ASIAN ARCHITECTURE-S2022
Conducted In-Person

(Section 48442)      Instructor: Dr. Katheryn M. Linduff
MW 10:10-11:30      Office Hours: TBA
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is intended to serve as an introduction to the evolution of urban spaces and the function of the
architecture in South Asia, China, Korea and Japan. It is organized chronologically and will examine the impact
of indigenous philosophical principles on the organization of villages, capital cities, and religious centers.
The course will begin in the Indus Valley where complex urban planning along with public and private architecture
flourished from 2600-1900 BCE. We will examine South Asian Hindu and Buddhist cave monasteries as well as
freestanding Hindu temples and identify the salient architectural forms that identify each type. We will then move
to China where the earliest villages were arranged according to ideas about nature and the organizing system of
fengshui. By the earliest Chinese dynastic period, urban planning and building placement were beginning to be
codified according to Confucian and Daoist ideals. Later Chinese imperial centers were consciously designed
according to Confucian regularity and hierarchy in order to make visual statements about power. We will then
move to consider urban organization and Buddhist temples in China, Korea to Japan where South Asian and
Eurasian models were adopted and adapted. The examination of the Japanese warrior culture will include castles,
new ideas in residential architecture, the Pleasure Quarters, and retirement villas. Contemporary architecture will
be addressed through individual and group projects that will investigate specific structures and situate the buildings
within the cultural and historic circumstances that led to their creation.

OBJECTIVES
The primary objective of this course is to better understand the evolution of both urban spaces and the buildings
they held in India, China, Korea, and Japan. To this end, this course will explore cultural and political contexts
within each culture as they unfold over time.
By the end of this course students are expected to:

• have a broad understanding of the relationship of built environments and architecture
to the history and culture of each respective historical period and place

• use specific examples in order to analyze the organization of urban and religious centers
within their particular cultural and political contexts

• identify and explain the process of interaction, exchange, and adoption that occurred
over time and space from one culture to another

• complete an independent research project that demonstrates the ability to form a thesis
that accurately defines the problem, conducts and organizes the research, and presents
their results through clear and coherent writing
Beijing Hutong
Then and Now 以前和现在的胡同
Zhang Ke 2020