Chinese Vernacular Dwellings

China has one of the most ancient civilizations in the world, occupying a vast territorial expanse. This has led to great diversification in Chinese vernacular dwellings, rarely seen in the architecture of the world and reflecting a wide variety of different natural and cultural environments. In this illustrated introduction, Shan Deqi explores a representative selection of traditional Chinese dwellings, considering their architecture and environmental setting, and the lifestyles and customs of the people who inhabit these distinctive homes.
Introductions to Chinese Culture

The thirty volumes in the Introductions to Chinese Culture series provide accessible overviews of particular aspects of Chinese culture written by a noted expert in the field concerned. The topics covered range from architecture to archaeology, from mythology and music to martial arts. Each volume is lavishly illustrated in full color and will appeal to students requiring an introductory survey of the subject, as well as to more general readers.
Shan Deqi

Chinese Vernacular Dwellings
Contents

Introduction  1

Beijing Quadrangle Courtyards  19
  — Imposing Dwellings and Spacious Courtyards  21
  — Knock at the Door  26
  — Floral-Pendant Gates  29
  — A Place of Unique Beauty  31

Huizhou Dwellings  35
  — Hongcun: A Village of Rivers and Lakes  36
  — Xidi: A Land of Peach Blossoms  39
  — Patios and Horse-Head Walls  41
  — Colleges and Memorial Archways  43
  — Three Kinds of Carving and Gardens  47
  — Business and Culture  49

Shaoxing Riverside Dwellings  53
  — Three-Thousand_Taimens  55
  — Small Bridges and Flowing Streams  60
  — “Stage for All Ages” Close to Water  64
  — Ancient Heritages and Secluded Places  67

Minxi Clay Buildings  71
  — Hakkas’ Homeland  72
  — A Glimpse of Clay Building  74
  — Tracing Back to the Source  83
  — Human Affection and Reason  85
Architectural Novelty in the Homeland of the Overseas Chinese  89
   Towering Watchtower   91
   Zigzag Arcade-houses   95
   Ancestral Temples     99

Ganlan Wood House and Storm-Tossed Bridge  107
   A Tour of Wood-House Village  108
   Singing at the Chengyang Bridge  112
   Drum Tower and Lusheng Column  115
   Ganlan Wood Houses  117
   Fire Pit  121

Ancient Lijiang Streets  123
   Ancient City  124
   A City Surrounded by Spring Water  126
   Three Terrace Houses with One Screen Wall  131

Tibetan Watchtowers  137
   A Long History  139
   Colorful Forms of Tibetan Vernacular Dwellings  141
   A Land of Bon and Buddhism  149
   Homeland Developing with Heaven and Earth  153
   A Living Picture Full of Grandeur  157

Appendix: Chronological Table of the Chinese Dynasties  159