

Cognitive and visual features of regional culture in landscape design of scenic spots

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Abstract. Tourism area landscape design culture is soul and support for tourism area landscape design and actual significance of tourism landscape design can be realized by presenting different culture features and improving culture taste and culture contents. The Paper plans and designs landscape and discusses modern landscape with permanent vital force to create unique charm and the importance of integrating traditional culture and modern culture by aiming at recognition and visual characteristics design problems of tourism area landscape design in Kunming City, Yunnan Province and by integrating regional culture characteristics. Modern culture and traditional culture shall be integrated and history and present shall be combined to form very harmony and unification with local original-ecology landscape and cultural landscape. The Paper finally analyzes how to integrate traditional culture and modern culture in landscape design.

Key words. Landscape tourism area, Landscape design, Recognition and visual sense, Characteristics design, Regional culture.

1. Introduction

Traditional culture is created by human during labor process, which is divided into three levels of material culture, spiritual culture and natural landscape. Natural landscape is unique land utilization type and tourism area landscape, which forms under long-term co-evolution and dynamic adaptation with its located environment, while village tourism area landscape culture is unique landscape configuration, which becomes a custom by long-time usage and is embodied by traditional cultural consciousness. Yunnan Kunming Landscape Tourism Resort embodies favorable local feature of a scenic area and reappears geography and humanity essence of scenic area perfectly by extraction and design to village tourism area landscape and reappears actual traditional regional folk culture in modern landscape by landscape analysis

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on modern tourism areas in Kunming.

From devotion for Chinese ancient civilization and profound cognition for importance of scenic spot culture, a batch of excellent figures in China has foresight to inherit and know regional culture and store regional culture in the form of building and landscape. For example, in about 1956, Liang Sicheng and Zheng Zhengduo put forward protection suggestion for ancient city wall in Beijing. At present, with fewer and fewer ancient building, inheritance to traditional culture is more and more difficult and recognition to regional culture is concerned by more and more scholars. Professor Wang Xiangrong in Beijing Forestry University combines landscape design and culture development in *Value Orientation of Modern Landscape*. He believes that development and revolution of landscape proceed along with inheritance and disavowal to the past just like culture revolution and culture development is based on traditional culture and generation of a new kind of landscape is always related to landscape design in history. In China, landscape design in history is garden culture with thousands years of history. Similarly, the first Chinese Design Science Professor in Harvard University, Yu Kongjian has profound recognition to Chinese traditional garden culture. He thinks that urban development and construction of China in recent ten years has completely damaged essence of Chinese traditional culture and damage degree is “the most serious damage in five thousand years”. Such damage firstly has completely lost unique style with cultural features in Chinese ancient garden design and secondly its construction is too fast and rapid and it is planed and designed without serious thinking. In his view, root of damaging traditional garden culture lies in upstart mentality and social formation of supreme power will. As far as he is concerned, he holds that we should know land again and reconstruct relationship of “land-human-divinity” because land is awed by traditional Chinese culture. Such awe will protect and inherit tradition.

Research of the Paper mainly involves concept of landscape design and practical application of landscape design. In landscape design concept, relevant definitions of landscape and regional culture are summarized mainly. The Paper finds corresponding point of landscape design and regional culture by analysis on the two aspects.

2. Description of design area

2.1. Research area

Kunming is provincial capital of Yunnan Province and center city of Yunnan Province. Because it is warm in winter and cool in summer and the climate is pleasant and natural resources are abundant, Kunming has attracted ancient Chinese residents to live early and colorful regional cultures form here, which is famous historical and cultural city and excellent tourism city in China. In 2015, the number of annual receipt tourists is 46.94 million and the number of tourist increases annually. There are numerous scenic spots in Kunming, such as: scenic area in stone forest, the Dian Lake, Jiuxiang and Kunming Expo Park, etc. Xishan Mountain in Kunming is also a famous scenic spot in Kunming and beautiful Dian Lake is located

under its feet. Xishan Mountain is called as Bijie Mountain in ancient times and is general name of Binao Mountain, Huating Mountain, Taihua Mountain and Luohan Mountain. Xishan Mountain is 4-A-class scenic area in China and its main tourism resource is national forest park and it is one of the core scenic spots in the Dian Lake scenic area for pleasant climate. Xishan Mountain is located western suburb in Kunming and it is 15 km from downtown and the Dian Lake is in southeast of Xishan Mountain and altitude of the highest peak in Xishan Mountain, Luohan Peak is 2511m. Because there are mountains and water and abundant forest resource, Xishan Scenic Spot is natural oxygen bar and summer retreat.

Design site of Xishan Mountain Scenic Area is long the north and south and short in the east and west and maximal distance between the south and north is 1150m and shortest distance between the east and west is 95m. Regional terrain is high in the west and low in the east and maximal altitude difference is 54m. Because it is adjacent to the Dian Lake and it looks like a reclining Buddha and sleeping beauty if it is seen from the Dian Lake, it is also called as “Reclining Buddha Mountain” or “Sleeping Beauty Mountain”. The whole Xishan Scenic Area includes natural mountains, greenbelt resource, village and service facility land in properea of original scenery, etc.

2.2. Design target

Landscape design is not only simple visual and pure functional requirements, but also shall be combined with mental and spiritual requirements of people, which is integration of three realms in Chinese classical garden (object realm, circumstance and artist conception) and involves various designs such as scenic area, tourism area, city, park, street greenbelt, factory, resident-area environment and memorial site, etc. It aims at creating environment that is harmonious with nature and meets multi-aspect requirements of human to reach “unity of heaven and man”. Modern landscape design is actually exploration, correction, supplement and renewal to traditional national culture and reaches mutual coordination and harmonious co-existence of human and nature by design. Design process shall abide by the concept of obeying nature, adjusting measures according to local conditions, originating from culture, considering market, proper design, concerning community and humanization design and landscape design principle of ecological sustainable development. Extract traditional landscaping elements of Chinese classical garden and combine it with modern culture to pursue “image out of images” with the implication of so-called artistic conception. Pursuit of artistic conception is new realm of modern design in humanity field and it bridge for communication of tradition and modernization.

The Paper traces and sorts out concept of regional culture and landscape design and analyzes theoretical source of landscape design and regional culture in China and lays solid foundation for case combination by adopting research method of combination of theory and practice. The Paper analyzes inheritance of traditional culture in modern landscape design and combines regional culture and landscape design theoretically. The analysis researches elements of modern landscape design and regional culture contained in these excellent cases, finds carrier of these elements, researches

mainly thought of designers and methods and explores outbreak point in combination of regional culture and modern elements by combining with detailed reading of domestic and foreign excellent landscape cases. Based on it, survey and research shall be carried out to landscape design case that embodies domestic regional culture by field investigation and research and “Xishan Scenic Area” is taken for example and its design thought and method are analyzed to find out reasonable and unreasonable points feasible expression method and innovation mode of regional culture in tourist scenic area and landscape design are explored by conclusion.

2.3. Basic factors of landscape in tourist scenic area

Tourist landscape factors refer to constitution of all factors in landscape connotation. Generally speaking, tourist landscapes can be generally divided into three factors: environment factor; culture existence factor; intangible culture factor. Three factors supplement mutually and abundant connotation has widely explained tourism landscape. (1) Environment factor. Environment factor is natural resource factor of tourism landscape. If tourist scenic area lacks certain natural resource basis, it is difficult to become excellent scenic spot. When the concept of harmony of human and nature is more and more mature, more and more people have new recognition to tourism landscape. Tourist landscape resource is not only visual object for appreciation of tourists, but also is object for cultural and aesthetic communication with human. Besides beauty in external morphology, tourist landscape also has natural and simple characteristics and has characteristics of human nature, such as Inclusive, descriptive, and feedback natures, etc. (2) Culture existence factor. Many culture landscapes are established centralized on existence environment of human actually. To pursue better living environment, human transforms nature and leaves many marks, which are tourist resources of descendent. Existence factors in tourist resource generally link history and reality to make scenic spot emit abundant human sense. For example, Northwest Loess Plateau Cave, south of the Yangtze River and rural settlement in mountain area of Guizhou Hunan, etc., which are all scenic spots with abundant tourist value for existence factor characteristics. Loess Plateau is birthplace of agricultural civilization of China and has long history and existence trace of cave landscape records footprint of human and discloses wisdom of human. Relics, such as earth building has endowed scenic spots with full-bodied village and existence sense for its peculiar shape, unique living habits of residents, national culture and religious belief, etc. (3) Cultural existence factor. Many cultural landscapes are established centralized on existence environment of human actually. To pursue better living environment, human transforms nature and leaves many marks, which are tourist resources of descendent. Existence factors in tourist resource generally link history and reality to make scenic spot emit abundant human sense. For example, Northwest Loess Plateau Cave, south of the Yangtze River and rural settlement in mountain area of Guizhou Hunan, etc., which are all scenic spots with abundant tourist value for existence factor characteristics. Loess Plateau is birthplace of agricultural civilization of China and has long history and existence trace of cave landscape records footprint of human and discloses wisdom of human. Relics, such

as earth building has endowed scenic spots with full-bodied village and existence sense for its peculiar shape, unique living habits of residents, national culture and religious belief, etc. (4) Intangible culture factor. Besides material factor, intangible factor in tourist landscape element is very important. Landscape and famous scenery area usually has historical and cultural significance, such as religion, art, language, custom and folk art, etc. These factors usually have intangible value to make tourist landscape emit unique sense based on natural resource. Many tourist scenic spots are result of collision and fusion of various cultural thoughts and such collision not only includes domestic and foreign thought collision and ancient and modern thought collision, but also includes thought collision of different subjects. For example, the Dujiangyan Irrigation System is great water conservancy project and human landscape and the Great Wall is great military work and magnificent landscape. Design of tourist landscape shall store complete historical and cultural value and follow cultural inheritance principle. Significance of “inheritance” is to accept and transfer, which forms a connection link between the preceding and the following; namely, it is about how to inherit heritage left by ancestor and how to transfer these relics to descendant. Inheritance not only includes acceptance, but also includes transfer and information loss and information increase are both possible during acceptance and transfer process. Therefore, inheritance is not only transfer, but also has rejection and innovation. Modern tourist landscape design shall pay attention to relationship of culture and actual life, which shall not only conform to functional principle, but also consider transfer and continuation of culture and innovate especially by mastering essence during inheritance process.

3. Fusion of traditional culture and modern culture in landscape design

3.1. Represent modern elements in traditional design method

Reach landscape effect of different sceneries in different steps and seeing the big world through small one by adopting gardening techniques of Chinese classical garden, such as framing scenery, shielding scenery, suppressing scenery, borrowing scenery, opposite scenery, folding scenery, etc. and create abundant and changeable landscape spaces by adopting modern landscape element. Landscape effect of punishing first for appraising later by adopting gardening technique of shielding scenery and by placing beautiful scenery behind waterfall and shielding wall of painted-pottery culture, bronze culture, paint culture and jade culture respectively (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Spring forest landscape

3.2. Represent traditional element in modern method



Fig. 2. Sun and moon square

Bei Yuming said: “it not only requires traditional elements, but also requires innovation. Traditional elements are to make human feel coordinative and comfortable and innovation is to make landscape beautiful and attractive by adopting new concept and new method.” Kinds of Chinese traditional symbols are numerous, such as Chinese traditional mascots: Dragon, White Tiger, Suzaku, basalt, etc. and “the five elements” of gold, wood, water, fire and earth; patterns symbolizing national features: Chinese knot, paper-cut for window decoration, scissor-cut, Chinese zodiac and auspicious clouds, etc. Chinese traditional culture connotation can be embodied by adopting abstract and simplified technique and by adopting traditional symbol and its application forms are numerous: it can be engraved in landscape wall, gate,

corridor, floor decoration or can present in the form of sculpture and artist creation or can be combined with decorative lighting. For example, abstract paper-cut pattern is pasted on real wall or it forms strong false and true contrast with open window in courtyard (Fig. 2).

3.3. Selection of plants and creation of space



Fig. 3. Culture corridor

Regions generally have their representative plants, such as cherry blossom in Japan. Native village trees and native village plants are selected to mould plant landscape of environment, embody local feature and increase tourist landscape attraction. Plants form different environment atmosphere with different combination forms of individuals and groups, different shapes and changeable colors. Therefore, space creation and selection of plants represent certain culture. Modern and simple plant space can be created and Chinese sense can be increased simultaneously by adopting design technique combining natural and clipped plants, taking green as main hue and combining Chinese classical garden and European garden planting. Plants mainly have slim branch, graceful blade, small flower with slight smell, such as bamboo, *elaecarpus hainanensis*, weeping willow, sweet-scented osmanthus, *musa basjoo*, *calamus*, *scirpus tabernaemontani*, *iris tectorum*, sword iris, etc. to create simple, clean plant space with Chinese cultural conception. Landscape design in the Fifth Vanke Palace is based on bamboo and decorated by forsythia flowers, *elaecarpus hainanensis*, *calamus*, eggs, onion orchid, Spider orchids, etc to create quite and graceful space. Bamboo in close scenery of sales office, *plumeria rubra* in middle scenery and water plant that is limited by regular defined groove in remote landscape constitute landscape space with abundant remote, middle and close levels (Fig. 3).

Creation of conception is not only a kind of visual art, but also involves senses of auditory sense and smell sense, etc. to obtain beauty of conception by creation of whole environment. "Keep remaining lotus for sound of rain" not only presents remaining lotus, but also presents the experience of enjoying in the artistic conception.

Symbol meaning of plants also has exerted important effect.

4. Fusion of traditional culture and modern culture influences characteristics of modern landscape



Fig. 4. Shengan academy

Features of traditional culture shall be reviewed, reasonable planning shall be carried out based on different regional customs and city images and historical cultural life and national tradition continuation shall be taken into full consideration based on local condition to design unique tourist landscape. Difference of geographical environment on space distribution will inevitably lead to difference of tourist landscape on space distribution; namely, it has obvious regional characteristics. Regionalism is embodied in different features of tourist landscapes in every area, namely, difference of tourist landscape and local features. Important value of regionalism is irreplaceable status of tourist landscape. For example, classical gardens in Jiangnan all take “pleasure of mountain, water, forest and spring” as basic thought and permeate interest and charm of nature into home space and environment. Classical gardens in Jiangnan always have the tradition of adjusting measures to local condition and merge original natural scenery into landscape. Leave scenery in stones, leave shield in trees, take advantages of topography and construct courtyard according to slope. For example, Suzhou Museum designed by Bei Yuming, design of new museum focuses on coordination with surrounding environment, whole appearance completely has Suzhou characteristics and main courtyard of museum is extension of construction style of the Numbler Administrator’s Garden in the north. To pursue better same color and texture, he recreates stereotyped gray Chinese-style tile slope top and window frame in Suzhou into gray granite and tries to remain original natural environment in design philosophy (Fig. 4).

It shall adjust measures according to condition, follow old adage of Chinese classi-

cal garden design based on specific geographical condition, plant characteristics, life style and culture belief, conforming to daily life demand of modern Chinese urban citizen to create real Chinese modern landscape. Modern culture as worldwide and continuously developmental culture does not refer in particular to western culture and different national cultures make their own contributions. Traditional culture has strong vitality and it should make more contribution to modern culture. Only tourist landscape design with cultural connotation has real vitality and only sense of belonging on culture can actually grant spiritual comfort. The national characteristic is welcome to the world; only by being rooted in cultural soil, landscape will be unique and landscape creation will have permanent vitality.

5. Conclusion

The Research analyzes landscape design phenomenon of Chinese tourist area and explores integration of traditional culture and modern culture from landscape design culture based on theoretical basis of practical case. Cultural history shall be known and time culture tide shall be recognized to design excellent tourist area landscape works; only by knowing exquisite and profound traditional culture, you can know how to protect and develop it and have confidence on spiritual and cultural deposits on surface of material basis. Only by extracting cultural elements, pursuing sublimation of conception, adjusting measures according to condition based on inheriting traditional national culture to make traditional culture integrate with modern culture, real Chinese modern landscape can be created.

Acknowledgement

Key Project of Humanities and Social Sciences of Universities in Anhui Province in 2015 (Ecological Design Research of Anhui Regional Landscape SK2015A680); 2.Key Project of Outstanding Youth Fund of Universities in Anhui Province in 2016 (gxyqZD2016388).

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Received May 7, 2017