



From the press

Volunteers for love, not CV

Society needs to reevaluate its opinion of volunteering. A recent survey shows that 38 percent of polled volunteers inside the Expo Garden are concerned that many volunteers have the wrong agenda, and only in order to bolster their resumes and improve their job prospects. About 23 percent of those polled also requested greater understanding from visitors, many of who see them as "free labor" and show little or no respect.

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Goodbye visitors, hello perfection

Volunteers now stand in rows at exits to the Expo Garden bidding "good night" to visitors. This new trend shows how the organizers and the volunteers of 2010 Expo are constantly striving for perfection. The significance of this recently added farewell shows the determination to make things better. It also implies that perfection is not something that can necessarily be achieved; rather, it is something that is always to be pursued.

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Commercial eye-strain

The Shanghai Expo's theme of 'Better City, Better Life' suggests many cities need a makeover to reduce the strain on their residents' eyes. Our eyes are very much burdened by having advertisements placed everywhere. Heavily lit streets add further stress. Cities need to be better planned to incorporate harmonious colors, spaces and structures that serve various functions and remain consistent with nature and public memory. It's not just about planning a city, but about planning the scenes within that city.

QQ.COM

Sexy Shanghai, savvy citizens

About 17 percent of those polled in a recent survey picked Shanghai as the "sexiest" city in China, partly due to its new identity as a World Expo host. The new understanding of the word "sexy" to describe places suggests that Chinese people are becoming increasingly open-minded. A city can be sexy because cities are the result of human interaction.

FAWAN.COM



LI MIN / CHINA DAILY

quoteunquote

XINHUA.NET

"Inside the Expo Garden it only takes a few minutes to drive from China to the US. It's only a Coca Cola stand that lies between France and Germany, rather than Alsace. People talk about traveling to Canada, Italy, Thailand and Greenland as if they were sitting in a first-class cabin inside a jet. They look at the Little Mermaid and artworks from the Renaissance in the morning, then go to have steak in Argentina and coffee in Brazil for lunch. The Expo basically condenses the entire world into one city."

HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE LAWRENCE

ONE OF THE USA PAVILION'S STUDENT AMBASSADORS, SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE GLOBE-TROTTERING POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY THE EXPO.

QQ.COM

"We are willing to exchange Expo badges and pins of any kind, except for the 'sign language' one. That is more than just a badge. It's our pride and honor. Society has worked together in the past to help and care for us, and now I am taking this opportunity to reciprocate."

DEAF VOLUNTEER ZHAO SHUNLI EXPLAINS WHY HE ENJOYS HELPING VISITORS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS USING SIGN LANGUAGE.

EASTDAY.COM

"We need to make better presentations within the pavilions, and more effectively promote their advanced ideas and technologies outside the Expo Garden. We have invited many pavilion directors to share their best urban practices with governors to help spread their advanced ideas. For example, Shanghai's Huangpu district is planning to borrow ideas about redevelopment from the Barcelona Case Pavilion. Hongqiao transportation hub is going to learn from the Odense Case Pavilion, and the Madrid Case Pavilion has exchanged ideas with Jiading district regarding a low-rent housing program."

SUN LIANSHENG

DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN BEST PRACTICES AREA (UBPA) IN THE PUXI SIDE OF THE EXPO GARDEN, EXPLAINS HOW SHANGHAI IS LEARNING FROM THE CUTTING-EDGE URBAN PRACTICES ON DISPLAY.