Hello everyone, today let’s talk about the difference between china and the West on architecture. Generally speaking, people have very distinctive impressions on Chinese and western architectures, when we think of it, there must be very representative images of architectures come into your mind, to name a few, Chinese forbidden city, summer palace…western Notre Dame de Paris, Big Ben… now, let’s analysis why we shaped such an universal impression.

We will introduce the difference from three parts, the structure, the layout and the cultural reason. Now I will start with the structure.

First, when it refers to architectures, let’s get started with the foundation—material. As we all know that in early ages, the most basic building materials are soil, wood and stone. Most part of Chinese traditional architectures are built by wood, in the meanwhile, a majority of western architectures are constructed by stones. The difference of materials opens different possibilities for their architecture styles and structures.

The fundamental characteristic of Chinese traditional architectures can be concluded as a system of “frame structure”, which construct the framework of a building with wooden columns and wooden beams and thus forms the load bearing part. Weight of roof and eaves transmitted to the column from beams. So, wall plays a role of partitioning space for rooms rather than load bearer. On the basis of the framework, the structure is also expected to reflect the art style of symmetry, which requires a symmetric overall appearance. （飞檐）

Western architectures generally develops vertically, extend straight to the sky. Therefore, to build the heavy stony roof as high as possible attaches great impotence to western architecture art. And that is why column matters which burdens much of the weight of the whole building. In other words, columns are trunks and roofs are blossoms and leaves.

Above all, Chinese building structure is more like a box, it can cover a large square because the wooden columns and beams can carry the weight of the wooden roof, but rarely very high in consideration of limited load bearing capacity of wood. However, western building structure is more like a cylinder, because we can pile stones so high without worrying it breaks because stones are solid, but it also easily cracks when being high and heavy without support from below. And that is why Chinese traditional buildings give us a feeling of elegance while western’s give us a feeling of solemn.

Now KZM for the next part.