Art + Village + City
in the Pearl River Delta
• Winnie Wong, Rhetoric

• Margaret Crawford, Architecture
Pearl River Delta

- Guangzhou
- Dongguan
- Shenzhen
- Hong Kong
- Macau
- Zhuhai
- Foshan
- Jiangmen
Typical Chinese urban development: Generic, fast-track, dense, high-rise. CBDs and housing areas in Gated communities
Villages in Greater Guangzhou
Urban Villages (chengzhongcun) in Guangzhou

For further information, see “The Beginning of The End: The Planned Destruction of Guangzhou’s Urban Villages” Margaret Crawford and Jiong Wu. In Guide to Urban Villages, editor Stefan Al.

Haizu Village

Xian Village  Shipai Village
A Peri-Urban Village: Longmei
New Villager Houses

Renovated Traditional House

Housing from the Bottom-Up Villager built housing in Xiaozhou village, GZ

Mixed-use Loft

Rental Tenement With studio Apartments
Roadside Industry
From TVE era

A Rural Village:
Xiani
The main source of “social unrest” in China are struggles over land. The village of Wukan in Guangdong province made international headlines in 2011-12 when demonstrators held off the police for three days to protest land seizures.
Art and Artists
Dafen Village
Art by the Container Load
Painters in Dafen village
For a fuller discussion, see
Winnie Won Yin Wong,
*Van Gogh on Demand: China and the Readymade* (Chicago: 2014)
From “China Painters” series by Christian Jankowski
Preparation tutoring to enter Chinese Art Academies, University Island, GZ
Galleries in Xiaozhou Village, Guangzhou
Gallery Interiors, Formerly artists’ Houses, Xiaozhou Village
Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou
Vitamin Projects:

Xu Tan, Questions, Soil, Socio-Botanical, 2012

Not an Object, But a Field of Relationships

Sou Fujimoto and Vitamin, Panyu Village Pavilion, 2012--
History
1500 on: Lineage Villages develop in S. China

1644-1912 Qing dynasty/ Lingnan culture in S. China: comb-style settlement

1912-1939 Republican Period
Village-Market town-City urban heirarchy

1939-1945 Japanese occupation
1945-49 Civil War

Post 1949: Communist and Post-Communist Agriculture

1950-55 Land Redistribution
Great Leap Forward, Peoples Commune
Agricultural Land Collectivized
1961 Hukou system of internal passports begun
Production Brigade at Village Level

Post 1978: Opening Up Period

1985 Family Responsibility System (de-collectivization)
1996 Agriculture Marketized
1990s Township Village Enterprises
2006 New Socialist Countryside policy

The Village is the Basic Unit of Chinese Agriculture in the Pearl River Delta
Village rights and restrictions

• 1) rural hukou: limits access to education, health care, etc.
• 2) can control their own land
• 3) the only people in China who can elect their own village leaders and village committee
• 4) but also have Party secretary
• 5) can build their own houses
Actors
Villagers (what villagers?)
Migrants (workers from the countryside with rural hukou)
Others (students, young white collar workers, African traders)
Village Officials
Party cadres (party secretary, etc.)
Municipal Officials
Urban Planners (planning bureau, design institute)
Lunch with Village heads
Ethnography
CURRENT AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN XIANI
下坭农作物现状

农民的生活很艰难。
(A farmer's life is very hard.)

What makes it so difficult?
(为什么这么难呢？)

其中一个问题是化肥和农药。虽然我们种地一定要买化肥和农药，但他们太贵而且不可靠。有时候会买到假药，而且我们担心里面的化学成分对人体有害。
(One problem is chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Though we must buy them to produce food, they are expensive and not reliable. Sometimes they are fakes, and we are worried that the chemicals may be unhealthy.)
Reading the Landscape
Desakota landscape

desa=village
kota=town
Residents: GZ urban hukou
- no elections
- no land rights
- better social services

Villagers: rural hukou from village
- control individual housing
- share of communal land
- village elections
- fewer social services

Migrants: rural hukou linked to home village
- Temporary GZ work permit
- no social services
Longmei Village, Panyu
We’ll be traveling to the PRD during Spring break, 2015 as part of the Mellon-funded GLocal Urban Humanities Research Studio. Stay tuned for information about how to apply for the studio.