

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FOR YEARS, whenever in Beijing, I would visit a hole-in-the-wall eatery that served my favorite cumin mutton. One summer day in 2003, the waiter handed me a freshly printed business card. The whole row of houses was about to be razed, and the card bore a map indicating the restaurant's future location. The card drove home for me that I, like many who live in China's rapidly changing cities, have been keeping a mental map of places that no longer exist and of new spaces that will soon appear. Navigating the city is also a journey across times. This is a study of such journeys, taken by residents, planners, and filmmakers. This book is dedicated to all those who strive to preserve the city's multiple temporalities.

Creating better cities is a joint effort, and the same is true of my book. Many people generously contributed to this project. I was encouraged by the willingness of prominent filmmakers, theater professionals, and artists to talk at length and provide materials: Cao Fei, Arthur Chu, Feng Jikai, Feng Mengbo, Feng Xiaogang, Gao Yiwei, Han Yuqi, Huang Jianxin, Jia Zhangke, Stan Lai, Li Longyun, Li Shaohong, Lin Cheng-sheng, Lou Ye, Ning Ying, Ou Ning, Peng Xiaolian, Ren Ming, Sheng Qi, Shu Yi, Song Dong, Su Shuyang, Tian Zhuangzhuang, Wang Haowei, Wang Xiaoshuai, Wang Zheng, Wu Nien-jen, Wu Qiong, Wu Tianming, Xie Fei, Xu Dawei, Yang Lina, Yu Kanping, Zhang Ding, Zhang Yang, Zhang Yuan, Zhao Liang, Zheng Dongtian, and Zhou Xiaowen. Their insights, especially into how movies and stage plays are influenced by negotiation with decision makers, have changed my way of thinking about what it takes to visualize and envision the city.

I encountered an even steeper learning curve when inquiring into

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Although my research has taken me in different directions since, I have introduced related ideas and materials in essays in *China Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Modern China*, *Journal of Modern Literature in Chinese*, *Modern Languages Quarterly*, and *positions: east asia cultures critique* (see bibliography). Related chapters appeared also in the volumes *Beijing: Dushi xiangxiang yu wenhua jiyi* (Beijing: Urban Imagination and Cultural Memory), edited by Chen Pingyuan and Wang Dewei; *Chinese Films in Focus: Twenty-Five New Takes*, edited by Chris Berry; *Cinema Taiwan: State of the Art*, *States of the Mind*, edited by Darrel Davis and Robert Chen Hsiu-ru; *Contested Modernities in Chinese Literature*, edited by Charles Laughlin; *The New Chinese Movement: Documentary Film*, edited by Lisa Rofel, Chris Berry, and Lü Xinyu; and *The Urban Generation: Chinese Cinema and Society at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Zhen Zhang.

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