Abstract

In our modern society where our environment is increasingly governed by secular concerns, most of the in-depth meaning in our spaces are lost. With advancing economy and technology, man has alienated himself from the natural world and from his inner self. Ignoring tradition, man has altered the land without understanding its origin. By analyzing the underlying cosmic origins of city planning within the Chinese culture, this dissertation attempts to show that the ancient urban landscape and structures of the Chinese civilization is based on traditional cosmological model.

Analyzing first the traditional Chinese philosophy and psyche, dominant Chinese values are addressed and examined. Precedent studies are then made, first in Chinese classical texts and how they are actually realized or modified in the history of Chinese cities. Finally, an in-depth study of Beijing serves to determine its structure and the underlying meaning and basis of design.

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