

ment weighed in with C\$1.5 million, the province of British Columbia with another C\$1.3 million and the People's Republic of China with C\$700,000. The city contributed the land valued at C\$500,000.

Construction actually began in 1985 with Vancouver architects Joe Wai and Don Vaughan working alongside the 52-man Suzhou team. Some 450 tons of materials were brought in by container from China including wood, rocks, tiles and granite.

The construction phase drew almost as much interest from the public as the finished product subsequently has. Vancouverites more attuned to mammoth, state-of-the-art concrete pumper trucks, lofty cranes and the constant sound of jackhammers looked on in amazement as the Chinese workers, sporting rattan "hard hats" used centuries old construction methods and tools.

In fact those rattan hats did not impress Worker's Compensation Board (W.C.B.) officials who came to inspect the safety aspects of the project. The canvas work shoes didn't impress the bureaucrats much either. The result was an immediate stop work order.

Compromise being one of the necessities of this project the works agreed to take Canadian safety helmets and boots despite the fact the Chinese hat looked just as sturdy as its Canadian equivalent, if not more so.

In fact this whole episode resulted in some fine cross-cultural discussion. The WCB officials asked the Chinese works: "If a brick falls on the rattan hat would it be able to offer sufficient protection?"

The answer must have been as unnerving as it was logical for the bureaucrats: "Depends on how high the brick is falling," was the reply.

Of further amazement to garden watchers during the construction stage was the speed with which it all took shape. It took only a matter of weeks for workers to complete the painstaking job of building granite pavilion bases for the various halls and buildings. Of even greater interest for people from a province which is renowned as one of the world's major producers of lumber was that all the woods used in the garden came with the artisans.

There's nary a stick of Canadian wood in the garden, but then again Canada doesn't grow the very rare Nan timber of Western China used to make the principal columns in the Main Hall and the Scholar's Study. Neither does it produce the Ginko wood used in the carving of

intricate and delicate screens or the camphor used for making the curved rafters.

The garden, named in honor of the founder of modern China Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who tarried briefly just down the road in Chinatown decades before, is linked directly to him.

The Chinese characters declaring the name of the park at the entrance were penned by the doctor's widow. A poignant link to the past and one of China's great figures.

The Garden has quickly garnered itself a major international reputation drawing visitors and scholars from all parts of the world and is featured in such magazines as National Geographics.

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