

Heir of Chinese glazed tile craft is greening a traditional industry

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, THE UNITED STATES, January 29, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- During renovation work on Beijing's mysterious Forbidden City, a glazed tile was discovered bearing a family name. Researchers discovered the Su family was still making tiles in the traditional way in a nearby province. The tile might have dated back as far as 1522, during the Ming Dynasty when [Su-style glazed tiles](#) were brought by camel from Shanxi to the Imperial Palace.

But the traditional methods have one drawback: pollution. Over-mining for natural ores, and smoke from burning wood and coal are so polluting that most traditional glazed tile factories in the area have been shutdown. One business holding out is a factory run by eighth-generation inheritor, Su Yongjun, who is now faced with modernization and funding issues, as well as market realities.

A short documentary that has gained national attention, produced by [BON Cloud](#) has highlighted his story about the local culture of Shanxi province.

Fortunately, Song Yongjun is adapting to reality. He has learned how to use environmentally -friendly electric kilns, incorporated Chinese calligraphy into his tile work, and received help with promotion from the government.

Though it's taken a long time for the family business to turn a profit, Su Yongjun's innovations of have shown early signs of success. Both of his sons quit their jobs to help their father keep the family business running.

Su Yongjun's plan is to build a glazed tile culture park to exhibit the techniques and creations of the Ming and Qing dynasties. "I want to let more young people experience the culture surrounding glazed



Su style glazed technique inheritors



Su-style glazed art work

tiles,” he says.

Though once a special construction material to showcase the power and dignity of imperial rule, Chinese glazed tiles are now being brought into the 21st century, and for the masses.

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Glazed roof tiles of Imperial Palace

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