

What Chinese Apartment Houses are Like

This article was written in response to a discussion that I had with a friend of mine. He made the statement, "You wouldn't be able to believe how these (Chinese) people lived! You and I could never live like that!" Turns out that he saw some propaganda from the UK and was convinced that the Chinese lived in windowless hovels. Not so. Not by a long shot.

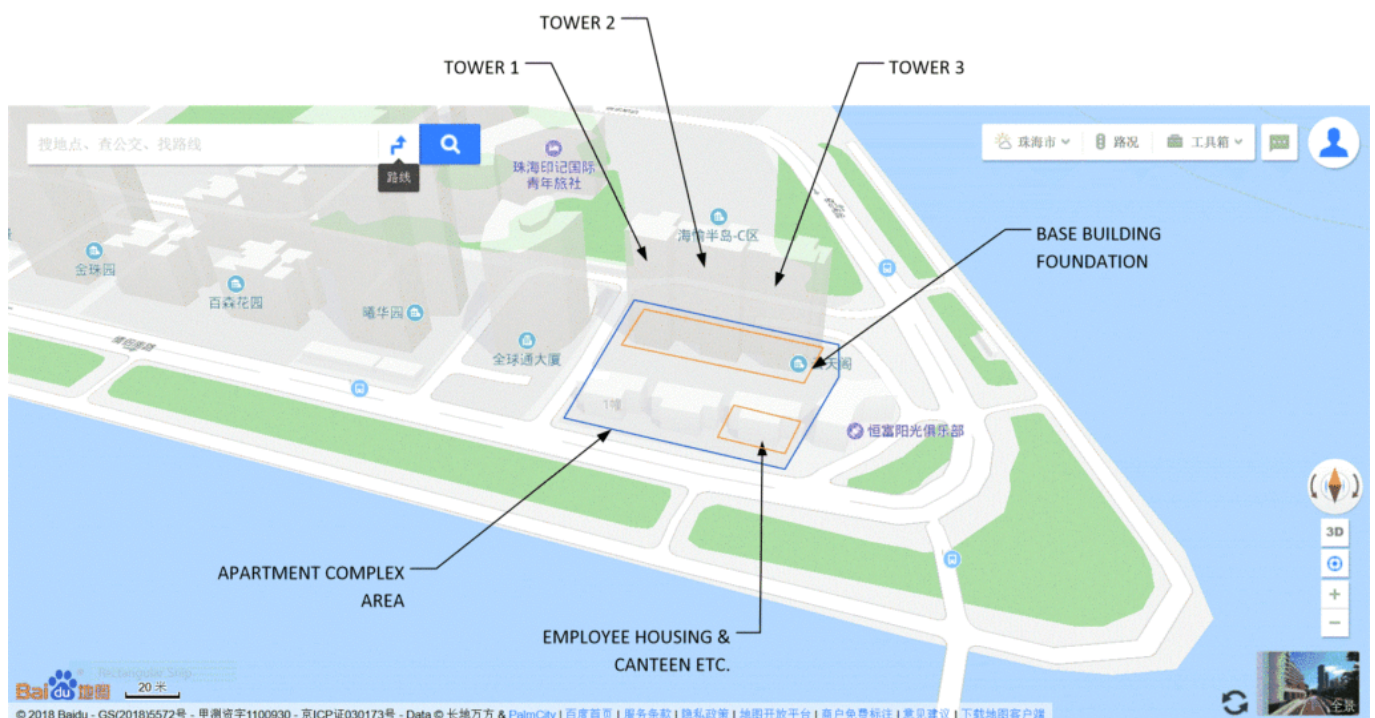
Over the last thirty years, China has experienced a period of enormous growth. It began in the 1990's. It started when the progressive socialist policies of Mr. Mao were replaced with the Free-Market Conservative policies of Mr. Deng. The result was predictable and resulted in an explosion in the overall quality of life for all Chinese people. A period of exceptional growth ensued and a middle class appeared. Here, we talk about the direct result of that change. We discuss the Apartment Houses that Chinese middle class live in.

Typically, most Chinese live in apartment complexes. There is a percentage, of course, that have their own houses. There are those that share, what we in the West refer to as "Townhouses". There are those that occupy (rent-free) ancient dilapidated old complexes that can still be seen everywhere. (Why not? They might be old and ugly, but living in them is free!!!!) Not to mention, the others that live on farms, villages, and in the hinter-land.

Let's talk about the Chinese apartment houses.

Chinese Apartments

In China, the apartment complex consists of an area that is surrounded with a fence and is guarded by guards (24-7) with video cameras and gates. Within that complex are the buildings that make up the complex. Now, in China, you might have a building that has three towers. Each tower would have it's own set of elevators and access keys. The Chinese refer to these towers as "buildings", so it can get a little confusing.



Here is an example of how a Chinese apartment complex works. Image is from Baidu which is sort of the Chinese equivalent of Google. Shown is the apartment complex whole, plus the various buildings and towers.

Above is a typical apartment complex. It is within an Apartment area and contains numerous large buildings. In the United States, we call these buildings "skyscrapers". There are three towers in the example above. They share the foundations and the first three floors. They also share the underground garage. There are also other buildings. In China, when you work the employer must be able to provide you food and housing. Though you can opt out if you prefer.

The Gate

Every apartment complex is surrounded by a fence and a main gate. At the gate is a little guard house, a gate and biometrics. To enter any housing complex you need to show that you are a resident. Further, as a resident you will be given an electronic card-key or fob that will enable you to enter the apartment area. As is common in China today, everyone is monitored by CC Cameras, and recorded in the event that some crime is committed and there is a need to identify the perp. The gates are always manned 24-7.

Parking

Typically, most apartments have interior parking and exterior parking. The exterior parking is for short term parking. At my apartment complex, the fee is 10 RMB/hour if you park outside.

When you enter the front gate the license plate reader scans your car and records your entry time. Then when you leave you will need to pay the guard (BaoAn) the amount you owe. You can pay electronically, as most do. Typically people use Alipay or WeChat to pay. They just scan the QR code using their cell phone when the guard comes to the door.

Underground parking is reserved for residents. Typically there is a monthly fee that everyone needs to pay. I have heard different rates, but here in Zhuhai the rate is around 300 RMB/month.

The parking garages are unlike that which you will find in the USA. They are not dingy, grimy, dusty or anything like that. They are not at all dim or poorly lit. They tend to be very clean, almost like you could eat off the floor in them. They are also spacious and well lit. Here is a Chinese chick in a micro-video in an underground parking garage. It's pretty typical.

Anyways, the point here is that the parking garages are treated quite differently than they are in the United States. There is a staff that monitors them, cleans them, and makes sure that they are well lit and well taken care of. Additionally, the care and concern for a given parking garage is a reflection of the owner of the apartment house in the building. As a result, many apartment underground parking garages are very nice and well maintained in China.

Building Access

Once you enter the apartment complex, you will typically need to walk through a park, or park-like area. The Chinese are very big on natural spaces in their apartment complexes. This area will have paths, exercise equipment, a few outside games like basketball or ping-pong, and an abundance of shrubs and trees. Even if the park area is on the third floor (typical in many cities).

Some parks share space with outside parking, while others are for pedestrians and doggies only. All of the parks have lighting, trashcans, places to sit, sleep, and have fun. Many have fountains (though whether or not they work, is hit or miss), and some have pools. Like the underground garage, you will have to pay to swim in the pool in your building. Typical-

ly it is 30 to 50 yuan per person per year. (From \$5 to \$10 USD.)

Here is a Chinese gal dancing on an apartment complex park. It looks like the third floor. As you can see, there are large areas to dance and exercise in (a very important thing in China as everyone loves to dance) and areas of grass and trees.

The pools tend to be shallow. With the deepest section rarely over 1.5 meters deep (about five feet). They are always tended and cared for, just like swimming pools are in the USA. However, they generally do not have life guards. The residents are expected to take care of themselves and to watch the younger kids and children.

Once you walk through this park-like area you will make your way to your building entry. If you are in an apartment that has, say five towers with one shared foundation, then you would enter the entrance directly associated with your tower. There are some buildings that have one central access point, while others have different access points depending on which tower you live in.

You will need an access key or FOB to get into the building. So, in case you are wondering, yes you need two keys to enter your building in China. One key is to the apartment complex, a second key to enter your apartment tower.

Elevator

Once you enter the building you will pass through a large open area that will hold mailboxes and some sofas and chairs for guests to wait for you. These are typically well lit and with marble or stone floors and walls.

You will pass through this area and go to the elevator area. In towers that are over 25 floors there are typically multiple elevators that run to pre-specified floors. For instance, one elevator might go from 1 – 25th floor, while another might run from 1, then 26th to the 50th floor. Some apartment buildings have elevators that run to only odd floors, while others run to even floors. All, in all, it cuts down on the waiting time in tall buildings.

Like what is common in many hotels in China, you will also need your apartment key or FOB to run the elevator. The elevator will not work (in many cases) unless you have a residence FOB.

Front Door to the Apartment

The front door will more than likely have “good luck” symbols on the door. These will be red designs with gold or black trim. This will consist of the symbol for “fortune”, either right side up or upside down and certain lucky sayings. It is a tradition to get new door decorations at the start of each Chinese New Year (CNY).

The doors will use a key that has nothing in common with American keys. American keys tend to be a flat bar of metal that has slots cut into it. Chinese keys come in different cross sections, including rectangular, triangular, circular, half-moon, and all with certain different kinds of security protections. Back twenty years ago, say around 2000, crime was rampant and people were constantly getting broken into. These different key types each come with their own unique blanks and procedures to open and replace. Indeed, you have to be a key-smith expert to be able to break into any Chinese houses today.



Triangular shaped key blank. Here, you can make different key patterns for FOUR elements of the key. This particular blank is available on Alibaba. Not available in the USA, if not outright banned. (After all, how can the police, FBI, NSA, CIA, DHS, and IRS be able to come in if you are not cooperative?)

Most homes built in the last ten years all have biometrics. You need either

a finger print or retinal scan to enter. Alternatively there is typically a key pad that is available if you want to be a little “old school” about home security.

Once inside – the apartment

Most Chinese apartments are much, much smaller than their American counterparts. they range in size from very tiny 40 square yard affairs, to 70 square yard, 120 square yard, 300 square yard, and up to 500 square yard apartments. Most Chinese people that I know own their house. They paid for it in cash. They live in a 70 to 120 square yard house.

The 40 square yard apartment is very tiny. It’s just big enough for a bed, a bathroom, and a refrigerator. Many that are being made now are called “lofts”. They fit an upstairs in this tiny space so that you can sleep above a very cozy living room.

The 70 square yard apartment is still small, but it is big enough for one (or two) bedrooms, a nice bathroom, a kitchen, and a living room. There is always a porch and a washing area. Many young professionals and first time home owners select this size of house to live in.

The 120 square yard apartment is pretty much ideal for the expanding family. It consists of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a dining room

and a living room. Of course there is a porch and laundry area.

Many Chinese families have the parents living with them. This is a long standing Chinese tradition where the parents of the oldest son moves in with the family. They then take care of the new children of the family. The 200 to 300 square yard layout is perfect for this larger family. There will be three or four bedrooms, two bathrooms, large living room and dining room, and a very spacious kitchen.

There are many kinds of apartments in China, however we can distill most of them into the following format and understanding...

Attributes of a Chinese Apartment

Firstly, notice that there are no rugs or carpeting. The Chinese prefer solid stone flooring. This flooring is typically white or off-white. In just about every apartment that I have been to, lived in or visited, the floor was solid stone slab.

Secondly, note that the walls are not plain. There are adornments. The Chinese hire interior decorators to render the walls “comfortable” and suitable for a household. The walls are either painted white, tiled in sheet stone or marble, or tiled in white tile. It seems like the videos are of a mansion, but nope, it’s a real honest-to-goodness middle class house.

Sometimes the houses have a wooden or FRS decking floor. This is a rather recent innovation. Those apartments that have this wooden floor typically use it for the bedrooms, or other “soft” areas.

One of the first things you notice when you get into a Chinese house is that there is a rack of shoes near the door. It is typical in most Asian countries to take off your outside shoes and wear house slippers inside. You can see this in this next video. Here’s a chick in her apartment being cute...

Another thing about living in these towers is that they are really, really high up. Falling off the balcony is not an option when you are on the 36 floor. With that said, you often are able to get really, really outstanding views.

Now, if you are in the middle of a city, like downtown Shenzhen or Shanghai, you might find (much to your dismay) that your view is blocked and all that you can see is the apartment tower across the street. That really sucks. However, just moving to a different apartment on the same floor might provide you with an amazingly different view. Some, heck most, are just stunning.

Conclusion

I think that by looking at how other people live in distant parts of the globe, we can see our similarities and our differences in a new light. I believe that that knowledge is very important. It shows us our place on this planet and where we exist in the universe.

Rather than buying into the constant drum roll towards endless wars against some kind of cardboard cut out of what our “enemies” are, we can make the judgements ourselves. We no longer need to be blindly led towards more outrageously expensive and heart-rendering wars. War, mind you at only benefits the 0.01% of global elite.

I am tired of it. It's a non-stop onslaught of war! war! war! propaganda. It's all about getting YOU (yes, you) to buy into the notion that there must be a war to be fought. Whether it is against some tiny banana republic or a huge nation like China or Russia.

People are people. We eat. We sleep. We work. We have families. There are more things in common with each other, than our disagreements. That is the truth. All you need to do is step outside the USA bubble and look around a bit. Open your eyes.

Links about China



How a Business KTV Works in China

KTV's are all over China. They range from tiny booths, to family affairs to fancy palaces for friends. Here we discuss a kind of "seeder" side of the KTV phenomenon. We discuss the KTV used to discuss business and to reward high-performing employees; The Business KTV.



The Dance Craze that is Sweeping China

China is a big country, and as such it has passing fads and events that everyone seems to participate in. The latest is a dance craze that is based on a silly song involving Tarzan like yodeling. Everyone is doing it from kids, to policemen, doctors and entire school classrooms.



The Tale of the End-of-the-Day Potato

When you finish a good day's work, how do you like to be rewarded? How about a nice beer, and a nice well-cooked meal? How about your dogs or cats near by? How about a kiss on the cheek, a nice frosty alcoholic beverage in your hand? Or, as I have found, my end-of-the-day potato.



News as Every-Day Dog-Shit

Has the news that you read every day benefitted you? Has it made your life better, happier, calmer or helped you to make more money? What benefit do you derive from reading it? Chances are that it provides no benefit at all; you are just a slave to habit for others to manipulate.



Attack of the Dancing Grandmothers

One of the things about China is that the old folk love to dance and exercise. They get up at the crack of dawn and dance to loud disco until every goes out to work. Then they rest. They return to dance at dinner time until night. Here is my take on this crazy and popular Chinese pastime.



When the SJW Movement Took Over China

Many people are unaware that the SJW movement is not regional to the United States. It is global. It reoccurs in a generational cycle. China has experienced three such cycles in my lifetime. This is the sad story of what happened when the SJW's were permitted to run amok in China.



The Importance of a Family Meal Together

One of the most important things that I have learned is that friends, family and close-ones should share meals together. Further, they should do so with some sense of formality and purpose. Here is my take on this issue, and how I prefer to structure my family meals.



Freedom and Liberty in China

As Americans we have been raised into believing that America is an oasis of freedom in a world of chaos. We have been taught that other nations are shit-holes and that communist nations are the worst. Well, the 1960's narrative doesn't play well in the 2020's reality.



The Ben Ming Nian – The 12 Year Curse

The Chinese believe that all life have both a physical reality and a non-physical reality. As such it goes through a twelve year cycle. Every twelve years it sort of resets itself. A new phase of life thus begins. Here we discuss this from the point of view of interactive quanta and patterns.



Beware the Expat

There are a handful of expats that have left America to explore a new life outside of America. We do so for many reasons. Some of us want a new quiet life, while others want excitement. Still others want to unleash their criminal skills on an unsuspecting public. Be aware.



How to tell if Wine is Fake in China

There are many fake things made in China. From fake designer purses, to fake mouse-traps. If someone can make some extra money by making something fake, they will try it. Here, we talk about one of the most dangerous of fake goods; fake red wine.



How China Deals with Obesity

In the modern world, obesity is a real problem. People all over the world are getting fatter and heavier. The American solution is to ban fattening things, and make laws to control behavior. Here we discuss the Chinese solution; to provide areas to dance and exercise.



Great Wedding Ideas from Chinese Weddings

The Chinese have over 5000 years of experience in formalized weddings, culture, food and relationships. Here we spend some time looking at the contemporaneous Chinese wedding. We look at the fun and playful side of it for ideas that we can use in American weddings. Enjoy.



How Christmas is Celebrated in Communist China

Contrary to what most Americans believe, Christmas is celebrated all over the world. The progressive narrative of banning it, or turning it into a pale shadow of what it once was is a lie propagated by “diversity officers”. Here we talk about the celebration of Christmas in China.

China and America Comparisons



Democrat Busybodies and the Destruction of Freedom

Wouldn't life be wonderful if you could just be left alone and live your life in peace? I think so. The founders of the United States thought so, however there is an army of busybodies who disagree. They have this vision of utopia where everyone listens to their commands.



Comparison between American and Chinese Playgrounds

The differences between American and Chinese playgrounds couldn't be more telling. It is a tale of how things are handled differently and the roles that parents take. In China the role of the parent is to equip the child for life. While in America it is to protect the child from life.



What Authentic Chinese Food is Like

The entire world feasts on "Chinese Food" served in "Chinese Restaurants". This could be a Chinese take-out in Memphis, to a "Dim Sum" restaurant in NYC. As delicious as these establishments are, what is it like to eat real, Chinese food, in China? Well we talk about it right here.



The Last Straw – Why I Left America

We all come to cross-roads in our lives. We experience life in all of it's glory and pain. This is the story why I left the USA and moved to China. It's not that I hate the USA, I love it dearly and miss it terribly. However, a series of events and changes pushed me out. This is my story.



What happens when you try to implement Diversity Initiatives in China

This is a very good story in what happens when a young millennial tries to implement diversity initiatives in China. There are many lessons here. From how pompous SJW's are to misconceptions about what China is.



What High School taught me about Democracy

Yes, I know, the United States is supposed to be a Republic. However, running for president in school was set up as a Democracy with majority vote. I learned a lot about the follies of a Democracy and what eventually befalls it. I wish to share those experiences with you.



Why an American man should leave America and Travel

America is great. It is large and wonderful. However, we all need to set outside of it to really appreciate what we have, and to face what we do not have. Only then can we really understand where our problems originate from and how to resolve them



Top Ten Misconceptions that Americans have about China

There are many misconceptions about far-away places. China, due to its size, and relative importance as a source of manufactured products is often the target of many a ill-defined comment. The disconnect between reality and perception is enormous. Here we discuss it.



The Top Ten Misconceptions Chinese have about the USA

When the Chinese come and visit the United States, they are often spellbound in shock and amazement. They find that they LOVE, absolutely L-O-V-E the United States. I have many friends who have told me this. Another thing that they have told me is that it was not what they expected.



Comparisons Between American and Chinese Girls

Here we compare the differences in beauty between Chinese and American women. Since beauty is in the eye of the beholder, we spend some time looking at what makes women attractive to the opposite sex and why. Then we look at attractive girls comparatively.

Learning About China



Learning About China through Looking at Pretty Girls -1

Here we discuss elevators, eating at work, subways, residential areas, apartment building hallways, riding on boats, family KTV's, getting out of cars, tennis courts, department stores and restrooms. It's pretty amazing what you can learn by looking at pretty girls.



Learning About China through Looking at Pretty Girls -2

Here we discuss suburbs and memorials. We discuss malls, Arabic culture, parking garages, bedrooms, living rooms, and living in Guangzhou. We discuss walking and talking. Finally a nice hypnotic dancing video for fun. It's pretty amazing what you can learn by looking at pretty girls.



Learning About China through Looking at Pretty Girls -3

Here we discuss more malls, farms and their kitchens, pools, apartment (3rd floor) parks and open areas, dance studios, military barracks, riding on a yacht, beaches, waterslides, and the garages outside a housing development. It's fun talking about China with all sorts of pretty girls.



Learning About China through Looking at Pretty Girls -4

Here we discuss public parks, gyms, work offices, apartments in Shanghai and the excellent views there, the Southern Chinese coast, Pizza Hut, speaking and singing in English (as a second language), sofas, safety at night, the ideal face, and buying gold in Hong Kong.



Learning About China through Looking at Pretty Girls -5

Here we discuss Shanghai, highways, hotels, exercise, and elementary school students dance-exercising, after-school dance classes, public squares and dancing and carrying on in public. We talk about rural kitchens, doors in apartments, and Chinese apartments in general.

Articles & Links

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