

A Brief Analysis Of "Wild and Exquisite" British Natural Landscape Garden

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Abstract: Thanks for the opportunity that sent students to attend the short-term academic class at University of Wales Trinity Saint David at the end of 2019, the author took this opportunity to deeply experience the local customs, cultural customs and landscape of Britain. At the same time, as a landscape design researcher, the author elaborated the design methods and elements of the British natural landscape garden. Through literature reviewing and field feeling, and compared with classical Chinese gardens, the author analyzed their similarities and differences. "Wild and exquisite" means "natural and worth thinking". The author analyzed the characteristics of several modern natural landscape garden visited and found out the moment of "wild and exquisite" in British natural landscape garden.

Keywords: Landscape Architecture; Britain; Academic exchange; Natural landscape garden

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1 PREFACE

As an important branch of European garden, one of the three major garden systems in the world, British natural landscape garden is famous for advocating "natural beauty". From the middle of the 5th century to the beginning of the 11th century, the agricultural model adopted by the Anglo Saxons provided a basic model for the development of the British rural landscape. This period can be said to be the first naturalistic period in the history of British gardening.

In the 18th century, after the aesthetic fatigue of geometric garden, the influence of Chinese garden art and romanticism, British began to develop natural landscape garden based on "nature", emphasizing "beautiful" and "comfortable", Showing "natural beauty", "beauty of life". In the construction of gardens, designers pay more attention to how to express people's feelings without changing the nature. This kind of garden features which fully respect the nature and do not destroy the natural beauty still have an important impact on the world landscape design.

British essayist and poet Joseph Addison put forward the idea that gardening should be free and wild like nature, becoming the earliest aesthetic concept of landscape gardening. Through literature review and comparison, field investigation and personal experience of the current pace of life in Britain, the author summarized the modern British natural landscape in four words: "Wild but exquisite". "Wild" refers to the traces of nature that can be seen everywhere in the British natural landscape gardens, or a stream, or a large wild grass field, or a group of naturally growing trees and flowers, etc. In these garden landscapes, although they are not as regular as the geometric garden, but every part of the garden from the entire garden to a little pond, involving the natural ecosystem of all let us moved emotionally. Be grateful for the meticulous "creation" of nature and marvel at the greatness of nature. By the way, this is the origin of the word "delicate"! Let's take a look at the typical "moments" in the British nature gardens!

2 Appearance of Large lawn area

Britain is an island country located in Western

Europe, which is surrounded by the North Sea, the English Channel, the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Its natural land-forms are mainly hills and are affected by westerly winds and oceans all year round. The climate is mild and humid throughout the year. On the other hand, because of humid and rainy weather conditions, it is very suitable for plant growth. In addition, Britain made its fortune in animal husbandry. From the middle of 5th century to the early 11th century, the Anglo-Saxons ruled Britain. The agricultural pattern of their development provided a basic model for the development of the Britain rural landscape. Today, animal husbandry is still an important part of British agriculture. Its output value accounts for about 2/3 of the total agricultural output value, which is much higher than that of planting industry. Therefore, flocks of sheep accompanied by large areas of grassland can be seen everywhere in Britain. In many gardens, the biggest feature is a large area of lawn, and is the kind of pure lawn without any flowers and plants, occasionally put a small number of landscape monomers, but in most of the time we see only lawn. This reminds me of a common skill in Chinese art creation: blank space. In the natural landscape garden, the appearance of the same species in large area can also be regarded as a kind of "blank space"! If you're lucky enough to get a sunny day, don't be happy too early, because instead of a lawn, you might see "a prairie." However, this does not affect the British people's love for it. Even in the British villas, they like to decorate their courtyards with lawns. It is difficult to imagine that there is no lawn in the garden. From this point of view, the planting of large areas of grasses not only conforms to the natural landscape structure of the British, is conducive to the development of local animal husbandry and economy, but also slowly penetrates into the construction of British private gardens.

3 Input of plants

In the early 18th century, The English believed that garden-builders were not interested in the exotic trees (new species from other countries) and the floral plants in their gardens, until the appearance of Chambers' 《The planters of The English landscape garden: The emergence of botany, trees, and the Georgics》. A book which recorded the enthusiasm of

aristocratic garden builders, clarified that one aspect of garden design was an understanding of the different trees in the garden by comparing the shape and color of the leaves. Chambers proved that for many great gardeners, new species should be introduced in order to do this. For example, someone like Peter Collinson, who was responsible for importing many plants from North America, had proven to have a great impact on the characteristics and layout of the innovation garden. As a result, there are only about 1,300 native flowering plants in the UK, but due to the unique climate, at least 12,000 plants and cultivated species have grown in British gardens today. Therefore, in today's British natural landscape gardens, we often see tall trees and large shrubs. They either exist alone in the garden, or they are attached to the stream in the garden, or they are paired with a few flowers, forming a relatively complete small landscape. But no matter what form they exist in, they have been retained in their most primitive form, presented to us in the most natural state, as if they were originally born here. On the other hand, in classical Chinese gardens, plants are usually planted naturally. The planting forms are mostly in combination with rocks, water feature and buildings. Trees are mostly low and beautiful, with simple and slow growth. They pay more attention to the artistic conception of the whole landscape!

4 The role of architecture

Since the gradual fatigue of geometric gardens in the middle of the 18th century, buildings in the British natural landscape garden are not piled up symmetrically. On the contrary, in the entire garden, the buildings only play a decorative role. "Why is this building in this position?" "Because people need to take a break here." Yes, in the British natural landscape garden, architecture, pavilion, and other small monomer are not completely attached to the specifications of the whole garden but exist just because of people's needs, people's mood. In contrast, the buildings in classical Chinese gardens are more cautious. As one of the seven elements of classical Chinese gardens, its appearance is often built according to the landscape planning trend of the whole garden. Sometimes, in order to achieve the effect of "framed scenery" and "Leaking through scenery", it is often necessary to adjust the orientation of buildings, The use of architecture is very exquisite!

5 Topographic relief

The most direct similarities between British natural landscape garden and classical Chinese garden design are irregular composition and application of multiple curves. British artists advocate "beautiful curve", that is, naturally formed, freely stretched and moderately variable lines. Almost every garden you visit has topographical relief. The natural landform of Britain is mainly hills, which are characterized by "little fluctuation and gentle slope". This "dynamic" horizon line is not only seen in the picture frames of many painters, but also defined as "natural curve" in the eyes of gardeners. Actually in a garden with a large area of lawn, if the ground is flat, not only the entire landscape will be seen at a glance, but also the entire garden will be "lifeless", and the terrain in the garden will be undulating because of the hilly land-forms. There are layers and divisions, why do you need to change it artificially? Therefore, when the British gardener constructs the garden, he will respect the terrain that is originally "natural" and "dynamic", and considers it to be a gift from nature!

6 Grey color in winter

As we all know, British people are very fond of bright colors. The color of buildings might be red, green, blue and so on. This phenomenon will often appear on the residences. So, when you are walking down a road in British, you may suddenly see a fiery red house in front of you. However, in the British natural landscape garden the author have been three, in addition to the irregular shapes in the buildings and sketches, the colors will not be gorgeous. It should be said that in winter, the color of the whole garden is grayish. In classical Chinese gardens, buildings in Northern gardens like to be "magnificent" and the use of colors is more gorgeous. Buildings in the gardens of the Yangtze Delta are mostly "gray". Plants pay more attention to seasonal changes in color. Not only green plant color blocks are used in large areas, but also red, yellow and purple plant varieties are added to form a strong visual feeling and highlight its scenery. Look at the characteristics. On the other hand, it may be the overall environment of Britain is grayish, with gray and black churches and museums everywhere. Because of the rain all year round, it is wet everywhere, making their environment wet and grayish, but the entire courtyard looks very

harmonious. In addition, the environment may have no sense of color, so people like to give bright colors to a series of monomers in their flats.

7 Setting off of the amusement facilities

The British is known for its love of fitness, with nearly 80 per cent persons in London going to the gym with friends and colleagues. So not only can you see gyms everywhere in the streets and alleys, but there are also many facilities in the outdoor gardens. The rides in the British landscape garden are far different from the blue, white and yellow fitness facilities that are common in gardens and squares in China. Mini trampoline, spinning top, cable-way and so on, not only let the children to play, even adults are waiting in line, playing, full of endless joy.

8 Conclusion

There are complex social, political, economic and cultural factors behind the appearance of British natural landscape gardens in this way. When we talk about the formation and characteristics of British natural landscape gardens, we usually take the cultural background with us. However, But in this article, we set aside a lot of distracting factors, and from the perspective of a garden designer and a visitor. We integrate the British's attitude towards life in this landscape garden, and analyze the phenomenon and explore its characteristics. It is found that in today's British natural landscape garden, although it is not as intriguing as the Chinese classical garden with terms of "desiring to develop first but suppressing first" and "turning around at the peak", but it is also "great momentum" and "simple but exquisite". Whenever you are in it, the full breath of nature comes to you, making you forget your troubles temporarily, and the effect of healing people's mind is very obvious!

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