

# Inheriting and Innovation

## - The Trend of Landscape Architecture -

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### Abstract

Nowadays, landscape architecture development faces several challenges such as how to inherit Chinese cultures and spirits, how to sustain historical and traditional features and how to keep landscape vital in modern development of city and society.

Through interpretation of Chinese culture nature which is set as the research principle, this paper concludes to 'natural, suitable and special' leading idea of inheriting, constructing and preserving Chinese landscape. This idea also integrates traditional, modern, western and Chinese cultures and features. With projects and examples, it also explains those bad effects to landscape inheriting: un-enough mending, natural aging, unsuitable policies, and over development etc. This paper also addresses Beijing Tiantan Park and Shanghai Jiangnan Ship Firm landscape design to show successful protection of traditional gardens. Various protections of the architectures and surroundings and innovation of traditional landscape architecture are also stated.

*Key Words: Traditional Culture, Landscape Architecture, Inherit, Innovate, Renovation*

## 1. Introduction

### 1. Background

Chinese traditional gardens, landscape architectures and parks dated from Chinese long history are technological and art treasures of those times. They recorded civilization and philosophy development, which also being the expression of Chinese cultures and all human beings.

At present, Chinese cities and towns are facing fast development of construction and renovation. Three kinds of issues come out: how to inherit Chinese cultures to build newly landscape construction, how to sustain the continuity of history to protect the ancient gardens, and how to keep traditional landscape vigorous in modern city?

### 2. Significance

Nowadays, high buildings rise fast in city, which couldn't

be believable in 18th century or middle ages.

It took 150 years to construct St Peter Cathedral in Rome, but now it may takes only half a century to build a modern city.

During city update process, people expect better environment, strong city inspirit, good integration of traditional and future architecture in their life. That's what we focus on in this research.

### 3. Objective

This paper aims to find a proper way to preserve traditional garden culture and bring its effect to modern development. Update contradicts to preservation. The development of modern and traditional landscape faces challenges. We don't only need to pick up and preserve the good features of tradition but also should reconstruct landscape to meet modern functional requirement. And this should not bring bad effects to art city.

#### 4. Philosophy

Custom is a spirit survived through people life and history of a certain area. It connects religion, living 2 habit, philosophy, and hobby, which show good idea systems of long history<sup>1)</sup>.

Culture is people's expression or feeling to real life elements of time and area. When it comes into words or other patterns for publication, civilization is formed.

Civilization of modern world consists of oriental and western cultures in which we consider long-history oriental cultures as our base. European culture is the spirit of western civilization.

In orient, people focus on communication and integration of human and nature, aiming to understand justice through culture. In west, people emphasize on freedom and personality<sup>1)</sup>.

We consider 'natural, suitable and special' leading idea of inheriting, constructing and preserving Chinese landscape.

## II. Problem of Inheriting, Preserving and Developing Chinese Landscape

### 1. Ignorance of Historical Culture Leads to Damaging of Traditional Gardens

Before, many traditional gardens experienced ignorance and destroy because of policies, construction and history reasons.

Nine city gates of old Beijing define the structure and location of this famous city. But now there're only half. Back-out brought lot damage to Beijing structure features.

The man-made reasons also destroyed the traditional gardens. For instance, war is the worst one.

Yuanmingyuan Park was one of those, which was a garden treasure and burn down by war.

### 2. Over-exploration and Lack of Knowledge on Keeping Traditional Landscape's Vitality

The development of tourism brings bad influence to old gardens because unharmonious between garden capacity and tourist amount. Eventually, gardens lost their attraction and vitality.

Bad management, policy, and multi-management were bad for the protection of traditional gardens.

About 77 gardens were managed and utilized by dozens of

culture relics, landscape, religious, and governmental institutes, which brought difficulties to protection.

### 3. Bad Effects of Improper Relationship between Renovation and Preservation

City development doesn't do well with the collaboration of newly-built projects and existing traditional gardens. Just like Hangzhou, high buildings rise around West Lake, so the lake area is reduced. Old architectures become miniature gardens, although the building height is restricted by local government.

The spatial urban landscape and nature scene could only be found in old paintings.

Newly-built gardens couldn't express Chinese traditions and cultures, which leads to bad confusing designs.

## III. Successful Projects of Inheriting, Construction and Preservation

### 1. Beijing Tiantan Park

In order to get a general proper way to protect this old park, the research on Tiantan Park and surrounding environment should be done first. This could achieve a mutual relationship between modern city planning and historic relics without contradictory. If this proper model and way could be successful, other planning and preservation may be also very good.

Tiantan Park. The Temple of Heaven (built in 1420) was the place where the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties would worship Heaven and pray for bumper crops. The northern part of the outer surrounding wall is semi-circular in shape while the southern part square, a pattern symbolic of the ancient belief that Heaven was round and the earth square. The double surrounding wall separates the temple into two parts. The inner and outer temples with the main structures in the inner one. In 1998, it was recognized by the UNESCO as 'one of the human heritages of the world' which owning great architectural and philosophical attractions. Protection of the park and surrounding environmental culture is just preservation of historical features and traditional buildings.

The protection of surroundings should be first done in the preservation works of Tiantan Park to keep visual environment and style restriction. The significance of historic blocks is the historical scene and space. Usually those protected architecture is just used for display just as a museum, the

basic value is lost. But streets always are functional and helpful for city development. Within the environment, people still live, work and enjoy the surrounding good conditions. So the protection of historical streets should be a open system which could keep features, advance renovation, and inspire vitality to integrate the preservation and development well. Now the streets around Tiantan Park has been preserved and given modern features. It could meet people's living need very well.

The protection of all historic elements should be done secondly including architectures, plants and culture relics.

The architectures are treasures of Chinese culture and technology. The archives and materials should be set first to protect step by step<sup>2)</sup>.

In 1984, Tiantan Park had its own plan principle 'culture relic protection as foundation, reshaw historical environment as objective'. Different parts in the park were renovated step by step after then.

Social and economic results were obtained by hardwork. The significant meaning of Tiantan Culture was paid attention by various people and profession.

The entironment of Tiantan means green heart for the city. The culture is philosophy and courtesy measures of traditions.

There are different kinds of plants and trees in Tiantan Park. They were planted in Ming and Qing Dynasty which defined the landscape spirit there. So you may see many old trees and artful treasure.

They also became famous trees with distinct names.

Some famous people and foreign friends planted trees here too. Many contemporary leaders came here to plant trees. Those trees with old famous trees build green scenery for Tiantan Park.

Though tourism brings influences for the temple of heaven, it also raises economic profits for here. The balance between the two aspects would advance the development of them. The historical blocks near could also add the income for people here by economic structure adjustment.

The protection way and example became model for Chinese landscape gardens.

## 2. On New Landscape Design and Innovation through Jiangnan Ship Firm Example

Jiangnan Shipyard was established in 1865(Tongzhi 4th year of Qing Dynasty). The previous name was Jiangnan Machine Manufacturer and was renamed as Jiangnan Ship-

building Works in 1912 and Jiangnan Shipyard in 1949. In 1996 the yard was transformed into state-owned solely funded Jiangnan Shipyard(Group) Company Limited. As the first generation of industry workers in China was nurtured in Jiangnan Shipyard, the yard is regarded as cradle of China's national industry. Consisting of senior experts in ship design, doctors, postdoctoral and experienced designers, Technical Center of Jiangnan Shipyard(Group) Co. Ltd which is approved and supported by the state is capable of research and development of new high tech products and technology.

The company is now equipped with more than 70 graphic workstations, over 600 PC, different size plotters in all application fields, JN Intranet is planed and its completion will bring all management, marketing, designing, material supply, financing etc into a complete system. Advanced software systems e.g. Nastran, KCS Tribon has been installed in Technical Center.

Because of the 2010 Expo 4 Shanghai, the shipyard will move to Changxing Island. How to preserve much historical architecture and continue the national spirit over one and a half centuries? These related questions became challenges for our design and plan work.

Firstly, protect that valuable historical architecture. War and reconstruction of the first half 21st century leaded to the damage of existing site which means a lot to the history and culture of Shanghai. Under attention of government and Ship Firm, many buildings were researched and preserved. In 2010 Expo, this site will be a display window of Chinese national industry for the world.

Secondly, the construction of new site and new factory should keep the history consistency but also became an innovative project to show long-history Chinese national spirit, architecture style, function and view. That's just the principle of landscape architecture design. The landscape stones are moved to the entrance of new site as a sign. Historical equipment will be on show with serial numbers to let people know more of the shipyard history. Many elements are all used in landscape design of the new site. Culture and history will be displayed very well in the old and new site to introduce techniques, materials, sceneries, documents and the integration of landscape and various aspects. Visitors will be moved by historical achievements of our nation.

The main architecture entrance is embraced by special plants of Changxing island feature. Local plants also are very easy to manage and plant. In Ship-Owner woods you'll find many trees planted by every ship buyer, which has view,

protective, and memorial functions.

The landscape design of the factory is a very special part of landscape planning. During design, greenery should be obtained in the factory together with the product function. The new factory will be built and constructed to be a special one consisting of history and culture features but also a innovative environment of distinct landscape features different from the old shipyard.

## IV. Inherit, Development and Preserve of Landscape Architecture

### 1. Policy Preservation

Policy preservation relates to architecture, surrounding area, old plants, tourism development and etc.

As a distinct tourist resource, a Chinese traditional garden has functions of research, education, inspiration, sightseeing, and art display. They will also bring great economic and social good influences to local area. But through time, many famous spots have been ruined because of many reasons. This directly bring bad effects to tourism and development<sup>2)</sup>. In order to keep the gardens vital and attractive, we have to consider inheriting and protection as the most important parts.

### 2. Preservation of Chinese Landscape Culture

Chinese garden has its own art and culture significance. It interprets Chinese traditional philosophy and art culture. It's a part of Chinese traditional culture. Without gardens, we will have an incomplete Chinese culture.

### 3. Preservation of Landscape Architecture

The protection of architecture should show respect to original structure, style, appearance to maintain its distinct culture and experience.

The construction and renovation of landscape areas should be done according to the environmental, cultural, style, functional, design features to achieve excellent site with various atmosphere.

### 4. Hardscape Preservation

The protection of Hardscape relates to pavement, path and details. As time goes, the pavement stone was destroyed by air slakes. Old style stone should be used to mend the hard-

scape. Some spots will be defined by crawls to avoid visitors' influence. Some areas will be mended by plastic materials to protect these areas which are easy to be damaged<sup>2)</sup>.

### 5. Surrounding Blocks Preservation

The surrounding areas of landscape architecture zone mean a lot for the landscape spots. The development and construction should be limited to assure the visual environment in aspects of color, architecture style and scale.

### 6. Preservation of Biology Variety in Landscape Architecture

Plants and living thing is an important part of landscape garden. They are telling stories and history to generations of different times.

The protection work should be done according to science planning. Ecological measures should be done to improve the environment of landscape gardens.

## V. Conclusion

1. New landscape architecture development should be done according to various situations, requirements, policies and protection courses.
2. Construction, inheriting, and protection should solve those problems of history and culture consistency and vitality in modern development.
3. Explore the culture intension and do research on environment, evaluation, remedy, protection and renovation.
4. Chinese cities and towns are facing fast development of construction and renovation. Various issues come out: how to inherit Chinese cultures to build newly landscape construction, how to sustain the continuity of history to protect the ancient gardens, and how to keep traditional landscape vigorous in modern city? In order to solve those problems, we landscape architects and operators should have artful visions, professional skills, culture knowledge and smart minds to achieve landscape success.

## References

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