

14/04/27 Event description

A MAP OF HUTOPOLIS

'A map of Hutopolis' was the event celebrated in Milan, as first episode of the conference series under the same title about the Chinese urbanization process and the role of design for the city.

The event that took place last April 11th at the "Spazio Tecno" at the "Caselli di Porta Garibaldi" in Milan (Italy) during the Design Week 2014. Further events are expected in Beijing (May 17th 2014, Italian Institute of Culture/Embassy of Italy in Beijing) and in New York City over the summer 2014 (to be announced).

The Milanese event of the series outlined the current status of the Chinese urbanization's process, showcased urban re-appropriation phenomena happening in Guangdong as well as the dichotomy between ancient city and modernity in Beijing to then outline solutions and ideas to the present issues afflicting cities.

The context of the important Design Week, was great to discuss this issues: Gabriele Battaglia, an Italian journalist based in Beijing, outlined the current status the urbanization, the classifications of "dushihua" and "chengzhenhua", and current policies of the Chinese government. Prof. Tong Lam, associate professor of History at the University of Toronto described, in his lecture "De-signing Urban China", the ability of people to adapt to different environments, illustrating a urban village within the city of Guanzghou. Following has been presented "A map of Hutopolis" a book that condense the research effort of the Hutopolis team and that showcase possible ideas and solutions to the rapid urbanization process happening in China.

The panel discussion that followed further focused on the dynamics of urbanization and the role that the design discipline can play in this context. Beatrice Leanza (creative director of Beijing Design Week) and Aric Chen (curator of design and architecture at the M+ in Hong Kong) participated in the discussion together with Prof. Luisa Collina and Prof. Gianpiero Bosoni (Politecnico di Milano).

The next events of the series, in both China and Northern America will continue the discussion started in Milan adding local knowledge, ideas and thoughts.