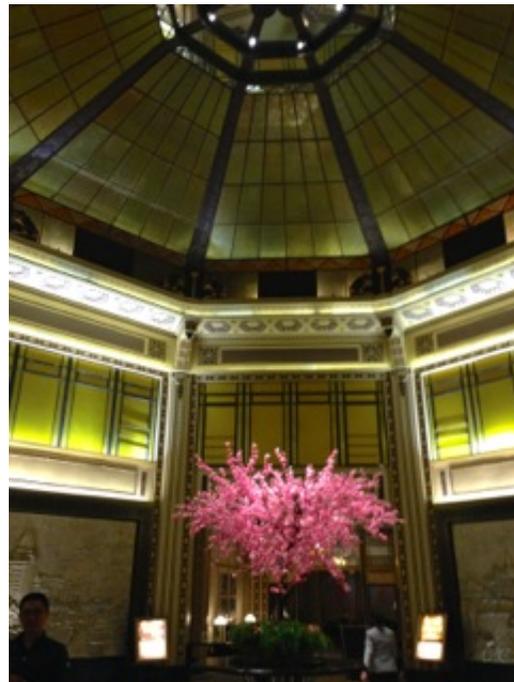


## Shanghai Journal 2-25-15

Ni Hao,

Ravi is feeling better just in time for classes to start again today. His colleague/ friend Chuck arrived on Monday and we have gone out to dinner the past two nights with him and a couple of other folks. Monday we took them to our favorite vegetarian restaurant and had a great meal, as always. Last night Chuck took us to another vegetarian restaurant on the Bund that he found when he was here last year. It was wonderful too – with very different dishes - very exciting to find such great options.

The weather had been gray and rainy all day so it was a welcome surprise to get to the Bund and have the sky clear up for an altogether lovely evening. The Bund is a waterfront area along the Huangpu River that divides Shanghai into two parts (Puxi and Pudong). It faces Pudong (the side of the river where we live). The Bund was the site of the British Settlement at the turn of the century and became a big financial center (then and now). Chuck took us to see the inside of the Peace Hotel (now Fairmont Hotel), a beaux arts building built by Vidal Sassoon in the 20s and considered one of the most famous hotels in the world. Circling the atrium are embossed scenes of old Shanghai. It really is a stunning place.



Any dignitaries who visited Shanghai stayed there. There are photographs along a hall off the atrium of artists and musicians, as well as politicians and others, who visited. Here are a couple of photos: one with Noel Coward, George Bernard Shaw, Charlie Chaplin and a famous Chinese poet; another with Chairman Mao.



We went up to the top floor for a view of the riverfront and I wished I had a wide-angle lens to capture the breadth of the view along the river. Looking north you see the riverboats and buildings in Pudong, including the Pearl Tower lit up at night. Looking south you see buildings along the Bund on Puxi side.



I love the designs made of flowers embedded in the walls along the road and wonder how they keep the flowers looking so fresh. I look forward to walking along the waterfront again in the daytime.



Just as we exited the metro near our residence, the sky opened up and it started pouring rain – so we were really lucky to get such a beautiful evening along the Bund!

Now I have to get to work. We had an editor’s meeting yesterday so lots to do to follow up before our next meeting on Tuesday. I’m also starting to gear up for the trip home. Can’t believe I’ll be leaving here in less than two weeks and there is so much still left to see and do. It has been an amazing adventure.

Hope all of you are healthy and warm.

Love, Lee

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