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Language, Landscape, Architecture: exploring the culture and architecture of Italian-speaking Switzerland

On 22 October 2026, the Embassy of Switzerland in China and the Italian Cultural Institute in Beijing officially opened the exhibition *Lingua, Paesaggio, Architettura* (*Language, Landscape, Architecture*). The exhibition marks Switzerland's contribution to this year's edition of the *Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo* (*Week of the Italian Language in the World*). The opening ceremony brought together Krystyna Marty Lang, Ambassador of Switzerland to China, diplomats, architects, academics, students and media representatives.

The event featured a guided introduction by Swiss curator Christian Herren and an expert talk by Italian architect and designer Fabrizio Gurrado. The programme explored the relationship between language, landscape and architecture, highlighting how words shape our understanding of places and the built environment.

Lingua, Paesaggio, Architettura presents a selection of architectural and landscape concepts from Italian-speaking Switzerland, including notions such as *piazza* (*square*), *paesaggio* (*landscape*), *territorio* (*territory*) and *giardino* (*garden*). Through photographs, texts and interviews, it examines how language influences the way people perceive and experience space. It also incorporates reflections by Chinese students and graduates of the Accademia di architettura di Mendrisio in Ticino, Switzerland, creating a dialogue between Swiss and Chinese architectural traditions.

The exhibition highlights the rich cultural heritage of Italian-speaking Switzerland. Italian is Switzerland's third national language and is spoken primarily in the Canton of Ticino and the Italian-speaking valleys of Graubünden. Combining Alpine and Mediterranean influences, the region has made significant contributions to Swiss architecture, culture and creativity.

As Ambassador Marty Lang noted, "This exhibition opens up a conversation between Swiss, Italian and Chinese perspectives. We hope to offer Chinese audiences a glimpse into the vibrant region of Italian-speaking Switzerland and to foster dialogue between Switzerland and China."

The exhibition will remain on display and open to the public at the Italian Cultural Institute in Beijing until 22 November 2026.

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Contact

Ms. Li Dan, Press Manager, Culture and Media Section, Embassy of Switzerland in China

+86 10 8532 8741, dan.li@eda.admin.ch