

Research on the Protection and Inheritance of Traditional Ancestral Hall Architectural Decorative Art in Western Hunan

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Abstract: Ancestral hall architecture is a unique architectural type in our country, which not only contains traditional folk culture, but also has distinct artistic features. What is the ancestral hall is the center that embodies the regional clan belief. At the same time, ancestral halls also have important functions such as worshipping ancestors, holding sacrificial ceremonies, and carrying out clan rules and family laws. In view of this, this paper studies the characteristics of ancestral hall architectural art in western Hunan, and on this basis puts forward the inheritance and protection strategies of ancestral hall architectural art.

1. Introduction

Although ancestral halls have distinct artistic characteristics, they still belong to an important part of China's traditional architectural culture. In western Hunan and southern Hunan, due to historical and regional reasons, there are still many ancestral hall buildings. These ancestral hall buildings are not only valuable historical wealth in western Hunan, but also of great significance to the study of architectural culture in western Hunan.

2. The Development Process and Status of Ancestral Hall

What is an ancestral hall? Generally, ancestral halls are turned into ancestral halls. Ancestral halls are mainly used to worship ancestors and sacrifice places. Ancestral halls have always been regarded as symbols of a family or a clan. The ancestral hall system originated from the Zhou Dynasty, and the abolition of the abdication system opened the system of the family world. Therefore, ancient emperors in our country all had their own ancestral temples. Before the Song Dynasty, private families were not allowed to set up ancestral halls, but in the period of Cheng and Zhu Neo-Confucianism, under Zhu Xi's strong advocacy, each large family began to set up its own ancestral halls. In the ancestral temple, there are memorial tablets and niche cages of their own ancestors of Gao, Zeng and Zu You IV. And need to burn incense and sweep every day. With the development of history, by the Qing Dynasty, ancestral halls had become the center of showing patriarchal clan system and rights for each clan. No matter in real cities or villages and towns, there were ancestral halls of their own. In addition, the ancestral temple is also managed by special personnel. Under normal circumstances, the people with higher prestige in the clan are called the patriarch or patriarch. The patriarch, as the chief priest of the ancestral temple, mainly manages various things within the clan, such as ancestral temple sacrifice, ancestor worship, patriarchal clan system execution, etc. Generally speaking, ancestral halls are the embodiment of patriarchal clan system in China's feudal society. However, during the "Cultural Revolution", many ancestral halls were damaged to varying degrees under various large-scale political movements. Most of these damages were man-made. Until the end of the "Cultural Revolution", there were very few well-preserved ancestral halls in our country. Although the ancestral temple has been destroyed, the ancestral temple culture formed by the ancestral temple is rooted in the hearts of the general public

and has unshakable power.

3. Second, the artistic characteristics of the ancestral hall architecture in western Hunan

(1) The Basic Composition of Xiangxi Ancestral Hall

Ancestral halls are generally composed of gate houses, ancestral halls, courtyards, stage and other buildings. In Xiangxi area of our country, ancestral halls are mostly gate buildings. In order to embody a clear hierarchical system, the gate houses of ancestral halls are often wider and deeper. Take the Tan Ancestral Hall in western Hunan as an example. Its gate house is 9 meters wide and 8 meters deep, giving people a dignified and solemn feeling. At the same time, due to the special geographical features of Xiangxi region, its gate houses mostly adopt the structure of Xieshan Mountain, and have the structures of bucket arches, stone bases, carved household pairs, door frames, stone drum gate piers, etc. At the same time, the ancestral hall of the ancestral hall is also carved with plaques showing the prosperity of the people and the whole family. Compared with the ancestral halls in other areas of our country, the ancestral halls in western Hunan have the characteristics of the ancestral halls in the Central Plains as well as their own artistic characteristics.

(2) Xiangxi Ancestral Hall shows profound cultural details,

Although the ancestral hall in western Hunan has its own characteristics, it still shows profound historical and cultural details. The ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan mostly use traditional bucket arches, connecting the roof and beams and columns with mortise and tenon joints. Then the traditional Xieshan structure is adopted at the roof. The strong symmetrical structure not only shows the smooth lines of ancestral temple buildings, but also has dignified and serious aesthetic feeling.

(3) Xiangxi Ancestral Hall Architecture has unique aesthetic pursuit

The ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan are both related to and different from the traditional ancestral hall buildings in the Central Plains. Taking the gate of the ancestral temple as an example, the gate structure and beams and columns of the ancestral temple buildings in western Hunan are different from those in the Central Plains. Most of the gate buildings in the Central Plains region are two pillars and one floor, but the ancestral hall gate buildings in Xiangxi region are four pillars and two floors. Moreover, unlike the Central Plains region, the gate buildings in Xiangxi region are carved with exquisitely decorated caisson and engraving plates. At the same time, the location of its gate house is also different from that of ancestral halls in the Central Plains. There is also a stage in the ancestral hall in the Central Plains of our country, and the stage is set in the center of the gate house. However, ancestral halls in western Hunan are different, with fewer stages and are mostly located directly above the gate. In addition, the ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan are more magnificent and lively than those in the Central Plains. The ancestral hall buildings in the Central Plains region are more solemn, so they have high requirements for the symmetry of the buildings. However, the structure of ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan is complex and the sculpture is more magnificent, which shows that the momentum of ancestral hall buildings is very large.

(4) The architecture of the ancestral hall in western Hunan has distinct regional cultural characteristics.

Xiangxi is located to the south of Huaihe River in Qinling Mountains in China, with humid and rainy climate. Due to the unique climate link, buildings in western Hunan pay more attention to practicality. For example, the gate and threshold of the ancestral hall in western Hunan are significantly higher than those in the northern region. On the one hand, this can weaken the erosion of rainwater on buildings, on the other hand, it can also prevent all kinds of animals such as snakes, insects, rats, etc. In addition, the higher threshold also gives ancestral hall buildings an inviolable sense of majesty. The residents in Southwest China all have the consciousness of preventing "evil spirits", which makes the ancestors in Southwest China have the concept of "believing in ghosts and gods and good rumours". Therefore, on the engraving plates and door panels of some ancestral halls in western Hunan, there will be some patterns and signs to ward off evil spirits. However, the ancestral halls in the Central Plains seldom use signs to ward off evil spirits. At the same time, the site selection of Xiangxi Ancestral Hall is also very characteristic. In general, the ancestral halls in western Hunan are mostly located on high slopes facing south. Placing the ancestral hall on a high

slope can fully show the status of the ancestral hall on the one hand, and choosing the ancestral hall on a high place on the other hand, which conforms to the concept of feng shui. In feng shui, the south represents rosefinch, which has the meaning of leading and commanding. At the same time, rosefinch, as an auspicious position, also has the function of ward off evil spirits.

4. Three, Xiangxi area traditional ancestral hall architectural decoration art protection and inheritance research strategy

(1) Protection on the basis of development

With the development of China's tourism industry, Xiangxi region has become a key area for China's tourism planning and development. Some characteristic ethnic customs and ancient buildings in Xiangxi region are not only of ornamental value, but also of development value, which plays a very significant role and significance in promoting the economic development of Xiangxi region in China. There is nothing wrong with the development of Xiangxi architecture and tourism resources, but in the process of development, we must pay attention to the protection of ancient buildings. Xiangxi region is a mixed area of ethnic minorities in our country, with relatively scattered population and poor traffic conditions. It is very unrealistic to carry out unified development of ancestral hall buildings. In view of this, government departments and ancient building protection units in western Hunan should develop and protect their ancestral hall buildings in combination with the actual situation in the region.

For example, in order to effectively protect the ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan, the local cultural and insurance units first need to investigate and evaluate all the ancestral hall buildings in the region, and then evaluate them according to their protection value, current situation and development value. For example, ancestral hall buildings can be classified according to their integrity. Ancestral halls with large floor area and integrity can be classified into Class A, and then by analogy, different protection strategies can be adopted according to the classification grade of ancestral hall buildings. In addition, relevant cultural and insurance units should also do a good job in the protection and publicity of ancestral hall buildings, which belong to folk buildings and are often hidden in areas where residents gather. Once the protection is improper, the losses incurred are incalculable. In view of this, cultural and insurance units must use various means to publicize the protection of ancestral hall buildings. For example, local residents' awareness of protection can be raised by making leaflets and going to the countryside to preach. In addition, in order to promote the development of rural areas in western Hunan, government departments will also issue a measure to carry out infrastructure construction in rural areas in western Hunan without changing the geographical location of ancestral halls. For example, when government departments carry out renovation of villages in western Hunan according to regulations, they can surround the ancestral hall buildings and temporarily store some of the cultural relics in museums for safekeeping, thus minimizing the impact of village renovation on the ancestral hall buildings. After the renovation of the village is completed, if necessary, the ancestral hall buildings can be protected and repaired, such as the construction of walls and other buildings with similar decorative features around them.

(2) Calls on the society to protect the traditional ancestral hall architectural decoration art in western Hunan and inherit the ancestral hall culture.

Combined with the above, it can be seen that Xiangxi traditional ancestral hall architecture, as an important part of China's traditional ancient architectural culture, plays a very important role in inheriting China's ancient architectural culture. In view of this, we must use the strength of society to carry forward the characteristics of ancestral hall architecture and inherit ancestral hall culture.

For example, some very popular We Media videos can be used to publicize the ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan. For example, we can select some distinctive buildings from the ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan, adopt multi-position panoramic shooting method, and then employ special personnel to introduce them, and then publish them on We Media platforms such as chattering and fast hands through video editing. In this way, the general public can quickly understand the characteristics of Xiangxi Ancestral Hall buildings. In addition, in order to attract public attention, some staff members can be hired to wear ethnic costumes in western Hunan and

perform some sacrificial and ancestor worship activities in ancestral halls. In addition to letting the public understand the characteristics and culture of ancestral halls, we should give full play to the role of enterprises and institutions as well as various social organizations, so that these units and organizations can participate in the protection of ancestral hall architectural art in Xiangxi region.

(3) Relevant functional departments should play a supervisory role in the protection of Xiangxi Ancestral Hall buildings,

According to Article 5 of China's Law on the Protection of Cultural Relics, objects that can be used to reflect various times, ethnic systems and social production in history can be included in the scope of cultural relics protection. Therefore, it is gratifying to see that the traditional ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan also fall within the scope of cultural relic's protection. In view of this, the functional departments in Xiangxi region must give full play to their regulatory functions.

For example, local government departments can make a comprehensive evaluation of some ancestral hall buildings in the region, then allocate reasonable repair funds according to the building conditions, and on this basis design corresponding ancestral hall building carving maintenance and wall maintenance schemes. At the same time, the bidding system is adopted to select suitable building repair units. At the same time, special personnel should be dispatched to carry out regular inspections of ancient buildings to clean up some hidden dangers around them. For example, in order to improve the fire prevention level of ancestral hall buildings, fire fighting facilities can be installed in the buildings. At the same time, it is also necessary to promptly curb the destruction of ancestral halls by surrounding residents.

(4) The government and the society should work together to bring the ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan into the scope of cultural heritage protection.

In order to promote the long-term sustainable development of Xiangxi ancestral hall buildings, the local government departments must strengthen cooperation with all relevant departments of society and bring Xiangxi ancestral hall buildings into the scope of cultural heritage protection.

First of all, cultural units in Xiangxi region should investigate the ancestral hall buildings owned in the region, then fill in the declaration list of cultural heritage, and formulate the cultural heritage protection system and accountability system in combination with the characteristics and protection status of ancestral hall buildings in the region. In addition, the Xiangxi regional government also needs to allocate part of the financial funds for the protection of ancestral hall buildings and include it in the financial budget. In addition, the Xiangxi local government will also absorb a group of talents with experience in the protection of ancient buildings and include them in the protection units of Xiangxi Ancestral Hall buildings through social recruitment or civil service examination. With the help of this way, on the one hand, the enthusiasm of various cultural and insurance units to protect ancestral hall buildings can be fully mobilized, and on the other hand, it is also conducive to improving the protection level of ancient buildings in western Hunan. In addition, in view of some ancient ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan that need urgent protection, rescue protection plans and strategies should be formulated. Through rescue protection, some ancestral hall ancient buildings on the verge of danger can be well protected and then properly maintained and repaired. Statistics show that some ancestral hall buildings in the remote mountain areas of western Hunan are already in danger of cracks and collapse. If they are not protected, these ancestral hall buildings with unique characteristics of western Hunan will inevitably die out. In view of this, Xiangxi region should mobilize various forces to protect the ancient buildings in danger.

For example, for some areas where ancestral hall buildings are concentrated, residents' files can be established, and then residents can be taken as units to conduct a general survey of ancestral hall buildings, and electronic files of ancestral hall buildings can be established. In addition, researchers from cultural and insurance institutions need to consult the modern historical data of western Hunan to find some ancestral hall buildings with remote geographical locations. Because some ancestral halls are located in a relatively remote geographical environment, they can only be protected by in-situ protection. In addition, some ancestral hall buildings with development value can be protected by developing folk tourism. Xiangxi region has beautiful scenery and mysterious Xiangxi culture attracts many tourists. In view of this, local government departments can rely on their own local

characteristic resources to develop some rural green tourism projects. Through the development of green tourism projects, on the one hand, the lives of local residents can be effectively improved, and on the other hand, local villagers can be helped to realize the importance of ancient building protection. In addition to allowing the public to participate in the protection of ancestral hall buildings, the local government in western Hunan should also incorporate the traditional ancestral hall buildings and ancestral hall culture into local school-based textbooks. Let the local students be exposed to the value and culture of ancestral hall buildings from an early age, and establish the awareness of ancestral hall building protection from the subconscious.

5. Summary

To sum up, as a representative building in Xiangxi region, the ancestral hall building in Xiangxi not only contains the regional characteristic culture of Xiangxi region, but also is an important part of China's traditional ancient buildings. In view of this, in order to do a good job in the protection of the traditional ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan, some effective measures must be taken to appropriately develop and protect them on the basis of inheritance, so as to promote the healthy development of the ancestral hall buildings in western Hunan.

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