanghai Yangpu Waterfront Demonstration Section Ming Zhang
77	Eclecticism and Business Identity. Origin and Renaissance of the Shanghai Bund Chiara Baglione	158	Credits
		160	Authors



Shanghai, China: Heritage and the City

Federico Bucci



1 2
Views from the Suzhou Creek.

«Officer Yu Guangming, of the Shanghai police, was still reeling from the blow. He hadn't noticed at first, but now that the impact began to hit home he felt crushed». Hit by a fist or a blunt object? Shady dealings in the French Concession? In short, what's happening to the poor cop, the protagonist of *When Red is Black*, one of the most exciting crime novels by Qiu Xiaolong?

The answer is immediately revealed after that great intro: the blow comes when Yu learns he has lost the new two-room apartment with bathroom the Party had assigned him in the «new town» of Tianling, meaning that after two years of waiting he'll have to stay in the single room, 12 square meters, he inhabits with his wife and son in the old *Shikumen* in the center.

The fiction of Qiu Xiaolong, the famous Chinese crime writer, captures the reality of contemporary Shanghai, a metropolis that has to come to grips not only with traffic, pollution and other urban problems, but also and above all with the overcrowding of its center and its vast suburbs. But is a new home in one of the many new towns being built around major urban centers today really the dream of every young Chinese family?

It appears that the settlement of the new towns is more a factor of objective necessity than a conscious choice.

Shanghai's 1950 population was 4.288.091; the 2010 census reported 19.21 million inhabitants and Shanghai's 2019 population is estimated at 26.31 million.

If we add the impressive growth of this economic capital to that of the cities of Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Nanjing and the forty Chinese cities that now have more than one million inhabitants, we can get an idea of the size of a problem that is now impacting 30-35% of the population of the People's Republic, whose inhabitants as a whole reached the level of 1.433.785.686.

So without too much statistical hairsplitting, the problem is there for all to see: the urbanization of China is proceeding at a dizzying pace, and with it the ancient but always timely «housing question».

To understand the phenomenon in its contemporary guise, we need to take a step back in history, to look at the anti-urban policies pursued by the Communist government, and explicitly expressed in the thinking of Mao Zedong, from the Revolution of 1949 to the con-



sequences of the «Great Leap Forward» (1958-60), the plan based on 26.000 «rural communes» in which the virtues of peasant life were glorified to oppose the «bourgeois ideology» that, Chairman Mao warned, «is still predominant among the capitalists and intellectuals of the cities».

Without delving into the labyrinths of the economic history of modern China, it remains clear that the antiurban policies promoted during the years of Maoism, and the resulting industrial decentralization, functioned to prevent the depopulation of the poorest rural areas.

But when Deng Xiaoping, at the *de facto* helm of the country after Mao's death in 1976, launched the policy, in 1980, of «socialist market economics with Chinese characteristics» and introduced the *Special Economic Zones* (namely places open to foreign investment and western markets), the cities chosen for this very special laboratory exploded. This was the case of Shenzhen, located on the border of the «new territories» of Hong Kong, which had 20.000 inhabitants in 1979,

3

Palmer & Turner, Embankment Building, 1933.



most of them fishermen, and now has 13.5 millions, mostly immigrants from all over China. The results of the «real estate revolution» that has accompanied this new, massive Chinese urbanization for thirty years are before everyone's eyes and are the subject of much debate.

Furthermore, still from an architectural viewpoint, we should mention an important shift: the tall buildings that were typical of the neighborhoods of the first period of growth in the 1980s and 1990s are now being replaced by low-density models, including the classic type of the «single-family house with garden» cherished by the European and American tradition.

At the same time, greater attention is being paid to the historical city and its architectural heritages, as can be seen in the projects selected for this book.

Looking at the Shanghai case, in the essay intitled «Encountering the Dilemma of Change in the Architectural and Urban History of Shanghai», published in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (Vol. 73, March 2014), Professor Cary Y. Liu, from Princeton

4

The Bund.



5 6
Views of Lujiazui.



7 8

The China Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.



University, wrote: «Shanghai, in its historiography and representation in architecture, art, and literature, has been the site of innumerable encounters. To examine such moments of interaction and change requires moving beyond considering Shanghai's architectural and urban history as documented through standard narratives or chronologies of its enduring monuments and historical events. It will also be important to reconsider differing concepts of what is historically permanent. Is permanence to be found solely in material durability, or can monuments endure through the notion of imperishable words and memories? And what happens when cultures with dissimilar ideas of what determines architectural durability collide? It is important to recognize that encounters between different cultures, ideas, peoples, places, and times provoke multiple and often contradictory responses and interpretations. Such divergent responses to encounters proliferated after the establishment of a semicolonial state of affairs following the concession of Shanghai as a treaty port in the mid 19th century. Later efforts to reclaim the city as Chinese revolved around the ongoing en-

9 10

The skyscrapers of Lujiazui.



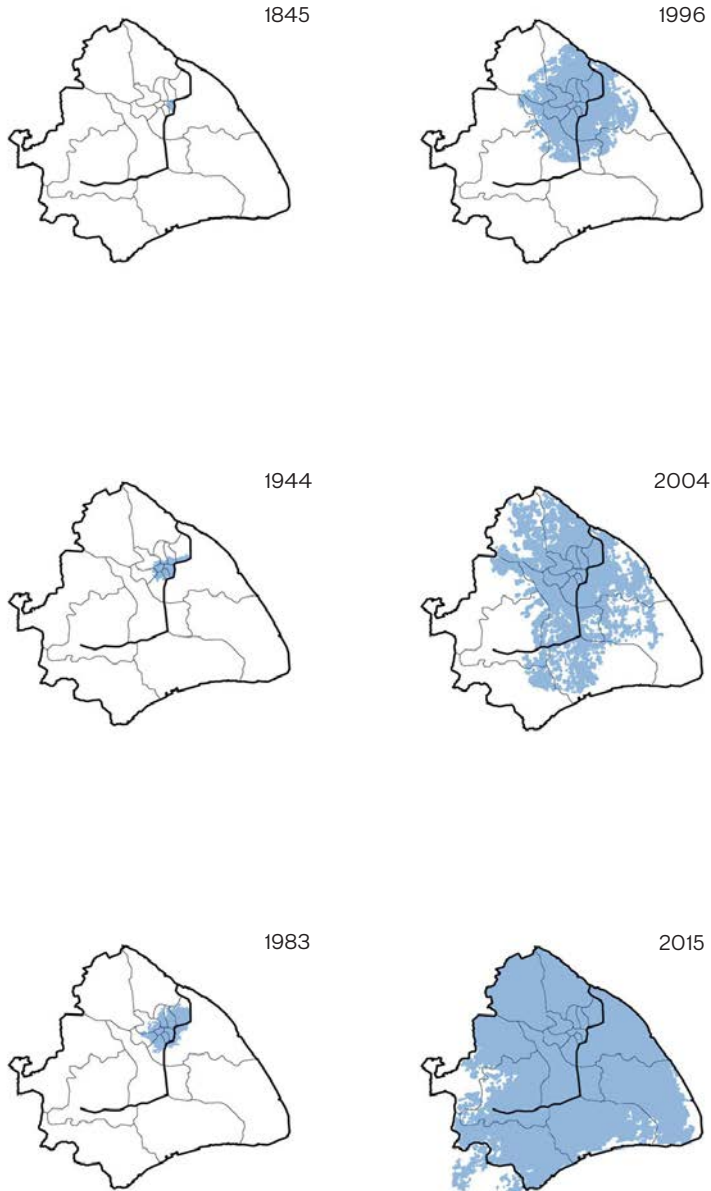
counter with, and control of, water, which helped define and redefine Shanghai in the cultural imagination. In the 20th century, this fundamental encounter with water, along with collisions between different cultural thought worlds, generated acculturative tensions that resulted in modes of adaptive, imitative, or reactive change. Acculturation resulting from contact between differing cultures produced dialectical tensions or dilemmas that often redefined each culture's past, present, and future».

Finally, a further look at the latest projects by Shanghai architects leads to a reflection on the composition of the inhabitants, who belong to the emerging classes, ready to play new roles in the orientations of the country: young managers and professionals who know the western world and assimilate, with sufficient critical detachment, its habits and customs, have rediscovered their own traditions; they are moving towards the challenges China will have to face in the years to come, namely the economic growth, the questions of the cultural identity, environment, sustainability, and urban safety and security.



**The Vanishing
Identity.
Birth, Development
and Disappearance
of the *Lilong* Housing
in Shanghai**

Matteo Moscatelli



11 Urban sprawl and urbanization in Shanghai, 1993-2011.

Rapidity and Contradiction: the Transformations of the Contemporary Shanghai

Compared with the impressions reported by Roland Barthes — who was led here, in 1974, to visit several factories, schools, hospitals and residential blocks, together with a group of exponents of the French culture (Philippe Sollers, Julia Kristeva, Marcelin Pleynet and François Wahl), and whose descriptions are included in his *Carnets du voyage en Chine*, not published until 2009 —, Shanghai shows today remarkable transformations¹.

The passage from the socialist to the capitalist model, from the primacy of the politics to the one of the economy, in a city that in twenty years saw an area completely devoted to agriculture like Pudong converted in one of the business districts with the highest density of the whole planet, determined mutations in many fields. From the environmental point of view, for the pollution levels that derive from the industrial plants, from the transports, from the development of the building sector, and from the exponential growth of the city **11**.

As highlighted by Alessandro Gobbi in his book exploring the environmental issue in China², the industrialization process brought the advantage of an enhancement of the life conditions but, for the depletion of the natural resources, an amplification of the pollution levels that, considering the significant dimension of the country, produced direct consequences and side-effects that have a global relevance.

From the social point of view, for the development of a multicultural dimension, the increase in life expectancy, the mobility, the evolution of the living and working modalities, and above all the overpopulation and the urbanization. This aspect is closely related to the environmental component: as argued by Federico Rampini, the per capita consumption of a Chinese citizen would be lower than the one of a citizen in the United States, but the overpopulation rises this unitary value to overall ones, that are far higher **12**: if we consider a living standard that is lower than ours, the lower number of cars per capita, the lower energy demand for heating the houses, the lower consumption of goods, and the lower transfers by plane, and taking into account