

## 2020-10-09 - Lecture 20

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

#### 2) Song Dynasty 960-1279

- **Song Dynasty** - Architectural text: **Yingzao Fashi** c. 1100 (ying''-sow'-fash''-ee')

#### 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**.
- **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

- 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 **Kao Gong Ji** (Book of Rites) (cow''-gong''-gee')
- 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
  - 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 character for landscape: **water + mountain**
- **Suzhou Gardens were precursor to English landscape and gardening tradition**