This research investigates large Chinese investment in the built environment and how, under the neoliberal paradigm, it has been reshaping urban and architectural forms in Spanish cities since the 1970s. Following the geopolitical realignment and liberalization of both Chinese and Spanish economies since the Opening of the Chinese economy and the end of the Francoist regime, increasing amount of Chinese capital and individuals have impacted Spanish cities, taking part in a larger urban transformation including plans for urban redevelopment and extended housing production. This study, conceived under the scholarly production that examines the influence of Chinese people and capital in the European context, aims to cover a research gap by focusing in the Spanish case, particularly in Madrid and Barcelona and its shifts in the architectural and urban forms in the last few decades. The research is informed by the personal experience of variegated agents and their involvement in neoliberal urban practices. Namely, how architects, planners, politicians, city activists and Chinese entrepreneurs have individually shaped an urban political economy not reflected in official reports or investment documents. Their different contended discourses bring new insights into the formation of the Spanish urban milieu and the particular effect of China’s rise on market-led models of urban redevelopment around the globe.