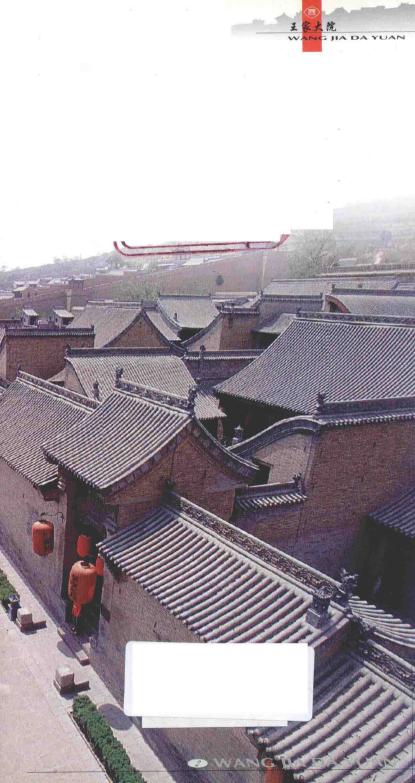


走近王家大院,便是走近了封建时代中国百姓的梦幻家园。

走近王家大院,便是走近了晋商的一段辉煌历史。

走近王家大院, 便是走近了积淀着中华五千年灿烂文化的艺术殿堂。







王家大院概况

General Situation of Wang's Grand Courtyard

王家大院地处山西晋中灵石县城东12公里处的静升镇,与千年古刹资寿寺(海外回归十八罗汉头像故里)相距2公里。与大同云冈、太原晋祠、平遥古城、介休绵山和壶口瀑布等为同一条旅游线路。大运公路、东夏公路、同蒲铁路贯穿县境。即将建成通车的高速公路在王家大院身边有出口。

王家大院是当今极少可见的清代民居大型建筑,由历史上灵石县四大家族之一的太原王氏后裔于康熙、雍正、乾隆、嘉庆年间所建。总面积15万平万米以上。现以"中国民居艺术馆"、"王氏博物馆"开放的高家崖、红门堡两大建筑群和孝义祠等,大小院落123座,房屋1118间,面积共45000平方米。

高家崖、红门堡东西对峙,一桥相连,皆黄土高坡上的全封闭城堡式建筑。 外观,顺物应势,形神俱立;其内,窑洞瓦房,巧妙连缀。博大精深壮观,天 工人巧地利。 在貌似于篇一律中千变万化,在保持北方传统民居共性的同时, 又显现出了卓越的个性风采。 总的特点是:依山就势,随形生变,层楼叠院, 错落有致,气势宏伟,功能齐备,基本上继承了我国西周时即已形成的前堂后 寝的庭院风格。再加匠心独运的砖雕、木雕、石雕,装饰典雅,内涵丰富,实 用而又美观,兼融南北情遇,具有很高的文化异位。

高家崖建筑群两主院均为三进式四合院,每院除都有高高在上的祭祖堂和两旁的绣楼外,都还有各自的厨院、塾院,并有共同的书院、花院、长工院、围院(家丁院)。周边墙院紧围,四门因地制宜,大小院落既珠联璧合,又独立成章,其或隐或现、多种多样的门户,给人以院内有院、门里套门的迷宫式感觉。

红门堡建筑群的总体布局,隐一个"王"字在内,又附会着龙的造型。除前堂后寝的院落外,为顺应地形,一部分又应变为前园后院。各院间有的富丽堂皇,有的曲幽小巧。其砖、木、石三雕,有些因出自乾隆早期,古朴粗犷,还保留着明代风格,大多数同高家崖一样,皆清代纤细繁密之典型。设在红门堡的王氏博物馆,将是海内外王氏文化研究、陈列和收藏开发的中心,也将是王氏家族总体形象的历史归宿。现藏谱阁基本就绪,书画馆、珍宝馆亦已开放。

1996年以来,在各级领导的重视下,灵石县人民政府投巨资修复后的王家大院,"焕然一旧",游人不绝。作为我国优秀的传统建筑文化遗产和民居艺术珍品,已广泛地受到国内外建筑学、历史学、社会伦理学和工艺美术、影视摄影等多方面专家和新闻媒体的极大重视,并有"民居瑰宝"、"民间故宫"、"民居大观园"、"天下第一院"、"华夏民居第一宅"、"建筑艺术博物馆"等许多溢美之词赞颂。首都一家报纸上的标题更然响亮而引人注目:"王家归来不看院"。我国老一辈建筑学权威郑孝燮先生在其耄耋之年七次来王家大院考察过程中,亦深为赞叹地题词:"国宝,人类宝,无价之宝;百来不厌,百看不厌,预祝更上一层楼"。在中央电视台《中国一绝》等栏目和《人民日报海外版》、香港《文汇报》等多家媒体相继推出一系列报道后,海外王氏代表数百人曾来王家祠堂寻祖敬香。来自欧、美、东南亚及港澳台地区的游客逐年增加。

1999年,王家大院被评为"山西省十大著名优秀旅游景区"和"省级文明景区(点)"。同年,中国作家协会在此举行挂牌仪式,确定王家大院为作家生活创作基地。2002年初,王家大院又被评定为国家AAAA级旅游景区(点)和"质量万里行"全国示范单位。

General Situation of Wang's Grand Courtyard

Wang's Grand Courtyard is situated in Jingsheng Town, 12km east of Lingshi County Town, central Shanxi and 2km From the thousand-year ancient temple Zishou Temple (homeland of the head statues of the eighteen disciples of Budda returned from abroad). It is on the same tourist line as Yungang grottoes of Datong, Jinci temple of Taiyuan, Pingyao Ancient City, Miansham Mountain in Jiexiu and Hukou Waterfall, and Dayun highway, Dongxia highway and Tongpu railway run through the bounds of the county. The expressway to be completed will has an exit beside Wang's Grand Courtyard.

Wang's Grand Courtyard is a large-scale citizen's residence building of pynasty rarely seen today and was built by descendants of Wang's family of Taiyuan, one of the four large families in Lingshi County in history, in the periods of Kangxi, Yongzheng, Qianlong and Jiaqing, with a total area of more than 150 thousand sq.m. There are 123 large and small courtyards and 1118 houses, including the now-named "China Citizen Residence Art House" and "Wang's Museum", the two large complexes Gaojiaya and Red-gate castle having been opened to public, and Xiaoyi Ancestral Temple,

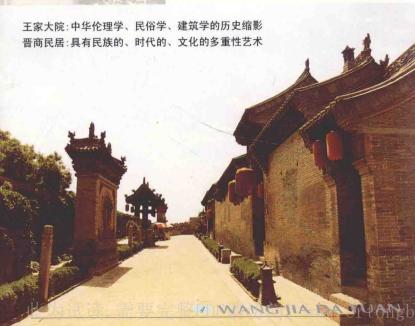
with a total area of 45000 sq. m.

Gaojiaya and Red-gate castle are confronted with each other and connected by a bridge. They are both the full-closing eastle-type buildings on the loess high slope, and appear in conformity with the environment and terrain while

demonstrating coordinated image and expression. Inside the complexes are dwelling caves and tile-roofed houses, skillfully connected and looking broad, profound and of grand sight, to embody the work of nature, human skill and favorable geographical position. In the ever changing looking stereotyped and while keeping the general character of the traditional citizen's residence of north, they demonstrates outstanding elegant demeanor of individual character, with such general characteristics as relying on mountain and conforming to terrain, varying with the landform, buildings and courts rising one higher than another and well-arranged, great momentum and complete functions, which basically carries forward the courtyard style of front halls and back bedrooms early formed in the west-Zhou Dynasty of our country. Moreover, the brick carvings, wood carvings and stone carvings showing ingenuity present elegant decorations and rich commotation, appear practical while beautiful, mix the south



凝重的建筑唤起的是理性的反思,活泼的装饰激发的是创造的灵感,精美的艺术留下的是醉心的愉悦,宏伟的气势引发的是豪壮的气概,广博的文化牵连的是无尽的遐想。





General Situation of Wang's Grand Courtyard

sentiment with the north one and rank at very high cultural grade.

The two main courtyards of Gaojiaya complex are 3-row type siheyuan (quadrangle) courtyards and, in addition to sacrifice-offered-to-ancestors hall and the embroidering buildings on its both sides, each courtyard has its own kitchen courtyard and old-style private school and the common-used classical learning academy, flower courtyard, long-term hired hand courtyard and enclosed courtyard (servant courtyard), all of which are enclosed tightly with the wall courts on the periphery with the gates on four sides suiting measures to terrain conditions. Inside the periphery, large and small courtyards are arranged like strings of pearls and girdles of jade while independently as if each of them is a harmonious composition; and the various gates are sometimes hidden and sometimes appearing to give you a feeling of labyrinth where there are courtyards within each courtyard and there are gates inside each rate.

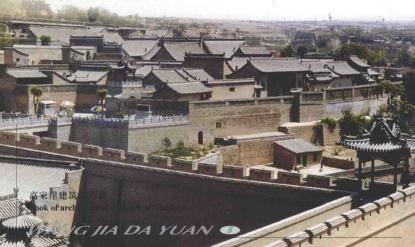
The overall layout of Red-gate castle complex hides a Chinese character "E" (Wang) while attaching the modeling of dragon by analogy. In addition to the courtyards of front halls and back bedrooms, to comply the landform, a part of the courtyards change in modeling to be front gardens and back courtyard. Some of the courtyards are sumptuous and some are winding, quiet, small and exquisite. Of Their brick, wood and stone carvings, some were made in early Qianlong period and therefore appear simple and unsophisticated, straightforward and uninhibited and keep the style of Ming Dynasty and the most are the model of slenderness and denseness of Qing Dynasty just like those of Gaojiaya. Wang's Museum set in Red-gate castle will be the research, display, collection and development center of Wang's culture at home and abroad, and also the historic destination of the overall image of Wang's-family. Now, the Clan Pedigree Collection Pavilion has been prepared ready and the Calliaranhy and Painting House and the Jewellery House have been opened to the public.

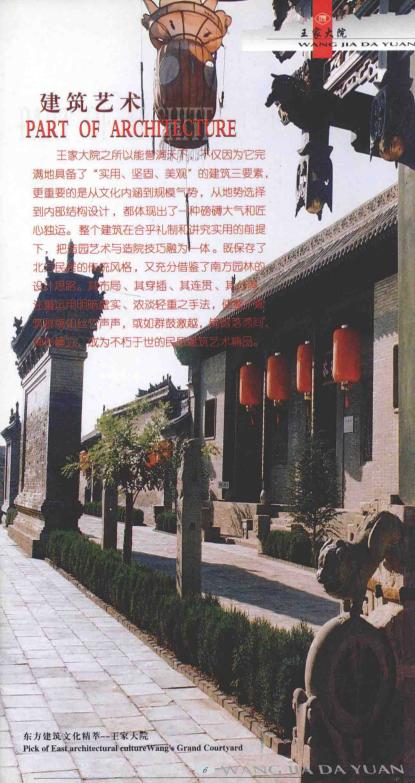
Since 1996, under the stressing of the leadership at various levels, after having been repaired by the People's Government of Lingshi County through investing large funds, Wang's Grand Courtyard looks brand-new and attracts the tourists like an endless stream and, as a legacy of excellent traditional architectural culture and a treasure of citizen's residence art of our country, has been extensively attached extreme importance to by the experts in architecture, history, social ethics, industrial art, movie and TV, photography at home and abroad and the news media and praised with many beautiful expressions such as "rarity of citizen residence", "folk imperial palace", "folk showplace". "World's first courtyard", 'First mansion among Huaxia citizen's residences' and "architectural art museum". More noticeable and more resounding is a heading on a newspaper of the capital of our country: "No courtyards I want to see after I came back from Wang's Grand Courtyard". In the course of his investigation of Wang's Grand Courtyard for seven times in his octogenarian, Mr. Zheng Xiaoxie, the authority in architecture of the old generation wrote the inscription with high praise: 'Treasure of the nation, treasure of humanity, priceless treasure: not be fed up with coming and seeing for one hundred times; wish it to climb one storey higher". After the programme "China's one superbness" of China Central Television, "People's Daily *Overseas Edition', "Wenhui Newspaper" of Hongkong, etc. having published a series of reports on Wang's Grand Courtyard, several hundred oversea representatives of Wang's family have come to Wang's ancestral hall to seek for ancestors and worshipped them by burning incense. The number of tourists from Europe, America, Southeast Asia and the regions of Hongkong, Mango and Taiwan is getting more with year.

Macao and Taiwan is getting more with year.

In 1999, Wang's Grand Courtyard was appraised to be one of the "Shari Ten Major Famous Excellent Scenic Area" and "Provincial-level Civilization Scenic Spot". In the same year, China Writer Association held plate—hanging ceremony here to determine Wang's Grand Courtyard as the living and creating base for writers. In the beginning of 2002, Wang's Grand Courtyard was also appraised to be national class AAAA tourist scenic area (spot) and national demonstration unit for

Quality 10-thousand-li Travel".

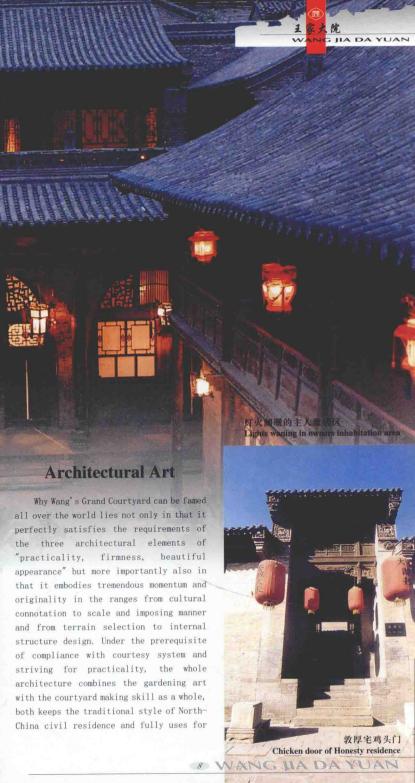








The living room in the front and the bedroom at the back



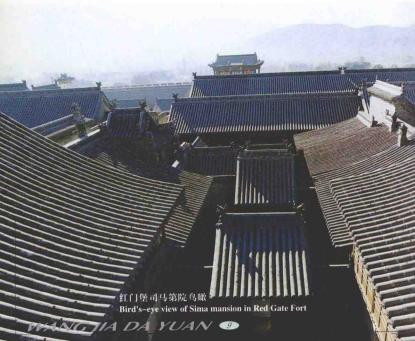


红门堡平为福院 Pingweifu courtyard of Hongmen castle



两厢回望的绣楼 Both wingrooms locking -back at embroidery building

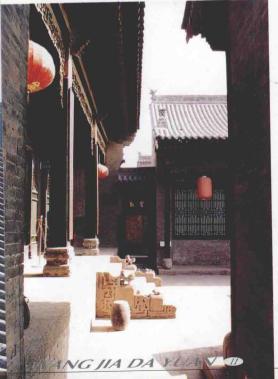
reference the thinking train of design of South-China gardens. Its lavout, alternation and consistency, and its separation by paying attention to application of the artistic expression means of brightness and darkness. principles and reality, thickness and thinness as well as lightness and heaviness make the whole architectural complex like gentle and sweet music from traditional stringed and woodwind instruments or like loud and strong sound of drum group, scattered here and there and dotted with each other to present its expression and form, and become a superb artistic work of civil residence architecture immortal in the world.







雪后初霁红门堡 Initial shine after snowing in Red Gate Fort



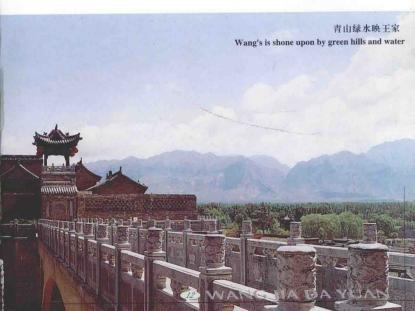
High hall still within the reach of side sight











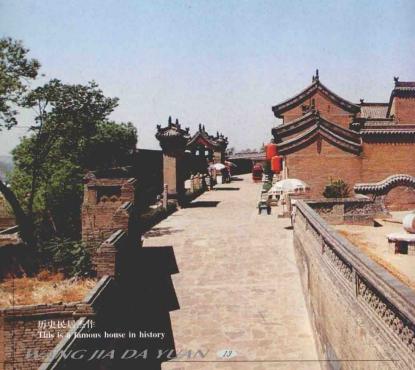




老院初雪 The first snow in the old yard



飞阁邀月 Moon inviting pavilion





美的呼应 Echo of beauty



自在天地 四福齐来 Unrestrained under heaven and four blessings arriving together

