Abstract
Since the twenty-first century, there have been a series of contemporary experimental architectures in Shanghai’s Qingpu and Jiading Districts. Most of them are far away from the center of the city and in small size to avoid the main contradiction in the urbanization in China and explore the architects’ experimental dreams in a tactful way. After more than ten years of development, this group of architects came back to the city with the practice experience in Qingpu and Jiading Districts to start some practices facing urban context in the West Bond. The article studies the phenomenon of urban breakout of Chinese contemporary experimental architectures from Qingpu, Jiading Districts to the West Bund of Shanghai and analysis its origin mechanism and development process, discussing the influence of the urban breakthrough on the experimental architects’ design concept and operation mode with the clue of the changes in typical architects’ practices in these three places and thinks about the issue of how the contemporary experimental architectures have a better respond to urban problems.

The article believes that, with the impact of China’s land ownership and administrative system, the vanguard of Chinese contemporary experimental architecture is not reflected in the concept and technology, but more in the tough fight for the existing urban context. On the one hand, in the practices in Qingpu and Jiading Districts, architects try to translate the traditional Jiangnan gardens to cope with the lack of the global context in the rapid urbanization background; on the other hand, in the practices in the West Bond, the architects began to respond to the context of the contemporary metropolis and their design methods were more and more mature. In this series of practices, the experimental architects gradually became mature in the circuitous confrontation. And the blending of Jiangnan culture and metropolitan culture also just responds to the Shanghai regional culture motif.

Key words: Experimental architecture, rapid urbanization, urban breakout, architectural events, the soul of the city
1. The experimental architecture in China

Since the 1920s, as the typical representatives, the Weissenhof Siedlung designed by Deutscher Werkbund, opened the prelude for the architects to design the experimental buildings together at a specific time and area.

In China, the “experimental architecture” started later than the western world. The real pioneering activity began in the late 1990s. From the label of “experimental building” first clearly be put forward by an art historian and construction activist Mingxian Wang in the “China Youth Architects Experimental Works Exhibition” in 1999, “Experimental building” has experienced nearly two decades of development in China. And the first decade of the twenty-first century (2000-2010) was almost the most golden and prosperous decade of the real estate industry since China's modernization, Chinese contemporary architecture in a short period of twenty years has undergone a huge fracture-type development.

On the one hand, the western architecture on the development of modernism in China experienced nearly three decades' completely absent, which led to the lack of the basic elements of modernism in the architecture ontology. On the other hand, the architect faced the massive practice opportunities brought about by the ultra-high-speed urban development and construction because of the special political and economic situation. Even after more than two decades’ development, the “experimental” of contemporary Chinese experimental buildings was not all in the form of formal innovation (Although many times it is in the form of innovation as the appearance). Most of the sites were in the suburbs or villages, to a certain extent, they avoided the urban conflict in the modern urban context, and even quite traditional from the perspective of Western architecture. But its opposition attitude to the traditional architectural values, groundbreaking revolutionary spirit and other self-attributes determined its positive role in promoting development for China’s contemporary buildings.

From the more than 20 years' development of experimental architecture in China, the contemporary experimental architecture, in terms of construction location or function type, has not completed the judicious and innovative expectations from the outside world. Although they are pioneers of Chinese contemporary architecture, most of the experimental buildings ignored and evaded the city context. What they resist is vulgar culture, political system and bad industry habits. While they have the critique of the social and political environment, and to a certain extent, the concern for regional and Chinese sexuality have been included, but their limitations

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are also evident. Most of the experimental architectural works are small buildings, generally exist in the suburbs of the countryside or the suburbs of the city, the function is mainly residential, recreation, or leisure, does not have urban sexual function. At the same time, the materials and the build-technology are lack the possibility of promotion in the city.

Throughout the "Great Wall commune" project in Beijing in 2002, which had been successful in culture and business, to the "China International Architecture Art Practice Area" in Nanjing, which has not yet been completed since started from 2003, their sites are far away from the urban environment. From the latter's 168 yuan ticket's price, it is more like a vacation park-style presence.

So when we look to Shanghai, this international metropolis, we are surprised to find that in Qingpu and Jiading, there is actually a large number of new experimental building practices with pioneering attitudes and innovative experiments. This is not only to solve problem raised by Professor Li Xiangning "If there is no Qingpu and Jiading these two areas, I can hardly imagine how to recommend some worth visiting contemporary buildings in Shanghai to the international architects and scholars at their come, it changed the impression of “a timid city” from the Japanese architect ISOZAKI. What’s more, Qingpu and Jiading experimental architectural events made the young architects based on the Shanghai had some precious practice opportunities in the city context, and therefore gained national and abroad attention and gradually grew.

2. Qingpu and Jiading experimental architectural practice

Just like the small town Columbus in the United States, which has more 60 outstanding buildings from contemporary top architects, its success is due to the sponsorship of Cummins engine company owner J.Irwin Miller. Qingpu, Jiading phenomenon can be achieved and sustainable developed, in addition to the active organization of the local government and the efforts made by the architects these basic conditions, a key figure can’t be ignored is Dr. Sun Jiwei, a government official once be deputy mayor in charge of urban construction in Qingpu District, and then mayor of Jiading District. With great courage, he first carefully invited a group of Chinese contemporary first-class young architects and developed a scientific and rational construction plan in Qingpu District, and then as his duty moved, he promoted this successful attempt to Jiading District.

Then in the West Bond Architecture and Contemporary Art Biennale in 2013, Dr. Sun Jiwei also actively contributed to the participation of experimental architects in the Xuhui Bond urban revival to catalyze the birth of a series of excellent works such as the Dragon Art Museum.

We select five design studios (seven architects) who firstly started the experimental building practices in Qingpu and Jiading District to analyze their educational background and practical experience, as well as the design method and concept changes showed in the continuous experimental practice, thus abstracting the significance of Chinese contemporary experimental
buildings’ urban breakthrough.

Fig. 1. Representative works of experimental architecture in Qingpu and Jiading - works pedigree
2.1 architectural space

Architects happen to coincide to look for inspiration from the Jiangnan culture and garden space, trying to narrate the traditional story of space in modern language with multiple translations from concrete to abstract and from abstract to concrete. Although the old town’s texture no longer existed, there was not too much about the memory and the tradition’s physical carrier left, but the architects did not give up pursuits for the long time living conditions. The garden, as a carrier of Jiangnan lifestyle, logically used to organizing the spatial structure as the core clue for many times. Just like the Jiading library designed by Ma Qingyun, the Xiayu kindergarten designed by Atelier Dechaume, the Culture & Information Industrial Park designed by Atelier Archmixing, Qingpu Township government office building designed by Atelier Z+ and the from east bookstore designed by scenic architecture office these project examples, the sizes of the buildings are quite different, but their design logic reflected behind the forms are similar. It is a kind of natural, open, inclusive, public, introverted cultural tradition, a home-based feeling of stability and a sense of belonging.

The space elements such as rocks and water often used in traditional gardens is constantly inspiring architects to explore the local architectural vocabulary different from western modernism architecture thought starting from the traditional Chinese origin. The critical thinking about business and society by Ma Qingyun, the design concept of "leaving", "juxtaposition" and "boundary" by Liu Yichun, the return to everyday attempts by Zhuang Shen, the open and introspective pursuit of form by Zhang Bin and the native and local creation by Zhu Xiaofeng are all breakthroughs of Chinese contemporary experimental architecture.
Fig. 2. Design changes of five construction firms

2.2 Architectural material

Except for space, the architects also showed a positive exploration of materials in the experimental construction practice in Qingpu and Jiading. Local materials or materials that can accurately express the local cultural atmosphere are boldly attempted and innovative in all types of architecture. The collage and preparation of all kinds of texture of brick materials, as well as scale and density variation of steel and wood materials, and the variation in spacing, density, and color of perforated plates and glass materials to simulate the hazy feeling of misty rain in the south of the Yangtze River can be found in most practice. These bold, avant-garde and innovative experiments have enriched the material, language and form of Chinese contemporary architecture.

It is precisely because of ideas and technological advances of materials, architects began to focus more on the ontological and physical nature of architecture. This is also a major step forward in exploring the Chinese nature of contemporary architecture.

3. West Bund

October 2013, the 2013 West Bund Architecture and Contemporary Art Biennale kicked off for Tongji University professor Li Xiangning’s curatorial Exhibition. A batch of experimental practices participated in the urban cultural construction of the West Bank as a catalyst and rehearsal for urban construction by the platform provided by the exhibition. Except small buildings such as the porcelain house, vertical glass house and so on, Dragon Museum West Bund designed by Deshaus Atelier shows their design style of boundary, separation and juxtaposition thoroughly, which has gradually formed in many years of practice in Qingpu and Jiading district. The success of Dragon Museum West Bund rapidly sweep across the world's major architectural media. The 2013 West Bund Architecture and Contemporary Art Biennale is an important symbol for experimental architects to come back to city center.

4. Conclusion
The experimental buildings in Qingpu and Jiading have been successful from today's point of view, although with quite a lot of ups and downs, regrets and lessons in the process. Overall, the emergence of a number of excellent laboratory buildings has optimized urban form partially as well as broadened the understanding of architecture, the understanding of the city and the understanding of life. People can understand the existence of Jiangnan culture and Chinese traditional culture in life from philosophical meaning of space.

![Fig.3. China contemporary experimental architecture expedient](image)

Even there are still slightly groping ingredients in initial experimental practices, for some designs are kind of expedient results when facing those fields in suburban wilderness with no place to start and indecision. After ten years of exploration, experimental buildings in Qingpu and Jiading are generally more confident and calm at the moment. These confidence exists not only in their attention to materials and situations instead of the mire of form, but also in their respect for the city and tradition instead of the realization of architect's ideal. Plain and ordinary has appeared in their conversation and articles more and more often, leading to major advance in their design philosophy.

References