

**Call for Team Members for the UPAT Workshop in Suzhou, China,  
15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2018**

**Public space design in the perspective of historic cultural landscape,  
“Panmen-Shantang Street in the Grand Canal National Culture Park”**  
 in co-production with the Jiangsu Institute of Urban Planning and Design (JUP)  
 and the Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC)

**Background information on Grand Canal National Culture Park**

The Grand Canal of China is a marvellous engineering system that has been planned, constructed and managed for over 2000 years, starting from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The Grand Canal stretches over eastern China mainland for more than 1500 km, linking Beijing in the north with the coastal city of Hangzhou in the South. It is inter-connected with China's great west-to-east river systems, such as Han and Yangtze rivers. The Canal is no longer navigable between Beijing and the city of Jining (in Shandong province) but the remaining southern sections to Hangzhou are still in use. They play an important role in today's goods transportation, and increasingly, in larger water and environmental conservancy efforts in those regions.

The Canal boosted the prosperity of Suzhou, Yangzhou and Hangzhou, cities in direct connection with the Canal. Many historic neighbourhoods of these cities bordering the Canal reflect the historical and symbiotic relationship between this waterway and the city, creating the specific “Canal Culture”. In order to better manifest the economic, social, cultural and historical values of the Grand Canal cultural monuments and neighbourhoods, the Chinese Government has decided to appoint the Canal a status of the National Culture Park. With this policy framework, the Government aims to stimulate and support strategic proposals leading to the preservation of the built and un-built (landscape) heritage and to better utilize the available cultural resources.



>> Suzhou on the Grand Canal

## About the city of Suzhou

Located in the eastern coastal area, Suzhou has the reputation of internationally famed tourist destination, with its scenic landscapes and its classical Chinese gardens. Like other cities in China, Suzhou has experienced rapid urbanization and industrialization in the past 30 years, and has become one of the important industrial cities in the central areas in the Yangtze River Delta region. At present, Suzhou has a population of about 10 million, and striving manufacturing and services industry.

## About Panmen Street and Shantang Street Area

Panmen and Shantang Streets are two important nodes along the Grand Canal, as well as two significant historic areas of Suzhou. Panmen-Shantang Street area is located in the west of Suzhou Ancient City. It was important military site as well as trading port. Today, Panmen-Shantang Street area still has many historical features with quite uniform architectural styles. It gradually became the showcase of the old Wu culture and an important tourist destination within the Suzhou Ancient City.

The overall layout and architectural structure of Panmen Street date from Late Yuan and Early Ming Dynasty. The notable Panmen "Land-and-Water Gate" is the only completely preserved gate of that kind in Suzhou. Shantang Street was built in the mid-Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) as the result of digging out and constructing the river dams. In Ming and Qing Dynasty trade and culture were very well developed in Shantang Street, due to its distinguished geographic location and convenient water and land transportation.



>> Panmen Street and Shantang Street Area

### ***About the host organization the Jiangsu Institute of Urban Planning and Design (JUP)***

Jiangsu Institute of Urban Planning and Design (JUP), founded in 1978, is one of China's first established provincial planning institutes. JUP is part of the Department of Housing and Urban and Rural Development of Jiangsu Province. It is a leading planning and research institute with over 500 staff members that combines scientific innovation and planning practice.

### **Workshop goals and deliverables**

The UPAT workshop will focus on bringing out the **spatial/landscape planning and policy recommendations** as well as on the **conceptual design of selected nodes/streets for the Panmen and Shantang Street area**, a stretch of about 3.1 km along the canal. The workshop aims to bring the discussion on the revival of the Grand Canal further, and stress on the importance of the **integral, strategic approach** to the Canal's waterfront heritage, it's conservation, but also it's renewal and adaptation. The workshop concentrates on two major spatial levels: strategic planning and strategic design.

### ***Strategic Planning***

The UPAT team will conduct a short research-by-design analysis about the relation between Suzhou Ancient City and the Grand Canal. This analysis should result in:

- A brief assessment of the key values of linear historic and cultural landscapes, important for the visibility and longevity of the spirit of Chinese culture;
- Guidelines how to explore and activate new functions to promote the revival of the area adjacent to the Grand Canal and the improvement of the city vitality. Re-examine the close relationship between the Grand Canal and the city from a historical perspective and provide the National Culture Park with a diverse, active cultural functions;
- A concise proposal of strategic spatial planning policies, focussing on the role of governance in the construction of National Culture Park, explore means of cultural resource protection, and suggest new ideas and practice methods for converting the historic and cultural landscape into National Culture Park.

### ***Strategic Design***

The Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park UPAT Workshop will present two conceptual strategic design schemes that illustrate the combination of historic and cultural landscapes and nodes along the Grand Canal. The conceptual strategic design of two areas of 20 hectares each should visually address:

- What are the cultural values and unique spatial structures and qualities of the Grand Canal National Culture Park;
- How to add contemporary landmarks suitable to the historic and cultural landscape Grand Canal National Culture Park;



- How to optimize urban fabric and traffic organization suitable for good, liveable neighbourhoods;
- Organize and optimize streets and waterfront landscapes to create charming urban landscapes.



>> Panmen Street and Shantang Street Area

### Collaboration with local experts and within the team

The UPAT team will work closely and collectively with JUP as colleagues for one week to deliver recommendations, guidance and insights for the spatial principles and strategy for the Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park, using Panmen-Shantang Streets as examples. The UPAT Team members working jointly with JUP will:

- Prepare and present initial findings and recommendations of the UPAT Team to the provincial officials and representatives on the last day of the workshop;
- Write and publish a dedicated issue of the ISOCARP PLAN Magazine (number 9, 60 pages) with the findings observations, opinions and recommendations of the UPAT Team.

ISOCARP will organize a presentation of this workshop's results at the UPSC Congress in Hangzhou end of November 2018 and at 55<sup>th</sup> UPAT Seminar at the 2019 ISOCARP Congress.

### Team Members Profiles

The UPAT Team will comprise of maximum total of six to eight ISOCARP members: the Vice President UPATs and the ISOCARP UPAT Coordinator, the Team Lead, the UPAT Rapporteur, two international planning experts, and two young planning professionals from the ISOCARP network. Candidates with the following backgrounds, expertise and skills will be encouraged to apply:

- Research, visioning, and planning of historical preservation;

- Planning and strategies of urban regeneration;
- Sustainable urban design, landscape and architecture;
- Work experience in China and Asia is recommended, but not required.

Participation in the Urban Planning Advisory Team is open to full ISOCARP Members only.

### **Expenses coverage**

The Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park UPAT workshop will be operated and managed (planning, budget, expenses, logistics) by JUP and the ISOCARP Institute, Center of Urban Excellence.

JUP and ISOCARP will provide allowance for international travel expenses (cf. actual cost supported by tickets and boarding passes) based on a travel distance policy. JUP will also provide invitation letters for obtaining Chinese visa. JUP and ISOCARP will provide accommodation, meals and local transportation during the UPAT Workshop. JUP will also provide the working and meeting facilities, access to the Internet, local information, maps and all necessary supplies required for the UPAT Workshops.

UPAT Team Members will receive a maximum travel allowance for international flights of up to € 1.000 if their trip originates in Asia and up to € 1.500 if their trip originates from outside Asia. In either case, applicants will receive whichever is the lower of the two figures – actual expense and the maximum limit. Travel expenses will be reimbursed against submitted original receipts, tickets, boarding passes, etc. Selected applicants will be strongly advised to make their travel arrangements and to apply for a visa as soon as possible and to take advantage of the best available airfares.

The Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park UPAT will be carried out under the responsibility of JUP and ISOCARP. In principle, the UPAT team members will travel and stay in China at their own risk. JUP and ISOCARP will do their very best to safeguard the safety, integrity and well being of the UPAT team members.

For this UPAT workshop ISOCARP has negotiated a small fee for the UPAT Team members who actively participate in the UPAT workshop in Suzhou and the production of the PLAN Magazine.

### **Calendar**

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| • Deadline - Reception of Applications                 | 08 Oct. 2018    |
| • Selection and Announcement of Results                | 10 Oct. 2018    |
| • Start Visa Application Process selected team members | 16 Oct. 2018    |
| • Introductory Skype Call: e-meet of the team members  | 10/11 Nov. 2018 |
| • Arrival of UPAT Team in Suzhou for the UPAT Workshop | 15 Nov. 2018    |

- Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park UPAT Workshop 15-22 Nov. 2018
- Departure UPAT Team from Suzhou 23 Nov. 2018
- Presentation results Suzhou UPAT UPSC congress Hangzhou 24-26 Nov. 2018
- Suzhou PLAN Magazine ready for publication 31 Mar. 2019
- Suzhou UPAT Seminar ISOCARP Congress Sep. 2019

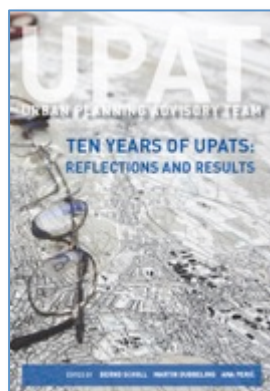
## How to Apply

Applications must include a **short motivation letter** (500 words maximum, pdf format) outlining the reasons why you would like to be part of the advisory team and your possible contributions related to the areas of interest to this UPAT. Please also attach your **most recent CV** (not longer then one page. odf format) and send it to Milena Ivkovic, ISOCARP VP UPAT [ivkovich@isocarp.org](mailto:ivkovich@isocarp.org). Please send the attachments not bigger then 2 MB in total.

## Selection Process

The selection of the Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park UPAT team will be made to compose a mixed, diverse (gender, age, background, specific expertise, region of origin) and best possible team that reflects a well-balanced representation of ISOCARP. ISOCARP will present and discuss a shortlist of candidates with JUP. ISOCARP and JUP jointly will make the final selection of the Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park UPAT team.

Our application and selection procedures for UPAT workshops are quite short, so please be on time. We may ask the applicants to send us additional information, if esteemed needed. If you have any question or suggestion about the Call for Candidates or the selection process for the Suzhou Grand Canal National Culture Park UPAT workshop, please contact the Vice President UPATs, Milena Ivkovic at [ivkovich@isocarp.org](mailto:ivkovich@isocarp.org)



>> For more information about the UPAT programme, we recommend to read our publication *Ten Tears of UPATs* and the *PLAN* Magazines of the previous UPAT workshops. All these publications are available on our website.