A Study on the Social Performance of Cultural Heritage
—— Taking the Xi'an Daming Palace National Heritage Park as an Example
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ABSTRACT
Cultural heritage is a historical relic of human natural and social activities. It is also the treasure of all of human civilisation and a reflection of the historical, social and cultural background. At the same time, cultural heritage also reflects the social economy and culture. As the official palace of the Tang Dynasty, Daming Palace was the political and economic centre of the Tang Dynasty during its final hundred years and it also epitomises the rise and fall of this great era. The concrete and implicit cultural heritage is of great historical, economic, cultural value and educational significance. At the conclusion of the 20th century, archaeological and reconstruction work began on the Daming Palace site, lasting until the early 21st century. All work was completed in 2010 and the palace finally opened to the public in the form of a heritage park. Social forces have promoted the rebirth of Daming Palace and the completion of the site has also had a positive impact on surrounding areas and society in general. This paper examines the evolutionary process of Daming Palace throughout history, the construction situation of the site and park and its social performance, and provides experience for the subsequent construction and development of cultural heritage. It also promotes the transformation and upgrading of cultural heritage, while driving the development of social economy and culture.

Keywords: Daming Palace, world cultural heritage, social performance

1. INTRODUCTION
Daming Palace was the greatest palace complex of the Tang Dynasty, a symbol of the dynasty and the largest building in the world at the time. The prosperity of politics, economy and culture during the Tang Dynasty led to the construction of Daming Palace. It was built during the eighth year of Zhenguang, under the orders of Taizong Emperor, and covered an area of 3.2 square kilometres. As the Tang Dynasty declined, the palace was destroyed. Although its original appearance has disappeared, the site contains an abundance of historical information about the Tang Dynasty and its value is worthy of attention. At the end of the 20th century, as society, economy, culture and science and technology continued to develop, archaeological and reconstruction work was conducted on the entire area of the Daming Palace site. Due to the complex social environment of the area caused by the changing living needs of the residents through the years, many challenges were posed to the reconstruction of the Daming Palace site. The Daming Palace National Heritage Park is a central project for improving people's lives. Xi’an “Central City Park” has made the Daming Palace into an urban growth pole, resulting in Xi’an taking the lead in balanced and scientific development. With a significant investment of social capital and the support of all levels and relevant departments of government, the site area and the surrounding area have been replanned and a new area with strong cultural characteristics has given the city new vitality. The construction of the Daming Palace site will lead to improvements in the ecological and social environment in the region, while also becoming a cultural symbol of the city. It will further improve the urban characteristics of the ancient capital of Xi’an and help drive urban development.”
2. THE GENERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE OF DAMING PALACE

2.1. Construction background and influencing factors of Daming Palace

2.1.1. Natural environment

Daming Palace was the original political centre of the Tang Dynasty. It was low-lying and humid during the rainy summers, making it quite unsuitable for living. Gaozu Emperor of the Tang Dynasty had suffered a damp stroke and paralysis, which was a genetic disease of the Li family and meant that Daming Palace was not suitable for him at all. Therefore, Daming Palace was originally built to provide a summer home for the emperor. Daming Palace lies at the eastern foot of Longshou Mountain. The main hall of Daming Palace—Hanyuan Hall, the terrain is high and open, which is “more than 40 feet higher than the flat ground”. In addition, to the north of the Hanyuan Hall. It can be seen that the terrain where Daming Palace was built makes the palace quite cool, which is conducive to the residence of Gaozu Emperor, who suffered from arthralgia [1].

2.1.2. Prosperity of the social, economic and cultural background

During the Tang Dynasty, the territory of China was vast, unifying the north and the south, and the people were able to live and work in peace and contentment. On the basis of inheriting the excellent culture of the previous generation and absorbing foreign cultures, people of every ethnic group were able to jointly create a brilliant and great era. The stability of the social system, the prosperous social culture and the developed economic strength all provided an important material, cultural and technical foundation for the construction of Daming Palace.

Taizong Emperor of the Tang Dynasty implemented a series of measures for strengthening the centralisation of power. In the state machinery with the three provinces and six departments of the central government as its core, the reasonable structure and function of the imperial examination system, the supervision and the legal system all reached an unprecedented level [2]. In terms of ideology and aesthetic taste, Confucian culture directly influenced feudal society. The aesthetic concept of “taking strength as beauty” became the dominant trend of aesthetic appreciation during this period, which advocated the establishment of the beauty of striving for strength and showing the vitality of pre-Qin Confucian aesthetics. Great progress was also made in architectural technology during the Tang Dynasty and wooden building technology was incredibly advanced, which had a significant impact on later generations.

At this time, the country was unified and there was great harmony in the nation. The rapid development of the economy and culture of the early Tang Dynasty made Tang China the economic and cultural centre of the oriental world. The handicraft industry and urban business developed more rapidly than in previous dynasties. The progress of the handicraft industry greatly benefited the development of social productive forces and developed business stimulated the progress of the handicraft industry and strengthened economic ties between various regions. The Tang Dynasty actively traded with every ethnic group and every country of the world. By introducing the advanced production technologies of ethnic minorities and foreign countries, it was able to spread its advanced civilisation to the rest of the world, making vital contributions to world trade and scientific and technological exchanges. Based on the developed maritime and land transport capabilities, it was able to reach Central Asia, East Asia, Western Asia and Southeast Asia, Europe and even Africa. The Tang Dynasty exceeded any Chinese dynasty previous in economy by a sizable margin[3].

After almost half a century of accumulation, the political, economic and cultural development of the Tang Dynasty reached unprecedented levels and Daming Palace emerged at this historic moment. According to the will of Empress Wu Zetian, Yan Liben integrated the idea of women’s rights into the construction of Daming Palace, which had a profound impact on its construction and was immersed in the design and naming of the main hall. While designing the palace, the layout was also altered in order to better master the highest power, which reflected feminism and the ambition of women to achieve the highest political power [4].

2.2. The effect of Daming Palace on the Tang Dynasty

Daming Palace is a building which was built during the reign of Taizong Emperor of the Tang Dynasty. In 634, Emperor Taizong launched the construction of the Daming Palace at Longshou Plateau. Empress Wu commissioned the court architect Yan Liben to design the palace in 660 and construction commenced once again in 662. Throughout the Tang Dynasty, the construction of Daming Palace was gradually improved and many names were changed. As the Tang Dynasty fell, Daming Palace experienced several disasters and was completely destroyed in 904 AD (Fig.1).
Daming Palace is China’s most complete imperial palace site and has a wide range of complete architectural types and rich relics, occupying an important position in Chinese history. After Gaozong Emperor, many emperors of the Tang Dynasty lived in Daming Palace and dealt with the government. Following the completion of the Daming Palace, it became the centre of political power for the Tang Empire, which was the concentrated embodiment of the political and institutional civilisation during the prosperous Tang Dynasty. It was a representation of the supreme imperial power in feudal society, the most prominent symbol of the great era and the height of world civilisation in the 7th-9th centuries.

Daming Palace profoundly impacted the development of the Tang Dynasty and the rest of the world at the time. In terms of architectural art, Daming Palace is a masterpiece representing the architectural thought and achievements of Prosperous Tang Dynasty. It has significant value not just in terms of the history of ancient Chinese palace architecture, but also the history of world palace architecture, which represents the peak of the development of Medieval Oriental architectural art [5]. The architectural layout of Daming Palace changed the architectural shape of the previous palace, innovatively using a concave shape. This developed the form of palace architecture after the Qin Dynasty to the extreme, which affected the architectural patterns of future generations and even the Meridian Gate system of the Forbidden City during the Ming and Qing Dynasties [6]. The magnificent layout of Daming Palace, its exquisite construction and its ingenious design all demonstrate the superb architectural craftsmanship of the Tang Dynasty, providing powerful proof that “the Tang Dynasty is the heyday and mature period of Chinese art” [7]. The urban layout form of the Tang Dynasty also significantly impacted Japan. The ancient cities of Nara and Kyoto both attempted to imitate the planning and layout of Chang’ an City. The urban layout is similar and includes inspiration from the architecture of Daming Palace, the Gangoji Temple and Tōshōdai Temple [8].

Daming Palace also saw the vigorous development of culture and art during the Tang Dynasty. Xuanzong Emperor cherished the artistic talents of the Tang Dynasty and met with Li Bai and other famous poets at Daming Palace. Li Bai and others created many poems that have spread through the ages. In addition to the
collection of paintings and calligraphy works, Daming Palace presents a superb collection of various forms of art. The carved beams, painted buildings, paving bricks and even the words, painting patterns and tablet inscriptions that are attached to the production and living utensils are important ways for people to appreciate and study the achievements of painting and calligraphy during the Tang Dynasty [9]. Rites and musical performances are often held at Daming Palace and relevant institutions have been established for the management and training of professionals for song and dance performances to entertain rulers or foreign envoys. Xuanzong Emperor of the Tang Dynasty personally participated in the preparation and rehearsal of music and dance. His enthusiasm and support for these arts objectively promoted the development of music and dance culture during the Tang Dynasty.

Daming Palace provides powerful material evidence of the social and economic prosperity of the Tang Dynasty, where exchanges with foreign envoys affected global economic and commercial activities. Such trade activities had both official exchanges and non-governmental transactions and the private trade became increasingly frequent. As the Silk Road expanded further towards the sea, economic activities changed from closed to open and trading forms became more flexible, further stimulating the development of the commodity economy [10].

Daming Palace has a close link to the fate of the Tang Dynasty, having witnessed its rise and fall for over 260 years. The prosperity of Daming Palace represented the strong national strength of the Tang Dynasty. When the palace declined, the prosperous empire collapsed.

3. THE CONTEMPORARY REBIRTH OF DAMING PALACE

3.1. Various factors promoting the reconstruction of the Daming Palace site

After Daming Palace was destroyed during the late Tang Dynasty, the prosperity of the dynasty declined. Following many vicissitudes, it gradually transformed to become an ordinary village. With a steady influx of residents, the area gradually became a slum of Xi’an. The site area became a mixture of rural land and shanty towns with poor regional infrastructure conditions, security risks and space environment chaos. The quality of traffic network and residents’ production and living standards are low and this situation leads to the area. These backward status lead the regional residents and units to seek to maximize the interests of land, and the thought and behavior of developing social economy will inevitably conflict with the protection requirements of large sites [11]. The shantytowns in the area have not been transformed and they have become slums with the worst living environment and highest crime rate in Xi’an. This area has become a garbage dump and has been seriously constructed indiscriminately, which has become a hazard to the city; the living income of citizens in the site and its surrounding areas is generally lower than that in other areas, and the government is under great pressure [12].

Figure 2 Daming Palace location map. Daming Palace National Heritage Park is located on Taihua Road in Xi’an City, Shaanxi Province. Daming Palace is located on Longshou Yuan in the north of Chang’an City.
Since the start of the founding of the People’s Republic of China to the period of Reform and Opening-up, the social economy of China continued to grow, the growth rate ranking among the top in the world [13]. Following the reform and opening up, for supporting and promoting the transformation and development of the social economy, China has actively adopted new ideas and measures as a means of transforming the economic form from supply to demand. The overall national strength of China has changed from weak to strong. It has maintained rapid economic growth, ranking among the best in the world, and its international status has improved significantly. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping’s Thought on Ecological Civilisation, the ecological civilisation construction of China has made significant progress and has moved from industrial civilisation to ecological civilisation [14]. Due to the rapid development of the economy and the progress of urbanisation, the conflict between the protection of cultural relics and urban development has intensified and the demand for the protection and construction of the Daming Palace site has increased. As an important part of the Tang Empire, Daming Palace has great historical significance and its restoration became inevitable.

From the late 1980s until the early 1990s, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO is a specialised agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture) launched a campaign for the protection of the Silk Road. It conducted research and investigation, using world cultural heritage for studying mutual communication between civilisation and the positive progress of human civilisation, while also advocating more contributions to the protection of human heritage [15].

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage takes Xi’an as the starting point and core content of the “Silk Road” to declare the world cultural heritage. In this work, the Daming Palace site is a core protection project [16]. It is one of the sites on the Silk Road that meets the value standards of communication and integration with different civilisations. On the basis of the trends, characteristics and concepts of the Silk Road, and based on the theoretical understanding of the Silk Road, a comprehensive and complete system has been established and the conceptual framework is under constant improvement.

As globalisation has developed, the connotations and self-renewal abilities of local culture have become lost. The protection of cultural heritage and the inheritance of domestic culture have attracted significant attention in many countries around the world. In the information society of the 21st century, as society develops and scientific and technological progress, cultural heritage interpretation has an increasing number of possibilities. In order to be attractive, a variety of communication media must be used, involving multi-directional sensory stimulation, to help the audience quickly understand the cultural heritage story and to ensure it resonates with them [17]. The development of information technology has provided technical support for the Archaeological Exploration Centre of Daming Palace National Heritage Park, including its global 2D and 3D media exhibition technology. By using vivid animated image data and archaeological site experience, visitors can personally experience the fun of the restoration of cultural relics.

In addition, the establishment and development of relevant disciplines and work has provided theoretical, talent and technical support for the reconstruction of Daming Palace. For example, cultural heritage, which is an interdisciplinary integration of multiple disciplines, takes tangible material cultural heritage and cultural heritage as the research object, and is a study of the ontology, value, protection, derivation, management and related policies equal to one discipline.

By the end of 2018, universities throughout China had established almost 100 undergraduate, master and doctoral disciplines in archaeology, culture and museums and the protection of cultural relics [18]. The establishment and development of cultural heritage has provided training for a significant number of talents for protecting and managing China’s cultural heritage.

After the People’s Republic of China was founded, archaeological work was gradually rolled out across the country (Fig.4,Fig.5). The number of unearthed cultural relics has increased and the restoration of cultural relics has become further developed. In archaeological excavations conducted by the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and other units, the first generation of cultural relic restoration workers in China gradually emerged. As archaeological work developed during the 1950s and 1960s, the idea of cultural heritage protection continued to expand. In addition to the restoration of cultural relics, cultural preservation workers have started attempting to show the relics of important sites. The awareness of cultural heritage protection among archaeologists has been enhanced and archaeological work has become dedicated to the compilation and implementation of site protection plans [19]. The development of archaeological work is essential for the construction of the Daming Palace site. The use of archaeology for exploring the unknown and revealing the connotations and characteristics of civilisation can serve to enrich the historical and cultural value of the site.
**Figure 3** Daming Palace reconstruction big event picture. The list of major events which about newborn road of Daming Palace Site in the 20th century (1957-2008).
Figure 4 Daming Palace reconstruction big event picture. The list of major events which about newborn road of Daming Palace Site in the 20th century (2009-2020).

The project for protecting the Daming Palace site area began in October 2007 and is a key project for the protection of the 11th Five-Year Plan National Site and an important part of the overall application of the Silk Road as a World Cultural Heritage Site. The Daming Palace National Heritage Park in Xi’an opened on 1st October 2010.

### 3.2. Relationships between stakeholders in the reconstruction of the Daming Palace site (Fig.5)

According to the General Plan for the Protection and Exhibition of Large Sites during the 11th Five-Year Plan, the Daming Palace is led by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage in partnership with the Shaanxi Provincial Government and the Xi’an Government. The three units jointly organised the construction of the Daming Palace Museum and are responsible for the management of the site. The museum is home to the Daming Palace Research Institute. Under the guidance of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, UNESCO, International Site Protection Council, World Heritage Centre and other domestic and foreign institutions, an advanced level of site protection technology platform has been established and first-class foreign and domestic experts have helped with history, archaeology, protection, display and the utilisation of research to.
continue the promotion of the construction of the site park [20].

The renewal of the Daming Palace site area reflects a combination of government and capital. The government uses administrative resources for reserving opportunity space for capital to practice in space, to enable capital to produce the maximum spatial value. This top-down space production power mechanism helps in the significant promotion of space production capacity. Qujiang New District Government led the government to fulfil its responsibilities in terms of urban renewal management and operation in the site area and its cultural integration ability has increased the cultural dimensions of the urban spatial production in the site area. The protection and utilisation of historical and cultural heritage has become a key factor for the sustainable development of the entire region and has formed a spatial production practice under cultural guidance. Generally, with the urban renewal of the Daming Palace site area, the government, capital and culture have created the driving force for space production [21].

The Xi’an Government is responsible for planning and implementation and fully exercises its government functions while supervising site protection. It also coordinates the interests of all parties, solves contradictions, provides an appropriate policy environment through the formulation of overall planning and ensures site protection, display and utilisation match the social and economic development [13]. At a social level, only when the protection of cultural heritage becomes the “common cause” of all the people can a significant breakthrough be made in the protection of large sites [22].

3.3. Funding and performance

At the same time as the construction of the site park, the joint development of related industries was also conducted in the 19.16-square-kilometre Daming Palace site area. Many projects such as commercial circle, cultural tourism area and central residential area have been completed. Vanke, Wanda, China Construction and many other real estate developers have developed commercial real estate. The vast majority of the construction funding for the Daming Palace site has come from developers and the construction of the site park has increased land value for developers. This model is summarised by the project construction department as: “planning the landscape environment to enhance the value of resources”, “adjusting the industrial structure to replace the cultural space” and “using the economic development to feedback the cultural communication”.

Figure 5 Stakeholders. Synergy and interaction among the seven participants in the construction of Daming Palace Ruins Park.
The construction of the Daming Palace site area cost a total of 12 billion yuan, the vast majority of which came from developers, and the government did not invest in construction funds and no follow-up management funds. It is still in an “economic cultivation period”, profit mainly coming from the surrounding business district, tourist tickets and public services (Fig. 6). However, it has also encountered the dilemma of this profit model. Experts have stated that the annual maintenance and operation costs are high and due to insufficient government investment and too few profitable projects, sustainable development will be difficult.

3.4. The completion of Daming Palace National Heritage Park can have a positive impact on the development of contemporary society

The completion and operation of Daming Palace National Heritage Park will form an objective market flow, namely the flow of people, information flow and capital flow, thereby generating a huge market capacity and providing a material basis for the development of the site area. As a model of a world site protection project, the construction of Daming Palace National Heritage Park has improved urban facilities and functions and the surrounding ecological and social environment, in addition to creating an urban development advantage and laying the foundations for the construction of a new city in the site area [16]. The old crowded shanty towns have been removed and the mountains of detritus have been cleared. Residents in the site area now live in new houses and their quality of life has improved significantly. The shanty towns have been replaced by facilities and function perfectly as an urban area with a new urban appearance. The site park with its rich cultural landscape and good natural ecology has created new regional environmental characteristics.

The transformation of the surrounding area shows the urban culture, adjusts the role and functions and improves the living environment, while also creating a high-quality spatial environment that is coordinated with the site park [23]. This drives the coordinated development of regional society. The significant capital injection in the construction caused the appreciation of the surrounding land, which indirectly prevented the abandonment of a large amount of land in the big cities where land is increasingly tight and alleviated the contradiction between regional protection and development. Cultural relic resources can facilitate the endogenous development of the surrounding area in terms of cultural industry and increased development and utilisation can promote rich content. The huge economic potential of the cultural industry can help build a relatively perfect site cultural industry system, promote the diversified development of site culture, improve the comprehensive value of site resources and realise the win-win potential of protection and development.

The Daming Palace Site protection mode fully utilises the beautiful environment and rich cultural atmosphere of
the National Heritage Park following the transformation of the area as a means of attracting a large number of high-end residential areas. The construction quality of these residential areas has improved significantly, as has the living environment of residents, and the infrastructure and service facilities are under constant improvement. These changes have caused the agglomeration of business and culture. The business circle is able to exploit the dense surrounding residential areas and huge market potential for attracting the establishment and investment of enterprises. Due to enterprise investment, the reserve has been able to quickly establish a series of supporting facilities around the core of the site, resulting in the creation of the Daming Palace Business Circle and the Daming Palace Cultural Circle, both of which have promoted economic development in the entire region [24]. Furthermore, improvements to the local environment and people’s life and happiness index have enhanced the popularity of the site area, thereby bringing the protection mode of the Daming Palace site into a virtuous circle. The model for driving economic development also solves the dilemma of a lack of investment in site protection, which has paved the way for sustainable development. From a regional economic development perspective, the site area covers 8.6 million square metres, the regional economic development environment has been greatly optimised and improved, regional industry has been upgraded and the new tourism industry and modern business forms have become further developed. This has formed a perfect industrial development chain in the site area and created a strong sustainable development capacity [25].

Protection of the Daming Palace site has promoted cultural confidence and cultural identity in people in relation to their own country. Cultural heritage is a symbol system and symbol image that stores the common cultural memories of one’s own nation. It is an important carrier for constructing the main identity of a country’s people and realising the collective cultural identity. The Daming Palace site is non-renewable and contains irreplaceable precious resources and the value of the public archaeological development is mainly reflected in the new archaeological exploration centre where the public can relax while learning about archaeological information and understanding the ancient history and culture. It can also make the public pay greater attention to the protection of cultural heritage from a variety of perspectives to provide help for archaeological site research[26]. The dissemination of archaeological achievements plays an important role in society. The history and cultural atmosphere of the site park offers tourists a rich cultural and emotional experience, allowing them to experience Chinese culture and enhance their cultural confidence. The emotional recognition of urban residents in Xi’an is dependent on the site park and this also reflects the recognition of the residents as one of the most representative site parks in Xi’an [27]. Daming Palace is an important example of Eastern and Western economic and cultural exchanges in history, due to its unique historical and cultural value and increasingly close relationship with national strategy. It has now become an important window for the construction of the Belt and Road initiative[28], realised the inheritance of cultural heritage and its value, and has made important contributions to world civilisation.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Combined with the objective background, construct the development path of Daming Palace’s own characteristics

When practising comprehensive site protection planning, Daming Palace must focus on regional development planning in order to improve the rationality of regional zoning. During the construction and development process, adjusting the concept and method of construction by understanding the characteristics and functions of the main elements of the site is essential. The impact of the background conditions of all parties must be studied and appropriate strategies must be implemented to ensure the development of the site rather than repeating existing cases. The conditions include the development and protection of the relevant archaeological environment, geographical conditions, resource allocation, land conditions, related site planning, population, industry and economic and social development level.

4.2. Promote the sustainable development of urban social, economic and cultural undertakings

The infrastructure, traffic conditions and living environment will be improved, thereby improving people's living standards and encouraging coordinated development in every region. In the future, the Daming Palace Site Park should promote regional sustainable development with a more positive attitude and continue the exploration of how to activate cultural heritage potential, such as create a unique historical and cultural city, fully exploring and utilising the cultural value of Daming Palace to foster an innovative cultural industry and promote the sustainable development of social, economic and cultural undertakings.

4.3. Continuous archaeology and in-depth study of the Daming Palace site

The construction of the site park is a long-term project and the archaeological results should be constantly displayed to the people. According to experts, the current excavation area is just 1% and a great deal of work remains for the later construction process, particularly
between Hanyuan Hall and Xuanzheng Hall. The construction of the Daming Palace National Heritage Park is based on long-term archaeological research, conservation and display. The park is archaeologically sustainable. Archaeology is the eternal protagonist of cultural heritage and is a crucial part of cultural heritage research. It is also an important source of information for subsequent display and educational work.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Cultural heritage has great cultural value and development potential and its protection and development needs should be comprehensively considered while a sustainable development plan should be formulated. Daming Palace is an important symbol of the Tang Dynasty and the new life of Daming Palace National Heritage Park will further enhance the urban connotation of Xi'an, enrich its urban characteristics, improve urban construction and promote urban development. As one of the most important examples of cultural heritage in China, the site offers the public common cultural wealth that should be properly shared and its protection and use is vital for encouraging public participation in the management of social affairs. Fully understanding and exerting the important value of the site in urban development is conducive to the site's sustainable protection and utilisation of the site, which is worth the reference for the planning and construction of other sites.

REFERENCES


