INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
A look at the project

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Greetings

Ladies and gentlemen, dear partners and project participants,

Internationality and interdisciplinarity are as much a part of the profile of Bauhaus-Universität Weimar as openness, creativity and the eagerness to experiment. The project Strategic Partnerships follows this tradition entirely, and in doing so contributes decisively to the university’s internationalisation process. We are pleased to have three prestigious international partner universities, the Moscow State University of Civil Engineering, Tongji University in Shanghai, and the University of California, San Diego with which to carry out a broad range of activities, such as the development of long-term shared research projects or study programmes.

Just past the project’s halfway point, we can already see a variety of successes: cooperation with all three partners has been strengthened, new subject areas have been integrated, and networking has been advanced on various levels.

There are also successes to report with regard to the institutionalising of collaborative activities. Worth highlighting, for example, is the creation of the double degree programme »Interactions and Interfaces for Digital Environments« with Tongji University. One must also mention the implementation of a course on »Building Information Modeling« in cooperation with the Moscow State University of Civil Engineering, which should also develop into a jointly-offered double degree programme. A further example is the establishment of an interdisciplinary workshop series with the University of California, San Diego on the interface of urban planning and public art which, among other things, supports long-term exchanges of students and doctoral candidates.

I wish all participants in Strategic Partnerships much continued success with their projects, and I thank the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for their support.

Professor Dr.-Ing. Karl Beucke, President (Rector), Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
Participating universities

Moscow State University of Civil Engineering (MGSU)

Moscow State University of Civil Engineering (MGSU) counts among Russia's leading technical universities. It has «National Research University» status, awarded by the Russian Excellence Initiative. MGSU is also a coordination centre for instruction and research in the field of engineering for all universities of the Russian Federation. The cooperation agreement with MGSU is one of Bauhaus-Universität Weimar’s oldest. The agreement was first signed in 1967 and has been renewed regularly ever since. The MGSU has been an important partner of Bauhaus-Universität Weimar for decades. The intensive research- and project-related cooperations include the exchange of researchers, doctoral candidates and students as well as workshops, conferences and guest lectures in the fields of civil engineering and urbanism.

www.mgsu.ru/en

University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

The University of California, San Diego (UCSD) regularly earns top positions in worldwide rankings. The research collaboration with UCSD has existed since 2007. It centers on an interdisciplinary network of representatives of all four faculties of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar.

Over time, various regularly occurring projects have emerged from the long-standing workshop series «Art and Technology». For example, there are workshops dedicated to researching space and its acoustic representation, as well as a research seminar series in which artists, urbanists, and environmental engineers work together at the interface of urban planning and public art. Another example is an interdisciplinary collaboration in the area of experimental drawing.

Within the framework of the Strategic Partnerships special attention has been given to the continued development of regular exchange programmes for students and doctoral candidates.

www.ucsd.edu

Tongji University, Shanghai

Tongji University is one of China’s most significant state universities. It counts among the first »211« universities and received the distinction of exceptional as a »985« university. The partnership between Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and Tongji University has been ongoing since the 1990s. The intensive exchange has manifested itself into three double-degree programmes: »Advanced Urbanism«, a degree programme of the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, »Integrated International Media Art and Design Studies«, a course of study in the Faculty of Media, and the new programme »MediaArchitecture – Interactions and Interfaces for Digital Environments« – a programme of study of the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism and the Faculty of Media.

The tradition of the Bauhaus receives particular attention in Shanghai; the first Bauhaus building in China, designed by Wen Yuan Lou, is located on the Tongji University campus.

www.tongji.edu.cn/english

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

With faculties and areas of study such as Architecture and Urbanism, Civil Engineering, Art and Design and Media, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar has a distinctive identity. Today the university offers an extensive spectrum of instruction with about 40 degree programmes, including fine art, design, visual communication, media design, media studies, architecture, urbanism, civil engineering, materials science, processing technology, environment and management. The term »Bauhaus« stands for an eagerness to experiment, openness, creativity, a close link to industrial practice and internationality.

www.uni-weimar.de/en
INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

With the Strategic Partnerships project, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar seeks to establish a strategic foundation for its collaborative activities with Moscow State University of Civil Engineering (Russia), Tongji University in Shanghai (China), and the University of California, San Diego (USA).

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar successfully applied for funding within the »Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks« programme of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and – from 2013 until 2016 – will receive about one million Euros to strengthen its relationships with three of its long-term partner universities. The money comes from funds from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF).

The range of activities is diverse and includes all four faculties of the university. Specific goals of the project include:

🌟 the establishment and development of long-term research co-operations and networks, e.g. in the areas of computer science of civil engineering, materials science, interaction design, and fine art
🌟 the development of new double degree programmes, e.g. the programmes »MediaArchitecture – Interactions and Interfaces for Digital Environments« or »Digital Engineering«
🌟 the establishment of innovative interdisciplinary workshop formats, e.g. in the areas of Building Information Modeling (BIM), urban infrastructure and at the interface of public art, urban planning and environmental engineering
🌟 the institutionalisation of an administrative personnel exchange

www.uni-weimar.de/en/strategic-partnerships
MGSU – SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Workshops »Building Information Modeling«
In this workshop series students learn to use Building Information Modeling (BIM) method software to develop and visualize 3D models of buildings and discuss opportunities of BIM design. BIM is a method process that allows to generate and manage digital representations of physical and functional characteristics of buildings, places and facilities. The workshop is currently being developed into an e-learning series.

Workshops »Urban Infrastructure«
This interdisciplinary workshop series invites engineering and urban planning students to develop ideas for real challenges of current urban infrastructure planning, e.g. developing a new residential area in Weimar including its transport system connections and development of sanitary environment. A continuing professional development course for Russian lecturers is held at the same time as the workshop, presenting for example recent research findings by Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and local environmental engineering firms.

www.uni-weimar.de/sp-mgsu
**TONGJI UNIVERSITY – SELECTED ACTIVITIES**

### Study Stays in Shanghai | Urbanism

> During my studies and an internship in Shanghai, I was able to produce the short documentary film, This is Pan Tao, about the first urban garden plot in Shanghai, which was shown at the MiNi Film Festival in Shanghai and at the Backup Film Festival 2014 in Weimar. The timeliness of the topic — to be part of the food-production chain by growing your own vegetables in your own garden — now has greater significance in China. Among other reasons, due to the high level of air pollution in the cities, young middle class families are looking for a place in nature for the weekend — a garden plot.« – Silvan Hagenbrock, 2013/2014

### Study Stays in Weimar | Media Art & Design

> I came to Weimar in October 2014. Weimar is a small and beautiful town. Life there is calm and easy to adapt to. The semester at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar has become an unforgettable part of my life. I worked on projects with students from different cultural backgrounds, which taught me to take on new perspectives. Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is an open and free platform for students where they cannot only acquire knowledge but also feel free to express their opinions. Working in that open and friendly atmosphere I have come to feel more confident of myself. The six-month experience in Weimar is very precious to me. My horizon has broadened a lot and I know better who I am« – Juan Cao, 2014/2015

www.uni-weimar.de/sp-tongji

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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
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<td>- Workshops, e.g. Mortar &amp; Coatings, Cement</td>
<td>- Joint research projects in the field of Civil Engineering, Material Engineering, Media and Urbanism</td>
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<td>- Summer school stays, e.g. Cultural Landscapes &amp; Urban Resilience</td>
<td>- Increase of student numbers in the existing double degree programmes</td>
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<td>- Guest lectures, e.g. Advanced Urbanism</td>
<td>- Establishment of new double degree programmes</td>
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<td>- Study stays, e.g. Urbanism, Media</td>
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Workshops at the Interface of Public Art and Urban Planning
What started out as a workshop aiming at developing solutions for the US-Mexican border area along the Tijuana River, has developed into a truly transdisciplinary workshop series at the interface of urban planning, public art and environmental engineering. The successful cooperation, addressing such topics as borderline conflicts, mobility, migration, ecology or appropriations of public spaces, has attracted ever more departments and participants from both universities and has now become an essential part of selected courses.

Workshops & Summer School »Imagined Spaces – LoFi-Sounds – HiFi-Spaces«
This workshop and summer school series explores how sound changes, extends or improves spatial experience. Instructors and students from Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and UCSD explore space and its simulation in electro-acoustic composition and media art. The interface of interactive architecture and acoustics is as much a part of the analysis as is stage design as an artistic spatial experience, or light and sound control in media environments.

www.uni-weimar.de/sp-ucsd

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<td>- Workshops, e.g. BORDER city, Imagined Spaces</td>
<td>- Establishment of interdisciplinary workshop series</td>
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<td>- Summer school stays, e.g. Cultural Landscapes &amp; Urban Resilience</td>
<td>- Development of a long-term student exchange</td>
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<td>- Guest lectures, e.g. Art &amp; Technology</td>
<td>- Exchange of PhD candidates</td>
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<td>- Research stays, e.g. Artistic Research</td>
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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & BAUHAUS SUMMER SCHOOL

The Bauhaus Summer School is an attractive and valuable cooperation and communications platform for the Strategic Partnerships. Every August, instructors and students from all four partner universities meet for two to four weeks in order to deepen existing contacts, to establish new contacts, and to learn, teach, and spend a pleasant time together.

Grants for lecturers and students from the partner universities are awarded with priority given to the following courses:

»Cultural Landscapes and Urban Resilience«
Instructors and students from all four partner universities attend this interdisciplinary course on an annual basis: The course systematically guides participants to develop an understanding about urban resilience by bringing together social and cultural science, urban planning and urban design. The course includes gis-training, an urban heat island analysis comparing different settlement patterns, and integrated urban development and design strategies.

»Forecast Engineering«
This course combines disciplines of structural engineering with applied research projects in the areas of steel and reinforced concrete structures, earthquake and wind engineering as well as informatics and linking them to mathematical methods and modern tools of visualization. The broad spectrum of civil engineering in the field of modeling and simulation is highlighted here.

www.uni-weimar.de/summerschool/en
Send us a postcard!

Our postcard initiative symbolizes the Strategic Partnerships project: without effective communication, good personal relationships, and extraordinary dedication, the project would not be the success that it is.

Whenever you are traveling within the Strategic Partnerships project, write to:

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
International Office
Dr. Anne-Maria Stresing
Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 15
99423 Weimar – Germany
Workshops
Summer school stays
Guest lectures
Study stays
Building Information Modeling
* Urban Infrastructure
* Water & Sewerage
* Architecture
* Concrete & Gypsum
* Civil Engineering

www.uni-weimar.de/en/strategic-partnerships
Workshops

Summer school stays
Guest lectures
Study stays
Culture & Lecture
Cultural Landscapes & Urban Resilience
Advanced Urbanism
Urbanism
Media

www.uni-weimar.de/en/strategic-partnerships
Workshops
* Bordercity
* Imagined Spaces
Summer school stays
* Cultural Landscapes
Guest lectures
* Art & Technology
Research stays
* Artistic Research

www.uni-weimar.de/en/strategic-partnerships
LINGUISTIC SOUVENIRS

The words and explanations on the following pages are extractions from the Strategic Partnerships website project »A panorama of perspectives« that wishes to show the complexity of the overall project and establish connections between the different activities and universities. Everyone who is funded by the Strategic Partnerships project is asked to answer a set of questions regarding their specific partnerships project(s).

On the following pages, you will find answers to the question (which differs according to the visited country):
»What English/Chinese/Russian/German word will you keep in memory? And why?«

For more answers and pictures have a look at:
www.uni-weimar.de/panorama
My souvenir: “Triton”

He is the sea god in Greek mythology but also the mascot of UC San Diego. He has been immortalized by a fountain on campus, and also by the university’s sports teams, the Tritons, who wear a trident symbol.

Tina Meinhardt, Weimar to San Diego

Меркурий

The word originally stems from the German word “Mar schroute” = “march route”. A “меркурий” is a technical term in traffic planning for stretches of roadway which see repetitive usage by some form of transportation.

If a bus travels the same route over and over, it is referred to as a “меркурий”.

Anke Bollmann, Weimar to Moscow
On my first day in Germany I had a long trip from the airport in Berlin to the bus station and when I asked people about the way or about something else, I always introduced my questions with "Entschuldigung".

which means "Excuse me."

Ali Dugughev, Moscow to Weimar

"My souvenir: Concrete" (hun ning tu)
What else could it be - in the end, it is not the stuff of dreams, but that which can make them come true (your own home, a concrete canoe, pool, air-port...) - at least for me.

Susann Dietsch, Weimar to Shanghai
My souvenir: "Sea urchin"

On my first day at UC San Diego, I was invited to dinner by two students. We had the local specialty: sea urchin. The sea urchin was fresh and quite properly prepared—and I dared to try it. The entire dinner was a delicacy, and I'm looking forward to the chance to return the favor when the two students come to Weimar.

Daniela Raddi, Weimar to San Diego

On my first day in Weimar, I was trying to make my way to the Bauhaus-Atelier. I looked for street signs telling me where to go, but when I reached Wielandplatz, I only saw signs saying "Einhahnstraße." Eventually, I figured out that Einhahnstraße was not a name and actually meant "one way street."

Kristi Hiscoe, San Diego to Weimar
The Chinese character for "person" is very simple. It is the legs of a running stick figure without torso, arms, and head. It is pronounced "Ren." It is to be found in such important words as "Renminbi" the Chinese currency, and also in the "People's Republic of China."  

The word was a constant companion like a mirror of the countless people around me that I did not understand.  

Annette de Jong, Weimar to Shanghai

My Souvenir: "vegetarianski"  
As a vegetarian, this word was indispensable and of ultimate importance on a daily basis when dealing with the especially meaty Russian cuisine.  

Maximilian Einert, Weimar to Moscow
NOTES