Foguang Temple & Monastery
Conservation Project Update
2007-2008

Wutai Mountains, Shanxi, China
June, 2008
Progress - Foguang

In preparation for the UNESCO World Heritage Nomination of Wutai Mountains and Foguang Temple, the following work is being undertaken:

1. List of currently undertaken and proposed architectural conservation of major halls and buildings in 2008:
   - Tianwang Hall/Entrance Gate (天王殿/山门)  → ongoing
   - Xiangfeng Huayu Building (香风花雨楼) → proposed work
   - Senhuizhi Garden Gate(森会祗园门) → ongoing
   - Northern Wing (北配房) → in completion
   - Monks‘ Quarter (僧房) → ongoing

2. Emergency supports for northeast and northwest corner of the Grand East Hall - Dongda Dian (东大殿) is in place. The conservation plan for the Grand East Hall has being reviewed and is in revision; due to the importance of the structure, further investigation and research are required to better inform the conservation treatments.
Progress - Foguang

3. Conservation plan for the 8 historic tomb pagodas in the surrounding vicinity has been completed and submitted for review. Of which, the most famous being Monk Zhiyuan’s Tomb Pagoda.

4. Restoration of the Master’s Tomb Pagoda (祖师塔), adjacent to the Grand East Hall, has been completed.

5. Flood protection work on both sides of the temple.

6. Infrastructure and upgrading projects include main roadways, ground paving, landscaping, drainage and flood prevention, power and security systems, fire access route, flush system toilet, etc.

7. Other upgrade works include the “Shadow Wall” (影壁), facing the main entrance, and mortar infill at various extant structures.
Historic buildings under conservation

- Xiang Feng Hua Yu Building (香风花雨楼)
- Northern Wing (北配房)
- Monks’ Quarter (僧房)
- Tian Wang Hall (天王殿)
- Sen Hui Zhi Yuan Gate (森会祗园门)
View towards Grand East Hall, showing completed landscaping work.
Grand East Hall (东大殿)

• The Shanxi Province Ancient Architecture Conservation Institute is preparing further surveys and investigative reports as part of the submission for approvals to begin conservation of the Grand East Hall.

• The Institute is required to perform further research and investigation before resubmitting a new plan and they are now tied up with the preparation work for the UNESCO World Heritage inspection team and will not be able to complete the dossier until the conclusion of UNESCO inspection (July-Aug, 2008).

• It is expected that the project could be approved for 2009-2012 conservation period.
Temple layout and site improvements

- Foguang Temple is made up of a collection of historical buildings that date from Tang (Grand East Hall), Jin (Wenshu Hall) to the Early Republic periods; these buildings are all essential components of the temple that contribute to the unique dual axes layout of Foguang Temple.

- Significant improvements will be made to the buildings and the gardens, along with site infrastructure, removal of encroachments and visitor facilities.
South facade of the Entrance Gate under restoration.
North facade of the Entrance Gate; relaying of the roof tiles.
View of the Monks’ Quarter under restoration.
View of the Senhuizhi Garden Gate under restoration.
Building emergency supports for the Grand East Hall.
Before and after structural stabilization and replastering of the Master’s Tomb Pagoda (祖师塔).
The restored “Shadow wall” (影壁).

On Site wood workshop.

Preserved historic paving.
Stabilization of the sloped terrain behind the Grand East Hall
Flood prevention work completed on both sides of the Monastery
Proposed conservation of the 8 historic tomb pagodas in the vicinity.

Existing condition of one of the tomb pagodas that dates from the Tang Dynasty.