

# *Research on landscape furniture design in Dongheqiao Village under the background of farming culture*

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**Abstract:** The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed that the rural revitalization strategy must be implemented and pointed out that the "agriculture, rural areas and farmers" issues are fundamental issues of the national economy and people's livelihood. The issues of "agriculture, rural areas and farmers" should be regarded as an important part of the party's work. With the rapid update of people's aesthetics, the furniture forms in the landscape have also added more aesthetic elements based on practicality. People not only have higher expectations for the practicality of landscape furniture, but also have higher expectations for its appearance. Under the farming theme culture, landscape furniture has new insights into its aesthetic elements. The derivation and application of farming themes have been studied in various fields, but it is more common in the field of landscape design. The important role of landscape furniture in landscape design is self-evident, especially in rural environment improvement design, it is an indispensable part. Dongheqiao Village is located in Feng County, Baoji, and is the only way to the famous scenic spot-Lingnan Park. Moreover, this area is the source of the Jialing River. Its excellent water quality and agricultural and sideline products are the highlights of the region and have high commercial utilization value. Through on-site investigation of Dongheqiao Village in Baoji, this article uses land upgrading, building renovation, element extraction and other methods to carry out an overall restorative design and improvement of the old street environment with the theme of farming culture. The goal is to upgrade the village into a tourist village with agricultural cultural characteristics in Guanzhong region. The purpose and significance of this study is to improve people's happiness index and increase local economic diversification. At the same time, it responds to the call of the country and the government to improve policies for beautiful countryside.

## 1. Introduction

Farming culture refers to the long-lasting customs formed by people in long-term agricultural production. It is one of the most primitive cultures and an important part of the human development process. Farming activities have extraordinary significance to traditional Chinese society. It is not only the foundation for people to settle down and live in peace, but also the foundation of national governance and the root of the inheritance of Chinese culture [1]. Agricultural civilization is a collection of complex folk culture, and each region has its own unique agricultural culture. Different

farming cultures are determined by their local regional government management, living habits, geographical environment, humanistic climate, etc. The cosmology, worldview, and outlook on life formed by the Chinese ancestors in their farming life, as well as all the intellectual achievements created under their guidance. It can be said that the traditional farming culture of Chongguo has shaped the basic form of social life in the core areas of China. The political system, economic foundation, and ideological culture of traditional Chinese society are all based on farming civilization [1]. Currently, there are five birthplaces of ancient farming civilization recognized by international academic circles: ancient Babylon, ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, ancient India, and China.

## 2. Background overview

### 2.1 Study area

Dongheqiao Village is located at the southern foot of the Qinling Mountains and the source of the Jialing River. It is the northern gate of Baoji entering Feng County via Provincial Highway 212. There are 9 villager groups in the village, 495 households with 1,559 people. It is the "No. 1 Village in Jialing for Thousands of Miles" and the "Millennium Shu". Known as the "First Station on the Road", it has successively won honors such as provincial health village, provincial ecological demonstration village, municipal civilized village, and the top ten most beautiful villages in Baoji City. It was once shortlisted for the top 20 "CCTV Most Beautiful Villages" [2].

Dongheqiao Village is located at the southern foot of the Qinling Mountains and in the northeast of Huangniupu Town. It is the northern gate of Baoji into Feng County. The cultivated land area is 1,456 acres and the basic farmland is 500 acres. The main food crops are mulched corn, and the main cash crops are mulched potatoes. The area of grain crops has stabilized at around 500 acres, and the area of cash crops has stabilized at around 600 acres. In 2007, the collective economic income of the village was 50,000 yuan, and the per capita net income of farmers was 3,146 yuan. In 2008, Dongheqiao Village was designated as a key village for new rural construction by the county party committee and the county government, and was the only village in the county to be upgraded from four stars to five stars. On December 31, 2019, it was selected into the second batch of national forest villages [3].

### 2.2 Research significance and purpose

The purpose and significance of this study is to improve people's happiness index and increase local economic diversification. At the same time, it responds to the call of the country and the government to improve policies for beautiful countryside. The report of the 19th National Congress advocated the need to implement a strategy to revitalize villages and pointed out that the "agriculture, rural areas and farmers" issues are crucial to national life. Solving the "agriculture, rural areas and farmers" issues must always be a priority for all parties. Green and cultural tourism believes that "agricultural enterprises, rural handicrafts, and farmers getting rich" are one of the effective ways to solve the problem of integrating these three assets, and the most representative channel is "agricultural tourism".

At present, the development of rural tourism is divided into three stages: rural tourism, leisure and rural vacation. The relationship between tourism and agriculture is another model of rural tourism development and management. Regardless of the model, it is important to understand the approach to planning rural tourism. The green paper on tourism can be summarized as follows: "positioning and overcoming two problems; solving three problems; coordination at four levels and coordination of five reports." As much as possible, we should achieve the purpose of introducing the new, repairing the old, improving quality and improving the appearance without destroying the local characteristic

elements. Combining traditional farming elements with modern design techniques, it breaks the concept of traditional landscape furniture and turns originally discarded farming equipment into treasure, realizing its own higher value [4].

### 2.3 Situation Analysis

During the field environmental investigation in Dongheqiao Village, Baoji, some remaining problems were discovered. The wooden structure of the house has been in disrepair for a long time, and the wood has seriously decayed, leading to safety hazards such as roof collapse; the internal layout of the house is unreasonable, resulting in a reduction and waste of available space. In addition, the exterior facade of the house was once uniformly refreshed, so a large area of white latex paint was applied to the original earth-colored rammed earth wall, which looked neat and uniform, but was actually very rough. During the investigation of the ancient street, it was found that most of the available open space on the site was overgrown with weeds, and the available land of each house and courtyard was largely abandoned. The public roads in the old streets are just simple and rough muddy ground, which lacks beauty. In addition, in rainy and snowy weather, the ground is muddy, slippery and icy, making it impossible to walk on. This all brings trouble and inconvenience to traffic. During the overall investigation process, we found that there are no resting places and facilities for tourists and villagers on the site, and due to water supply problems in winter, the only few public toilets cannot be used due to frozen water pipes. These exposed problems have invisibly caused a lot of inconvenience to local villagers and tourists, thus forcing the reduction of passenger flow and the loss of local talent. These have directly affected the local economic situation and are also the reason for the local economy. The main reason for the delay in development.

### 2.4 Case analysis and comparison

The project takes “Tang Village” in Xi'an as an example. Chang' an Tang Village·China Agricultural Park is the first co-construction unit in the northwest to be approved as a Chinese Agricultural Park, and it is also a pilot area for comprehensive rural reform in Shaanxi Province. Tang Village was originally located in Nan Bao Zhai Village, Wang Qu Street, Chang' an District, Xi'an. Due to problems such as old houses and idle land, the village has long become a "hollow village." The government attracts social capital and attracts famous enterprises to the countryside. While completing the restoration and protection of ancient villages, it also integrates rural tourism, agriculture, commerce and other functions within the site. Tang Village has retained the original land and houses and modernized them. The project includes the ancient village area, cultural and creative area, art area, plum garden, solar terms garden and other areas, making the entire park show a poetic and picturesque atmosphere of Tang style and rhyme. This project combines original local elements with design. For example, bricks and tiles of different shapes and materials are pieced together on site to show a landscape wall with a sense of design and simplicity (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Cultural Wall

In addition, this project fully utilizes the design of landscape plant groups. Its unique landscape group design may seem inconspicuous, but each one is very sophisticated. The plants are divided into different levels, forming a landscape plant design that can be appreciated from any angle (Figure 2).



Figure 2 flower border

Moreover, Tang Village does not stick to a certain design style or a specific design form, but incorporates a variety of design techniques, such as Japanese dry landscape. The overall design looks fresh and natural without losing the original flavor.

### 3. Design concept

#### 3.1 Source of inspiration

The inspiration for this project comes from people's demand for aesthetics in landscape design in recent years. Under the premise that many fashion elements nowadays greatly affect the design direction, people tend to be more simple, grand, graphic and streamlined. This is because people today live in busy and complicated cities, and their busy lives make people yearn for a simple and peaceful life. If the environmental design is complicated, it will add to people's annoyance and discomfort. Therefore, the design plan of this project hopes to simplify the design and return to nature, giving people a sense of relaxation and nature. From this, we planned the old street and the surrounding environment into five types: B&B, business, leisure, experience, and entertainment. Since hotel specifications are limited by local policies, B&Bs will be used instead of hotels. B&Bs are also the choice of more people nowadays, and they have greater possibilities for design and performance.

#### 3.2 Functional positioning

The design concept of this project is to transform 375 acres of farmland near the old street into a new ecological countryside. We divided the original farmland into seven core areas, which are: commercial district (old street), RV campground, waterfront wetland park, shared farmland, farming-themed children's amusement park, farming experience area and four-season flower sea. Since there is a large amount of wasteland distributed near the old street, we optimized the original wasteland and raised the terrain, turning it into a rural landscape composed of a variety of different micro-topography. At the same time, we took into account the issue of biodiversity and planned multiple wetland areas to ensure the species diversity and integrity of the natural ecosystem in the area.

## 4. The combination of landscape furniture and agricultural elements - taking Baoji Dongheqiao Village Old Street as an example

### 4.1 Site Status

The total length of the old street is 500 meters. There are currently 39 houses, of which 11 are abandoned, 22 have brick walls, and 17 have rammed earth walls. During the site survey, we found that local residents have low awareness of landscape furniture. The villagers are accustomed to sitting on the ground or using simple and primitive materials; the surroundings are overgrown with grass, and there is no relatively regular plant grouping and tree pond enclosed landscape; and the local lighting system is weak. After the sun goes down, the old street appears completely dark, seriously affecting people's sight and walking. These are local needs for landscape furniture.

### 4.2 Classification and Introduction of Farming Tools

In this project, the upgrade of farm tools is based on traditional farming equipment and combines ergonomics and contemporary aesthetics to create landscape furniture that is more suitable for outdoor placement and comfortable to use. It includes: landscape seats, landscape benches, landscape tree pools and landscape lighting systems.

The waterwheel-shaped landscape seat takes advantage of the traditional local waterwheel shape and places two identical round waterwheel wheels on both sides to achieve a balanced effect. It not only solves the imbalance problem of traditional benches, but also increases its aesthetic effect. The exterior is wrapped with anti-corrosion paint so that it can be preserved for a long time even outdoors (Figure 3).

The log benches are made from locally available birch wood, cut and assembled into natural landscape benches. Due to the long-term neglect of the area, many birch tree stumps and trunks have been abandoned and left in the wild all year round. Therefore, we chose to use local materials, which not only solved part of the problem of site cleaning, but also solved part of the problem of landscape furniture (Figure 4).

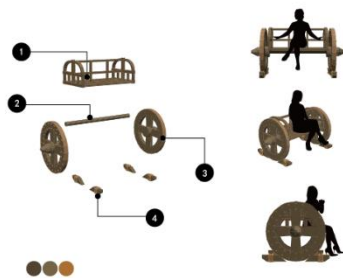


Figure 3 waterwheel-shaped landscape seat

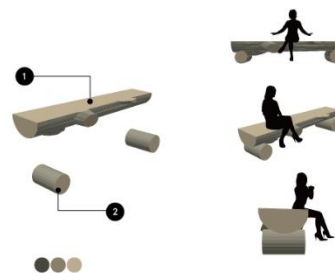


Figure 4 log benches

The interactive landscape tree pool is made of a combination of wooden materials and steel materials. The upper part is a circular seat made of wood for people to rest on, and the lower part is a circular tree pond made of steel. The use of wood is for the comfort of the seats, while the use of steel is for the sealing of the tree pool and to protect the moisture in the land around the tree roots from loss (Figure 5).

The multi-functional benches are made of stone slabs as the main material and are connected to the lighting system in the scenic area. One end is a street lamp with lighting function, while the other end is a small tree pond where small single shrubs can be planted. Its middle part also serves as a seat for people to rest. It is worth mentioning that this multi-functional bench uses Chinese style elements,

and its lighting part refers to the hollow square shape of ancient Chinese palace lanterns, which greatly enhances its aesthetics (Figure 6).

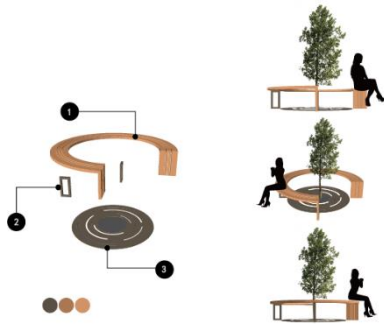


Figure 5 interactive landscape tree pool

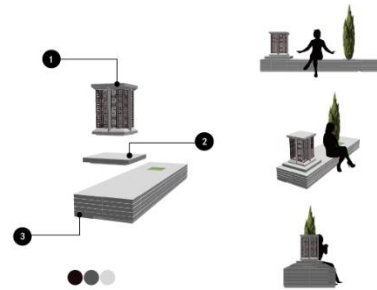


Figure 6 multi-functional benches

## 5. Conclusion

The development of villages depends on the progress of human society, the inheritance of human history and the education of the next generation. Like an endless gurgling river, the peaceful and slow life of the ancient village gradually turned into a cultural village with modern significance. Nature gives it the continuation of life, and humans give it the inheritance of culture. We need to respect nature and maintain our original intentions. In this way, beautiful cultural and historical villages can last forever in the world.

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