Chinese Architectural Practice: Design at the Speed of Sound

The fast-paced urban development of China has created great opportunities for architectural designers. Four architects from Shanghai’s biggest firm will explain about the special pressures and delights of working on very large projects. They will discuss ways to maintain the regionalism of architecture within the context of globalization. They will discuss how aspects such as urban density, infrastructure investment and construction methods impact what can be built. Students interested in the Xian Dai Summer Internship in Shanghai can hear about how young designers work within large teams.

Wangwei Zhu
Mr. Zhu is the award-winning designer of the World Expo 2010 Pudong Garden House. His campus designs for the East China University of Science and Technology and the Shandong Institute of Physical Education and Sports have been recognized for thoughtfully incorporating waterways and large green spaces into well-organized campus developments.

Chang Su
Chief architect Chang Su has won design awards for projects including a Technology Park and Business Incubator complex. He has been recognized for his analytical abilities and technical expertise. He will explain the research and development of an ETFE-membrane facade for a cold-climate greenhouse. ETFE stands for Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene, a transparent polymer that is used instead of glass and plastic in many modern buildings.

Xiaosong Bai
Designer Xiaosong Bai has won awards for urban landscape planning and designing resort, office, educational, and retail complexes. Because of his interest in the creative process and ways to combine art and architecture, he has researched the work of Diller and Scofidio.

Ziye Zhu
Architect Ziye Zhu has been recognized for expertise in skyscraper and airport design. He developed seismic retrofit strategies for hospitals and schools in Sichuan and Qinghai earthquake disaster areas. He is interested in architectural aesthetics and expressive media from watercolor to parametric design.

Yandong Zhang
Chief architect Yandong Zhang designed the award-winning Shanghai Eco-home at the 2010 World Expo, contributed to Disneyland Shanghai, & the 100,000 square meter 5-star hotel. Even as the youngest member of the Technical team, he has been recognized as being one of the top employees.