

WATER COUNTRY OF SUZHOU

陈健行 摄影

# 苏州水乡

陈健行





# 蘇州水鄉



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中国旅游出版社

苏州市在中国的位置  
Location of Suzhou in China



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#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

苏州水乡 / 陈健行编. —北京: 中国旅游出版社,  
2002.9

ISBN 7-5032-2063-5

I. 苏... II. 陈... III. 苏州市—画册  
IV. K925.33-64

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2002)第072172号

#### 苏州水乡

出版发行: 中国旅游出版社

地址: 北京建国门内大街甲九号

邮编: 100005

制版: 周公印刷

印刷: 精均印刷(深圳)有限公司

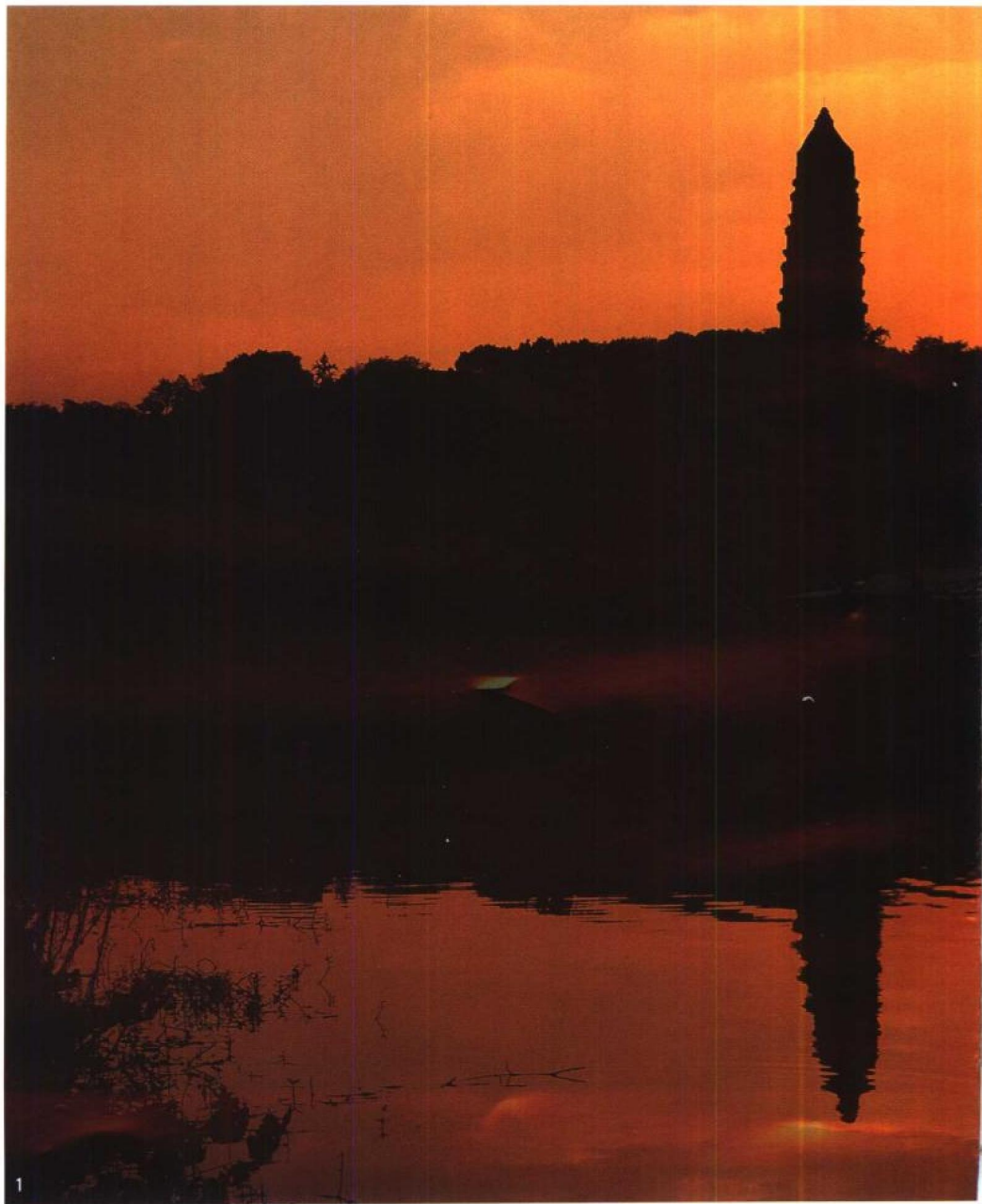
版次: 2002年9月第1版

印次: 2002年9月第1版第1次

开本: 850 × 1168毫米 1/24

印张: 3 (30,000)

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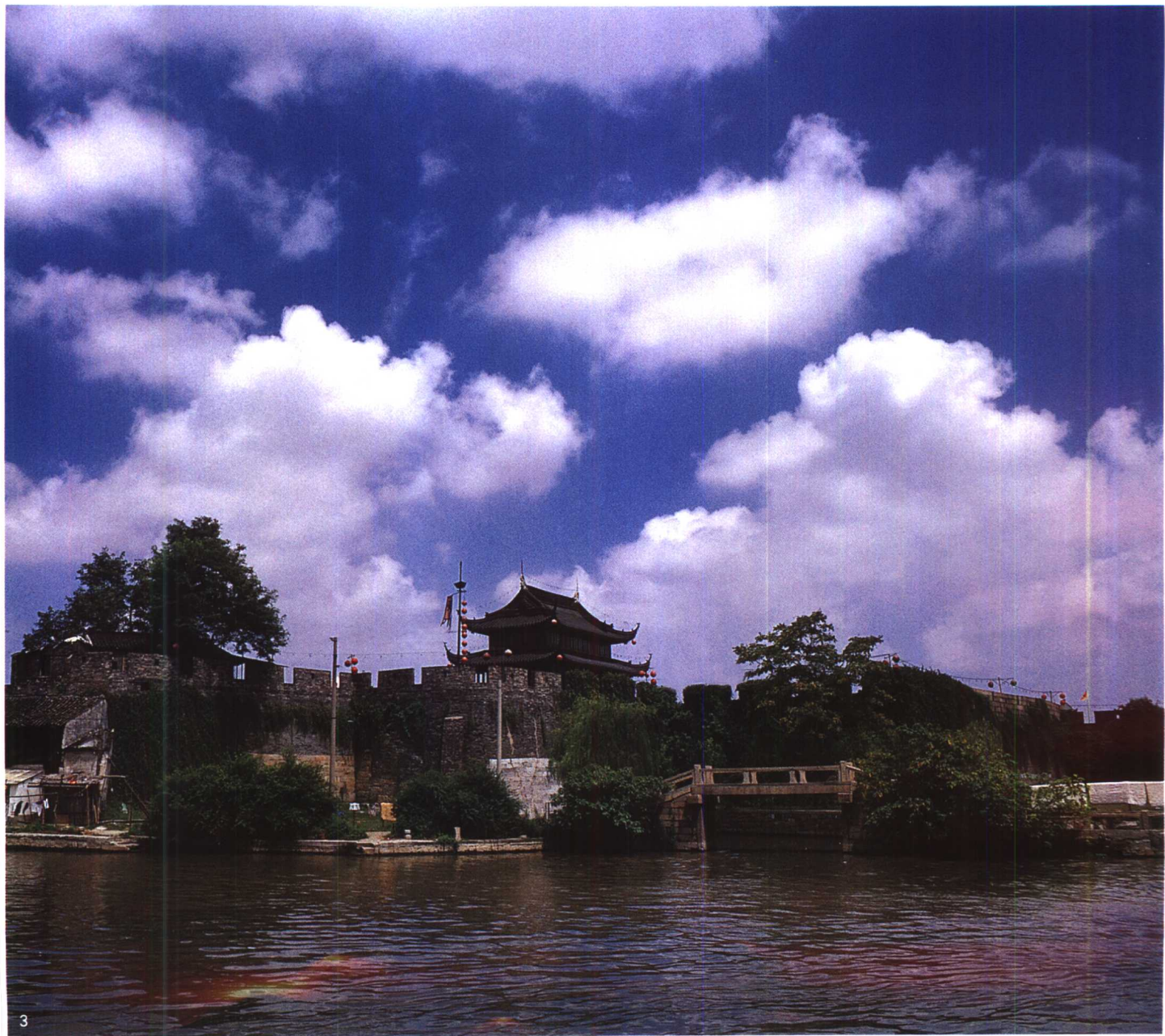
1 虎丘塔，苏州水乡的徽章。（摄于苏州虎丘后山）

1 The Tiger Hill Pagoda, landmark of the water country of Suzhou. (From behind the Tiger Hill.)

2 湖水蓝了，芦苇绿了，太湖渔汛开始了。（摄于苏州光福冲山）

2 The fishing season starts as Lake Taihu turns blue and reeds begin shooting out. (Chongshan Village, Guangfu Town, Suzhou.)



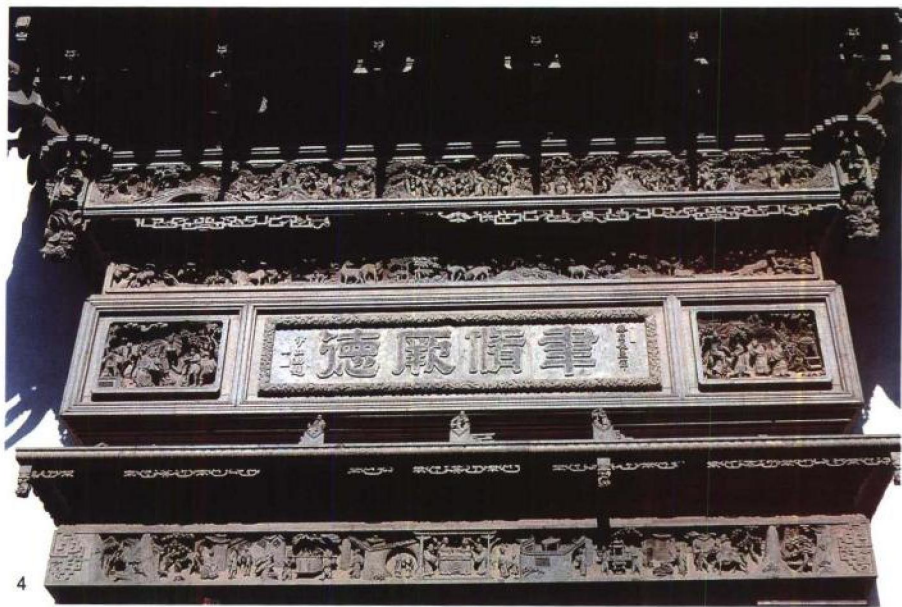


# 序

智者乐水，所以许多人都十分向往江南水乡。千百年来，江南水乡几乎就是美丽、灵秀、富足的同义词。

水城是水乡的博览会，水巷是水城的精华所在。没有人不喜欢水巷。人家就“枕”在河流上，生活就“枕”在河流上，人与大自然

的人们送生活必需品的。闲下来，安安静静对着窗外的水和天读读书，读唐诗“君到姑苏见，人家尽枕河”，读宋词“过尽千帆皆不是”。苏州水巷里的河上没有帆，只有橹，那就改成“过尽千橹皆不是”吧。等谁呢？你想起了许多发生在苏州城里的缠绵悱恻的故事，对着静静流逝着的河水发呆。有了丁丁冬冬的评弹索弦声隐隐传来，不知唱的是哪一对才子佳人的命运。



3 流浪在古城上空的是什么？是连绵不绝的历史故事（摄于苏州吴门桥畔）

3 Linger over the ancient city are endless historical tales. (By Wumen Bridge, Suzhou.)

4 砖雕门楼，刻着万史的厚重。（摄于苏州洞庭东山）

4 The brick-carved gateway laden with history. (East Dongting Hill, Suzhou.)

相依相靠，息息相通，心便觉得踏实而宁静。到过苏州的人最难忘的便是水巷，觉得水城中最大方自然的地方还得数水巷。房子就一幢幢清水出芙蓉般地在河边亭亭玉立着，河水想流就直捷了当地流来了。想出门访友了，走出家门踏上河埠再跳上小船就凌波而去，想增添一些生活用品，就留心一下窗下河道上来来往往的船只，它们有不少就是为城里

苏州水巷万千变化，神奇莫测，春秋晨昏，各有不同。上帝清楚，苏州水巷是写不尽、画不完的。

就说桥吧。在苏州水城里，随便到哪儿条小巷走一圈，都像走进了一座桥的博览会，五步一登，十步一跨，谁也记不清一路上经过了多少座桥。水巷里的桥每一座都像一条巧妙的比喻，使人浮想联翩，觉得苏州古城









真是文采飞扬。或者说每一条巧妙的比喻都像苏州水巷里的小桥，在水陆频繁割据的地方，飞起一道道彩虹，使人们的想象力畅行无阻，酣畅淋漓。苏州水城有画桥三百，试想，如果一篇散文里竟有三百条妙喻此起彼伏，那文章无论如何不能小觑。

桥还是外地人了解姑苏风土人情的好去处。伫立桥上，看傍水人家，绿树掩映，水巷女子在河埠上上下下，衣杵起落，声音远远传来，慢了半个节拍，如空谷回音，竟使人恍如隔世。看苏州姑娘上桥来了，对襟小衫儿尽是丝绸，潇潇洒洒，琵琶扣盘得雅致古朴，一级级石阶娉娉婷婷走去，风情万种；又有挽着满篮沾露香花的卖花姑娘，打桥端盈盈走过，空气中飘流着她幽幽的香气，使人情思恍惚。你看，小桥成了苏州姑娘表演的T型台了。

桥走多了，生命的步调便会从容自在。所以苏州人中间急性子的不多，他们悠哉游哉，好像生来便有一种上帝赐予的闲情逸致。有了一份好心情，便有了消受自然之美的福份。

水巷还有低低的河埠和高高的风火墙，还有石库门、古井和河畔人家……那都是一道道令人迷恋的风景线呵。

踏进苏州小巷，人们会感受到一种静，一种深入骨髓的宁静。的确，比起其他城市来，苏州明显少了一些浮躁之气，多了几缕清幽之气。这清幽之气正是来自苏州小巷，来自小巷里散发出清韵的青石板，来自小巷两侧高高的风火墙，来自小巷里简洁质朴的石库门，来自小巷那“庭院深深深几许”的古老民宅。这冉冉氤氲在苏州小巷里的清幽之气由来十分久远，是从许多宋版线装书中飘逸而出的，是从许多明清青花瓷器里盘旋而至的，是在那伴着昆曲票友们咿咿呀呀拍曲的笛音里回环往复的，是在那穷极楼阁廊台之变化的苏州园林里修炼而成的。

在苏州小巷，人人都有自己独特的感受，每个人心中的小巷都是不同的。不过，苏州小巷的诗似乎已经被白居易、杜荀鹤们写尽了，小巷的画呢？日下的画家正在努力，可能与古代的画师还有一拼。视觉艺术中大约只有摄影这一领域是完全留给个人纵横驰骋的了。当然，摄影家也不会绕过诗人和画家，从这册《苏州水乡》的作品中你不难领略到诗的意象、画的韵味。

对于热爱苏州园林摄影的人们来说，陈健行的作品早已流誉海内外成为经典，在他精密而多情的镜头面前，苏州园林里的亭台楼阁太湖石们竞相展示出她们最迷人的一瞬。可以这么说吧，陈健行是一位园林之美的强悍的终结者。现在，这位痴情于江南的摄影家又以他的新作告诉我们，他还是一位水乡之美的杰出的发现者。无论是对水巷细节的敏锐捕捉，还是对生活情趣的诗意表达，都是那样富有个性，令人过目不忘、浮想联翩而欣喜不已。

好吧，还是让我们静静地进入陈健行的水乡、水城和水巷吧，认识了他的水乡、水城、水巷，便会认识他心中的另一方天地。

亦然

2002年元宵夜写于鼋鼊爬爬斋

5 薄雪素裹，古桥更加秀媚动人。（摄于苏州齐门外）

5 The ancient bridge becomes more attractive when attired in a thin layer of snow. (Outside Qimen Gate, Suzhou.)



## Foreword

By Yi Ran

The wise man takes delight in vibrant waters. Many a people would feel warmly attached to the water country in Suzhou. The water country in the southern Yangtze River Delta has been synonymous to elegance, divinity, and abundance for hundreds of years.

The water city is a fair of the water country, while the water alleys, the quintessence of the city, impart an alluring appeal almost to everyone. The folks live right over the waters, their life focused on the waters, and intertwined with nature with a sense of ease and security. The water alleys impress the visitors above anything else, their grace and spontaneity outshining all other things of interest. The dwellings stand gracefully by the water, like lotus sprouting out of water. The ever-present flowing waters, as if from nowhere, give people such easy access that they simply have to step aboard a boat and row down the water to visit a friend. If they want to buy some daily necessities, they would just watch out for the boats coming and going under the windows to find some boats bringing goods for the town folk. In moments of repose, one may sit by the window, facing the water and sky, reading or contemplating the Tang poems and recalling the lines, "Behold when you come to Suzhou, houses all pillowed upon waters," or "countless sails gliding by." Well, there are actually no sails on the canals of Suzhou. There are only sculls. So you might rewrite the line as "waiting for the countless sculling boats to pass by." What to expect? The past romances and moving tales would come to mind. The lute music and ballad singing may

come across the air, telling the story of some lovers.

The scenes of Suzhou's water alleys are variegated. Spring and autumn, morning and dusk, the pictures are all different. Truly endless is the description about them either in words or in paintings.

As for bridges, a walk down a few alleys is like going through an exposition of bridges. A bridge is invariably seen within a few steps, and one easily loses track of their number. Each of



them is a literary allusion of this ancient city, an incitement on the imagination. In fact, there are over 300 bridges in this Venetian city. A work with so many descriptions would certainly be eye-catching to the reader.

Bridges are where visitors get to understand the folk customs. By the bridges stand dwellings shaded under green foliage and reflected in water. Here and there by the canals, women are doing their washing, thrashing their laundry with a beating

rhythm, sometimes echoing off the cadence – a nostalgic sight. The girls walk briskly down the bridges wearing the traditional jackets with cloth-coiled buttons and carrying a delicate grace about them. Then, there are Pygmalion-like flower girls passing by, sending an enchanting scent of fresh-dewed flowers. The bridges are like a stage to spotlight the native girls.

Having passed so many bridges, one would find life more relaxed at an unhurried pace. That's probably why few natives are quick-tempered. As if with a born ease of mind, they savour life and the beauty of nature in full.

Along the water alley there are low balustrade and quays, in contrast to the tall walls that separate neighboring houses, some of which have gates rimmed with granite stones. Together with the ancient wells and houses hanging water's edge, they afford picturesque scenes.

Upon entering the narrow alley, the prominent impression is the quietude. Suzhou distinguishes itself from other cities by its tranquility, instead of bustle, which is strongly felt in the deep alleys, in the stone slab pavement, the tall fire walls, and the stone rimmed doorways, behind which reside the traditional houses. The disposition of the natives, as well as the quiet serenity in the narrow alleys, have lingered for so long, springing out of the Song hand-bound classical books, from the celadon ware of the Ming and Qing dynasties, and from the mellow singing and flute music of the Kunqu Opera fans, and from the floating towers and pavilions of classical Suzhou gardens.

The small alleys strike different notes in the hearts of people, and so much has been written about them by poets like Bai Juyi and Du Xunhe that there is some space left only for painters to fill in. Of the visual art, photography is perhaps

the area in which the contemporaries may give full play to their creativity. The approach of photographers will not, naturally, be drastically different from that of poets and painters, as from the current album, "Water Country of Suzhou", one can easily discern the flavour of poetry and painting.

To those interested in the photographic art of Suzhou gardens, it is widely acknowledged both in China and overseas that Mr. Chen Jianxing's works have become their classic model. His passion and skill have presented to us the most enchanting instant for the beauty of the pavilions, towers, terraces, and rocks of Suzhou classical gardens. Now, his new works make it clear to us that this photographic artist, so warmly attached to the beauty of the southern areas of the Yangtze River, is also a discoverer of the beauty of the water country. The personalized, poetic expression, by his capture of the details of the water alleys, gives us an exhilarating and unforgettable experience and echoes in our imaginations.

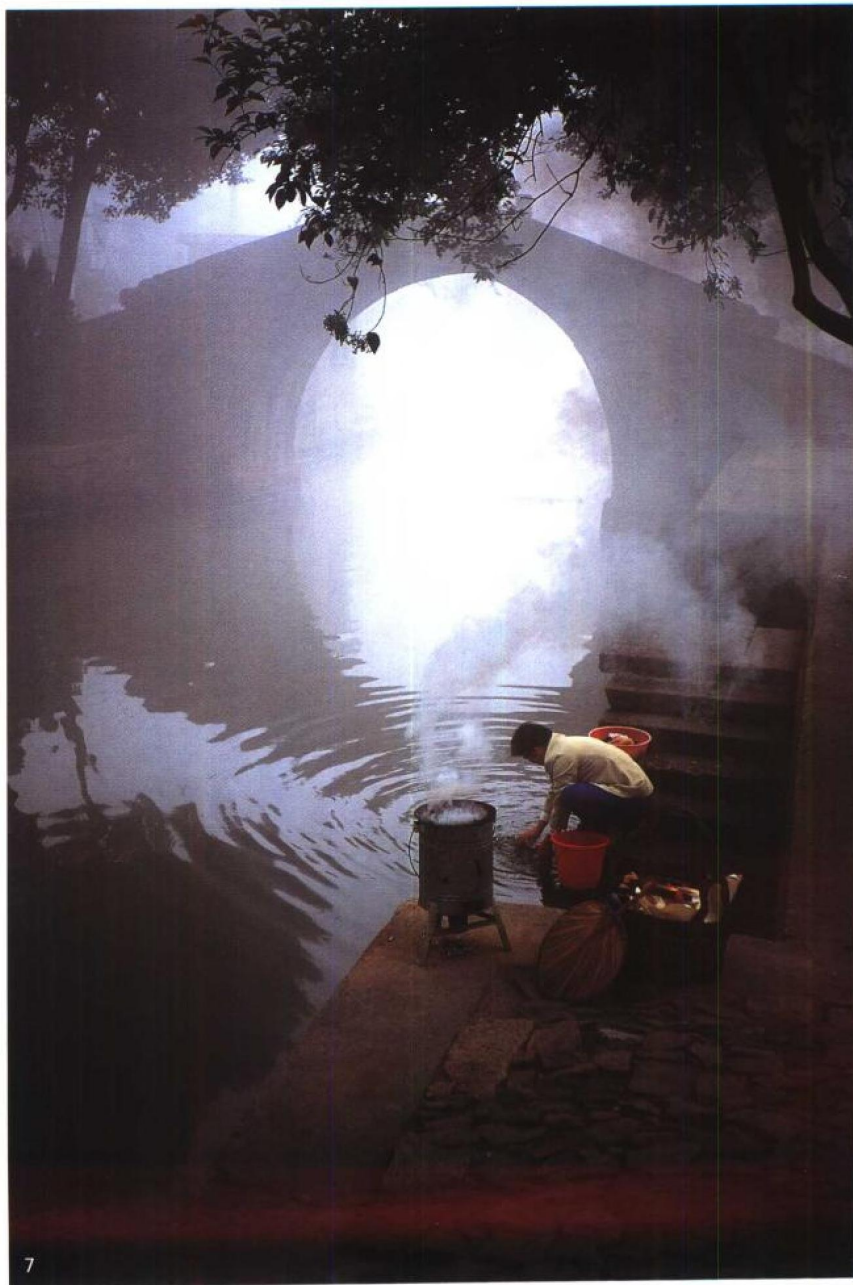
Let us enter the water country, the water city, and the water alleys of Mr. Chen Jianxing's works with patient anticipations and acquaint ourselves with the other world in his heart.

6 水巷上横跨市河的廊房,吸引着无数游人的目光。  
(摄于苏州观马桥旁)

6 The covered corridor spanning a small canal attracts attention of visitors. (By Yinma Bridge, Suzhou.)

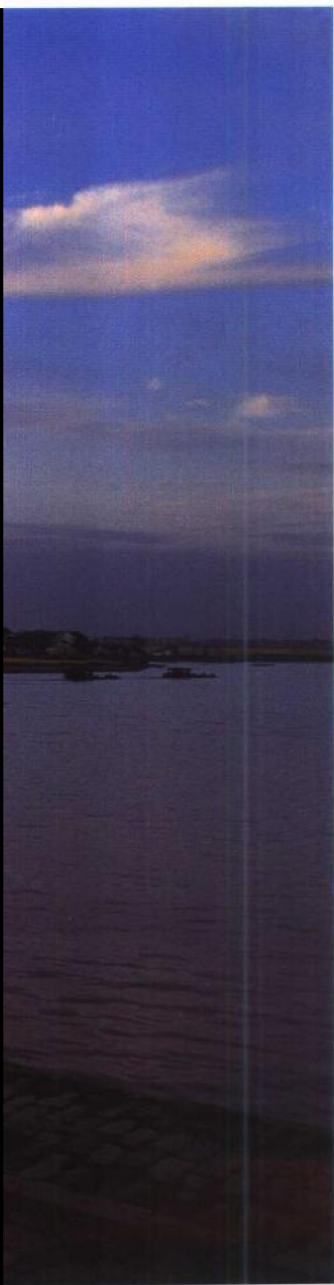
7 晨雾弄影,清波濯衣,那蒲扇还没动,一种怀旧之情早已升腾起来。(摄于吴江同里)

7 Washing by the rippling waters in the morning haze, a deepened feel of nostalgia. (Tongli Town, Wujiang.)









## 苏州的桥

苏州古城小桥多。唐代诗人白居易有“绿浪东西南北水，红栏三百九十桥”的记载，宋《平江图》刻石上仍有桥 314 座，清末民初的《吴县志》也记录城内有桥 308 座，平均每平方公里有桥 15 座，远远超过世界著名的意大利威尼斯水城每平方公里两座桥的密度。

苏州的桥形式多样，造型美观，多边形拱桥、三孔拱桥、单孔拱桥、尖拱桥、半圆拱桥、亭桥、平桥、踏步桥、过街桥、旱桥、廊桥……极尽灵巧变化之能事，形成独特的桥文化，也是苏州水城中最富特色的代表性建筑。

## Bridges in Suzhou

The city of Suzhou abounds in bridges. Bai Juyi, noted poet in the Tang Dynasty, described them this way: "Green waters flow in all directions, there are 390 red-railed bridges." "The stone Map of Pingjiang" from the Song Dynasty illustrates 314 bridges, and "Annals of Wuxian County" records 308 bridges in the area during the late Qing period.

There were on the average 15 bridges in every square kilometer, the density of bridges even surpassing that in Venice, Italy.

The gracefully shaped bridges in Suzhou are in a varieties of forms: geometrically shaped arched bridges, three-arch bridges, single-arch bridges, pointed arch bridge, semi-circular bridges, pavilion bridges, flat bridges, bridges with steps, bridges spanning over alleys, dry bridges, covered bridges, etc. They are the most typical architecture in this Venetian city, and from the ingenuity and diversification of their construction has evolved a unique culture of bridges.

8 宝带桥似玉带系在古运河腰上，古运河也像玉带，围在姑苏城的奇妙上。（摄于苏州宝带桥畔）

8 The Precious Belt Bridge built on the glistening Grand Canal. (By the Precious Belt Bridge of Suzhou.)

9 桥，是水乡古镇人家的门槛。（摄于苏州角直）

9 Bridges are the thresholds to the homes of the ancient water-bound towns. (Luzhi Town, Suzhou.)





10

10 在这里，“我走的桥比你走的路长”这句话失去了它的夸张色彩。（摄于昆山周庄）

10 “More bridges than pavements” is no big exaggeration here. (Zhouzhuang Town, Kunshan.)



11

11 那青青的葛藤爬呀爬呀，爬进了多少苏州人思乡的梦境。(摄于昆山周庄)

11 The green creepers strike a note of passion in the dreams of many natives of Suzhou. (Zhouzhuang, Kunshan.)



