

Design of the Re-creation of Traditional Chinese Symbols in Modern Architecture

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Abstract: This dissertation aims to explore the re-creation of traditional Chinese symbols in modern architecture. With the development of society and the diversification of culture, traditional Chinese patterns, as a unique visual language of Chinese culture, are gradually integrated into modern architectural design. Through the use of traditional symbols, modern architecture can better express Chinese cultural traditions and essence to enhance the integration of architecture and environment, and enhance the artistry and uniqueness of the building. The re-creation of traditional symbols can also promote cultural inheritance and innovative development, and promote the international dissemination of Chinese architectural culture. This study will systematically analyze the ways in which traditional Chinese symbols are recreated in modern architecture, as well as the value and effects they bring. In the future, it will bring new design inspiration and direction to designers.

Keywords: Traditional Chinese Symbols, Modern Architecture, re-creation, Symbolism

1. Definition and background knowledge of traditional Chinese symbols

1.1 The concept and characteristics of traditional Chinese symbols

Traditional Chinese symbols refer to forms of symbols with specific meanings and symbols in Chinese culture, which are used to convey specific values and ideas. After a long period of historical development and evolution, these symbols have become an important visual language in Chinese culture and are rooted in history and culture. Traditional Chinese symbols carry a long cultural accumulation. They originate from ancient Chinese philosophy, religion, literature, art and other fields. And through the evolution and inheritance of different eras, it has become a unique expression of Chinese culture. These symbols reflect the wisdom and philosophical ideas of ancient Chinese culture. Patterns such as clouds and cranes, such as clouds, cranes, are often associated with Taoist symbols, symbolisms, and meanings to convey Taoist ideas and values. Traditional Chinese symbols are usually presented in an intuitive way and have rich symbolic meanings. They represent a particular concept, meaning or value through images or patterns. As an important symbol in Chinese culture, the dragon symbolizes authority, auspiciousness, and strength. The phoenix symbolizes beauty, auspiciousness, and happiness. The symbolic meaning of these symbols has been formed by the precipitation of history and the consensus of the public over a long period of time. It is expressed and disseminated through art forms such as patterns, sculptures, and paintings. In the long process of historical development, it has also absorbed the cultural achievements of various eras and the influence of foreign cultures, and has formed a unique style and characteristics through evolution and innovation. This fusion and change not only shows the inclusiveness of Chinese culture, but also reflects the adaptability and vitality of traditional Chinese symbols. Until now, in the fields of architecture, furniture, clothing, etc., these symbols are often used as decorative elements, giving the works a unique style and charm.

Chinese regional culture has experienced a century of precipitation. In the long history, the sons and daughters of China have thrived under the baptism of these spiritual cultures. These cultural treasures have been passed down to the present day through books, objects, buildings, etc. Traditional Chinese symbols are an important part of Chinese culture. It has deep historical roots, diversity and symbolism, integration and change. They not only embody the rich connotation of traditional Chinese culture, but also play an important role in people's understanding and dissemination of Chinese culture. The integration of regional culture and architecture is not only conducive to the inheritance and protection of regional culture, but also helps to highlight the characteristics of regional culture. At the same time, it also strengthens urban construction and promotes the development of cities in various aspects. On the basis of comprehensively showing the traditional regional culture, the modern architecture conforms to

the trend of the development of the times. It makes the modern architecture with regional characteristics shine in the history of world architecture[1-2].

1.2 The origin and development of traditional Chinese symbols

The origin and development of traditional Chinese symbols has gone through a long historical process. From the primitive totems of antiquity to later cultural symbols and imagery, these symbols play an important role in the decorative arts, reflecting the rich connotations of traditional Chinese culture. Early symbols can be traced back to the primitive Chinese society, where primitive totems were used to decorate bodies, utensils, and dwellings. These primitive totems are often themed around animals, plants, or natural elements and are closely related to people's lives. With the rise of religion, traditional patterns also ushered in the development. Such as Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, etc. Their symbols and symbols began to be applied to the decorative arts. For example, the lotus flower in Buddhism and the crane in Taoism have become common decorative symbols, implying auspiciousness and beauty. The rich connotation of traditional Chinese culture also provides more material for the development of decorative symbols. Traditional literature, poetry, myths and legends have become important sources of decorative symbols. For example, flowers and birds in the four seasons, landscape imagery, and patterns of mythical beasts are widely used in the decoration of artworks such as architecture, furniture, fabrics, ceramics, etc.

The origins of traditional Chinese decorative symbols can be traced back to the primitive totems of ancient times. With the passage of time and the development of culture, symbols of religious belief and cultural symbols were gradually applied to the decorative arts. These symbols carry a wealth of religious, cultural, and aesthetic connotations. It reflects the wisdom and beauty of traditional Chinese culture. In the decorative arts, these symbols enrich the meaning and expressiveness of the works, and at the same time continue and inherit the spirit of traditional Chinese culture.

2. The expression of traditional Chinese symbols in architecture

2.1 The blessings represented by the dragon and the phoenix, the auspicious beauty in architectural modeling

There are many decorative symbols that exist in shape. Take the dragon and phoenix motif, for example. The dragon is seen in Chinese culture as a symbol of auspiciousness, power, and auspiciousness. Dragons have a mighty, domineering, and mysterious image. Thus being considered the embodiment of heaven, with dominance and authority. The phoenix is a sacred bird, representing elegant temperament, dignified demeanor and auspiciousness. The phoenix is often associated with a queen or woman and also symbolizes love, beauty, and fertility. The dragon in the dragon and phoenix pattern represents the royal power, the glory and prosperity of the country, and also symbolizes the status of the emperor and auspicious blessings. The phoenix represents a vision of peace, happiness and auspiciousness. In ancient architecture, dragons and phoenixes come in various forms. such as on the roof tiles of buildings. These tiles usually show the image of a dragon and phoenix flying or perched. The use of carving, painting or glazed production adds to the opulence and auspicious atmosphere of the building. The dragon and phoenix shapes are also often used in the carving and decoration of doors and windows in ancient buildings. These carvings can be images of a single dragon or phoenix, or a combination of the two. The dragon and phoenix shapes on the doors and windows not only play a decorative role, but also have the meaning of guarding and warding off evil spirits. The pillars of the building often have dragon and phoenix carvings, showing a dragon and phoenix pattern of entwining patterns or the image of a phoenix perched on the dragon's body. The dragon and phoenix shapes on the pillars have a sense of solemnity and luxury, reflecting the artistic value of ancient architecture. At the same time, wood carving is an indispensable part of the decorative elements of traditional architecture in China. Wood carving adopts corresponding techniques according to the differences in parts. On the one hand, wood carving can beautify traditional architecture, and on the other hand, it has symbolic and prayer implications, and its artistic characteristics and aesthetic significance are deeply rooted in traditional culture. In terms of wall decoration, dragons and phoenixes can appear as reliefs or paintings. The dragon and phoenix motifs on the walls can be an overall ornament or combined with other patterns. It creates a gorgeous and dynamic architectural style. Dragon and phoenix figures are also often made into stone or metal sculptures and placed in the courtyards or interior spaces of ancient buildings.

In ancient architecture, the dragon and phoenix shape existed in many forms. From roof tiles to door and window carvings or pillar carvings, wall decorations and sculptures, etc. Each form adds a unique cultural and artistic value to the building. It not only plays the role of architectural decoration, but also carries the sustenance of auspiciousness, power and beauty in traditional Chinese culture. It infuses the ancient architecture with an atmosphere of mystery, solemnity and magnificence.

2.2 The elegance of nature, the beauty of mountains and rivers in the artistic conception of architecture

Landscapes have an important place in ancient Chinese architecture. Landscape imagery is widely used in painting, poetry, architecture and other art forms, with rich symbolic meanings. Mountains and rivers represent the beauty and harmony of the natural world, as well as the integration of man and nature, and the tranquility and transcendence of the soul. It is not only a part of architectural decoration, but also reflects the admiration and pursuit of nature in traditional Chinese culture. Landscapes not only appear in the form of shapes, but sometimes also in the form of artistic conceptions.

Ancient Chinese architecture focuses on the integration with the natural environment, emphasizing the harmonious coexistence of man and nature. Landscape imagery as an expression of natural elements. It reflects the admiration of mountains, rivers, lakes and other landscapes in ancient Chinese architectural aesthetics. Through the use of landscape imagery, the architect integrates the beauty of nature into the building, creating a poetic and artistic architectural space. In Chinese culture, Zhongshan represents stability and longevity. Water symbolizes flow and vitality. These symbols were widely used in ancient architecture to convey the pursuit of a better life, happiness and good fortune. It carries aesthetic ideas, provides a livable environment, and symbolizes culture to integrate ancient architecture with natural landscapes. It creates a harmonious, beautiful and unique architectural space, and also demonstrates the reverence and praise for nature in traditional Chinese culture. Landscape imagery is widely used in garden architecture. In garden design, natural elements such as mountains, water, and plants are often laid out. It creates the feeling of being in a landscape environment. Rockeries, lakes, streams and trees in the garden are all important elements that reflect the image of the landscape. Roofs in ancient buildings were often curved in shape, giving them the shape of mountain peaks. This roof shape can highlight the image of the landscape through glazed tiles, bucket arches and other decorations, increase the beauty of the building and the integration with the natural landscape. The walls of the building are painted with murals or reliefs to show the imagery of landscapes. Murals can paint scenes from landscape paintings. Elements such as mountains, water, and clouds are depicted on the wall to create a serene and peaceful atmosphere. Relief carvings can carve patterns such as mountains and rivers to give the walls a more three-dimensional and vivid expression. As a part of the building, the courtyard is often arranged with landscape imagery. By planting trees, placing rockeries, setting up creeks, etc., a courtyard environment with landscape characteristics is created, so that people can feel the harmony between nature and humanity. The carvings on the pillars are another important way to show the imagery of the landscape. The pillars can be carved with patterns such as mountain peaks, flowing water, and clouds, giving people the feeling of being in the middle of the landscape.

These expressions aim to create a natural, harmonious and beautiful atmosphere. At the same time, it integrates architecture with natural landscapes, bringing people joy and peace of mind.

3. The influence and repercussions of traditional Chinese symbols in architecture

3.1 The influence of traditional Chinese symbols on people's emotions and identity in architecture

Traditional Chinese symbols have an important impact on people's emotions and identity. When used in architecture, it can resonate emotionally. These symbols represent a rich culture, history and values, evoking people's deep affection and love for traditional culture. In aesthetic appreciation, the architectural forms and decorative elements presented by traditional symbols have unique aesthetic characteristics. It can arouse people's sense of beauty and aesthetic enjoyment to strengthen people's emotional identification with traditional architecture. The use of traditional Chinese symbols in architecture can carry rich cultural connotations and symbolic meanings. Through the form, structure, decoration and other elements of the building, it conveys specific cultural values and aesthetic concepts. to stimulate people's emotional identification with traditional culture. It helps to promote traditional spirits such as respect for nature, the pursuit of harmony, and the importance of etiquette. The presence and use of these symbols make people's emotional identification with traditional architecture resonate

with the traditional spirit. In addition, the use of traditional symbols in architecture can create a strong cultural atmosphere. For example, the use of specific decorative patterns, traditional materials and construction methods in ancient buildings. It can evoke people's emotional experience of traditional culture and enhance the sense of identity with traditional architecture. Traditional patterns contain long-standing cultural connotations and have significant regional and unique characteristics. Under the trend of diversified development in architectural art, only decorative designs that carry cultural characteristics and are engraved with cultural imprints can make people linger and leave a lasting impression. But at the same time, we should also actively absorb advanced foreign cultures for our own use. The saying goes that the mountain does not reject any earth, so it can become high; the sea does not reject any water, so it can become deep.

Most of the traditional wooden buildings in ancient China draw on the traditional Chinese culture of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. Although modern building materials are mostly new materials such as reinforced concrete and marble. The use of wood materials is reduced. The level and form of building technology have also been gradually improved and upgraded. However, traditional cultural elements can still be applied to modern architecture. The application of cultural elements is not only to pass on the form, but mainly to pass on the spirit and culture. In turn, through the influence of emotional resonance and aesthetic appreciation, people's emotional identification with traditional architecture is strengthened. As a result, the building conveys rich cultural significance, promotes the spirit of tradition and creates a strong cultural atmosphere. It further deepens people's emotions and identification with traditional architecture[3-4].

3.2 The use of traditional Chinese symbols in architecture and feedback in contemporary society and culture

The use of traditional Chinese symbols in contemporary society and culture has received positive feedback and has had an impact in many areas. It provides rich materials and inspiration in contemporary art, design and cultural creativity. Many artists, designers, and creators combine traditional symbols with modern elements in their works to showcase innovative and unique styles. This approach has promoted the inheritance and development of traditional culture, and has also played an important role in the tourism industry and urban construction. Many ancient towns, cultural sites, and historical places are promoting tourism by preserving and utilizing traditional symbols to attract tourists. At the same time, the city also uses traditional symbols to create a unique urban image and enhance the city's cultural attractiveness and competitiveness. It strengthens people's self-confidence and sense of identity in Chinese culture. In the context of globalization, traditional symbols have become an important representative of Chinese culture on the international stage. It inspires people to spread and promote Chinese culture more actively. Represented by cultural institutions such as schools and museums, it is committed to the education and inheritance of traditional symbols. In education, it has played an important role in helping the younger generation understand and recognize traditional culture. It plays a pivotal role in the protection and development of traditional Chinese culture and in cultivating young people's interest and sense of identity in traditional culture.

In contemporary society and culture, traditional Chinese symbols have received extensive feedback and application. They not only provide inspiration for art and creativity, but also strengthen people's confidence and identification with Chinese culture. Traditional symbols play an important role in tourism, urban image, education and inheritance, while also promoting the inheritance and development of traditional culture.[5].

4. Conclusion

In contemporary architectural design, traditional Chinese symbols have certain advantages and are also facing difficulties. And in the future, there are broad prospects for development. Traditional Chinese symbols have certain advantages as a cultural expression in architectural design. In terms of cultural expression, through the use of traditional patterns, shapes, components and other elements, it reflects the unique charm and values of traditional Chinese culture. Traditional symbols are used as iconic elements in architecture to give the building a special identity and uniqueness. It distinguishes it from other buildings and forms a unique architectural style and regional characteristics. In terms of emotional resonance, the use of traditional symbols can arouse people's respect and love for history and tradition, and enhance people's emotional identification with architecture. The dilemma faced by traditional Chinese symbols lies in the needs of modern aesthetics. Some traditional symbols may be

different from modern aesthetic concepts, and it is difficult to meet the diverse aesthetic needs of contemporary society. Therefore, when using traditional symbols, it is necessary to consider how to integrate with modern design language to adapt to the aesthetic concepts of contemporary people. Functionality should be emphasized in the design of the building. It is necessary not only to meet the purpose of cultural expression, but also to take into account the practical and functional needs of the building. Too much emphasis on traditional symbols can overlook the actual use of the building.

In the future, the development of traditional Chinese symbols in the field of architecture is expected to be combined with innovative design. Through creative integration and interpretation, traditional symbols are rejuvenated in modern architecture. For example, combining traditional symbols with new materials and technologies. This approach can not only create buildings with traditional characteristics and meet modern needs, but also reflect values such as environmental protection and energy conservation in architectural design. People can create more environmentally friendly and sustainable works by using traditional building materials, traditional architectural layouts, and other methods. In the future, the use of traditional symbols in architecture can also promote the protection and inheritance of traditional culture. By adopting traditional symbols in architectural design, people's sense of identification and interest in traditional culture can be enhanced, thereby promoting the inheritance and development of traditional culture. Traditional Chinese symbols have certain advantages in architectural design, and can reflect rich cultural significance and emotional resonance. However, it is necessary to pay attention to the contemporary aesthetic needs and functional requirements of the application. At the same time, combined with modern design and focusing on sustainable development and cultural preservation, it shows a broader development prospect.

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