Research and Prevention of Urban Villagesin Chinese Cities from the View Points of Urban Growth Boundaries and Architectural Space

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In the transition phase of developing, China is still in the process of urbanization, with the process not only located in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, but also in local cities.When areas are formed with half city, half countryside character, Chinese call them"urban villages".Urban villages(Chinese:城中村;literally: "village in city"), surrounded by skyscrapers and transportation constructions, are inhabited by the poor and transient. However, they also show a strong vitality in some areas and afford shelter for newcomers from countryside to the city.

China is facing several major social problemssuch as: 1. the rich-poor gap; 2. environmental pollution; 3. Prevention of heretical activities, etc. Such problems appear to be concentrated in urban villages, but thisshould not mean that urban villages are doomed. This phenomenon points out the need to rethink urbanization, especially in high-density Asia.

Rather than a program to demolish and reconstruct the urban village, this paper is an attempt to consider alternatives which wouldthrough research develop such places emphasizing on the cultural heritage of urbanization.Research angles were selected from macro to micro, as a means to define and analyze the urban village using theories of urban growth boundaries; and from micro to macro, to measure and compare small scale of architectural spaces to show details of the urban village.

Researchwas carried out in several places in three cities: 1. Shanghai 2.Shenzhen, close toHongkong, and3. Chongqing, a big city of 30 million population in south west China and their urbanization processes compared. Further, research and comparison has been extended to "Shitamachi" in Tokyo.

References:

1. H.Y. Han, *Theories and Applications of Urban Growth Boundaries*,2014.