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Research Area: China's Transnational Architectural History



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Zhijian Sun is a Ph.D. candidate in Architectural History at NUS DoA. He also acted as the teaching assistant for the DoA module AR2227 and AR2228. He holds a Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University in the City of New York, and a Bachelor of Architecture from Southeast University in China. From January to March in 2024, he has been a visiting scholar at Oxford University's Faculty of History.

Based on Chinese state archives, institutional grey literature, British colonial archives, Tanzanian newspaper reports and fieldwork in Dar es Salaam, Zhijian's doctoral thesis looks into the techno-political history of socialist China's two tropical architecture (1955-76), namely the transnational co-constitution between thermal technologies and geo-politics around China's architectural aid in the decolonizing East Africa, and its subtropical modernist architecture in Southern China. His research articles and review essays have been published on *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography (SJTG)*, *Political Geography*, *Zhuangshi [Chinese Journal of Design]*, *Jianzhushi [The Architect]*, *Shidai Jianzhu [Time +Architecture]*, and *Xin Jianzhu [New Architecture]*. His recent paper '[Framing China's tropics](#)' has won the '[2023 Best Paper Prize for Graduate Student](#)' awarded by the editorial board of *SJTG*.