

# KONGJIAN YU

Founding Dean and professor, College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Peking University  
Founder and Principal Designer, Turenscape

A farmer's son trained at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Kongjian YU is a founder of the Peking University College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. He is also founder and principal designer of Turenscape, which *Fast Company* called one of The 10 Most Innovative Architecture Companies for **“balancing China's hyperspeed urbanization with green ‘sponge cities’”**. He is the founder and chief editor of the internationally awarded magazine *Landscape Architecture Frontiers*. An often-outspoken voice in the world of landscape architecture and ecological urbanism, Yu has been heralded by Michael Sorkin as “a hero of effective advocacy within a system fraught with perils.” Several of Yu's core ideas for nature-based climate adaptation and ecological urbanism, including the sponge city concept, have been adopted for nationwide implementation by the Chinese government and had a global reach. He was bestowed the Honoris Causa Doctorate in Landscape and Environment from Sapienza University, and the honorary doctorate degree of Norwegian University of Life Sciences. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Yu received the International Federation of Landscape Architects' Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award in 2020, the John Cobb Common Good Award in 2021, and the 2023 Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in Landscape Architecture. In 2023, Yu was selected from more than 300 nominations worldwide to win the biennial Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize that is bestowed on a recipient who is “exceptionally talented, creative, courageous, and visionary.” The Oberlander Prize Jury citation noted of Yu “a brilliant and prolific designer ... [who] is also a force for progressive change in landscape architecture around the world.”

Yu is the author of over 20 books and 300 plus academic papers. He has been an invited speaker, and guest professor around the world, including teaching for over five years at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and has been a keynote speaker at more than 60 conferences worldwide, including six times at the International Federation of Landscape Architects' (IFLA) World Congress and four times at ASLA annual conferences. His writing and lectures have addressed a range of topics including *“Sponge City and Climate Resilient Design,” “The Big Foot Revolution,” “Landscape as Ecological Infrastructure,” “Landscape Architecture as the Art of Survival”* and *“Deep Form in Urban Nature.”* Yu served on the master jury for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2010 and its steering committee in 2015-2016, the super jury for the 2011 and 2021 World Architecture Festival, jury chair of the Rosa Barba Award and 11th Landscape Biennial, as well as on many other international award juries.

Yu and his team have designed and built over 1000 projects in over 250 cities in China and abroad. Yu's guiding design principles are the appreciation of the ordinary and a deep embrace of nature—even of its potentially destructive aspects, such as flooding. His projects have won numerous international design awards including 14 ASLA Excellence and Honor Awards, 8 WAF Best Landscape Architecture of the Year Award, 5 AZ Awards, ULI Excellence Award and many others.

Yu has also been a tireless advocate for change at the policy level. His numerous letters to top Chinese leaders and over 600 lectures to mayors, ministers and all ranks of Chinese officials have helped shift the focus of Chinese national-level policies from economic development-centered urbanism toward ecologically prudent urbanism. His work and thinking have been featured on numerous television programs on China Central Television, and he has been a leading member of several national expert committees, including vice president of the Society of Urban Studies, chairman of the Beautiful China and Landscape Architecture Committee, deputy director of the National Sponge City Expert Committee and deputy director of the National Human Settlement Committee at the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban and Rural Development. He has written and edited several textbooks authorized by the Chinese central government and ministries to train Chinese officials.

## Education and Academic Appointments

2021- Dean and Changjiang Chair Professor of Design, College of Architecture and Landscape, Peking University.  
 2010-2017 Dean and Professor of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture, College of Architecture and Landscape, Peking University.  
 2010-2014 Visiting Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Design.  
 2003- Dean and Professor of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture, Graduate School of Landscape Architecture, Peking University.  
 1997-2003 Professor of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture, College of Urban and Environmental Sciences. Director, Center for Landscape Architecture and Planning, Peking University.  
 1992-95 DDes (Doctor of Design), Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. Dissertation: Security patterns and surface model in landscape planning. Dissertation chair: Carl Steinitz, with Richard Forman and Steven Ervin as members.  
 1987-1992 Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Gardening, Beijing Forestry University.  
 1984-1987 MLA (Master in Landscape Architecture), Landscape Architecture Department, Beijing Forestry University. Thesis: The Quantitative Models for Landscape Assessment.  
 1980-1984 BLA (Bachelor of Agronomy in Landscape Architecture), Landscape Architecture Department, Beijing Forestry University.

## Notable Honors and Awards

### **Major Honors and Prizes**

- 2023, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize
- 2023, Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in Landscape Architecture
- 2021 John Cobb Common Good Award
- 2020 IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award Winner
- 2019, Honorary Doctor in Landscape Architecture, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway,
- 2017, Doctor Honoris Causa in Landscape and Environment, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
- 2016, International Honorary Member, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, US
- 2012, Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, US
- 2013, Professor of Changjiang Scholars Program, Chinese Ministry of Education
- 2005, Overseas Chinese Achievement Award, the Municipal Government of Beijing, China
- 2004, Overseas Chinese Professional Excellence Top Award, the Chinese Central Government
- 2003, Overseas Chinese Pioneer Achievement Medal, Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology
- 1992, Mao Yishen Youth Science and Technology Award, Beijing Science and Technology Association, China
- 1991, National Outstanding Young University Teacher Award, Fok Ying Dong Education Foundation, Hong Kong

## **Professional Projects Awards**

- 2023 Landscape of the Year of 2023 World Architecture Festival Awards, Benjakitti Forest Park
- 2023 UIA Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards, Benjakitti Forest Park
- 2022 AZ Awards, Best Landscape Architecture, Nanchang Fish Tail Park
- 2022 Energy Globe National Award, Handan Wastewater Cleansing Terraces
- 2022 Architecture Master Prize Best of Best, Chongqing Tongnan Dafo Temple Wetland Park
- 2022 Architecture Master Prize Best of Best, Handan Garden Expo
- 2022 Architecture Master Prize Design of the Year Nanchang Fish Tail Park
- 2022 Fortune Best Designs, Nanchang Fish Tail Park
- 2021 WAF Landscape - Urban Context Winner, Revitalizing Kazan's Prime Waterfront, Russia
- 2021 WAF Landscape - Nature Context Winner Sanya Mangrove Park:
- 2021 AZ Landscape Awards, Welcoming the Water: Tongnan Dafosi Wetland Park:
- 2021 CITY'SCAPE Iconic Landscape Awards, Meishe River Greenway and Fengxiang Park & Suqian Santaishan Flower Quilt:
- 2021 Holcim Awards, Asian Pacific, Green-Blue Network, Liyumen Waterway Park
- 2021 AZ Awards, Best Landscape Architecture, Tongan Wetland Park
- 2020 ASLA Honor Award, General Design, Sanya Mangrove Park.
- 2019 AZ Awards, Best Landscape Architecture, Form Follows Processes: Sanya Mangrove Park, AZURE, Canada.
- 2019 APA International Planning Excellence Award, Grand Award for Urban Design/Kevin Lynch Award, Revitalizing Kazan's Prime Waterfront, American Planning Association.
- 2019 APA International Planning Excellence Award, Grand Award for Environmental Planning/Ian McHarg Award, Building a Greenway: Puyangjiang River Corridor, American Planning Association.
- 2017 Landscape of the Year, Chengtoushan Archaeological Park, World Architecture Festival Awards, Berlin.
- 2017 AZ Awards, winner of Landscape Architecture, Quzhou Luming Park, AZURE Magazine.
- 2016 AZ Awards, Best Landscape Architecture, Harbin Cultural Center Wetland Park, AZURE Magazine.
- 2016 ASLA Honor Award, General Design, Quzhou Luming Park.
- 2015 World's Best Landscape of the year Award, Jinhua Yanweizhou Park, World Architecture Festival.
- 2015 National Energy Globe Award, Liupanhsui Minghu Wetland, International Energy Globe Award.
- 2015, the Humanitarian Water and Food Award, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2014 ASLA Honor Award, General Design, Slow Down: Liupanhsui Minghu Wetland Park.
- 2013 ASLA Honor Award, General Design, The Mother River Recovered: Qian'an Sanlihe Green Way.
- 2012 ASLA Award of Excellence, General Design Harbin Qunli Stormwater Park.
- 2011 World's Best Landscape of the Year Award, Qian'an Sanlihe Greenway, World Architecture Festival Barcelona.
- 2011 Design Education Award, Beijing International Design Week, China.
- 2010, World's Best Landscape of the Year Award, The Shanghai Houtan Park, World Architecture Festival, Barcelona.
- 2010 ASLA Honor Award, General Design, Tianjin Qiaoyuan Park.
- 2010 ASLA Honor Award, General Design, Qinhuangdao Beach Restoration.
- 2010 ASLA Award of Excellence, General Design, Shnaghai Houtan Park.
- 2009, World's Best Landscape of the Year Award, Qiaoyuan Park, World Architecture Festival.
- 2009, ULI Global Award for Excellence, Zhongshan Shipyard Park, The Urban Land Institute.
- 2007 ASLA Design Honor Award, Red Ribbon—Tanghe River Park.
- 2006, ASLA Honor Award, Floating Gardens: Yongning River Park.
- 2005, ASLA Honor Award, Design, Shenyang Architectural School Campus.
- 2005, ASLA Honor Award, Ecological Infrastructure-Based Growth Planning for Taizhou City.
- 2004, National Gold Medal of Fine Arts, Cultural Ministry of Chinese Government, China.
- 2002, ASLA Design Honor Award, Zhongshan Shipyard Park.

## **Research and Notable Publications**

Yu's research comprehensively addresses the theory, methods, and techniques of post-industrial landscape architecture. Yu has published over **20 books and 300 journal papers** internationally on landscape and urban ecology, urbanism and landscape architecture. He is the founder and chief editor of the award-winning magazine Landscape Architecture Frontiers, focusing on sustainability and which has published over **60 issues** on sustainability subjects that have been distributed globally.

## **Books**

- Yu, K., 2022, *The Big Feet Revolution and the New Land of Beach Blossoms*, Sanlian Publishing House
- Yu, K., 2019, *Ideal Landscapes and the Deep Meaning of Feng-Shui: Patterns of Biological and Cultural Genes*, ORO, Novato CA, USA
- Yu, K., 2019, *Urban and Nature*, China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K., 2016, *Sponge City: Theory and Practice*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K., Li, D., Li H., Qiao Q., 2012, *China National Ecological Security Patterns*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K., Li, D., Li H. and Zhang I. 2012, *The Grand Canal National Heritage and Ecological Corridor*, Peking University Press.
- Yu, K. Wang, S., Li D., 2011, *Regional Ecological Security patterns, The Beijing Case*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K., 2009, *Back to the Land*, Commercial Press, Beijing, China.
- Yu, K., 2006, *Art of Survival: Positioning Contemporary Landscape Architecture*, China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K., D. Li, H. Liu, 2005, *Negative Planning*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K. and D. Li, 2003, *Landscape Architecture: The Profession and Education*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K. and D. Li, 2003, *Road to Urban Landscape: Talk to Mayors*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- Yu, K., 1998, *The Ideal Landscapes—The Meanings of Feng-shui*, The Commercial Press, Beijing, China.

## **Notable Articles**

- 2023, Kongjian Yu. Dong Wangle, Modular Approach Creating Low-Maintenance Sponge City: Benjakitti Forest Park in Bangkok, Thailand. *Landscape Architecture Frontiers* ,11(1): 72-85.
- 2022 Peng,Xiao; Heng,Xianpei; Li,Qing; Li,Jianxia; Yu,Kongjian\*. From Sponge Cities to Sponge Watersheds: Enhancing Flood Resilience in the Sishui River Basin in Zhengzhou, China[J]. *Water*, 2022, 14(19): 3084. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w14193084>
- 2022 Kongjian Yu. Sanya Dong'an Wetland Park,Hainan,China. In *Landscape Architecture for Sea Level Rise—Innovative Global Solutions*, edited by Galen D. Newman and Zixu Qiao. Routledge. NY. 2022. pp 177-183.
- 2022 Kongjian Yu. Qunli Stormwater Park,Harbin,China. In *Why Cities Need Large Parks—Large Parks in Large Cities*, edited by Richard Murray. Routledge. NY. 2022. pp 436-445.
- 2022 Kongjian Yu. Species-Town Life: Urban Imaginaries in the Post-Pandemic Era. In *50 Species-Towns(品·城)*, edited by Charles Waldheim etc. The Harvard Graduate School of Design's Office for Urbanization. Cambridge, Massachusetts. 2022. pp vii-viii
- 2021 Kongjian Yu, Moon-floating Temple, in *China: The New Creative Power in Architecture*, edited by Chris van Uffelen, Braun, Pp328-333.
- 2021 Kongjian Yu, Creating and restoring urban ecologies: Case studies in China, in *Ecologies design—Transforming Architecture, Landscape, and Urbanism*, edited by Maibritt Pedersen Zari, Peter Connolly and Mark Southcombe, Routledge, Pp49-61
- 2021 Kongjian Yu, Qunli Stormwater Park, in *The Ideal City: Exploring Urban Futures*, Space 10 Gestalten, Pp182-185
- 2021, Yu,K. Sponge City: Planning and Design and Political Design, In: *Design Studio Sofie Pelsmakers and Nick Newman, Architecture and The Climate Emergency. Everything Needs to Change*, RIBA, 47-55.
- 2020, Kongjian Yu Wins 2020 Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award; Read His Full Speech. DIRT, American Society of Landscape Architects, The Dirt Contributor, 10/08/202010/12/2020
- 2020, Kongjian Yu and the redefinition of china's cultural landscape, Interview with: Margarita Jover Biboum, Rubén Garcia Rubio, Carlos Ávila Calzada. In:ZARCH, *Journal of interdisciplinary studies in Architecture and Urbanism* ,No. 15 | 2020,
- 2020 Yu, K., Beautiful China and the Mission of Landscape Architecture, in *Beautiful China: Reflections on Landscape Architecture in Contemporary China* edited by Richard J. Weller & Tatum L. Hands, ORO Editions, 2020, Pp22-29
- 2020, Yu, K., Turning Grey into Green—Meishe River Greenway, *Urban Solutions*, 2020 July Issue 17, P68-73
- 2017, Yu, K., Green Infrastructure through the Revival of Ancient Wisdom, *American Academy of Arts and Sciences Bulletin*, Summer 2017, Vol. LXX, No.4:35-39.
- 2016, Yu, K., Creating deep forms in urban nature: the peasant's approach to urban design, in Frederick R. Steiner, George F. Thompson and Armando Carbonell (eds.), *Nature and Cities—The Ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning*, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, pp95-117
- 2016, Yu, K., Think like a king, act like a peasant: the power of a landscape architect and some personal experience, in Christophe Girot and Dora Imhof (eds.), *Thinking the contemporary landscape*, Princeton Architectural Press, pp164-184
- 2015, Yu, K., Li Dihua, Yuan Hong, Fu Wei, Qiao Qing, Wang Sisi, "Sponge city": theory and practice, *City Planning Review*, 39(6): 26-36.
- 2014, Yu, K., Complete Water, in: Anuradha Mathur and Dilip Da Cunha (eds.), *Design in the Terrain of Water*.

- Applied Research + Design Publishing with the University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, pp.57-65.
- 2013, Yu, K., Integration Across Scales: Landscape as Infrastructure for the Protection of Biodiversity in: John Beardsley (Editor), Designing Wildlife Habitats, 241–71, Dumbarton Oaks, Trustees for Harvard University, Washington, D.C.
- 2012, Yu, K., The Big Feet Aesthetics and The art of Survival. Architectural Design, Nov/Dec. No.220:72-77.
- 2011, Yu, K., Sisi Wang & Dihua Li: The negative approach to urban growth planning of Beijing, China, Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, 54:9, 1209-1236.
- 2011, Yu, K., Ecological infrastructure leads the way: the negative approach and landscape urbanism for smart preservation and smart growth, in Matthias Richter and Ulrike Weiland (eds.), Applied Urban Ecology: A Global Framework, pp.152-166.
- 2011, Yu, K., Landscape as a living system: Shanghai 2010 Expo Houtan Park, in Matthias Richter and Ulrike Weiland (eds.), Applied Urban Ecology: A Global Framework, pp.186-192.
- 2010, Yu, K., Five Traditions for Landscape Urbanism Thinking, Topos, (71):58-63.
- 2010, Yu, K., The Big-Foot Revolution, in: Mohsen Mostafavi with Gareth Doherty (eds.), Harvard University Graduate School of Design), Ecological Urbanism, Lars Müller Publishers, pp.282-291.
- 2010, Yu, K., Qiaoyuan Park: An Ecosystem Services-Oriented Regenerative Design, Topos, 5:26-33.
- 2010, Yu, K., Landscape as Ecological Infrastructure for an Alternative Urbanity, In: Mohsen Mostafavi (ed.), Implicate & Explicate, Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Lars Müller Publishers, pp.282-283.
- 2010, Yu, K., The Good Earth Recovered, Return of Landscape, Donata Valentien (ed.), Jovis publishers, Berlin, pp.225-233.
- 2009, Yu, K., Beautiful Big Feet: Toward a New Landscape Aesthetic, Harvard Design Magazine (Fall/Winter), pp.48-59.
- 2009, Yu, K., Wang Si-Si, Li Di-Hua, The Function of Ecological Security Patterns as Urban Growth Framework in Beijing, Acta Ecologica Sinica, Vol.29 (3):1189-1204.
- 2008, Yu, Kongjian, Li Hailong, Li Dihua, The Negative Approach and Ecological Infrastructure: The Smart Preservation of Natural Systems in the Process of Urbanization, Journal of Natural Resources, Vol.23 (6): 937-958.
- 2008, Yu, K., Zhang Lei and Dihua Li, Live with Water: Flood Adaptive Landscapes in the Yellow River Basin of China, Journal of Landscape Architecture, 2:6-17.
- 2007, Yu, K. and Mary G. Padua, China's Cosmetic Cities: Urban fever and superficiality, Landscape Research, Volume 32, Issue 2: 255 – 272.
- 2006, Yu, K., Dihua Li and Nuyu Li, The evolution of Greenways in China, Landscape and Urban Planning, 76: 223-239.
- 1996, Yu, K., Security patterns and surface model and in landscape planning. Landscape and Urban Planning. 36(5)1~17.
- 1995, Yu, K., Security Patterns in Landscape Planning with a Case Study in South China. Doctoral Thesis, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, MA, USA.
- 1995, Yu, K., Cultural variations in landscape preference: comparisons among Chinese sub-groups and Western design experts, Landscape and Urban Planning, 32(2):107-126.

## Notable Keynote Speeches and Lectures

*Yu has delivered over 500 lectures at institutes worldwide, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the World Bank, APEC, Harvard, Columbia, UC Berkeley and Stanford, and has appeared over 60 times as keynote speaker at numerous international conferences, including six times at the IFLA World Congress, and four times at ASLA annual conference meetings.*

- 2023, Designing Sponge Planet, A Conversation With Kongjian Yu, Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, New York
- 2023, Harvard GSD Sylvester Baxter Lecture, ADAPTATION: Political, Cultural and Ecological Design —My Journey to Heal the Planet. September 14
- 2023, Sponge City and Sponge Planet: Nature Based Solutions and Their Regenerative Performance. Australian Landscape Conference (ALC) 17-20 March, Melbourne Australia.
- 2023, Chinese Landscape Cultures: Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow, IFLA75, The Landscape[pe Culture: Today and Tomorrow, International Federation of Landscape Architecture, July, 27. On line
- 2023, UNFCCC COP28, Harnessing Digital Infrastructures and Green Solutions to Strengthening Climate Resilience, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Dubai

2023, The Holistic Nature Based Solution: Sponge City and Sponge Planet. UNFCCC COP28, High Level Event on Accelerating Finance for Nature-based Solutions: Unlocking Opportunities for Sustainable Development, The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD) and The International Development Finance Club (IDFC), Dubai

2023, Audio Summit for progress, Creating Sponge Planet, Oct.25,2023, Madrid, Spain.

2022, Sponge City and Sponge Planet, Park People Conference, Canada, September 23rd.

2022, Healing The World:Sponge City and Sponge Planet, 13 October, New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects conference and awards

2022, “Sponge Cities”: Visionary, Nature-Based Urban Design from China, Bioneers, May 14th

2022, Sponge City, International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, 23 September

2022, TEDxBoston Planetary Stewardship, Sponge City and Sponge Planet , On line.

2022, Sponge City and Sponge Planet, World Water-Tech Innovation Summit organized in partnership with the UK Department for International Trade. Feb.23.

2022, Healing the World's Cities: Sponge City and Sponge Planet,January 19. School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape,University of Calgary.

2022, Healing Landscapes In Resilient Built Environment, UIA Year Of Design For Health 2022 Webinar. Octoberoct.3

2021, Healing the world's cities, Nature-based solutions inspired by ancient wisdom, Science Foundation Ireland, SFI's Science Summit,Nov.5, 2021, on line.

2021, Healing the world's cities: Sponge City and Sponge Planet, AIIB Annual Meeting, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Oct.28,2021., on line.

2021,Healing the Community by Healing the Planet Through Nature Based Solutions, IFLA World Congress,August 18,2021.

2021, Healing the world's cities: Sponge City and Sponge Planet, Reuters IMPACT, on line.

2021, Sponge City: Leveraging Nature As Ecological Infrastructure, Royal Institute of British Architects,19th April,on line.

2021, Sponge City and Nature-based Solutions Inspired by Ancient Wisdom, conference on the water and climate resilient issues of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, 22<sup>nd</sup>. March

2021,Healing the world's cities Nature-based solutions inspired by ancient wisdom, IFLA Africa, Oct.15, 2021.

2020, Sponge City: A Nature Based Solution. At: PLANNING AND DESIGNING FOR CLIMATE: A Paradigm Shift, In: CarbonPositive RESET! 1.5°C Global Teach-In., September 22

2020, Sponge Cities: Leveraging Nature as Ecological Infrastructure, CLC Webinar Series: Cities Adapting to a Disrupted World. World Cities Summit, Singapore. 13<sup>th</sup> January

2019, Deep Connections and Deep Forms, Faculty of Architecture, National University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico.Nov.20,

2019, , Bring Nature to Cities Deep Forms: Nature Based Solutions, Water National Commission (CONAGUA), Mexico., Nov.21

2019, Advancing Urban Sustainability in China and the United States: A National Academies Workshop in Collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences: Deep connections and deep forms: designed ecologies for Water remediation, Host by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine.

2019, ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo. Keynote Speech: Sponge City Action Now! No Time to Waste: Landscape Architecture and the Global Challenge of Climate Change, Keynote Speech at the Closing Session, ASLA Conference and Expo keynote speech, San Diego, US. Nov. 18.

2019, Landscape Architecture as an Holistic Tool---Two Recent projects, Hotspot cities Symposium, University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

2016, 53<sup>rd</sup> IFLA World Congress FLA World Congress Keynote Speech, Invisible Connections and Deep Forms, Tasting the Landscape, Torino, Italy, April 21.

2015, 52<sup>nd</sup> IFLA World Congress Keynote Speech: Creating Deep Forms in Urban Nature, History of the Future, Saint-Petersburg, Russia. June 11.

2011, 48<sup>th</sup> IFLA World Congress Keynote Speech: Reinventing the Good Earth, Zurich, Switzerland, June 28.

2009, 46<sup>th</sup> IFLA World Congress Keynote Speech: Beautiful Big Feet: High Performance Landscapes and the New Aesthetics. “Green Infrastructure: High-performance Landscapes”, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

- October 22.
- 2008, ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo. Keynote Speech: Ecological Infrastructure: Linking Communities. Philadelphia, USA, October 5.
- 2006, 43<sup>rd</sup> IFLA World Congress and ASLA Annual Meeting Keynote Speech: The Art of Survival: Recovering Landscape Architecture, and Blue Planet and Green Earth. Minneapolis, USA, October 8.
- 2003, 40<sup>th</sup> IFLA World Congress Keynote Speech: China on the Edge of Urbanization and Globalization. Landscapes on the Edge, Alberta, Canada. May 26.
- 2018, Columbia GSAPP – Kenneth Frampton Endowed Lecture: Creating Deep Forms and Designed Ecology, New York City, Oct 29.
- 2016, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, A Celebration of the Arts and Humanities Lecture: Art of Survival, October 7.
- 2016, The Technical University of Munich 60th anniversary of landscape planning and architecture, Guest lecture: Landscape And The Art of Survival, celebration of, Germany, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 2014, Geodesign Summit keynote speech: The Art of Survival and the Promise of Geodesign, ESRI, Redlands. January 29.
- 2014, Nature and Cities Symposium Keynote Speech: Creating Deep Forms in Urban Nature: The Peasant's Approach, the University of Texas at Austin, February 28.
- 2014, Agldeas International Design Week, the Big Feet Aesthetic and the Art of Survival, Look Upstairs, Melbourne, Australia, April 4.
- 2013, World Architectural Festival Keynote Speech: Big Feet Urbanism, Ecological Infrastructure for Eco-city, Singapore, October 3.
- 2011, The Annual Ian L. McHarg lecture: Design with Water, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 1.
- 2010, The 6th European Biennial Landscape Architecture Conference Guest Lecture: Big Feet Revolution, Barcelona, October 2.
- 2009, Akademie der Künste, Positions of landscape architects, International Symposium, keynote speech: The Good Earth--Go Productive and Define the New Aesthetics, Berlin, Germany, The German Federal Ministry Of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs. April 22.
- 2008, Harvard Graduate School of Design, lecture, the Art of Survival: Recovering Landscape Architecture, September 30.

## Notable Publications about Kongjian Yu (\* major ones)

*Yu's practices and research have been reviewed and featured in over one hundred of magazine and journal articles and dissertations worldwide in over 10 different languages, including 3 major books and comprehensive full-issue coverage in ASLA Landscape Architecture Magazine in 2012, and were reviewed by international mass media including Scientific American, Time Magazine, National Geography, Discovery Channel and China Central Television. Over 20 projects have been selected as demonstrative cases in major text books such as **Landscape Architecture** (Stark and Simonds, 2013, MC Graw Hill).and his works and publications were collected in the Dumbarton Oak Museum of Harvard University in the Contemporary Landscape Design collection. The following list only included selected English publications.*

### Whole Books

- 2019\*, Caterina Padoa Schioppa, Kongjian Yu. Turenscape 1998-2018, ISBN 9788867641727
- 2012\*, William Saunders (Editor), Designed Ecologies: The Landscape Architecture of Kongjian Yu (assemble articles by internationally acclaimed authors from landscape

**design and urbanism: John Beardsley, Peter Rowe, Kelly Shannon, Peter Walker, et. al.), Publisher Birkhäuser Architecture. ISBN-13: 978-3034607384**  
**2018\*, Terreform (ed.) Letters to the Leaders of China: Kongjian Yu and the Future of the Chinese, with contributions by Michael Sorkin, Peter Rowe, Thomas. J. Campanella, A. Weiwei, Z. Lin, X. Ren, P.G. Rowe, M. Sorkin, D. Sui, J. Sze, Terreform, New York. ISBN 978-0-9960041-8-3**

## **Articles**

2024\*, Richard Schiffman, He's Got a Plan for Cities That Flood - Stop Fighting the Water, The New York Times, 2024-04-01.  
 2024, Christian Rodríguez, Ciudades esponja - como el paisajismo puede ayudar a la reutilización del agua, Lavanguardia, 2024-04-01.  
 2024, Matt Simon Source, The Designer Who's Trying to Transform Your City Into a Sponge, Wired, 2024-03-18 Author.  
 2024\*, Stephen Zacks, The Sponge Evangelist, ASLA Landscape Architecture Magazine, 2024-03-04.  
 2024\*, Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Turenscape Sponge City, Domus, 2024-02-20.  
 2024, Polya Pencheva, Transforming Urban Spaces with Kongjian Yu's Sponge Cities, Design Magazine, 2024-01-08.  
 2024, Julia Treichel, Garten+Landschaft: Oberlander Prize Für Kongjian Yu, 2023-12-08.  
 2024, Josephine Condemi, The sponge cities of Kongjian Yu, Mangrovia, 2024-03-25.  
 2023, Matt Hickman, Landscape Architect and "Sponge City" Guru Kongjian Yu Wins 2023 Oberlander Prize, Architectural Record, 2023-11-20.  
 2023, 'Sponge cities', the urban planning model that could save the world, EFE 2023-10-30.  
 2023, Evelyn Meynard, For Kongjian Yu, Landscape Architecture is the "Art of Survival," Metropolis, 2023-11-23.  
 2023, Maria-Cristina Florian, Landscape Architect Kongjian Yu, Pioneer of the "Sponge City" Concept, Wins the 2023 Oberlander Prize, ArchDaily, 2023-10-20.  
 2023, Nate Berg, FastCompany: Meet the Landscape Architect Turning Cities into Sponges, 2023-10-18.  
 2023, Cooper Hewitt: A Conversation With Kongjian Yu, Landscape Architecture Winner, 2023-09-08.  
 2023, Fid Thompson, WHO Bulletin: Sponge cities for healthier populations, 2023-02-08.  
 2022, Emily Wang Fujiyama AP NEWS: As climate warms, a China planner advocates, 2022-11-15.  
 2021, Jared Green Kongjian Yu Defends His Sponge City Campaign, ASLA, Dirt, 2021-08-05  
 2021, Erica Gies, The architect making friends with flooding, MIT Technology Review, 2021-12-24.  
 2021\*, Wong, Tessa. "The man turning cities into giant sponges to embrace floods". BBC News , 11 November 2021.  
 2021, Eyck Freymann , The Sponge Revolution, The Wire China, 2021-07-22,  
 2020\*, Kongjian Yu and the redefinition of china's cultural landscape, Interview with: Margarita Jover Biboum, Rubén García Rubio, Carlos Ávila Calzada. In: ZARCH, Journal of interdisciplinary studies in Architecture and Urbanism , No. 15 | 2020.



- 2019\*, Allan W. Shearer, "The Paradox of Security," *Places Journal*, October 2019. Accessed 18 Dec 2019. <https://doi.org/10.22269/191029>.
- 2019\*, Joe Myers, This man is turning cities into giant sponges to save lives, 28 Aug 2019. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/08/sponge-cities-china-flood-protection-nature-wwf/>
- 2018\*, Erica Gies, Sponge Cities: Restoring natural water flows in cities can lessen the impacts of floods and droughts, *Scientific American*, 2018(12):80-85.
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## **Professional and Community Service**

2019—Vice Director, Expert Committee for Human Habitat Environment, Chinese Ministry of Housing and Rural and Urban Development.

2017— Director, Committee of Landscape Architecture and China Beautiful, Chinese Society for Urban Studies

2016—Vice President, Chinese Society for Urban Studies

2016—Vice Director, The Sponge City Expert Committee of China

2016 Jury, World Architecture Festival

2015-2016, Steering Committee, the Aga Kahn Architecture Award

2011 Super Jury, 2011 World Architecture Festival

2010 Master Jury for the Aga Kahn Architecture Award.

2010 The Liquid Landscape China, 6th European Biennial Landscape Architecture, Barcelona

2008, ASLA Professional Award Jury, American Society of Landscape Architects

2006— Chief Editor, Urban Space Design, a Chinese professional magazine of landscape architecture and urban design, published by Liaoning Science and Technology Press

2006—, Chief Editor, Landscape Design, a Chinese professional magazine of landscape design, published by Dalian University Science and Technology Press

2003-04, World Heritage advisor to the 28th Session of The World Heritage Committee, UNESCO World Heritage Convention, Suzhou and Paris

2002-2017, Chair, National Conference on Landscape Architecture Education and Profession, Peking University

2000— Vice Director, Urban Ecology Committee, The Chinese Society of Ecology

1999-2009, Member, National Education Guiding Committee of Urban Planning, Ministry of Construction, China

2005-2017, Member, National Education Guiding Committee of Landscape Architecture, Ministry of Education, China

1997— Committee Expert for numerous national and provincial ministry committees, including:

- Capital Planning Committee, Beijing, China
- Expert Committee, Ministry of Construction, China
- Expert Committee, Ministry of Land Resources, China
- Qinghai Provincial Planning Committee, Qinghai Province, China
- Shandong Provincial Planning Committee, Shandong Province, China
- Hangzhou Planning Committee, Zhejiang Province, China
- Suzhou City Planning Committee, Jiangsu Province, China