

Research on Modern Architecture of Macao from the Perspective of Sino-Portuguese Cultural Integration

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ABSTRACT. *This paper studies the blending of East and West in the urban modern architecture of Macao, and specifically describes how the Portuguese entered Macao by renting land. Since then, Portugal's influence on the social life of Macao and other aspects has exceeded 400 years, and at the same time, Macao has grown from a small fishing village to a city with a population of more than 600,000 people. The streets are crisscrossed with tall buildings. Macao architecture represents a tributary of the development of Oriental architecture. Many buildings have unique styles of Chinese and Portuguese architecture. The formation of Macao streets and the naming of streets condense the history and culture of more than 400 years, which is a specific explanation of Portuguese culture's contact and integration with the Oriental culture in Macao architecture, and to a certain extent, it reflects the development of Macao city and presents its unique cultural assets.*

KEYWORDS: *Macao, Macao Streets, Modern Urban Architecture, Portugal*

1. Introduction

Ji Xianlin once said, "in China's history of more than 5,000 years, there have been several high tides of cultural exchanges. The last and most important one was the introduction of Western culture. The Development of Art Colleges. The starting point of the introduction this time was the late Ming Dynasty and early Qing Dynasty. From a geographical point of view, it was Macao. At the end of Ming dynasty and the beginning of Qing Dynasty, those who were introduced Western culture were Portuguese, but their stronghold was in Macao[1]." Architecture is the core of national culture, dynamic music, and the eternal art. It reproduces the people's culture of a region, a city, a nation country, and shows its unique material and spiritual culture. The architectural perspective of a region, a country's political and economic development, thus determines the shape and appearance of the building.

Qu Dajun's book "Guangdong New Talk" records: "Above all the vessels anchored by the seaside, thus they must be Au. Au is also the port. Xiangshan has

Au, the name is Langbai, and it is more than a hundred miles away. Among them are the mutual markets. Ten miles to Au, Au has South Tai, North Tai, Tai is the mountain. In relative terms, it is called Macao[2]. Macao belongs to the combination of architecture style of Chinese and Western, which is the expression of the form produced by the communication and the collision of different cultural layers, and the product of the combination of the ideology.

As a result of the blending of Chinese and Western cultures, Macao's cultural characteristics are its openness and inclusiveness, which are vividly displayed in the city's architecture.

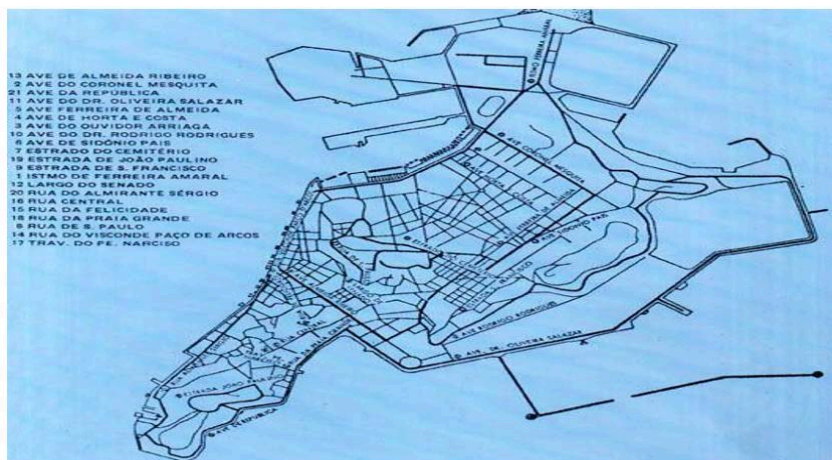


Figure 1. Map of Macao (Source: "Macao Yearbook" printed by the Macao Official Printing Bureau in 1967)

2. Changes in architectural style and form in Macao

The Portuguese government in Macao has been in close contact with Portugal all the time. Accordingly, the changes of Portuguese local architectural culture have been brought into Macao with Portuguese immigrants. The architectural style of Portugal is varied, and it has evolved with the development of the country's history. It is not a stand-alone style, but a mixture of many foreign influences. These included the Romans, the Visigoths, the Arabs and other civilizations. There are also influences from the architectural styles of European cultural and art centers, such as Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance Baroque, neoclassical and modernist architectures. Over time, it has evolved its own style of Portuguese architecture, namely the "plain style", "Manuel style" (also known as the Sea style), etc., and the history of Portuguese architecture can be regarded as the history of style evolution.

The evolution of Macao under the mutual influence of Chinese and Portuguese architecture can be roughly divided into four periods. They are explained in the following aspects. In the first period, before the arrival of the Portuguese in 1577, before the establishment of the permanent residence in Macao, the local architecture

was unaffected by the Portuguese style. Now called The small Peninsula of Macao, it used to be the home of fishermen. Mazu Pavilion and Guanyin Hall are two well-preserved Chinese temples in Macao. In the second period, from 1557 to 1700, it was the early stage of slight integration between Chinese and Portuguese buildings, the Portuguese style became more apparent. In the third period, from 1700 to 1900, the year 1700 marks the peak period of Sino-Portuguese architectural integration, when the two buildings were combined into one to form a uniform symbol. The fourth period, 1900-1937, saw the introduction of concrete architecture and the rise of an international architectural style, which, however, was less delicate and subtle than that of the earlier buildings.

From the observation of a long period of several hundred years, the evolution of the Portuguese architecture style and the Macao architecture style is almost synchronous. Except for some unique and special styles, Portuguese architecture is very similar to that of other countries in the Mediterranean. With the development and reconstruction of modern times, most of the early Portuguese buildings in modern Macao have disappeared, and these distinctive buildings are disappearing rapidly. It is known that the newcomers brought with them the building patterns and methods of their country[3]. The existing Portuguese tiling tradition and the “Manuel style” of nautical articles can still be found in Macao. The historical architectural complex of Macao includes A-Ma Temple, Port Authority Building, Former Residence of Zheng Guanying, St. Joseph's Seminary Building, Rosary Church (St. Dominic Church and St. Dominic Church), St. Paul's Archway (St. Paul's Cathedral Ruins) (Figure 2), Nezha Temple, big Fort and the east Fort, are historical testimonies of foreign missionaries coming to China for preaching. It is the oldest, largest and most well-preserved in China. Mainly Western-style buildings, the most distinctive historical building complex combining Chinese and Western styles. On July 15, 2005, The Historic district of Macao was included in the World Heritage List by UNESCO, which reflects the result of the cultural exchanges between China and the West since the 16th century, and it also provides new opportunities for the protection of Macao's urban historical form.



Figure 2. St. Paul's archway (Source: Macao Special Administration Go to the Government Tourism Office)

3. Macao city street space and name setting

As a special administrative region of China, Macao has formed a special multi-culture due to its special historical reasons. In modern Times, Macao has an obvious combination of Chinese and Western characteristics in block management and has retained some historical and cultural streets. From the perspective of urban planning, the overall planning of Macao follows the Portuguese model of urban development in the middle century. The church and the front ground are used as nodes. "The front ground" space sets a small square for citizens to have a rest, which also serves as the zoom point of the road, debugging the spatial rhythm and widening the visual effect of the road.

"Street", in the definition of "Shuowen Jiezi" by Xu Shen in the Eastern Han Dynasty, the definition is as follow: "reaching in all directions"[4]. This kind of thoroughgoing street has the culture, information, economy and so on aspect radiation normal function. Block is the crystallization of human spiritual civilization and material civilization. The block embodies the interaction between the spiritual civilization and the material civilization. As for the systematic planning of blocks, the government of Macao is very strict. In practice, the street construction engineering drawings shall be approved by the authoritative institutions, and there shall be no mistakes with the drawings during the construction process. Acceptance links are no exception, such as whether there are errors that interfere with the sanitary regulations whether the facade wall is solid or whether the demarcation of the land and construction is solid and so on. The road system of Macau has taken shape in the early days, and construction has been carried out based on the topographical factors, with an irregular road network spreading out as "straight streets". Because of the distinctive character of a road, it is very difficult to find a street that keeps straight. However, in the 1980s and 1990s, the government of Macao made some improvements to the city's internal road system. First of all, the Songshan Tunnel was opened to relieve traffic pressure from the outside port, and then the Friendship Bridge and The Macao-Taipa Bridge were built for the rapid economic development. However, from the perspective of space composition, the height of buildings on both sides of the road is in harmony with the proportion of street width, and the comfort of the road space is worthy of admiration.

Macao street names concentrate the Macao more than four hundred years of history and culture, is the specific about Portuguese culture in Macao eclecticism, meanwhile, it also reflects that the freedom of people of the religious belief, shows the city development of Macao, also shows the positive progress of Macao society. Furthermore, reflecting the life of the people, presenting unique and rich cultural assets. According to the data of Macao Civil Affairs Department, there are 1,254 named streets in Macao, and 959 in Macao Peninsula, while 173 in Taipa and 122 in Coloane. The Macao street unit is a blend of the more common classifications used in Portuguese and Chinese cities. Chinese-style street units: street, lane, li, community, and square. The number of "streets" and "lanes" is the most common in the old areas, such as the Mage Inclined Alley (Figure 3), the Dongwangyang Inclined Alley, the Dabaotai Inclined Alley, etc., which is enough to explain that in

the initial stage of urban planning, Chinese units are basically adopted as the main ones, at the same time, there are fewer Portuguese street units. Portugal street units are mostly located in the reclamation areas and recently developed areas, mainly including main roads, roads, highways, front land, circular land, soil waist and observation deck, etc. Among them, the soil waist is a particularly special street unit. There is only one in Macao, located in the Amalathu Waist of Guanzha Road. There are also streets named after Portuguese-Chinese celebrities, such as The HORTA ECOSTA main road, named after HORTA ECOSTA, the Australian governor. Streets named after Portuguese and Chinese cities, such as Rua Cidade de Coimbra, Xiamen Street, Chaoshan Street, Chengdu Street in the New Port area.



*Figure 3. The Port Authority Building at Ma Ge Xiexiang, Macao, late 21st century
(Source: Macao Street Network)*

4. Conclusion

In the early twentieth century, the city and modern architectural style of Macao basically completed the overall transformation to the modernization. It is a bridgehead for contacting modern Western artifacts and culture in China. The diversified cultural convergence and development include Chinese and Portuguese cultures and cultures from all over the world. After the integration of the foreign and the local cultures, the "Macao culture" with profound meaning is reproduced [5]. In the historical stage, the western culture has been passionately colliding on the land of Macao, which has laid a foundation for its unique urban architectural characteristics. The strong vitality of Chinese traditional culture and its openness and inclusiveness have made it possible for Chinese and Western cultures to coexist peacefully[6]. All these characteristics have endowed Macao with unique urban image and formed its urban "spirit". Architectural heritage of Macao is the most unique and precious content.

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