

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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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Observations:

The article provides a thorough description of the Ye Family complex's architectural layout, yet it could benefit from additional visual aids, such as diagrams or sketches, for each section to enhance spatial understanding.

While the historical context of abandonment during the Cultural Revolution is acknowledged, the article could deepen the discussion on how socio-political factors specifically shaped abandonment practices within elite residential spaces.

The methodology section explains the steps taken in fieldwork adequately but lacks a detailed justification for each method. Explaining the choice of excavation areas could strengthen the study's archaeological rigor.

The article would benefit from more comprehensive comparisons to similar abandoned sites in China or other regions, as this could help contextualize the findings in broader archaeological and anthropological perspectives.

The section on oral history is valuable, yet it is critical to address the limitations posed by informant memory and selective narrative more explicitly to clarify potential biases in historical recounts.

The author makes reference to "cultural" and "natural" transformation processes, yet provides limited examples in the context of the Ye complex. Expanding on this could help readers better understand these processes in situ.

The narrative structure occasionally shifts focus between abandonment theory and site-specific findings, which may disrupt reader engagement. A more structured segmentation could improve clarity.

The article uses technical terminology effectively; however, definitions of key terms like "C-transforms" and "N-transforms" could be included to aid readers unfamiliar with these concepts.

While the abstract and introduction clearly outline the research aims, the article's conclusions would benefit from a direct summary of how each aim was addressed through the fieldwork findings.

The article references landmark studies on abandonment (e.g., Binford, Schiffer) but does not engage with recent

scholarship extensively. Including contemporary perspectives could provide a more balanced theoretical framework.

Overall, the article offers a detailed examination of the Ye Family complex's abandonment history and architectural structure, contributing valuable insights to the study of domestic space transformation in China. However, the work would benefit from a more integrated approach, where theoretical discussions align more closely with site-specific findings. Expanding the methodological discussion, contextualizing with comparable case studies, and incorporating recent literature would enhance its academic robustness and make the findings more accessible to a broader archaeological audience.