

CHINA ROOM BOOK TALKS

Coordinated by **Camilla Forina** and
Leonardo Ramondetti

China's Belt and Road Initiative, started in 2013, has transformed many places around the world but also China itself. In some cases, it provided crucial infrastructure, such as the General Hospital of Niger in Niamey or the National Library of El Salvador, while it also generated entire new urban areas, e.g. the Free Zone in Khorghos, Kazakhstan, with sometimes controversial effects to local communities and the environment. Based on research undertaken at the Politecnico di Torino, this publication looks at the Belt and Road Initiative in architectural and spatial terms. Organized in thematic categories, it entails a survey of 21 case studies and investigates the impact of these China-backed projects. All buildings are documented with maps, architectural drawings and photographs specifically created for this book.

Professor Michele Bonino (China Room, DAD – Politecnico di Torino), **Professor Francesco Carota** (China Room, University of Kansas), and **Sofia Leoni** (PhD Candidate, China Room, DIST – Politecnico di Torino) will present their new book *“New Silk Road: The Architecture of the Belt and Road Initiative”* (Birkhauser, 2025) in conversation with **Professor Davide Ponzini** (DASTU, Politecnico di Milano) and **Alp Arda** (Joint PhD Candidate between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University, China Room, DAD).

Conceived as a scholarly dialogue, the event will critically engage with the epistemological, spatial, and political dimensions of global infrastructure. The discussion will position architecture as a lens through which to interrogate transnational urbanism and the territorial reconfigurations driven by large-scale development agendas such as the Belt and Road Initiative.

The book offers both a critical appraisal and an architectural guide to the Belt and Road Initiative. It features contributions by Professor Francesca Governa, Professor Charlie Xue, Lidia Preti, Giulia Montanaro, and Stefano Mondoizzi; photographs by Ivo Tavares, Paulo Moreira, Al Yousuf, and Raul Ariano; and drawings by Sofia Leoni.



NEW SILK ROAD

The Architecture of the Belt and Road Initiative

18 July 2025

Stanza dei Gigli,
Castello del Valentino

11:00-12:30 (CET)

<https://polito-it.zoom.us/j/8567399298?omn=85112786659>



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