



*Bridge for which we come together
To better the lives of the needy in
China where we live and which we care*

COVER STORY

The Wu Zhi Qiao Team received attention and recognition from the Architecture and Media sections in 2010, and this actually all stems from volunteers. Without them, Wu Zhi Qiao will not be able to implement so many projects. This is also how our Project Officer, Wanli, came about: she came to know about WZQ then was determined to pursue a PhD degree in Architecture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and subsequently becoming a core member of Wu Zhi Qiao. We invite Wan Li to be on the cover story of this current issue, to share with us her experience in the Rebuild Demonstration Project in Ma'anqiao Village, and how it has affected her to have a deeper understanding of life.

From the editor: Throughout the process of the project, Wanli not only tested her own determination in perseverance and overcoming challenges, but learnt to understand and empathise as well as to think from other people's point of view and in their shoes. Wu Zhi Qiao not only improves the living conditions of villagers, but enriches one's life and learning experience through a process. We hope to encourage other project teams through Wanli's sharing.

Wan Li: To know more about Ma'an Qiao village, to know more about myself

When I first heard I would be responsible for the construction of the Village Centre as part of the Rebuild Demonstration Project in Ma'anqiao village in the position of an on-site architect, I knew a tough battle was about to start. However, I was not too anxious, but felt an strong desire and urge to fight through all of this instead. Eventually, it was proven that this was indeed a hard battle, from which probably only I was able to genuinely know and experience all the good and bad memories from it.

There are millions of people in this world with million ways of thinking. I think this is great personally, but others may disagree. When I stayed in Ma'anqiao village, I gradually fell into the hole of different conflicting views, and became the focal point of it at the end. At the beginning, I felt very confused and wronged, to the extent that all of my good intentions were not taken, so I was full of anger to the others.

Then I pondered: precisely what is the reason to lead to the current situation?

I then came to slowly realise the living and survival conditions of villagers, as well as poor farmers living in rural villages. They are always the forgotten group, and cannot be in charge of resources. They lack security, and face the limitation of breaking through their living environment. So their attitude to me is explainable: most of the time there is no harmful intention. Therefore, I gradually did not feel angry, or wronged, but try to find a way to communicate with them, and find out about the likeable side of them.

When I left the village, I have already known most villagers in the village. They gave me home grown peanuts and mangoes as gifts. The papaya seeds I brought from Hong Kong have also started to grow in the village. When I came back to Hong Kong I would still think of them at times. However, only their simple grins and shadows of them working would stay with me, the negative memories gradually disappear.

This time, I not only gained physical training and the will to overcome challenges, but moreover it was a test to the mind-to try to understand: to understand people's survival statuses, their viewpoints, their desire, the reason why they act. In trying to understand them more, I came to know myself better at the same time. I know more about the spirit of Wu Zhi Qiao. I am proud to be able to complete this task. To be able to mix with the villagers in Ma'anqiao Village also makes me proud.



Wan Li, joined Wu Zhi Qiao as a volunteer in 2007. She has started to pursue a PhD degree in Architecture at CUHK since 2009, and therefore was responsible for the construction of the Village Centre.



The lives of the villagers after home rebuild.

PROJECT UPDATES

1. Four more bridges built since August 2010

✧ The Dees Family Wu Zhi Qiao

Site Location: Paomaping Town, Ninglang County, Lijiang City, Yunnan
Sponsor: The Dees Family

Due to the great effort of close to 60 volunteers, a 42 meters long gabion bridge was built on 21 Aug successfully. This project was mainly completed by the team from Chongqing University and The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the USA. It was certainly a good start to expand the "Wu Zhi Qiao" concept across continents.

This is a Wu Zhi Qiao project transcending nationalities, races and genders. For overseas volunteers, through participating in this project, Hong Kong and Mainland are no longer distant imaginations far from their hometown, but somewhere which they were able to visit and know more about in person. It was a self-challenge to one's mind and perseverance, and also a fond memory of venturing into the universal world.

Please click [here](#) for further project details.

✧ Hong Kong Victoria Wu Zhi Qiao

Site Location: Liutan Village, Qingshui County, Tianshui City, Gansu

Sponsor: Victoria Educational Organisation and its Parent-Teacher Association, Victoria Charitable Trust Fund, Victoria Shanghai Academy and its Parent-Teacher Association (Primary)

Originally scheduled to be built in August, the schedule of the pedestrian footbridge construction at Liutan village was postponed due to the heavy rain in Gansu. However, under the concerted effort of more than 50 professionals and student volunteers, a 30 meters long gabion bridge was finally completed successfully on 6 Oct. In this project, the participation of some "post-90s" volunteers proved that the spirit of Wu Zhi Qiao is continuously extended to the younger generation.

In addition, many kindergarten and primary students attended the bridge opening ceremony with their parents. This is a new attempt for Wu Zhi Qiao, allowing such young spirits to plant their seeds of affections and send their blessings to the motherland at such an early age.

Please click [here](#) for further project details.

✧ Yunnan Simai Wu Zhi Qiao

Site Location: Aidong Village, Luchun County, Honghe State, Yunnan
Sponsor: Yunan Simai Mining Co. Ltd

This project was collaborated between Kunming University of Science and Technology and The Chinese University of Hong Kong. A 20 meters long footbridge was successfully built on 1 Jan 2011, also with the participation of close to 10 student volunteers from Tunghai University in Taiwan. The local villagers were very passionate, and they assembled the prefabricated steel truss with student volunteers and professionals across the straits from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland. Bridge building was not the only purpose of the trip, but more importantly, it was to allow volunteers to interact with the villagers, and to know more about the local culture and customs.

Please click [here](#) for further project details.

✧ Wu Zhi Qiao in Labazhi Village, Yunnan

Site Location: Labazhi Village, Shigu Town, Yulong County, Lijiang City, Yunnan

Sponsor: Ms Anita Tang from Hong Kong

This project was collaborated between Chongqing University and The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The main concept of the bridge design, referred to the winning proposal from the Chongqing University bridge design competition. Its uniqueness is portrayed by using recycled materials as construction materials to fully implement Wu Zhi Qiao's vision in environmentally friendly construction.

Please click [here](#) for further project details.



The Dees Family Wu Zhi Qiao located in Paomaping Town was completed on 21 August



Hong Kong Victoria Wu Zhi Qiao located in Liutan Village was completed on 6 October



The Yunan Simai Wu Zhi Qiao was completed through the collaboration between the volunteers and local villagers



The bridge in Labazhi Village was made of the waste iron from containers

2. Updates on Village Rebuild Demonstration Project at Ma'anqiao Village, Aug 2010

Site location: Ma'anqiao Village, Xin'an Township, Huili County, Liangshan State, Sichuan

After completing the main construction work of the village centre at Ma'anqiao Village in May 2010, the Foundation mobilized 35 volunteers to complete the paving work of the Centre as well as painting parts of its structure in August. The project team is now planning and preparing for the development of facilities inside the Centre. They will work with the local construction bureau to conduct an anti-seismic rammed-earth village house building training workshop for the local builders in order to maximize demonstration impact of the project.

Moreover, the Village Rebuild Demonstration Project at Ma'anqiao Village of Sichuan, is honoured to be awarded the Grand Award for Institutional/Community Projects, under the category of New Buildings — Asia Pacific, in Green Building Award 2010, which aims to provide recognition to architecture, planning and research with outstanding performance in balancing sustainable development with the environment. Furthermore, this project is also awarded the Merit Recognition in Design for Asia Award organised by The Hong Kong Design Centre.

These Awards not only recognize the achievements of the Village Rebuild Demonstration Project at Ma'anqiao Village, but also the vision of Wu Zhi Qiao. This also provides an opportunity for the Foundation to further promote its vision to different sections in our society and recruit more volunteers to participate in our building projects, allowing a better understanding on people's livelihoods in remote rural villages.

Please click [here](#) for further details.



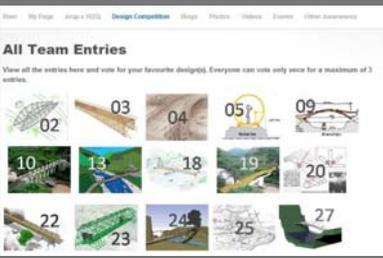
The paving and painting work in the village centre at Ma'anqiao Village



Village Rebuild Demonstration Project at Ma'anqiao Village was awarded the Grand Award in Green Building Award 2010



Wu Zhi Qiao at Datan Village was in good condition.



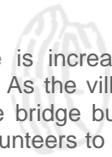
The online voting for the bridge designs held by Ove Arup

3. Re-visiting the Datan Village, Oct 2010

Site Location: Datan Village, Tianshui City, Gansu

It has been more than 2 years since the Cartier Wu Zhi Qiao was completed in Datan Village, Gansu in July 2008. Recently, the Foundation re-visited the site to investigate the current bridge, which was in good condition. In addition, the Foundation also mobilized and facilitated university teams to undertake research in the feasibility of implementing other side projects to improve the conditions in Datan Village, such as the construction of the village centre, road infrastructure and other public health projects.

Furthermore, the bridge made over another stream in the village is increasingly wearing off, which seriously affects the commutation of the villagers. As the villagers have learnt the bridge building technique through participating in the bridge building process in 2008, the Foundation plans to mobilize a small team of volunteers to assist the villagers to complete the maintenance work of the bridge this year, as well as document this process.



4. Mixia Village in Yunnan, the Lead Project of the Volunteer Team from Ove Arup Global Ltd, Jun 2010

Site Location: Mixia Village, Luchun County, Honghe State, Yunnan

The volunteer team from Ove Arup, Kunming University of Science and Technology and The Chinese University of Hong Kong has started the preparation and survey work for the bridge project in Mixia Village in late 2009. In June 2010, Ove Arup launched a bridge design competition to invite designs for this project from their global internal staff pool. A total of 44 entries were collected. Later on, apart from professional reviews of the bridge designs, the organizing committee also uploaded the entries online for public voting, to allow the election of the three most favorable designs. This project is expected to complete before summer this year.



Ove Arup provided a presentation for the teams

5. Baofeng Village Project, Nov 2010

Site Location: Baofeng Village, Qingjiang County, Bazhong City, Sichuan

The bridge building project is primarily co-ordinated by Chongqing Jiaotong University and HKUST, with the professional support of Ove Arup. Core teams from both universities visited the bridge site several times last year for site surveying and investigation, and confirmed the bridge design. In November 2010, Ove Arup provided a presentation for both universities to allow them to learn how to supervise onsite, such as safety and recording issues, in order to prepare them well to supervise onsite at the bridge site. In terms of the process of the project, the bridge piers are currently being constructed, with hope of completing the construction of the main parts of the bridge at the beginning of this year.

PUBLICITY AND FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

Biking around the island of Taiwan Fundraising Event, Aug 2010

With his great passion and caring heart, together with the assistance of enthusiastic local people in Taiwan, our student volunteer, Ng Wing-ho, successfully completed the bike around the island of Taiwan challenge in ten days in summer 2010. Apart from fund raising for the Foundation, he also conveyed the spirit of Wu Zhi Qiao during the trip.



Biking around the island of Taiwan fundraising event

“Victoria Wu Zhi Qiao Project” Bridge Model Family Event, 18 Sep 2010

Victoria Educational Organisation, Victoria Shanghai Academy and its Parent-Teacher Association organised a parent-child model bridge making fund raising event. Parents and kids made the bridge models with recycling materials, and sent their love and care to the villagers through writing greeting cards. This activity not only enhanced the relationship between the parents and the child, but allowed participants to know more about the villagers’ lives in remote rural areas.



“Victoria Wu Zhi Qiao Project” bridge model family event

In addition, the principals, teachers, parents and children from the school went to Liutan Village to attend the bridge opening ceremony on 18 Oct. They also visited the local primary school and local families.

Wu Zhi Qiao Team Won the China Architecture Media Awards 2010, 19 Dec 2010

With our bridge building and village rebuild demonstration projects, our Wu Zhi Qiao team had been awarded the Committee’s Special Award in China Architecture Media Awards 2010. This award aims to recognise people with humane elements across the borders, who started the outstanding and influential projects/architectural works which actively influenced individuals or teams. This is indeed an honour and recognition of the work done by all our volunteers. Please click [here](#) to see relevant news clippings.



Representatives of our Wu Zhi Qiao team attended China Architecture Media Awards presentation ceremony

“New bridge, Spiritual bridge”: Volunteer Work Recorded as a Documentary, 8 Jan 2011

RTHK’s TV programme, consisting of a series of shows, documents the work done by various Hong Kong volunteers. Its filming crew joined the bridge building trip to Liutan Village of Gansu earlier with the volunteer team. They filmed the entire bridge building process, using Mr Yip Chi Yan as the main character in the episode for filming and interviewing. This episode was broadcasted on ATV channel on 8 Jan 2011. You are welcome to view the online version [here](#).



“New bridge, Spiritual bridge”: Volunteer work recorded as a documentary.



Wu Zhi Qiao Sustaining Member

Wu Zhi Qiao has established a new membership donation scheme, where individuals or corporations are welcomed to support us by joining this scheme and becoming our Stone WZQ Sustaining Member or Bamboo WZQ Sustaining Member.

As a Hong Kong registered charity, our operations are fully supported by the donations from benevolent corporations and caring individuals. Your generous support not only improves the commutation of the villagers in remote China, but also provides a special social service learning opportunity for the young generation to experience the living in remote China and to communicate with the local villagers.

By becoming our sustaining member, not only can corporations enjoy different membership benefits, but also develop corporate social responsibility. In so doing, this highlights a positive image of your corporation concerning about the society's development and increases a sense of belonging amongst your staff. Please click [here](#) for more details of the scheme.

LOOKING AHEAD 2011

Wu Zhi Qiao Programme between Tsinghua University and The University of Hong Kong

As 2011 is the centenary of both Tsinghua University and The University of Hong Kong, they are invited to collaborate to develop a bridge project in Yunnan together as one of celebrating activities for 100th Anniversary. These two teams completed the survey work in Dec 2010 and started the bridge design work. The project is expected to be completed in Aug 2011.

The Establishment of Health and Safety Committee

In line with keeping up the Foundation's work in developing more bridge building projects as well as improving other construction projects' development in rural China, the Foundation has recently established the Health and Safety Committee. Professor Emily Chan from the School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong was invited to chair the committee. Apart from formulating the safety strategy for the projects, the committee will also reinforce the promotion of health education in the rural villages and ensure the areas related to health and safety precautions, when team members and volunteers investigate, survey sites and construct bridge, are being covered.

Wu Zhi Qiao University Team Interflow Camp

In order to foster the communication and interflow amongst Wu Zhi Qiao university teams, recapitulate past bridge building experiences and enhance the capabilities of teams, the Foundation will organise a four days camp in February 2011. It aims to provide a platform for the university teams to share experiences, communicate and understand more about related issues such as rural development and ecological architecture etc.

Project Progress

Apart from continuing the Village Rebuild Demonstration Project at Ma'anqiao Village in Sichuan to foster the local sustainable development, the Foundation will complete four ongoing bridge building projects in Yunnan and Sichuan, and start three new projects. Relevant preparation work is under progress, please click [here](#) for more details.

Please send your comments on this newsletter to

christopher.rita@gmail.com

Editorial Team

Ms Rita Chan

Ms Sharon Chow

Mr Christopher Hui

Miss Jayne So

Ms Doris Tam

Miss Sze Wai Wong

To unsubscribe, please let us know at bridge2china@cuhk.edu.hk.

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T +852 2696 1162 F +852 2696 1163 W www.bridge2china.org E bridge2china@cuhk.edu.hk