

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Research on the Elderly Mutual-support Behaviour and Spatial Support Condition in Urban Community—A Case Study of Chengxian Community in Nanjing, China

- **Format:**

Written paper (3,000 words) and Verbal presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

Dr Li Xiangfeng¹, Li Xiaoming²

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

School of Architecture, Southeast University

- **Abstract (300 words):**

The mutual-support pension in community is an initiative that aims to provide the elderly with timely and efficient support both in terms of spiritual comfort and daily care, while reducing social cost. Based on ideas such as the time bank, senior cohousing and other patterns, it has been serving as a bottom-up social and spatial strategy for the aging crisis in China, having an increasingly worldwide influence. China, a country with long tradition of mutual support among neighbours, is facing the severe challenge of an aging population and an urgent demand for the elderly-oriented reformation of built environment in numerous old communities. In this context, it will be significant to have an investigation into the elderly mutual-support behaviours and spatial support conditions in Chinese urban communities.

Taking the Chengxian Street Community as a case study, this research involved conducting an 180-households interview and questionnaire to investigate elderly mutual-support behaviours and spatial support conditions. Two types of mutual support

behaviour are taken into consideration: spiritual comfort (primary support) and daily care (advanced support). The study focuses on the specific types and frequency of behaviours, as well as the social relation between the giver and receiver. Supportive space is seen to correspond with specific behaviour types and supports the behaviours' occurrence. It can take many forms: from function models inside the households to public space in the community.

The survey aims to investigate the distribution of supportive space and analyse occupancy evaluation of the elderly people involved in the study in order to obtain an objective evaluation on the current condition of mutual-support behaviour and its supportive space for the elderly in urban communities. In addition, this research provides a basis for a follow-up study on the Spatial Support System for the mutual-support pension initiative and functions as a reference for the elderly-oriented reformation of residential environment in old communities in China.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Dr Li Xiangfeng is the vice professor and master's supervisor of Southeast University, associate dean of School of Architecture, Associate director of the institute of low-carbon building, academic committee member of architecture and culture in the architecture history branch of Architectural Society of China, members of specialized committee on elderly facilities of China Engineering Construction Standardization Association, Member of the Jiangsu Institute of Architects. He majors in the scientific research and teaching of architecture design and theory. His research areas mainly contain the intersection of Architecture, the Humanities and Social Science, the application of ecological technology in design, and the construction of elderly facilities. He has more than 20 papers published in various academic journals, undertook more than 30 projects of various types in vertical and horizontal research projects, teaching, and guided students to gain design contest prize several times.

Li Xiaoming is the Master in reading of Southeast University, majors in the research of elderly-oriented architecture design and built environment reformation, concerning the interaction of architecture, humanity and social science.