

席闻雷 罗 晴

Xi Wenlei Luo Qing

上海屋里厢

Inside Shanghai

上海人民美術出版社

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2007年5月，我开始用第一台数码单反相机有意无意地拍摄上海的老建筑和弄堂，直到某一天感觉它们正在逐步地、飞速地消失，于是想到是否应该认真去做些记录，为这些曾经在这座城市中存在于七八十年甚至上百年的建筑留下些许影像，特别是那些容易被人忽视的市民居住生活的建筑和街道。

上海的近代民居建筑随着时代的变迁，从最早带有江南乡村色彩的本地房子，到遍布上海市区的石库门里弄，到之后的新式里弄，再到花园洋房和西式公寓楼……每一种住宅空间的出现都带来了生活方式的变化。比如砖木结构的石库门，其布局多为一户人家居住所设，有客堂间、厢房、前楼、灶披间和亭子间¹等；20世纪30年代的新式里弄，“钢窗蜡地”²及煤卫设施，与老式的石库门相比，则带来更多的生活质量的提升；相对小康人家的联排里弄住宅，独幢的花园洋房自然要在空间和功能上奢侈得多，宽敞的起居室、餐厅，甚至有装置弹簧地板的跳舞厅，大多还配有汽车间和佣人间；而三四十年代兴起的大大小的西式公寓建筑或社区，有部分更是建起了游泳池等公共休闲场地……

这些住宅建筑历经时代的洗礼，如今其表皮及内里呈现出的面貌和场景大多是令人唏嘘的，从中不但可以感受到中国传统社会受西方生活方式影响的痕迹，也能读出历经劫波的尘埃和岁月侵蚀的印记，而最后大都又淹没在生活的杂乱和琐碎中。所以，与其说我是被这些建筑本身所吸引，不如说是住宅内部如年轮般丰富的历史细节让我如获至宝！

当推开大门进入这些住宅，人们似乎可以在跨越百年的时光隧道里任意穿越。很多老住宅内，可能依然保留了最早的户主使用过的、从西方进口的带烤箱的煤气灶，还有镀铜的标有冷热字样的水龙头，铸铁的浴缸、壁炉、热水汀，甚至上海人俗称“炮仗炉子”的烧热水的锅炉，从这些设施可以想见当年富裕人家的西式城市生活方式。一些带有中西元素装饰的所谓的“海派”家具更是常见，从公私合营时期的家具，到几乎每户人家都有的“三五牌”台钟；从五斗橱、夜壶箱、捷克式衣柜、八仙桌、吊扇，再到现在的新式家具、家用电器、电脑。这些不同时代的物件在一个可能只有几平方米的空间里和谐相处，诉说着每家每户平淡而真实的生活故事。

还有一些现代已消失的装饰细节会在这些老房子里出现，比如“画镜线”，方便把字画、镜子等挂在墙上的任意位置，而不必使用钉子；护墙板，这个当年非常流行的装修方式，现在似乎也很少看到普通人家再用了。

不光是家居的装修，上海屋里厢的很多家什也越来越少见了，比如竹子小矮凳、棕棚床、樟木箱等等，这些当年几乎每家人家都会有的物件大都已堆积在旧货店或老家具店里，甚至被当作垃圾丢掉了。曾经在一处拆房废墟中发现过几只丢弃在瓦砾中的老皮箱，其中一只箱子上贴有字条，用楷书工工整整写着：太太衣箱……可以想象当时人们的生活态度和场景，这些物件连同旧的生活方式正随着旧建筑的淹没被一点点抛弃和遗忘。

这样的“屋里厢”，随着老建筑的消亡和居住在其间的老人慢慢离去而越来越少，特别是一些相对简陋的石库门住宅，从没住过的人充满想象，曾经住过的还有回忆，仍居住其间的人或许只想离开……这些为上海所独有的生活空间，是值得去为它们留下真实影像的。

注：1. 客堂间：客厅，在一楼。厢房：子女、兄妹或父母的房间，在一楼及二楼。前楼：主卧，在二楼。灶披间：厨房，在一楼。亭子间：厨房楼上堆放杂物的空间或佣人间。2. 钢窗蜡地：钢质的窗框及打蜡的地板。

Inside Shanghai

Xi Wenlei

One day in May 2007, I took some photos of old buildings, in particular lane houses, in Shanghai with my first digital camera. I hadn't done that with any clear purpose, but I now realize in retrospection that the photos are great historical records. The old buildings are passing away after nearly or even over a century, and their images will remind the citizens of Shanghai of the way they once lived in the city.

Residential architecture in Shanghai has gone through obvious changes in history. The earliest were local traditional houses of the Yangtze River Delta; then Shikumen houses (two- or three-story structures resembling Western terrace houses or townhouses. Each residence abuts another and all are arranged in straight side lanes and the entrance to each lane is usually surmounted by a stylistic stone facade) and westernized lane houses rose in the city center of Shanghai, and then villas and western apartment buildings took over later. Every style of residential space represents a particular way of life, so the changes in the style of residential architecture indicate the progress of the city. For instance, typically, each Shikumen residence used to accommodate a family with a sitting room on the first floor, a master bedroom on the second floor and other bedrooms, a kitchen on the first floor, and an attic room as a utility room or a maid room. In the 1930s, western lane houses hit the ground in Shanghai and were much better equipped with steel-frame windows, wax-coated wooden floor, gas and toilets. They meant a great improvement of living conditions compared with the existing Shikumen houses. Later, as people got richer, townhouses and stand-alone villas emerged. In comparison with townhouses, villas were especially glamorous for their luxurious space and facilities. There were sitting rooms and dining rooms, of course, but there were also ball rooms with spring floors and most had a garage and a maid room.

In the 1930s and 1940s, western apartment buildings or blocks became popular, and some had swimming pools and other leisure facilities.

The change of residential architecture over time has rich historical implications, so the current images of the old houses, both their interiors and exteriors, tell great stories. There are traces of the influence of the West on the traditional Chinese way of life, and also marks of the passage of time. It is a pity, however, that all these traces and marks have been buried in modern-day hustles and bustles. Therefore, to a great extent, I have been attracted more by the historical details, the marks of time on the city, than the beauty of these heritage buildings, although they are indeed beautiful.

Entering the buildings, one may get the illusion that they were travelling through the time tunnel back to a century ago. Many old houses still keep a gas stove, maybe with an oven, imported from the West left over by the earliest owner; some have copperized running taps with the indication of hot water and cold water; some have cast iron bathtubs, fireplaces and steam grills; and even some have boilers. Such facilities are symbols of the western urban life that the wealthy people lived. The houses also contain so-called Shanghainese furniture that combine both Chinese and Western elements. There are furniture and fittings belonging to the 1950s, wooden clocks of the 1970s, chest of drawers, Czech wardrobes, square tables and ceiling fans of the 1980s as well as modern furniture, appliances and computers. It is amazing that these furniture belonging to different ages should coexist in harmony within a small room, telling together the real life stories of each household.

Some decorations that have disappeared from most modern homes are still there, too, such as picture rails that hang painting scrolls or mirrors on the wall and chair rails that were very popular in the 1980s and 90s but now have been virtually abandoned.

In addition to the fittings, quite a lot of furniture and utensils in the old houses of Shanghai are becoming rarities, such as bamboo stools, coir beds and camphor wood boxes. Now they are abandoned by almost every family, sold to second-hand stores or simply thrown away as trash. I once found several leather boxes in pile of garbage near the ruins of a torn-down house, and one of them still bore a neatly hand-written label: Wife's Garments. You can imagine the way of life and the earnest attitude of the owner towards life which are now thrown away together with the old furniture and utensils, especially with the gradual disappearance of old buildings.

Such pictures will become a rarity, too, as the old buildings and their dwellers pass into history. It is particularly true with the poorly equipped Shikumen houses, and people who have never lived there are curious, people who once lived there still cherish some sweet memories, while people who are still living there are anxious to leave. The images of the unique residential architecture of Shanghai deserve our attention.

注：本书中图注前的数字，为此图片
所在的页码。

Note: Numbers before photo notes are
page numbers.



