

## PhD Research | School of Design | The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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PhD Title:  
**Ecological Conflicts in Chinese Megablock Urbanism - a Landscape Urbanism Approach**

Keywords:  
**Landscape ecology, megablock urbanism, infrastructure, fragmentation, development model.**

Research Abstract:

**This study is aiming at rethinking of the large-scale urban planning strategy in mainland China- the megablock urbanism- and its ecological impacts to the living environment. In China, a communist country where all land was subject to public ownership, the government is constantly creating collective residential units to meet the demand from increasing urban population during the rapid modernization and urbanization process. The gated residential combinations evolving from neighbourhood-unit, to working-unit, and to commodity house averagely take over around 1 to 2 million square meters of China's residential area. Moreover, they become major urban enclaves and cut the city off: not only in its physical network like transportation, public service, and infrastructure, but also in its ecological system like topography, green corridor, waterways, and biodiversity. This research is taking a closer look to the ecological threats of this urban development mode and seek for solutions to deal with the threats at multiple scales.**

Research Methodology:

**The megablock urbanism model stems from the urban development policies. This research would firstly start from background research to understand the relevant policies and limitations, then accumulate premier data through field works on exemplary site and external collaboration. Secondly, the research would statistically treat and analysis data collected from the first phase, integrating with landscape urbanism and ecological landscape analysis methodology. Thirdly, applicable methodology will be proposed and feasibility studies in context of Chinese megablock urbanism will be addressed based on existing conditions.**

Results / outcomes:

- 1. To explore potential of new development model and planning strategy to improve the current mode. To connect multiple scales urban eco-system, which tends to be more ecology and sustainable.**
- 2. To examine the feasibility and efficiency of new model or technologies and find parameters to evaluate their contribution to improve quality of a project.**
- 3. To recommend appropriate ecological development suggestions, which will be found useful to urban planning department and other interest holders, to give applicable guidelines to developers.**