

Echoing the theme of this series - Anthropologists on the Road - a significant part of my now one-year-long Ph.D fieldwork quite literally takes place on the streets (roads) right in the heart of the old town of the coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong Province. My typical day "on the street" starts at around 6.30 in the morning when the clamour and noise of street vendors setting up their market stalls serves as an effective alarm clock. Minivans drive up the normally car-free street, door and window shutters are opened with great vigour; there is the noise of chickens and pigeons as



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馳,車門和百葉窗呯呯嘭嘭地打開;有人從 暗房裡提出一籠籠的雞鴿,惹來不斷的雞 啼和鴿叫;小販清洗和放置好桌子和魚缸, 準備放上所有要擺賣的東西。街市的氣味 從窗子透入我的小房間,這種獨有的氣味 和磚塊與灰泥一樣,是這條街道與生俱來 的。我迫自己離開被窩,提著水桶走下天井, 到和其他六十戶人家共用的公家水龍頭取 水。住在城市這一角的這些街中,我差點忘 了自己正身處一個擁有七百萬人口、正急速 發展的大都市。 they are taken out of dark storage rooms; tables and fish tanks are cleaned and placed in their right spots to be filled with a vast variety of goods waiting to be sold. Through the window, the penetrating odour of the wet market that is as inherent to this street as its bricks and mortar enters my small room. I force myself out of bed, grab a bucket and leave to go downstairs into the courtyard to fetch water from the communal tap that I share with around 60 other families. Life in the streets of this part of town often makes me forget that I am living in a sprawling metropolis of over seven million people.







青島以啤酒、海灘、美景、浪漫的歐 洲式建築聞名,當地開發商打出了「容得 下世界,放不下青島」這樣的廣告標語。 可是,青島還有這些景象全然不同的另 外一面,卻少有人知道,也少有宣傳品提 及, 説的是我正在居住的這種房子, 名叫 里院。每次跟其他人提起我住在這一區, 得到的回應大多如此:「噢,不是吧,你 怎能住在那種地方?那兒又髒又亂呢!」 或者 「那是最低層的人住的地方, 你要 小心,可能有危險。」對市政府和市區開 發商而言,里院是他們的一顆眼中釘,是 城市風景裡的一點瑕疵;普羅大眾在言 談之間,又認為里院居民的生活方式 [已 經和現代化的城市生活格格不入」。可 是近年來,里院似乎又重新在社會上得到 了一些關注。「北京有胡同,上海有里弄, 青島有里院。」一位青島的歷史學家語帶 自豪地對我說。里院被認為是青島獨有 的風景,許多「老城保育者」 把它視為青 島真正的遺產。在同一個城市裡,不同的 人對「里院」的標籤竟如此相異,看著他 們怎樣為里院賦予不同的意義,讓我覺得 有趣極了。這場討論的中心,其實隱藏著 一個很基本的問題:怎樣才算是好的城市 發展,而得益的又應該是誰?

Qingdao is famous for its beer, its beaches, its beautiful scenery, its romantic European architecture: "Dwell in Qingdao, experience the world" reads the slogan of a local urban developer. Quite contrary to this picturesque image and rarely mentioned in promotional material about Qingdao is the type of housing that I live in, the so-called Liyuan. Whenever I tell someone that I live in this part of the city, I am confronted with comments such as "oh no, how can you live there? It is so dirty and messy there!" Or "that is where the lowest people live, you have to be careful, it might be dangerous". For city government and urban developers, Liyuan represent a thorn in the flesh of the cityscape; in public discourse the lifestyle in Liyuan houses is commonly labelled as "incompatible with today's modern city life". At the same time, however, Liyuan have in recent vears gained guite some public attention, "Beijing has its Hutong, Shanghai its Lilong and Qingdao has its Liyuan", a local historian once told me with visible pride. Liyuan are considered unique to Qingdao and are celebrated by many "old town protectors" as truly local heritage. I have found it extremely fascinating to observe how different groups within the same city have tried to label and give meaning to Liyuan in very different ways. At the heart of this debate lies a very fundamental question: what is good urban development and who should benefit from it?





這幀二零零三年拍攝的青島老城區鳥瞰 圖,看起來像一幅抽象的藝術畫,當中有許 多不同形狀的「空心」(中空位置為天井)房 屋群,屋頂由紅磚砌成。這些房屋群就是里 院。不少里院呈完美的矩形, 有些則像中文字 的「凹」或「凸」 形狀, 有些是三角形甚至五角 形。從高空看,里院排列得整整齊齊;實際走 谁去的話,卻是由許多窄小通道和後巷構成 的巨大迷宫。籠統地説,里院有點像傳統中 國北方的四合院建築:房子同樣與外界相對 隔絕,院內同樣有巨大的公共空間。人們通過 細小的門口進入里院,門後有一堵 [影壁] 遮 擋。但和只有一層的四合院不同,里院的房子 都是兩至三層樓高,院子裡樓梯縱橫交錯,接 駁著上層房間外的舊式露天木走廊。里院外牆 向著大街的一面多開設了各種商店,而面向內 院的地下那層, 通常設有公家水龍頭和(半公 用的) 廁所。

Looking at a "bird's eye view" of the old city from 2003, an array of differently shaped courtvards whose contours are marked through red-tiled roofs lies before us looking like an abstract piece of art. Many Liyuan assume perfect rectangles, some appear in the shapes of the Chinese characters \square or \square , and others take on triangular or even pentagonal shapes. What looks like a neat and tidy grid of courtyards from above, actually turns into a maze of narrow pathways and back alleys on the ground. Livuan generally resemble the traditional northern Chinese Siheyuan in that they are relatively secluded from the outside but offer a large communal space within. One enters a Liyuan through a small opening that is often sheltered by means of a "screen wall". Unlike Siheyuan, Liyuan are two to three storeys high. Flights of stairs inside the courtyard give access to an open, traditionally wooden corridor that connects the rooms on the upper floors. The outside façades facing the street are often equipped with shop fronts. On the ground floor inside the courtyard we normally find a communal tap as well as a (semi-public) toilet.

里院院子裡的樓梯 Staircase inside Livuan courtvard





二零零三年的青島鳥瞰圖(圖片由金山提供)

'Bird's eve view" of Qingdao in 2003 (courtesy of Jin Shan)





大鮑島街道上的集市 Market street in Dabaodao



ANTHROPOLOGISTS ON THE ROAD

多年以來,里院一直在刻劃著青島 的城市形態,也代表著里院居民的一種 生活方式。一八九七年,早已意欲趁中 國內亂之際分一杯羹的德意志帝國政 府, 谁迫積弱的清廷割讓現時青島所在 的範圍予德國。中德簽訂了為期九十九 年的租約,德國得到青島後,開始將這 個中國東北城市打造成「德國的香港」 和一個「模範殖民地」。德國人很快便 將青島原來的漁村夷為平地,按照早已 劃好的藍圖,把城市極速建設起來。城 市空間由複雜的土地法規分配,清清楚 楚地分隔開德國人區和中國人區。德國 人住在南區海濱沿岸的豪華別墅,中國 人(替德國人打工的僕人除外)是不允 許在「德人區」 購買土地或居住, 他們 落戶在青島的西區與北區。和殖民地中 心只相隔一條「分隔帶」的華人市集區 大鮑島區,名稱來自本來位於該處的一 條村落。那時的青島經濟活動蓬勃,展 現了前所未見的繁榮景象,因而吸引了 來自全中國各地的移民湧入;位處城市 中心的大鮑島,自然成為最適官居住與 工作之處,大鮑島很快便擠滿了人。大鮑 島的街道本身規劃成網格狀,構成一塊 **塊差不多形狀的矩形土地,這些土地由** 來自中國各地以至德國的獨立商人、建 築師或市區開發商收購。及後在這些土 地上開展的建設, 令里院建築慢慢開始 形成。不過,里院並不是經過精心策劃 和設計的建築成果,它們的出現純屬歷 史的偶然。當時人們對商住空間有巨大 需求,加上德國殖民地總督府設下嚴格



Liyuan have for many years defined the morphology of Qingdao and with it also the life of its residents. In 1897, the German Imperial Government, long trying to participate in the scramble for China, forced the weakened Qing government to cede the area where today's Qingdao is located to the Germans. A 99-year lease was signed, enabling Germany to realise its plan of establishing a "German Hong Kong" and a "model colony" in north-eastern China. Within very little time, the previously existing fishing villages were razed and replaced by a city that had been meticulously planned on the drawing board. A sophisticated urban land law determined the spatial separation between the German and the Chinese areas within the city. While the colonisers dwelled in luxuriant villas along the south coast, the

ANTHROPOLOGISTS ON THE ROAD



規劃法,還有來自全國各地背景相異的移民匯聚 於此,更重要的還有當時的建築師和設計師都很 願意嘗試不同的建築風格和物料,這些因素加起 來,造就了里院的誕生。因此,里院的建築風格很 難界定,既有中國北方與南方的建築特色,又融合 了歐洲式建築的風味。在二十世紀,青島先後被德 國和日本佔領,亦曾為北洋政府接管,最後為國民 黨及現時的共產黨統治。在這期間,青島各區的 里院經歷了拆卸、重建、轉型、擴建、複製等等過 程;一九三零年代更是里院建築的高峰期,許多新 的里院在青島拔地而起。

現今的青島鳥瞰圖(圖片由金山提供) "Bird's eye view" of Qingdao today (courtesy of Jin Shan)



Chinese (except for servants to the Germans) were not allowed to purchase land or live in the "German town" and instead settled in the western and northern areas of the city. Just north of the colonial centre and only separated by a "hygienic belt", emerged the Chinese trading district Dabaodao, named after a village located there before. The vibrant and never-seen-before economic activity in the city attracted large numbers of migrants from all across China and so Dabaodao, being right in the heart of the city, became the most popular spot for living and working, soon bursting at the seams. The area had originally been designed as a grid of streets that formed more or less rectangular patches of land, which were purchased by individual businessmen, architects or urban developers from different regions in China and even some from Germany. It was the subsequent building activity here that brought about Liyuan houses. Their emergence, however, was more a historical accident than a result of conscious architectural planning and design. The enormous demand for dwellings that could offer commercial and residential space, the strict planning regulations imposed by the German colonial government, the blend of Chinese migrants coming from very different areas of the country and last but not least the architects' and designers' eagerness to experiment with different styles and materials created Liyuan houses. Their architectural styles are hence also very difficult to pinpoint, showing features of northern and southern Chinese but also of European construction types. Over the course of the 20th century, Qingdao was occupied by the Germans and the Japanese; it was also governed by the Beiyang Government, the KMT, and finally the CCP. During these times, Liyuan houses were demolished and rebuilt, transformed, extended and replicated in many areas of Qingdao. Especially the 1930s witnessed an incredible building boom and many new Liyuan houses emerged.



再看看近期拍攝的青島老城鳥瞰 圖,你馬上就會發覺,許多本來的里院 院子已經消失得無影無蹤。中國在上世 紀九十年代推行了一次徹底的城市土地 改革,從此允許商人購買土地投機,不少 里院就被拆卸改建為一幢幢的高樓。現 時剩下的里院主要集中在大鮑島,也就 是里院最初出現的地方。里院裡的生活 空間非常狹小,三人或以上的家庭擠在 小於十平方米的單位是很常見的。很多 現代化的生活設備,像中央暖氣、空調、 私家自來水、私家浴室和私家廚房,基 本上不會在里院裡找到。里院的業權關 係也異常複雜。里院本身是私人物業, 裡面的單位卻往往短租或長租予青島的 移民,他們有時又會再把它轉租給第三 方。許多住在同一個院子超過半世紀的 老人家,數目正逐步減少;仍然健在的 亦不願意遷出,一方面在經濟上無法負 擔,另一方面也難捨在里院生活的回憶, 寧可繼續抱擁這種已被現今城市人認為 是不合時宜的生活模式。



Looking at a "bird's eye view" of Qingdao's old town from today, one immediately recognises that the number of courtyards has been reduced significantly. As a result of the radical urban land reform in China in the late 1990s that allowed for land speculation, large patches of Liyuan have had to give way to high-rise housing blocks. The largest congregation of remaining Liyuan today can be found in Dabaodao, which happens to be the area where they first emerged. Living space inside Liyuan is extremely limited; it is common for families of three or more people to share a room of less than 10 sgm. Modern conveniences such as central heating, air-condition, in-house tap water, private bathroom or kitchen facilities hardly exist. Resident and ownership structures are complex. Rooms inside one Liyuan are predominantly privately owned, but often rented out to short- or long-term migrants who then sometimes sublet them to a third party. The number of elderly people who have been living in the same courtyard for more than half a century is steadily decreasing. Those who remain can either not afford to move out or are unwilling to do so, as they are trying to cling on to personal memories and a lifestyle that has been deemed unsuited to today's urban modernity.

里院內的一個房間 A room inside a Liyuan





現存載古老的里院之一 One of the oldest still remaining Liyuan

ANTHROPOLOGISTS ON THE ROAD

里院慢慢從城市湮滅是不爭的事實,當地 的歷史學家和「老城保育者」 們則在和時間洪 流競賽,他們出版書籍、在報章撰文、舉辦論 壇和相片展,只是為了教育青島的廣大民眾, 告訴他們里院在青島的歷史和文化價值。他 們要求保育里院,對里院開展認真和謹慎的研 究,保證能夠保存它們的真實面貌。市政府的 想法卻截然不同,他們認為這種樓宇和青島現 代化的「海濱都市」形象毫不匹配,因此計劃 把里院所在的區域發展成較高檔的「文化休閒 吧進駐。然而,由於這個項目不能保證在短期 內獲得回報,加上里院業權複雜、住戶不願遷 出, 今開發商缺乏投資興趣, 迫使項目暫時停 頓。現在,居民依然住在里院,繼續著他們慣 常的生活步伐,不清楚將來是否需要,或者何 年何月需要離開自己的家園。

As Liyuan are gradually disappearing from the city, local historians and "old town protectors" have been trying to educate the general public about the historical and cultural value of these houses to the city of Qingdao by publishing books, writing articles in newspapers or by organising forums and photo exhibitions. They call for the preservation of Liyuan, requesting careful and meticulous research to guarantee and maintain their authenticity. For the city government, on the other hand, these kinds of houses do not fit into the modern image that a coastal city like Qingdao is supposed to convey. So plans have been drawn up that envisage the neighbourhood to become a gentrified "cultural recreational area" with museums, small boutiques, cafés and bars lining the streets. But urban developers' reluctance to invest in a project that does not guarantee any immediate monetary return as well as complex ownership structures and residents' unwillingness to move has led to the stagnation of such projects. In the meantime, residents continue their lives in the Liyuan houses, uncertain as to whether and when they may have to move out.









在里院住了一整年的我,聽過居民親口述説的故事, 也親身體驗過他們的生活。我無意美化住在里院的生活, 那裡的生活條件惡劣是不爭的事實。但我可以肯定地説, 里院和它所在的社區大鮑島,依然維持著它非常基礎和 原始(而真實)的社會功能,就是為遷來這城市的人提供 方便廉宜的居住和工作空間,讓他們可賺錢謀生,並從事 各種小型的商業活動。可惜的是,雖然現時專家層面(包 括歷史學家和市區開發商)正進行各種討論,但他們各自 心目中未來重新發展後的大鮑島面貌,都大大忽視了居民 的這些需要。正當大家為尋求最堂皇或最可行的發展方 案而爭論不休的時候,卻沒有人想到要為居民補上廁所 缺了的一扇門,或是修理好那壞掉了的水龍頭呢! ※

> 相中可見當年華人區與歐洲人區的分界線,上半部份為大鮑島區, 下半部份是歐洲人區 (圖片由袁賓久提供) The former dividing line between the Chinese and the European town. Upper part of photo: Dabaodao; Lower part: European town. (courtesy of Yuan Binjiu)



Having lived in a Liyuan for one year, having listened to residents' stories, having shared their experiences, I am by no means trying to romanticise poor living conditions, but I am able to say that Liyuan houses and the neighbourhood, Dabaodao, are still maintaining a very fundamental and perhaps their original (authentic) function by providing convenient and inexpensive living and working space for people moving into the city to earn their livelihood and engage in a variety of small business activities. These needs are, unfortunately, largely neglected in the negotiations among experts (historians and urban planners alike) over what an entirely redeveloped Dabaodao could possibly look like. In searching for the grandest and most visible redevelopment solution, the little things such as putting in a missing toilet door or fixing a broken tap are being ignored. 😽