

Research on the Application of Lingnan Traditional Cultural Elements in Modern Architectural Decoration

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Abstract: This paper first studies the concept category, essence and characteristics of traditional cultural elements in Lingnan. Next, it analyzes the application of Lingnan traditional cultural elements in modern architectural decoration from the aspects of appearance, artistic features and technical craft. Then, it extracts three application methods of Lingnan traditional cultural elements in modern architectural decoration. Finally, it emphasizes the importance of innovation in the inheritance and application of Lingnan traditional cultural elements in modern architectural decoration design.

1. Overview of Lingnan

Lingnan is a regional concept. Located in the southernmost part of China, it has a tropical and subtropical monsoon climate, abundant rainfall, many mountains and rivers, and complex topography. In ancient times, it was isolated from the Central Plains, which affected the development of Lingnan, and was known as the barbarian region. At the same time, its relatively closed geographical location is good to form its own unique local culture. At the same time, because of the long coastline of the mainland, it ranks first in the country and is easy to go to the world and accept overseas culture, which makes Lingnan a window for our cultural exchange with foreign countries. Chinese Confucianism, the four great inventions, porcelain, clothing and architectural technical crafts have been introduced to different parts of the world through the window of Lingnan, while foreign culture has also been introduced to China. Frequent foreign exchanges have formed the features and traditions that is open in politics, economy, culture and social life in the region.

2. Categories of Lingnan Traditional Cultural Elements

Lingnan traditional cultural elements are contained in Lingnan traditional culture. The types and essential characteristics of Lingnan culture can be divided into three cultural systems from a macro perspective: multiculture, marine and commercial culture; From an intermediate perspective, it is divided into: ideological culture, artistic culture, food culture (Guangfu cuisine, Chaozhou cuisine, Hakka cuisine, tea culture, tea snacks, etc.), language culture (Guangfu, Hakka, Chaoshan), folk culture (age and season, weddings and funerals, folk costumes, beliefs and customs), and religious culture (Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity, Catholicism, Islam); From a micro perspective, it is refined into: ideological culture includes ancient thought, modern thought of democratic revolution, and modern thought of socialist reform and opening-up. And, Lingnan's artistic culture includes ancient folk rap, Guangfu music, Cantonese opera, architectural art, Lingnan school of painting, folk art, Hakka folk songs, film art, etc.

3. The Essence and Characteristics of Lingnan Traditional Cultural Elements

Lingnan traditional cultural elements are the sum of material culture and spiritual culture created by the Lingnan people in long-term social practice. About the essence of Lingnan culture, there are several representative points of view: Lingnan culture is a kind of primitive culture with perceptual nature; Lingnan culture is an inclusive immigration culture; Lingnan culture is a kind of commercial culture and secular culture; Lingnan culture is a kind of marine culture. In ancient times, because of the isolation between Lingnan and the Central Plains, the special location factors and the influence

of production and lifestyle, Lingnan culture is not as orthodox as that of the north. On the contrary, it is more of a secular culture, a primitive, pluralistic, perceptual and unorthodox secular culture.

Thus, the characteristics of Lingnan traditional cultural elements mainly include: emphasis on commerce, openness, compatibility, pluralism, innovation, pragmatism, hedonism and intuition (less abstract concepts and reason, more sensibility, interest, plot, image novelty and ordinary citizen sentiment).

4. Application of Lingnan Traditional Cultural Elements in Modern Architectural Decoration

4.1 Reflection of Appearance

Architecture should be both practical and beautiful, so it has both characteristics of technical craft and art. First of all, from the technical point of view, in order to adapt to the climate and landform of Lingnan, Lingnan ancient architecture is characterized by a combination of patios and courtyards. This kind of architecture is practical, closed outside and open inside, flexibly combined, closely connected inside and outside, regular and simple in style. This kind of spatial layout affects the appearance of the architecture and is also applicable in modern architectural decoration. For example, the design of many hotels draws on the layout of this inner courtyard, like Dongfang Hotel, White Swan Hotel etc. Secondly, from the artistic point of view, Lingnan traditional architectural art has many artistic characteristics with regional features: such as gables like ear, gables like Ji, herringbone gables, gables like five mountains, and three arched gables in the roof art; partition doors, wading doors, down-to-ground covers, oyster shell windows, dormant windows, water windows, mullion windows, sill windows, ornamental perforated windows, Manchuria windows, horizontal windows, removable windows and open windows etc., in the door and window art; arcades, watchtowers, the appearance of overseas residences in the architectural form etc. All these contain elements of Lingnan traditional architectural art, which can make the architectural appearance colorful and unique.

Lingnan has a hot, humid and rainy climate. Affected by the geographical and climatic conditions of the region, Lingnan architecture are more inclined to adopt lightweight and flexible building volume. Thus, in the design of architectural appearance, it prefers to use lines, combination of virtual and real, light and transparent materials to better reflect the cultural characteristics of Lingnan architecture.

4.2 Reflection of Artistic Characteristics

4.2.1 Decorative Art

Lingnan traditional cultural elements contain many kind of arts, such as the art of architectural doors and windows, Guangdong embroidery, Guangtong decoration, Guangdong opera, calligraphy, paper cutting and sculpture etc. We can apply these Lingnan decorative elements with Lingnan characteristics to modern architectural decoration.

For example, in the decorative patterns of Lingnan doors and windows, people like to use the decorative patterns of plants, flowers, characters, landscapes and so on. Thus, we can apply these decorative patterns that stand for the beautiful meanings to modern architectural decoration. In this way, we can not only understand the local people's values, life customs and cultural beliefs, but also carry out better inheritance, continuation and development of the art of Lingnan traditional doors and windows. Moreover, there are many charming geometric shapes and literary themes. They use a variety of straight lines, curves or circles, triangles, squares, rhomboids to form regular or irregular decorative patterns with unique Lingnan characteristics. They decorate the partition doors, open windows and Manchurian windows of the architecture through different methods, which makes the architectural decoration full of sense of order and rhythm.

4.2.2 Decorative Color

Different colors can bring different psychological and physiological feelings, such as pleasure, anger, sorrow, joy, sense of temperature, weight, distance, softness and hardness, coldness and

warmth etc. Lingnan traditional architecture likes light and clear tones in color, and also likes to use pure colors such as cyan, blue and green as the color tones. This can reduce the weight of the architecture, and create a lightweight architectural appearance.

Lingnan architecture generally adopts elegant main tone. Thus, in order to increase the liveliness and dynamic sense of the architecture, we should make the elegant tone not heavy when designing, and use color contrast in the art of doors and walls. For example, we can use colored glass, stained glass, four seasons windows, Manchuria windows with the colors of red, green, yellow and blue to decorate the architecture, which forms the contrast of deep and light, alternation of virtual and real, plain and gorgeous effect. We can also decorate the log-colored window panes with gold to show our richness.

4.3 Technical Craft

Liang Sicheng once said, "Ancient Chinese architecture is an engineering technical craft that has lasted for more than two thousand years. It has created an artistic system in itself. Many architectures are the expression of our culture, and the great heritage of art." The technical craft of Lingnan traditional architecture originate from the local features and climate characteristics of Lingnan. It contains the essence of Lingnan culture and its characteristics include: (1) Open and transparent plane spatial layout; (2) Lightweight appearance; (3) The environmental layout of architecture combined with the nature; (4) Decoration and detailed features with regional characteristics. For example, the plane layout of Donghu Hotel in Shenzhen is open and transparent, and open doors and windows are widely used in the hotel; Another example is the use of new materials and technologies in villa design. For instance, the wooden grain window of broken-bridge aluminium is made into an open window, and treated with fluorocarbon paint on its surface. This is not only durable and fade-proof, but also has a good ventilation and lighting effect. After adding the traditional Lingnan decorative elements, the simple shapes appear immediately; Another example is the open hall often used in modern commercial architecture, which also uses the traditional technology of Lingnan architecture to solve the problems of crowd gathering and traffic evacuation.

Tanglong door is a unique technology in Lingnan, which is widely used in Lingnan residential architecture. Tang is open, Long is closed, Tanglong is the wooden door that can be slid open and closed, and its principle and function are similar to modern horizontal pull-type security doors. However, at that time, due to material limitations, traditional doors were made of wood. In the hot and rainy Lingnan, Tanglong ensures safety and ventilation can be achieved synchronously. The extremely high level of craftsmanship and flexible ideas of people in Lingnan are displayed vividly in Tanglong door. In modern architecture, we might as well adopt Tanglong door of Lingnan to decorate the exterior wall. This can not only achieve the effect of safety and ventilation, but also make the architecture full of regional cultural characteristics of Lingnan.

The carving process of Lingnan traditional doors and windows is a traditional skill that Chinese craftsmen have explored for thousands of years. For example, line carving, relief carving and engraving carving all have strong expression and appeal. These carving techniques can be combined with modern materials and machines, and applied to modern architectural decoration, such as copper materials used to decorate the external or interior walls of the architecture.

5. Application Methods of Lingnan Traditional Cultural Elements in Modern Architectural Decoration

5.1 Understanding and Respect:

To inherit the traditional cultural elements of Lingnan, we must first know about history, understand history and respect history. Most of the architects of Lingnan new architectures are From Guangfu and over 70 years old. This means that in order to create new architecture with Lingnan characteristics or cultural connotation, it is necessary to understand and be familiar with the history, culture, character, customs, aesthetic concepts and local climate, geography and materials of Lingnan. Only by experiencing the local environment and cultural elements, and deeply

understanding the local regional culture, historical culture, climate characteristics and other aspects, can we design works with connotation and regional characteristics, otherwise it is impossible to design architecture with Lingnan characteristics. In addition, we should also respect history, respect culture and inherit history and culture rather than blindly apply or change history.

5.2 Refinement and Reconstruction

Refinement and reconstruction are commonly used in decorative design. Through the refinement, decomposition, deformation and reconstruction of Lingnan traditional cultural elements, the designers have realized its combination with modern architectural decoration design. This form of expression makes it traditional in its content and has a modern meaning in its form of expression. As a designer, it is necessary to deeply understand the cultural connotation of traditional elements, clarify the design theme, and realize the “unification of form and spirit”.

Zheng Zhong, the student of He Jingtang, has designed the Sofitel Hotel in Foshan. His spatial design is inspired by the Manchuria windows of traditional architecture in Lingnan. He uses the pane shape and color of Manchuria windows, uses the geometric shape to re-segment and reconstruct, and refines the color so as to make it quite modern. In the bathroom spatial partition, he uses the partition door, and abandons the traditional decoration on the partition door. On the basis of the application of shape and structure, modern elements and fashionable white are added to enable the bathroom to circulate, keep dry and achieve the unity of function and art.

5.3 Reproduction and Redesign to Achieve the Reproduction and Recreation of Culture

Reproduction and redesign are actually inheritance and innovation. Inheritance is the reproduction of culture, the protection and transmission of the original culture. For example, the legends of dragon and phoenix represent auspicious patterns in Chinese traditional culture, which have been used to express auspiciousness since ancient times. In the design, we will not change the form of dragon and phoenix. If it is changed to dragon instead of dragon and phoenix instead of phoenix, then how to trace back to the origin, and the real image of dragon and phoenix will disappear. It can be seen that the correct inheritance in the design is very important. We should pass on and continue the excellent cultural elements, discard the bad and pass on the excellent cultural elements from generation to generation.

Reproduction is a direct reference in design. In the architectural decoration, we can reproduce the traditional architectural details, architectural components and architectural patterns of Lingnan. For example, in modern architecture, we can directly use gables like ear of the roof form of Lingnan traditional architecture. We can also reproduce the common details, components, stone eaves, shrimp bow beams, stone unicorn, drum platform, stone drum and so on in the architectural decoration design of folk villages and ancestral halls in central Guangdong. In the decoration design of modern commercial architecture, we can reproduce the design of storefront entrance of arcade architecture. The concept of redesign is mentioned in the book *Design in Design* of Yuan Yanzai.

Redesign is innovation, and this process from known to unknown is the creative behavior. For example, in the decoration design of modern architecture, the use of the brackets and screens reflects the reproduction of art, function and technology in traditional wooden architecture. Meanwhile, it can also use new technologies and materials to recreate these traditional cultural elements, and produce new products that meet modern aesthetic and functional requirements, so as to realize cultural re-creation.

6. Conclusion

The traditional cultural elements of Lingnan are rich and colorful. How to correctly inherit and apply Lingnan traditional cultural elements in modern architectural decoration design is a problem that designers need to consider. Among them, innovation is the key. Innovation is not just a process of discarding old things and concepts and pursuing new and unique ideas, but also a process of cognition, absorption and re-creation of known cultural forms. In the process of architectural decoration design, we cannot get rid of the user's understanding of the known traditional cultural

characteristics of Lingnan. This kind of culture, whether material or spiritual, is a cognitive psychological model constructed by users in the long-term use. In the process of design, we should explore this potential demand, understand modern people's aesthetic orientation, lifestyle, values, and create more valuable designs. We can also lead new designs through innovation and create a new design culture.

It can be seen that design is a kind of solving activity aimed at targets. It is a process of recognizing and creating existing cultural forms by collecting, processing the existing technologies, knowledge and information. For the traditional cultural elements of Lingnan, we also need to have such a cognitive process to create, so that Lingnan traditional cultural elements will continue to be brilliant in modern architectural decoration.

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