

ULLENS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART 尤伦斯当代艺术中心

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Media/UCCA Members

/VIP Preview:

September 29

Exhibition dates:

September 30 –

December 2, 2012

Exhibition Space:

Great Hall

Press material also available for
download from the UCCA website

UCCA PRESENTS FIRST RETROSPECTIVE OF YUNG HO CHANG – PIONEER CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ARCHITECT

September 18, 2012. Beijing, China

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) will present a comprehensive retrospective including over 6 installations, 40 models and 270 drawings charting the seminal, cross-disciplinary work of Yung Ho Chang and his practice Feichang Jianzhu (FCJZ). Chang and FCJZ will transform UCCA's Great Hall into six courtyard-like modules inspired by the 'hutong', the traditional Chinese neighborhood network of narrow alleys between tile-roofed courtyard houses. Each module will explore a different facet of Chang's work and the exhibition will also include several of FCJZ's art installations and two previously unseen films. Entitled YUNG HO CHANG + FCJZ: MATERIAL-ISM, the retrospective opens **Sunday 30 September 2012**, marking the first thorough attempt to examine one of China's most important architectural pioneers.

Yung Ho Chang is the first Chinese architect to have emerged on the international cultural scene. Known as both the first architect to set up an independent atelier in China and the first Chinese national to head a major department of architecture in an international university—having served as dean of architecture at MIT 2003-2009—Chang has inspired a wide range of followers and mentored a new generation of talent.

UCCA Director Philip Tinari said, "Yung Ho Chang is one of China's



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most important architectural pioneers and over the last 30 years of unprecedented growth in China, his practice FCJZ have devised a range of witty, thoughtful and universal design solutions inspired by distinctly Chinese problems and concepts. Design can have an incredible impact on the predicament of people and to everyday urban life. I am thrilled that UCCA is presenting the first retrospective for Yung Ho Chang who is considered the father of contemporary Chinese architecture.”

Spanning the last 30 years, YUNG HO CHANG + FCJZ: MATERIAL-ISM explores FCJZ’s experiments in architecture, design, planning and art together with a detailed study into the different aspects of Yung Ho Chang’s practice, such as inhabitation, construction methods, urbanism, tradition, perception, and culture. Through these works, the exhibition not only considers the buildings people inhabit and the cities they constitute but also the importance of design in everyday urban life and the specific predicament of people, in the context of the last three decades of unprecedented growth in China.

Each maze-like module presents models, drawings and objects on Chang’s key projects, with each exploring a different aspect of his practice:

I. BIKE APARTMENT – inhabitation as lifestyle

Taking its title from Chang’s whimsical 1986 design for a home inhabited by a single cyclist in Berkeley, this section looks at how architecture creates spaces for inhabitation and how design can reckon with its subsequent impact on the inhabitant’s lifestyle.

II. INFERNAL CONSTRUCT – ways of building

This section looks at FCJZ’s unique approaches to handling construction, often transforming ordinary materials such as glass tiles, concrete and bamboo into durable, elegant design solutions.

III. NOT SO IDEAL CITY – the urban condition

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In questioning faith in architectural iconography and as an active response to the contradictory and ad hoc planning that characterises so many Chinese cities nowadays, FCJZ pioneered an approach called “micro-urbanism,” where buildings functioned as fully integrated living spaces in a city and environment rather than free-standing structures.

IV. ENDLESS COURTYARD – space and tradition

FCJZ explores whether there is such a thing as inherently Chinese space and suggests that if so, it is related to the notion of semi-outdoor forms such as the corridor (lang 廊) and the pavilion (ting 亭).

V. REAR WINDOW – architecture as perception

Named after Hitchcock’s 1954 film, this section takes the film’s play on the relationship between spectator and screen or in this case, built structures and inhabitant’s perceptions. Through exploring sight lines and vistas, FCJZ has argued that the building is in fact the eye of the beholder.

VI. SAINT JEROME’S STUDY – crossovers into art and culture

Referencing the early Christian scholar who was celebrated for his significant works spanning a great variety of subjects, this section explores Chang and FCJZ’s compelling experiments in fields as diverse as fashion, theatre, and literature.

To mark this major exhibition of Yung Ho Chang’s seminal work, Sanlian Books is producing a catalogue that will detail the drawings and studies by Yung Ho Chang and FCJZ that will be available at UCCA@ART.BOOK.

“YUNG HO CHANG + FCJZ: MATERIAL-ISM” exhibition is made possible with the generous support of lead sponsor Crystal CG and the assistance of supporting sponsor Shanghai Tongji University.

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Related Programs

BJDW@UCCA Talks “Construction and Design”

Time: 10:00-12:00, Sunday, September 30

Venue: UCCA Auditorium

Special Guests: Ge Ming

Li Hu

Wang Junyang

Yung Ho Chang

Zhou Rong

Zhu Jingxiang

BJDW@UCCA “Open · Closed · Open” Architecture Culture Program: Art Seminar

“Design and Contemporary Urban Culture”

Time: *Date and time to be confirmed*

Venue: UCCA Auditorium

Special Guests: Yung Ho Chang

Zhu Wen

Wang Jianwei

Chan Koonchung

Liu Sola

Moderator: Hung Huang

BJDW@UCCA “Open · Closed · Open” Architecture Culture Program: Art Seminar

“Design and Design”

Time: *Date and time to be confirmed*

Venue: UCCA Auditorium

Special Guests: Yung Ho Chang

Jiang Qionger

Guang Yu

Zhang Da

Moderator: Liu Zhizhi

Current exhibition

Kan Xuan: Millet Mounds until 10 November 2012

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About Yung Ho Chang / Atelier Feichang Jianzhu (FCJZ)

Yung Ho Chang is Principal Architect at Atelier Feichang Jianzhu, a professor of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University, and a professor and the former Head of the Architecture Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Originally from Beijing and educated both in China and in the United States, Chang received his Master of Architecture degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1984. He has been practicing in China since 1992, and established Atelier Feichang Jianzhu (FCJZ) in 1993 with Lujia Lu.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including First Place in the Shinken-chiku Residential Design Competition in 1987, a Progressive Architecture Citation Award in 1996, the 2000 UNESCO Prize for the Promotion of the Arts, and the Academy Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2006.

Together with FCJZ, he has published eight books and monographs, including *Yung Ho Chang / Atelier Feichang Jianzhu: A Chinese Practice* and *Yung Ho Chang: Luce chiara, camera oscura*.

He has participated in the Venice Biennale five times (first in 2000), among several other international exhibitions of art and architecture. He has taught at architecture schools across the US and China, was a professor and founding head of the Graduate Center of Architecture at Peking University (1999-2005), and held the Kenzo Tange Chair at Harvard University (2002) and the Eiel Saarienen Chair at the University of Michigan (2004). In 2011 he became a Pritzker Prize Jury member.

Atelier FCJZ has always believed in the value and craft of design with an emphasis on research and methodology. Since its inception two decades ago, FCJZ has become a multi-disciplinary practice whose outputs range from community to jewelry.

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FCJZ received the *Progressive Architecture* Citation in 1996 for a hillside housing project in Southern China, a *WA China Architecture Award* in 2004, and a *Business Week / Architectural Record China Award* in 2006 for Villa Shizilin. Abroad, FCJZ held solo exhibitions of its work at Apex Art in New York in 1999, Harvard University in 2002, Chambers Gallery in 2005, and MIT in 2007. They were also invited to create an installation in the central court at London's Victoria & Albert Museum in 2008. The firm has participated in numerous international art and architecture exhibitions and biennials, such as *Cities on the Move* in Vienna, London, New York, and Denmark; and three times at the Guangju Biennale since 1997. Products and architectural models by FCJZ are in the permanent collection at London's Victoria & Albert Museum and the National Art Museum of China.

About UCCA

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art is a not-for-profit art center in Beijing, located at the heart of the 798 Art District. As a platform for contemporary art linking China and the world, UCCA offers an average 15 exhibitions a year and over 500 public programs including art talks, film screenings, performances, workshops and public festivals. The international center maintains a special focus on recent developments and historical movements in Chinese contemporary culture, whilst also showcasing the latest in art and design and fostering international exchange.

www.ucca.org.cn