

# Review of: "Domestic Space Structure and Abandonment Behavior: The Ye Family Complex at Baomei, Tong An District (Fujian, P.R. China)"

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Through a combination of field archaeology and oral testimonies, this paper focuses on how the transformation of a prestigious domestic space into a communal dwelling during the Cultural Revolution, followed by its gradual abandonment, contributes to the formation of archaeological records. Different abandonment patterns are described, from well-planned to sudden and unplanned, which will impact the quantity and type of artifacts found, thus indicating the type of abandonment behavior that took place.

In this sense, this work can make several significant contributions to our understanding of site formation processes, underscoring the importance of abandonment as a necessary condition for the formation of archaeological sites through the multi-faceted nature of abandonment, which can be slow and planned or rapid and unplanned, and how this significantly influences the composition of the archaeological assemblage.

The author outlines a tri-phase fieldwork methodology that combines oral information, features mapping, and archaeological excavation. This approach was designed to capture the life-use history of the site and the material culture items left behind.

Yet, I felt that there were some important issues that were not properly addressed to understand the "life-use history" of the complex. I would have liked to read a more detailed account of the abandonment of the complex by the actual Ye family. There is a brief mention of this first abandonment, but no specific details are provided about when and how the complex was abandoned. Were there any artifacts or other data recovered from this first event during the archaeological excavations? Furthermore, amidst the comprehensive accounts of spatial arrangements and artifact distribution, there is a notable lack of dates. The author does mention that these events took place during the period of the Cultural Revolution in China (1966-1976), but no mention is made of what this entailed in terms of a gradual or rapid abandonment. Were these abandonments due to shifts in public policies regarding housing or other political reasons? Citing a couple of sources used by the author (Schiffer 1985 and 1987), the formation of the archaeological record emphasizes the importance of understanding how artifacts come to be where they are found by combining cultural, natural, and I would add, social processes.

Lastly, although I appreciate the wealth of details provided through all the maps, photographs, descriptions, and tables to contextualize the discussion, I think that we have two different types of works here. The first, one that resembles more a

report that should be submitted to an official authority and is a necessary preamble to any academic work, and a second that should focus on the theoretical-methodological discussion of the excavated data. I favor the latter for publication.