

● 大学英语拓展课程“十三五”规划教材 ●

# E 中国民居建筑英语

English for the Chinese Traditional  
Vernacular Architecture

◎主 编 黄运亭 索全兵



华南理工大学出版社  
SOUTH CHINA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS

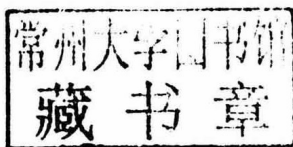
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# 前 言

在经济全球化、科学技术一体化的时代，作为当今世界使用最为广泛的信息载体和交流工具，英语发挥着越来越重要的作用。随着我国对外交流日益频繁，国家和社会对于大学英语教学提出了更高的要求，《中国民居建筑英语》就是为了满足建筑专业大学英语教学需要而编写的。

本教材以 ESP 教育理念为基础，以“任务型教学”训练为目标，以中国传统建筑文化和中国各地传统代表性建筑为主要内容，着重训练学生的阅读、翻译和口语能力，以期给建筑类专业的 ESP 教学提供一本有用的教材。

本教材由 10 个单元构成。前 3 个单元介绍中国传统建筑文化和特点，后 7 个单元分别介绍国内具有代表性的传统民居建筑及其特点，并配有大量图片。

本教材的练习体现了“任务驱动”的理念，强调以学生为中心，以职业活动为导向，以任务为载体，让学生在“做中学、学中做”，在任务的完成中构建应用语言的综合能力。每单元的练习紧扣该单元主题，安排合理，形式多样，以知识的输入促进语言的输出，同时为学生提供英语学习的拓展空间，激发学生自主学习。

本教材选材内容新颖，素材详实，图文并茂，可作为建筑专业英语教材，也可供建筑设计人员参考。

华南理工大学刘游波教授对书稿进行了审校，在此，本书编者谨对刘教授的无私奉献和辛勤付出表示崇高的敬意和衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限，错误在所难免，恳请广大读者和同行专家批评指正。

编 者

2019 年 3 月

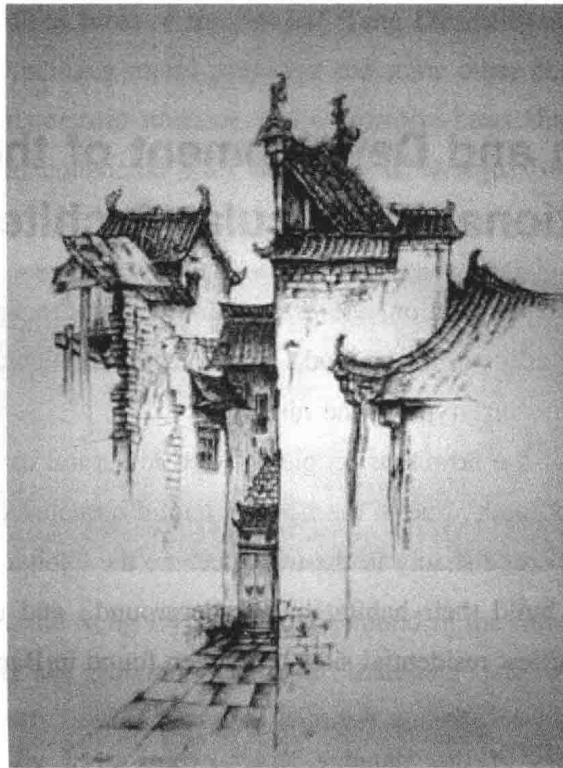
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# Unit 1

## The History and Culture of the Chinese Traditional Vernacular Architecture



### ► Pre-reading Activities

1. Do you know the layout of a modern house? Discuss in small groups about what your home looks like. You may use the following words for reference: roof, basement, living room, bedroom, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, corridor, hallway, courtyard, lawn, garage.
2. What do you know about ancient residences? How were they different from modern ones?
3. Look at the following pictures and tell what they are and when they were used. Then skim the text to see if you are right.



## Text A

# The Origin and Development of the Chinese Traditional Vernacular Architecture

Clothes, food, accommodation and transportation are the four basic necessities of man's life. To meet the needs of accommodation, housing architecture came into being and became the earliest architecture type in the history.

In the ancient times, the primitive people dwelled in natural caves, which was referred to as cave-living. In the South, due to the hot and humid climate, insects and wild animals in the open country, the crude shanty in the trees became the habitat, known as the nesting. Later, people began to build their habitat half underground, and then on the ground. A large number of these earliest residential sites have been found in Banpo of Shaanxi Province in China.

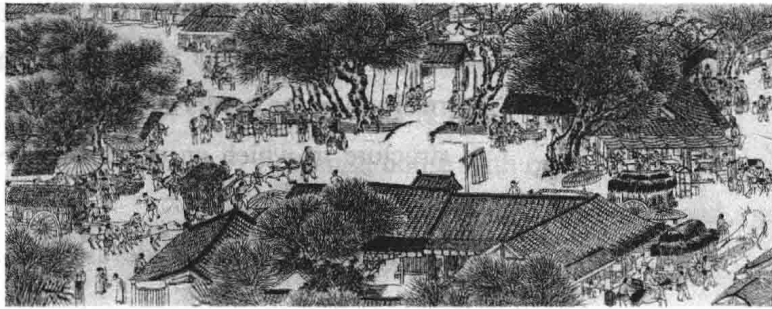
In the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, ruins of a village were excavated in Hemudu, Yuyao, Zhejiang Province. It is a long bole-fence house stretching more than 30 meters, built on wood piles with the spatial depth of around 7 meters and front brim of 1.3 meters wide. The house floor is about 1 meter higher than the ground, with a wooden ladder for access. The tenon and mortise joints connecting other components such as beams have a complex structure, indicating that there was a big step forward in the wood construction technology at that time.

The feudal society gave priority to agricultural production at its early stage. From the unearthed painting stones and bricks, afterlife utensils and pottery houses from the tombs, we can infer that the small houses in the Han Dynasty were usually of square or rectangle shape. Relatively larger houses were designed in tri-square shape, having a courtyard inside, with the high building in the middle and sub-houses being relatively low so that the

contour of the residence has a clear distinction between the major and the minor houses. A large-scale aristocratic residence is composed of several courtyards and besides the main building are rooms for miscellaneous purposes and guests. Inside the front hall is the main building and rooms are placed in the rear hall, which is developed from the ancient front-hall-rear-room (前堂后室) principle.

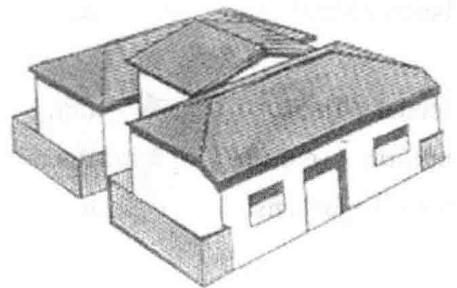
The stone carvings in the Northern and Eastern Wei periods show that the aristocratic houses are built with large halls and corridors, with even gardens in the rear of the residence. It is the prototype of the garden house.

The vernacular architectures of the Sui and Tang Dynasties and the Five Dynasties can only be found in the Dunhuang mural paintings and some other paintings. For instance, the entrance door of an aristocratic mansion adopts tortoise-head shape; two major buildings inside the residence are connected with cloister with straight frame windows, forming a courtyard.



Rural dwellings in the Song Dynasty can be found in the famous painting of that time, *Along the River During the Qingming Festival*, thatching huts being relatively simple and primitive, with low walls, and a group of cottages and tile houses. Small houses in cities and towns are of rectangular shape, having overhanging gable roof or *xieshan*-style roof (roof with four sloping surfaces and nine hips). In addition to grass and tile coverage, two sides of the roof and front eaves use bamboo coverage or skylight roof is adopted. For a larger house, a door-house is built outside and the inside is built in the form of courtyard with trees and flowers planted for landscaping.

Besides, in his famous painting of *A Thousand Li of Rivers and Mountains*, Wang Ximeng of the Song Dynasty painted some houses and each has an entrance door and chambers in eastern and western wings. Yet, the main part of the residence is a 工-shape house consisting of the front hall, corridor and rooms at rear. The 工-shape or 王-shape plane connected by a corridor in the middle, which was



built in accordance with the traditional layout of a front-hall-rear-room in ancient time, became a layout feature of the vernacular house in that period.

During the period of Ming and Qing Dynasties, a surge in population, economic prosperity and cultural development brought about the prosperity in urban and rural areas. Considerable vernacular architectures all over the nation, retaining the traditional characteristics of various ethnic groups in different regions, have survived to this day.

## New Words and Expressions

vernacular /vər'nækjələr/	adj.	民间风格的
primitive /'prɪmətɪv/	adj.	belonging to a society in which people live in a very simple way 原始的, 远古的; 粗糙的
dwell /dwel/	v.	inhabit or live in 居住
shanty /ʃænti/	n.	small crude shelter used as a dwelling 棚屋
habitat /'hæbɪtæt/	n.	the type of environment in which an organism or group normally lives or occurs 栖息地
nesting /nestɪŋ/	n.	a structure in which an organism lays eggs or gives birth to their young 巢穴
ruin /'ru:ɪn/	n.	an irrecoverable state of devastation and destruction 废墟, 遗址
excavate /'ekskeɪvɪt/	v.	find by digging in the ground 发掘
bole-fence	n.	树干篱笆
spatial /'speɪʃl/	adj.	pertaining to or involving or having the nature of space 空间的
brim /brɪm/	n.	the top edge of a vessel or other container 边, 边缘
tenon /'tenən/	n.	a projection at the end of a piece of wood that is shaped to fit into a mortise 榫
mortise /'mɔ:rtɪs/	n.	a square hole made to receive a tenon and so to form a joint 榫眼
beam /bi:m/	n.	long thick piece of wood or metal or concrete, etc., used in construction 梁, 栋梁
feudal /'fju:dl/	adj.	封建制度的
unearth /ʌn'ɜ:rθ/	v.	lay bare through digging 挖掘, 发掘
utensil /ju:'tensl/	n.	an implement for practical use (especially in a household) 用具, 器皿

pottery /'pɑ:təri/	<i>n.</i>	earthenware pots, etc., made by hand 陶器
tri-square	<i>n.</i>	tool used for marking and measuring a piece of wood 曲尺
courtyard /'kɔ:rtjɑ:rd/	<i>n.</i>	an area wholly or partly surrounded by walls or buildings 庭院
contour /'kɑ:ntʊr/	<i>n.</i>	the general shape or outline of an object 轮廓
aristocratic /ə,rɪstə'krætɪk/	<i>adj.</i>	贵族的
miscellaneous /,mɪsə'leɪniəs/	<i>adj.</i>	consisting of many different kinds of things or people that are difficult to put into a particular category 各式各样的
rear /rɪr/	<i>n.</i>	the side of an object that is opposite its front 后面
corridor /'kɔ:rədər/	<i>n.</i>	a long passage in a building or train, with doors and rooms on one or both sides 走廊, 过道
prototype /'prəʊtətaɪp/	<i>n.</i>	a standard or typical example 原型, 模型
mansion /'mænfɪn/	<i>n.</i>	a very large house 大厦
thatch /θætʃ/	<i>v.</i>	用茅草盖屋顶
hut /hʌt/	<i>n.</i>	a small house with only one or two rooms, especially one which is made of wood, mud, grass, or stones 小屋, 棚屋
tile /taɪl/	<i>n.</i>	pieces of baked clay, carpet, cork, or other substance, which are fixed as a covering onto a floor or wall 瓦片, 瓷砖
eaves /i:vz/	<i>n.</i>	the edges of a roof that project beyond the wall 屋檐
layout /'leɪaʊt/	<i>n.</i>	the way in which the parts of a building, a garden or something else are arranged 布局
ethnic /'eθnɪk/	<i>adj.</i>	belonging to or deriving from the cultural, religious, or linguistic traditions of people or a country 种族的

## Exercises

### Task 1 Discovering the Main Ideas

#### 1. Answer the following questions with the information contained in Text A.

- 1) What are the four necessities of man's life?
- 2) Why did primitive people live on trees?

- 3) What was the general shape of the small houses in the Han Dynasty?
- 4) What are the general differences between the houses in the Sui Dynasty and those in the Song Dynasty?

2. Text A can be divided into three parts with the paragraph number(s) of each part provided as follows. Write down the main idea of each part.

Part	Paragraph(s)	Main idea
One	1 - 1	_____
Two	2 - 3	_____
Three	4 - 9	_____

## Task 2 Reading Between Lines

3. Match each housing architecture with the period it first appeared.

courtyard	Hemudu people
cave living	Northern and Eastern Wei periods
garden house	Sui and Tang Dynasties
bole-fence house	Song Dynasty
└-shape house	Primitive people

4. Fill in the blanks with the given words. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once. Change the form of the given words if necessary.

accommodation	dwell	habitat	excavate	stretch	access
priority	distinction	rear	prototype	surge	characteristics

- 1) We \_\_\_\_\_ in the country but work in the city.
- 2) They plan to \_\_\_\_\_ a large hole before putting in the foundation.
- 3) Regardless of where we are and what we are doing, we want \_\_\_\_\_ to our data.
- 4) Many species are in peril of extinction because of our destruction of their natural \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) At a time of this economic crisis, our \_\_\_\_\_ should be very clear about what we need to do.
- 6) There is no neat \_\_\_\_\_ between operating system software and the software that runs

on top of it.

- 7) Parents transmit some of their \_\_\_\_\_ to their children.
- 8) Many people in America and Europe think that the recent \_\_\_\_\_ in inflation, like almost everything else these days, is “made in China”.
- 9) The company showed the \_\_\_\_\_ of the new model at the exhibition.
- 10) I lie still for a minute until I can breathe normally, and then \_\_\_\_\_ my arms out to prop myself up.

### Task 3 Challenge Yourself

#### 5. Translate the following paragraph into Chinese.

During the period of Ming and Qing Dynasties, a surge in population, economic prosperity and cultural development brought about the prosperity in urban and rural areas. Considerable vernacular architectures all over the nation, retaining the traditional characteristics of various ethnic groups in different regions, have survived to this day.

## Text B

# The Chinese Traditional Vernacular Architecture and Culture

China has a long history, vast land and rich cultural heritage. As the most substantial architectural culture heritages are closely related to the production and daily life of the ordinary people, the traditional vernacular house is equally abundant. Today, it is spreading in different ethnic groups and regions all over the nation. After the vicissitudes of the time, it is still widely used by the ordinary people and some have shown us the quintessence of the fine tradition and exquisite art. It is a precious cultural treasure of China.

Apart from the disparities in climate in north and south China, different geographical conditions, material resources, customs, lifestyles and aesthetic requirements of various ethnic groups have resulted in the distinctive ethnic features and rich local characteristics in the Chinese traditional vernacular architecture.

The Chinese traditional vernacular architecture ties up with the society, history, culture, nationality and folk-customs, as well as the theories of the Confucian rites, Taoism, *Yin-Yang* and Five Elements. The outstanding traditional vernacular architecture is of historic and cultural value and of practical and artistic value as well. It is not only the precious cultural heritage of China, but also the precious cultural wealth of the world, calling for urgent protection and promotion.

Philosophy is a concentrated expression of culture, the quintessence of the national spirit and the acme of human wisdom. In the system of the traditional Chinese culture, philosophy is at the core position, playing a leading role.

From a philosophical perspective, the traditional Chinese culture is influenced by the following ideologies, namely, Confucianism, Taoism, the Theory of *Yin-Yang* and Five Elements and Chinese Buddhism in later time, which have absorbed, impacted and integrated with each other, forming the collectivity of the traditional Chinese culture.

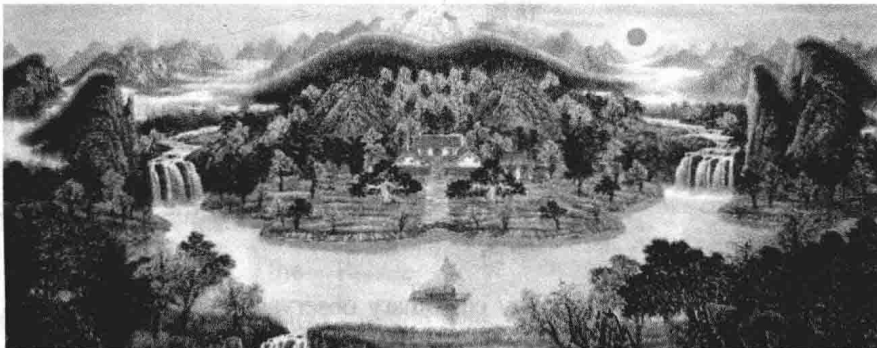
The basic spirit of the traditional Chinese culture covers four main aspects, that is, people-oriented value system of the humanism; self-improvement, open-minded optimism of the national psychology; perceiving the concept of the object from an overall intuitive way of thinking; as well as the aesthetic ideal of harmony between man and nature. In respect of the value system, the Chinese culture represents the spirit of practical rationality

emphasizing the people-oriented aspect.

The traditional way of thinking has two characteristics, the direct view of intuitive understanding and the symbolic view of perceiving the concept of the object. Harmony between man and nature is the aesthetic ideal and the highest realm of the traditional Chinese culture.

The traditional vernacular architecture of China is the embodiment of the traditional Chinese culture in the architecture. Through its layout and shape, we can feel the profound impact of the traditional Chinese culture and thinking. Mirroring the philosophy, patriarchal and environment concepts and thinking of the traditional Chinese culture, the Chinese vernacular architecture fully reflects, from different levels, the brilliant and profound wisdom of the traditional Chinese culture.

The impact of the Chinese traditional culture in the Chinese vernacular architecture, first of all, is the patriarchal view, that is, the family rituals. The core of the family rituals is hierarchy which has a strict requirement in vernacular houses in terms of their layouts, shapes, room spaces, scales, furnishing and decoration, so as to maintain the feudal hierarchy emphasizing blood ties.



The concept of harmony between man and nature comes in the second place, which serves as the basis for the orientation, location, and site selection of an architecture, as well as the principle for the building construction in a grand environment promoted by Confucianism and Taoism of the Han people. It includes architectural layout, integrity of space structure, order and domestication. In the ancient times, the ideal of harmony between man and nature in the Chinese vernacular houses was achieved through *fengshui*, or geomancy, that is, the five-orientation and four-god environment mode. The five orientations are east, south, west, north and center; and the four gods in four directions are Black Dragon, White Tiger, Phoenix, and Xuanwu.

Then is the way of thinking embodied in the Chinese vernacular houses, which fully reflects the spirit of humanism in the traditional Chinese culture. Everything is people-

oriented, prioritizing the owner and family of the house. The trinity of Heaven, Earth and Man has Man at the first place. Thus, the residential construction is based on man's production and living.

Those are the influence and features of the traditional Chinese culture in the Chinese vernacular houses.

## New Words and Expressions

heritage /'herɪtɪdʒ/	<i>n.</i>	any attribute or immaterial possession that is inherited from ancestors 遗产
substantial /səb'stænʃl/	<i>adj.</i>	fairly large 大量的
abundant /ə'bʌndənt/	<i>adj.</i>	present in great quantity 丰富的, 充裕的
vicissitude /vɪ'sɪsɪtʊ:d/	<i>n.</i>	a variation in circumstances or fortune at different times in your life or in the development of something 变迁, 兴衰
quintessence /kwɪn'tesns/	<i>n.</i>	the purest and most concentrated essence of something 精髓
exquisite /'ekskwɪzɪt/	<i>adj.</i>	delicately beautiful 精致的
disparity /dɪ'spærəti/	<i>n.</i>	inequality or difference in some respect 差异, 不一致
aesthetic /es'θetɪk/	<i>adj.</i>	relating to or dealing with the subject of aesthetics 美学的
rite /raɪt/	<i>n.</i>	any customary observance or practice 惯例, 仪式
acme /'ækmi/	<i>n.</i>	the highest point (of something) 顶点
intuitive /ɪn'tu:ɪtɪv/	<i>adj.</i>	spontaneously derived from or prompted by a natural tendency 直觉的
harmony /'hɑ:rməni/	<i>n.</i>	compatibility in opinion and action 和谐, 和睦
embodiment /ɪm'bɑ:dɪmənt/	<i>n.</i>	a new personification of a familiar idea 体现
patriarchal /,pətɪrɪ'ɑ:rkəl/	<i>adj.</i>	characteristic of an entity, family, church, etc., controlled by men 家长的, 父权的
ritual /'rɪtʃuəl/	<i>n.</i>	any customary observance or practice 仪式, 惯例
hierarchy /'haɪərə:rkɪ/	<i>n.</i>	a series of ordered groupings of people or things within a system 等级制度
prioritize /praɪ'ɔ:rə,taɪz/	<i>v.</i>	assign a priority to 把事情按优先顺序排好
trinity /'trɪnəti/	<i>n.</i>	a group of three 三位一体

## Speaking and Writing

1. Work in pairs to choose an interesting ancient house in your hometown or home village. One of you will be the tourist and the other the tour guide. The guide should outline the Chinese culture's impact on the house as well as introduce the general structure of the house. The tourist may have a few problems understanding the guide. Practise your dialogue and perform it in front of the class. These expression may help you.

Excuse me, I'm afraid I can't follow you.

I beg your pardon?

I didn't understand...

Please, can you speak more slowly?

What did you mean by...?

I'm sorry but could you repeat that?

2. Write down notes on the information you have gathered. You are going to write it in a local guide book. You want to encourage people to visit it so you should write in an exciting way.

### Model

#### Why not visit Jiaotai Dian?

North of the Hall of Union (Jiaotai Dian), the Palace of Earthly Tranquility (Kunning Gong) was built for the chief consort of the emperor. During the Qing Dynasty, the Palace was remodeled into a Manchu-style house, which was dubbed "pocket house" (koudai ju): the house has its main door off center to the east rather than in the middle; wooden panel doors replace lattice



doors; windows open from the bottom (swinging out on hinges fastened at the top) and are propped up by sticks. Inside the palace, along the north, the west, and the south walls are linked heated brick kang platforms. The Palace of Tranquility was at once the Shamanism sacrificial hall and the imperial bridal chamber. It still retains the original decor today.

### 3. Summing up

- 1) Write down what you have learned about Chinese traditional vernacular architecture.

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