

Grand Tour Project



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1. Introduction

Shanghai is located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China and sits on the south edge of the mouth of the Yangtze in the middle portion of the Chinese coast. It is one of the four direct-controlled municipalities of China and the largest Chinese city by population. It is a global financial center and a transport hub with the world's busiest container port.

What is more, Shanghai is a popular tourist destination renowned for its historical landmarks such as The Bund, City God Temple and Yu Garden as well as the extensive Lujiazui skyline, many skyscrapers, and major museums including the Shanghai Museum and the China Art Museum. This is our pleasure to visit Shanghai, through this unforgettable trip; we have broadened our horizon and learn to be a mature person.

2. Research Objective

This project studies the historical culture and artistic elements in Shanghai. The knowledge from different subjects like Liberal Studies, Chinese Language, English Language and Chinese History are used in this project.

As a matter of fact, we would like to investigate/study:

- 1) Which city can strike the balance between current and historical situation in the aspect of conservation strategy? (Comparison between the protective strategy of Shanghai and Hong Kong)
- 2) What are the characteristics of local architecture elements?
- 3) The relationship between the architecture style of different areas and the historical development.
- 4) The civic awareness of teenagers both in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Through this project we could strengthen the knowledge of Chinese Culture, investigate the local culture and the current status of the historical architecture and study the case of how to strike a balance between the protective strategy and the modern urban development.

3. Research Methodology

Through visiting Shanghai Shibei High School, we met some Shanghai students. During the recess, we asked about their daily life in Shanghai and the government policies about the conservation of architectures. Shanghai architectures were eminent and special. This time, we had this great opportunity to chat with students directly

Besides, we asked one student, Kingshing, for contact and have some conversations with her via Wechat.

Apart from these, we also observed the building style in Shanghai and Hangzhou like SCSB and Yuyuan.

All in all, interviews and communication with Shanghai students and observation are needed.

4. Literary Review

Conservation

From the Hong Kong government website, it showed that in order to protect, conserve and revitalize as appropriate historical and heritage sites and buildings, The Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) was set up on 25 April 2008 under the Development Bureau to provide dedicated support to Secretary for Development in implementing the policy on heritage conservation and keeping it under constant review. The government used relevant and sustainable approaches to protect those buildings. Those policies need public interests, respects for private property rights, financial budget, cross-sector collaborations and active engagement of stakeholders and the general public.

It stated that up to 10 September 2013, 942 historic buildings have been accorded with Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3 status including: 162 buildings with Grade 1 status; 329 buildings with Grade 2 status; and 451 buildings with Grade 3 status.

From the Information Office of Shanghai Municipality, it showed that Shanghai is a cosmopolitan city in the Far East. In order to preserve the historical buildings, the government came up some conservation strategies. In the 20th century, especially since reform and opening up period, while intent on building a modern metropolis Shanghai also began to place great emphasis on historical and cultural preservation.

It states that currently Shanghai has 19 key heritage sites under state-level protection and 163 key heritage sites under municipal-level protection. The municipal government announced four groups of outstanding historic buildings to be put under preservation including 2,138 buildings located in 632 different places and with a total construction area of 4 million square meters.

There are lots of Shanghai preservation examples in different aspects, such as the preservation of the ancient town, the preservation of urban features, the historical and cultural area, the preservation of the public building complex, the preservation of unique features, etc.

From the 'Regulations of Shanghai Municipality on the Protection of the Areas with Historical Cultural Features and the Excellent Historical Buildings', It states that the ordinance with 44 rules is about the cultural buildings' preservation. It strictly states that no one can move and destroy any parts of the historical buildings. It is shown that the Shanghai government cares a lot on these issues.

In order to strengthen the protection of cultural relics, promote the rational use of cultural relics, the heritage of outstanding historical and cultural heritage; the Shanghai government has set up laws to conserve the preserved buildings. The law, in chapter 2, states that nobody should destroy and move away the preserved buildings and all relics respectively.

Architecture elements

From the book 'Touring Shanghai' by Wang Huimin, it showed that Shanghai's architecture is varied and colourful. Buildings of modern and tradition styles, old and new styles, Chinese and foreign styles are close to each other. Those dazzlingly diverse buildings form a distinctive feature of Shanghai.

From the website called 'China Highlight', ancient Chinese architecture has distinctive features in building. They are flexible, Wonderful and Elegant Appearance, regular Layout and gorgeous Ornaments.

As the wooden structure is more flexible, so the ancient buildings always use wood as the main material and the components are mainly columns, beams, and purlins, which are connected by tenons and mortises.

Besides, the architectures are greatly praised for the elegant profile and varied structure, like the overhanging eaves, upward roof corners, and different shapes of roofs. Those elements can make appearance of the building more wonderful. Moreover, Most of the ancient Chinese architectures will strictly follow the axis-centered principle with symmetrical wings and such layout has reflected the aesthetic standard of harmony and symmetry in ancient China.

At last, the architects in ancient China always pay much attention to the ornaments of building. Therefore, they liked to have difference paintings and decorations to make strong contrast.

It seems that Ancient Chinese architecture just like a miniature of the long-standing history and culture of China.

5. Findings and Analysis

5.1 Which city can strike the balance between current and historical situation in the aspect of conservation strategy?

Hong Kong

1. Conducting heritage impact assessment for new capital works projects

All new capital works projects are required to consider whether their projects will affect sites or buildings of historic or archaeological significance. If the answer is in the affirmative, then a Heritage Impact Assessment will be required. Alleviation measures should be devised and the public should be engaged.

2. Implementing the Revitalizing Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme for Government-owned historic buildings

The historic buildings will be transformed into unique cultural landmarks. The modus operandi of social enterprise under commercial management will be adopted to achieve a win-win situation. The Government provides financial support as appropriate to render the scheme practicably feasible.

3. Providing economic incentives for conservation of privately-owned historic buildings

To address the threats of destruction of historic buildings for redevelopment, the Government has come up with attractive and effective administrative means to prevent privately-owned historic buildings from being demolished. The Administration has been actively engaging relevant stakeholders in devising appropriate measures including land exchange and transfer of development rights to compensate these owners for their loss of development rights.

4. Facilitating maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings

Government carries out repair and restoration works for declared monuments, or items deemed by Government to be monuments under private ownership. Since 2008, Government has expanded the scheme to also assist owners of private graded historic buildings to carry out repairs and regular maintenance works

Shanghai

In Shanghai, the cultural and historical management committee set up the cultural and historical protection specialist committee which is formed by the specialist in the aspect of history, culture, art, architecture, housing management and legislation, etc. The aim of the committee is to provide suggestion to the work of culture protection and managing work.

1. Setting laws

In 1991, the Shanghai municipal government promulgated "measures for the administration of the preservation of outstanding modern buildings in Shanghai." This was China's first ever regional administrative regulation regarding the preservation of modern buildings. Then in 2003 the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress passed "Shanghai historical and cultural areas and outstanding historical buildings protection ordinance", which at the time was hailed as one of the earliest regional laws on the preservation of urban historical features.

2. Setting up control zones and persevered areas

In 2005, the Shanghai municipal government set up the "Shanghai historical and cultural areas and outstanding historical buildings protection committee", a policy that led to the formation of an effective administrative mechanism. Relevant departments used the preservation of regional features as a basis and prescribed detailed requirements and an individual block planning guideline for the building density of each block and the height and scale of buildings flanking streets. The preservation plan targeted at the town will place emphasis on preserving existing historic sites and constructing a historical and cultural preservation control zone, while at the same time ensuring the preservation of original features and the construction of a servicing infrastructure to go hand in hand with the town's development.

A large number of ancient buildings in the town have been well preserved including the Ding Cong Cartoon Gallery, the Shi Taishan Pharmacy, the "Eastern District Ancient Firefighting Station (an ancient fire department that boasted many features of modern civilization)" first built in 1649, the 100-year-old ancestral residence of the famous painter Cheng Shifa and an ancient postal office.

Example:

Located within the ancient town of Zhujiajiao, the Zhujiajiao historical and cultural area enjoys good accessibility and a wonderful natural environment.

The preservation plan defined clear boundaries for different areas of the town that show different historical features and imposed relevant control requirements on each of them, especially in such key areas as the Fangsheng Bridge area and North Street. The plan also provides for various kinds of living environments to cater to different tastes. Today the area's tourism has become the local economic mainstay of the entire community

Comparison between Hong Kong and Shanghai

Hong Kong < Shanghai

From the point of setting up laws, Shanghai has set up laws in order to preserve historical buildings. However, although the Hong Kong government did assessments and set up schemes to protect those buildings, still, it lacks the deterrent effects. Prevention is better than cure; we believe that in order to prevent historical buildings from being destroyed, the government should set up laws to pose a threat to the one who want to destroy those historical buildings.

Setting up control zones and areas is another effective policy to aim at protecting historical buildings in Shanghai. The Hong Kong government did not do anything to protect the buildings. The Shanghai government prohibited the citizens to enter the historical buildings in a bid to protect those buildings. Since letting people may still has a probability that they may destroy the part of those buildings, so it is the safest plan to set up prohibited and banned areas. Although the Hong Kong government did research and projects, still, actions speak louder than words, it is meaningless if nobody cares it.

To conclude, it is sure that Shanghai can strike the balance between current and historical situation in the aspect of conservation strategy.

5.2 Investigate the characteristic of Shanghai architecture elements

Deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture, ancient Chinese architecture boasts the following national cultural characteristics:

1. Readability

Ancient Chinese architecture, just like rich cultural symbols, that reveal Chinese beliefs in life and society. For example, the people of higher social status will definitely have different types of roofs, steles, and couplets in their houses, when compared with those of lower-status people.

2. Flexibility

Configurations and functions of ancient Chinese architecture are flexible, as the architecture can be easily changed, and rooms within them are easy to be dismantled, rebuilt, or shifted for other uses.

3. Introversion

Unlike many foreign buildings which pay much attention on external appearance, most of the Chinese ancient architecture are simple externally but enjoy internal richness. Two typical examples are the Chinese Quadrangle (Siheyuan) and Gardens in Suzhou of East China's Jiangsu province.

4. Interdependence

The most influential idea in Book of Changes (I-Ching) shows that everything in the world is interdependent and one can never learn anything without placing it into a more general environment; architecture is no exception. For example, the reason why ancient Chinese buildings are made of wood rather than stones is because Chinese belief that wood symbolizes spring, green, and new life. Therefore wood is used to build houses for the living and stone are usually used for mausoleums and graves.

Besides, the Eight Diagrams (Bagua, relating to divination), the Yin-Yang Principle (concerning opposing elements), and Feng Shui (dealing with attracting positive energy) all have exerted great influences on ancient Chinese architecture.

5. Stability

Ancient Chinese architecture has remained almost unchanged over thousands of years, the architecture have weathered the storms of time and survived till today. It is super- stable.

Through visiting different places in Shanghai, like Yuyuan Garden, the Bund and Qibao ancient town, more information about the characteristic of local architecture elements can be known.

Yuyuan Garden is a famous classical garden in Shanghai. It occupies an area of 2 hectares, and there are six main scenic areas here: Sansui Hall, Wanhua Chamber, Dianchun Hall, Huijing Hall, Yuhua Hall and the Inner Garden.

It seems that most of the Chinese gardens are blend unique, ornate buildings with natural elements. Actually, every Chinese garden will contain architecture, like a building or pavilion; decorative rocks and a rock garden; plants, trees and flowers; and water elements, like ponds.



This is the Yuyuan Garden which offers charming and pleasant views with noble plants, exotic rocks and also traditional building.

The Bund is a waterfront area in central Shanghai. The Bund has been called a 'museum of international architecture,' as the Bund houses 52 buildings of various architectural styles, generally Eclecticism, but with some buildings displaying predominantly Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, Renaissance Revival, Baroque Revival, Neo-Classical or Beaux-Arts styles, and a number in Art Deco style.



We have taken the photo with the background of the bund.

Qibao ancient town is a tourist attraction, in the area of the Puhui River with traditional Chinese architecture and a number of attractions, including museums and street food. As Qibao ancient town is the only ancient town forming part of greater Shanghai, with a history spanning over one thousand years, Qibao is more than just a living fossil of ancient Chinese conurbation and urban planning.

Besides, the Qibao Temple also shows its ingenious designs for both buildings and gardens, presents visitors with an insight of the unique architectural styles of Han and Tang Dynasty.



This is the Qibao old street which filled with traditional restaurants that serving various tasty snacks and also art crafts, antiques and calligraphy works.

5.3 The relationship between the architecture style of different areas and the historical development.

Shanghai is one of the most special cities in China. Not only does it have the traditional Chinese architectures, but also a lot of foreign architectures there. The reason behind this is because of the special history of Shanghai.

During the 19th century, the Qing Government was defeated in the Opium War. After that, the Qing Government signed a lot of unequal treaties with foreign countries like United Kingdom and United States. Because of these treaties, many foreign countries can gain benefit from China. One of the most famous treaties will be the Treaty of Nanking. Because of this treaty, not only does China need to give Hong Kong as the colony to United Kingdom, but also needs to open up few coastal cities for the trading business of those foreign countries. Shanghai is one of those cities which were forced to open up. Later on, another treaty, the Treaty of the Bogue, was signed by the Qing Government few years later. This time, they allow United Kingdom's citizen to buy properties in those cities which were opened up for trading. Sooner or later, the British started to expand the area they had in Shanghai and slowly form the British Concession. The French borrow some land from the British in 1847. Later on, they use some excuses to expand their area of control and form the French Concession. In 1863, the American and the British Concession were combined and form the Shanghai International Settlement.

The French Concession and the Shanghai International Settlement both disestablished in the 1943. Even though the French and the British moved out but they left a lot of architectures which are in different style like Baroque style, Gothic style and also some fusion style.

During the Second World War, Japanese invade many cities, and one of them is Shanghai, even though the Japanese only occupy Shanghai for less than a decade. However, they still have some influences in Shanghai's architectures.

Foreign style architectures:

In Shanghai, the most famous place, The Bund is a place where you can spot out many kinds of European style architectures. The Bund is one of the earliest part of the British Concession. Therefore the Bund is one of the earliest place in Shanghai that starts the development. On the road side, there are a lot of European style buildings which were used to be the banks, co-operations and consulates of different countries. The buildings each have different characteristic and are in different style. Nowadays, some of these buildings are taken over by the government department, and some of them are used as the company building of some international firms.



Different Style of Architectures along the Bund



The former Palace Hotel, built in 1906 is a perfect example of Renaissance architecture. Now it is one of the Major Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the National Level



The former Chartered Bank, built in 1922 is another example of Renaissance architecture. It is also one of the Major Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the National Level.



Nanjing road walkway is another place you can see a lot of special design of buildings. They are tall, in many shapes and full with European characteristics. The Nanjing road walkway was used to be a part of the International Settlement. The Nanjing Road Walkway started its development in the 1840s. More and more foreign companies set up there.

Even though Shanghai's buildings are influenced by foreign culture a lot, there is still some traditional Chinese architecture there.

Chinese style architectures:

In Shanghai, most of the traditional architectures can be traced back to the Ming Dynasty. For example the Yu Garden, which was built in 1559 by Pan Yunduan. The Yu Garden is 5 hectares large and it is in Suzhou style. Building inside the garden is in very traditional Chinese style. It was first built in 1559 by Pan Yunduan to show filial piety to his mother. Yet, the garden had suffered series of damage during 19th century. The First Opium War and the Taiping Rebellion destroyed the original structure of the garden; the Japanese destroyed it again before it was repaired. In 1961, the garden was opened to the public. It consists of the classic view of Jiangnan garden so it is one of the sought-after tourist destinations in Shanghai. Besides, it covered an area of 70 acres when it was first built, after all these damages, it covers an area of 40 acres.

As it has experienced wars' ruminations but still surviving, the garden has been kept. Nevertheless, the original meaning of building this garden is to show respect and filial piety, the garden becomes one of the symbols of Chinese culture- filial piety. Hence, this historical garden has been kept.



The roof of this building is pointing up ward. Actually, the shape of the roof is a symbol of the hat of the official in the past.

5.4 Investigate the civic awareness of teenagers both in Shanghai and Hong Kong

According to Skills Pages Youth Employment Blog, Civic awareness refers to the foundation that makes people active participants in the fabric of their community and beyond. For instance, what makes a person decide to participate in the elections, participate in community planning and decision-making, invest in the community, volunteer in the community and feel connected to the community?

For this question, our group interviewed one form 4 Shanghai students about their civic awareness. In the interview, we discovered that Shanghai students put much more attention on their academic results. They even did not know what civic awareness was. On the other hand, the girl told us that Shanghai students did read newspaper during the lesson but the purpose of reading the news is to enrich their knowledge for the public exam. They also mentioned that they seldom discussed about any issue about the society but they will discuss the topic of Patriotism.

After the interview, we realized that Shanghai students put the main focus on studying in a bid to getting into university which was similar with Hong Kong students. However, our Hong Kong students would put more attention towards to the social issues and matters than the students in Shanghai. Besides, it seemed like they also read news during the lessons but they seldom discuss the topic deeply. They only learnt the useful vocabulary or phrases in the passage; yet, Hong Kong children would read the news, would discuss it during the class and would share their opinion with their classmates instead only learning the language. To conclude, Hong Kong students had a higher civic awareness than the students from Shanghai. There might be various reasons why the civic awareness of Shanghai students was lower.

To begin with, our group thought that Hong Kong students had an edge of knowing more about the society. For example, Hong Kong students needed to study Liberal Studies, which was emphasizing on the critical thinking and brainstorming from different angles. So, Hong Kong children might know about the society.

Moreover, Basic Law also came to an edge over the Shanghai students. According to Basic Law Article 27, Hong Kong residents shall have freedom of speech, of the press and of publication; freedom of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration; and the right and freedom to form and join trade unions, and to strike. Thus, Hong Kong students could express their feelings towards the government or society freely. Nevertheless, Shanghai students might not express their feelings directly as they did not have law to protect their freedom. Since there were some cases about activists in China, teenagers might not express their concerns because of the fear to the government even though they could type anything on social websites (Weibo).

To conclude, the civic awareness of Hong Kong teens were higher than the teens from Shanghai. The main culprit was the students in Shanghai spent most of the time on studying. As they mentioned, their schooldays were longer than Hong Kong's. Since they put much more

focus on study, they lacked time to pay attention to the issue of their society. In addition, our group thought that there might be lack of channels to raise their civic awareness. Yet, we thought that it might be difficult to raise the civic awareness because they did not have much channels to know more about the society.

6. Conclusion

From the research, it was found that Shanghai could strike the balance between current and historical situation in the aspect of conservation strategy as it had set up control zones, areas and laws to preserve historical buildings.

Also, it was discovered that in Shanghai most of the architectures were in Ancient Chinese architecture style and this architecture style were deeply rooted in our traditional Chinese culture.

What was more, due to the special history of Shanghai, Shanghai architecture style had combined many foreign countries element especially the French one.

Last but not least, it revealed the civil awareness of Hong Kong teens were higher than the teens in Shanghai. Shanghai teens mainly spent their time on studying, but in Hong Kong, thanked to the freedom of speech, we could express our views freely and we had many channels to get the information of the society.

7. Reflection

DAY 1

We went to the Yu Garden. In different areas, it had different histories and stories inside. We could see the conventional culture and the beauty of the Shanghai architecture in this gorgeous garden. As Hongkongers think that Chinese are rude and poor-mannered, but things are always unexpected. They are kind and well-mannered. It is not what Hongkongers said. Maybe some of them are not well-educated, but still most people here are friendly to all customers and travelers.

Conflicts were always happened in the past through years between Hong Kong and mainland China. Hong Kong citizens really hate the mainlanders a lot. But should we put all the blame to the mainlanders? Is it their faults? Trying to think different ways and perspectives will let us understand and identify complicated issues. We should look both sides of the stories before we jump to any conclusions. It is believed that we should think twice before we have ultimate decision. Violence is not the best way to solve it, isn't it? It will only bring us sadness, hopeless, hatred, jealousy, anger and conflicts. Violence is one of the ways to express our opinions and disagreements; however, is it meaningful to fight for local rights through violent attacks? It is absolutely not.



We visited the Yu Garden. Everybody was thrilled due to the historical stories after we heard from the tour guide.

DAY 2

After having a good time in the hotel, we woke up at 6 o'clock in order to visit our sister school, Shanghai Shibe High School.

At the beginning, we thought it might be difficult to get along with those local students. Both the language of communication and different habits between Hong Kong and Shanghai confused us. However, after having an English lesson with their students, we know that they are kind, passionate and react actively in the lesson.

Compare with those students in Shanghai, King Ling's students are too passive. During the lesson, we seldom answer the questions and just keep silent. Not because we do not know the answer, but we are most likely to be embarrassed when we are being asked. Actually, courage to try is the best way to soak up knowledge like a sponge. That is why Shanghai Shibe High School is one of the key high schools in China. We should learn from them by being more active in the lesson.

Another noting point is that those students in Shanghai are independent. As the principal of Shanghai Shibe High School told us that their students only can go back home once a week and all students need to live in the hall. Therefore, it cultivates their self-care ability, because they need to take care by themselves. Different from Shanghai's students, some of the students in Hong Kong are always spoiled by their parents. That is why the words 'Kong Kids' appear. Despite the fact that Hong Kong's schools do not have hall, we still need to have self-care skills. If we have these basic skills, it gives us more options in life. So, it is a good chance for us to learn from their school by knowing their learning attitude and life style.



We ate the lunch in Shanghai Shibe High School.
It is really different from our food from the King Ling's canteen.

DAY 3

On the third of our tour, we left Shanghai and head to Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou and Wuzhen in Hangzhou. Humble Administrator's Garden is a very typical Suzhou style garden. With a lot of trees, flowers, stones and buildings, this garden is astonishingly beautiful. There's no way you can find a place in Hong Kong to compete with it. This garden is in another level. Wuzhen in Jiaying. This water town is one of the most famous water towns in China. Houses were built on the both side of the river. We visited few small museums there. They include some history about Wuzhen, some tradition handicraft from there and some introduction about the cloth dyeing industry there.

Day 3 was not an easy day for all of us. Things did not go smoothly. On the way from Shanghai to Suzhou, we encounter a car accident. We crashed on a car which suddenly stops in the middle of the highway. Luckily, no one was hurt during the crash. However, we spend quite a long time there. We have to wait for the police to come and the driver had to contact the insurance company about this case. We were all freaked out. We don't believe that we will actually encounter such thing in our tour. After around two hours, we hand on for our trip again. But when we got to Wuzhen, something bad happen again. One of our classmates lost her little bag which contains her wallet, mobile phone and her personal credentials. So we met the police for the second time in a day. We were all worried about her and we don't know how to help her. Luckily just after one day, she got all her things back because someone had sent it to the police. Everything was back on the right track again.

Everyone learned a lot in Day 3. Not only about the history of the place or the culture there, but also the skill of how to cooperate in some emergency situation. We know that we have to calm down. Do not freaked out, try to find some help if it's needed. Have a lot of people around you, see whether they need help or not, give some comfort if they needed. And one more thing is to be patient. Be patient and don't be hurry because it won't help you solve the problem; it will just make the thing worst. Keep calm, be patient and things will be back on the right track again.

DAY 4

We went to Westlake in the morning. The view in Westlake is so similar with the Chinese poems. We wonder why the view keeps being like a fairyland. Hong Kong people always think that Hong Kong is well-educated and more developed than China. If that is true, why litters and low quality of water are common seen in Hong Kong beaches? At least we could not see a little litter in the Westland. Although, we are not sure if the litters in beaches are dumped by hongkongers or the tourists, we can sure that hongkongers are not willing to pick up those litters and put them into the rubbish bins. Why? It is because hongkongers are afraid of being dirtied by the litters, and they are lazy to do so. They may think that the rubbishes are not dumped by them, so they have no responsibilities to put the rubbishes into the bins. Hence, we can see that hongkongers seem well-educated, but they are lack of the education on social morality. They know it is wrong to pee in the street, but they do not know it is also wrong to make the beaches dirty.

Besides, the government did not react enough on this issue. The government can employ more workers to keep the beaches clean, including the seas. There are a plenty of rubbishes in the seas, government can employ workers to dredge up the rubbishes.

Somehow, we will blame those people who dirt our beaches when we want to enjoy the beaches, but we forget that we can help them to repair the problem. Maybe we can just pick up the wastes which are so near from us, if everyone do so, the environment of the beaches will be better and more beautiful. Cooperation is playing an important role in achieving a better future.



These were the aims of learning through Grand Tour. We learnt a lot from the history of Hangzhou through the museum here.

The flower garden was the girls' favourite place. The beautiful and fabulous views here amazed all the 5C students.



DAY 5

We went to Nan Song Yu Jie and Hefang Street in Hangzhou on day 5. There were the tourist areas. Traditional Chinese street food and other Hangzhou delicacies were sold there. Besides, there were some local shops selling trinkets and instruments with Chinese characteristics. Yet, these two streets were different from the Ladies Market or Fa Yuen Street in Hong Kong. Those two streets in Hangzhou were broad and organized. Each shop of two sides of the streets was full of the Southern Song dynasty building style. In the middle of the streets, there were some folk handicrafts and traditional Chinese products. For example, some folk's snacks with the Chinese Zodiac pattern were made by caramel. We held the snack by a bamboo stick only.

After shopping and sightseeing there, it was a time to leave. Most of us bought lots of things of several bags of souvenirs. It showed how attractive Nan Song Yu Jie and Hefang Street were.

After that, we went to the Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport and said goodbye to our guide, Mr Gao and driver. Then we were ready to go back to Hong Kong.

There were lots of amazing and adorable traditional handicrafts in Nan Song Yu Jie and Hefang Street. Those folk handicrafts were kinds of cultures which reflect those places or people's living behavior. We couldn't see any fish balls or fried chicken legs in there. Yet, there were quite a lot of pastries and tae selling in different shops. Also, the skewers were prevalent among those two streets. We could see that different people have their own cultures either handicrafts or food. In Hong Kong, we also have our own cultures, but sometimes we need to think about how we can keep those cultures and what kinds of cultures we want to keep. We should not only respect to other cultures, but also keep our own typical and historical cultures. Our local cultures cannot be replaced or passed into silence. Cultures can be any kinds of things nourished by a group of people in a society. If there are more boosts for cultural and creative industry in Hong Kong, it is believed that Hong Kong will be more distinctive.

Moreover, time flies and we learnt a lot of things. For some students in our class, it was the first time that traveling abroad without their parents. Well, maybe it was also a great opportunity to find our weaknesses when we left our mums. Being more independent and to learn how to take care of ourselves were really important. As teachers were not our nurses, most of the time we stayed with our group mates and classmates, we needed to have some senses of crisis and skills of problems solving. So we could take care of each other. Actually, through these 5 days, we became more united and got to know each other. Besides, our sense of belonging in this class was stronger since we played some group activities in the coach, restaurants, hotels, etc. Those photos help us memorize the most adorable and unforgettable moments in these 5 days.

Apart from learning other places' cultures, think about how we can appreciate our own cultures. In addition to be more independent and get to know to each other, we also been more united and broaden the horizon from me to we via this grand tour.

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