

The Vernacular and our current Built-Environment: Part-I

by

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Contents

Subject statements	03
A. Kaleidoscopic review of the Vernacular	09
1. Middle East	
2. Greece	
3. Europe	
4. Southeast Asia	
5. Japan	
B. The Vernacular in Contemporary Interpretations	61
1. The vernacular and the architects	
2. Japan-1: Saitama	
3. Japan-2: Yakushima	
4. Japan-3: Okinawa	
Conclusion	99

Subject Statement

We architects have been busy with new concepts and issues, such as, sustainability, wise energy uses, resilience against natural disasters, computer technology in design and construction, personal safety, national security, social responsibilities, etc.

These issues are influenced by, and eventually form the universal norm of, the ever more connected world and become the "universal standards".

In the meantime, we, individual architects come from and/or are more familiar with his or her set of local culture, national identity, economy, legal system, social values, building materials, education system, and maybe peculiarity of lifestyle to a varying degree.

We have done much to introduce the universal standards to the local context. Is there anything we can learn from the Vernacular, and take it back to the universal of our current Built-Environment?

03

Vernacular Architecture

is an architectural quality that is designed based on local needs, availability of construction materials and reflecting local traditions.

At least originally, vernacular architecture did not use formally-schooled architects, but relied on the design skills and tradition of local builders.

However, since the late 19th century many professional architects have worked in this quality.

04

(Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Vernacular Architecture

can be contrasted against *polite architecture* which is characterized by quality elements of design intentionally incorporated for aesthetic purposes which go beyond a building's functional requirements.

This presentation also covers the term *traditional architecture*, which exists somewhere between the two extremes yet still is based upon authentic themes.

05

(Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Etymology

The term vernacular is derived from the Latin *vernaculus*, meaning "domestic, native, indigenous"; from *verna*, meaning "native slave" or "home-born slave".

The term is borrowed from linguistics, where vernacular refers to language use particular to a time, place or group.

In architecture, it refers to that type of architecture which is indigenous to a specific time or place (not imported or copied from elsewhere).

It is most often applied to residential buildings.

06

(Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Definitions

[The Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World](#) defines vernacular architecture as:

...comprising the dwellings and all other buildings of the people. Related to their environmental contexts and available resources they are customarily owner- or community-built, utilizing traditional technologies.

All forms of vernacular architecture are built to meet specific needs, accommodating the values, economies and ways of life of the cultures that produce them.

Vernacular architecture is a broad, grassroots concept which encompasses fields of architectural study including aboriginal, indigenous, ancestral, rural, and ethnic architecture and is contrasted with the more intellectual architecture called polite, formal, or academic architecture just as folk art is contrasted with fine art.

(Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

07

Ronald Brunskill has defined the vernacular architecture as:

...a building designed by an amateur without any training in design; the individual will have been guided by a series of conventions built up in his locality, paying little attention to what may be fashionable. The function of the building would be the dominant factor, aesthetic considerations, though present to some small degree, being quite minimal. Local materials would be used as a matter of course, other materials being chosen and imported quite exceptionally.

The vernacular architecture is not to be confused with so-called "traditional" architecture, though there are links between the two. Traditional architecture also includes buildings which bear elements of polite design: temples and palaces, for example, which normally would not be included under the rubric of "vernacular."

In architectural terms, 'the vernacular' can be contrasted with 'the polite', which is characterised by quality elements of design intentionally incorporated by a professional architect for aesthetic purposes which go beyond a building's functional requirements.

(Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

08

A. Kaleidoscopic Review of The Vernacular

1. Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Syria)
2. Greece
3. Europe (Italy, Germany, France, Holland)
4. Southeast Asia (Indonesia, China)
5. Japan

09

1.The Middle East

1-1. Saudi Arabia

- >Abha
- >Taif
- >Jeddah

1-2. Syria

- >Damascus



10

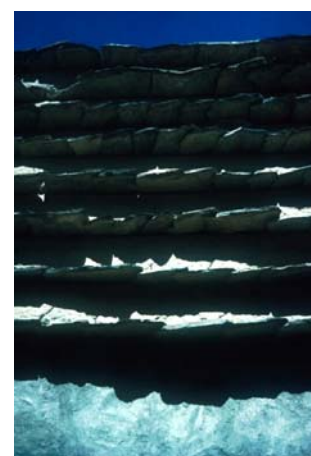
1-1. Saudi Arabia, Abha-1



11

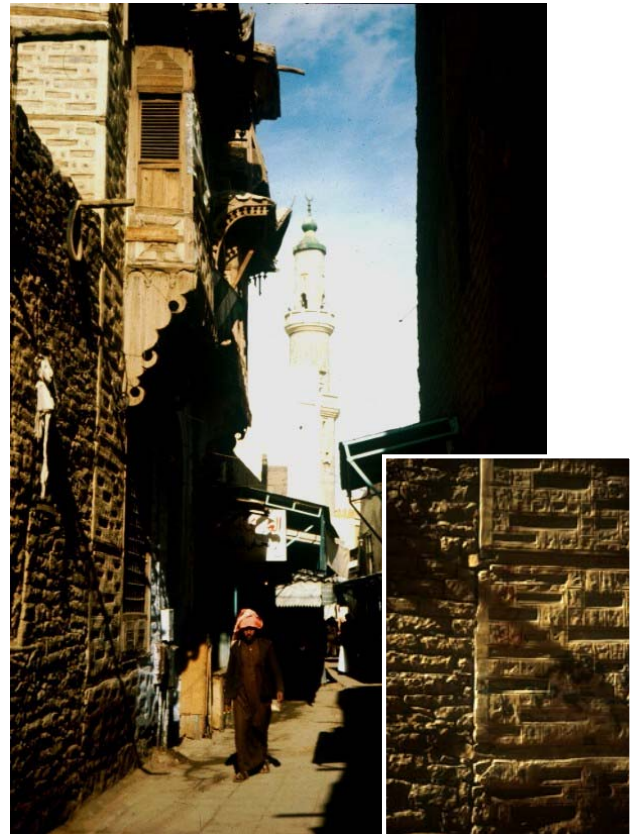
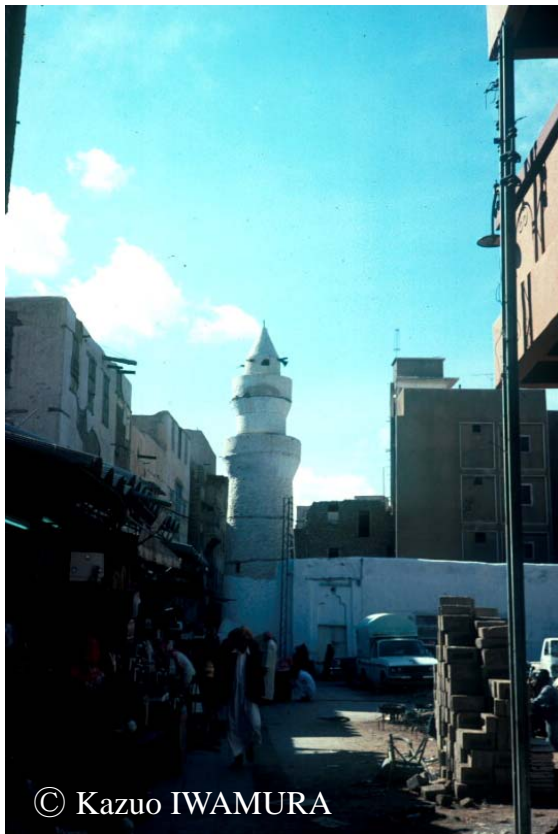
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1-1. Saudi Arabia, Abha-2

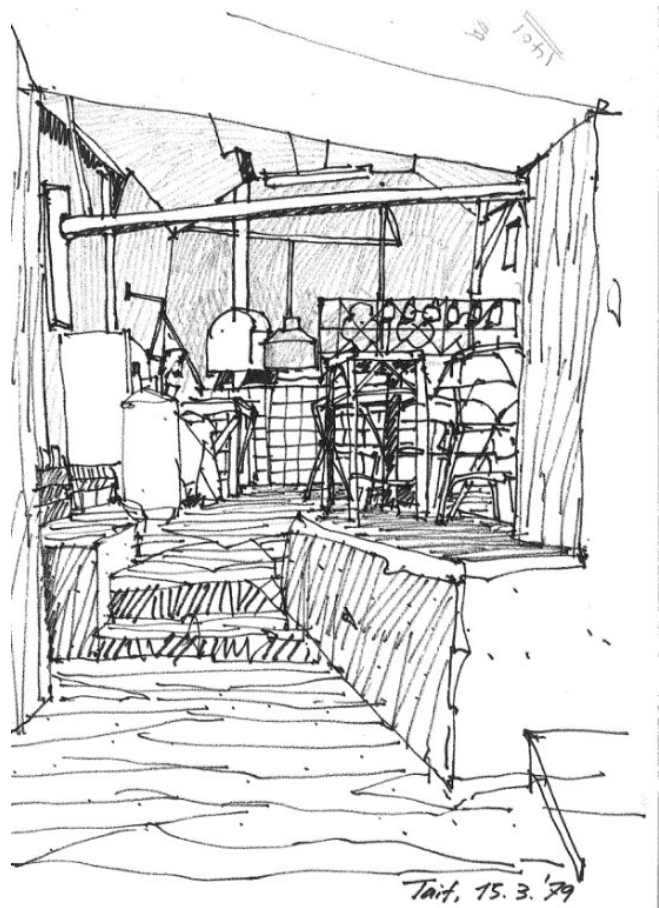


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1-1. Saudi Arabia, Taif-1



1-1. Saudi Arabia, Taif-2



1-1. Saudi Arabia, Jeddah



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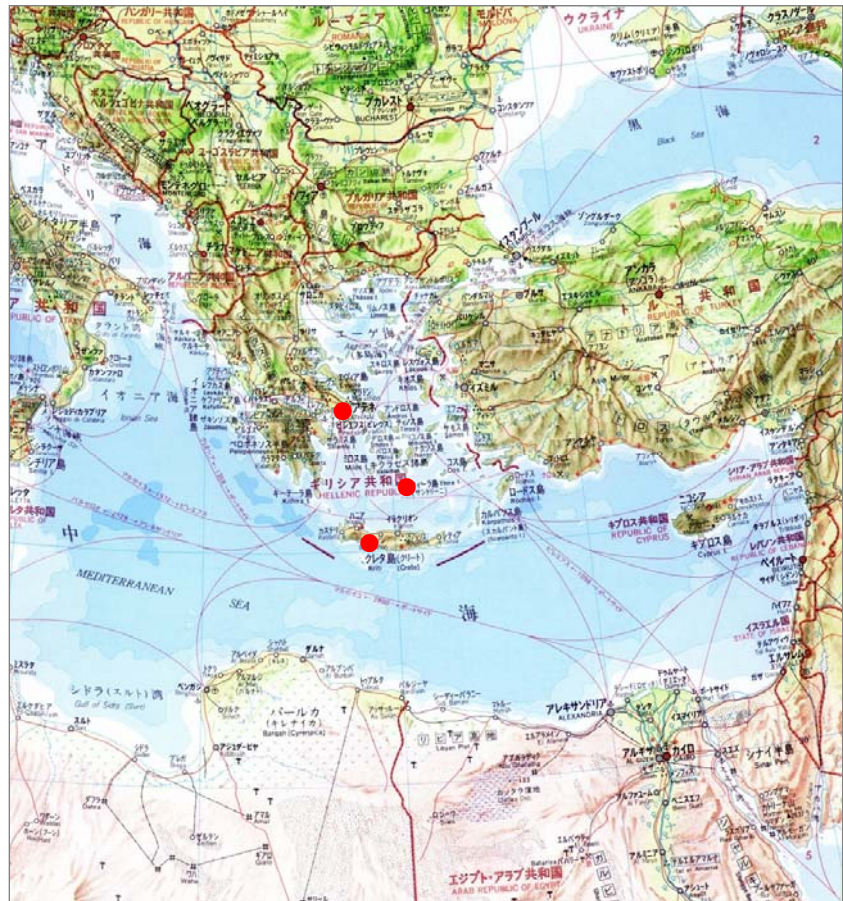
1-2. Syria, Damascus-2



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2. Greece

- >Crete
- >Skiatos
- >Santorini



17

2-1. Greece, Crete : DNA of vernacular village



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2-1. Greece, Skiatos



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2-1. Greece, Santorini



Iwamura

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3. Europe

- 3-1. Portugal
 - >Várzes Cova
- 3-2. Italy
 - >San Gimignano
 - >Venezia
 - >Firenze
- 3-3. Germany
 - >Unteramagau
 - >Goslar
 - >Jork
- 3-4. France
 - >Paris
- 3-5. Holland
 - >Delft



21

3-1. Portugal : Casa da Perda, @Várzes Cova, Fafe

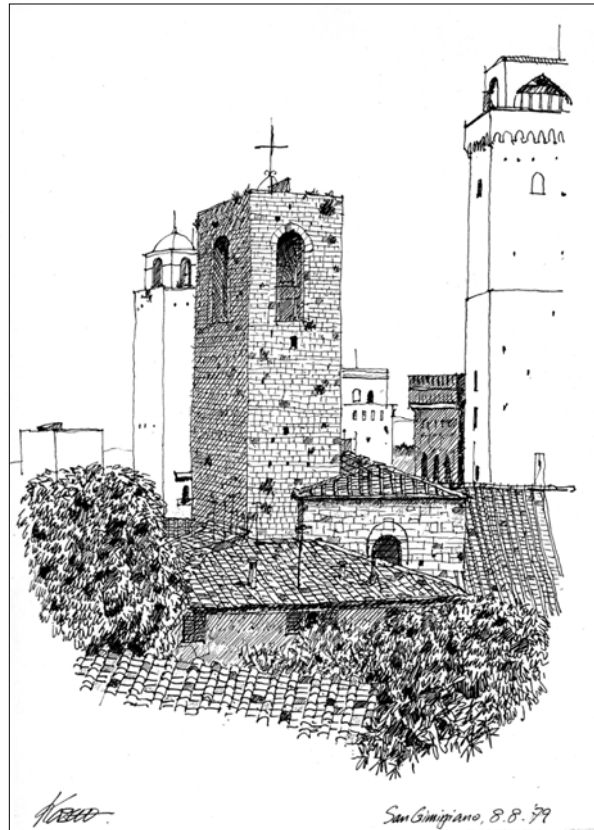


22

3-2. Italy, San Gimignano-1



San Gimignano. 9.8.79



San Gimignano. 8.8.79

23

3-2. Italy, San Gimignano-2



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3-2. Italy, Venezia-1



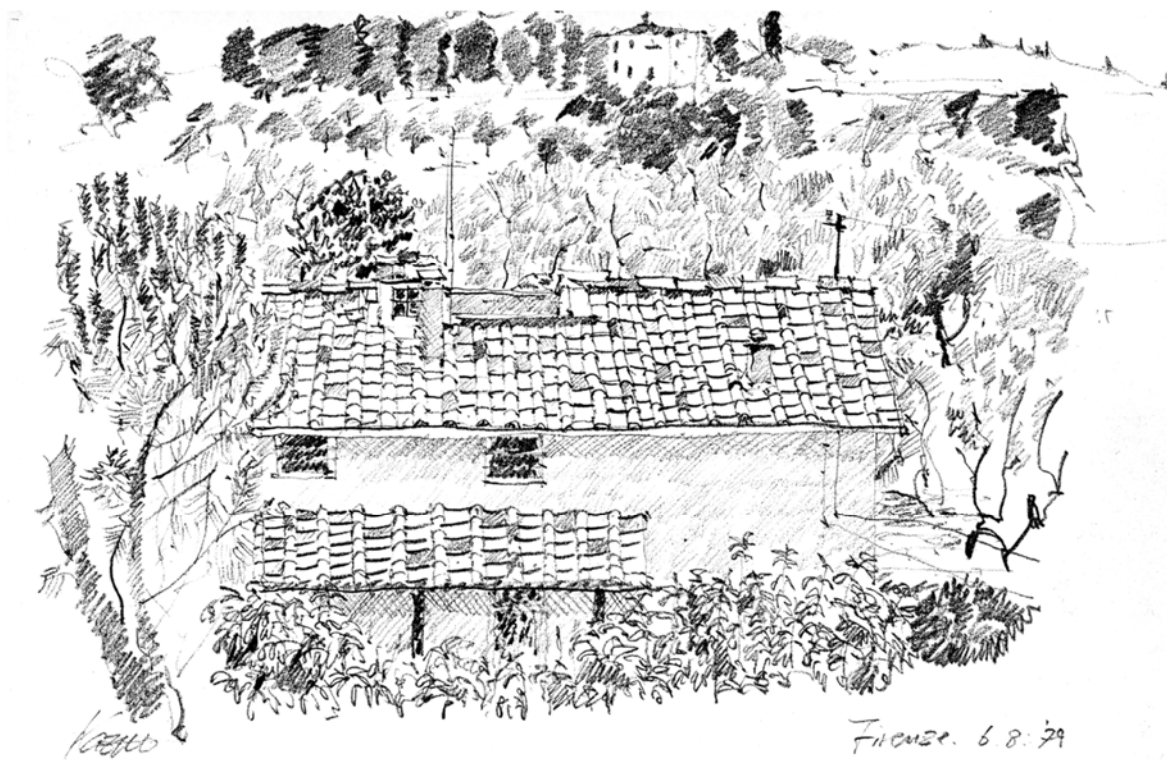
3-2. Italy, Venezia-2



3-2. Italy, Venezia-3



3-2. Italy, Firenze



29



A large, traditional half-timbered house with a steep, dark thatched roof. The facade is white with dark timber framing. The upper story features a large, multi-paned window. The lower story has a central arched entrance and several windows. The house is surrounded by greenery and a blue sky with clouds.

3-3. Germany, Goslar-1



3-3. Germany, Goslar-2



3-3. Germany, Unteramergau-1



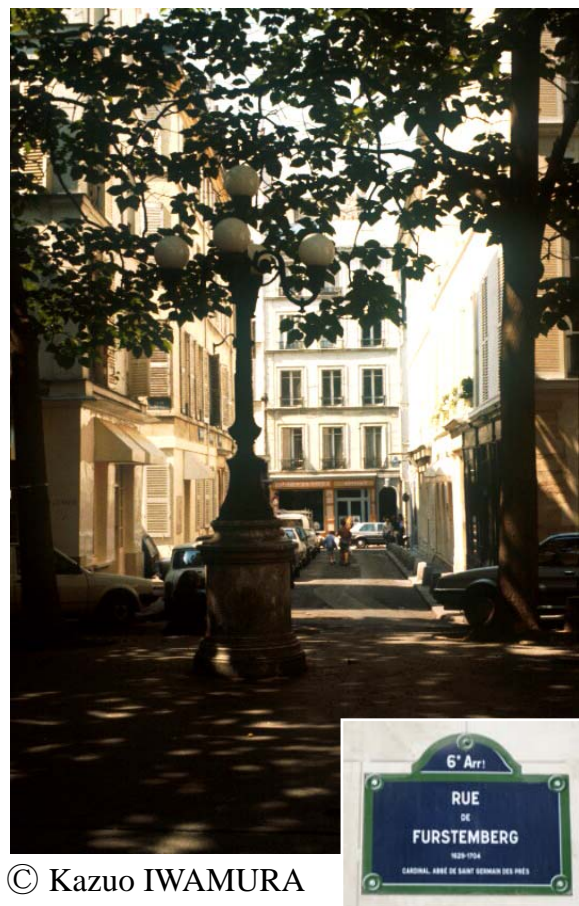
3-3. Germany, Unteramergau-2



3-4. France, Paris-1



3-4. France, Paris-2



3-5. Holland, Delft-1



37

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3-5. Holland, Delft-2



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4. Southeast Asia

4-1. Indonesia

>Bali

4-2. China

>Lijian



39

5-1. Indonesia, Bali-1



40



5-1. Indonesia, Bali-2



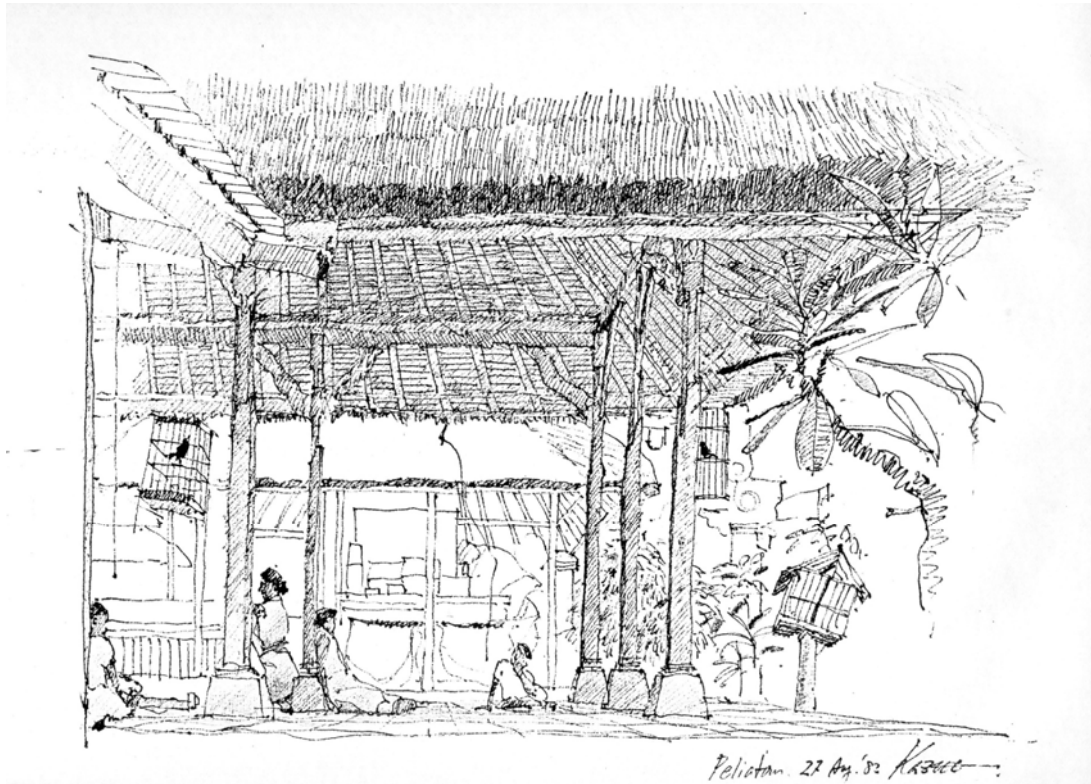
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5-1. Indonesia, Bali-3

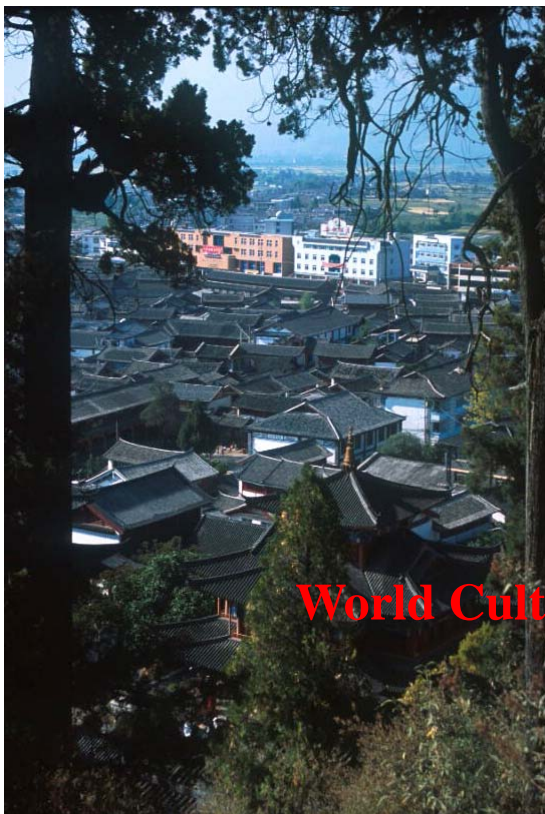


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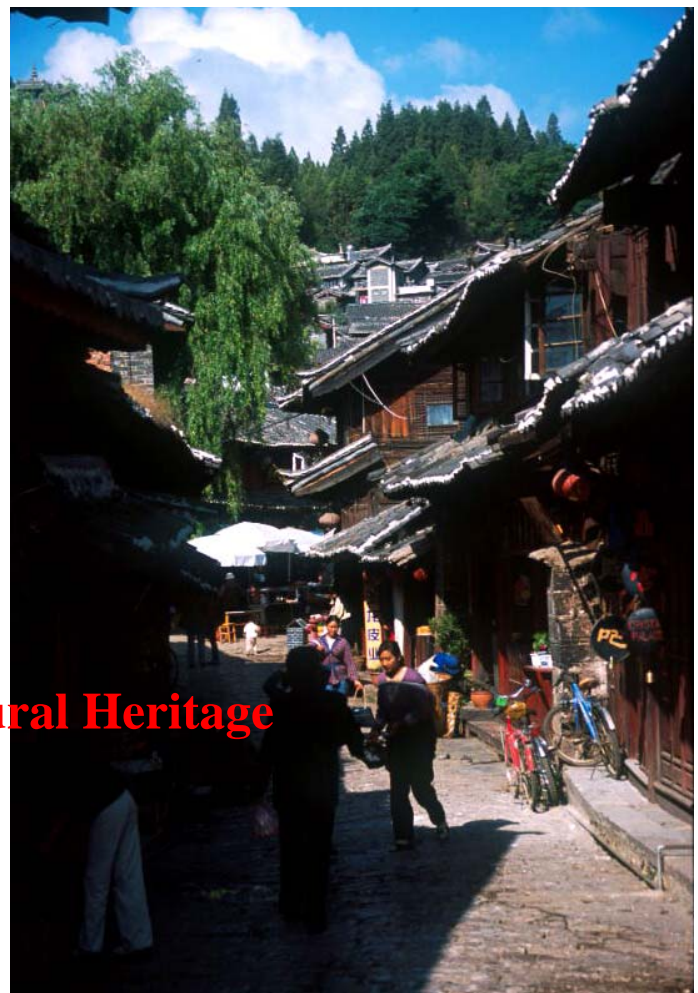
5-1. Indonesia, Bali-4



5-2. China, Lijiang(麗江)-1



World Cultural Heritage



5-2. China, Lijiang (麗江)-2



5-3. China, Lijiang (麗江)-3

