

A showcase of Song splendors

A PLACE TO LINGER

Qin Tian and Yang Yang

“**A** Dream of Splendor,” a fictional Chinese costume drama featuring girls supporting each other in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), was a big hit this year. The drama draws audiences closer to the fascinating culture and history of the Song Dynasty. In Songjiang District, there is quite a lot of Song-era architecture and relics that are worth visiting as well.

The Huzhu Pagoda in Tianma Hill



While the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is famous for its inclination, the Huzhu Pagoda in Tianma Hill in Songjiang is tipped at an angle of 7.1 degrees, compared with the Pisa tower's 3.99 degrees.

The tower was built in 1079. Legend has it that Zhou Wenda, an outstanding general in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), was awarded by Emperor Gaozong with a silver armor and a five-colored sarira — an auspicious Buddhist bead — for his bravery in battle.

Zhou hid the sarira on the top of the pagoda, hence its name “*huzhu*,” literally meaning “protecting a bead.”

To the east of the tower there is an ancient ginkgo tree. It is said that Zhou himself planted it. The ginkgo tree, with its golden leaves, shines

best in autumn and winter.

Address: 460 Liujiashan Village, Songjiang District
松江区刘家山村460号

Fangta Park



Fangta Park is named after the quadrangle tower (*fangta*) in the center of the park. It is scattered with historic cultural relics dating to Song, Yuan (1271-1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, and nicknamed “Shanghai's open-air museum.”

The quadrangle tower, built around 1063-1093, is now a landmark in Songjiang.

Address: 235 Zhongshan Rd E., Songjiang District
松江区中山东路235号

Yunjian No.1 Building

Legend has it that the Yunjian No.1 Building used to be a roll-call platform for the Wu Kingdom (AD 222-280) general Lu Xun (AD 183-245) during the Three Kingdoms period (AD 220-280).

But records show the building was built in the Song Dynasty and used to be a gate tower in ancient Songjiang. One of the most ancient buildings in Songjiang, the building, after multiple renovations, is now the school gate of



the Songjiang No.2 High School.

Address: 250 Zhongshan Rd E., Songjiang District
松江区中山东路250号

Yunjian No.1 Bridge



The Yunjian No.1 Bridge, or Kuantang Bridge in the Cangcheng Historic and Cultural Zone, dates back to the Song Dynasty. It was destroyed in Ming Dynasty and a new bridge was built on the original site. The stone bridge now has three arches, which are made of *qingshi* stones. Its surface, staircases and railings are made of granite. At a length of 49.3 meters and with a width of 3 meters and a height of 8

meters, the bridge on a moonlit night has been selected as one of Songjiang's 12 best scenes.

Address: Within Cangcheng Historic and Cultural Zone, Songjiang District
松江仓城历史文化风貌区内

Xiu Dao Zhe Tower



The Xiu Dao Zhe, or Moon Shadow, Tower in the west of the Sheshan Forest Park, was built during the northern Song Dynasty. A seven-floor octagonal tower of stone and wood, the tower stands 29 meters high. Each floor is surrounded with balustrated porches and accessible through two small gates facing north and south. The tower narrows toward the top, giving it an elegant look. With perked eaves, arches, wooden railings and baluster columns, the tower is a beautiful piece of art.

Address: Within West Sheshan Forest Park, Songjiang District
松江区西佘山森林公园内

Revolutionary hero transformed electronics

Yang Yang

SUN Junren (1915-2001), a founder and pioneer of China's military electronics research and education, was a Songjiang native born near Xiuye Bridge.

Sun was a graduate of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, majoring in electronic communication.

When the Japanese invaders seized Shanghai in mid-November 1937, Sun and three classmates headed for Nanjing, capital of the Republic of China (1912-1949), to help defend the motherland.

They stopped over in Wuhan City. Guided by the Communist Party's Eighth Route Army Wuhan Office, the four made their way to Xi'an City and later to Yan'an, a revolutionary base of the Party, in January 1938. They soon joined the Party.

Sun showed his talent in education when he was teaching at the Yan'an Electronic Communication School.

For the sake of his students with uneven education levels, he compiled textbooks, self-made educational tools and explained the basics of wireless communication through demonstrations and experiments.

He made friends with his worker, farmer and soldier students and gradually enlightened them on scientific exploration.

Many of his students became commanders of the Chinese army's communications units, or made great contributions to the nation's military communications or national defense.

Sun was appointed deputy dean of the Tenth Research Institute, serving top national defense projects.

Within six years, he had expanded the institute into 30 more organizations including some focusing on vacuum electronics, semiconductor integrated circuits, radar and electronic countermeasure research.

The Institute's research helped with the country's first nuclear test, missile test, and monitoring the fall of US and Soviet satellites.

Sun also strongly promoted sci-tech cooperation between the institute and colleges and universities.

His tenure as a leading electronic communications researcher was suspended during the “cultural revolution” (1966-1976).

But as soon as his health improved, he was reappointed as a sci-tech education minister and helped with resuming a research and academic system severely hit by the “cultural revolution.”

From the 1980s he pushed hard for academic exchanges between domestic and foreign institutes.

FAMOUS NAMES



Sun Junren (1915-2001) was a founder and pioneer of China's military electronics research and education. — Ti Gong