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Typo-morphological Transitions of Core Areas in the Eastern, Western, and Southern Historical and Cultural Blocks of Luoyang Old Town

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DASP YEARBOOK 2025

ENVIRONMENTS

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Politecnico di Torino
Dipartimento di Architettura e Design

DASP YEARBOOK 2025

ENVIRONMENTS

PhD in Architecture.
History and Project

DAD | Department of Architecture and Design
Politecnico di Torino

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Typo-morphological Transitions of Core Areas in the Eastern, Western, and Southern Historical and Cultural Blocks of Luoyang Old Town

HU Ruotong



Cycle	39th
Supervisors	Marco Trisciuoglio
Research Group	Transitional Morphologies

How can a localized typo-morphological framework be Constructed to interpret the Typo-morphological transition of Luoyang Old Town and to propose Urban regeneration strategies grounded in Building typology and Urban mophorlogy continuity?

As one of the cradles of Chinese civilization, Henan Province has long held a central and influential position in China's political, cultural, and economic history. Throughout millennia, it has served as a heartland of dynastic power and a vital region for the continuous development of urban form, architectural traditions, and cultural identity. However, due to the combined effects of historical disruptions, prolonged economic decline, and institutional limitations, the protection and development of its historic and cultural districts—particularly in cities like Luoyang, the capital of thirteen dynasties—are now facing increasingly severe and complex challenges.

The Historical and Cultural Blocks in Luoyang Old Town still retain a rich typo-morphological structure characterized by traditional building types, spatial layouts, and layered cultural memory. These features make them one of the Central Plains region's most representative and historically valuable urban heritage areas. However, in recent decades, rapid urban expansion, insufficient and inconsistent funding, a persistent shortage of qualified professionals, and a general lack of public awareness and engagement have led to widespread neglect, progressive degradation, and, in some cases, irreversible destruction of these valuable historical assets.

This study focuses on Core Areas in the Eastern, Western, and Southern Historical and Cultural Blocks of Luoyang Old Town, examining their typo-morphological transition from the late 19th century to the present. It systematically investigates typo-morphological transformations across multiple dimensions, including route, built lot, building arrangement, structural arrangement, building type, and buildings and land utilization. The research adopts a cross-cultural analytical framework that integrates the typo-morphological theories of the Conzenian and Muratori-Caniggia schools, combining extensive field investigations in Luoyang, historical cartographic analysis, spatial mapping, and a mixed-methods approach involving both qualitative interpretation and quantitative measurement. Based on this integrated methodology, the study constructs an analytical framework tailored to the specific characteristics of Chinese historical and cultural blocks.

Theoretically, the research contributes to the localization and adaptation of typo-morphological theory in China, helping to bridge the gap between established Western models and Chinese urban realities. It proposes conservation and renewal strategies grounded in typo-morphological transition, offering a feasible model to support the adaptive regeneration and cultural revival of the Eastern, Western, and Southern Historical and Cultural Blocks of Luoyang Old Town. More broadly, the study responds to the imbalance between cultural richness and research scarcity in the Central Plains, aiming to establish a solid empirical foundation and conceptual basis for protecting and transforming historical urban areas in contemporary China.

Ultimately, this research seeks to formulate a regeneration framework that balances the transmission of historical value with the demands of contemporary urban vitality, contributing to the sustainable conservation and high-quality development of Luoyang's historical and cultural blocks.

Captions

Figure 1 - Evolution of Luoyang City, by the author, 2025.

Figure 2 - Roof Plans and Ground Floor Plans of Xiaoxihu, by Xiaoxihu Research Group, 2025.

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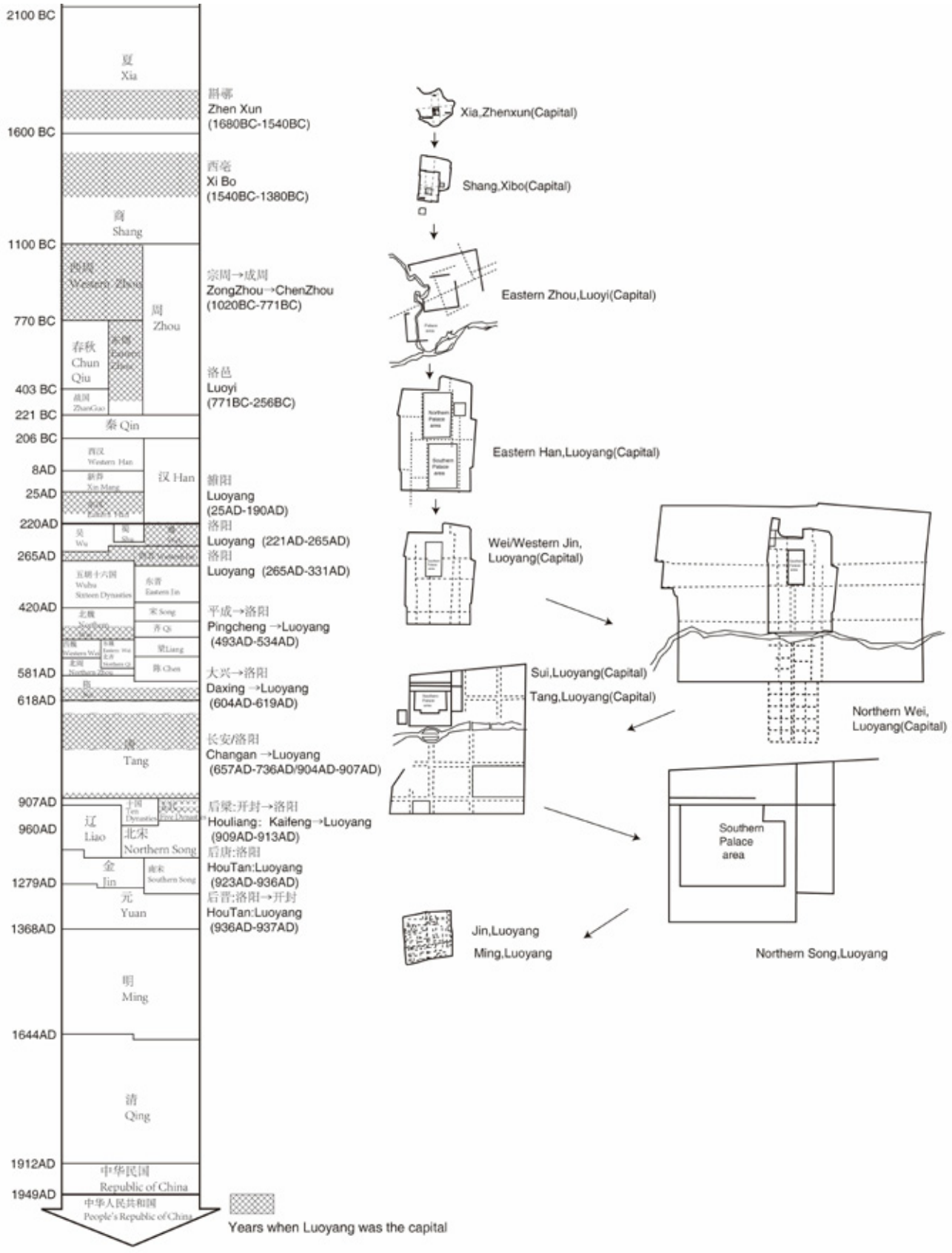
#luoyang old town, #typo-motphology, #transition


2100 BC
夏
Xia
1600 BC
商
Shang
1100 BC
西周
Western Zhou
周
Zhou
770 BC
春秋
Chun Qiu
东周
Eastern Zhou
403 BC
战国
ZhanGuo
221 BC
秦 Qin
206 BC
西汉
Western Han
新莽
Xin Mang
东汉
Eastern Han
汉 Han
8AD
25AD
220AD
吴
Wu
蜀
Shu
魏
Wei
265AD
西晋 Western Jin
五胡十六国
Wuhu Sixteen Dynasties
东晋
Eastern Jin
420AD
北魏
Northern Wei
宋 Song
齐 Qi
西魏
Western Wei
东魏
Eastern Wei
梁Liang
北齐
Northern Qi
北周
Northern Zhou
陈 Chen
581AD
隋
Sui
618AD
唐
Tang
907AD
十国
Ten Dynasties
五代
Five Dynasties
辽
Liao
960AD
北宋
Northern Song
金
Jin
南宋
Southern Song
1279AD
元
Yuan
1368AD
明
Ming
1644AD
清
Qing
1912AD
中华民国
Republic of China
1949AD
中华人民共和国
People's Republic of China
Years when Luoyang was the capital
斟鄩
Zhen Xun
(1680BC-1540BC)
西亳
Xi Bo
(1540BC-1380BC)
宗周→成周
ZongZhou→ChenZhou
(1020BC-771BC)
洛邑
Luoyi
(771BC-256BC)
雒阳
Luoyang
(25AD-190AD)
洛阳
Luoyang (221AD-265AD)
洛阳
Luoyang (265AD-331AD)
平成→洛阳
Pingcheng →Luoyang
(493AD-534AD)
大兴→洛阳
Daxing →Luoyang
(604AD-619AD)
长安/洛阳
Changan →Luoyang
(657AD-736AD/904AD-907AD)
后梁:开封→洛阳
Houliang: Kaifeng→Luoyang
(909AD-913AD)
后唐:洛阳
HouTan:Luoyang
(923AD-936AD)
后晋:洛阳→开封
HouTan:Luoyang
(936AD-937AD)
Xia,Zhenxun(Capital)
Shang,Xibo(Capital)
Eastern Zhou,Luoyi(Capital)
Eastern Han,Luoyang(Capital)
Wei/Western Jin,
Luoyang(Capital)
Sui,Luoyang(Capital)
Tang,Luoyang(Capital)
Northern Wei,
Luoyang(Capital)
Southern
Palace
area
Northern Song,Luoyang
Jin,Luoyang
Ming,Luoyang