Media Advisory

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International and Chinese Architecture and Planning Firms Sign Historic Accord to Tackle Climate Change

Firms pledge to design all cities, towns, urban developments, new buildings, and major renovations in China to low carbon/carbon neutral standards.

Santa Fe, NM, USA; Shenyang, China – October 27th, 2015 – Extraordinary times surely give rise to extraordinary events.

One such event took place in Shenyang, China on Thursday 22nd October: an unprecedented meeting initiated by 52 key Chinese and international architecture and planning firms responsible for designing thousands of cities, neighborhoods, and buildings worldwide. Hosted by the China Exploration and Design Association – Architecture Branch (CEDAAB) and by Architecture 2030, the leading U.S. organization responsible for issuing the 2030 Challenge energy and emission reduction targets, the meeting gathered together influential global design and planning leaders with a common mission: to initiate collaborative efforts to dramatically reduce carbon emissions in the built environment. The historic meeting culminated with the signing of the China Accord – a commitment to plan and design cities, towns, developments, and buildings in China to low carbon/carbon neutral standards.

Among the international firm signatories were DLR Group, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, ARUP, Gensler, CallisonRTKL, HKS Architects, Perkins+Will, HDR, and Glumac. Key signatories among the Local Design Institutes from various regions in China included Shanghai Xian Dai Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd., China Architecture Design & Research Group, Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd., and the Shenzhen Institute of Building Research Co., Ltd. (The complete list of signatories is included below.)

“We understand our moral and professional responsibility to address the issue of greenhouse gas emissions if we are to stay within the 2° C threshold established by the international scientific community, and the Accord is just the beginning of our joint efforts. We have a long and exciting road ahead of us to decarbonize the built environment,” said Ed Mazria, Architecture 2030 Founder and CEO.

The significance of the China Accord, and the important meeting which gave rise to it, cannot be overstated. A grand paradigm shift has been set in motion, as profound as the Modern Movement of the 1920s and 30s, in how we shape and develop the global built environment over the next 20 years.

During this period, the world is projected to build 80 billion square meters of new buildings in cities worldwide, an area equal to 60% of the entire current global building stock. Since more than half of all global construction will take place in China (38%) and North America (the U.S. and Canada 15%), it is incumbent upon the professional design communities in these countries to take a leadership role in planning for a carbon-free and truly sustainable future by middle of this century.

In order to avoid catastrophic climate change, the world must completely phase out fossil fuel greenhouse gas emissions in the built

environment by 2050. The signatories pledged to work diligently to do just that, creating cities, towns, and buildings that are models of economic and urban sustainability.

“The signing of the Accord demonstrates the determination and moral obligation by architects and planners, both Chinese and internationally, to shoulder this huge responsibility to tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions and moving toward zero,” said Chen Zhen, CEDAAB Secretary-General.

The China Accord is the private sector’s response to the Chinese government’s efforts to tackle climate change and achieve sustainable growth. It supports the national government’s targets to peak and begin reducing carbon emissions, as well as the State Council’s Green Buildings Action Plan and the most recent China-US Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change.

A number of initiatives will support the implementation of the Accord, including professional training, knowledge sharing events and programs, a broad-based stakeholders’ forum, and the localization of design and planning strategies utilizing real-time simulation tools.

“There are a huge number of low-cost and cost saving design and planning strategies that can be implemented to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions,” said Mr Mazria, clarifying a common misunderstanding that greener buildings must cost more. “The signatories of the China Accord will collaborate on achieving this through training and employing advanced design tools.”

The alliance of the distinguished firms behind the China Accord, and the power of the collaborative efforts to implement it, hold great promise for us all in the ongoing battle to tackle climate change.

China Accord signatories:

- China Exploration and Design Association - Architecture Branch
- Architecture 2030

International Firms:	**Chinese Firms:**
ARUP	Shanghai Xian Dai Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd
CallisonRTKL	China Architecture Design & Research Group
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill	Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd.
Perkins Eastman	China Southwest Architectural Design and Research Institute Corp. Ltd
Cuningham Group Architecture, Inc.	China Northwest Architecture Design and Research Institute Co. Ltd
DLR Group	China Northeast Architectural Design & Research Institute Co., Ltd
FENTRESS	Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University Co. Ltd
Perkins + Will	Tongji Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd
Gensler	Central-South Architectural Design Institute Co., Ltd
GLUMAC	Tianjin Architecture Design Institute
HDR, Inc.	Dalian Architectural Design & Research Co., Ltd.
HKS Architects	Architectural Design and Research Institute of Guangdong Province
KMD	Shenzhen General Institute of Architectural Design and Research Co., Ltd
NBBJ	The Architectural Design and Research Institute of HIT

Leo A Daly	China IPPR International Engineering Co., Ltd
Moore Ruble Yudell	Shandong Provincial Architectural Design Institute
Mott MacDonald	Jiangsu Provincial Architectural D&R Institute Ltd.
LakeIFlato	Sichuan Provincial Architectural Design and Research Institute
CBT Architects	Zhejiang Prov. Institute of Architectural Design and Research
FKP Architects	Jiangxi Province Architectural Design & Research General Institute
Calthorpe Associates	Shandong Tong Yuan Design Group Co. Ltd
tvsdesign	Heilongjiang Institute of Architectural Design
Cannon Design	Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Architectural Design & Research Institute
VOA	Anhui Provincial Architectural Design and Research Institute Co., Ltd
	Fujian Provincial Institute of Architectural Design and Research
	Guangxi Hualan Design and Consulting Group
	Jilin Provincial Architecture Design Institute Co., Ltd
	Shenzhen Institute of Building Research Co. Ltd

The China Accord meeting and signing ceremony was organized by the China Northeast Architectural Design & Research Institute Co., Ltd, a member of CEDAAB in Shenyang, China on October 22, 2015.

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About Architecture 2030

Architecture 2030 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research organization with the mission of rapidly transforming the built environment from the major contributor of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to a central part of the solution to the climate and energy crises. Architecture 2030 pursues two primary objectives:

- the dramatic reduction in global fossil fuel consumption and GHG emissions of the built environment by changing the way cities, communities, infrastructure, and buildings, are planned, designed, and constructed and;
- the regional development of an adaptive, resilient built environment that can manage the impacts of climate change, preserve natural resources, and access low-cost, renewable energy resources.

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