

A Study on the Application of Silk Road Culture in Public Art of Xi'an Metro

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Abstract: The Silk Road was a 6,440-kilometer trade route that connected the Mediterranean countries to Central and West Asia, starting from Xi'an and passing through Gansu Province to Xinjiang, where Zhang Qian was sent as an envoy. It was an important window for China's foreign trade during the Han Dynasty. Not only has it been an important channel for the exchange of ideas and goods for nearly two thousand years, but it also represents the history and culture of different societies. This era also commemorates the social and cultural exchanges between East and West. Xi'an, which has a deep connection with the Silk Road, is the starting point of the Silk Road. In the context of the national strategy of the Belt and Road Initiative, it is of great significance to integrate the Silk Road culture into the public art design of Xi'an Metro. This article analyzes this and lays a good foundation for the integration of Xi'an Metro public art design and Silk Road culture.

Keywords: Xi'an Metro, The Silk Road, Public Art

1. Introduction

As a historic city in China, Xi'an is one of the first batch of national historical and cultural cities announced by the State Council. Over ten dynasties have established their capitals here in history, making it one of the four ancient capitals of China and the world. It is also one of the capital cities with the most dynasties, the longest history, and the greatest influence in Chinese history. Xi'an has a profound historical and cultural heritage, and its urban image is warm and quaint. With the increasing popularity of tourism in Xi'an in recent years, the Xi'an subway, as a window of tourism image, not only bears the heavy burden of urban people's daily life and travel, but also undertakes the transportation work of foreign tourists. For the urban construction of Xi'an, its subway public art design can showcase the local urban civilization. Because this art has the function of showcasing the cultural character and historical civilization of the city. Currently, with the acceleration of urbanization, we must seriously consider how urban cultural characteristics can be naturally and accurately expressed through public art in subway stations. As a historic city, Xi'an not only develops its own urban culture, but also shoulders the historical responsibility of promoting the national spirit and the immortal civilization of China. How to ensure the cultural, contemporary, and holistic nature of the public art of the entire subway line in the artistic design of Xi'an's subway public art while having diverse forms and strong regional culture is a comprehensive issue that must be considered.

2. The Application Practice of Silk Road Cultural Characteristics in Xi'an Metro Public Art

Xi'an Metro Line 3 is a subway line in Xi'an that incorporates Silk Road cultural elements as a rich element. The entire line is themed around the "New Silk Road Journey" for public art creation, deeply interpreting Xi'an's history and culture, and enhancing the city's temperament; And innovative designs will be carried out in four aspects: underground transportation environment, regional culture, public art ontology, and creative mechanism, to meet the social demand for public art works and open the prelude to the comprehensive development of Xi'an subway culture. As the longest construction line and the first elevated line to appear, Metro Line 3 occupies an important position in the history of Xi'an subway construction. The line runs in a semi-circular direction, starting from the bonded zone station in Baqiao District in the northeast, passing through Weiyang District, Xincheng District, and Beilin District, and ending at Yuhazhai Station in Yanta District in the southwest, connecting Xi'an International Port Area and Xi'an High tech Industrial Development Zone. It is the backbone line of Xi'an's rail transit network

planning. This line is the first in the history of Xi'an Metro to operate using both large and small routes. This line is also the first subway line in Xi'an to have an elevated section. The cultural wall series of Xi'an Metro Line 3 is called the New Silk Road Tour, which is displayed through the customs of India, Türkiye, Russia, Greece and other countries along the Silk Road. In September 2016, the cultural wall of Xi'an Metro Line 3's "New Silk Road Journey" was awarded the honor of "Chinese Cultural Innovation Project" [1].

The comparison of public art design between Xi'an Metro Line 3 and Lines 1 and 2 highlights the principle of integrity. In order to create more advanced cultural forms and improve the development needs of subway functions, we need to create a traditional atmosphere of the Silk Road spirit, and present the cultural content of the Silk Road more comprehensively, meticulously, and vividly to people, in order to adapt to the speed of social, economic, and cultural development. We adopt the overall background of "one station, one city", "one station, one scenery", "one station, one feature", and "one station, one experience" throughout the entire line with Silk Road culture as the theme. The premise of urban construction is the principle of integrity, which also reflects the standards of urban subway space art design itself. This design concept must coordinate the overall situation, start from the whole, and incorporate a global awareness throughout the entire design process. Starting from the overall design theme, it is integrated, coordinated, and interconnected with each other (is shown in Table 1).

Table 1: Introduction to the Cultural Wall of Xi'an Metro Line 3

Station	Corresponding regions	Theme	Design Description
Free Trade Zone Station	Xi'an, China	Transfer	Taking the Silk Road as the basic design concept, interpreting both land and sea, highlighting the iconic buildings of the major countries traversed by the Silk Road, to highlight the integration of the international market in the bonded zone. The Chang'an Express demonstrates the exchange and interaction of information, reflecting the main characteristics of the bonded zone. The overall visual design is set against the backdrop of the vast universe and stars, expressing the broad and inclusive personality of the bonded zone.
		Set sail	Against the backdrop of the Qinling Mountains and decorated with iconic buildings from various countries along the Silk Road, the Chang'an Express, airplanes, and automobiles are used to reflect the communication and interaction within the information port area, highlighting the development of the international market in the bonded zone.
Guangtaimen	Kazakhstan	SilkRoad fireworks	The national characteristics of Kazakhstan are expressed through landmark buildings such as the Khan's tent and the Baytelek Tower. The upper part of the picture is painted with ceremonial flowers, and the lower part is painted with tulips and peonies, depicting the prosperous prospects of the Silk Road and the friendly cooperation between China and Kazakhstan
Xinjia Temple	Nepal	Snow covered Buddhist kingdom	The the Himalayas Mountains, the "hometown of snow", are presented in a decorative way, decorated with elements such as Hada, highland herdsmen, and cutting into the road, creating an impression of Nepal that pays equal attention to ecology and development.
Shijia Street	Uzbekistan	SilkRoad papermaking	The historical position of Uzbekistan as a paper-making center reflects the westward spread of Chinese paper-making along the Silk Road, accelerating the process of world civilization and bringing prosperity and civilization to the civilizations along the Silk Road.
Hu family temple	Bangladesh	mutual exchange ofneeded products	Combining the site name, highlighting the trade of the Hu people as the main content, showcasing the driving role of Arab and Sogdian merchants in the Silk Road economy. Interweaving national elements such as the Starry Mosque of Bangladesh in the silk dance, as well as ancient Roman gold coins and Sassanid silver coins scattered among them, combined with trade artifacts and jewelry, symbolizes the rapid economic development of various countries brought about by the Silk Road.
Changle Park	Iraq	SilkRoad Entertainment	Combining with the site culture, the main content of the show is the popular folk opera of the Western Regions, and the popular entertainment culture of the Tang Dynasty is reflected through performances such as equestrianism, fire breathing, and tank topping. The background features the Babylonian city gate as a representative element of Iraqi culture.
Xianning Road	Turkmenistan	Silk Road steed	Shaping the image of Ferghana horse, combined with the "Six Horses of Zhaoling", reflects the long-standing friendly relationship between the two countries. The overall decoration technique highlights the charm of Central Asian countries, and the high-speed rail below the picture symbolizes that the cooperation between the two countries will bring rapid economic development
Yanxing gate	Pakistan	Silk Road wine song	The theme of wine brewing reflects an important part of the foreign civilization in the Tang Dynasty.The Lahore Castle is selected as the national element, with decorative grape patterns combined with images of the Pakistani people celebrating the harvest, and modern musical elements are incorporated to narrate the origin of wine's eastward spread.
Qinglong	Afghanistan	Silk Road cherry	Taking Qinglong Cherry Blossoms as the theme, incorporating the Konghai

Temple			Monk Memorial Tower, and combining the Bamiyan Buddha and Jami Mosque, it symbolizes the integration of Chinese and foreign cultural exchanges. Using tranquil colors to create a quiet cultural atmosphere, it evokes people's imagination of the harmonious blending of ancient cultures.
Beichitou	Iran	Silk Road Yibao	Take the porcelain and glazed ware that were paid tribute and traded at that time as the creative point, because the colorful raw materials of blue and white porcelain came from ancient Persia. The picture focuses on the bustling scene of porcelain trade among merchants in the western regions, embellished with typical artifacts such as gilded gold silver Hu bottles and porcelain patterns, showing the diversification of the Silk Road trade.
Big Wild Goose Pagoda	India	Tianzhu Buddha light	Starting from the site culture, Xuanzang's Westward Journey to India for Buddhist Scriptures as the main content, combined with landmark buildings such as the wild goose pagoda and the Taj Mahal, as well as images with distinctive Buddhist cultural marks such as the bodhi tree and the lotus, the cultural blending is used to express Xuanzang's patriotic spirit of protecting the Dharma and the common Buddhist cultural wealth of the Chinese and Indian people.
Xiaozhai	/	Splendid Silk Road	With the silk road map as the theme, the most representative ancient civilizations on the Silk Road are represented in series by 12 screens: China, India, Egypt, Greece, Rome, etc. At the left and right ends are the Arab sea ship Blackstone of the Tang Dynasty and the Chinese blessing ship of the Ming Dynasty, demonstrating the profound cultural background and the spirit of inclusiveness of the belt and road initiative.
Jixiang Village	Syria	Silk Road Huazhang	Modern techniques are used to artistically express the characters of various countries, and narrative characters play an important role in the communication between China and the West. The work combines cuneiform characters in the two river basins, Phoenician letters in Syria and Chinese oracle bone inscriptions to reflect the source of spiritual civilization in various countries. The elegant silk and camel caravan symbolize the influence of the Silk Road on the cultures of various countries.
Taibai South Road	Saudi Arabia	Silk Road sand rhyme	Taking the desert camel team as the main element, the Great Mosque in Mecca, the Kingdom center building and other buildings show the local customs of Saudi Arabia. It focuses on the scene of caravans trekking in the desert on the silk road. The geomorphic features and cultural heritage complement each other, reflecting the meaning of "happy desert".
Keji Road	Turkey	Silk Road Flower Dance	Taking the dances of different periods in the East and West as the main elements, it shows the inextricable relationship between the singing and dancing Turkish national culture and Chinese civilization. Taking the popular music and dance of the Hu people in the Tang Dynasty as the main creative content, it reflects the effect of "the wind returns and dances in the air". The front-end shows the modern dance in the form of silhouette, reflecting the profound national friendship between the two countries.
Yanping gate	Russia	Good friends in the North	It focuses on Russia's characteristic cultural heritage - the Kremlin, Vassily ascension Cathedral, Moscow University, dolls, ballet, etc., and combines Russia's advantages in space and energy to reproduce Russia's modern development from point to area. The fast train ahead reflects the friendly cooperation between China and Russia in the "Silk Road Economic Belt".
Zhangba North Road	Greece	Peace along the Silk Road	Sports as the main content, combined with the site culture, to promote the Olympic spirit. The picture takes the five rings symbolizing the Olympics and the Parthenon as the background. The main elements are extracted from the figures in ancient Greek bottle paintings. Combined with modern sports, it reflects the spirit of modern civilization of friendship, unity and fair competition.
Yuhua Village	Italy (Rome)	Silk Road beauty	It shows the traditional costumes of major countries and nations along the Silk Road, and the rich material and cultural wealth brought to the people of all ethnic groups along the line by the ancient trade routes famous for the silk trade. The Daming Palace in the background reflects the great support and outstanding contribution of the Tang Dynasty to the development of the silk road.

3. The Expression of the Silk Road in the Public Art Design of Xi'an Metro

The basic design ideas for subway public art under the cultural background of the Silk Road include: firstly, station public art. The design content and Silk Road culture must form unity and integrity. When designing public art for subway stations, we must take into account the entire system of subway stations, optimize and analyze the space of subway stations in detail, discard the dross, and transform the Silk Road [2].

The distinctive regional cultural characteristics and personalities within the road culture are presented in a complete and orderly manner. Due to the Silk Road and Many countries have extensive connections, with different ethnicities and nations, and their lifestyles, aesthetic concepts, and customs

are also diverse dissimilarity. It is necessary to fully study the different living customs, regional customs, and lifestyles of the Silk Road culture. Different aspects such as productivity level, social form, historical stage, etc. (is shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3). The design team conducts a comprehensive analysis of subway space, researching and understanding various aspects of it, in order to create works with unique urban characteristics and to better showcase urban culture. Secondly, public art should be designed based on popular aesthetics to meet the demands of the masses, making artistic innovation rich in urban characteristics, and also serving as an important medium for the dissemination of Silk Road culture. When designing subway public art, the distinct personalities of cities along the important Silk Road should be taken into account, as well as environmental factors such as important buildings, squares, and streets around subway station entrances and exits. Each street must form its own unique story and culture, and can be linked to the public art design of subway stations [3]. The historical culture and living materials of important cities along the Silk Road selected for Xi'an Metro Line 3 are not the same, and the distinct cultural customs and regional characteristics of each city and country are highlighted as a result. When designing public art for subway stations, these factors must also be effectively taken into account to distinguish them from other regional characteristics, and to carry out self-improvement and self creation, achieving overall unity. Aesthetic standards and rules are the main body of public art design [4].



Figure 1: Hujiamiao Station "Mutual Exchange"



Figure 2: "Silk Road Splendor" at Xiaozhai Station



Figure 3: The Great Wild Goose Pagoda Station's "Light of the Buddha in India"

4. The Inheritance and Development of Xi'an's Silk Road Culture

The "Silk Road" in Xi'an has had an irreplaceable impact and role on economic and trade exchanges, as well as cultural exchanges between various countries from the Qin and Han dynasties to the present day [5]. When designing public art for Xi'an Metro, the cultural connotation of the Silk Road should be integrated into it, achieving the fusion of culture and innovation. This can not only improve the design level of public art, but also achieve the inheritance and development of culture. When designing and producing public art, incorporating the cultural characteristics of the Silk Road into these products can not only promote Xi'an culture, but also enable tourists from various places to have a deeper understanding and knowledge of Xi'an's Silk Road culture. This not only benefits the development of the local economy, but also enables cultural exchange [6].

5. Conclusions

The emergence of the subway aims to solve the transportation problems in cities, and as a national public welfare undertaking, the subway has always been in a negative profit state. In order to better achieve the goal of "ten years of subway and hundred years of operation", necessary economic guarantees are essential. Xi'an is one of the four ancient capitals in the world and the starting point of the Silk Road. It has a history of 1100 years since its founding, with a history of over 3000 years. The Han and Tang dynasties were the heyday of Xi'an, making it the most prominent period for its influence on national cultural history. The capital city of Chang'an during the Han and Tang dynasties was renowned worldwide due to the Silk Road, and the Silk Road itself was also recorded in history due to the existence of the ancient city of Chang'an. In the context of the implementation of the "the Belt and Road" national strategy, promoting the Silk Road culture is an important measure for Xi'an to build the connotation of urban civilization and exert international influence. Moreover, the design of subway public art can promote Xi'an's urban culture and subway culture to a certain extent [7].

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