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Description

NBC's Mark Mullen looks at Beijing's 21st Century building boom, and some of the innovative new buildings and architects that are reshaping the city's skyline.

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Citation

MLA

APA

CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE

Transcript
Modern Architecture in Beijing
MARK MULLEN reporting:
Beijing is quickly turning from Mao to wow, perhaps the most innovative architectural design lab in the world. The city, once laid out in a thoughtful geometrical pattern in the 15th century, is now being turned upside down by its communist government.
PAUL GOLDBERGER (The New Yorker): They want to be thought of as not only big, but good and smart and accomplished.
MULLEN: This is short pants, as it’s nicknamed here. It’s being called the most exciting skyscraper project in the world, the future headquarters of Chinese Central Television. It resembles a zigzagging cantilevered puzzle; it appears to fly through the air. It will be the world’s second largest office building after the Pentagon. Oley Shearan, one of the Dutch architects who designed the CC tower was surprised the Chinese government backed such a radical design.
OLEY SHEARAN (Architect): I think we were incredibly excited to see them make bold choices.
MULLEN: French architect Paul Andrew was also encouraged by Chinese leaders to be daring in his design of the new national performing arts center, shaped like an egg, which appears to float on water.
PAUL ANDREW (Architect): And if you don’t accept the new, well there will be no creation at all.
MULLEN: Two of the most groundbreaking projects are on display at the Olympic park. The National Stadium, dubbed ‘the birds nest’ for being practical, it seats 91 thousand, and whimsical at once. Twenty-two miles of wrapped steal wiring that has captured the countries imagination. And the nearby National Aquatic Center, or Water Cube, it has brightly lit bubble like walls that appear to pulsate.
This race to rapidly modernize an entire city seemingly at once has sometimes come at the expense of some traditional Chinese neighborhoods.
The building drive has sometimes erased century old homes.
GOLDBERGER: They are much more interested in what’s new and what works than in keeping symbols.
MULLEN: Which may explain why 300 additional buildings are already are on the drawing boards for