

Study on the Construction Planning of Liangshan Yi Characteristic Villages and Towns Based on Regional Culture

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Abstract: Liangshan Yi area in Sichuan province is the largest Yi people settlement in China, whose distinctive villages and towns, traditional architecture and folk culture all have obvious national and local features. With the propulsion of the construction of the distinctive villages and towns of the Liangshan Yi nationality, a new settlement layout and building types have been gradually formed, which brings unavoidable challenges to the traditional settlement space and architectural context of the Yi nationality in Liangshan. For example, the indigenous activity space was disrupted, and the associated traditional cultural conventions were weakened; Traditional dwelling buildings were torn down and replaced with new brick - concrete buildings. For the series of issues, this paper focuses on the analysis of the traditional architecture and settlement space of the Yi characteristic villages and towns in Liangshan from the perspective of regional culture, which puts forward that it is necessary to inherit and innovate traditional culture in the construction of Liangshan Yi characteristic villages and towns by means of rational planning to perfect spatial layout. In this way, the living environment of residents can be improved and the Liangshan Yi distinctive villages and towns can be created.

1. Introduction

Liangshan Yi area in Sichuan province is the largest Yi people settlement in China. They have lived in the more isolated remote mountainous areas for generations with poor transportation, and the power of the central society could not be fully reached in history. Therefore, until the founding of new China, the Yi people in Liangshan still maintained the social system of slavery for a long time. However, the closed living environment and the primitive social institution have allowed various national customs and traditional cultures that have been precipitated in the social history of the Yi people to be preserved relatively intact. Moreover, its architecture fully reflects the architectural style and features and architectural philosophy inherited by Yi nationality, which is a good object for the analysis and research of Yi nationality's architectural culture. Therefore, taking Liangshan Yi culture as the research object has the guiding significance for the construction and planning of its characteristic villages and towns.

2. The Cultural Features of Liangshan Yi Nationality

Liangshan Yi nationality is developed from the two branches of the yi ancestors, which has never established a relatively unified national power, there were many tribes and partitioned the Liangshan by force, with strong foreign exclusiveness and extreme maintenance of internal system. It is for this reason that the system of family clan reflecting the primary-level of Yi culture and the ancestor worship with ancient style have been completely conserved in Liangshan Yi region, and Liangshan Yi culture plays a role of subjective stability in the inheritance of the entire Yi culture.

2.1 The Worship of Ancestral Soul Established on the Clan System

In the culture of the Yi people in Liangshan, the system of clan family and the belief of ancestral soul in history are reserved. Ancestral soul worship is the most representative religious and cultural

characteristic of the Yi people, which means that any person concerned religious effect is expressed in the form of ancestor's spiritual response. For example, the ghost concept of animism is mainly manifested by the interaction between the soul of all things and the soul of the ancestral spirit, such as worship of the ancestral spirit and exorcism of ghosts. In addition, there are still a variety of conventional cultural phenomena in Liangshan Yi area, such as the Torch Festival, cremation ceremony, evocation ceremony and other important events presenting the traits of the Yi people.

2.2 The Idea of Natural Ecology of Yi People in Liangshan

Because they have been living for generations in high ranges in Liangshan mountains, at the same time, Liangshan Yi people take semi-grazing and semi-tillage, emphasis on animal husbandry over agriculture as their major production pattern and attitude, which is a self-sufficient natural economy. This makes Liangshan Yi people have a strong dependence on natural resources such as mountains, rivers, forests and mountains, which have become the dominant factor to control their economic life. In the long period of mountain life, the Liangshan Yi people have instinctively maintained the organic natural ecological viewpoint and formed a special relationship with the natural environment. Based on the simple understanding and worship of nature, the Yi people of Liangshan will never destroy, waste or over-exploit all kinds of ecological resources as long as their certain production and living needs are met. They have also formed many rules for the rational utilization and protection of ecological resources in the long-term production process, and even implemented them in the form of traditional customs or taboos.

3. The Traditional Building Characteristics of Liangshan Yi Nationality

Liangshan Yi people not only have traditional ethnic culture and customs and ritual, but also retain their own unique settlement space and architectural form. The architectural type of Liangshan Yi nationality is relatively single, and the primary carrier of its architectural culture is the traditional dwellings of the Yi people in Liangshan, and the whole courtyard undertakes the multiple functions of residence, living, gathering, funeral ceremony and religious rites of the Yi people.

3.1 Settlement Space

Most of the Yi people in Liangshan live in mountainous areas, and the spatial layout of their settlements is free and flexible, with aggregated-pattern settlement spaces selected for the needs of clan relations, and also discrete settlement spaces without clear village boundaries and scattered in accordance with the mountains, presenting a special pattern of picturesque disorder as a whole. The Yi people's settlement in Liangshan has its special texture. The folk houses are scattered in all regions in accordance with the level of the terrain. In each village, there are small nodes like grain drying field and small field dam, which form natural association space in production and life, and are important places for people to live and communicate. Coupled with the garden, orchard, water mill and other living scenes, the layout of the whole Yi village in Liangshan is well integrated with the natural scenery, forming its peculiar traditional human environment.

3.2 Color for Architecture

In terms of the use of architectural colors, the Yi people in Liangshan regard black and red as their values, matching them with yellow, white and green, etc. Yi people in Liangshan have a tradition of advocating black, for black has the meaning of rank, is the most distinguished color, and the articles of daily use of the general noblesse are mostly black. At the same time, they worship fire, so the colors of red and yellow are treated as auspicious. The Yi people in Liangshan do not like the use of color in building components, giving priority to the color of raw wood, which embodies the beauty of simplicity close to nature. They only use appropriate colors to decorate and intersperse with patterns in local areas, which is also related to the traditional view of nature of the Yi people in Liangshan that wood has life.

3.3 Building Materials

Because the area where Liangshan Yi people live is steeper with inconvenient transportation and backward materials and technology, lightweight, portable and easy to process material is their main choice of building materials, and wood naturally become the preference, which is used for residential interior space structure and roof. Second, rammed earth is a major feature of Liangshan Yi architecture. Rammed earth is a stouter building material in the earth material. Rammed earth wall has good thermal insulation effect, but also with local materials, low cost and other characteristics. In addition, straw, wood, bamboo and other materials are also used in Liangshan Yi's buildings, which are featured by easy material selection, easy construction and easy disassembly.

3.4 Architectural Culture

The Yi people of Liangshan have their own unique aesthetic idea. On the basis of their own life style and customs, religious etiquette and taboos, they have created a specific architectural style with rich national characteristics. The religious view of Liangshan Yi people is the primitive religion of animism, and the ancestral spirit belief generated by the worship of ancestors supports the architectural culture of the whole Yi nationality in Liangshan. All kinds of public activities of Liangshan Yi nationality are around the vernacular dwelling, which well interprets the concept of "home" in the ancestral spirit belief, so vernacular dwelling is an important manifestation of the architectural culture of Liangshan Yi nationality. Liangshan Yi folk houses are an integral part of Chinese dwelling system and an essential treasure in the history of Chinese architecture.

4. Construction and Planning of Characteristic Villages and Towns of Yi Nationality in Liangshan

In recent years, the construction of characteristic villages and towns in Liangshan Yi nationality area has improved the living standard of villagers. However, with the rapid development of economy, the Yi nationality in Liangshan is communicating with the outside world more and more closely, while its traditional culture is being eroded by foreign culture. The traditional mode of life and living habits are gradually assimilated into modern life, which is manifested in the following aspects: massive loss of population, disintegration of village settlement form; Food habits and traditional costume have been gradually Chinesized; Festival activities and religious sacrificial activities that carry the traditional culture of the Yi nationality gradually fade out of people's life, etc. These changes in life style, values and interpersonal relationship lead to the collapse of the public social relations which depend on family, clan and village collectivity. Therefore, in the process of constructing characteristic villages and towns, how to effectively protect the traditional settlement space and village culture of Liangshan Yi nationality has become a top priority.

4.1 Protecting Traditional and Distinctive Villages and Towns

In the construction of the characteristic villages and towns of the Yi nationality in Liangshan, the traditional settlement space and characteristic buildings of the Yi nationality should be preserved. In the planning process, in addition to improving the infrastructure of villages and towns, the original local landform should be respected, and some intrinsic settlement texture and construction facilities should be retained in the design. It is necessary to repair and reconstruct the peculiar structures such as watchtower, water mill and wooden palisade remained in some villages so as to continue their local characteristics. At the same time, the original village arrangement, architectural modeling, transportation system and courtyard pattern should be retained, and the intact traditional villages and towns should be proceeded protective repair. Through the preservation of ancient buildings, ancient streets, ancient tree species, the unique rural style can be maintained, and supporting with modern public facilities, the human settlement will be improved to enhance the quality of life.

4.2 Inheritance of Traditional Architectural Techniques

In the historical precipitation, Liangshan Yi people have gradually formed their own unique

aesthetic concept. According to the local production and living conditions, customs, etc., in the model of the house, decoration, space layout, they have created a strong ethnic architectural style. In consequence, in the design of the residential architecture, it is necessary to extract the iconic national cultural elements according to the traditional residential style and geographical characteristics of the Yi nationality in Liangshan, combined with the form representation, spatial structure, environmental awareness and construction technology of the Yi nationality's traditional architecture, blend it into the architectural style, to design the residential building schematic drawings with prominent national and regional characteristics. In the meantime, since there are no special books to record the traditional crafts of the Yi people in Liangshan, only relying on the craftsmen's oral transmission, it is required to strengthen the unified management and training of the traditional construction craftsmen. The craftsmen in the village are responsible for the scheduled maintenance of the traditional featured buildings, the proper preservation of the text and video materials on architectural knowledge and skills, and apply these traditional construction techniques to the construction of Liangshan Yi characteristic villages and towns.

4.3 Reasonable Color Collocation to Avoid Excessive Fancy

The traditional vernacular dwellings in Liangshan Yi region are mainly made of raw wood color, which is related to the traditional view of nature of Liangshan Yi people that wood has life, which are only matched with appropriate carving decorations in some areas, or decorated and interspersed with patterns by color painting, so as to reflect the beauty of being close to nature. Therefore, large area color rendering is not suitable for the whole building. In terms of the color selection of external walls, white can be used uniformly, or according to the material characteristics of rammed earth commonly used in Yi architecture, the color of rammed earth can be processed for external walls to reserve the original charm of the house. Black, red, yellow, green and other colors can be used in the interior space of residential buildings to make the indoor space more ethnic.

4.4 Flexible Space Layout, to Meet the Traditional Etiquette Customs

In the construction process of Liangshan Yi characteristic villages and towns, the space layout of residential buildings should be flexible and comfortable. While meeting people's basic living needs, it is necessary to retain some ethnic traditional characteristics of the spatial framework, so that it can bear people's traditional customs and rites. For example, keep the function of "fireplace" of Liangshan Yi nationality. As the activity center of the family, the fireplace undertakes the functions of gathering, communicating, heating and cooking. The shrine where ancestral spirits are placed directly above the fireplace can bless the peace of the children and good weather for the crops. In addition, a large area can be reserved in part of the central hall for activities such as daily sacrifices and holiday hospitality, while the public grain drying field formed spontaneously in the settlement can be preserved as well.

4.5 The Inheritance of Traditional Architectural Culture

The construction of Liangshan Yi characteristic villages and towns should be based on the traditional culture, developing and continuing the indigenous culture and mores in innovation, and scientifically inherit the ethnic architecture context. The settlement space under construction and the presentation of native culture in the dwellings concern the continuation and development of the spirit of Yi nationality. The construction planning of Liangshan Yi characteristic villages and towns should be adapted to the local conditions, proceed from the actual needs of the people, scientific and reasonable planning should be conducted to build public activity space applicable to local culture and customs, and build a new village with beautiful human settlement and rich mountain national features.

5. Conclusion

In today's world cultural homogenization has become increasingly serious, how to scientifically protect and develop traditional architectural culture of Liangshan Yi nationality area, and reserve its

national traditional architectural context, are the necessary means to continue national memory and satisfy people's sense of cultural belonging. Therefore, the construction planning of Liangshan Yi characteristic villages and towns must comply with the requirements of consistent overall scene. The location of residential buildings should be located near mountains and rivers with well-arranged distribution. The residential buildings should retain the traditional settlement space and the architectural style of Yi nationality. The internal layout of residential buildings should be flexible and aesthetic to meet the requirements of traditional customs and etiquette. The exterior design of village featured landscape, lighting and other facilities should also be integrated with the vernacular dwelling style; Building materials should be used locally as far as possible to achieve the unity of building materials and the overall rural landscape. On the other hand, it is necessary to take into full account the primitive terrain and landform features of villages and towns, combine with the local ecological environment such as green plants and water system, and create characteristic villages and towns with harmonious coexistence of national features and natural environment.

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