



Non-Aligned Architecture: China's Designs on/in Ghana and Guinea, 1955-1992

Dr. Cole Roskam
The University of Hong Kong



26 Nov 2014 (wed)
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
CRT-4.36, Run Run Shaw Tower,
Centennial Campus, HKU

This paper examines several architectural collaborations between the People's Republic of China and two of sub-Saharan Africa's first decolonized governments in Ghana and Guinea. As physical evidence of new Sino-African partnerships, Chinese design and construction projects in both Ghana and Guinea initially promised a welcome alternative to preexisting, colonial and Cold War-era infrastructural production models. Analysis of the works themselves, however, coupled with a closer look at the political and ideological rhetoric behind their production, reveals a kind of cross-cultural cooperation emblematic of new geopolitical forces yet inscribed with many of the same operational and epistemic imbalances that have marked other kinds of foreign architectural engagement with African countries.

Cole Roskam is an assistant professor of architectural history in the Department of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong. His writing has appeared in *Artforum*, the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, and *Grey Room*, among other publications. He is currently editing his first book, *An Improvised City: Civic Shanghai, 1842-1936*, which based on his dissertation. He has also begun work on a second project, which will address China's architectural culture between 1973 and 1989.



All are welcome. No registration is required. For enquiries, please contact Dr Javier Cha at javierc@hku.hk.