

City Construction and Its Pictorial Expression: The Case of *The Construction Record of Eastern Overseas* by Taiwan Prefect Jiang Yunxun

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ABSTRACT

Using the case of the prefectural capital of Taiwan in the eighteenth century, this article explores how Qing civil officials designed and set up their workplaces in an administrative city. Besides infrastructural establishments for meeting administrative, defensive, transportation, and economic needs, the most noticeable constructions in the prefectural city are usually official temples, government schools, and city walls, the remains of which constitute the typical impression of present-day Tainan. *The Construction Record of Eastern Overseas* published by Taiwan Prefect Jiang Yunxun in 1766 offers clues to understanding the ideas of local officials and the actions they took to transform a Qing local city into an administrative and ceremonial space.

This article first introduces Jiang Yunxun's official career, the legends and memories regarding him in Tainan, and the book-making process. Reviewing contents of his book and comparing city constructions erected at his initiative would shed light on the historical significance of his contribution to establishing a prefectural city. The eighteenth century was considered crucial to the shaping of the urban landscape of Tainan. Successive Taiwan Prefects Jiang Yunxun and Jiang Yuanshu contributed most to Tainan's city planning. Their constructions also influenced local gentry-merchants and the society. Finally, pictorial gazetteers such as *The Construction Record of Eastern Overseas* reveal how Qing local officials expressed the ideal appearance of official administrative and ceremonial spaces, all of which have contributed to our understanding of present-day Tainan.

Keywords: Jiang Yunxun, *The Construction Record of Eastern Overseas*, Local Governance, Urban Architecture, Ceremonial Space