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City  
Air  
Reading

# 空中 读城

李振宇 著

LI Zhenyu

国家自然科学基金资助出版 (编号 51278337)

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光 明 城

LUMINOCITY



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LI Zhenyu

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## 序一

# 空中读城如读诗

裴钢 教授 博士 | 同济大学校长

2015年8月27日

“音乐是流动的建筑”“建筑是凝固的音乐”，这两句耳熟能详的名言形象地诠释了建筑的艺术属性与美学内涵。然而，单一的建筑不管多么雄伟与优雅，也难以给人节奏和韵律之感。因此，一座建筑作为一个音符，一组建筑构成一个乐章，有机和谐地穿连在一起，一座美丽的城市就是一首动人心弦的交响乐。建筑使城市更美丽，城市使生活更美好！

“诗言志、歌咏言”，在文明的历史长河中，诗与歌是不分家的。如此，建筑可以是动人的乐章，也可以是激情的诗篇。仁者见仁，智者见智；乐者听歌，文人吟诗。幢幢排排整齐划一如唐诗，高低起伏错落有致似宋词，花园庭院小桥流水为元曲；读城读史，读城读诗。

“背负青天朝下看，都是人间城廓”，庄子当年在《逍遥游》中的冥想如今早已成为现实。“千里江陵一日还”已成为日常生活中的便利与无奈，来也匆匆去也匆匆，大多数人无暇也无心欣赏并回味每一座到过的城市。不过天下之大，总会出现有心之人带来一些意外的惊喜与愉悦。今天，同济大学李振宇教授的一本小书，精选其16年间旅途中在飞机上拍摄的55座中外城市的照片，独特的视角带给我们一份额外惊喜。

行万里路，读百座城。作为一名优

秀的建筑学老师，李振宇教授在这本书中集中展示了美好的城市是有艺术原则的，是有灵魂的，也是有故事的。我作为从事生命科学专业的建筑外行也赞同这样的观点，我们实验室的学生就曾在学术交流中讨论过建筑大师高迪极富有生命力的作品。我们位于重要的历史转折点上，城市与社会的可持续发展需要更多的学者、专家及不可计数的青年学生具有高瞻远瞩的情怀，担负起继往开来的责任，任重而道远。



### Reading a City, Enjoying its Poetry

Prof. Dr. PEI Gang | President of Tongji University  
27 August 2015

"I call architecture frozen music", while "architecture is flowing music". The two proverbs well illustrate the artistry and aesthetics of architecture. Yet one single building hardly boasts the sense of cadence and rhythm, however marvelous or elegant it may be. One building makes a musical note and a cluster a chapter. These chapters interweave harmoniously to compose a splendid symphony, a beautiful city. Better architecture makes better city and better life.

The traditional Chinese literature believes "poems express ideals while songs are prolonged poems". Poetry and songs are never seen separate in the history. For the same token, architecture could be a moving chapter or a passionate poem. There are a thousand Hamlets in a thousand people's eyes. Happy men enjoy songs while literatis chant poems. It is the same when it comes to architecture. Buildings in orderly rows are like poetry in the Tang Dynasty; buildings scattered in ups and downs are the iambic verses from the Song Dynasty; courtyards with delicate gardens and bridges over creeks remind us of dramas of the Yuan Dynasty. Reading a city is a process of probing into its history and understanding its poetry.

"Looking down from high in the sky, all the world's towns are in your sight." That

was once an imagination by Zhuangzi in his *A Happy Excursion*. But today, it has come to reality. The verse "Only in one day/you can return from Jiangling / A thousand miles away" is an illustration of today's fast transportation, which also leaves us no time to appreciate the places you have set foot on though. Fortunately, this world is never lack of wise men who are always ready to bring us surprises and pleasure. Professor LI Zhenyu of Tongji University, is one of them. He selected the pictures of 55 cities which he shot from the air by plane during the past 16 years. This book surprises us with a unique angle of city impression.

Prof. LI traveled thousands of miles and read hundreds of cities. As an excellent architecture teacher, he shows us, through this book, that a beautiful city boasts art rules, spirits and stories. I can't agree more to this point, although I am in the field of life science. My students used to discuss Antonio Gaudi's masterpieces during an academic exchange. At this turning point of history, experts, scholars and the younger generation are required to look far ahead, shoulder the responsibility of carrying forward the tradition and paving a path for a sustainable future.

## 序二

“教人飞翔的人，  
取代了所有的墙角石；  
所有的墙角石都会飞起来，  
和他一起在空中……”

(引自尼采：《扎拉图斯特拉如是说》第三部，1884)

彼得·海尔勒 教授 博士 | 柏林工业大学  
2015年9月10日

空中摄影能补充我们在地面上看到的  
东西吗？它们能补充我们从互联网上  
搜索到的信息和图像吗？

提出这个问题合乎情理，然而，从  
空中俯瞰城市和乡村的魅力并没有消失。  
老实说，当我在中国或其他什么地方辛  
苦工作了一周之后，还能让自己保持清  
醒的，正是起飞和降落之间的那段飞行；  
虽然颠簸劳累，但是对像李振宇和我这  
样的人来说，是很值得的。只有这段时间，  
提供了真实的和令人兴奋的视野，可以  
从舷窗俯瞰你几天前或几小时前路过的  
地方。这种机会必然呈现出的“神奇”，  
是其他旅行经验无法替代的。

天上的那一望，除了“神奇”还有  
什么呢？乡村和城市从上面看上去是不  
一样的，它们“真实”的形式和结构，  
它们隐藏在匆匆一游、表面所见背后的  
特性，被展示和揭露出来。我们可以确  
定它们是整体还是散落，是断开还是衔  
接，旧还是新，大还是小，历史还是现  
状，绿地还是建成用地；特别重要的是，  
我们能看到区域和土地利用的真实的形  
状和大小，这是我们步行或开车时难以  
把握的东西。城市的真实尺寸与结构唯

有在天空之下展示出来；我们从上俯瞰，  
开始理解我们在哪里，我们将去哪里。  
这种图景的丰富性能令所有的地图黯然  
失色。

李振宇不仅是一个幸运的摄影者和  
城市研究者，还是一个“常旅客”。在  
世界各地许多城市的无数次旅行给了他  
机会，能够抓住“正确”的瞬间，得到  
城市的空中图像，让它们为自己说话。  
作为城市规划师和建筑师，他知道何时  
是正确的时机，在飞机的哪一边更适合  
按下快门。

我认识李振宇很久了。我感觉现在  
是一个很好的时机，让他打开他的照片  
宝藏，与城市专业工作者及更多的人们  
分享；那些优先选择窗口座位的人们，  
那些着迷于从空中俯瞰城市的人们，一  
定会爱上这本书的。

## Preface 2

*"He who has taught men to fly,  
has displaced all cornerstones;  
and all the cornerstones will fly  
together with him in the air..."*

(Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche. *Also sprach Zarathustra*. Part 3. 1884)

Prof. Dr. Peter Herrle | Technische Universität Berlin  
10 September, 2015

Can aerial photographs add to what we can see on the ground? And can they add to the bulk of information and imagery we can retrieve from the Internet?

This is a valid question and yet, the fascination of a view from the air down to city, and landscapes has not vanished. Honestly, what keeps me awake after a hard working week in China or elsewhere is exactly this: Take-off and landing may sometimes be rough, but the in-between is what counts for people like LI Zhenyu and myself. Only the time in-between offers a true and inspiring glance "from above" out of the square window down to places where I have been moving around in the past days or hours. This opportunity presents a certain "magic" unparalleled in other travel experience.

And what exactly does the glance from the sky add beyond this "magic"? Landscapes and cities look different from above, they reveal their "real" form and structure, their character that is hidden while traveling on the surface. We identify connectivity and fragmentation, ruptures and cohesion, old and new, big and small, history and present, green and built-up and – importantly – we see the real shape and size of areas and land

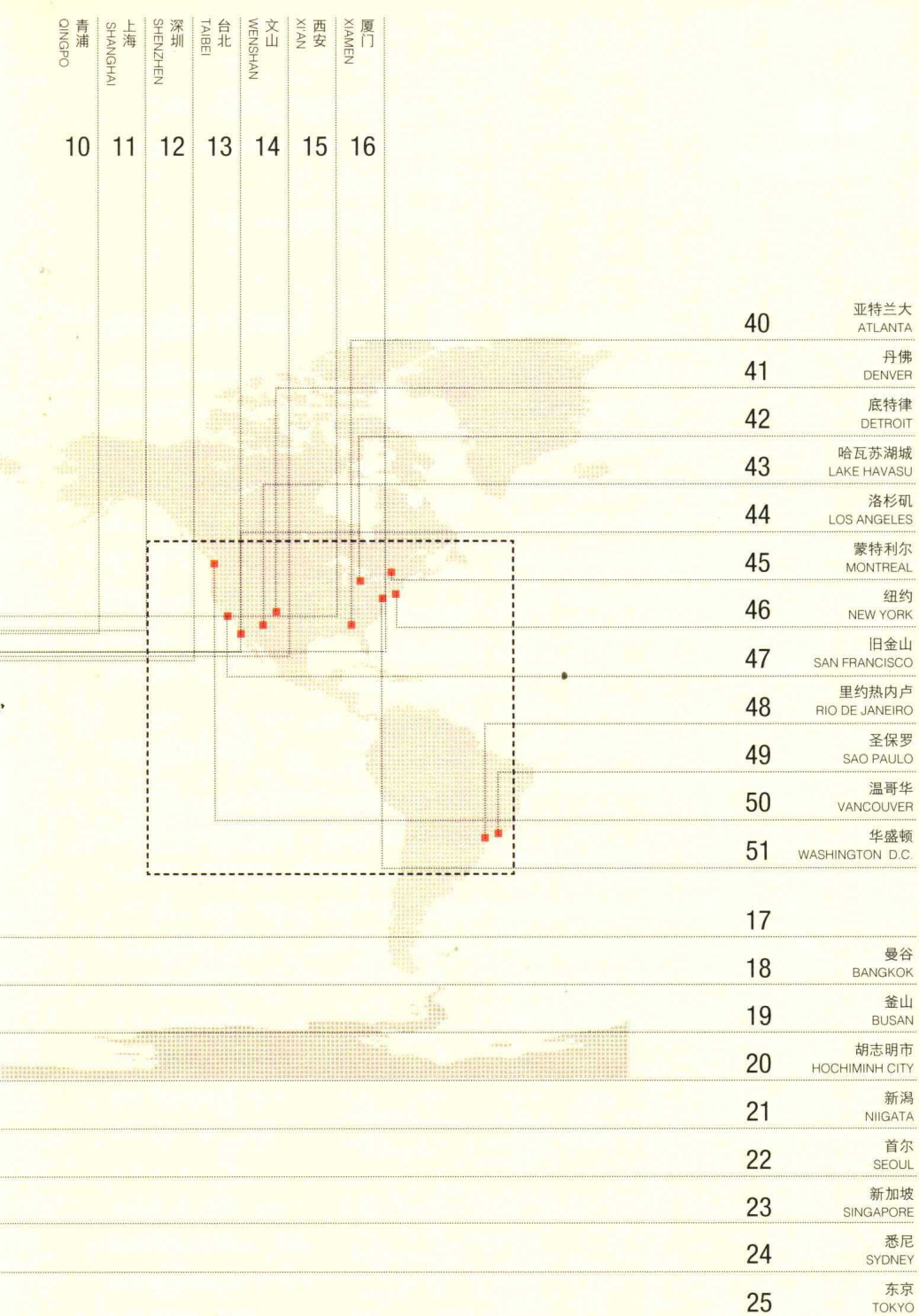
uses, something we cannot capture while walking and driving around. Cities show their real dimensions and structure only from the air and while watching them from above we begin to understand where we have been or are heading for. And the complexity of those images makes maps look flat and poor.

LI Zhenyu is not only a blessed photographer and an urban analyst but also a "frequent traveller". Countless travels to countless cities around the world have given him the chance to hit the "right" moment and shoot aerial images that speak for themselves. As an urban planner and architect, he knows when the right moment has come to press the shutter button, and which side in the plane to prefer.

Knowing LI Zhenyu for a long time, I feel it was high time for him to open the treasure chest of his photographs and share them with a community much wider than urban professionals: All those who give priority to window seats and are captivated by birds-eye views on cities will greatly enjoy this book.









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影响一个城市的因素，真是很多。认识一个城市的方式，同样也很多。从空中俯瞰城市，特别是在民航飞机上俯瞰，是我认识城市的方式之一。过去的造城者，经常依靠想象中的空中视点来构筑城市；今天的城市研究者，则更多地把眼光投向地面，关注人的活动和生活。在这本小书里，我们暂时回到空中，单纯地认识那些大尺度下城市的空间和形式元素。

千百年前，人们虽然没有飞机，没有热气球，却能用想象的翅膀把自己送入云端，不管在威尼斯还是在平江府，人们都能描绘出从上往下的城市俯瞰。北京和巴黎，应该是首先按照设计者心目中的鸟瞰场景来规划，其次才按照城市中的行进者的平视体验来建设的。在今天，也有迪拜和临港新城，根据预先设定的宏观意象“设计”了城市图景，仿佛设计师们都有时光飞机作为工具。

从卡米洛·西特，到阿尔多·罗西，到凯文·林奇，他们对城市艺术原则、城市建筑艺术和城市意象的认识给了我很大的启发。我同意这样的观点：美好的城市是有艺术原则的；建筑艺术一般难以脱离城市而存在；对城市认知的意象由多种要素组成，比如边界、路径、面积、标志等。我偶尔认识到，西特、罗西、林奇他们有共同的特点，就是把视点从天上落到了人间，他们的理论抑或原理，是以步行者的视角

为基础的。进入 21 世纪，关于城市的认识越来越丰满，更加关注交通和基础设施的效率，更加关注人的行为，更加关注生态和可持续发展，更加关注城市的人文环境和活力，更加关注社会公平。

在城市的社会性和科学性上升到了前所未有的地步的时候，回过头来俯瞰城市，从天上解读城市的形式和空间，似乎有点老派和保守。但我相信这是直指人心的本来感受。城市虽然给人很多的景象，但一个令人印象深刻的城市，在人们的脑海中，尤其在建筑师和城市规划师的脑海中，总会有一个中观或者宏观的大图景。它是依托空间环境元素组成的，它是由每个体验者根据自己亲历的生活体验，根据各种不同的资讯片段——地图、照片、视频、导航软件——在头脑中加工拼接而成。这个大图景的基础，是一个大尺度的城市空间。正如我们随飞机升到空中，俯瞰一个城市的时候，又恰似回到了几百年前建筑师向君王描绘城市图景的那个视角。

在这本小书里，我无法尽述在空中看到的城市的印象。我只想借此大致说明可以关注到的十个要点：地景、形状、边界、结构、街道、街区、肌理、高度、形式、特殊元素。

There are so many factors that affect a city, as many as ways to see a city. As for me, I learn about a city from an aerial view, especially during commercial flights. In ancient times, rulers and architects envisioned cities from an imaginary heavenly perspective; while today's urban planners focus more on the ground and citizen's daily activities. In this book, let us move back to ancient ways to understand cities' space and forms.

In the old days, from the West to the East, people describing what cities would look like from the sky can only do so through imagination. For instance, Beijing and Paris may be conceived through the aerial imagination of the designers. Today, Dubai and Lin'gang New City (next to Shanghai) seemed to be built with a pre-conceived panoramic image from planners' minds.

Great architects such as Camillo Sitte, Aldo Rossi and Kevin Lynch inspired me a great deal with their principles in the art of city making. I believe the beauty of a city lies in its principles. Elements such as boundaries, roads, regions and markers contribute to the cognition of a city; and the art of architecture cannot exist without the city. Master planners like Sitte, Rossi and Lynch had one thing in common: they drew the viewpoint of a city from up-in-the-air to the ground level, and built their theories based on a comprehensive understanding of the pedestrian

experience. Planners in the 21st century focus more on the efficiency of transportation and facilities, on the behavior patterns of dwellers, on urban ecology and sustainable development, on cultural vitality and a greater degree of social equality.

It seems somewhat backwards to read a city from an aerial view when social and scientific researches on cities have reached an unprecedented advanced level. Yet a great city often impresses architects and urban planners with a medium or macroscopic picture in their minds. This picture is made up of fragments of impression – maps, photos, videos or navigation software – mainly based on personal experiences. Seeing cities from the plane is like a flashback to centuries ago when city makers would describe their vision of urban landscape to their emperors.

In this little book, I will try to illustrate cities through ten key elements: landscape, shape, boundary, structure, street, district, fabric, height, and special elements.