

CONSERVING HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE AND BEAUTIFYING THE CITY BY MEANS OF ITS HISTORY

Wang Guoping

CPC Standing Central Committee of Zhejiang Province

Keywords: historic urban landscape, urbanization, UNESCO, China

1. Introduction

This paper focuses on three issues concerning historic urban landscape conservation under the background of new urbanization: the first one is attaching great importance to cultural heritage conservation in rapid urbanization; the second one is laying great emphasis on historic urban landscape conservation which is part of cultural heritage conservation; the third is Hangzhou's practice in cultural heritage conservation.

2. Attaching great importance to cultural heritage conservation in rapid urbanization

When social and economic development reaches a certain level, urbanization will be an inevitable consequence. It is also necessary for the realization of modernization. Secretary-general Xi Jinping pointed out in the Central Economic Work Conference held in last December, "town-rization should be promoted actively and steadily and efforts should be made to improve the quality of town-rization. Town-rization is the historic task in our country's development of modernization; it is also the biggest potential for enlarging domestic demand. In terms of improving the quality of town-rization, we are supposed to make the best use of the circumstances, seek advantages and avoid disadvantages, and lead actively town-rization to develop in a healthy way." Premier Li Keqiang also indicated that "town-rization is the largest potential for expanding domestic demand", and that "looking ahead, we can see town-rization is the enormous engine for our country's economic growth". Last November when he met with World Bank President, Premier Li made it clear that "in the following decades, China's largest development potential will lie in town-rization". Here the word "town-rization" is synonymous to the term "urbanization" that is usually used in academic circle. No matter whether the word "town" is interpreted literally or defined according to the law of planning, it is embodied in "city".

Urbanization is a double-edged sword. While bringing about historic development opportunities and driving forces for cities, it has also caused various problems and brought challenges to cities. It can be said that it is marvelous to realize urbanization and it is terrible not to realize urbanization. In the past ten-plus years, the rate of urbanization in China has been growing by one percent each year, and in 2011 it exceeded fifty percent. It is predicted that in the next two decades the rate will grow at the same pace and is likely to reach seventy percent in 2030, paralleling the current urbanization rate of developed

countries. In other words, China will have nearly completed its historic mission of urbanization by that time. From the adoption of the reform and open-up policy, it is probable that it will only take China 50 years to obtain such accomplishments in urbanization as Western countries did in one hundred or even two hundred years. This rapid development in a relatively shorter period of time has triggered multiple conflicts and impetuosity of some municipal administrators. Due to their single-hearted pursuit of growth rate, all of them hope their city develops faster and more greatly. However, each municipal administrator is confronted with the same question: What is the core competency of a city? My answer is: old streets, old houses, old trees and old towns—the cultural and historic heritage of the city. Because a city's core competency lies in its innate characteristics, namely its difference, distinction and from others and even its uniqueness, yet it is the cultural and historic heritage that makes a city different, distinct and unique. A city is an organic entity, and has a life. A city well-known for its history and culture can be at least hundreds and even thousands of years old, so that there must be hundreds and thousands of growth rings that give testimony to its development and change. The historic and cultural heritage, as the symbol of its growth rings, should never be ruined or abandoned. To inflict destruction on its growth rings is to destroy its popularity, its prestige and its core competency.

The most horrible outcome of China's urbanization is westernization or homogenization, consequently "a thousand cities resembling each other." If that happened, it would not only be the tragedy of a city but also the tragedy of the whole nation and the people. We must prevent catastrophes from befalling historic and cultural heritage when China's urbanization is accelerating. This is definitely not alarmist. Yesterday, we paid a heavy price in the promotion of industrialization; eventually we understood the importance of protecting ecological environment and began to implement the project of "blue sky, clear water, greenness and quietness". Today, while propelling urbanization, we should draw a lesson from our painful experience and attach great importance to the conservation of cultural heritage; the stupid action of "destructing while constructing" shall never be done again. We ought to be aware that "natural greenness" is one of the conditions for human existence and that "cultural greenness" is the one of the genes sustaining national spirit. The destruction of natural ecology can be restored; even if a towering tree that is several hundred years old is destroyed, there will be another towering tree a few hundred years later if only we plant a small tree today; however, once historic and cultural heritage is destroyed, it can never be restored. We should bear this truth in our mind, conserve historic and cultural heritage and conduct overall protection of historic and cultural cities. Unfortunately, today in China there are still some historic and cultural cities that are still taking the old and deadly road of "dismantling old cities to build new ones". Many people attribute this to the error of individual administrators. In my point of view, they have oversimplified this issue. Municipal administrators, no doubt, must be responsible for this misconception, but if we look carefully into this, we will find that some laws, regulations, policies, systems and planning are made in response to the model of "dismantling old cities to build new ones." For many people, "dismantling old cities to build new ones" is the fastest, least risky and most productive road to urbanization. To adopt the policy of "protecting old cities to build new ones," municipal administrators must reconceptualize the issue of urbanization; laws, regulations, policies, systems and planning must be researched into and made at national level. In other words, we should "protect old cities and build new ones" and then protect all historic and cultural heritage by rule of law instead of rule of man. If this conference can be a driving force for this, it will be a good thing. This is also what I hope for in this conference.

3. Laying great emphasis on the conservation of historic urban landscape which is part of cultural heritage conservation

At present, in respect of cultural heritage conservation, we should not only emphasize the protection of cultural heritage sites but also lay great emphasis on the conservation of historic urban landscape. In 2011, UNESCO released the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. According to the Recommendation, The historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of “historic centre” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting. This wider context includes notably the site’s topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural features, its built environment, both historic and contemporary, its infrastructures above and below ground, its open spaces and gardens, its land use patterns and spatial organization, perceptions and visual relationships, as well as all other elements of the urban structure. It also includes social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity. To put it in another way, historic urban landscape refers to the sum of historic cities’ natural and cultural, tangible and intangible features and elements that interact with each other; it encompasses aspects such as natural system, land use, topography, and geomorphology, ecological structure, vegetation and water, visual structure, social function, architecture and structure, and so on; these elements express and record the view of nature and interest appeal in various cultural models; historic urban landscape is the bearing system of urban values. In this landscape system, heritage sites are only one of its elements. Today, urbanization is developing rapidly; thus it is exactly the right time to study on the conservation of historic urban landscape. There are three reasons for laying emphasis on historic urban landscape:

1. Paying close attention to the new trends of world heritage nomination

Currently, nomination has been become more and more difficult; in addition, it has become more and more difficult to remain in the World Heritage List after the nomination is approved. In June 2011, I led the world heritage nomination delegation of Hangzhou West Lake to attend the 35th Session of the World Heritage Committee. This session conveyed strongly this signal. In the session, the natural heritage nomination project submitted by China, namely, the Five Connective Lakes, was withdrawn before voting with the permission of the State Council, because it was less likely to be approved and quite risky. Besides, according to the original schedule, the discussion time would only last for one and half a day, but it was prolonged and lasted for five and half a day; an important reason for this lengthening was that the session should not only discuss the newly-added heritage projects, but also decide whether the existing heritage projects could reach the standards; if a heritage project fails to reach the standards for the first time, it will be shown a yellow card; if it fails for a second time, it will be shown a red card and excluded from the world heritage list. Administrators of many world heritage sites, after they were shown a yellow card or even a red card, would make explanations in the session, hoping to maintain the title of world heritage. In my opinion, there are mainly three reasons for the difficulties in making nominations and in keeping the title of world heritage: **the first difficulty lies in the “rules of the game”**. The game rules of nomination for inscription in world heritage list are made by world heritage organization and we are still not familiar with these rules. For instance, we encountered a setback in nominating West Lake for world heritage inscription be-

cause of our unfamiliarity with these rules. The nomination was rejected owing to an error in the plotting scale of the nomination text. Luckily, in the second year, another cultural heritage of China was not ready to submit the nomination; consequently West Lake was allowed to submit the nomination for a second time, and this provided us with an opportunity to succeed. Without this chance, it may take us ten or even twenty more years to be successful in the nomination of West Lake. There is another example of failure in the first-time nomination. The nomination of the historic architectural complex of Mount Song also suffered frustration; the nomination was not approved until the second submission. **The second difficulty is in the issue of value identification.** Since the game rules for nominations are made by western experts and scholars, the identification of the value of cultural heritage becomes very difficult. According to many people, West Lake should certainly be inscribed in world heritage list. When Secretary-general Xi was the secretary of CPC Committee of Zhejiang province, he once inspected the comprehensive preservation project of West Lake and asked on the inspection site why West Lake was still not on the world heritage list. I replied that West Lake was still applying for inscription in world heritage list and there was still a long road to go. He took Wuyi Mountain as a comparative example and mentioned that Wuyi Mountain had long been a world cultural and natural heritage site. One significance reason why West Lake had gone a long way to become a world heritage site was that western experts and scholars had different views on the value of West Lake heritage and it was extremely difficult for it to acquire identification. **The third difficulty lies in the increase of the number of world heritage sites.** Previously, the number of world heritage sites in China was pretty small, but now the number ranks second in the world. In the future, there may be two more world heritage sites each year in China; at such a speed, China will soon become the country with the most world heritage sites. For a state, the increase of the number of world heritage sites is a good thing; however, just as tall trees catch much wind, such an increase meanwhile causes risks of failure in nominations. The above mentioned three reasons has made it more and more difficult for China to succeed in nominations for world heritage inscription and it also becomes more and more difficult to remain on the world heritage list. All cities possessing world heritage sites or preparing to apply for inscription in the world heritage list should attach great importance to these new trends; only by being familiar with them can we guarantee successful nominations.

2. Laying great emphasis on the changes of the “game rules” for application for inscription in world heritage list

Among the previously mentioned three major factors that result in failure in applications, the most important one is issue of the “game rules”. We are not quite familiar with the “game rules” for nominations and these rules are in constant changes, to which importance must be attached. At present, world heritage sites fall into two categories: one is world natural heritage and the other is world cultural heritage. The definition and scope of world natural heritage are relatively simple and stable, whereas those of world cultural heritage changes continuously and an important type has come into being--world cultural landscape heritage. What West Lake applied for was to be inscribed in the list of world cultural landscape heritage which is subordinate to the category of world cultural heritage. In the course of the nomination of West Lake, the assistant director-general for the culture of the UNESCO Mr. Bandarin proposed the concept of “urban cultural landscape” and advised Hangzhou to start from the conservation of West Lake cultural landscape and establish a special research institution to promote

the conservation of Hangzhou's urban cultural landscape heritage. This is also the reason why we co-founded "World Heritage Conservation Hangzhou Research Center" with UNESCO World Heritage Center. In recent years, Mr. Bandarin and experts of world heritage organization have been researching into the conservation of urban cultural landscape; they have developed it into the concept of "historical urban landscape" and issued Recommendation on Historic urban Landscape. Now experts' understanding of this Recommendation is still diversified. Some experts think that historic urban landscape is not a sub-category of cultural heritage; instead, it is a conservation approach and method. In the eyes of other experts, historic urban landscape is both an approach and method and a special sub-category of cultural heritage. In my opinion, **historic urban landscape is both a conservation approach and method and a new type of cultural heritage.** Although this Recommendation has no legal force, it may influence the judgment of heritage value and the modification of heritage criteria and finally it can influence the choice of experts who have the voting right. In consequence, I think all cities owning world heritage sites or preparing to submit nominations for inscription in world heritage list should pay close attention to the Recommendation.

3. Attaching great importance to the challenges and opportunities brought by UNESCO's Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape

In accordance with my judgment, the release of the Recommendation will bring challenges and opportunities in three aspects: **firstly, cities which already have world heritage will find it more and more difficult to maintain the title of world heritage.** World heritage organizations have to not only make evaluation on the conservation of the heritage itself, but also make assessment of the conservation and development of the entire city or region where the heritage is. **Secondly, it increases the possibility of a new choice direction of cultural heritage nomination.** Currently, world heritage organizations have not yet considered "historic urban landscape" to be a type; instead, they regard it as a conservation approach and method. That is because taking "historic urban landscape" as a new type will mean significant modification of the "game rules". Actually, world heritage organizations only make step-by-step and extremely cautious changes to the "game rules". However, in light of the expression of the Recommendation, I believe historic urban landscape will eventually become a new type belonging to world cultural heritage. If nomination projects have vivid characteristics of historic urban landscape, make more efforts to conserve historic urban landscape and the conservation is well conducted, they are likely to get approval successfully, because this type not only fills the blank in world heritage classification in China, but also fills that in the world. **Thirdly, when a city submits the nomination of its second and third world heritage sites, it must attach more importance to Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape.** The question answered by the Recommendation is how historic and cultural cities and towns manage to have a double-win in conservation and development. The inspiration we get from it is that the conservation of cultural heritage should not be confined to the heritage itself and that we must achieve a double-win in conservation and development in the grand context of historic cities or regions. In my point of view, world heritage organizations will definitely employ this Recommendation to evaluate comprehensively whether the value and conservation of the historic cities or regions which heritage sites are in can meet the requirements of the Recommendation and then judge whether the heritage nominated by a city has outstanding universal value identified by world heritage organizations. This will greatly increase the difficulties in nominations. If applicants do not improve their nomination ability, only make simple interpretation of the heritage itself, do not take into account new world

heritage types and their standards in terms of heritage conservation and value, and fail to elaborate according to new types of world heritage and their standards, their nominations will probably be rejected. By contrast, if they can make targeted interpretation of their nomination projects in the context of the conservation of historic urban landscape, it is likely that their nominations will get approval easily. In accordance with the estimation of the status of heritage sites in some historic and cultural cities in China, in the future it may be a normal phenomenon that some cities possess two or more exclusive or shared world heritage sites. It is also normal for Hangzhou, a historic and cultural city with an 8,000-year history of civilization and a 5,000-year history of architecture, to have two, three, four or even five world heritage sites. Despite the fact that West Lake did not become a world heritage site until recent years, we hope to build Hangzhou into a city boasting five world heritage sites with twenty-year efforts.

4. Hangzhou's practices in cultural heritage conservation

Since the beginning of the new century, we have been insisting on the ideals that conserving historic and cultural heritage sites is the most important responsibility of urban administrators, that conserving historic and cultural heritage is protecting productivity, that input in historic and cultural heritage is the productive input with the highest rate of return, that conservation and development can be realized simultaneously and that everyone is responsible for the protection of historic and cultural heritage. Successively, we have implemented the comprehensive conservation projects of West Lake, Xiang Lake, Xixi Wetland, the Canal, the river course inside the downtown area, the Great Archeology Site of Liangzhu, the Remains of the Imperial City of the Southern Song Dynasty and Zhongshan Road; Furthermore, we have conducted conservation of old houses in the downtown area, historic neighborhoods, old buildings that have historic values in rural areas, industrial legacies, heritage sites on campus, which indicates that we have conserved as many historic sites as possible.

1. Protecting the old city and building a new one

In accordance with the ideal of "protecting the old cities and building new ones" and the thinking pattern of "two evacuations and three concentrations", we make the old city the key of protection, carry out construction mainly in the new city, evacuate the population and buildings in the old downtown area, promote enterprises to concentrate in the industrial zone, make universities and colleges concentrate in the higher education zone and propel construction to concentrate in the new downtown area. In this way, the historic and cultural city especially the historic and cultural heritage is well protected; the along-river and cross-river development of the city of Hangzhou is greatly promoted; the double-win of conservation and development is realized. An expert from South Korea came to Hangzhou when the nomination of West Lake for inscription in World Heritage was examined. She asked some questions when she saw West Lake: if the land here cannot be sold and factories cannot be set up in this scenic area just like what you have said in your report, how can Hangzhou develop? How can the life quality of Hangzhou citizens be improved? She did not believe our promise of "six Nos" and the fact that the conservation of West Lake is sustainable, until we invited her to visit the new Qianjiang City and explained to her our practice of "protecting the old city while building a new one". The practice in the past ten-plus years has demonstrated that the key reason why Hangzhou can realize the "double-win" of conservation and development is that we have been taking the new and fresh road of "protecting the old city while building a new one".

2. Promoting the organic update of the city

In terms of city construction, we not only have absorbed the reasonable elements of the western theory of “city update”, but also have drawn a practical lesson from many cities’ “dismantling the old city to build a new one”; we put forward the ideal of the organic update of cities and introduced the biological concept of “life” into urban construction; we treat our city as a living thing, lay emphasis on the term “organic” and promote the organic update of urban morphology, street structures, natural and humanistic landscape, road facilities, river courses inside the city, urban industries, and urban administration, making Hangzhou, an ancient city, young and full of vigor forever. For example, we persistently let “the organic update of roads (rivers)” drive forward remediation, conservation, renovation, construction, development, management, which advances the “organic update” of the city.

Case 1: the comprehensive protection project of the Canal. Hangzhou is the southern end of Jingshan Canal which is the cradle of Hangzhou’s culture. With a history of more than 2000 years, Jingshan Canal is not only “a treasure of the nation”, but also “the lifeline of the city”. Since 2002, with the goal of giving an unpolluted canal back to the people, applying for inscription in World Cultural Heritage Site and creating world-class tourism products, the municipal government has been carrying out the comprehensive conservation project of the canal in 10 consecutive years, in accordance with the principle of “putting conservation first, giving top priority to the protection of ecosystem, developing tourism, centering on the people and remediating comprehensively”. The conservation and restoration of the series of landscape along the canal have been carried out successively and the humanistic ecology has also been restored, which substantially contributed to the prospect of winning the title of World Cultural Heritage Site. On May 24, 2006, Hangzhou municipal government and the National Committee of the CPPCC co-organized a seminar that focused on the protection of Jingshan Canal and the application for inscription in World Cultural Heritage Site, and published *Hangzhou Manifesto*, which expressed our wish to win the title of World Cultural Heritage Site. In April 2012, when visiting the Hangzhou section of the Grand Canal, Li Xiaojie, vice Minister of the National Cultural Ministry and Director of China’s State Administration of Cultural Heritage, fully acknowledged the achievements Hangzhou municipal government has accomplished in protecting and exploiting the canal and the good preparations we have made for applying for the inclusion in UNESCO’s World Heritage List. According to the arrangement of State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the nomination of the canal will be submitted to the World Heritage Convention in 2014. The first list of nominations includes six scenic spots, five reaches and eleven sections: the Relic of Fengshan Water Gate, the Fuyi Granary, Qiaoxi Historic Street, Xixing Ancient Cargo Transferring Warehouse and Dock, Gongchen Bridge, Guangji Bridge, Southern Canal Wujiang-Jiaxi-Hangzhou Section (Yuhang Tangqi-Hangzhou Bazi Bridge, the boundary of Jiangsu and Zhejiang province-Hangzhoutang close to Bazi Bridge, Shangtang River), Hangzhou Zhonghe River-Longshan River), the main stream of Eastern Zhejiang Canal (Hangzhou Xixing Town—Xixing Canal at Shangyu Dongguan Section, Xiaoshao Canal). The number of historic sites in Hangzhou is the largest in the country.



Figure 1. Hangzhou section of the Grand Canal

Case 2: the comprehensive conservation project of the river courses within the urban area. The resource of river courses in Hangzhou's downtown area is abundant. Within the circle of belt highway, there are more than 300 river courses which have the length of more than 1 km and the sum of their length is about 1000 km. At the beginning of 2007, on the basis of the target of "clear water, smooth current, green banks, beautiful scenery, livability, and prosperity" and the evaluation criteria of "water ecology, water culture, water landscape, water tourism, water development, water safety and water transportation", Hangzhou adopts different comprehensive remediation measures, and provides its residents with clear river water. By implementing this project, Hangzhou has significantly improved the production and the life of residents living along the water courses and the ecological environment. By the end of 2010, 178 water courses with the total length of 420 km had been remedied; 540km of the slow traffic system along the river had been linked up; around 7,800,000square meters of green area had been newly added, transformed and enhanced; "normal water circulation, guarantee of water safety, rich water culture, excellent water ecology and beautiful water landscape" had been achieved. Those "sewage drainage rivers" now have become "ecological rivers", "landscape rivers", "humanistic rivers" which are suitable for living, tourism, commerce and culture. The river courses in the urban area have become a "new driving force" for Hangzhou's tourism and a "Sunday punch" to increase the core competitiveness of Hangzhou's tourism.



Figure 2. The tiesha river of Hangzhou

3. Constructing the conservation system that combines dots, lines and areas

We persist on overall planning, step-by-step implementation, system integration and orderly progress. The all-round conservation system of historic and cultural heritage with multi-levels has been formed with “dots” as its basis, “lines” as its links, “areas” as its breakthrough point and the protection of the entire city as its ultimate goal. As many as cultural heritage sites are conserved.

To begin with, we implement the good conservation of the “dots”. In accordance with the principles of authenticity, integrity, continuity and identifiability, we push forward the conservation of cultural heritage protection units, old houses in the urban area, the dilapidated buildings, the historic architecture in the countryside, industrial legacy, and campus heritage. Laws and regulations have stipulated that the valuable old houses with a history of 50-plus years shall not be demolished.

A case of the conservation of old houses: the enhancement project of old and dilapidated houses. In 2007, Hangzhou embarked on the enhancement project of old and dilapidated houses. In practice, Hangzhou has proposed the idea of putting conservation first, focusing on improvement and providing guidance according to different types and improved the old and dilapidated houses in the old downtown area by adopting three measures, namely, maintenance, splicing and rebuilding. During the improvement of the old and dilapidated houses, Hangzhou has been implementing the policy of “encouraging residents to move out and allowing them to conduct conservation themselves”. Encouraging residents to move out means encouraging people

living in the old and dilapidated houses to move out of their original houses and the government takes the responsibility to accommodate them and gives them a certain amount of money as compensation and helps them to expand their houses. Allowing them to conduct conservation themselves means that as for those residents who are not willing to move out, the government respects their choice and pays for the maintenance of their houses, making every household have their own kitchen and bathroom facilities; the overall living conditions and environment quality have been significantly improved. This policy has not only enhanced the living conditions of residents, but also resolved the problem of “difficult demolition”. By the end of 2009, the enhancement task of 1,800,000 square meters of old and dilapidated houses in the old downtown area had been finished; the living conditions of 30,000 households residing in old and dilapidated houses had been greatly improved; meanwhile, Hangzhou, a historic and cultural city has also been effectively conserved.



Figure 3 a and b. The old and new appearance of Lingyin Village in Hangzhou

A case of industrial legacy conservation: the conservation and utilization of the old plant buildings of Hangzhou Oxygen Generator Factory and Hangzhou Boiler Factory. The total area of the land parcels where the two factories' old plant buildings are located is about 500 mu. The two old factories with a history of 50-plus years recorded Hangzhou's history of industrial development. The area of their reserved old plant buildings reaches 90,000square meters; this is the largest, the most intensive and the most valuable industrial legacy conservation zone in Hangzhou. In 2008, Hangzhou CPC Committee and Municipal Government decided to build the old plant buildings of the two factories into international tourism complex---"Star of the City", making it a model of the conservation and utilization of the industrial legacy and a new urban landmark of Hangzhou which demonstrates specialty, differentiation and even uniqueness. The positioning of this project is: taking the international urban exposition center as its theme and making it an international tourism complex including art, film & television, entertainment, bodybuilding, delicious food, shopping, exhibition and hotel. The core concept is "city makes life better", which means that Hangzhou demonstrates the ultimate goal and ideal pattern of urban development by centering on urban life and urban culture. Three world-class architectural designers, David Chipperfield, Herzog & de Meuron and Steven Holl, made the conceptual design of the project together. While carrying out the conservation and utilization of old plant buildings, we built some buildings and service facilities matching to them in the adjacent land parcels, strengthened comprehensive function and endeavored to seek the optimal balance between conservation and development, in accordance with the theme of the project.



Figure 4 a and b. The "Star of the City" of Hangzhou

A case of the conservation of campus heritage: the conservation of Yuhuangshan Campus of Hangzhou Normal University. Yuhuangshan Campus is located within the scenic area of West Lake and the Remains of the Imperial City of the Southern Song Dynasty, covering 102 mu. The 33 buildings on this campus take up 2.8 square meters, reflecting the changes that schools in Hangzhou and their architectures have undergone after the founding of the People's Republic of China. When we design this project, we insist on the principle of "putting conservation first, giving top priority to ecology, restoring the buildings and making the least intervention"; in principle, we do not tear down any building on campus or change the network of roads, and we try by all possible means to protect its "genetic codes" so as to transform its music school into a specialized and popular national music museum that not only showcases the music of the Southern Song dynasty but also combines the functions of collection, research, display, training, education, entertainment and tourism. We are making great efforts to build it into the most beautiful museum park enclosed by water and mountains.



Figure 5. The odeum in Yuhuangshan Campus of Hangzhou Normal University

A case of the conservation of historic architecture in rural areas: The protection of Fayun Ancient Village. Fayun Ancient Village has preserved a large number of traditional residential buildings on the mountains surrounding West Lake, which have historic and artistic value and most of which were built during the era of the Republic of China. But with the passage of time, the painting of the walls of many old buildings was peeled off; the walls and roofs collapsed; the wood components of these old buildings were long exposed to the sun and rains; consequently, some houses were dilapidated and some had completely collapsed; weeds were growing everywhere. In addition, the infrastructure of the village was backward; the road conditions were bad and garbage filled parts of the village. New residential buildings emerge every year, presenting a sharp contrast to the natural environment and the style of original residential buildings. To alleviate this contrast, we were determined to protect as many buildings as we could, and to renovate as many as we could, so that Fayun village can be integrated into the religious culture centering on Lingyin Temple. When protecting this old village, we introduce the world class Aman Hotel

into this region, which provides human-friendly facilities and services. The establishment of Aman Hotel does not change the slightest bit of the exterior of the village, not even the grasses and flowers growing on top of the houses. By doing this, we find a balance between protecting the old village and making use of it.



Figure 6. The Aman hotel of Hangzhou

Secondly, we conserve the “lines” well. We insist on active protection, sustainable development, promotion of the conservation of historic and cultural districts and neighborhoods, the improvement of ancient streets and the protection of ancient walls and historic river courses and river system.

Case 1: the comprehensive protection and organic update of Zhongshan Road. The vision of “building a historic museum” has been instilled into this project. When renovating this neighborhood, we do not dismantle buildings of various styles built over a long period of time. We only “beautify” this neighborhood rather than completely changing it. Now we can see the oldest Royal Street of the Southern Song Dynasty, Phoenix Mosque, a Catholic church, and other buildings built during the Ming Dynasty, Qing Dynasty, the Republican era, right after the Liberation, during the Cultural Revolution, and shortly after China adopted the Reform and Open-up policy. These buildings witness the architectural changes that Hangzhou has gone through and epitomize the cultural and historic features of this city. For example, Phoenix Mosque, one of the earliest mosques built in China, combines the characteristics of Islamic and Chinese architectures, serving as a testimony to the exchanges between Chinese and Islamic cultures. The Catholic Church at Zhongshan Road is exemplary of early Catholic churches in China. After renovation, it has become the window through which Catholics in Zhejiang province reach out to the outside world. The residential building of John Leighton Stuart, after renovation, is called John Leighton Stuart Memorial Building. It seems to me that Hangzhou cannot be called a museum of historic buildings but it can surely be called a museum of architectural history, a city whose buildings map out the trajectory of its past.



Figure 7. The Phoenix Temple of Hangzhou

Case 2: The protection of Xiaohu Straight Street—a historic and cultural Neighborhood. Based on respect for truth, this project aims to represent the original style of this neighborhood and to reflect the sustainable development of human life and nature. Some sections of the 20,000-square-meter neighborhood underwent different levels of protection and renovations. Some are exact reproductions of the original buildings; some maintain only their original styles; the others bear only the essential features of the original buildings. In addition to unearthing the historic and cultural heritage in this neighborhood, we have also enlarged the living space of local residents from the original 13 to 20 square meters per person. About 65 percent of the relocated residents have moved back to this neighborhood after renovation. The project was awarded the “Chinese Habitat Scroll of Honor Award” by Construction Ministry in 2007 and the “UN Habitat Scroll of Honor Award” by UN in 2009.



Figure 8. The Xiaohu Straight Street of Hangzhou

Case 3: The renovation of backstreets and alleys. From 2004 on, Hangzhou has undertaken the renovation of backstreets and alleys by opening up the dead-end roads, setting up roads for one-way traffic, and enlarging parking space. The bottlenecks in these backstreets and alleys have been drastically improved. In the meantime, by renovating historic buildings, preserving the cultural texture of these areas and restoring their original appearances, we sustain the history of these neighborhoods. This project is called the project that “has earned the citizens’ hearts.” By the end of 2010, the municipal government has improved more than 3000 backstreets and alleys, which adds up to 775.0 kilometers. More than 2,000,000 people benefit from this project, and these streets and alleys have also become places frequented by local residents and tourists.



Figure 9. The renovated backstreets and alleys of Hangzhou

Thirdly, we conduct good conservation of the “areas”. According to the principles of putting conservation first, giving priority to ecology, inheriting history, highlighting culture, centering on and benefiting the people, making overall planning and implementing step by step, we mainly improve the comprehensive conservation of cultural heritage area, historic downtown area, well-known towns and villages, lakes and wetland.

Case 1: the comprehensive conservation project of Xixi Wetland. Xixi Wetland is a combination of urban wetland, agricultural wetland and cultural wetland. In August 2003, Hangzhou launched the comprehensive conservation project of Xixi Wetland. By adjusting the density of architecture built there, we lighten the burden on the environment of the wetland, effectively protected the unique agricultural culture and fields and villages at Xixi and restore an array of humanistic landscapes, forming in practice the “Hangzhou Model” concerning the conservation and utilization of urban wetland and winning the recognition of international organizations. Currently, Xixi Wetland with an area of 11 square kilometers has become the first wetland park in China; besides, it has also been inscribed in the list of national 5A scenic spots. In July 2009, the national wetland park of Xixi became the first Chinese wetland park that is inscribed in the List of Wetlands of International Importance.



Figure 10. The Xixi Wetland of Hangzhou

Case 2: the comprehensive conservation project of the remains of the Imperial City of the Southern Song Dynasty. Southern Song Dynasty witnessed the best and fastest development of ancient Hangzhou city. At that time, Hangzhou was not only the political, economic, educational and cultural center of China, but also the largest metropolis in the world. As a cultural landmark of Hangzhou, the remains of the Imperial City embody Hangzhou's long history and exemplify the glory of Chinese civilization, with great archeological, historic, artistic and scientific value. The remains consist of the ruin of the Imperial Ancestral Temple, Laohudong kiln ruins of the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty, the residence ruin of Southern Song's Gongshengrenlie Queen, the ruin of Deshou Palace, ruins of three provinces and six ministries offices, ruin of Royal Street on Central Zhongshan Road, ruin of Lin'an Prefecture government office, ruin of Royal Street on Yangguan Alley and other significant ruins, which testify to the cultural sedimentation of Sui, Tang, Wuyue, Song and Yuan dynasties. Due to their historic and cultural values, five of these remains, led by the ruin of the Imperial Ancestral Temple, are included into the "Ten National Archeological Findings." Bordered by a river and mountains, the scale of imperial city is not as big as that of the imperial city of other dynasties, yet its magnificence and delicacy is unparalleled in history. As one of the most comprehensive architectural projects in ancient China, the imperial city of the Southern Song Dynasty represents the highest level of architectural design and park construction, and reflects the economic and technological level of the Southern Song Dynasty. It is an outstanding example of urban planning and construction in ancient China and has significant scientific value. In 2001, the National Congress designated the Lin'an City of the Southern Song Dynasty which centers on the imperial city as the National Historic and Cultural Heritage Site, and in 2006 the imperial city was included in the List of Top 100 National Major Historic and Cultural Heritage Sites (the National Eleventh Five-year Plan). In September 2012, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage officially endorsed the project of protecting Lin'an, the imperial city of the Southern Song Dynasty, an area of 10.79 square meters, which includes 25 smaller projects, such as the construction of Taishan Buddhist Cultural and Ecological Park of the Southern Song Dynasty and Southern Song Museum. With the purpose of protecting the Imperial City of the Southern Song Dynasty, Hangzhou abides by the guideline of active conservation, putting protection first, giving priority to ecology, making scientific planning, making step-by-step implementation, respecting history and culture, seeking harmony in diversity and embracing everything that is useful. In the implementation of the comprehensive conservation project of the great remains of the Imperial City of the Southern Song Dynasty, Hangzhou centers on the protection and demonstration of the historic site and its neighboring area, taking into consideration its functions in education, tourism, and academic research. The park of the remains showcases the long history, the rich humanistic landscape and the beautiful natural landscape of the most beautiful park-like Imperial City in China. It will serve as a window on Hangzhou and a paradigm of national heritage conservation and world legacy conservation.



Figure 11. The remains of Southern Song Imperial Street of Hangzhou

Fourthly, we carry out the conservation of intangible cultural heritage.

Sticking to the principles of focusing on conservation, putting rescuing first, making rational use, inheriting development and in accordance with the principles of having government as the leader, involving the society, specifying the responsibility, forming a resultant force, making long-term planning, implementing step by step, combining the dots and the areas and emphasizing efficiency, we improve the working mechanism of the conservation of intangible cultural heritage, actively carry out the protection of the living heritage, nominate key conservation projects and rescue the heritage that is in danger.

A case: The Museums of Knives & Scissors & swords, fans, umbrellas, and handicrafts. These museums are located in Qiaoxi Neighborhood, at the bank of the Jinghang Canal, covering about 40,000 square meters. We combine the construction of museums with the protection of “old plants”, “prestigious brands” and “legacies.” The Museum of Knives & scissors & swords, and the Museum of Umbrellas were built on the site of Qiaoxi Warehouse of local special products; the Museum of Fans is based on the old plant of Tongyigong Cotton Mill; The Museum of Handicrafts is built at the site of Honglei Silk Factory. These four national museums, with the themes of knives, scissors, swords, fans and handicrafts, have combined the functions of collection, research, display, education, publicity, entertainment and commerce and have become professional and civilian national museums. They preserve prestigious handicrafts, such as “Zhang Xiaoquan Scissor,” “Wang Xingji Fan,” and “West Lake Silk Umbrella,” as historic and cultural heritage, enabling these things to develop sustainably and making these intangible cultural heritage live in the hearts of the people, serve the people and be inherited by the people.



Figure 12. The Museum of fans in Hangzhou

In order to finish the task of protecting historic and cultural heritage, we persist on making research first and promoting planning, construction, conservation, management and operation by means of research.

In respect of research, we have mainly done the following work:

Firstly, we have established World Heritage Conservation Hangzhou Research Center. In July 2011, Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Center signed a Memorandum of Strategic Cooperation with UNESCO's World Heritage Center (WHC), and decided to establish together World Heritage Conservation Hangzhou Research Center" which specializes in research on cultural heritage especially research on cultural landscape. In October 2012, during the International Summit of World Cultural Landscape & the Annual Conference of International Science Committee of Cultural Landscape (ISCCL), the president of the Committee, Monica... inaugurated World Heritage Conservation Hangzhou Research Center which is the first special institution characterized by research on cultural landscape in China.

Secondly, we have founded Historic Urban Landscape Research Center of China. On November 3rd, we signed a strategic cooperation agreement with World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region and co-established China Historic Urban Landscape Research Center, forming the "3+1" pattern including World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region in Shanghai, Beijing, Suzhou and Hangzhou.

Thirdly, we have set up Historic Urban Landscape Conservation Union. Last year, at the First International Conference on World Cultural Heritage held in Hangzhou, 15 important domestic historic cities and 31 unites co-founded Historic Urban Landscape Conservation Union, with Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Center as the originator. This Union has become the first organization devoted to the conservation and research of historic urban landscape in China. At present, the number of the Union's member unites has exceeded 50. Hangzhou Urbanology Research Center, as the secretariat of the Union, has made the website and micro-blog centering on special subjects, edited and published a special periodical, *Historic Urban Landscape Studies*,

and organized the member units of the Union to co-compile an annual report, namely, Annual Report on the Conservation and Development of Historic Urban Landscape (a blue paper), striving efforts to build the think tank for the conservation and nomination of World Cultural Heritage in China.

Fourthly, we classified Hangzhou-ology into six branch subjects. Under the leadership of Hangzhou Urbanology Research Council, relevant departments and urban areas of Hangzhou, have established research institutions of branch subjects of Hangzhou-ology in succession; these branch subjects include: West Lake-ology, Xixi-ology, Canal-ology (river course-ology), Qiantangjiang river-ology, Liangzhu-ology, Xianglake-ology (Baimalake-ology); these research institutions promote the research on the conservation of cultural heritage with Hangzhou's characteristics. Currently, these research institutions of the branch subjects of Hangzhou-ology have about 100 regular staff and input tens of millions of yuan as special research fund, ensuring that they have regulations, staff, money and place to do their research work.

Fifthly, we propelled the compilation of the *Book Series of Urbanology* and the *Complete Library of Hangzhou*. Mainly focusing on the studies on eight "city diseases" such as "the problem of urban cultural heritage conservation", "the problem of transportation", "the problem of education" etc., we have compiled and published the *Book Series of Urbanology* which consists of the *Symposium of Urbanization*, the *Collection of Translated Books on Urbanology*, the *Textbooks on Urbanology*, the *Blue Paper of Urbanology*. In line with the requirement to integrate five forms that include archives, collections of books, books on general history, thesauruses and research reports, we have compiled and published Hangzhou's Si Ku Quan Shu ("Complete Library of Four Divisions") that is composed of the "Complete Library of West Lake", the "Complete Library of Xixi", the "Complete Library of the Canal (River course)", the "Complete Library of Qiantangjian River", the "Complete Library of Liangzhu" and the "Complete Library of Xiang Lake (Baima Lake)".

Six, we collect and evaluate excellent research achievements and reward them Qian Xuesen gold award of urbanology and West Lake gold award of urbanology. In order to find out solutions to problems appearing during the process of urbanization, such as problems in aspects like cultural heritage conservation, education, floating population, transportation, etc. and to promote the development of urbanology, Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Center, targeting at domestic & foreign city theory researchers and practitioners and people of vision, collects the outstanding research results and rewards them Qian Xuesen gold award of urbanology. One is given the gold award, that is, RMB 100,000.00; ten is rewarded the award nomination; each of them is offered RMB10,000.00. Meanwhile, targeting at the public, we carry out collection and evaluation of the good ideas of citizens and netizens to treat "city diseases" and reward them West Lake gold award of urbanology; one is given the gold award and the prize is RMB50,000.00; ten is awarded the award nomination, each of who is rewarded RMB5000.00. In 2014, collection and assessment of outstanding research results concerning the issue of urban cultural heritage conservation will be officially launched.

Seven, we conduct questionnaire surveys on cultural heritage conservation. With the purpose of providing CPC Committee and government at various levels with a scientific basis for their treatment of "city diseases" and the promotion of the healthy development of urbanization, Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Center insists on the organic combination of rule-orientedness and problems-orientedness, quantitative and qualitative research, mathematical modeling and index assessment, carries out the questionnaire survey on 15 "city diseases" including the disease in cultural heritage con-

ervation and designs questionnaires covering various social groups, including questionnaires designed for municipal administrators, for experts, for citizens, for peasants and for immigrants(floating population). At this conference, we will hand out questionnaires about cultural heritage conservation and we hope experts, scholars and administrators of cultural heritage conservation departments can give strong supports.

Eight, we hold the Annual International Conference of World Cultural Heritage in Hangzhou. We co-organize the Annual International Conference of World Cultural Heritage in Hangzhou, together with units like Cultural Heritage Academy of Zhejiang University and World Heritage Institution of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific region; we invite relevant domestic and foreign municipal administrators and experts and scholars to make discussions on theories and practices of cultural heritage conservation, help to reach consensus and propel the sharing of information, knowledge and experience on cultural heritage conservation.

Conserving cultural heritage and inheriting urban context is a kind of historic responsibility. We have no right or justification to let cultural heritage to disappear in contemporary age; instead, we have no choice but to exert ourselves to conserve and inherit it. At present, just like citizens of other cities, citizens of Hangzhou are striving to rescue and safeguard the historic and cultural city. **8,900,000 Hangzhou residents are well aware that we need to win. If we lose, we will lose our city, together with its history and culture.** If we lose this special battle in the course of rapid urbanization, it will represent a catastrophe for this historic and cultural city; in case that the great calamity happens, we will become unworthy descendents of our ancestors and our future generations will be ashamed of us. I believe that under the guidance of the Central Government and National Council, with the active participation of ordinary people, experts, and media, we are sure to win. Finally, I want to summarize by citing the words of a well-known German scholar, who said after visiting China: What we have today, you will surely have tomorrow; but what you have today, we shall never have.”

Biographical notes

Wang Guoping is former Member of CPC Standing Central Committee of Zhejiang Province, General Secretary of Hangzhou CPC, Director of the Center of Hangzhou Urbanization Studies, Director of the Council of Historic Urban Landscape Conservation Union, Director of Hangzhou International Urbanology Research Center, Adjunct Professor of Zhejiang University and Adjunct Supervisor of the university's Ph. D Candidates, Visiting Professor of China Central Academy of Fine Arts and Visiting Supervisor of the academy's Ph. D. Candidates.

References

- [1] Shan Jixiang, 2010, *Step in the world of Cultural landscape heritage*, Tianjin University press.
- [2] Wang Guoping, 2009, *On City*, People's Publishing House.
- [3] *The World Heritage Committee*, 2011, Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.
- [4] Yang Jianqiang, 2012, *Urban Renewal in western Europe*, Publishing House of Southeast University.