

Water Towns South of the Yangtze River

中国江南水乡古镇



RUAN YISAN

阮仪三 著

PHOTOS BY DONG JIAN CHENG

摄影 / 董建成

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Author: Ruan Yisan
Photographer: Dong Jiancheng
Layout designer: Wang Yigang, Wang Chen and Chen Ying
English text translators: Jiang Xiaoqin, Zhu Yiwen
English photo caption translator: Wang Zhiguang
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装帧设计: 王义钢 王晨 陈颖
英文翻译: 蒋晓芹 朱忆雯
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Scenes on Baixian Lake in Zhouzhuang 周庄·白蚬湖景色





Peaceful water town of Wuzheng (by Ma Yuanhao) 乌镇·宁静的水乡 (马元浩 摄)





A living ancient town of Xitang 西塘 · 生活着的千年古镇





Water Town of Luzhi · 角直 · 水乡风光



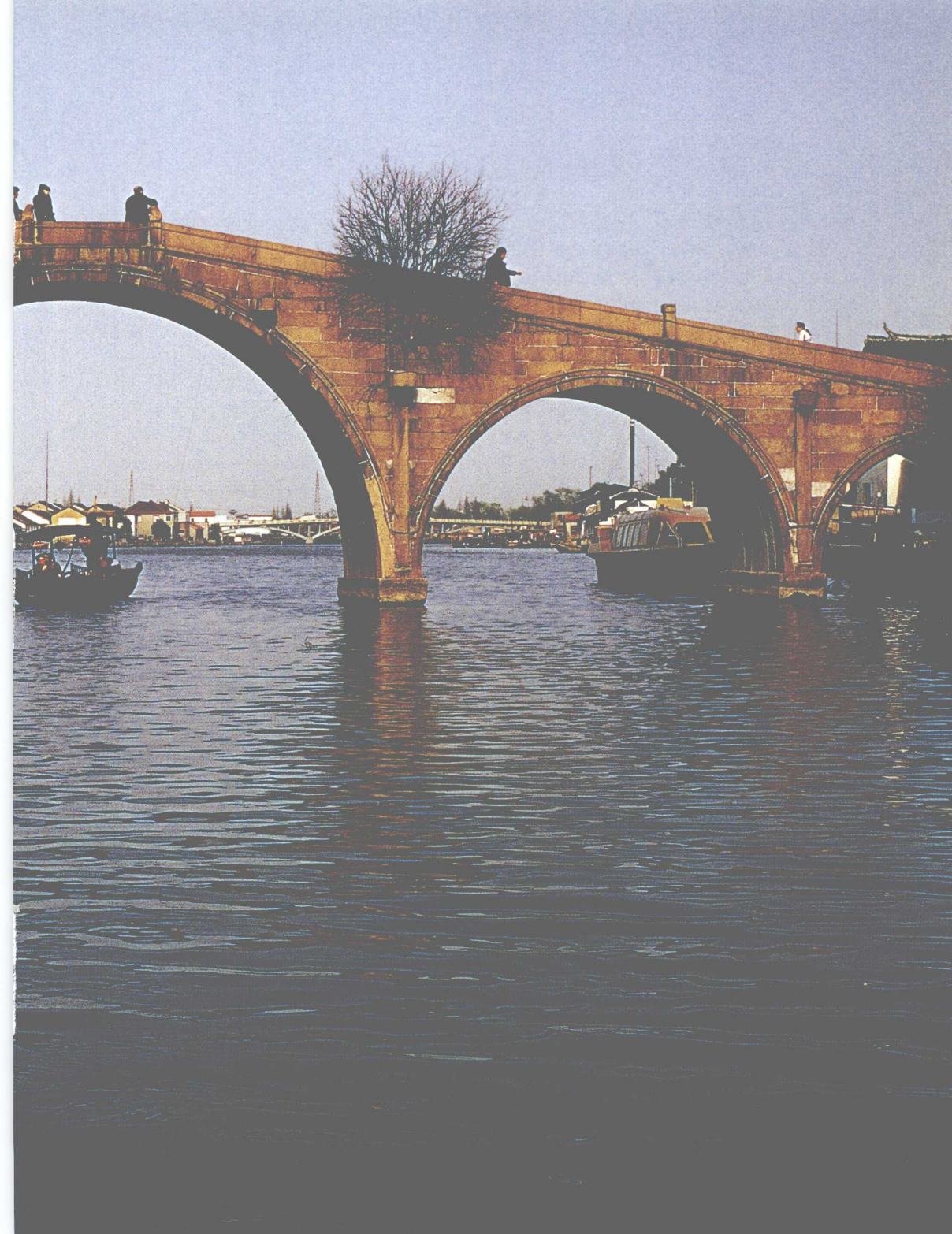


World Culture Heritage - Tuisi Garden in Tongli 同里 - 世界文化遺產 - 退思園





The ancient Fangsheng Bridge (Ming Dynasty) in Zhuji 朱家角 · 古老的放生桥 (明代)



INTRODUCTION

In modern times, the reference of the south of the Yangtze River area is narrowed down to the south of Jiangsu Province and the north of Zhejiang Province, namely Suzhou, Jiaxing, Huzhou and their surrounding areas.

The area is within the subtropical zone. With vast plains, a mild climate, ample sunshine and a long frost-free season, this area enjoys fertility and convenient transportation. Joined by the Yangtze River, Taihu Lake, Yangchen Lake and other rivers and lakes, this area has developed a sophisticated water network.

The historic water towns in the South of the Yangtze River, with similar natural and cultural backgrounds, function both as human habitations and an economic network, which has been formed by an active economy. Therefore, they hold an important position in the history of Chinese culture and economy. Furthermore, with their unique layout characterized by a pastoral living environment composed of "households amidst small bridges and murmuring brooks", these towns have gradually acquired a regional culture and architecture style unique to its own.

导 言

江南泛指中国长江以南地区，近代专指江苏省南部和浙江省北部一带，即通常所说的苏（苏州）、嘉（嘉兴）、湖（湖州）地区。

整个江南地区处于亚热带，地势平坦，气候温润，物产丰富，交通便利。由于有长江、太湖、阳澄湖等密布的河湖，形成水网地区。

江南水乡古镇是在相同的自然环境条件和同一的文化背景下，通过密切的经济活动所形成的一种介于乡村和城市之间的人类聚居地和经济网络空间。在中国文化发展史和经济发展史上具有重要的地位和价值。而其“小桥、流水、人家”的规划格局和建筑艺术在世界上独树一帜，形成了独特的地域文化现象。

Location of the Water Towns 江南水乡古镇的地理位置

