

Sensing Architecture: When teaching becomes experience

This abstract highlights how the public openings, lectures, and events of our workshop series served as a dynamic interface between academic exploration and real-world application, directly fostering the essential skills demanded by future workplaces.

The program's core was a sequence of public forums that transformed students from passive learners into active participants in a broader intellectual community. At the Chun Yang Tai Centre, roundtables like "Undisciplinary Resonance" exposed students to leading theorists, architects, and musicians debating knowledge production beyond institutional boundaries. This experience was a masterclass in critical thinking, challenging students to analyze and synthesize complex, interdisciplinary ideas. Moderated discussions with deans and principals from prestigious universities, such as the "Starting Architecture School" forum at FEI Arts, provided unparalleled insights into the profession, enhancing students' strategic awareness and professional acumen.

Furthermore, these events were platforms for honing advanced communication and presentation skills. Students were not mere observers; they were performers. At exhibition openings, they demonstrated self-built instruments, articulating their creative process and bodily interaction with their work to public audiences

exceeding 150 guests. This requirement to present and defend their work in a professional setting built immense confidence and the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively.

The pinnacle of experiential learning was the "Banquet in the Woods" community event in Hunan. Here, the theoretical concepts of placemaking and social design were tested in practice. Sharing a meal with 50 local villagers around a structure they built required empathy, cultural sensitivity, and interpersonal skills. This direct engagement moved learning beyond abstract theory, teaching students the profound impact of architecture on community and the nuances of stakeholder engagement.

In conclusion, these lectures and events were not ancillary; they were integral to the pedagogy. By embedding student work within a vibrant ecosystem of public discourse, critique, and celebration, we accelerated the development of a crucial skill set: the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate across disciplines, and engage with communities—preparing them not just for a career, but for impactful citizenship.

ARCH 1079 Design 1 2024-25 | Sensing Architecture Teaching Team:
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3 Workshops:

**Earthy Notes:
33 Attempts on Listening**
Venue: Langtou Village, Huazhou District, Guangzhou, China
Collaborator: Chun Yang Tai Arts and Cultural Centre
Date: March 7 to March 10, 2025 (3-day workshop)
Curatorial Design: Thomas TSANG, Tianying LI, You WU
Student Participants: 16 students (BAAS Year 1)

A student film workshop, repairing and performing their instrument pieces in and around the farming fields/ruined courtyards of the ancient village (Langtou Village)/abandoned primary school. Understanding the assembly and improvisation using ready-made, including bricks, rocks, ceramic pieces, jars & glasses, fishing nets, bamboo, and fireworks.

**Sensing Architecture:
33 Listening Pairs in the Field. Fei Arts**
Venue: FEI Arts, Haizhu District, Guangzhou, China
Collaborator: FEI Arts
Date: March 12 to March 16, 2025 (5-day workshop)
Curatorial Design: Thomas TSANG, Tianying LI, You WU
Student Participants: 29 students (BAAS Year 1) + 2 students (GDUIT) + 2 students (GAFA) + 7 students (SCUT)

The workshop probed the animated history of isolated objects in and around the Zhongda Fabric District of Guangzhou. The eclectic collections go beyond their original intentions, showcasing lessons learned from performers, carpenters, designers, theorists, farmers, and audiences across various disciplines beyond just architecture.

**Sensing Architecture:
Banquet in the Woods**
Venue: Baishuidong Village (construction site) & Changsha (guided tours), Hunan, China
Collaborator: School of Architecture and Planning, Hunan University
Date: June 21 to July 2, 2025 (12-day workshop)
Workshop Leads:
HKU: Thomas TSANG, Tianying LI, You WU
HNU: Shen YAO, Jiansong LU

Visiting Professor: Isami KINOSHITA
Special Thanks: YouTian Design, WCY Regional Office
Guest Lecturer and Local Architectural Guide: Xueyang YUAN
Administrative Assistant: Yixin ZHANG
Student Participants: 15 HKU students + 5 HNU students



Forums:

Undisciplinary Resonance 反规训的共鸣

Venue: Chun Yang Tai Arts and Cultural Centre, Guangzhou, China
Date: March 9, 2025
Moderators: Min SHEN
Speaker: Thomas TSANG, Tianying LI, & You WU
Discussants: Karen Yu, Adam Jasper, Michelle Yip.

Field notes! When listening becomes more mythical than spatial reality 田野笔记! 聆听超越现实的 神话时刻

Venue: Chun Yang Tai Arts and Cultural Centre, Guangzhou, China
Date: 14:30 - 16:30, April 12, 2025
Moderators: Yue TAN
Speaker: Thomas TSANG, Feng FENG, Yong Huo CHANG



After Architecture: Community as Form 建築之後: 社區作為形式

Moderators:
Thomas TSANG, You WU, Tianying LI
Welcoming Speech: Yao SHEN, Churyun YU, WEI, Isami KINOSHITA
Roundtable discussants:
Isami Kinoshita: Emeritus Professor at Chiba University
Churyun Wei: Professor, Dean of the Design Research Institute at Hunan University, Lead Architect of the Local Studio
Chaochun Yuan: Professor, Chair of the Teaching Committee at the School of Architecture and Planning
Wei Wang: Professor, Deputy Director of the Hunan Provincial Public Art Committee
Lili Zhong: Associate Professor, Director of the Basic Teaching and Research Center
Biao Hu: Associate Professor, Director of the DAL Digital Architecture Laboratory



Roundtable: Starting Architecture School! When Experience Becomes Form 建築, 開始! 當感知成為形式

Venue: FEI Arts, Guangzhou, China
Date: 14:00 - 16:00, March 16, 2025
Moderators: Michelle YIP
Speakers: Thomas TSANG, Tianying LI, You WU
Discussants:
Jianxiang HE (Founder, O-office Architects)
Yimin ZHU (Founder, TUAN Office)
Ping SU (Associate Dean, School of Architecture, South China University of Technology)
Hui Ping (Associate Professor, School of Architecture, South China University of Technology)
Kang SHEN (Dean, School of Architecture, Art, and Design, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts)
Yiding YANG (Director of Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, Art, and Design, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts)

Public Performance:

Guest Performer: Dinning Yan (Cellist)
Student Performers: YANG Simo, QU Xiaoyuan, HAZZI, THAWY Thura Sit, DENG Noah, CHEN Mo, ZHOU Xinyang, GAO Kai
Cellist Dinning Yan opened the exhibition with a captivating solo performance, setting the tone for the event.
The program culminated in a participatory sound piece, where the leading students initiated a collective improvisation. Audience members and roundtable discussants were invited to play the workshop-forged installations, transforming the gallery into a resonant, collaborative soundscape.

