# Research on the reconstruction of Dongguan creative block under the background of Lingnan culture

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Abstract: With the acceleration of urbanization and increasing cultural diversity, creative blocks have become the key to urban cultural innovation and economic development. Dongguan, as an important source of Lingnan culture, its cultural resources provide fertile soil for the transformation of creative blocks. This paper first analyzes the process and problems of the reconstruction of Dongguan blocks, and the influence of Lingnan culture on the reconstruction. Through the analysis of the case, the transformation strategy and the future development are put forward.

**Keywords:** Lingnan culture; creative block; transformation strategy

#### 1. Introduction

Dongguan city is a prefecture-level city in Guangdong province, and it is an important city in the Pearl River Delta. With the acceleration of urbanization and the growth of urban population, its development faces challenges such as insufficient space, environmental pollution and traffic congestion. The study of Dongguan blocks can explore a new model of urban sustainable development. Lingnan culture is an important part of traditional culture, with unique regional characteristics and deposits. As a representative city, Dongguan is influenced by its block reconstruction. The study of the transformation of Dongguan blocks under Lingnan culture is conducive to the inheritance and development of Lingnan culture, and also discusses the role of community participation and cooperation in urban renewal. In recent years, the Chinese government has issued a series of policies to support urban renewal and community participation to provide guarantee for block reconstruction. This study is helpful to evaluate the effect of the policy and provide a reference for the formulation. The study of the reconstruction of Dongguan block under Lingnan culture involves many aspects and is of great significance and value.

# 2. Current situation and problems of block reconstruction in Dongguan city

#### 2.1 Process and development of block reconstruction

The process and development of Dongguan block reconstruction are as follows:

According to the analysis of the field research results, compared with the early stage of the transformation, Xiabafang has been optimized in the integration of new and old buildings, environmental atmosphere and traffic layout<sup>[1]</sup>.

stage	time	Policies and measures	purpose
The first stage:	Year,	In December 2009, the	The government guides the
the exploration	2009-2014	Implementation Rules of "Three Old"	market operation, the market
and adjustment		Renovation in Dongguan and	
stage		operational guidelines were issued;	promote the transformation of
		In 2009, the Operation Guide issued the	the general "choosy", the
		Implementation Rules of "Three Old"	government's industrial
		Reconstruction in Dongguan;	planning, public construction
		established the leading group of "Three	supporting facilities have not
		Old" reconstruction and the office of	been effectively guaranteed or
			implemented.
The second	In 2014-2017	In September 2014, the Opinions on	By introducing a series of
stage: the		Deepening Reform, Promoting the	policies and measures, the

comprehensive	Three Old Transformation and government has provided
promotion stage	Promoting Industrial Transformation more policy guarantees and
	and Upgrading; guidance for market entities to
	In July 2015, the Guidelines on participate in urban renewal,
	demarcation and Examination of Theand also strengthened the
	"Three Old" Reconstruction Units in government's guidance and
	Dongguan City were issued; support for urban renewal.
	In October 2015, the Implementation
	Opinions on Improving the Level of
	Urban Renewal and Promoting
	Industrial Transformation and
	Upgrading were issued.
The third stage:	From 2017 to In September 2017, the Guidelines for Government-led
the optimization	the present the Compilation of Dongguan Urban reconstruction, replacement of
and promotion	Renewal Unit (Trial) was issued; ecological and industrial land
stage	In May 2018, the Implementation for commercial and
	Opinions on Deepening Urban residential purposes; use
	Renewal and Promoting High-quality policy to improve the land use
	Development were issued. procedures; leading units and
	government purchase and
	storage projects are included
	in the adjustment scope to
	promote the change of land
	operational use.

#### 2.2 The Problem of block renovation

There may be some problems in the reconstruction of Dongguan blocks. First, the lack of unified planning and guidance from the government easily makes the transformation results poor and may also bring negative effects to the surrounding environment. Second, capital is a big problem, and the transformation costs need to be borne by the residents themselves, and some residents may be difficult to advance the project due to the lack of funds. Third, residents design and construct by themselves, but may lack relevant professional knowledge and skills, which will affect the transformation effect<sup>[2]</sup>. Fourth, conflicts of interest occur from time to time in the transformation, and the conflicts of interests between different residents will hinder the smooth progress of the project. Fifth, legal issues such as land use rights and building regulations cannot be ignored, as if they are not handled well, they may cause legal disputes. These problems may have an impact on the effect and feasibility of the transformation, so it must be paid attention to in the transformation process. The government needs to strengthen the planning guidance, provide certain financial support and legal aid, and provide relevant training to the residents to resolve the conflicts of interest, ensure the smooth and effective progress of the block reconstruction, and realize the better development of the city.

#### 3. The influence of Lingnan culture on the reconstruction of Dongguan blocks

# 3.1 Openness and compatibility

Lingnan culture is famous for its openness and compatibility, whose cultural characteristics have been fully reflected in the reconstruction of Dongguan blocks. In the process of transformation, Dongguan city not only considers the inheritance of local culture, but also actively absorbs and draws on the advanced experience and technology of other regions, forming a block reconstruction model with Dongguan characteristics<sup>[3]</sup>.

### 3.2 Multivariate

The diversity of Lingnan culture makes the transformation of Dongguan city realize the integration of modern elements. In the process of reconstruction, Dongguan city pays attention to the protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage, and carries out scientific planning and reasonable layout of the block<sup>[4]</sup>.

This diversified transformation mode not only retains the historical memory and cultural

characteristics of the block, but also improves the life quality and living comfort of the block, and meets the residents' pursuit of a better life.

#### 3.3 Pragmatic

The pragmatism of Lingnan culture has been fully reflected in the reconstruction of Dongguan city blocks. In the process of transformation, Dongguan pays attention to solving the practical problems of residents, such as traffic congestion and dirty environment, etc<sup>[5]</sup>. By optimizing the traffic layout and strengthening environmental remediation, the living environment of residents is improved.

#### 4. Case study of block reconstruction in Dongguan city

Xiabafang, located at the junction of Dongguan city, was once a gathering place of ancestral homes for villagers. It was first built in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. After the reform and opening up, the villagers built new houses in the periphery, resulting in the idle ancestral houses in the village and being rented to scavengers. In 2009, Xiabafang was faced with demolition due to its old houses, but the introduction of cultural creativity changed its fate<sup>[6]</sup>.

The entry of Rose Light Studio has attracted a lot of media attention, enhanced the popularity of Xiabafang, and attracted literary youth and tourists. Subsequently, a number of creative studios and economic leisure consumption clubs entered, prompting more artists and entrepreneurs to rent old houses for renovation and operation. Today, Xiabafang has become a cultural and leisure resort in Dongguan, known as the "Gulangyu Island in Dongguan" and the "Tianzifang in Dongguan".

The implantation of cultural creativity makes Xiabafang change from a single living space to a diversified cultural and creative space<sup>[7]</sup>. The spatial evolution also promotes the replacement of functions and the development of industries, shifting from living to cultural leisure. With the growth of fame and the increase of tourists, the cultural leisure industry has gradually become the leading industry, cafes and teahouses have been transformed into bars, and restaurants and clear bars have flooded in one after another, forming a unique cultural atmosphere. The story of Xiabafang proves the great potential of cultural creativity for urban renewal and industrial development.

Xiabafang is a typical Lingnan village comb layout with a good ecological environment, which lays the foundation for it to become a "cultural and creative block", but the scattered and independent village texture is not conducive to the construction of diversified experiential space. Businesses rent old houses and surrounding open space to form space units with different characteristics connected with commercial relations. Merchants who rent only one room pay attention to the use of housing space, and merchants with multiple rooms will build corridors to make the house form an organic whole<sup>[8]</sup>. This transformation promotes the reconstruction of space texture, which not only retains the texture of Lingnan water town, but also creates a rich atmosphere. Semi-public space includes store vestibule, with a large number and various renovation techniques. For example, Bodhi Village adopts Chinese garden landscape, emphasizing the continuation of traditional style and the introduction of Zen culture, combining semi-public space, setting up a rest platform, etc. The landscape is connected with natural elements to create a peaceful atmosphere. The style of Dongdi Su she is bold, with the gallery as the element connecting the building with wooden platform, creating a unique style. Its semi-public space forms a unique atmosphere through the combination of materials. After the implantation of cultural and creative elements, the street space is gradually internalized, changing from external space to internal space. Businesses use landscape walls and other enclosure to change the form of streets and alleys, enhance the continuity of the interface, graffiti has become a way to highlight the style, doors and Windows in various forms and different styles, become a display space. At the same time, greening and small components are used to enrich the street space, such as long flower pool, hanging potted plants, etc., small signs and lighting shape reflect the characteristics of the shop, larger components connect the house and play a decorative role, strengthen the unit body style.

# 5. Strategy of Dongguan city block reconstruction

#### 5.1 Protection and inheritance of Lingnan culture

In the reconstruction of Dongguan block, it is very important to protect and inherit Lingnan culture strategically. This includes respecting history and culture, preserving buildings and block features with

historical and cultural value, inheriting and promoting traditional culture of Lingnan region, such as Cantonese opera, introducing cultural and creative industries, developing cultural tourism and creative products, and promoting economic and cultural development, strengthening community participation and enhancing cultural identity and belonging of residents, establishing cultural heritage protection mechanism, preventing destruction and loss of cultural heritage<sup>[9]</sup>; promoting Lingnan culture to the public by holding public lectures and improving cultural awareness to the public. These measures together constitute a comprehensive strategy for protecting and inheriting Lingnan culture in the reconstruction of Dongguan blocks, aiming to realize the sustainable development and cultural prosperity of the block.

## 5.2 Promote public participation

First, keep open and transparent, so that the public can fully understand the planning and design of the renovation, and clarify the objectives, scope and implementation plan of the project. Secondly, through community consultation activities, we will actively listen to the public's opinions and suggestions on the transformation, to ensure that the project meets the actual needs of residents<sup>[10]</sup>. At the same time, educational and publicity activities should be carried out to improve the public's understanding and understanding of the block reconstruction and cultivate the public's awareness of participation.

In the decision-making process, public participation should be encouraged, for example, through residents' meetings, hearings and other channels, so the public can express their voices and ensure that the reform plan can reflect public opinion. In addition, various participation opportunities are provided, such as recruiting volunteers to participate in project implementation and holding design competitions, so that the public can directly participate in the practice of transformation.

It is also key to encourage active engagement of community organizations and residents, who can work together to drive project implementation and form closer community ties in the process. Finally, an effective communication and coordination mechanism should be established to respond to public questions and opinions in a timely manner and ensure that public participation and opinions are fully respected and considered.

# 5.3 Coordinate the interests of all parties

In the process of block reconstruction, it is crucial to coordinate the interests of all parties. To ensure smooth project progress, a range of strategies are needed to balance and meet the needs and expectations of all parties. First, establish effective communication channels, such as regular meetings and seminars, to communicate and share information in a timely manner and understand the concerns and expectations of all parties. Secondly, clarify the interests of all parties, which helps to identify potential conflict points and formulate corresponding solutions<sup>[11]</sup>.

Next, jointly formulate the goal of block reconstruction, to provide a clear direction and common goal for all parties. During the implementation of the project, when problems or differences arise, the parties should resolve them through consultation and cooperation, rather than taking unilateral action, which helps to reduce conflict and promote harmony.

In the process of coordination, it is crucial to maintain a fair and equitable attitude to ensure that the interests of all parties are treated fairly. If problems are difficult to resolve themselves, seek the assistance of third parties, such as consulting companies or mediation agencies, who can provide professional advice and help.

Finally, through long-term cooperation and communication, building a relationship of trust between all parties will help better coordinate the interests of all parties in future projects and achieve win-win results.

#### 5.4 Optimize the block environment

One of the important strategies of block reconstruction is to optimize the block environment. We can start many aspects: improve traffic to increase public transportation facilities, reduce congestion and improve travel efficiency; improve greening, increase green space and planting to improve air quality and living quality of residents; improve the infrastructure, including water supply and drainage, improve the service level of blocks; improve public space and add square for residents to enjoy leisure

and entertainment; repair buildings to maintain historical features and cultural characteristics; strengthen environmental management to reduce pollution and protect ecology; promote energy saving and environmental protection technology to reduce energy consumption and carbon emission. These measures can optimize the block environment, improve the quality of life of residents, and promote the sustainable development of the block.

#### 6. Conclusion

#### 6.1 Research Summary

First of all, Lingnan culture has had a significant impact on the reconstruction of the block. Its emphasis on family, community and traditional values enhances the residents' sense of identity and participation in the block, and then promotes the process of the block reconstruction. Secondly, the study found that the impetus of block reconstruction mainly comes from the needs and wishes of the residents, and their pursuit of improving the living environment, improving the quality of life and protecting the traditional culture is the core force to promote the transformation.

The reconstruction of the block has achieved remarkable results, not only improving the living environment of the residents, but also protecting and inheriting the traditional culture, and enhancing the vitality and attraction of the block. At the same time, the transformation also promotes the accumulation of social capital and the reconstruction of social relations, laying a solid foundation for the long-term development of the block.

However, the study also points out the challenges of block reconstruction, such as the shortage of funds, poor management, and imperfect laws and regulations. In order to meet these challenges, a series of countermeasures are put forward, including strengthening government support, improving residents' participation and establishing a sound management mechanism, so as to ensure the smooth implementation and sustainable development of block reconstruction.

#### 6.2 Research Outlook

- 1) Further research can be conducted on the specific connotations and manifestations of Lingman culture, as well as how they affect the process, methods, and effects of block renovation.
- 2) Further research can be conducted on different types of blocks, communities with different cultural backgrounds, and block renovations under different socio-economic conditions, in order to enrich our understanding and comprehension of block renovations.
- 3) Further research can be conducted on how block renovations can achieve sustainability, including balancing economic, social, and environmental benefits, establishing effective management mechanisms, and community participation mechanisms.
- 4) Further research can be conducted on the role and role of the government in block renovation, as well as how to formulate and implement policies that are conducive to block renovation.
- 5) It can further promote cooperation between different disciplines, such as sociology, urban planning, architecture, cultural heritage protection, etc., to comprehensively apply knowledge and methods from different disciplines and conduct in-depth research on various aspects of block renovation.

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