

# Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

## 1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Architecture, Productive Landscape and Eco-retrofitting:

Case studies in post-industrial transformations

## 2. Format:

*Written paper / verbal presentation / screening / other—please specify*

## 3. Author(s) Name:

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## 4. University or Company Affiliation:

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## 5. Abstract (300 words):

Within the global imperative of sustainability, the multiple benefits of cultivating edible or productive landscape in more or less urbanized areas is being increasingly discussed or imagined with respect to enhancing the livability of cities. On the other hand, issues such as recycling architecture and adaptive reuse in regenerating obsolete industrial fabric remain a significant topic in urban transformation. Using two specific case studies, Value Farm and Floating Fields, both recently completed, this talk explores how recycling architecture can integrate issues of urban transformation and productive landscape to explore innovative community building in rapidly urbanizing cities like Shenzhen.

Value Farm transforms an open area of a former Glass Factory in Shenzhen into an expansive architecture of edible plants. Designed as a hybrid ensemble of farm, fabricated urban ruins and public garden, Value Farm is an event-architecture of urban agriculture that embody responsible eco-revitalization, providing it with a permanent regenerative landscape.

Floating Fields creates a productive pondscape within a former Flour Factory that includes a self-cleansing water cycle supporting sustainable cultivation and food production - comprising aquaponics, floating plots and algae cultivation in a connected pondscape. Drawing from local context, Floating Fields is a dynamic, multi-functional facility that aspires to low-carbon urban living while providing enjoyable and engaging public space.

The two projects demonstrate how architectural design can play a key role in integrating concepts of eco-production and give them spatial and material form. By combining productive, educational and leisure functions, both projects use food production in the city as a vehicle to cultivate viable new terrains of a post-industrial yet place-based future; while both projects have the potential to be developed as a model community amenity for urban developments.

#### **6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Thomas Chung is Associate Professor at the School of Architecture, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He graduated from the University of Cambridge, and has practiced as a registered architect in the United Kingdom. His research focuses on architecture's contribution to urban ecology and cultural metabolism. Thomas is active in steering, curating and exhibiting at the HK-SZ Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\ Architecture (UABB) both in Hong Kong and Shenzhen since 2008, as well as at the Venice Biennale Hong Kong Pavilion in 2010 and 2014. Following his multiple award-winning projects Value Farm (2013) and Floating Fields (2015), Thomas is exploring how ecological architecture and productive landscape design strategies can combine with socio-cultural innovation to generate alternative sustainable designs. Floating Fields is the Category Winner of WAF 2016 (World Architecture Festival) for 'Production Energy And Recycling - Completed Buildings'.