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### Dimensional Analysis of Chinese Traditional Honeysuckle Design Based on Semiotics

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#### ABSTRACT

The objective of this paper is to analyze the application level of traditional honeysuckle patterns and interpret the traditional culture contained in honeysuckle patterns, so that they can be better applied to modern design. This paper interprets the semiotic meaning of traditional honeysuckle pattern, understands its extension and connotation, and conduct an inductive analysis of its application in modern society. Conclusion The traditional honeysuckle symbolism is rich in semantics and has a wide range of applications. After inheriting and developing it, we can make it more suitable for modern design applications.

Keywords: Traditional Culture, Honeysuckle Pattern, Semiotics.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Honeysuckle pattern is one of the traditional Chinese decorative patterns, which is the most popular in the Southern and Northern Dynasties[1]. In the historical development, it has continuously integrated the cultures of different nationalities, and its form have changed and developed, and its connotation has been more perfect. From the perspective of semiotics, the extension of the honeysuckle pattern is diverse in form and rich in connotation. If the two are effectively combined, the design and application of the traditional honeysuckle pattern will be more extensive. Therefore, based on the semiotic meaning, it can be better applied to the inheritance and development of traditional honeysuckle design interpretation and application dimensional analysis.

### 2. THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE HONEYSUCKLE PATTERN

Honeysuckle is a creeping plant with long petals and low drooping stamens, yellow and white, and is named for its honeysuckle. Lingdong does not wither, so it is known as honeysuckle. Because it is tenacious and does not die in winter, it is used in Buddhism, and the soul of the human being is immortal, eternal life, and then widely used in the decoration of art. As shown in Fig. 1, the shape of the honeysuckle pattern is usually dominated by an infinitely continuous S-shaped curve with oppositely-circulating leaves on both sides, forming a C-shaped spiral side branch and a leaf, flower or fruit in the spiral interior[2]. This styling perfectly shows the laws of form and beauty, and at the same time conveys the rhythm of life. The dynamic spiral curve not only conveys the unique beauty of the line, but also depicts the beauty of life from different perspectives.

The honeysuckle pattern is flowing into the Central Plains with the once prosperous Buddhism and martyrdom in Central Asia. As a form of foreign decoration, its unique style is a model of the perfect combination of Chinese traditional culture and Western culture, although its style is more stylized. But the changes are rich and varied. The formation of the honeysuckle pattern has realized a major transformation of the traditional decorative theme from animal to plant, and has developed into an artistic carrier with profound cultural connotation and strong appeal. It has an important position in the history of traditional Chinese patterns[3].







Figure 1 Honeysuckle pattern

### 3. THE EXTENSION AND CONNOTATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE HONEYSUCKLE PATTERN

Roland Barthes, a master of semiotic theory, said: "The extension of symbols is the basis of ideology, and the connotation is to add another layer of meaning to constitute a new one." According to the perspective of semiotics, the development and change of the honeysuckle pattern are different The combination of extension and connotation[4]. On the basis of understanding the connotation and extension of the traditional honeysuckle pattern, the new integration can give modern design a new meaning.

# 3.1. Extension of traditional honeysuckle pattern

Extension is the first level of the ideographic process: "The meaning is the image itself, but the meaning is the thing in front of the camera, that is, the thing that forms the meaning." The extension of the traditional honeysuckle pattern evolved from the palm-like leaf pattern. Half of the palm-like leaf pattern is decorated in the angle of the spiral, and its shape is exactly the same as the spiral shape of the spiral. The honeysuckle pattern individual pattern is an edge-free pattern that can be separated from other patterns to enable a pattern that is independent and has integrity.

According to the balance symmetry between the leaves of the honeysuckle pattern, the honeysuckle pattern of the individual patterns can be divided into two categories: (1) Symmetrical honeysuckle pattern: the main feature is composed of three, five or more odd leaves, with the main vine The axis of symmetry is bilaterally symmetrical, the structure is stable, and it has a strong decorative meaning; (2) Freestyle honeysuckle: The main feature is that the stems of the honeysuckle pattern are free and have various shapes. The individual leaves are freely changing, the leaves are generally rich in change, the picture is vivid and flexible, the composition is full, and the overall balance and stability are achieved according to the balance of the visual center of gravity.

The two sides of the traditional honeysuckle pattern are continuous patterns of the unit pattern that are copied to the left and right or up and down. Taking the left and right branching spiral characteristics of the main vine of the honeysuckle pattern as the reference, the decorative pattern of the honeysuckle pattern is divided into five different types: wavy honeysuckle pattern, single row honeysuckle pattern, peach-shaped honeysuckle pattern, tangled honeysuckle pattern and tortoise-shaped honeysuckle pattern.

## 3.2. The connotation of traditional honeysuckle pattern

Connotation is the second level of the ideographic system. The connotation takes the extension meaning as its meaning, and attaches another layer of meaning to it, and becomes another meaning. The traditional honeysuckle pattern is a symbol created by the ancient working people, and its multi-form extension also has a simple connotation. In ancient West Asia and Central Asia, the "Tree of Life" worship prevailed, forming an idealized "holy tree". The curling pattern resembling grapes, leaves and rich fruits became the symbol of "life tree". After the Central Plains, it became a popular "Hu ornaments" during the Northern and Southern Dynasties, and also became a symbol of the Buddha's heaven and pure land.

The traditional honeysuckle pattern is a kind of pattern formed by people's abstract art processing through the eyes according to the image. It is the reflection of human consciousness on real life, and then the form formed in people's mind is A fusion of subjective emotions and external objects. The traditional honeysuckle pattern evolved from the form of honeysuckle. People found that honeysuckle is not dead in winter, and its shape is agile. Therefore, it is used in Buddhism to mean that life is tenacious and the soul is immortal. It is a symbol of life. With the development of society, the traditional honeysuckle pattern has a longevity and auspicious meaning.

### 4. DESIGN DIMENSION ANALYSIS OF TRADITIONAL HONEYSUCKLE PATTERN

In today's society, science and technology progress, people begin to have their own rational understanding and judgment of the objective world, and people's ideology can be gradually liberated from subjective imagination to a more free direction. The constant liberation of people's minds has undoubtedly made the traditional patterns gain a broader space for development. The following three dimensions take its "shape", extend its "meaning", and pass on its "God" to analyze the application of traditional honeysuckle pattern in modern design.

## 4.1. Take the ''shape'' of the honeysuckle pattern

In today's society, modern design has a lot of use of traditional patterns as design elements. The traditional honeysuckle pattern is rich and varied, and the free and flexible form is applied to modern design. It is to make no adjustment and change to the sample body, but to seek new applicable objects and carriers for the pattern. This is the first dimension of the use of honeysuckle pattern in modern design.

As shown in Figure 2, Datong City, Shanxi Province applies the traditional honeysuckle pattern to the pavement fence, highlighting the traditional culture of the ancient capital of history. The dynamic stretch of the pattern echoes the light and shadow on the ground under the sunlight and makes the whole street more dynamic and dynamic. It creates a half-intersecting echo space between the two straight roads. The extended honeysuckle pattern creates a cultural bridge between traditional culture and modern commercial space. At the same time, the traditional carrier of traditional honeysuckle pattern grain applied to urban guardrails is also its own new development.



Figure 2 The city guardrail in Datong

# 4.2. Extend the ''meaning'' of the honeysuckle pattern

The symbolic language of the honeysuckle pattern, like the Chinese characters, carries the sound of history. In the modern design, the traditional honeysuckle pattern has been improved in a variety of ways to adapt to the ever-changing decorative carrier and the aesthetic needs of the public, that is, to change the external form of the honeysuckle pattern, add the designer's ideas, and then apply. This is the second dimension of the use of the honeysuckle pattern in modern design - the extension.

As shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, this is the overall design of the tea packaging. It is shaped like the external

shape of the honeysuckle pattern. It is free to move and the composition is full. It is easy to get people's psychological identity and close the distance between people and products. In terms of organizational form, it changes the continuous winding decoration, using direct and random laying techniques to highlight the characteristics of plant growth freedom[5]. The designer also combines the combination of the two elements of honeysuckle pattern and floral patterns into a new pattern, which is directly applied to the packaging design of the tea. The personalized elements make the packaging design more distinctive. The entire packaging is traditionally and modernly designed to create a stylish design with artistic language charm.



Figure 3 Tea wrapping paper



Figure 4 Tea box

# 4.3. Spread the "Spirit" of the honeysuckle pattern

As a symbol of traditional culture, the honeysuckle pattern exudes the oriental art atmosphere, and its freely stretched decorative form can express richer cultural connotations. In the specific application process, the designer can not only stick to the extension and semantic meaning of the honeysuckle pattern, pay attention to the communication of spirit and the intention, and grasp the unity of the pattern and the charm through the generalization of the shape of the honeysuckle pattern and the refinement of the spirit. This is the third dimension of the use of honeysuckle pattern in modern design - expressive.



What the logo design needs most is a refined and generalized design language. The allegorical expression of the element is particularly important when selecting the available elements. The characteristic toughness and tenacity of the honeysuckle pattern are in line with the Olympic Games 'concept of advocating athletes' tenacious struggle and guiding human health upward. The original design of the logo for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games will be used in the honeysuckle pattern. The lines are simplified and summarized to make their shapes and charm more integrated. As shown in Figure 5, although the shape of the honeysuckle pattern in the logo is not as complicated as the vines and branches of the traditional honeysuckle pattern, it can still be seen from the curly form of the honeysuckle pattern that conveys the sense of vitality to people, The perfect combination of culture and modern design concepts[6].



Figure 5 Beijing Olympic Games logo design

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

The extension of the traditional honeysuckle pattern and the development of its connotation are a microcosm of the Chinese national civilization. The traditional honeysuckle pattern has independent symbolic meaning and standardized modeling characteristics, and is a very abstract and general visual symbol[7]. The use of dimensional analysis of the traditional honeysuckle pattern is conducive to its inheritance and development, and it is also of great significance to respect and protect the traditional Chinese culture. Modern society provides an open social environment, advanced science and technology, and diverse aesthetic needs. Therefore, when applying the traditional honeysuckle pattern, we can analyze and summarize it in different dimensions according to its shape, meaning, and deity to make it more suitable for modern design.

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