

A Study on Revitalization Design of Historic Districts in Lingnan Region

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Abstract: This study aims to explore the revitalization design of historic districts in Lingnan region. Through an in-depth analysis of the current situation, cultural background and revitalization needs of the historic districts in Lingnan, targeted design principles and methods are proposed. The study selects typical cases of historic districts for analysis, summarizes the successful experiences and problems of revitalization design, and provides useful references and lessons for the revitalization of historic districts in the Lingnan region and even in the wider region. At the same time, the study also focuses on the conditions and limitations of the revitalization design process, with a view to providing more comprehensive guidance for future projects.

1. Introduction

Lingnan region, especially Guangzhou, has a long history and deep cultural heritage, and its historical neighborhoods, as an important part of the city, carry rich cultural heritage and humanistic memory. With the change of the times, the urban landscape of Lingnan region has changed dramatically, and many historic districts are facing the risk of being submerged by the wave of modernization. These historic districts are not only witnesses of urban development, but also important carriers of Lingnan culture, with irreplaceable historical, cultural and social values. Therefore, it is of far-reaching significance to conduct a revival design study on the historical neighborhoods in Lingnan.

From the historical and cultural point of view, Lingnan historic district is an important part of Lingnan culture, with unique regional characteristics and historical value. Through revitalization design, these cultural heritages can be effectively protected and inherited, traditional culture can be promoted, and cultural confidence can be enhanced. From the perspective of urban development, the revitalization of historic districts can help to enhance the cultural taste and attractiveness of the city and promote the sustainable development of the city. Through scientific and reasonable planning and design, historic districts can be made into the city's business cards, attracting tourists and investors and driving the economic development of the surrounding areas. From the social point of view, the revitalization of historic districts helps to improve the quality of life and happiness of residents. Retaining and restoring the original lifestyle and cultural atmosphere of historic districts can give residents a strong sense of culture and historical heritage, and enhance community cohesion and a sense of belonging. At present, with the acceleration of urbanization and the increasing demand for cultural life, the revival design study of historic districts in Lingnan region is

particularly important. In practice, it faces many challenges and difficulties, such as the maintenance and protection of old buildings, the pressure of commercialized development, and the renewal of municipal infrastructure. Therefore, systematic research is needed to propose scientific and reasonable revitalization design solutions to promote the sustainable development of historic districts in the Lingnan region.

2. Analysis of design principles

In the revival design of the historic district of Lingnan region, it is necessary to follow a series of scientific and reasonable design principles to ensure that the revival work is carried out smoothly and achieve the expected results.

2.1 Protection Priority Principle

In the revitalization design process, the protection of historical and cultural heritage should always be put in the first place. For buildings and landscapes with historical value, their original appearance should be preserved as far as possible to avoid excessive development and destruction. At the same time, publicity and education on historical and cultural heritage should be strengthened to enhance public awareness of protection.

2.2 Principle of sustainable development

The revitalization design should focus on sustainable development, both to meet the current needs and to consider the future development. In the planning and design, full consideration should be given to resource conservation and environmental protection, and green building materials and technologies should be adopted to reduce the impact on the environment. At the same time, attention should be paid to the coordinated development of the economic, social and cultural functions of historic districts to realize the unity of economic, social and cultural benefits.

2.3 People-oriented principle

The revitalization design should give full consideration to people's needs and feelings, and focus on improving residents' quality of life and sense of well-being. In the planning and design, full consideration should be given to the residents' needs for traveling, leisure and entertainment to provide a convenient and comfortable living environment. At the same time, the traditional culture and lifestyle of the residents should be respected and protected, and the cultural characteristics and humanistic atmosphere of the historic district should be preserved.

2.4 Principle of wholeness

The revival design should focus on the wholeness and coordination of the historic district. In the planning and design, full consideration should be given to the relationship between the historic district and the surrounding environment, and the coherence between the historic district and the overall urban landscape should be maintained. At the same time, it should pay attention to the coordination and unity between the elements within the historic district to form an organic whole.

2.5 Principle of Innovation

The revitalization design should focus on innovation and breakthrough, avoiding simple copying and imitation. In the planning and design, the regional characteristics and cultural features of the

Lingnan region should be fully considered, combined with modern design concepts and technical means, to create a historic district with unique charm [1]. At the same time, public participation and creative play should be encouraged to stimulate the vitality of the historic district.

3. Typical case study and methodology summary

3.1 Typical Case Analysis

3.1.1 Guangzhou Yongqingfang: a model of micro-reform in old city

Guangzhou Yongqingfang, located in the Enning Road area with a hundred years of history, this piece of land was once the core of the Xiguan Old Town, with a wide range of cultural relics and monuments, carrying Guangzhou's deep historical and cultural heritage.

With the change of time, Yongqingfang at the beginning of this century has become the area with the highest concentration of dilapidated buildings in Guangzhou, with old houses and outdated infrastructures, which is in stark contrast to the modernized cityscape around it. In order to change this status quo, the Liwan District Government of Guangzhou launched the Old City Micro-Rehabilitation Project, aiming at preserving the historical style while injecting new vitality into this old street.

In the process of transformation, Liwan District Government has innovatively adopted a diversified cooperation model of “government-led, enterprise undertaking, and resident participation” [2]. The government is responsible for the overall planning and policy guidance to ensure the smooth progress of the renovation work; enterprises undertake specific renovation tasks, including fund-raising, architectural design, construction, etc.; and residents, as the direct beneficiaries of the renovation, actively participate in all aspects of the renovation, providing valuable advice and suggestions for the renovation work.

During the renovation process, Yongqingfang strictly followed the principle of “repairing the old as the old”, striving to carry out moderate repairs and remodeling on the basis of preserving the original street texture and historical features. The designers carefully researched the historical background and cultural value of each building, and revitalized the old buildings through delicate restoration techniques.

The establishment of the public space for crowdfunding provides a spacious and comfortable working environment for entrepreneurs, attracting a large number of young talents to gather here; the youth apartments provide affordable accommodation options for young people, allowing them to enjoy the convenience of modern life while experiencing the historical flavor of the old streets; the establishment of the educational camp provides a place for children to learn through fun and education, allowing them to learn about Guangzhou's history and culture while playing; and the special features of the camp provide a place for children to learn about Guangzhou's history and culture through fun and education; and the designers have carefully studied the historical background and cultural value of each building. The establishment of educational camps provides a place for children to learn in a fun and educational way, allowing them to learn about the history and culture of Guangzhou while playing; and the introduction of special commercial features has made Yongqingfang a comprehensive commercial area integrating shopping, catering and entertainment, attracting a large number of tourists to come to sightseeing and consumption. The renovated Yongqingfang not only retains its historical and cultural heritage, but also has a new vitality.

3.1.2 Guangzhou Pantang Wuyao: Harmonious Coexistence of Tradition and Modernity

Guangzhou Pantang Wuyao, located in the Xiguan area of Liwan District, Guangzhou, is a traditional village with a long history. Similar to Yongqingfang, Pantang Wuyao has also faced problems such as old houses and outdated infrastructure [3]. The difference is that in the renovation process, Pantang Wuyao pays more attention to the harmonious coexistence of tradition and modernity, and strives to preserve the traditional style while integrating modern elements to create a historical neighborhood with both historical heritage and modern atmosphere.

In the process of renovation, Pantang Wuyao adheres to the principle of “protection-oriented, rational utilization and enhanced management”, and carries out comprehensive repairs and protection of historical buildings in the village. At the same time, in order to enhance the overall quality and function of the village, the renovation team also introduced modern design concepts and technical means. For example, in the architectural design, a combination of traditional Lingnan architectural style and modern building technology was adopted, which not only preserves the unique flavor of Lingnan architecture, but also improves the practicality and comfort of the buildings.

Pantang Wuyao also emphasizes the excavation and inheritance of the cultural connotation of the village. By setting up a cultural exhibition hall and organizing traditional cultural activities, visitors and residents can gain a deeper understanding of the village's history and culture. After the renovation, Pantang Wuyao not only retains the traditional Lingnan style and historical and cultural heritage, but also incorporates modern elements and fashionable atmosphere. It has become another highlight of Guangzhou's urban renewal, attracting a large number of tourists and citizens to visit and play. The experience of the renovation of Pantang Wuyao also provides us with valuable inspiration: in the process of revitalization of historic districts, we should pay attention to the harmonious symbiosis between tradition and modernity, and realize the integration of historical and cultural heritage and modern life through scientific and reasonable planning and design.

3.1.3 Chikan Old Street, Zhanjiang, Guangzhou

Chikan Old Street, Zhanjiang, Guangzhou, as a typical representative of the historic district in Lingnan region, its revitalization design study not only carries rich historical and cultural values, but also embodies the design concept of harmonious integration of tradition and modernity.

Chikan Old Street has taken shape since the Song Dynasty, and with the lifting of the Qing Emperor Kangxi's prohibition of the sea, it gradually formed a prosperous commercial port with frequent commercial and trade activities, attracting many merchants to come and settle down, because it was once a French colony, the architectural style of Chikan Old Street was deeply influenced by the French style, blending the European colonial style with the Lingnan riding-store architecture, forming the unique “South China Style Architecture” [4].

In the revitalization design of Chikan Old Street, the designers fully respect the original appearance of the historical buildings, and adhere to the principle of “repairing the old as the old, and rebuilding the old as the new”. Through meticulous restoration work, they have preserved the historical appearance of the buildings, and at the same time, they have introduced modern design elements to revitalize the old street. For example, in the process of restoration, the designers adopted the principle of minimum intervention to minimize the intervention on the heritage monuments and preserve the current architectural style in the face of localized contamination of wall surfaces, blocking of some windows and structural damages, etc. The restoration of Chikan Old Street was successful.

The success of the revival design of Chikan Old Street lies not only in the restoration and protection of the building itself, but also in the repositioning of the functions of the neighborhood

and the diversified development of business. Through the introduction of new business, new functions, and the gradual improvement of supporting facilities, the old street has gradually become a comprehensive neighborhood integrating culture, commerce and tourism. Here, tourists can feel the rich living atmosphere and rich historical heritage, but also enjoy the convenience and comfort of modern life.

3.2 Summary of Approach

Through the analysis of the above typical cases, in the process of revitalization design, the roles of multiple parties, including the government, enterprises and residents, should be given full play. The government should provide policy support and planning guidance, enterprises should be responsible for renovation, construction and operation, and residents should actively participate in renovation and renewal and community governance.

First, we should adhere to the principle of equal emphasis on protection and development. It is necessary to protect the integrity and authenticity of the historical and cultural heritage while rationally developing its economic and social value. Second, we should focus on cultural inheritance and innovation. It is necessary to retain the cultural characteristics and humanistic atmosphere of historical neighborhoods, but also to combine modern design concepts and technical means to make innovative breakthroughs. Through the combination of cultural heritage and innovation, to create a unique charm of the historic district. Third, we should strengthen the role of scientific and technological support. Through the use of digital, intelligent and other modern scientific and technological means, to improve the efficiency and quality of the protection, management and utilization of historical neighborhoods. At the same time, it should focus on the integration of science and technology with culture and innovation, and promote the digital and intelligent development of historic districts. Fourth, we should focus on the role of community building. The cohesion and sense of belonging of the community should be enhanced through measures such as strengthening community governance and improving residents' participation and satisfaction.

4. Conditions and limitations

In the practice of design and revitalization of historic districts in Lingnan, although certain achievements and experiences have been accumulated, there are still many challenges and limitations to be faced. The support system of policies and regulations has yet to be perfected, and there is a lack of specific and powerful guidance and support, which makes the revitalization work often face difficulties at the policy and financial levels. Funding bottlenecks are particularly prominent, as the comprehensive revitalization of historic districts requires huge investment, covering many aspects such as architectural repairs, environmental improvement and construction of public facilities, etc., and the existing funding is often difficult to meet the actual needs, which restricts the revitalization process.

On the technical level, the revitalization design of historic districts integrates multidisciplinary knowledge of architecture, planning and environment, which makes it technically difficult. In addition, the unique regional characteristics and cultural heritage of historic districts in the Lingnan region require designers to respect history while integrating innovation, which undoubtedly increases the complexity and challenge of the design. The lack of public participation is also a major problem. Revitalization work needs to widely absorb public opinions to ensure that the proposal is close to public opinion and practicable, but the limited public participation in practice has affected the mass base of the revitalization work and the efficiency of its promotion.

What is even more difficult is that the revitalization of historic districts involves the government,

enterprises, residents and other stakeholders, and the coordination of interests has become a major test. As the demands of all parties are different and even conflicting, how to seek consensus and achieve a balance of interests on the basis of respecting the rights and interests of all parties is a difficult problem that must be faced and properly solved in the revitalization work. Therefore, although some progress has been made in the study of revitalization design of historic districts in Lingnan region, it is still necessary to continue to explore and breakthroughs in policy, funding, technology, public participation and coordination of interests in order to promote the revitalization work to a higher level.

5. Conclusion

The study of revitalization design of historic districts in Lingnan region is a work of far-reaching significance. Through the revitalization design of historic districts, cultural heritage can be effectively protected and inherited, traditional culture can be promoted, and cultural self-confidence can be strengthened; at the same time, it can also help to enhance the cultural taste and attractiveness of the city, and promote the sustainable development of the city. In practice, there are still some conditions and limitations that need to be continuously explored and innovative solutions. In the future, the design research on revitalization of historic districts in Lingnan region should continue to strengthen the support of policies and regulations, increase the investment of funds, improve the technical level, enhance public participation and coordinate the interests of all parties. At the same time, it should focus on combining the regional characteristics and cultural features of the Lingnan region, innovating design concepts and methods and means, and creating historic districts with unique charms. Through these efforts, it is believed that the historic districts in the Lingnan region will be able to achieve better revitalization and development.

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