

Rural Urban Framework wins the 2015 Curry Stone Design Prize

19-10-2015

A plan for revitalisation of rural villages in China by the non-profit research and design group Rural Urban Framework (RUF) of Hong Kong has won the 2015 Curry Stone Design Prize.



Rural Urban Framework, known by the abbreviation **RUF**, is a design research group founded by professors **Joshua Bolchover** and **John Lin** of **Hong Kong University**. They aim to demonstrate how **architecture** can contribute to revitalising and rebuilding Chinese rural villages that have been rapidly losing residents due to **mass migration** to the cities. An increasingly pressing problem, for a study conducted by Tianjin University has found that China is losing about **300 villages every day**.

When announcing the winner of the **2015 Curry Stone Design Prize**, director **Emiliano Gandolfi** emphasised that RUF's work exemplifies the role and dialogue architecture must have with society and the environment.

The design group worked on projects on different scales in **18 different villages**. RUF built schools, social centres, hospitals and homes, and also worked on setting up infrastructure ranging from waste collection to planning of whole villages. All the projects are collaborative, with the participation of the local people. According to architect **John Lin**, co-founder of RUF, **China is "the perfect laboratory"** for exploration of the future of architecture and design, because while the world lives in an urban age, its fate is indissolubly linked with the destiny of the countryside.

