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RESEARCH ON THE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL NARRATIVE CULTURE OF BEIJING HUTONG BLOCKS: A CASE STUDY OF NANLUOGUXIANG STREET

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ABSTRACT

This paper is based on architecture, to folklore, sociology, Feng Shui, art, design and other interdisciplinary research, through the analysis of the traditional architectural space of the context of the continuation of the way, trying to achieve a harmonious unity of time and space, finally achieve the goal of sustainable cultural heritage. This paper first introduces the historical evolution and current situation of Nanluoguxiang, and through these, analyzes the role of traditional architecture in cultural continuity in contemporary society, as well as how to do a good job in cultural inheritance.

1. INTRODUCTION

In about 3 years ago, Nanluoguxiang street ranks one of the top sightseeing places in Beijing. As the governmental survey shows that the only 800 meters long street holds the visitors in working day over 50,000 people, weekend over 100,000 people, and spontaneously acceptable person over 170,000 people. As from the point of protecting the historical buildings and living place, the government had to cancel the AAA landscape tag to stop accepting the travelling tour.

Urban sociologists R. Parker thought, personality and cultural charm of different cities, different from both the historical memory in the city, also is different from the public in the one thousand form beliefs values and behaviors, and reflection of culture in the city's cultural style also each have each charm and originality, so found in inheriting classic and innovation of the way is feasible Therefore, have reason to say, success in the 21st century city, will be generated from cultural city.[1]

As a very famous traditional historical and cultural block, Nanluoguxiang in Beijing can not only be studied as a typical block, but also has a very large group of tourism consumers. Therefore, it is pertinent to study the sustainability of traditional historical and cultural in Nanluoguxiang as an example.

2. THE CULTURAL STORY THAT NANLUOGUXIANG COMMUNICATES

Nanluoguxiang is located in Dongcheng district of Beijing, adjacent to the Shichahai Lake scenic area, north east Gulou street, south to Gates east street to total length of 786 meters, 8 meters wide. (Figure 1)

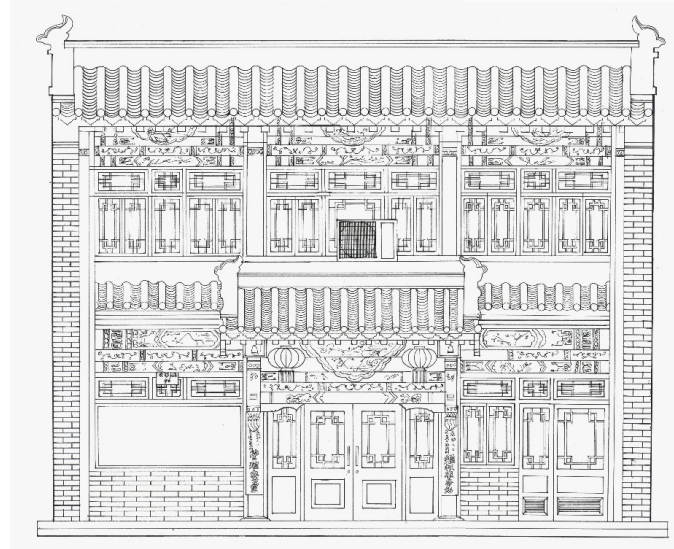


[Figure 1] Surveying and mapping, part of Nanluoguxiang in 2015 (draw by author)

Every great building tells great stories which makes people happy, sad, unforgettable, or sth. What we should tell? How architecture in Nanluoguxiang tells the story?

2.1. Nobility value of traditional moral, ethical, sequence in architecture in the past

Nanluoguxiang ancient street, which has more than 740 years' history, as one of the oldest neighborhoods in Beijing, is the only checkerboard traditional residential area in China that fully preserves the hutong courtyard texture of the yuan dynasty, with the largest scale, the highest grade and the richest resources. In the surrounding hutongs, there are various kinds of mansions and courtyards, which are colorful and profound. Nanluoguxiang and its surrounding areas used to be the center of the capital city of yuan dynasty. In the Ming and qing dynasties, the streets and lanes gathered together the nobility, dignitaries and the wealthy, and there were numerous royal courts. (Figure 2)



[Figure 2] One historical building in Nanluoguxiang in 2016 (draw by author)

Completely preserved Hutong courtyard and the courtyard area fang system embodied in the yuan dynasty courtyard and HuTong culture, reflect the traditional architecture in Beijing residential characteristics of old Beijing is grey local-style dwelling houses building more, to foil the glittering palace buildings south gong ancient street in the process of modern transformation, still retaining the characteristics of the northern traditional houses: kind of grey water brick gray tiles, whole gray tone simple quiet Building structure. Is the brick structure, including roof beam carved.

2.2. Nowadays traditional cultural is hidden in the commercial shops.

Nanluoguxiang street facade renovation, follow the traditional combined with business, old Beijing culture in harmony with the modern architectural style depend on the appearance of the traditional courtyard houses, shops according to the commercial function reconstruction of concrete building style is divided into three types: the first building main body structure and appearance has not changed, just to use building interior space has carried on the transformation, the second will be to meet the functional requirements of modern commercial traditional courtyard houses along the street facade, according to the specific business theme into the modern contracted style, the style is unified, building indoor and outdoor commercial elements in the whole building decoration, traditional architectural elements to keep only a few. The eclectic architectural style of the third party combines the western classical architectural style with the Chinese traditional architectural style. The building is still mainly in gray color, with blue bricks and gray tiles, but part of the style adopts the western classical form.

2.3 Traditional architecture aesthetic value

Nanluoguxiang ancient street in the development process of fully excavating the old buildings of historical and cultural value on both sides of the street store renovation are as much as possible to maintain the traditional flavor of primitive simplicity, the door frame and window frame color mostly black scarlet and red log color, even if the shop signs, design is given priority to with of primitive simplicity, still mostly use some wooden instinctive quality, fully refined the Chinese elements, find convergence points in such aspects as material and color, make it ingeniously integration with the surrounding environment.

2.4 Traditional hutong street culture in architecture

Nanluoguxiang historical and cultural blocks, as the representative of Beijing Hutong culture, its existing Hutong still retaining the characteristics of the northern traditional dwellings, grey brick gray tiles, whole gray tone and heavy Hutong architecture for the brick structure more simple, including carved wooden frame roof beams and other architectural decoration is divided into enamel and culture act the important role, enamel color is given priority to with red, the color is not luxuriant, but extremely rich national characteristics; Carved wooden brick and stone carvings, carver is exquisite, wonderful artical excelling nature, simply golden stone in the gate of drum stone column in the main set of interacting arch and the place such as a reminder the drum stone in front of the house is one of the highlights Hutong residences, the front and side often describe various forms of lions, carved front side engraved with four seasons flowers and plants of fret kirin pine crane and some auspicious patterns.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF NANLUOGUXIANG



[Figure 3] view from Nanluoguxiang and its side lanes in 2019

3.1 The lane becomes more and more cloudy—popular story

With the rapid expansion of the modern population, the number of people in the block increased rapidly. In 2006, the residential population density of Nanluoguxiang was as high as 20,000 people/square kilometers, within the limited living space bearing the huge population base of traditional courtyard residential development to dozens of families share a set of house, Nanluoguxiang traditional courtyard houses of the people to hold high density pressure, together with the mall the expansion of the scope and basis for land use, further compressed the residential living space as a result, the population evacuation and alleviate the pressure of the living is the precondition of improving Nanluoguxiang living environment problems, as we can see nearly everyone rushes into the narrow lane but the side lane keeps vacuum.

3.2 Aesthetical uncomfortable—still live in the lower line of living requirements according to the Maslow psychological theory.

The traditional Siheyuan residential buildings in the historical block of Nanluoguxiang are basically intact in the modern urban reconstruction, but most of them are in disrepair and badly damaged, with small space capacity and small living area. The government spends a large amount of money on the maintenance and repair of Nanluoguxiang every year, but most of it is invested in the building of the commercial street, and the architectural style of the residential area does not change much. Hutong lanes are densely wired, electricity meters, air conditioning outdoor

bare, these have seriously affected the overall architectural style of the Hutong. The architectural style of Nanluoguxiang is facing a serious chaotic situation. The traditional quadrangle courtyard has been transformed into a grotesque shape. It is in urgent need of standardization and rectification to maintain the style of traditional streets.

3.3 New life facilities, like plasters, invading the traditional life –Conflict stories

The public service facilities in Nanluoguxiang have not been systematically upgraded and improved for a long time, which lags behind the social development. The streets of Nanluoguxiang ancient lane have the common characteristics of Beijing Hutong: narrow streets. As it is transformed from traditional ancient streets, the planning and design of its spatial scale is based on the traditional living form of the ancients and follows the pedestrian scale, which does not match the design scale of today's motor vehicles. Limited space scale, narrow street width, the absence of parking space, is bound to cause the problem of random parking, traffic congestion.

4. HOW TO TELL THE CHINESE CULTURAL STORIES BETTER IN ARCHITECTURE IN THE FUTURE?

Chinese architectural culture solids not only in material but also in the spiritual core. With the time passes, essential positive and classical culture left, what kind of culture story we want to reserve to our descendants is a question taken into the calendar. The prerequisite to tell a good story is to decide what kind of story need to tell. Nowadays, the cultural stories' lights covered by the commercial flavor in Nanluoguxiang, which transform from its original inhabitants of bureaucratic privilege stratum into a public commercial district. Therefore, what story nowadays architectures tell also need to show highly important to.

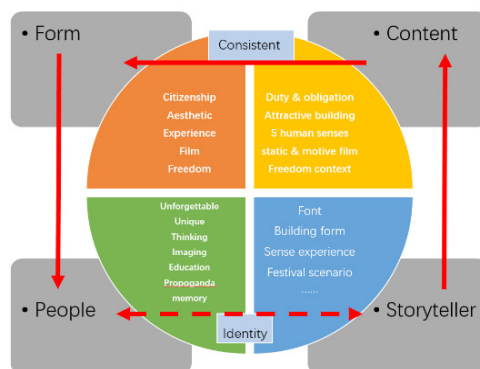
How to input motivate stories in the static space? As we know, Nanluoguxiang is a long space which structure is similar like a linear story, all of these characteristic decided the possibility to tell a story in the Nanluoguxiang. Sometimes, we tell a story with one clear line, but sometimes we tell a story with several lines. Sometimes we flashback, sometimes we deconstruction, all of these narrative methods offer the architecture stories full of theoretically.

What should our architecture space communicate better traditional cultural stories? As the book of "architectural Culture and Communication" references the view of Maurice Levy, chairman of publics group, the largest communication company in France, founded in 1926, wrote the book "100 terms of communication" with distinctive features. He could not only perceive the connotation of culture and communication, culture and society, culture and city, culture and family affection, but also appreciate the broad cultural implication of communication. Here are a few paragraphs. He concluded the contents into 6 Forms: Citizenship, Culture, Aesthetic, Experience, Film and Freedom.

Thus in the correspondent content, we need to put modern Chinese cultural citizenship content such as duty, obligation, moral, ethical etc. content into the building form. What's more, we need to renovate the building form more attractive, we need to combine with different human senses to experience and put into static and motive film into the building. Last but not least, the feeling of freedom not by pushing.

In the communication effects, we need to make the main body who experience the street. Especially the young generations, who would like to Nanluoguxiang the most, feel unforgettable, unique, thinking, imagine and be educated. [2] We need to know the psychological characteristics of the young generation, who live far away from traditional life style, own wide range of knowledge, chase unique, freedom and open life, born in the environmental of digital life.

Therefore, we have different forms to express the culture in the architecture. Such as we can print or draw some wall painting in the building in the prerequisite of preserve the building. And we need to design in the form of unified visual system. In some part, we use the language of international form into the core of traditional content. We make eye-pleasuring architectural constructor details to let the visitors feel from Vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch. In traditional festivals, we need to match the ritual atmosphere with architecture in the Nanluguxiang. (Figure 4. Nanluoguxiang architecture narratology structure)



[Figure 4] Nanluoguxiang architecture narratology structure (draw by author)

As we can see from figure 3, form, content, people, storyteller are connected close to each other, if people can fully get what storyteller told, we can say that this is a successful communication. Thus the storyteller need to think

up the content and its consistent form, then use different strategies to achieve the green parts, then we can say the people get the identity from the story teller in the architecture in the traditional culture.

5. CONCLUSION

To preserve the traditional culture from architecture, we need to think up the story first, no matter we tell the story for the full line or some episodes of traditional culture through the architecture. The best way to accept by the traditional culture to the young generation is to organize the story contents than find the suitable ways to realize it. Such as the traditional sustainable development concept--pursues the harmony of human, nature and ecology—need to express in the form of static painting or motive film ways, and realize by its most aesthetic and unique ways to attract person to remember and unforgettable. Besides, the idea reflected in the development and inheritance of architecture is to follow the law of history and respect history, environment and regional culture, so as to meet people's psychological needs and daily life needs.

The regional context has the continuity of time and the inheritance of times. The formation of architectural space is also a part of the regional context and the carrier of the regional context. It also follows the change of the context and develops with the development of times. Therefore, architectural space also has continuity and contemporaneity. At the same time, the architectural space design should also consider the implementation feasibility and long-term stability of the planning as a whole, so as to leave room for further development while inheriting the architectural context stably.

The sustainable development concept pursues the harmony of human, nature and ecology. The idea reflected in the development and inheritance of architecture is to follow the law of history and respect history, environment and regional culture, so as to meet people's psychological needs and daily life needs. Today's sustainable development concept must adapt to the current society and follow the principle of modern development, rather than blindly copy and mass production. Therefore, traditional culture should be absorbed, refined and created in the creation of architecture. Only when the current architectural culture is also adapted to the needs of society can there be an accurate direction of development. The sustainable development of traditional folk is more closely connected with traditional culture. The sustainable development of traditional folk houses is also the sustainable development of traditional regional culture, involving history, economy, politics, culture, folk customs and other fields. Therefore, to explore the sustainable development of traditional residential buildings, we should absorb advanced concepts and methods under the general premise of society and its culture, and create a road suitable for regional architectural culture, so that regional architectural culture can go on for a long time, and the characteristics and essence of regional architectural culture can be inherited permanently.

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