Traditional Shaanxi takes on a new look

By LU HONGYAN

Xi’an, the capital of Shaanxi province in central China, is known as Chang’an, before the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It has served as the capital of 13 dynasties, from the Zhou to the Yuan (1368-1644), its old name, Xi’an, is the China’s Book of History. The Shaanxi History Museum, where many Han and Tang items give a sign of immense cultural exchanges.

In 1996, the Shaanxi government decided to organize the Shaanxi International Horticultural Expo, which is the most important event in the whole Shaanxi region. The Expo will be held in April 2011, the year of the World Horticultural Expo of Xi’an, which is the fourth in the world and the second in Asia.

The Shaanxi International Horticultural Expo, also known as the Xi’an Expo, is a major event that will show the Shaanxi culture, especially Shaanxi’s history, to the world. The Expo site covers a 418-hectare area in the Chanba Ecological District of Xi’an, Shaanxi province.

The Expo’s various names allude to architecture, including the following:

- The Bonsai Park contains a display of Xi’an’s many plants. The careful arrangement of trails, stones, trees and plants expresses Chinese bonsai art, and conveys a sense of tranquility.
- The Passage, by an Austrian architect, is a romantic, small garden that tracks the passage of time as if it were a sonnet.
- The Chang’an Tower, which sits on a hill, offers a vintage view of Xi’an from a distance.
- The Guangyun Entrance introduces visitors to the expo’s natural beauty. It is the entrance of the Expo, which has a long history of more than 200 years.
- The axes are a primary element in the expo’s design. The main south axis and the north axis are distinguished by their different functions and purposes.
- The Pavilion sits on the north-south axis and contains the latest in horticultural technology and new ideas.
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Xi’an Expo: antique and modern

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A true integration of Chinese and foreign cultures

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