



清华大学建筑 规划 景观设计教学丛书

INFORMAL LIVING

体制外居住

程晓青 尹思谨 程晓喜 韩孟臻 编著

清华大学出版社

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Selected Works of Design Studio: Architecture, Urban Planning, Landscape
Tsinghua University

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内 容 简 介

已持续数十年的中国城镇化进程在带来经济繁荣和生活改善的同时,近年来蕴于其背后的隐忧也逐渐显现,许多原本鲜活的城市特色丧失殆尽,造成千城一面的严重后果。

“体制外居住”是清华大学建筑学专业研究生设计专题,以现代城市生活不可或缺的特殊人群和另类居住问题为着眼点,鼓励学生从社会生活中去分析与发掘,反思“自发建筑”的存在价值,建立积极全面的建筑观和城市观。学生作品清晰地折射出对于城市发展的深入思考和对于人性的热情关爱。相信在不远的将来那些智慧的闪光一定会真正融入我们的城市生活。

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

体制外居住 / 程晓青等编著. -- 北京:清华大学出版社,2016
(清华大学建筑 规划 景观设计教学丛书)
ISBN 978-7-302-42070-5

I. ①体… II. ①程… III. ①建筑设计—研究 IV. ①TU2

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2015)第264046号

责任编辑:周莉桦 洪 英

封面设计:张华西

责任校对:王淑云

责任印制:宋 林

出版发行:清华大学出版社

网 址: <http://www.tup.com.cn>, <http://www.wqbook.com>

地 址: 北京清华大学学研大厦 A 座 邮 编: 100084

社总机: 010-62770175 邮 购: 010-62786544

投稿与读者服务: 010-62776969, c-service@tup.tsinghua.edu.cn

质量反馈: 010-62772015, zhiliang@tup.tsinghua.edu.cn

印 装 者: 北京亿浓世纪彩色印刷有限公司

经 销: 全国新华书店

开 本: 165mm×230mm

印 张: 13 字 数: 232 千字

版 次: 2016 年 1 月第 1 版

印 次: 2016 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 65.00 元

产品编号: 057358-01

自序：向“自发建筑”学习

——“体制外居住”教学随笔

“体制外居住”是清华大学建筑学专业研究生设计专题的选题之一，教学对象为一年级研究生。自2011年开设该课程以来，作为研究生教育改革的探索者和实践者，我们既见证了硕士研究生培养从“学术型”向“应用型”的转变，又见证了中国城镇化的深化发展历程。

1. 课程的缘起：从两部影视作品说起

曾经看过一部名为《贫民窟的百万富翁》的电影，具体内容记不太清楚了，但是其中的一组镜头深深地打动了我：在电影开篇，孩子们被警察追赶，奔跑于孟买低矮破旧的“棚户区”之中，虽然空间拥挤不堪、垃圾遍布、污水横流，但是在电影视角中却显得光影摇曳、趣味横生，充满惊奇与神秘，宛如孩子们心中的乐园。

还有一部曾经风靡一时的京味电视剧《贫嘴张大民的幸福生活》，讲述了一个老北京家庭历经改革开放和城市快速发展过程中生活的变迁，剧中的很多场景都围绕其居住的四合院展开，随着子女长大、各自成家，家里本就狭小拥挤的两间平房实在难以维系人的尊严，于是大家就开始巧妙地发掘和创造空间，从悬挂在天花板上的电视机、到包围着一棵树的自建房，人的智慧似乎发挥到了极致。

两个故事都有些苦中作乐的意味，在带来欢笑的同时却又深深地刺痛着人心，虽然它们分别发生在印度和中国，却都描述着一个共同的沉重话题——表面光鲜的现代城市中那些被忽视的角落和人群。

从事建筑教育和实践二十多年，经历了中国城镇化瞬息万变的黄金发展阶段，身为建筑人也参与了不少城市更新与改造项目，拆除“城中村”、改造“棚户区”，规划符合现代生活理念的居住社区……每每享受作品成就感的同时，内心也有着有一丝的不安——那些作为现状被轻松拆除的老街坊、旧建筑，一旦失去，不仅割裂了沉淀多年的历史脉络，还打破了许多人赖以依存的社会生态。同样，

参与新农村建设，访问江阴著名的城镇化典范项目，在引导员热情解读规划良好、设施完备之新社区的同时，走访入户，看到的另一幕却是勉强塞入现代住宅的破旧家什和闲置农具，以及老人们凝视窗外陌生的高楼大厦时无望的眼神，这种无望不仅仅源于失去了经营一生的土地，同样源于失去了生存环境的归属感。

无论是“城中村”还是“棚户区”，那些看似与现代生活格格不入的“自发建筑”，其实并不只是一种空间存在，更为重要的是其深层的社会意义。从社会生态层面，生活在其中的那些所谓的贩夫走卒是构建社会生活不可或缺的组成部分；而从环境生态层面，“自发建筑”特殊的空间形态则往往不能被简单化一的现代城市规划所取代。反思它们的存在价值，是每个处于城镇化进程中的国家都绕不开的一个门槛。正是带着这种困惑与思考开设了这门设计课程，希望以建筑师的视角重新审视那些曾经被我们所看轻的东西。

2. 核心关注：特殊人群与另类居住

“体制外居住”顾名思义有两个关注点——“居住”和“体制外”，而这两点始终是以城市作为背景和载体的，因此，探索快速城镇化背景之下的特殊人群和另类居住是本课程的核心。

• 现代城市的困境

追溯早期城市的起源，其实与“自发建筑”并无二致，都是人们根据生产关系逐渐聚集而成的，传统城市作为容纳形形色色人群和不同活动的载体，往往呈现出土地属性的模糊性和空间形态的混杂性等特征，形成鲜活丰富的独特魅力。然而，在现代主义城市规划思想的引导下，如果一味地将“科学”理念引入城市建设，城市功能被人为简单地划分，土地属性不再模糊，建筑严格地按照间距、退线、高度、形式甚至色彩进行控制，空间形态千篇一律，在实现健康生活美好初衷的同时，使原本的城市特色丧失殆尽。这种现象在中国快速城镇化的发展过程中尤其突出，已经造成了千城一面的严重后果。

“体制外居住”希望学生们能直面现代城市的发展困境，建立积极全面的建筑观和城市观，从重新认识城市开始。

• 什么是居住？

虽然“自发建筑”现象所蕴含的社会价值是多元的，但是其核心意义却在于居住问题，居住既是人类建筑起源的原始初衷，又是城市发展的基本动力和终极目标。可以说，作为拥有 13 亿人口的大国，中国多年来一直为解决居住问题进行着不懈的努力，从新中国成立初期的“一人一张床”，到改革开放后的“一人一间房”，特别是 20 世纪 90 年代以来，随着房屋政策的改革和商品住宅的开发，人们的居住状况得到了极大改善。然而，前期住宅发展主要以量的增长为目标，对于使用对象多元化的关注则是近些年才刚刚开始起步的，如“土楼公社”、“胶囊公寓”等项目设定了特殊的使用对象，契合于刚刚步入社会的年轻人的能力和需要，其对于居住建筑发展的启发值得深思。

在清华大学建筑学专业教育中，居住建筑始终是一条重要的线索，贯穿了本科到研究生的不同阶段，从一年级“我的房间”强调对空间尺度的理解，到二年级“别墅”强调建筑与环境关系的训练，进而到三年级“住区规划与住宅设计”讲授居住区规划方法与规范，力求从不同尺度和层面帮助学生建构系统的知识架构。反观多年的清华居住建筑教育，强调较多的是对于现代规划设计理念、相关国家规范与具体应用方法的传授，而对于不同使用对象的深入分析和研究则略显不足。

“体制外居住”作为清华大学居住建筑教育的重要补充环节，建立在前期教学的基础上，强化“以人为本”的理念，鼓励学生们从发现不同使用者入手，探索对于居住的真实需求，并寻找针对性的建筑解决方案。

• 何为“体制外”？

“体制外”必然是相对于“体制内”而言的。在中国城镇化的进程中，作为“体制内”的政府主导占据了至关重要的地位，“体制内”的优势在于具有很强的执行力度，我国在改革开放以来城镇化发展之迅速令许多国家望尘莫及。然而，随着城镇化向深化阶段发展，高速演进背后的隐忧也逐渐显现。居住建筑领域千篇一律的小区、高昂的房价扼杀了低收入阶层对于家的梦想；以汽车为尺度的城市布局大大增加了对于交通的依赖，生活变成了似乎永远在路上的苦难奔波。同样，社会结构的变化也令人担忧，随着老旧

社区的拆迁，积淀多年的邻里关系网络破裂，这对于注重“亲情”的中国社会的影响是深远的。反思引发上述现象的原因，在城市土地政策和住宅发展方面长期的单向式思维难辞其咎。过于纯粹的使用功能降低了土地的有效利用率，而单一的居住模式则在排斥不同阶层混合居住的同时抹杀了城市鲜活丰富的个性。

对于现代城市来说，居住问题的解决方法不可能是单一的。以较早推动公共住宅发展的中国香港地区为例，虽然香港政府多年以来大力规划建设以公屋为代表的福利性住房，但是据统计，仍有超过 10% 的人群选择条件极其恶劣的“笼屋”、“木屋”等居住，究其原因，除了价格因素以外，上班近便等其他理由也是使用者考量的重要内容。同样，在推进福利住房建设方面非常成功的新加坡，也依旧有部分低收入阶层选择毗邻的马来西亚柔佛州居住，原因是那里有更便宜的住宅类型。如同自然界存在生态平衡一样，城市人群同样存在社会平衡，重视和尊重不同人群的存在价值，认同需求的差异性，才能真正实现人人平等的社会理想。

“体制外居住”的研究对象是现有居住建设所很少关注的人群或难以解决的问题，希望学生们摆脱一味的主导式和主观式惯性思维，拓展城市发展和居住建设的新理念。

• “自发建筑”之建筑学价值

建筑的本源是什么，谁是城市的真正创造者，是建筑师吗？对于这个问题，身为建筑师的我们并没有自信回答“是”，的确，源于民间的自发建设才是建筑的真正起源，而城市的创造者归根结底是人民。随着近现代城市的发展，建筑师在城市建设中发挥着越来越重要的作用，小至单体建筑、大至总体规划。然而，对比经过长期自然和历史积淀出来的传统城市，单纯由建筑师所构建的理想城市在完成早期空间营造的伟大创举之后，往往会出现漫长而痛苦的社会营造过程，巴西利亚如此，曾经热闹非凡的卫星城建设同样如此。究其原因，是在建筑师主观创造出来的现代城市中缺少了某些东西。

反观看似混乱的“自发建筑”，其中似乎蕴含着某种天然的秩序——对于空间资源的最大化利用、接近极致的成本控制、利益制衡的乡约民俗，在一定程度上构成其发展的潜规则。特别是在建筑学层面，蕴于其间丰富的民间智

慧和巧思无论如何是在现代建筑学教育中难以获得的。近年来，如何看待“自发建筑”的建筑学价值正在引发越来越多的关注。在中国大部分城市还在简单粗暴地大力铲除“城中村”、拆除“棚户区”的同时，以巴西里约热内卢、哥伦比亚麦德林为代表的南美城市在此领域进行了多元化的探索，他们以尊重既有环境为前提，针对性地解决“自发建筑”的核心困难，既有效改善了社会问题，又保护了原有的城市特色，探索出了一条“非常”的解决之路，值得我们借鉴。

对于已经过系统科学的建筑学专业培养的学生来说，转变思维方式、向“自发建筑”学习其实并非易事，每年本课程开设之初，均会面对新学生的同样质疑，“为什么要关注那些穷人？”、“破败的城中村到底有何价值？”……对此，我们觉得非常容易理解，毕竟优越的学习环境和单纯的人生经历在一定程度上局限了学生们的视野，而学会换位思考和摆脱妄自尊大的“理想主义”其实是迈向优秀建筑师的重要阶梯。

从本质上来说，“体制外居住”的指导教师是社会，虽然限于这是一门设计课程，需要提供具体的建筑学解决方案，但是在整个教学过程中有一点始终非常明确——帮助学生们深入理解社会生活，树立服务人民的人生观是本课程的核心目标。

3. 教学理念：鼓励自主发现与创新

作为一门研究生设计课程，“体制外居住”契合综合性和复杂性的选题要求，以提高学生自主发现问题、解决问题的能力为教学理念，以开放式、研讨式教学为课程特色。本课程中既没有规定具体的使用对象和建设地点，也没有限定一致的建筑规模和成果要求，力求为学生们保留充分的研究和创新空间。

• 发掘生活，回馈生活

在本课程的教学要求学生们走出校园，从社会生活中去分析与发掘，选题来源可以是特殊的人群、特殊的场所或者特殊的事件等，涵盖社会生活的方方面面。整个设计过程与社会调查同步进行，鼓励学生与研究对象建立多种形式的长期联系与关注，通过阶段性的和最终的成果反馈检验研究的社会意义。

• 鼓励质疑和反思

质疑和反思是推动专业发展的源动力，“体制外居住”强调对于特殊人群和另类居住的研究，首先需要打破的就是在城市发展中已经形成的、太多的“约定俗成”，因此，确定研究选题往往从问“为什么”和“为什么不”开始。

• 注重引入交叉学科

居住问题的内涵丰富、外延广泛，涉及规划、社会、经济和人文等多个学科。在“体制外居住”教学中非常注重对于交叉学科的引入，在课程的主要环节中设计了对于交叉学科的学习要求，聘请城市规划、社会学甚至城市管理及开发部门的专家参与教学和指导，拓展学生们的研究视野。

• 启发和研讨式教学

研究生教育注重工作方法的培养，而不仅仅是设计手法的灌输，正所谓“授之以鱼不如授之以渔”。本课程强调逻辑性思考和实证性推导过程，为了帮助学生改变业已习惯的主观臆断方式，采用了启发和研讨式的教学方法。每个选题均需要历经多轮的质询和辩论，主题方能逐渐清晰起来。在整个设计过程中，教师的角色并非传授者，反而更像是提问者，通过不断地追问和启发，推动学生们的思考一步步深化，最终获得合理、妥贴的解决方案。

4. 收获与感悟：喜忧参半的沉淀

• 惊喜与欢呼

值得欣慰的是，学生们没有辜负我们的苦心，在短短 18 周的课程中，可以清晰地看到知识的点滴积累和他们的进步与成长。当学生们兴奋地描述如何在凌晨三点追踪批发市场的进货流程、如何在芦山地震区从事救灾志愿工作、如何在城中村遇险又机智逃脱……我们在他们的脸上看到了越来越多的满足与自信。

细数每一个设计作品，曾经的周折困难仍旧历历在目。我们惊喜于学生们有如此多的另类发现，也感慨于作品所折射的人性关爱。虽然这些设计成果看上去不算尽善尽美，部分作品甚至难脱稚嫩，或者有些“乌托邦”，但是其

中总有些视角和理念的闪光点令人难忘，人类的每一个进步又何尝不是从“乌托邦”开始的呢？也许在不远的将来，学生们的设计会真正融入我们的城市生活，因此，他们的热情和努力是值得欢呼的。

• 困惑与担忧

“体制外居住”的发展历程恰好与国家“十二五”建设同步，目前中国城市还处于翻天覆地的变化之中，仅以北京为例，消灭城中村、拆违、改造棚户区每每像一场场运动，正在迅速地把那些所谓的城市“伤疤”一个个清除。这些运动的初衷肯定是善意的，是为了提高人们的生活水平，然而由于缺乏客观尊重和细致研究，采用的方法往往流于简单粗暴，在迅速改善城市面貌的同时，也不断地抹杀着城市中那些原本生动鲜活的市井生活和独特魅力。事实证明，对于城中村的粗暴改造带来的成果往往是短暂的，“唐家岭”改造之后，原本在那里栖居的人群迅速迁移至北六环，形成了又一个“唐家岭”。究其原因其实很清楚，毕竟依托那里生存的人群仍然存在，并且永远是城市生活不可或缺的一部分。不敢想象，如果有一天城市里没有了贩夫走卒，没有了保姆、保安和保洁，我们的美好生活将如何维系？

困惑与担忧是本课程的起点，遗憾的是，面对瞬息万变的城镇化进程，研究的节奏甚至赶不上城市发展的脚步，时至今日，我们仍旧徘徊在起点。“体制外居住”的教学实践宛如一次喜忧参半的人生历程，收获惊喜之余也感悟着忧虑。虽然有时也会感到些许灰心，但是课程的初衷始终是坚定的——我们不会停止努力和呼喊，希望能够对我们所热爱的城市和人民尽微薄之力。

5. 结语

70年前，梁思成先生创办清华大学建筑学专业，以“居者有其屋”作为育人的主旨思想，清华建筑学人从此肩负上了艰巨的历史使命。如今，参加过本课程研究的学生们已经走出校门，遍布在全国乃至世界各地，从事着不同领域的工作，虽然生活的洗练会慢慢消磨之前的激昂理想，但是我们仍旧希望他们继续抱有曾经的热情与关怀，不忘初心。

程晓青

2015年5月于清华园

声明：本书仅系基于学术研究的思考与探索，观点不全面之处还望见谅！

PREFACE: LEARNING FROM “SPONTANEOUS BUILDINGS”

—Teaching Essays of “Informal Living”

“Informal Living” is one of the topics to be selected in the design course for architectural first-year graduate students of Tsinghua University. Since its launch in 2011, this topic, as a pathfinder and practitioner of educational reform for graduate students, has witnessed the transformation of master students from “academic” to “application-based” cultivation and also the deepening process of China's urbanization.

1. Origin of course: Talking about two television works

I have seen a movie titled “Slumdog Millionaire” that I cannot remember its exact content. However, I was deeply moved by a group of scenes: In the beginning, children chased by police are running among short and worn-out “shantytowns” of Mumbai. Despite the overcrowded space with garbage and sewage around, the visual angle in the movie is full of interesting mysteries and surprises under sunlight and within shadow, resembling a paradise in children's heart.

“Happiness Life of Talkative Zhang Damin”, another Beijing-style blockbuster TV series, narrates the vicissitudes of an old Beijing's family during the fast urban growth along with China's reform and opening up to the outside world. In that play, many scenes were shot around the courtyard-style buildings where they lived. As children grew up and formed their own families, such an overcrowded single-story house could hardly sustain their dignity. For this reason, they began with a smart expansion and a creation of space, such as, hanging their TV set on the ceiling and building a house surrounding a tree. Human's wisdom seemed to be played to the best.

Both stories suggested the implication of seeking joy amid hardship. They brought about laughter while sharply hurting people's heart. Although they took place respectively in India and China, they described the same heavy topic - those ignored corners and people, in a modern city that seemed glamorous.

I have engaged myself in architectural education and practice for two decades. During that period, I personally underwent the “prime”

development stage of China's fast-changing urbanization. Certainly as an architect, I took part in many projects of urban renewal, including demolition of "urban villages", transformation of "shantytowns" and planning of residences in conformity with modern life concept... Each time when I enjoy the sense of achievement from these works, I also feel a faint of discomfort - if those old streets and outdated buildings standing for current state were demolished, it not only separated the years' history context but also broke the social ecology that many people lived on. Moreover, similar feelings came to me when I participated in rural reconstruction and visited typical of famous urbanization projects in Jiangyin. Despite the guide's enthusiastic explanation about the new community with good planning and complete equipment, what I saw there was old furniture and idle agricultural tools forcibly stuffed in modern residence, as well as hopeless eyesight of the elderly who were glazing those strange high-rise buildings outside the windows. Their hopelessness was not only attributed to the fact that they had lost their land that had came all the way with them, but also losing the sense of belonging concerning the living environment.

Whether in "urban villages" or "shantytowns", those "spontaneous buildings" seemingly incompatible with modern life are not merely a type of spatial existence, but more importantly is its social significance deep inside. On social ecology, people from the lower classes living there constitute an indispensable part of social life; on the other hand, from the perspective of environmental ecology, the particular spatial form of "spontaneous buildings" can hardly be replaced by simplified modern urban planning. To retrospect, the value of their existence is just a threshold that no country can detour in the urbanization process. It's with such confusion and consideration that we opened the design course, in hope of re-considering what we'd neglected, from the viewpoint of architects.

2. Core attention: Special population and specific residence

"Informal Living", as the name suggests, highlights two concerns - "residence" and "outside the system", which always take the city as its background and carrier. Hence, the core of this course is to explore special population and specific residence under the background of fast-growing urbanization.

- Dilemma of modern cities

Dating back to the origin of cities, it corresponds with "spontaneous buildings": gradually agglomerated by people according to the productive

relations. Traditional cities, as carriers of diversified population and activities, generally present the characteristics of ambiguous land properties and promiscuous spatial forms, forming the unique and rich charms. However, if we blindly introduced the "scientific" concept into city construction guided by modernism ideas of urban planning, urban functions would be divided simply, land properties no longer ambiguous and buildings strictly controlled subject to spacing, regression line, height, form and even color. Consequently, spatial form would be cookie-cutter, and we wouldn't possess the original urban features any longer while we tried to realize the wonderful intention of healthy life. This phenomenon had become overwhelming in the developing process of China's fast-growing urbanization, which has resulted in the serious consequence of cookie-cutter cities.

Through the course of "Informal Living", students are expected to straightly face the dilemma of modern cities, and build up active and comprehensive values of architecture and urbanization. To this end, we need to start with renewing our recognition of cities.

- Why choosing residence?

In spite of its diversified social value, the core significance of the phenomenon "spontaneous buildings" is the housing problem. Residence is not only the original intention of human's constructions but also the basic driving force and ultimate aim of urban development. It should be said that China, as a great nation with 1.3 billion people, has made unremitting efforts in solving the housing problem. From "one person, one bed" in the early days of New China to "one person, one room" after the reform and opening up, Chinese people's housing status has been improved greatly, especially along with the residential policy reforms and commodity housing development since the 1990s. However, the residential buildings in the early period mainly targeted at quantitative growth, and have started to focus on diversified users in recent years, such as "Tulou collective housing", "capsule apartment" and others projects specific to special users. These projects coincide with the affordability and needs of young people who have just entered the society. Their enlightenment for the residential architecture development deserves our careful pondering.

In the professional education of architecture in Tsinghua University, residential architecture always serves as an important clue running through different stages from undergraduate to graduate. From "my room" emphasizing the understanding to spatial dimension and scale

for freshmen year to “villa” highlighting the training of relationship between buildings and environment for sophomore year, and then to “residential planning and housing design” lecturing the methodologies and specifications of residential district planning for the junior year, what we're doing is to help students establish a systematic knowledge framework from a different dimension and level. Throughout Tsinghua's education of residential building for years, what's been emphasized most is to impart the concept of modern planning and design as well as the methodology of related national regulations and specific application, but in slight shortage of in-depth analysis and research on different users.

“Informal Living”, as an important supplementary linked to Tsinghua's education of residential architecture, was established on the strength of previous teaching. Following the concept of “human orientation”, this encourages students to explore the real needs of different users for residence and look for targeted architectural solutions.

- What is “outside the system”?

“Outside the system” is inevitably relative to “inside the system”. In the process of China's urbanization, government dominance “inside the system” plays a vital role. “Inside the system” works well with its advantage in strong execution. Since the reform and opening up, urbanization has developed so fast that many countries can never catch up. However, as the urbanization development is deepened, troubles hidden behind the scene become clear gradually. For instance, the cookie-cutter residential buildings and high housing price have suffocated the dream of low-income groups pursuing a home; the automobile-oriented urban layout increases its dependence on traffic, which makes life a suffering traveling on the way. Similarly, the changes in social structure are also worrisome. Along with demolition of extant buildings or relocation of inhabitants, the years' neighborhood relationship breaks up, and this has far-reaching effect on China's society highlighting “family ties”. In retrospection, the above phenomena are attributed to the long-term and one-way thought of urban land policy and residential development. The land properties are so simply pure that the effective utilization rate of land has been lowered. However, the simplified residential mode obliterates the vivid and abundant personality of cities while rejecting the mixed residence of different strata.

It's impossible for modern cities to solve the housing problem in just one way. To take Hong Kong as an example which has enhanced the development of public housing earlier, although the government has

energetically planned and constructed public housing typical of welfare oriented housing for years, more than 10% of its people still select "caged house" or "wood house" with extremely harsh conditions, according to the statistics. In addition to price factors, convenience for working and other reasons have become the important contents that users concern highly. Similarly, Singapore has made a success in promoting the construction of welfare housing, but a part of low-income groups prefer to live in Johor Malaysia because of cheaper types of residential building there. Like the ecological balance in the nature, urban population also resemble the social balance. Only if people value and respect the existence of different population and acknowledge the difference of needs, can we truly realize the social ideal in which everyone is equal.

The object of study of "Informal Living" targets the people that haven't been concerned before or the problems that are hardly solved in residential construction. Students are hoped to shake off their dominant and subjective conventional thinking and expand a new concept of urban development and residential construction.

- Architectural value of "spontaneous buildings"

What is the origin of building? Who is the real creator of a city? Is it an architect? For this question, architects are not confident to answer it "Yes". Undoubtedly, buildings rooted from spontaneous buildings by the folks, while cities created by the people after all. Along the city development in modern times, architects are playing an increasingly significant role in urban construction, from single construction to overall planning. However, compared with traditional cities developing through long-term natural and historical accumulation, ideal cities were the creation of architects' pioneering work in the early period, which showed greatness in the beginning but then often suffered from the long but painful process of social construction. Brasilia is just a case in point, so is the construction of those ever bustling satellite towns. The reason behind is that modern cities under the subjective creation of architects lack of something.

However on the contrary, the seemingly confusing "spontaneous buildings" seem to imply a certain kind of natural order - the maximized use of spatial resources, almost perfect cost control, local rules and folk customs under the benefit balance, all of which have formed the hidden rules of their development to a certain extent. Especially on architecture, those buildings imply rich wisdom and smart thinking of folks, which could hardly be obtained from the modern architectural education. In recent years, the

question how to regard the architectural value of "spontaneous buildings" has been receiving more and more attention. When a majority of China's cities are still energetically eradicating "urban villages" and demolishing "shantytowns" in a simple and crude manner, cities in South America, represented by Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and Medellin in Colombia, have made diversified exploration in this field. On the premise of respecting the existing environment, those cities have developed a targeted solution solving core problems of "spontaneous buildings". They have found out a "special" way of effective social improvement and special urban features protection. This is worthy of our reference.

For students who have received the systematic and scientific cultivation of architecture, it is not easy to transform the thinking mode and learn from "spontaneous buildings". At the beginning of this course every year, new students are confronted with the same question, "Why shall we concern those poor people?" "What value do those rundown urban villages have?"... As to this problem, we think it very understandable after all: the superior learning environment and pure life experience have restricted the vision of students to a certain extent. However, the key way to become an excellent architect is actually to think from a different perspective and shake off the overbearing "idealism".

In nature, the society is the instructor of "Informal Living". Although it is a design course and requires a specific architectural solution, we are always clear about its core objective in the whole process of teaching, namely, to help students deeply understand social life and build up the philosophy of serving people.

3. Teaching concept: To encourage independent discovery and innovation

As a design course for graduate students, "Informal Living" agrees with the integrity and complexity of selected topics. The teaching concept is to enhance students' ability of independently discovering problems and solving problems. The features are open and research-based teaching. This course neither pre-defines specific users or construction places nor restricts a uniform construction scale or requirement to achieve. The purpose is to leave a room of sufficient research and innovation for students as far as possible.

- Discover life, return to life

In teaching, students are required to walk outside the campus to make

analysis and exploration in social activities. The topics may arise from people, places or events, etc. covering every aspect of social life. The whole design process synchronizes with social investigation, during which students are encouraged to keep long-lasting communication with and attention to research objects in multiple forms, and make feedback about both ultimate results and by stage to verify social significance of the research.

- Encourage questioning and introspection

Questioning and introspection serve as the source power to promote the professional development. "Informal Living" gives priorities to the research on special population and specific residence. What's to do first is to break too many "conventionalities" that have been already formed during former urban development. Hence, the determination of research topics generally starts from "why" and "why not".

- Highlight the introduction of interdisciplinary studies

With rich connotation and wide-ranging extension, housing problems involve many disciplines including planning, society, economy and humanity. Teaching of "Informal Living" attaches great significance to the introduction of interdisciplinary studies. To this end, we set the learning requirements for interdisciplinary studies in key links of this course respectively and employ experts of urban planning, sociology and even from departments of urban management and development division to participate in teaching and guidance, so as to expand the research vision of students.

- Advocate the enlightenment and seminar-based teaching

The education of graduate students focuses more on the cultivation of working method, than on indoctrinating design techniques. Namely as the old saying goes, to teach others the way of fishing is far better than to present them fish. This course emphasizes the process of logic thinking and empirical derivation, and adopts the enlightenment and seminar-based teaching method to help students change their established ways of subjective assumption. Students are required to undergo multiple rounds of questioning and debating for their chosen topic, so that the subject can become clear gradually. In the whole process of designs, teachers are more like questioners than initiators, who drive students to deepen their thinking step by step through continuous questioning and