

To see PING SHAN as a whole, we can study the form of it.

However, like the project of powers of ten, if we zoom in into every individual building, we can study the building in four areas. The HABITATION, URBANIZATION, TECTONICS and TECHNICS.

Habitation

HABITATION is to study human life. When people gather in a house, their habits will become the culture of that family, or even affects the whole village. Therefore, it is essential for one to study the HABITATION in the past, present and future, thus a house can design to suit their needs. Daily examples like table and benches are illustrated below.

HABITATION is to concern the seating arrangement around a table, the shape of gathering around the table. Taking the eating habit as an example, there is a lot of differences between Chinese and Western culture. Chinese prefer to use round table while Western people uses square shaped or rectangle shaped table. This is related to the idea of family orientated in Chinese culture. They place food in the center of the table. Because of this habit, people share food from the same dishes. In Chinese words, it can be re-phrased as share the happiness and bitter together.

In PING SHAN, there is a lot of benches located in the streets and two stones which act as chairs in front of the ancestral halls. This allows people to gath-

the ancestral halls, the center of the village and chatting, spending their leisure time.

In fact, buildings are places for people to live, that is why human is the most important things to study.



Urbanization

URBANIZATION is a larger scale of HABITATION. To study HABITATION of a hut, one has to zoom into the details, the happening inside the hut. In the case of URBANIZATION, it is to zoom out of the hut and study all huts together as a whole. That is the city.

City is built by one house builds up another house. As a consequence, to study a hut is to study the environment. What have happen in the past to the surrounding? But how can we see a city?

A city can be destructed into layers and studied. There are 5 layers in the city, the part, edges, district, nodes and landmarks. By knowing these elements, the hut can build according to the environment. For example, it is not suitable to build a tall building in PING SHAN. This is because tall buildings represent importance. Ancestral hall is the most important building in PING SHAN, people have to strictly follow the rules.

Moreover, a building can use to explain some meaning. It is powerful. The ancestral hall is located in the center of the village. It represents it is the focus of the habitant. This affects how people build their houses.

URBANIZATION is to study the past and present city, and build up the future city.



Tectonics.

TECTONICS is composition. **HABITATION** considers what the space is used for. **URBANIZATION** concern with what exists in the past and present. **TECTONICS** discusses what the composition, how the parts are ordered, the arrangement. Light is an example of tectonics.

Let's take **PING SHAN** as an illustration. **TECTONICS** is to study the relationship between parts and whole. How the walls are ordered, hence the light and space could affect where the shadow, which affects the function of rooms.

Besides, light and space, proportion of objects also affects the composition of a room. In the study hall of **PING SHAN**, tectonics will investigate the size and the location of the pillar, how one pillar is related to another. This may affect the structure of the entire building.

TECTONICS is important in designing a hut. Taking light as an example, the location of windows will become significance. The height and size of windows will affect the shape and direction of the shadow. It has to be consistence with the habitation of people living in it. There should be sufficient amount of light shining on to the working location in the house.

TECTONICS and **HABITATION** is inter-related.



HABITATION, **URBANIZATION**, **TECTONICS** and **TECHNICS** are the four aspects of consideration in design the form of a hut. Without paying attention to them, the hut will become meaningless. No people want to live in a meaningless hut.

Technics

TECHNICS focus on two parts, the materiality and method.

Materials

Quality and appearance of materials matter.

Different material has different quality and characteristics. For example, most buildings in **PING SHAN** use concrete and bricks to construct. This is because concrete and bricks are not easy to break, using them to build walls enables the house to resist strong wind and not collapse.

Besides the characteristics, the appearance of materials is also a factor. **PAVILION** in **BARCELONA** has made good use of material. Mies van der Rohe has used different kind of marble to make walls. Reflective character and the use of the different color make the whole building become an art. Every building could have both practical use and at the same time, being an art.

Method

One could look at the joint in order to study the method of technics, the way of how the building is anchorage on the ground and how the beams and column are linked. The **TECHNICS** that the Chinese used to build the ancestral hall in **PING SHAN** are appreciated. Without using any nail, the beam and column are cut to fit one another exactly.

TECHNICS is actually a kind of art. The method used and the material used could reflect how clever the designer is.

