

# **COUNTRY REPORT**

## **FOR THE 41<sup>st</sup> ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING**



**The Architectural Society of China**

**30-31 October 2021**  
**Shanghai, China**

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**01. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE**

The Architectural Society of China (ASC) was founded in 1953. ASC was admitted as the national section of the International Union of Architects (UIA) in 1955 and ASC became a national member institute of the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) in 1989.

The objectives and tasks of the ASC are promoting various academic exchanges, publishing periodicals in architecture and engineering, organizing international conferences, symposia and study tours in order to enhance the prosperity of architectural creation and technological progress.

Being the bridge and tie linking between members and with the government sectors and other professional organizations, the ASC protects the rights of its members by recommending talents so as to initiate good professional morals and excellent style of study.

**02. CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS OF THE INSTITUTE**

The current office bearers were elected at ASC National General Assembly in 2016 for a term of 5 years (2016-2021).

Honorary President: Ye Rutang, Song Chunhua

President: Xiu Long

Vice Presidents: Cao Jiaming, Cui Kai, Ding Jian, Liu Jun, Long Weiguo, Meng Jianmin, Wang Jun, Wang Jianguo, Xu Jian, Zhang Hua, Zhao Qi, Zhu Xiaodi, Zhuang Weimin, Mei Hongyuan, Liu Jiaping

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**03. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH**

ASC has over 100,000 individual members including honorary members, fellows, members, student members and correspondence members, and also has over 1000 corporation members. ASC entrusts its sub-institutes and local chapters to assist for admitting members and practices dependency administration.

#### **04. BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE**

The fund for ASC is from 3 channels, the financial allocation from the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development and the China Association of Science and Technology, part of the fund is collected by ASC General Secretariat from membership fees and consulting services. The Secretary General is the legal person of the General Secretariat and authorizes the spending.

#### **05. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS**

ASC is a big family. ASC Council comprises 4 working committees and there are 57 sub-institutes under the umbrella of ASC. ASC also has local chapters in provinces and in some major cities. The ASC Headquarter maintains an operational directing relationship with all its local chapters.

#### **06. CONGRESS OF THE INSTITUTE**

ASC National Congress and General Assembly are held every 5 years. The new council and office bearers are elected at the Assembly. Lectures and exhibitions are also organized at the congress. In the years between the congresses, the ASC organizes annual conventions, symposia, exhibitions and other activities each year.

#### **07. LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE**

ASC is the only national organization representing architects in the country. ASC is recognized by the government and is registered by the Ministry of Civil Affairs as a juridical association. The ASC is a multi-disciplinary institute including architects, engineers and other professionals in the field of building industry. There is no other architects group in the country at present.

#### **08. LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECT IN THE COUNTRY**

The architect registration system in China has been put into practice from 1995, and those who graduated from the schools of architecture can take part in the national examination for registration. By passing the examination, candidate is qualified for registration. After registration, the architect holds the title of Registered Architect. Now in China there are only a few firms for private practice. Most of the firms are government owned design institutes (offices). But there is a trend of transforming from government owned design institute into partnership or joint-stock company.

For practice in China, there is double-control on the "license", the business license and the qualification license. The business license is issued by the National or Provincial Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Administration to a design institute for commercial operation. The qualification license is issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development or the Provincial Construction Commission for undertaking architectural and/or building designs. There are presently 3 classes for architectural design offices, namely Class A, B and C. Class A is unlimited in the projects they can undertake, Class B limited to medium and small projects; and Class C to small projects. The qualification is based on the number of registered architects and/or registered structural engineers employed in the said office. For example, there

should be no less than 3 Class-1 registered architects and/or 3 Class-1 registered structural engineers in a Class A office; One Class-1 registered architect and/or one Class-1 registered structural engineer in a Class B office; and one Class-2 registered architect and/or one Class-2 registered structural engineer in a Class C office. The qualification is re-examined and renewed every two years. No business license will be issued without firstly obtaining the qualification license.

The scale of design fee is jointly published by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development. It is more or less a guidance scale, and the client can still negotiate with the design offices for higher or lower rates.

## **09. ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY**

According to the law issued by the central government, architects' registration is undertaken by NABAR (National Administration Board of Architectural Registration). The latest edition of Registered Architects Ordinance of China was issued on January 29, 2008 and the Bylaws of the Registered Architects were implemented from 1st July 1996. As of June 2018, there are 30660 registered architects in China, among which 25816 are within the term of validity.

## **10. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE**

ASC joined in the International Union of Architects (UIA) as a national section in 1955 and joined in the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA) as a national member in 1989. Besides, ASC is a member of APEC Architect Project and as a member of Canberra Accord on Architectural Education, National Board of Architectural Accreditation (NBAA)'s daily work was undertaken by ASC.

ASC established and maintained academic exchanges and friendly cooperative relationship with relevant organizations in the UK, the US, Japan, Russia, Republic of Korea, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Mongolia, Brazil, Belarus, etc. ASC also communicated closely with architectural institutes in Hong Kong China, Macao China and Chinese Taipei.

## **11. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE PAST YEAR**

### **I. Upholding the core value of “academic pursuits” and organizing extensive academic exchange activities**

- **2020 ASC Annual Conference.** 2020 ASC Annual Conference was held in Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention Center with the theme of “Good Design, Good Creation -- Promoting High Quality Development of Urban and Rural Construction”. It is the first time that the conference adopted a hybrid format, with more than 2000 in-person attendees and over 600,000 online audience. The convention consists of 10 keynote speeches and 32 thematic forums. Several exhibitions were held during the same time, including “Suzhou Workshop Achievement Exhibition” and the “70th Anniversary of the Founding of PRC, Exhibition of Architectural Creation Award-winning Works”, among others.

- **Zhengzhou International Urban Design Conference.** October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the third Zhengzhou International Urban Design Conference was opened in Zhengzhou City, Henan Province, with the theme of “Technology and Cities”. The conference was attended by over 400 experts, scholars, academicians, architects, planners, and engineers from home and abroad. Twelve presentations were given on stage by Chinese urban design experts and three recorded presentations from international experts were played at the conference, contributing their insights to the field of technology and urban development.

## II. Pioneering development and promoting progress in the industry

- **Organizing and coordinating work related to “Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize”, “ASC Architectural Design Award” and “ASC Science and Technology Progress Award.** Nominations for 2020 Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize; Selection and Evaluation for 2019-2020 ASC Architectural Design Award; Selection and Evaluation for 2019-2020 ASC Science and Technology Progress Award
- **ASC published nine standards as of July 31, 2020:**

No.	Standards
1	Guidelines on Emergency Measures for the Operation and Use of Office Buildings in Response to Covid-19
2	Technical Guidelines on Safe Use of Tower Cranes Attachments
3	Cables and Cable-Laying Equipment for Super High-Rise Buildings
4	Ceramic Silicone Rubber (Mineral) Insulated Fire-Resistant Cables with a Rated Voltage Not Exceeding 0.6/1kV
5	Evaluation Criteria for Healthy Towns
6	Technical Regulations on Cleaning and Renovating the Ventilation Systems of Buildings
7	Assessment Standards of Active Houses
8	Assessment Standards of Industrialized Buildings
9	Methods for Testing Penetration of Chloride Ion Resistance of Concrete

- **Architectural Science Popularization.** ASC now has 93 science popularization bases around the country. ASC has also launched “ASC Science Popularization Special Support Program”, held educational talks and organized the publication of science popularization books.

- **Architectural Science Training.** ASC plans and organizes series of training events including “Architectural Practicing”, “Science and Technology Training Center Annual Academic Conference”, “Master Talks in Architecture”, “Engineering Capability Improvement Lectures”, “Perseverance-Inheritance”, “Party Lessons for the Centennial of the Party”, and “Tracing Architectural Steps Book Club”, etc.

### **III. Fulfilling the Role of “Government Think Tank” and Facilitating Local Construction**

- **Suzhou Historic Architecture Preservation Design Workshop.** From 2019, ASC and Suzhou Municipal People’s Government jointly hold the Suzhou Historic Architecture Preservation Design Workshop.
- **Support and Help with Architectural Design in Nujiang Prefecture.** In March 2019, ASC coordinated some well-known architectural planning and design institutes and universities to conduct field research and focus studies on the housing construction problems faced by Lushui City, Fugong County and Gongshan Derung and Nu Autonomous County in Nujiang Prefecture.
- **Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games – Taizicheng Ice and Snow Town.** In September 2017, ASC was entrusted by Hebei Province to collect architectural design schemes for the project of Ice and Snow Town at Taizicheng, Hebei.
- **Xiong’an New Area Citizen Service Center.** In May 2017, ASC was entrusted by the Preparatory Committee of Xiong’an New Area to solicit architectural design schemes for Citizen Service Center in Xiong’an New Area.

### **IV. Expanding international outreach, participating in and hosting international and regional academic exchange activities**

- **International Union of Architects (UIA)**

**Participating in World Congress of Architects UIA in Rio Janeiro 2021 and Bidding to Host the Congress in 2026.** Since March 2019, ASC has held 85 meetings discussing the bid for 2026 World Congress of Architects, recommended six Chinese speakers to the Rio 2021 World Congress of Architects, held a Sino-Brazilian Forum, organized physical China Pavilion, and launched the Chinese website of the World Congress of Architects for the first time.

**Recommending personnel to UIA Council.** During the 28th UIA General Assembly held from July 22 - 30, 2021, Zhang Li, Dean of Tsinghua University School of Architecture, was elected as a UIA Council Member (2021-2023) and Zhang Wei, Dean of Architectural Planning and Design Branch of Tsinghua University Architectural Design & Research Institute, was elected as deputy Council Member (2021 -2023).

**Recommending personnel to the UIA International Women in Architecture**

**Committee.** ASC recommended Ar. Sun Lingbo, Editor of Architectural Journal, to be a correspondent member of the UIA International Women in Architecture Committee, aimed at enhancing women's influence in the architecture industry and to highlighting the power of female architects.

- **Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)**

**Hosting ARCASIA 19th Asian Congress of Architects (ACA19).** After a year of preparation and overcoming all the inconveniences and challenges brought by the pandemic, ACA19 will be held from 29 October to 2 November, 2021 in a hybrid format, co-hosted by ARCASIA, ASC and Tongji University.

**Organizing the 3rd ARCASIA International Conference on Urbanism.** On December 5, 2020, the 3rd ARCASIA International Conference on Urbanism was held online, hosted by Tongji University and co-organized by ASC and ASC's Architectural Education Branch. A total of 9 experts and scholars from 6 countries were invited to deliver keynote speeches and the keynote speeches were arranged in three conference panels.

**Co-publishing *Architecture Asia*.** ARCASIA's 40th Council approved of the decision for ASC to co-publish *Architecture Asia*, the official English journal of ARCASIA, and Tongji University to undertake the editorial and operational work. The journal went through major changes and improvement, and a brand-new website has been launched. In 2020, the journal released a special issue on ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2020 and a special issue titled "Building a Healthy Future" regarding the theme of Covid-19.

**Participating in ARCASIA's Meetings**

**Committee Meetings.** Since May 2020, ASC representative at ARCASIA have been taking part in online workshops and seminars organized by various committees including Committee on Professional Practice (ACPP), Committee on Social Responsibility (ACSR), Committee on Young Architects (ACYA), Arcasia Emergency Architects (AEA), etc. Our participants contributed in the development of pandemic prevention and control guidelines, shared China's experience in combatting Covid-19, and exchanged views on the opportunities and challenges facing the architectural industry.

**ARCASIA Special Online Interim Council Meeting.** On February 27, 2021, the Special Online Interim Council Meeting of ARCASIA was held via online video. During the meeting, Ar. Xiu Long, President of ASC, talked about the key work achieved by ASC in the past year and Beijing's bid for hosting the 2026 World Congress of Architects.

- **Canberra Accord on Architectural Education**

**Canberra Accord Interim Video Meeting.** Affected by the Covid-19 pandemic,

the Interim Meeting of the Canberra Accord was held virtually for the first time on September 16th and 18th, 2020. The meeting was attended by Zhuang Weimin (Director of the National Board of Architectural Accreditation and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering), Zhao Qi (Executive Secretary General of NBAA and Vice President of ASC), Wang Xiaojing (ASC Secretary General Assistant and Director of ASC International Department, and Liu Yuting (Project Manager of ASC International Department).

**Canberra Accord 8th General Meeting.** The 8th General Meeting of Canberra Accord was held via online video on June 24-25, 2021. The Meeting tasked Canada, China, the United Kingdom, Chinese Hong Kong, China, South Korea, and the United States to form a working group to conduct a comparative analysis of different members' accreditation documents.

**Canberra Accord Comparative Analysis Working Group Video Consultations.** At the Canberra Accord 8th General Meeting, six members including China volunteered to be part of a working group to compare different members' accreditation documents. The dedicated working group has held a series of video meetings since September 17, 2021. These meetings were attended by Zhao Qi (Vice Chairman of ASC), Professor Zhang Lingling (Deputy Director of NBAA and Deputy Secretary General of ASC), Professor Ouyang Wen (Council member of NBAA), and Liu Yuting (Project Manager of ASC International Department).

**Update of the English Versions of National Board of Architectural Accreditation (NBAA) Documents.** In 2020, NBAA updated the English versions of *NBAA Conditions and Procedures for Accreditation of Professional Degree Programs in Architecture* and *NBAA instructions and Templates for Accreditation of Professional Degree Programs in Architecture*.

- **APEC Architect Project**

**APEC Architect Central Council Online Meeting.** The APEC Architect Central Council (AACC) held its online council meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Agenda items of the meeting include: Planning for the 9th AACC meeting, discussions on reports from member economies, updating *APEC Architect Operations Manual*, setting agenda for the 9<sup>th</sup> AACC meeting, presentation of the new APEC Architect Central Council website, presentation of the proposed coffee table book, collection of annual fees and other matters.

**APEC Architect Central Council Special Online Meeting (Work Meeting).** On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Wang Xiaojing (ASC Assistant Secretary General and Director of ASC International Department) and Wu Pujuan (Deputy Director of ASC International Department) attended the AACC Special Online Meeting (work meeting).

- **Bilateral Exchanges and Cooperation**

**Participating in HKIA Belt and Road Forum 2021.** April 16-17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Ar. Xiu Long (President, ASC) and Ar. Li Cundong (Secretary General, ASC) attended the HKIA Belt and Road Forum 2021 online. President Xiu attended and spoke at the opening ceremony. Xiu and Li both gave talks at the forum panels.

**Signing MOU.** In November 2019, ASC signed an MOU with United Kingdom's Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT).

## **12. PROGRAMM OF THE INSTITUTE**

ASC and its sub-institutes publish 6 professional journals:

*Architectural Journal*, *Journal of Building Structures*, *Architectural Practice*, *Building Energy & Environment*, *Chinese Journal of Geotechnical Engineering* and *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*.

*Architectural Journal* is recognized as a national first-class journal, a core journal of China, and a source journal for Chinese scientific and technical papers and citations. It is the first journal of China's architecture and science domain selected in Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index (CSSCI).

*Journal of Building Structures* is a bilingual monthly journal and is awarded the honorable titles of "The 4<sup>th</sup> Chinese Competitive Sci-tech periodical" and "2017 Excellent International Impact Academic Journals of China".

ASC together with AIJ (Architectural Institute of Japan) and AIK (Architectural Institute of Korea) publishes the *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering* in English language. At present this journal is published 2 issues a year.

*Architecture Asia* is the official English journal of ARCASIA. ARCASIA's 40th Council approved of the decision for ASC to co-publish *Architecture Asia*, and Tongji University to undertake the editorial and operational work. The journal went through major changes and improvement, and a brand-new website has been launched. In 2020, the journal released a special issue on ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2020 and a special issue titled "Building a Healthy Future" regarding the theme of Covid-19.

## **13. ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS/AWARDS FOR MEMBERSHIP DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW**

- 1) **ARCASIA awards.** Organized and assisted members of ASC to apply for 2020 and 2021 ARCASIA Awards for Architecture, ARCASIA Students Architectural Design Competition, and 2020 and 2021 ARCASIA Thesis of the Year Awards 2021.
- 2) **Nominations for 2020 Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize.** Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize was jointly established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China (MOHURD) and ASC

in 2000, and was opened to international participants in 2016 with UIA's support. It is aimed at recognizing practicing architects, architectural theorists and architectural educators who have made significant achievements and outstanding contributions in the architectural field, and is a lifetime honor award for individuals. The Prize is awarded to two winners every two years. From 2000-2018, the Prize has been organized for nine times with a total of 23 winners, including 21 from China and 2 from abroad.

- 3) **Selection and Evaluation for 2019-2020 ASC Architectural Design Award.** Founded by ASC, Architectural Design Award is one of China's most prestigious honors in the field of architectural design, covering two categories based on projects and individuals. The Award is given biennially.
- 4) **Selection and Evaluation for 2019-2020 ASC Science and Technology Progress Award.** In January 2019, the ASC Science and Technology Progress Award was officially included in the *List of Social Science and Technology Awards* by China's National Office for Science and Technology Awards.

#### **14. KEY ISSUES FACING THE ARCHITECTS/ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION /INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY**

#### **15. SOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE**

The ASC has moved to the new office building in Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture.

#### **16. THE INSTITUTES EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT ARCASIA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN THE PAST COUNCIL MEETINGS**

#### **17. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

**2021 International Urban Design Conference, 17 to 18 November 2021.** Jointly hosted by ASC, Henan Provincial Department of Housing and Urban- Rural Department and the People's Government of Zhengzhou, the fourth International Urban Design Conference plans to be held in Zhengdong New District, Zhengzhou City, Henan Province from 17 to 18 November with the theme of "Ecological Preservation and Quality Development".

**The Eleventh Weihai International Architectural Design Grand Prix & Habitat Festival, November 2021.** Since 2004, ASC, Shandong Provincial Office of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and Weihai Municipal Government have successfully held Weihai International Architectural Design Grand Prix & Habitat Festival for nine times since 2004. The events serve as a crucial platform to showcase participating architectural design and promote the growth of young talents. The Prix is now well-known home and abroad, and has become a veritable card of the city of Weihai. It is China's first large-scale professional competition organized by the local government, and with the longest continuous history. This year's Grand Prix and

Festival will be held in November; main events include an awarding ceremony, keynote reports, the grand pix, academic salons and special exhibitions.

**China Architectural Design Expo 2021, 19 to 22 December 2021.** Jointly hosted by ASC, Messe München and MMU BAU FENESTRATION Co., Ltd., China Architectural Design Expo 2021 is to be held from 19 to 22 December 2021 in Shanghai.

**18. ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE ARCASIA COUNCIL TO ADDRESS/ASSIST**