

Exploration of the Landscape Design Method of Traditional Villages in Lingnan Overseas Chinese Hometown from the Perspective of Cultural Heritage Protection

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Abstract: Under the influence of globalization, the traditional villages of Lingnan hometown of overseas Chinese are facing unprecedented challenges. Based on the geographical and historical background of Lingnan overseas hometown, this study explores the uniqueness of its architecture, layout and courtyard design. A paper integrates cultural heritage protection and modern landscape design, with special emphasis on the sustainable development of ecology, society and economy. Through the empirical analysis of Shuibu Town and Lubian Village, we demonstrate the necessity of finding a balance between cultural heritage protection and landscape design. With the help of the example of the ancient town in Vietnam, it further reveals the value and significance of traditional cultural heritage in contemporary times.

Keywords: Lingnan hometown of overseas Chinese, traditional villages, cultural heritage protection, landscape design, cultural inheritance, sustainable development

1 Introduction

In lingnan region in southern China, many traditional Chinese villages like a bright pearl, ornament in the vast land, they carry the rich cultural, historical and artistic value, lingnan has a long history and culture, is the important vein of the Chinese traditional culture, and lingnan overseas Chinese culture is one of the most distinctive culture type of lingnan culture^[1]. With the continuous advancement of globalization and modernization, these traditional ancient villages have been gradually destroyed and replaced, and the cultural landscape and overall style of the villages have been seriously affected^[2]. How to properly protect these unique cultural heritage under the background of modern society and make it coexist harmoniously with modern civilization has become an urgent topic to be discussed in the field of cultural protection in Lingnan region and even the whole world. The protection of cultural heritage is not only a respect for the past, but also to organically connect the tradition with the future and leave valuable resources for future generations. In recent years, with the increasing international awareness of cultural heritage protection, a number of studies and projects have focused on the protection and regeneration of traditional villages^[3]. As an important part of the Chinese national culture, the protection and development of the traditional villages in the hometown of overseas Chinese are particularly concerned. This paper aims to explore the landscape design

method of traditional villages under the perspective of cultural heritage protection, analyze the challenge of cultural heritage and the correlation of landscape design, and provide a new perspective and strategies for the landscape design of traditional villages of overseas Chinese in Lingnan region.

2 The uniqueness of the traditional villages in Lingnan Overseas Chinese hometown

2.1 Cultural and historical background

Lingnan, covering today's Guangdong, Guangxi and southern Hunan, Lingnan area is distributed with Yao, Zhuang, Li and other ethnic minorities, history has been the forefront of the integration of Chinese civilization and external civilization^[4]. Among them, the traditional villages of overseas Chinese hometown are the clear proof of the cultural exchange in this region. Many waves of immigrants from south to north make these villages carry complex and rich cultural genes. From Cantonese opera to Lingnan painting school, from unique food culture to local architectural art, Lingnan overseas Chinese hometown villages have become a charming place where traditional and modern, local and foreign cultures interweave.

2.2 Current situation and challenges of heritage protection

In recent decades, with the rapid development of urbanization, many traditional villages are facing great pressure of change. On the one hand, new construction, transportation and industries bring economic growth and convenience; on the other hand, traditional lifestyles, architectural styles and cultural characteristics are being diluted or replaced.

At present, although there are many cultural heritage protection projects in Lingnan overseas Chinese hometown, but the effect is uneven. Due to the effective protection and restoration, some villages have been successfully transformed into cultural tourist resorts, such as Kaiping Diaolou and villages. However, more villages have lost their original style in the wave of modernization, and the traditional cultural heritage and life style are increasingly scarce.

Typical challenges include how to balance traditional culture with the needs of modern life; how to implement effective cultural heritage conservation projects with limited resources and funding, and how to change the role from protector to guardian.

3 The connection between cultural heritage protection and landscape design

3.1 Complementary relationship between the two

Cultural heritage protection and landscape design are not two isolated fields, and there is a deep complementary relationship between them. Cultural heritage provides the content and soul of landscape design, and landscape design endows modern forms and functions to cultural heritage, making it adapt to the needs of contemporary society.

The core values of cultural heritage: Cultural heritage reflects the history, memory and identity of a place, a community and a culture^[5]. Through the intervention of landscape design, we can emphasize, maintain and even enhance these core values.

Innovative application of landscape design: properly incorporating cultural heritage into landscape design can bring more historical depth and cultural connotation to the design, and at the same time inject new vitality into the cultural heritage, so that it will radiate new vitality under the new social background.

3.2 Description of successful cases in the world and Lingnan region

world-wide:

The Old city of Lyon, France: As a world cultural heritage, the old city of Lyon not only maintains its ancient urban structure and architectural style through effective landscape design means, but also endows it with modern functions and living atmosphere^[6].

Kyoto, Japan: Kyoto has successfully integrated ancient shrines, gardens and traditional architecture into its modern urban layout, making both tradition and modern times coexist harmoniously here^[7].

Lingnan region:

Kaiping Diaolou: This world cultural heritage has not only been effectively maintained and protected, but also has become a tourist attraction integrating tradition and modernity through the harmonious combination of landscape design and the surrounding environment.

Sun Wen's former residence of Sun Wen in Zhongshan City: As the former residence of an important historical figure in modern times, the park and landscape design around it not only emphasizes the historical status of Sun Yat-sen, but also provides leisure space for citizens.

4 Exploration of the methods of traditional village landscape design

4.1 Specific strategies for protecting traditional buildings, village layout and courtyard design

Traditional building protection: Considering the structure and materials of traditional buildings in the Lingnan region, the strategy of in-situ protection and timely maintenance is crucial (as shown in Figure 1). For those parts that have been damaged, they should be repaired with the same or similar materials and techniques used to the original building to ensure their historical integrity and authenticity.

Village layout: to maintain the original layout of roads, streets and public space of villages. This can not only help to preserve cultural memory, but also meet the living needs of local residents. For new facilities or buildings, ensure that they are consistent with the original layout and style.

Courtyard design: Courtyard is an important element in Lingnan culture, which reflects the harmonious relationship between family, community and nature. Therefore, the design of the courtyard should respect its traditional layout and the choice of vegetation, while also including modern elements, such as rainwater collection or other sustainable techniques.

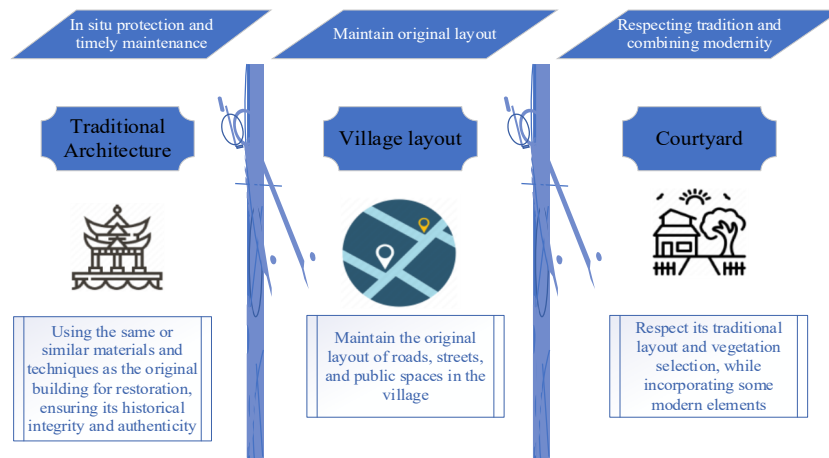


Figure 1 Landscape Design strategy of traditional villages

4.2 The combination of traditional and modern design principles

Combining traditional and modern design is a clever balancing process. The introduction of modern energy saving technologies into buildings can not only ensure structural durability, but also have a positive impact on the environment. A 2020 study clearly demonstrated the advantages of this combination. In traditional Lingnan buildings, the lighter outer wall layer material is used to reduce the absorption of solar radiant heat on the exterior wall surface. Combined with solar panels, the strong solar light in Lingnan region is also effectively utilized, and the energy consumption in this region decreases by about 37.8% on average. This shows that it is completely feasible to integrate modern technology into traditional design and has significant results.

In addition, the integration of public art installations has injected fresh vitality into the cultural level of the Lingnan region. The 2022 exhibition report of the Guangdong Museum of Art found that the integration of modern art sculpture and public art installations not only combines traditional culture with modern art, but more importantly, it attracts a large number of young people and significantly increases their attention to traditional culture. This shows that the integration of culture and design has a positive effect on cultural inheritance and promotion.

4.3 Integration strategy with the principle of sustainable development

Ecological sustainability: Ecological balance should be paid attention to in village design, such as green coverage, rainwater management and biodiversity maintenance, to bring a better ecological environment for villages.

Social sustainability: Encourage local residents to participate in the decision-making process of landscape design and cultural heritage protection, so to ensure that the design is more in line with the needs and cultural values of local residents. In Yan Guotai et al^[8]The study shows that the protection of heritage cannot be separated from the participation of local community residents, and when they are directly involved in cultural

and design decisions, the sense of belonging and satisfaction with the village will also be significantly improved. This confirms the positive role of community participation on cultural preservation.

Economic sustainability: From an economic point of view, the protection and promotion of cultural heritage is stimulating for local economic growth (as shown in Figure 2). By attracting cultural tourism and related cultural and creative industries, economic benefits can be brought to villages and thus provide financial support for cultural heritage protection. According to the data of Guangdong Provincial Culture and Tourism Bureau in 2022, after the protection of cultural heritage and landscape improvement, the annual tourism income of Shuibu Town, Taishan City, Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province has increased significantly, driving the local job market and proving its value in the economic field.

In the landscape design of traditional villages in Lingnan hometown of overseas Chinese, it is the key to find the balance between tradition and modernity, protection and development. Only in this way can these villages continue to prosper in modern society and leave a valuable cultural heritage for future generations.

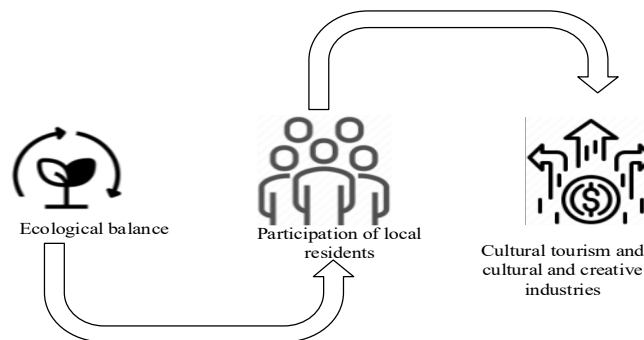


Figure 2. Integration of sustainable development

5 Case study: Successful practice of Lingnan hometown of Overseas Chinese

5.1 Typical case selection: Shuibu Town and Lubian Village

These two villages represent the traditional culture and architectural style of Lingnan hometown of overseas Chinese, and have successful experience in cultural heritage protection and landscape design.

5.2 Overview of the cases

Shuibu Town, Taishan City, Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province:

Historical background: Shuibu Town, located in Taishan City, Jiangmen City, has a history of more than 600 years since it was established during the reign of Hongwu of the Ming Dynasty. In the meantime, many traditional buildings in the town have been well preserved, among which

90 buildings with Lingnan characteristics from the Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China and three ancestral halls. However, due to the age and other reasons, the structure of the ancient residential houses is incomplete. Although the architectural conception is unique and perfect, it is almost abandoned (see Figure 3 and Figure 4).



Figure 3 Taishan dialou



Figure 4 Modern leisure facilities

The Landscape Design Strategy:

Shuibu Town, an ancient village with a history of more than 600 years, has shown new vitality in recent years. Walking among them, the ancient Lingnan style buildings have been carefully restored, preserving the traces of history and giving them new life. For example, the "Temple Tang" cafe, which is newly established in the ancient buildings, has become a good place for tourists to rest and feel the ancient village culture. Taking advantage of its unique identity as "the first hometown of overseas Chinese in China", Shuibu Town has a rich culture of the hometown of overseas Chinese and cultural exchanges with Hong Kong and Macao, bringing a deep cultural experience to tourists. The title of "web celebrity village" is not only because of the ancient buildings, but also because of the carefully designed clock points in the village, making every corner is full of the perfect integration of modern and ancient. The advantages of geographical location are also perfectly utilized. The close cooperation and exchanges with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area make Shuibu Town become an important cultural bridge connecting the mainland and Hong Kong and Macao. At the same time, as a part of the "Guangdong Province New Urbanization Standardization Demonstration Site", the development achievements of Shuibu Town have been widely recognized and praised.

Results: Shuibu Town's landscape strategy has significantly contributed to the tourism boom. This not only attracts a large number of tourists, but also improves the economic benefits and quality of life of the local residents. Subsequently, the urbanization of Taishan city also showed rapid growth. In the past five years, the urbanization rate of permanent resident population and the urbanization rate of registered population increased by 2.23% and 3.25%, respectively.

Lubian Village, Pengjiang District, Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province:

Historical background: Lubian Village has been built for more than 700 years. In the village, there is a unique "ancestral temple street" phenomenon, which is a 500-meter street. Today, there are 10 family ancestral halls built in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, sometimes known as

the "ancestral temple street". It has been selected in the "Protection List of Chinese Traditional Villages" and "Traditional Villages of Jiangmen City" list. Lu Bian began to move in the ninth year of Duzong in the Song Dynasty. Due to the rapid development of economy and society in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the villagers built shrines to respect their ancestors and Jingzong. The earliest Lu ancestral hall was built in the 13th year of the Ming Chenghua (1487). The Temple, formerly known as Wenlin Lang Lu Gong Temple, was built during the Wanli Period of the Ming Dynasty and later renamed "The Temple" (as shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6).



Figure 5 eunuch Temple



Figure 6 Ancestral temple street

Landscape design strategy: Central Ancient Village, which has always been a symbol of culture. While restoring the ancient buildings, the courtyard and public space in the village have been redesigned and integrated with modern art and design, such as the "Bright Moon Teahouse", which shows the combination of classical and modern times. The culture of the village not only retains the profound tradition, but also has exchanges with countries along the Silk Road, providing a rich experience for tourists. Considering the needs of young tourists, the village has also set up a number of Internet celebrity punch card points. With its superior geographical location, Central Ancient Village has become a transportation hub between northeast and southwest China, while maintaining close cooperation with surrounding cities to promote its cultural and economic exchanges. As a demonstration site of cultural tourism, Central Ancient Village is not only the restoration of history, but also reflects the respect and expectation for culture and the future.

Results: After restoration and activation, the ancestral temple in Lubian Village is now not only for sacrificial purposes, but also into a community activity center. For example, the Fengqi Family Temple next to the Lu Ancestral Hall became the performance place of the Chaolian Folk Art Club, and the Luqiao Lu Gong Temple became a martial arts training base. Today, the ancestral temple in Lubian Village has become a civilization practice station in the new era, providing a carrier for grassroots cultural services. In a way with a more sense of The Times, it reshaped the local customs, spreads the spirit, condenses people's hearts and benefits the later generations. In the context of the new era, the villagers are thinking about how to further activate and use the ancestral temple culture to help the rural revitalization and improve the quality of urban and rural areas.

5.3 Strategy and achievement analysis of the cases

Shuibu Town: Under the historical background of more than 600 years, through the restoration of Lingnan style buildings and the introduction of modern elements. The perfect integration of new buildings such as "ancestral Tang" cafe and ancient buildings brings rich cultural experience to tourists. The geographical location advantage makes it a cultural bridge between the mainland and Hong Kong and Macao. Thanks to its unique landscape design strategy, the rapid development of tourism has brought economic benefits to local residents and provided financial support for cultural heritage protection.

Lubian Village: Lubian Village makes full use of its 700-year history and its unique "ancestral temple street" landscape, successfully combining classical and modern, forming a unique cultural tourism experience. Through the activation of the ancient buildings, the village shows the perfect combination of tradition and modernity. Ancestral temple not only serves as a place for sacrifice, but also becomes a center of community activities, providing a carrier for local culture. Such a transformation brings long-term economic benefits to the village and creates favorable conditions for the protection of cultural heritage.

5.4 Comparison case: The ancient town of Hui'an in Vietnam and Siem Reap in Cambodia

5.4.1 Hui An, Vietnam:

Historical background: Hui'an is an ancient port city in Vietnam, and also a famous historical and cultural city integrating the three cultures of China, Japan and Vietnam.

Protection strategy: strictly restrict the entry of modern buildings, strengthen the maintenance of ancient buildings, and encourage the revival of traditional handicrafts.

Results: It has successfully attracted a large number of domestic and foreign tourists, becoming one of the most popular tourist destinations in Vietnam.

Analysis: Compared with Lingnan hometown of overseas Chinese, Hui'an emphasizes more on the inheritance and revival of traditional culture, rather than the integration of modern elements. But both have achieved the successful protection and utilization of cultural heritage.

5.4.2 Siem Reap, Cambodia:

Historical background: Siem Reap is a major city in Cambodia, best known as Angkor Wat, an ancient group of temples that shows the glorious history of the Khmer Empire.

Conservation strategy: Strict visitor management and protection of Angkor Wat, along with ongoing research and maintenance through the support of UNESCO.

Results: Angkor Wat attracts thousands of tourists every year, making it one of the pillars of Cambodia's economy.

Analysis: Compared with Lingnan overseas Chinese hometown, Siem Reap pays more attention to the protection of a single cultural heritage, rather than the revival of the whole city or village. However, all three clarify the important value of cultural heritage in tourism economy and successfully transform it into practical economic benefits.

Through the situation and comparative analysis of these three cases, we can see different strategies and methods of cultural heritage protection. Whether it is the protection of a single cultural heritage, or the revival of the whole city or village, the right strategies and methods can bring great economic benefits and cultural value to the local area.

6 Conclusions

After deeply discussing the landscape design methods of the traditional villages of Lingnan overseas Chinese hometown, we feel the strong cultural and historical charm of this land again. Behind every brick, every tile, and every alley, there are rich stories and traditional wisdom. In the face of the tide of globalization, how to protect and inherit these priceless cultural heritages is a problem that every one of us needs to think deeply about. Cultural heritage is not just a memory of the past, it is also an inspiration for the future. In success stories around the globe, we see the possibility of a perfect combination of cultural heritage with modern landscape design. Through innovative strategies and methods, traditional villages can not only maintain their original charm, but also glow with new vitality.

In the future, with the development of science and technology, we have reason to believe that there will be more tools and methods to help us better protect and utilize our cultural heritage. Digital technologies, such as 3D scanning and virtual reality (VR), digitally restore buildings with the help of 3D technology, and present them through virtual reality techniques, providing a new way of preservation of damaged or disappeared buildings and art, and bringing a unique experience to visitors^[9]. In addition, 3D printing technology has now become a powerful tool for the restoration of monuments, allowing us to feel the true face of history again. But technology isn't the only answer. The real key is in the people. Community residents, governments, designers and researchers need to work closely together to ensure that cultural heritage is properly protected and passed on.

The Lingnan region, as an important part of Chinese civilization, has the responsibility and mission to provide a successful example for the world. We firmly believe that as long as we cherish our roots, respect our history and culture, and give full play to our creativity and wisdom, the future of the traditional villages in Lingnan Overseas Chinese Township will be more brilliant.

We look forward to in the near future, when we walk into an ancient village in Lingnan again, we will see not only the glory of the past, but also the hope and dream of the future.

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