



## Monthly Commentary

Springtime only briefly visited Beijing this year, with the warm summer weather having already arrived. CHP is looking forward to long summer months full of activity and exciting events focusing attention onto cultural heritage protection in China.

Although the Mengma Archive project concluded in 2008, CHP's work in Menglian continues. The Dai-Menglian ethnic minority's unique textile techniques are highly valuable. Through our newly launched [Menglian Weaving Revival Project](#), CHP is assisting local villagers to revitalize their traditional weaving and preserving their cultural heritage, while also increasing the economical value of their local handicrafts.

In the article [To become a world city](#), Beijing must protect its heritage, an important question is raised: how can Beijing successfully transform into a world city? Beijing can successfully reach world city standard only if the authorities understand, respect, and appreciate their own cultural heritage. Beijing should learn from established international cities on how they have balanced the quest for dynamic modernity with preservation of their cultural roots. If Beijing destroys its old city and its architectural heritage, it will only be a bland and functional imitation of foreign cities.

For CHP's ongoing Congjiang Archive Project, we are already halfway through the three-year project. [At the recent Congjiang Cultural Mapping: Tapping the Cultural Momentum of Community Development lecture](#) at UCCA, Congjiang Archive Project Director Wang Xiaowang gave a detailed overview of the project, including victories, problems, and challenges. This allowed the audience to learn more about cultural diversity and the importance of ethnic minority cultural heritage preservation.

Since July 2009, which marked the beginning of the demolition threat to Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin's former residence, almost a year has gone by. In this past year, the public has displayed a strong interest in protecting the residence. On 9 May, CHP conducted a public talk at UCCA: [Former Residence of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin Protection: The Power of Public Participation](#).

[Capital Conversations: Vanishing Beijing – Why Preservation Matters](#) took place on a special Sunday afternoon at Capital M Restaurant. Around a hundred old and new, Chinese and foreign, CHP supporters attended to learn more about and discuss cultural heritage preservation – one of hottest topics in Beijing. All proceeds went to CHP and our [Cultural Action Network \(CAN\) Project](#).

In June, CHP held its last lecture of the Rebirth of Folk Art: CHP-UCCA Cooperation Series. The 2008 Sichuan Earthquake not only destroyed A'er Village of Wenchuan County in Sichuan, it also disrupted the thousand-year long cultural traditions of the Qiang minority in the area. In this lecture, volunteers of the A'er Village Qiang Minority Cultural Revitalization Project discussed the project's development in detail.

If you couldn't attend Capital Conversations in May, don't worry as we have another exciting event coming up on 17 July at Three Shadows Photography Art Centre. [Do You Hutong?](#) is an innovative fundraiser hosted by CHP, and will blend cultural heritage, art, dialogue and interpretation to create a fun and informative event in support of preserving priceless pieces of China's past. It will feature a multi-media cocktail party including original art, live

music, photography, and interactive dialogue. The centerpiece of the event is a silent auction of distinctively designed courtyard gates by more than 20 artists and designers, both local and foreign. [Click here](#) for more details!

## Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

### Articles

#### To become a world city, Beijing must protect its heritage

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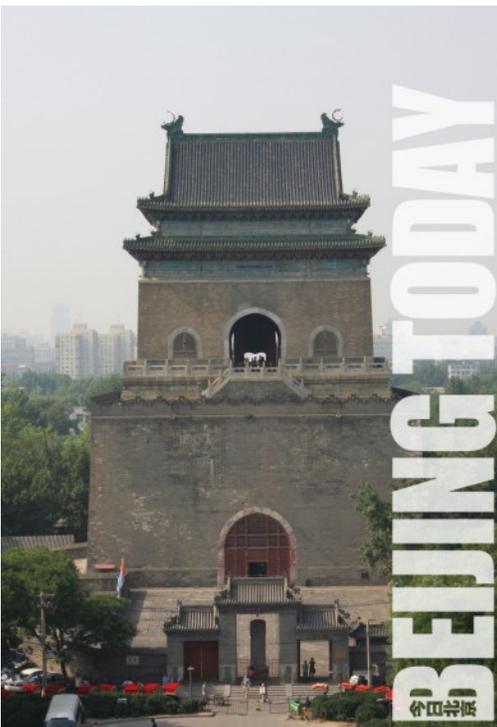
As Beijing continues its rapid growth, China's capital is starting to become associated with the term 'world city'. In March 2010, speakers at the International Forum on the Development of World Cities raised two concepts about Beijing and becoming a world city.

1. Beijing will be a world city by 2030 (LianYuming, Head of International Institute for Urban Development – Beijing)
2. Beijing needs to construct more landmark structures like New York's Empire State Building to become a world city (Long Yongtu, General Secretary of Bo' Ao Forum for Asia).

[Read more](#)

#### Beijing in danger of losing itself

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#### Letter from Shanghai

In our modern global village, the World Expo may be losing its appeal for audiences that don't necessarily need to see the world's latest inventions or trends. But it is still an effective and concrete way for people to congregate, to get to know each other and brainstorm. This year it's about urban life.

A country becomes "urban" when more than half of its population lives in the cities. China has almost realized that – from 17 percent in 1978 to 46 percent in 2008.

People enjoy advantages and suffer disadvantages during urban development. The problem's causes may be the same, but the solutions differ. During the expo period, our reporters will touch on the hottest topics at the world fair, find common cases and solutions and record their observations in this series titled "Letter from Shanghai."

[Read more](#)

## Project Updates

### Menglian Initial Survey Trip Report



From 30 April to 5 May, CHP representatives He Shuzhong and Napatra Charassuvichakanich, and local project consultant Turdsak, visited Menglian County to conduct an initial field survey for the Menglian Weaving Revival Project. This project is the second phase of the Mengma Revitalization Project.

The project team identified existing weaving conditions and learned about existing weaving techniques that have been passed down for generations.

[Read more](#)

## CHP events summary

### CHP-UCCA Lecture Series | Former Residence of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin Protection: The Power of Public Participation

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#### Protecting the Former Residence of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin – The Power of Public Participation



It was a sweltering hot day in July of 2009 when we heard the shocking news that the former residence of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin was about to be demolished. Thanks to efforts from many sectors, in November of 2009 the former residence of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin was named an immovable cultural relic for preservation. Summer is here again and, in what feels like the blink of an eye, almost a year has passed. But, worryingly, the follow-up preservation work for the residence is still yet to begin.

[Read more](#)

#### Capital Conversations: Vanishing Beijing – Why Preservation Matters



On the afternoon of 23 May, nearly 100 passionate Beijingers gathered to listen to and participate in an absorbing roundtable discussion about cultural heritage preservation, hosted by the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP).

There was a buzz around the sold out event, and the afternoon lived up to expectations with people leaving with a better understanding of cultural heritage preservation in China. [Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events

## Do You Hutong?



## Do You Hutong?

## 看! 胡同

Join one of the most innovative and exciting fundraising events this summer featuring a collection of distinctive courtyard gate artwork exclusively created by local artists and designers.

[www.doyouhutong.com](http://www.doyouhutong.com)

Advance ticket: RMB150 | At door: RMB200

7:00pm-11:00pm Saturday, 17 July, 2010

Three Shadows Photography Art Centre @ 155 Caochangdi  
Advance ticket sales at CHP, 46 Fangjia Hutong or the NLGX Design Store, 33 Nanluoguxiang

This is a private event. To register or for more information:  
6403 6532 or [events.chp@gmail.com](mailto:events.chp@gmail.com)

To benefit Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP)

Corporate sponsors



这个夏天, CHP邀您参加本年度最具影响力、最激动人心的宣传活! 我们将为您提供来自20余位本地和国外艺术家、设计师专属设计和创作的胡同院门艺术作品展。

[www.doyouhutong.com](http://www.doyouhutong.com)

预售: 150元 | 现场购买: 200元

2010年7月17日(周六) 19:00-23:00

三影堂摄影艺术中心(草厂胡同155号)  
购票地址: 方家胡同46号E309 CHP办公室 或  
南锣鼓巷33号NLGX商店。

本次活动持票入场。预订: [events.chp@gmail.com](mailto:events.chp@gmail.com) 或  
6403 6532

全部收入将用来支持北京文化遗产保护中心(CHP)工作

In partnership with



了解|尊重|保护  
Understand | Respect | Protect

19:00-23:00 | Saturday, 17 July 2010

Three Shadows Photography Art Centre

Advance ticket: RMB150 | At door: RMB200.

Ticket includes an inaugural CHP annual membership.

Hutongs. Heritage. Cocktails. Original Art. Silent Auction. Live Music.

One of the most anticipated events of Beijing's 2010 summer is nearly here.

Do You Hutong? (看! 胡同) is an innovative fundraiser hosted by Chinese NGO, Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP), and will blend cultural heritage, art, dialogue and interpretation to create a fun and informative event in support of preserving priceless pieces of China's past.

[Read more](#)

## CHP Support

May 2010 donors:

Freda & Chris Murck (via Capital Conversations) | RMB1,000

The Deemer Family (via Capital Conversations) | USD1,500

Dr. Sally Borthwick | RMB5,000

## Media Mobilization

### CHP to feature in BBC World News documentary series this July

CHP and founder He Shuzhong will be featured in the BBC World News [Heritage Heroes](#) series this July! This seven part series tells the story of how, in the midst of the rush to modernize and expand our urban landscape, individuals, neighborhoods and organisations have managed to salvage a part of our endangered built inheritance. The Beijing episode will be shown on BBC World News on 24/07 @ 01.30, 08.30 GMT and 25/07 @ 14.30, 20.30 GMT. The full episode will be available on the Heritage Heroes website after this date.

[NBC] In Beijing, residents resist the wrecker's ball | June 18, 2010



BEIJING — At first, it looked like an earthquake had struck Laogucheng.

Piles of rubble from collapsed buildings, exposed rebar, shattered tiles and bricks, debris everywhere in Beijing's far western district of Shijingshan.

But this was no quake zone.

[Read more](#)

[Xinhua] [City planners urged to stop building look-alike cities with “identical faces”](#) | June 14, 2010

[Global Times] [Tomb raiders out of control](#) | June 8, 2010

[AFP] [He's battle to save China's classic architecture](#) | June 2, 2010

[Xinhua] [Qiang folks push past forward](#) | June 1, 2010

[China Daily] [Beating the drum for a city's preservation](#) | May 27, 2010

[The LA Times] [Wrecking ball looms in old style Beijing district](#) | May 27, 2010

[Global Times] [Panel pleads for city vision](#) | May 24, 2010

[USA Today] [Beijing bulldozes its old neighbourhoods](#) | May 24, 2010

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