

# Bamboo carving, straw weaving typified Jiading art culture at CIE

Zhou Yulin and Qian Tong

BAMBOO carving and straw weaving from Jiading District made their debut on the sidelines of the 4th China International Import Expo, showing a cultural tradition of the district for visitors from home and abroad.

It's the fourth year in a row for Jiading to show its intangible cultural heritages at the expo, allowing more people to get to know the local culture.

The skills from Jiading, including the straw weaving and bamboo carving, attracted visitors in the intangible cultural heritage hall of the exhibition.

Bamboo has been deeply rooted in Chinese culture and

philosophy for thousands of years. Ancient literati designated bamboo as one of the "four gentlemen" along with plum, orchid and chrysanthemum, which stand for the qualities of being the man: proud, pure, firm and quiet.

Jiading bamboo carving was initiated by three generations of the Zhu family — Zhu He (pseudonym Songlin), Zhu Ying (pseudonym Xiaosong) and Zhu Zhizheng (pseudonym Sansong) — in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Jiading bamboo carving has attracted much attention over hundreds of years for its techniques, design and, more importantly, literati spirit

embedded in the ensuing products. Most bamboo-carving artists were scholars who incorporated various art forms such as calligraphy, literature, painting and seal-cutting.

Influenced by Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, scholars expressed their yearning for a peaceful and pastoral life through bamboo carving.

Therefore, themes like the seven sages of the bamboo grove in the Wei (AD 213-266) and Jin (AD 266-420) dynasties and "Orchid Pavilion Gathering," a famous calligraphy work by master Wang Xizhi (AD 303-361), are common.

A Qing Dynasty furnishing article featuring Liu Hai and

the three-legged toad is carved from bamboo root.

Armrests, paperweights, brush holders, writing-brush washers, incense burners and stamps — many bamboo-carving artworks functioned as stationery accessories and ornaments featuring historical personages, deities, novels and landscape.

Straw weaving artworks from Wang Qin and her colleagues were another attraction from Jiading at the expo.

"Straw weaving is an art has human touch. We prepared our best works for visitors from home and abroad to feel the charm of the intangible cultural heritage," Wang said.

## Kindies can accommodate more kids at a right price

Yu Chao and Tom Qian

EIGHT day-care spots covering 112 toddlers are launched at four kindergartens to make it both convenient and affordable for parents.

Huiyuan Road Kindergarten, one of the four kindergartens, has enrolled 17 toddlers since September.

The teachers designed a series of games, including using hands to decorate tree branches with different paints, aiming to allow the toddlers to learn how to play, learn and feel.

Apart from the games, the facilities in the class is also carefully set to ensure the safety for the toddlers. The toilets are lower than those used by other kids so they are easier and more comfortable to use.

Each toddlers' class has two teachers and one child-care worker, and teachers will pay more attention to the emotions and livelihood capabilities of the toddlers.

At Green Grass Bilingual Kindergarten, Zhu Yun, the teacher of the toddlers' class, designed some musical activities so the toddlers can move their bodies with the music while beating bells.

In September 2021, the kindergarten enrolled more than 70 toddlers in three classes.

"On the basis of respecting the characteristics of toddlers of different ages, we provide appropriate guidance, help and support through daily life, games, exercise and other activities, so that they can adapt to kindergarten life, develop good habits, and lay the foundation for future development," principal Pan Du said.

So far, Jiading has 41 classes at 31 kindergartens for 1,765 toddlers at affordable prices.

## District steps up elevator installations

Zhang Jian and Tom Qian

ADVICE has been received on adding 100 elevators at nine towns, covering Jiading Town, Zhenxin, Xincheng Road, Jiading Industrial Zone and Nanxiang Town.

Twenty elevators will be completed and 50 will be signed by the end of the year. So far, 36 six elevator constructions have started, and 15 more have been put into operation.

Adding elevators to residential buildings has been listed as one of the practical projects of Jiading District for many years.

"The elevator is really good as sometimes I have to carry a box of bottled water home. It was so heavy and difficult to take it home, but now it's so convenient," said a senior resident surnamed Li, who lives at Jiale Huayuan Housing Estate in Xincheng Road Community.

In 2021, elevators have been added to Building 2 and 15 respectively at Jiale Huayuan.

The cost of each elevator ranges from 400,000 to 600,000 yuan (US\$61,760 to 93,960), most of which is subsidized by local government.



Workers are busy installing elevators in a residential building. — Fu Tianhao



## • Row, row, row your kayak

Kayaking enthusiasts take part in the 2021 Yangtze River Delta Kayak Competition in Anting Town's Auto Expo Park on November 14. As the first city-level outdoor aquatics competition, it attracted hundreds of sports lovers from across the Yangtze River Delta region. In the future, national-level coaches will be invited to carry out sports courses. — Zhou Yulin

## First center for cognitive decline opens

Wang Jiajun, Shen Zhongying and Tom Qian

MEMORY Home, a clinic for patients with cognitive impairment, started operations in the Huayuanlong Community in Jiading Town.

It's the first center for cognitive impairment treatment in the Jiading District.

The center has set up facilities such as activity intervention, multi-functional sensory training and sports training areas to provide intervention treatment services for the elderly with mild symptoms.

Diversified services such as science popularization, prevention, referral and home extension are offered for the elderly in the community.

A man surnamed Zhang, who lives on Qinghe Road, took his mother to the center for the second intervention training early this month. Zhang said that when he first

learned that his mother had mild dementia, he was at a bit of a loss.

"During the first training, I couldn't help wanting to help her point out the correct answer several times. But the staff told me to be patient, accepting my mother's symptoms as she acted like a child," Zhang said.

During this period, as long as Zhang had time, he would bring his mother over for intervention training. "The training not only relieves her symptoms, but also allows me to learn how to take care of her better," Zhang added.

To make the training for patients more effective, the center includes local architectures and scenic spots into the training sessions to bring their memories back.

"The elderly can select from 15 boxes on the wall, and they can surely find past memories from the content as the spots

are all from nearby places where they are familiar," a worker in the center said.

"Just now my father opened a box and found a map of Jiading inside. It was quite effective as he and me share so many memories about the places," a man surnamed Li said.

The center opens from 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday.

Jiading Town plans to carry out cognitive impairment screening for 2,000 elderly people aged over 60. All the screening results will be gathered to provide personalized services.

In the next stage, Jiading Town will continue to improve the service system for cognitive impaired people, establishing service standards and forming a reproducible and extendable cognitive-impaired care mechanism to gradually expand the service to the entire district.