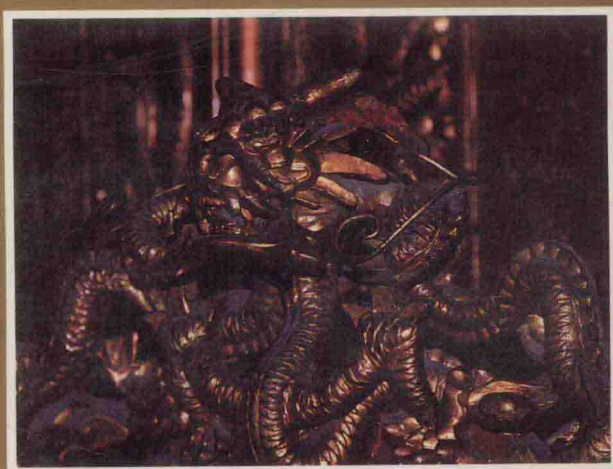
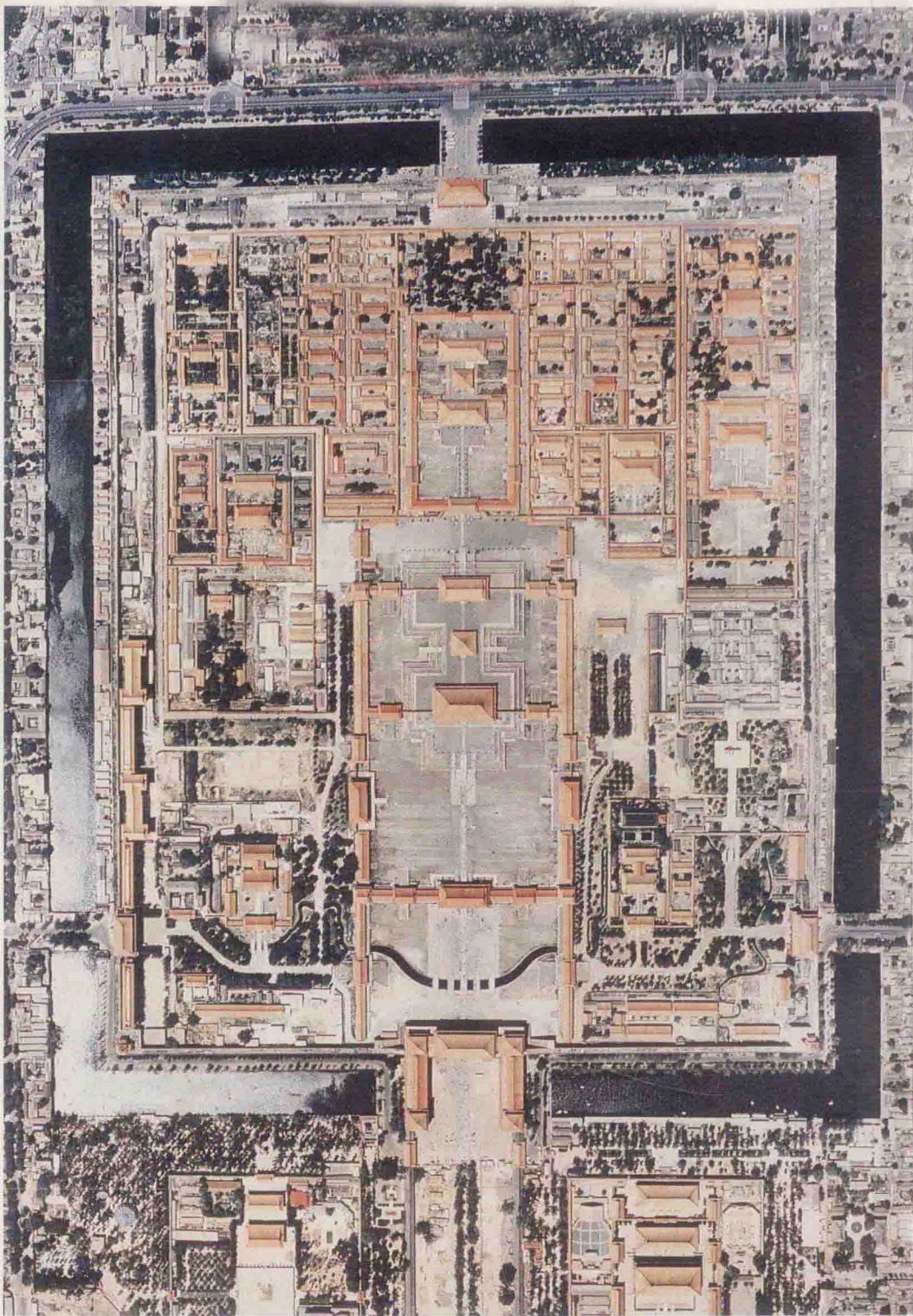


故宮



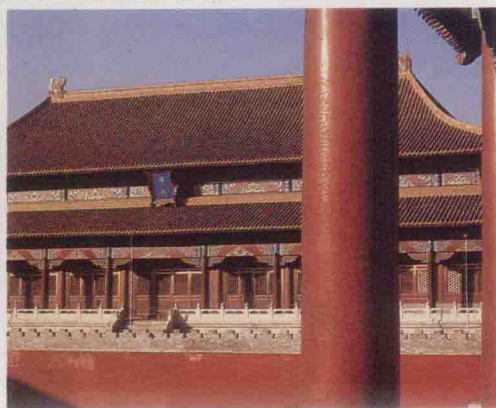
IMPERIAL PALACE



紫禁城鳥瞰 A bird's-eye view of the Forbidden City

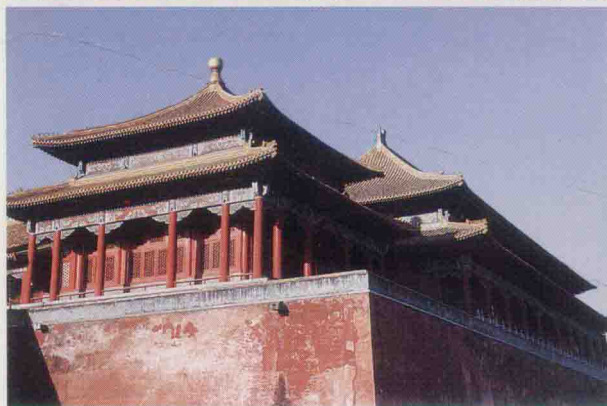
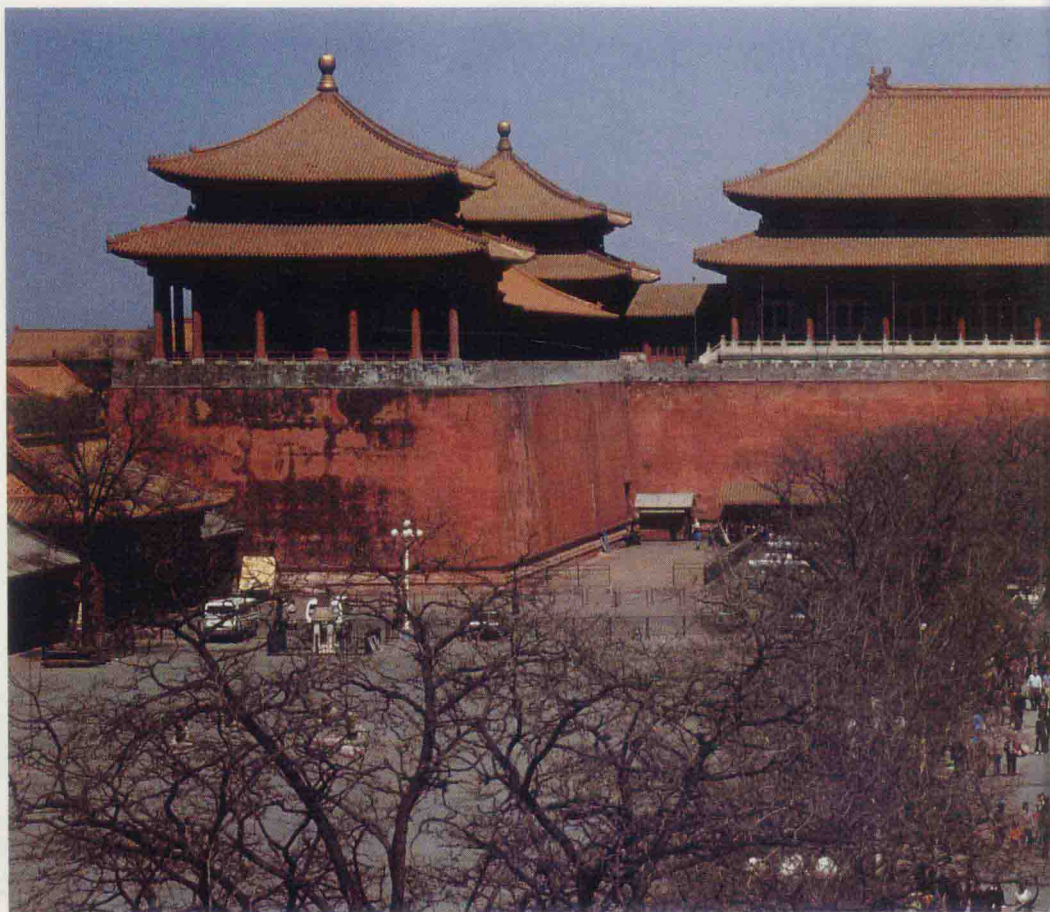
故宮，即明清兩代的皇宮紫禁城，建成於永樂十八年(1420)年。建築規模之巨，舉世無雙。明清兩代先後有二十四個皇帝住在這裡。Construction of the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, popularly known as the Forbidden City, started in 1406-1420(4th-18th years of the Ming Emperor Yongle's reign). Later, it was reconstructed or restored. It has a history of over 500 years.

WU MEN



午門一角 Part of Wumen Gate

午門



午門一角 Part of Wumen Gate



午門後背 Back of Wumen Gate

午門是紫禁城的正門，是朝廷頒發新的曆書，凱旋回朝的將領向皇帝進獻戰俘的重要場所。

Wumen Gate is the front entrance to the Forbidden City. During the Qing Dynasty, the ceremonies of issuing every year the lunar calendar and accepting the prisoners of war were also held here.

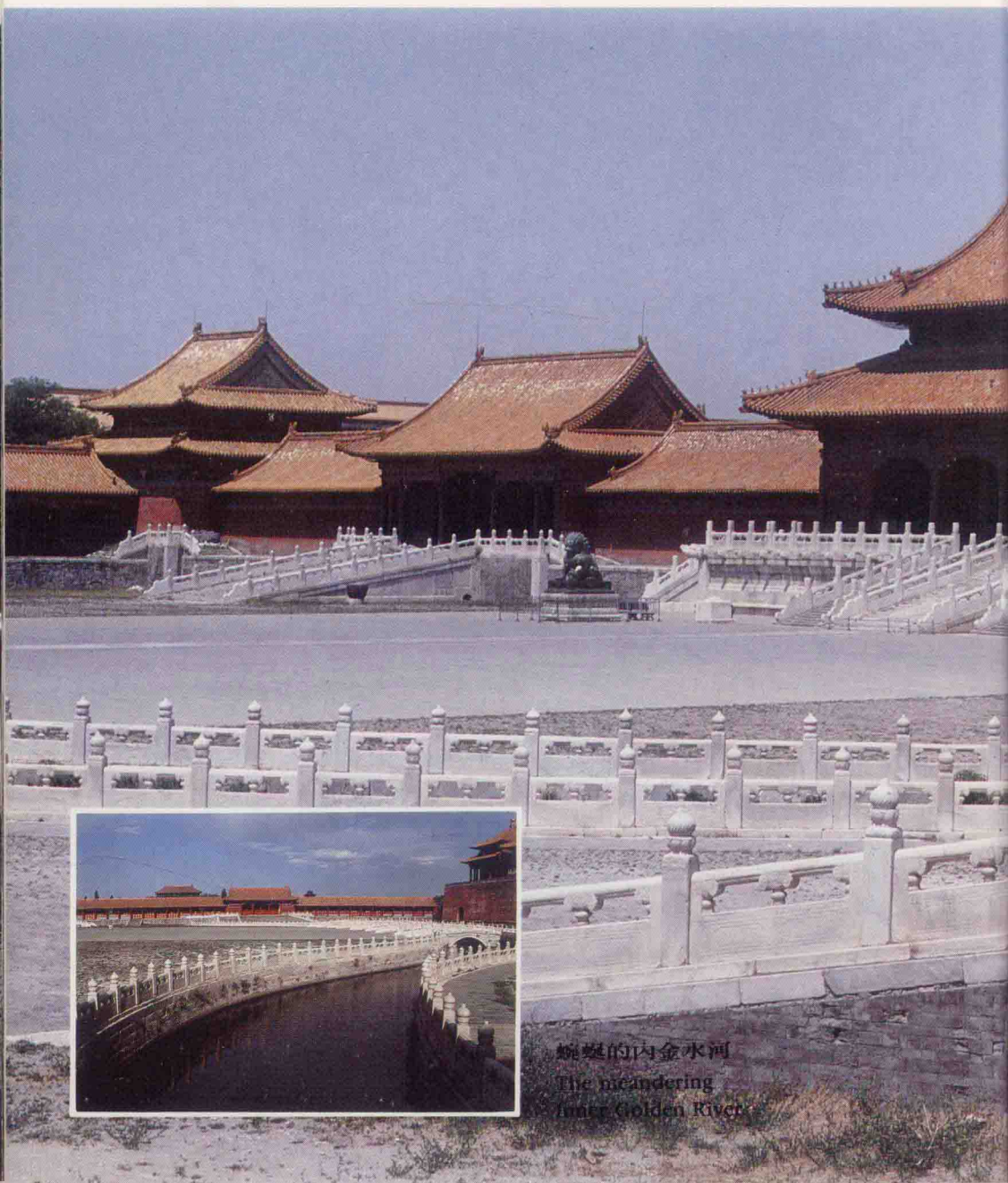
TAI HE MEN



晨霧中的金水橋
Bridge over the Inner
Golden River in the morning

Taihemen Gate was named Fengtianmen Gate in the early Ming Dynasty, then it was named Huangjimen Gate. The present name was given in the early Qing Dynasty. During the Ming Dynasty this gate was the place where the emperors received greetings from their high officials and dealt with state every day affairs. The Qing emperors moved to Qianqingmen Gate to listen to minister's reports and make decisions (known as "Yu Men Ting Zheng").

太和門



蜿蜒的內金水河
The meandering
Inner Golden River

太和門 Taihemen Gate

太和門明初稱奉天門，後稱皇極門，清初改稱太和門。明朝規定，文武官員每天拂曉到此早朝，皇帝也親來受朝和處理政務。這種活動叫做御門聽政。清初，皇帝曾在太和門受朝、賜宴等。而御門聽政在乾清門。

TAI HE MEN



太和門前銅獅

Bronze lion in front of
Taihemen Gate



太和門前石廟

Stone temple in front of
Taihemen Gate



太和門前石印盒

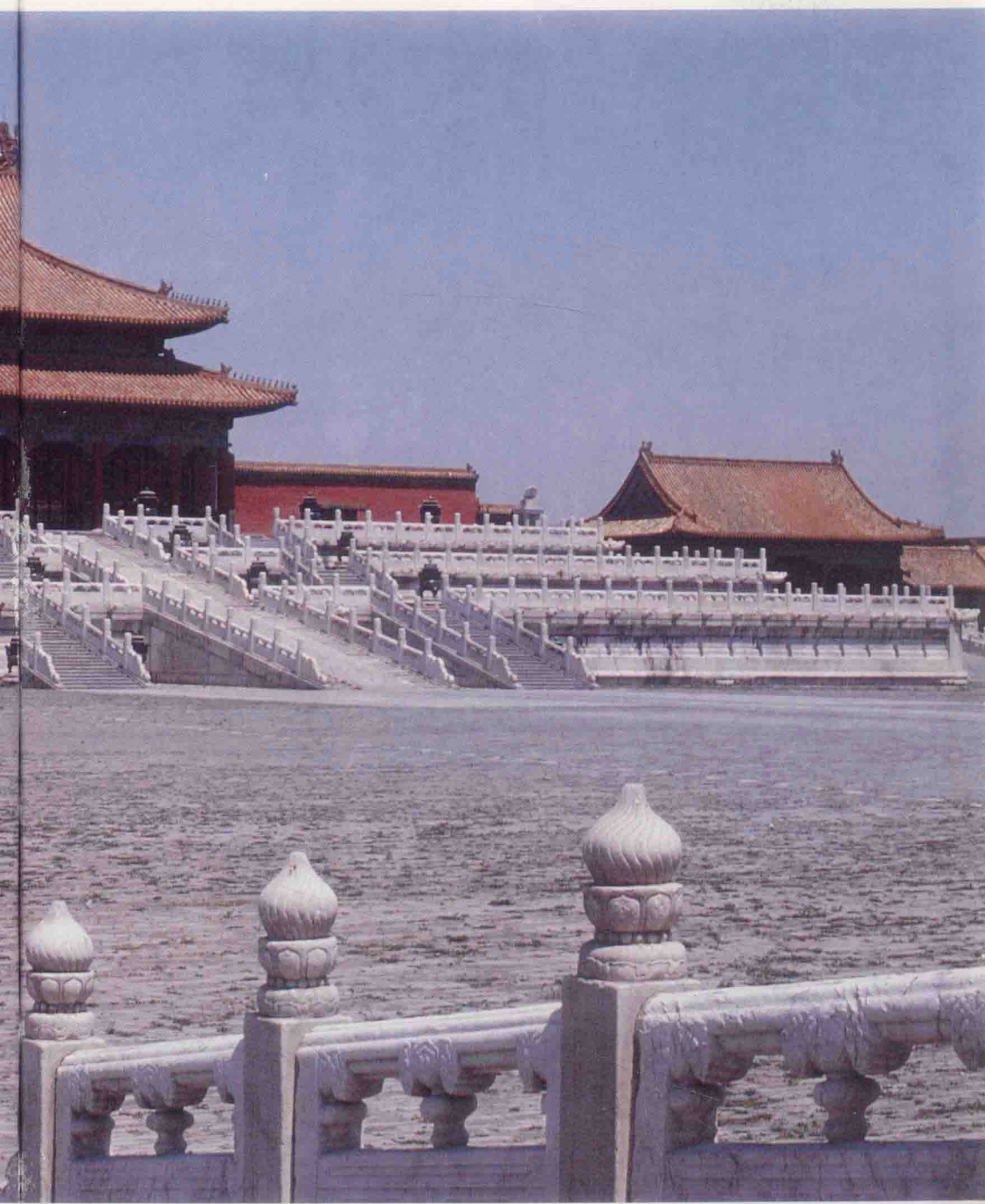
Stone seal box in front of
Taihemen Gate

太和門



太和門天頂 Ceiling of Taihemen Gate

TAI HE DIAN



Taihedian Hall, popularly called "Jin Luan Dian", was in the early Ming Dynasty first named Fengtiandian Hall, then named Huangjidian Hall. The present name was given in the early Qing Dynasty. The hall is 35m. high and covers an area of 2,377sq.m. It is the tallest and largest of the palace buildings. Here the Ming and Qing emperors held important ceremonies on occasions of accession, birthday, Lunar New Year, or winter solstice.

太和殿



太和殿匾額

Horizontal inscribed
board on Taihedian Hall

太和殿 Taihedian Hall

太和殿(俗稱金鑾殿)，明初稱奉天殿，後稱皇極殿，清代改稱太和殿。太和殿是紫禁城中最高、最大的建築物，是明清兩代皇帝舉行盛大典禮的最主要的場所，主要包括元旦、冬至、萬壽節（皇帝的生日）、皇帝即位、皇帝大婚、冊封皇后、命將出征等重要活動。

TAI HE DIAN



嘉量 Standard Measure



日晷 Sundial



銅鶴 Bronze crane

太和殿前的丹墀上，陳設日晷、嘉量、銅鼎、銅龜、銅鶴，象徵江山萬代永固，皇帝萬壽無疆。每逢大典，爐、龜、鶴內都要點燃香料，煙霧繚繞，用來增添肅穆神秘的氣氛。

太和殿



銅爐 Bronze censers



鑲金銅缸 Gilt bronze vat

In front of Taihedian Hall can be found sundials, standard measures, bronze censers, bronze tortises and cranes, symbolizing the longevity of the emperor and his everlasting power. For grand ceremonies incense would burn in the censers, tortises and cranes. The spiraling smoke created a solemn and mysterious atmosphere.



铜龟 Bronze tortoise



太和殿



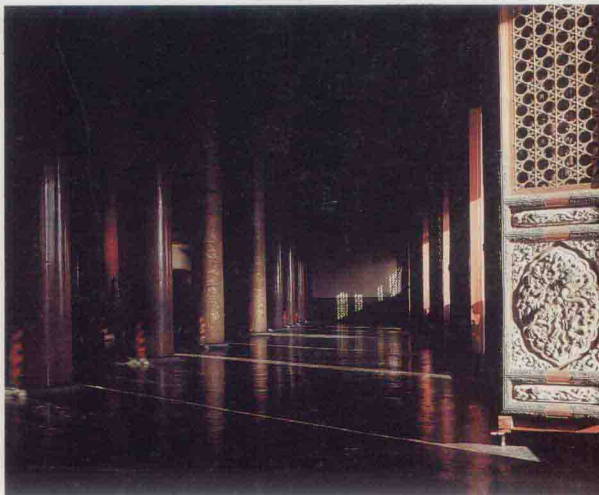
三臺上的漢白玉欄桿 White marble balustrades



金漆蟠龍寶座與金漆雕龍圍屏 The gold lacquer throne with coiling dragons, backed by a gold lacquer screen carved with dragons

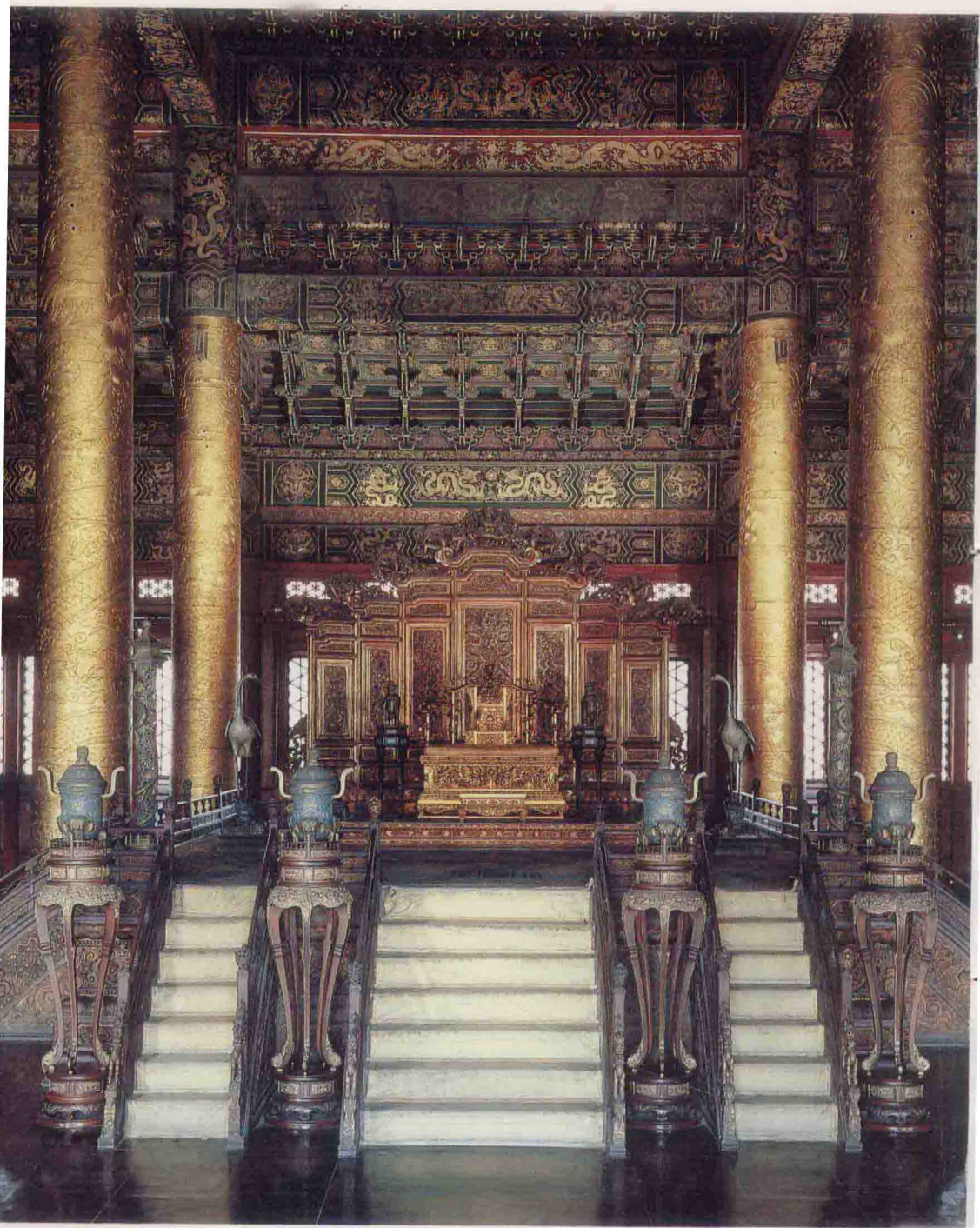


太和殿內藻井
Caisson ceiling of Taihedian Hall



太和殿內景
Interior view of Taihedian Hall

太和殿



太和殿內景 Interior view of Taihedian Hall

太和殿內氣派非凡，金光燦爛。正中高臺上設金漆蟠龍寶座及金漆雕龍圖屏，兩旁有六根瀝粉貼金蟠龍金柱。正對寶座上方，有一顆銀白色的大圓珠，從藻井的金漆蟠龍口裡垂下。

The magnificent interior of Taihedian Hall. On a platform in the exact centre of the hall stands a gold lacquer throne carved with coiling dragons, backed by a gold lacquer dragon screen, and flanked by six pillars entwined with coiling golden dragons. Directly above the throne a huge silver pearl hangs from the mouth of another coiling gold lacquer dragon.

ZHONG HE DIAN



中和殿 Zhonghedian Hall

中和殿是在太和殿舉行大典時，皇帝先到這裡稍事休息的地方。

Zhonghedian Hall was the place where the emperor first came to have a rest before holding ceremonies in Taihedian Hall.