

Fig.173 Picture of my oldest son while in a Chinese park. Not only were parks a great way to learn about Chinese culture but also they became the only escape to nature in the midst of a savage pollution generated for the sake of modernization. These parks were filled with playfulness especially in comparison with the sterile parks of western countries.

POLLUTION 05

Beside the bad air I have been generating while pursuing the construction of my ark, my life is rather emission free. On a daily basis I live making almost no use of any vehicle. If I have the chance I always walk. Ironically if I drive a car it is almost always to take my family for a walk in the closest forest. Also since I do not pursue a career I don't have to bother commuting around the country or the world to make sure I get somewhere. Being local however my children and I became the victims of insane traffic especially as the world became more capitalist oriented. The pollution I experienced living with my first kid in Shanghai however found no match. It was the year preceding the World Expo, and the city was completely under reconstruction for the international event. To survive the bad air pollution and bring my young son to the relatively few open spaces in parks, I had to learn a network of small streets keeping me away from the many old Santana taxis, a car the German car giant produced in Brazil and largely sold in Asia. Years later it is paradoxical to hear from friends how Shanghai became the model of sustainable living with just modern electric cars and none of the organic mess that characterized it. I just wonder whether the amazing I found within it was not also gentrified in the process.