

Reflections on the Integration of Folk Pattern Elements into the Design of Architectural Art

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Abstract: In the production and life of ancient Chinese folk artists, through the abstract and geometric arrangement of things, they formed many meaningful patterns. These patterns are widely used in a variety of decorations, reflecting the most simple artistic ideas in the life of the working people, and are also an important embodiment of folk art aesthetics. Many elements of folk patterns have been preserved to this day, and they have an important role in inspiring and guiding today's art design. This paper mainly analyzes the folk pattern elements and their artistic value, and elaborates on the application of folk pattern elements in architectural design and the specific design methods, to provide certain references for the combination of modern architectural design and traditional folk patterns.

Keywords: Folk pattern elements; Architectural design; Value

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1. Introduction

Folk art patterns are mainly derived from the extraction of elements in life. Different ethnic groups and cultures have different living habits and customs, which form a richer folk art pattern. During the thousands of years of cultural development, China has gone through many dynasties and changes in the ruling system and has formed a richer level of thinking and spirituality. However, no matter which dynasty or ethnic group, the desire for a better life is the ultimate ideal pursuit. Therefore, the main emotion reflected in folk patterns is the desire for a better life, with auspicious symbols. Traditional folk art is more varied and beautifully modeled, reflecting the ideals of the people and the symbolism of traditional culture. The application of these patterns in modern architectural design can reflect the beauty of architectural design, enrich the cultural connotation of the design and form a better artistic effect. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the importance of folk pattern elements to lay the foundation for the development of modern architectural design.

2. Overview of folk pattern elements

Folk pattern elements taken from the people's life. Different ethnic groups, different cultural backgrounds make different regions and ethnic groups to form different customs and concepts, the formation of folk art style there will also be some differences. Over thousands of years of development, the working people have experienced the changes of the times, struggled with the hardships of life, and yearned for a better life more strongly. Therefore, people's wish for a better life is also expressed in folk patterns. Traditional folk art has many kinds, simple modeling, and has a close connection with life, which can reflect the rich cultural connotation^[1]. At the same time, these patterns have been inherited in the development of history, and have been widely used in the decoration of homes, costumes, houses and various major ceremonies. The different forms of plants and animals, geometric and natural landscapes in folk pattern elements contain the fantasies and inner will of the creators, and can also convey good wishes in application.

3. The value of folk patterns integrated into architectural design

The integration of folk patterns into architectural art design can reflect relatively strong regional and national characteristics. At the same time, folk patterns contain the meaning of auspiciousness and wealth, and integrating folk patterns into modern architectural art design can enhance the cultural connotation of architectural design. For example, the architectural design of the tiled pattern, in which the Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Vermilion Bird and Black Tortoise, and other beasts, carved in the building with the meaning of home protection, has a very good meaning. At the same time, these auspicious animals are also an important part of traditional culture, and their application in architectural decoration is conducive to enhancing the momentum of architectural space and better spreading the national spirit. Especially with the development of industrialization, people's pursuit of spiritual life continues to improve, the integration of traditional folk patterns in architectural design can express the aspirations of modern people for a better life, provide better spiritual solace for the public, show the profundity of traditional culture, and enhance cultural self-confidence.

At the same time, the problem of homogenization in the current architectural art design is more obvious, and there is a lack of breakthrough in artistic design innovation. Traditional folk pattern is a decorative pattern with deep cultural connotation inherited for thousands of years, extracted from life, which contains traditional Chinese aesthetic elements. Although part of the pattern is no longer in line with the current aesthetic characteristics, it can be extracted and reorganized through the elements of these patterns, and the current architectural art design fusion, the formation of modern and classical aesthetic collision, can still enhance the aesthetic level of architectural art, to solve the problem of homogenization of architectural art design^[2].

In addition, every nation has a characteristic culture, these cultural contents will be passed down through various ways. Folk pattern elements is an important traditional cultural heritage carrier, has a very strong national characteristics, carrying the spirit of China's culture of thousands of years, and has an important role in promoting the development of contemporary social spirit and culture. Folk pattern itself has a relatively unique artistic expression ability, can show a good national character. After the development of several dynasties, the cultural connotation of folk pattern is richer, and the integration with modern culture is the inheritance of traditional culture. The application in architectural art design can, along with the development of the construction industry, let people around the world understand the development process of Chinese culture and history. In the great collision of Chinese and Western culture, the symbolic development of folk patterns can preserve the essence and heritage

of traditional Chinese culture, promote the inheritance of traditional culture, and show the charm of local culture.

4. The application of folk pattern elements in architectural art design

4.1. Application of wall design

The wall is an important decorative content in architectural design, and it is also the main application location of folk pattern elements. Modern wall space design more common decorations include wallpaper, decorative paintings, wall paintings, wood carvings and other components. All of these decorations can be decorated with traditional patterns, following the overall decoration style and preferences to form a complicated or simple pattern decoration form. The choice of pattern should be combined with the spatial properties of the wall as well as the location of the area and the material decoration basis, etc., to ensure that the pattern fits the space. For example, if the wall's skirting line is selected as a wooden material, the pattern can be made of simple patterns such as corrugated and geometric patterns, which will not be too complicated and can match most of the decoration styles.

4.2. Ceiling design application

There is a big difference between the ceiling in modern architecture and the ceiling in ancient architecture. The structure of the ceiling in traditional architecture is mainly wooden, while the decoration and structure are more complicated. Some higher-level buildings will set up algae wells, birdbaths, and other complicated structural decorations, and a large number of patterns will be applied, among which the more commonly used patterns include fish, peony or geometric patterns. These patterns are colorful and rich in form ^[3]. The ceiling design of modern buildings is generally more simple, and the top of a single color, will not use a large number of complex color decorations. Therefore, the application of folk patterns in modern architectural decoration will be innovative based on the original, such as pattern decoration around the lamps or ceilings (**Figure 1**). The pattern decoration around the ceiling is generally simple, using geometric patterns such as a back-word pattern and swastika pattern, or simple plant and flower pattern, which can be combined with the specific decoration style to determine the pattern form. Most of the patterns around the lamps are based on plant patterns, which are relatively more complex.



Figure 1. Peony-patterned ceiling

4.3. Ground design application

Modern building floor decoration materials are mainly wood flooring, ceramic tiles, natural stone and carpets, etc. These materials can be processed through the later formation of patterns, adding artistic flavor. Different architectural functions can be combined to design different patterned structures. For example, for large buildings such as hotels, restaurants, and shopping malls, they can be spliced into various patterns through the collage process. A single piece of pattern can be used to form the pavement of the pattern sequence structure after splicing. Generally, for a large range of paving, you can choose a large and simple pattern structure, and for a small range of paving, you can choose a small pattern. Through the choice of floor pattern structure, a unique aesthetic characteristics can be formed.

4.4. Soft decoration design application

The soft decoration in the building can enhance the sense of space hierarchy, divide the functional areas inside the building, and form a more artistic and aesthetic architectural space structure. Common architectural soft decorations include screens, partitions, and so on. The material of the screen can be made of different material structures such as brocade, glass, metal, wood, etc., and the screen is usually set up with decorations such as openwork carvings or relief carvings (**Figure 2**). In the architectural design, the material and pattern selection of the screen need to be based on the overall space and meet the spatial function. There are more choices of patterns for screens, and any patterns with auspicious symbols can be applied to screen decoration. In addition to the screen partition, furniture is also an important part of the building's interior soft decoration. Traditional folk patterns are widely used in modern furniture, such as simple patterns in Ming furniture, paper-cut patterns, and facial elements. The setting of the pattern should be matched with the overall style of the furniture, and to ensure the appropriateness, avoid the area and shape of the pattern is too complex, resulting in the furniture structure is too fancy or cumbersome, and it is difficult to maintain coordination with the internal space of the building.



Figure 2. Folk geometric patterns of screen

4.5. Application of display design

Chinese folk pattern elements are currently widely used in the decoration art design of architectural interior space, in addition to furniture, tables and chairs, etc., can also be applied to other decorations, such as curtains, lamps, hanging pictures, vases and so on. These exhibits themselves have artistic design characteristics, so there are more choices in the application of folk pattern elements, including auspicious meaning of dragon and phoenix pattern, plant pattern and momofuku pattern, etc. Some exhibits will also integrate calligraphy text pattern, such as curtains, pillows, and so on. The selection of these exhibits needs to conform to the overall style of the building interior, and can also be used to create the atmosphere of the building in the form of mixing and matching, according to the owner's personal preference to choose the corresponding pattern.

5. The method of integrating folk pattern elements into architectural art design

5.1. Direct application of folk pattern elements

The application of folk pattern elements in architectural design can enhance the humanistic atmosphere of the building, and through the combination of patterns and appropriate changes, the decorative pattern can be formed in line with modern aesthetic. However, in some architectural designs, in order to emphasize the traditional cultural characteristics and create a retro style, folk pattern elements are usually applied directly. For example, the most common “Reversal pattern” is widely used in the architectural design of new Chinese style, which is used in the TV background wall, screen, furniture, and wall decoration of the tea room (**Figure 3**)^[4]. At the same time, the application of patterns with auspicious symbols such as plant patterns, fish patterns, and dragon and phoenix patterns is also relatively wide and can be applied to the decoration of various spaces inside the building without strict application requirements.



Figure 3. The decoration of the TV background wall

5.2. Integration and application of folk pattern elements

Some of the folk patterns are quite old, their structure is cumbersome and does not conform to the current aesthetic, so they are not suitable for direct application in architectural art design. In the application of this pattern, it is necessary to reintegrate the pattern, simplify the pattern, and conform to the current aesthetic characteristics. There are several common ways: First, the traditional folk patterns are simplified and deformed. Simplified and deformed patterns are more in line with the current concept of minimalist architectural design. The deformation of the pattern generally retains a part of the pattern with a moral meaning, the elements of which are refined and summarized to achieve the pattern of the reconstruction. Second, the elements of the traditional folk patterns are disrupted and reorganized. The traditional folk patterns are divided and then recombined. Different recombination methods such as overlapping, rotating, and juxtaposing of pattern elements can be used to make the structure of pattern have the rhythmic beauty of change and unity from a visual point of view. It not only makes the pattern more in line with modern aesthetics, but also gives the pattern a richer meaning.

5.3. Abstract application of folk pattern elements

The most common folk pattern in architectural design is the geometric pattern, which is also more in line with the modern aesthetic pattern form. In architectural art design, the traditional folk patterns can be abstracted by combining the construction process and the overall architectural style, and some more concise structures can be formed. For example, large patterns can be abstracted into simple geometric patterns, or further simplified into the pattern form of point, line, and surface structure. The modeling changes of traditional folk patterns have a strong logic, which is in line with the modern design features, and can better reflect the imagery and structural beauty of patterns.

6. The strategy of integrating folk pattern elements into architectural art design

6.1. Understanding the connotation of folk pattern elements

When folk pattern elements are integrated into architectural art design, first of all, designers should fully understand the connotation of folk pattern elements in order to ensure the rationality of pattern application. The elements of folk patterns are relatively rich, among which the most traditional pattern is mainly the lucky symbol such as the character for happiness, longevity and plant patterns, for example, plum, orchid, bamboo and chrysanthemum, or regional and ethnic patterns, such as Shaanxi paper cutting. In the study of traditional folk patterns, it is necessary to have a comprehensive understanding of the symbolism, color characteristics, and stylistic features of patterns. Many patterns in architectural art design cannot be applied directly, but have to be abstracted and deformed before being applied to the design. If the characteristics of folk patterns are not understood, the subsequent secondary creation will be affected, leading to unreasonable problems in the application of patterns in architectural design ^[5].

6.2. Innovate the application of folk patterns

The application of folk pattern elements to architectural design work needs to be combined with the design needs and architectural style of the pattern for innovative combinations. Designers should make a comprehensive analysis from the concept of modern design and the connotation of traditional patterns, and then extract and optimize the patterns to meet the aesthetic needs of modern architectural art. They should also try to combine folk pattern elements with other arts to enhance the humanistic flavor and aesthetic level of modern architecture. For

example, it can integrate the relief craft with folk patterns or integrate traditional patterns in decorative murals, etc., so as to create an architectural art style with an ancient Chinese style.

6.3. Rational planning pattern space layout

The design of spatial layout is an important element in modern architectural design, which can divide the building into different functional areas and can also create a hierarchical space within the building. The application of traditional folk pattern in the space layout should be combined with different functional areas and the characteristics of the building to form a fusion of elements to build a harmonious and unified space structure system, so as to ensure that the folk pattern elements are skillfully applied and form a subtle connection relationship in the space. For example, the entrance of the building can be designed with folk pattern decorations, and then with the extension of the wall to form the link of patterns, connecting the divided space with patterns of the same elements to form a whole, forming a more ethnic and characteristic architectural space.

6.4. Emphasis on integration with modern elements

In modern architectural design, the design and application of folk pattern elements need to meet the requirements and aesthetics of modern architectural design, so they must be effectively integrated with modern elements. In the application of folk pattern elements, according to the symbolism of the pattern, as well as the structure, color and other effective integration with modern architecture, designers should avoid the application of pattern is too abrupt. For example, in the application of patterns in the study, you can try to use Chinese characters and plant patterns, which can enhance the humanistic atmosphere of the study. For the living room, auspicious characters such as the character for good fortune and longevity can be used, which has good implications. For the elevator room, stairs, and other positions, geometric patterns can be used as the main design content, which looks more simple and the process is simple.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the integration of folk pattern elements into architectural design is conducive to enriching architectural design elements, promoting the inheritance and development of traditional culture, and better displaying local culture on the world stage. The design and application of folk pattern elements can be combined with the requirements of architectural design, using direct application, reintegration, and abstraction to integrate the elements to meet the current aesthetic characteristics and form a diversified aesthetic form. At the same time, it is also necessary to choose patterns reasonably according to different positions of architectural design, meet the aesthetic needs of different functional areas, and ensure the rationality of the application of folk patterns.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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