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UNESCO Region: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**SITE NAME:** Ancient Villages in Southern Anhui - Xidi and Hongcun

**DATE OF INSCRIPTION:** 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2000

**STATE PARTY:** CHINA

**CRITERIA:** C (iii) (iv) (v)

**DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:**

Criterion (iii): The villages of Xidi and Hongcun are graphic illustrations of a type of human settlement created during a feudal period and based on a prosperous trading economy.

Criterion (iv): In their buildings and their street patterns, the two villages of southern Anhui reflect the socio-economic structure of a long-lived settled period of Chinese history.

Criterion (v): The traditional non-urban settlements of China, which have to a very large extent disappeared during the past century, are exceptionally well preserved in the villages of Xidi and Hongcun.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS**

The two traditional villages of Xidi and Hongcun preserve to a remarkable extent the appearance of non-urban settlements of a type that has largely disappeared or has been transformed in the past century. Their street patterns, their architecture and decoration, and the integration of houses with comprehensive water systems are unique survivals.

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**1.b State, Province or Region:** Yi county, Huangshan city, Anhui Province

**1.d Exact location:** S/117° 38'E -30°11 N -N/117°38'E -30°11'N

Nomination of Properties for Inclusion

On the World Heritage List: China

*Ancient Villages in  
Southern Anhui  
– Xidi and Hongcun*

Ministry of Construction, the People's Republic of China

National Administration of Cultural Heritage, the People's Republic of China

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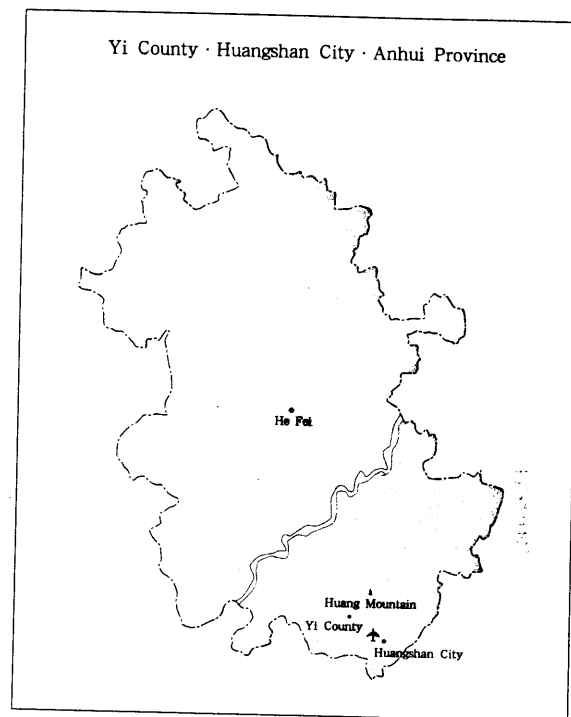
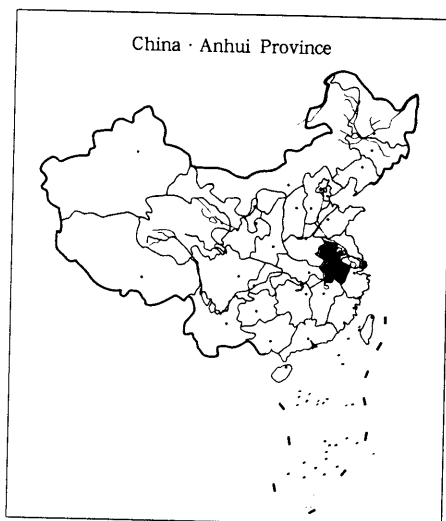
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## 1. Identification of the Property:

### 1.1 Country

The People's Republic of China

### 1.2 Region

Yi county, Huangshan city, Anhui Province

### 1.3 Name of Property

Ancient villages in southern Anhui — Xidi and Hongcun

### 1.4 Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates:

Xidi is located at southeastern Yi county, with coordinates: 117° 38' East, 30° 11' North

Hongcun is located at northeastern Yi county, with coordinates: 117° 38' East, 30° 11' North

### 1.5 Maps and plans:

1.5.1 Map of Anhui Province, People's Republic of China

1.5.2 Map of Xidi and Hongcun in Yi county

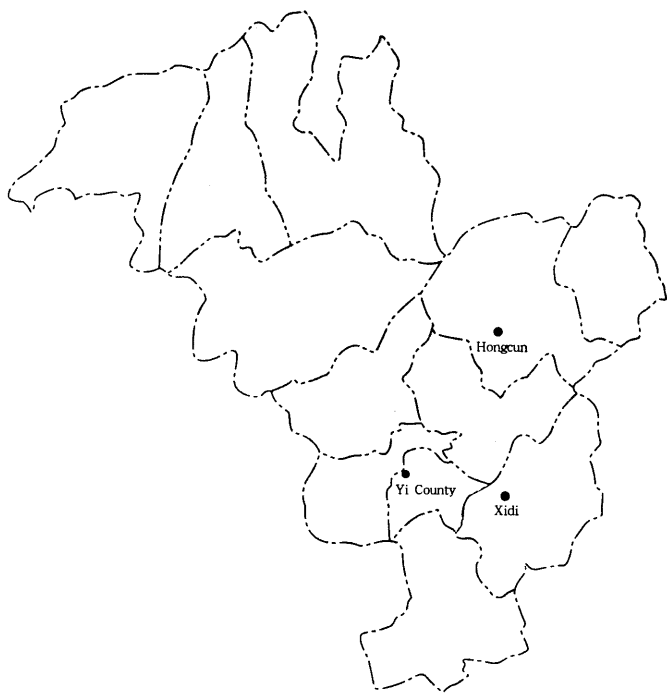
1.5.3 Satellite Photographic Picture of the Ancient Villages of Xidi and Hongcun

1.5.4 Heritage Areas and buffer zones of Xidi and Hongcun

1.5.5 Present Status of the Ancient Villages of Xidi and Hongcun (add in the back)

1.5.6 Overall Planning on Xidi and Hongcun (add in the back)

Yi County · Hongcun · Xidi



### 1.6 Areas of the properties proposed for inscription and proposed buffer zones:

#### 1.6.1 Xidi

The properties proposed for inscription in Xidi:

The property has an area of 24 hectares, with the east boundary lying 60 meters outside the east border of the village, the west 50 meters outside the west side of Paoma lou, the south 30 meters outside the Huiyuan bridge, and the Yi-Tan Road as the north boundary.

The proposed buffer zone:

The buffer zone has an area of 400 hectares, from the present Xidi Middle School in the west to the crossing of the Yi-Tan road in the east, enclosed by the mountain ridges on northern and southern sides of the village.

#### 1.6.2 Hongcun

The property proposed for inscription in Hongcun:

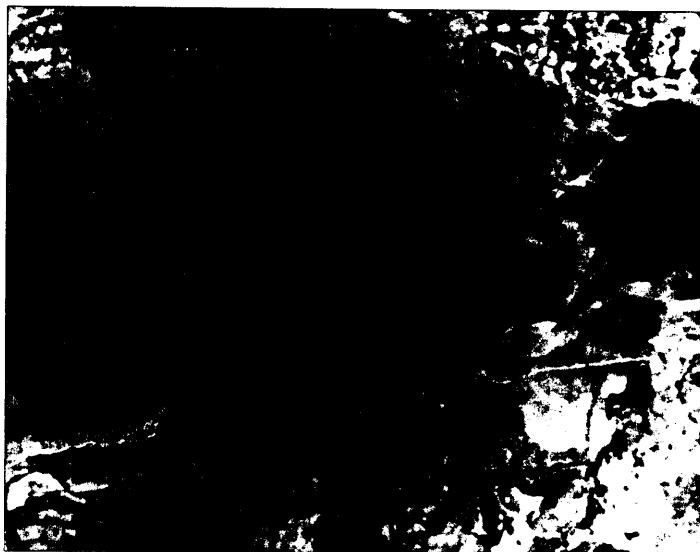
This property has an area of 28 hectares, with Leigang Mountain as the north boundary, the west bank of West River as the west boundary, and the southeast boundary lying 50 meters outside the South Lake Road.

The proposed buffer zone:

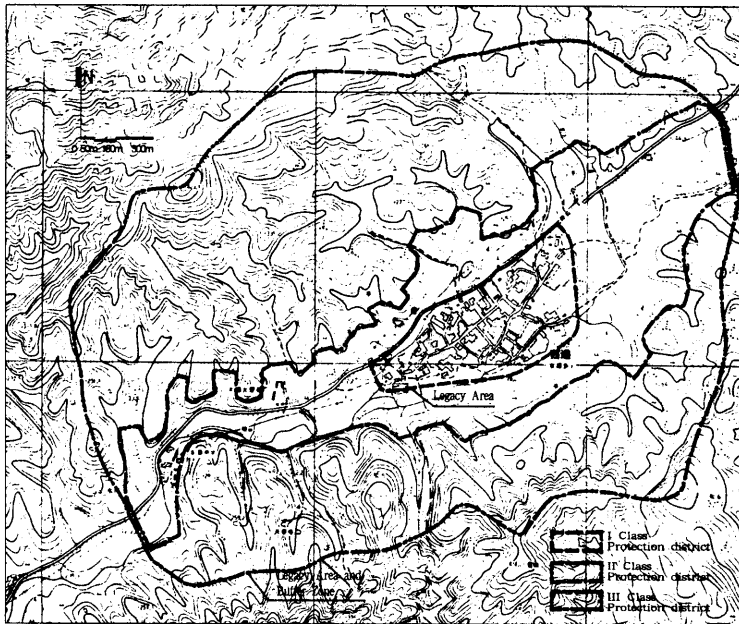
The buffer zone has an area of 330 hectares, with the ridge of Stone Drum Mountain as the west boundary, Leigang Mountain as the north boundary, the ridge of Dongshan Mountain as the east boundary, and the south boundary is 1000 meters to the south of the village.



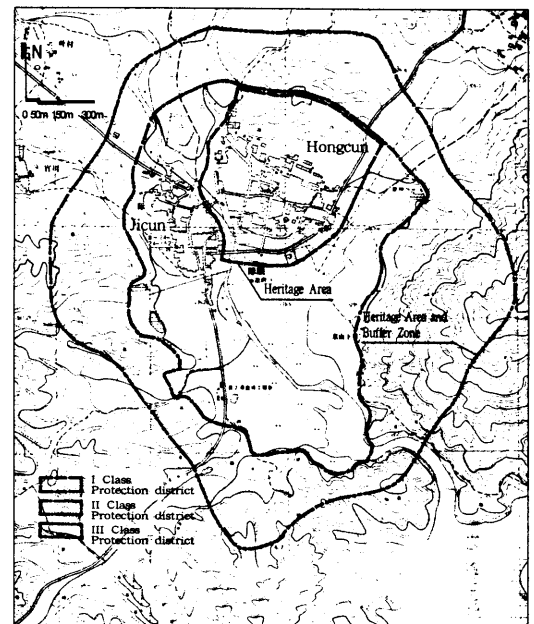
Satellite Photographic Picture of Ancient Village in Xidi



Satellite Photographic Picture of Ancient Village in Hongcun



Heritage Area and Buffer Zone Chart of Ancient Village in Xidi



Heritage Area and Buffer Zone Chart of Ancient Village in Hongcun

## 2. Justification for Inscription

### 2.1 Statement of significance

As a country of vast territory, rich resources and dense population, China has dramatically diverse climates in the north and the south. Human settlements of various styles have been formed, including cities, towns and villages.

A village is the most fundamental form of human settlement for various productive and daily activities, evolved to fit the most basic living environment.

Different types of villages were developed in different regions, under different climates and natural conditions. Chinese villages, in general, have the following features: People are bound by blood ties, with agriculture as the chief means of production, usually giving serious consideration to geomantic environment, maintaining various traditional customs, and having high degree of stability.

Among traditional Chinese villages, the ancient villages in southern Anhui province are one of the most characteristic ones. They are usually situated at mountain foot, facing rivers and lakes, with rhythmic spatial variations, deep and quiet alleys, and picturesque water mouth gardens. The architectures are plain, simple and elegant, featuring gables unique in shape, carvings and decorations delicate and exquisite, and interior furnishings antique

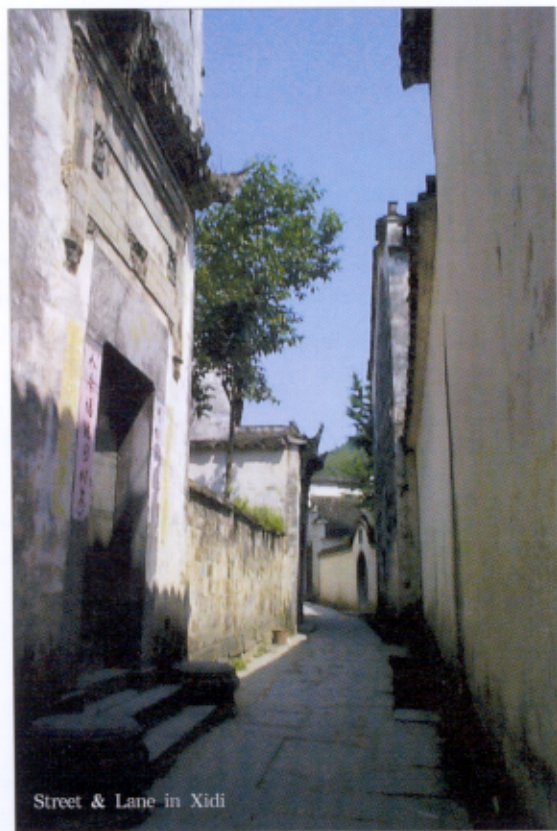
and elegant. Reflecting remarkable creative talents and accomplishments in the construction of human settlement, they possess high scientific, cultural and artistic values.

Two outstanding samples of Southern Anhui ancient villages, Xidi and Hongcun have largely preserved the original types of ancient villages, boasting elaborate architectural style and landscapes harmonious with nature. Among the traditional villages in southern Anhui, they make a unique human landscape, having distinct regional cultural features and remarkable comprehensive value and overall value. They are most characteristic samples of cultural villages, and living fossils for study on regional culture and history.

Xidi and Hongcun provide precious data for researches on vernacular architecture and its history of construction, on regional history, culture, arts and economy, and even the feudal patriarchal clan system. They are precious cultural legacy, which is the major reason for its nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List. Only by being listed and thus better preserved, can they pass onto later generations and play their significant role in the world.



A Bird's Eye View of Xidi



Street & Lane in Xidi



Yard & Garden in Xidi



Inside View of Local Residence in Xidi



The Hall of Respect in Xidi





A Bird's Eye View of Hongcun



The Moon Pond in Hongcun



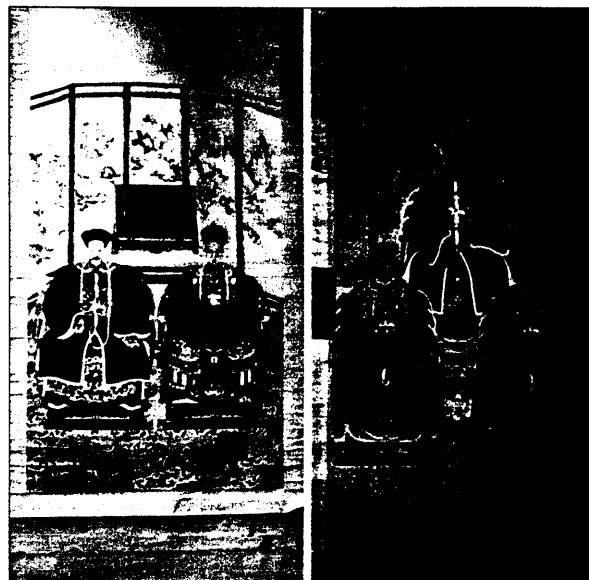
The Water Way in Hongcun



The South Lake Academy in Hongcun



The Hall of Chengzhi in Hongcun



Rongxiang

## 2.2 Comparative analysis

Anhui province is located in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River in the eastern part of China, with a shortened name “Wan”. Located in the sub tropical region with a moist climate, it is featured by magnificent mountains and picturesque landscapes, as well as mild climate and rich natural resources, providing good conditions for human settlement.

After five thousand years of history, China has formed a unique culture which exerts great influence upon the Orient and also plays a major part in world culture.

In feudal China, the Confucius culture, Taoist culture and the imported Buddhism combined to form the mainstream of Chinese culture. They had had huge influence upon China’s urban and rural development. However, it is rather rare to see the formation of a regional culture with distinctive features and its great bearings on the evolution of local cities and villages.

Among various types of cities and villages, culture is the major factor in determining their values and features.

Lijiang and Pingyao, two Chinese cities on the World Heritage List, are outstanding representatives of cities evolved under the combined influence of regional culture, environment, economy, and climate under China’s mainstream culture.

Lijiang is a town formed under Dongba culture, the Naxi minority nationality culture.

Pingyao is a town featuring commercial culture, developed by local merchants.

The ancient villages in southern Anhui, on the other hand, are developed under Anhui culture with the efforts of Anhui merchants, and possess most striking local features.

What the three places have in common is that they all have distinct backgrounds of regional culture, have preserved intact the original outlook and the historical and cultural messages attached to them, perpetuated the traditional life.

What is different is their geographical conditions, and backgrounds of cultural and economical development, which make them cities and villages of different types.

Undoubtedly, among all the distinctive and systematical regional cultures, Anhui culture is an outstanding representative.

Anhui culture has a long history. Originating around 600 BC and reaching its height during 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, it has established a cultural system incorporating ideology, literature and art, architecture, culinary art and regional dialects. Reflecting mentality and pursuit of the gentry class in feudal society, it is distinctively different from the plebeian culture.

The distinctive features of Anhui culture are chiefly embodied in such aspects as Cheng-Zhu philosophy, Anhui style architecture, Anhui opera, Anhui food, Chinese medicine, calligraphy, abacus calculation and Chinese painting. The Anhui style architectures, for example, includes various types such as memorial archways, ancestral halls, academies of classical learning and residential buildings, with unique brick, wood and stone carving decorations and furnishings. The abacus calculation by Cheng Dawei has had major influence in the history of abacus calculation. Anhui food is one of the eight culinary schools in China. Anhui opera is the predecessor of Peking opera — the most famous traditional Chinese opera. The Cheng-Zhu philosophy established by Cheng Yi, Cheng Hao and Zhu Xi based on



Confucianism and has had huge influence on the ideology during the last period of Chinese feudal society. As a result, Anhui has produced a host of bureaucrats and officials; sometimes father and son both became prime ministers, uncle and nephew both won top prizes in the imperial examination. With supports from these bureaucrats, Anhui merchants thrived and formed a powerful clan of merchant group. From the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century, it dominated the trade circle for nearly 300 years. There was even a folk saying "It is not a town without Anhui merchants".

The rise of southern Anhui merchant clan was the chief motivation in the formation of villages with special cultural values, and the most direct factor in the thriving of these villages.

The ancient villages in southern Anhui mountain areas were mostly established on the basis of family and blood ties. The existing ancient villages were mostly built and developed in the cultured and prosperous 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, by natives who had made huge political or commercial successes and returned to build their own homestead.

According to incomplete statistics, There are more than 4900 cultural relics in southern Anhui province, including ancestral halls, memorial archways, residential buildings, ancient bridges, pagodas and pavilions, among them 45 listed as state and provincial protected relics.

From the choice of location, the layout, construction and decoration, to people's customs, mentality, ideology and behavior patterns, the ancient villages in southern Anhui were built up under the guidance and influence of the Anhui culture. As per-

fect unions of spatial forms and ideologies, they have the following characteristics in common:

1. Site planning was directed by Fengshui (geomantic) theories. The villages are usually situated at the foot of mountains and face rivers or lakes, and take full advantage of the flowing water. They accord with the basic requirements of village construction and pay special attention to the for environmental requirements;

2. They feature concentration of clans with identical surnames, bound by family and blood ties;

3. They have the tradition of respecting scholars and valuing education. Strong cultural atmosphere was formed with buildings like ancestral halls, academies, memorial archways and water mouth gardens;

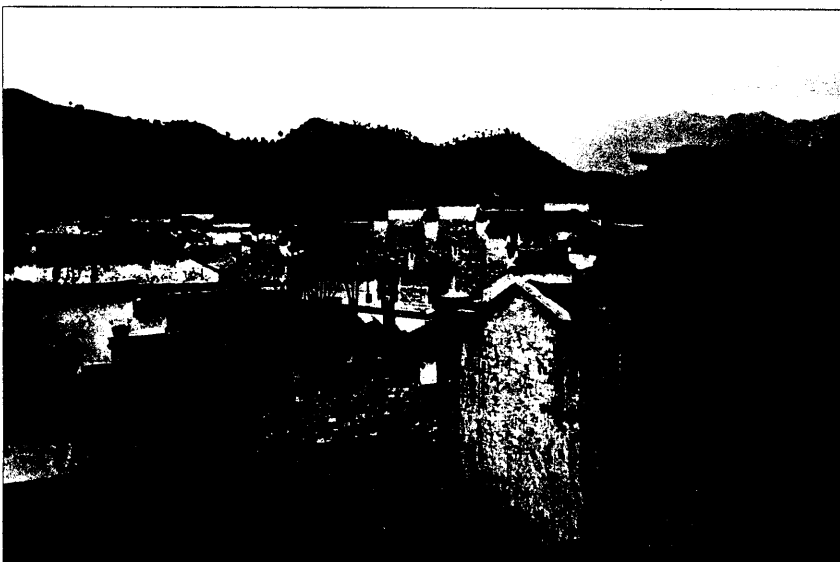
4. The architectural styles and types are uniform, but combinations are rich and diverse. Based on timber structures, the main building materials are brick, tile, stone, and timber;

5. The architectural decorations are mainly brick, wood, and stone carvings, which are highly elaborate and artistic. In the halls there are always horizontal tablets with inscription, antithetical couplets and furnishings reflecting the host's taste, interests and aspirations. Cultivation of courtyard gardens is a trend.

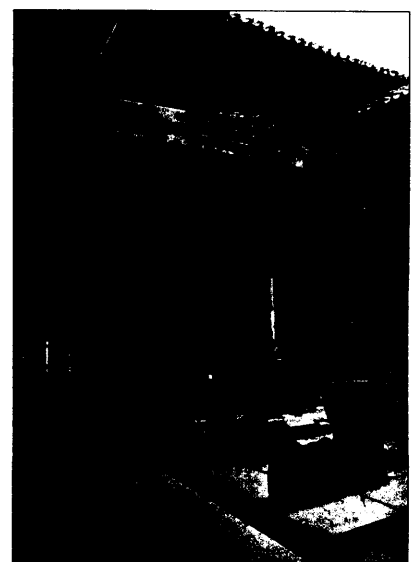
6. The Cheng-Zhu philosophy and ideology dominated people's thought, behaviors and morality.

7. Constructions of the villages were chiefly financed with the huge wealth accumulated by natives who had gone into the world and achieved great commercial or political successes.

Ancient villages in other regions can hardly be found to



Ancient Building in Xidi



The hall of Reminiscence in Xidi

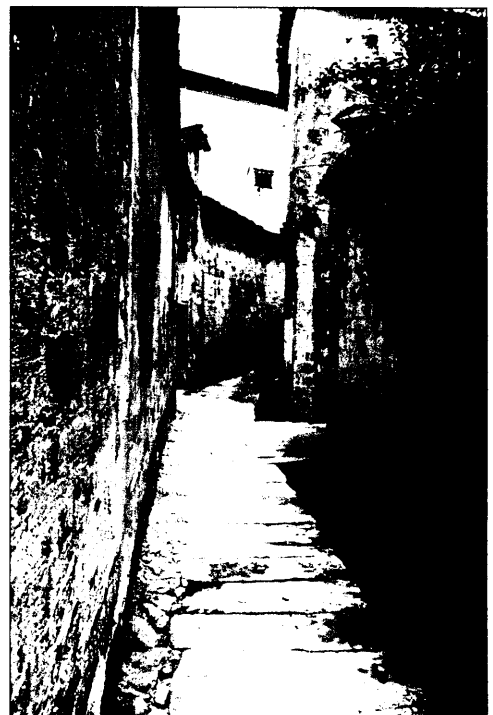
possess all these features, and they are distinctively different from city types like Lijiang and Pingyao.

Since they have suffered very little war damage or modernization, the ancient villages in southern Anhui are quite well preserved. Their authenticity and integrity are quite incomparable by villages of other types. Therefore, as an outstanding representative in cultural villages, they have justification for nomination of the World Cultural Heritage.

Compared with other villages in southern Anhui, Xidi and Hongcun have kept their complete layout and preserved the old appearances, with the ancient architectures concentrated and intact. All constructive activities are under strict control by local government and specific guidance by professionals in related branches. After receiving certain restoration, they embody high historical and cultural values, and are truly representative.



Street View in Xidi



Street View in Hongcun

### 2.3 Authenticity/Integrity

Located at the northern and northeastern part of Yi county in southern Anhui, Xidi and Hongcun are about 40 kilometers away from Huangshan Mountain, the World Natural and Cultural Heritage. The two villages are about 15 kilometers apart from each other.

Human habitation in the mountain areas of southern Anhui traces back to 600 BC (West Zhou dynasty). When Emperor Qin Shihuang united China in 221 BC, the counties Yi and Xi were established, which are China's earliest counties with a history of more than 2200 years. In 769 AD (Dali fourth year in Tang dynasty), the Huizhou province was set up, which incorporated six counties, namely She, Yi, Xiuning, Wuyuan, Jixi, Qimen. Since then, the administrative structure of "one prov-

ince, six counties" had been kept for over one thousand years.

Throughout history, the mountain areas of southern Anhui had been a Shangri-La where the northern gentry class escaped wars and lived close to nature. In the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of 12<sup>th</sup> century, respectively, the gentry class in north China flocked into this area, making it an immigrant society of northern Chinese.

The village Xidi was established in 1047, so it has a history of more than 950 years. There are three ancestral halls and one memorial archway, as well as 224 ancient residential buildings, 122 of them being well preserved. All of these were built between 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Hongcun was established in 1131, with a history of over





860 years. There are 137 ancient buildings of 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is also a 400-year-old, well-preserved hydro project, which is highly creative and artistic, and possesses great landscape value.

Xidi and Hongcun have largely preserved their genuine appearances in Ming and Qing(14 century and 19 century) dynasties, including the overall layout, the environment, the architectural style, building materials, decorations and construction techniques.

Xidi has maintained its complete layout with the original road and water systems. The main streets, including the Main street, Henglu street and the Front and Back Stream Streets, and over 40 lanes are preserved, all of them paved with granite. Two streams flow west in the stone laid stream bed, separating the village into parts. On both sides of the streams are high walls enclosing deep courtyards, and over the streams there are bridges laid with long slabstones.

Hongcun, similarly, maintains its ancient layout. An artificial water system is its most remarkable feature, which is composed of a well kept water way, private water gardens, and public ponds inside and outside the village—the Moon Pond and the South Lake. After more than 400 years, it is still serving its practical functions, and the outlook remains unchanged.

Under effective protection by local government, the ancient villages have preserved their authenticity and integrity.

## **2.4 Criteria under which inscription is proposed**

Xidi and Hongcun are human settlements with unique style and features and profound historical and cultural meanings. With their authenticity and integrity, they conform to the inscription criteria II, III, IV and V, as illustrated below:

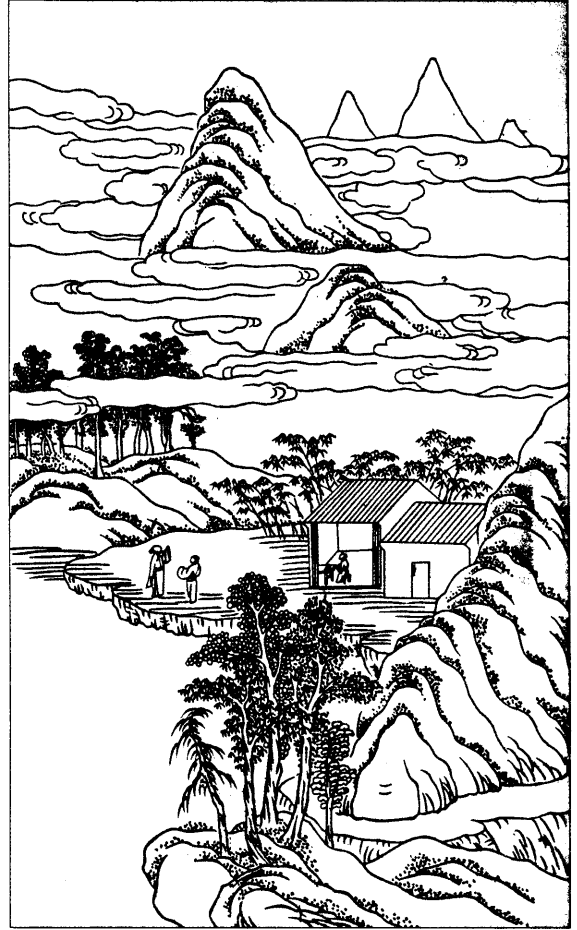
1. The authentic and well-preserved historical interests, with its large amounts of attached historical and cultural messages, have attracted great attention from historians, architects and artists. Along with teachers and students of arts and archi-

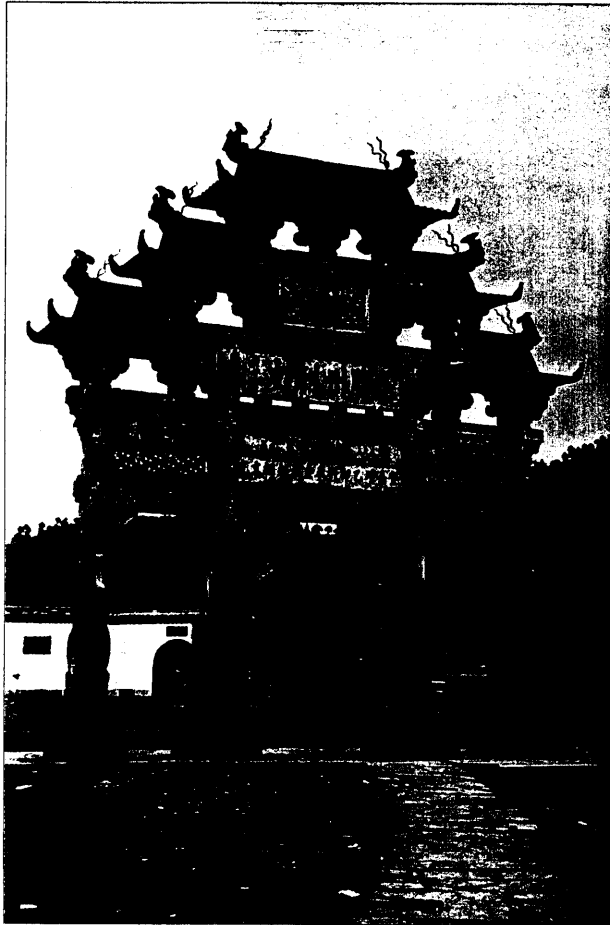
ture from all over the country, they come to Xidi and Hongcun to do research, study and drawing. As an important base for research and learning, Xidi and Hongcun, with the regional arts and culture they represent, have had great influence upon various fields in the society, including architecture, environment, industrial design, aesthetics and literature. Their overall planning, architectural style and landscape designs provide outstanding models for the construction of human settlement. Therefore, they conform to criteria II.

2. Due to social development and modernization, all historical cultures have been more or less eroded. In the mountain areas of southern Anhui, family and blood ties are loosening, and the influence of Anhui culture is gradually fading away. Among the gradually disappearing ancient villages, Xidi and Hongcun are two of the of the few well preserved ancient villages. They provide a special witness for the regional culture. Their inscription on the World Cultural Heritage will undoubtedly bring wide and deep influence onto the protection and exploitation of other ancient villages in this area, in China, and in other regions in the world. Therefore, they conform to criteria III.

3. Xidi and Hongcun are especially accomplished in the field of architecture, workmanship and landscape construction. Their architectural designs, interior decorations and environment construction all reached very high standards, representing one of the highest levels in residential building and human settlement construction ever since Tang and Song dynasties. Therefore, they conform to criteria IV.

4. As outstanding samples of traditional human settlement, Xidi and Hongcun represent a vulnerable culture under the impact of irreversible trends. This culture has had very important status in Chinese history, having made major contributions to the development of Chinese Confucius culture and commercial culture from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Therefore, they conform to criteria V.





Memorial Archway of the Governor in Xidi

### 3. Description

#### 3.1 Description of the properties

##### 3.1.1 An outline

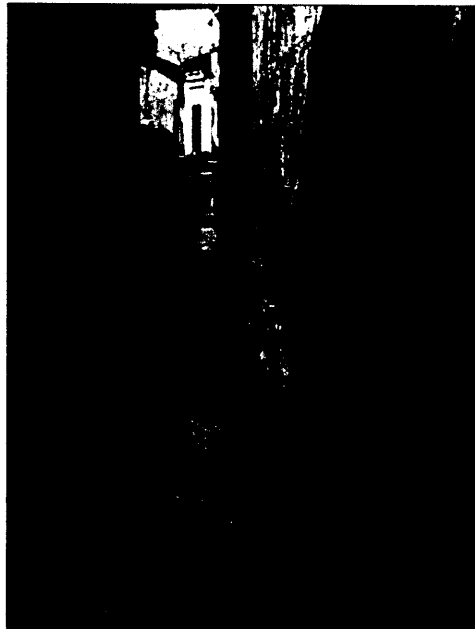
###### Xidi:

Surrounded by mountains, Xidi has an area of 12.96 hectares. Two streams enter from north and east of the village and converge at Huiyuan Bridge in the south of the village. The Yi-Tan road passes the north of the village on its way to the county and the Huangshan Mountains. With a main road going from east to west and two parallel roads along the two streams, the village has an east-to-west road system, with extensions to the north and the south. All streets and roads are paved with Yi county granite. The buildings are timber structured, brick walled, with elaborate wood, stone and brick carvings. The layout of the alleys, streams and buildings are well measured and harmonious, presenting high artistic value. The peaceful old alleys, the ancient residential buildings upon streams, the stylistic private gardens and the stone memorial archway at the entrance of the village combined to form Xidi's unique country style.

###### Hongcun:

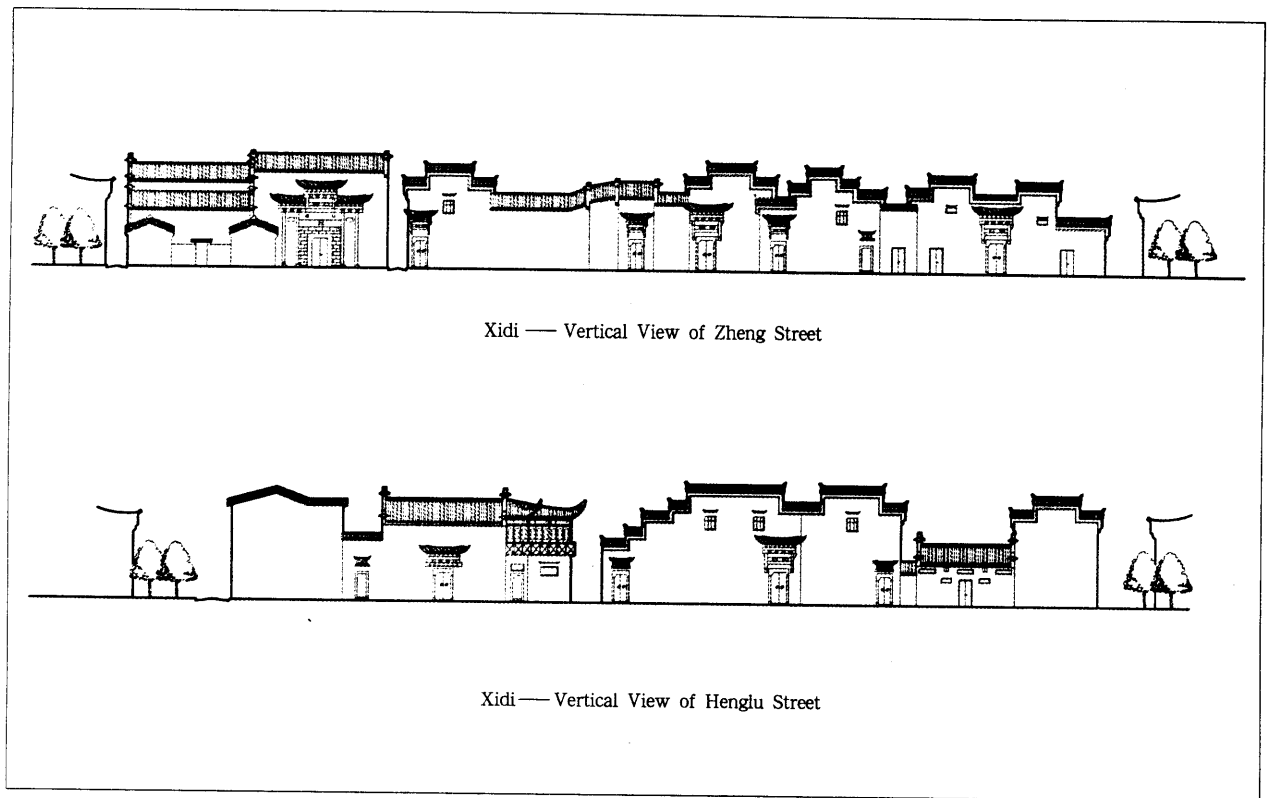


The Water Way in Hongcun



The Water Way in Hongcun

Hongcun has an area of 19.11 hectares. It lies at the foot of Leigang Mountain, an aftermath of Huangshan mountain, and faces Yi Stream, Yangzhan River, and village Ji across the river, to the west. There is a 400-year-old water way in Hongcun, which runs through every households in the village and forms two ponds of different sizes in the middle and south of the village — the Moon Pond and the South Lake. This water system determines the layout of the entire village and provides a unique appearance with high artistic and landscape values. The streets and lanes are mostly built along the water way. There are ancient buildings, including academies, ancestral halls and residential buildings.



### 3.1.2 Description of the Main Features

#### (1) Site planning and layouts

In ancient villages in southern Anhui, the choice of sites and the construction generally followed the guidance of geomantic theory. This theory has a history of more than 2000 years in China. It stresses an ideal state in which man and nature coexist in harmony, and pays full respect to the natural environment. Under the guidance of this theory, the choice of village sites takes both material and spiritual needs into consideration, having scientific basis and high aesthetic value. The overall contour is harmonious and united with the topography and the surrounding mountains and lakes, presenting a style unique of southern Anhui.

#### **Xidi:**

Situated at the foot of the mountains and facing rivers and lakes, Xidi merges harmoniously with nature. Built along the three streams, the Front Stream, the Back Stream and the Golden Stream, it has a belt like layout. Most residential houses are built on the streams, therefore having close affinity to water. 1.5 kilometers west of Xidi where two mountain ridges converge, a water mouth garden was built in accordance with the geomantic theory, together with a few academies. In this beautiful old place for scholarly learning, today, stands the Dongyuan Middle

School.

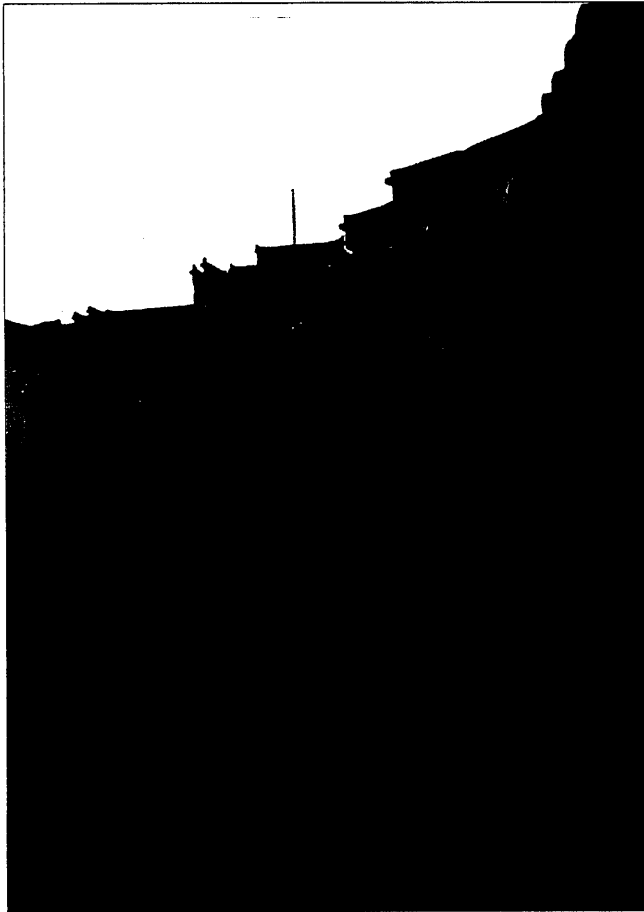
#### **Hongcun:**

Hongcun is situated at the foot of Leigang Mountain and flanked by the East Mountain and the Stone Drum Mountain, which are covered with thick flora. In the south of the village the ground is flat and open, and a large pond, the South Lake, was built. The village basically faces the south, with its central part lying at the very center of the surrounding mountains and rivers, which conforms to the geomantic theory requiring “embracing the masculine and positive and gathering the energy of life from nature”.

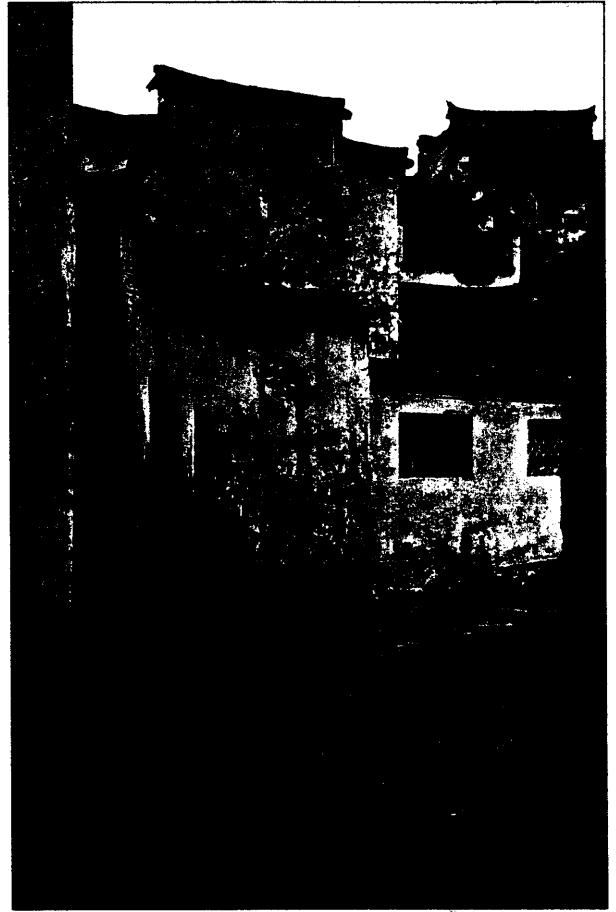
#### (2) Spatial features of villages and the water, streets and lanes

#### **Xidi:**

Xidi is centered around the Hall of Respect and the Hall of Reminiscence and built belt-like along the Front and Back Streams. Four 3-meter-wide streets, the Main Street, Henglu Street, and the Front and Back Stream Streets, constitute the framework of its road system. There are small squares in front of such public buildings as the Hall of Respect, the Hall of Reminiscence and the Memorial Archway of the Governor.



Water Street View in Xidi



Water Street View in Xidi

All streets and lanes are paved with granite. On both sides of the roads there are open sewage gutters. Close and open spaces alternate each other along the alleys, presenting rich sky-lines. Elaborate entrance arches, high-rising horse head gables, winding walls, stone carved lattice windows of various shapes, stone benches and wells studding the alleys, slabstone bridges over the streams, have all maintained their authentic look from

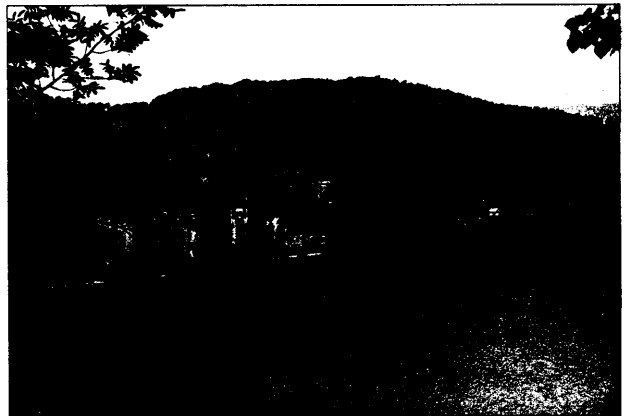
the Ming and Qing dynasty (14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>).

**Hongcun:**

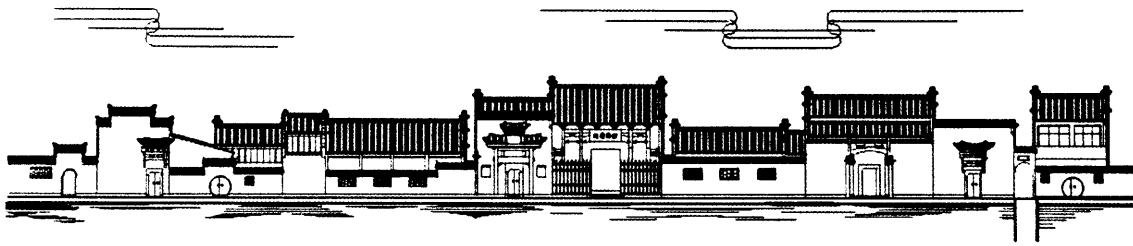
Hongcun has a checkerboard street system paved with granite. The artificial water system running through every household forms unique water way street spaces. In the middle of the village there is a half-moon shaped public pond — the moon pond. Around the pond stand residential buildings and ancestral



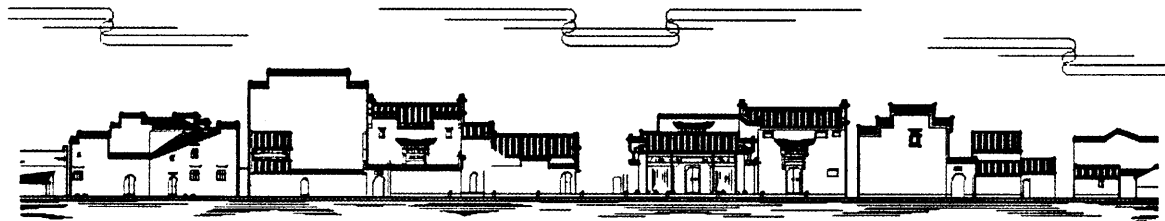
The Moon Pond in Hongcun



The South Lake in Hong Village



Continuous Vertical Plan (Partial) of the South Lake



Continuous Vertical Plan (Partial) of the Moon Pond

halls, subject to a strong converging force. What most embody the landscape and artistic values are the simple and antique buildings reflected in the Moon Pond and the South Lake, which have retained their vitality in the surrounding mountains, providing special human settlement and landscape values.

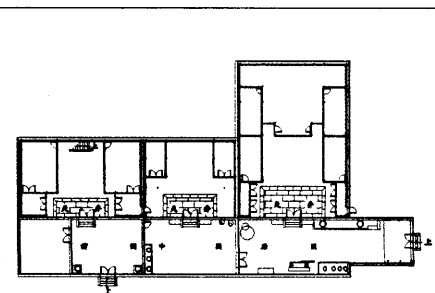
**(3) Traditional architectural style in the region**

The ancient buildings in Xidi and Hongcun are epitomes of the architectural style in Anhui area, presenting strong local features in overall arrangement, style and techniques.

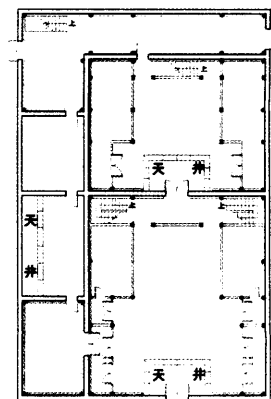
**A. layout and architectural style**

The traditional residential buildings usually have three bays of rooms and a courtyard (its nickname “a seal”), with symmetrical layout. The central row of rooms are the main halls, the two sides the wing rooms, and the staircases are in the front and back, or left and right sides of the hall. Together with the entrance they form an interior courtyard for natural lighting and ventilation. On this basic structure various formats are developed and combined, forming sequential compounds with two or three courtyards, or four-bayed residences.

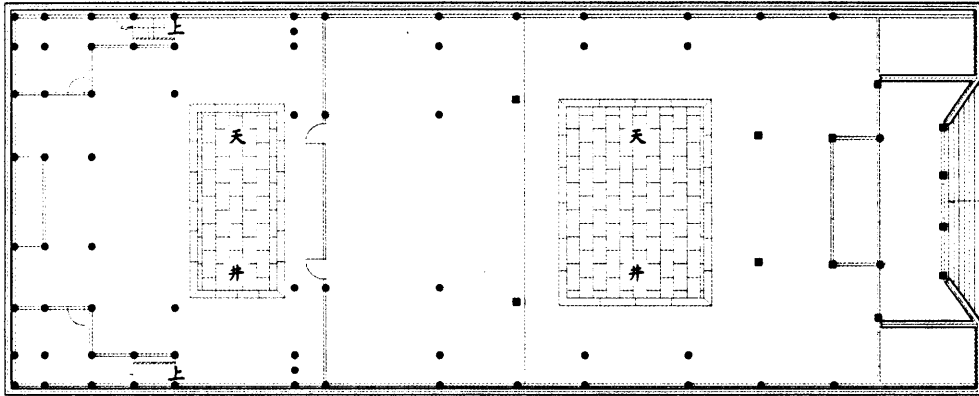
The basic structures of the vernacular architecture include pitched roofs with traditional stacked or timber-framed beams, protected by walls and sealed with gables. The gables use Yi county granite as base, while the top are stacked or arched, using grey tiles to form butterfly patterns, and the ends are shaped like horse heads. Out of consideration for safety, the outer walls have very small windows, usually made of hollowed out granite and carved into flowers and geometric patterns as decoration. The outer gates are generally framed with Yi county granite, with covers imbedded on the top. On the cover there are usually brick carvings of flowers, birds, fish, or historic scenes, which usually have



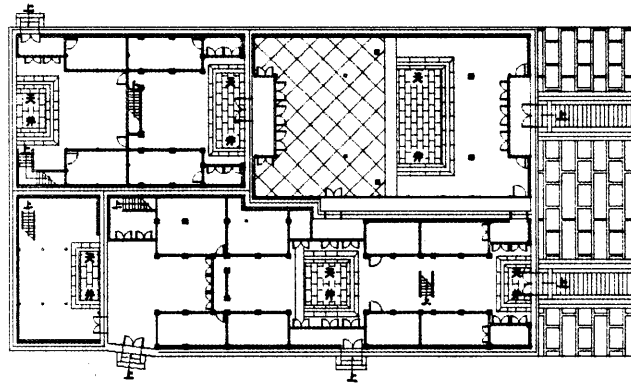
The Plane Figure of West Yard



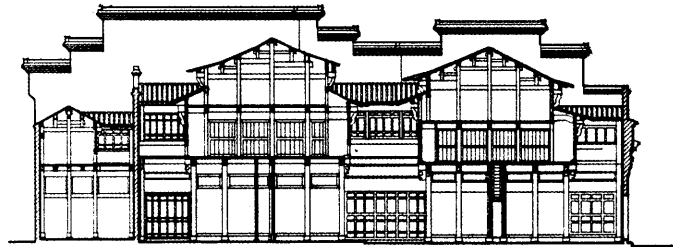
No.22 Plane Figure in Hongcun



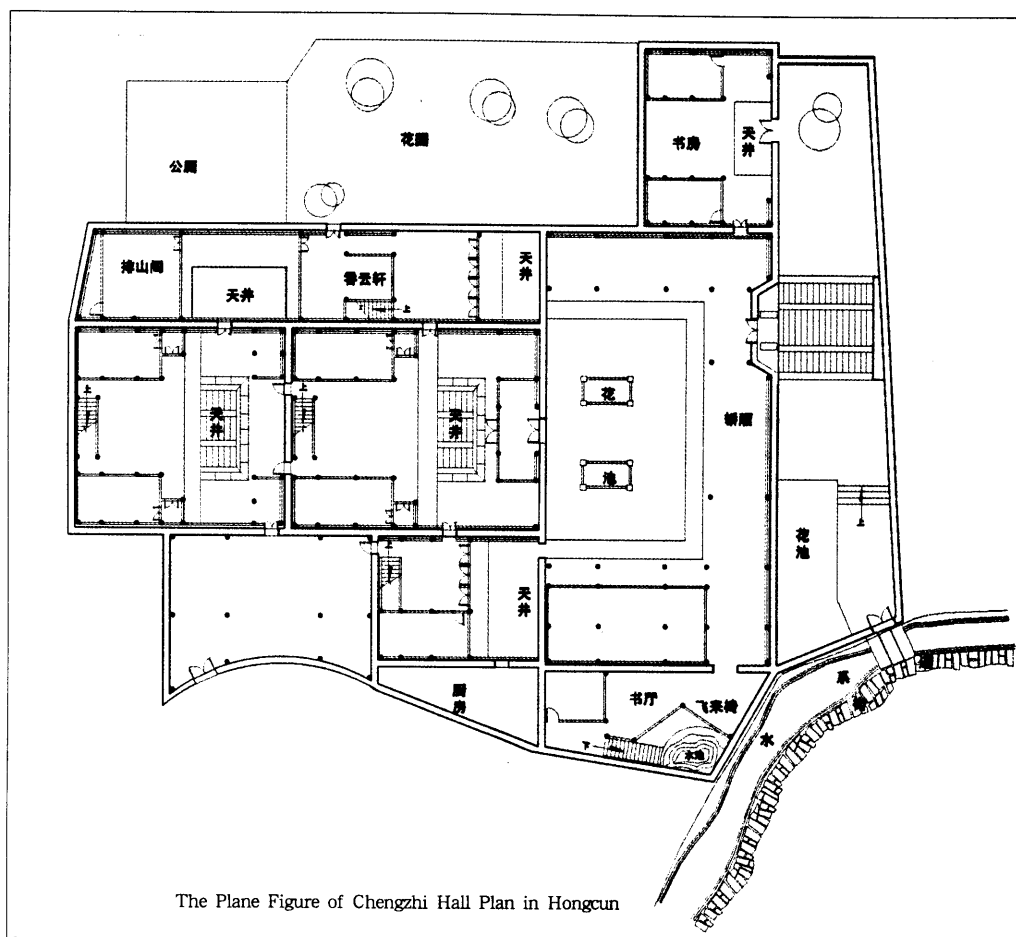
The Hall of Respect Plane Figure in Xidi



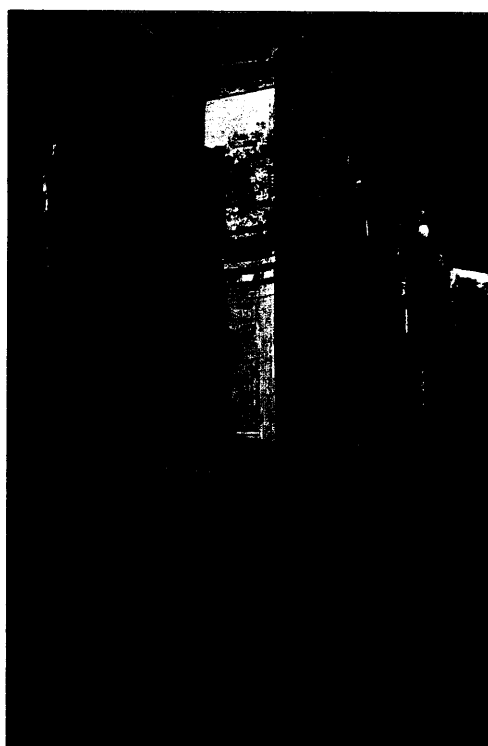
Xidi Residence-Plane Figure of Diji Hall



Xidi Residence-Sectional Plan Figure of Diji Hall

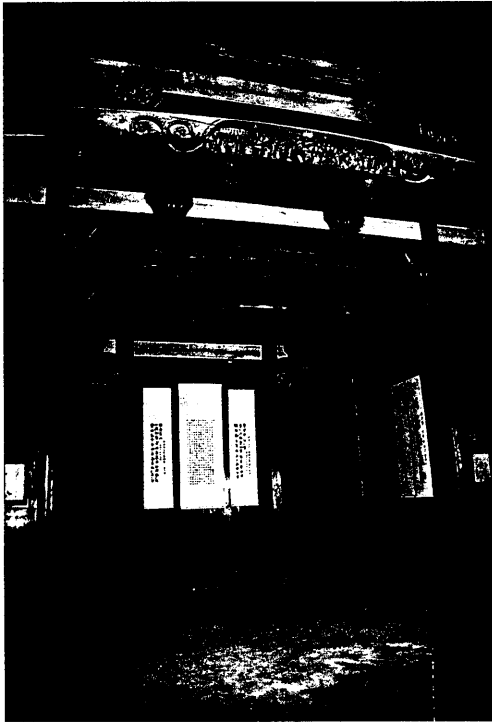


The Water Yard of Chengzhi Hall in Hongcun

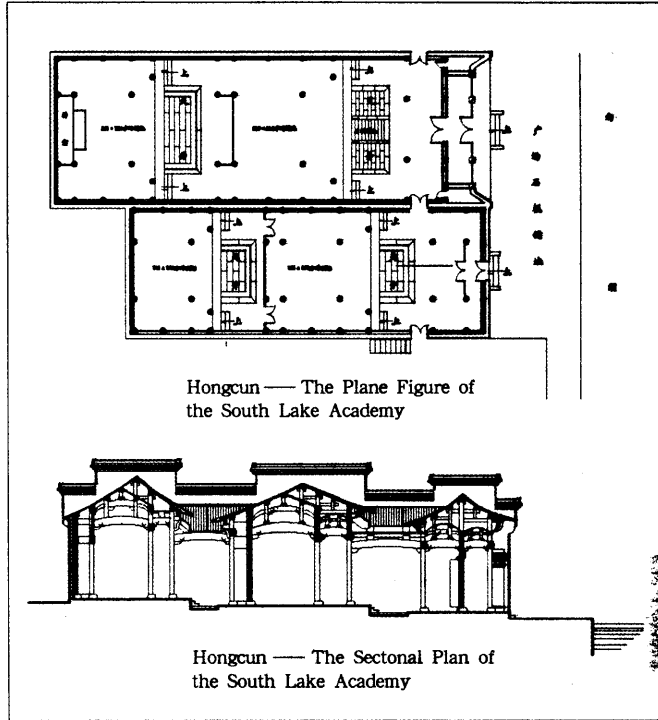


Entrance of Chengzhi Hall in Hongcun





Inside View of Chengzhi Hall in Hongcun



Hongcun — The Plane Figure of the South Lake Academy

Hongcun — The Sectional Plan of the South Lake Academy



certain import.

#### B. Private gardens

Private gardens usually lie at the front courtyard, but sometimes beside the building or at the backyard. The gardens are flexibly arranged, exquisite, and compact. Clever thinking are used in garden buildings to achieve mutual lending among the scenes in limited spaces, and the gardens are filled with poetic and picturesque views.

One well preserved example of private gardens in Xidi is the West Garden.

The West Garden was built 160 years ago, separated by walls into the front, middle, and back gardens. In these partition walls there are moon-round, leaf-shaped, or octagonal openings, as well as rectangular windows framed with granite and laid with grey bricks. They both half separate and half connect the views in each garden. With the stone carvings of pine and plum trees on the walls, they achieve a combination of void and volume, and a fusion of feelings and the settings.

The counterpart in Hongcun is the Hall of Virtue and Righteousness.

The Hall of Virtue and Righteousness faces the north. In the front of the hall there are 16 lattice doors, which half separate the inside and outside. Before the hall there is a rectangular pond, which has underground connection with the village water way. On the west wall climbs a southern Anhui kiwi vine. To the east and west of the yard are two small gardens of fruit trees. The planting is well measured, with carefully arranged flourish-



The Water Yard of Deyi Hall in Hongcun

ing blossoms, sparse trees, fish vats and water pavilions. In such a garden, every single foothold brings a new view, which is a typical of Anhui style private gardens.

#### C. Highly elaborate decorations

The residential buildings are highly elaborate in decoration. Outside the gates, the roads are neatly paved with granite. Stone stairs lead the way to the gates. The gate covers are decorated with brick and stone carvings. The timber works and partitions are pleasant and graceful. Decorative patterns are painted on the ceilings. The staircases are lined with banisters, with *queti* (special supporting structure) beneath. The timber walls on upper floors are featured by tidy and lively structures.

Various patterns and pictures are carved on interior timber structures, such as interior doors and beam base, chiefly of auspicious themes.

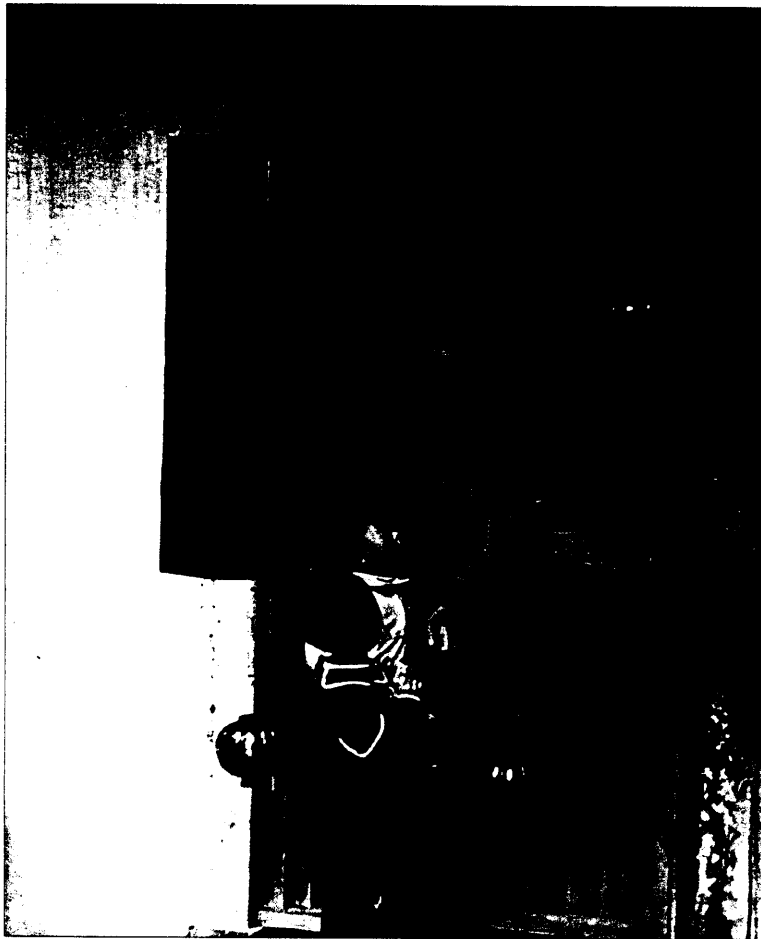
The interior furnishings are refined and elegant, usually including long desks, teapoys, wooden chairs, and calligraphy and painting on the wooden partitions, bringing one into a world of literacy and antiquity.

#### (4) Traditional local culture

Xidi and Hongcun have maintained the tradition of respecting scholars and valuing education. There are simple and sincere local customs. The natives are still using a dialect with large numbers of ancient words and pronunciation.



Folk Customs — Lantern Festival



Folk Customs — Spring Festival

#### (5) Chief components of the two villages

##### Xidi:

Stone bridges — Huiyuan Bridge (the Bridge of Convergence), Gulai Bridge (the Bridge of Ancients), Wugeng Bridge (the Bridge of Parasol Tree), Shewu Bridge (the Bridge of Public House)

Streets — The Main Street, the Heng Street (the Transverse Street), the Front and Back Stream Streets, and other streets and lanes

Residential buildings — the Hall of Ruiyu (Auspicious Jade), the Taoli (Peach and Plum) Garden, the West Garden, the East Garden, the Governor's Mansion, the Hall of Lvfu (Happiness), the Veranda of Qingyun (Blue Clouds), the Hall of Yingfu (Joy), the Hall of Dujing (Reverence), the Hall of Yanggao (Admiration), the Hall of Dijì (Auspiciousness), the Hall of Chunren (Mercy)

Public buildings — Memorial Archway of the Governor, the Hall of Zhuimu (Reminiscence), the Hall of Jingai (Respect)

Ancient trees — cypress, peony, Chinese yew, loquat, yulan magnolia, Japanese apricot

Hongcun:

Stone bridge — the Ji-Hong Bridge

Water system — the water way, the Moon Pond, the South Lake, and family water garden

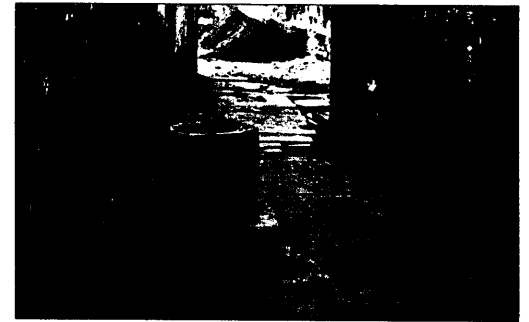
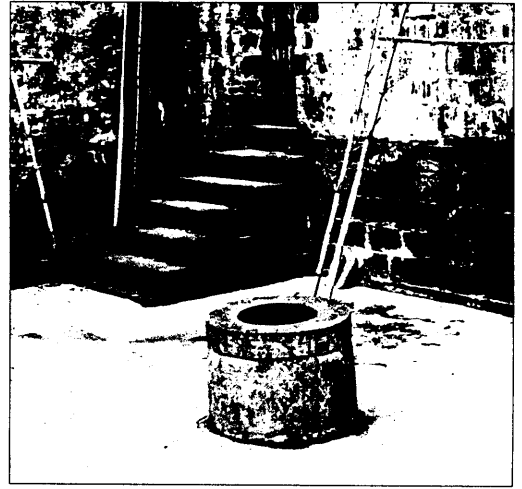
Streets — the Front Street, the Water Way Streets, the Teahouse Lane and other streets and lanes

Residential buildings — the Hall of Chengzhi (Aspiration), the Hall of Lexian (Virtuousness), the Hall of Sanli (Meritorious Deeds), the Green Garden, the Hall of Deyi (Virtue and Righteousness), the Hall of Shuren (Cultivation), the Mansion of Maohua (Splendor), the Hall of Gengxin (Refreshment), the Room of Jiya (Elegance), the Former Residence of Wang Daxie, etc.

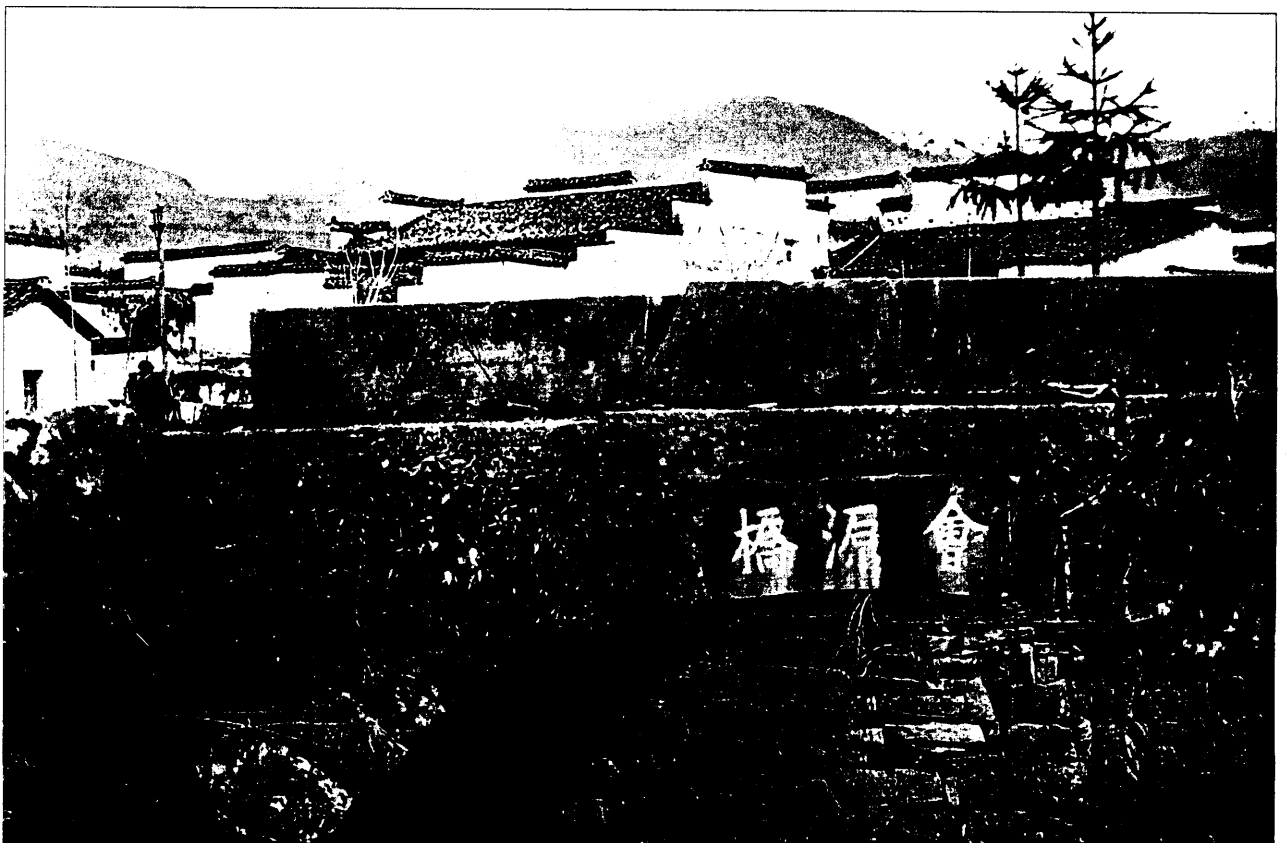
Public buildings — the South Lake Academy, the Hall of Four Houses, the Hall of Lexu (Congeniality)

Ancient trees — hazelnut, red poplar, maidenhair, cypress, pine, camphor, maple, chestnut, Chinese tallow, evergreen, sweet osmanthus, fine-leaf tree, golden willow, and century old peony and camellia

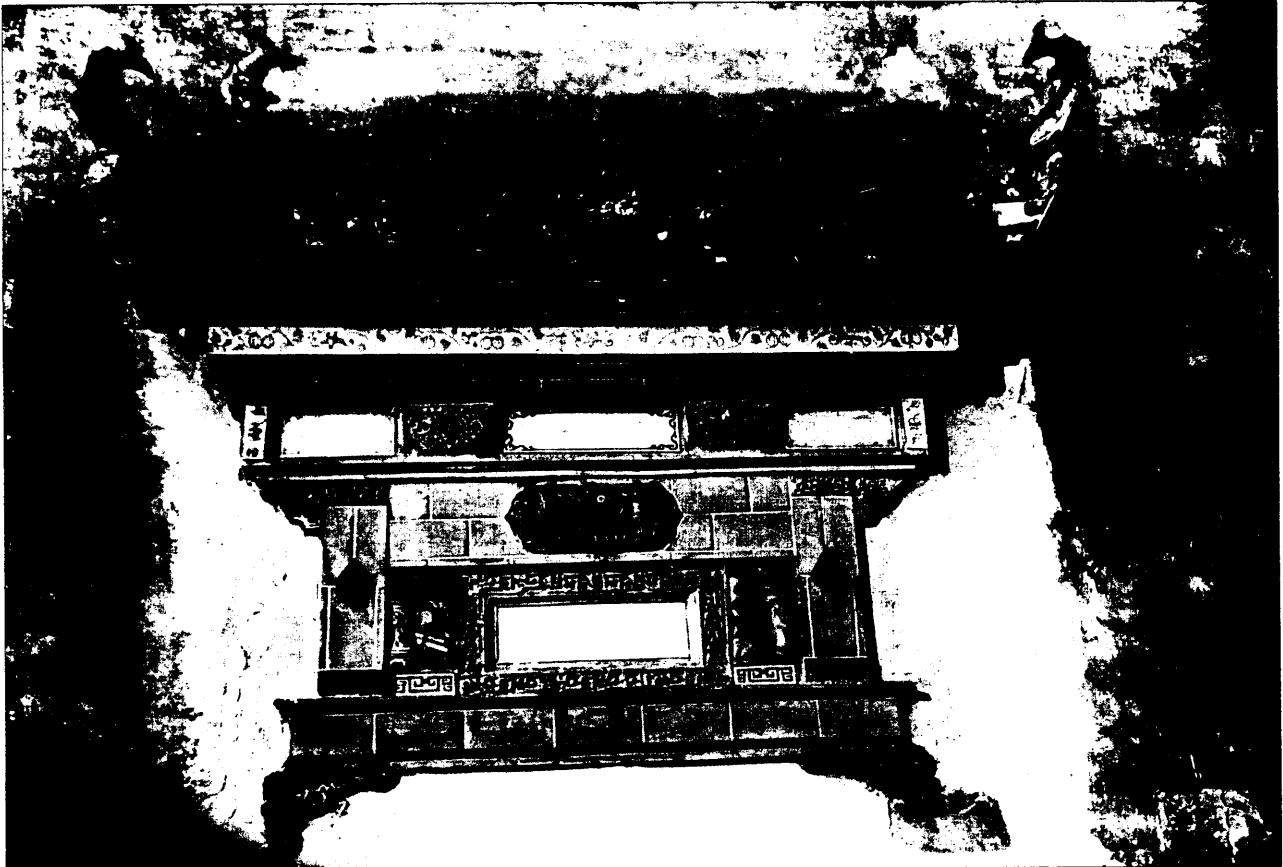
In addition, Xidi and Hongcun also have local folk arts of bamboo weavings and brick and stone carving, as well as the human culture composed of various folk festivals and folk customs.



Water Well



Huiyuan Bridge in Xidi



Brick Carving in local residence

## (6) Main architectural buildings

### Xidi:

#### A. The Hu wenguang Memorial Archway

Hu Wenguang (1521-1539) succeeded in the Imperial Examination in the year 1555. Later he was promoted to serve in Jingzhou and awarded imperial titles. In 1578, Emperor Shenzong of Ming dynasty approved his appeal to build a memorial archway. This archway stands at the entrance of the village, 12.3 meters tall and 9.95 meters wide, four-columned, made of marbles with elaborate carvings. The base is made of four rectangular pedestals. On the middle two columns, facing the east and west, are engraved four pairs of prancing lions.

On the both sides, there are various auspicious patterns, including Chinese unicorns, fairy cranes, phoenix and running deer. On the front side are carved four characters "Jing Pan Shou Xiang". In the middle of the third storey there is a horizontal tablet with the characters "En Rong", set off by embossed dragons. There are 32 round hollowed-out in the arch, a number coinciding with the years of Hu Wenguang's political life.

In 1986, the archway was listed as a provincial historical relic by Anhui provincial government.

#### B. The Hall of Respect

The Hall of Respect is located at the center of Xidi. Built as residence for Hu Shiheng, head of the 14<sup>th</sup> generation of the Hu family, it was renovated at the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century and transformed into an ancestral hall of the Hu family. The largest of its kind in Xidi, it was the place where the family worshipped their ancestors and executed family laws.

The hall is over 60 meters long and 30 meters wide, with an area of 1900 square meters.

In the spring of 1992, The Hall was renovated and transformed into the village's folk culture museum, where ancient Yi relics are displayed.

#### C. The Hall of Reminiscence

Built in 1794 on the main street in Xidi, the Hall of Reminiscence is a branch ancestral hall of the Hu family. The building consists of three rows, the first a gateway, second the main hall, the third a Xiang hall. It is a terrace three-bay building, 1.4 meters high, which is used to hold memorial tablets of ancestors.

It was restored in the summer of 1993.

**Hongcun:****A. The Hall of Congeniality**

The Hall of Congeniality is located in the middle of the north bank of the Moon Pond, built in early 15<sup>th</sup> century as ancestral hall of the Wang family. The gateway at the first entrance was quite well preserved, with delicate moonbeam and lotus patterned beam base carvings. The interior hall was restructured in 1963.

In 1998, it was listed as a provincial historical relic by Anhui provincial government.

**B. The South Lake Academy**

In the middle 17<sup>th</sup> century, Hongcun villagers set up six private schools along the South Lake, which were called 'Six Schools on the Lake'. In 1814, the six schools were merged and reconstructed, and named the South Lake Academy.

The academy is located to the north of the South Lake, including six buildings, namely the Hall of Zhidao (Learning), the Pavilion of Wenchang (Refined Culture), the Pavilion of Qimeng (Primary Learning), the Pavilion of Huiwen (Literacy), the Lake House, plus courtyards and play grounds.

In 1998, it was listed as a provincial historical relic by Anhui provincial government.

**C. The Hall of Aspiration**

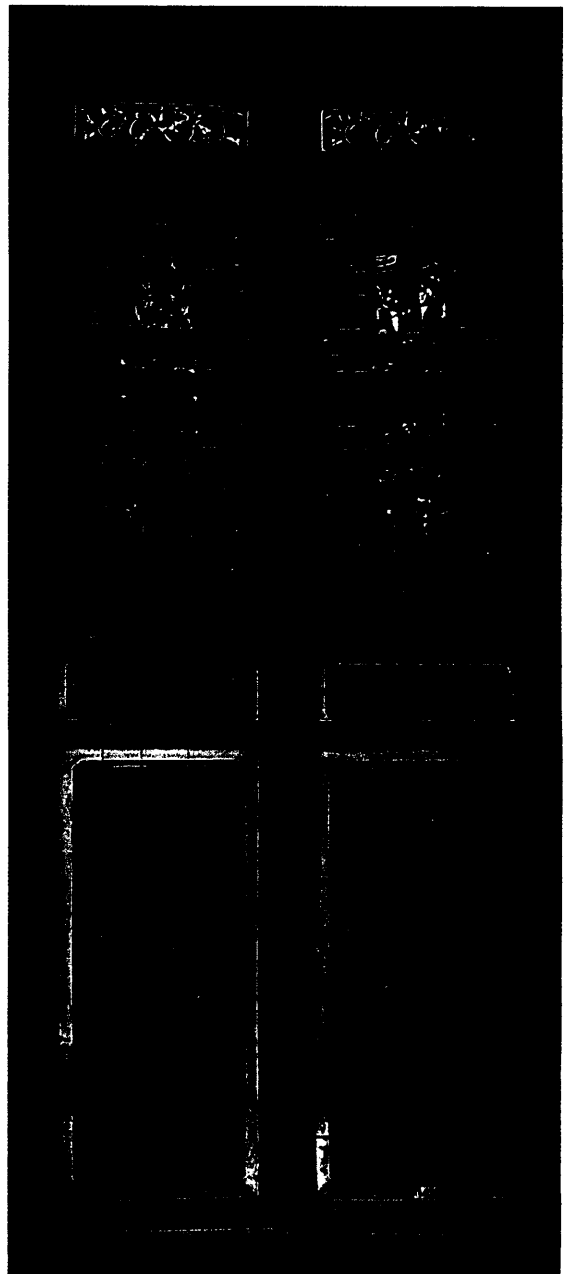
This residence is located at the middle of the Shangshuizhen Street. Built around 1855 and renovated in 1911, It was residence of Wang Dinggui, a powerful salt merchant in late Qing dynasty.

The building was of timber structure. Inside there are magnificent decorations of brick, stone and wood carvings. The main halls have two rows and three sides. Smaller halls lie to both sides. There are the Hall of Study, the Hall of Fish Pond, as well as the Mountain Pavilion and the Cloud Veranda as places for entertainment. There are 9 patios and 60 rooms of different sizes in the residence. In the courtyards there are flowers and fruit trees, wells and ponds, occupying an area of 2000 square meters. The architectural area is over 3000 square meters. It is a well preserved large scale residence building.

In 1998, it was listed as a provincial historical relic by Anhui provincial government.



Decorative wood carving



Carved wood door



Carved Brick

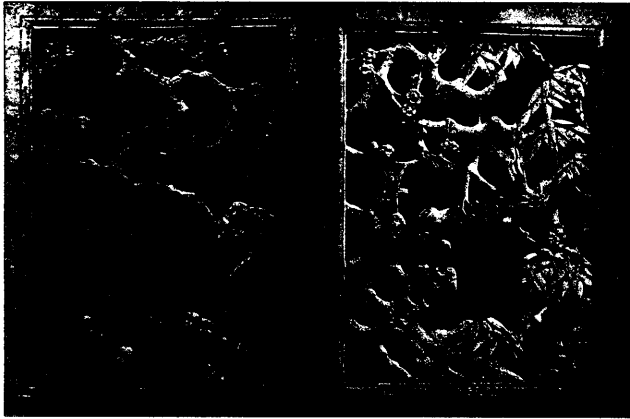


## 3.2 History and Development

### 3.2.1 Formation of the villages

#### Xidi:

The village was originally called Xichuan (West River), because three streams used to flow through it. Because there had been an ancient caravan post 1.5 kilometers to the west of the village, it was also called "Pudisuo (accommodation for post-men)", hence the name "Xidi (West Post)".



Stone Carving in Local Residence

According to the account of the Hu family, their ancestor was son of Liye, Emperor Zhaozong (888-904) of the Tang dynasty. In the year 904, forced by Zhu Quanzhong, head of the kingdom of Liang, Zhaozong fled his palace. On their way, the queen gave birth to a male baby. At that time, Hu San, a native of Wuyuan, Xinan, was travelling in Shanxi province. He secretly brought the would-be prince back to his hometown and changed his name into Hu Changyi, who became the ancestor of the Hu family.

In 1047, Hu Shiliang, descendent of Hu Changyi, went to Jinling on business. On his way he discovered Xidi with its surrounding mountains, picturesque sceneries and fertile land, and moved the whole family from Wuyuan to Xidi. From then on, the family lived and flourished on this land.

Since 1465, Xidi's population began to grow sharply. Following the principle of "both scholar and merchant", the ancestors of the Hu family entered the business circle. Xidi's wealth accumulated by leaps and bounds, and large numbers of residential buildings, ancestral halls, and archways began to be built.

During 1573 to 1620, the village rebuilt the Huiyuan Bridge and the Gulai Bridge, and built up a number of residential build-



Water-by Pavilion in Wang Residence

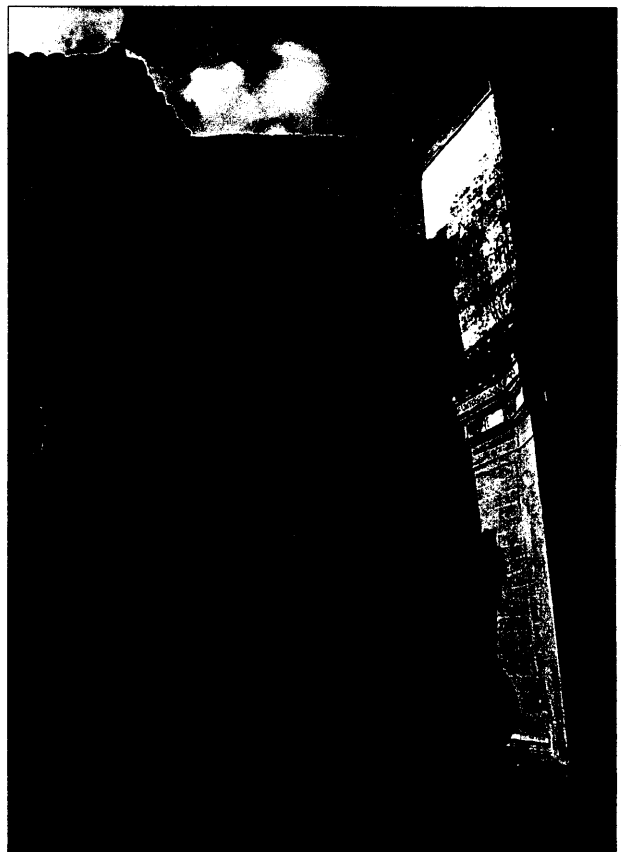


Water Dam in Hongcun

ings along the stream between the two bridges. After the construction of the Hall of Respect by Hu Shiheng's descendents upon his old residence, the village center gradually moved from the east to the place between the two bridges.

During 1662 and 1850, the Hu family became highly successful in both commerce and politics. Xidi reached its hay day in population, economy and construction. Hu Xuezi, one of the 24<sup>th</sup> generation ancestors, operated 36 pawn shops and more than 20 stores, covering every trading ports in the middle and lower reaches of the Long River. His assets equaled to 5 million liang in silver, ranking sixth in wealth among the southern magnates. The family had their own ancestral hall (the Hall of Reminiscence) and a number of residences. Another ancestor, Hu Guansan, not only exceeded in wealth, but also related with the then prime minister, Cao Zhenyong, by marriage. Therefore, he secured a very firm stand in society. In order to receive Cao at Xidi, he had the Gateway of Running Horse built at the entrance of the village, and the Hall of Auspiciousness in the village, showing off his glory and wealth.

In Ming and Qing dynasties (14 century-19 century), the Hu family entered the officialdom. 115 family members became officials, and up to 298 men became Bingsheng, Gongsheng and Jiansheng, titles for senior licentiates and students of the Imperial College. From scholar to merchant, from merchant to bu-



Little Stone Building in Xidi





reacrats, the approach of combining politics and commerce brought rapid increase to the family fortunes. At its peak under Emperor Qianlong's reign in Qing dynasty (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>), Xidi had more than 600 residential buildings, 99 alleys and more than 90 wells.

During the late Qing dynasty and the Republic days, with the decline of Anhui merchant group and decomposition of the feudal patriarchal clan system, Xidi's development was stalled.

#### **Hongcun:**

Established in 1131, Hongcun has a history of more than 860 years. To escape fire damages, Wang Wen, a Han dynasty general and emigrant from the north, together with his relative Wang Yanji, brought their families from Qishu village in Yi county to the upper stream near Leigang Mountain, where they built 13 houses and settled down. This was the start of Hongcun.

During the periods of 1401-1620 and 1796-1908, the feudal society was economically and culturally prosperous, and the Cheng-Zhu philosophy was also flourishing. The ancestors of the Wang family accumulated huge wealth by serving as state officials and conducting business activities. In order to glorify the family, they spared no effort in buying lands and building houses, bridges and roads, leading to two climaxes in the con-

struction of the village.

Around the year 1405, family heads Wang Siqi and his son Wang Shengping invited geomancers to investigate the village. Following their guidance, they introduced water from the West Stream into the village, dug the water way, and built the 1000-sqaure meter Moon Pond. During the following century, Hongcun's population and residential buildings grew in large numbers. In 1607, 16 Wang's family heads raised a fund, bought several Mus of fields, deepened all the ground holes, springs, ground caves, and connected them into a round pond, forming the South Lake. Thus the entire water system was completed.

From 1814 to 1911, the South Lake Academy (1814), the Hall of Meritorious Deeds (1888), the Hall of virtuousness (1890), the Hall of Aspiration (1855, rebuilt in 1911) were built.

Today Hongcun still preserves 137 ancient residential buildings built in Ming and Qing dynasty(14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>). There are 400-year-old, sky-scraping trees, the Hall of Aspiration, the stately, antique Hall of Virtuousness and Hall of Meritorious Deeds, and the Qing dynasty South Lake Academy. However, the most enchanting part is still the 400-year-old water system which winds through all the houses and connects the Moon Pond and the South Lake.



Thirteen Rooms in Hongcun

To sum up, Xidi and Hongcun are typical villages bound by blood ties, developed through dozens of generations of family congregation. In addition, they are typical villages supported by the wealth of powerful Anhui merchants, instead of being self-supported through productive activities.

### 3.2.2 Effects from historic events

Due to their well chosen sites, Xidi and Hongcun never suffered any serious natural disasters. There were several fires which burnt up a few houses, but they didn't bring any major effects.

Since 1950's, with the social economical development, some of the ancient buildings suffered damage to different extents, but thanks to the limitation of transportation and geographical location, there were no demolition and construction in large scales, and the whole villages are quite well preserved.

### 3.3 Form and date of most recent records of property

3.3.1 Conservation Plan of Xidi in Yi County, drafted by Huangshan Planning and Design Institute and Construction Bureau of Yi County, 1997;

3.3.2 Conservation Plan of Hongcun in Yi County, drafted by Huangshan Planning and Design Institute and Construction Bureau of Yi County, 1998;

3.3.3 Conservation Archive of Ancient Residential buildings in Xidi & Hongcun in Yi County, drafted by Huangshan Planning and Design Institute and Relics Bureau of Yi County, 1997 & 1998.

### 3.4 Present state of conservation

#### 3.4.1 Present state of conservation

##### Xidi:

In 1984 the county government of Yi first drafted an overall planning on Xidi, focusing on the protection and relevant



Ancient tree in gateway to Hongcun

guidance of the ancient village and its old residential buildings. In the following years, 16 residences and 3 ancestral halls received grants and renovation. Under the principle of conservation, the Gateway of Running Horse was restored in 1991, the Hall of Respect in 1992, the Hall of Reminiscence and the Flower Hall in 1993. Fire hydrants were set up in the main streets, and each house was installed with fire-fighting equipment. Automobiles are strictly forbidden to enter the village, in order to protect the village roads from damage. Measures against termites are taken in old residential buildings. Over 600 hectares of forests were developed on surrounding mountains to preserve the village's outlook. Through the joint effort by the government and the villagers, Xidi's original townscape is effectively preserved, and all construction activities are kept under strict control and guidance.

In 1986, the village was listed as a provincial historical relic by Anhui provincial government.

In 1987 when Xidi was opened up to tourists, The government issued regulations and protection measures to the villagers, in an attempt to raise the awareness of conservation.

In 1997, the county government of Yi set up a conservation planning committee, and drafted a conservation plan for the second time. The local government also granted fund to build and improve basic utilities, including the drainage system, water supply, electricity, telecommunication, etc. The villager's living conditions were also tended to, satisfying some of the needs of modern life. In 1996, the government provided the village with gas cookers, in order to change the traditional fuel of wood and protect the surrounding mountain forests.

##### Hongcun:

Since 1949, the local government has taken protective measures on the Hall of Aspiration and other major ancient buildings, in an attempt to reduce man-made damages. After the issue of the overall planning on Yi by the county government in 1984, more attention was paid to the conservation, and more efforts were made. Funds were granted for restoration and maintenance of ancient buildings like the Hall of Aspiration, the Hall of Virtuousness and the Hall of Meritorious Deeds. In main streets like the Front Street, underground sewage pipes were installed and the road surface was repaired. The water system, including the water way, the dams, the South Lake and the Moon Pond, were dredged and mended. Ancient trees are looked after by specially assigned people, and protected by fences. Forestations are carried out and constructions around the village are constrained.

Along with the protective measures by the government, protection and repairs of private owned residential buildings by the villagers are also encouraged and supported. At the same time, efforts are made in improvement of living conditions,



Hazelnut in Hongcun

basic utilities, and sanitary conditions. The original outlook of the ancient village is restored, and the ancient water system is well preserved.

#### 3.4.2 Restoration approach

The ancient villages in southern Anhui have received more and more attention from local government of all levels and from professionals. During the last two decades, various protective measures have been issued, protection plans drafted, grants and funds for repair and maintenance put in. Two state B level institutes, the Institute of Ancient Architectures and the Institute of Termite Prevention in Ancient Architectures, were established to carry out related work and provide relevant training and guidance. For architectures in different conditions, different measures are adopted:

- (1) For the well preserved ones, ordinary maintenance is provided.
- (2) For partially damaged ones, fortification and repair of

the damaged parts are provided.

- (3) For seriously destroyed ones, restoration with identical materials is carried out.

The traditional architectures are thus conserved on the three levels.

#### 3.4.3 Summary of Experience

Large-scaled preservation work in Xidi and Hongcun began in the middle and late 1980's. After the so-called 'Cultural Revolution', people came to realize that the ancient villages and their buildings are precious, irreplaceable cultural legacies. The government gradually raised the degree of protection, and after more than a decade of efforts, the following points have been learned:

A. Preservation and rational utility of the properties must be based on scientific, practical protection plans and strict protection laws and regulations;

B. The policy of overall conservation should be adopted,

namely, to preserve all the attached historical and cultural messages in a village;

C. Because most ancient buildings are private owned, preservation by the villagers should be encouraged and guided, and the difficulties resulting from preservation should be tackled;

D. In the repair and maintenance of ancient buildings, the materials and techniques used must be strictly identical to the original;

E. Environment in the villages should be mended, in order to improve the villagers' living conditions.

F. Since conservation is a long-term historical process, education on cultural heritage conservation should be carried out among the youth.

G. Guarantee the finance of the preservation work by raising funds through various channels.

H. Severe punishment for destructive activities is a powerful insurance to heritage conservation.

### 3.5 Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property

In order to bring the cultural properties of Xidi and

Hongcun into play, the local government formulated detailed policies and programmes on propagation and presentation:

1. Publishing various books, pictures and video materials, displaying and giving publicity to these precious cultural properties to the whole society;

2. Organizing related academic research, seeking deeper understanding of the Anhui culture;

3. Creating favorable environment, attracting people to visit, investigate, and study this legacy;

4. Making it an educational base for youth on pride in the Chinese culture.

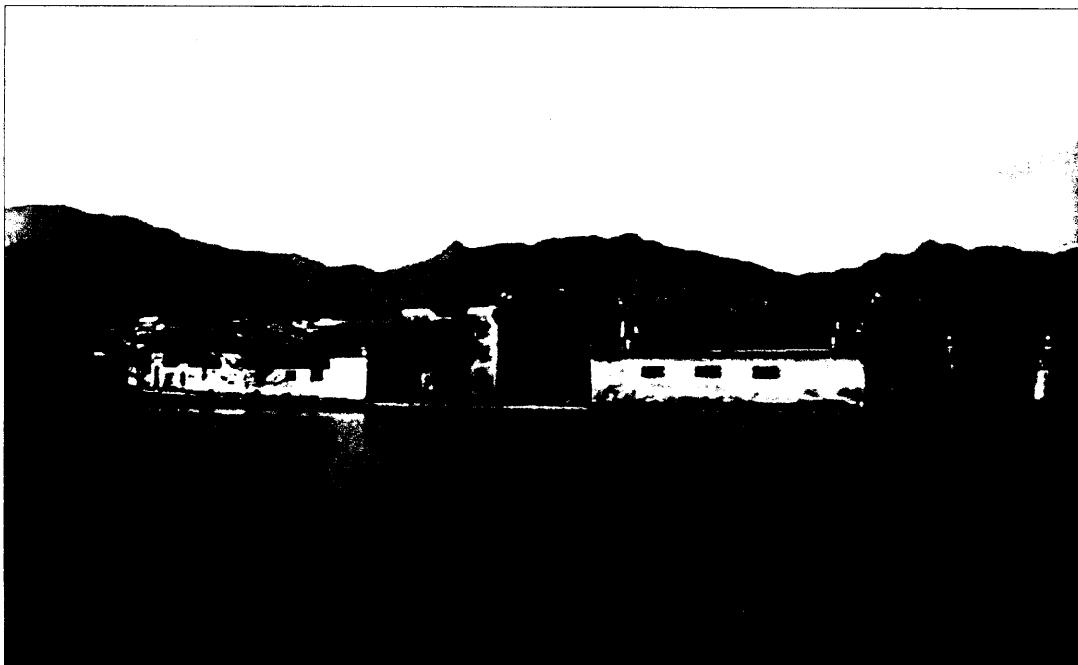
At the same time, policies and programmes on preservation and promotion are also expanded:

1. Issuing local regulations on protection of the ancient villages;

2. Adding educational courses on ancient architecture protection in primary and middle schools;

3. Carrying out plated protection for the key architectural buildings;

4. Strengthening tourism promotion and tour guide training.



The South Lake in Hongcun



## 4. Management

### 4.1 Ownership

The proprietary rights of these ancient villages belong to the People's Republic of China. The architectures and buildings

in the ancient villages belong respectively to the state, to collective groups and individuals.

### 4.2 Legal Status

#### 4.2.1 Laws and Regulations

Category	Name	Date of Issue	Institution of Issue
Law	Constitution of the People's Republic of China	Dec 4, 1982	People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
Law	City Planning Law of the People's Republic of China	April 1, 1990	People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
Law	Cultural Relics Protection Law of the People's Republic of China	Nov 9, 1982	People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
Law	Land Administration Law of the People's Republic of China	Dec 29, 1988	People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
Law	Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China	Nov 18, 1982	People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
Administrative regulations	Specifications for the Implementation of the Cultural Relics Protection Act of the People's Republic of China	May 5, 1992	State Council of the People's Republic of China
Administrative regulations	Provisional Regulations on Management of Scenery Spots and cultural interests	June 7, 1985	State Council of the People's Republic of China
Local Administrative regulations	Rules for the Implementation of the City Planning Act of the People's Republic of China in Anhui Province	August 30, 1991	People's Congress of Anhui Province
Local Administrative regulations	Rules for the Implementation of the Cultural Relics Protection Act of the People's Republic of China	April, 1992	People's Congress of Anhui Province
Local Administrative regulations	Regulations for the Preservation of Ancient Residential buildings in Southern Anhui Province	Nov, 1998	People's Congress of Anhui Province

#### 4.2.2 Extracts from laws and regulations

Constitution of the People's Republic of China (1982)

Article 22: The state protects historical interests, precious cultural relics and other important historic and cultural properties.

City Planning Act (April 1, 1990)

Article 14: In city planning, attention should be paid to protection and improvement of urban ecological environment, prevention of pollution and its harmful effects, enhancement of tree planting. Efforts should be made to achieve a clean and healthy city environment, to preserve historic and cultural relics, traditional customs, local specialties and natural scenery.

Law of Cultural Relics Protection (Nov 19, 1982)

Article 2: Within the boundaries of the People's Republic

of China, the following cultural relics with historic, artistic and scientific values are under state protection.

1. ancient cultural relics, ancient tombs and funerary objects, ancient architectures, rock grottoes and stone inscriptions with historic, artistic and scientific values

2. architectures and relics which are related to important historic events, revolutionary movements and historic figures, and thus having important memorial and educational significance and values as historical data

Article 4: Within the boundaries of the People's Republic of China, all relics existing underground, in inland waters or territorial seas belong to the state.

Article 5: The ownership of memorial relics, ancient ar-

chitectures and traditional cultural relics belonging to collective groups and individuals is protected by state laws, and owners must abide by relevant laws of preservation.

Rules for the Implementation of the City Planning Act of the People's Republic of China in Anhui Province (August 30, 1991)

Article 15: When constructing new city areas and renovate old city areas, practical measures should be taken according to related laws and regulations, to protect architectures, build-

ings, antiques, structures and ancient and famous trees that have important historic and cultural values.

Land Administration Act of the People's Republic of China (Jan 1, 1999)

Article 8: Lands in urban areas belong to the state; lands in rural and suburban areas, except for those regulated to be owned by the state, belong to the collective groups of farmers; residential lands and private kept lands belong to the collective groups of farmers.

#### 4.2.3 Regulation Documents

#### 4.2.4 Conservation Status of the Cultural Relics

Name	Date of Issue	Institution of Issue
Notice on the Preservation of the Provincial Cultural Relics of Three Levels and Controlled Construction Areas	Dec, 1987	Construction and Culture Bureau in Anhui Province
Official Approval on the Overall City Planning of Huangshan City	June 29, 1994	People's Government of Anhui Province
Provisional Regulations for the City Planning of Huangshan City	April 23, 1996	People's Government of Huangshan City
Provisional Regulations for the City Planning of Yi County	1995	People's Government of Yi County
Administrative Rules for the Preservation of Ancient Residential buildings in Yi County	1998	People's Government of Yi County
Conservation Plans for Xidi, Yi County	1998	People's Government of Yi County
Conservation Plans for Hongcun, Yi County	1999	People's Government of Yi County

In December 1987, the ancient residential buildings in Xidi and the Memorial Archway for Governor Hu Wenguang were inscribed as Provincial Relics by the People's Government of Anhui Province.

In 1998, the Hall of Meritorious Deeds, the Hall of Aspiration and the South Lake Academy were inscribed as Provincial Relics by the People's Government of Anhui Province.

In 1998 the ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun were approved of nomination for World Heritage List by Ministry of Construction and State Cultural Relics Bureau.

#### 4.3 Protective measures and means of implementation

The ancient villages are preserved and managed according to the following laws and regulations: Constitution of the People's Republic of China, City Planning Act of the People's Republic of China, Regulations for the Preservation of Ancient Residential buildings in Southern Anhui Province, Administrative Rules for Conservation of Ancient Residential buildings in Yi County, etc.



#### 4.3.1 Formulation of specific and detailed conservation plans

The overall-planning program for Yi County, issued in 1994, clearly took Xidi and Hongcun into the scope of the conservation plan. In 1997 and 1998 preservation plans for the ancient villages were drawn up, which defined clearly the nature of the ancient villages — villages with important historical and cultural values, where tourism should be the major industry. The plans also designated the objects of preservation — the whole environment of the ancient villages (including ancient architectures, water system, streets, buildings, ancient trees, etc.) and their attached historical and cultural information. They designated the boundaries for the preservation zone (the boundaries of the properties), construction controlled zone, and environment coordinating zone (the buffer zone). Levels of preservation of the ancient architectures were defined and corresponding preservation and renovation measures were drawn up. The plans stated clearly the key points of preservation in the ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun:

1. Preservation of the characteristic spatial environment of Xidi and Hongcun
2. Preservation of the architectural characteristics of the traditional Anhui style residential buildings
3. Preservation of the characteristic designs of the ancient water system and private gardens
4. Preservation and development of the traditional culture of Anhui

The plans stated in detail the scope and requirements for the preservation areas at their respective levels.

The preservation zone is under legal protection. The emphasis is to preserve the villages' spatial layout, water system, architectural environment, traditional architectures of Ming and Qing Dynasty (14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>), and human landscape and local customs; to preserve the historical layout of the villages and their street patterns, traditional folk culture and other factors contributing to the overall townscape; to adjust land uses and reduce constructions. Buildings that must be rebuilt, renovated must be strictly controlled and administrated to preserve their original architectural style, heights, stylistic layout, materials, color, scale and proportion.

The controlled construction zone is the main buffer zone

of the cultural heritage area of Xidi and Hongcun. It accommodates construction projects needed for the town's development yet unsuitable to be carried out in the preservation zone. The scale of the construction projects should be controlled appropriately. Architectures that need to be built, renovated or expanded should stick to the traditional features and should be in harmony with the traditional architectural style.

Inside the environment coordinating zone, mountains, vegetation, water system and farmlands are the base upon which the ancient villages survive. Hillsides should be closed from livestock grazing and timber felling to conserve water and prevent soil erosion. Development of all kinds of industries should be restricted, and construction projects that are harmful to the environment should be forbidden.

Based on this, plans are further drawn up on the infrastructure of the two villages, and the repair and renovation of the ancient residences.

#### 4.3.2 Better Management

1. Such laws and regulations like *Administrative Rules for the Preservation of Ancient Residential buildings in Yi County* were issued, to manage the ancient villages on a strictly scientific basis; all the construction activities in the ancient villages' preservation area must be submitted for approval in accordance with the legal procedures. Operational departments are responsible for preservation of the villages and management of the constructions.

1) County government should issue public notices to specify the ancient villages' preservation area, and to erect signs with introductions.

2) The County Cultural Relics Bureau is responsible for the preservation and administration of the ancient village and their architectural relics. It should register the cultural relics and appoint special personnel to be especially responsible for them.

3) The County Construction Bureau and County Land Administration Bureau are in charge of management of the construction activities in the ancient villages.

4) The County Tourism Bureau is in charge of the supervision and administration of the tourist market of the ancient villages.

2. Scientific researches should be enhanced, and a spe-

cial organization made up by specialists should be set up to direct, coordinate and supervise the preservation and construction of the ancient villages.

#### 4.3.3 Promoting education, raising the villagers's preservation awareness.

Various media should be made use of to inform villagers of the important values of the ancient villages, helping them to get better understanding of these cultural legacies, so as to enhance a sense of honor and responsibility and improve the willingness to love and to protect the ancient villages. The government should crack down vigorously on any act of breaking the state laws and regulations, or on any act of damaging the ancient villages. The villagers' preservation awareness should be enhanced and local regulations on conservation of the ancient villages should be propagated and implemented.

#### 4.3.4 Upholding the principle of scientific renovation, in rescuing and preserving the cultural relics in the ancient villages.

When renovating Xidi and Hongcun, the relics under preservation should be renovated strictly in accordance with the protective principle of 'keeping the original'. Traditional architectures and historical areas should maintain their original structure, materials and building techniques. Renovation of private-owned houses are under the unified regulation and administration of the government, and aids and funding are provided by the government. The quality of the design and renovation work should be guaranteed, and the construction workers should be given necessary training on the knowledge of the ancient architectures and technology of renovation.

#### 4.3.5 Building and improving the infrastructures to preserve the original townscape of the ancient villages and improve their tourism environment.

- 1) Dredging the water system and the open and underground drainage system of the ancient villages.
- 2) Building a good fire fighting system for the ancient villages, installing new fire fighting facilities in order to remove potential dangers of fire.
- 3) Improving the water supply system and the electricity

and telecommunication facilities.

4) Improving residential and living conditions while preserving the simple and antique style and overall layout of the ancient villages.

5) Continuing to close the hillsides to facilitate afforestation in the surrounding mountain areas, protecting and improving their peripheral environment.

#### 4.3.6 Clarifying the direction of development of the ancient villages.

Newly built residential buildings for villagers in Xidi spread eastward — to Yecun.

Newly built residential buildings for villagers in Hongcun spread westward — to Jicun.

### 4.4 Agencies with management authority

Ministry of Construction of the People's Republic of China (Beijing, China)

National Administration of Cultural Heritage of the People's Republic of China (Beijing, China)

Construction Bureau of Anhui Province (Hefei, Anhui Province)

Administration of Cultural Heritage of Anhui Province (Hefei, Anhui Province)

Construction Committee of Huangshan City (Huangshan, Anhui Province)

Planning Bureau of Huangshan City (Huangshan, Anhui Province)

Culture Bureau of Huangshan City (Huangshan, Anhui Province)

Construction Bureau of Yi County (Yi, Anhui Province)

Administration of Cultural Heritage of Yi County (Yi, Anhui Province)

People's Government of Xidi Town (Xidi, Yi County)

People's Government of Jilian Town (Hongcun, Yi County)

People's Government of Yi County is the chief administrative unit for the preservation of cultural relics in the ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun, which is responsible for drawing up protection measures, granting funds, and guaranteeing smooth operations.





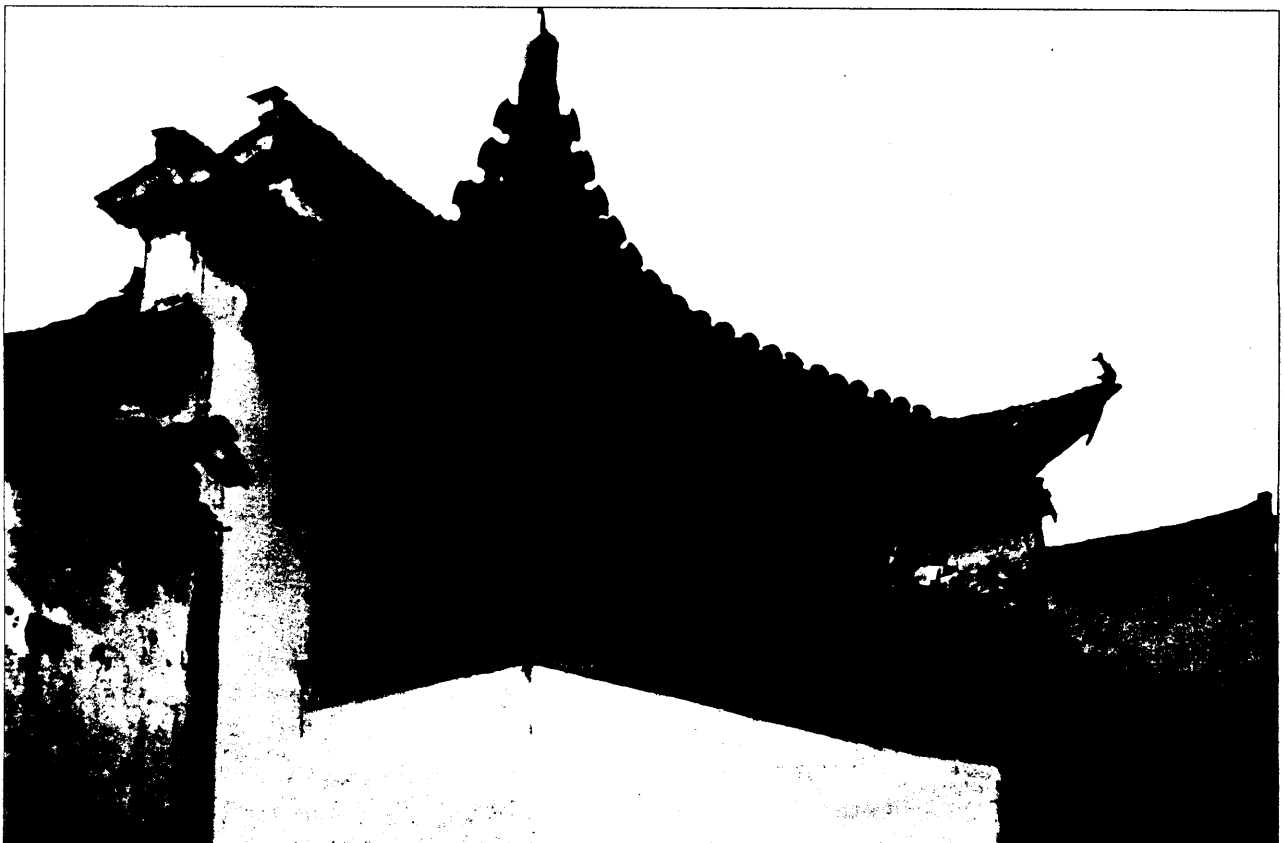
#### 4.5 Level at which management is exercised and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes

##### 4.5.1 Names of the persons in overall charge of the property:

Name	Position and Institutes	Profession
Yu Guohui	County magistrate, People's Government of the county	Economist
Jin Yihui	Head of the Construction Bureau of the county	Senior engineer
Cao Bingyan	Head of the Administration of Cultrual Heritage of the county	Managing technician of cultural relics
Sun Xiaofeng	Secretary of the Party committee of the People's Government Xidi Town	Economistof
Wang Yining	Secretary of the Party committee of the People's Government of Hongcun Town	Economist
Cha Jiangxiang	Head of the Tourism Bureau of the county	Economist

In order to enhance scientific preservation and management of the properties, the People's Government of Yi County established the 'Property Conservation Committee for Xidi and Hongcun', which is responsible for coordinating works on construction, cultural relics, land and tourism.

Construction Bureau of Anhui Province and Cultural Relics Bureau of Anhui Province are responsible for examining and approving major construction projects in the conservation area.



Embroidery Building in Hongcun

## 4.5.2 List of the persons responsible for the implementation of conservation in Hongcun.

Object of responsibility	Address	Institutions Responsible	Name of the Persons in Charge	
The entire village	Hongcun	People's Government of Jilian Town Village Committee of Hongdong Village Committee of Hongxi	Wang Hui Wang Juyuan Wang Xinhai	
Streets	Hongcun	Village Committee of Hongdong Village Committee of Hongxi	Wang Juyuan Wang Xinhai	
Water System	Hongcun	Village Committee of Hongdong Village Committee of Hongxi	Wang Juyuan Wang Xinhai	
Ancient Trees	Hongcun	Village Committee of Hongdong Village Committee of Hongxi	Wang Juyuan Wang Xinhai	
Traditional Architectures	State-owned	Hongcun	People's Government of Jilian Town	Wang Hui
	Collectively-owned	Hongcun	Village Committee of Hongdong Village Committee of Hongxi	Wang Juyuan Wang Xinhai
	Private-owned	Hongcun	Proprietor	

## 4.5.3 List of the persons responsible for the implementation of conservation in Xidi

Objects of Responsibility		Institutions Responsible	Name of the Persons in Charge	
The entire village	Village Committee of Xidi	Huang Bingguang, Hu Yihong		
Streets	From the memorial archway to upper village entrance on the Main street From the memorial archway to Chuanyue Pond along the Back Stream From Henglu Street to the Embroidery Mansion	Village Committee of Xidi	Huang Bingguang, Hu Yihong	
Water system	Front and Back Streams, Half-moon Pond	Village Committee of Xidi	Huang Bingguang, Hu Yihong	
Ancient and famous trees	Cypress, yulan magnolia, peony, plum, pine, loquat, maple, Chinese yew	Proprietor		
Engravings and others	Brick, stone, and wood engravings	Proprietor		
Bridges	Huiyuan Bridge, Huanbao Bridge, Gulai Bridge, Wugeng Bridge, Shewu Bridge	Village Committee of Xidi	Huang Bingguang, Hu Yihong	
Traditional Architectures	State-owned	The Hall of Respect	Cultural Relics Bureau of Yi County	
	Collectively-owned	Zhuimu Hall, Diji Hall, memorial archways	Village Committee of Xidi	Huang Bingguang, Hu Yihong
	Private-owned	145 residential buildings of Ming and Qing Dynasty(14 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> )	Proprietor	

## 4.6 Agreed plans related to property

Xidi and Hongcun have already established a complete planning system ranging from overall planning to specific planning. They have set up a system of comprehensive preservation management, and supervision from environmental improvement to individual renovation. Relative plans approved include:

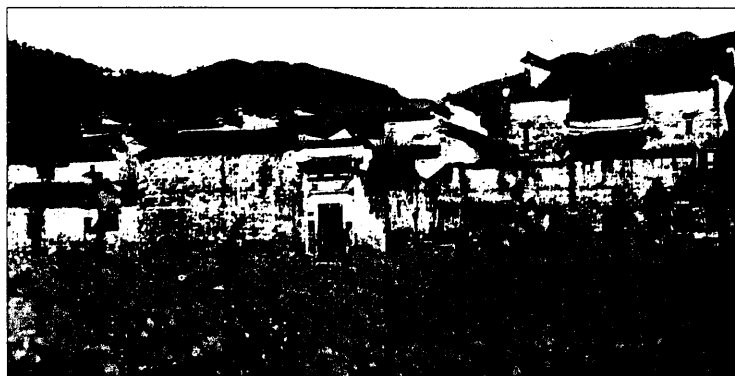
4.6.1 *Master Plan of Xidi Town, Conservation Planning of the Ancient Village of Xidi* (1997, by Planning and Design Institute of Huangshan City, Construction Bureau of Yi County).

4.6.2 *Design Development of the Basic Utilities in Xidi Village,*

*Design Development of Renovation of the Ancient Architectures in Xidi* (1998, by Planning and Design Institute of Huangshan City, Construction Bureau of Yi County)

4.6.3 *Preservation Plans of Hongcun, Overall Planning of Jilian Town* (1998, by Planning and Design Institute of Huangshan City, Construction Bureau of Yi County)

4.6.4 *Design Development of the Basic Utilities in Hongcun, Design Development of Renovation of the Ancient Architectures of Hongcun* (1999, by Planning and Design Institute of Huangshan City, Construction Bureau of Yi County)



Local residence in Xidi

#### 4.7 Sources and levels of finance

The sources of finance for the preservation of the ancient villages mainly include: funds granted by government at various levels, investments in tourism, private investment, external investment, etc.

##### Finance for Preservation and Renovation of Xidi

Projects	Capitals (in thousand RMB)	Contents of Renovation
the Hall of Respect	80	Rebuilding the arch over the gateway and the gate of the hall; adding floor panels to the back hall; restoring the back hall; repairing the roof beam; building a <i>Ge</i> hall; restoring entrance to the hall; repairing the roof and tiles
	40	Replacing 3 Donggua roof beams and 1 straight column; restoring Wang bricks, Wang rafters and repairing the roof
	30	To sort out the drainage; preventing and eliminating termites; repairing the roof and tiles; replacing the horizontal roof beam of the back hall and the winding corridor
Hengren Hall	6	Renovating the wall of the hall; reinforcing horizontal roof beams upstairs; replacing roof beams of the living room; repairing the roof and tiles
Dwelling House of the Hu Family	8	Renovating the middle hall; preventing and eliminating termites
Dwelling House of Tang Maolin	4	Restoring carved doors and windows
Huigong Memorial Temple	3.5	Restoring the arch over the gateway; reinforcing the hall; repairing the roof
Shangde Hall	4	Reinforcing the floor; repositioning the hall; repairing the roof and tiles
Small Villa of Zhenshi	2	Renovating the archway; repairing the roof; reinforcing the hall
Zhuimu Hall	5	Replacing the beam; repairing the roof; replacing the columns of the front hall and the winding corridor
Diji Hall	3	Reinforcing the middle hall; repairing the roof; reinforcing the archway
Siya Room	2	Renovating the left room of the middle hall; repairing the roof
Memorial Archway for the Provincial Governor	60	Restoring the engravings of the eight gods; reinforcing the hall; renovating the attic
Yingfu Hall	5	Restoring the archway; reinforcing and replacing roof beams
Dujing Hall	4	Replacing horizontal roof beams of the back building; reinforcing the back wall; repairing the roof
Yanggao Hall	3.5	Reinforcing the hall; repairing the roof; repair the outer wall
Qingyun Veranda	8	Renovating and reinforce the veranda; repairing the roof and tiles
Xiafu Hall	6	Reinforcing the walls and floors; repairing the roof and tiles
West Garden	4	Renovating the windows with engravings of flower patterns; reinforcing the surrounding wall; repairing the roof and tiles
Dafu Restaurant	4	Reinforcing the embroidery building; replacing the floor
East Garden	8	Renovating the walls; replacing the floor; reinforcing the stairs
Peach and Plum Garden	4.5	Renovating the pond; repairing the roof and tiles; reinforcing the floor boards
Ruiyu Courtyard	5	Replacing the beam of the front hall; repairing the roof and tiles
Streamside Villa	2	Renovating the archway; repairing the roof and tiles; reinforcing the hall

Finance for Preservation and Renovation of Hongcun Village

	Projects	Capitals (in RMB thousands)	Contents of Renovation
Traditional architectures	Chengzhi Hall	220	Major repairs; cleaning and partly renovating the hall; replacing covers, tiles, columns, beams; rebuilding five gate covers; painting ceilings of the front and back halls; adding colors to the hall walls; building a fish pond hall; repairing banister benches; restoring all separating rooms, thresholds, doors and windows; building lavatories, outer walls, corner buildings and kitchens; restoring the wellyard and kitchens
	Lexu Hall	10	repairing the roof; renovating on a small scale; renovating on a big scale in 1995
	Sanli Hall	10	repairing the roof; renovating on a small scale
Streets	Front Street	50	repairing the road; installing underground water pipes; paving the road with concrete
	Streets on the Tourist Route	30	repairing the streets; paving the streets with concrete and cobbles
	Tingqian Road	50	Renovating the road
Water system	Dam on the Source of the Water System	180	renovating on a medium scale; rebuilding the dam; rebuilding the dam with wood and stone; rebuilding it with stone and concrete; building automatic water preventing boards; repairing roads and river banks
	South Lake	110	dredging; building lake dam; building middle dam and bridge; building south dam; paving roads with cobbles Moon Pond
	Water way	40	dredging; digging mud; repairing; building roads and dams
Planting		10	appointing people to protect the trees and plants; afforestation

Each year large sums of funds are granted to the renovation of the ancient residential buildings and the prevention and elimination of termites. However, due to the slow economic development of the region, the preservation and renovation of the ancient villages are still at a comparatively low level. Present basic utilities in the villages can't meet the demands of modern life. Large sums of funds are urgently needed.

#### 4.8 Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

4.8.1 The training in the technology of conservation and management of the ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun takes many forms:

- 1) Attending short term training sessions on conservation and management organized by related national, provincial or municipal institutions.
- 2) Seeking technological advice and guidance from higher education research institutes or planning and design institutions, such as Tsinghua University, Southeast University and Tongji University.
- 3) Conducting technological exchanges with other historical cities and relics preservation institutions.

#### 4.8.2 Sources of technical materials on conservation and management:

- 1) Relevant documents and regulations issued by related state institutions
- 2) Textbooks on related courses in higher education institutions
- 3) Academic publications and resources on the internet

4.8.3 Due to the scarcity of relevant data on the preservation and renovation of the ancient villages, international assistance is needed on preservation technology employed in similar cases.

#### 4.9 Visitor facilities and statistics

##### 4.9.1 Transportation

Xidi and Hongcun have convenient transportation. They are about 40 kilometers to the World Natural and Cultural Heritage — Huangshan Scenic Area, and 50 to 60 kilometers to Huangshan International Airport. There are Yitang Highway, Tunhuang Highway and Cizhang Highway to connect major scenic areas, cities and transportation centers.



#### 4.9.2 Communication

Xidi has installed 100 direct dialing, program-controlled telephones and 1 mobile phone transmission tower.

Hongcun has installed 300 direct dialing, program-controlled telephones and 1 mobile phone transmission tower.

#### 4.9.3 Tourist Services

At present in Xidi there are 30 tour guides, 2 tourist hotels with a total area of 2000 square meters and 540 beds, and 20 restaurants with a total area of 5000 square meters.

In Hongcun there are 8 tour guides, 3 tourist hotels with an area of 1500 square meters and 500 beds, and 10 restaurants with total area of 2000 square meters.

#### 4.9.4 Tourist Commodities

Based upon their traditional cultural customs, the ancient villages have developed tourist products with local features, such

as Shimo tea, tofu with eight ingredients, food peach, crispy sandwich, gingko, as well as tourist handicrafts, antiques, fabrics, brick, wood and stone engravings, etc.

#### 4.9.5 Sanitation and Security

Both Xidi and Hongcun have their own clinics. Xidi was elected Provincial Model Village for Civility in Tourism in 1998. Both Xidi and Hongcun have public lavatories for tourists.

Both villages have policemen and first-aid teams to ensure the safety of tourists. All the scenic spots have labels with brief introductions.

#### 4.9.6 Parking Lots

Parking lot at the entrance of Xidi has an area of 8000 square meters.

Parking lot on the South Lake of Hongcun has an area of 4100 square meters.

#### 4.9.7 Tourist Statistics

Tourists received in recent years by Xidi and Hongcun (in thousand):

Year	Xidi		Hongcun	
	Domestic	Abroad	Domestic	Abroad
1996	72	1.5	14.2	1.2
1997	132.1	2.4	21.6	1.4
1998	140.2	1.2	37.2	2.2

#### 4.10 Property management plan and statement of objectives

Conservation plans for the ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun are drafted in accordance with the *World Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Convention* and related laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China. The overall objectives of the conservation plans are:

1. Preserving the authenticity and integrity of the property;

2. Preserving the harmony of landscape in the ancient villages.

Based on these aims, administrative plans are drafted and gradually perfected. The plans include environmental improvement, scientific and orderly management, public education, etc.

1. Assigning qualified personnel to the conservation posts and providing them with relevant academic, technological and professional training

2. Raising management funds through government grants



Local Residence in Hongcun

and funding from various communities

3. Taking great care of daily maintenance of the ancient architectures; undertaking necessary environmental monitoring of water resources and the atmosphere; preventing and eliminating damage done by termites to the point; intensifying fire fighting measures and improving sanitary conditions

4. Protecting and managing ancient trees, tablets and the stone engravings according to their respective levels

5. Enhancing the security and fire fighting facilities of the ancient villages; setting up safety measures; cracking down on any criminal act of damaging the properties; maintaining tourism security and order

6. Administrative departments in charge of the constructions should organize related institutions and specialists to conduct scientific justification before their implementation, to ensure conservation of the ancient villages and their surroundings

7. Promoting public education; raising public awareness of preservation of the ancient villages through educational institutions, academic groups and community organizations, making full use of appropriate propagating media

#### 4.11 Staffing level

There are over 60 people in Xidi and Hongcun engaged in preservation management, among them 50% professional technicians. Most people have more than 5 years of experience in preservation management. They have achieved adequate management ability under the guidance of related professional departments in related institutions.

### 5. Factors Affecting the Property

#### 5.1 Development pressures

An ancient village is a living organism, accommodating a certain number of residents and their social life. Due to the change of living styles and the improvement of living standards, traditional architectures are not satisfactory for modern demands, so they are confronted with the pressure of being demolished or rebuilt, which threatens to affect their authenticity.

Some residents lack preservation awareness, so they build new structures, or rebuild and expand original architectures, and adopt modern materials and styles, or change the original struc-



tures. Some ancient residential buildings are put into other uses; for example, windows are found dug in the outer wall for commercial tourist uses. This is not in harmony with the traditional style and is a damage to the original outlook of the ancient villages. Therefore the government has increased management on construction activities, taking stricter examining and approving procedures to eliminate any constructive damage.

The ancient villages have kept a steady population, but the educational level is rather low, and the size of the labor force is diminishing. The government is taking measures to enhance local economy and to stabilize social structure.

## 5.2 Environmental Pressures

Climate changes and overfelling have reduced mountain vegetation and caused soil erosion. Due to upstream soil erosion and mud deposit, the riverbed is getting higher each year. The water surface in the ancient villages is shrinking, which has had some unfavorable effect on the villages. However demands for protecting ecological environment and forest vegetation in the Plans are being carried out step by step. The government has taken severe measures to close the hillsides to facilitate afforestation, and to transforming farming lands back into forests.

The drainage system of some streets in the villages are clogged because of the bad condition of the slabstones. Because of garbage and unchecked discharge of domestic sewage, and some other natural and man-made causes, slight pollution are found in the village's environment.

## 5.3 Natural disasters and preparedness

The ancient villages have timber-framed buildings, high architectural density, narrow roads, so the fire fighting ability is rather weak. Added with the aging of the wire system, the danger of fire is high, which threatens the ancient residences. Now each ancient building is equipped with fire fighting facilities according to the regulations of fire prevention. Fire hydrants are also installed along the streets.

The interior wooden materials of the ancient architectures are quite seriously eroded by termites. Some buildings have been ruined or brought down by the erosion. The prevention and elimination of termites is a tough job, and measures are being taken for gradual solution.

## 5.4 Tourism pressures

As Xidi and Hongcun become more and more famous, the number of tourists are increasing rapidly. Tourist management capability is not in balance with this growth, and the problem between small tourist area and large tourist number arises. In peak season, tourists are over numbered, bringing great tourism pressure. In addition, tourist services are backward and tourist facilities are far from adequate. The touring content lacks variety.

Therefore governments at all levels are taking measures to organize better tourist routes, expand visiting areas, add variety to tourism contents and prolong the tourist season.

The development of tourist industry has caused the rapid increase of commercial spots. The opening and fitting-up of shops, especially those along major tourist routes, are damaging the overall townscape of the ancient villages. The change in the use of the interior is also changing the layout of the original residential buildings.

The growth in number of the tourists has brought economic benefit to the villages, but it also brings some side effects. Because most of the ancient architectures are private owned, certain conflicts arise between tourists and residents.

## 5.5 Number of inhabitants within property and buffer zone

Xidi property zone has a population of 1020, and the buffer zone has one of 340.

Hongcun property zone has a population of 1064, the buffer zone has one of 1175.

# 6. Monitoring

## 6.1 Indicators for measuring state of conservation

The ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun are well conserved. 70% of the ancient architectures are well preserved. 100% of the ancient trees are alive. 90% of the water system is intact.

30% of the ancient architectures in Xidi need renovations of certain scales, while 34% of the ancient architectures in Hongcun need such renovations.

According to the state standards of evaluation, based on the results taken from the environmental monitoring in the past

three years, the environment quality of the ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun is at excellent level.

To cite: Atmosphere quality reaches level 1; water quality level II; water system, ancient architectures and sanitary conditions reach the first class.

### 6.2 Administrative arrangements for monitoring property

In 1996 the county government decided to establish a checking and monitoring system on conservation of the ancient villages of Xidi and Hongcun. The village and town governments are held responsible for regular and systematic monitoring of the ancient villages.

The institution in charge of the conservation of the ancient villages, People's Government of Xidi Town and People's Government of Jilian Town, together with departments in charge of the county's cultural relics, sanitation, environmental protection and construction, are making random checks on special items according to specific needs.

At present the objects of preservation in the ancient villages óó streets, ancient architectures, water system and mountain areas are under effective protection. Damage causing factors in the preservation of the ancient villages are effectively suppressed. It is estimated that important preservation measures defined in the plans will be fully implemented in 5 to 10 years.

### 6.3 Results of previous reporting exercises

#### 6.3.1 Atmosphere Monitoring

Atmosphere Monitoring in Xidi and Hongcun

Contents	Items	Monitoring Results			
		1996	1997	1998	
TSP	average density in the day	Maximum	0.156	0.124	0.138
		Minimum	0.088	0.057	0.065
		Average	0.1060	0.088	0.103
		Number of Samples	5	5	5
		Excess rate	0	20	20
		Excess times	0.30	0.03	0.15
SO <sub>2</sub>	average density in the day	Maximum	0.028	0.027	0.016
		Minimum	0.008	0.008	0.008
		Average	0.017	0.014	0.011
		Number of Samples	5	5	5
		Excess rate	0	0	0
NO <sub>2</sub>	average density in the day	Maximum	0.016	0.016	0.008
		Minimum	0.012	0.005	0.006
		Average	0.014	0.010	0.007
		Number of Samples	5	5	5
		Excess rate	0	0	0

Conclusion: Atmosphere quality has reached level 1 in *Standards for Atmosphere Quality* (GB3095 - 1996).





### 6.3.2 Water Monitoring

#### Ground Water Monitoring in Xidi

Year	PH	Water temperature	CODmn	Non oxygen ion	Volatile phenol
1996	7.5	13.7	1.87	0.0006	< 0.002
1997	7.6	13.8	2.20	0.0002	< 0.002
1998	7.5	14.0	1.86	0.0002	< 0.002

#### Ground Water Monitoring in Hongcun

Year	PH	Water temperature	CODmn	Non oxygen ion	Volatile phenol
1996	7.5	13.7	0.6	0.0006	< 0.002
1997	7.5	13.8	1.8	0.0002	< 0.002
1998	7.7	14.0	1.7	0.0004	< 0.002

Conclusion: Water quality has reached level II in *Standards for Ground Water Environment (GB3838 - 88)*.

### 6.3.3 Noise Monitoring

#### Noise Monitoring in Xidi

Item \ Year	1996	1997	1998
Day (decibel)	53	53.4	53.2
Night (decibel)	44.4	44	44.6

#### Noise Monitoring in Hongcun

Item \ Year	1996	1997	1998
Day (decibel)	53	53.4	53.2
Night (decibel)	44.4	44	44.6

## 7. Documentation

### 7.1 Photographs and slides Copies of site management plans and exacts of other plans relarant to the site

Total number: photographs:36

slides:48

Video disk:1

### 7.2 Related Documents

#### 7.2.1 Local Chronicles

Number	Edition and Year	Name
1	1521, Xinsi Year, reign of emperor Zhengde, Ming Dynasty	<i>Yi County Chronicles</i>
2	1655, Yimo Year, reign of emperor Shunzhi, Qing Dynasty	<i>Yi County Chronicles</i>
3	1812, Renshen Year, reign of emperor Jianqing, Qing Dynasty	<i>Yi County Chronicles — Second Edition</i>
4	1825, Yiyou Year, reign of emperor Daoguan, Qing Dynasty	<i>Yi County Chronicles — Third Edition</i>
5	1869, Yisi Year, reign of emperor Tongzhi, Qing Dynasty	<i>Yi County Chronicles — Third Edition</i>
6	1923, 12 <sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China	<i>Yi County Chronicles — Fourth Edition</i>
7	1987, The People's Republic of China	<i>Yi County Chronicles</i>

7.2.2 Family Genealogy

*Family Tree of the Ren Branch of the Hu Family in Mingjing, Xidi, Yi County, 1826*

*Family Tree of the Wang Family in Hongcun, Yi County, 1876*

7.2.3 Bibliography

*Chronicles of Big Families in Xin'an. 3<sup>rd</sup> Yanyou year, Yuan Dynasty. Edited by Chenli*

*Chronicles of Prestigious Families in Xin'an. 30<sup>th</sup> Jianjing year, Ming Dynasty. Edited by Jiang Heng, Cheng Shangkuan and Wu Rantian*

*Research on the Documents and Contracts of the Hu Family in Xidi, Yi County, in Ming and Qing Dynasty. Shangben Yingshi of Japan*

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*Anhui Rural Societies and Tenant System in Ming and Qing Dynasty. Ye Xianien*

*On Traditional Chinese Residential buildings with Illustrations. Shan Deqi, Tsinghua University Press 1998*

**7.3 Address where inventory, records and archives are held**

Archives Bureau of Yi County

Administration of Cultural Heritage of Yi County

Construction Bureau of Yi County

**8. Signature on Behalf of the State Party**

Full Title: Ministry of Construction of the People's Republic of China

Position: Minister Yu Zheng-sheng

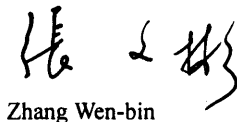
Name (signature):



Full Title: National Administration of Cultural Heritage of the People's Republic of China

Position: Director

Name (signature):



Zhang Wen-bin

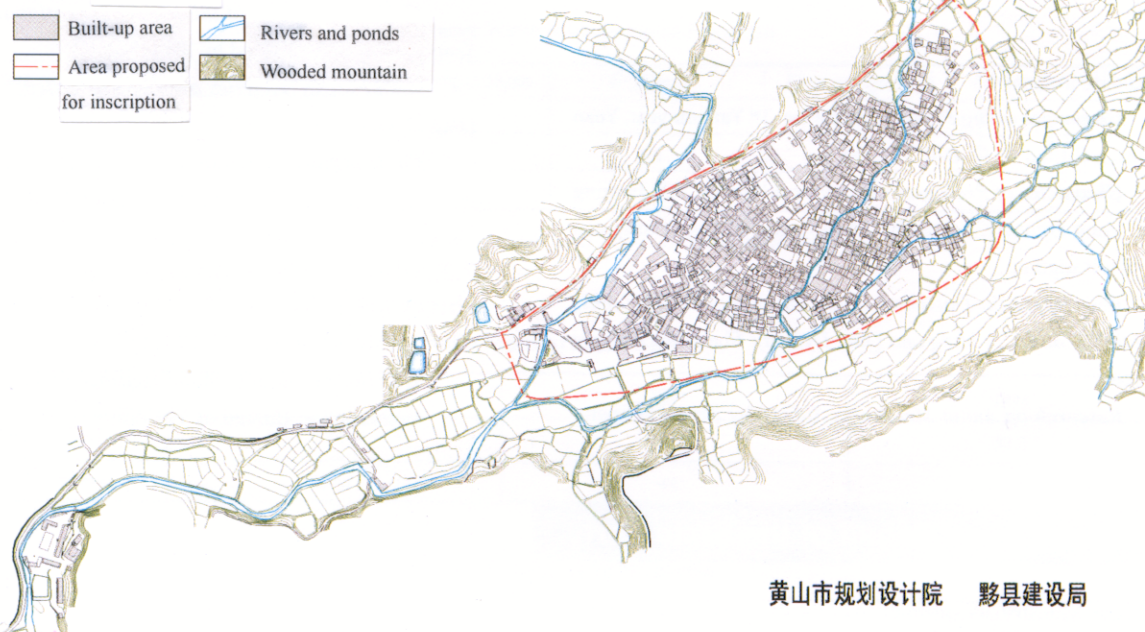
# 黟县西递保护规划 Present Status of Xidi

—现状图



## Legend

- |  |                               |  |                  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Built-up area                 |  | Rivers and ponds |
|  | Area proposed for inscription |  | Wooded mountain  |



黄山市规划设计院 黟县建设局

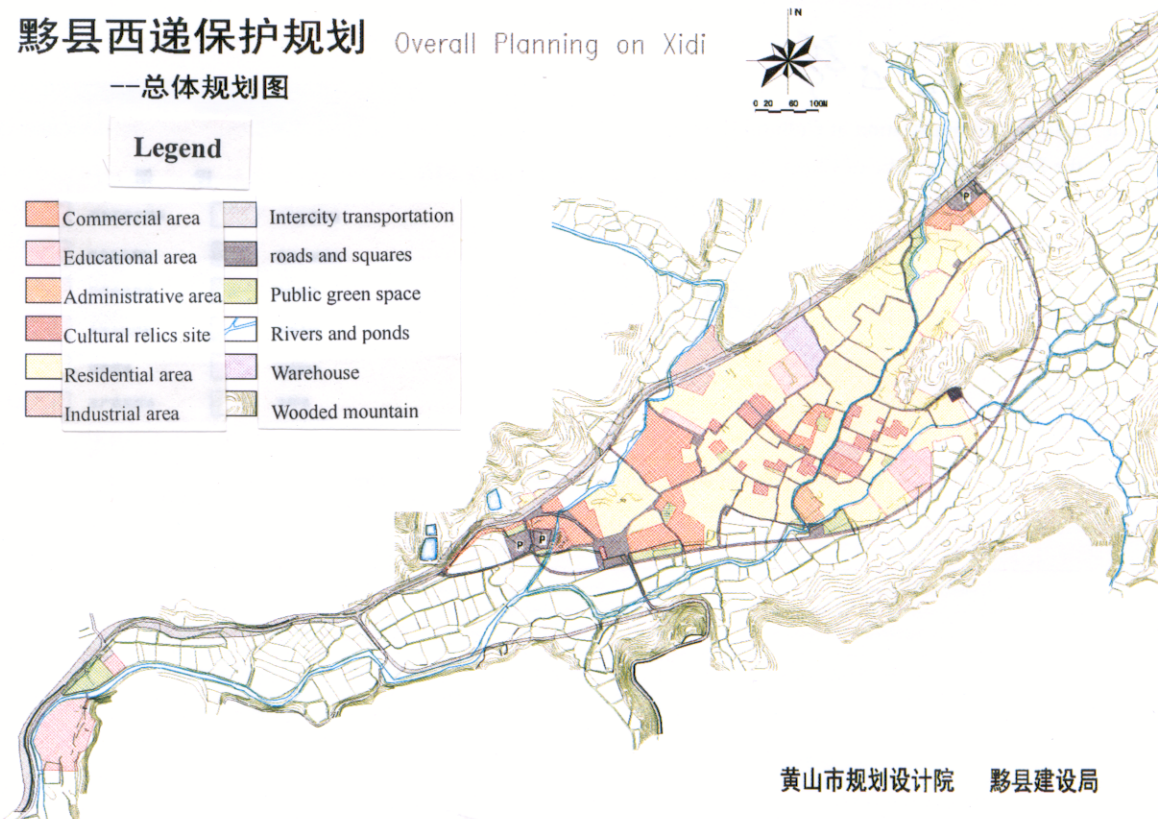
# 黟县西递保护规划 Overall Planning on Xidi

—总体规划图



## Legend

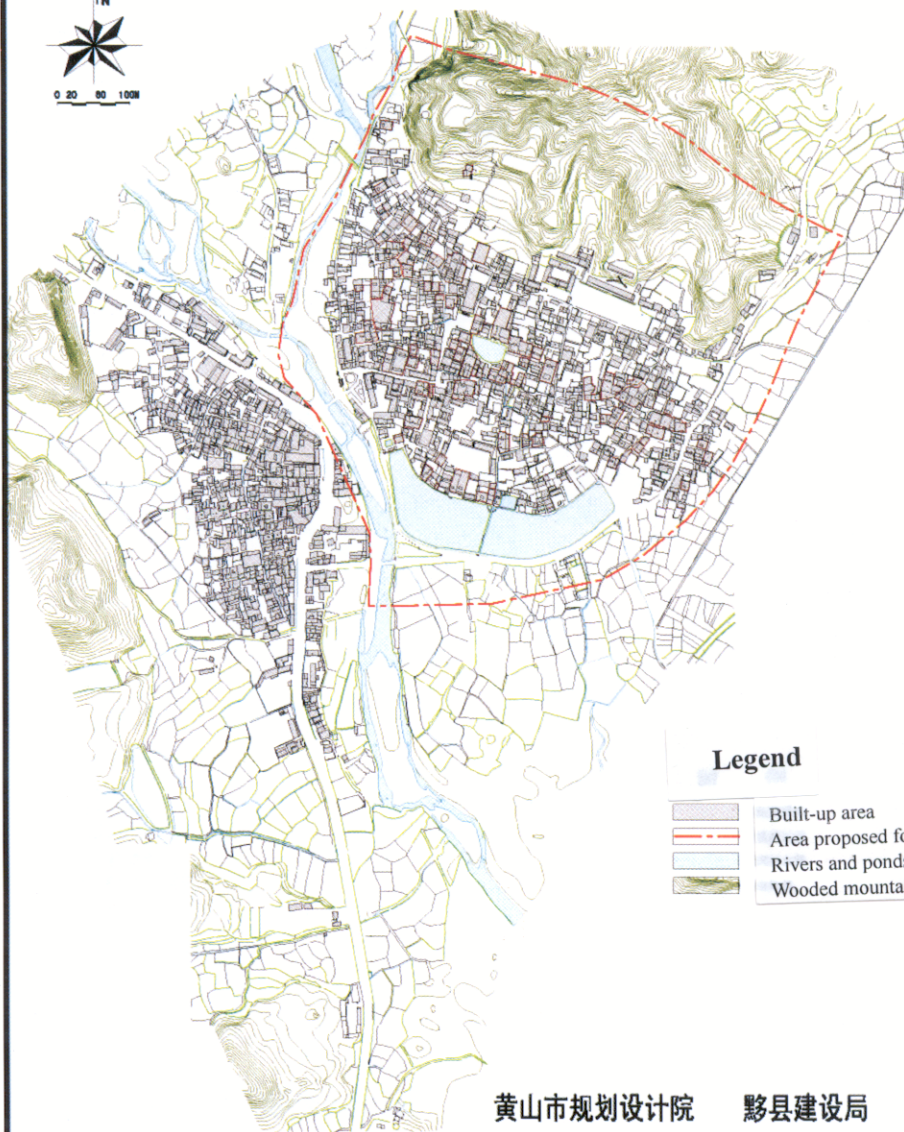
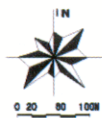
- |  |                      |  |                          |
|--|----------------------|--|--------------------------|
|  | Commercial area      |  | Intercity transportation |
|  | Educational area     |  | roads and squares        |
|  | Administrative area  |  | Public green space       |
|  | Cultural relics site |  | Rivers and ponds         |
|  | Residential area     |  | Warehouse                |
|  | Industrial area      |  | Wooded mountain          |







黄山市规划设计院 黟县建设局

# 黟县宏村保护规划 Present Status of hongcun

## —现状图



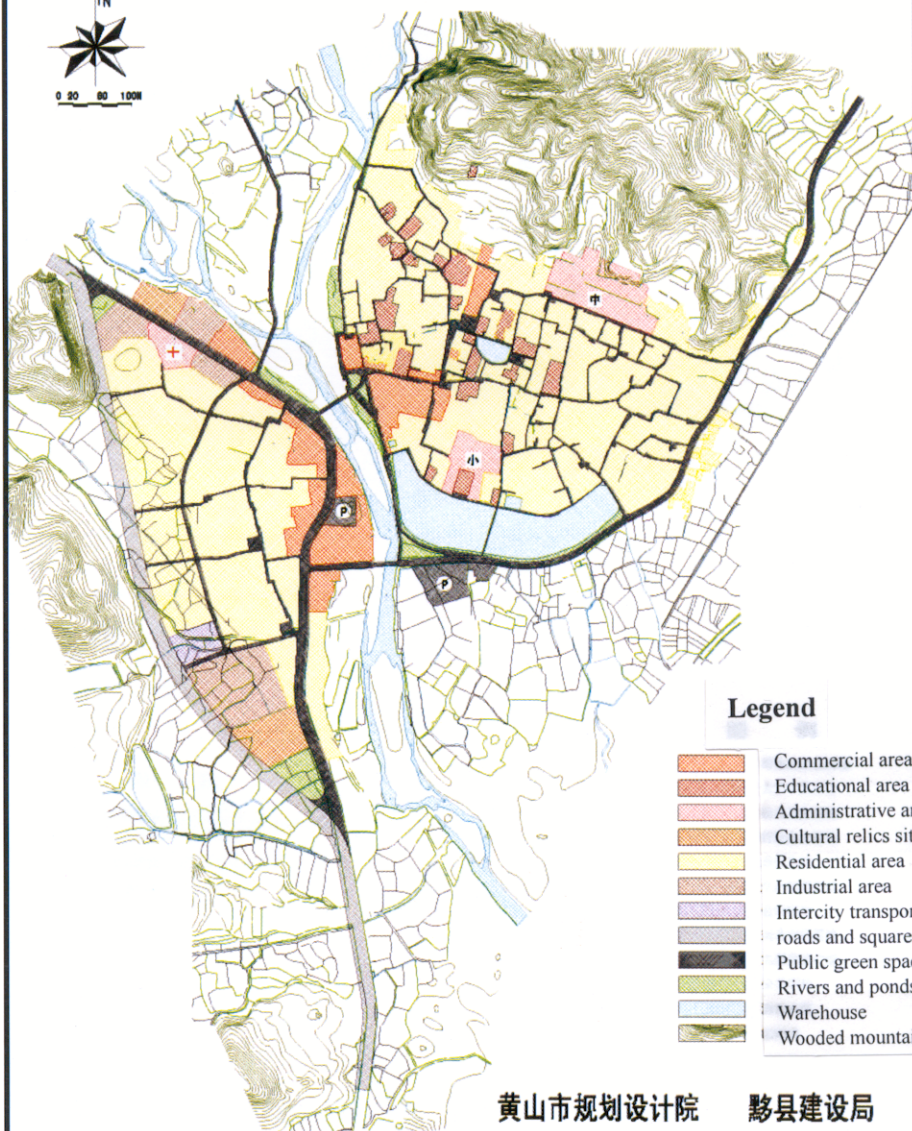
### Legend

-  Built-up area
-  Area proposed for inscription
-  Rivers and ponds
-  Wooded mountain

黄山市规划设计院 黟县建设局



# 黟县宏村保护规划 Overall Planning on Hongcun —总体规划图



黄山市规划设计院 黟县建设局













## Anhui villages (China)

No 1002

### Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Ancient villages in southern Anhui – Xidi and Hongcun
<i>Location</i>	Yi County, Huangshan City, Anhui Province
<i>State Party</i>	People’s Republic of China
<i>Date</i>	26 July 1999

### Justification by State Party

China has dramatically diverse climates in the north and the south of its vast territory. Different types of village have developed in different regions, in different climates and natural environments. Chinese villages have certain features in common. Their inhabitants are linked by blood ties, agriculture is the main economic activity, serious consideration is given to the geomantic environment, traditional customs are maintained, and there is a high degree of social stability.

The ancient villages of Anhui are among the most characteristic examples of traditional Chinese villages. They are usually located at the base of a mountain, alongside rivers or lakes, they have regular spatial layouts of quiet, narrow alleys, and picturesque gardens at the mouths of the rivers. The architecture is plain, simple, and elegant, with unique forms of gable, delicate carvings and ornamentation, and simple but elegant interior furnishings.

Two outstanding examples are the villages of Xidi and Hongcun, which have maintained their original form, in harmony with the natural environment, to a remarkable degree.

The authentic and well preserved historical character of the two villages have attracted considerable attention from historians, architects, and artists, who come to visit them from all parts of the country for research and study. They have exercised great influence in a number of fields, including architecture, environment, industrial design, aesthetics, and literature. Their overall planning, architectural style, and landscape design provide admirable models for the construction of human settlements. **Criterion ii**

All historic cultures have been more or less eroded as a result of social development and modernization. In the mountain areas of southern Anhui family and blood ties are loosening and the influence of Anhui culture is gradually diminishing. Xidi and Hongcun are two of the few surviving villages that

have not undergone radical changes. They constitute exceptional testimony to the traditional culture of the region.

### Criterion iii

Xidi and Hongcun are especially noteworthy in the fields of architecture, craftsmanship, and landscape design. Their architectural style, interior decoration, and environmental management all attain very high standards, and represent one of the highest levels in house building and human settlement design, dating from the Tang and Song Dynasties.

### Criterion iv

As outstanding examples of traditional human settlement, Xidi and Hongcun are vulnerable under the impact of irreversible trends. This culture has a special place in Chinese history, since it made major contributions to the development of Confucian culture and to commercial development in the 14th-19th centuries. **Criterion v**

### Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, these are *groups of buildings*.

### History and Description

#### History

- Xidi

Xidi was originally called Xichuan (West River), because of the streams that pass through it, but its present name, which means “West Post,” comes from the ancient caravan posting station some 1.5km to the west of the village.

It owes its growth to the Hu family from Wuyuan (Xinan), who adopted a son of the Tang Emperor Zhaozong (888-904) after the Emperor was forced from his throne in 904, naming him Hu Changyi. One of his descendants, Hu Shiliang, moved his family from Wuyuan to Xidi in 1047. From that time onwards the family lived and prospered at Xidi.

The population began to rise sharply from 1465, when the Hu family began to act as merchants. The construction of a number of important private and public buildings, and in particular the Huiyuan and Gulai bridges, began at around that time. From the mid 17th century until around 1850 the Hu family was influential in both commerce and politics. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties members of the family became Imperial officials, whilst many also became graduates of the Imperial College. At its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries the village had more than six hundred residences. However, with the decline of the Anhui merchant community and the disintegration of the feudal clan system during the later Qing Dynasty and the Republic, Xidi ceased to expand.

- Hongcun

Hongcun was founded in 1131 by Wang Wen, a Han Dynasty General, and his kinsman Wang Yanji, who brought their families from Qisu village to the upper part of the stream near Leigang mountain and built 13 houses there.

The village knew two periods of great prosperity, 1401-1620 and 1796-1908. Like the Hu family in Xidi, the Wang family became officials and merchants and accumulated enormous wealth, which they used to endow their home village with many fine buildings. Around 1405, on the advice of geomancers, a channel was dug to bring fresh water to the village from the West Stream. Two hundred years later the water supply system of the village was completed with the creation of the South Lake. The 19th and early 20th centuries saw the construction of a number of imposing public buildings, such as the South Lake Academy (1814), the Hall of Meritorious Deeds (1888), the Hall of Virtuousness (1890), and the Hall of Aspiration (1855, rebuilt 1911).

Somewhat later than Xidi, Hongcun fell into a decline with the birth of the Republic, but it still retains many of its fine buildings and its exceptional water system.

#### *Description*

##### - Xidi

The 12.96ha of Xidi are located in an area surrounded by mountains. Streams enter from the north and east respectively, converging at the Huiyuan Bridge in the south of the village. Its street pattern is orientated east-west, with a main road flanked by two parallel streets, one to the north and the other to the south; they are all paved with granite from Yi County. Narrow alleys join the streets and there are small open spaces in front of the main public buildings, such as the Hall of Respect, the Hall of Reminiscence, and the Memorial Archway of the Governor.

The buildings, which are widely spaced, are timber-framed with brick walls and elegantly carved decoration. Most of them are built alongside the three streams, the Front Stream, the Back Stream, and the Golden Stream, which give a special character to the village. The basic structure of the traditional residential buildings in Xidi and Hongcun usually consists of three bays of rooms and a courtyard, laid out symmetrically; there is a number of variations on this basic layout. The more grandiose residential buildings, dignified with the title of "hall," have complex ground plans, but they are all variants of the basic pattern and conform with the characteristic use materials and decoration.

The roofs of grey tiles, arranged in a butterfly pattern, are pitched, their ends being shaped like horses' heads. The outer walls have very small windows, for reasons of security, carved out of granite and decorated with floral and geometric motifs. The outer gates, also framed in granite, have embedded brick panels above them which are carved with flowers, birds, fish, or historical scenes. Many have small private gardens, usually in the front courtyard, where ingenious use is made of limited space.

##### - Hongcun

Hongcun covers an area of 19.11ha at the foot of Leigang Mountain. The village faces south, with its central part lying at a point central to the flanking mountains and rivers, conforming with the geomantic theory of "embracing the masculine and positive and gathering the energy of life from nature."

The open watercourse runs through all the houses in the entire village and forms two ponds, one in the centre (the Moon Pond) and the other to the south of the village (the

South Lake). The checkerboard pattern of streets and lanes follow the watercourse, giving the village a unique overall appearance.

## **Management and Protection**

### *Legal status*

The two villages are protected by a suite of laws and regulations, from central to local level. Stemming from the Constitution of the PRC, the national legislation that applies includes the Urban Planning Law, the Land Administration Law, the Criminal Law, and the Cultural Relics Protection Law. The last-named law operates through a number of sets of regulations at national level, reinforced by and interpreted through regulations issued by Anhui Province and Yi County.

Certain individual buildings in both villages have been registered as Provincial Relics by the People's Government of Anhui Province.

The protected areas are surrounded by substantial buffer zones, defined in 1998 by the People's Government of Anhui Province.

### *Management*

Proprietary rights in the two villages belong to the People's Republic of China. Ownership of the individual buildings is variously invested in the state, collective groups, and individuals.

Responsibility for supervision, like the legislation, follows the administrative hierarchy and involves variously the Ministry of Construction and the National Administration of Cultural Heritage at national level, the Construction Bureau and Administration of Cultural Heritage of Anhui Province, the Planning and Cultural Bureaux of Huangshan City, and Administration of Cultural Heritage of Huangshan City, and the Peoples' Governments of Xidi and Jilian Towns.

It is, however, the Peoples' Government of Yi County that is the chief administrative body for the preservation of cultural relics in the two villages. This body is responsible for protection measures, grant-aid, and implementation of the various laws and regulations. It has established a Property Conservation Committee for Xidi and Hongcun, with representatives from the relevant institutions involved.

A number of plans relating to or concerned directly with the conservation of the historic villages are in force. These include a Master Plan for Xidi Town (1997), a Design Development Plan for Xidi (1998), a Preservation Plan for Hongcun (1998), and a Design Development Plan for Hongcun (1999). All these plans were prepared by the Planning and Design Institute of Huangshan City and the Construction Bureau of Yi County.

On the ground in the two villages there are more than 60 people engaged in preservation management. Of these half are professionally trained to technician level.

## **Conservation and Authenticity**

### *Conservation history*

The systematic, programmed conservation of the two historic villages is a very recent phenomenon, dating from the 1990s.

It was not until 1987 that the ancient buildings in Xidi became protected monuments at the level of Provincial Relics.

The nomination dossier is frank about the attitude of local residents, who are lacking in “preservation awareness,” with the result that ancient buildings have been dismantled or unsympathetically extended, using inappropriate modern materials. However, control is now being exercised over all forms of construction. Fire prevention provisions have been introduced. Reforestation measures are now in force to check the erosion that has taken place, which has in turn led to significant lowering of water levels and the severe silting of watercourses. It is hoped that these will reverse the process and restore both the environment and the role of water in the townscapes of the two villages. All these factors are taken into account in the plans referred to above.

The most recent survey indicates that 70% of the ancient buildings are in a reasonably satisfactory state of conservation, 100% of the ancient trees, which are features of the villages, and 90% of the water system. However, 30% of the buildings in Xidi and 34% of those in Hongcun are in need of some form of renovation or conservation.

#### *Authenticity*

The two villages are wholly authentic in so far as their layouts and townscapes are concerned, preserving the townscapes created in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. There has been some loss of authenticity in individual buildings as a result of unsympathetic interventions, restorations, and extensions, but these represent no more than 30% of the overall stock of historic structures.

#### **Evaluation**

##### *Action by ICOMOS*

An ICOMOS expert mission visited the two villages in February 2000.

##### *Qualities*

Villages form a basic element in all socio-economic structures, not least in China. A very large proportion of the historic villages in China have undergone drastic reconstruction during the past century as a result of intensive social and economic changes. The villages of Xidi and Hongcun have preserved the traditional characteristics of their layouts and architectural forms to an exceptional degree.

##### *Comparative analysis*

The culture of the Anhui region, located in the heart of China, is an ancient one, dating back to around 600 BCE. It reached its apogee in the 14th-19th centuries, when Anhui had a dominant influence in various aspects of Chinese culture, such as arts, architecture, the culinary arts, music, and the influential Cheng Zu philosophy, an interpretation of Confucianism that dominated the final centuries of feudal rule.

The two villages of Xidi and Hongcun retain in material form many elements of this important Chinese culture. They are distinct from those of other regions of China, and they are also important because other significant Chinese

cultural groups are now only to be found in towns, rather than in traditional villages.

##### *ICOMOS recommendations for future action*

The ICOMOS expert mission commented that there are some other well preserved historic villages in Southern Anhui besides Xidi and Hongcun, such as Nanping in Yi County, which has some three hundred houses from the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The State Party may wish to consider the extension of the eventual inscription of Xidi and Hongcun with two or three other villages of the same quality.

ICOMOS noted the steep increase in visitor numbers in recent years at the two villages. Inscription on the World Heritage List would inevitably result in these numbers increasing still further: it therefore urges the State Party to ensure that adequate measures are in place to cope with increased tourist pressure.

#### **Brief description**

The two traditional villages of Xidi and Hongcun preserve to a remarkable extent the appearance of non-urban settlements of a type that have largely disappeared or have been transformed in the past century. Their street patterns, their architecture and decoration, and the integration of houses with comprehensive water systems are unique survivals.

#### **Recommendation**

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria iii, iv, and v*:

*Criterion iii* The villages of Xidi and Hongcun are graphic illustrations of a type of human settlement created during a feudal period and based on a prosperous trading economy.

*Criterion iv* In their buildings and their street patterns, the two villages of southern Anhui reflect the socio-economic structure of a long-lived settled period of Chinese history.

*Criterion v* The traditional non-urban settlements of China, which have to a very large extent disappeared during the past century, are exceptionally well preserved in the villages of Xidi and Hongcun.

ICOMOS, September 2000

## Villages du Anhui (Chine)

No 1002

### Identification

<i>Bien proposé</i>	Anciens villages du sud du Anhui - Xidi et Hongcun
<i>Lieu</i>	Comté de Yi, ville de Huangshan, province du Anhui
<i>État partie</i>	République populaire de Chine
<i>Date</i>	26 juillet 1999

### Justification émanant de l'État partie

Les climats des territoires au nord et au sud de l'immense Chine varient de façon spectaculaire. Différents types de village ont donc évolué dans ces régions aux climats et aux environnements naturels variés. Les villages chinois présentent toutefois certaines caractéristiques communes. Leurs habitants sont fortement liés par les liens du sang, l'agriculture est la principale activité économique, les lignes de force terrestre sont des facteurs à ne pas négliger, les coutumes traditionnelles sont préservées, et la stabilité sociale est élevée.

Les anciens villages du Anhui s'inscrivent parmi les exemples les plus représentatifs de ces villages chinois traditionnels. Habituellement situés au pied d'une montagne, le long de rivières ou de lacs, ces derniers présentent un tracé régulier, faits d'allées étroites et tranquilles, et de jardins pittoresques à l'embouchure des rivières. L'architecture est sobre, simple et élégante, avec des pignons typiques, des sculptures et des ornements pleins de délicatesse. Quant au mobilier intérieur, il est lui aussi simple mais raffiné.

Xidi et Hongcun sont deux exemples exceptionnels de villages ayant su préserver leur forme originale, en harmonie avec l'environnement naturel à un degré remarquable.

Le caractère historique et authentique bien préservé de ces deux villages a attiré une attention considérable de la part des historiens, des architectes et des artistes, qui viennent des quatre coins du pays les visiter à des fins de recherche et d'études. Ils ont exercé une influence considérable dans plusieurs domaines, et notamment l'architecture, l'environnement, le design industriel, l'esthétique et la littérature. Leur schéma global, leur style architectural et leur conception paysagère sont autant de modèles admirables à l'établissement de peuplements humains.

### Critère ii

Toutes les anciennes cultures se sont plus ou moins érodées en conséquence du développement social et de la

modernisation. Dans les régions montagneuses au sud de la province du Anhui, les valeurs familiales et les liens du sang, de même que l'influence de la culture du Anhui, perdent progressivement de leur importance. Xidi et Hongcun sont deux des rares villages qui subsistent sans avoir subi de changements radicaux. Ils constituent un témoignage exceptionnel de la culture traditionnelle de la région.

### Critère iii

Xidi et Hongcun sont d'une valeur particulièrement remarquable dans les domaines de l'architecture, de l'artisanat et du paysagisme. En matière de style architectural, de décoration d'intérieur et de gestion de l'environnement, ils ont atteint des sommets, et représentent l'un des points culminants de la construction et de la conception d'habitations humaines, remontant aux dynasties Tang et Song.

### Critère iv

En tant qu'exemples exceptionnels de peuplements humains traditionnels, Xidi et Hongcun sont vulnérables à l'impact des tendances irréversibles de la modernisation. Leur culture occupe une place particulière dans l'histoire chinoise, en ce qu'elle a énormément contribué au développement du confucianisme et à l'essor commercial des XIV<sup>e</sup>-XIX<sup>e</sup> siècles.

### Critère v

### Catégorie de bien

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'un *ensemble*.

### Histoire et description

#### Histoire

- Xidi

Xidi s'appelait à l'origine Xichuan (Rivière de l'Ouest) à cause des cours d'eau qui le traverse, mais son nom actuel, signifiant « Relais de l'Ouest » lui vient de l'ancien relais caravanier situé à 1,5 km environ à l'ouest du village.

Il doit sa prospérité à la famille Hu de Wuyuan (Xinan), qui adopta un fils de l'empereur de la dynastie Tang Zhaozong (888-904) après l'abdication forcée de l'empereur, en 904, le nommant Hu Changyi. L'un de ses descendants, Hu Shiliang, quitta Wuyuan pour Xidi avec sa famille en 1047. De ce jour, sa famille vécut et prospéra à Xidi.

La population augmenta en flèche à partir de 1465, époque à laquelle la famille Hu se lança dans le négoce. C'est aux environs de cette période que commença la construction de plusieurs importants bâtiments privés et publics, en particulier les ponts Huiyuan et Gulai. Du milieu du xv<sup>e</sup> siècle jusqu'aux environs de 1850, la famille Hu fut influente, tant dans le commerce que dans la politique. Sous les dynasties Ming et Qing, certains de ses membres devinrent des officiels de l'empire, tandis que, parallèlement, beaucoup d'autres sortaient diplômés de l'Université Impériale. À son apogée, aux XVIII<sup>e</sup> et XIX<sup>e</sup> siècles, le village comptait plus de six cent résidences. Cependant, le

déclin de la communauté marchande du Anhui et la désintégration du système féodal à la fin de la dynastie Qing et sous la République mirent fin à l'expansion de Xidi.

#### - Hongcun

Hongcun fut fondé en 1131 par Wang Wen, général de la dynastie Han, et Wang Yanji, membre de la même famille, qui quittèrent tous deux le village de Qisu, avec leur famille, pour s'installer à proximité de la partie supérieure de la rivière située près de la montagne Leigang, et qui y construisirent treize maisons.

Le village connut deux périodes de grande prospérité, de 1401 à 1620 et de 1796 à 1908. À l'instar de la famille Hu à Xidi, la famille Wang compta dans ses rangs de nombreux dignitaires et marchands, et accumula d'énormes richesses, grâce auxquelles elle construisit dans son village de magnifiques édifices. Aux alentours de 1405, sur les conseils de géomanciens, un canal fut construit pour apporter de l'eau fraîche au village depuis le cours de l'Ouest. Deux cents ans plus tard, le système d'approvisionnement en eau du village fut achevé, avec la création du lac du Sud. Le XIXe et le début du XXe siècle virent construire plusieurs bâtiments publics de dimensions imposantes, comme l'Académie du lac du Sud (1814), la Demeure des Actes Méritoires (1888), la Demeure de la Vertu (1890) et la Demeure de l'Aspiration (1855, reconstruite en 1911).

Quelque temps après Xidi, Hongcun connut le même sort, déclinant avec l'avènement de la République, mais le village conserve la majorité de ses superbes édifices, ainsi que son exceptionnel système d'approvisionnement en eau.

#### *Description*

#### - Xidi

Les 12,96 hectares de Xidi sont environnés de montagnes. Des cours d'eau y pénètrent depuis le nord et l'est, respectivement, convergeant au pont Huiyuan, au sud du village. Le tracé des rues est orienté est-ouest, avec une route principale flanquée de deux rues parallèles, l'une au nord et l'autre au sud. Toutes sont pavées de granit originaire du comté de Yi. Des allées étroites relient les rues, avec de petits espaces ouverts devant les principaux bâtiments publics, tels la Demeure du Respect, la Demeure de la Réminiscence et le Porche Mémorial du Gouverneur.

Les édifices, largement espacés, sont dotés d'une structure de bois, de murs de briques et de décorations élégamment sculptées. La plupart d'entre eux se dressent le long des trois cours d'eau : le cours du Devant, le cours du Derrière et le cours Doré, ce qui confère un caractère tout particulier au village. La structure de base des résidences traditionnelles de Xidi et de Hongcun consiste généralement en trois travées de pièces et une cour, disposées symétriquement, mais cette disposition élémentaire présente plusieurs variations. Les bâtiments résidentiels les plus grandioses, qualifiés de *Hall* ont des plans au sol complexe, mais ils sont des variantes du schéma de base, et conformes également aux matériaux et à la décoration caractéristiques.

Les toits de tuiles grises, disposées en papillons, sont pentus, et leurs extrémités en forme de têtes de cheval. Les murs extérieurs sont percés de fenêtres minuscules, pour des raisons de sécurité, creusées dans le granit et décorées de motifs floraux et géométriques. Les portes extérieures, à encadrement de granit elles aussi, sont chapeautées de panneaux de briques ornés de bas-reliefs représentant des fleurs, des oiseaux, des poissons ou des scènes historiques. Beaucoup ont de petits jardins privés, habituellement à l'avant, qui tirent ingénieusement le meilleur parti possible d'un espace limité.

#### - Hongcun

Hongcun couvre 19,11 hectares, au pied du mont Leigang. Le village fait face au sud. Son centre est placé à un point central entre les montagnes et les rivières avoisinantes, conformément à la théorie de la géomancie qui conseille « d'embrasser le masculin et le positif et de puiser l'énergie vitale dans la nature ».

Le cours d'eau traverse tout le village et forme deux bassins, l'un au centre (le bassin de la Lune) et l'autre au sud (le lac du Sud). Le tracé en échiquier des rues et des allées suit son parcours, conférant au village un caractère global unique en son genre.

#### **Gestion et protection**

##### *Statut juridique*

Les deux villages sont protégés par une série de lois et de réglementations, qui vont du niveau national au niveau local. Émanation de la Constitution de la République populaire de Chine, la législation nationale applicable comprend la loi d'urbanisme, la loi d'administration des sols, le droit pénal et la loi de protection des reliques culturelles. Cette dernière s'applique via plusieurs réglementations nationales, renforcées et interprétées par les réglementations publiées par la province du Anhui et le comté de Yi.

Certains bâtiments des deux villages ont été classés reliques provinciales par le gouvernement populaire de la province du Anhui.

Des zones tampon conséquentes, définies en 1998 par le gouvernement populaire de la province du Anhui, entourent les zones protégées.

##### *Gestion*

Les deux villages sont la propriété de la République populaire de Chine. Toutefois, l'État, des collectivités et des individus se partagent la propriété des bâtiments individuels.

À l'instar de la législation, la responsabilité de la supervision suit la hiérarchie administrative et implique le ministère de la Construction et l'administration nationale du Patrimoine culturel à l'échelon national, le bureau de la Construction et l'administration du Patrimoine culturel de la province du Anhui, les offices de l'Urbanisme et de la Culture de Huangshan, ainsi que l'administration du Patrimoine culturel de Huangshan, et le gouvernement populaire de Xidi et de Jilian.

Le gouvernement populaire du comté de Yi n'en demeure pas moins l'instance administrative première responsable de la préservation des reliques culturelles dans les deux villages. Il est ainsi chargé des mesures de protection, de l'octroi des subventions et de la mise en œuvre des diverses lois et réglementations. Il a instauré un comité de conservation des biens de Xidi et Hongcun, où siègent des représentants des institutions compétentes impliquées.

Plusieurs plans relatifs à la conservation des villages historiques sont en vigueur. Parmi eux, un plan général pour Xidi (1997), un plan de conception et de développement pour Xidi (1998), un plan de préservation pour Hongcun (1998), et un plan de conception et de développement pour Hongcun (1999). Tous ces plans ont été préparés par l'Institut d'urbanisme et de conception de la ville de Huangshan et l'office de la Construction du comté de Yi.

Sur place, les deux villages comptent plus de 60 personnes chargées de la gestion de la préservation, dont la moitié sont des professionnels formés au niveau technique.

## **Conservation et authenticité**

### *Historique de la conservation*

La conservation systématique et programmée de ces deux villages historiques est un phénomène extrêmement récent, qui ne date que des années 90. Ce n'est en effet qu'en 1987 que les anciens édifices de Xidi sont devenus des monuments protégés en qualité de reliques provinciales.

La proposition d'inscription ne cherche pas à cacher l'attitude des résidents du cru, « peu sensibilisés à la préservation », ce qui a entraîné la démolition de bâtiments anciens ou leur agrandissement sans respect pour leur ancienneté, à l'aide de matériaux modernes inappropriés. Toutefois, toutes les formes de constructions font désormais l'objet d'un contrôle. Par ailleurs, des mesures de prévention des incendies ont été mises en place, de même que des mesures de reboisement visant à mettre un frein à l'érosion, qui a entraîné une baisse considérable du niveau des eaux et l'envasement des cours d'eau. On espère que cela suffira à renverser la tendance et à restaurer à la fois l'environnement et le rôle de l'eau dans le paysage des deux villages. Tous ces facteurs sont pris en compte dans les plans mentionnés ci-dessus.

L'étude la plus récente indique que 70 % des bâtiments anciens sont dans un état de conservation raisonnablement satisfaisant, de même que 100 % des arbres, qui sont des traits importants des villages, et 90 % du système d'approvisionnement en eau. Toutefois, 30 % des édifices de Xidi et 34 % de ceux de Hongcun nécessitent une certaine forme de rénovation ou de conservation.

### *Authenticité*

Les deux villages sont parfaitement authentiques en ce qui concerne leur tracé et le paysage urbain, qui sont restés tels qu'à l'époque de leur création, sous les dynasties Ming et Qing. En revanche, les bâtiments eux-mêmes ont quelque peu perdu leur authenticité, du fait d'interventions, de restaurations et d'extensions insoucieuses de ce critère ;

toutefois, cette remarque ne vaut que pour 30 % de l'ensemble des structures historiques.

## **Évaluation**

### *Action de l'ICOMOS*

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS a visité les deux villages en février 2000.

### *Caractéristiques*

Les villages constituent une composante fondamentale de toutes les structures socio-économiques, et cela est particulièrement vrai en Chine. Une très grande proportion des villages historiques de Chine a subi des reconstructions drastiques au cours du siècle dernier, en conséquence de changements sociaux et économiques radicaux. Pourtant, les villages de Xidi et de Hongcun ont préservé les caractéristiques traditionnelles de leur tracé et de leurs formes architecturales à un degré exceptionnel.

### *Analyse comparative*

La culture de la région du Anhui, au cœur de la Chine, est immémoriale, et a vu le jour aux environs de l'an 600 avant notre ère. Elle est parvenue à son apogée entre le XIVe et le XIXe siècle ; à l'époque, le Anhui jouissait d'une influence dominante sur divers aspects de la culture chinoise : arts, architecture, arts culinaires, musique, et philosophie Cheng Zu, une interprétation du confucianisme qui domina les derniers siècles de l'ère féodale.

Les villages de Xidi et de Hongcun conservent, sous une forme matérielle, de nombreux éléments de cette importante culture chinoise. Ils se distinguent des villages que l'on peut trouver dans d'autres régions de Chine, et sont également importants car l'on ne peut plus aujourd'hui trouver d'ensembles culturels chinois significatifs que dans les villes, plutôt que dans les villages traditionnels.

### *Recommandations de l'ICOMOS pour des actions futures*

La mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS a remarqué qu'il existait d'autres villages historiques bien conservés dans le sud du Anhui en plus de Xidi et Hongcun, tel que Nanping dans le comté de Yi, qui compte environ trois cents maisons datant des dynasties Ming et Qing. L'État partie devrait considérer l'extension de l'éventuelle inscription de Xidi et Hongcun à deux ou trois autres villages de la même qualité.

L'ICOMOS a noté que le nombre de visiteurs des deux villages avait augmenté de façon considérable ces dernières années. L'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial aura pour conséquence inévitable d'accroître ce nombre : il est donc urgent que l'État partie garantisse la mise en place de mesures appropriées afin de supporter cette pression touristique croissante.

### **Brève description**

Les deux villages traditionnels de Xidi et de Hongcun ont remarquablement bien préservé leur aspect propre aux peuplements non urbains qui ont dans leur vaste majorité disparu ou qui se sont transformés au siècle dernier. Le tracé des rues, leur architecture et leur décoration, ainsi que l'intégration des maisons dans un vaste système d'approvisionnement en eau, sont des vestiges uniques.

### **Recommandation**

Que ce bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des *critères iii, iv et v* :

*Critère iii* Les villages de Xidi et de Hongcun sont l'illustration vivante d'un type de peuplement humain apparu à l'époque féodale et basé sur une économie marchande prospère.

*Critère iv* De par leurs édifices et le tracé de leurs rues, ces deux villages du sud de la région du Anhui reflètent la structure socio-économique d'une longue période stable de l'histoire chinoise.

*Critère v* Les peuplements non urbains traditionnels de Chine, qui ont dans une très grande mesure disparu au siècle dernier, sont exceptionnellement bien préservés dans les villages de Xidi et de Hongcun.

ICOMOS, septembre 2000