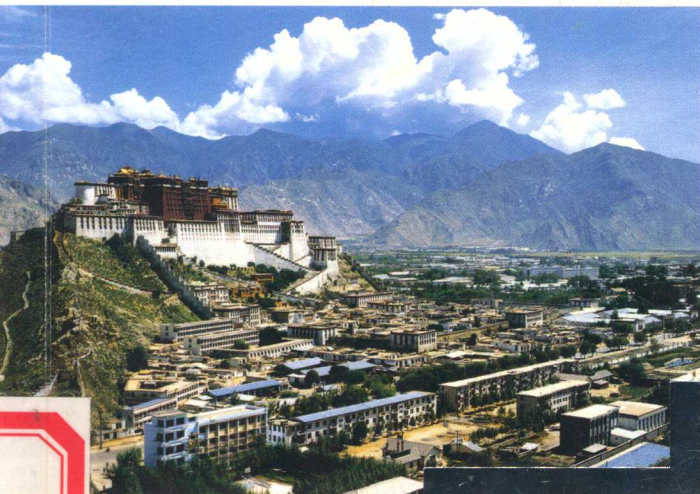


BUDDHIST BUILDINGS

Buddhist Monasteries, Pagodas and
Stone Caves

Wei Ran

The Excellence of Ancient
Chinese Architecture



China Architecture & Building Press

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The Excellence of Ancient Chinese Architecture

Buddhist Buildings 佛教建築 **Buddhist Monasteries, Pagodas and Stone Caves**

Wei Ran

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Stone Caves



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Map of Distribution of Buddhist Buildings



The advent of Buddhist architecture initiated the opening-up of the Western Regions by the Han dynasty. At that time Buddhist monasteries were mostly built inside and outside the capital as well as along the trade routes leading from the Han territory to the Western Regions. The peak of stone cave monastery building, chiefly concentrated in the western region, was reached during the Northern and Southern Dynasties. By the time of the Sui and Tang dynasties, Buddhism gradually spread with Chinese modifications and Buddhist sects gradually became established one after the other. Buddhist monasteries slowly spread to various cities and famous mountains. After Princess Wencheng of the Tang dynasty was sent to marry a Tibetan leader, Buddhism spread to Tibet. It was then that lamaseries began to be built. During the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, lamaseries expanded to Northwest China and the capital as well as its environs.

Buddhist architecture in China roughly falls into four categories:
Han-style architecture, the lamasery, the stone cave monastery and the Buddhist pagoda.
Buddhist Han-style buildings are mainly concentrated on a central axis, the Nan-Chan monastery on Mt. Wutai being an example. Lamaseries are mostly scattered throughout Northern China and the western localities. Different styles of architecture are freely arranged around the main Buddhist buildings, laying no stress on a clear axis, the Putuocongsheng Monastery in Chengde being a case in point. Stone cave monasteries are chiefly scattered throughout Xinjiang and Northern China, where caves were excavated and filled with Buddhist statues, the stone caves in Yungang being an example. Buddhist pagodas are to be seen in a multitude of forms, the Sakyamuni pagoda in the Fogong Monastery in Yingxian, Shanxi Province being the oldest wooden tower-shaped pagoda in China.



吉林省

Jilin Province

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辽宁省

Liaoning Province

沈阳 Shenyang
Fengguo Monastery
Yixian 义县 奉国寺
Qianshan 千山 龙泉寺 Longquan Monastery

承德 Chengde

河北省

治

Hanging Monastery
悬空寺
上华岩寺
下华岩寺
云冈石窟

山西

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呼和浩特 Huhhot
慈灯寺 Chideng Monastery
大同 Datong
应县 Yingxian
佛宫寺 Fogong Monastery
五台山 Wutai Mountain
太原 Taiyuan
永祚寺 Yongzuo Monastery
正定 Zhengding
广胜上寺 Upper Guangsheng Monastery
洪洞 Hongtong
广胜上寺 Upper Guangsheng Monastery

白马寺 Baima Monastery
永宁寺 Yongning Monastery
龙门石窟 Longmen Monastery
少林寺 Shaolin Monastery
嵩岳寺 Songyue Monastery
登封 Dengfeng
洛陽 Luoyang
净业寺 Jinye Monastery
终南山 Zhongnanshan

当阳 Dangyang
玉泉寺 Yuquan Monastery
鄂城 Echeng
西山古灵泉寺 Gulingquan Monastery in the Western Hills
九江 Jiujiang
能仁寺 Nengren Monastery
庐山 Mount Lu
东林寺 Donglin Monastery
南昌 Nanchang
佑民寺 Youmin Monastery
衡山 Hengshan
南台寺 Nantai Monastery
长沙 Changsha
麓山寺 Lushan Monastery

海幢寺 Haichuang Monastery
广州 Guangzhou

北京 Beijing
天津 Tianjin
显通寺 Xiantong Monastery
塔院寺 Tayuan Monastery
南禅寺 Nan-Chan Monastery
佛光寺 Foguang Monastery
碧山寺 Bishan Monastery
镇海寺 Zhenhai Monastery
隆兴寺 Longxing Monastery
广惠寺 Guanghui Monastery
法源寺 Fayuan Monastery

千佛山兴国寺 Xingguo Monastery on Qianfo Mountain
济南 Jinan
千佛山兴国寺 Xingguo Monastery on Qianfo Mountain
浮图寺 Futu Monastery
徐州 Xuzhou

安徽 Anhui Province
合肥 Hefei
甘露寺 Ganlu Monastery
祇园寺 Zhiyuan Monastery
化城寺 Huacheng Monastery
九华山 Mount Jiuhua 九华山
西山古灵泉寺 Gulingquan Monastery in the Western Hills
九江 Jiujiang
能仁寺 Nengren Monastery
庐山 Mount Lu
东林寺 Donglin Monastery
南昌 Nanchang
佑民寺 Youmin Monastery

福建 Fujian Province
福州 Fuzhou
开元寺 Kaiyuan Monastery
泉州 Quanzhou

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溥仁寺 Puren Monastery
溥善寺 Pushan Monastery
普乐寺 Pule Monastery
安远庙 Anyuan Temple
广缘寺 Guangyuan Monastery
普佑寺 Puyou Monastery
普宁寺 Puning Monastery
广安寺 GuangAn Monastery
殊像寺 Shuxiang Monastery
罗汉堂 Hall of Arhat
普陀宗乘之庙 Putucuzongsheng Monastery
须弥福寿之庙 Xumifushou Monastery

独乐寺 Dule Monastery
观音寺 Guanyin Monastery
潭柘寺 Tanzhe Temple
碧云寺 Biyun Monastery
卧佛寺 Sleeping Buddha Monastery
雍和宫 Lama Temple
广济寺 Guangji Monastery
智化寺 Zhihua Monastery
真觉寺 Zhenjue Monastery
法源寺 Fayuan Monastery
大正觉寺 Greater Zhengjue Monastery

普陀山 Mount Putuo
普济寺 Puji Monastery
慧济寺 Huiji Monastery
不肯去观音院 Unwilling-to-leave Guanyin Monastery

寒山寺 Hanshan Monastery
云岩寺 Yunyan Monastery
戒幢寺 Jiechuang Monastery
灵谷寺 Linggu Monastery
栖霞寺 Qixia Monastery

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栖霞寺 Qixia Monastery
灵谷寺 Linggu Monastery
栖霞寺 Qixia Monastery

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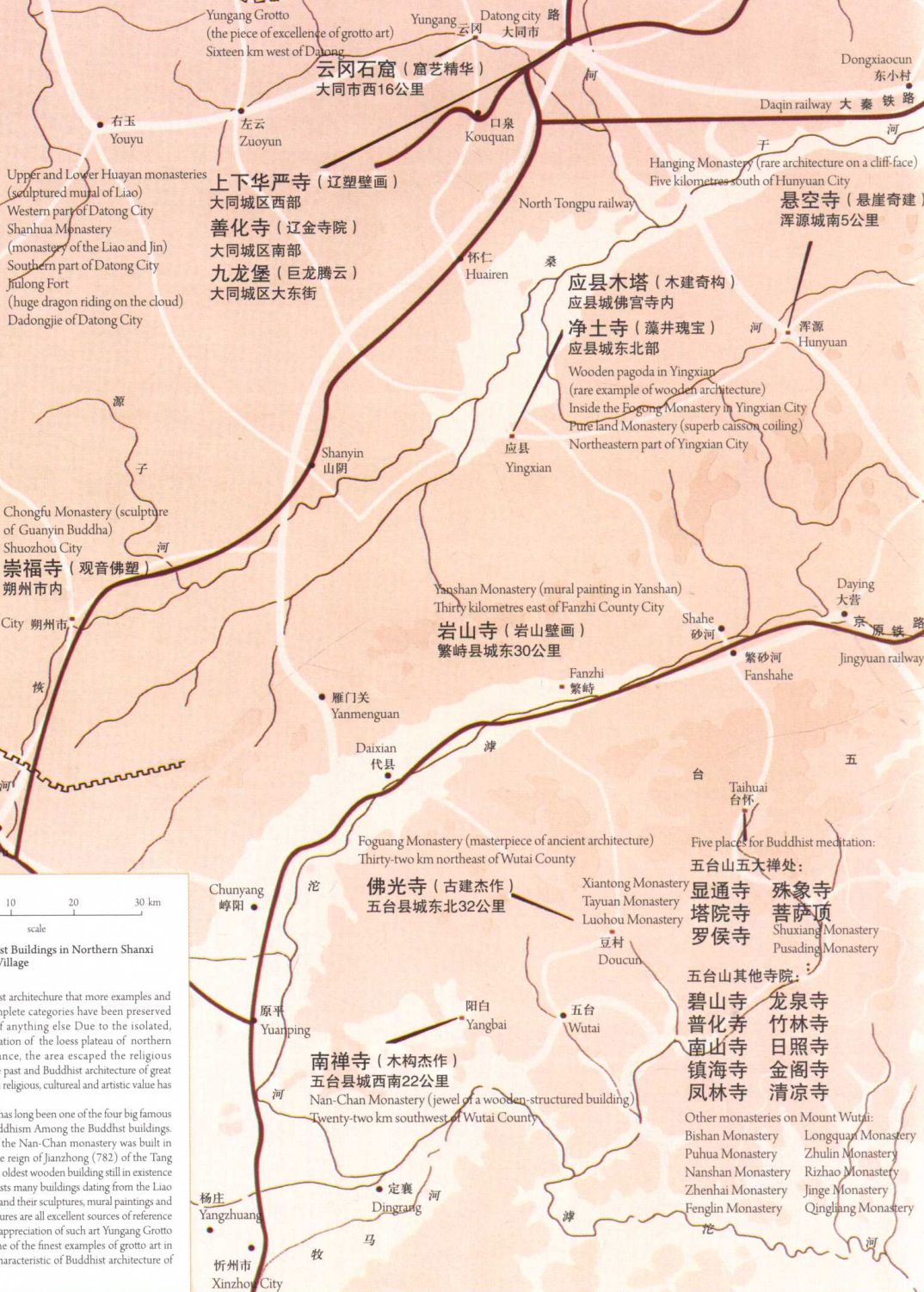
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Tourist Map of Buddhist Buildings in Northern Shanxi



It is of Buddhist architecture that more examples and more almost complete categories have been preserved in China than of anything else. Due to the isolated, mountainous location of the loess plateau of northern Shanxi, for instance, the area escaped the religious persecution of the past and Buddhist architecture of great antiquity and high religious, cultural and artistic value has been preserved.

Mount Wutai has long been one of the four big famous mountains of Buddhism. Among the Buddhist buildings, the Great Hall of the Nan-Chan monastery was built in the 3rd year of the reign of Jianzhong (782) of the Tang dynasty, and is the oldest wooden building still in existence. This area also boasts many buildings dating from the Liao and Jin dynasties, and their sculptures, mural paintings and architectural structures are all excellent sources of reference for the study and appreciation of such art. Yungang Grotto near Datong is one of the finest examples of grotto art in China, another characteristic of Buddhist architecture of this area.

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Editor's Note

- The series consists of ten volumes, each of which deals with respectively palace architecture, imperial mausoleums, imperial gardens, private gardens, vernacular dwellings, Buddhist buildings, Taoist buildings, Islamic buildings, ritual and ceremonious buildings and defense structures..
- Each volume is basically composed of four sections, i.e. general introduction, colour photographs, glossary and chronology of major events.
- The general introduction describes the background, development process, architectural characteristics of different types of buildings and is complimented with photographs and drawings.
- The colour photographs are arranged in the order of building distribution area or the time when the building was completed. The series contains about 1,700 exquisite colour photographs, which are attached with captions explaining the location, construction time, and artistic and technical features.
- Each volume is accompanied with layout plan, drawing of recovered buildings, distribution map and travel guide to mark the location of famous buildings and cultural attractions in the vicinity.
- The glossary is arrayed according to the sequence of strokes of Chinese characters, which is a reference for general readers.
- Chronology of major events is affiliated with each volume of the series. Chinese traditional chronology is adopted in the annals of the series, and is also indicated in the Christian era for easy reference.

Preface 1

China enjoys a long and profound history of ancient architecture. Her verifiable artifacts could be dated back to 7,000 years ago from Hemudu ruins in Yuyao to Banpo ruins in Xi'an. Of course, architecture underwent a long process from primitiveness to sophistication before the Warring States, while in the Qin and Han dynasties, it gained an apparent progress along with the development of production and unification of the country. Moreover, in over a thousand years of the prosperous Tang Dynasty to the Ming and Qing dynasties, it reached several unprecedented peaks which were embodied by diversified building forms and refined planning and exquisite construction.

The love of architecture is the love of history and culture. China Architecture & Building Press (CABP), from the very beginning of its founding, has defined the sorting out and publication of traditional Chinese architecture and the enhancement of Chinese culture as one of important themes in its mission. In 1950s and 1960s, many monographs on the subject by experts such as Liang Sicheng, Liu Dunzhen, Tong Jun, Liu Zhiping and others were published. In early 1980s when China was just opened to the outside world, CABP set aside a special fund for publication of academic books on ancient Chinese architecture despite of the limited financial capability then. As a result, large academic albums of *Ancient Chinese Architecture*, *Ancient Architecture in Chengde*, *the Art of Chinese Gardens*, *the Buildings of Confucius Temple in Qufu*, *Ancient Buildings of Putuoshan*, *Summer Palace as well as five volumes of History of Ancient Chinese Architecture* were put forth continuously. Those books have proved to be of high academic and practical values in consolidation, conservation and protection of the national treasure.

The Excellence of Ancient Chinese Architecture in English is a series of ten volumes on various aspects of the ancient Chinese architecture, which offer a comprehensive coverage of the art, highlighted by the supreme quality of the photos as well as plenty of drawings of plans, sections and perspectives. The easy description would lead to a comprehension of the cultural essence of Chinese architecture, and appreciation of the aesthetics and philosophy embodied by the art. The authors are famous Chinese experts who have long been engaged in the study of the related subjects, whose dedication makes the series authoritative and informative for interested laymen and specialists alike. Now the Excellence of Ancient Chinese Architecture is published. It is a happy event. I believe that it will serve as a door for all those who are interested in the study of ancient Chinese architecture.

Zhou Yi

Former President
China Architecture & Building Press

Former Chairman, Committee on Publication
of Science Books
Vice Chairman, Chinese Association of Publishers

Preface 2

As history advances in the new era of the 21st century, China is once again becoming the focus of worldwide attention. The rich variety of her landscape, the wisdom of her people, the current unprecedented economic growth, and the wealth of her cultural heritage are all becoming the subject of worldwide interest.

In China's extensive and profound cultural treasury, ancient architecture is one of the important components, which, in a sense, is of a symbolic nature. The beauty and elegance of ancient Chinese architecture has a uniqueness of its own in the world architectural system. The strict formality of the city layouts, the lively arrangement of village settlements, the grouping of buildings around courtyards, the comprehensive building code for wood structures, the great variety of colour and architectural form, the perfect harmony of the decorative and structural functions of building elements, the integration of furniture, interior decoration, painting, sculpture and calligraphy into a comprehensive art of architecture, all go to manifest the distinctive characteristics of the traditional Chinese culture. A perusal of the country's magnificent palaces and temples, her tranquil and intricate gardens, the wide variety of her vernacular dwellings, and the exquisiteness of her pavilions and roofed walkways, will lead to a better understanding of China and her people. When one comes to study China's ancient architecture, he will have a deeper comprehension of the oriental philosophy of the "oneness of nature and man" inherent in the architectural forms, as well as of the Chinese people's respect for Confucianism, the expression of their philosophical meditation on time and space through material forms, and their all-embracing aesthetic tastes.

Now the *Excellence of Ancient Chinese Architecture* is published. I believe the vivid and colourful photos will render our readers an enjoyment of aesthetics, and the easy descriptions will facilitate our readers in understanding the cultural essence of ancient Chinese architecture. Under the trend of globalization, it will surely promote the academic exchange internationally and deepen the cultural cooperation among different peoples of the world.

Ye Rutang

Former Vice Minister
Ministry of Construction