Transforming infrastructure hubs: spatial performance of inner-city stations in China’s big cities

**Keywords:** inner-city station areas, spatial performance, station area redevelopment in China, integrated strategy

**Architecture Department (Complex Project)**

**Area of Research:** Urbanism

**Research Summary:** The rapid expansion of the High-Speed Railway (HSR) network and the restructuring practice of inner-city station area in China caused spatial challenges to these areas after the redevelopments. The expectation in general is that with the improved accessibility, inner-city station areas will manage unprecedented mobility, attract various urban functions, and will allow people to work, live, and enjoy leisure in different cities, or different parts within one city. However, most of the station areas after redevelopments still lack connection to their urban surroundings. The spatial and functional discontinuities cut these areas form local context, lacking room for public activities and communications. In other words, the spatial performance of these areas needs improvement. Failure to generate spatial quality in inner-city station areas roots in the mismatch between the node value and the place value. While most research concentrates on either the spatial impact of station redevelopment, or passenger circulation within railway hubs, this study aims to cope with the mismatch between the node value and the place value in station areas with spatial interventions. This necessitates a thorough consideration of the conditions and the creation of qualitative aspects applied in existing spatial strategies, and in-depth analysis of the spatial failure caused by them. In addition, referable lessons from stations abroad also help to understand adaptive spatial strategies valuable for future redevelopment projects in China.

**Research Methodology:** The study uses a combination of approaches including extensive desk research, field observation, interview, and mapping to understand inner-city station area within Chinese urban transition.

**Main Question:** How to improve spatial performance of inner-city station areas in Chinese big cities?

**Deliverables:** Design strategies towards integrated inner-city station areas in terms of circulation organization, functional setting, spatial linkage with surroundings and quality of public space.

**Key Publications:**

Inner-city station areas in Chinese cities Paper presented on COMPOSITE CITIES EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON RESEARCH IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN 12-14 November 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

SHAPING VIBRANT URBAN PLACES IN CHINESE INNER-CITY STATION AREAS: A CASE STUDY OF BEIJING WEST STATION AREA Paper will be presented on 48th International Conference of the Architectural Science Association 10-13 December, 2014 Genoa, Italy