



蔡簪著 [美] Liz Carter 译

解读城市和城市人的个性文字
描述中国和中国人的地道英文

A CULTURAL PORTRAIT OF 20 CHINESE CITIES

英汉对照有声读本 附赠MP3 



英文看客

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Foreword

China's cities are home to countless cultural traditions, due in large part to their thousands of years of history. The geographical separation of these places has created distinct cultures, most of which have experienced many changes and developments in recent times as a result of globalization. In this book, we have chosen twenty cities we feel best represent the different regions and cultures of China. We have searched for the most interesting and representative aspects of these cities by examining their attractions from different points of view.

The symbols of these cities are like the indigenous plants. They grow naturally during the course of a city's history, unique to that city and that city alone. If we speak of Beijing's history, it might be natural to begin with instant-boiled lamb, and then move from there to the long march of the great Mongolian army. If we are discussing the local customs and habits of Beijingers, the influences of the Mongolian and Manchu cultures also come to mind. Although globalization is changing these cities at the speed of light, the brand new outer appearances cannot completely mask their unique cultures, which still grow the same today as in years past.

When discussing scenery and a city's main attractions, we have sought to explain the reason these cities are considered beautiful. Hangzhou's West Lake brings to mind several stories about beautiful women, stories which have captured the imagination of many learned people in China's past. The people of each city are often unique to that city through sharing common personality traits. Several prime examples are displayed in Beijing's Masters, Shaanxi's cool guys, Shandong's manly men, and Hunan's spicy ladies. Even though everyone receives the same education, watches the same TV shows, and even though some people travel the world, it's hard to erase the inherited personality traits and the marks left by a person's hometown.

In this book we have sought to avoid such simple categories as, "long history," "beautiful scenery," and "talented people," because we believe these kinds of labels cannot truly capture or accurately describe the past, present, and future of a city.

I would like to thank all of my friends and coworkers for telling me about their hometowns. Thanks as well to Liz Carter for her hard work. Her translation is not only faithful to the original text, but in some places it really shines. I would also like to thank Graham Paterson for his detailed revisions and contributions, as well as his invaluable advice.

前言

中国的城市因为几千年的历史积淀有着数不清的文物古迹，因为东西南北的地理差异有着迥异的民风民俗，因为迅猛的全球化有着日新月异的改变。本书选择了比较能代表中国各区域文化的 20 座城市，力图探寻每个城市最具代表性的特征，从不同的角度诠释城市的魅力。

城市的特征就像原生植物，从一个城市的历史中自然形成，为一个城市所独有。讲到北京的历史，很可能从一锅涮羊肉开始，然后说到蒙古大军的远征，说到北京民俗中保留至今的蒙满民族特色。尽管在全球化的过程中我们的城市正在变得惊人地相似，但透过簇新的外表，你仍能发现那些固有的特征还在城市的土壤中生长着，并顽强地活下去。

讲到城市的景物，本书会从城市的历史中找寻让这个城市“如此美丽”的根源。从杭州西湖可能联想到几个美丽女子的传说，这些传说又寄托了中国古代文人的的人生梦想。讲到城市的人们，他们会带着群体特征出现：北京爷、陕西冷娃、山东好汉、湖南辣妹等等。尽管各地区的人都读着统一的教科书、看着同样的电视节目长大，有人甚至来往于世界各地，但性情中的乡土气仍然难以磨灭。

本书极力避开“历史悠久”、“风景秀丽”、“人才辈出”之类的程式化语言，因为这些词汇无法说明属于各个城市的昨天、今天和明天。

感谢我周围的朋友和同事，他们把自己家乡的趣闻贡献给了本书。感谢 Liz Carter 的辛勤工作，她的翻译不仅忠实原文，还有很多出彩的地方。还要感谢 Graham Paterson 的细致校订和对本书写作提出的极有价值的建议。

蔡簪

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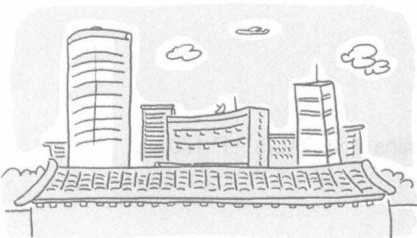
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A Historic City Looking Forward

1. 走向国际化的古都

- A: The rock and roll singer from Beijing, Cui Jian, once said in one of his songs: "It's not that I don't understand; it's just that the world is changing too fast." The speed with which Beijing is becoming internationalized is really startling.
- B: At least, in terms of the city's architecture, Beijing is already an international city. One architect said that Beijing is becoming a "secondhand Hong Kong." To me, Beijing seems even more like Hong Kong than Hong Kong itself. Some of the world's foremost architects come here so they can **let their imagination run wild**. The National Grand Theater looks like a giant glass egg, and the National Stadium looks like a big bird's nest. You can't say these **daring designs are in keeping with** the historic Beijing; they'd look just as much in place in New York City.
- A: That's not hard to understand. Many countries create new and unorthodox architectural Mega Phenomena when their economies are just starting to take off. During the 19th century the British built the Crystal Palace and, during the 20th century, the Americans built the Empire State Building. They wanted to make it known to everybody they weren't just economic superpowers, but would also become global cultural centers.
- B: Sometimes, I feel the Chinese have started copying western things too slavishly and don't cherish their own culture enough. One newspaper commented that 70% of new buildings in Beijing were named after places in America or Europe. Many foreign tourists come to Beijing hoping to see a historic city with an **Eastern flavor**, but what they find is a rapidly developing modern city.
- A: Maybe you don't understand — the old houses look very attractive, but they're not very suitable places to live. A photographer, who was set on living in Beijing's *siheyuan*, soon found there were no running water, no decent kitchen, and nowhere to park a car. In the end, he moved into a new apartment building with all the **modern facilities**.
- B: I understand now. The *Hutong* are beautiful, but they don't provide the amenities which people of today expect. My impression is that the city is looking

to the future and trying to **keep up with the tides of global change**, but she has no time to preserve her history.

A: It's not as serious as you make it out to be. There are still many cultural attractions in Beijing, just as before, and a new vitality has poured into a few of the old streets. The *siheyuan* in the area of Shichahai, where the most beautiful old architecture is located, **have been converted into** European style bars and restaurants.

B: In this way, the Chinese **balance yin and yang** and harmonize the modern and traditional of East and West. They have made Beijing, a historic Eastern city and an international landmark as well.

A: 北京的摇滚歌手崔健曾经唱到：“不是我不明白，这世界变化快。”北京的国际化速度真是让人惊叹。

B: 至少在城市建筑上，北京已经国际化了。有位建筑学家说，北京正在变成“二手香港”。依我看，北京比香港还要香港。世界顶级建筑师在这儿施展着他们的想象力：国家大剧院像一个大玻璃蛋，奥运会主场馆像一个大鸟巢。这些大胆的设计别说放在古都北京，就算放在纽约也是最前卫的。

A: 这个不难理解。很多国家在经济腾飞时期都会造出很多标新立异的巨大建筑。英国人在 19 世纪中期建造了水晶宫，美国人在 20 世纪初建造了帝国大厦。他们不外乎想表明：我们不仅是世界经济大国，还要成为世界文化的中心。

B: 不过，我感觉中国人学西方的东西挺快，对自己的传统却不够珍惜。有报道说北京 70% 的新楼盘都以欧美国家的地名命名。很多外国游客本来希望看到一座具有东方情调的古城，却发现这几乎是一座突然间拔地而起的新城。

A: 你可能不明白，老房子看上去挺美，住起来却不妙。有位摄影师曾经十分向往北京的四合院，但发现那里既没有上下水，也没有像样的厨房，还没地方停车。他最终住进了生活设施完备的公寓楼。

B: 我明白了。胡同美是美，可满足不了人们的需要。我感觉这个城市的目光是向前看的，她急于追赶世界潮流，顾不上去照顾历史。

A: 没你说的那么严重。北京还有很多古迹，一些老街区也被注入了新的活力。在古建筑最集中的什刹海一带，四合院被改造成欧洲风格的酒吧和餐馆。

B: 如此说来，中国人将发挥他们调和阴阳的功夫，把东方与西方、现代与传统结合在一起，将北京打造成一个国际化的东方古都！

老北京城的格局 The Layout of Old Beijing

Beijing was built in accordance with architectural plans dating from the Yuan Dynasty, over 700 years ago. The layout of the city is based on the *Book of Changes*, which stressed the balance of left and right through the harmonizing of *yin* and *yang*. The map of Beijing clearly depicts the one road running from north to south that is the axis of the city. Either side of this road is adorned with temples, *hutongs*, and open air markets like the abundance of branches and leaves on a great tree. The Forbidden City, in which the emperor lived, is at the heart of the city. That architecture also reflects the Theory of the Five Elements — metal, wood, water, fire and earth, which are represented by the five colors white, green, black, red and yellow. The Forbidden City is decorated in yellow, red and green, while the *hutong* surrounding the Forbidden City are a deep grey. One of the charms of Old Beijing is the juxtaposition of the deep grey and lustrous gold.

北京城的建筑格局形成于700多年前的元朝。城市布局依照《周易》，讲求左右对称、阴阳调合。从北京地图上我们可以看到一条自北向南的城市中轴线，庙宇、胡同、集市沿着中轴线左右对称分布，就像大树上生长的繁盛枝叶。皇帝居住的紫禁城是城市的中心。建筑色彩也与《周易》中的五行学说有关。五行中的金、木、水、火、土分别由白、绿、黑、红、黄五种颜色代表。皇宫建筑只取黄、红、绿三种颜色，环绕皇宫的胡同则是一片深灰。北京古城的魅力之一就在于灰沉沉与金灿灿之间的和谐统一。

九门走九车 Nine Gates for Nine Carriages

When the city was being expanded during the Ming Dynasty, the Prime Minister, Liu Bowen, was a great practitioner of *feng shui*. He decreed that the city wall would have nine gates and that the position of every gate, and its name, would have a particular meaning. He also decreed that there would be restrictions as to what kinds of carriages could pass through each gate. In the east, grain would enter the city through Chaoyangmen, while timber, tiles, and articles for daily use, would enter through Dongzhimen. When armies set out for battle, they would march out through Deshengmen in the north, and when they returned, they would enter the city through Andingmen, also in the north. The middle gate to the south, Zhengyangmen, now known as Qianmen, could only be used by members of the Imperial family. On the city's western side was Xuanwumen, where criminals, sentenced to death, were taken to Caishikou for execution. To the east of Zhengyangmen was Chongwenmen, where officials collected taxes. In the west, coal entered through Fuchengmen, and water was brought in through Xizhimen.

明朝修建北京城时，当时的宰相刘伯温是位风水大师，他为北京城的城墙设计了九个城门。每个城门的方位和名称都有讲究，出入什么样的车辆也有规定。东面有两个门：粮食从朝阳门进城；东直门进出木材、砖瓦和日用品。北面有两个门：

军队出征时走德胜门，打仗归来走安定门。南面有三个门：正中的正阳门（俗称前门）只有天子才能出入；西侧是宣武门，死刑犯从这里被押解到菜市口行刑；东侧是崇文门，是官员收纳捐税的地方。西面有两个门：来自北京西部山区的煤经阜成门入城；玉泉山的优质矿泉水从西直门被运进城，专供皇帝及达官贵人享用。

北京曾经是水城 Beijing Was Once a Water City

Among the orderly grid of Beijing's streets runs a few slanting avenues which, a few hundred years ago, were winding canals. A few place names that contain words like river, lake, bridge, fish, water, and other aquatic creatures, remind us that Beijing used to be a city navigable by great canals. During the Yuan Dynasty, when Beijing was founded as its capital, people built the city around man-made canals fed by natural rivers and lakes. This solved the problems of water supply, cargo transportation, and irrigation. The boats carrying grains from the south would pass through the Great Canal and arrive at the Shichahai ferry. Unfortunately, Beijing paid a great price for her beauty. During the city's construction, the people tore down much of the forest, and the deforestation of the mountain range led to the rivers running dry. In the end, the city was faced with a crisis as the surrounding area was becoming a desert.

北京平直的街道之间夹杂着一些“斜街”，在过去的几百年间它们曾经是弯曲的河道。一些与河、池、桥、鱼、水及水生植物有关的地名也在提醒我们：北京曾经是一座水道纵横的城市。从元代建立都城开始，人们在天然河湖的基础上开挖人工水道，解决了城市的供水、运输和灌溉等问题。江南来的运粮船通过大运河抵达什刹海渡口。但是，北京也为她的美丽付出了巨大代价。人们大规模砍伐森林建设城市，导致山脉光秃、河流干涸，城市面临着沙漠化的危险。

特色词汇

secondhand 二手的

daring designs 大胆的设计

Eastern flavor 东方情调

keep up with the tides of global change 跟上世界潮流

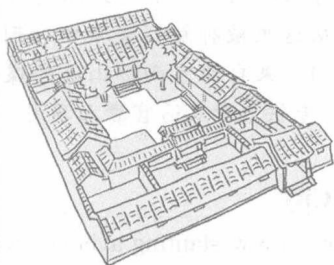
be converted into 被改造成……

let one's imagination run wild 施展想象力

be in keeping with 与……协调

modern facilities 现代生活设施

balance yin and yang 平衡阴阳



Siheyuan

2. 北京人的老屋

——四合院

- A: Do you know what the most expensive type of housing is in Beijing right now? It's the old-style *siheyuan* residences. One *siheyuan* can cost anywhere from 6 million to 20 million Yuan.
- B: Of course they're expensive, now that they are rare historical relics. The *Siheyuan* are **living history** because, that is how the average person lived in Beijing for the past few centuries.
- A: That's what I want to know. Some foreigners call the *siheyuan* "Chinese boxes." What's inside these boxes?
- B: Inside? They're the ideal household of old Beijingers. Inside a *siheyuan*, **four generations lived under one roof**, coexisting peacefully. The design of the *siheyuan* is **perfectly suited** to the unique conditions of Beijing: it is never too cold, never too hot, too wet, or too dry.
- A: Really? It sounds like the people of Beijing already knew about protecting the environment all those centuries ago.
- B: The ancient Chinese have always held that a hidden garden is the ideal place to live, and the *siheyuan* have a truly natural feeling. In the olden days, there was a saying: "Shade from the sun, fish in a pond, a pomegranate tree, a man, a plump dog and healthy maids — the perfect household." Begonias, magnolias, pomegranates, and grapes grew in the courtyard. The older generation **soaked up the sunlight** while the children played with crickets. There were goldfish in a big pond — not just for show; they also ensured the quality of the water. Pets were also part of the household, with their own chores and responsibilities. Bats and swallows ate the bugs, cats kept the mice away, and dogs protected the house...
- A: It sounds like the *siheyuan* just **sprung up from** the earth of Beijing fully formed, a part of the natural ecology.
- B: You've **hit the nail on the head**. But things have changed since 1950s with the **fast growing population**. One *siheyuan* often housed several families and many court yards have been taken over with additional rooms.

- A: Then the life in the *siheyuan* has changed completely since the 50s?
- B: You might say it's just the same old Beijing but, shaken up a little. Enough time goes by and you get used to dozens of people using the same kitchen, the same spigot, and bathroom, and no one having a lot of personal space. Everyone gets used to helping out their neighbors.
- A: I really respect the average Chinese — whether the environment is good or bad; they always seem to be able to **find happiness in life**.
- B: It's a shame it's all history now. During the 1990s the *siheyuan* began to rapidly disappear. The people of Beijing moved into high-rise apartment blocks and now they must **adapt to a new way of life** and find new forms of entertainment and pleasure.



- A: 你知道现在北京什么样的房子最贵吗？是北京的老民居——四合院！一套四合院价值 600 万到 2000 万人民币。
- B: 作为日渐稀少的历史遗迹，四合院当然贵了。四合院就是活着的历史，告诉你过去几百年来北京的老百姓是怎么生活的。
- A: 这正是我想知道的。有的外国人把四合院称为“中国盒子”，这盒子里到底装着什么？
- B: 装着什么？装着旧时代北京人的家园理想。四合院里往往住着一个四世同堂的大家庭，一家人享受着和睦的亲情。而且，四合院的建筑设计顺应北京的气候特点，能防寒、防沙、防水，冬暖夏凉。
- A: 真的？看来北京人在几百年前就知道环保了。
- B: 归隐田园是中国古人的生活理想。四合院里充满着自然的情趣。那时有一句话叫“天棚、鱼缸、石榴树；先生、肥狗、胖丫头。”院子里种着海棠、玉兰、石榴、葡萄；老年人晒太阳，孩子们斗蛐蛐儿；大水缸里养着金鱼，不仅供人观赏，还能检验水质。小动物也是家庭的一员，行使着各自的职责：蝙蝠、燕子啄食虫子，猫防着老鼠，狗看家护院……
- A: 我感觉四合院就像是从小土地里自然长出的东西，是生态循环的一部分。
- B: 说得太对了。然而，随着上世纪 50 年代开始的人口增长，四合院变了样。一个四合院住进十几户家庭，院子也被新搭建的房屋塞满。
- A: 这么一来，四合院里的日子就完全变了样？
- B: 可以说是翻天覆地的变化。几十人共用一个厨房、一个水龙头、一个厕所。时间一长，人们就慢慢习惯了这种相互之间没有距离的生活，甚至建立了互帮互助的邻里关系。
- A: 我真佩服中国的老百姓，无论环境好坏，他们都能找到生活的乐趣。
- B: 可惜这一切都将成为历史。20 世纪 90 年代开始的旧城改造让四合院迅速消失。北京人从院子搬进了高楼，他们又要去适应新的环境，寻找新的生活乐趣。



四合院今昔 *Siheyuan*, Past and Present

The construction of the *siheyuan* began during the Yuan Dynasty over 700 years ago, with the rate of construction peaking during the Ming and Qing dynasties. The growing unrest and turmoil in Chinese society from the beginning of the 20th century, along with the steadily deteriorating state of Beijing's economy, gave city residents little choice but to rent out their homes. The *Siheyuan* that were previously home to individual family units became cramped accommodation for multiple families. Many of the *siheyuan*, previously belonging to important officials and families of the Qing Dynasty, were nationalized after 1949. The State converted those *siheyuan* for use as government offices, schools, hospitals, and factories. Privately owned *siheyuan* were also managed by the government, and rented out at lower rates to migrants from outside the city. During the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 70s, most of the engravings, sculptures, and paintings found in the *siheyuan* were destroyed by the Red Guards. After the 1980s, the Beijing city government began to take measures to preserve the remaining *siheyuan*, and the rights to some privately-owned *siheyuan* were returned to their owners. The new wave of construction in the city has again called into question the fate of Beijing's *siheyuan*.

北京城修建四合院开始于700多年前的元代，在明清时期达到鼎盛。进入20世纪后，中国社会历经动荡，北京市民的经济状况每况愈下，不得不将自家的房子出租。独门独户的四合院开始变成多户杂居的大杂院。1949年以后，很多清代贵族遗留下的大型庭院归国家所有，成为政府机构、学校、医院、工厂的所在地。私人拥有的四合院也由政府统一管理，以低廉的价格出租给日渐增多的外来移民。在20世纪60年代末70年代初的“文化大革命”中，四合院里大量精美的木雕、石刻、彩绘被红卫兵们毁损。80年代后，北京市政府采取了保护四合院的措施，一些四合院的所有权也回到了它们的老主人手里。但是，紧跟而来的大规模的城市建设又让大批四合院面临拆除的命运。

天然空调 Natural Air Conditioning

Beijing's summers are hot and dry, but the *siheyuan* provide a cool escape from the heat. Off the beaten track, they are often covered with moss from disuse. But how does such a place stay cool? In olden times, underground channels carried water below Beijing's *siheyuan*! Before the *siheyuan* were constructed, people would dig out an area two meters deep to bury pottery. The pottery's openings would be covered with brick lids containing many small holes. Small rocks were then placed on the lids, and the pots covered with dirt. When it rained, the water would trickle down into the pots. In hot weather, the water would evaporate, to help maintain the steady humidity and temperature of the *siheyuan*.

北京的夏天干燥而炎热，而四合院里却十分凉爽，不常走人的地方还长满了青苔。这阴凉的水气是哪儿来的呢？原来，四合院的地下有一个储水系统！人们在建造四合院之前，会在两米多深的地下埋很多陶罐。罐口用带有小洞的陶砖盖上。陶罐上方先铺上一层小石子，再压土夯实。下雨时，雨水会渗进罐中；天热时，罐中的水就会慢慢蒸发出来，调节四合院中的湿度和温度。

百万庄有个八卦阵 The Eight Trigrams at Baiwanzhuang

The buildings of Baiwanzhuang in Beijing's Xicheng District were constructed for residential use during the 1950s. Entering these small neighborhoods, you are presented with lanes that twist and turn. The houses are laid out in strange and complicated patterns, almost like a labyrinth. What you might not realize is that you've entered a replica of the Eight Trigrams, a figure used in ancient Chinese divinity that has a history of over 3,000 years. The houses here are all laid out in accordance with the pattern of the Eight Trigrams and are named after the twelve Earthly Branches. It is said that the area was unlucky because there used to be a burial ground there so, it was only by building the houses along the pattern of the Eight Trigrams that misfortune could be avoided.

位于北京市西城区的百万庄小区是20世纪50年代修建的民用住宅区。走进小区，你会发现里面的小路弯弯曲曲，楼房排列错综复杂，宛如一座迷宫。你一定想不到自己已经进入了有3000年历史的中国古代防卫阵法——八卦阵。这里的楼房都按照八卦阵的方位排列，以十二地支来命名。据说这里以前是一片坟地，建房不吉利，只有八卦阵才能降妖伏魔。

特色词汇

living history 活着的历史

four generations live under one roof 四世同堂

be perfectly suited to 正好适合……

soak up the sunlight 晒太阳

spring up from 从……中生长出来

hit the nail on the head 说到点子上了

fast growing population 快速增长的人口

find happiness in life 找到生活乐趣

adapt to a new way of life 适应新的生活方式