

CHINA'S HISTORIC BRIDGES: ARCHITECTURE OVER WATER

Sichuan Province

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Jiemei 'Sisters' Bridges in Xiaobei township, Anxian county, Sichuan province

A twinned pair of covered spans that share a common mid-stream pier, actually an angled stone outcrop that juts upward between them.

While some type of bridge structure—some records even indicate a set of stone bridges as early as the twelfth century at this location

—it was not until 1873 that local villagers combined their labor and financial capital to fashion the bridges seen today.

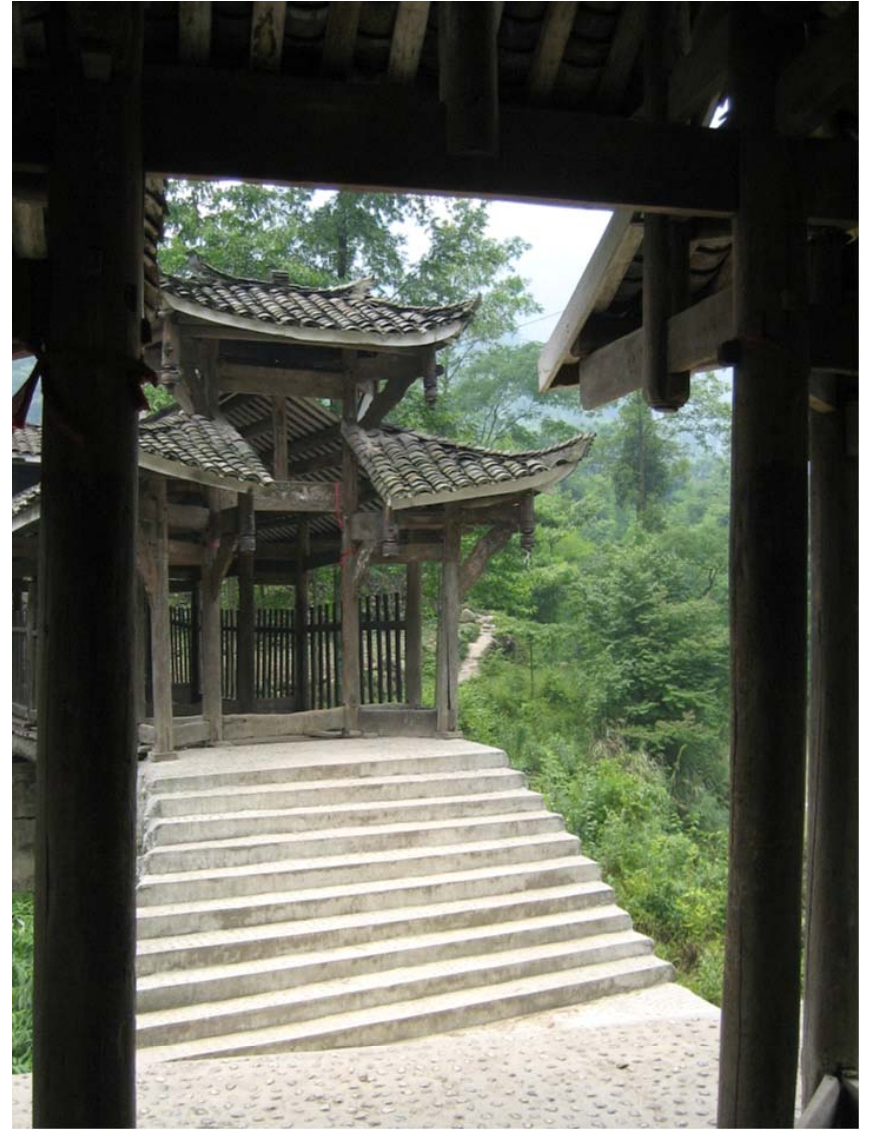
The longer bridge, referred to as 'elder sister' and the shorter one 'younger sister', are similar in structure and appearance, differing mainly in details.













Returning from the mountains with herbs and bark for medicines



New and old wood used in the restoration



Red Army Bridges—Hongjun Qiao—are found in many provinces in China, with the bulk of them emerging with that name during Mao Zedong's epic Long March between October 1934 and October 1935. Constructed during the middle of the Qing dynasty, this span—known originally as the Heyi [Combined Benefit] Bridge—served as the link between the two halves of Qinglinkou, a village some 50 kilometers from Jiangyou city in northwestern Sichuan province. Little is known about the construction of the bridge, and it is left to its current form to tease out the facts. The bridge itself is comprised of a solidly built base of three symmetrical stone arches, a larger one in the center flanked by a pair of smaller arches.







The loft above the central bay, where there once was an altar, was used to store the deities' sedan chairs used during processions.



'Freedom to Marry'



'Participate in the Red Army's Division of Land'



'Resolutely Support Anti-Imperialism and Oppose Japan'

Propagandistic Carvings On Old Gravestones And Lineage Hall Stelae



Blind visitor to the bridge
Carved stone propaganda board: 'The Red Army Is The Savior of Poor People'