

From: Wung, Lihuang
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 1:25 PM
To: (Contact List)
Subject: Fuzhou Ting Status 12-3-10
Attachments: Photos 11-22-10 to 12-3-10.pdf

Fuzhou Ting Status Report of December 3, 2010:

Following the windstorm that hit the Puget Sound Region by surprise on November 15, came the snow/ice storm on November 22 that stirred up the region good. While the Fuzhou Ting survived, the construction was significantly delayed and did not pick up its progress until after Thanksgiving.

Now the side pavilion on the land side is all tented up and enclosed, keeping the roof membranes relatively dry, so tiles can be laid. All the roof ridges are in place; some of them need to be painted with Thoroseal sealant and cement-ash mix before tiling can proceed. Stone masons have finished the granite-tile pavers on the ramp, and moved on to applying white cement paint (coating) on the infill walls and the bases for the Beautiful Lady's Benches.

That's the progress. Completion date? It's really hard to say, because the remaining work (roof tiles, touch-up paint with Chinese lacquer, etc.) are all very weather dependent.

Why don't I switch gear and talk about some of the decorative components that I have been asked about every so often.

- A. The Plaques (牌匾 *Paibian*). There are two plaques hanging on the front and the back entrances of the Ting. The calligraphy reads, from right to left, 福州亭 or *Fu Zhou Ting* (i.e., Fuzhou Pavilion). The three smaller characters on the left side, reading from top to bottom, are 陈奋武 or *Chen Fen Wu*, the last and first names of the calligrapher. Mr. Chen is a notorious artist in traditional Chinese calligraphy, painting and seal cutting (engraving), and the Chair of the Fujian (Provincial) Branch of the China Calligraphers Association.
- B. The Plaque Brackets (牌匾托木 *Paibian Tuomu*). Each plaque sits on two supporting wooden brackets. The brackets are carved with a bat, signifying lucky, fortunate or auspicious, because the pronunciation of "bat" is *Fu*, the same as that of lucky. And, yes, the *Fu* in Fuzhou means lucky. And, since I'm on a roll, the *zhou* in Fuzhou is an administrative division in ancient China and has been carried in the names of many municipalities across China.
- C. The *Queti* Corbels (雀替 *Queti*). These are the brackets placed at the corners of columns and architraves for decoration purposes. In some cases, they also provide structural support, allowing larger spans of cross beams. There are four *Queti* corbels installed on the Fuzhou Ting, each carved with a dragon head, along with some decorative design that I don't recognize. The *Que* in *Queti* pronounces more like "chair" without the "r" in the end and literally means sparrow; and *ti*, pronounced like "tea", means alternative or substitute. Why calling corbels *Queti*? I have no idea. But it certainly leads us to some beautiful imagination, isn't it?

- D. The Hanging Fascia (挂落 *Gualuo*, where *Gua* means hanging and *Luo* means drapes). These are the decorative extension installed beneath the architraves, beneath the fascia/gutter boards, or along the top of the doors/windows of a building. They are usually carved out of a piece of wood, or made of wooden strips in grillage patterns. They are not only visually pleasing themselves, but also help frame the picturesque scene as one looks out from inside of the building. For the Fuzhou Ting, they are installed right above the Beautiful Lady's Benches, and together, they will make the Commencement Bay so much more interesting to look at when you are standing in the Ting.

These decorative components are critical and unique to traditional Chinese structures. The Fuzhou Ting is no exception, as shown in one of the attached photos. I am by no means an expert, but I am trying my best to share with you what I know, or what I think I know, so that we may be able to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the Fuzhou Ting in a little bit more culturally sensitive manner.

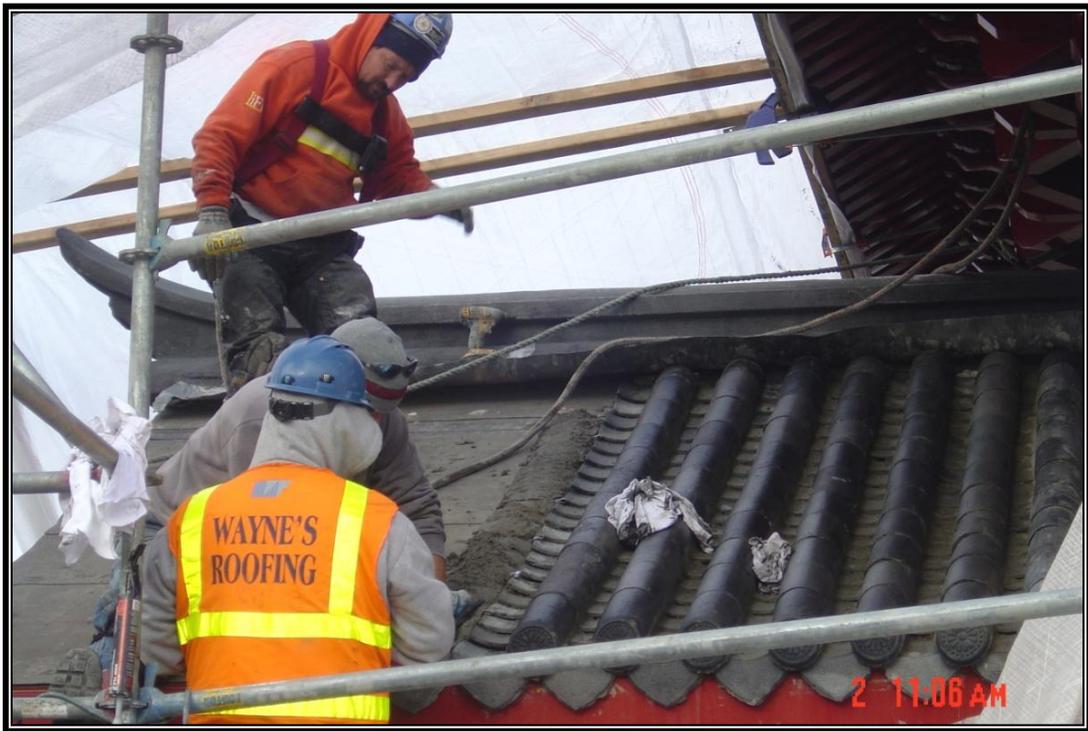
Lihuang Wung

Community and Economic Development Department
747 Market Street, Room 1036
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 591-5682















A Plaque of “Fu Zhou Ting” (from right to left)
(牌匾 *Paibian*)

B Plaque Brackets
(牌匾托木 *Paibian Tuomu*)

C *Queti* Corbels
(雀替 *Queti*)

D Hanging Fascia
(挂落 *Gualuo*)