

# Forbidden City

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Pashina Anna

The Forbidden City was the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming dynasty to the end of the Qing dynasty—the years 1420 to 1912. It is located in the centre of Beijing, China, and now houses the Palace Museum. It served as the home of emperors and their households as well as the ceremonial and political centre of Chinese government for almost 500 years.





# *History*



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## To build the Forbidden city was ordered by the Yongle Emperor

After the fall of the Yuan dynasty, the Hongwu Emperor of the Ming dynasty moved the capital from Northern Beijing to southern Nanjing, and in 1369 ordered to raze the Yuan palaces to the ground.

His son, Yongle, in 1402 usurped the throne and became Emperor.





## The forbidden city, as it is depicted in the figure of the Ming dynasty

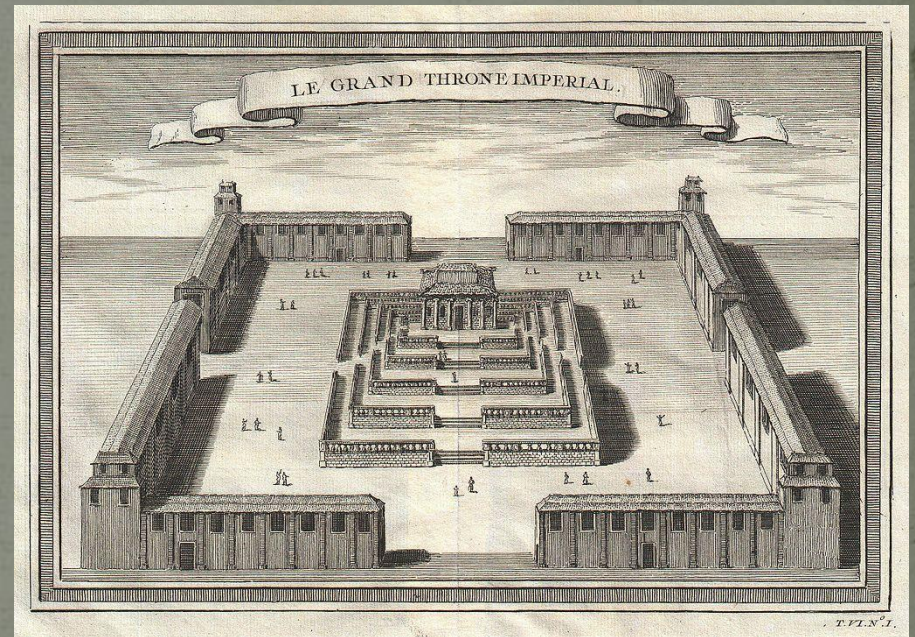
Construction lasted 15 years, demanding the labor of a hundred thousand skilled craftsmen — masters of stone carving, wood, artists.





# View of the Grand Throne Room in the forbidden city, the Jacques-Nicolas Bellin, 1756

By October 1644, the Manchus had achieved supremacy in Northern China, and the Prince Regent, Dorgon proclaimed the Qing dynasty as a successor to the Ming. In the forbidden city, the ceremony of the announcement of the young Shunzhi Emperor ruler of China.





In 1914, in the Outer Palace, the Museum was founded.





The four-poster bed, adorned with magic mushrooms is just one of the hundreds of thousands of Museum exhibits

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The food court on the Six Western Palaces

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# The plan of the Forbidden city

## Beijing Forbidden City (Palace Museum)



### Four Main Entrances

- ① Meridian Gate
- ② Gate of Divine Prowess
- ③ West Flowery Gate
- ④ East Flowery Gate
- ⑩ Tower of Enhanced Righteousness
- ⑪ Tower of State Benevolence
- ⑫ Hall of Military Prowess
- ⑬ Hall of Literary Glory

### Outer Court

- ⑤ Gate of Supreme Harmony
- ⑥ Hall of Supreme Harmony
- ⑦ Hall of Central Harmony
- ⑧ Hall of Preserved Harmony
- ⑨ Gate of Heavenly Purity

### Inner Court

- ⑭ Hall of Heavenly Purity
- ⑮ Hall of Union and Peace
- ⑯ Hall of Earthly Tranquility
- ⑰ Imperial Garden
- ⑱ Garden of Benevolent Peace
- ⑲ Palace of Benevolence Peace
- ⑳ Imperial Kitchen



- ⑳ Southern Three Halls (Princes' Studies)
- ㉑ Nine Dragon Screen
- ㉒ Hall of Mental Cultivation
- ㉓ Shufang Lodge
- ㉔ Palace of Longevity and Peace
- ㉕ Hall of Braveness and Splendor
- ㉖ Hall of Double Brilliance

Tian'anmen Square

- ㉗ Hall of Honesty and Respect
- ㉘ Palace of Great Benevolence
- ㉙ Palace of Bearing Heaven
- ㉚ Palace of Gathering Essence
- ㉛ Hall for Ancestry Worship
- ㉜ Palace of Prolonged Happiness
- ㉝ Palace of Eternal Harmony
- ㉞ Palace of Sunlight
- ㉟ North Five Halls
- ㊱ Imperial Study
- ㊲ Gate of Imperial Supremacy
- ㊳ Hall of Imperial Supremacy
- ㊴ Hall of Character Cultivation





## Gate of Supreme harmony

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## Tower North-West corner of the Forbidden city from the double rainbow

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## Imperial roof decoration of highest status on the roof ridge of the Hall of Supreme harmony

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Yellow — the color of the Emperor. So almost all roofs in the forbidden city with yellow glazed tiles.



All the main halls of the Outer and Inner palaces are organized into groups of three — format Ziani trigrams, symbolizing the Sky. On the other hand, the residences of the Inner court are organized into groups of six to format trigram kun symbolizing the Earth

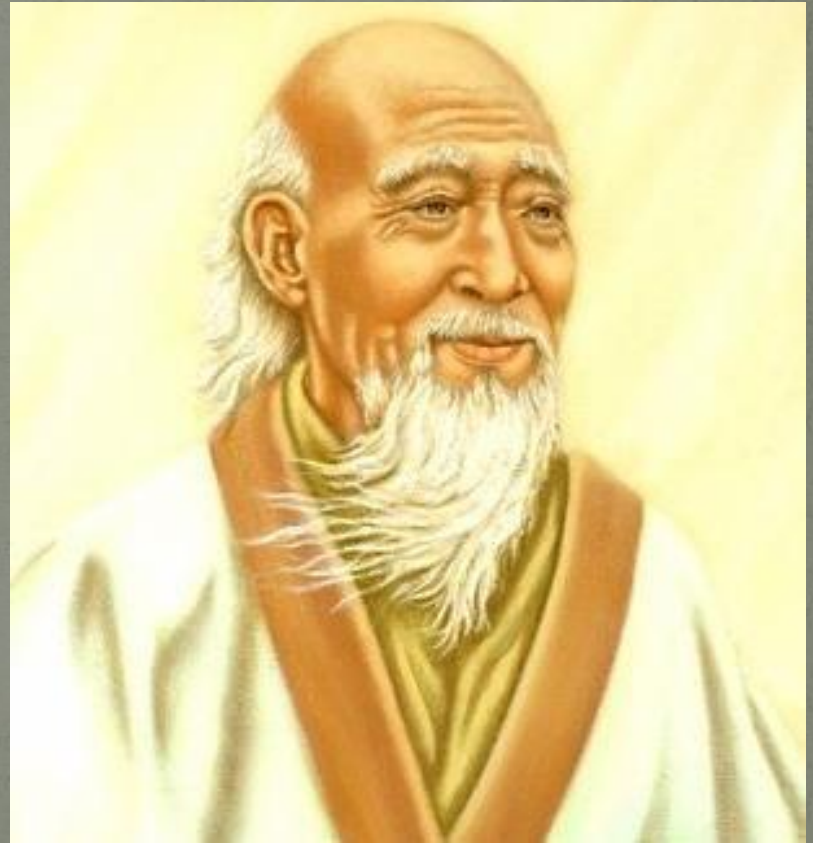




Slanted roof slopes of the buildings are decorated with a number of statuettes led by a man riding a Phoenix followed by an Imperial dragon. The number of statuettes represents the status of the building.



The layout of buildings  
follows ancient  
traditions, recorded in  
the Li Chi





Thank you for your attention!

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