

30 October – 2 November:

Spotlight Taiwan programme, 'Making Place, and Place Making: Vernacular Heritage in Taiwan's Urban Development.

Series of lectures at IAS in combination with an exhibition and practical workshops on Taiwanese rush weaving.

The programme is sponsored by the Taiwanese Ministry of Culture. For further information , contact w.j.vogelsang@ias.nl

The various activities will take place at IAS (Rapenburg 59, Leiden) and at the TRC (Textile Research Centre; Hogewoerd 164, 2311 HW Leiden).

Participation is free, but registration in advance is advised:

For activities at IAS: ias@ias.nl

For the activities at the TRC: info@trc-leiden.nl

Introduction

Making in Place and Place Making:
Vernacular Heritage in Taiwan's Urban Development

Vernacular living experiences in a specific community and place, highlighted by spatial fabrics and activities, are memorized and passed down through generations. Experiences of 'making', such as in crafts, religious activities and culinary specialties, often anchor the senses of belonging to a particular place, while the disappearance of these experiences may risk the loss of a community's roots and identity. Therefore, in vernacular heritage studies and practices, experiences of 'making' are repeatedly used as a means to nourish common memory through bodily involvement, as people gather and bond with each other while building a shared perception of a community's future.

Young activists in Taipei City, as well as in the Yuanli Township (located in Miaoli County of central Taiwan) have taken initiatives to reacquaint themselves with places that have been long regarded as left behind with urbanization and industrialization.

Through engaging the heritage and crafts of a place, such as through rush weaving, these young people and vibrant NGOs endeavour to connect with the local communities, and help them to rebuild their inherent inner strengths and identities.

Programme of activities:

Tuesday 30th October:

10.00 – 12.00: Opening and Forum 1: Inner city regeneration and activism. Location: IAS

12.00 – 13.00: Lunch at IAS

13.30 – 14.00: Guided tour of exhibition. Location: TRC

14.00 – 16.30: Rush weaving workshop 1. Location: TRC

Wednesday 31st October:

10.00 – 12.00: Forum 2: Crafting public engagement. Location: IAS

12.30 – 13.30: Lunch, and presentation of the IAS Certificate Double Degree Programme Critical Heritage Studies. Location: IAS

14.00 – 16.30: Forum 3: How did I become an organisor/activist/initiator?. Location: IAS

14.00 – 16.30: Rush weaving workshop 2. Location: TRC

Thursday 1st November:

13.30 – 14.00: Guided tour of exhibition. Location: TRC

14.00 – 17.00: Rush weaving workshop 3

Friday 2nd November:

10.00 – 12.00: Workshop 'Heritage for linking places.' Location: TRC

13.30 – 17.00: Rush weaving workshop 4. Location: TRC

17.00 – 18.30: Concluding reception. Location: TRC

The Taiwanese partners include the following:

Wanhua School Co., Ltd.

Re-envisioning a public life where people live and connect with each other in the city, Wanhua School serves as a platform where residents could gather and bond through old town heritages and social assets, while local industries and the old town could be seen in new perspectives.

CHEN Te-Chun / Director of Wanhua School Co., Ltd., community planner

Yuanli Hi Home Co., Ltd.

Devoted young people across different professions came together at Yuanli Township to seek the preservation and revival of the local heritage and traditional cultures: Promoting rush-weaving and eco-friendly agricultural products, publishing local magazines, organizing cultural activities and engaging people in public affairs.

LIU Yu-Yu / Co-Founder of Yuanli Hi Home Co., Ltd., rush-weaving Instructor

CHEN Hsiu-Luan / Experienced rush-weaving artisan and instructor

Taiwan Dream City Building Association

Through artistic means and mutual learning programmes, the Taiwan Dream City Building Association connects homeless people, labourers, local industry owners, and young volunteers in the city of central Wanhua, where different lives and cultures of different paths can be understood, appreciated and respected.

KU Ming-Yun / Artist and carpentry project manager

CHIANG Min-Chin / Programme Organizer

Assistant Professor at the Graduate Institute of Architecture and Cultural Heritage, Taipei National University of the Arts.

TSAI Ming-Ying / Programme Curator

Architect and interior designer. Advanced Master of Architecture in Architecture & Urban Planning, The Berlage Institute, Netherlands.



Exhibition: Weaving heritage together.

Textile Research Centre (Hogewoerd 164, Leiden), 30 October – 2 November 2018. Entrance free.

Vernacular living experiences are represented by spatial fabrics and they sustain memory and continuity of a community and place. Memory of 'making' in a place, such as craft production, religious activities, culinary characteristics, often anchors the sense of belonging. When the vernacular living experiences gain the role of 'heritage,' often in the context of urbanization or development, the once familiar forms of 'making' are often no longer living, with the risk of a community losing its roots and identity. In vernacular heritage studies and activities, 'making' is used as a starting point and a means to grow common memory, through bodily involvement in order to connect diversity, to bond the community and in some case to trigger a shared perception and future of a place. Actions have been initiated by young activists using 'making' as a strategy to involve and extend care for the less affluent. Yuanli, a town of Miaoli in central Taiwan, was famous for its rush weaving industries since the early twentieth century. Yet not until 1990s did the locals realize their loss of rush weaving craft as well as associated memories in the shift of local industries.

The exhibition will cover the following aspects:

1. The territory of Yuanli
2. Memorabilia of rush weaving in Taiwan
3. Documentary and video on rush weaving
4. Technique of the craft of rush weaving
5. The product and the culture



Rush weaving workshops:

Rush weaving sessions will be conducted in four workshops. Participants are encouraged to take one or more workshops that will gradually increase in difficulty (but this is flexible, bearing in mind that there is a limited number of places per workshop. There will be personal guidance given in the various forms of rush weaving). Participants will therefore have sufficient time to practice the traditional craft step-by-step and appreciate the art and history of rush-weaving.

- Maximum number of participants per session: 12 people.
- Finished work: rush coasters (with motifs)
- Instructors: Chen Hsiu-Luan, Lee Tou-ze, Liu Yu-yu, and Lin Hsiu-Fan
- Location: Textile Research Centre, Hogewoerd 164, Leiden (for registration: info@trc-leiden.nl)

Dates:

- Tuesday 30th October: 14.00 – 16.30
- Wednesday 31st October: 14.00 – 16.30
- Thursday 1st November: 14.00 – 17.00
- Friday 2nd November: 14.00 – 17.00

The four workshops will cover the following subjects:

- **Activity 1- Introduction**
Introduction of rush-weaving and the place of origin, Yuanli County (with PPT and video)
- **Activity 2- Rush-weaving Close-up Observation**
Instructor Chen will exhibit skills to weave different motifs in two-dimensional rush-weaving works. At the same time, instructor Lee will show three-dimensional weaving skills by doing a semi-finished hat.
- **Activity 3- Pre-weaving work**
Beating rush and skinning rush
- **Activity 4- Traditional “One-on-one” (Ya-yi) Weaving Practice (with 8-16 pieces of rush)**
- **Activity 5- Traditional “One-on-one” (Ya-yi) Weaving Practice (with 32-40 pieces of rush)**
- **Activity 6- Traditional “Closing” Skill Practice**
- **Activity 7- Traditional “Slanted Motif” Skill Practice**

Workshop 'Heritage for Linking Places', Friday 2 November, 10.00 – 12.00. Location: TRC

Theme : Heritage for Linking Places

We use this workshop to show and discuss how three teams (of some five participants each) can be 'making places'. The three teams will cover (rush) weaving, woodwork and making tea. Rush weaving, for instance, is a craft that produces a product, but it is also a means to create and strengthen a community. The same applies to woodwork and tea making. The workshop will reflect the processes involved and the setting up of new networks to connect various initiatives.

- Maximum number of participants: 15
- Location: Textile Research Centre, Hogewoerd 164, Leiden (for registration: info@trc-leiden.nl)



Establishing local relationships