

Laura Anna Pezzetti



Laura A. Pezzetti, M. Arch PhD, is associate professor of Architectural Design and Urban Composition at Politecnico di Milano, where she also serves as Chair of Architecture and Urban Design in ABC PhD board, Double Master Degrees coordinator with Chinese Universities, and Delegate for International Relationship with Tsinghua University. Since 2015, she has directed with prof. LIU Kecheng the yearly 'Heritage-Led Design Workshop' in Xi'an. Her research and design activities in both Italy and China focus on the layered construction of architectural and urban form with specific reference to historic sites, contexts in transformation, public buildings and spaces. Her theoretical research and design has been published internationally and discussed in conferences and exhibitions.



US \$39.95 / UK £29.95
ISBN 978-7-5608-8800-2
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Layered Morphologies and Latent Structures
Reading, Decoding and Rewriting to Enhance Historic Rurban Landscape

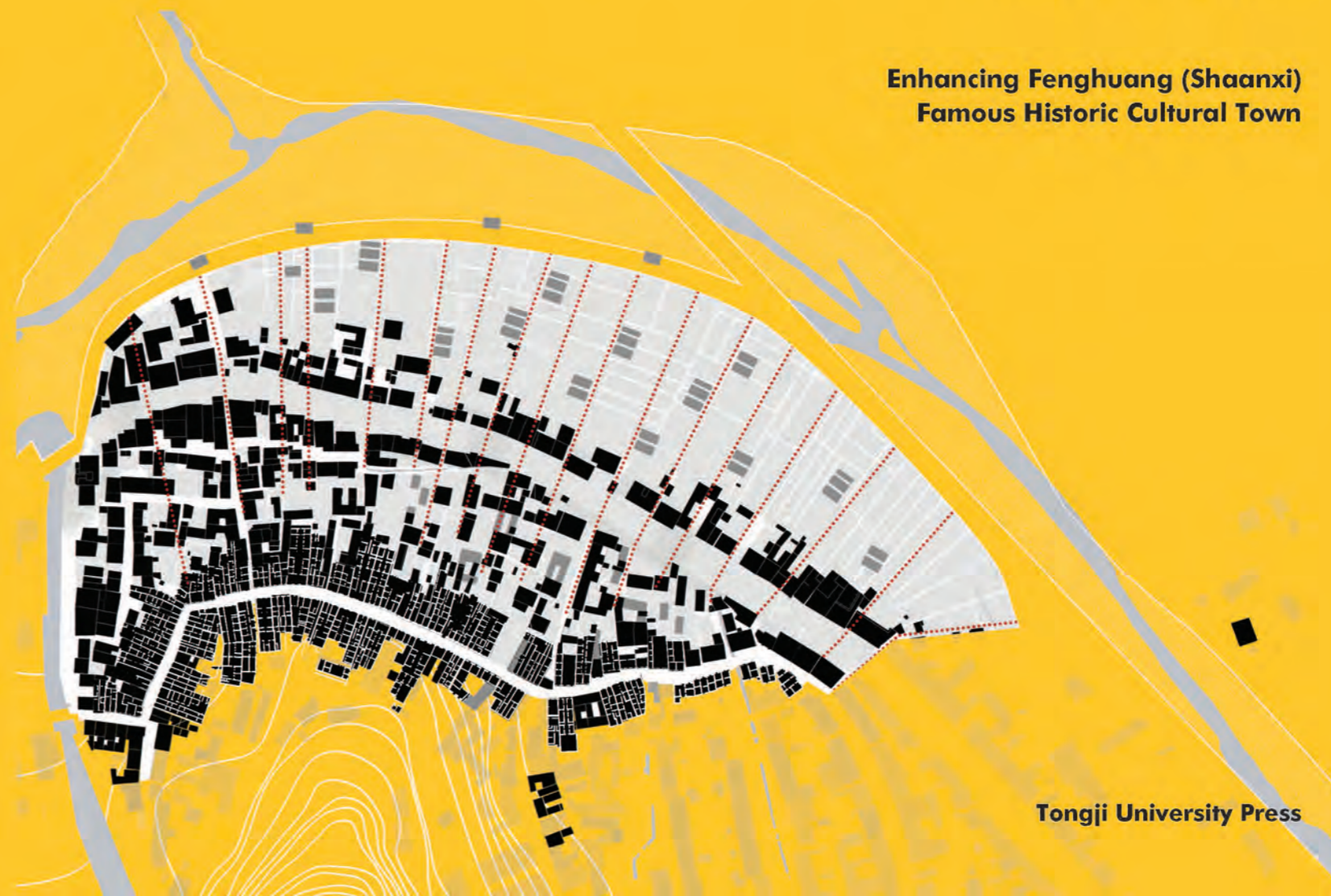


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Reading, Decoding and Rewriting to Enhance Historic Rurban Landscape

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Enhancing Fenghuang (Shaanxi) Famous Historic Cultural Town



Tongji University Press

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The concept of Layered Morphologies is a conceptual device developed as a theoretical and methodological approach that investigates the coevolutionary nature of architecture and settlements to propose innovatively an organic and integrated approach to their reading, protection and design enhancement. Transcending some usual spatial ontologies and operating across interdisciplinary fields, it promotes a renewed notion of built heritage as historicised architecture and landscape as a structure of structures, where any act of modification should start from the recognition of pre-existent signs, typomorphological structures, writing of the ground and formal orders. Advancing critical-theoretical propositions while verifying their operation value in the case study of Fenghuang (Shaanxi) Famous Historic and Cultural Town, the methodology reveals a new reading and the potential underlying Chinese settlements forms. Architectural and urban-rural design project become in no case the colonisation of a void (a *tabula rasa*) but rather an understanding and interpretation of an existing text with its erasures and absences (*tabula plena*), which also includes the principles for future writings.

On the cover: Laura A. Pezzetti, interpretative map of Fenghuang's structure. A Polimi - XAUAT cooperation