

Resilience of Dwellings and the Creation of Livable Historical Residential Areas in China

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Publication date

2016

Document Version

Final published version

Citation (APA)

Zhu, K. (2016). *Resilience of Dwellings and the Creation of Livable Historical Residential Areas in China*. 187. Abstract from 17th IPHS Conference History-Urbanism-Resilience, Delft, Netherlands.

Important note

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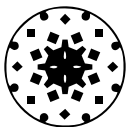
17th IPHS Conference ■ Delft 2016

HISTORY URBANISM RESILIENCE

VOLUME 02

The Urban Fabric

International Planning History Society Proceedings



17th IPHS Conference, Delft 2016 | **HISTORY ■ URBANISM ■ RESILIENCE**
VOLUME 02 The Urban Fabric

The International Planning History Society (IPHS) is dedicated to the enhancement of interdisciplinary studies in urban and regional planning history worldwide. The 17th IPHS Conference was held in Delft, The Netherlands, from July 17 to 21, 2016. The conference theme 'History – Urbanism – Resilience' inspired contributions investigating a broad range of topics in planning history: modernisation, cross-cultural exchange, and colonisation; urban morphology, comprehensive planning, and adaptive design; the modern history of urban, regional and environmental planning more generally; destruction, rebuilding, demographics, and policymaking as related to danger; and the challenges facing cities around the world in the modern era.

Convenor

Carola Hein, Chair, History of Architecture and Urban Planning, TU Delft

This series consists of seven volumes and one Book of Abstracts. The seven volumes follow the organisation of the conference in seven themes, each theme consisting of two tracks and each track consisting of eight panels of four or five presentations. Each presentation comprises an abstract and a peer-reviewed full paper, traceable online with a DOI number.

Editor

Carola Hein, TU Delft

Design

Sirene Ontwerpers, Rotterdam

Editorial Assistance and Layout

Phoebus Panigyrakis, TU Delft

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ISSN 2468-6948 (print)
ISSN 2468-6956 (online)
ISBN 978-94-92516-09-1



RESILIENCE OF DWELLINGS AND THE CREATION OF LIVEABLE HISTORICAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN CHINA

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There are numerous traditional residential buildings in China, but only in the last sixty years have academics studied historic dwellings. Currently, there are four metropolises, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen in mainland China, and with a number of unique traditional residential areas, such as Hutong, Linong, and Qilou. In 1928, due to Liang Sicheng's contribution, the first Department of Architecture in China was established and Western theories of conservation were introduced as well. However, due to the Chinese Cultural Revolution, preservation activities were interrupted in the 1950s. Also, beginning in the middle of the twentieth century, because of their ambition to develop the economy, Chinese elites attempted to expand their cities and transformed these places in response to the demands of urbanization. Despite learning from the experiences of other countries, an effective and harmonious development situation has not yet been established in China. The application of preservation concepts began again in the 1980s by the government; however, most contemporary architectural scholars have no clear knowledge about modern conservation theories. Even the researchers who have roots in this field might not appropriately explain and apply these theories in practice. From 1997 to 2008, some residential areas were preserved and listed as World Heritage Sites, such as the Ancient City of Pingyao and the Old Town of Lijiang. All of these sites are located in rural or suburban areas. Comparatively, in urban areas, some inhabitants are suffering from poor living conditions in high-density neighbourhoods. Indeed, this has become a common phenomenon in China's cities. Development of modern cities is a process of capital operation. If residents who live in these historic dwellings or inhabitants who are affected by the circumstances and sites of those old buildings do not pay attention to protection issues of the traditional dwellings, then our common culture and history will eventually be eroded. The significance of protection lies not simply in displaying these historic residences, but in continually using sustainable renovation methods, and maintaining their own characteristics. Moreover, in the developing process, because of shortage of issues of funding, housing property and ambitions from governments and capitalists, attention to inhabitants' real lives in the remaining residences will not be seriously concerned. Accordingly, in this research, answering how to support the sustainable development of traditional residential areas will include an overview of the history of heritage, dwellings, and neighbourhood preservation, its shifting values, goals, tools, and techniques, and their influence on preservation activities over the last sixty years in China. First, this study will make an argument about the specific implications of the theories, principles and values of preservation and their changes. It will also analyze case studies—mainly in Shanghai, Pingyao and Yangzhou—to record and classify different obstacles in preserving processes and the sustainable development of historical dwellings. With these steps, this study aims to strike a balance between the preservation of historic dwelling structures and recreating approaches for continuous use in order to benefit both the economic growth in cities and inhabitants' lives in historical dwellings.

Keywords

Historic residences, Western heritage theories, Restoration and conservation theories, Interpretation problems, Sustainable development, Regulations, Local authority, Capital, Preservation activities, Liveable areas, Living balance