



Monthly Commentary

Beijing has entered the hottest season of the year. Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center sends you our summer greetings.

In this issue of Heritage Update, you can get a picture of our work method from the article series regarding the protection of two famous architects' former residence. CHP uses laws and regulations and media as our "weapons", to make suggestions to authorities legally and rationally, and bring pressure upon them to act accordingly.

The former residence escaped from the fate of destruction because of our and other media and friends' efforts. The wrecked ruins are now more than the famous architects' residence. It is a milestone of China's forming civil society.

Moreover, you can follow up on our "Congjiang Archive" project by reading the project update by Wang Xiaowang, the project officer.

Our passion for cultural heritage protection resembles the summer weather in Beijing: **hot hot hot!** We hope that you can continue to support us in different ways, and join us on this fruitful journey of cultural heritage protection.

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

Articles

The Beijing Cultural Heritage Department Permits Destruction of Former Residences of Famous Architects (July 13, 2009)

Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin were two of the most famous Chinese architects of the 20th Century. They designed the national emblem and the Monument to the People's Heroes. The highest award in China for architectural design is also named after Liang Sicheng.

Liang and Lin lived in 24 Beizongbu Hutong for over six years.

About two years ago, a real estate development company finally was granted the permit to demolish the area. Currently, Number 24 is merely a vestige of its former self, one step away from ceasing to exist entirely. [Origin of the Destruction](#)

What makes this crime especially revolting is the complete lack of concern the Cultural Heritage Department has shown toward the residence of such architectural luminaries. [Full Text of CHP Commentary](#)

After the CHP commentary was posted on the website, it was quoted by [Yanzhao Metro News](#), [Jingpin Shopping Guide](#), and other websites and media, and has evoked public attention. The incident have been further criticized and reported by media such as [Guangming Daily](#) and [Scholar](#).

It is fortunate that after our revealing of the incident and other media coverage the demolition of the former residence of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin incited strong public opposition. The public attention and criticism, especially those towards Beijing Cultural Heritage Department, have become the most visible cultural

phenomenon in the past couple of weeks. To our relief, the citizens' voice has been heard and started to take effect. [The residence is to be preserved. Click here to read the update](#)

Project Updates

Congjiang Archives

Local Coordinator of Congjiang Archives Visits Beijing

Congjiang Archives aims to mobilize the villagers to discover ways to modernize based on their valued traditions; to enhance cultural sensitivity in order to facilitate the development of ethnic minority areas, to emphasize the necessity of anthropological diversity to the humanity, just as that of bio-diversity to nature.

Mr. Liang Quankang, the local coordinator of Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP)'s Congjiang Archives Project, visited Beijing from July 16th to 23rd, 2009. During the stay, he exchanged ideas and thoughts with CHP staff regarding the project and other subjects. [Read more](#)

Congjiang Archives Seminar

On the afternoon of July 22, CHP held a seminar of Congjiang Archives in the office. Reporters from Sanlian Life Weekly, National Geographic, other media and other interested participants gathered together to learn the progress of and discuss the project.

Announcements

- [Heritage Bumper Stickers Giveaway!](#)
- [Get Your Copy of a Free Map Marking Heritage Sites in Beijing](#)
- [Please support us by becoming a volunteer or making a donation.](#)