

Unit 16
Reading A

The Art of Chinese Architecture 《中国建筑艺术》

1 As one of four ancient civilized countries in the world, China, possessing a vast territory and having a population accounting for over one-fifth of the world's total, including 56 nationalities and with a recorded history of 3,000 years, has created a unique and outstanding traditional culture. China's architectural art is a particularly beautiful branch in the tree of Chinese civilization.

作为世界四大文明古国之一，中国拥有广阔的领土和占世界总人口五分之一以上的人口，包括 56 个民族，有长达 3000 年的有记载历史，创造了独特而卓越的传统文化。中国的建筑艺术是中华文明之树上尤为美丽的一枝。

2 Generally speaking, there were about seven major independent architectural systems in the ancient world. Some of them have long ceased to exist, or have not been widely circulated, such as ancient Egyptian, West Asian, Indian and American structures. Only Chinese, European and Islamic structures are considered to be the world's three major architectural systems. The Chinese and European structures continued over the longest period of time and spread over the widest area and consequently produced more brilliant achievements.

一般来说，在古代世界大约有七大独立的建筑体系。其中一些早已不复存在，或者没有得到广泛传播，比如古埃及、西亚、印度和美洲的建筑体系。只有中国、欧洲和伊斯兰建筑被认为是世界三大建筑体系。中国和欧洲的建筑体系持续时间最长，传播范围最广，因而产生了更为辉煌的成就。

3 The basic feature of Chinese architecture is rectangular-shaped units of space joined together into a whole. Temples in ancient Greece also employed rectangular spaces, but the overall effect tended to austerity. The Chinese style, by contrast, combines rectangular shapes varying in size and position according to importance into an organic whole, with each level and component clearly distinguished. As a result, traditional Chinese style buildings have an imposing yet dynamic and intriguing exterior.

中国建筑的基本特征是将矩形的空间单元连接在一起形成一个整体。古希腊的神庙也采用矩形空间，但整体效果趋于简朴。相比之下，中国风格将大小和位置根据重要性而不同的矩形形状组合成一个有机整体，每个层次和组成部分都清晰可辨。因此，传统的中国风格建筑有着雄伟壮观却又充满活力和趣味的外观。

4 The combination of units of space in traditional Chinese architecture abides by the principles of balance and symmetry. The main structure is the axis, and the secondary structures are positioned as two wings on either side to form the main rooms and yard. Residences, official buildings, temples, and palaces all follow these same basic principles. The distribution of interior space reflects Chinese social and ethical values. In traditional residential buildings, for example, members of a family are assigned living quarters based on the family hierarchy. The master of the house occupies the main room, the elder members of the master's family live in the compound in back, and the younger members of the family live in the wings to the left and right; those with

seniority on the left, and the others on the right.

中国传统建筑中空间单元的组合遵循平衡和对称原则。主要结构是轴线，次要结构在两侧呈两翼分布，形成主屋和庭院。住宅、官邸、寺庙和宫殿都遵循这些相同的基本原理。内部空间的分布反映了中国的社会和伦理价值观。例如，在传统住宅建筑中，家庭成员根据家庭等级被分配居住空间。一家之主占据主屋，主人家庭的年长成员住在后面的院子里，家庭中的年轻成员住在左右两侧的厢房里；年长的在左侧，其他的在右侧。

5 Another characteristic of Chinese architecture is its use of a wooden structural frame with pillars and beams, and earthen walls surrounding the building on three sides: The main door and windows are in front. Chinese have used wood as a main construction material for thousands of years; wood to the Chinese represents life, and "life" is the main thing Chinese culture in its various forms endeavors to communicate. This feature has been preserved up to the present.

中国建筑的另一个特点是使用木构架，有柱子和横梁，建筑三面环绕着土墙：正门和窗户在前面。中国人几千年来一直使用木材作为主要建筑材料；对中国人来说，木材代表着生命，而“生命”是中国各种形式的文化努力传达的主要内容。这一特征一直保留至今。

6 Traditional rectangular Chinese buildings are divided into several rooms, based on the structure of the wooden beams and pillars. In order to top the structure with a deep and overhanging roof, the Chinese invented their own particular type of support brackets, called tou-kung, which rise up level by level from each pillar. These brackets both support the structure and are also a distinctive and attractive ornamentation. This architectural style was later adopted by such countries as Korea and Japan.

传统的中国矩形建筑根据木梁和柱子的结构被划分成几个房间。为了给建筑加上一个深而悬挑的屋顶，中国人发明了他们特有的一种支撑托架，叫做斗拱，它从每根柱子上一层一层地升起。这些斗拱既支撑着建筑结构，同时也是一种独特而有吸引力的装饰。这种建筑风格后来被韩国和日本等国家所采用。

7 Some special architectural features resulted from the use of wood. The first is that the depth and breadth of interior space is determined by the wooden structural frame. The second is the development of the technique of applying color lacquers the structure to preserve the wood. These lacquers were made in brilliant, bold colors, and became one of the key identifying features of traditional Chinese architecture. The third is the technique of building a structure on a platform, to prevent damage from moisture. The height of the platform corresponds to the importance of the building. A high platform adds strength, sophistication, and stateliness to large buildings.

木材的使用产生了一些特殊的建筑特征。第一，内部空间的深度和广度由木构架决定。第二，发展出在木结构上涂彩色漆以保护木材的技术。这些漆色彩鲜艳大胆，成为中国传统建筑的关键识别特征之一。第三，在平台上建造建筑的技术，以防止潮湿造成的损坏。平台的高度与建筑的重要性相对应。高平台为大型建筑增添了力量感、精致感和庄严感。

8 The following are some typical Chinese-style buildings:

以下是一些典型的中式建筑：

The Chinese garden

9 The Chinese garden architecture is one of the four essential factors for garden landscaping. The garden architectures satisfy the requirements both for practical purposes and for landscaping the garden. They blend with the environment within the garden and the natural environment, either as a central scenic spot or as an individual small scenic spot easy to access.

中国园林建筑是园林造景的四个基本要素之一。园林建筑既满足实际用途的要求，又能美化园林。它们与园林内的环境以及自然环境相融合，要么作为中心景点，要么作为易于到达的独立小景点。

10 One of the outstanding characteristics of Chinese garden architectures is taking advantage of the environment so that the natural scenes and human interest could be merged. The classic garden architectures are often embellished with calligraphy of poems and with paintings. They shun symmetry along an axis and adopt an irregular and complicated layout with plenty of large and small spaces. The appearance of a garden building should be aesthetic and expressive, and enhance the beauty of the surroundings. In its details, exquisite decorative means should be made use of, such as pretty guardrails, patterned windows, grilles, etc. A garden building is a place for viewing the scenery within or beyond the garden and is a key point of the garden. So both the direction of the building and the positions of its doors and windows should take into consideration the viewing angles and the routes.

中国园林建筑的突出特点之一是因地制宜，使自然景观与人的情趣相融合。古典园林建筑常常饰以诗词书法和绘画。它们避免沿轴线对称，采用不规则且复杂的布局，有许多大小不一的空间。园林建筑的外观应美观且富有表现力，并能提升周围环境的美感。在细节上，应采用精美的装饰手段，如漂亮的栏杆、图案各异的窗户、格栅等。园林建筑是观赏园内或园外景色的场所，是园林的关键之处。因此，建筑的朝向以及门窗的位置都应考虑观赏角度和游览路线。

Siheyua

11 Siheyuan is a building complex formed by four houses around a quadrangular courtyard. Siheyuan is a typical form of ancient Chinese architecture, especially in the north of China. Siheyuan is designed to make it as comfortable as possible to live in a climate that is at times inhospitable. For instance, Siheyuan is enclosed and inward facing to protect its residents from the harsh winter winds and the dust storms of spring. The design also reflects the traditions of China, following the rules of Feng Shui and the patriarchal, Confucian tenets of order and hierarchy that were so important to society. Siheyuan is arranged in rows and vary in size and design according to the social status of the residents. The big Siheyuan of high-ranking officials and wealthy merchants were specially built with roof beams and pillars beautifully carved and painted, each with a front yard and a back yard. The specially built Siheyuan all face the south to get enough sunshine and resist cold wind from the north because air-conditioning was out of the question in those houses at that time.

四合院是由四面房屋围合一个方形庭院而成的建筑组合。四合院是中国古代建筑的典型形式，尤其在中国北方。四合院的设计旨在使人们在有时并不宜人的气候中尽可能舒适地生活。例如，四合院是封闭且内向的，以保护居住者免受冬季的凛冽寒风和春季的沙尘暴侵袭。这种设计也反映了中国的传统，遵循风水规则以及对社会非常重要的父系、儒家的秩序和等级观念。四合院成排排列，根据居住者的社会地位在大小和设计上有所不同。高级官员和富商的

大型四合院经过特别建造，屋梁和柱子雕刻精美并绘有图案，各有一个前院和一个后院。那些特别建造的四合院都坐北朝南，以获得充足的阳光并抵御来自北方的寒风，因为在那个时候这些房子里不可能有空调。

Tulou

12 Tulou means "earth building". It is named from its outer walls, which are made from rammed earth. Generally speaking, the large multi-storey Tulou was seldom seen in the areas where early Hakka lived. However, Tulou appeared in the perimeters of Hakka and other ethnic groups or around locations where Hakka fast developed after Ming and Qing Dynasties.

土楼的意思是“土制的楼”。它因外墙由夯土制成而得名。一般来说，大型多层土楼在早期客家人居住的地区很少见。然而，土楼在明清以后出现在客家人和其他民族的聚居地周边或客家人快速发展的地区周围。

13 Tulou in the Fujian Province is divided into three types, Wufeng, Rectangular, and Round. Wufeng are located mainly in Yongding, and rectangular and round Tulou are distributed in Nanjing, Pinghe, Zhaoan West and Yongding East. In most of the villages, round and rectangular Tulou are mixed together. Among the three, the rectangular Tulou was the original one.

福建省的土楼分为五凤楼、长方形土楼和圆形土楼三种类型。五凤楼主要位于永定，长方形土楼和圆形土楼分布在南靖、平和、诏安西部和永定东部。在大多数村庄里，圆形土楼和长方形土楼混合在一起。在这三种类型中，长方形土楼是最原始的一种。