

Functional Transformation and Cultural Reproduction in Old City Blocks

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Abstract: In recent years, China has vigorously carried out urbanization construction and continued to expand the construction of extensive cities at a high speed, resulting in waste of urban resources and deterioration of the ecological environment. The break-up development has led to the insufficient maintenance of infrastructure in old urban areas and the decline of residents' living standards. This paper analyzes the old street reconstruction model with complex environment, poor conditions and low starting point, and summarizes the direction theory of urban old district functional transformation. Moreover, this paper points out that the implementation plan should pay attention to the problems faced, and put forward the principle points of the transformation and transformation of the old streets in the city. This will help to study how to use the cultural industry to drive the transformation of service functions in old neighborhoods, turning waste into treasure, and providing a new transformation model that can be referenced.

1. Research background

1.1 Literature review

In the development and evolution of modern cities, there are three manifestations: cultural and creative blocks, creative parks and cultural and creative agglomeration areas. The largest proportion of them is urban blocks. Society is progressing and cities are developing. The coexistence of old and new districts in cities, the simplicity of district functions and the inefficiency of public facilities have created some resistance to the modernization of cities (Zhan and Chen, 2017). The newly built closed community has no breath of life and lacks interpersonal communication. Old neighborhoods built decades ago are so poor that they can't harmonize with modern people's life concepts (Ji et al, 2019). At present, there is an additional task in the transformation of urban functions, that is, to unify the style of new and old communities, and to coordinate and update new and renovated communities (Sun and Wang, 2017). The unique cultural carrying function of the old blocks in Chinese cities preserves many historical memories of the city's development (Chen, 2018). After exploring and researching, the theory of gradual and micro-renewal urban renewal is gradually put forward (Ning et al, 2016). Most organizations begin to pay more attention to the construction of open space and shared environment in urban streets (Wang and Han, 2016).

1.2 Research purposes

Generally, there are many reasons to promote the renovation of old urban areas. The term “old and old” refers to the aging of buildings, narrow streets and lack of public areas. The main structure of the building is intact, but it has not been regularly updated and maintained, so that it can not meet the living needs of residents. The main structure of the building is intact, but it has not been regularly updated and maintained, so that it can not meet the living needs of residents. Or its geographical location, which affects the future development of the city planning. In recent years, there are not abundant guidance materials specially for urban block renovation. This paper focuses on the functional transformation and cultural reproduction of old urban areas.

2. Types of functional conversion of old urban blocks

The historical experience summarizes that in the cultural direction, there are six main types of

development that can be chosen for urban blocks: cultural blocks, industrial blocks, residential blocks, commercial blocks, newly built blocks and all-inclusive integrated blocks. Cultural block is a block with many cultural properties. For example, the original local characteristics of traditional building communities, or cultural celebrities, well-known organizations of the former residence, office space, the place where events occurred. Classic scenes depicted in the pictures of famous novels, movies and TV dramas. The representative streets formed are different from those in other areas with unique regional characteristics. It is not only the historical witness of urban development, but also of high humanistic and historical value. Industrial blocks generally exist in industrial urban areas. Due to policy changes or poor management, there are many large spaces left in the closed factory area, such as old factory buildings, warehouses, workshops and so on. It is very suitable for creating creative studios, exhibition halls and Hotels with strong industrial style, serving for cultural and creative activities. It has the characteristics of easy transformation, rough and clear, and few restrictions. The original intention of residential block construction is to meet the residential needs of residents. Provide all facilities needed for the living of the residents. It has relatively perfect living service infrastructure, better traffic conditions, green vegetation streets and complete public facilities. To provide a perfect space for communication and activities among residents. Commercial blocks have the best and most expensive parts of the city. Provide the geographical conditions and actual places for business activities. The purpose of existence is to satisfy the consumption demand of residents, at the same time, to make profits for business owners and provide financial power for social development. To provide stable and lasting economic support for the development of other types of cultural and creative blocks. New-built blocks are new blocks built in the vicinity of new urban districts and universities in the initial period of construction. Creating new-built blocks is most conducive to the realization of cultural and creative blocks coexisting and flourishing with the city at the same time. The comprehensive block is a mixture of the above block types. Corresponding to the different types of urban blocks with the above characteristics, the construction emphasis of comprehensive cultural and creative blocks should also be adjusted accordingly.

3. Problems in urban old block renovation

Achievements in the process of urbanization are not achieved suddenly. There are countless failures and setbacks behind them. Each city has its own unique constraints. Problems inevitably arise, but if we do not pay attention to them and solve them in time, small hidden dangers will eventually affect the overall situation of urban old neighborhood renovation.

3.1 Old urban areas attach importance to new construction and neglect protection

Under the background of government-led urban renewal of old neighborhoods, we can't just dismantle and build new ones. Instead, we should treat some concentrated streets with cultural relics and historic sites differently, make reasonable planning and adjustment, make arrangements for long-term protection and repair, promote and publicize the value of the historic features of old urban areas, and protect the architectural landscape containing historical culture and urban memory. Avoid pursuing the same speed and roughly demolishing the transformation method. Although this approach meets the requirements of rapid development in the short term, it does not maximize the value of urban culture in the long run.

3.2 Over-development of commercialized cities is similar

In urban renewal and renovation, because of the similarities and differences of the optional building decoration materials, the design ability is weak and it is not an external person who studies the local culture. New design concept, compromise to standardization and easy operation. Many urban commercial forms are eager to make quick profits, eager to earn profits, and plan a good location on the street as an over developed shop to rent or sell products with no local characteristics such as meals and souvenirs. At the same time, there is no reasonable allocation and guidance from the macro level, which leads to serious homogenization, incongruity with the environment, and hidden dangers for the competition conflicts of peers. Foreign tourists will eventually find that the

same shops, where the same goods are, have lost the sense of identity and belonging to the city's culture.

3.3 Loss of urban humanistic value

Each city has its own unique history and culture. It needs to collect the local regional characteristics and spiritual connotations and summarize the cultural symbols needed by the blocks. As the key to distinguish different cities, it embodies the pursuit of a city's specific connotation and humanistic significance. The history of every city's development should be remembered. It is better to be able to pass on to future generations with new developments and changes. Reflected in the accumulation of culture, reflects the humanistic value of the city.

4. Principles of functional conversion and renovation of old urban blocks

For example, the trend reflected in the transformation of Nanluogu Lane (see Figure 1) in Beijing, the popular theory of cultural regeneration in old urban areas is changing quietly.



Figure 1. Nanluogu Lane

For the protection of human value, pay attention to details. At the same time, we should pay attention to the persistence and gradualness. There are four specific principles.

4.1 Protecting Cultural Characteristics

It is divided into two parts: explicit and invisible elements. On the one hand, it has shown the dominant elements of unique features, vigorously protect the original style, and prominently publicize regional differences. Create a unique brand of cultural blocks. We should vigorously promote and artistically reproduce the hidden elements of history and culture, publicize cultural characteristics and integrate them with real life. Continue to promote positive values to the residents of the city block. Care for the living environment, cherish the natural environment, and attach importance to the inherent culture of the city.

4.2 Restore urban texture

Retain the unique order and law of the city, and construct a transformation schedule to adapt to the rhythm of modern life. Regardless of streets and alleys or residents' homes, the old urban renewal and transformation can not go against the habits formed over the years. Respecting order means respecting the urban people, so as to win support and further development. In the process of urban renewal, we should follow the different rhythms of life in each urban area and improve the efficient communication mechanism.

4.3 Creating Landscape Environment

The importance of modern urban public open space is self-evident. Continuing to optimize and upgrade the public environment is a special concern of the residents of urban blocks. Compared with the old urban areas, the infrastructure is not complete and the living environment is deteriorating day by day. Nowadays, the change of landscape environment has been supported by ordinary residents. To a certain extent, it promotes the technological transformation of landscape transformation, and in turn, it promotes the realization of urban environmental improvement.

4.4 Encouraging Community Vitality

A large proportion of the residents in the old urban areas are also older, and the high aging rate makes the blocks lack the vitality of change. In order to maintain the healthy development of the city and stimulate the vitality of the old urban areas, the residents should set an example from the root. Usually, by means of door-to-door survey, we can get the real willingness data of residents for urban renewal, and list the feasibility lists that can achieve the expectations. In the form of voting and public announcement, residents can express their opinions, participate in the work within their capabilities, and complete urban transformation bit by bit, so as to stimulate community vitality. On the premise of maintaining the cultural connotation, the historical landmark buildings should be retained in order to excavate the vitality of the transformation of cultural blocks.

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