# Modern Textile Design Based on Traditional Elements 

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#### Abstract

Traditional culture is the silicon treasure of Chinese spiritual culture, the concentrated embodiment and reflection of Chinese national spirit, and the traditional elements of Chinese culture also show the world China's extensive and profound cultural heritage. With the continuous evolution of historical culture, traditional culture is also constantly evolving, updating, and advancing with the times. The examples of traditional cultural elements applied to pattern decoration can be traced back to ancient times. This paper adopts qualitative research methods to conduct systematic research. The research believes that since ancient times, the use of traditional elements in textiles has been emerging endlessly and continuously updated. It is necessary to not only preserve the traditional cultural values, but also carry forward the cultural heritage and ideological spirit contained in traditional elements, so as to stand out and highlight individuality in the current trend of contemporary art.


Keywords: traditional elements, textiles, artistic design

## 1. Introduction

China has entered a new era, with social and economic development, people's material lives have been met, and their spiritual and cultural needs are also growing. The growth of spiritual and cultural aesthetic needs is mainly reflected in people's aesthetic requirements for clothing, household textiles, and other aesthetic requirements. "There are more and more modern household textiles, and modern people are more pursuing personalization and advanced aesthetics. The uniform and uniform modern textiles have been difficult to meet people's growing aesthetic needs, and the" Chinese style "textile design is also becoming popular at this time". Chinese elements are frequently used in textile design at home and abroad, not only making traditional Chinese elements popular and shining brilliantly on the world stage, but also entering new innovative fields due to the addition of traditional Chinese elements to textiles[1]. By organically combining traditional Chinese and ethnic elements with Western fashion, we have created home textile products that embody both ethnic and traditional meanings, as well as the spirit of the times and fit the times, and have achieved success.

Chinese traditional elements mainly refer to the unique cultural elements of the Chinese nation, mainly traditional Chinese culture, which is also an element that Chinese designers need to inherit and develop. Chinese traditional elements are a relatively general concept that can be roughly divided into several parts: traditional patterns and patterns that symbolize positive energy, such as peonies, dragons and phoenixes, fish and cranes, and characters; The harmonious and unique combination of Chinese colors such as red, blue, and ink; Detailed decoration of clothing with Chinese characteristics such as cheongsam, ancient Han suit, Chinese mountain suit, and belly pocket; Handmade decorations with Chinese characteristics such as collar buttons and slits, inlay, inlay, rolling, plate, manual printing and dyeing, embroidery, etc; Silk, brocade, hemp and other traditional fabrics with Chinese characteristics. In the modern era of economic development, these traditional Chinese elements have gradually separated from the daily life of the Chinese people and have undergone transformation applying traditional Chinese elements to modern textile design can better integrate traditional elements into people's lives, thereby inheriting and carrying forward traditional Chinese culture. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the application of traditional elements in modern textile design.

## 2. Comprehensive application of traditional elements in modern textile design

There are many forms of application of traditional elements in modern textile design. Traditional engraving printing patterns, traditional color matching, traditional decorative patterns, traditional

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fabrics, and traditional decorative elements can be applied to modern textile design, and their application forms are diverse, with a very wide space for innovative design. Therefore, traditional elements are deeply welcomed by designers [2].

### 2.1 Application of traditional block printing patterns in textile design

In modern textile design, block printing is not only used for dyeing textiles, but also for printing patterns and dyeing in textile artwork design. Many textile designers, when choosing texture patterns for textiles, take into account dyeing techniques related to block printing and apply this technique to design, thereby creating a more perfect texture and achieving the goal of design innovation. Taking the work "Dream" as an example, using engraving technology to carve abstract patterns on kraft paper, and then harmonizing the image with a unified texture, forming a perfect visual effect of engraving printing. Applying engraving printing related technologies and graphic elements to modern textile design not only makes modern textiles more elegant, traditional, and strong artistic simplicity, but also provide designers with a wider range of innovative materials and imaginative space, enriching the artistic expression of textile products.

### 2.2 Application of traditional decorative patterns in textile decoration

Traditional decorative patterns are graphic patterns with typical national and traditional culture, with profound national characteristics and cultural connotations [3]. With the improvement of people's aesthetic needs, various pattern designs in household textiles are becoming increasingly diverse. Textile design not only needs to meet practical needs, but also needs to meet people's aesthetic needs. In the Chinese textile market, textile pattern design is still based on traditional Chinese cultural characteristics, both in color and pattern, with a positive implication. For example, red in China has an inherent meaning of auspiciousness, while gold symbolizes wealth and grandeur, purple symbolizes elegance and decency, pink symbolizes romance, tenderness, and maidenhood, and white symbolizes purity and impeccability. Different colors of patterns have different meanings. In textiles, generally rich and dignified designs such as dragons, phoenixes, and fish are designed in gold, while lotus and lotus flowers that emerge from the mud without staining are designed in pink and white. In order to enrich the details of the design, green leaves are added next to the lotus flowers, and flowers and leaves are placed in the flowers to combine multiple flower and leaf patterns to achieve a colorful visual effect. This design method has a special form of expression and strong visual effect, which is deeply loved by Chinese people.

Traditional decorative patterns are widely used in textiles, where special and attractive patterns can better attract customers' attention, meet their aesthetic needs, and stimulate their purchasing desire. In traditional decorative patterns, different flowers and plants also have different meanings. The use of peonies, flowers, lotus flowers, hibiscus, etc. on textiles represents auspiciousness, wealth, and more festive meanings; Applying flower patterns such as plum, orchid, bamboo, and chrysanthemum to textiles can give people a more desolate and aloof feeling. Because in China, plum blossoms, orchids, bamboos, and chrysanthemums have the nickname of "gentleman", "the fragrance of plum blossoms comes from bitter cold." Plum blossoms, which only bloom in winter, have a noble and proud character praised by scholars; Bamboo is tall and dignified, and tenacious; Orchids are elegant and clean, with a light fragrance; Chrysanthemum is the richest and most valuable among the "Four Gentlemen", with beautiful qualities. The elegant quality represented by plum, orchid, bamboo, and chrysanthemum is the pursuit of Chinese people. Therefore, the application of plum, orchid, bamboo, and chrysanthemum in the design of textile decorative patterns is also deeply welcomed by people. As an important component of traditional culture, traditional elements can vary flexibly in form. When applying it to textile pattern design, designers should have sufficient modern aesthetic awareness, combine traditional pattern elements with modern aesthetics, and enable traditional pattern elements to coordinate with modern aesthetics. With the globalization of the economy, the types, aesthetic preferences, and consumption views of consumers are becoming increasingly diverse. These textiles with Chinese elements have also gained more and more popularity among consumers internationally. It can be seen that traditional elements have been used most frequently in the design of Chinese style textiles. However, the use of traditional elements in textiles still needs to conform to modern aesthetics. The application of traditional elements in textile design is mainly carried out in two ways, one is to copy patterns, and the other is to create combinations of patterns. The former is to copy traditional elements, such as Chinese flower patterns, seal patterns, calligraphy fonts, etc; the latter combines traditional elements with other cultural elements, such as combining traditional Chinese cultural patterns with

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Western patterns to form a strong visual style contrast, thereby meeting people's aesthetic needs[4]. Regardless of the application method, there are traditional elements involved. Applying traditional elements to textile design can provide designers with more patterns to choose from and more materials to use in design, thereby better inheriting and promoting traditional patterns.

### 2.3 Application of traditional colors in textile design

Chinese colors are relatively rich, such as the Lei grain white ceramics of the Yin and Shang dynasties, the Phoenix white porcelain vases of the Sui and Tang dynasties, the white ground and black carved vine grain vases of the Northern Song Dynasty, and black and white ink landscape paintings, the blue and white porcelain of the Yuan Dynasty, the yellow and purple of the royal family, and the festive Chinese red, which are all examples of Chinese national colors. The application of traditional elements in textile design includes not only patterns but also colors. Chinese colors also have different meanings. In ancient China, yellow and purple were the exclusive colors for the royal family, while red was mostly meant for joy and wealth [5]. The collocation of traditional Chinese colors emphasizes lightness, strong contrast, and vividness. From a certain description in "A Dream of Red Mansions", one can also feel China's emphasis on color matching. Yinger said during the process of painting, "The bright red must be black to look good, or the stone green to suppress the color... Only pine flowers with peach red can be charming..." It can be seen that ancient China was very strict about color matching. With the development and upgrading of modern technology, dyeing becomes more and more convenient, and fabrics with more colors are sold on the market. When designing and matching colors for textiles, designers can try to use some ancient methods of dyeing and matching for innovation, so that the application of traditional color matching in textiles can more fully highlight national characteristics and styles. Generally speaking, the application of color in textile design has a larger area and is more attractive to consumers. Therefore, color application is also an important channel for designers and consumers to generate aesthetic resonance. The first impression consumers have of textiles comes from a wide range of color applications. Different colors used in textiles will reflect different personalities and styles. Red based textiles give a warm, enthusiastic, and exciting feeling; Orange and yellow are more likely to make people feel cheerful, lively, and happy. They are very energetic colors and are deeply loved by children; Green is known as an environmentally friendly color, symbolizing peace, youth, and tranquility, which can easily make people feel relaxed, and is therefore popular with consumers. The application of traditional Chinese colors in textiles can not only provide designers with more choices in color matching, but also stimulate the aesthetic resonance of traditional Chinese color matching in the hearts of Chinese people. Traditional decorative colors are the customary colors used in specific ethnic regions and have been closely linked to traditional folk customs, living habits, and aesthetic consciousness. They are the imprint of a nation and a symbol of emotion.

### 2.4 Application of traditional decorative elements in textile design

Chinese traditional production and decoration processes have a long history, and their application in textiles can bring multi-level and diversified process details to textiles, creating more high-quality design results. Traditional decorative elements can be found in traditional clothing, and various decorative techniques such as embroidery and weaving can be used to create various decorative elements. Applying these techniques to modern textile design can better enrich the fabric variety and decorative elements of textiles, allowing consumers to have multi-level skin and visual enjoyment. At the same time, applying various manual tie dyeing, plate dyeing, and embroidery techniques to textile design can increase the cultural characteristics of textiles and enrich their cultural connotations[6]. Therefore, in order to strengthen the design innovation of textiles, designers need to strengthen the research and application of traditional decorative elements and traditional embroidery, manual printing and dyeing processes, improve their aesthetic ability, apply high-quality artistic aesthetics to textile design, create more textiles with national characteristics and traditional Chinese cultural characteristics, impact the global market, and make traditional Chinese culture shine brilliantly on the world stage. The traditional decorative elements can be traced back to the neckline, buckles, and Chinese knot decorations of clothing such as cheongsam and Hanfu. These changes in decorative details are reflected in people's daily life, and contain a profound moral and subtle design sense.

However, with the development of modernization, these traditional decorative elements gradually fade out of people's lives. Due to the gradual decline in practicality, people have put forward requirements for concise and practical clothing. Although the practicality of traditional decorative elements is reduced, their aesthetic value and decoration still exist. Applying them to textile design can
well meet people's aesthetic needs and the pursuit of unique personality psychology. Therefore, designers can try to apply these aesthetic details to textile design, such as adding embroidery decorations, buckles, and Chinese knot tassels on cushions and pillows. Although the practicality is not high, the decoration can well meet people's retro feelings. Traditional decorative elements have strong Chinese cultural characteristics and national cultural heritage, which can largely meet people's psychological pursuit of unique personality. With the development of modern economy and the acceleration of people's pace of life, lifestyle, clothing, and various related things have the characteristics of simplicity and practicality. The purpose is to facilitate people's lives and ensure that people have more time and energy to invest in work, learning, and so on. Over time, many things in people's lives, as well as their clothing, supplies, and appliances, exhibit the characteristics of uniformity and patterning, which has led to a growing psychological demand for unique personality and uniqueness. With the development of modern science and technology, people have begun to use various technologies and machines to operate, and can easily achieve results. As a result, traditional craft works that require time and artificial effort to polish have a sense of craftsmanship and humanistic art that machines cannot replace. In order to satisfy people's aesthetic pursuit of traditional handicrafts, designers should combine traditional decorative elements with modern design. However, it does not mean simply applying traditional techniques to textile design to restore the original appearance of traditional decorations, but rather combining traditional decorative elements with modern trend aesthetics, while retaining modern fashion sense, with retro aesthetic artistic effects. Chinese home textile designers need to innovate on the basis of tradition, apply the high grade and aesthetic feeling of embroidery, traditional manual printing and dyeing and other processes to their creations, and impact the world market with high-end nationalized products, bringing national treasures back to the height of historical aesthetics.

### 2.5 Application of traditional fabrics in modern textile design

Fabrics also occupy an important position in textile design, which directly affects consumers' perception and purchasing desire for textiles. Fabric is a very important element that carries the color matching, pattern use, and decoration design of textiles. Due to different fabrics, the overall decorative style will also change greatly. Therefore, in modern textile design, designers generally choose different color matching and modeling designs based on different fabric styles. The cotton fabric is more warm and rustic, the silk body feels more smooth, lightweight, and breathable, and the yarn fabric is more elegant and hazy. Different fabrics have different characteristics. Designers need to choose different fabrics to match according to different design styles to ensure the integrity and unity of textile design styles. With the development of social science and technology, various synthetic fabrics have emerged in an endless stream and gradually entered people's daily lives. However, traditional fabrics still attract a large number of consumers with their rich cultural heritage and traditional craftsmanship. Silk fabric is gorgeous and elegant, with a strong aristocratic atmosphere. Using this fabric in textile design, it reflects a magnificent and elegant design style. The colors and patterns of brocade are complex, thick and colorful, and the pattern has a strong sense of hierarchy. Applying it to textile design can bring a strong visual impact. Fabrics made from natural fibers such as cotton and linen have good water absorption, are soft, comfortable, and durable. Applying them to modern textile design can meet the needs of more consumers seeking pure nature and comfort. In recent years, with the improvement of the living standards of the Chinese people, people's consumption concepts of textiles have also undergone significant changes. In addition to meeting aesthetic needs, people are also paying more and more attention to the comfort and naturalness of textiles. Therefore, designers should strengthen the research on traditional fabrics based on the use of traditional fabrics, innovate the combination of traditional fabrics and modern technology, achieve the organic combination of traditional fabrics and modern technology, and enable traditional fabrics to retain their cultural heritage and cultural characteristics while meeting people's requirements for comfort and warmth.

## 3. Conclusion

For China, traditional culture is a very important treasure and a soil that nourishes the inheritance and development of the national spirit. Only by deeply applying traditional elements in design can designers create more colorful and meaningful textiles. Textile designers should strengthen the excavation and innovation of traditional elements, strive to combine traditional elements with modern trend aesthetics, and meet modern aesthetic needs while ensuring the cultural heritage, national spirit, and humanistic characteristics of traditional elements, so that traditional elements can bloom and
appear in the beauty of the times. Only in this way can Chinese modern textile design rely on the profound traditional cultural heritage to go further.

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