

A historical research of the Liang Chen Plan

by Jiacheng Xu
Tutor: Jean-Paul Baeten
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Abstract

In February 1950, Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang jointly proposed the "Proposal on the Location of the Central People's Government's Administrative Center Area", which is known as the Liang Chen Plan. Although this scheme has not been implemented, it is often mentioned. The designers have objective understandings of Beijing's urban functions, development conditions, and spatial structure. This scheme once gave Beijing the opportunity to move towards a completely different direction from now.

Intraduction.

In the 1950s, in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, there was a lot of waste waiting to be done in the country. Beijing, the capital, is the top priority of construction. Against this background, the fortunes of the city of Beijing are facing a new turning point. At that time, the overall planning of Beijing was divided into two factions, one was composed of Soviet experts represented by Barannikov, and the other was Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang. The views of the two sides are completely opposite from the overall positioning of Beijing to the setting of the central area and the specific planning scheme.

The fundamental difference between the two sides lies in their different positioning of Beijing. Soviet experts hoped to turn Beijing into a developed industrial city, and formulated the city plan of Beijing based on Moscow. On the other hand, Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang regarded the entire old city of Beijing as a huge cultural heritage and planned Beijing from the perspective of heritage protection. The huge difference between the two has created a sharp confrontation between the two sides. During the fierce debate between the two sides, in February 1950, architects Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang jointly published the *"Proposal on the Location of the Central People's Government Administrative Center"*, which was historically called "Liang Chen Plan".

During the first decade of China's founding, the Soviet Union became China's closest ally. The one-sided foreign policy pursued by China at that time was to firmly stand on the side of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. So the Soviet experts in a way symbolized absolute authority. After many intense discussions, the plan of the Soviet experts was adopted with overwhelming support from national leaders, the Beijing municipal government, and relevant Chinese experts.

This article will take "Liang Chen Plan" as the main research object. The main reasons for taking it as the main research object are as follows: First, Liang Sicheng, as the most important figure in the field of modern Chinese architecture, has outstanding achievements in both academic and practical aspects, and is also an important contributor to modern Chinese architecture. The near-total rejection of a project spearheaded by such a brilliant architect at the time certainly deserves further research. Second, looking at "Liang Chen Plan" from the perspective of today, the plan has strong predictability in terms of the protection of urban cultural heritage and the problems faced in the development process of Beijing. Many problems that Beijing faced during its development in more than seventy years after that were all covered in the "Liang-Chen Plan". Therefore, "Liang-Chen Plan" is worthy of in-depth study. Third, in addition to the "Liang-Chen Plan" itself, the whole process from the proposal to the final rejection of the plan also has research value. At that particular period, the overall planning of Beijing was more of a politically symbolic rather than an academic discussion. Therefore, the process of the program being rejected also has historical significance.

The main research question of this article is why "Liang-Chen Plan" was designed like that. More specifically, what is the original intention and assumption behind the scheme, and what are the reasons for the designer to generate this idea, and what are the subjective or Objective factors, such as the architect's personal experience, social background and

cultural background at that time. In addition, this paper will also analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the "Liang-Chen Plan". This article will use archival research, literature research, and image research as the main research methods. From the perspective of the era background in the 1950s and the personal experiences of the two architects, I will specifically analyze which objective and subjective factors contributed to the "Liang-Chen Plan" we have seen today. This will involve the political environment in the early days of China's founding in the 1850s, the historical evolution of Beijing and the current situation of the city at that time, the professional experience of the two architects, and architectural ideas.

1. General context: The problems faced by Beijing's urbanization in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

1.1 The historical evolution and urbanization development process of Beijing city

A certain city is constantly developing and changing with political and economic changes. The existing Ming and Qing ancient cities in Beijing developed and evolved from the former capital of the Yuan Dynasty. When the Yuan Dynasty began to build this city in 1267, the imperial palace of the Yuan Dynasty was arranged around the Beihai and Zhonghai, and the Beijing city of the Yuan Dynasty formed a square around the palace. This construction in the Yuan Dynasty is very important. It follows the principles of ancient Chinese city construction, and the entire city has a complete layout. That is to build a capital, the layout of the entire city is determined by a central axis. There are three gates on each side, and nine main streets in the city. An ancestral temple is set up on the east side of the imperial palace in the city, and an altar for worshipping land and food is set up on the west side of the palace. After the Ming Dynasty moved the capital to Beijing in 1417, the imperial city began to be built on a larger scale. On the basis of continuing the inherent layout of Beijing City, due to economic and political needs, the scope of Beijing City is slightly expanded to the south, and the central axis is also slightly shifted to the east. The scope of Beijing at this time was what is now called the inner city of Beijing. In 1553, Emperor Shizong Zhu Houxun of the Ming Dynasty ordered to build an outer city in order to strengthen the defense. Due to the excessive construction costs, only the south side was finally built. So far, Beijing City has formed the Forbidden City, the Imperial City, the Inner City, and the Outer City surrounded by four layers of city walls. These together are what is called the old city of Beijing today. The Qing Dynasty continued the system of the Ming Dynasty with less changes to the urban pattern. Until the middle of the twentieth century, the ancient city was still well preserved. From the historical evolution of Beijing City, it is not difficult to find that various parts of the city have risen and fallen with political, military and economic needs. (Liang S, 1953, History of Chinese Architecture)

The plane shape of the old city of Beijing was gradually developed. The layout of the old city of Beijing was developed by the traditional system of Chinese cities in the past dynasties, through special geographical conditions, and the actual political and economic conditions of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. On the one hand, this pattern and form follows the traditional general system, and on the other hand, it is applied in a combination of the special conditions of each period. The plane of Beijing city can be vividly analogized to the Chinese character "凸". The northern half is the inner city and the southern half is the outer city. The Forbidden City is the core of the inner city and the center of the city's layout. The whole city

is run through by an eight-kilometer-long north-south central axis, and the urban space fluctuates symmetrically along the central axis.

Beijing is a city that is planned and then built, and its unique feature is that it has a holistic urban space. Under the grand urban layout, the handling of space and the distribution of focal points have an excellent style, and at the same time, a reasonable and orderly street system is arranged.

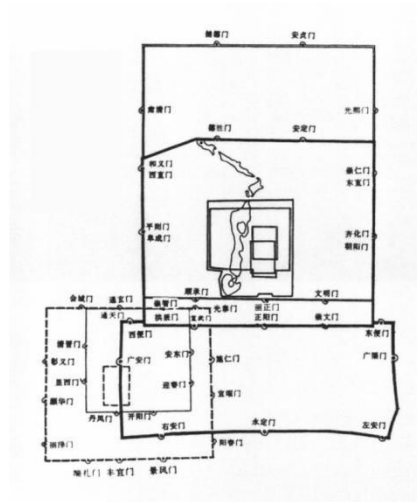


Figure 1. development of Beijing city

1.2 The impact of national policies on Beijing's urbanization at that time

In the early 1950s, China's political line and foreign policy showed a clear one-sided tendency, which was about to firmly stand on the side of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. The emergence of this special foreign policy comes from both the factors of the international social environment and the competent factors within the country. On the one hand, the mainstream political views in the United States at that time maintained a calm and wait-and-see attitude towards China. On the other hand, China was unable to maintain neutrality between the socialist and capitalist camps at that time, and the ideologies of China and the Soviet Union, which were both socialist countries, were basically the same. In addition, China at that time needed to rely on the support of the Soviet Union to develop its industry and economy. Therefore, the main diplomatic strategy in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China was to form alliances with socialist countries such as the Soviet Union. (Huang J, 2019, *One-sided foreign policy towards the Soviet Union*)

Under such a policy background, a group composed of Soviet municipal experts came to Beijing in September 1949 to conduct research to help study Beijing's municipal construction and draft urban planning scheme. These Soviet experts were given absolute authority at that time.

During this period, in addition to the national policy environment, some major events also had an important impact on the planning and development of Beijing. The founding ceremony was held in Tiananmen Square in 1949, and the pattern of Tiananmen was identified as one of the main symbols of the national emblem. All these give this area new historical and political significance. To a certain extent, it also implies that the political center of Beijing must be related to these places.

2. The two architects

2.1 Liang Sicheng's academic and professional experience and architectural thought.

Liang Sicheng was born in 1901, his father was a famous reformer in the very late Qing Dynasty. In 1924, Liang Sicheng went from Beijing to the University of Pennsylvania to study architecture and received a systematic modern architecture education. During this period, his father Liang Qichao sent him a re-published ancient book "Ying Zao Fa Shi", and since then Liang Sicheng began to study ancient Chinese architecture. After graduation, Liang Sicheng went on study tours in the United States and European countries, and developed a deeper understanding of modern architecture and cities.

After returning to China in 1931, Liang Sicheng engaged in architectural design and teaching, founded the earliest architecture department in China, and promoted the establishment of the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University. At the same time, he gradually formed and developed the ideas on the protection of architectural heritage, and participated in surveying, mapping, analysis, and research on more than 2,000 ancient buildings. He has made great contributions to the development of modern Chinese architecture. Liang Sicheng published "The System Order of Cities and Towns" in 1945. In this article, Liang Sicheng proposed that China was in the process of transforming from an agricultural country to an industrial country at that time, and modern cities in Europe and the United States should be used as a reference to avoid the occurrence of urban diseases. In his article, he mentioned Saarinen's theory of organic evacuation, and borrowed from his theory that China should plan ahead. In March 1949, Liang Sicheng published the "National Important Architectural Heritage Catalog", in which Beijing City as a whole was included. His architectural theory was formed after long-term practice and theoretical research. For the old city of Beijing, Liang Sicheng believes that protection is the first priority, and everything else must make concessions. (Wu L, 2001, *The Complete Works of Liang Sicheng*.)



Figure 2. architect Liang Sicheng



Figure 3. architect Chen Zhanxiang

2.2 Chen Zhanxiang's academic and professional experience and architectural thought.

Chen Zhanxiang was born on June 13, 1916 into a merchant family in Shanghai. In August 1938, he went from Shanghai to study at the School of Architecture, University of Liverpool, UK. In 1943, Chen Zhanxiang completed his 5-year architectural study at the University of Liverpool, and continued to study for a master's degree in urban design at the university. At

the end of 1944 he entered University College London, where he studied for a doctorate under Sir Abercrombie and continued to study urban design. During his studies, Chen Zhanxiang developed a strong interest in traditional Chinese urban planning, and in 1945 published the article "Discussion on the Theory of Urban Planning in Ancient China". In 1946, Chen Zhanxiang returned to China and served in the Shanghai Urban Planning Commission, compiling the Shanghai Urban Plan, and in 1947 proposed the development of the Pudong New Area. During this period, Chen Zhanxiang also served as a professor of the Department of Architectural Engineering at St. John's University, promoting the development of modern architecture in China. In October 1949, Chen Zhanxiang corresponded with Liang Sicheng, expressing his willingness to work with him in urban planning of the capital, and was invited to Beijing. Subsequently, Chen Zhanxiang was appointed as an important member of the Beijing Municipal Urban Planning Commission, and concurrently serves as a professor of the Department of Architecture of Tsinghua University, where he lectures on urban planning. (Wang R,2005,*Liang Chen Plan and Beijing*)

When Chen Zhanxiang was studying for his doctorate in the UK, his tutor Sir Abercrombie was presiding over the first Greater London Plan and laid the prototype of the Greater London area. This plan makes an overall spatial order for the metropolitan area with London as the core. The Greater London Plan aims to evacuate, with a number of new towns planned within the metropolitan area to accommodate the population overflowing from the London metropolitan area. The plan aims to decentralize the functions of the London metropolitan area through these new towns, provide employment opportunities, and thereby reduce the pressure on the London metropolitan area to facilitate accelerated post-war reconstruction. Under the influence of his tutor, Chen Zhanxiang gradually formed a similar academic thought.

It can be seen that the cooperation between Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang is not only out of cherishing the ancient city of Beijing, but more importantly, the two of them, as urban planning scholars, recognize and agree with each other's academic ideas.

3. The context of Liang Chen Plan's proposal

3.1 The predecessor of Liang Chen's scheme

When the Japanese army occupied Beijing in 1937, a new urban area was planned in the western suburbs outside the old city of Beijing. The planning of the new urban area is based on a north-south axis and a grid-like street network. This is an integrated new city. From 1939 to 1943, the Japanese requisitioned 17.7 square kilometers of land, built roads, municipal facilities and more than 500 houses. At this time, the new urban area in the western suburbs has already taken shape. After further improvement by the Kuomintang government, when the Communist Party took over power in 1949, the urban construction of the new urban area in the western suburbs of Beijing had already reached a certain scale.

In February 1949, after the Battle of Pingjin, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China began to relocate to Beijing, and many central units also moved into Beijing and started construction. Liang Sicheng wrote to Nie Rongzhen, the mayor of Beijing at that time. In the letter, he pointed out that great care must be taken when starting construction in the capital. He took European and American cities as references. Due to the neglect of planning in the early stages of construction, some cities caused chaos in industrial areas and

residential areas, and traffic jams. The London Plan and the New York Plan took fifty years and countless human and material resources to correct this error.

According to the documents of the Beijing Municipal Urban Planning Commission in May 1949, the Communist government at that time was aware of the population density problem in Beijing and wanted to use this new urban area in the western suburbs to evacuate the city. And entrusted Liang Sicheng to organize the teachers and students of the Department of Architecture of Tsinghua University to carry out the planning of the new urban area in the western suburbs. At this time, Liang Sicheng, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Urban Planning Commission, proposed that if the area is to be used, functions need to be determined in advance. He suggested that the central government or the Beijing government should be established in the new urban area. At that time, the government's planning for Beijing always focused on the effective use of the new urban area in the western suburbs.

3.2 The involvement of the Soviet factor

It was not until September 1949 that the Communist government introduced a foreign policy oriented towards the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. The Beijing Municipal Government invited a 17-member expert group led by Abramov, the vice-chairman of the Moscow City Soviet, to study in Beijing and draft the plan for Beijing. Unlike the previous planning scheme for the western suburbs, Soviet experts believed that it was not economically feasible to build a new urban area and improve the old urban area at the same time. The new central administrative district should be built on the existing street network in the old urban area. In this way, the appearance of the old city can be improved at the same time as the construction of new buildings. The Soviet expert Barannikov proposed to build the required administrative district office buildings in three phases along Chang'an Avenue with Tiananmen Square as the center. In this planning scheme, Soviet experts, based on the experience of planning and construction in Moscow, emphatically demonstrated that the economical efficiency of setting up the administrative center in the old city is much higher than rebuilding it elsewhere.

There are three points at the heart of the scheme. First, they believe that Beijing, as the capital, is not only the center of culture, science, and economy, but also an industrial city. Beijing's working class makes up 4 percent of the city's population, while Moscow's working class makes up 25 percent of the city's population. So Soviet experts defined Beijing as a consumer city. Soviet experts believed that developing Beijing's industry was politically significant, and it could provide employment opportunities for residents and laboratories for scientific research. Second, Soviet experts believed that only by placing the new administrative center in the old city could the problem of arranging government agencies and beautifying the interior of the city be solved economically. Based on the experience of Soviet urban construction, for example, when discussing the planning of Moscow, it was also suggested that the old city of Moscow should be preserved as an exhibition hall and a new capital should be built next to it. After this proposal was rejected, the result of rebuilding Moscow was not bad. At the same time, Beijing's urban construction has a certain foundation, and building good administrative houses to decorate Beijing's squares and streets can increase the importance of the new Chinese capital. Third, the construction of houses is implemented in stages. The first stage is to develop the south side of East Chang'an Avenue. The second phase will be constructed on the east side of Tiananmen Square, and the third phase will be constructed on the west side of Tiananmen Square and West Chang'an Avenue. (Li Y, 2018, *The Soviet Factors in Beijing Urban Planning in the 1950s*)

The recommendations of the Soviet experts were unanimously agreed by the leaders of the authorities. Since then, at the government level, the overall planning of Beijing has undergone tremendous changes. It has shifted from focusing on the development of the new urban area in the western suburbs to focusing on the construction in the old city of Beijing.

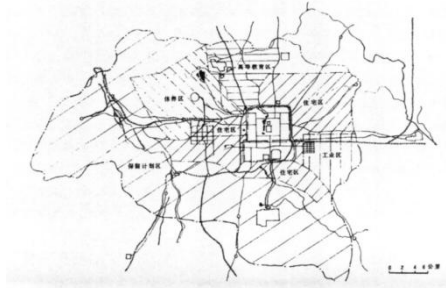


Figure 4. Beijing planning proposal of Soviet expert:

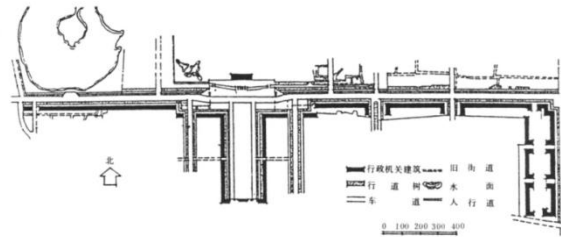


Figure 5. Plan of Tiananmen Square by Soviet experts

3.3 The publishing of Liang Chen Plan

There is a huge difference between the planning proposed by the Soviet experts and the one of Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang. In order to better advocate their point of view, based on the original planning of the new urban area in the western suburbs, the two organized and improved their previous work and ideas, and proposed an extremely pure and huge central administrative area scheme. In February 1950, Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang jointly issued the "Proposal on the Location of the Central People's Government's Administrative Center Area", which is called the Liang Chen Plan.

4. The content of Liang Chen Plan

Liang Chen Plan consists of three parts. In the first part, the two discuss the reasons why the central administrative area must be decided as soon as possible. In the second part, the two introduced the advantages of developing the western suburbs and establishing an administrative center in detail. In the third part, the two subdivided the entire plan into stages that can be implemented gradually. Although they also plan to develop Beijing into a productive city and build industrial zones in the eastern suburbs, it is more important to build an efficient modern political center.

The planning and design of the administrative center area is undoubtedly the top priority of Liang Chen Plan. Determining the location of the administrative center involves a series of issues such as transportation, demolition, citizens' life and work. Liang Chen Plan clarified eleven necessary conditions for the construction of the administrative center area, including retaining the characteristics of China's urban plan, the architectural form showing the national characteristics and the creativity of the times, leaving enough area and development space, avoiding a large number of demolitions, not increasing the difficulty of hydropower projects, closing the residential area with the office area to reduce the traffic burden, promoting the balanced development of the city, controlling the traffic flow, coexisting harmoniously with the old city, and protecting the cultural relics and buildings. Faced with so many issues to be considered, Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang concluded two design principles. On the one hand, the inner density of the old city is too high, and the limited land has been overused to build houses. In the city, there is very little space for parks and

squares. On the other hand, Beijing is an ancient capital with a long history and cultural background. Many buildings and structures in the city are cultural relics with high historical and research value. Their value is not limited to each individual building, but their location and layout, the order and the whole environment formed are also important values of the city.

On this basis, Liang Chen Plan put forward the idea of building a government administrative center in the area between the Yuetan Temple and Gongzhufen in the western suburbs outside the west side of the old city of Beijing. Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang believe that this will provide a longer-term solution for the protection and development of Beijing City. The architects set up the administrative center of the capital outside the old city, and organized the complicated administrative and auxiliary functions through axes and groups to form a relatively complete spatial sequence. At the same time, this pattern is juxtaposed with the north-south axis pattern of the old city of Beijing. Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang hope that through this kind of planning, a complete urban space system will be established for the future administrative center of the capital, and at the same time, the urban style of the old city of Beijing will be preserved to the greatest extent.

According to the planning sketches in Liang Chen Plan, it can be found that they also planned a business district on the south side of the administrative center area. Although they do not explain this area in detail in the description text, it is conceivable to imagine what Beijing City will look like if it is implemented according to their vision. The city will have three interrelated but functionally distinct central districts. The old city is a cultural center with rich architectural relics. The west side of the old city is an administrative center with government offices as its core, and the south side is a business center formed by a modern city. These three functional areas will share the matching residential areas, thereby reducing a large amount of cross-regional traffic and reducing the probability of urban congestion.

In the design description, Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang pointed out that this plan is based on the idea of comprehensive planning in the Greater Beijing area, and will use this as a blueprint to further draft the overall plan of Greater Beijing.

各基本工作区 (及其居住区) 与旧城之关系

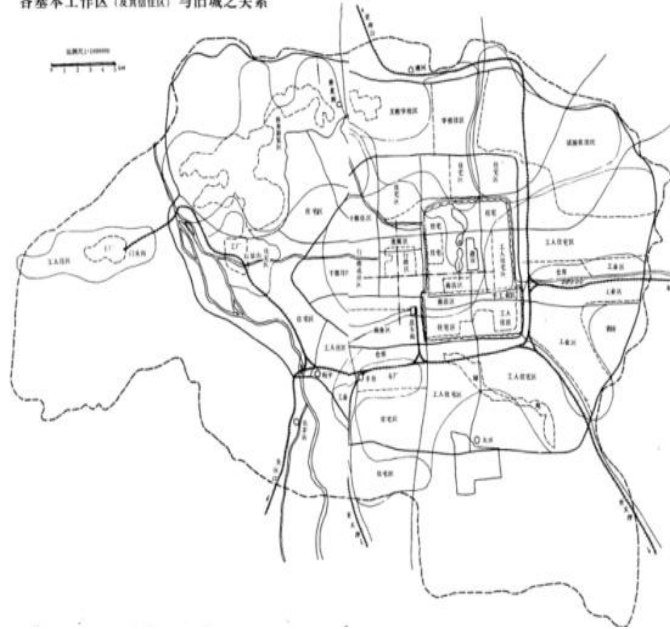


Figure 6. The overall plan of Liang Chen Plan

行政区内各单位大体布置草图
附与旧城区之关系

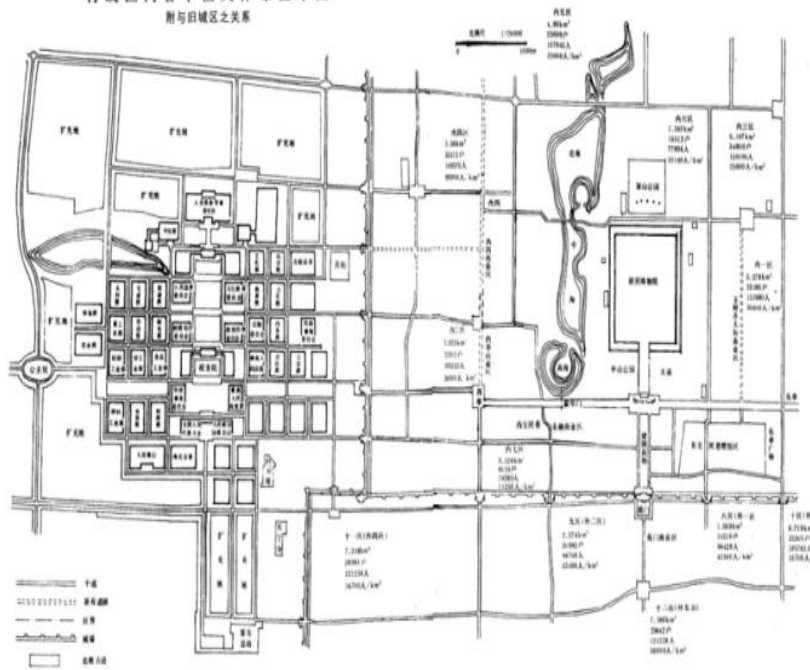


Figure 7. Master plan of the administrative district of Liang Chen Plan

5. The insufficiency and significance of Liang Chen Plan

From the limited drawings, we can see that Liang Chen Plan has the following problems. First of all, the block scale planned in this scheme is very large, and at the same time, the city is partitioned with relatively static and single functions. It is not difficult to see from this plan that Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang were greatly influenced by modernism urban planning theories and methods at that time. The planning scheme presents a planning concept formed under the guidance of the Athens Charter. However, such planning appears to be problematic today. This approach of assigning a single function to each area has been severely criticized in the Western urban planning field since 1960 because it is difficult to create a vibrant urban life. Secondly, there are also problems with the construction area index and land use economy in the Liang Chen Plan. According to the calculation in the plan, the area target of each office worker in the administrative area reaches 45 square meters, which is impossible under the current economic conditions.

In this scheme, the new administrative district is designed in the form of groups. With the original axis centered on the Forbidden City and the new administrative area as the center, Beijing has formed a dual-core urban model. If such a huge new administrative district with an area three times the size of the Forbidden City is built, it will be difficult to avoid a split between the old and new urban areas, and further aggravate the gap between the rich and the poor between the two urban areas.

Unfortunately, the Liang Chen Plan was ultimately not implemented. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, it was impossible to build an administrative center without using the old city and building a new site under the circumstances of very difficult national fiscal revenue at that time. After the country's economy improves, abandoning the old city and building another center will inevitably lead to the lack of effective protection and reconstruction of the old city. This will cause the modern new city and the backward old city to coexist for a long time. The old city of Beijing covers an area of 62 square kilometers, with millions of residents and a huge scale. With the construction of the capital, it is impossible to keep the old city of Beijing intact as a museum or relic. The old city is bound to be rebuilt to modernize it and adapt to the needs of modern life. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the renovation of Tiananmen Square and Chang'an Avenue has proved that such an approach is feasible. Liang Chen's plan was unrealistic under the objective conditions at that time. Economically, China did not have the strength to build a brand new administrative center at that time. In terms of construction technology, it is also unable to undertake large-scale engineering projects. In terms of time cycle, various government departments are in urgent need of office space. In addition, political factors are also important determinants. In addition to the influence from the Soviet Union, the will of the leaders within the government at that time also had a very significant impact. When the mayor of Beijing, Nie Rongzhen, submitted the plan of the Soviet experts to Chairman Mao Zedong, Chairman Mao instructed to implement the plan. The urban planning of Beijing has also been decided in this way.

The significance of the Liang Chen Plan is that it emphasizes the importance of overall planning in the process of urban development from a macro perspective. At the same time, it deeply embedded the protection of architectural heritage into the context of Beijing's modern development.

6. conclusion

As Beijing continues to develop, some undeniable facts are now emerging. The administrative center was placed in the old city, causing large-scale occurrences of urban diseases in Beijing, such as population density and traffic problems. This proves that the planning idea centered on the old city also has problems. But as the old mindset persists, Beijing continues to expand outwards with its core. Wu Liangyong commented in "Review of Liang Chen Plan" that it followed the general principles of historical city planning. Its value is in line with the basic planning method of protecting historical cities and opening new ones for expansion. Building a new city not only has a greater degree of freedom, but also avoids falling into the complex contradictions of the original city. The significance of Liang Chen's plan today is to give planners and policymakers an opportunity to reflect on issues that have been overlooked in Beijing's decades of development. And then make the maximum reasonable planning for the future development of Beijing and even any city, so as to avoid repeating the same mistakes.

Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang imagined at the beginning of China's founding that under a brand-new regime, as architects full of professionalism and ideals, they could help a government to lead regional planning in a holistic, rational and long-term manner, creating a perfect solution and a new order. Unfortunately the reality is quite different.

Beijing's development is not a simple multiple-choice question. The government adopted the advice of Soviet experts and built numerous government office buildings along Chang'an Avenue. But the Korean War, which broke out soon after, made the government realize that there was a strategic flaw in concentrating the entire central administration, that it is very vulnerable to a concentrated attack. Subsequently, in the process of continuous revision and improvement, the administrative center area of Beijing has also formed a layout of dispersions in large scale and concentrations in small scale. Under the conditions at that time, the merits of the Liang Chen Plan had been realized, but the scale was greatly reduced.

Although the urban planning of Beijing in the 1950s did not proceed as Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang originally envisioned, the scheme still has its own unique significance. In other words, although the Liang Chen Plan has not been implemented, it has indeed had a profound impact and promotion on the planning and later development of Beijing.

Primary sources:

1. digital copy of the original project Introduction by the designers, 1950

Liang S, Chen Z.1950. *Suggestions on the Location of the Administrative Center of the Central People's Government*

Note: This article was co-written by Liang Sicheng and Chen Zhanxiang in February 1950. At that time, more than 100 copies were printed and sent to the Central Government, the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, and the relevant units of the Beijing Municipal Government. The original copy of this photocopy is kept in the Reference Room of the School of Architecture, Tsinghua University.

2. Digital copy of the original design sketches, 1950

3. Beijing city planning sketches, 1954

4. Digital copy of the original letters to the authorities by the designers, 1950

Note: The originals of 1-3 are kept in the Beijing Archives and the Reference Office of the School of Architecture, Tsinghua University, (It was printed over 100 copies by the architect at that time). The original letters are kept in the Beijing Archives. Meanwhile, the whole text, all the drawings and letters are also collected in the book *The Complete Works of Liang Sicheng*.

5. Architect Chen Zhanxiang's oral dictation

Note: This dictation was organized by Wang Jun and Chen Fang and included in the book *Liang-Chen Plan and Beijing*, edited by Wang Ruizhi and published by Liaoning Education Press in 2005.

6. Wu L, Fu X, Wang S, Wang G, Zuo C, Sun D, Lin Z, Yang H, Xu B, Qin Y, Guo D, Liang C (2001). *The Complete Works of Liang Sicheng*. China Construction Industry Press.

Note: This book contains all the designs, articles, monographs, lectures, letters, etc. of Liang Sicheng's life in detail, objectively and accurately.

Image sources:

Figure 1. Zhang J (1997), *Review of Beijing's Planning and Construction*

Figure 2. website https://bkimg.cdn.bcebos.com/pic/a9d3fd1f4134970ae4f1f10c98cad1c8a7865d17?x-bce-process=image/resize,m_lfit,w_268,limit_1/format,f_auto

Figure 3. website https://bkimg.cdn.bcebos.com/pic/d01373f082025aaf68a55db0f5edab64034f1a31?x-bce-process=image/watermark,image_d2F0ZXlvYmFpa2U5Mg==,g_7,xp_5,yp_5/format,f_auto

Figure 4. Wang J.(2003). *City Record*. Sanlian. p89

Figure 5. Wang J.(2003). *City Record*. Sanlian. P90

Figure 6.7 Digital copy of the original design sketches

Liang S, Chen Z.1950. *Suggestions on the Location of the Administrative Center of the Central People's Government*

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Liang S.(1953).*History of Chinese Architecture*. China Construction Industry Press

Zhu Y, Zhou G, Wang Y.(1983). *The Planning Principles and Reconstruction Ideas of the Old City of Beijing*. Urban Planning,(05),9-12+39.

Gao Y, Wang M.(1991). *Research on Liang Sicheng's Ancient City Protection and Urban Planning Thought*. Word Architecture,(01),60-69.

Wang J.(2001). *Historical Investigation of Liang Chen's Project*. China Architecture News,(010).

Note:Based on the description of Liang Chen's plan in the Beijing Municipal Government's Urban Construction Summary Report in 1962, this article interprets the urgent needs of Beijing's urban construction at that time and explores the limitations of the plan at the time.

Wang J.(2003). *City Record*. Sanlian.

Note: The tragedy of Beijing is that it miraculously survived the war, and then was gradually destroyed during the peace building period. The author starts his narration with the main line of controversy in the history of Beijing's urban construction in the past 50 years, and focuses on the 1950s and 1960s. The author tries to sort out the evolution of urban space over the past half a century, and approaches this period of history as much as possible with a calm and objective attitude.

Zuo C.(2008). *A historical review of the location of the administrative center of the capital*. Urban and Regional Planning Research,(03),34-53.

Note: In chronological order, this article reviews the changes and games in the process of location selection for the Beijing Capital Administrative Center in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It also analyzes the formation and reasons of the central administrative office land.

Sun L.(2011). *Beijing Urban Planning: Birth and Death of "Liang-Chen Plan"*. EWSN,(12),76-77.

Note: This article mainly explains the discussion of two diametrically opposed planning schemes by decision makers at the Beijing Urban Planning Conference in 1949, and the process of finalizing the direction of Beijing's urban planning.

Chen Y.(2012). *The Birth and Death of "Liang Chen Project"*. homeland Today,(04),44-45.

Note: This article takes Liang Chen's plan as the object, and mainly describes the process of the plan's production and its abortive ending.

Li X, Guo S, Pan Y.(2013). *Comment on "Liang-Chen Project" from the Perspective of Authenticity*. Proceedings of the 2013 China Urban Planning Annual Conference,(08),196-196.

Note: This article compares the "Venice Charter" and "Nara Originality Documents" and other important international preservation and monument maintenance documents. It reinterprets the positive significance of the "Liang-Chen Plan" to the protection practice of Beijing's historical architectural heritage with the standard of authenticity.

Zhu T.(2013). *"The Plan of Liang Chen": The Summary and End of the History of the Two Kingdoms*. Times Architecture,(05),130-142.

Note: This article compares Beijing's "Western Suburb New Urban Area" from 1937-1949 with the Nanjing Central Political District plan from 1928-1949, and analyzes the reasons why the plan was not adopted and how it relates to the current situation in Beijing.

Jiang Z.(2014). *The Regret and Return of "Liang Chen Plan"*. Changjiang Daily,021.

Note: This is a review about the book *City Story*

Chen Z.(2016). *A Brief History of National Capital Planning: The "Liang-Chen Plan" in the Historical Context*. China Construction,(03),22-25.

Note: This article compares the unimplemented Liangchen plan with the actually implemented urban planning at that time, and discusses the formation process of the current Beijing urban pattern and the problems caused by it.

Wang L, Wang Q.(2018). *From "Liang Chen Plan" to Beijing City Master Plan (2016-2035)*. Beauty and Times,(07),43-44.

Note: This article analyzes the core goals and planning characteristics of the latest Beijing city master plan implemented in 2017, compares the problems faced by Liang Chen's plan that year, and explains the changes in goals and characteristics in the evolution of modern Beijing's urban planning.

Li Y.(2018). *The Soviet Factors in Beijing Urban Planning in the 1950s*. Contemporary Chinese History Studies,(03),97-105+127-128.

Note: This article introduces that in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the government, due to lack of experience in urban planning and construction, invited Soviet experts to guide and learn from the experience of Soviet urban planning and construction. At that time, the Chinese architecture and planning experts hired by the committee and the Soviet experts had differences in planning ideas. Although the urban planning and construction of Beijing in the 1950s were the result of multiple factors, the influence of Soviet factors was very significant.

Huang J.(2019). *One-sided foreign policy towards the Soviet Union*. National Humanities History,(18),118-123.

Li H.(2019). *Experience Beijing City Planning for 70 Years-Interview with Mr. Zhang Jinggan*. Beijing Planning and Construction,(03,04),156-165.

Note: This article is an academic interview with an expert on Beijing's planning system. As an expert in urban planning, Zhang Jinggan personally experienced the decision-making and implementation process of Beijing's early urban planning, and provided many details that have not been published or recorded.

Li H.(2019). *Restoring the historical nature of the "Liang-Chen Project"—Centering on a review co-authored by Liang Sicheng, Lin Huiyin and Chen Zhanxiang*. Journal of Urban Planning,(05),110-117.

Noten: This article discusses the consensus and disagreements between architects such as Liang Sicheng and Soviet expert Barannikoff on Beijing's urban planning. Their main contradiction is reflected in the planning and location of the central administrative region and planning ideas.

Li H.(2021). *A historical investigation of the reasons why the "Liang-Chen Plan" was not adopted: a discussion on the stratification of the factors affecting planning and decision-making*. Architect,(02),120-126.

Note: The degree of influence of various factors on planning decision-making and the order of priority are completely different. The article analyzes and discusses some of the main influencing factors of planning decision-making from the aspects of planning technology, financial economy, social culture, politics and diplomacy.