

Research on the Protection Strategy of Historical and Cultural Blocks from the Perspective of Social Sustainability

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Abstract: *As an important carrier of ecological civilization construction, historical and cultural blocks are the most intuitive areas that reflect the regional characteristics of a city and human history. The purpose of this paper is to introduce the research status and characteristics of historical and cultural blocks, and to discuss the technical methods of protection planning under the social sustainable perspective.*

Keywords: *Social sustainable perspective; Historical and cultural districts; Conservation and development; Social value*

1. Introduction

Historical and cultural blocks are important resources for urban development. Protecting Historical and cultural blocks is of practical significance to the construction of characteristic cities. Culture has been hailed as the "driving force of economic development", as evidenced in the development of many cities [1-2]. As a unique witness of urban development, the historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods have various resources effects, and have comprehensive values in the publicity of urban image, historical and cultural education, maintenance of local complex, identification of cultural identity, construction of ecological environment and construction of harmonious living environment. Historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods are not only to protect the cultural relics and historic buildings that constitute historical features, but also to preserve all the elements that constitute the overall features, such as roads, streets, courtyards, bridges, streams, revetments and even ancient trees. Historical and cultural street block is a large area, there are a large number of residents living in it, is a living cultural heritage, has its own community culture, can not only protect the shell of those historical buildings, but also should preserve the culture it carries, protect the non-material form of the content, and preserve cultural diversity. It is necessary to maintain the community tradition, improve the living environment, and promote regional economic vitality. In recent years, with the rapid development of economy and the increase of population, the environment for the survival of the cultural heritage in the historical blocks is increasingly eroded. Urban development is facing enormous development pressure. Because the traditional methods and techniques can not meet the need of the protection planning of famous historical and cultural cities, it is urgent to explore new techniques and methods to solve the problems encountered in the investigation of the current situation of historic districts, the formulation and management of protection planning. Historical and cultural blocks are important resources for urban development. Protecting Historical and cultural blocks is of practical significance to the construction of characteristic cities. Culture has been hailed as the "driving force of economic development", as evidenced in the development of many cities [1-2]. As a unique witness of urban development, the historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods have various resources effects, and have comprehensive values in the publicity of urban image, historical and cultural education, maintenance of local complex, identification of cultural identity, construction of ecological environment and construction of harmonious living environment. Historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods are not only to protect the cultural relics and historic buildings that constitute historical features, but also to preserve all the elements that constitute the overall features, such as roads, streets, courtyards, bridges, streams, revetments and even ancient trees. Historical and cultural street block is a large area, there are a large number of residents living in it, is a living cultural heritage, has its own community culture, can not only protect the shell of those historical buildings, but also should preserve the culture it carries, protect the non-material form of the content, and preserve cultural diversity. It is

necessary to maintain the community tradition, improve the living environment, and promote regional economic vitality. In recent years, with the rapid development of economy and the increase of population, the environment for the survival of the cultural heritage in the historical blocks is increasingly eroded. Urban development is facing enormous development pressure. Because the traditional methods and techniques can not meet the need of the protection planning of famous historical and cultural cities, it is urgent to explore new techniques and methods to solve the problems encountered in the investigation of the current situation of historic districts, the formulation and management of protection planning.

2. Overview of the protection planning of historical and cultural blocks

2.1. Related concepts of historical and cultural districts

Historical sections that are approved and announced by the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government to be under special protection are called historical and cultural streets [3]. Streets and neighborhoods of historical and cultural value shall have historical styles and features that are rich in preserved cultural relics, centralized in tracts of historical buildings, and can fully reflect the traditional pattern, and historical buildings and elements of historical environment that constitute historical styles and features are basically the original objects retained by history, and shall have a certain scale [4].

2.2. Constituent elements and characteristics of historical and cultural blocks

The components of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods include four types: (1) Architecture: various buildings formed historically and buildings with positive significance to the historical environment; (2) Space: mainly refers to the streets and lanes formed historically, as well as their linearity, width, spatial scale, landscape features and various parks, street greenbelts, greening courtyards, ancient and famous trees, squares, street intersections, etc.; (3) Texture: mainly refers to the urban texture features formed by the streets and lanes formed historically, street profiles, buildings and their layout. For example: the pattern of roads and streets formed historically, the size and shape of plots, the architectural volume, the architectural density and the spatial layout of groups, etc.; and (4) Refers to important historical sites, as well as their cultural, life, social structure, and intangible heritage, etc.

2.3. Characteristics of historical and cultural streets

Historical and Cultural Street is not a site, but it is a "place" of urban space, because it will be associated with the social, cultural and historical figures of the city in the past or flourishing or declining, so that we can see things and think about the past, from which we can obtain the significance of context, and highlight the regional characteristics and long history of a city. So what are the characteristics of Historic Street? (1) As the social space, the historical and cultural street blocks show the space and spirit of the place. Historical culture, as a place, displays its spatial form in terms of scale, layout and size. As an integral part of social space, it can link historical culture with real life, let people feel the historical environment and the traditional customs and culture of the city in a nostalgic atmosphere, trigger personal feelings, form a unique spirit of place, and mark the city's long and civilized history. (2) The Historical and Cultural Street is an environmental space showing history and region. Historical and cultural street can show its spirit of place, because it exists in time and space. The physical attribute of place includes two parts, namely space and its regional characteristics. Space is the main element that constitutes the boundary of the place, and the regional characteristics are the main factors that form the place. (3) Historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods are living spaces characterized by civic culture. Historical and cultural street is a kind of living urban heritage, which can make us feel the development vein and unique charm of urban history. It has always been involved in the city's real life, and it has a sense of historical reality. Therefore, it is a historical and cultural area full of feelings, imagination and enthusiasm for life except for its physical attributes.

3. Social sustainability in the protection of historical and cultural neighborhoods

The goal of social value and social sustainability of historical blocks is mainly embodied in the construction of cultural diversity and inclusive society. In today's context of sustainable development,

heritage protection should also be able to meet the social, economic and ecological challenges of three dimensions. Today, although the concept of social sustainability still lacks a uniform definition, it is generally reflected in the need to provide residents with better living and working conditions, to empower the public, to maintain social equity, to integrate society, and to raise the awareness of the participation of the protagonists. In the field of heritage, according to literature, different scholars have different indicators for assessing the social sustainability of heritage projects, but in general, the indicators can be summarized into four aspects: the spirit of place and the quality of life of local identity, social inclusion and equity, and social accessibility and public participation.

3.1. Embodiment of place spirit and local identity

What this point manifests is the person and the place close relation. Place is a whole of people, architecture and environment, and is a concept formed in memory and emotion through repeated and complex interactions with the built environment. The concept of the spirit of place reflects the sense of direction and identity between man and place in a certain period, and its embodiment is directly related to material remains and the existence of traditional community.

But in fact, in the process of neighborhood revival, this kind of interdependence between people and places often disappears because of the disintegration of old social relations caused by the revival pattern. But in the historical environment resident's mood also possibly is negative and negative. This is often the result of interference from external negative effects of neighbourhood revitalization (for example, the disappearance of local commerce, the breakdown of social ties and the impact of tourism).

3.2. Improved quality of life

Quality of life is often used as an important measure of social well-being. Historic buildings and places have their own particularities, and their protection and renovation are conducive to creativity, economic development and quality of life. Usually, high quality building environment includes the following points: attractive, complex and individual space form, social use to help people to experience the urban environment, and accessibility and inclusiveness of place. However, due to the particularity of history and environment, there are many difficulties in improving the quality of life of historical districts. On the one hand, the environment of historic buildings needs to be coordinated with the needs of modern uses, and problems such as spatial accessibility, traffic restrictions, lack of public space and inadequate living facilities need to be addressed; on the other hand, its reuse model should also consider linkages with local identity and culture.

3.3. Embodiment of social inclusion and equity

The social inclusiveness of urban heritage blocks is the key factor of its success in the protection and revival. Social inclusion, as opposed to social exclusion, is intended to recognize the diversity and pluralism of social cultures and groups. Similarly, social equity is recognized as an important component of social sustainability. Emphasis on social equity is conducive to safeguarding the right of all people to participate equally in the decision-making of urban heritage protection, the equitable distribution of urban spatial resources and the realization of long-term vision.

However, in the neighborhood revival, space is often incorporated into capitalist production models or used as a political tool for unequal distribution among all classes, which is also the root cause of social inequality. As Lefebvre and others have called for, "the power of space" (that is, "the right of all urban residents not to be excluded from the spatial rights of daily life, not to be deprived of the fruits of urban development, and to have access to the process of urban renewal and development") is very difficult to achieve. In the process of exploring "space rights", geography and sociologists such as Soja and Zokin put forward the view that "space justice" can be guided by policies, and the authenticity of places and social fairness can be defended by policies. These reflections are very inspiring to the neighborhood revival.

3.4. Right to community accessibility and public participation in decision-making

Community accessibility has two meanings: on the one hand, it refers to people's ability to easily obtain services and facilities "at reasonable cost, reasonable time and reasonable convenience". On the other hand, accessibility also includes the extent of public participation in decision-making on matters relating to the use of architectural heritage. The protection planning of historical and cultural streets

and neighborhoods (hereinafter referred to as the protection planning) is the basis for the protection and development of streets and neighborhoods, stipulates the strategies and specific rules for the protection and renewal of streets and neighborhoods, and plays an important role in guiding and regulating the follow-up renewal projects.

4. Strategies for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Blocks from the Perspective of Social Sustainability

First, it is necessary to earnestly summarize and conduct in-depth research to further consolidate the basic work of protection and management of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods. Historical and cultural street block is not only an organic part of the famous historical and cultural city, but also the place of the people's daily life and the context of urban development. Compared with other types of cultural heritage protection, historical and cultural blocks protection and management of basic work in the country is still relatively backward. On the basis of earnestly summarizing the experiences of all regions in the protection of famous historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods in recent years, the investigation and research work of all historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods shall be carried out, and the status quo of protection of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods shall be comprehensively investigated, so as to form a basic data and information database of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods and make it public in due time. On the basis of comprehensive investigation and research, we shall organize professional forces inside and outside the industry to conduct in-depth research, clear up several major problems existing in the protection of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods, innovate systems and mechanisms, learn from foreign experience, enrich and detail relevant regulations, and promote the legalization and standardization of the protection and administration of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods.

The second is to strengthen the responsibility, extensive mobilization, and further form the historical and cultural blocks, lines, three-dimensional protection pattern. At present, due to the acceleration of urbanization, large and medium-sized cities in China have set off an upsurge of urban transformation and upgrading, which has caused irreversible damage to historical and cultural streets. It is necessary to study the protection of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods, formulate scientific protection plans, incorporate them into urban and rural construction plans, and do a good job in protection as a whole. The protection of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods shall be combined with the protection of famous historical and cultural cities, the protection of world cultural heritages and the protection of key cultural relics and other forms of protection of cultural heritages. Compared with other types of cultural heritages, the historical and cultural blocks are still inhabited by the local residents, who have the most feelings and say the most about the historical and cultural blocks, and they sincerely support the historical and cultural blocks as the most reliable force for lasting protection. The local residents are the owners of the historical and cultural blocks, enjoying the right to know and the right to participate in management. We should actively get the participation of the public, especially the local residents, pay attention to the training of local volunteers, and arouse their love and pride in their homeland. We shall, by strengthening the maintenance of traditional residential buildings, improving living infrastructure, improving the ecological environment of communities and other measures, enhance the quality of residents' life, and enhance the attraction of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods and the enthusiasm and initiative of the public to participate in the protection of historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods.

The third is to highlight the characteristics, overall protection, further highlight the authenticity of the diversity of historical and cultural streets. Due to the imbalance of development, some historical and cultural blocks in China's border areas, western regions and ethnic minority areas are faced with the dilemma of protection. In the development of some cities, only the economic function is paid attention to while the cultural quality is ignored, the material structure is paid attention to while the cultural ecology and humanistic spirit are ignored, the residents in the historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods are all moved out, and the residential houses are changed into places of tourism and entertainment, so that the historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods lose the traditional life style and customs, that is, the authenticity of cultural heritage is lost. Therefore, it is advocated to pay attention to the protection of traditional folk houses and their environment while protecting the cultural relics and buildings, and to include the historical and cultural street blocks with outstanding values into the scope of protection of cultural heritages, so as to carry out the overall protection. Not only to protect the material cultural heritage, but also to protect the associated, living cultural traditions and ways of life. At the same time, we should strengthen the protection and inheritance of traditional residential buildings and social life style, and prevent the cultural environment from disintegration and

emptying.

Fourth, we should improve the procedures, pay attention to publicity, and further do a good job in China's historical and cultural street selection activities. On the basis of the success of the activity, it is worthy of our serious consideration to promote the activity, reach a more clear consensus on the scope, standard and method of the evaluation, and make the activity more extensive and credible.

5. Conclusions

Historical and cultural streets and neighborhoods are precious treasures formed and left after a long historical period and are living fossils of urban history. The protection and development of urban historical blocks not only aims at buildings and street spaces, but also contains functional space and place spiritual space. Successful preservation of the historical and cultural blocks can become an educational, living, orderly museum, with far-reaching significance.

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