

Figure 8: Zhaojiabang, Shanghai, c. 1948

SOURCE: Shanghai shehui kexueyuan, jingji yanjiusuo (The Institute of Economic Research, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences), *Shanghai penghuqu de bianqian* (Changes in the Squatter Areas of Shanghai) (Shanghai, 1962).

25 Japanese War, when the silted-up creek became the home of thousands of migrants who swarmed into the city from the countryside because of the Civil War (1946-1949). After 1945, the three-kilometer-long creek quickly became crowded with poor people. During 1946-1948, the number of households along Zhaojiabang rapidly increased from several dozen to two thousand, with a population of about eight thousand, making Zhaojiabang one of the largest slums of Shanghai.⁴⁶

26 All kinds of crude dwellings found in the other slums of Shanghai repeated themselves in Zhaojiabang: the grounded boats, the "rolling earth dragons," straw shacks, and mud huts. But the majority of the dwellings in this new slum were what was called *shuishang gelou* (literally, loft on the water; see Figure 9). As the narrow waterfront became crowded by factories, straw shacks, and gundilong, the new-

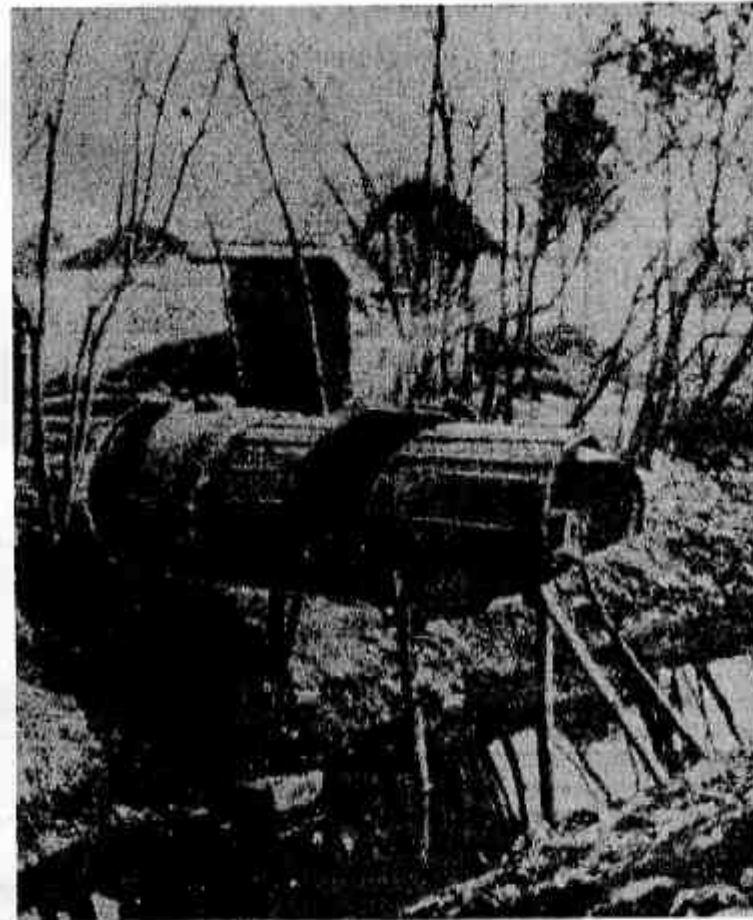


Figure 9: The "Loft on the Water" (*shuishang gelou*)

SOURCE: Shanghai minyong jianzhu shejiyuan (Shanghai Civil Architectural Designing Institute), ed., *Shanghai jindai jianzhu shigao* (A Draft of History of Architectures in Modern Shanghai) (Shanghai, 1988), 20.

comers had to build right on the creek itself. This was done by driving a few bamboo or timber poles into the silted-up creek bed as posts on which a straw hut could be built, with one end resting on the bank and the other end on the post. In this way these migrants "borrowed" space from the creek (Figure 10). This was the worst type of dwelling that one can imagine: the dark, smelly water and mud of the dead creek