

<<江南水乡古镇>>

图书基本信息

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前言

Southern China refers to the southern areas of the Yangtze River in general including southern Jiangsu Province and northern Zhejiang Province and locates in subtropical zone. The Yangtze River and Taihu alluvial Plain systems are flourishing. The mild and moist climate nourishes plentiful products. After the 5th century A.D., the canal and manual rivers and channels were cut, which helped develop the water traffic, which in turn caused the form of numerous richly-endowed water towns. For thousands of years, every household was adjacent to water with boats went through it, which forms the unique spectacles and features of "small bridge, flowing water and household".

With the prosperous economy, stable life and developed culture, people here always attached great importance to education which helped produce many cultural celebrities and various literatures and works of art bearing rich cultural customs with local characteristics. Every water town in southern areas of the Yangtze River has its own economic traits, and the neighbouring towns are separate in their economies. In the past, they possess their own handcraft industries and commodity specialties, some of which last till now. The water towns are constructed in concert with water. Therefore the water and street lanes are main passages of livelihood and transportation. Houses are intentionally built near water with the street in front and the river at the back. The water corridor, water house, water pavilion, water building and small bridge constitute the distinctive living environment where people and nature are staying harmoniously together. Because of the differences in the geographical environment and social economic function, every ancient town took on different looks and connotations through the long evolution of history, which reveal the rich and profound traditional characteristics of the ancient water towns in southern areas of the Yangtze River. Between the 13th and 19th centuries, the ancient towns flourished for a time and the total number of towns reached hundreds. Since the 1980s, with the rapid development of society and economy in China, most of the ancient towns had industrial construction started land traffic and built modern construction and facilities. The original network of rivers and traditional settlements is scraped, so the original features of the ancient water towns disappeared gradually. In the mid-1980s, we timely and properly took measures to protect and plan for the ancient towns near Suzhou such as Zhouzhuang, Tongli, Luzhi and those of Nanxun, Jiaxing, Wuzhen, Xitang in Huzhou. At the beginning of the 90s, Zhujiajiao and Xinchang in Shanghai, Anchang, Longmen and Qiantong in Zhejiang as well as Mudu in Suzhou also received planning and guide. Therefore, the original features of the ancient water towns are kept completely and the tourist industry is properly developed. Luckily, a very precious historical heritage is kept for people.

作者简介

Ruan Yisan' RHF President , Professor Ruan Yisan. Director of National Research Center of Historic City at Tongji University, isemeritus professor of Urban Planning at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning , Tongji University. He is also a member of the Urban Planning Expert Committee of the Ministry of Construction , the National Conservation Expert Committee of Historic Cities , and Vice Director of the Academic Committee of Historic Cities. Professor Ruan Yisan has been working as a consultant for many historic cities such as Suzhou , Yangzhou , Hangzhou , Shaoxing , Pingyao , and Lijiang. He has made a major contribution to the education and research of urban development history and urban heritage conservation. He has helped safeguard many historic cities and towns from imprudent development and made them important heritage sites through conservation planning and practice , such as Pingyao , Zhouzhuang , Tongli , Luzhi , Nanxun , Wuzhen , and Xitang. Under his supervision , the project of the Yangtze River Water Towns (including Zhouzhuang , Tongli , Luzhi , Nanxun , Wuzhen and Xitang) was granted the Award of Distinction by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation in 2003. In 2005 , Professor Ruan Yisan was awarded a Knight Metal of Art and Literature by the French Ministry of Culture.

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Common Traits of Ancient Water Towns South of the Yangtze River
Zhouzhuang
Wuzhen
Nanxun
Tongli
Xitang
Luzhi
Zhuji
Jiao
Xinchang
Qiantong
Anchang
Mudu
Longmen
The Protection and Implementation of Planning for Water Towns South of the Yangtze River

章节摘录

插图：The architecture and layout of the water towns are a perfect combination of the idea of man-and-heaven unity and the economic factors：the seemingly casual but well-planned layouts，simplified shapes，light and friendly colors and soft beautiful lines. To facilitate economic exchanges，all houses are built along the rivers or the streets and are so designed that they incorporate shopping，residence and production functions. By the patios and the long windows the inner chambers are connected to the outer halls，Affinity with water is ubiquitous—the streets in front，the rivers behind，the waterside houses，the waterwall gates，the bridge ends，the sheltered water verandas，the waterside cabinets，and the water side pavilions. There are even cases where the water runs through the house，a perfect illustration that human beings live harmoniously with the surroundings. Compared with towns of other parts of China，the water towns here are more subject to economic influences in the process of their development and water has become the central element in the unique local surroundings and life for obvious geographical reasons. As a culmination of wisdom of forefathers of the people living here，the water towns have been playing a positive role in the evolution of towns of China in general. Since the 1980s，vast changes have taken place in China. Because of the rapid economic growth，changes of social and economic map，expansion of modern industry，construction of high buildings and increasing number of roads，the water grids and the traditional houses are disappearing. Fortunately there are exceptions，among which are Zhouzhuang，Tongli，Luzhi，Jinxi and Mudu of Suzhou，Nanxun of Huzhou，Wuzhen and Xitang of Jiaxing，as well as Zhujiajiao and Xinchang of Shanghai. Only in these places far from the modern roads where the local governments marked out new zones for modern construction in the mid 1980s are the ancient water towns preserved intact as a historical heritage.

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