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## Rural Urban Framework Receives 2015 Curry Stone Design Prize

By Christopher DeSantis • October 01, 2015

The Curry Stone Foundation has honored Hong Kong–based Rural Urban Framework (RUF), a nonprofit design and research group, with the 2015 Curry Stone Design Prize for humanitarian architecture. The firm will receive the \$100,000 prize during a ceremony on March 17, 2016 in Mumbai, India.

The award was founded in 2008 and is annually bestowed upon emerging architects and urban designers in recognition of works with significant social impact.

“The work of RUF is addressing one of the most urgent current geopolitical issues, how to deal with the imbalances created by large mass migrations,” said Emiliano Gandolfi, director of the Curry Stone Design Prize, in a statement. “Their work is exemplifying how architecture should establish a dialogue with the community and the environment in order to built structures that respond to their changing needs.”

University of Hong Kong professors John Lin and Joshua Bolchover established RUF in 2006 to “engage in the rural-urban transformation of China through built projects, research, exhibitions, and writing,” according to the firm’s website. Since its founding, RUF has worked to enhance more than 18 villages in China, where it aims to ameliorate rural depopulation by building public service facilities, such as schools, hospitals, community centers, and residential units.

“When we began the collaboration I was most interested in understanding these volatile landscapes or ambiguous landscapes, but then also how to act,” Bolchover said in a statement. “In China and the world, we live in an urban age, but we believe its future course is intertwined with the fate of the rural.”

RUF is one of several global firms blazing the trail for humanitarian architecture, which has become more prominent throughout the industry. Similar nonprofit firms include Boston–based MASS Design Group (Contract magazine’s [2012 Designer of the Year](#)), which recently began raising funds to construct an [architecture and design school](#) in Kigali, Rwanda.