

Syllabus of Traditional Chinese Architecture

Prerequisite: NO Better having been to China, or Better having been exposed to basic Chinese
Course Name: Traditional Chinese Architecture
Sessions: Tu 9:00 - 11:00; Fri 9:00 - 11:00
Start date: Tuesday, January 22, 2013
Points: 3
Location:
Course #: ARCHA4461
Instructors: LIU, Chang

Description
<p>Instead of an introduction from macro- to micro order, this course, consisting of 14 lectures/seminars, dissects the highest achievement in traditional Chinese architecture which is timber structure by starting from carpenter's "playgame", i.e. wood puzzles. The course will cover the making of Dougong, the key component in Chinese building, the making of individual structures and the formation of building complexes steered by ritual and mysticism, interpreting interior design, residential complex design and garden design. All the interpretations are made based on extant examples and/or historical architectural representations selected from different collections, and by providing some firsthand materials including pictures, measurements and even 3D scan data.</p>

Lecture Schedule 7 weeks, 14 lectures/seminars		
Date	Topic	Special Activity
Jan 22	A-History and Wood Puzzle	1. Play with wood puzzle 2. Grouping for Analyzing Interior Analyzing structure Analyzing Courtyard Analyzing Garden 3. Providing material

Jan 25	Terminology: Dougong	Play with model
Jan 29	Terminology: Truss	
Feb 1	Craft Geometry	
Feb 5	Seminar: on interior	1. Wrapping up ideas; 2. Teacher's comments
Feb 8	Lecture: on interior	
Feb 12	Seminar: on timber structure	1. Wrapping up ideas 2. Teacher's comments
Feb 15	Lecture: on timber structure	
Feb 19	Seminar: on courtyard	1. Wrapping up ideas; 2. Teacher's comments
Feb 22	Lecture: on courtyard	
Feb 26	Seminar: on garden	1. Wrapping up ideas; 2. Teacher's comments
Mar 1	Lecture: on garden	
Mar 5	Styles and Chronology	
Mar 8	Ritual and Mysticism	
Assignment		
1. The participants will be split into groups of 2-3 students according to total number; 2. The groups will be asked to pick up a series of examples of interior, timber structure, courtyard residence and garden, for blind, intuitive and/or investigatory discussions during seminars; 3. At the end of the course, every participant will be asked to select and develop from the examples they have treated into a report of no less than 7 pages of A4 paper including illustrations, and with font size 11 and 20-pound line space.		
Textbook		
Liang, Ssu-ch'eng, Chinese Architecture: A Pictorial History, Dover Publications, 2005 Liang, Ssu-ch'eng, A Pictorial History of Chinese Architecture, The MIT Press, 1984		
Other course resources		
1. FU, Xinian et alii, Chinese Architecture, Yale University Press		
2. GUO, Qinghua, Chinese architecture and planning: ideas, methods, techniques,		
3. GUO, Qinghua, A visual dictionary of Chinese architecture		

4. Knapp, Ronald, China's vernacular architecture: house form and culture, University of Hawaii Press, 1989
5. Thorp, Robert, Visiting China's Past, Floating World Editions, 2006
6. Liu, Chang, Beijing Forbidden City, Tsinghua University Press, 2012
7. Yangshi Lei Collection, in the National Library of China, the Palace Museum, Tsinghua University etc.
8. Students who have capacity of Chinese language are expected to read Prof. Liu's references in his powerpoints which will contain information relevant to the course.

