

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

The Transformation of Urban Villages in the City of Hanoi

- **Format:**

Written paper / Presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

In Vietnam, urban village is a unique phenomenon that highlights the process when farming villages were transformed into urban environment under the influence of rapid urbanization. In Hanoi, Vietnam, urban villages were formed when cities sprawled and surrounded the adjacent villages within the urbanized landscape. To take advantage of the urban surrounding, residents in those villages transformed their dwellings into rented accommodation for those who could not afford expensive renting cost elsewhere in cities.

Urban villages provided alternative urban spaces to suit the special needs of various groups, such as immigrants. However, due to the self-built natures of buildings in urban villages, there were concerns about health issues in those built environments such as poor qualities of ventilation, lighting, or fire escape routes, together with the lack of

appropriate public space or provision of basic facilities. This paper studies urban villages in Hanoi, examining the historical and social background of villages, and exploring issues such as the health equality and neighborhood support and wellbeing. Some comparison will also be drawn between the urban villages in Vietnam and those in China which developed in similar rapid urbanization processes.

The study aims to provide more information on how fundamental economic and social changes might bring new healthy problems and the possible solutions to those issues. Case studies, direct observation, interviews and archive study are key research methods for this project. The project aims to contribute to the growing body of knowledge about the interconnectedness and potential solutions to the problems associated with health and the built environment.

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

Ngo Kien Thinh is a current Phd student at the University of Huddersfield, UK. His research is focusing on the housing in urban area in the city of 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 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.