Toward a New Sustainable Environment in Light of The Changing Face of Urban and Rural China

Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Study Abroad @ BASE Beijing
May 6 - June 30, 2013
Mary-Ann Ray
maray@umich.edu
with Robert Mangurian
and Robert Adams, Zhang Fang and the Beijing University of Technology

ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS
Program costs are approximations. Individual budgets will fluctuate depending on type of housing and your particular spending habits i.e. other food, gifts, supplies, cell phone cards, extra travel, etc..

8 weeks Travel Expenses:
Room/Lodging $ 1,400
Meals $ 300 - 450
Airfare $ 1,400
Travel in China $100 - 450
China Visa $170
Total $3,370* to $3,870*

* Note that each Taubman College Student is given $1000 from the College to offset these travel costs.

Tuition
Varies depending on your residency status and Undergrad/Grad rates. Tuition is for three credits in the Spring term.

Toward a New Sustainable Environment in Light of the Changing Face of Urban and Rural China is an intensive three-credit field-based course that will take place in Beijing China for eight weeks beginning in early May. The course is open to students enrolled in the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. During the eight weeks in China, we will work to document the changing face of urban and rural China in the city of Beijing and in the rural township of the Pearl River Valley Township just north of the Great Wall. We will be focusing on emerging phenomena of human habitation in what has become a new space that might be coined “ruralopolitan”.

URBAN CHINA
In urban China, we will explore urban villages, nail households (families and business owners who refuse to leave their homes that are slated for demolition), the ant tribe (living in urban villages that have densified vertically) and mouse tribe (occupying the subterranean bunkers of mid-rise housing towers throughout the city).

RURAL CHINA
In rural China we will look at how the village might transform into viable 21st century environments even in light of the massive migrations from the countryside to the city. BASE Beijing has a lease on a traditional rural house and courtyard that will act as a site and base of operations for experimentation.

As supplements to the primary work in urban and rural China, and to help you engage what China is and is becoming, there are other opportunities that are a part of BASE Beijing related to the contemporary art scene and to production/making. Zhang Fang will lead a series of discussions and studio visits with some of China’s most provocative contemporary artists. BASE has a full shop that facilitates making things in a variety of materials and Beijing has many material markets and fabricators that can be used to outsource production.