

山西、北京大開發

Exploration of Shanxi & Beijing

This might be misleading when one solely read the title. It is not about an exploration team going to Beijing and Shanxi for any purposes. It is just some personal experiences I had during my exchange year in Beijing. Not being very familiar with China, I, as many others, have some false impressions about her. Even in Hong Kong, we focus on understanding more about China recently. In this exhibition I would like to bring you, through my lens, to see China in a different way: A way to look at her people and architecture.

Chinese architecture is very diversified, from residential to religious, from a pavilion to a tower and through different dynasties. Shanxi is the province that preserved the most ancient architecture in China and it might take months to investigate the whole area. Liang Sicheng, the pioneer of Chinese architecture and professor of Tsinghua University, had taken field trips to Shanxi and tried his best to preserve some old buildings. When I went to Shanxi and saw those dilapidated structures, I immediately know why Mr Liang even ventures his life to save all those architecture because they are our treasure not only for Chinese but the whole human civilization.

In Beijing, accompanying the rapid development of the city, many vernacular architectures are demolished and renovated. Our collective memory of old traditional Chinese architecture will come to an end if the demolition continues. I wish there are something you can gain from these photoes.

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這題目可能令人誤會，但當大家看清楚時，就會發現其實並非大家所想的西北大開發，而是過去一年我在山西和北京的體驗。或許和很多同學一樣，我對中國大陸既愛亦恨，似熟識卻又很陌生。說實在的，我們大多數人都是近年來才真正正地去了解中國，對她認識的深度可想而知。中國大陸留給我們的印象，有時是商機無限，有時是文化深厚，有時卻是落後簡陋；我這次想介紹的都不是這些，而是她的人和建築。

中國的建築很多元化，從住宅到廟宇，從亭樓到高塔，經過不同朝代工匠的改造，形形色色的建築有著各自的性格，實在是很有吸引力。山西正是全國保存古建築最多的地方，因此，很多研究者皆到該地作考察，用上一、兩個月的時間也並不出奇。中國建築先驅梁思成先生早已在山西進行考察，現在有很多古建築更是他當時與其妻子林徽因一起發現的。梁先生所到的某些地方，這次展覽亦有包括，當我看到這樣的建築時，立即明白梁先生為何千山萬水都希望把它們找出來加以保護，因？它們不僅是中國，也是世界文明的寶貴遺產。

在北京，隨著城市的發展，很多有特色的民居建築已被拆掉，這對於集體記憶來說無疑是一大損失。試想若北京的古城牆還在，會是何等的雄偉，何等的壯麗！若這一小小的展覽可以令諸君對中國有多一點的認識和體會，我已心滿意足。