

# A NOTE ON CHINESE NAMES AND OTHER CLARIFICATIONS

Romanizing Chinese names, places, and other words originally written with Chinese characters has posed the same kinds of challenges here that are found in all English-language books seeking to convey Chinese meanings with non-Chinese words. For most Chinese, family names (*xing*) precede given names (*ming[zi]*); this was the case through history and is still the practice in China today (for example, ZHAO Chen). But some Chinese regularly publish or practice under names in which the *ming(zi)* precedes their *xing* (for example, Xing RUAN). There is also a group who have adopted Western given names while retaining their Chinese *xing* and *ming(zi)*, (for example, architects Robert FAN Wenzhao and Benjamin CHEN Zhi and our author Kerry Sizheng FAN). We clarify the surname of our contributors by presenting them in all capital letters on the Contents pages and in the Contributors section.

For the most part we use *pinyin* for transcription, since it is the most widely accepted convention for Romanizing Chinese. However, in some cases, we have retained earlier accepted Romanizations (for example, Sun Yat-sen rather than Sun Zhongshan). Where appropriate, we have provided multiple names or other clarifications.

Occasionally, because of the French origins of l'École des Beaux-Arts, it was deemed important to retain French words and, in some cases, French sentences about Beaux-Arts concepts. For convenience, we have provided English translations.

