



# Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education

## *Topics in Conservation Science Lecture*

### The Preservation of the Lodge of Retirement in the Forbidden City

In June 2005 members of the Smithsonian staff were asked to assist in the conservation of the Lodge of Retirement in the Forbidden City in Beijing, China.

This presentation will give an overview of that effort, concentrating on the structural assessment and planned environmental systems. This late 18th century structure is primarily wood with masonry fill (non-load bearing) between the columns on the north, west, and east walls. The lower part of the south wall is wood with doors and the original openings above the wood walls have been enclosed with windows. Among the conservation issues addressed were structural analysis, roofing integrity, windows, and waterproofing. We were asked to guide the design of internal humidity and temperature requirements and provide expertise on the conservation of the interior decorations. In addition, we were asked to help in the planning for the use of the building and its future contents.

Marion F. Mecklenburg, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Scientist  
Smithsonian Center for Materials  
Research and Education



*Lodge of Retirement*  
entrance (south face)

SCMRE Theater • Museum Support Center • 4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, MD 20746 • 301-238-1240

*October 27, 2005 at 10:45 am*