

Beijing City Sanctuary Design Sprint & Live Design Review

Design China Beijing 2020

Date: 24 September 10.00 – 15.30 (CST)

Venue: RIBA Exhibition space

The aim of the session is to propose design ideas for a new 'Beijing City Sanctuary', a multi-function green public space for the city.

Design Criteria

The challenge is to re-interpret the tradition of the classical Chinese garden for the post-COVID world with a blend of art, nature and architecture. Like the classical Chinese gardens built by scholars, this imagined new green space should contain buildings and structures with routes and waterways in a modern landscape and should have multiple functions including innovative contemporary services and facilities available to the public.

The proposals should make sensitive considerations to context and materials of their site and consider how to:

- Create space for healthy living, exercise and reflection in the city
- Provide services for residents and the public
- Encourage community connection
- Use appropriate materials
- Apply innovative planning and design approach to create interest in the space
- Include green and zero carbon technologies to reduce pollution

Teams will design strategies and interventions to create a new sustainable, multi-use and people-friendly urban park for Beijing; using contemporary architecture language, that references, celebrates and respects the heritage and culture of China.

The challenge is to propose a re-interpretation of the traditional Chinese garden that blends art, nature and architecture, for the 2020 post-Covid world. The new space should create space for healthy living, exercise and reflection in the city, encourage community connections and promote well-being. Designs should emphasise a people-centre, holistic and sustainable approach to place making.

To encourage collaboration, there will be two multi-disciplinary teams, each with a team leader from the RIBA China Chapter.

Following the design sprint, the teams will present their schemes and discuss ideas at the '**Live Design Review**' to a panel including Michelle Yip (Founding Partner of FEI Architects and FEI Arts, China), Ken Wai (Global Design Principal, Aedas and Chair of the RIBA China Chapter) and He Wei (Professor at CAFA, China), and chaired by Umi Lyu (Head of Business Development China, RIBA).

There are no right or wrong ideas in the design sprint process and often the most unusual ideas become the most interesting. We have kept the brief intentionally loose to allow teams to shape the day and take ownership of the process.

Site

To encourage free thinking and creativity, teams can decide where to place the site in the city. The scope of the project is flexible, teams can address urban design problems and strategic issues; focus on provision for specific user-groups or look at technologies and energy renewal.

Team Leaders

Each team will have a pre-appointed team leader from the RIBA China Chapter who will steer the design process and make the presentations at the Live Design Review.

The team leaders are:

- 1. Jack Young, Founding Partner, WAA**
- 2. Benjamin Chan, Director, LWK + Partners**
- 3. Zhu Zhengyu, Senior Architect, Atkins & Xu Xiaoteng, Atkins**

The team leader's role is to motivate and encourage ideas from the group, whilst find a way to incorporate these ideas into the final proposal.

As a guide, we suggest each team leader starts with a short introduction. If desired, team leaders can split the group into two subgroups to work on separate themes for their chosen site. This format will allow more detailed discussion, encourage everyone to be equally involved and to express their ideas.

We hope to have different ideas from each team, so to help foster this the running of the session and the decision where to focus the group is up to the team leaders.

Remember we want you to think big!

Guidance for teams

Ground rules allow the group to focus while encouraging the free flow of ideas:

- No criticism of ideas or people
- Respect everyone's time
- All ideas are good
- Everyone participates
- Final decisions are consensus based
- No smartphones
- One conversation at a time

Resources

Each group will be issued with a range of equipment and information:

- Plans to scale of Beijing
- Maps
- Urban design or city planning guidance if available
- Materials for drawings and models – i.e. pens, tape, card, paper, trace

Design Sprint Process

We want to each team to reveal the opportunity that exists in the area and produce some thought-provoking ideas for debate - the more imaginative the better!

Teams have just three hours to develop their ideas and proposals for the site. The brainstorming is designed to be a high level, short, focused session to stimulate ideas and design responses. There will be lots to say so we recommend drawing and talking from the outset to capture discussion and get ideas down on paper. This will help your team create and track your proposal development and make it easy to produce materials for the review.

The proposals don't have to focus on buildings and architecture, although they are equally valid. The design responses can include intervention and programming. For example, the response to social isolation could be a new community centre or a festival for families; connectivity could be addressed by bridges or better communication networks.

We recommend that teams allocate 30min at the end of the brainstorming session to pull the final proposals together for presentation.

For the review, agree two or three 'big ideas' from the team's proposal and you might want to identify an overarching last thought to end. Teams can decide to show their design proposals using whatever format they feel most appropriate; drawings, power-point and models or a combination!

Live design review

Following the design work and lunch, team leaders will present the schemes to a panel of expert judges and an invited audience for discussion and debate. The Design Review will take place in a different area in the exhibition hall.

Moderator

- **Umi Lyu (Head of Business Development China, RIBA)**

Judging panel

1. **He Wei** (Professor at CAFA, China)
2. **Michelle Yip** (Founding Partner of FEI Architects and FEI Arts)
3. **Ken Wai** (Global Design Principal, Aedas and Chair of the RIBA China Chapter)

Design Sprint online exhibition

We hope to collate the resulting proposals and images into an online gallery on our website www.architecture.com, the RIBA China website www.riba.org.cn

Photos of the proposals and the event will be included in the RIBA's image bank and used to promote future programmes.