

**MEI QING**

**Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Department of Architecture, Tongji University, Shanghai & Consultant Expert, WHITRAPUNESCO Shanghai, China**



Mei Qing is a professor of architectural history and architectural conservation in the department of architecture at Tongji University of China, an Expert Committee member of ICOMOS ISC SBH, and a consultant expert in world heritage institute of training and research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (Shanghai) under the auspices of UNESCO. Mei received her Ph.D. from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her academic interests focus on overseas Chinese architecture—particular Chinese building types: garden, temple, and huiguan. These types were transmitted from China to Southeast Asian countries along the maritime Silk Road. She has received Excellent Teaching Awards, Overseas Chinese Research Awards, China Post Doctor Award, Pujiang Talents Award, George R. Collins Award from SAH, and J. Paul Getty Trust's GRI Connecting Art History Award 2013-2014. In recent years, Mei has taught architectural history and heritage, conservation and design studio. She has established close connections with ARC, ICOMOS, WHC UNESCO as well as universities, research organizations and institutes.

***Quanzhou/Zayton (718-1549): Land Marking the Rise and Fall of a City Port through History***

As one of the starting point of the Maritime Silk Road in China, Quanzhou/Zayton city had layers of history from year 718 to 1549 that experienced up and down. Architecturally the city took different forms from mixed cultural practices influenced by trades, religions, immigrants, central empire and multi-social factors. The traffic along the sea and ocean was the main driving power that made the city rise in history. The openness of the city set up a solid foundation for its architecture built with various styles and international characteristics. Walking through the city from Tang dynasty (618-907) to Ming dynasty (1368-1644), the architectural remains and their histories inspired a vivid imagination of the city. Meanwhile the wonderful Travelogues of most noted travellers, such as Jacob d'Ancona (), Marco Polo (1254-1324), Friar Odoric (1265-1331), and Ibn Battuta (1304-68/9) from Song dynasty (960-1279) to Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) introduced Zayton to the world as a noble and bright city, comparable with Alexandria. The Admiral Zheng He (1371-1433)'s seven voyages in Ming dynasty (1405-1433) presented an encounter between one of Fujian most influenced Quanzhou/Zayton culture and southeast Asia undergoing profound change and adjustment between the East and the West, especially the Malacca straits.

Bridging landmark architectural history and the growing interdisciplinary field of urban studies, this talk will critically examine three central questions: what caused Quanzhou/Zayton prosperously known to the world? How did foreigners and their cultures impact the city and its architecture? And how and why did the city experience decline since 1549 in Ming Jiajing reign? Public also write the past, and broadcast history program in the contemporary mass medium reusing architectural heritage.

Local historians explore the historical significance of particular lives or buildings. As a part of public history, heritage industry and its practitioners disseminate forms of history via conducting guided tours of architectural heritage. Based on descriptions in travelogues, books, photos, letters, and maps, the talk primarily concerns the historic city' past narratives through decoding the images of landmark buildings of heritage. The related analysis aims at re-building on inter-cultural relations between China and the West via Maritime Sea Road and its study.

The reasons for the rise and fall of Quanzhou as a maritime hub came from inside and outside. On the one hand, the block of the silk route on the land turned the international traffic to the sea that made Quanzhou rise to be the biggest international port city in the East comparable to Alexandra. On the other, the influences from the sea, especially the colour eyes people's rebellion at the end of Yuan dynasty inside Quanzhou, and the Japanese invasion to the southeast coast of China in the Ming dynasty, emperors changed the policy to overseas relation. Quanzhou's international trade lost its foundation because of the close of overseas trade department that made the maritime hub decline.

