ABSTRACT

The relocation of General Zhang Fei’s Temple is the biggest monument conservation event in the construction of the Three Gorges Dam project along the Yangtze River in China, which is well-known as the second largest relocation of ancient building complex after the founding of New China. Zhang Fei’s Temple is a group of magnificent buildings of Qing dynasty (1644‒1911) constructed in memory of General Zhang Fei in the Han dynasty (206 BCE‒220 CE), which was built using traditional techniques and decorations that existed in ancient south-western China. This article reviews its outstanding values and the whole process of relocation. It also discusses the Temple’s authenticity in its historical setting, which became the key point on how to relocate the Temple. In the end, the article shares some thoughts about the problems reflected in the relocation process.

Keywords: architectural heritage preservation, Three Gorges Dam project in Yangtze River, heritage relocation, heritage value authenticity
1. INTRODUCTION

In the 1990s, the Three Gorges Dam project is the second largest water conservancy project in the world after the Aswan Dam in Egypt. Many of the Chinese ancient relics alone the Yangtze River would be underwater. Zhang Fei’s Temple with plenty of traditional buildings is one of them, which is a magnificent monument for General Zhang Fei from 2000 years ago (Han Dynasty). As a National Protected Monument, General Zhang Fei’s Temple relocation project became one of the biggest heritage conservation events in China. From October 8, 2002 – July 17, 2003, the moving of General Zhang Fei’s Temple has been completed successfully with the wide care of the Chinese society. This article makes a review about this important event and discusses the conservation works during the monument’s relocation process [Figure 1].

Located at the south bank of the Yangtze River in Yun-yang town, 359 km away from Chongqing City, General Zhang Fei’s Temple was built in memory of a famous general who lived in almost 2000 years ago during the Three Kingdoms Period in the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE). It is one of the well-known sceneries for tourists who travel in the Three Gorges. As an ancient architectural complex, in 2001, General Zhang Fei’s Temple was listed as a National Protected Monument by the Chinese Government. Many famous poems, inscriptions, wood carvings, and paintings are preserved in this Temple, such as the wooden carvings of “zheng zuo wei tie” (争座位贴) written by Yan Zhenqing (颜真卿, 709‒785) in the Tang dynasty, and the famous calligraphic work “chu shi biao” (出师表) written by General Yue Fei (岳飞, 1103‒1142) in the Song dynasty, are regarded as very precious artworks in China. The Temple is also reputed as an “impressive scenery of the Bashu area” for its harmonious unity of architecture and environment [1]. There was once a British traveler who described the scene of General Zhang Fei’s Temple as “pretty a picture of Eastern scenery as I have ever seen” [Figure 2].

There is an impressive legend passed on by the local people from generation to generation about the origin of General Zhang Fei’s Temple. As most Chinese know, the classic historical fiction novel The Romance of the Three Kingdoms [2] is very popular and widespread in Asia, which is based on Chinese history of the Three Kingdoms era in late Han dynasty about 2000 years ago. The Romance of the Three Kingdoms is a rolling panorama of human loyalty, honor, passion, and ambition written by Luo Guanzhong (c. 1330‒1400) in the Ming dynasty, which has a far-reaching impact in Asian countries. General Zhang Fei is one of the most famous heroes in the novel for his bravery and loyalty to his friends. He assisted the two sworn brothers, General Guan Yu and Emperor Liu Bei, to establish the Kingdom of Shu. According to historical records, General Zhang Fei was short-tempered and easily-angry. He was killed by two traitors in Langzhong city, Sichuan Province. They cut off the general’s head while he was asleep and went along the Yangtze River to surrender to the enemy kingdom of Wu. On the way, they heard that State Wu was going to resume diplomatic relations with Shu, and hurriedly dumped the General’s head in the Yangtze River. According to old legend in Yunyang Town, Zhang Fei’s head was caught by fishermen from the River [3]. The local ancestors buried the General’s

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1 Little, Archibald John, Through the Yang-tse gorges, London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Riving ton, 1888. p163-p164. “...the whole forming a scene, which would make as pretty a picture of Eastern scenery as I have ever seen.”
The Relocation of Zhang Fei’s Temple

Figure 1. General Zhang Fei’s Temple at the old site before relocation. Source: Photo by the author

Figure 2. A pretty picture of Eastern scenery, Source: Yunyang Culture Tourism Office
head under the Flying Phoenix Mountain by the River and built a temple to worship him day and night. The local people believe that General Zhang Fei has blessed them with a peaceful and quiet life for several thousand years. [3]. [Figure 3].

On April 3, 1992, the world’s largest water conservancy project, the Three Gorges Dam Project began. General Zhang Fei’s Temple relocation has become the largest moving project of ancient building complex along the Yangtze River, and also the biggest heritage conservation activity in China at that time.

2. RESEARCH ON THE VALUE ASSESSMENT

All the conservations of Chinese historic buildings are based on thorough understandings of their values. The precise judgment on General Zhang Fei’s Temple’s values guides the relocation and restoration process.

From the perspective of historical values, General Zhang Fei’s Temple is the only ancient large-scale building complex in the Three Gorges region that has retained the unity of structures and environment. Although there is no exact evidence from the Han dynasty (206 BCE‒220 CE), clear architectural remains of the Song dynasty (960‒1279) were found in the archaeological excavation after the relocation. This is consistent with the story of an official named Chen Si crossing the Yangtze River to worship General Zhang Fei about 1000 years ago, as recorded in the stone inscription “Chen Si bei” of the Song dynasty preserved in the Temple. The long and glorious history of Zhang Fei’s Temple can be traced back at least to the Song dynasty. Most of the Temple’s current buildings were rebuilt at the end of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911) because of an awful flood (1870). Among them, the Main Monumental Hall was rebuilt in the first year of the Daoguang period (1821), which is also the earliest building in the Temple. The Jieyi building (pledge building) was reconstructed in the 12th year of the Tongzhi period (1873). The Cuckoo Pavilion was reconditioned in the first year of the Guanxu period (1875). Other buildings were also reformed between the Tongzhi and the Xuantong periods. Historically, the Temple was destroyed and rebuilt repeatedly following the times of flood in the Yangtze River. Therefore, some valuable hydrological markers of the Yangtze River are preserved around the Temple, which are of great value to the study of historical hydrology of the Yangtze River. For example, the hydrology marks of Yangtze River flood “大清同治庚午洪水至此” in 1870 was engraved on the cliff. In addition, the cliff on the back of the Cuckoo Pavilion also embraced a special carving “泽惠流离” which means “giving shelter to the refugee as the rain to grass.” Its context narrates a history of how the refugees from eastern provinces were accommodated by the kind folks of Yunyang town during the Yangtze River flood in 1870 [4]. All these valuable historical records have been integrated into the Temple as a whole and became an inseparable part of its history [Figure 4].

From the standpoint of scientific values, General Zhang Fei’s Temple is a representative of historic vernacular architecture in the area of Bashu in southwestern China with plenty of important regional and traditional characteristics. As we know, the Bashu region is one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization, with a large number of ancient sites from the Eastern Han dynasty (25–220). In terms of ancient architecture, different traditional architectural techniques are still used in the Three Gorges area of Chongqing, which are clearly different

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**Figure 3.** Site plan of the temple. Source: Plotted by Bowen Li

**Figure 4.** Historical hydrology marks of Yangtze River: “Here is the waterline of flood in the Tongzhi period, Qing dynasty.” Source: Photo by the author
from the official architecture in the north of China. General Zhang Fei’s Temple was built completely according to the Chinese column-and-tie timber construction system (“chuan-dou style”) [5]. The entire wooden skeleton of General Zhang Fei’s Temple is clear and compact under pressure, without additional decoration, and it is considered to be closer to the frame of the early style of ancient Chinese architecture [Figure 5].

Familiar with the evolution and development of this temple is of great significance for studying the characteristics of historic buildings in the Three Gorges area. For example, the method of using almost vertical corner beams to raise the wing-angle of the roof is effective. This method is close to the wing-angle technic of “nen qiang fa qiang” in Jiangsu province, but it is simpler and rougher than “nen qiang fa qiang”. This wing-angle technology is still widely used in the construction of other temples and shrines in the Three Gorges area.

From the perspective of aesthetic value, the Temple is highly harmonious with the surrounding environment and forms a beautiful picture with steep cliffs and dense woods. In addition, the temple also houses a large number of precious wood and stone carvings, colorful tile roofs, local wine cups are used to fix the colored tiles on the roofs, and vivid marl statues are decorated on the roof ridges. The whole temple looks very spectacular.

From the viewpoint of cultural value, General Zhang Fei’s Temple is one of the most famous cultural landscapes along the Three Gorges. The Romance of the Three Kingdoms is a classic novel with extensive influence in China and even the whole Asia. Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei became three sworn brothers to each other and jointly established the state of Shu. The Three Gorges area of Yangtze River is a famous ancient battlefield during the Three Kingdoms period. General Zhang Fei’s Temple in Yunyang town, together with many ancient relics along the Yangtze River, form a historical and cultural chain of the Three Kingdoms from Hubei Province to Chengdu, Sichuan Province [6]. General Zhang Fei is famous for his bravery, power and loyalty to his brothers and country. The stories related to him further expand the cultural value of the Temple. Professor Lv Zhou of Tsinghua University once said: “The combination of General Zhang Fei’s Temple with Baidi Town, Bazhen map, Jianxia (sword valley), and tactics book in Fengjie town has formed a splendid cultural chain about the legends and relics of the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River. It is undeniable that Zhang Fei’s Temple is an integral part of this chain” [Figure 6].

For more than a thousand years, the local people have made General Zhang Fei a part of their daily life, and it has become a local tradition for the people to cross the Yangtze River to worship General Zhang Fei in the Temple. People regard General Zhang Fei as the local patron sage and common ancestor and pray for safety and happiness [6]. The Temple has also become a place for the local people to relax and entertain. Every year on the birthday of General Zhang Fei on August 28 of the lunar calendar, the people hold grand commemorative activities and celebrations. People set off firecrackers and incense near the Temple to pray for a good harvest and peace, which has become an annual Temple Fair. Today, the Temple has been identified as one of the national protected monuments, and its important social and cultural functions still exist in Yunyang town as it is a part of the local people’s life.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE RELOCATED SITE

According to the principle of international conservation document [7], “A monument is inseparable from the history to which
Figure 5. The roof structure of Zhang Fei’s Temple. Source: Plotted by Bowen Li

Figure 6. Local activity around the temple. Source: Photo by the author
it bears witness and from the setting in which it occurs. The moving of all or part of a monument cannot be allowed except where the safeguarding of that monument demands it or where it is justified by national or international interest of paramount importance.”

Due to the construction of the Three Gorges Dam project, and to avoid flood, the State Council decided that the whole Yunyang Town needed to be relocated. The new Yunyang Town was to be rebuilt 32 km upstream, and almost all residents needed to move to the new town to settle. As an important national cultural property, General Zhang Fei’s Temple stands by the Yangtze River and integrates with the steep hillside and vegetation with a history of more than 1,000 years. It has become a famous landscape of the Yangtze River. Therefore, according to the principle of heritage protection, General Zhang Fei’s Temple cannot leave its original position. As the Venice Charter says: “The sites of monuments must be the object of special care in order to safeguard their integrity and ensure that they are cleared and presented in a seemly manner.”

Most experts insisted that General Zhang Fei’s Temple should be left on its original site. However, the local government expressed the hope that Zhang Fei’s Temple should be relocated with them to the new Yunyang Town. To this end, the Government organized experts and local representatives to discuss it, and they came up with three plans on how to move the Temple.

The first suggestion was to include the relocation of the Temple in the reconstruction plan of the new Yunyang Town, which was the lowest cost plan. Almost every expert disagreed with this plan, as it completely failed to take into account the previous historical setting of the Temple, and it did not respect the important values of the original site and environment of the heritage [Figure 7].

The second plan was to move the Temple to a higher place from the original position to avoid the flood line, so that the Temple as a whole would remain on the Flying Phoenix Mountain. This plan well maintained the original historical environment, but due to the opposite Yunyang Town moving away, General Zhang Fei’s Temple would lose its traditional connection with the local people.

The third plan proposed that Zhang Fei’s Temple should be relocated to 32 km upstream of the Yangtze River, along with the Yunyang Town, so as to maintain the historical spatial relationship with the New Town over the River. The plan maintained the historical relationship between the Temple and the local residents, which was conducive to maintaining the local traditional culture, but it would lose the authenticity of the original historical environment forever.

In the discussion of the three different relocation plans, which were all based on value evaluations of cultural heritage, which value was the key to guiding the final decision? In the three discussions, the key point was how to view the protection of the historical setting of cultural heritage. Was the original physical environment (historical environment) more important, or was the cultural tradition (intangible cultural environment) related to the Temple more important? Should the authenticity of the historical environment include both the physical environment and the traditions of the cultural spirit? From the physical value of the historical setting, General Zhang Fei’s Temple is highly integrated with the steep Flying Phoenix Mountain and the dense woods into a beautiful landscape. After more than a thousand years, General Zhang Fei’s Temple has become an integral part of the overall environment. However, if the old town of Yunyang on the opposite side were to be abandoned due to the possibility of flooding, people would migrate upstream to the new town of Yunyang. The historical

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7 Article 7, the Venice Charter, ICOMOS, 1964.
The relocation of General Zhang Fei’s Temple would no longer exist. According to the value assessment, the importance of General Zhang Fei’s Temple included not only the magnificent ancient buildings, but also a large number of local religious beliefs and cultural activities related to General Zhang Fei’s Temple. For example, the local people often cross the Yangtze River by boat to worship General Zhang Fei and pray for safety and health. All of these local cultural and religious activities were important and became a series of significant factors in the continuous vitality of General Zhang Fei’s Temple as a national cultural property. As the Nara Documents suggest: “Authenticity judgements may be linked to the worth of a great variety of sources of information. Aspects of the sources may include form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, location and setting, and spirit and feeling, and other internal and external factors.”

Sometimes it would be better to view the Temple as an old man with a long history and good health rather than a historic relic. Therefore, moving the Temple along with the people was good for the conservation of these precious cultural values, which could be regarded as a kind of safeguarding the authenticity of traditional spirit and beliefs, and the authenticity of cultural qualities of historical environment [Figure 8].

With the three relocation plans discussed, many experts realized that the relocation was not just about moving a series of ancient buildings, but more about how

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to view the value of the heritage original site. The consideration of the heritage authenticity was unanimously recognized in the discussion. The historic setting of cultural heritage included not only the authenticity of the original site, but also the importance of the humanistic context. In the end, General Zhang Fei’s Temple moved to the new Town with the local people, which became a consensus to better continue the local traditional beliefs and culture.

4. THE RELOCATION PROCESS

As the largest relocation project of ancient building complex in China, the moving of General Zhang Fei’s Temple had been a focus incident of the state’s attention since the scheme began in October 2002. The whole project was led by the Cultural Relic Bureau of Chongqing City. The Institute of Design and Research of Tsinghua University cooperated with the Institute of Architectural History and Historic Preservation of Tsinghua University to provide the drawings and instructions for the construction. The construction team was chosen through public bidding from all over China. Meanwhile, the Culture Relic Bureau of Chongqing City also employed one of the most reputable and professional institutes of research on historical building in China as the supervisor for overseeing the entire construction process. All the restoration had been completed by July 2003, prior to the water storage stage of the Three Gorges Dam project. It took 10 months in total [Figure 9].

On October 8, 2002, General Zhang Fei’s Temple was closed for disassembly and relocation after playing host to a last wave of visitors. The relocation process was divided into several stages as follows:

1) The stage of disassembly (October 8 – October 23, 2022)

This stage on the former site, first of all, involved the division of workers into groups for each of the buildings. Each group was responsible for documenting the disassembly of individual building with solid records and photos. It was requested that a camera-man should be arranged to capture the whole course of disassembly. Every part of the structure, from timber to stone, was to be marked with numbers and descriptions for sorting purposes. Enswathing the paintings and carvings with soft materials for conservation was required.

2) The stage for alteration and solidification of the landform at the new site (October 8 – December 25, 2002)

The initiation of this stage was carried out in the new site near the Pan Stone village at the same time as the first stage. Because there were many sites along the Yangtze River where the earth was loose and prone to slide. For the new site in a similar situation as before, according to the geology report, the work of landform alteration and geological reinforcement had been carried out, starting in October 2002. Then the foundation of the building was constructed with reinforced concrete.

3) The stage of transportation of materials and preparation of restoration (October 23 – December 30, 2022)

It was necessary that all the elements of the structure were marked and categorized after the building was disassembled. Before transportation, we made a detailed arrangement to ensure that the road for transportation was good and safe. In fact, the government allocated a special road for this purpose. It was considered that the space on the new site would be divided reasonably for storing the materials and the field workshop would be completed with full equipment, such as machines and fire hydrants. After all elements of structure

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<th>Plan</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Move into the New Town</td>
<td>Convenient for visiting</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Stay it upside where it was</td>
<td>Keep the historic surrounding</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Move it following the town’s moving</td>
<td>Keep the relationship between the town and the temple</td>
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**Figure 8.** Discussion of the three different relocation plans. Source: Chart by Bowen Li

**Figure 9.** Restoration of Zhang Fei’s Temple at the new site. Source: Photo by the author
safely arrived in the new shelter, the workers checked the detailed written records to make decisions on the treatment of stone and lumber remnants under the guidance of specialists. They then arranged to repair the rotten windows and doors, connected the new wooden stake with the rotten part of old columns, and so on. Moreover, the purchasing of new materials such as the complementary tiles and stones was put into practice at this stage [Figure 10].

4) The stage of reconstruction (February 10 – June 30, 2003)

On February 10, according to the plan, the Cuckoo Pavilion was selected as the first ancient building to be rebuilt. This building restoration project lasted for a long time. Through the implementation of this single building project, the experts were able to assess the ability of each group of construction workers in terms of cooperation, organization, and construction efficiency. Explore and accumulate practical construction and cooperation experience together. At the same time, experts have also re-examined the feasibility of previously identified restoration methods. Continuously improve the repair technology in actual operation and revise the next repair plan in time.

After the completion of Cuckoo Pavilion, all experts and workers have gained valuable experience and accelerated the construction process of repairing other buildings of the Temple as planned. By the end of April, 2003, all the main wooden structures were basically completed. In the last two months of May and June, the restoration mainly focused on the careful repair of windows, doors and roofs, and re-installation in the original position. Before the wall was painted, all the exquisite wood carvings were carefully re-shielded. After restoration, all the old sculptures and carvings kept their original style without any damage during the reconstruction process. On June 30, the overall restoration of the historical building of Zhang Fei’s Temple was successfully completed.

In the restoration project of General Zhang Fei’s Temple, the steep terrain on the original site was simulated by using a series of reinforced concrete buildings with two underground floors. Through the construction of the basement, two-story foundation platforms with different elevations before and after are formed externally for the restoration of the ancient wooden structure. At the same time, in front of the temple, a vertical cliff is formed by excavating down 6 m, simulating the steep cliff seen before entering the temple at the original site. In this way, it was successfully solved how to reconstruct the steep historical environment of the original site of General Zhang Fei’s Temple on the new chosen site with relatively gentle terrain slope. According to the original design plan, the additional two-story basements (reinforced concrete buildings) built to simulate the original terrain will be open to the public as underground museum of General Zhang Fei’s Temple and the cultural relics warehouse in the future. [Figure 11].

5) The stage of project completion and evaluation by experts’ group

On July 17, 2003, deputed by the Culture Relic Bureau of Chongqing City, the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China organized a special group of experts composed of eleven members. The convention was held in the restored General Zhang Fei’s Temple. After carefully inspecting the buildings inside out, the experts had drawn the final evaluations of the conservation as follows:

• The new site is similar to the qualities of the environment at the old site. The Temple still stands on a cliff and faces
Figure 10. Reconstruction in process. Source: Photo by the author

Figure 11. Environmental terrain reconstruction of Zhang Fei’s Temple at the new site. Source: Drawing by Bowen Li
the Yangtze River, opposite to the New Yunyang Town across the River as before. The layout of the former surroundings has been mostly respected and thoroughly considered, embodying the international principle that the conservation of a monument implies preserving the traditional setting in which it occurs.

• The former style and layout of General Zhang Fei's Temple has been kept very well. A good respect for the visual scenery around the Temple has been maintained. The principle of “no change to the former status” as required by the law of China was strictly followed.

• The methods used to preserve the building materials during the disassembly and transmission process were effective. The reuse of old building components in the restoration process were applied to a great extent, especially in the conservation of historic carvings and sculptures of timber and stone.

• Good work in the combination of restoration and reparation in this construction project. Although traditional construction techniques were adhered to as a general rule, modern scientific techniques and materials were also implemented in a careful manner so as to help preserve the Temple for a long run.

• In the process of construction, many effective measures were taken to increase work efficiency. A reasonable schedule on the arrangement of works was created, detailed data on the construction were recorded, all of which helped to ensure good organization and management.

• Introduced the system of supervision of construction on the conservation project for the first time. Invited professional institutes as supervisors to monitor the whole procedure of construction. Set new management standards for conservation projects in China.

• From the above-mentioned evaluations, the experts reached a common agreement that the relocation project of General Zhang Fei’s Temple was a successful case on the conservation of historic building complex. It strictly adhered to the Law of Cultural Relics of China and the basic principles of international charters on conservation. The experts agreed that the construction was good to pass the examination.

5. REFLECTIONS
Some thoughts on the conservational relocation of General Zhang Fei’s Temple: China has experienced the flourishing age of Market Economy and developed rapidly at an amazing speed, which has already impressed the whole world. The construction of the Three Gorges Dam Project was the direct cause that resulted in the relocation of General Zhang Fei’s Temple. It was decided that the emphasis of this conservation action was on how to preserve the historic setting of General Zhang Fei’s Temple, and how to keep local beliefs and associated cultural values. The decision to relocate the Temple together with the People reflects China’s modernization conservation goals, including relocating with the New Town, keeping landscape view across the River, and reconstructing the new site as the old setting. In addition, as the largest historic building complex protection project in the Three Gorges Dam Project, General Zhang Fei’s Temple had become the focus of social attention from the beginning. The government at different levels and the media all over China drew great attention to this relocation project. Through television, newspapers, and the Internet, people knew every stage and every detail of the relocation. The open process was a testament of China’s development capabilities in all aspects. Reviewing the whole project, there are some
experiences and thoughts that can be shared.

First, the preliminary survey on the historic buildings and the thorough study on the original materials and historical documents were the foundation before relocation, from which the judgments on the values of cultural relics were based. The following factors have contributed to the success of the relocation project of General Zhang Fei’s Temple [Figure 12]:

- A great deal of studies was carried out on the historical documents about the Temple.
- A large number of detailed records and practical surveys on the present buildings of the temple were obtained.
- The correct judgments on the complex values of the monument, including historic value, aesthetic and cultural values, and social and cultural values were conducted.
- A good conservation plan and series of construction drawings based on the judgments of the values were provided.

Cultural heritage diversity exists in time and space and demands respect for other cultures and all aspects for their belief systems. In cases where cultural values appear to be in conflict, respect for cultural diversity demands acknowledgement of the legitimacy of the cultural values of all parties.\(^1^2\) For almost 6 years, Professor Lv Zhou in Tsinghua University has led his research group in the study of General Zhang Fei’s Temple’s history, and has been responsible for designing the final plan and specifications on the conservation of the Temple. He has reviewed a great number of historical documents in relation to the Temple and summarized all sorts of values on the Temple. Finally, through discussions with the experts of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, Professor Lv Zhou had come up with a set of systemic conclusions about the values of the Temple. In a few words, the emphasis on the conservational relocation of the Temple was how to deal with the preservation of the historical setting.\(^1^1\) The authenticity of the historical setting involved not only the natural environment, but also the culture and the beliefs.\(^1^3\) Respect for the local beliefs related to General Zhang Fei’s Temple was more important than other values in this case. Following that, the Institute of Design and Research of Tsinghua University cooperated with the Institute of Architectural History and Historic Preservation of Tsinghua University to finish the drawings and instructions for the construction, which became the design instructions of the relocation project.

Secondly, it was very necessary to arrange a professional designer to guide the construction process. On the one hand, the designer may discover many hidden traces in the Temple during the disassembly and make timely alterations in the conservational design and collect more materials for further study. On the other hand, the designer may be able to supervise the situation and have direct control over the result of the construction at any time, which guarantees satisfaction and construction quality.

Thirdly, the introduction of a supervision system in the conservational construction has proven to be important and effective. Many construction groups in China lack the knowledge of timber structural system and traditional Chinese construction methods, and the designer often cannot check every detail of the work all the time. It is suggested delegating professional institutes as construction quality supervisors to monitor the whole construction process and set a new standard for relocation projects in China. The Historic Buildings Preservation Research Institute of Henan Province, was the first to receive the certification of supervisor on conservational work from the National

Cultural Heritage Administration. The successful relocation of General Zhang Fei’s Temple has proved that the introduction of professional institutes to monitor the whole procedure of construction was helpful to the preservation of historic buildings. The supervisors played a key role in standing by the principles and guiding the operation to ensure a satisfactory result.

Despite the success of the overall project, there are still many related issues worth pondering. For example, is this justified by the introduction of the public bidding system of modern construction in cultural heritage conservation projects? Because any historic building has local traditional technology and regional cultural characteristics, this means that not any construction company can carry out a restoration of cultural heritage without considering cultural and regional diversity. During the relocation of General Zhang Fei’s Temple, the workers of the construction company from Hubei Province were unable to independently repair a large number of decorative components during the Cuckoo Pavilion restoration. They are full of traditional and regional vernacular craftsmanship and only exist in the Chongqing area and Sichuan province. So in the end, they had to ask local artisans in Yunyang Town for help. In addition, the management responsibilities of multi-level governments are not clear, and the excessive interference of media companies in the restoration process is also worth considering. In a word, cultural heritage is getting more and more attention from the society in China, and the relocation of General Zhang Fei’s Temple has also raised many new unresolved issues for the management of Chinese heritage conservation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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