Lettuce House
Sustainable Lifestyle Lab

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Tsinghua DESIS Lab
China
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Promoter(s).
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Funder.
Mr. Niu Jian from
Participatory Community Center

Aknowledgements.
Mr. Niu Jian - Participatory Community Center, Dr. Lv Mingyue - Tsinghua University
Context.
With the acceleration of urbanization and over-consumption of material resources, people crave a natural and green lifestyle. They want to have a pastoral life, but do not want to leave cities. At present, China has not a community or a systematic experiment putting together the buildings, ecological systems, processes, business models and participation of people.
The project.

The project is applying green, healthy and low carbon lifestyle into real scenes and leading more people to concerning, understanding and participating in the sustainable lifestyle practice. The project makes efforts in the aspects of the plan of sharing life concepts, the design and construction of container houses, utilization of clean energy, disposal of household garbage, application of reclaimed water facilities and methane system, and the promotion and product development of household organic farming techniques. It is dedicated to build a comprehensive experimental system of sustainable life and explore its possible application to the construction of a new sustainable community.
The design process.
| Dec 2013. Discussion and Idea Generation |
| Jan-Feb 2014. Research and System Concept Design |
| Mar-April 2014. Site Selection and Building Design |
| May-July 2014. The Detail Design and Co-construction |
| July 2014. Prototyping and Test |
| Prepare the Workshop for Next Stage |
We expect to show a better community model and a sustainable lifestyle to NGO, government and whole society. But it is very hard to find the land for the lab construction without Government Endorsement. We are trying to get more support from the local government. This experiment is a good opportunity striving for more policies for social innovation.
Except Mr. Niu Jian and his families, some volunteers had participated in the construction of the Lab. They help to install the plant lamps, fix the flowerpot, and also to raise new suggestions for ecological system. They are potentially the Participatory Community Members.
Social Interactions and Relations

With the dissemination in WeChat platform (with over 5 million reposts), Mr. Niu and his container houses got famous in China. A lot of people come to visit and consult, including experts, designers, NGO, businessmen and community residents. The project inspired a group of people to participate in the practice of new sustainable lifestyle.
Students and other citizens who yearn for the sustainable lifestyle are welcome to visit and communicate with Mr. Niu and Prof. Liu’s team. There are also some design workshops and classes for people to learn how to establish a participatory community project. All the plans about designs, skills and techniques of the lab construction are free to share with the visitors and audients. We want the idea is widely spread and practiced.
Mr. Niu and his wife made the pickles by using their own planted organic vegetables. In fact, they have planted various kinds of vegetables and they cannot eat so much. In the second phase of this project, they must have more production, but they do not want to sell, just for sharing with others neighbors.
Key tasks in this project are as follows: 1) to conceive basic functions, facilities and story plots for the sustainable lifestyle lab; 2) to conceive related ecological recycling technologies (the operation graph of lab system); 3) to design buildings, spaces and environments; 4) to design family plantation products. And others......