

Protection and Development of Excellent Architectural Heritage in Modern Times

Shuyan Pei^{1,*} Kangfan Wei²

¹School of Historical Culture and Tourism, Xi'an University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China

²Xi'an University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China

*Corresponding author. Email: 454484475@qq.com

ABSTRACT

The excellent buildings of modern times carry the important information of China's modern history and culture, but such buildings have not been reasonably protected or exploited. In the need of developing new city, most of the buildings were destroyed or ruined. Xi'an is a cultural ancient city. This paper carries out an investigation on the outstanding modern architectural sites, and analyzes the position, present situation and background of the results of the survey according to the modern architectural evaluation standards, so that its value can be extended.

Keywords: *modern architecture, protection, development*

I. INTRODUCTION

Modern excellent architecture has extremely precious historical, cultural, artistic and other values, and is a non-renewable cultural resource. The protection and development of outstanding architectural heritage in modern times will be different in different regions due to local restrictions and policy inclinations. The protection and development of outstanding architectural sites in modern times have a positive effect on regional economic development and regional cultural construction.

II. THE PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EXCELLENT BUILDINGS

Chen Bingzhao believes that the common goal of protection and development is for social progress and development, so that people's lives in the material and spiritual aspects should be satisfied in many ways. The author thinks that this kind of progress will be reflected in cultural construction and economic development.

A. Urban cultural construction

Modern excellent architecture contains rich cultural connotations, and its historical and cultural connotations are interdependent with the surrounding environment. We protect architecture by protecting its cultural connotations. As Baudrillard describes in "the Consumer Society," "We live in the age of things: I mean, we live in accordance with rhythm of things and constantly replacing reality. Of all the civilizations of the past, what can exist after a generation is the things,

the tools and the buildings that endure, and what we see today is our own creation, perfection and extinction. "

B. Regional economic development

Architectural sites are not an obstacle to economic development, while protection and development sometimes create conflicts that are difficult to reconcile. In addition to trying to find an all-in-one solution, there will be a dilemma between the two. For the key cultural relics' protection units, in principle, they should be absolutely protected, and they should not be rebuilt in a way that allows them to be moved as a whole or dropped off the whole. [1] How to make use of historical and cultural values to drive economic development and make contradiction the driving force of development is the mainstream trend of today's society. For example, the Xi'an Incident Memorial Museum in Xi'an has established a museum based on protecting its original site and a red education base to contribute to the development of the local tourism economy.

C. Urban open space

The urban open space can increase people's communication and meeting, and the combination of the open space and the historical building can make the historical building regain its vitality, make people rediscover and recognize the historical building, and connect people with the building again. Not enough attention was paid to the modern and modern historic buildings in Xi'an, so there is a lack of suitable environment and open space around them. Therefore, to protect and design the environment of Xi'an modern historic buildings can play a role in the development of

urban open space and help to promote the vitality of the city [2].

III. THE EVALUATION STANDARD OF THE EXCELLENT ARCHITECTURAL SITE IN MODERN TIMES

"The Measures for the Protection and Management of Excellent Modern Buildings in Xi'an" stipulated that, starting from the middle of the 19th century and having been built for more than 50 years, one of the following conditions may be recognized as excellent modern buildings.

- buildings and structures that reflect the historical, cultural and folk-custom traditions of the modern society of local municipality and represent the characteristics of social development and regional characteristics of a certain period;
- buildings and structures related to major historical events;
- buildings and structures relating to important historical figures;
- representative workshops, shops, factories and warehouses in the history of industrial development;
- buildings and structures that reflect the cultural exchanges between Chinese and foreign buildings;
- buildings and structures of great significance in the history of China's architectural science and technology;
- buildings with architectural artistic characteristics or scientific research value in respect of construction type, space, style, construction technology and engineering technology;
- representative works of famous architects and award-winning buildings;
- other buildings and structures of historical, scientific, cultural, educational and artistic value. [3]

IV. CASE ANALYSIS OF MODERN EXCELLENT BUILDING SURVEY

A. Case 1: the renovation project of the shantytown around the traditional Chinese medicine hospital in the new city

1) *Geographic location:* The first-stage renovation of the shantytown around the traditional Chinese

medicine hospital is in new city district, west of the Fourth Hospital of Shaanxi Province, north of Wanda Square and south of Shaanxi Electric Power Company, east of the China Trade International Building. It covers Jiefang Road in the east, Shangde Road in the west, East Street in the south, and Xiyi Road in the north, which accounts for 92.28 Mu.

2) *Architectural features:* Its buildings are multi-stair residential buildings, shops, hospitals, banks, and office buildings. Most of the local lands have been demolished, mainly due to the comprehensive transformation of the surrounding areas of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals, the construction of Metro Line 4 and Metro Line 6. The demolition part covers about three-quarters of the area. The rest are shops, residences and the Fourth Hospital of Xi'an.

3) *Status quo analysis:* With the development of the city, the traffic in the East Street has become crowded. In order to clear the east-west corridor of the city in time, it is urgent to reform the traditional Chinese medicine hospital and its surrounding area. The transformation is also a major project to build a humanistic Xi'an, a dynamic Xi'an and a harmonious Xi'an. It is of great significance to improve the living environment of traditional Chinese medicine hospital and its surroundings, to improve the city's quality, to show the charm of the ancient city, and to promote the development of culture and tourism. The renovation project of shantytown around the traditional Chinese medicine hospital in New City District (Phase I) is one of the key construction projects in New City District of Xi'an in 2017. At present, the site is in the construction stage and there is no modern outstanding building site.

B. Case 2: benefit of Qinchuan factory and comprehensive transformation of surrounding shantytowns

1) *Geographic location:* Qinchuan Factory welfare and surrounding shantytowns comprehensive transformation is located in the west of the special railway line, east of Xingfu Middle Road, north of Xianning East Road, south of Hansen Road, including block streets of 21,22,25,28,29,30,31, Qinyuan District and other welfare areas and factory resettlement land.

2) *Architectural features:* Most of the residential buildings with large area are reinforced concrete structures, all of which are over five stories. Built in the 1980s and 1990s, these buildings are typical of contemporary architecture. In terms of time and structure, they do not belong to the excellent sites of modern times and have no protection value.

3) *Status quo analysis:* Qinchuan factory welfare and surrounding shantytowns were included in the

urban shantytown transformation project, and the project is still in the process of pre-processing procedures. According to the investigation, it is found that there are serious problems in some residential areas, such as inadequate infrastructure and poor sanitation. All kinds of pipelines are disorderly, and there are many problems in the use of land. Homestead, industrial land and commercial land are intertwined with each other. Illegal leasing, transfer, reselling and management are not only affecting the beauty of the city, but also hampering the process of urbanization and restricting the development of the city. There are also some residential areas belonging to the new buildings. Due to the time problem, some new buildings have not yet been checked in. The surrounding environment is better, and the layout is also more scientific. Taken together with the above factors, the welfare area of Qinchuan factory and the surrounding shantytowns have not found any modern outstanding sites.

C. Case 3: south suburb residential area of Xi'an Railway Bureau

1) *Geographic location:* It is located on both sides of South Second Ring Road and Youyi Road and divided into two land blocks. Block 1 — it starts from east to Jingjiu Road, west to Taiyi Road, south to South Second Ring Road, and north to Youyi East Road. Block 2 — it starts from Jiu Road in the east, Jitai Xinyuan in the west, Xinnan Garden District of the West Railway Bureau in the south, and the family college of Xi'an Railway Vocational and Technical College in the north. The total area is 243.27 Mu.

2) *Architectural features:* The buildings in the southern suburb of Xi'an Railway Bureau include low-rise residential buildings, high-rise residential buildings, schools, markets and hospitals. Among them, the majority of low-rise residential buildings, a total of 75, accounts for three-fifths of the total area of the residential area. There are three schools, five residential areas, a hospital, and a farmer's market. They were built after the founding of the People's Republic of China, in the past twenty years or so.

The low-rise residential buildings are mostly the family buildings of the Xi'an Railway Bureau and the China Railway First Bureau. Among them, the most are masonry structures and the least are reinforced concrete structures. They are all around six floors. In terms of time frame and building structure, it does not belong to the outstanding modern architectural sites and has no protection value.

3) *Status quo analysis:* The south suburb residential area of Xi'an Railway Bureau is one of 11 shantytowns in the "list of planned shantytowns before 2019". On

February 28, 2018, Xi'an shantytown transformation 2018 work conference and the first phase of the catch-up competition held, and the 2018 target mission was announced at the meeting. The end of 2019 plans to implement collection (demolition), construction and other work of 63 urban villages and 25 state-owned land shantytowns. The renovation project of the shantytowns on the state-owned land in the residential area of the southern suburbs of Xi'an Railway Bureau is in the first stage of implementation. Tendering was started in January 2017. To sum up, land No.4 is divided into two parts—the first part is mainly distributed in hospitals, schools, residential buildings and other buildings, and the second part is mainly Xi'an South Suburb Railway New Village, surrounded by scattered layout of four residential areas. According to the information obtained, the new village of Xi'an South Suburb Railway was built in 1999, and the time is not consistent. Therefore, the investigation showed that there were no modern and excellent architectural sites.

V. CONCLUSION

The outstanding modern architectural sites in China are rich in types, have unique heritage culture and important spiritual appeal, and play an important role in promoting the development of society, economy and culture. Deep excavation of the historical, cultural, scientific, social, and other values of modern architectural sites are conducive to the inheritance of history and the development of culture. However, there is no unified catalogue of modern sites in China, and there is no way to carry out the education function of cultural communication without protection of modern sites. The protection of urban architecture "not only seeks the past for the sake of the past, but also respects the past for the sake of the present"[4]. We should attach importance to the outstanding modern architectural heritage, intensify the investigation and protection of the existing modern buildings, and seek a balance between development and building protection. It's a problem that needs to be solved soon.

References

- [1] Chen Bingzhao. Historical Culture: A View of Reason in Conservation and Regeneration [J]. Architectural Science and Technology, 2017 (in Chinese)
- [2] Zhang Manli. Research on Environmental Protection and Design of Modern Historic Buildings in Xi'an [D]. Xi'an University of Architectural Science and Technology, 2013 (in Chinese)
- [3] Xi'an Municipal Government. Measures for the Protection and Management of Outstanding Modern Buildings in Xi'an [Z]. Decree No.121 of Xi'an Municipal Government, 2015 (in Chinese)

- [4] F. Gilbert et al., Translated by Cheng Liyao. Urban Design [M]. China Building Industry Press, 1987 (in Chinese)
- [5] Tian Tao, The Ancient City Regeneration: Xi'an Cultural Resources Combing and Its Spacial Planning [D]. Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, 2015. (in Chinese)
- [6] Jia Yunwei, A Probe into the Protection and Utilization of Modern and Cultural Ruins [J]. Beauty and Times (Urban Version), 2016(05): 88-89. (in Chinese)
- [7] Yang Yanlong, Study on the Evolution of Xi'an City Regional Structure [D]. Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, 2006. (in Chinese)