China: Cities in Transition
(Chapter 5)

Discussion
How are Chinese cities different from American cities? Why?

Outline
- Traditional Chinese cities
- The socialist cities
- Transitional Cities

- What are the main characteristics of traditional Chinese cities?
- What are the main driving forces for the changes in Chinese cities?

Traditional Chinese cities
- Walled cities with courtyard houses
- Political/administrative centers with limited commercial functions
- Government buildings at the center, “market” and ceremonial buildings at the periphery

Traditional Cities
Traditional Cities

- Site: central position; near water
- Orientation: Precise alignment with the four direction; south as the favored direction
- Layout: square, symmetric and orderly
- Walls: city walls with three gates on each side
- Functional zones:
  - center devoted to administration;
  - commercial in the back;
  - ceremonial buildings on the side
- Size and scale gradation according to the rank of government officials
Courtyard Houses

Hall of Supreme Harmony
The central staircase was reserved for the Emperor. The incense burners would be smoking. We can see eighteen of them from here.

Courtyard Houses
Hutong

Raise the Red Lantern
- Elaborate courtyard houses
Ancient City: Ping Yao

What are the main characteristics of socialist Chinese cities?

The Socialist Cities

Symbolism of the central city

Figure 9.4. The final design of Tian An Men Square
Eternal Peace Boulevard

Socialist Cities
- Symbolism of the central city
- Producer City

- Lack of urbanism; utilitarian
- Cellular structure based on work-unit compound ("mini-society")
  - Work + residential space
  - Walking scale
  - Homogeneous neighborhoods

What are the main characteristics of today’s cities?
What are the main changes? Why?
Cities in Transition

- Specialization
  - Separation of residential and work function
  - Business centers
World's top urban planners envision new Beijing CBD. Here's what the designs for new CBD look like.

Beijing CBD

Downtown of Nanjing
Cities in Transition

- Specialization
- Land reform
  - Urban land owned by the State
  - Separation of ownership vs. lease right
  - Rent capitalization
  - More efficient land use
Cities in Transition
- Specialization
- Land reform
- Housing reform
  - Privatization
    - Public housing for sale
    - New private housing
    - Socio-spatial sorting
- Development zones and other specialized areas

Migrant Enclaves

Gated Communities

China’s “Silicon Valley” – Zhong guan cun
798 Art District in Beijing
Cities in Transition

- Specialization
- Land reform
- Housing reform
- Development zones, and other specialized areas
- Globalization:
  - Urban economy
  - Labor market: 150K Africans in Guangzhou
  - Urban culture
  - Foreign design of Chinese cities
One City, Nine Towns -- Shanghai

Shenzhen Tian’ebao – copy of an Italian town

Beijing airport terminal 3, by Norman Foster

Shanghai International Airport
National Stadium by Herzog and de Meuron (Swiss) -- Bird's Nest

Water Cube, by PTW Architects (Australia), Arup international engineering group, and two Chinese firms

CCTV new site by Rem Koolhaas

Guangzhou Tianhe: Citic plaza by DLN Architect & Engineer

Shanghai World Financial Center

Shanghai Jinmao Plaze SOM
Summary

- Traditional Chinese cities
  - Walled cities; symmetric layout; functional zones
  - Courtyard houses
- Socialist cities
  - Symbolism of city centers
  - "Producer city" – land use
  - Cellular urban structure – work-unit
- Cities in transition
  - Specialization/CBD
  - More efficient/intensive land use
  - Socio-spatial differentiation
  - Targeted development zones
  - Globalization