

CONTEMPLATION ON ARCHITECTURE

薛求理

Charlie Xue

# 思考建築

貝思出版有限公司  
PACE PUBLISHING LIMITED

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# 前言

## Preface

世紀末有太多關於二十世紀的總結和對新世紀的前瞻。二下世紀七十年代以降，亞洲經濟的蓬勃和中國的崛起，使太平洋西岸成了一個沸騰工地。城市在迅速大規模的新舊更替中，新建築大量湧現，令人目不暇接。許多社會、環境、技術、體制方面的問題未作詳究，對實踐滯後背動地作出反應。

同時期，西方建築在規模上似乎沉寂了一些，但其主流實踐卻依舊理性地發展。聲音最大的，是來自一些看似非理性其實可能是在探索建築語言的主張。這些建築雖然鳳毛麟角，卻驚世駭俗，理論上愈有鑽牛角尖的趨勢。

二十年來，這種種建築現象一直縈繞我心。我是個畢不了業的實踐者和學習者，每有學習上的一得已見，便嘗試將其筆錄下來，或擲於紙箋，或公之同好。這些文字，既不“理論”，又欠“研究”。但在其出世的當兒，卻也為忙碌的同行們提供些信息參考或博之一笑。

建築學是門實踐、應用、綜合，又貼近生活的學科。本地知識、經驗和習慣做法佔了很大比重。建築學的研究有其自己的對象、方法、規範（paradigm）和語言，這一點往往不被其它學科、大學科研主管所重視。在大學的評等評級裡，“行業”（trade）雜誌往往擺不上台面，但恰恰是這些看似紅紅綠綠

There are too many conclusions of the past and prediction of the future at the turn of the century. The booming of Asian economy and rising of China since 1970s made the west bank of Pacific a big busy construction site. During the rapid urbanization and urban renewal, new buildings dazzled our eyes. So many social, environmental and technical problems emerged and waited for answering.

Relatively, the western architecture seemed silent at the same time. The main stream of western architecture flew rationally while some seemingly “non-rational” proposals were making the noise. Those exploratory architectures, though small in number, astonished the world while their backing theory tended to alienate the practice and split hairs.

All those architectural phenomena haunted me in the past twenty years. Whenever having some ideas, I tried to record them with my pen clumsily—published or perished later. My writings are neither “theoretical” nor “research”, but they provided references for busy colleagues from time to time.

Practical, applied and comprehensive in nature, architecture is so close to the life world. Moreover, local knowledge, experiences and habits account largely in this discipline. Architecture has its own paradigm and methodology in research. However, these characteristics are often ignored or misunderstood by those academic or university authority. “Trade” magazines may not enter the ranking of “refereed” journals in university’s judgement. It is those “trade magazines” that greatly inspire and promote the development of architecture! We need both contemplation and vocabulary.

My own writings fall into the following categories:

的行業雜誌或內無數學公式的“科普”文章，對建築學起到了巨大的推動作用。建築學需要思考，也需要視覺詞彙。

× × ×

我自己的筆錄，分為以下幾類：

一是關於中國大陸和香港建築的現狀和評論，我們置身於這個環境中，不僅是觀賞者，更是使用者，因此有些切身體會。

二是關於世界建築的思考。那些突出的人物和作品，使我們驚訝，亦迫使我深究。過去二十年裡，能耐大的中國學人，充其量也只是將外國理論和作品搬入國內，讚美一番。我亦“充其量”而為之，雖不願抬轎吹打，但仍寄望為形成中國建築研究的規範系統盡份綿力。由於這部份文章的可讀性，本書選入多篇。

三是關於建築專題的研究，如實驗室設計和劇場設計，我曾結合工程和碩士論文，寫過近十篇稿。還有些實際工程的總結。科技的迅速進步，使這些文章有點落伍。本書對這類文章一篇未選。

四是關於建築理論與方法。八十年代在現代化熱潮中，建築設計方法與理論曾令我心往神馳，認為數字化是解決建築“不夠科學”的唯一出路。我曾淺嘗，隨著電腦的普及化和專門化，我在這領域早已鳴鑼收兵。再觀海外的一些建築規劃或設計雜誌，幾乎整本都充滿數學公式。是不是要讓建築實踐者統統乾瞪眼才算有水平？1999年6月，我去美國奧蘭多參加環境設計研究會，有博士研究生用這個矩陣那個函數在描繪一個旅館門廳，使我這個摸過點數學方法的人如墜雲裡霧中。我斗膽問道，這不是明眼人一眼可以看出的常識問題？據說很多推動人類進步的重大發現，開始時的實驗都似事倍功半，練

Description and comments on contemporary architecture of mainland China and Hong Kong. We are a member of this setting and of course have some direct experiences.

Those prominent figures and works in the world surprised us and forced us to understand. In the past twenty years, those capable Chinese scholars only transported the western theory and works into China's territory with positive comments. I may be one of them. No intention of flattering, we still hope to establish the paradigm of research in Chinese architecture. Because of the readability of this kind of articles, several are selected in this book.

Building type studies are basic knowledge for design practice. In 1980s, I once researched laboratory design and theater design while involving in the practice and thesis for M.Arch degree. Around ten articles were published and they gave colleagues a lot of pragmatic and useful references. The rapid progress of technology in the past ten years made my studies a bit out of date. No article in building type is selected in the book.

In the early 1980s, the tide of technology started to land in China. Design methodology and quantitative study of architecture once haunted me and my fellow students. Quantitative study might be a way to figure out the old problem of “non-scientific” architecture. With the proliferation of computer and information technology, most efforts in methodology seemed to be embodied in various computer software and operation. At the same time, several “academic” journals of architecture and planning are still full of mathematical formula and numerical description. They simply make practitioners confused. In June 1999, I participated the annual conference of Environmental Design Research (EDRA) in Orlando. Some doctoral students described a hotel lobby with complicated math matrices and functions. But the results are so simple, such as some parts of the lobby will attract more activities. Those “discoveries” may be pointed out by a person with simple daily life experiences. We hope that these explorations may only be a beginning which will finally lead to some fundamental changes of our understanding. More extensively, those macro level theoretical issues may also be transferred to pragmatic tools, e.g., Deconstruction. I would like to contribute more to this aspect.

憨犯傻。但願我的膚淺“常識”只屬於保守者的心態。更廣義而言，一些理論問題也可轉化為思維方法，如解構主義亦是種方法。我願在這種方法上繼續做點工作。

五是譯著。曾譯過十篇，包括Robert Venturi, Norberg-Schulz和Chris Able的文章。英文與中文在表述和思維方面差異極大，即使是再“信、達、雅”的譯文，恐也難以傳神通順。最近七八年裡，一直在英文的工作環境裡，逐字逐句英譯漢對我也就失去了意義。本書未收譯文。

從1992年起，陸續寫一些英文文字，投稿於英美和香港的雜誌和國際會議。當然，中國人用西文寫建築文章又很成問題。

謹就收錄文章作一簡要說明。對建築宏觀的觀照，對學界或年輕人而言，不可沒有，亦不易太多。沒有則失之方向，太多恐陷於空泛。《世紀之交看中國建築》發表於1989年，獲得北京《建築學報》論文獎。以國力、經濟與環境、建築相聯的看法並未過時。

《中國傳統營造意識的象徵性》寫於1988年，是我對傳統建築的點滴認識。按照景觀—聚落—建築—細部的層次闡述無所不在的象徵傾向。

《評說邢同和》寫於1998年，以我十數年來體驗學習邢總作品的心得，加之於對上海建築進程的闡述。評論文章，眼界、標準與分寸皆要緊，實不易為。

1989年，北京《世界建築》雜誌舉辦80年代優秀世界建築評選，香港匯豐銀行名列前茅。曾主編昭奮約我寫稿。那時我住在香港大學半山舍堂，早晚徜徉於上環、中環，對匯豐銀行印象深刻、勾畫自如。因此有了

I have done ten translation works, translating those classic authors' works into Chinese language, including Robert Venturi, Christian Norberg-Schulz and Chris Able. Language is naturally linked with thinking. There are tremendous difference in expressing in English and Chinese languages. How can you interpret the English originals with readable Chinese while keeping the original meaning and rhythm? After I worked in UK, USA and HK, translation from English to Chinese word by word lost significance for me. No translation work is selected in this book.

There are some book reviews and commentary essays, prompted by instant emotion and interests. One or two such short articles are put in the book just for amusement.

Some English writings have been submitted to international journals and conferences since 1992. In humanities, social science and design, there are still some obstacles (not merely in language) for Chinese scholars in the international forum.

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Some complementary notes for the selected articles.

The macro level contemplation seems self-indulgent and too far from practice, but it is indispensable for a correct direction and for architectural circle as a whole. “Chinese Architecture at the Turn of the Century” was awarded by *Architectural Journal* in 1989. It will never be out-of-date to relate economy, environment with architecture.

“Symbolism of Traditional Chinese Architecture”, written in 1989, concludes my understanding of traditional architecture and its intention in symbolism. The article expounds the ubiquitous symbolism in four levels: landscape-settlement-building-articulation.

“Comments on Architectural Design of Xing Tonghe”, was written for his monograph in 1998. My past experiences in Shanghai were integrated in the article. It is not easy to comment on our contemporary parallels in terms of standard and vision.

《匯豐銀行印象》一文。

《香港城市建築述評》寫於1997年香港回歸祖國，為北京《建築師》專輯而作。文章記述了住宅，城市建築的限制和創造等等。寫作該文的1997年，香港樓價騰升。我當時租住的700呎小單位，竟也達到一萬元一平方呎的天價。我的焦慮文中可見。

香港城市大學建築完工於1990年，我曾看著它施工。最近五年，又日日浸淫其中。對這種政府資助、功能主義大樓有所認識。它的美感源自於舒適、實用和方便。《香港城市大學建築》一文記敘了我的感覺。

1999年，我與同事關於香港舊城改建的題目獲得城市大學策略研究基金資助。我們有了些人力、物力對此一課題作些深入探究。涉及到公共空間、舊城改造政策、有機重建等等。這裡放入其中一篇背景情況介紹。以後會有專文專書出現。

《文明結構中的建築學》、《建築場理解》等四篇取自1990年博士論文，或改寫或節錄。有些觀點不免牽強稚拙，但為鋪墊那些觀點卻作了大量工作。其中不乏一些火花和信息。《人為環境二維畫面心理測試分析》，參照了歐美的語義分析法，這一方法過去主要應用在心理學和環境美學上。建築學則主要用於環境建成後的評價。十年過去了，這一領域的研究方法並未有大的改變。在實現四個現代化的進程中，科學研究實驗室必不可少，但大多數實驗室在使用中又只是個車間、工作場地而已，在建築學上無太多建樹，路易斯·康（Louis Kahn）的實驗室設計則有鮮明個性。我由實驗室而進到康的世界，深為感動。《路易斯·康的實驗室設計和建築觀點》1981年在北京《世界建築》上刊登後，亦感動過不少同行和學生。

In 1989, *World Architecture* of Beijing held an election of excellent buildings in 1980s, Hong Kong Bank won the highest vote. I was invited to write an article on this glamorous high-tech bank, which was so dear to me, as I wandered around it whenever I had time during my study in Hong Kong. “Urban architecture of Hong Kong” was written in 1997 for a special issue of *The Architect* when Hong Kong’s sovereignty returned to China. The article depicts the housing, urban infrastructure and constraints in building design. The housing price in Hong Kong escalated drastically in 1997 when I was writing the article. My small flat of 725 sq.ft reached US\$1,400 per sq.ft in sale! My worries were revealed in the article.

Building of City University of Hong Kong (Phase I) was completed in 1990, and I immersed within day and night in the past five years and have some understanding of such governmental funded and functional building. Its aesthetics is derived from its comfort, convenience and pragmatics. The article “Building of City University” records such feeling of mine.

In 1999, my project on the urban renewal of Hong Kong got supported by the Strategic Research Fund from my university. We have some resources to explore the topic in the aspects of public space, policy and organic renewal. One background introduction is put in this book and some more detailed research will follow.

Four articles “Architecture in the Structured Civilization”, “Field Theory in Architecture, An Interpretation” are adapted from my doctoral dissertation of 1990. Although somewhat farfetched in reasoning, these articles were derived from large number of references in philosophy, aesthetics, science, technology, and urban architecture. Ideas sparkle here and there. “Semantic Scale Rating of Perceived Built-Environment” took references from semantic experiment of western literature. The method was mainly used in aesthetics and psychology before, and also occasionally used in post occupancy evaluation for buildings. Ten years after my article published, there is no substantial change in this method world wide.

In the process towards modernization, laboratory for scientific research is so important. However, most labs are workshop only, with very little archi-

它是中國大陸最早對康的介紹。也引來一些批評，（見《世界建築》1981/4）。這又是我較早的一篇文章，敝帚自珍。

1988年6月，“解構主義”展覽暨討論會在紐約現代藝術博物館舉行。曾昭奮先生遠見卓識，立即組織評寫文章。1989年6月《世界建築》在第3期上組織專欄評價。這大概是海峽兩岸最早對“解構主義”的介紹並提出譯名。我很有幸，與汪坦、張欽楠兩前輩的文章並列一起。收入本書中的《解構建築》是經較大修改後，刊於1990年台北《建築師》雜誌的一篇。

台北《建築師》雜誌於80年代進入大陸的圖書館，我向來敬重。1989年，拙文《易學之道與建築之道》在8月號上刊出。那時，兩岸的交流亦始頻繁。1992年，台灣中原大學魏主榮老師來滬訪問，鄙之拙作《西富東貧》經其介紹，刊於台北《空間》雜誌。之後，我寫的一系列見聞式的“理解”文章皆刊於《空間》雜誌，這些文章專於描述和信息，有較大的可讀性。其中《美國建築理解》一文延續了路易斯·康未完的故事。另外，寫過多篇關於美國住宅的文章，這裡只選一篇。容後另出專書。

1995年回到香港。我將城市大學“中國建築實踐”一課的材料發展成書，《中國建築實踐》前言原入此書，因篇幅太厚，只能抽走。

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二十年前，偌大中國只有《建築學報》一本正規像樣的建築雜誌，而今天的出版物卻多得讓人看不過來。我的筆錄片面而零散，本書所收又是片面中的一小片。但這些文章卻從一個側面折射了中國和世界建築二十年來的演變。為了如實再現斯時斯地所思所想，

tectural significance. Louis Kahn's design of laboratory, on the contrary, created a new generation in modern history of architecture. My study moved from laboratory design to the world of Kahn. "Louis Kahn's Laboratory Design and Ideas", published in *World Architecture* of 1981, has moved a lot of students and colleagues in China. It was the first article to introduce Kahn in mainland China, and it was also one of my early publications—for both reasons I treasure it.

In June 1988, an exhibition and seminar of Deconstruction was held in Museum of Modern Arts, New York. Editor Zeng Zhao-feng, with his real insights, soon organized a special issue in *World Architecture*, No.3, 1989. It might be the first time the term and translation of "Deconstruction" came to both sides of Taiwan Strait. I was fortunately one of the authors in this issue, alongside with such respectable predecessors and Chinese theorists—Professor Wang Tang and Zhang Qingnan. The article appearing in this book is a revised version, published in *Chinese Architect* of Taipei later in 1990.

*Chinese Architect* of Taipei entered the libraries of mainland China in 1980s. This journal of Chinese language differed from those mainland publications with its high quality page design and printing. In 1989, my article "Way of Change and Way of Architecture" was used in its August issue. The academic exchanges between both sides of Taiwan Strait also became frequent since then. In the summer of 1992, Professor Wei Zu-rong of Chung-Yuan Christian University visited Shanghai. My article "Rich West and Poor East" was introduced to Taipei's *Space* via Wei. A series of "interpretations" of overseas architecture were published in *Space* till 1998. These articles record what I saw and thought when facing those renown or exotic buildings. "American Architecture, An Interpretation" extends the unfinished story of Louis Kahn in San Diego. Several articles about American housing were also produced, only one is selected in this book.

In 1995, I returned to Hong Kong after years' working in UK and USA. At the City University of Hong Kong, I spent two years and developed the notes of building practice in China into a book. The preface of *Building Practice in China* was in this book. As there are too many pages, we have to withdraw it in the last minute.

本書除作少量刪節外，對原著基本未作改動。只是補充了些圖片。半是“思考”，半是“實錄”。倘參考作用微不足道，娛悅視覺的作用大概還是有的吧。

我非理論家抑或專業“寫家”，所有文字都是在業餘時間裡熬出來的。在紙上與現實對話、與大師對話、與設計對話，是擺脫煩囂醜惡、淨化自身的過程。

區區舊作早已淹沒世塵之中，特別感謝貝思出版公司林達生董事長，給我一個重拾舊作，溫故知新的機會。二十多年來，我在上海、香港、英國、美國的老師、同學、學生、同事和同行們，給我智慧、知識、靈感和信息，亦原諒我的膚淺和稚拙——海內存知已，謝謝你們！

我年幼的時候，讀過一本《科學家談21世紀》，書中各學科專家對未來世紀的展望，對身處動亂喧囂中的人是那般美好和遙遠。踏入二十一世紀，正當不惑之年，世界紛亂如往，但畢竟時代進步，陽光普照。讓我們繼續思考，勤奮耕耘，為建築學的繁榮而盡心盡力。

薛求理

2000年10月

香港·德智苑

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Twenty years ago, there was only one decent architectural magazine *Architectural Journal* in the vast China, while the proliferation of publication today makes it impossible to go through all of them. My writings are fragmentary, and this book only collects a small portion of what I wrote. These articles, however, reflect the evolution of Chinese and world architecture in the past twenty years from a special angle. To keep the original meaning and manner, this book only does a little technical revision, and also adds illustrations—making the book half “contemplation” and half “record”.

I am neither a theorist nor professional writer. All of the text was produced in haste of my spare time. It is part of my survival state to dialogue with masters and with design.

My particular thanks are due to George Lam, Director of Pace Publishing Ltd., who gave me an opportunity to refresh my past memories and collect lost writings. In the past twenty years, my teachers, schoolmates, students and colleagues in Shanghai, Hong Kong, UK and USA gave me wisdom, knowledge, inspiration, information, and also forgave my superficialities and ridiculousness—my heartfelt appreciation!

I read a book *Scientists Talking About 21st Century* when I was young. It was so magnificent and remote for a child who was in a turmoil and barren era. Entering the 21st century, although chaotic as before, the world is however in progress. Let us continue to contemplate, cultivate and contribute to the prosperity of architecture.

Charlie Q. L. Xue

October, 2000

Tat Chee Yuen, Hong Kong

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## 世紀之交看中國建築

### CHINESE ARCHITECTURE AT TURN OF THE CENTURY

**[Abstract]** The article, written in 1988, predicts the development of Chinese architecture at the turn of the 21st century. The article covers the following aspects:

The great era brings opportunity for the country when the former state-run business was commercialized. This trend greatly motivates people and construction industry.

The lack of investment, resources, environment and gradual loss of arable and buildable land make the country in an embarrassed state. With the cruel competition for investment and development, the natural resources and land are drastically depleted. The labour-intensive manufacturing still dominates the national economy and it will inevitably deteriorate the environment. The development of architecture depends on the enhancement of total cultural and educational levels of citizens. The end-users and developers will guide the

世紀之交充滿了動蕩、變革、混亂、生機、不安、壓抑和渴望。社會、歷史乃至建築的大事變，多是世紀之交直接間接的產物。

今天，我們又一次面臨世紀之交。20世紀的人類經歷了世界大戰、社會變革、環境變遷、科技進步、經濟增長的洗禮，比以往任何時候都更加渴望和平、自由、繁榮和幸福。大戰偃息了，而世界性的經濟技術競爭卻愈演愈烈。經濟繁榮和科技進步促發了新一代世界觀的形成及一系列觀念和思想的轉變，這些思想觀念又反過來推動了社會進步——這就是中國建築面臨的世紀之交，危險與機會並存，困境與挑戰同在。

#### 時代大潮給中國建築帶來機會

改革、開放、合作、競爭在當今包括中國在內的各國是不可逆轉的潮流。商品房、房屋所有權的多樣化及一系列體制改革將使建築產品的生產機制趨於合理，解放設計施工的創造力和生

產力，以最少的投入得到最大的產出；開放使中國建築真正成為世界建築的一部份，促成多種方面、多種渠道、多種層次、多種形式的合作和聯合，人類所創造的以多種信息形式為全人類共享；競爭充分調動了每個個體的積極性，各種建築組織用其產品在有計劃商品經濟的運行機制中，物競天擇，優勝劣敗。時代把機會又一次推向我們。

資金匱缺、資源貧乏、環境變化、土地喪失，使未來世紀大量性城鄉建設面臨捉襟見肘的窘境

經濟是建築活動的物質基礎和必要條件，隨著第三產業的逐步增長，建築業在國民經濟中的比重還會有所增加。然而，未來世紀中國大量性城鄉建築賴以生存的經濟基礎卻是不容樂觀的。世界上目前人均國民生產總值（GNP）10000美元以上的國家有十多個，最高的達2.3萬美元。





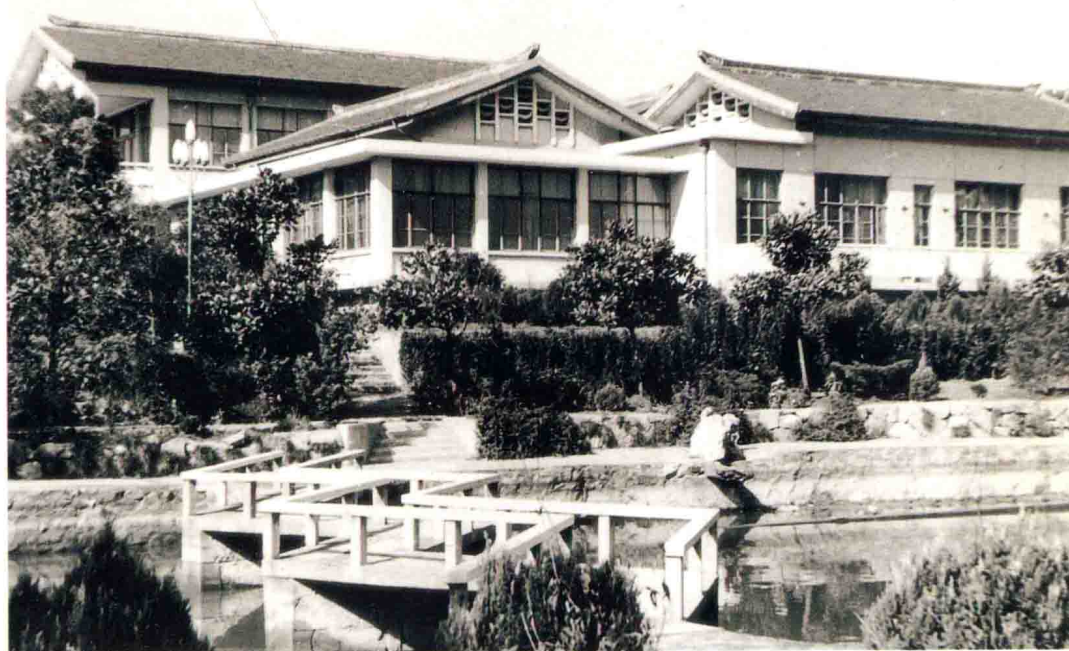
building products with their increasing demands on quality.

The rising of post-science will implicitly and silently broaden our view on architecture. Post modernism is actually a reflection of post science in architecture.

*Architectural Journal, Beijing, No.3, 1989*



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- 1: 深圳街頭景象
- 2: 1980年代的建築，10年後已形破舊
- 3: 廣州黃埔軍校重建
- 4: 華南理工大學建工學院，紅磚樓建於1932年
- 5: 具有民居風格的楊州西園賓館

而我國1987年還只有277.5美元。世界銀行的年度報告裡，中國人均國民生產總值在128個國家中的排位，總是徘徊在倒數20多位。據五十年代初至八十年代末資料分析，中國和發達國家之間的差距在拉大，甚至跟一些發展中國家相比也有落後的趨勢。經濟學家對中國經濟趕上發達國家平均水平的可能性作了預測，按不同的發展速率有多種可能。以相差30倍的水平計，如果發達國家保持零增長，我國每年按5%增長，需72年可趕上，這實際上是不可能的。如果發達國家每年增長3%（略低於1960～1982年平均3.3%的增長率），我國人均GNP每年增長4%（據1952～1982增長趨勢外推），那麼趕上發達國家則須363年。如果假設中國要通過100年的奮鬥（這與日本趕上西方發達國家所花時間相等）趕上西方發達國家，假定後者的人均GNP年遞增2%，我們則要按5.64%增長。總之，我國從進入現代增長到趕上發達國家，需要一個世紀到一個半世紀艱苦不懈的持續努力。

我國未來世紀的經濟地位決定了建築的性質、任務和特徵。研究表明，當人均國民生產總值在800美元以下時，第三產業的就業人數僅佔28%，城市化水平在二十年後也只能達到30%，大大低於世界水平。整個產業結構仍將以第二產業為主。為了發展第二產業，城市仍將作為工業基地來發展，工業區、居住區在規模和數量上還要繼續增大，這會給城市交通、電力、通訊、供水、環境保護帶來巨大的壓力。為了滿足人口激增、生產生活用房膨脹的需要，建設量的增加和資金的短缺將是長期存在的矛盾。在這種情況下，經濟理性支配著社會對建築的價值觀念，使用功能、平方面積等仍是量大面廣的城鄉建築追求的主要目標。這種特定形勢下的窘況將造就一代為中國社會認可的，有別於世界其它地區的建築文化。

第二產業的高度發展，使人們對自然資源的開發索取加劇，這激化了人與環境的矛盾衝突，江河污染，生物滅絕，環境在一步步地惡化。大



- 6: 上海里弄
- 7: 北京長城飯店，我國第一座玻璃幕牆建築，建成於1983年
- 8: 圓明園遺跡，即使是斷牆殘垣，西洋古典建築依舊有一種雕塑美
- 9: 重建後的上海老城隍廟
- 10: 上海商城，美國波特曼公司設計。18萬平方米的大樓集旅館、公寓、辦公、商業、零售、劇院為一體。1989年落成時轟動一時。



規模的建設與生態環境的平衡和保護是我國建築學面臨的突出矛盾。我國人口暴漲，資源貧乏。可耕地面積中佔960萬平方公里國土的十分之一，僅14億畝，每人平均耕地一畝多一點。城鎮化、沙漠化、水土流失還在貪婪地噬啃著少得可憐的土地，可耕地面積正以驚人的速率逐年減少。作物可以重耕複種，唯土地不能再生，佔一塊少一塊。在新建設中，如何少佔耕地，向荒山、丘陵、沙漠、海灘要地，是我國城鄉建設急待研究的重大戰略問題。

建築文化的發展有賴於社會發展水平和全民族文化素質的整體提高

研究表明，人均GNP在300～600美元之間，社會問題還相當多，社會處於不安定之中。經濟發展能力和社會發展水平大體上是互為因果的。美國賓州大學社會學教授埃思蒂斯對124個國家和地區1983年社會發展水平分析，其方法是採用定量評價分析法，選取36個社會和經濟指標，作為定量分析依據，然後從聯合國與各有關國家的統計年鑒中，抽取教育、健康狀況、婦女地位、國防、經濟、人口、地理、政治參與、文化多元化、社會福利等10個方面的統計數字，並到有關國家進行實地考察，在此基礎上對各個指標數據進行統計分析計分排出名次。根據此表，中國的社會發展水平名次排在第77位，社會進步指數的總得分為74.4（世界最高分的丹麥為207分，124個國家和地區的平均分為100分）。在74.4分中，得分最高的幾項，也與世界的最高分相距甚遠。

當代中國是主體型的貧窮，經濟落後，社會發展水平低，伴著文化素質差，缺少精神凝聚力。接著就會有經濟效益差、通貨膨脹、不正之風等等。因而引起建築行業中的爭投資、爭項目、拉關係、走後門、行賄索賄、送禮回扣等現象。建築創作早已不是純學術的問題，一大批有抱負的建築師迫不得已地捲入人事糾葛人情關係