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

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Study of Socio-Cultural Values and its Influence on Urban Self-built Housing in Hanoi City, Vietnam

• Format:
Written paper

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• Abstract (300 words):
The study explores the relationship between socio-cultural values and its influence on housing design in Hanoi city, Vietnam. Since the reform period (which commenced in Vietnam in the 1980s), contemporary housing design has been influenced by globalization and modernization. Houses began to be designed in international and modern styles and it is thought that contemporary designs have destroyed much of the regional identity that was often seen in traditional dwellings of Vietnam. As a result, this study examines how socio-cultural values have influenced designs, and how architectural elements have reflected socio-cultural concepts within Hanoi City, Vietnam.

The research explores how three issues: city development; the sense of community; and housing needs, were interactively related in Hanoi city, Vietnam. The relationship between these issues changed over four time periods: the traditional urban
neighbourhood period (during the late nineteenth century); the French colonialism period (1874 to 1954); the central economic planning period (1955 to 1986); and the new economic renovation period (since the 1980s). The distinctive feature of housing design and construction in Hanoi has been that a large proportion of the houses were ‘self-built’ and this has also defined the sense of community. Vietnamese self-build housing has now become the main expression of regional identity.

It is argued that despite the introduction of new materials, urban regulations, policies, and construction techniques, each having great influence on city development; socio-cultural perceptions and daily activities taking place in the houses still play important roles that define the sense of community.

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

Thinh Ngo Kien is a Phd student at the University of Huddersfield, UK. His research is focused on the self-built housing in Hanoi, Vietnam. The research illustrates the picture of interconnection between occupants and urban dwellings in the process of housing transformation. The processes describes the dynamic factors that contribute to the self-built housing designs in Vietnam. The study also highlights the socio-cultural lives to define the natural meaning of home, which contribute to supportive design and policies in Vietnam.

Dr. Yun Gao is a qualified architect and Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the University of Huddersfield. She received her PhD in Architecture from the University of Edinburgh in 1998. Her academic research explores design of socially responsible and environmentally sustainable built environment, traditional and cultural changes reflected in architectural and urban development in developing countries, and cross-cultural architectural design and education. Her books *Architecture of Dai Nationality in Yunnan* was published by Beijing University Press in 2003; *Being There* by University of Huddersfield Press in 2010. She is completing a book, co-authored with Professor Nicholas Temple, entitled *The Temporality of Building: European and Chinese Perspectives on Architecture and Heritage*, to be published by Routledge in August 2018. Yun is also a Visiting Professor at the Yunnan Arts University and a Distinguished Professor in Chongqing Jiaotong University in China. Yun is an RIBA and ARB registered architect. Before joining the University of Huddersfield, she had worked on a wide range of architectural projects in architectural practices at Bristol, the UK.
Adrian Pitts is Professor of Sustainable Architecture at the University of Huddersfield, UK. He has been an active academic investigator of numerous projects related to sustainable and environmental design of the built environment for over 30 years, both within the UK and internationally. His work spans theoretical, laboratory based and field based research and is linked to all main themes of the AMPS conference in some way. Before working at Huddersfield Adrian held senior posts at the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University. He has also been an Adjunct Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and is engaged in several research projects in southwest China. He has authored 3 books and over 100 other journal and conference papers and is a regular reviewer for 8 journals. He is a current member of the EPSRC Peer Review College and a member of the Standing Review Board for the Hong Kong Research Grants Council. He is presently lead supervisor for 9 PhD students and has been lead supervisor for 15 other successful PhD projects.

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