

## 2022-03-21 - Lecture 21

### 11.1 China After 1000 :: Mandate of Heaven - Built to Last

- 1) **Mandate of Heaven**
  - The ancient Chinese concept that Heaven, which embodies the will of the universe, bestows on a just and able ruler to govern China - regardless of noble birth (monarchy). If a ruler were deposed, it was thought that that person wasn't just or able enough, as judged by natural law
- 2) **Song Dynasty 960-1279**
  - Song Dynasty architectural text: *Yingzao Fashi* c 1100
- 3) **Yuan Dynasty 1271-1368**
  - Mongols conquered Song Dynasty creating Yuan Dynasty
  - Whether Chinese or Mongolian, the leader was considered a **son of heaven**, a demigod by the Mandate of Heaven
  - This concept led to cultural continuity and architectural conservatism
  - **Kublai Khan 1215 - 1294** (Yuan) takes over Dadu (Beijing)
    - Grandson of Genghis Khan (1162 - 1227)
    - Kublai Khan's architect: **Liu Bingzhong**
  - Liu Bingzhong consults the ancient *Kaogongji* (Book of Rites)
  - Planning **Dadu**, Liu uses a Wangcheng diagram of three streets N-S and three streets E-W with a palace in the center (nine-square grid) Three gates on each side. Begins to build Dadu 1264.
  - Walls all around, very wide straight avenues, outer walls larger than Rome
  - **feng shui** - an ancient Chinese astrological or pseudoscientific practice that attempts to find a physical connection or orientation between humans and the universe (their physical environment)
  - **qi** - feng shui orients humans with their physical environment, resulting in a positive energy *qi*, and is determined by location and axis in time
  - Yuan is multi-ethnic, multi-religious
  - Only building left from Yuan Dynasty is **White Pagoda (1277)** built by Tibetan Monk **A'nige** (1224-1306). It's a **Stupa**, a smooth shaped shrine containing relics.
  - Kublai Khan dies 1294, rebellion, discord, Black Death (c. 1350) - leads to decline of Dadu.
  - Ming walk in 1366, destroy city, condone it off, and create new capital in the south - **Nanjing**.
- 4) **Ming Dynasty 1368-1644**
  - Second Emperor of the Ming **Chengzu (1402-1424)** returns the dynasty to Dadu, renames it **Beijing**, meaning northern capital. Calls his reign **Yongle** meaning *Perpetual Happiness*.
  - **Ming Dynasty Beijing** can be defined as **symmetrical, concentric, walled, gated, axial, rigorously controlled, controlling, hierarchical, unforgiving, imperial**.
  - **The Forbidden City**
    - Begun about 1402
    - Exclusively for government officials
    - Surrounded by walls
    - Central axis and strict symmetry
    - Based on Song Dynasty architectural text: *Yingzao Fashi* c. 1100
    - Dougong Brackets (doe-gong)
    - Architect: Ruan An from Cambodia
    - Due to stone and brick Beijing was **built to last**
  - **Outer Court of the Forbidden City**: Gate of Supreme Harmony, Hall of Supreme Harmony, Hall of Middle Harmony, Hall of Preserving Harmony
  - **Inner Court of the Forbidden City**: Hall for Emperor, Hall for Empress, Hall for Sacred Union. Populated by concubines, eunuchs and government officials, although officials lived outside the *Forbidden City*.
- 5) **Scholars' Gardens in Suzhou 1368-1644** (a southern city)
  - **Scholars' Gardens of Suzhou** can be defined as **informal, winding, serendipitous, surprising, seemingly random, picturesque, constantly changing, philosophical**.
  - Suzhou - a high level of independence from the rigor and control of Beijing due to:

- High level of education
- Strong merchant class
- Great wealth
- Subtle resistance to imperial authority
- The architecture of the Scholars' Gardens expressed this by the use of winding paths, changing views, garden follies, natural random elements, rock gardens. Garden pavilions called **ting pavilions** - rock arrangement called **tai hu**
- **Net Master's Garden** (smallest of the gardens) by **Wang Shi Yuan**  
13th - 18th century :: **as a fishing net assists in catching fish, words are often thought to assist in catching meaning....**
- **The Artless Administrator's Garden** (largest of the gardens) by Wang Xianchen c 1500 - self-deprecating concept that **gardening is the only form of administration suited to the artless.**
- A framed view is referred to in Chinese as a **borrowed landscape**
- Chinese word for landscape: **water + mountain**
- **Suzhou Gardens were precursor to English landscape and gardening tradition**  
**The English Landscape Gardening tradition of the 18th century** was based on constantly changing direction, informality and asymmetry, varying points of view and perspectives, chance discoveries, framed views, and charming exotic structures — the whole experience was to evoke philosophical thought and a connection to nature