Fully exploring traditional Chinese culture and promoting organic development of green city

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Abstract

Starting from cultural roots, the paper fully explores traditional Chinese culture and clearly defines the definition, connotation as well as features of Chinese cultural tradition. As the carrier of Chinese culture, Chinese traditional architecture emphasizes natural landscape and expresses the concepts of “oneness of nature and man”, which are consistent with the modern desire of “living in nature”. Through studying distribution features, ecological characteristics and building experience of Chinese traditional architecture, combining related practices of building a green city in recent years, and based on the research of traditional culture on design of cities, we plan to promote the organic development of green city. The paper takes Hankou town for example. The examples receive inspiration from the ecological concept of traditional architecture, and put into practice the ecological concept under guidance of culture. Modern architectural language and green technology are used to interpret traditional architectural features. We will better promote the organic development of green city through fully exploring and inheriting culture.

1. Introduction

The concept of “green architecture” has been widely proposed since 1960s and green architecture has become the mainstream trend for the development of architecture industry in future. The so-called “green” herein means to build
architecture which is harmless to the environment and is constructed by taking full advantage of natural environment resources on the basis of not destroying environment and ecological equilibrium. Green architecture can be interpreted as reducing environmental load, fully using sunshine, saving energy, and bringing residents with the feelings close to nature and making harmonious and sustainable development between the architecture and the environment. The co-existence and syncretism between nature and human beings are highly stressed according to traditional Chinese culture. The spiritual connotation of traditional Chinese culture is reflected through traditional architecture and city construction, namely, respecting the environment, making adjustment based on the local conditions, using local materials and adapting to the climate [1]. When reviewed from the contemporary green architecture concept, the traditional Chinese architectures are dominated by green architecture, whose green factors need to be explored, studied and re-used deeply.

Reviewing history would be the best strategy for studying contemporary issues. The idea of sustainable development can be met by introducing the green features of traditional culture and traditional architecture into contemporary architectural design through deeply exploring and studying traditional culture.

As a typical case for in-depth study in this paper, Wuhan, located in the eastern part of Hubei Province, is China's first batch of historical and cultural famous cities with a history of more than 5,000 years. Along the long history, the typical courtyards in Ming and Qing Dynasties and “Lifen” (special civil residential building in Wuhan) in republican period are Wuhan’s representative traditional architectures. Their ecological green features will be analyzed in the study.

The traditional architecture in Wuhan is analyzed in this paper using the multiple layers of study frameworks of typology and morphology, and the memory "collective unconsciousness" of Wuhan people on life is reproduced using typology design method of prototype extraction-type transformation-form reconstruction. The design of green urban streets that are ecological, sustainable and contain rich connotation of traditional culture such as Hankou Town and Chu River and Han Street, brings reference significance to the design of future green district.

2. Idea of Sustainability in Traditional Chinese Culture

According to traditional Chinese culture, the relationship between human beings and nature is highly stressed, which coincides with the modern idea of current sustainable development. It is highly stressed in Confucianism that the change of any matter is within the integral system, both human beings and nature should make development harmoniously, and the human beings should transform and use nature as well as protect it (Fig. 1). Natural inaction and accommodation to nature are highly stressed in Taoism. The essence of traditional Chinese architecture idea lies in harmony between human beings and nature, which is also advocated by geomancy. Human beings is part of nature according to geomancy, which considers that human beings and nature are within one organic integrity and human being’s living space should be integrated with the surrounding environment [2].

![Fig. 1. Architecture is in harmony with the nature.](image)

The traditional Chinese architecture is the carrier that inherits traditional Chinese culture. Natural mountain forest geomancy is highly stressed in the traditional Chinese architecture, which represents the idea of “syncretism between nature and man” and “natural inaction”. This idea coincides with the willingness of “returning to nature” in modern society.
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