



A Report Regarding the Restoration and Preservation of the Mountain Gate Roof of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

萬佛城山門琉璃瓦的維護修建報告

A talk given by Leonie Tan at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on December 20, 2018.

Chinese Translated by Xue Wei

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薛衛 中譯

The construction of the triple-arched gate started in 1979 and was completed in 1982. The project was done by a group of volunteers headed by the Ven. Master's long-time disciple, Bob Olson (Guo Fa). Among the volunteer workers were some former members of the China Youth Gang (Wah-ching), young people who took refuge and started new lives. Although they resolved to help, they had no construction skills. However, the Ven. Master said to them, "You will know how [to do it] naturally when you get there!" Simon Lau recollects, "Basically, when a carpenter saws wood, he does the job with the first cut. But it would take us four or five tries to get a block of wood to no longer look like its original form. At that time, the Ven. Master would come back to CTTB once a week to encourage us since everyone wished to see him. We would think, "Oh, the Ven. Master is coming today!" and we'd be extra energetic in our work that day. That's how the first wooden frame was made. Gradually, the wooden frame for the middle arch was also done that way." CTTB never asks for donations from anybody. Most of the people outside don't know about these projects. Many people were puzzled and asked, "How was the mountain gate built?" The Ven. Master mentioned once, "How did CTTB come into being? It came from our hard work and cultivation. In cultivation, we cannot praise ourselves, disparage others and say that our cultivation is right. However, we are somewhat sincere; hence, we have received tremendous responses from the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas!"

—Excerpt from *Vajra Bodhi Sea*, Issue 473, October, 2009.

三拱山門的建造始於1979年，完工於1982年。這個項目是由宣公上人早期的弟子歐果法帶領一組義工完成的。義工中有些以前是中國青年幫華青幫的成員；這些年輕人，皈依上人後，重新開始新的生活。儘管他們發心幫忙，但他們沒有建造的經驗。不過，上人對他們說：「只要你們去做，到時候自然就會了。」劉果銳回憶說：「基本上來說，當木匠看到木頭，一次就鋸成功了。而我們呢，需要試四五次，甚至到鋸得木頭都不像木頭了。那時，上人每周回聖城一次，來鼓勵我們，因為每個人都希望見到他。我們會想：『啊，上人今天會來！』那天做工就會特別帶勁。我們就這樣完成了拱門的第一個木頭框架。慢慢地，中間拱門的木頭框架也這樣做好了。聖城從來沒有向任何人要過捐助。大部分聖城外的人都不知道這些工程。許多人不明白地問：「山門是怎麼修起來的？」上人曾經提到過：「聖城是如何成就的？是我們努力工作和修行成就的。作為修行者，我們不能自讚毀他，說我們才修得對。但是，我們是真心的，因此，我們得到了佛菩薩的大力加持。」

——摘錄自《金剛菩提海》第473期(2009年10月)



Good evening! Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, Venerable Master Hua, Dharma Masters and Good knowing advisers. Please feel free to correct me at any point.

I would like to give a short report regarding the restoration and preservation of the Mountain Gate roof. **Specifically, I will report on the search for duplicate roof tiles and figurines, and the structural design of the roof framing.** The Mountain Gate Restoration Committee is headed by Dharma Masters Heng Lai, Heng Lyu, and Heng Liang; and the capacity of coordinator is Leonie Tan, with the support of Amy Chang-chien and John Scroggs, who give updates and provide consultation of the restoration progress.

The Mountain Gate was built by many disciples under Shrfu's supervision in 1979. According to Alan Nicholson (Designer), after it was built, the heavy eaves sagged a little and Shrfu approved to put up 8 pillars to support them. It turned out that the tiles were also defective and had many hairline cracks, so the tile supplier in Taiwan agreed to replace them. However, Shrfu decided against re-roofing at that time, so the supplier agreed to replace them for free in the future; (unfortunately, the company is now non-existent). The early volunteer crew included contractor Bob Olson, (project supervisor), Michael Owen (masonry supervisor), Simon Lau (concrete supervisor), David Nicholson (structural engineer), Paul Wang (architect) and many others. The roof tiles had since then been repaired numerous times over the last decade by Dharma Master Ge and Tek Lau. In 2014, Tek Lau reported that there is a need for re-roofing.

諸佛菩薩，宣公上人，尊敬的法師們及善知識們，大家晚上好。若有講得不對之處，請隨時指教。

我簡要地匯報山門屋頂的修復和保護。具體來說，我將匯報如下兩點。第一、尋找屋瓦及屋頂雕塑的複製品。第二、屋頂框架的結構設計。山門修復委員會由來法師，律法師及良法師領導。協調員陳玉梅，在張簡嘉乃和果露居士的幫助下，隨時將修復的進展情況通報他們。

山門是於1979年，在師父的指導下，由許多弟子幫忙建成的。山門的設計者倪果歸說，山門在建造後，沉重的屋簷下垂了一些。上人批准加上八根柱子來支持屋簷。後來發現瓦片有瑕疵——上面有許多極細的裂縫。當時的臺灣的瓦片供應商同意更換瓦片。但上人決定不在那時重做屋頂（更換瓦片），所以瓦片供應商同意以後免費更換。不幸的是，這家公司現在已經不存在了。早期的義工組包括小組骨幹承包商歐果法，石匠果開，水泥匠劉果銳，結構工程師倪大衛，建築師王體復，還有許多其他人，我在這裡就先略去。在過去的十幾年中，閣法師和劉果福曾多次修補屋頂的瓦片。2014年，劉果福匯報需要重做屋頂。





Hence, we made plans for reroofing. Senior and junior architects and engineers were called in to assist with the project. During the bid process, many architects tried to modify parts of the mountain gate, but we are adamant that our priority was restoring the mountain gate, not modifying it. The aforementioned members of the Restoration Committee provided moral support in this regard.

The Mountain Gate was built by Shrfu, the Founder; hence, it was not just any architect's design and we must therefore restore and preserve the Mountain Gate as is. During this process, there was an extensive search to replicate the tiles. Besides looking for the right tiles, the figurines such as the dragons, horses and flowers, needed to be exact replicas of the existing ones. There are in total 51 distinct statuettes, including enormous dragons pinned down by swords on each ridge, floral and drip tiles on the eaves, unidentified beasts, dragons, horses, immortals, and 20 dragon heads in total on all parts of roofs; (the ridges divide the roof into nine parts). According to a roof tile supplier in Luoyang, in his 40 years of experience, he has never seen a mountain gate with such an extraordinary array of artistic features, statuettes, and details.

更新屋頂的計劃做出後，我們邀請新、舊建築師和工程師來投標更新屋頂。投標時，許多的建築設計師都試圖修改山門的某些部分，但我們堅持我們注重的是修復山門，而不是修改山門。前面提到的山門修復委員會在這點上也大力支持我們。

山門是聖城的創始人宣公上人建造的，而不是任何建築師的設計。所以，我們必須按原樣修復和保存它。為找到一模一樣的屋瓦，我們各處廣為搜索。除屋瓦之外，換上的小雕像，例如龍、馬、花瓦等，也需要與現在的一模一樣。山門上一共有五十一尊獨特的小雕像——在每個屋脊上都有大型龍吻。屋簷上的花磚和滴水磚，以及仙人走獸，還有屋頂各處共計二十個龍頭。屋脊將屋頂分為九部分。洛陽的屋瓦供應商說，在他四十年的工作中，從沒見過哪個山門有這麼非凡的藝術特色、雕像及細節。

我們在日本，臺灣和中國大陸



Bodhi Field 菩提田

We searched for glazed tiles from suppliers in Japan, Taiwan and China. There are several reasons that the search stretched for many months. For instance, it turned out that Japanese tiles require a different roof pitch for installation to guarantee water proofing for 100 years. Tiles made in Taiwan, as the original ones were made, only had a factory warranty of 10-20 years compared with China's 30-40 years. Even the baking methods varied: for example, a certain temperature (1200 F) is required to fire the tiles and glaze them in order for the glaze not to peel in extreme temperature.

That said, although our total volume is low and we have specific requirements—such as replicating the same figurines and dry

尋找上過釉的屋瓦供應商。有幾個原因使得這個搜索延續了許多個月。例如，日本的瓦要求安裝時必須用一個不同的屋頂坡度，這樣才能保證防水一百年。而臺灣製造的瓦，跟我們現有的一樣，工廠只保固十到二十年，而大陸的瓦保三十到四十年。甚至烘烤的方法不盡相同。例如，必須用一個特定的溫度（一千二百華氏度）來烘烤瓦片及上釉，這樣釉料才不會在大寒時剝落。

雖然我們訂貨量很少，又有許多特定的要求，例如雕像要複製得與原件一模一樣，及使用乾安裝的方法（也就是，在整個的屋頂上只用螺釘或釘子而不用混凝土。）每次

installation methods, (i.e. using screws or nails but not applying concrete over the whole roof)—each time we found a factory we were not fully satisfied with their quotes or workmanship. We continued to search from Beijing to Changzhou and then from Shandong to Luoyang. Currently, we are in the process of having all 51 figurines duplicated in the Luoyang factory. This time, the structural engineer is certain that we could have a hybrid installation that meets the code.

Having chosen the tiles, we have another challenge: whether to build a new roof truss with steel or to have a master carpenter replace the old, rotting wood, albeit adding minor modifications according to updated building codes. Last October, the structural contractor and engineer requested to remove part of the roof tiles to look into the roof. With the committee's approval and after 3 days of work, both the contractor and engineer decided the best way forward is with the carpentry option, which is a great relief since, unlike the new steel truss option, this carpentry option would keep the roof relatively intact.

Bill Christenson, the master carpenter, and Randy Giorould, the structural engineer, are locals from the Mendocino County area with decades of experience. Scaffolding will be supplied by Premier Scaffolding Company, which has worked on various high-rises on the West Coast during the rainy season.

The Mountain gate roof repair work is expected to be completed in 6-8 months for installation of the new roof tile. In total, the mountain gate facelift will take 12 months, during which it will be covered by and protected in Shrinkwrap scaffolding, which has the double advantage of additional safety, as well as being able to continue work during the rainy season. The calligraphy will also be protected during this time.

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萬佛聖城山門自2018年12月21日起，展開維修工程。當日下午兩點半，四眾弟子近八十人，在山門前繞念〈大悲咒〉一小時祈福，迴向工程圓滿。✿

On December 21, 2018, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas commenced the roof renovation of the Mountain Gate. At 2:30 pm that day, approximately 80 people, both monastics and laity, recited the Great Compassion Mantra for one hour to transmit merit and virtue to the completion of this project. ✿

我們找到一家工廠，我們對他們的定價，或是作工都不完全滿意。我們繼續尋找，從北京找到常州，又到山東，現在到了洛陽。我們現在正安排在洛陽的工廠複製所有五十一尊雕像。這次，結構工程師確信我們可以用一種混合安裝的方法，這種方法能滿足施工的標準。

屋瓦的問題解決了，我們還有另一個挑戰：新屋架是用鋼建造，還是找一位木工專家來替換腐爛的舊木架，並根據最新的建築標準作一些小修改。去年十月，結構承包商和工程師要求取掉一些瓦來看屋頂裡面。在委員會批准後，經過三天的工作，承包商和工程師都認為接下來最好的方案是——採用請木工專家的方案。這讓我們大大鬆了一口氣。因為木架方案比鋼屋架更能讓屋頂結構相對保持原狀。

本工程所請的木工專家比爾·克里斯敦森，和結構工程師藍迪·吉歐若德，都是曼都仙諾縣本地人，都有幾十年的工作經驗。普利米爾腳手架公司將提供腳手架（鷹架）。這家公司在雨季時曾在西海岸參與多項高層建築工程。

修復山門的工作中，安裝新瓦預期六到八個月完成。加上其他工作，山門整修工程一共需要十二個月。在此過程中，將用施工防雨腳手架來蓋住和保護山門。這樣有雙重優點。一是施工更安全，二是在雨季也能繼續工作。另外，在此期間，山門上的題字也因此受到保護。✿



