Speakers and Abstracts

Prof. YU Yifan
Professor, Tongji University

Dr. YUYifan, is a professor in Urban Planning at Tongji University. She obtained the Ph.D from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, in Paris(France) in 2003, visited GSD at Harvard University(USA) as a senior research fellow during 2013-2014, served as an overseas research fellow at Paris Sorbonne University (France), as well as the expert in the Planning Standardization committee of Ministry of the Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and vice President of Shanghai Urban Planning Association.

Focusing on housing, urban regeneration and healthy city, Prof. YU Yifan has published more than 60 articles, and authored three books. She won the honorary titles as Outstanding Scholar of Chinese Ministry of Education in 2007, Outstanding Scholar of Shanghai Science and Technology Commission in 2006, and Outstanding Woman in Shanghai in 2016. She founded and has led the Ageing City Lab in Tongji University since 2014.

The course "Urban Planning Principle" led by Professor YU Yifan won a honorary title of National award, and she is also a recipient of over 20 awards of the best practices of urban planning and design at national and local level.

The Impact of Urban Green Space on the Social Life of the Elderly: The empirical research and the planning response

Urban Green Space (UGS) in the living environment is definitely significant in enhancing the quality of life (Kweon et al., 1998; Netuveli et al., 2006). It confers health benefits through proving suitable spaces for leisure activities and for meeting people. Lacking of UGS is ubiquitous in the high-density environment, such as in Hong Kong and Shanghai. This study examined the usage of UGS by aged people from the densely populated public housing neighborhoods in Shanghai. The research issues included a) the preference of visiting UGS within walking range, b) the major attributes of the UGS relevant to the social interaction, and c) the planning/design intervention to promote the social interaction.

ICT technology was applied to identify the green space often used by seniors. Through the behavioral spatial clustering analysis, we unexpectedly found that the street corner garden and the university campus greenery are highly efficiency compared to the community parks. A structured survey was followed in the targeted UGS to examine the association between social interaction and the built environment (N=486). The result reveals that the proximity is an important attribute, as well as socio-cultural environment, esthetics, relevant facilities, gardening maintenance and so on. The present study provokes us to rethink of the approaches to improve the social interaction of the elderly through UGS planning and design. Prof. YU Yifan will also share the efforts of the local government and the planners to promote the age-friendly city in Shanghai, at the turning point of the urban renewal era.