

# THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

## WINNER OF 2015 CURRY STONE DESIGN PRIZE ANNOUNCED

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Rural Urban Framework's Jintai Village homes were developed with stepped roofs to be planted with gardens

hospitals, houses, and even a garbage collection center. To date, RUF has worked in 18 villages to combat the effects urban sprawl and is designing and planning entire villages and prototype housing.

"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, the Prize Director. "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."



Rural Urban Framework constructed new houses in Jintai Village following the 2008 earthquake and 2011 landslide

Hong Kong-based nonprofit research and design firm Rural Urban Framework (RUF) won the Curry Stone Design Prize for its work rebuilding villages across China.

Joshua Bolchover and John Lin, both professors at the University of Hong Kong, founded RUF in 2006. Their goal is to harness design to "stabilize, reinvigorate, and rebuild" China's rural populations.

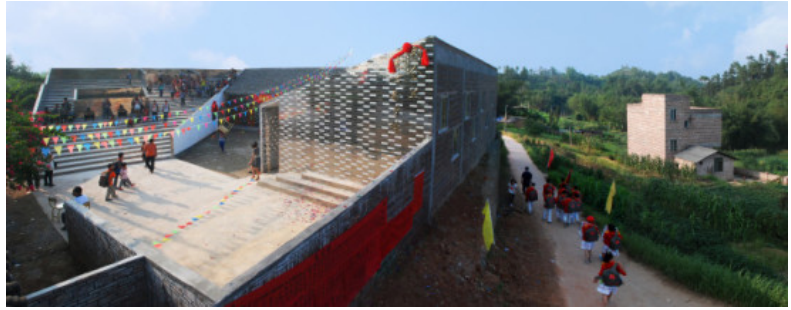
Currently, China is experiencing a mass exodus of population from villages as people move to cities in search of better opportunities. In 1980, approximately 80 percent of all Chinese lived in villages. Today, more than half of the population lives in cities. According to research by Tianjin University, China loses approximately 300 villages every single day.

Working closely with the locals, RUF has completed a variety of projects to meet each community's specific needs, including bridges, schools,



Rural Urban Framework's Andong Village charitable hospital

RUF will participate in a panel at the Chicago Architectural Biennial, led by Prize Director Emiliano Gandolfi on Friday October 2, from 2:30-4pm CST, taking place at the Claudia Cassidy Theater inside the Cultural Center. A short film produced by the Curry Stone Foundation about RUF's work will also be shown during the panel.



Mulan village school has interlinked open spaces, including playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, teaching gardens, and pocket spaces. A concrete plane, infilled with recycled local brick, defines the edge of the courtyard. (rural urban framework)



The shijia prototype house is used as a women's shelter and handicraft center for straw-weaving. (rural urban framework)



After interviewing families in the village, ruf created a prototype with four functional courtyards inserted throughout the house to relate to the main functional rooms: kitchen, bathroom, living room, and bedrooms. (rural urban framework)