

# Protection and Development of Traditional Korean-Chinese Villages Against the Background of “Beautiful Countryside”

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## ABSTRACT

Ethnic minorities are the national memory of China. How to pass on this memory is an important proposition for the protection and development of ethnic minorities today. Taking traditional Korean-Chinese villages as an example, this paper studies the landscape planning of traditional Korean-Chinese villages in different forms, mainly from the aspects of housing, vegetation, water systems, farmland, and public facilities, analyzes the renovated traditional villages and the newly built traditional villages after relocation, and envisions the prospect of traditional village protection and development.

**Keywords:** Korean-Chinese, Traditional villages, Repair, Development.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

China is a pluralistic country in terms of its ethnic groups. Among them, the Korean-Chinese nationality has a unique traditional culture, which should be inherited and carried forward. In the context of the "beautiful countryside" strategy, China has basically formed a top-down protection system for traditional villages, which is of great significance for the protection and development of traditional villages [1]. So far, there are about 82 Korean-Chinese intangible cultural heritages [2]. Traditional Korean-Chinese village is the most direct expression of Korean-Chinese culture, which should be protected and carried forward. The protection and development of traditional Korean-Chinese villages can be divided into two types. One is to repair and transform them with their original appearance unchanged, which is called the retention type. This form protects the original appearance of traditional villages to the greatest extent, such as Changcai Village, Bailong Village, Shuinan Village and Shijian village in Tumen City. The other is to relocate the original village and build another village, with the same Korean-Chinese characteristics, which is called the newly built type, such as Yan'an Village, Toudao Town, Longjing City, Liudong Village, Helong City, etc. This paper takes Changcai Village in Tumen City and Yan'an Village of Toudao Town as examples to

analyze the two protection forms, mainly from the aspects of housing structures, road greening, public facilities, and water flow direction and envisages the future development of traditional village.

## 2. PRESENT SITUATION OF TRADITIONAL KOREAN-CHINESE VILLAGES

With the rapid improvement of living standards in urban areas, more and more people choose urban development, which leads to the serious loss of population in villages and the phenomenon of "empty villages". Many of the preserved traditional dwellings have been damaged to varying degrees due to disrepair. The underdeveloped road traffic leads to the backwardness in the whole village. The scarcity of green vegetation lowers the quality of residents' living environments and so on. These factors make it existence urgent to protect traditional Korean-Chinese villages.

### **3. ANALYSIS OF RETENTION TYPE AND NEWLY BUILT TYPE**

#### **3.1. Yan'an Village**

##### **3.1.1. Overview of Yan'an Village**

Yan'an Village is located southwest of Toudao Town. Yan'an Village was a natural village. After the reclamation of the Han and Korean-Chinese ethnic groups, Yan'an Village has become a green rice cultivation base, with abundant cultivated land and precious natural resources such as forest land, paddy fields, and dry fields [3]. Since the poverty alleviation efforts started, Yan'an Village has been relocated. And the building of a new Yan'an Village was basically completed in 2017.

##### **3.1.2. Development of Yan'an Village**

###### **3.1.2.1. Housing Structure**

After the relocation of Yan'an, the houses were unified as brick houses with tiled roofs for keeping the traditional style of Korean-Chinese folk houses. In neat rows, six blocks in one unit are separated by roads in the village. The houses in the village are decorated with paintings related to traditional Korean-Chinese folk customs and are regularly refurbished, as shown in Figure 1. Street decoration through wall painting can not only add the color of the street, but also improve the environmental defects of the street and expand the environmental space [4]. Wall painting art is characterized by immediacy, popularity, low cost of creation, and simple process. For this reason, wall painting has gradually become a new trend in urban decoration [5].



**Figure 1** Wall Painting in Yan'an Village



**Figure 2** Road Greening in Yan'an Village

###### **3.1.2.2. Road System**

The main road system consists of very neat highways. The road system mainly built with concrete in the village is distributed as a network, in a simple and clear fashion. After the completion of the new village, the road greening was enriched (Figure 2). It echoes with the wall painting in the village and beautifies the whole village. A road decorated with small windmills was also built on the north side of the village, which became a trending site online (Figure 3).



**Figure 3** The windmill road



**Figure 4** Homestay

###### **3.1.2.3. Landscape Green Plants**

Yan'an Village has unique natural scenery. As a result, the government developed the new village as a folk village with special features for sightseeing tours, with cafes and bed and breakfasts (Figure 4) adjacent to the rice fields to attract tourists and promote local economic development and cultural transmission [6]. After the construction of the new village, every household has its own courtyard, which has been beautified. Some residents grow their own food crops in their courtyards, such as beans, corn, soybeans, etc. Some have paving in their own courtyards (Figure 5).

###### **3.1.2.4. Public Facilities**

Many public facilities were added to meet the living needs of residents. The two sides of the road are separated by fences. At each intersection, garden sculptures related to Korean-Chinese folk customs were newly set up. Some sculptures can be used for resting, which not only increases the road beautification, but also has certain practicality. A square was built to enlarge the activity space of residents. The square is mainly composed of pavilions, basketball courts, and billboards (Figure 6),

with fitness equipment and featured seats (Figure 7) to increase interest.



Figure 5 Garden Greening



Figure 6 Characteristics of the seat

### 3.1.3. Significance of Newly Built Traditional Villages

In addition to the rural elements possessed by ordinary villages, newly built traditional Korean-Chinese villages are also areas of rich traditional culture, which have great advantages for the development of the tourism industry. These villages can provide residents with better living space, convenient transportation, and rich vegetation greening, which greatly improves the quality of life for residents. In addition, newly built traditional villages will combine with tourism and formulate corresponding planning schemes according to local conditions, so as to achieve the goal of promoting ecological civilization construction and building a beautiful new China [7]. Furthermore, these villages can retain the cultural features of traditional villages, enhance the fun and appreciation of traditional culture, and spread culture more effectively in a wider range through tourism. At present, with the increasing attention to folk culture tourism from all walks of life, the enthusiasm to protect and inherit national culture is unprecedentedly high. The combination of tourism and traditional villages will be increasingly applied to the protection of traditional villages.

## 3.2. Changcai Village

### 3.2.1. Overview of Changcai Village

Changcai Village is a part of Jixin Town, Longjing City. It is situated southwest of Yanbian, 16 km away from Longjing City [8]. Changcai Village is surrounded

by an open terrain, with mountains behind and the Liudao River in front of it [9]. The village retains traditional Korean-Chinese style dwellings, warehouses for storing corn, and vegetable fields planted in the yards for family consumption.

### 3.2.2. Development process of Changcai Village

#### 3.2.2.1. Housing Structure

Changcai Village is situated along a riverbank against a mountainous backdrop and surrounded by mountains and forests. From 2006 to 2021, the number of houses in the village increased from 79 to 82, but then decreased to 72. The number of warehouses has changed in a similar way, from 40 to 47, and now to 34. One site has been preserved in the village, and the pavilion and other buildings are now added (Table 1). Through the new rural policy, the houses have been renovated, and the functions, usability and safety of the houses have been enhanced, while the Korean-Chinese building structure has been retained. The village now consists of straw huts, tiled houses, renovated brick houses, and a few new ones built for the impoverished.

Table 1. Changes in the buildings of Changcai Village from 2006 to 2021.

	In 2006	In 2012	In 2021
House	79	82	72
Storehouse	40	47	34
Ruins	1	1	1
Pavilion	0	0	3

#### 3.2.2.2. Road System

The main road of Changcai Village is the same as that of Yan'an Village. The road system in the village is composed of the main road, streets, and paths in front of the houses. Different from Xinjian Village, the road system of Changcai Village is more finely divided and has more functions. Roads have been added since the repairs. The initial three main roads have increased to 11. But they have fallen into disrepair. Many of the paths in front of the house have been abandoned and neglected. With the implementation of the policy, the roads in Changcai Village have changed from dirt roads to concrete ones, each with a green belt. Part of the paths in front of houses is still preserved in the form of dirt roads.

#### 3.2.2.3. Landscape Green Plants

Changcai Village is mainly surrounded by mountain landscapes, From 2006 to 2021, the forest area was gradually reduced and turned into fields for production. Road greening in the village is decreasing year by year, from more than 40 trees in 2006 to less than ten trees

today. But with continuous development, in 2006, the villagers' courtyards are mostly planted with crops. Now more villagers choose to plant flowers in their courtyards to beautify the garden landscape. Similar to villages in the newly built traditional villages, villagers here beautify their courtyards to a certain extent. The quality of their life has improved, from living hand to mouth to enjoying life. As a result, more landscape planning appears.

#### 3.2.2.4. Public Facilities

Changcai Village changed the original wooden fence into an iron fence, and then replaced it with a brick wall with a height of 1.4 meters. However, due to the low fastness of the brick wall, only part of the fence was changed. Now the village retains two forms of fences, and several trash cans have been added to the roadside of the middle road in the village. However, due to the small number of trash cans, it is not convenient for people to use them, so the frequency of littering can increased. The entrance to the northeast of the village was transformed into a parking lot in 2016 and has remained so to this day, but it has not been frequently used. And there is a lack of signs and space for villagers to move about.

#### *3.2.3. Significance of Traditional Village Preservation*

Traditional villages retained are renovated under the condition that the villages remain unchanged. First of all, against the backdrop of the rapid promotion of the "beautiful countryside" strategy, the renovation can create a space conducive to the inheritance and development of the Korean-Chinese intangible cultural heritage. Secondly, it can meet the modern living needs of villagers to the maximum extent, enhance villagers' living environment improve the quality of living space, provide more comfort and, fun, etc. Finally, the creation of facilities and conditions conducive to folk tourism in traditional Korean-Chinese villages plays a key role in invigorating the village economy, enriching the cultural life of people [10] and enhancing the vitality of the village popularity.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

This paper takes two typical traditional Korean-Chinese villages, Yan'an Village and Changcai Village, as the research objects, from the perspective of landscape planning, based on two forms of protection and development of traditional villages, which are the retention and newly built types. The paper mainly analyzes the differences between the two villages in buildings, landscapes, road systems, and public facilities. Through analysis, it can be concluded that the two methods have been effectively protected and developed in the traditional villages. Most of the traditional Korean-Chinese villages are located in the border areas in China,

a special geographical position where most villages have lagged in economic development and some villages have not even been completely lifted out of poverty, Therefore, in addition to make sure good conservation of the heritage of traditional Korean-Chinese villages, the villages should also be well protected, based on the organic combination of the revitalization development. We call on people and organizations from all walks of life to jointly promote the protection of traditional villages in China and make them embark on the road of sustainable development.

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