

Lecture outline of Sui and Tang art

1. The two different maps: closed territories and routes; silk roads as network of art and cultures.
2. The dots on the silk roads are cities. The Tang capital city Chang'an as the metropolis and the east end of the silk roads.
3. The city plan of Chang'an; the rational chessboard structure; southward orientation with the imperial palace in the north and ordinary houses in the south. Broad streets and avenues facilitating traveling; walled residential wards (*Lifang* system) aimed for controlling citizens' daily life.
4. Compare: Tang Chang'an VS Han Chang'an.
5. Timber-framed structures featuring the dougong (blocks and brackets).
6. Pagodas as the vertical dimension of the city (compare pagoda and stupa)
7. Cosmopolitanism: Buddhism; Nestorianism; Manichaeism
8. The popularity of Western paradise cult in Buddhism and its political use by the imperial court
9. Naturalism in sculpture; masculinity of guardians and femininity of bodhisattvas; chiascuro (*aotuhua*); the concept of "Han-Tang miracle".
10. Beautiful palace ladies and their Buddhist counterparts (feminized bodhisattvas)
11. Early landscape painting in Dunhuang caves
12. Metalwork combining Chinese motifs and West or Central Asian technologies (beating and repousse)
13. Tang standardized calligraphic scripts and wild cursive scripts; the imperial promotion of Wang Xizhi's calligraphy.