

# Public Space Cultural Landscape Research— Take the City Square as An Example

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## ABSTRACT

Comfortable and beautiful public space is an indispensable element in urban life. The development of social economy and culture has changed the appearance of the city and exposed the problems of cultural landscape in public space. This article from the method of public space design principles and the cultural construction, representative of yichang city square as an example to in-depth research, through the analysis of investigation results contrast summarizes several problems existing in the cultural landscape of yichang public space, and proposes the optimization strategy to solve these problems, make the cultural heritage and development from the perspective of landscape design.

**Keywords:** *Public space, Cultural landscape, City square, Regional culture, The landscape design*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Public space is open to all citizens, and it is a socialized place undertaking public life. Its appearance creates a new form of communication for people and makes citizens' sense of social participation more clear. Due to the lack of systematic planning and design of most public spaces in current cities, the presentation of the landscape is inconsistent with the surrounding environment, resulting in a decline in the quality of the space, and a fault in the inheritance of regional culture. This paper takes the city square as an example to discuss how to conform to the development of The Times, establish a landscape with unique regional culture, and how to reflect regional culture and site spirit through landscape design.[1]

## 2. CULTURAL CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SPACE

### *2.1 Urban culture and landscape construction*

Urban culture is the result of the long-term accumulation of social economy, science and technology, religious belief and lifestyle in the process of long-term urban development. Due to the different geographical location, climatic conditions and historical accumulation of each city, its corresponding urban culture is also completely different. To study the culture of a city, we must understand the characteristics and attributes of the city.

Placing the cultural landscape in the public space and merging with the surrounding environment produces radiation effect, which is a comprehensive reflection of the city's history and culture, regional style and characteristics. Therefore, the theme selection, scale and color design of the cultural landscape in public space should be combined with the urban cultural environment.[2]

### *2.2 The embedding of cultural symbols in landscape*

Cultural symbols, as a medium to convey urban culture, are widely used in design. In the face of the severe situation that cultural landscape in public space appears "one city at a time", designers should apply what they have learned to convey culture through landscape. Through consulting materials and practical investigation, we sorted out the following ways of constructing cultural symbols into the landscape:

(1) Reference feature elements : Extract characteristic elements from regional culture and apply them after processing. For example, "dragon" is the totem of the Chinese nation. In any era and region of The Chinese land, as long as people see this image, they can feel the inheritance and inheritance of traditional culture, and then feel the massiness and persistence of Chinese civilization.

(2) Exaggerated treatment of cultural symbols : Enlarge or shrink the original cultural symbols to show again, expand the artistic expression of the landscape. For example, Fujian Quanzhou Mintai Edge Museum, The designer simplified and enlarged the folk dwellings with minnan characteristics as the entrance

sign, which directly expressed its cultural characteristics.[3]

( 3 ) Reorganize local elements : Elemental reorganization is based on the quotation of cultural symbols.It is a means of rearranging and combining local elements to form new symbols, allowing the original culture to glow with new vigor and vitality.

### **3. RESEARCH ON CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF PUBLIC SPACE -- A CASE STUDY OF QIUSUO SQUARE IN YICHANG**

As a livable city, Yichang is the hometown of historical celebrities Qu Yuan and Wang Zhaojun. With a history of more than two thousand years, yichang has precious and rich natural and cultural resources.With the deepening of urban planning, more and more squares have been built to meet the life and entertainment needs of citizens.

#### ***3.1 Analysis of cultural landscape of Qiusuo Square***

Qiusuo Square, as a civic activity place in the East Railway Station area, was planned and built in 2017, which makes up for the leisure and entertainment functions missing in this area due to the construction restrictions.The square is composed of seven areas: the source of seeking, the shore of herbs, the praise of orange trees, the heart of seeking, the ceremony of fishermen, the land of awakening the world, and the richness of nine songs.

##### ***3.1.1 Regional cultural analysis***

Yichang has a profound cultural heritage and is known as the "Birthplace of Bachu Culture".Its material culture is mainly manifested in Musical Instruments, weapons, lacquerware and other implements, while its spiritual culture is mainly manifested in living customs, folk beliefs, literature and art and other aspects.The main features are shown in the following aspects : (1) Advocate witchcraft and believe in ghosts and gods. (2) Stilt type residential buildings, namely stilt buildings. (3) Pursue Taoist thought. (4 ) Folk customs such as tramping and jumping mulberry are popular. (5) Fairy tales.As the core content of the spiritual culture full of romance in Bachu culture, these folk features are often celebrated, referenced and integrated.

The topographic advantage of Yichang breeds unique landscape culture.As the hydropower capital of the world, Yichang has the highly anticipated Three Gorges water control project of Yangtze River;And

the unique geomorphic environment of the city has created the beautiful scenery of the Xiajiang River through the city, the city inlaid with mountains, the mountains in the city, the city in the forest, and the people in the painting.Highlight the spirit of landscape city.[4]

#### ***3.1.2 The expression of Qiusuo Square cultural landscape***

There is a strong architectural culture atmosphere around Qiusuo Square, and the landscape design also has certain regional characteristics.The expression of the cultural landscape is traditional,After field investigation, it is divided into the following parts.

##### ***3.1.2.1 Landscape sketch***

The landscape sketches in the square are relatively rich.The landscape at the entrance is made up of sunken steps,the textures with different colors create the visual effect of overlapping water, with irregular



**Figure 1** Entrance landscape



**Figure 2** Decorative symbols

stones at the bottom, the stepping stones stacked on the stones echo the changing depths of the totems on the outer wall of the museum. (p1) In the foreground of the square are several white pavilions arranged irregularly on the opposite bank of the artificial lake,The tall and straight bamboos planted in the pavilion symbolize the modesty and nobility of the

literati and scholars, and are suitable for the surrounding cultural sites. The middle view of the square is a long sky corridor with winding and beautiful curves, overlooking the landscape of the entire square. The black irregular pattern scattered on the grass is the designer's simplified symbol of the pattern of Bachu (p2). It deepens the cultural atmosphere of the square.[5]

### 3.1.2.2 Building

Qiusuo Square and the new museum (p3), the city planning pavilion (p4) are designed by overall planning. As an extension of the surrounding buildings, the design not only reflects the regional characteristics but also has a modern sense.

As the epitome of the city, the main design of the museum covers a large number of historical and cultural elements of Bachu, just like a big tripod, which is ancient and magnificent. The design element of the planning pavilion is the landscape city characteristics of Yichang, and its shape borrows from the shape of mountains. The facade is like a mirror of pool water. The square and surrounding buildings rely on each other to form a landscape system with two different centers, one is centered around the building and the other is centered around the square. As an important component of the square, architecture not only shows the regional cultural characteristics, but also plays a restrictive and guiding role in the planning and design of the square, making the square coexist harmoniously with the surrounding environment.



Figure 3 Yichang Museum



Figure 4 Yichang Planning Museum

### 3.1.2.3 Plant

The plants in the square are divided into different levels and types, which provide convenience for people to enjoy various activities in the space. For example, large playgrounds are provided for children, lawns are provided for families to have a picnic, and platycodon bushes are provided for couples to have a quiet date. In order to comply with the natural conditions, the square has followed the principle of adapting to local conditions in the selection of plants.[6]

Yichang has a subtropical monsoon climate, maple, ginkgo and other plants with long green periods were used more frequently, these types of plants can not only shade people in summer, but also add color to the landscape of the square by changing the color of the flowers and leaves through the seasons. Native plants are used on a large scale, such as city tree koelreuteria paniculata and citrus, these are fruit-scented flower species, which not only save the cost but also have ornamental value.

## 4. PROBLEMS EXISTING IN THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF PUBLIC SPACE

### 4.1 Cultural landscapes blindly assimilate

Due to the lack of attention to regional culture, the phenomenon of landscape convergence is serious. The central landscape of the square is only a dry fountain, surrounded by a large area of open space. This kind of symmetrical composition cannot reflect the regional characteristics, it is easy to generate aesthetic fatigue, which leads to the lack of advantages of cities in cultural competition.[7]

The cultural landscape of public space in Yichang lacks characteristics, on the one hand, the historical cultural space in the period of "old city reconstruction" was destroyed and the urban memory disappeared. On the other hand, the builders lack of understanding of the image of the city, blindly pasted the characteristic notes of "water and electricity Capital" and "Birthplace of Bachu Culture", set the landscape design according to the formula, and lacked the exploration of local culture.

### 4.2 Single form of landscape expression

The performance of cultural landscape lacks creative design and new material application, and is too single and stylized in form. In terms of the depth of regional culture, the current landscape only stays at the level that people are familiar with, formally expressed as stylized sculptures, it is easy to cause the masses'

aesthetic fatigue and lose their interest in cultural exploration. Although overly abstract cultural symbols attract the masses, due to the long history, the masses' cultural level is uneven, the cultural landscape has become an isolated material existence and has not realized its own cultural science popularization function.[8]

### ***4.3 Landscape Settings lack humanity***

Designers are more inclined to the aesthetic sense in form, but the connection between the design itself and the regional characteristic culture is not close, ignoring the spiritual and cultural needs of the masses. When most people only stay at the visual perception of the landscape surface, the landscape loses its extended significance to the culture.

Although designers have integrated traditional cultural symbols into the landscape, it is difficult for the masses to understand the cultural meaning due to improper material selection and unclear expression of cultural meaning, thus losing the continuous role of landscape in culture.

## **5. OPTIMIZATION STRATEGY OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN PUBLIC SPACE**

### ***5.1 Adjust the overall layout, reflect the characteristics of the block***

As the image of the city, the square should be combined with the surrounding architectural atmosphere, residents' living habits and other factors to extract the most distinctive regional culture, so that the masses, especially tourists from outside can have a general understanding of the city in a short time. For example, the surrounding area of Yiling Square is mainly occupied by residential land. In landscape setting, folk stories close to life, Yiling prints, Yichang special food and other down-to-earth cultures can be used. The surrounding area of Qiusuo Square is where the municipal buildings are located, and cultural elements can be mainly used in the landscape setting, for example, scholars' painting and calligraphy, Bachu cultural symbols, etc., integrate appropriate regional culture into the landscape, highlighting the characteristics of the block.[9]

### ***5.2 Innovate ways of expression, reflect cultural diversity***

The expression of regional culture in the landscape should not only stay in the surface layer of sculpture and sculpture of these cultures, but should dig deeper

into the historical stories. Diversified design techniques make the history and culture more vivid and the cultural scene more comprehensive. In addition to adding the necessary cultural landscape annotation, play the popularization role of landscape to culture, but also combined with the current emerging technology to meet people's spiritual needs for cultural landscape.

There are various ways of expression of cultural landscape. Only designers who have the courage to innovate and break the stereotype of thinking can make traditional regional culture show its brilliance in a new form.

### ***5.3 Pay attention to spirit and increase interactivity***

Design is ultimately to serve people, so the setting of the landscape should be based on humanization. People and landscape interact in a variety of ways, interesting landscape is often more attractive. For example, the mirror material and human peep behavior combined, the plant set as a small maze. These are all ways to enhance the interactivity of the landscape. Through landscape design to improve the environment, increase the sense of experience, pay attention to the public space culture to the psychological care of people. The setting of the sketch should conform to the human scale and express the spirit of the space through the shaping of the historical and cultural landscape.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

In the context of rapid urban economic development, cultural convergence and dusty regional characteristics, how to highlight local cultural characteristics through the design of public space landscape is an issue that every city should pay close attention to.

Through the investigation and analysis of the cultural landscape of Public space in Yichang, we have summarized its existing problems, and put forward reasonable optimization strategies to solve these problems, so that people realize that traditional regional culture is difficult to exist in isolation in the city. In the future, public space will be more and more closely connected with social development. Only by adhering to the construction of characteristic and humanized cultural landscape, can public space display its own cultural charm in the opening.

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