



Applications
due: January
21

Tangkou Community Project

Kaiping, China

The Tangkou Community Project (TCP) is located in the rural outskirts of the city of Kaiping, Guangdong Province. Kaiping district is on the UNESCO World Heritage List thanks to the unique presence of thousands of multi-storied defensive village houses (called dialou), built by émigré Kaiping residents (“the Overseas Chinese”) in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. The TCP is a privately-operated social enterprise, aiming for sustainable community development and conservation of cultural riches to be enjoyed by all. The TCP mounts exhibitions, provides education, and engages in advocacy. In all these ways, the TCP is deeply involved in the restoration and rehabilitation of local culture and heritage (in both its tangible and intangible forms).

IMPORTANT: Due to Chinese visa regulations, only Chinese nationals are eligible to apply for this Independent Internship.

Internship title:

- Project Intern

Description of position:

- Project interns will contribute to the Tangkou Community Project (TCP) by designing and implementing a project in their field of study that will help enhance the quality of life for Tangkou Township. Interns will work with the TCP leadership to develop a project that both furthers the mission of the organization and builds on the academic/professional interests of the intern.
- In addition to conducting individual research, interns may be asked to help promote the TCP by staffing events meant to raise awareness about the Tangkou Community Project and by providing English language services to visitors and to the production of promotional materials. Interns will also work closely with other TCP interns, who will be engaging in diverse projects.
- An architectural intern will be introduced to various projects designed and implemented by a supervisor who is an experienced architect. The intern will have the opportunities to participate in site visits and raise questions about construction techniques on sites. Intern will be assigned an architectural project in which iterations of the design will be discussed with the supervision at the discretion of the intern.
- All interns will have the opportunity to explore the different types of diaolou in the surrounding villages (entrance fees are to be paid by the interns), if desired.



- Interns with the TCP can expect to gain a better understanding of heritage conservation practices and the urban planning process in China, as well as a better cultural understanding of life in rural China. The immersive nature of this experience will provide many opportunities to learn about Chinese culture, as it relates to the planning profession, as well as daily life.

Preferred qualifications:

- The ideal candidate for this position will be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in a field related to architecture, urban planning, heritage conservation, sustainability, community development, or Chinese languages.
- Expertise in using AutoCAD and SketchUp required for those engaging in architecture-related work.
- Interns must be exceptionally self-motivated and have passion and enthusiasm for conservation, restoration, and/or the environment. They must be willing to think creatively about what they can bring to help vitalize/sustain the Project, which is a constantly evolving and shifting work-in-progress.
- Most importantly, the intern should have an open, flexible mind about living in and adapting to the rural countryside in China. Interns with strong desires to communicate with and learn from local community members, through whatever means at their disposal, will be most likely to thrive.

Language:

- Working knowledge of Mandarin and/or Cantonese is highly preferred.

Dates and timings:

- Summer 2020, exact dates to be determined in consultation with TCP leadership, 6 week minimum.

Number of positions offered:

- Up to three

Pre-internship preparation requirements:

- Interns should converse with TCP leadership in the spring prior to their internship to share ideas for potential projects. The TCP will provide literature on the project and on the local history, culture, and linguistic landscape of Kaiping District that should be read in advance. Interns will be asked to produce an annotated bibliography of readings related to potential theme(s) of their project.

Additional information:

- **IMPORTANT:** Due to Chinese visa regulations, only Chinese nationals are eligible to apply for this Independent Internship.



- If under their care, you must have your parents/guardian's permission to apply for this position before submitting an application.

Previous interns' reflections:

I learned a lot from the experience and it's especially helpful to the career I chose. I saw one unique way of doing architecture in the countryside in China. While contributing to the rapid economic development, the urbanization has also brought social, cultural and environmental problems to Chinese cities. For young architects, it's actually the time to slow down the pace and begin to reflect what do we gain and lose in recently years and what should we really care about. TK space provides an opportunity for me to think about the root of Chinese architecture in the relationships among time, human and nature.

~YUDI DONG (Summer 2019)



Throughout my time in the Tangkou Community Project, I have been working on a renovation project that aims to transform a home for the elderly into a high-end hostel for tourists and visitors. My daily work is reiterating my design and ultimately devising a working design for my supervisor, who is an architect. In the meantime, I was introduced to various projects designed and implemented by my supervisor. During the site visits, I had the opportunities to raise questions about different construction techniques, which was a valuable out-of-class learning experience for me. Besides my responsibilities as an architectural intern, I also had to help with translation and catering services for the organization. What I enjoyed most is visiting the different types of diaolou (multistoried



defensive village houses) in different villages. Overall, it has been a positive learning experience in every small way. I would strongly recommend this internship to anyone who is interested in exploring ways of life in rural China and learning about Chinese culture.

~BIHONG HU (Summer 2019)