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Ancient Towns

康国剑◎编著



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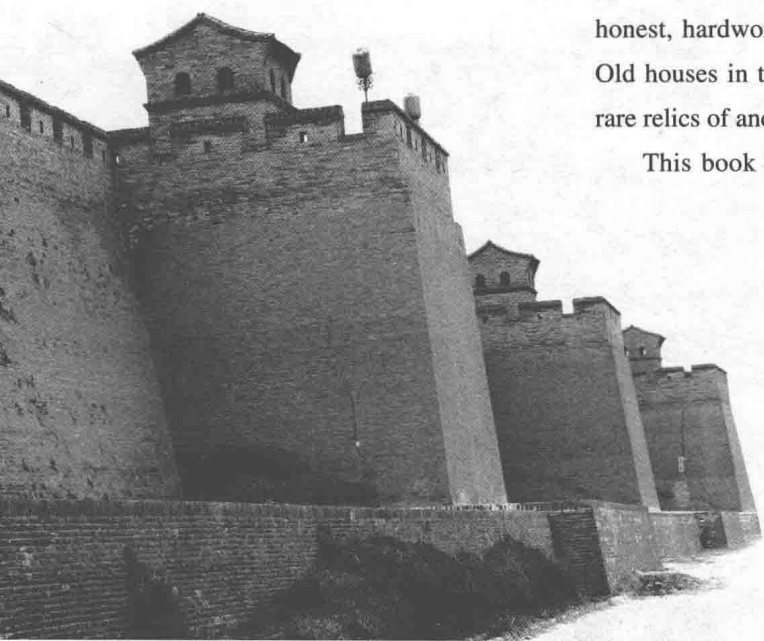
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古镇一般指有百年以上历史的、供人们集中居住的建筑群。中国有很多历史悠久、文化底蕴深厚的古镇，其中具有上千年历史的古县就达800多个，古村镇5000多个，这在世界上是独一无二的。古镇是中华民族悠久历史的见证，是文化传承的重要载体，是宝贵的文化遗产。古镇，养育了一代又一代淳朴、勤劳、智慧的人。古镇中的古民居是现

Ancient town generally refers to a group of dwelling buildings with a history of over a hundred years. China is dotted with many ancient towns that enjoy long history and rich cultural heritage. Among these over 800 ancient counties and 5000 village towns boast more than a thousand years of history, and this is unique in the world. Witnessing the history of the Chinese nation and carrying cultural heritage, ancient towns are gems of culture, bringing up generations of honest, hardworking and intelligent people. Old houses in these towns are valuable and rare relics of ancient Chinese architecture.

This book is intended to introduce the



今中国古代传统建筑稀有的遗存。

本书介绍了中国最具代表性的古镇，这些古镇至今仍有比较完整的古建民居、传统生活习俗和生活方式，是不同地域、不同文化、不同民族、不同建筑特色的中国古镇典范，展示了中国古镇复杂多样的风格和特殊的魅力。

reader to some of the most characteristic ancient towns in China, where traditions are well preserved in terms of architectures, lifestyles and customs. These towns sit in different regions, are inhabited by different nationalities, and have different cultures and architectural features. With diverse styles and distinctive flavors, they are the representative of all old towns of China.





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中国古镇漫谈

Overview of Ancient Chinese Towns

几千年的文化传承和历史流转，在中华大地上留下了无数各具特色的古镇。这些古镇最具生命力的特征，除了独特的建筑风貌、丰富的历史遗迹、古朴的环境氛围之外，还包括世代生活在古镇上的人。他们传统的生活方式、闲适的生活节奏、原汁原味的民风民俗，都是古镇风貌和结构的不可或缺的组成部分。

Thousands of years of history and civilization have given birth to countless ancient towns in the vast territory of China. These towns, unique in architectural style, rich in historical sites, quaint in atmosphere, exude their own distinctive flavor and delicacy. What is more, the residents who live there for generations are also an attraction. Their traditional way of life, the leisurely pace of life and the authentic folk customs are the indispensable part of style and features of ancient towns.





> 古镇的选址与布局

中国古镇与古村落的选址和布局是十分讲究的。古人相信村镇与自然环境选定的成功与否，会直接关系到整个家族和子孙后代能否昌盛发达。所以在村镇建设之初，都要先请风水先生来看看风水，包括观察山脉的起伏、水流的方向、草木的生长等。

一般来说，村镇基地要选择地势宽敞平坦的地方，周围有山水环抱，最好是后有靠山、前有流水，周围有小丘护卫。江南和中南部的水乡古镇一般都建在河流的北岸，以取得良好的日照，一面临水或背山面水，建筑沿着河道伸展。临水设有码头，以联系水路交通。在东南和西南的山区，村镇往往是竖向

> The Location and Layout of Ancient Towns

The ancients laid great emphasis on the location and layout of their towns and villages because they believed it will directly impact on the prosperity of the whole family and future generations. As such, they would, before construction of the villages, invite geomancers to detect the *feng shui* – namely the ups and downs of mountains, the flowing direction of waters, the vegetation growth, and many more.

Generally, towns and villages would be built on a spacious and flat terrain, encircled by mountains and rivers. A place backed by mountains, fronted by river and flanked by small hills is what the ancients favor most. In Jiangnan or South-central regions, water towns are often located on the north bank of the river to get abundant sunshine; houses



• 云南和顺古镇全貌

Full View of Heshun Town, Yunnan Province

分布的，形成层层交叠的布局。在北方地区，村镇常选择地形平整的地方，整体布局风格严整而开阔，街道宽敞、建筑雄壮，凸显出北方大气、粗犷的风格。

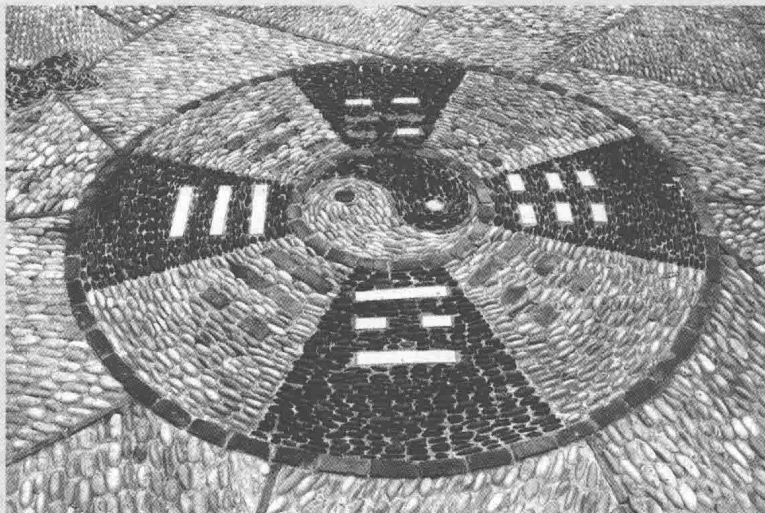
are built along the river, and the wharfs everywhere are the nexus of land and water transport. In mountainous areas of the southeast and southwest regions, towns and villages are usually built according to the hilly terrain at different levels, and they stand well-spaced. In the northern areas, towns and villages are generally found on flat terrain; their overall layout is thorough and open, and the spacious streets and magnificent buildings highlight an imposing and rough style.

风水与风水先生

风水，亦称“堪舆”，是古代中国人以占卜的方式对宅院、聚落、陵墓等的营建所进行的凶吉预测与设置安排。作为一种流传了几千年的民俗活动，风水可以说是中国传统的以“天人合一”、“阴阳调和”为核心的哲学思想的产物。风水师是具备风水知识，受人委托断定风水好坏，必要时予以修改的一种职业。通常风水师也兼具卜卦、看相等技艺，而某些道士、庙祝、中医师等也会为人“看风水”。专职的风水师常被人尊称为“风水先生”。

Feng Shui and Feng Shui Consultants

Feng shui, also known as geomantic omen, is a system of geomancy that Chinese ancients used to decipher the best locations for building a residence, viuage or grave. As a folk activity that has been active for thousands of years, *feng shui* stresses the harmonization of human and nature, yin and yang (In Chinese philosophy, the concept of yin and yang is used to describe how polar opposites or seemingly contrary forces are interconnected and interdependent in the natural world, and how they give rise to each other in turn), and can be considered a philosophical product. A *feng shui* consultant, as an expert in this field, is commissioned to conclude whether the *feng shui* is good or bad and is able to fix it if necessary. Besides, they are usually accomplished in divination, physiognomy or similar skills. Some Taoists, keepers of temples, and even Chinese medicine practitioners, are also experienced *feng shui* consultants. A full-time *feng shui* consultant is often known as “*feng shui* master”.





> 古镇中常见的建筑类型

古镇中的建筑大致可以分为两大类，一类是住宅民居建筑，一类就是公共建筑（包括祠堂、寺庙、戏台、牌坊、街道等等）。这两类建筑通常都具有浓厚的地方特色和乡土气息。与大城市相比，各地的古镇更多地保留了明清以来的古代建筑，那些历经百年的古街、古桥、古宅院，带给人们的是一种古朴自然而又内涵深厚的文化意蕴。

民居建筑

民居就是人们居住的建筑，是最基本的建筑类型，分布最广，而且数量最多。各地古镇的民居不仅显现出多样化的面貌，而且保留了明清时期的建筑特色，记录了一个

> Common Building Types in Ancient Towns

Buildings in ancient towns can be roughly divided into two categories: residential houses and public buildings, the latter including ancestral halls, temples, opera stages, memorial archways, streets, etc. These buildings are usually imbued with strong local characteristics and flavors. Unlike big cities, these towns have more well-preserved ancient architecture of the Ming (1368–1644) and Qing (1644–1911) dynasties. The old streets, bridges and houses, with hundreds of years of history, brought to people a simple and profound connotation of natural and cultural implication.

Residential Houses

A residential house is a group of buildings where people live. It is the

家族几代人的繁衍生息，见证了整个古镇的沧桑变化。

合院式民居

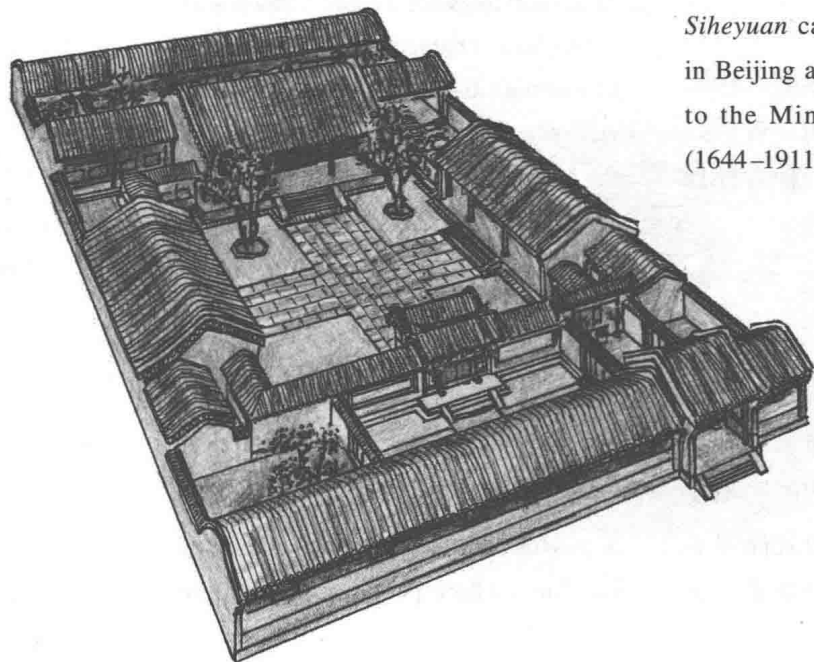
合院式民居是中国民居中十分常见的一种，以围合起来的院落为基本形式，而四合院是其中应用最广泛的一种。四合院大规模出现在元代时的北京等地区，到了明清时期，四合院成为中国民居中最为理想的一种模式，得到了长足的发展。

四合院，指的是东南西北四个朝向的房子围合起来形成的内院

most common form of construction and has the widest distribution and the largest quantity. Showing different features and appearances, these buildings retained the architectural features of the Ming (1368–1644) and Qing (1644–1911) dynasties, recorded how a family had lived and multiplied for several generations, and witnessed the changes of the whole town.

Residential House – Courtyard Style

The courtyard house, namely a courtyard surrounded by walls and buildings, is very common in Chinese residences. Among such houses, *Siheyuan* or Chinese quadrangles are the most common ones. In the Yuan Dynasty (1279–1368), *Siheyuan* came forth in large numbers in Beijing and some other areas; down to the Ming (1368–1644) and Qing (1644–1911) dynasties, it has developed



• 四合院示意图

不同地区的四合院民居在房屋配置比例上有所不同，在四合院的基础上交错相连，组成院落和建筑群。

Schematic Diagram of *Siheyuan*

The location and quantity of rooms in *Siheyuan* vary according to different regions. However, no matter what changes are made, these courtyard houses or compounds are based on *Siheyuan*.

式住宅，其布局方式十分符合中国古代社会的宗法与礼教，家族中男女、长幼、尊卑地位有别，房间分配的区别也十分明显。而且其四周都是实墙，可以有效地隔绝外界干扰，且兼具防御功能，形成安全舒适的生活环境。四合院的形状、

by leaps and bounds, its architectural structure becoming the most perfect model of residential housing.

Siheyuan refers to houses with an inner courtyard surrounded by buildings from all four directions. Its layout is very much in line with traditional Chinese morality and Confucian ethics.



• 山西王家大院

晋中地区的宅院布局严谨，呈封闭结构，四周有高大围墙隔离，以四合院为建构组合单元，院院相连，沿中轴线左右展开，形成庞大的建筑群，以深邃富丽著称。

The Wang's Courtyard Houses, Shanxi Province

In central Shanxi Province, the courtyard houses have rigorous structure, enclosed by high walls. Normally, these large compounds consist of many *Siheyuans*, positioned successively along a central axis, looking magnificent and imposing.

面积和单个建筑的形体只要略加调整，就可以适应中国不同地区的地域条件，所以南北各地几乎都可以见到四合院的身影。其中最具代表

• 皖南天井院

天井院即四周的房屋连在一起，中间围成一个小天井。由于皖南地区人口稠密，丘陵较多，建房屋时要尽可能节约用地，所以四面的房屋都建两层，围合成一个高而窄的天井，有利于采光和内外空气对流。

Skylight House in Southern Anhui Province

In such houses, buildings on all four sides are adjoined to form a small skylight in the center. This area is densely populated and hilly, so people have to save as much space as possible in housing construction. The buildings often have two stories, and are enclosed to form high and narrow atriums, for easy lighting and ventilation.

In these compounds, different rooms are assigned to different family members – men and women, old and young, noble and humble – according to their age, gender or status. *Siheyuan* is always enclosed by solid walls, offering a comfort, quiet and cordial space. The walls also provide security as well as protection against dust and storms. To adapt with many different geographical conditions in China, *Siheyuan* requires only minor adjustments to its shape, area and individual buildings. This is why it can be seen throughout China. Beijing





• 古城丽江的汉风坊院

丽江的汉风坊院是汉族与白族建筑风格融合的产物，其基本模式是四合院，这类民居最有名的是“三坊一照壁”和“四合五天井”两种形式。

Han-style Courtyard House in Lijiang

Based on *Siheyuan*, the Han-style courtyard house is a fusion of Han and Bai architectural styles. The most fundamental forms of such houses are: (1) the principal room is built facing south and the yard is flanked by wing rooms; opposite the principal room is a screen wall; all these buildings are adjoined to form a courtyard house; (2) four buildings reasonably surround five atriums in one courtyard.

性的就是北京四合院、晋中四合院、皖南天井院等。

窑洞民居

窑洞是中国西北黄土高原上居民的古老居住形式。黄土高原上的黄土层非常厚，而且具有不易倒塌的特性。当地人利用高原有利的地

Siheyuan, Shanxi Courtyard House and Skylight House in Southern Anhui, among other courtyard houses, are the most representative ones.

Cave Dwellings

Cave dwelling is a form of ancient residence found on Northwest China's Loess Plateau, where there is a thick layer of yellow earth, a type of soil that is solid and hard

形，凿洞而居，创造了窑洞建筑。窑洞一般有靠崖式窑洞、下沉式窑洞和独立式窑洞等形式。

在山西晋中地区的一些古镇中，保留着不少窑洞建筑。这些窑洞有的是在山崖和土坡的坡面上向内挖掘的靠崖式窑洞，还有一些富裕人家将窑洞与一般住宅相结合，后部是窑洞，前部留出空地建造平房，用院落围合，形成窑洞式的四合院。还有在平地向下挖掘一个方形大坑，再在四面坑壁上向内挖掘出窑洞的下沉式窑洞，这也可以看做一种四面房屋的四合院。

standing like walls. Taking advantage of this favorable condition, locals dug holes to create cave dwellings. Cliff-type caves, sunken caves and independent caves are common ones.

In some of the ancient towns in central Shanxi Province, there are many cave constructions. Some of these caves are built on a cliff face or an earth slope by digging inwards; in some cases rich families combine caves with normal houses: constructing bungalows on open space in front of the caves, and then enclosing the courtyard with these bungalows to create a cave-style *Siheyuan*. Sunken caves are created by digging a large square pit in the ground; then on the four walls, caves are dug to create rooms; this can also be seen as a cave-like *Siheyuan*.



• 靠崖式窑洞示意图

A Schematic Diagram of Cliff-type Caves