

OPINION: U.S. CHINA POLICY OUTDATED P.28 | FEATURES: WINTER OLYMPICS PREPARATION P.36

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A Stage for Designers

The soul of a product is in its design. As the Chinese economy grows and Chinese people become more welcoming to new things, China has turned itself into a stage for designers to give full play to their creativity.

China has built landmark buildings ranging from the National Stadium in Beijing, whose structural form is popularly described as a "bird's nest," to some of the world's longest bridges and most livable urban communities. It has also produced leading fashion trends on catwalks as well as state-of-the-art high-speed trains. Design can be found, touched and enjoyed everywhere.

How big is China's design industry? Though no accurate data are available, the architectural segment exceeded 1 trillion yuan (\$154 billion) in 2019, which can give you a glimpse of its market size.

Of course, professionals are the greatest asset in the industry. In the huge Chinese market, designers from both East and West can pursue their inspiration. Diversity is a hallmark of China's design market, where products with distinctive local characteristics win recognition along with those that

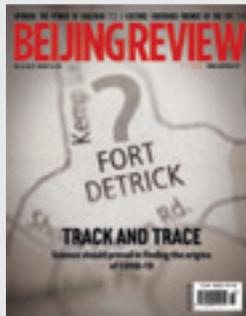
integrate Chinese and Western elements, as well as those inspired by foreign culture and art.

As this process continues, Chinese minds are being opened to new ways of looking at the world through the lens of design and embracing bold new visions by cutting-edge designers. China's huge market belongs to not only Chinese people, but also the entire world.

While improving the quality of life, modern civilization intensifies the exchanges and mutual learning between different cultures. Cultural exchanges are vital for the design industry to prosper and cross-pollinate in the contemporary world.

Design is an industry that must keep pace with the times. In architecture and fashion alike, designers are always ready to embrace change.

With rising awareness of environmental protection among consumers, sustainability has become a buzzword. This concept should be incorporated into the entire creative process from design and manufacturing to the end user. At the same time, the focus is increasingly shifting to user-friendly design. **BR**



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NEW TIBET

A gathering celebrating the 70th anniversary of Tibet's peaceful liberation takes place in Lhasa, capital of the autonomous region, on August 19.

The historic milestone was reached with the signing of an agreement between the Central Government and the local government of Tibet in May 1951.

The region has since undergone substantive changes with its GDP surpassing 190 billion yuan (\$29.3 billion) in 2020. Some 140 flights connect Tibet with the rest of the country and the world.



Paddy Art

An aerial photo taken on August 16 showcases some stunning rice paddy art in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province.

Paralympics

China would send a delegation of 251 athletes to compete at the Tokyo Paralympic Games, the China Disabled Persons' Federation announced on August 17.

The Chinese Paralympians, of whom 132 are female and 119 are male, will compete in 20 of the 22 sports on the Tokyo 2020 program, including the first-time Paralympic sports taekwondo and badminton, the federation said.

China's Tokyo-bound Paralympians come from various professions, including farmers, students, civil servants and business owners. Their average age is 27.5, with 16-year-old swimmer Jiang Yuyan being the youngest and 56-year-old table tennis player Zhao Ping the oldest.

The Chinese delegation has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Around 4,400 athletes from about 160 countries and regions are expected to take part in the Tokyo Paralympic Games from August 24 to September 5.

Army Games

All of the 17 Chinese military teams, taking with them weapons and other equipment, arrived at their venues in Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Iran on August 17 for the International Army Games 2021, running from August 22 to September 4.

More than 700 Chinese troops from the ground, naval and air forces, as well as the strategic support force and the joint logistics support force, will participate in 17 competitions

hosted across the four countries.

For the first time, China's strategic support force and joint logistics support force have dispatched teams to the games in foreign countries, and they will compete in events intended for military topographic services and military drivers.

It is the eighth consecutive year for the Chinese military to participate in the games.

Election Underway

The elections of new deputies to people's congresses in township and county-level regions are right on track, the General Office of the National People's Congress Standing Committee said on August 17.

In keeping with the Chinese Constitution and related laws, China has launched multiple

township and county-level congressional elections starting in the first half of this year, the office said.

Shanxi and Hebei provinces plus Tibet Autonomous Region have already completed the elections and assembled respectively the first congress meeting attended by the newly-elected deputies. Another 28 provincial-level regions have announced their election schedules and will follow through no later than in the first half of next year, said the office.

In line with China's newly-revised Electoral Law, the base numbers of deputies to people's congresses at the township and county-level regions have been adjusted to include more community-level workers. The structure of deputies has also been optimized according to local socio-economic realities to enhance their extensiveness and representativeness.

Carbon Reduction

China will correct any deviations in its efforts to cut carbon emissions while curbing the development of energy-intensive and highly polluting projects, the National Development and Reform Commission said on August 17.

In the process of cutting carbon emissions, some regions have set overly ambitious and unrealistic goals or simply recited slogans without taking actions. Some industries, too, have failed to make any solid energy-saving contributions in the hopes that new technology would solve the problem once and for all, said Meng Wei, spokesperson for the commission, adding that these issues must be addressed.

Meng also pointed out problems such as the one-size-fits-

all approach in shutting down energy-intensive projects and the sudden cut-off in loans to coal-fired power projects.

The country strives to peak its carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

The commission will refine policy requirements and strengthen supervision to fix any related problems as soon as they are detected, and ensure that the carbon reduction efforts do not stray from the original goal, Meng said.

Family Education

Chinese national lawmakers on August 17 began deliberating a draft law on the promotion of family education, highlighting the responsibilities of guardians of minors in the area.

The draft was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, for a second reading.

Family education should include the promotion of revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture, in addition to traditional Chinese culture, according to the draft.

It also stipulates that institutions providing family education guidance services should not

engage in for-profit training.

The draft proposes tax incentives for citizens, corporations and unincorporated organizations that donate to or provide voluntary services for the family education cause.

Mission Completed

China's Mars rover *Zhurong* has accomplished its exploration and detection tasks as planned, according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA) on August 17.

As of August 15, *Zhurong* had been working on the surface of Mars for 90 Martian days, or about 92 days on Earth, said the administration.

The rover had traveled 889 meters as of August 15, and its scientific cargoes had amassed about 10 Gb of raw data.

The CNSA added that the rover will continue to move towards the boundary zone between the ancient sea and the ancient land in the southern part of Utopia Planitia, a vast plain in the northern hemisphere of Mars and will carry out additional tasks.

According to the administration, *Zhurong* operated with a cycle of seven days during its exploration and detection tours. Its navigation terrain camera



Setting Sail

Fishing boats sail across the Qiongzhou Strait, ready for a good catch as the summer's fishing moratorium in the South China Sea came to an end on August 16.

obtained topographic data along the way to support the rover's path planning and target detection.

The CNSA said the data collected by seven scientific payloads aboard the rover are released monthly.

China's *Tianwen-1* mission, consisting of an orbiter, a lander, and a rover, was launched on

July 23, 2020.

The lander, carrying the rover with an expected lifespan of at least 90 Martian days, about three months on Earth, touched down in the southern part of Utopia Planitia on May 15.

Zhurong drove down from its landing platform to the Martian surface on May 22, starting its exploration of the red planet.



Cross-Border Bridge

Workers at the construction site of the China-Russia Tongjiang-Nizhneleninskoye cross-border railway bridge on August 17. The track laying work was finished that day. The bridge, with a designed annual throughput capacity of 21 million tons, connects Nizhneleninskoye in Russia with the border city of Tongjiang in Heilongjiang Province.

FDI Inflow

Paid-in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Chinese mainland surged 25.5 percent year on year to 672.19 billion yuan (\$100.7 billion) in the first seven months of this year, the Ministry of Commerce said on August 16.

The value increased 26.1 percent from the same period in 2019.

Investment in the service industry jumped 29.2 percent to 535.57 billion yuan (\$82.6 billion), accounting for 79.7 percent of the total. Hi-tech industries' FDI jumped 34.1 percent.

Capital inflow from the countries along the Belt and Road routes and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations expanded 46.3 percent.

Industrial Output

China's value-added industrial output, an important economic indicator, went up 6.4 percent year on year in July as

production demand continued to recover, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on August 16.

The figure improved 11.5 percent from the level in July 2019, bringing the average growth for the past two years to 5.6 percent, NBS data showed.

The industrial output measures the activity of enterprises with an annual business turnover of at least 20 million yuan (\$3.1 million).

The private sector's output increased 6.1 percent, while that of state-owned enterprises rose 7.2 percent.

Growth for hi-tech manufacturers and the manufacturing sector as a whole was 15.6 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively.

Previous NBS data showed the purchasing managers' index for the manufacturing sector came in at 50.4 in July, remaining in the expansion zone for the 17th consecutive month, despite disruptions to factory activities

brought by high temperatures and floods.

Hydrogen Industry

Beijing authorities have released a plan for the development of the hydrogen energy industry from 2021 to 2025.

By the end of the period, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region will build an industrial chain valued at more than 100 billion yuan (\$15.4 billion) and reduce carbon emissions by 2 million tons, according to the blueprint.

Before 2023, five to eight leading enterprises with international influence will be nurtured, the output of the industrial chain will exceed 50 billion yuan (\$7.7 billion) and 1 million tons of carbon dioxide will be reduced.

Ahead of 2025, 10 to 15 leading industrial chain enterprises with international influence will be nurtured and three to four world-class industrial research, development and innovation

platforms will be built.

In transportation, as of 2025, the region will strive to complete construction of 74 hydrogen refueling stations and will have more than 10,000 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Corporate Debt

The People's Bank of China has decided to test removing the credit rating requirements for the issuance of non-financial corporate debt instruments.

The move was made to further motivate market entities to use external ratings and drive the market-oriented reform of the credit rating sector.

During the test period, the issuance will no longer be subject to Article 9 of the Administrative Measures for Debt Financing Instruments of Non-Financial Enterprises in the Interbank Bond Market, the bank said.

However, the issuance of other corporate debt instruments

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.5 yuan)

Fixed Assets Investment Growth
(% y.o.y.)



will continue to be subject to administrative measures.

Data Security

The State Council issued an administrative regulation on major IT infrastructure security on August 17, clarifying the liabilities of operators concerning the security of these projects and the penalties for offenders.

Major IT infrastructure projects are network facilities and information systems of major industries and in key areas, according to the regulation, which will take effect on September 1.

The state cyberspace administration will take charge of coordination, the public security department will provide supervision, and the state telecom regulator and other relevant departments will be responsible for the security control of major IT infrastructure projects under their watch.

It stipulates that their

operators bear the primary responsibility of maintaining the integrity, confidentiality and availability of relevant data.

These operators are required to ensure cybersecurity, including conducting security checks and risk assessments every year and prioritizing safe and credible Internet products and services in procurement.

Personal information and important data collected and produced by the operators during their operations within the Chinese mainland should be stored in the mainland, the regulation states, adding that security assessments are necessary for business needs of providing such data overseas.

The operators and the relevant regulatory agencies will face administrative and criminal punishment if they fail in their duties.

Organizations and individuals that compromise the security of such infrastructure will also receive legal penalties.

Transport Expansion

The China Transportation Services Index (CTSI) stood at 170.6 points in July, up 8.7 percent year on year, according to the China Academy of Transportation Sciences.

The sub-index for cargo transport improved 4.2 percent to 193.6 points.

The passenger transport sub-index recorded an increase of 23.3 percent.

With 2010 as the base year and 100 points as the base value, the CTSI incorporates the passenger and cargo transport volumes of railways, highways, waterways and civil aviation.

Tesla's Localization

U.S. electric car manufacturer Tesla is expected to achieve a localization rate of about 90 percent in its Shanghai Gigafactory by the end of this year, according to sources with the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ).

Yuan Guohua, an official with the Lin-gang Special Area of the FTZ, said on August 17 that the annual output of the factory is expected to reach 450,000 vehicles in 2021. A total of 66,100 completed vehicles would be exported by the end of the year.

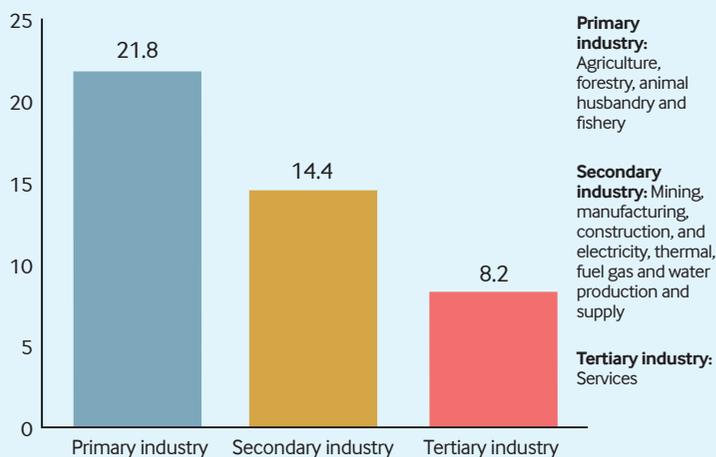
Tesla's production is expected to promote the industrial chain of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) in the Lin-gang area, Yuan said.

In 2019, Tesla built its first Gigafactory outside the United States in Shanghai, with a designed annual production capacity of 500,000 units.

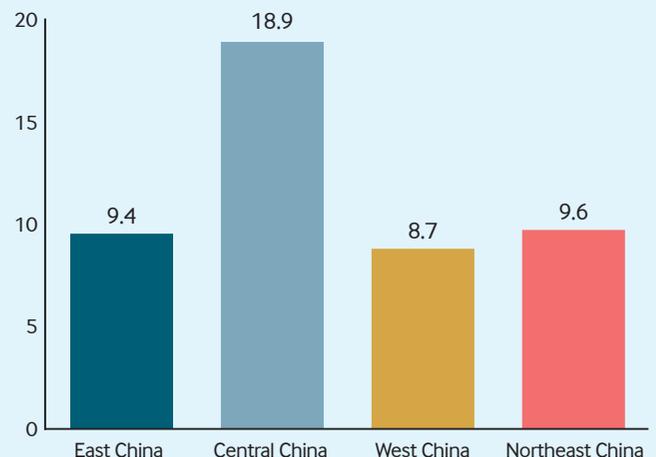
Lin-gang will see the annual output of 600,000 units of NEVs cross 2021, when yearly exports are expected to exceed 100,000 vehicles, Yuan said.

According to the local development plan, by 2025, the output value of the NEV industry in Lin-gang will reach about 200 billion yuan (\$30.8 billion).

Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Sector
January-July (% y.o.y.)



Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Region
January-July (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

THIS WEEK **WORLD**



HAITI

Local residents camp outside their earthquake-destroyed houses in Camp-Perrin, Les Cayes, on August 18. A 7.2-magnitude quake hit west Haiti on August 14, causing more than 2,100 deaths



UGANDA

Students receive lessons on the radio in Kampala on August 16. Uganda resumed airing radio lessons that day as schools remained closed amid COVID-19



ISRAEL

A man receives a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Modiin on August 17. Altogether 1 million Israelis had received booster doses of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine, officials said on August 16





ZAMBIA

Opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema waves to supporters after casting a vote at a polling station in Lusaka on August 12. Hichilema emerged as the winner in the presidential election, beating the incumbent president



NEW ZEALAND

A man walks by a hospital in Auckland on August 18. New Zealand moved to the top-level lockdown from midnight of August 17 after a COVID-19 Delta variant case was identified



PAKISTAN

Soldiers attend celebrations for Independence Day in Karachi on August 14

↓ CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN STAYS PUT

Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan **Wang Yu** and embassy staff announced they would stay in Afghanistan after the Taliban made their way into the capital of Kabul and took control of the country on August 15. Currently, Wang and other employees remain on post inside the embassy, which keeps operating.

According to Wang, the embassy has access to the Internet, though the network signal is less stable, and power occasionally blacks out.

He further noted that some Chinese nationals who stayed behind hope the embassy can help them return to China as soon as possible. As commercial flights have been suspended, they may have to wait until flights resume, Wang said.

Wang, 55, has been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China since 1990. He assumed the current post in 2019.



Patient Companions

Beijing Youth Daily
August 13

Recently, one particular “occupation,” namely that of patient companion, or someone who accompanies a patient to the hospital, has triggered some serious online debate. The service targets those who have to see doctors alone, such as the elderly whose children are unable to take care of them and those younger ones struggling with life outside their hometowns. The service helps reduce the loneliness of patients and helps their relatives save a lot of time and potentially money.

According to insiders, the service emerged around 2015, but disappeared two years later due to a lack of public understanding as well as a general unwillingness to give the initiative a go. Those partaking in the initiative then took a step back and first established a bond of trust with the patients so that the community at large could develop an awareness of the services they provide.

Hospitals should supervise the service to avoid disputes between doctors and patients who have someone accompanying them. Supervision is also vital to preventing infringement on a patient’s interests.



An Ideal Body

Lifeweek
August 16

The body is an academic subject related to medicine, gender, sports and arts. In the modern conception, human bodies described by Greek sculptures are regarded as ideal models. The ancient Greeks believed that only perfect ratios and shapes could produce sound minds.

“Despite the pandemic and domestic economic development challenges, China’s economy has sustained a steady recovery since the start of 2021, laying a solid foundation for achieving its full-year economic and social development targets.”

He Lifeng, Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, at a recent session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, on August 18

“They (the U.S., the EU and Japan) should, instead of trying to curb China’s rise, strive to achieve common prosperity through cooperation with China and other Asian countries, as [their] economies are intertwined with the Chinese economy.”

Kumiko Haba, a professor with Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan, in an article in *China Daily* on August 19

Body standards today have left many people anxious, with many trying to alter their body types through various means. Miao Qian, a *Lifeweek* reporter, has been recording his weight every morning for many years on Weibo, China's Twitter-like platform. "Weight has become a major concern for most people. It is perhaps a modern disease or an instinctive fear of aging and death," Miao wrote in one article.

Reviewing the struggles with weight and figure, a few questions came to his mind. For example, did the Greeks of that time, given the inspiration behind those sculptures, worry about their bodies?

The body is not only a matter of pretty versus ugly. Wang Min'an, a professor with the School of Humanities, Tsinghua University, said people could use art to experiment with their own body shapes in a bid to discover themselves.

"Supported by advancing technologies, bodies can be the physical platform of an emerging art form such as bioart, where artists collaborate with scientists to reshape bodies through technology," he said.

Mental Health

China Youth Daily
August 13

The Ministry of Education issued a notice on strengthening the psychological health of students on July 23. It asked for an upgrade in both professional support and the management mechanism to improve the intervention capacity as well as actual treatment of those facing a mental health crisis.

It is a common phenomenon that students have their noses buried in books, papers and tests. COVID-19 has aggravated the problem

with families and schools putting more effort into epidemic prevention, but ignoring subtle psychological changes in children.

In managing students' mental health, priority should be given to helping them adjust their emotions to keep an optimistic outlook on life, thus reducing the risk of mental illness. Educational policies can create a better environment for the development of students, featuring an increasing emphasis on courses related to psychological health. Also, parents should be encouraged to work with schools to look after teenagers' wellbeing.



A STORYTELLER WHO CAN RECITE THE WORLD'S LONGEST EPIC

Sithar Dorje, a Tibetan storyteller, can recite more than 140 episodes, equal to several million words, of *The Epic of King Gesar*. King Gesar is a heroic classic created by the Tibetans from a collection of ancient legends, myths, verses, proverbs and folk songs. The epic was passed down from generation to generation through a combination of song and narration tracing back to the 12th century.

The 32-year-old is a representative inheritor of the art of reciting the legendary poem. He learned how to narrate the epic at the age of 9. "From that moment onwards, I wanted to become a storyteller." After graduating from Tibet University in 2014, he landed a job at the Gesar Epic Research Center with the Tibetology Institute.

The Gesar epic tradition was inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009. Nevertheless, it is hard to pass on the tradition to younger generations in the modern day. Sithar Dorje and his colleagues are working on compiling and translating the epic and working with several primary schools in the region to popularize the epic.



"Socialism is actually counter attacking the neo-liberal model. That's why the West is so afraid of China. It is afraid of this model of socialism."

Yury Tavrovsky, a Sinologist and Russian political commentator, in an interview with CGTN on August 18

"Peacekeeping missions, when using technologies to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance, should have prior consultations with the host countries to make sure that the use of relevant technologies fully respects their sovereignty."

Dai Bing, Charge D'affaires at the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN, at a Security Council open debate on August 18



JIANHAN LEI@PHOTO.COM

The Indigo Playgrounds, designed by Ballistic Architecture Machine, an urban landscape design studio, in a park in Beijing