

ARCH 572 ♦ ARTD 499 ♦ RST 594/199

Spring 2025

Place Making and Rural Tourism in China



Instructors:

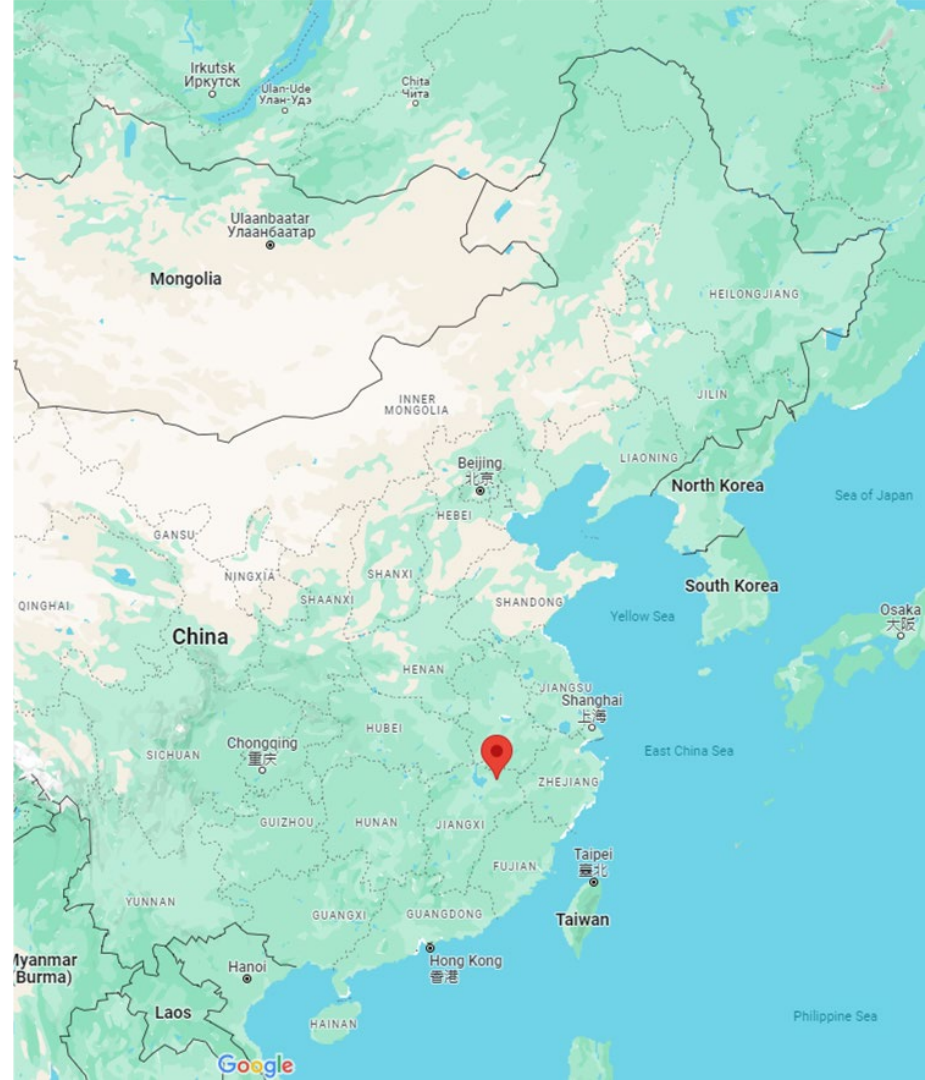
Wei (Windy) Zhao, PhD, AIA (Architecture, ARCH 572)

Molly Briggs, PhD (Art & Design, ARTD 499)

Suiwen (Sharon) Zou, PhD (Recreation, Sport & Tourism, RST 594/199)

Introduction

- This course is supported by a Transdisciplinary Global South Community-Based Learning Programs grant from the Illinois Provost
- Our aim is to enhance the meaning of place and promote rural tourism for Xihu Village, in the city of Jingdezhen, China
- This hybrid, interdisciplinary studio-seminar course will be co-taught by faculty from architecture, art & design, and recreation, sport & tourism
- Each section has a different course number and entails different expectations and focuses within the broader theme of place making and rural tourism in China
- All our work focuses on community-engaged, human-centered design research process
- Outcome: develop coordinated architectural planning and designs, tourism development strategies, wayfinding plans, and place-making activities tailored to the specific needs of local residents and visitors.
- The course offers diverse, underrepresented, and global perspectives on community-engaged design processes in the global south to students at home and abroad



Course Description

This studio challenges the dominant rural reconstruction and “revitalization” practices; it invites students to offer innovative and sustainable planning and design solutions for local residents based on their cultural identity, current needs, and viable future. Specifically, the studio will provide a set of planning and design proposals for the local stakeholders of Xihu village in Jiangxi Province, China. The goal of this project is to increase tourism income through improving the infrastructure, such as roads, water system, and public spaces and amenities for tourism, and remodeling/constructing selected structures that aim to provide better service for tourists, including, but not limited to, public bathrooms, a welcome center, a boutique hotel, and a cultural center. More importantly, the planning and design proposals will aim to promote cultural identity, maintain social sustainability, and enhance the meaning of place.



Course Schedule

Spring 2025

- ARCH 572 MW 1–5:50
- ARTD 499 MW 4–6:40
- RST 594/199 MW 5–5:50 (1st 8 weeks)
- All students meet together W 5–5:50

Study Tour Schedule

- Depart Chicago FRI 2/7
- Arrive Shanghai SAT afternoon 2/8
- Arrive Jingdezhen SAT evening 2/8
- Visit reference sites in Jingdezhen SUN 2/9
- Arrive Xihu Admin Village SUN evening 2/9
- Work in Chabao Village MON–FRI 2/10–14
- Arrive Shanghai SAT afternoon 2/15
- Fly to Chicago SUN 2/16

Estimate Cost for Students

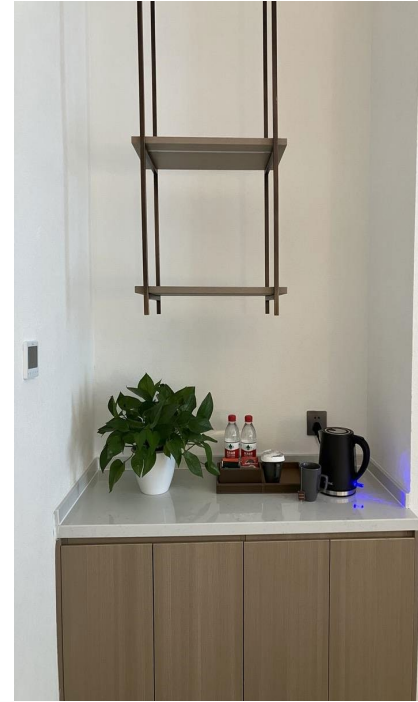
- Visa application \$140 (American Citizens)
- Meals and tickets to cultural sites \$150
- Travel insurance through Study Abroad \$92
- My Study Abroad application fee \$250



Jingdezhen- The Porcelain Capital of China/World



Hotel Rooms in Xihu Admin Village



Chabao, our site



Perk



If You Are Interested...

- Become familiar with basic Chinese phrases and/or Chinese culture in the Fall
- **International students should not** plan to spend the entire winter break at their home countries: you need to be ready to travel at the very beginning of the spring term
- Architecture students can also register for the RST course as an elective

Keep in touch with us!

Dr. Zhao, weizhao4@illinois.edu

Dr. Briggs, mbriggs@illinois.edu

Dr. Zou, szou@illinois.edu

