

The Fusion of New and Old of Historical Private Houses in Luzhi Ancient Town of Suzhou

-- Taking Xiaozhai as an Example

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Abstract. Luzhi ancient town, as an town with 2500 years of history, has many rivers, bridges, lanes, private houses, and celebrities. The historical residence of Luzhi town is a vital carrier for the culture of Jiangnan Water Village and a living fossil of social history. This paper probes the problems are existing in the historical house of Luzhi ancient town from the perspective of the protection and renewal of historical private houses, new and old buildings in combination with new and conventional elements. Taking Xiaozhai- historical private houses- as an example, this paper implements the analysis, and constructs the strategies suitable for the protection of ancient town private houses, aiming to inherit and activate the history and culture of Luzhi town private houses and to continue the historical features of Luzhi town.

Keywords: luzhi town, historical residential architecture, new and old.

1. Introduction

Luzhi's ancient town is located in Wuzhong District of Suzhou City, in the east of Suzhou City, 18 kilometers away from Suzhou City in the West and 58 kilometers away from Shanghai in the East. It is an ancient town of Jiangnan Water Village with 2500 years of history. There are many rivers, bridges, lanes, ancient houses, and celebrities in the ancient town, which is situated in the intersection of three main rivers, -Nanshi River, Dongshi River, and Xishi river. Many tributary rivers flowing through the ancient town, a fact resulting in a unique situation of numerous rivers, bridges, and water lanes in Luzhi town.

2. The Overview of the Historical House in Luzhi Ancient Town.

As a typical traditional residence in the south of the Yangtze River, the historic house in Luzhi ancient town is famous, of course, for its whitewall and lividity tile and ma tau wall. It is a cultural heritage that Chinese people are proud of and the home of Luzhi people. Luzhi ancient town has a lot of traditional private houses with rich cultural background, long history, and imbued with classical atmosphere and sentiment. The town's house construction technique draws on the Chinese traditional natural aesthetic view of "the unity of man and nature", acquires and utilizes the people's life experience, pursues the natural beauty, the beauty, manifests the imperfect beauty of the natural essence, makes the ancient town's historical private houses have the unique historical style, as well as communal integration and symbiosis of the ancient town's ecological value and the aesthetic value, and linking together in a natural way.

The comparison between ma tau wall and solid wall in the ancient town shows a picture of sparse combines with dense, and interesting uneven layout. The color of the whole private houses melts in the water lane and melts in the running water of a small bridge, which forms a beautiful picture scroll of Jiangnan Water Village.

2.1 The Overview of Luzhi Ancient Town.

Luzhi was originally dubbed Fuli. Later, he surfaced Zhigang in the east of the town. The water flow led to six places, like the word "Lu." Therefore, Luzhi got its name and witnessed its unique water system. It has the reputation of "the first town in Shenzhou water village."

In the ancient town, the water system runs through together to form a unique situation of water lanes, resulting in the pattern of the ancient town in the shape of "up". The streets on the north side of the East-West river channel and the west side of the north-south river channel are named "Shangtang Street," and the streets on the opposite side of the river are called "Xiatang Street." "Shangtang Street" has a large number of shops, presenting a prosperous and active scene, "Xiatang Street" is mostly commercial houses and residences, presenting a peaceful atmosphere, in sharp contrast to "Shangtang Street." There are many famous places with ancient ruins in Luzhi.

2.2 The Present Situation and Characteristics of a Historical Private House in Luzhi Ancient Town.

Luzhi's houses are divided into mansions, Yizhuang, and anci. As a result of the humid and hot climate in the south of the Yangtze River, ventilation and heatstroke prevention should be taken into consideration in the construction of private houses. The closeness of houses is not strong, and a certain degree of draught should be achieved. The mansions, in general, have a small facade, but they are relatively deep in the longitudinal direction. This design is not only conducive to heatstroke prevention, but also to improving the sultry environment in the south of the Yangtze River.

Most of the private houses in ancient town were built in the Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China, they surrounded by many mountains and waters. The characteristic of the houses are the typical Hui Party Construction - white wall and lividity tile. Most of the houses in the ancient town are two-tier houses, less of them are one-tier houses. The people -after the reform and opening-up, began to rebuild the original residential buildings spontaneously, with the base area accounting for 11%. After the reform and opening-up, most of the buildings use new materials and large-scale transformation. The traditional buildings are mixed with new technologies and new materials, resulting in the incongruity between the new buildings and the old buildings, which makes less traditional houses in the ancient town well preserved, especially the houses with a long history.

According to the transition from the public area to private space, the single layout and overall linear planning of private houses in ancient towns form a formal aesthetic feeling of appropriate sparse and density between the single body buildings of private houses and the overall buildings.

2.3 The Problems of Historical Private Houses in Luzhi Ancient Town.

The historical buildings in the ancient town of Jiangnan always adhere to the development principle of "protection first, rational utilization," as well as protect and reappear the unique features of private houses and the surrounding environment of Luzhi ancient town. It should adhere to the principle of "maximum protection and minimum restriction" in terms of the treatment of historical residential buildings. Therefore, in the face of the protection of ancient residential buildings, we should respect the history of residential buildings, retain the original internal structure and external form of residential buildings, and on the basis of retaining the raw building materials, "they shall be arranged as the cultural relics in the arrangement of ancient relics, so as to preserve their nature". The same is true of modifying the old residence and restore the original appearance of the residence based on raw materials, raw technology, and original form.

The functional space of ancient town's houses has been unable to meet the needs of modern life. It is necessary to redefine and combine the internal space to meet the space requirements of contemporary life. For the overall protection of the private houses of the ancient towns, new and old integration in the transformation needs to be adjusted.

3. Integration of Old and New Xiaozhai in Luzhi Ancient Town.

Due to the rapid development of modern life, the private houses of many ancient towns cannot meet the requirements of life either from the space quantity or space quality. The purpose of the integration of the old and the new is to improve the functional space and add new functional elements so that the historical houses of ancient town can be restored to their original appearance and acquire a new life.

In the protection process of the integration of the old and the new of Xiaozhai, it should pay attention to the transformation and integration of the original residential buildings in space, and form a perfect residential space system.

To fully respect the structural logic of the original residential buildings, to keep the unique historical value, aesthetic value and artistic value of Xiaozhai, at the same time, strive to create the unique cultural atmosphere of Xiaozhai, integrate the modern expression methods into the local specific conditions at that time, and make Xiaozhai has new life through the integration of new and old, history and modern.

3.1 Comparison of Old and New Buildings.

For the protection of the historical context of Xiaozhai, it need not only to protect the building itself but also to understand the historical value and cultural connotation of Xiaozhai. After that, I need to compare the existing new buildings around Xiaozhai to ensure the unity of the history and culture of Xiaozhai and the environment of the whole ancient town. Xiao Zhai is a typical Su Party Construction. There are five entries, followed by gatehouses, teahouses, balconies, balcony buildings, dining rooms. The teahouse and the hall are the essences of Xiao Zhai. All the beams and columns in the hall are carved with various designs, which means auspicious.

Due to the limited mode of the residential construction in Jiangnan ancient town, more consideration should be given to the rational division of the internal space, the simple decoration of the external style, and the matching of the internal design with the modern style. The private houses of town should not only highlight the characteristics of Huizhou architecture but also be the living fossil of Luzhi culture inheritance.

3.2 Harmony of Old and New Elements.

The harmony between the old and the new elements starts with the preservation of the style of the Xiaozhai building and corresponds to it from the form, the whole, the part, and so on, abandoning the strong contrast technique, thus forming the new and the old coordination. At the aspect of the decoration elements of Xiaozhai, a large number of brick carvings and reliefs are used, the hall is carved with relief lotus pillars, the flower board is carved with cloud phoenix pattern, and the beams of the teahouse are carved with relief and carving patterns. There are also flower carvings on the floor beams. This ancient carving technique integrates the historical and cultural details of the private houses into the residence. When using this method in the later stage, we need to pay attention to the harmony between the new and old elements rather than simply copying.

In the protection of Xiaozhai, it should not only protect the carving elements with Jiangnan cultural characteristics but also use modern carving technology to reproduce the unique architectural style of Su Party. At the same time of preserving the value of the ancient town, it is also one of the key criteria to consider whether to coordinate with the surrounding environment after the protection and reconstruction.

3.3 The Integration of New and Old Cultures.

Xiaozhai was originally built by Yang, a martial artist in the Qing Dynasty, and then sold to Xiao Bingli, a famous family in the middle of the city, so it's called Xiaozhai. The Xiaozhai building is a carrier to witness the development of the life of Xiaos' family, inheriting the cultural tradition and Xiaos' family spirit from generation to generation.

In the old times, the construction concept of Xiaozhai mainly considered to meet the needs of production and life, and whether the building was built to adapt to the surrounding environment. In the modern maintenance and repair, Xiaozhai, as a living fossil to witness the historical development of Xiaojia and even Luzhi ancient town, well continued the historical and cultural characteristics of the town.

With the development of the times, the convergence of the mainstream of the country and the world, the rapid development of civilization, the new and old culture began to collide, and the collision process of the new and old culture is also the process of integration and symbiosis. What

we need to do is to combine the essence of ancient civilization with modern civilization and promote the development of society.

4. Protection Strategy of Historical Private Houses in Luzhi Ancient Town.

One of the main links in the protection of historical blocks is the transformation and renewal of historical buildings. In the protection of historical houses, we should respect the local history and the human environment. For the ancient buildings with a high damage degree, the original modification of "saving the old as the old" should be carried out. The original materials, style, and technology, should be used as much as possible to restore the real situation of the ancient town. The historical residence of Luzhi town belongs to the dynamic history in urban remains. For the protection and renewal of this, we should analyze the corresponding protection strategies under the economic development of the urban society.

4.1 New Combines with Old ,Tradition Blends with Modern.

The private house is a very comprehensive space in ancient town architecture, and it is the soul of an ancient town. Inheriting and developing the ancient town folk house, protecting the ancient building, also plays a very important role in promoting cultural heritage. To maintain a complete living environment and architectural features of the original residential buildings, the new part is put under the old buildings, which reflects the respect and humility to the historical context.

For the transformation of residential buildings, it should retain the external features and re-divide the internal structure. In the specific reconstruction project, part of the patio is still reserved as the ventilation and lighting. According to the functional requirements, some skylights are set in the original positions. The new buildings are covered under the old buildings, so that the transformation becomes an important link to make the historic houses fresh.

4.2 Coordination between New and Old , Communal Integration and Symbiosis.

Each historical residence bears the prosperity and decline of Luzhi's ancient town, leaving a memory and vision. The Historical residence is a miniature of ancient town architecture and a perfect expression of ancient architectural significance. In the future protection and renewal, what needs to be done is the integration of the old and the new, not simply the demolition and construction. The protection of ancient buildings is to protect the historical civilization inherited by China for thousands of years.

On the whole of coordination between new and old, communal integration and symbiosis, local and overall, internal and external, past and present, technology and technology, different elements, and organic and dynamic integration and co-existence have been formed in the middle of the building, gradually forming a part of the ancient town's architecture, and recording the historical inheritance process of the town

5. Summary

Luzhi ancient town has a long history of historical buildings, profound cultural heritage, and is closely connected with people's production and life. We need to deal with the old and new relationships in the ancient town's houses. Whether it is the re-division of the internal space of the historic houses, or the contrast and blending of the old and new buildings, their essence is the same.

Historical buildings are still developing with the change of time. The use of buildings is not only reflected in the material aspect, but also the continuation of the humanistic value of buildings and the maintenance and development of the overall context of the city. Through the definition of the old and new fusion concept of Luzhi ancient town historical residential protection, it will be found that the new and old elements, new and old buildings, new and old culture integrated into the symbiotic process of the rapid development of modern society.

The protection of historic buildings has always been a long-term process, which makes Luzhi ancient town has a long cultural heritage, embodies the unique characteristics of the times, and achieves the integration of new and old, and the combination of history and modern.

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