• Paper / Proposal Title:
Creative Emergency: Architecture That Reacts to Calamities

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• Abstract (300 words):
The present research introduces and explores the idea of buildings that could react in the event of a calamity. The Tohoku earthquake and tsunami (Japan, 2011) showed that the role of architecture when confronting earthquakes should not only be circumscribed to the event itself, but also to its aftermath. Could we think of architecture that can not only better withstand earthquakes, but also see them as an opportunity for adapting and evolving in order to assist and relieve the affected population?

We tested this premise in two case studies: A design workshop and a design studio course. The Creative Emergencies workshop was an event proposed by XJTLU and hosted by the KumaLAB from the University of Tokyo, inviting students to think about architecture that could transform and react in the event of a major earthquake. Each team of students had to design projects addressing three stages of a calamity-driven transformation; Pre-calamity, During-calamity, and Post-calamity.
This idea was then further explored in a year-long design studio, where more emphasis was placed in buildings that could change permanently, becoming not only a temporary solution but, in some cases, a definitive one. Interestingly, the final resultant projects presented transformations with a significant focus on the symbolic aspects of these buildings, creating spaces which could bring people together after the earthquake. Finally, the research discusses the implications of these projects, and their possible applications for current architectural design in calamity-risk areas.

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

Glen Wash Ivanovic is an architect, researcher and educator, currently an Associate Professor of architecture in Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool in Suzhou, China. Originally form Chile, he received the Monbukagakusho scholarship for graduate studies in Japan, obtaining both a Master and Ph.D in Architecture from the University of Tokyo. His practice experience ranges from city planning in the public sector to working with Prizker-winner Fumihiko Maki. His research is focused in developing methodologies for data visualization applied to Place-based architectural design. He has tested these methodologies in places like Valparaiso, Tokyo, Saint Petersburg (Russia) and Suzhou.

Juan Carlos Dall’Asta is an Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture at the Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzhou. He holds a PhD in Architectural and Urban Design from Politecnico di Milano(2008). His research is focused on sustainable architectural transformation and urban regeneration processes, highly oriented to the enhancement of existing assets exploring new paradigms through innovative urban design strategies.