

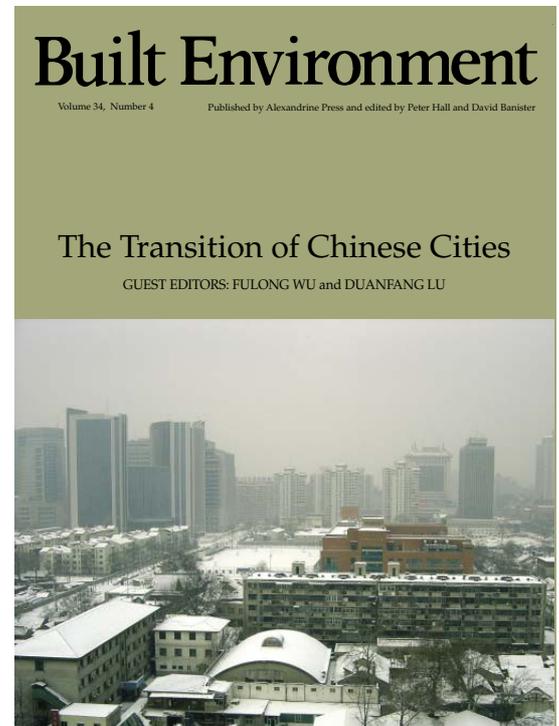
The Transition of Chinese Cities

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Spatial form and spatial restructuring are key concerns of all the papers in this issue: at the macro-scale, the transformation of metropolitan structure; at the intra-urban level, the configuration and transition of social space; and at a finer scale, the architectural representation of mega-projects. Following the editors' introduction three papers consider the transition of governance in Chinese cities. The next two papers describe changes in the built environment, namely spatial restructuring and the transformation of city-regions. Then two papers deal with social space and the changing living environment of various social groups. Finally, two papers focus on the representation of the built environment and the implications of urban form for sustainability. As the editors conclude, while the papers here illustrate profound market re-orientation in China, they do not suggest a definitive trajectory towards the retreat of the state. In fact, Chinese cities depict a very complex picture of re-orientation towards the market while strengthening state regulation in urban processes. It will be interesting to see how the Chinese built environment evolves in the era of neoliberalization.



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