

Exploring the Interior Relationship and Development of Shanghai Style Landscape and Culture

Wang Wenji

Shanghai Landscape Architecture Design Institute

ABSTRACT

Landscape Architecture is the everlasting theme while the architecture is the concretionary symbol. In other words, greening system is the only living infrastructure in city. Sour of a city regional cultural connotation is decided by the city owners and presented as the exterior style and features by architecture, road, and context and landscape etc. This passage will discuss the outward manifestation and interior relationship, trend of development of Shanghai Style landscape and culture.

In addition, trying to discern the progress trend of landscape in big city is also what will be talk about.

Key Words: Metropolis, Landscape Architecture, City Culture, Inner Relationship, Development Trend

I. Original Source of Shanghai Style Culture

1. How does the Shanghai Style Culture come into being

Shanghai Style culture, in essence, is the social culture of modern city that doesn't come into being overnight, but a kind of municipal culture derived form former industrial civilization. It is a combination of Wuyue culture as fundament and western culture.

The very beginning of Shanghai Style culture formed in latter fifty year of 19th century. Then the western culture penetrated into our country when China was forced to open the first time, so that different cultures coexist on the land. Shanghai Style culture developed as the time pass by with the conflict and blending of Chinese and western culture, and intertwining of Chinese traditional spirit and western modern civilization.

The phrase 'Shanghai Style' made its first appearance in the field of painting(the predecessor of landscape architecture). Painters who had the spirit of improvement challenged the old school and school advocating back to ancients

and absorbed what was new to form today's 'Shanghai Style School', brief in Shanghai Style that fuse the old and the new, the local and the foreign. By then, Shanghai Style stands by itself.

2. The Characteristics of Shanghai Style Culture

Openness. Shanghai Style Culture develops in many fields by inherited China traditional culture and philosophy. Its momentum to develop is just the contest and complement of different culture. Colors, regions and languages stream into Shanghai, conflicting, mingling which help shape this wide open great international city. The open posture makes its culture grow in many lines but converge into one body in the end. Now, earlier general culture has been the leading culture that features in science and conception.

Comprehension. Shanghai Style culture unifies while covering variety of types and aspects. The idea of 'Shanghai Style culture' in modern times is consisted of every aspect of modern literature, art, and everyday life. In its integrated formation process, 'Shanghai culture' has been enriched through nearly 100 years of debating and consensus, the differences and reunification, and discarding and absorbing.

Finally it shapes the unique strategy and coordinate axis.

Meanwhile, it is one of the most profound, the most durable elements of competition power.

Creativeness. Shanghai Style culture owns a spirit of innovative and unconventional treason. It has been interpreted as flagship of metropolis cultural and symbol of modern civilization. Every move of the city reflects the cultural innovation and creativity, from the appearance of 'Shanghai Style School' of painting to unique style of 'Word Architecture Exposition' with the combination of Chinese and foreign, integration of art, from joint of local 'Shan Qu' with a variety of the opera to alien west restaurants, cafes. Similarly, innovative, stylish, pragmatic and sophisticated Shanghai Style garden is also the integral part of the culture.

II. The Development Course of Shanghai Style Culture

1. Period that Traditional Gardens in South Area of the Yangzte River Affctected by Wu Culture

Shanghai Garden has a long history; and it is said that there had temples and gardens in this region early in Three Kingdoms Period. Shanghai culture is deeply affected and developed by Wu culture since that by then it was a part of Suzhou. Apart from the Yu Garden, a exquisite China classical garden built in the Ming Dynasty, there has other four gardens remained . Qiuxia Garden and Guyi Garden built in the Ming Dynasty, Qushui Garden and Zuibai Pool built in the Qing Dynasty, which are the representatives of China classical garden style and local culture. Shanghai Style culture is the product of a profound reforming of Wu culture in Shanghai this special region.

2. Sprouting Period of Shanghai Style Garden in Concession Era

Western garden was imported into Shanghai at 1868 that the first British Bund Park(Public Garden at that time) was set up, covering about 2 ha, at the interchange of Huangpu River and Suzhou Creek.

Then, France Park(Fuxing Park today), about 9ha, was built in the French Concession with French classical style and layout. Again in 1874, a Jewish businessman called Hatton created a Hatton Garden(also called Aili Garden) in the downtown after he made the fortune from real estate in Shanghai.

The layout of Hatton Garden mainly in Chinese form integrated western style with many buildings, hills, rocks, springs, twists and turns. In addition, in the park there has a lot of Buddhist architecture and ornaments in that the owner's wife Luoja was a Buddhist. Above all, gardens in Concessions injected fresh air for Shanghai classical garden, breaking the tradition landscape only serves the minority.

3. The Development Period after the Founding of New China

In Shanghai, the revolutionary victory aroused the climax of national awareness after the liberation. At the same time, the garden construction also reflected changes to the time that is self-centered and China-based. On the term of overall layout, the treatment of topography, plant configuration, building facilities etc. made use of the 'language' of western, even world garden. In this stage, there had a small park called Dong'an Park. It was conceived carefully, a combing space at the entrance set up by a group of portal, through walls, fountains, steps that embodied style of China civilian building. When pass through tortuous Water Bamboo House and enter the park, lawn, fountains, sculptures, and Fuli Xuan and Fangzhu Pavilion for elders come into visitor's eyes. It is quite popula for its practical and aesthetic style, elegant sophistication and integration of west and east, even though it is not big.

4. The Maturity Period of Contemporary Shanghai Style Garden

Since 1998, when the Shanghai Style garden has reached its rapid development stage, in terms of the designing, international biddings, competitions, operation methods are utilized to invite foreign companies to be evolved in design the Greenland in the city. In this way, Shanghai Style landscape could absorb the new ideas and techniques from all around the world in every aspect. In recent years, Yanzhong Greenland, Hongqiao Garden, Xuhui Greenland and Century Park etc all introduced new design concepts and methods by international competition or bidding. Open, introduction, exchange and cooperation together help the technique advancing while landscape architecture could also get benefit from it.

III. The Relation of Shanghai Style Garden and Culture

1. The Pursuit of Unity of 'Scene' and 'Mood'

The Chinese Garden, also known as 'Literate Park', is an art with pedantic quality in that the art of poetry plays an important role in sublimating the scene to the level of spirit, in other words it also explores the mood of garden. Shanghai gardening was set up from the Southern and Northern Dynasties. It is said that Shanghai City had temple garden early in The Three Kingdom period.

According to Song Rive Records written in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, from year 551 to 581, there had an unnamed house garden in today's Jinshan town. The Records says, 'It is very high and covers wide, located behind Baoyun Temple'. The owner is a linguist and historian called Yewang Gu.

Fellowmen called the garden 'Reading Point' as it was the place for Gu reading and writing. It is by now the earliest recorded garden in Shanghai.

Shanghai Style gardens and culture root from the same Wu culture and gardens that holds Wu cultural features, which is identified with spirit, posture, and power, advocating 'learn from fortune' etc. and regarding 'harmony of man with nature' as the highest level. The sense of time and space of sages in ancient China is complement to each other, which is not as modern western philosophy and science that split the time and space. China's ancient art is a simple philosophy that pursues the diagrams and pictograms. It then specially emphasizes on the spirit, the initiative, and thought, temperature and realization of the main body. The formation of the individual aesthetics is decided by his life experience, education and cultural tradition.

2. The Psychology of 'To Stress Form, but not Connotation' in a Short Period

After the Opium War, with China's gradual disintegration of the feudal system, the Chinese Classical Gardens also lost its social and economic base of development. The imperial examination system and scholar officials of feudal times have gone. Chinese traditional culture has been impacted by Western civilization while the Chinese city park is accompanied by the invasion into China. The western powers built park in Concession according to their national park style in order to meet their own recreational needs. The so-called China city park is completely 'imported' goods. But, these parks formed Chinese people's landscape conception also opened the door to

modern garden design.

'To stress form, but not connotation' does not happen accidentally. On one hand, heterogeneous cultures coexist in the city. As a result, Western 'perfect model' that was in operation for many years was used to provide the 'convenience' for the metropolitan landscape. On the other hand, domestic landscape design strength and institution is weak, resulting from the division and fragmentation of our traditional culture that could not be inherited as a system. Besides, traditional garden lacking if imaginative changes and atmosphere of recklessness is another reason. By 1990s, Shanghai even regarded lawn as fashion. Some cut the rich grove of trees to plant expensive and precious species lawn.

But the Greenland that should be leisure entertainment area was not open for public because of its high cost of maintaining.

3. The Shanghai Style Culture Helps Build a Harmonious Society for Its Charm, Multiple Composition

Different color, faith, language and people gather in Shanghai, colliding, communicating, and integrating but no conflicts that happen in the Middle East or Africa. Shanghai is becoming a flourishing, thriving international metropolis. The connotation of this harmonious society only could be interpreted by the essence of Shanghai Style culture. Many non-dominant cultures was covered by major cultural circle in the fierce collision while these major cultural circle was been conquered into one by Shanghai Style culture.

It is always a hot and a controversy for landscape field about the Shanghai Style garden's morphology and function, diversity and unity, reconciliation and contrast, symmetrical and balanced, scale and proportion, meter and rhythm. Shanghai Style landscape becomes a live study subject because of its all-encompassing feature. With the intensified process of globalization, garden style is doomed to be as same as each other. Similarly, Shanghai Style landscape is inevitable affected by overseas design for its characteristic. This has brought us many benefits, for example, technology can be used more conveniently. On the other hand, globalization also lets us lose individuality or ability of self-cognition.

IV. Internal Features and External Manifestation of Shanghai Style Culture

1. The Internal Features of Shanghai Style Culture

Firstly, openness. Shanghai Style garden created its own current by casting western and Chinese landscape for our use, by absorbing essence of different culture and converting the decadent to the magic. Also, Shanghai is not close, complacent: Shanghai doesn't refuse advance, exclude fashion.

Beijing and Shanghai separately represent two different kinds of style in art and culture. Shanghai Style features absorbing western culture with its innovation, flexibility, diversity and thick commercial spirit, while Beijing Style garden is reserved and skilled with official style. Shanghai Style is romantic as a modern girl while Beijing Style is classic as a young lady. But with changes of history, a modern Shanghai Style garden gradually becomes mainstream.

Secondly, creativity. Abstraction is not copy, and not repeats or imitation, but a spirit of innovation filled with the vitality of creation. The Shanghai Style Beijing Opera even created continue play with stage directions, and settings and background. What's more, now 'Cao Cao and Xiu Yang' is created while Jinmao Tower is innovation of architecture. Suzhou gardens can use words 'artful and beautiful' to summarize. It is artful for its rich cultural connotation; it is beautiful for its refined beauty. Even though Suzhou gardens could be 'exported' to foreign countries, it is just antiques in value. Shanghai Style garden could absorb not only essence of western and Chinese gardens, but ancient and modern gardens in that it changes according to the need of immigrant culture which is different from Yangzhou garden with anti-tradition atmosphere that changes just because it wants to change.

Thirdly, nature to develop what is useful or healthy and discard what is not. It is chaotic in the period of passive open times in concession and at the beginning of initiative open times with many things are waiting to done, which it is understandable. We promptly made clear that now we should avoid blindness and bigotry to identify special needs and select difference. As it is well know, the essence of Shanghai Style culture is 'like a sea gathers many rivers' water'. Modern Shanghai garden become more and more western because of 'Learning from west'. So its biggest characteristic is the mix of traditional and western gardens in that foreign layout but traditional Chinese garden brilliance in detail.

It is continuously refinement in detail that shows the taste and delicacy of Shanghai Style culture.

Fourthly, diversity. Shanghai Style culture is a complicated community as other subjects. It should not be asked to be pure for singleness is not what Shanghai Style culture represents. In Shanghai Style culture, there would appear at the same time elegance and secularity, modern and ancient elements, highbrow and popular literature or art, even advanced and lagged components, low-grade, earthly counterculture. What is needed to do is treated them differently. Shanghai Style garden is active and open with capability of including many things, different styles in it at the same time orderly. We can see unification in many changes, for example, Zhongshang Park, Britain, Japanese and Chinese garden style are all involved in it. Guyi Park in Nanxiang is another example. Although it is ancient(built in the early Ming Dynasty), nowadays it has reconstructed as a modern park with rocks, waters, trees and architectures in unification.

2. External Manifestation of Shanghai Style Culture

Firstly, open layout. Different from classical Chinese garden's closeness and reserving, modern gardens are open and spacious. A number of free open space, park and Greenland that was constructed in recent years have formed Shanghai modern garden with its own features. Visitors can easily access to gardens and green land for there has no walls and railing. They all have many entrance that along the streets.

The open to streets intensify the use of the landscape as media of city. Open layout inserts itself in the city to soften the urban interface, strengthen the openness of garden space so that urban space is more humane.

Free curve is also one of the elements of open space. Rainfall in Shanghai is quite a lot, so that there has a pattern of crisscross rivers. Water spontaneously is the important content of Shanghai Style garden, for example, Peace Bridge Greenland. It is concise in layout in that it encloses water in the center by steps and lanes. Streetscape directly connects with the waterfront which therefore becomes the open space between roads and green. Again, in Daning Greenland, the 'source' and 'flow' of landscape is clear. It displays the spirit and spatial pattern of traditional Chinese garden landscape.

Free curve does not only come from tortuous lines of the waterfront, but also roads that is the continuation of the city's fabric. Curved paths in modern Shanghai gardens is not as same as classical gardens in that it has more regular curves to focus on plane effects, but with lack of depth. Huangxing

Park and Peace Bridge Greenland all give out this feature, while in Ancient City Park a arch path divides the ground in to two parts.

Secondly, stress on ecology, creating urban forest. City is the largest artificial work of human. The magnitude of the modern city separated people from nature and also stirred up the strong desire to close to the nature. The ecology has been the main subject in landscape architecture because of the maturity of ecology theory, the development of landscape and urban ecology. This point is evident in Shanghai modern garden. People can see a group of reed or accidentally birds at a place 50 meters away from Century Plaza. But Shanghai Style park prefers a man-made nature that is established from people's subjective view.

Thirdly, mingle use of the venue. The biggest challenge of green construction in Shanghai is the limitation of lands. City parks and other facilities always fight to have more land. The necessary function of cities and urban green space determine to integrate so that another characteristic of Shanghai garden come out: the mingle use of land. Under the ground of People Square, there is a mix of commercial and underground traffic and electronic exhibition of museum. The underground of Xu Jiahui Park, there have water collection and a park lot. Moreover, overhead the Yanzhong Greenland, a viaduct extend in the air; under the green there have commercial development and park space.

Separation of the surface soil and deep soil makes the microclimate of the gardens change. Also the frozen lines changed because of the separation and hydrological condition.

V. Interpretation of Shanghai Style Garden

1. Having Principles with no Formation

Firstly, 'Having principles' means the formation and a connotation is rich but has its own principles.

'Ecology Landscape' is the foremost principle. Shanghai, as the first city that advocated this conception, regards the ecology as the one of the key point of study and research. Secondly, the principle of respecting the development of history. It means boost the development of urban Greenland and ecological landscape by inheriting and absorbing the tradition and essence of world-round garden.

Thirdly, the principle of being rich in connotation. The landscape should be with culture from Chinese and western

world while keeping Shanghai Style garden spirit. Fourthly, principle of innovation.

Because Shanghai is an international metropolis, the gardens should meet the need of general public, visitors and improved urban environmental functions by continuous innovation, openness and practical methods.

'With no formation' means there is no fixed layout. It is not random patch of all times gardens, but innovation on the base of principle, forming more suitable Shanghai Style garden for Shanghai city as a international metropolis through attracting strengthen from other and innovation. It is seeking unification in changes, in mood, in aesthetic aspect. It is just because of 'with no formation' that Shanghai Style garden is developed. Shanghai Style garden blossoms everywhere, apart from a number of large parks and green lands, the small parks such as Dongan Park and Xu Jiahui Park are the representatives.

2. Having Its Own Style and Layout

'Style.' Shanghai garden set up from the Northern and Southern Dynasties, being derived from Wu culture as Shanghai Style culture. It began in the later half of the 19th century. Its style was affected by Europe landscape formation, western modern landscape designing conception and the thought of Chinese traditional landscape. Sometimes one element performed more prominently with a preference while sometimes work vaguely with no choice. In Shanghai, an international metropolis, the eastern and western cultures collide. The cityscape reflects its unique connotation, modern without superficial.

Traditional culture, foreign culture and indigenous culture converge to make the city full of vitality and the Shanghai Style garden designing with characteristics of 'multi-source'.

'Layout'. Shanghai Style garden has its own features after the repeated deliberate hard work of several generations. That is: absorbing foreign advanced designing concept and humane conceive and take on the history context and culture of the city, making out various layout, mainly planting arbor with complex flora, making use of high tech to develop green lands. A suitable development path has been paved for urban characteristics of Shanghai city. A lot of Shanghai Style green landscape was built such as Yanzhong Greenland, Danning Greenland, Kaiqiao Greenland, People Square, Dongan Park and so on.

VI. The Development Trend of Shanghai Style Landscape

1. Improving Urban Environment, Displaying City Characteristics, Enhance the Potential and Settle Historical Culture

International exchanges and cooperation are increasing as the development of multi-polarization, economic globalization, cultural diversity. People has aware the importance of environment, environmental protection and sustainability. People are working at it to pay attention to natural power, to protect environment and diversity of animals, to improve the living condition, to harmonize the human and nature.

Landscape is the living infrastructure of city. The green plant is irreplaceable. Open space, utilizing the entertainment function provide civilians with places for their rest and entertainment. It is a combination of natural beauty and man-made landscape, of multi-subject and major. It plays a pivotal role in improving the image of city.

Landscape is art, but not pure art. It is not as same as painting and sculpture. It is an environmental art with many applications. The development trend of Shanghai Style garden should be grasped through the macro background of landscape, first of all, planting as the main body of landscape.

2. Presenting Local Characteristics, Integrating National Culture, and Absorbing Essence of World-around Garden

Shanghai Style Culture has its unique charm for it is the bridgehead of China's opening up, for it combines and present Chinese and Western culture. Nowadays, reform and opening up is all-directional in China. From East to West, from coastal areas to the inner land, are more or less on the path. Every city is exploring the design solution of landscape architecture through combining western and classical Chinese culture. It seems that the Shanghai Style garden tend to lose its features and converge to general style. But the regional differences certainly will appear in this general style, such as Beijing Style, LInnan Style, and Shanghai Style still have their own features and style because of its different social background, history context and nature condition. Moreover, the plants strip and architecture construction would be different.

Traditional garden of China with its special national style stands in the field of garden. It wins much praise in past and at present as well. The existing traditional gardens should be protected and maintained as cultural relic. The destroyed gardens should be recovered partially or fully if permits.

Landscape architecture is to selectively give prominence to classical image of traditional garden as a part of city planning, or reform construction material, or display the old form by new material which is suitable for local climate. A traditional garden has its limitations and backwardness side. Modern landscape need absorb its essence but not just imitate it.

3. Creating New Garden with Aesthetics, Designing Style with Connotation

The urban design is a success for it has presented the unification of practicability and aesthetics in urban construction. If aesthetics was to be neglected, Shanghai could never be a city holds suitable landscape and amazing beautiful cityscape. Now, Shanghai is going to be a more ecological city. But how to reach this higher level is still under consideration. Aesthetics may play further role in helping Shanghai be a more beautiful and more natural city. We can say that aesthetics is an inevitable element in the sustainable process of development of city.

Shanghai Style garden needs creativity for it is the soul. When it comes to formation innovation, all kinds of ecological functions(including overshadow, ventilation, light etc.) and human-friendly functions should be take into consideration. The educational function also could not be omitted to pursue the outlook of landscape. In the urban planning, parks are be classified in to several catalogue, including theme park, municipal park and small park. Shanghai Style garden is making its new era in different scale with rich connotation and styles.

Shanghai Style garden has strong vitality and vigor to cover and integrate different culture or style. As the front filed of researching in modern landscape architecture, there will come out a number of problems which should be face it positively. At the same time, it is a experiment for our landscape architects. The forward momentous of Shanghai Style garden is to know and grasp the objective rules of development, to utilize our skill to push Shanghai Style culture stride forward in the new century.

Culture is the life of a city, which is less, longevity of the city will be shorter, and vise versa in that radiation of culture is far reaching and pervasive.