



历史活化石

Chinese Wood  
Culture

# 木文化

「盛木为怀，和木而生」

尚景◎编著

全国百佳图书出版单位  
时代出版传媒股份有限公司  
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中华民族是一个崇尚木的民族，从古至今，木材都是中国人生活中不可或缺的原料，从木建筑、木家具，到各种木制用品，木与人们的生活息息相关、如影随形。中国人之所以对木

情有独钟，主要是因为木材取自自然，其颜色、纹理、质地均富有天然的美感与质感。此外，木材软硬适中，易于加工和雕刻。

中国人不仅用木、爱木，还赋予了木制品深厚的文化意味。对木材的打磨加工和精雕细刻，记录了数千年的中华文

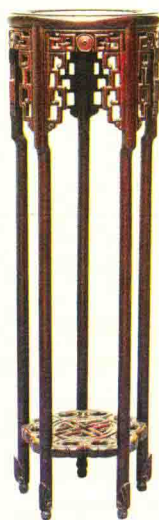
The Chinese nation adores wood. Since ancient times, wood has been an indispensable raw material in the life of Chinese people. From wooden building and wooden furniture

to various other kinds of woodenware, wood has been closely linked with Chinese people's daily life. Chinese people's love of wood mainly stems from its natural origin, which gives natural beauty and quality to its color, grain, and texture. In addition, wood



化与历史。一件件巧夺天工的木制品、木家具以及或雄伟或精致的木建筑，都承载着中国人的智慧和中华数千年的文化底蕴。

本书用精美的图文，将中国的木建筑、木家具、木雕艺术与文化展现出来，相信一定能让您了解木，了解中国的木文化，更通过它来了解中国。



is neither too soft nor too hard and is therefore easy to process and carve.

Chinese people not only use wood, love wood, but have also imprinted on woodwork profound cultural charm. Finely ground and precisely carved, the wooden artwork records every detail of the thousand-year-old Chinese culture and history. In form of tasteful wooden furniture, majestic or exquisite wooden buildings, or woodwork of various kinds, they bear witness to the wisdom of Chinese people as well as the time-honored culture of the Chinese nation.

With elegant pictures and essays, this book introduces the wooden buildings, wooden furniture, as well as art and culture of wood carving of China. It will surely bring the readers one step closer to the understanding of wood, wood culture of China, and even China as a whole.

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# 源远流长的木文化

## Long-standing Wood Culture

中国人自古以来就恋木，崇尚木，几千年来始终对它情有独钟。在古代的中国人看来，木是生命之源，发于春天，发于自然。中国人追求“天人合一”，而“木”恰恰源于天然，因而被运用得颇为精妙。宏伟壮阔、简练淳朴、巧夺天工、玲珑雅致……“木”被广泛应用于建筑、家具、生活用品等各个方面，与人们的生活息息相关，也让木文化蓬勃发展起来。

Chinese people have been loving and adoring wood since the ancient times. Such affection has lasted for several millenniums. For the ancient Chinese, wood is the source of life. It originates in spring from Mother Nature, fitting in well with Chinese people's pursuit of the unity of man and nature. Therefore, they have used wood to the exquisite limit and created countless works of art that are magnificent and grandiose, simple and pure, and skilful and dainty ... Wood has been used to make buildings, furniture, and articles of everyday use. It is a material closely linked with people's daily life. Consequently, wood culture has been thriving.







## > 中国悠久的木文化

古代的中国人种树为林，伐木取材，运用高超的工艺将取自天然的“木”盖成房屋、制作成家具、雕刻成器物。吃、穿、住、用、行，每个生活细节无一不与“木”息息相关。可以说，中国人与“木”有着千年之缘。



### • 关于原始人生活的油画

原始人将木材制成木棒，用来打死野兽、获取食物或保护同伴的安全。

An oil painting about the life of the primitives

The primitives made stick from wood to kill wild animals for food or to protect their fellows.

## > Time-honored Wood Culture of China

The ancient Chinese planted trees for wood. Their marvelous skills turned wood into houses, furniture, and carved utensils. Wood has infiltrated into every aspect of people's daily life: eating, dressing, living, tool using, and traveling. It is safe to say that Chinese people have a millennium relationship with wood.

### From Fire Making by Drilling Wood to Tree Felling for House Building

The primitive men used wood first as fuel after their discovery of the dead animals killed by forest fire. Since then, they began to eat cooked food. Later, they began to drill a hard piece of wood against another to get the spark for starting a fire. Then, they found out that a fallen tree could support their thatched huts, giving them better shelters against

## 从钻木取火到伐木造屋

远古时期的人类最初开始用木，是在森林起火后，大量的野兽被烧死，原始人才开始吃熟的食物。后来，人们试着将坚硬的木头在另一块木头上用劲钻，钻出的火星可以点燃茅草。再后来，人类又发现倒下的大树可以支撑起茅草屋，以此来遮风挡雨、驱寒保暖。逐渐地，人类开始越来越多地使用木，并将其作为建造房屋的首选良材。人类文明也正是从这最初的草木房屋衍生开来。

### “木”字起源

中国古老的文字甲骨文（甲骨文：中国已发现的年代最早、体系较为完整的古代文字，是殷商时代刻在龟甲兽骨上的文字）是象形文字，而甲骨文中最早的“木”字，形体是树的枝丫，上面是枝叶，下面是树根，十分贴切，而后渐渐衍变成今天的“木”字。

中国人自古以来就崇尚直线美，尤其是书法，将文字的功能与审美巧妙结合。而“木”字的一横

wind, rain, and coldness. Gradually, they put wood to more and more uses. However, house building remained the prime usage of wood. In fact, human civilization started just from the most primitive thatched houses.

### Origin of the Chinese Character 木 (wood)

The ancient Chinese character Oracle Bone Script (Jiaguwen), is pictograph. [Jiaguwen: The earliest Chinese character in a relatively complete system, are the inscriptions on bones or tortoise shells appeared in the Shang Dynasty (1600



• 原始人的草木房屋  
A thatched hut of the primitives



一竖，一撇一捺都是直线，就像是一座房屋构建的雏形，通过柱和梁看到一个“木”的世界。

独树成“木”，双木成“林”，三木成“森”，五木即成“森林”。古人从森林中伐木，使之变成材，而后又造成房屋、家具及生活用品。所以现在的很多汉字，尤其是木制的东西，其字皆有“木”旁。

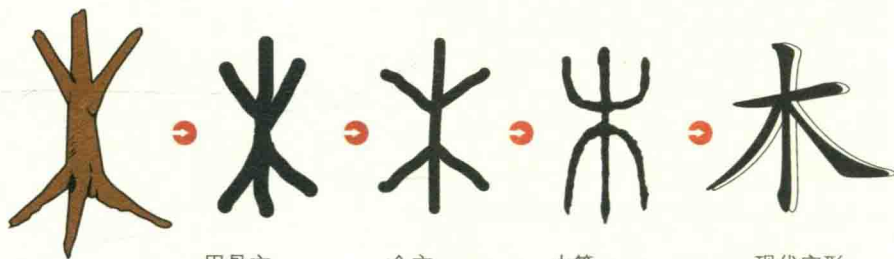
## 木与阴阳五行

阴阳五行是中国古代最具影响力的学说之一。古人认为，大自然主要由五种元素构成，即金、木、水、火、土。而五行中的“木”主

B.C.-1046 B.C.).] The character 木 (wood) was among the earliest Jiaguwen words. It has a vivid tree-like shape, with the upper part representing the branches and the lower part as the roots.

Chinese people always love the beauty of the straight lines. Chinese calligraphy, in particular, combines the communication function and aesthetic value of characters. The character 木 (wood) contains a horizontal, a vertical, a left-falling stroke, and a right-falling stroke, all being straight lines. They form a rough shape of a house as together. Through the column and beam, we can see a world of wood.

Putting two characters 木 (wood) together side by side makes a new



甲骨文

Oracle Bone Script (Jiaguwen), inscriptions on bones or tortoise shells

金文

Bronze Script (Jinwen), inscriptions on ancient bronze objects

小篆

Small Seal Script (Xiaozhuan), a style of Chinese calligraphy

现代字形

Modern character pattern

### • “木”字的发展

Development of the character 木 (wood)



• 北京故宫中和殿

中国宫殿倾斜的屋顶好像一撇一捺，线条美十足。

The Hall of Central Harmony in the Imperial Palace (Forbidden City), Beijing

The tilting roofs are like a left-falling stroke and a right-falling stroke, showing the complete beauty of the lines.

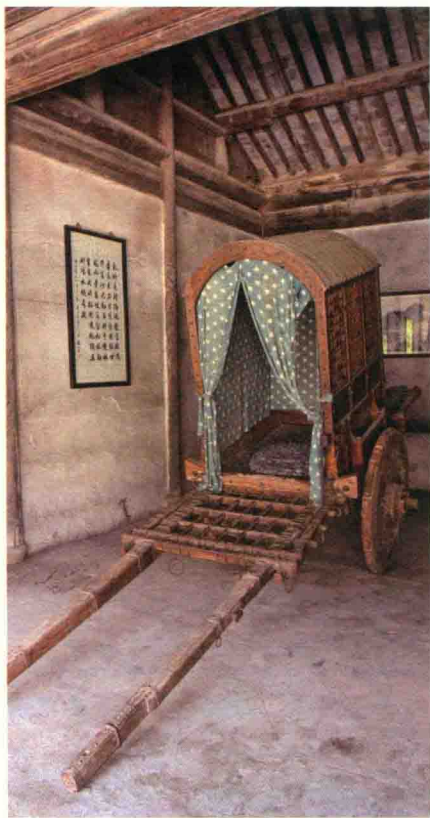
东方，更是天地之道的根本。木主春天，具有生发性，代表着生生不息。随着五行的盛衰，天地万物随之发生变化，循环不休。

同时，中国人的家庭观念很重，人们把“家”视为休养生息的立命之所，而社会则是由千万个“小家”组成的“大家”。“家”的用材、布局、环境等方面都离不开“木”。

character 林，which means woods. Interesting enough, piling three 木 (wood) up will get the character 森，which is safe to guess it must be forest. Therefore, you can see Chinese word 森林 (forest) is made up of nothing but five 木 (wood). The ancient Chinese felled trees from the forest and used the wood to build houses and make furniture and articles of everyday use. Many modern Chinese characters, especially those for the articles made of wood, have 木 (wood) as a component.







• 苏州惠和堂内的古车  
 An ancient cart in Suizhou Huihe Mansion

## 伐木

早在原始社会，人类就已经开始伐木取材建造房屋。

古代中国对伐木是很讲究的。一开始，古人只在冬天伐木，因为这样不耽误农时，还可以减少虫蚁的滋扰，便于砍伐、运输。后来，

## Wood and Yin-Yang and Five Elements

The theory of Yin- Yang and Five Elements is the most influential one in ancient China. The ancient people believed that nature was composed of five elements, namely Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth. Of them, Wood was regarded as the ruling element of the east and the foundation of the way in the universe. Wood also dictated spring, boosted growth, and represented the thriving force of life. With the rise and fall of the Five Elements come the endless changes, the circulation of the universe and all the things in it.

Meanwhile, Chinese people have an extremely firm attachment to their families. They treated home as a place for rest and recuperation and the society as a big family composed of millions of small families. The ancient people regarded wood as the foundation of their home, because none of the elements of their home, such as its building, layout, and environment, could do without wood.

## Tree Felling

As far back as the primitive society, mankind began felling trees to get wood



随着对树木生长的深入了解，人们开始根据树种的不同来分季节采伐，而一般的木材适宜于四月或七月采伐。

古人在伐木时，要先确定树木倒下去的方向，防止其损伤种树和幼树，这也是为了便于运输，同时保证伐木工人的安全。然后将周围障碍物清理干净，规划出一条安全道，再将树伐倒。伐倒的树木，先要去掉枝桠，然后按不同长度锯成“造材”，即原木。最后，再利用冰雪天气、河道、滑道、牲畜、车马或人力等方式将原木运出山林。



• 木匠正在运用工具打造木家具

A carpenter is making wooden furniture with a plane.

for house building.

In ancient China, tree felling was done in a well-planned way. At first, the ancient people felled trees only in winter when they had few farm works and were free of harassment from bugs. Then, with their knowledge about trees accumulating, people began felling different types of trees in different seasons. Generally speaking, ordinary trees are good to be felled in April or July.

When felling trees, the first thing for the ancient people was to choose a direction the tree will fall down. They did this to avoid damaging seedlings and young trees in the vicinity, and to guarantee lumberers' safety. And it would be easier to move big logs. Then, they cleared away all the obstacles around and cut out a safe transport path. After the tree was felled down, they cut the branches and twigs off the trunk and sawed it into different lengths of bucking, also known as log. Finally, they transported the logs out of forest by using icy path, river, chute, draught animals, carts, or labour power depending on the weather or circumstance conditions.

Carpenters made beams, columns, rafters, doors, and windows out of logs and then built up houses. More than

工匠们把一根根原木制作成梁、枋、椽、门、窗，最终盖起一座房屋，还将木材做成家具、乐器、车船等，构建出中国辉煌的木建世界。木材已不仅仅是树的产物，更是人类的“朋友”。

that, they also made furniture, musical instruments, carts and boats. Their hard work created a glorious world of Chinese woodwork. With such contribution, wood is not only the product of trees, but a friend to human.



### 鲁班

鲁班是中国木工的“祖师爷”，春秋时鲁国人。鲁班有一次爬山的时候，手指不小心被一棵小草划破了。他很奇怪：为什么小草如此锋利？于是仔细察看，发现草叶两边全是排列均匀的小齿。后来，他就模仿草叶制成了锯，中国的木文化也由此发扬光大起来。鲁班在建筑、木工、器械等方面有大量发明创造，如建筑用的曲尺、刨、钻、铲等。此外，鲁班还擅长雕刻。

### Lu Ban

Lu Ban, a skilful craftsman in the state of Lu in the Spring and Autumn Period (770 B.C. - 476 B.C.), was the founder of Chinese carpentry. Once, during a trip up the mountain, his finger was cut open by a blade of grass. He wondered why the grass blade was so sharp. A close look revealed that the blade was lined on both sides with even serrations. Later, Lu Ban invented saw by imitating the serrations on the grass blade. Since then, Chinese wood culture has been greatly developed and widely spread. Lu Ban also made many other inventions in architecture, carpentry, and instrument making, including the building tools such as bevel gauge, plane, drill, and shovel. In addition, Lu Ban was good at carving as well.

## > 木的独特品质

木源于树，主要取自树干，而树干又由树皮、形成层、木质层、髓心组成。木材之所以被人们广泛应用，是因为它具有其他材料无法比拟的特性。

### 取自天然

中国人自古以来就遵循和谐之道，崇尚自然，而木恰恰生长于自然。同时，木材的生产成本较低、耗能小、无毒害、无污染，因而被广泛应用于建筑以及日常生活中。中国古代，人们在使用木材时，更多地考虑怎样与自然相和谐。建筑布局中的依山就势、见水修桥、因高建阁、依地为宫等，均是因地制宜。既依赖于自然山水，又形成了木建筑和木器具的独特风格。

## > Unique Qualities of Wood

Wood originates from the tree, especially the tree trunk. Tree trunk consists of bark, cambium, xylem layer, and pith. Wood has been widely used by people because of its many unparalleled features.

### From Nature

Chinese people have been following the way of harmony and cherishing Mother Nature since the ancient times.



• 木质佛珠

A wooden Buddhist rosary



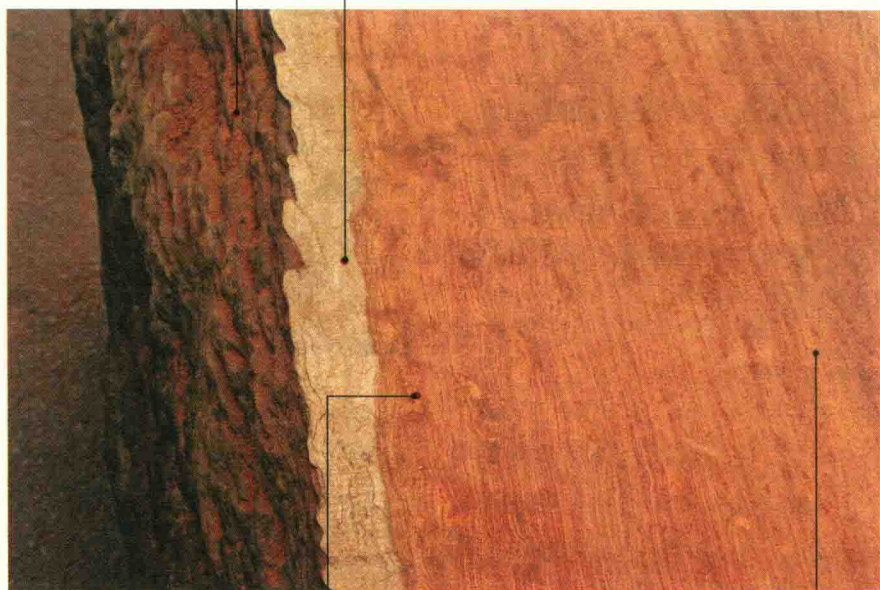


树皮：树干的最外层。

Bark: It is the outer layer of the tree trunk.

形成层：位于树皮与木质部之间，包裹整个树干，形成层的木材不结实。

Cambium: Between bark and xylem, cambium covers the entire tree trunk. The wood of cambium is not robust.



#### • 树的构造

Structure of tree trunk

木质层：是树干的主要部分，也是木材的主体。靠近内层的木质层，是成熟的木材；靠近外层的木质层，是木质化程度较差的木材。

Xylem layer: It is the main part of the tree trunk and also the main body of wood. The xylem layer close to the inner layer is mature wood while that close to the outer layer is the poorly-lignified wood.

髓心：俗称“树心”，位于树干中央或偏离中央；颜色较木质层或深或浅些，材质松软，易开裂或腐朽。

Pith: It is in the center of the tree trunk or somewhere nearby. The color is deeper or lighter than xylem layer. It has a loose and soft texture and is apt to crack or rot.