

英语爱好者丛书

[美] 布朗·罗尔斯顿 著
李著璟 译

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BUILDING

建筑师 妙 语评说家居营造

(英汉对照)



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内 容 提 要

作者以幽默的语言、鲜明的观点、丰富而宝贵的职业经验,从经济、实用、美学的角度,详细讨论了规划设计阶段房主该做和不该做的事情;住宅首层、二层布置与细部;地下室与庭园;住宅照明与通风供暖等方面的问题,其中还穿插着传统建筑美学观点与“现代派”的种种争议。本书不管是对专业人员,还是对广大为改善自己的居住条件欲进行房地产投资的普通居民,都有极好的参考价值。

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寄语读者

语言的驾驭能力在很大程度上反映一个人的文化素养、智力水平,这恐怕是人所共识的。我们使用母语得心应手,是因为除睡眠时间外,无时不在进行这门语言的实践—学习—再实践。其间,包含由于我们自身科技知识的积累、文艺鉴赏水平的提高所促成的语言所及范围的扩大,所论问题的深入。假如由于某种原因,这种语言的“实践—学习—再实践”的过程终止了,我们语言水平的“进行性退化”恐怕也就难以避免。

外语学习也不例外。由于绝大多数外语学习者缺乏母语那样的学习环境,外语学习的“实践—学习—再实践”过程更为重要。这个过程若断断续续,我们的外语学习就会事倍功半;终止实践和学习,则会使我们过去在外语上所花费的一切精力(往往是我们宝贵的青春年华)付诸东流,这又是一种多么令人痛惜的浪费。

进入 21 世纪这个人类社会的信息时代,计算机和微波通信技术使世界变成了小小的“地球村”,“邻里”之间语言不通不行。外语,尤其是英语的熟悉程度,直接影响着先进科技信息的吸纳与交流。不说别的,不懂英语,即使上了因特网,眼见着一片片的英文飘忽而过,而你手足无措,该多耽误事儿。

英语爱好者丛书是为具有高中以上英语水平的读者设计的。它的最大特点是,挑选原汁原味又雅俗共赏、题材广泛又

密切联系现代社会实际的英语资料,聘请翻译高手配以流畅贴切的汉译,以供自学者置于案头枕边,茶余饭后随手翻阅,积零为整。通过这种细水长流式的英语学习,既提高了您的英语实际水平,又接触了另一种文化、另一种思维方式,获得了另一专业的基础知识,说不定会对您拓展业务范围、增强人才竞争实力添上一把力呢。此书若蒙您喜爱,那便是编辑们衷心盼望的了。

本丛书编辑组

1999年元月于北京清华园

To my clients, but for whose faith, generosity
and forbearance, this book never
could have been written.

献给我的委托人,如果不是由于他们的
信心、慷慨和容忍,这本书
决不可能写出来。

FOREWORD

If you are looking for a book of plans, put this back on the pile, for it contains not a single plan. Look around a bit, you will find loads of them on other piles, and very attractive pictures they have in them, too. The objective of this book is not to sell you a plan, but to sit down with you and explain all of the intricacies of a building operation.

I have never ceased to wonder, during my professional career, at the lack of understanding of these intricacies with which many a layman approaches this great adventure. To see the starry-eyed enthusiasm he displays as he throws himself into it and then to see, in many cases, that light fade out and be replaced by a dull, hard glaze of disillusionment, hurts my tender-hearted soul. Therefore I have long felt the need of some sort of education in the matter for those who are about to build, and of a note, or a few bars^①, of warning of the pitfalls that lie all about, so that at least those who listen and take heed may experience the joy and satisfaction that comes to him who goes about the job in the proper way. Of course you may not believe all that I have to tell you, and others of my profession will not agree with me in many things, but if you will follow the general precepts here laid down, the delight and gratification that you deserve should move into your new home with you.

前 言

如果你是在找一本建筑图纸的书,那就把这本书放回书堆去,因为里面一张图纸也没有。你可以在周围找找看,你可以在其他书堆里找到大量的有图纸的书,并且里面还有很漂亮的图画。这本书的目的不是卖张图纸给你,而是和你坐下来解释一下一个营造活动中的全部错综复杂之处。

在我的职业生涯中,我一直感到奇怪,有这么多从事这一伟大历险的外行对这错综复杂缺乏了解。看到他们把自己投入到这件事时表现出的两眼发亮的兴奋,其后在很多情况下看到那眼中的光亮黯淡下来并代之以幻想破灭的呆滞目光,真令我善良的靈魂伤心。所以很久以来我就感到在这件事上需要给那些快要盖房子的人某种教育,并对围绕这件事的一些陷阱给以几个字或几句的警告^①,这样至少使那些注意倾听的人能体验到正确从事此事的人所得到的快乐和满足。当然你未必相信我要和你说的全部内容,而且我的其他同行在很多问题上也不会同意我的观点,但如果你遵从这里写下的一般告诫,那你应得的喜悦和满足会和你一起迁入你的新居。

① note 音符, bar 小节,都是音乐术语

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SOMEONE once said—it was probably a character in the Bible or in Shakespeare—most quotations seem to come from one or the other—that every man has two ambitions: one to write a book, and the other to build a house. It is a pity that the sage who made this wise crack^① did not amend the second ambition and make it “two houses,” the idea being that the first house would be for experience and the second to live in. But unfortunately the saying is as originally quoted and therefore most men, when they have realized this ambition, stop there, not necessarily because they are satisfied with the result, but for various other reasons: they have either expended so much more in the process of reaching their goal than they had intended that they will spend the rest of their lives catching up, or it develops that they have built in the wrong neighborhood and soon find that to get out again they must sell at a loss, or they have made several errors in the planning which they will never cease regretting, or they have done all three. These are the people one hears saying: “If I ever build again—!” and they are the very ones who should build again, for they have learned the hard way^② and their second attempt should be a lot more successful. But, alas, that happy event seldom happens—much to the regret of architects and builders.

Now the main reason for the disillusionment of so many worthy souls who started out on their great adventure with such enthusiasm and high hopes is that they went about it in the wrong way.

Since you are reading this book you are probably not one of the disillusioned but are in one of the various stages of the *house-building fever*. Perhaps you have just been bitten by the bug^③ and are beginning to scan all of the “house” magazines, cutting out ideas for kitchen cabinets, shoe racks that drop down and make the darlinest

有人——很可能是圣经或莎士比亚戏剧里的某一角色——多数引语看来都是出自这两本书——曾经说过，每个人都有两个志向：一是写一本书，另一是盖所住宅。可惜讲这句俏皮话的圣贤没有把这第二志向改为“两所住宅”，意思是第一所为着取得经验，第二所为着住进去。但不幸的是这句话是按原话引用的，所以多数人在实现了这个志向后就止步了，倒不一定是由于对结果很满意，而是由于各种其它原因：他们或是在实现这一目标过程中的花费远超过他们的原始意图，以致他们必须用自己的余生来弥补；或是他们把房子盖在环境不合适的所在，并且很快发现如要撤离就必须在蒙受损失的条件下出售；或是他们为设计上所犯的几个错误还在不断地后悔着；或是上述三者兼而有之。他们就是那种常听到说着：“假如我再盖的话——！”的人，而他们也正是那些应该再盖住宅的人，因为他们是经历困难才懂得如何盖房子的，他们的第二次尝试一定会更成功得多。但是，可惜这样的美事很少发生，这对建筑师和盖房子的人都是憾事。

有这么多带着这么大的热情和这么高的期望开始他们这一伟大历程的好人会幻想破灭，其主要原因是他们以错误的方式来着手这件事。

既然你在看这本书，你很可能还不是一位幻想破灭者，而是正处在**建房热**的不同阶段之一。也许你才刚刚染上这热病而在翻阅建筑杂志，剪下有关厨房橱柜、可以翻下来变成最可爱的卧室书桌的鞋架、贝壳饰面的书架，及窗上花饰等资料，

① wise crack (美国俚语) 俏皮话

② learn sth. the hard way 通过艰难困苦而学到某事

③ bitten by the bug 染上病菌

bed room desk, scalloped bookshelves and overwindow swags and are spending the weekends dashing about the countryside getting ideas for porches, outdoor grilles, dormer windows and colors for the blinds. Or, if you are a man, you are studying the ads in the magazines and storing up information on insulation, panel heating, shower stalls and all kinds of new finishes and methods that will reduce the cost of building or upkeep. Or you may even have reached a more advanced stage where you have already accumulated stacks of magazines and filled several scrapbooks with handy notes and have made numerous sketches and plans of what you expect your home to be like and are now looking for a lot to build it on. You may even have reached the advanced stage where you have bought your lot, which you selected because it is near Bill and Nell's or on account of the beautiful pink dogwood tree on it, or for the lovely view of the hills. You really haven't a very clear picture in your mind of just how your house will look on the lot, because you probably haven't a very clear picture in your mind of how your house will look. The fact that a house has to be fitted to the lot just as a coat must be fitted to your shoulders has, in all likelihood, never occurred to you. However, now that you are armed with all the ideas you want incorporated in your house and "rough sketches" to demonstrate how this is to be done, and have bought the lot to build it on, you decide that the time has come to consult an architect.

Well, I am sorry to say that if you have reached this last stage of the disease you are quite likely to end up with those who should try again. If you are still in the second stage you can be saved, and if you have just entered the first, little harm has been done and a careful following of the doctor's orders will set you straight.

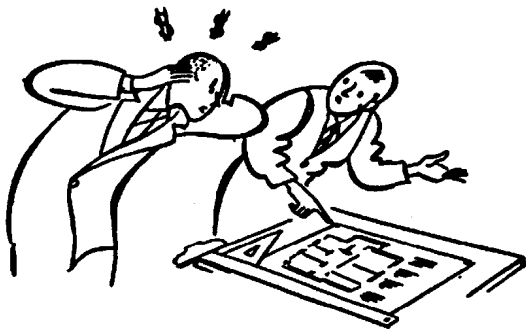
It's a curious fact that most people look upon the *architect* with

并且把周末都花在到郊区奔走,搜集有关门廊、户外烤肉架、老虎窗以及窗帘颜色的主意上。或者,如果你是位男士,你就在研究杂志上的广告,积累了很多有关隔热、嵌入式供暖器、淋浴间,以及各种可以降低造价或维修成本的新式装修和方法的信息。或者你甚至已到达病情的较重阶段,积累了成摞的杂志,作了成册的笔记,画了好几张你预期的家是什么样子的草图和平面图,并且正在找一块建房的地皮。也许你甚至到达了病情的深重阶段,你已买了地皮,你选择这块地皮是因为它离比尔和奈丽的家不远,或是由于地上的一棵美丽的开粉红花的山茱萸树,或是由于有可爱的山景。你对于你的房子在这块地皮上会是什么样子其实并不清楚,因为你很可能对你的房子是什么样的都不清楚。很可能你根本就没有想到过这样一个事实,即一座房子必须适合于地皮,正如一件外衣必须适合于你的双肩一样。然而,你现在对你的房子要包括些什么已有了主意,对如何做到这些有了草图,并且还已买了盖房子的地皮,你决定是该请教一位建筑师的时候了。

我很遗憾地说,如果你已达到这病情的最后阶段,你的结局很可能是和那些应该再试一次的人一样。如果你还在第二阶段,你还有治。如果你刚刚进入第一阶段,那还没有什么损伤,仔细遵从大夫的命令就可没事。

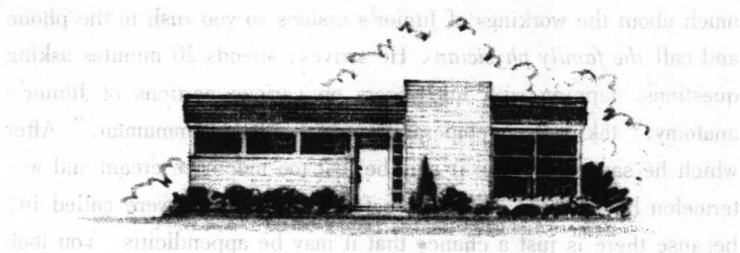
一件奇怪的事实就是很多人用一种深刻怀疑的眼光看建

keen suspicion. To them he is a not-quite-necessary evil that is more



or less forced upon one when one intends to build a house. He it is, they think, who adds all sorts of fancy doodads^① to the house that make it cost so much and who is constantly fighting with the contractor—the practical man—and who tries to talk you out of having the things you have set your heart on having and talk you into having all sorts of things you think you don't want. All he does for the ridiculously large amount of money you pay him is to draw a few pictures—which really ought to be fun, so why should he charge for that?—spoil your dreams and make a general nuisance of himself during construction. This being the popular conception of the architect the natural tendency is to put off the evil day of hiring him as long as possible with the subconscious hope that something or other may happen that will make his hiring unnecessary. And that is where you make your first mistake.

Let's see what you do in other crises of life. When Junior^② suddenly develops a bad stomach ache do you go to the newstand and buy a lot of health magazines and clip out a stomachache ad and try it out on him? Of course you don't. You realize that you don't know



建筑师。对他们来说,当人们想盖房子时,建筑师是一种多少有点强加于人的、不那么必要的祸害。他们认为,他就是那位在房子上加上各种花里胡哨的饰物,使房子变得那么昂贵的人,他就是那位和承包商——那可是一位讲求实际的人——不断争执的人,他就是那位试图说服你别要那些你一心想要的东西,又说服你去要各种你认为你并不想要的东西的人。对于你付给他的那笔数量大得荒唐的钱,他所做的全部事情只是画了几张图——这应该是很有趣的事,他又为什么要为此收费呢?——搅乱你的梦想,并在建房过程中使他自己成为令人普遍讨厌的角色。既然这是建筑师给人们的流行概念,自然的倾向就是尽可能地推迟雇用他的那个不祥的日子,下意识地希望能发生什么事使得雇用他成为不必要。这就是你犯的第一个错误。

让我们看看在一生中其它关键时刻你是怎么做的。当你的小儿子忽然肚子疼,你会不会跑到报摊上买些健康杂志剪下肚疼广告在他身上试试呢?当然你不会。你明白你对小儿

① doodad (美俚) 饰物

② Junior 年少的,在家中指小儿子

much about the workings of Junior's insides so you rush to the phone and call *the family physician*. He arrives, spends 20 minutes asking questions, tapping with his fingers on various portions of Junior's anatomy,^① taking his temperature and saying "Hmmmmm." After which he says that while it may be just too much ice cream and watermelon he thinks it would be safer if a specialist were called in, because there is just a chance that it may be appendicitis. You look worried and say "by all means" and the specialist is summoned. He arrives, asks questions, taps Junior, takes his temperature and says "Hmmmmm" and orders a blood count. When the report shows positive (whatever that may mean) Junior is rushed to the hospital and in no time at all the specialist removes his appendix. In about a week Junior is home again consuming more ice cream and watermelon and you exclaim over the skill of the specialist. Expired time from watermelon to stomachache and back to watermelon again, say 10 days; time spent by family physician, perhaps 2 or 3 hours; time spent by Specialist, perhaps an hour for the operation and 3 or 4 visits of 10 minutes each during convalescence. But do you begrudge the amounts charged by these doctors? Not at all—Junior is well again, that is what counts^②, and if anyone should question those bills, you would flare up and say that the best is none too good and when you get the best you have to pay for it and doctors deserve all they get—why look at the years of training they have to go through and all the night work they have to do and everything! They just have to charge high fees.

Now let's look at another crisis. You become involved with The Law. Perhaps you were in a motor accident and the owner of the car with which you collided brings suit for \$25,000 for his wife's broken leg and his consequent loss of her services for 10 weeks. Or perhaps

子身体内部的运作知道得不多,于是你奔向电话叫你的家庭医生。他来了,用了 20 分钟问些问题,用手指敲敲小儿子身体的一些部位,量了体温,说了声“嗯哼”。然后他说,虽然可能只是由于吃了过多的冰淇淋和西瓜,比较安全还是请位专家来,因为有可能是阑尾炎。你看上去很担心,并说“当然,当然”,于是请了专家;专家来后,问了问题,敲了小儿子,量了体温,说了声“嗯哼”,安排了一个血球计数化验。当化验报告说是阳性时(管它是什么意思),小儿子就被紧急送到医院,没多少时间专家就取除了他的阑尾。大约一星期后,小儿子又回到家里,吃更多的冰淇淋和西瓜,而你则对这位专家的技术惊叹不已。从西瓜到肚痛又回到西瓜共历时约 10 天,家庭医生用了也许 2 或 3 小时,专家约用 1 小时做手术,复元期间查看 3 或 4 次,每次约 10 分钟。但是你对这些医生们的收费吝惜吗?一点也不——小儿子好了,这才是重要的;如果有谁对这些账单提出疑问,你会生气,并说对最好的绝不嫌好得过头。当你得到最好的时,你必须为之付钱,医生值得他们的收费——看看那么多年来他们所经受的训练和所开的夜车以及其它等等!他们不得不收费收得高。

让我们看看另一个关键时刻。你牵涉进一场官司中去了。也许你开车出了车祸,和你撞车的那位车主为他夫人的断腿以及因此在 10 周内失去他夫人对他的照顾向法院提出诉讼,要求你赔偿 25 000 元。或者,也许你怀疑你祖母财产的

① anatomy 解剖,此处意指人体

② count 有价值,算数

you suspect that the Trustee of your grandmother's estate has been doing some fancy finagling with the accounts and has got away with a large part of your share. What is the first thing you do in either of these cases? Why, you consult *the best lawyer* you know. He may call in a specialist, etc., and again you pay thankfully and well for their expert advice and help.

But when it comes to building a home, that is something else again. For some reason or other most layman think that it doesn't require much skill or knowledge *to design* a simple house. An office building or museum or some other monumental structure of that sort, yes, of course, because they have to have steel frames and stone columns and domes on the roofs and elevators and all sorts of things that require specialized knowledge, but a house—! Why, anyone can put a few ordinary rooms together, that doesn't take any *particular know-how*^①. There are loads of the most fascinating magazines with the most wonderful ideas and even the plans and elevations of houses shown right in them, and some almost meet your needs—just put the kitchen over here instead of there and squeeze another bathroom between those two bed rooms and add a few closets and you have it! Why hire *an architect* and pay him good money for doing what is already practically done? Why not just get hold of some contractor and show him what you want and cut out the expense of an architect? Well, you play with the idea but finally decide that perhaps it would be safer to have one after all, for you are not just sure how the outside is going to look after those changes are made and besides someone has told you that you have to have *specifications*^② to get your loan, so he can do those too. But he shouldn't charge much for doing just that little bit when the ideas are really yours. Then you remember that Bill Nubble's nephew graduated from