

# Study on the Landscape Optimization of Traditional Village Public Space with "Light Intervention"—Taking Jingping village of Huaihua City as an example

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**Abstract:** Public space shows the unique rural social and cultural characteristics of traditional villages. In the development of Rural Revitalization and rural tourism, optimizing the landscape characteristics of traditional villages' public space plays an important role in the current planning and design of beautiful villages and the promotion of village features. Based on the exploration and consideration of the strategy of "Light intervention", this study takes the optimization of Jingping village public space in Huaihua City as the practice object, and puts forward the strategy of landscape optimization for the main public space of villages, such as the village entrance, lane, wharf and working space, in order to wake up the vitality of the village public space on the basis of inheriting the village culture and improving the spatial function.

## 1. Introduction

Since April 2012, the Ministry of housing and urban rural development and other four ministries and commissions jointly issued the notice on the investigation of traditional villages, and announced five consecutive batches of 6819 villages as Chinese traditional villages. The protection and development of Chinese traditional villages has become the focus of attention of all sectors of society. In October 18, 2017, in the nineteen major reports of the party, comrade Xi Jinping put forward the national strategy of "revitalizing the countryside", and in February 2018, he published the No. 1 central document "the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on the implementation of the strategy of Rural Revitalization", which raised the importance of traditional villages to the level of national strategy.

Public space is the skeleton of traditional villages, an important place for villagers to communicate, produce, and shows unique rural social and cultural characteristics. Traditional village public space not only has landscape function and service function, but also is the carrier of rural regional culture. Mining its regular patterns and characteristics plays an important role in the current planning and design of beautiful villages and the promotion of village appearance [1].

## 2. Traditional village landscape optimization strategy of "light intervention"

### 2.1 The connotation of "light intervention"

Chinese Dictionary interprets "light" as small weight and shallow degree, and "intervention" as intervening in the event. Its source can be traced back to the medical term "intervention treatment". After it is extended to the field of planning and design, "light intervention" means that some planning purposes can be achieved through "light interposition", such as local renovation of buildings, hierarchical protection, etc., and it is emphasized to be based on the local area Environment, respect for ontology, combine planning and design with environment and local culture naturally.

"Light intervention" focuses on "light", retains the respect for the original village pattern, according to the actual site situation, through the accurate positioning analysis of the problem, and

carries out effective optimization design in an economic and simple way. First, "light intervention" does not mean "no intervention". Some problems in the village, such as the disorder of space order, the imperfection of infrastructure, and the urgent need to repair some buildings, need to be solved through effective "intervention". Secondly, "light intervention" is not to complete the transformation of the village in a "Rewriting" way, but to retain the original style of the village as a whole, and to preserve, record and display the original and unique positive elements of the village in a certain way. Thirdly, "light intervention" seeks to achieve the maximum economic and spatial benefits with the minimum strength, and completes the optimization of the village landscape with a "low input and high output" attitude [2].

## **2.2 Traditional village landscape optimization strategy of "light intervention"**

### **2.2.1 Cultural context guidance**

Traditional villages are living fossils of China's millennial farming civilization, with unique and profound local culture. Traditional houses, courtyards, old sites, streets and lanes are all important parts of them. They bear the brand of historical development and times change, and are unique and symbolic. It is not only to respect the history of the village, but also to arouse the vitality of the village to excavate the cultural value of the village in depth, highlight its cultural value and make it develop and continue. Through the introduction of "light interposition" strategy, it not only avoids the consistent "push down heavy" construction in the traditional village construction, but also under the guidance of cultural context planning, it can make the original ecological life form of the original villagers have been continued, the local environment and traditional customs with the most village characteristics have been preserved, and realize the real sense of inheritance while retaining the tradition.

### **2.2.2 Public space activation**

After thousands of years of long historical evolution, the traditional village public space has been gradually formed and improved, and integrated with the village. It is an important place for villagers to live and work, product trade, cultural entertainment, rest and exchange. It is also an important carrier of rural style and folk custom inheritance. The optimization and activation of the village public space is of great significance for the sustainable development of the village [3, 4].

(1) From the public space infrastructure construction, historical and cultural value orientation, spiritual civilization construction and other aspects, restore the vitality of the original village public space through the promotion of the public space environment to improve the living environment of the village

(2) Combining the agricultural industry of traditional villages and the conditions of their own resources, inject new vitality into the village. Optimize the public space planning format, improve the utilization rate of the village public space, and avoid the disappearance of the village.

(3) From the aspect of improving the accessibility and utilization rate, combing the layout characteristics of villages and the relationship between the main building functions, giving full play to the characteristics and advantages of different spaces and buildings by the optimization of public space, organizing the comprehensive planning and development of villages with points and lines.

### **2.2.3 Village economic value mining**

Traditional villages have special historical, cultural and heritage values. Under the protection of traditional villages, moderately increase the self driving experience tour destination and characteristic cultural exhibition center and other projects, which can not only promote local economic development, increase employment opportunities, but also promote the return of village population, and increase the cultural self love and self-confidence of villagers. In the spring tide of rural revitalization, imitation is too serious of most of the traditional villages in the process of mining economic value, "one side of a thousand villages" phenomenon is significant, which directly leads to tourists' interest in traditional village tourism. Therefore, in planning and design, we should pay more

attention to the guidance of the concept of "light intervention", take the characteristics of villages as business cards, and tap the economic value of traditional villages.

### **3. The practice of public space optimization in Jingping Village with "light intervention"**

#### **3.1 Brief introduction of Jingping Village**

Jingping village is located on the West Bank of Wushui River, Zhongfang Town, Huaihua City, Hunan Province. It is 1.5km away from Zhongfang county and only 15km away from the Huaihua city. It has obvious location advantages and is at the center of the half-hour tourism circle of Huaihua City. The ancient village has a long history, relying on the mountains and surrounding the water, with a wide vision and elegant village environment. The ancient post road of Jinling passes through the village, which is known as "the most beautiful ancient village in Western Hunan". It is not only listed as a key cultural relic protection unit in Hunan Province, but also selected as the fourth batch of Chinese traditional villages, with high tourism value.

#### **3.2 Characteristics of the ancient village pattern**

##### **3.2.1 Group relationship of "three sides surrounded by water and surrounding mountains around "**

In terms of the whole pattern, Jingping village is located in the center of Zhongfang town, surrounded by Wushui River on three sides and surrounded by low mountains around. Surrounded by mountains and rivers, it has become a fish shaped geomancy treasure land.

##### **3.2.2 Layout of "Eight Diagrams pattern"**

The layout of the ancient village presents a two street and multi Lane framework with Yongxing street and ancient post road as the two main lines. The layout of the village architecture believes in the concept of The Book of changes and geomancy, with crooked doors and crooked corners. The roadways are scattered vertically and horizontally, like the eight trigrams array. Walking in the village is like walking in a labyrinth. The streets of different levels are composed of nodes formed by the intersection and connection of the streets, forming a spatial combination of "line points" The change of the height width ratio between the road and the surrounding buildings or walls reflects the rich space and skyline changes in the roadway. Such a design can adjust the geomancy, make it "store the wind and gather the gas" and prevent theft and bandits.

##### **3.2.3 Space composition of "one village, one entrance, one river and one ancient street"**

The Seven Star ancient trees are located at the entrance of the ancient village, which has become a landmark of the entrance. This space has long been a public space for people to chat and rest after a meal. The Wushui river flows through the periphery of the ancient village, and Pan's ancestral hall is located at the Wushui river. The water level mark on the wall witnesses the ups and downs of the Wushui river for hundreds of years. Along the ancestral hall You can walk along Yongxing street, the main street of the ancient village, and several lanes are connected with it. It makes people want to walk into this ancient lane, step on the bluestone path, touch the Ma Tau wallwatts, and feel the history of the ancient village for hundreds of years.

#### **3.3 The practice of public space optimization in Jingping village of "light intervention"**

Based on the research and exploration of "light intervention" planning concept and the author's in-depth investigation, the research team selected the most typical four public spaces in Jingping village, optimized the public space through "light intervention", on the basis of satisfying the daily rest of villagers and tourists, enhancing the sense of villagers, and also making the village public space culture blend ancient and modern (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Typical node distribution (photo source: self drawn)

### 3.3.1 Entrance space of the village

The entrance is the transitional space connecting the inner space of the village with the external environment. The entrance usually have unique signs to symbolize the landmark of the village. In the north, archways and walls are the most common, while in the south, water systems, ancient trees and ancestral temples are the most common. The entrance space of Jingping village is composed of a building group with Pan's ancestral hall as the main building and seven star ancient trees, forming the first impression of the ancient village.

(1) Current situation of the site: as the only way to enter and exit the ancient village, it is also a gathering place. The existing layout of the entrance basically meets the functions of entrance and exit, distribution, etc. Moreover, due to the good microclimate environment under the Seven Star ancient trees, the utilization rate of the area is very high, but the landscape effect needs to be strengthened, such as the lack of public rest facilities under the trees, the style of seats and the overall style of the village are not in harmony; the shed used for sale at the entrance seriously affects the traffic and entrance image; the middle channel is deep without guardrail, which has certain potential safety hazards; the plants are lack of management, and the landscape effect is poor, etc (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Current situation of the entrance (photo source: self photographing)

(2) Thinking of "light intervention" optimization: respect the original space characteristics, use local materials such as stone materials, create public rest facilities that are unified with the overall style; through the maintenance of local plants, create a positive landscape space, and use the effect of plant enclosure to eliminate the concealment of the sales shed.

(3) Analysis on the optimization effect of "light intervention": through the repair of the entrance space, complete the activity and rest facilities, make the whole scene of the site coordinated, plant landscape rich, landscape effect pleasant, environment suitable space increased, improve the participation of public space under the Seven Star ancient trees, make the entrance and exit not only become the first business card of the village, but also increased space usage and comfort because of its good landscape effect and microclimate (Figure 3).

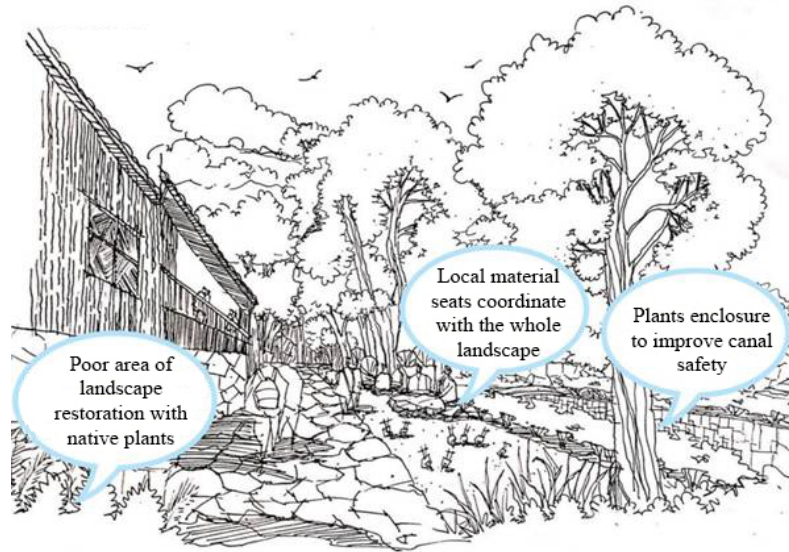


Figure 3. Entrance space optimization effect with "light intervention"

(photo source: self drawn)

### 3.3.2 Lane Space of the village

The lane space of Jingping village is famous for the layout of "nine palaces and eight lanes". It also become a unique business card of Jingping due to the variety of space. Such a planning can adjust the geomancy. The ancients thought that the crossing lane is the image of money leakage, which is not good, while the T-shaped lane and the "s" turn are conducive to gathering money and gas; In addition, it can guard against theft and bandits, make lanes and alleys crisscross, as if walking in a maze. In such a tunnel, due to the change of its spatial scale, the daily communication and greetings among neighbors are generated. Yongxing street, the main lane in the village, is connected with "nine palaces and eight lanes". How to make "light intervention" plan for the existing "nine palaces and eight lanes" to meet the villagers' daily activities is a problem that planners need to consider.

(1) Current situation of the site: due to the change of the height width ratio of the buildings on both sides and the road, the ancient village roadways have rich space opening and closing feelings. Combined with the current situation of the village's "Acquaintances" neighborhood, the villagers may talk for a while when they meet on the road. The roadways are obviously short of parking space, especially the roadways with beautiful scenery and good microclimate (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Villagers sit on the ground and talk at the crossing

(photo source: self photographing)

(2) Thinking of "light intervention" optimization: classified the roadways in different levels according to the main characteristics of use, In the areas with good landscape conditions and more residents stay and gather, open space is added, and local common retaining wall materials are fully used to create a rich local style.

(3) Analysis on the optimization effect of "light intervention": improve the space function of the roadway through the localization treatment, improve the staying and stopping of the site, and enrich the space form of villagers' activities (Figure 5).

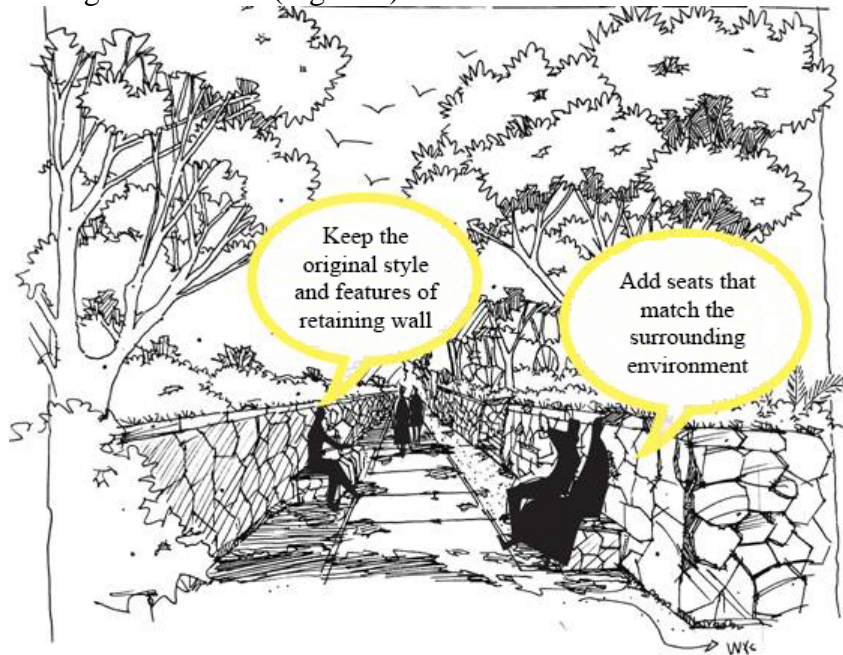


Figure 5. Lane space optimization effect with "light intervention"  
(photo source: self drawn)

### 3.3.3 Pier space

As a village built by water, although the original function of the wharf has been replaced by Jingping bridge, the wharf is not only a place for passengers to boarding and disembarking, but also a witness to the development of the village.

(1) Current situation of the site:the pier space has been completely hardened, the interaction between people and Wushui river is zero, and its infrastructure can not meet the needs of many spectators in dragon boat race every year.

(2) Thinking of "light intervention" optimization: restored the vitality of the wharf combining the original functions and situations of the space; create a hydrophilic space by local aquatic plants; increase platforms to meet the needs of activities.

(3) Analysis on the optimization effect of "light intervention": The introduction of hydrophilic space and the intervention of functional stand space can reproduce the symbiosis of Wushui and Jingping in history, which can not only arouse the villagers' memories of the old times, but also enrich the villagers' living space and meet the needs of activities (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Pier space optimization effect with "light intervention"  
(photo source: self drawn)

### 3.3.4 Working space

As a provincial pollution-free vegetable demonstration in Hunan Province, no matter traditional agriculture or new agriculture conforming to the development of the times, agriculture has always been an important economic source for the villagers of Jingping ancient village. At the same time, the working process is also a part of the daily life the villagers, so the public space for rest and communication after working is also essential.

(1) Current situation of the site: due to the construction of vegetable base, most of the existing farmland is connected into pieces with strong integrity, but the lack of short rest space for workers in farmland shows lack of humanization, besides, there are existence of a certain amount of waste farmland, and the participation and interaction of tourists in such space are too small.

(2) Thinking of "light intervention" optimization: through the construction of the leisure space, we can promote the villagers' communication and interaction, enhance the feelings of the villagers, reduce the hardships; and adopt the land use of the abandoned land, make full use of land resources to introduce agricultural practices such as the Internet+, the city's outdoor agricultural practice base for young people, and so on to increase the participation of tourists.

(3) Analysis on the optimization effect of "light intervention": To create a work and rest space and consider the introduction of weekend vegetable garden, work school and other ways can not only meet the needs of temporary rest of villagers, but also increase the interaction and participation of tourists and places, bringing space vitality (Figure7).



Figure 7. Working space optimization effect with "light intervention"

(photo source: self drawn)

## 4. Epilogue

The optimization strategy of "light interposition" emphasizes both the style construction and cultural return. It links the public space of the village with the regional environment and regional characteristics, integrates and builds together, and keeps nostalgia, so as to ignite the historical memory of the public space of the village, stimulate the neighborhood communication, improve the function of space integration, and optimize the experience of the space.

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