

Application of Decoration Culture of Traditional Manchu Residence in Architectural Landscape Design

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Abstract: In recent years, China's urban construction has been gradually influenced by Western culture and ideologies. The planning of urban development has been carried out in accordance with Western ideologies. As a result, this has prevented our local buildings and architectures to showcase unique local style and characteristics. Even under the influence of global urbanization, the development trend has prevented the construction of global cities from displaying the characteristics of their respective cities. Therefore, it is highly important for a nation not to lose the direction in the design of the urban landscape, and not to blindly imitating the architectural style of other countries or other cities. In addition, the nation and its cities should show their respective unique cultural charm and cultural characteristics and present their best to the whole world in order to promote the popularity of the cities, expand their influence and get onto a better development path. This article mainly introduces the application of the decoration culture of the traditional Manchu residence in the architectural landscape design.

Keywords: Traditional Manchu residence, Decoration culture, Landscape design

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1 Introduction

The traditional Manchu architectural culture has reached its peak period in the early Qing Dynasty. In comparison with the architectural decoration and art of the Han people, the architectural art of the Manchu cannot be considered comparable as Han's. Therefore,

after the transition from Ming to Qing, the architectural culture and art of the Manchu was deeply influenced by the architectural culture of the Han. However, only the traditional forms of Manchu custom were retained in the architectural form, and many excellent architectural skills found in the buildings constructed by the Manchu can be traced to the Han. This kind of localization is actually the result when the advanced civilization encountered a relatively inferior civilization. Also, in order to rule over and completely control the Han people, the Qing government gradually standardized and rectified the shamanism. At the same time, in order to achieve more stable social development, the Qing government also promoted the beliefs of Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. In the end, the influence of shamanism in satisfying the people's daily life dwindled. However, the influence of the Shamanism cannot be ignored. It is the Shamanism culture that retains the unique and mysterious architectural charm of the Manchu decoration culture. This also explains what we see today is a Manchu architecture with unique culture and arts transformed from a mysterious belief.

2 Research on the decoration culture of traditional Manchu residences

In the development of Manchu residence, the Manchurians had started living in the tress and then converted their dwelling style to living on the ground. They chose the cave and nest lifestyles very early. In order to better avoid the attack of beasts, Manchu ancestors imitated birds by living in the trees, and adopted the method of building a nest to set up the house on a tree. Then, as time went by, they slowly discovered that this method of nesting could not

withstand and weather the storms when they came. Therefore, they opted for the lifestyle of underground dwellings. In the process of living, Manchu ancestors continued to transform nature, adapt to nature, and continue to learn the cultures of other ethnic groups in the vicinity. Gradually, they created methods of heating such as fire walls and kang bed-stoves. Manchu residents' lifestyle eventually transformed to a semi-cave lifestyle, transitioning to above-the-ground lifestyle, and hence, architecture above the ground started to flourish. A long time ago, the Manchu people built buildings on the ground. They used birch bark to build walls and roofs. Later, they used the slopes of the back of the mountain as the foundation for residential building sites. After the wall was built, the roof was stacked with branches and weeds. From that point onwards, Manchu people began to settle down.

The roof designs of almost all of the Manchu residential buildings adopted the yingshan style, and tiles and grass are generally used as building materials for the roof. The characteristics of Manchu residential buildings include large windows to allow sufficient amount of sunlight to illuminate the house when winter comes, so that the temperature and brightness in the house can be enhanced. During the hot summer, this design also promotes good ventilation in order to reduce the temperature and make the house cooler. Although the Manchu residential buildings do not have the elegance and chic of the southern buildings, they also have a unique artistic charm. The stone brick carving art is the most outstanding. During the evolution of the decorations of Manchu residences, the building surface has been gaining more and more decorative patterns. Specifically, the eaves are carved with auspicious patterns, the gables are inlaid with stone lions, and so on. These patterns not only exist in the royal decoration, but also often appear in ordinary residential buildings.

3 Application of the decoration culture of the traditional Manchu residences in architectural landscape design

3.1 The overall connection with the entire city is the emphasis of the protection of cultural sites

The old Manchu towns could be established for a variety of reasons, some stemming from the rise of urban commercial bazaars, and some stemming from

the need to set up checkpoints to guard the territory and eventually become city halls. Regardless of the reason, the constructions of these towns share some similarities, i.e. to follow the laws of nature and to establish according to the local topographical characteristics. In order to protect the area of Manchu culture, not only the original appearance features should be protected, but also the existing basic characteristics should be analyzed to dismantle the original form and make it an important element of urban construction planning. The construction technology, material composition, and design methods of the Manchu culture site should be analyzed and categorized. Through the restoration method and the overall preservation, the Manchu historical heritage should be properly protected for inheritance and development. The materials, construction techniques, and design methods of Manchu architecture can also be incorporated to the modern urban architecture so that the cities and villages with Manchu culture can have the artistic beauty of design and their own artistic characteristics.

The old Manchu town is actually a city. The town meets the needs of general urban development, and it is very important to strike a balance between conservation and development in the development of such ethnic and historic sites in the city. At the same time, while we cannot neglect conservation and protection of these important historical sites, we must also pay attention to development in the process of site protection. If the development of old city quarters is emphasized, the authenticity of historical heritage will be destroyed, the use of modern design, technology and scenery will be overwhelming, the importance of protection will be neglected, and eventually the small, old towns with unique cultural characteristics will be demolished. In order to commercialize the city, the national cultural spirit and soul disappeared; but if the national heritage is over-protected without consideration of development, it will eventually fail to achieve true protection. In the end, the city will end up in bankruptcy. Therefore, in a certain sense, in order to protect the ancient cultural sites, it is also important to protect the ecological environment. In combination with the current development concept of urban construction, we must not destroy the ecology under the good name of heritage site conservation and artificial beautification. At the same time of protection, we must also pay attention to development and build a Manchu town with unique

artistic charm.

3.2 Inheritance of the design ideas of the natural beauty of traditional decorative arts

While designing the Manchu traditional architecture, the basic principle when choosing the location of the building is not to damage the surrounding natural environment. The mountains and rivers have a great impact on the Manchu residences. However, if the society continues to develop and human beings continue to progress, humans will gradually recognize various elements in the residence settlements, and these elements will be passed on as the concepts of formal beauty and practical beauty to human beings. In ancient times, ancestors called the cave house they lived in as a cricket. Although this kind of building is a half cave dwelling, it basically has a wooden frame. At first, ancient people excavated a space with a depth of about four ci (ponds) near the water source and the leeward hillside. The underground region is located north-west, the exit is south, and the door is built in the house. The door and ventilated windows are set at the south or southeast corner, the roof and ground are blocked with

earthen walls, and a barrier is erected at the exit with wooden boards. This is how the shadow walls of the Manchu dwellings were initially formed.

To the traditional Manchu residents, they experienced an evolutionary process in the living style from underground to the ground, from practicality to artistic beauty, and gradually approached maturity. In the later period of the Qing Dynasty, these ancient towns were full of buildings, streets and lanes, coupled with beautiful scenery. The traditional Manchu decorative art is largely influenced by the Han architectural culture. Therefore, the materials used in the house as well as the decoration and house modeling show an elegant style. What distinguishes them from the Han architecture is that in the Manchu architecture, the design of windowpanes has the auspicious meaning and style as well as the natural beauty, while the Han-style windowpanes are inclined to rigor and regularity. The beautiful imagination of natural scenery inherited from the ancestors gradually became a specific landscape design, such as a courtyard water tank, a Solo pole, a floor-mounted chimney, and a shadow wall painted with the Red Sunrise Sea.



Figure 1. a: Water tank in Qingning Palace, b: Solo pole in Qingning Palace

3.3 Purposeful inheritance in architectural landscape design

After an in-depth study of the traditional Manchu art and design culture, space creation methods, floor layout methods, furnishing designs, exterior design styles, and western decoration methods can be incorporated into the architectural landscapes during the process of designing. Due to the limitations of traditional materials, modern materials can be introduced in the design to preserve the architectural structure style of the Manchu ethnic architectural landscape, so that the ethnic characteristics can be manifested in a more obvious manner, and the complex and trivial components can

be removed. This method of inheritance cannot be equated with the traditional, classical method. Although the traditional decorative style is adopted, the ultimate goal of the functional design of architectural landscapes is to enable modern people to meet the standard requirements of life. For instance, the decorative design of the Daqinghua Hotel in Shenyang meets the requirements of modern architectural decoration both in terms of building structure and function, but it will still fully reflect the strong Manchu style in its decoration.

3.4 Displaying Manchu decoration culture with specific environmental landscape space

The continuous advancement of science and

technology and development of human life have completely obliterated the characteristics of the traditional Manchu architectural style. In order to better inherit and carry forward the ethnic characteristics, in the present Manchu Autonomous Region, the Manchu-style gardens were constructed to promote the local Manchu ethnic characteristics, not only to imitate the Manchu decoration and art of the Qing Dynasty in the architectural planning, but also to include some local ethnic cultural performances in it. For example, the Shaman Customs Garden in the Yitong Manchu Autonomous Region presents the visitors a mysterious culture of the Shamanism. The Manchu Museum in Jilin presents the performances of the shaman worship. In the Shaman Theme Park, visitors can also see the cultural exhibition areas such as Shaman Totem Forest, Jurchen Tribal Village, Shaman Culture Exhibition Hall, Shaman Temples, Shaman's Path of God, etc. The tourists are encouraged to actively participate in these tour activities. The tourists are presented the shamanism culture with a history of thousands of years, to showcase the background and connotation of shaman culture.

4 Concluding remarks

In summary, looking back at the history of human architecture, any building that can stand out from other architectures deeply expresses the local characteristic

culture and the traditional culture of the local people. By carefully studying the practicality and artistic beauty of traditional Manchu architecture, it is not difficult to find that these buildings not only have been influenced by the development and changes of the era, but also embody a lot of information in them. The patterns, colors, and carvings included in the building provide important clues for people to investigate and analyze the type, style, and cultural background of the building.

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