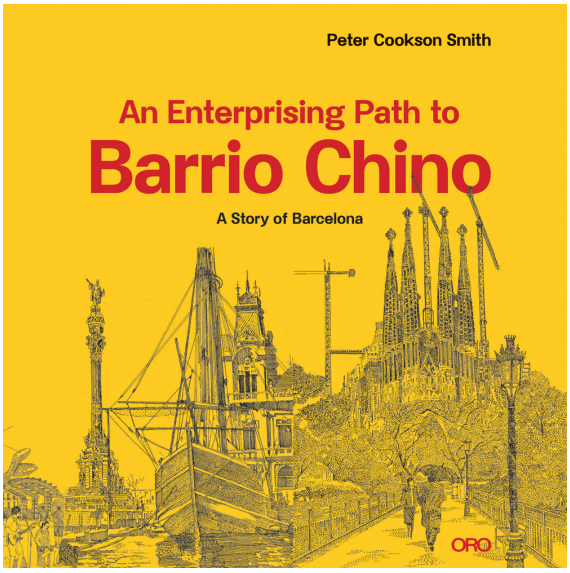
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An Enterprising Path to Barrio Chino

A Story of Barcelona

Peter Cookson Smith

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- An imaginative means of looking at the city of Barcelona and its modern history from a new perspective
- A series of drawings injected within the text, illustrating growth and change in the city fabric over almost two hundred years

In 1925 a journalist on the Barcelona newspaper *El Escándalo* used the term Barrio Chino in a somewhat derogatory way to describe part of the older city. While the area in question represented a dystopian underbelly of the city, known for its impoverished living and working conditions together with its 'red-light' subcultures, it never existed as a 'Chinatown' in either a physical or social sense. However the name of this mythical community stuck from the 1920s onwards, appearing on maps and descriptions of the inner city but devoid of any hint of Chinese inhabitants or their culture. The book takes this as a starting point to chart the development of Barcelona over two hundred years using a series of 'diaries' and drawn images. These are set around four generations of a fictional Chinese dynasty and their imagined architectural participation in some of the major events in Barcelona's modern history. As residents of the Barrio from the mid-nineteenth century, they individually document diverse contributions to the city during periods of dynamic growth. This is set against a backdrop of cataclysmic political change and exemplary forms of urban regeneration which have provided Barcelona with its contemporary 'World City' status as it plans for the future.

Dr Peter Cookson Smith is an architect, urbanist, and founder of the URBIS consultancy in Hong Kong. He is a Past Professor of architecture and Past President of Hong Kong's Institutes of Planning and Urban Design. Between 2014 and 2016 he directed the joint Urban Exchange between Hong Kong and Barcelona.

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