

## Renovation and Protection of Centenary Old Chinese Cities

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**Abstract:** The current space occupied by Chinese cities depends on the ancient buildings constructed in the past one hundred years. The historical blocks located in China have a great significance in modern society because the blocks predict the shapes and sizes of new constructions injected in the contemporary cities of China. The renovations and protections of some of the oldest streets in China focus on the historical blocks constructed earlier. The needs of matching the traditional designs and space allocation for buildings to the past neighborhood exposed its readers in mastering the history, geography, demography, the micro renewal tools, its significance, restoration, and transformative techniques encountered in changing the modern buildings neighboring Chinese centenary cities. Moreover, the proposal engages how the Chinese government dealt with the construction problems of the selected block. The comparisons explored by the essay displayed the characteristics of the transformation methods and the final results achieved during the renovation and protection of historic Chinese neighborhoods.

### 1. Introduction

The existence of some of the most beautiful and attractive buildings in China today is a replica of the past constructions done by ancient architects. Nevertheless, the space selection and fill up of major Chinese cities has been a story across the world. People are attracted to the buildings without understanding the histories associated with planning such features. The long durations of the past blocks constructed by Chinese contractors and engineers challenge the probabilities of acquiring the demanded answers to the disturbing questions. However, the incorporation of standard examples in the essay simplifies the concepts of relating the histories attached to old buildings in China. All the transformative methods adopted during the renovation and protection of the targeted urban centers are located through the conduction of research on specific historical blocks. Dongguan is among the oldest streets in China whose history is rich in Chinese cultures. The methods of constructions and interactions encountered during the past 100 eras have elevated to different levels but with the same customs. The paper seeks to answer the questions regarding how the historical Chinese blocks was constructed and how it has influenced the transformations witnessed in the city in the present days.

### 2. Background Statement

The background problem of the proposal is based on understanding the transformations undergone by Chinese cities in making changes in the traditional blocks constructed in the past centuries concerning the available modern drawings. The demands of matching the characteristics of the transformation method through the engagement of Dongguan historical block formulated the onset of understanding the problem at hand. Modern planners associate traditional designs in the renovation and protection of modern cities with less knowledge of the demographic and historical information regarding targeted constructions. The centenary old cities serves as an excellent example for the essay

readers' in relating Chinese cultures to modern structures and expansion of cities.

### **3. Research Question**

How did the Chinese government come up with the structure of centenary historical blocks? What factors influenced the positioning of the street in its current location? What were some of the transformations incurred during the modernization of the old Chinese streets? How did the people of China deal with the rising challenges during the construction of the site? What features do the past and modern historical blocks share in common?

### **4. Research Methods**

The data and information needed for the actualization of viable research depend on the nature of methods employed in gathering such facts. The proposal predicts the attainment of the research' s objectives through the incorporation of specific techniques during fact collection. First, direct observations will be encountered in modern Chinese cities regarding the economic stands and compared to the historical block development procedures and the costs incurred. Zhu (2019) highlighted that the objective of associating direct observation in the research would facilitate the comparison of economic stabilities in two different eras <sup>[1]</sup>. The changes in the financial sectors will be measured based on the past budgets presented by the responsible architects of those days. The information will have to be obtained from second-hand sources because some of the people associated with activities are already dead. A close comparison will be conducted based on the available images of the ancient buildings and roads across Chinese Streets and compared to the old pictures taken during the traditional days of the block's construction. The comparison will enhance researchers with information regarding the transition and innovation of modern buildings. Again, the method will facilitate the separation of unique features and characteristics of the old historical blocks both in the past and recent days. Interviews are also set to take the course during the conduction of the actual research. The question and answer meetings will be conducted to architects who participated in the construction of manual infrastructure and those engaged with the digital building of facilities within the Chinese city streets. The interviews are meant to guide learners in understanding the cultures of Chinese people regarding the planning process encountered during the development of street outlines.

### **5. Literature Review**

Dongguan is one of the oldest street in China whose history preserves the Chinese culture of building constructions. The city borders Pearl River, Huizhou, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou to the west, northwest, south, and north, respectively <sup>[2]</sup>. The location of the city today borrows the insights of mapping from the ancient periods. The existence of the modern buildings in the street never began in recent days but inherited the constructions of the ancient architects. The transformations encountered in the modernization of the paper contribute largely to certifying the demands of the research <sup>[3]</sup>. The region was formed due to the existence of severe battles within the street. The opium war is a good example that relates to the creation of the city. The destruction of seized opium facilitated the migration of individuals to the place during the 1830s. Upon the onset of the Second World War, the region acted as the base of guerilla resistance, and the outcomes of the war resulted in settlement of the Japanese. In 1985 Chinese-based city received a full city status after changing its routes from an agriculture-based region to an industrial-based hub for its citizens. The transformations in the economic activities carried within China formulated the onset of constructing historical blocks meant to retain and protect the Chinese construction cultures of buildings.

The geography of the oldest Chinese street is an exciting bit that exposes all the characteristics of the known historical blocks. The old city oldest Chinese city is located seventy-three miles away from the shoreline, and the region covered by urban centers approximates to thirty-one miles, fifty-six miles, forty-eight miles from Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Macau, respectively <sup>[4]</sup>. The physical characteristics and the geographical features of the Chinese centenary Streets enhance people to

identify the percentages of the region covered by water and lands. The area is primarily composed of natural resources originating from open ground. Thirty-five percent of the property has fully been developed. While the remaining seventy-five percent is still transforming to meet the objectives of the city's dream. Twenty-seven percent of the China-oriented cities are covered by water; thirteen percent is composed of arable land, while the remaining twenty-five percent is made up of land forests. The features associated with the geographical location of the ancient Chinese street expose the relationships between traditional and modern methods of developing cities. The current constructions within Chinese cities borrow several concepts from the past development tracks.

The demographic characteristics of centenary old cities display the population of individuals settling in such region. Gender, education qualifications, annual income rates, and economic activities conducted in the area can only be obtained through mastery of demography. The actual population of individuals who settled in the area in the last 100 years cannot be estimated accurately. However, with the changes in the climatic conditions, economic factors, modernization, and administration of the city, it is possible to shortlist the demographic qualities of the Chinese based street. The region has a density of 5110 per kilometer squared with a population of slightly over 8.6million by 2016.

The current situation of ancient Chinese Streets associates with the history behind its constructions. The people of Dalian were interested in experiencing different economic and cultural invasion among the Chinese occupants. The presence of traditional blocks in the region facilitated the meeting of the Dalian's either in the Xiaogang district or Dongguan. The purpose of the two meeting points was aimed at conserving the cultural practices and beliefs of the Chinese who existed in the early periods. With the changes in time, old Chinese cities contain several histories that unite the Dalian's. The people are reminded of their cultures, which were exhibited in the actual construction of the historical block. A characteristic feature of the building that emphasizes the Dalian's significance of the Chinas' historical building is the block glow that defines the vitality, diets, customs, and construction plans or Chinese-oriented structures. The backwardness in the appearance of the ancient historic blocks has influenced the development of new and modern houses along the oldest streets of China. Despite the mounting of new constructions along the centenary old streets in China, there is a connection between the contemporary and the ancient historical blocks. The problems associated with the development of the past blocks assist the research in analyzing how the old people dealt with the disturbing questions during and after the completion of significant buildings in Chinese environments. Unlike in the modern days, the traditional buildings constructed along Dongguan Street were occupied mainly by immigrant workers <sup>[5]</sup>. The aged people valued the cultures of China and were never interested in leaking the secrets to the migrant workers. The deals of constructions were done secretly and privately to avoid the leakage of construction procedures and materials used in building custom based blocks.

In the past, the purpose of Japanese Streets was objected to providing industrial and commercial services to the residents. Zhu (2016) stressed that the Chinese depended on the historic block in the provision of offices and houses to live <sup>[6]</sup>. A significant transformation occurred based on the application of micro-renewals in the renovation and protection of the street. It has been observed in the modern environments that the traditional block is used basically for the provision of residence to the occupants of the road. The unused space was put to work by building some extensions that currently serve the grown population of individuals. The economic conditions of modern Streets motivate the people living around the place to invest in actuarially based activities that protect the cultures of Chinese constructions of buildings. The development of the entire city has been achieved through the incorporation of cultural heritages encountered in the creation of modern houses among the oldest cities of China.

The construction of the historical Streets came up with several challenges. However, the skills, expertise, and knowledge of the engineers employed to complete the plotting of the region facilitated the realization of the actual paperwork. The hostility witnessed within the sector during the development of the identified place was managed by hired police officers <sup>[7]</sup>. The central government of China deployed law enforcement officers who supervised and monitored the operation of casual workers alongside the hue population mixed with citizens and immigrants. The punishment laid on suspects drove fear to persons who intended to disrupt the processes of construction. The concerns of

cultural preservation were also controlled through the engagement of local Chinese in the development of historical blocks within old cities like Dongguan Street. The association of custom prone individuals facilitated the speed up of buildings due to the availability of manpower equipped with the right information regarding the Chinese cultures and values. The backwardness in the calculation of building measurement on the manual basis was also a crucial factor witnessed as a challenge during the setup of Chinese Streets. The lack of automated machines or rather the less supply of devices utilized in the construction of buildings lowered the speed by which the old streets were set up. Nonetheless, the cooperation of communities in the participation of such activities was one particular way of handling the challenge.

The restoration and renovation of the old cities into modern-looking urban centers is a significant factor that must be prioritized during the research. The proposal provides its audience with equipped information regarding the changes made from the ancient periods to modern times. Before settling at mastering some of the crucial changes made throughout the old Chinese cities in the past one hundred years, it is essential to accept the transition that has occurred like materials and processes of construction. Unlike in the past, technology has increased the rates of work completion and predictability of block buildings. A large number of the oldest towns in China were constructed based on the cultures and customs of the Chinese people. No strangers were accepted to participate in the construction of historical blocks based on the privacy of the people of China in sharing their construction cultures. Low populated China in the past 100 years faced several labor challenges and better techniques of plotting or drawing of historical blocks. However, the exposure of a few people of China in the modern world to actuarial science and engineering answers the question regarding the transformation of the street constructed in China.

Architecture and actuarial science are linked to productive construction and prediction of block buildings. The few changes noted in the modern developments concerning the appearance of such structures are tied behind the adoption of architecture and actuarial science. The traditional contractors and labor consisted of blacksmiths who depended solely on observation in the acquisition of skills and experience of constructions. The history of centenary historical blocks in China lies in the conservation of the materials and procedures adopted during the actual development of the isolated cities. The renovation of the pre-existing blocks depends on the drawings linked to such installations in the past ages. The layout of the old towns must be retained to assist in the conservation of Chinese cultures. The materials used in the renovation of historical blocks leans on the ancient outlook of the raw materials adopted during the initial planning of constructions. However, the involvement of new technology, labor, and calculations are accepted during the process. Suzuki et al. (2013) highlighted that the introduction of 3D, 4D, and 5D diagrams in the early stages of construction among the Chinese oldest cities marked the onset of listing the transformations encountered in the present days <sup>[8]</sup>. The decorations done in the current towns through paintings have also contributed positively to the renovations of old centenary cities of China. In the past, water paints dominated the market, and most buildings were decorated with paints that faded fast. Modernization has facilitated the innovation of oil paints of various color ranges. The contemporary buildings are decorated using oil paints that last and boosts the physic of historical blocks. Tourists visit the old centenary buildings of China based on the natures of transformations developed to the neighborhoods of targeted streets.

The conservation or protection of the old centenary cities of China lengthens the existence of historical blocks and the prestige matched to such buildings. The visitation of such streets frequently equips people with traditional information associated with the significance of such structures during modern ways. According to Bank et al. (2018), children and a large percentage of adults were not present during the initial constructions of the Chinese historical blocks <sup>[9]</sup>. Still, with the existence of materials and images of the ancient blocks, it is easier to convince people about the presence of such features. The functions of the historical blocks both in the past and modern ages expose the reasons for the conservation of the historic centenary old cities in China. The writings regarding the construction of the past buildings are located within the renovated facilities to act like a preference for weighing the differences in the approaches of developments.

## 6. Results

The proposal acknowledged the existence of centenary historical blocks in China. Further, the significance of such constructions was highlighted in providing homes and workspaces for individuals surrounding the environments of some of the oldest cities in China. The calls from the general public regarding the states of the past historical blocks facilitated the engagement of modernization China. The dates or time limits encountered in the renovation and conservation of historic neighborhoods in China concentrated on the last 100 years. The participation of long-time limits in the comparison of the appearances of the Chinese oldest cities facilitated the realization of substantial changes witnessed in the construction procedures and process of such buildings (Du et al., 2012). Modern constructions showcased the differences in the foundation of a specific structure. The concepts of actuarial science and architecture marked the beginning of mastering the changes done to the oldest cities of China.

The transformation methods encountered in the renovation of the centenary old streets of China lay purely of technology and innovation of perfect and durable raw materials of house constructions. The transformation of water paints to oil paints is an example of a change that has affected the new looks of the ancient Chinese cities (Lintonbon, 2015). The use of machines in the construction of buildings has reduced the labor forces and manpower required in the development and renovation of old streets.

There were several challenges witnessed during both the construction and renovation of centenary historical blocks in China. However, the engagement of national governments in protecting the old neighborhoods and the people associated with the development facilitated the management of the rising issues.

In summary, the Chinese historical block is rich in history due to the cultural heritage and customs attached to the centenary buildings. The needs of understanding the transformations encountered in the renovation and protection of such buildings cornered the paper to organizing strategies and steps of answering the rising questions in connection to the research' s aims and objectives. The article highlighted the concepts of transformation and changes witnessed in the old centenary cities in comparison to the modern buildings existing. The isolation of transformational characteristics, manners of dealing with problems, conservation, and protection f old buildings constituted the significant parts of the essay.

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