HKU WZQ Programme 2020
Contents

1. Introduction to Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China) Charitable Foundation
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3. Background on Macha Village, Gansu Province
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Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China) Charitable Foundation is a registered charitable organization (No.: 91/8739) in Hong Kong. We encourage university students, professionals and volunteers to serve underprivileged communities in Mainland China by initiating and implementing development projects, including footbridge construction, village demonstration, and other community improvement projects.

We aspire to:

• Foster better communication, mutual understanding and integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland;
• Improve the living environment and conditions of underprivileged communities in rural China;
• Inspire respect, appreciation and preservation of local culture and environment, and promote the concept of sustainability; and
• Provide university students with hands-on experience of executing a service project which has a positive impact.

We integrate, improve and inspire…
International Recognition

“A bridge 2 Far” Project
RIBA Awards 2006

Village Rebuild Demonstration Project in
Maan Qiao Village

Green Building Award 2010
New buildings – Asia Pacific
Institutional/Community Project
Grand Award

Design for Asia Award
Merit Award

UNESCO
2017 Award for New Design in
Heritage Contexts
Macha Village, Gansu Province, China

China Architecture
Media Awards
Projects
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**Week Two:**  
Lanzhou / North West – 15 – 21 June 2020
## HKU WZQ Experiential Learning Schedule

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**Contents**

- Rammed Earth Experience
- Community services
- Visit to villagers and support various services
Week 3 to 4: 22 June–3 July 2020
— Macha Village Center
Huining County, Gansu Province
China’s Loess Plateau

- The largest loess deposit of the world
- Environmental degradation
- Low Levels of Economy
- The only rich resource for locals’ living and building is just “Earth”
- It is with a severe winter as cold as -20°C and a moderate summer in Huining. Heating in winter is one of serious challenges for villagers’ living.

- Huining is located in drought region with an poor annual precipitation as low as 340mm. The serious lack of water for drinking and farming is villagers’ another challenge.
MACHA VILLAGE

KEY MILESTONES

- 2011-2013: **Demonstration Project of Advanced Rammed Earth Eco-Dwellings** with 7 houses built (in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development)

- 2014-2016: **Construction of the Macha Village Centre**

- 2016-2018: **Community empowerment, development of Macha Village Centre, promotion of advanced rammed-earth technology, two-way knowledge transfer through experiential learning.**

For more info on our projects in Macha Village, please visit:
ADVANCED RAMMED EARTH PROMOTION
PROJECT MODEL

**Project Initiation**
- Confirm project needs and investigation with MOHURD
- Project development
- Funding solicitation

**Research and Localization**
- Blend in overseas advanced technology with traditional construction knowhow.
- Funding research and experiment for technical upgrade and localization

**Demonstration Build**
- 7 prototype houses were built with local villagers as an initial start.
- Village Centre as a hub of demonstration and knowledge transfer.
- Two ways transfer of skills and knowhow.

**Standardization**
- Publication of DIY Construction Manual
- Support the publication of regulation and code for rammed earth construction

**Promulgation**
- Construct prototype houses in 10 different provinces and train up over 110 local masons.
KEY FUNCTIONS OF MACHA VILLAGE CENTRE

- A hub to connect people, and promote heritage preservation
- A hub for rammed earth promotion/eco-demonstrations
- A hub for experiential learning and knowledge transfer
A HUB FOR ADVANCED RAMMED EARTH PROMOTION

high science

low technology

Showcase for Modern Rammed Earth Architecture

Rammed earth greenhouse

Bed stove

Eco toilet

Vapour Collector

Earth Wall demonstration
A HUB TO CONNECT HEARTS AND MINDS OF VILLAGERS AND PROMOTE HERITAGE PRESERVATION
A HUB TO ENRICH COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD
A HUB FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Education
Community Improvement
Cultural Preservation
Village Experience
APPRECIATION AND PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL LOCAL CUSTOM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN MACHA VILLAGE

- In Macha Village, there remains rich traditional cultural elements including religion (崇拜四大方神), Qin Song (秦腔/通渭小曲), shadow puppet (皮影戏), traditional cuisine (传统食物), lion dance, temple festival, farming dance, etc. However, no systematic documentation were done so far.

- In the past years, efforts has been spent to engage local community to set up different villager groups (老人自樂班/婦女小組) to use and operate in the village centre. Villagers in Macha were also mobilized to organize functions and activities in the village centre with the participation of villagers from nearby villages. All these activities also served as a platform to engage and build trust with local communities, and as an important foundation for WZQ to conduct further community empowerment programmes effectively in future.
ELEMENTS OF TRADITIONAL VILLAGE CULTURE/CUSTOM IN MACHA
AUTHENTIC AND LOCAL VILLAGE CUSTOM - SHADOW PUPPET SHOW

County level cultural heritage. They haven’t performed for over 10 years and resumed when we opened the Centre. Their performance was well received by local villagers.
A group of village artists was engaged to practice and perform in the Village Centre. They are invited to perform whenever there are activities in the village.
A few villagers in the village could still make a very traditional lion figure for lion dance. Traditionally, every villager would donate a bunch of linen to make the “skin” of the lion. In a sense the lion itself represented the entire village community. Whenever there are events/festivals, the lion will visit each household to send blessings to the villagers.
local traditional village culture
paper cutting, calligraphy and farming dance
KEY APPROACHES

Connect University of HK and mainland China

Mainland & HK University Collaborations

Hardware + Software

Visible, concrete, positive impact on locals

Respecting local culture and traditions

Participatory Community Engagement

Two-way knowledge transfer

Community Empowerment

Promoting sustainability
Important Notes and Safety Issues
Accommodation
and
Logistic Arrangement
Accommodation: At Macha Village Dormitory
Meal Arrangement

Support by local villagers with contributions by participants also
WZQ will support with provision of:

- Boiling water
- Tissue paper (please bring along sufficient tissue paper for personal use)
- Working glove / shoes, working utensils, First Aid box etc.

Remarks: No disposable rain coat will be provide, please bring along with your own rain coat or umbrella for protection as required.
Important Notes

Macha Village is located at:

- Remote/mountainous areas
- With limited medical services
POTENTIAL RISKS

a) **Operational risks**

- Contusions or cuts to hands & legs when handling construction materials and tools
- Falling objects
- Slip; Falling from height (above 1.5 metres)
- Injuries due to accident

b) **Living risks**

- cold & fever; theft; burglary, pick pockets
- Dog / Insect bites, blisters
SAFETY PLAN

- Safety and Health Briefing – MUST and prior the trip
- One Overall in-charge Safety Officer
- First Aider
- Emergency Plan
  - Acknowledgment & Assumption of Risks Release & Indemnity Agreement F01
  - Emergency contact and health information F16
- Vaccination – as appropriate
- Insurance
SNAPSHOTS OF HKU WZQ PROGRAMME 2019
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