

Stories of Daxi People



"Dr. Wood": The Story of Shun-yi Lee

Knowledge of history enables us to understand the atmosphere and trend of an era, while local records allow us to know about a region more vividly and realistically. Based on written records, the history of Daxi can be traced back to over 200 years ago and it boasts a diversified culture created by people living here. Each person is an epitome of the time. In this unit, we will invite some Daxi residents to tell their stories, presenting you with life experiences of Daxi residents in different times and fields from the perspective of their own life.

Power in Unity



Voting for Treasure of Daxi
Courtesy of the Historical Streets Reconstruction Association of Daxi District

In the early 1990s, the old town of Daxi launched a series community empowerment plans. People came to notice and value the treasures around them by activities such as voting for "Treasure of Daxi". They cherished and renovated the facades of their old houses and the street. Later, various exhibitions and activities were held for people to present their "treasures". Many community associations also joined in the effort to rejuvenate Daxi. The deep love of hometown is passed down from generation to generation, that attract enthusiastic participants and the youths come back to join the building force of Daxi. Such vitality and energy continue today.

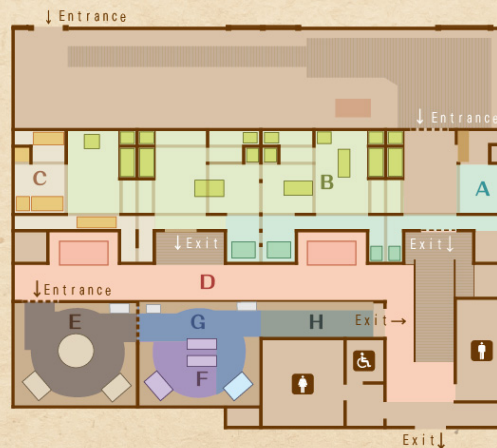
Concerted Efforts: Motivate the Essence of Daxi

Different ethnic groups, families and industries form the present Daxi. Everyone has made a contribution in the construction of Daxi culture and customs and is a valuable asset of Daxi. After Japanese colonial period, we worked together for modernization. After 1945, we worked together to establish an industry that is characteristic of Daxi. In the 1990s, the community construction brought us together again. The Daxi culture fostered by the residents here is the foundation of establishment of the Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum. Daxi residents desire for a sustainable development of our hometown with our innovation and joint efforts.



Motivate the Essence of Daxi

Floor plan of the Four Joined of Japanese-Style Residence



- A ———— Originated from Da-Han River
- B ———— Daxi people Then and Now
- C ———— Foster a Cultural Town
- D ———— Outdoor place
- E ———— Inheritance and Innovation of Wood Art Industry
- F ———— Stories of Daxi People
- G ———— Power in Unity
- H ———— Concerted Efforts: Motivate the Essence of Daxi



Exhibition Address | Four Joined of Japanese-Style Residence
(No.23, Puji Rd., Daxi Dist., Taoyuan City 33541, Taiwan (R.O.C.))
Opening Hours | Tuesday - Sunday 09:30-17:00
Telephone | (03)388-8600

桃園市立大溪木藝生態博物館
DAXI WOOD ART ECOMUSEUM, TAOYUAN

Life and History of Daxi People

Introduction to the exhibition
at Four Joined of Japanese-Style Residence

| English |



Life and History of Daxi People



Takekan of the 1870s
Drawn by Chas. W. Le Gendre
Held by the U.S. Library of Congress

Daxi people are the cores of the exhibition. Under the background of historical development in Daxi, we present the stories of people that have settled down here in different periods through the experiences of many families, groups or individuals.

The exhibition starts from geographical location and resources, followed by the stories of different phases of Daxi. Under such structure, we will irregularly update the stories of the local history. Each person who once lived here in Daxi has a story to tell in this exhibition.

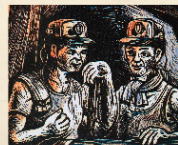
Originated from Da-Han River

Daxi is previously known as "Takoham", meaning "a lot of water" in the aboriginal language. Given the convenience of river transportation in Da-han River and abundant forest resources nearby, there were already bustling street markets in this place since Qing dynasty.

This unit includes stories about the river transportation, tea, camphor, forestry and coal mining industry; it also explains how the industries in Daxi are developed based on its surrounding natural and geographical resources, and meet with the world through international trading.



Nittoh Black Tea
Courtesy of
Formosa Vintage Museum Café

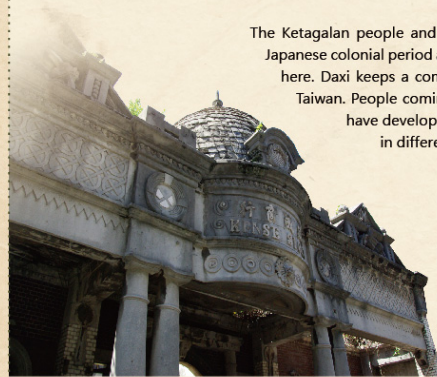


Disappearing miner
Courtesy of Mr. Kuo-pin Yang



Ship loading rough tea at Takekan port
Courtesy of Mr. Chuan-chi Kao

Daxi people Then and Now



The Ketagalan people and the Atayal people are the original residents in Daxi. Through the Qing dynasty, Japanese colonial period and after the Second World War, people of different ethnic groups have settled down here. Daxi keeps a complete trace of the change of residence and reflects the history of immigration in Taiwan. People coming from different places are united by religious faith or ties of kin. Over time, they have developed rich and exciting lifestyles. This unit tells the stories of people that settled in Daxi in different times.



(left) Photo of deer hunting of Xiaoli Village of Taiwanese Plains Aborigines
Courtesy of the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica

(right) The grand religious procession taken place on June 24 of the lunar calendar
Courtesy of Mr. Ting-yu Kao

Story of the Four Joined of Japanese-Style Residence

It is speculated that the Four Joined of Japanese-Style Residences were built in 1937-1940 during the Japanese colonial period and that it is Grade-4 official residence. Due to the growth of the police families, the indoor space was no longer sufficient, so the families built extended space after 1945. It had always been used as dormitories since the Japanese colonial period until it was registered as a historical building in 2012. After renovation, it is now

open to the public as a part of the Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum.

During renovation of the Four Joined of Japanese-Style Residence, some old materials and traces of life of the former residents were kept. Can you find the old materials that have been in use for several decades with the memory of the residents?



Courtesy of Mr. Yi-hsin Chou

Inheritance and Innovation of Wood Art Industry

Wood art is the specialty industry of Daxi, and enjoys good reputation. In this unit, we will present you with the features and culture of Daxi wood art industry from aspects of development, techniques, and its succession and innovation. Regarding the origin of the wood art industry in Daxi, it is well recognized that the story goes back to employment of craftsman from China when prominent families in Daxi, such as Lin Ben Yuan Family, built their mansions. The craftsmen laid a solid foundation for the development of Daxi wood art and especially furniture making. The Daxi wood art industry reached its peak during 1960s to 1980s, and it has prospered thanks to the joint effort of many craftsmen with different techniques.



Photo of Senyuan Woodwork Shop during Japanese colonial period
Courtesy of Mr. Sen-hsiung Chuang

Foster a Cultural Town



Entrance of Daxi Public School in 1937
The collection of the Museum

Photo of Kanjin Poetry Society members
Courtesy of Mr. Sui-kuang Lin



"Hibiscus Flowers and the Black Drongo" by Tieh-chou Lu
Courtesy of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taoyuan City Government

With the joint efforts of people from all walks of life, the cultural and educational development in Daxi has reached prosperity. There are gentry who concerned about public issues, made generous donations, contributed to educational development, and promoted various modernization projects. Daxi is also the cradle of many talents, such as artist Tieh-chou Lu and singer Fong Fei-fei. The beauty and time-honored history of Daxi are passed down through the eyes of artists, pens of poets and voice of singers.



Poster of Fong Fei-fei spinning top
Courtesy of Mr. Wu-hsiung Chien