Harmony and Proportion in Traditional Oriental Houses – Where Less is More

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Abstract
At a time when resources are increasingly scarce and we have become increasingly aware of the need to save resources without sacrificing comfort or beauty, it is useful to look not only around us but also to the past and find inspiration from historic models.

We strongly believe that architecture is a product of creativity, imagination and invention, born out of the relations that are established during the thinking process between what is known, that is longed for and the notion of harmony and proportion inherent to the creator.

In this study we will examine the traditional houses of the East, with special attention to Japanese and Chinese buildings. Since the peoples of the Orient, out of necessity and economy of means, for centuries have created a way of life and an aesthetic philosophy based on harmony and proportion, where less is more.

Our research is based upon ten years of documental analysis of the mayor treaties on figurative arts realized in the western and the eastern world in the last 2000 years and on a continuum of published material on that subject.

With our project, we intend to foster academic reflection on the importance of harmony and proportion, present in the Memory and the Cultural Identity of places, as elements that will encourage and develop avenues for development of an architectural language in the current context of sustainable construction.

Keywords: Harmony, Proportion, Traditional Oriental Houses