

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

Tu – 505 Avery, Fri – 412 Avery

1/21/14-3/7/14

Points: 3

Location:

Course #: ARCHA4461

Instructors: LIU, Chang

Description

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.

Lecture Schedule

7 weeks, 14 lectures/seminars

Date Topic Special Activity

Jan 21 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 24 Terminology: Dougong Play with model

Jan 28 Terminology: Truss

Jan 31 Craft Geometry

Feb 4 Seminar: on interior 1. Wrapping up ideas;

2. Teacher's comments

Feb 7 Lecture: on interior

Feb 11 Seminar: on timber structure 1. Wrapping up ideas

2. Teacher's comments

Feb 14 Lecture: on timber structure

Feb 18 Seminar: on courtyard 1. Wrapping up ideas;

2. Teacher's comments

Feb 21 Lecture: on courtyard

Feb 25 Seminar: on garden 1. Wrapping up ideas;

2. Teacher's comments

Feb 28 Lecture: on garden

Mar 4 Styles and Chronology

Mar 7 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.