




Value Connotation and Evaluation Method of Cultural Space of Urban Heritage Park

Yang Feng¹(✉) , Jianqing Ye¹(✉), Cui Zhao²(✉), Yue Shen²(✉), and Jing He¹(✉)

¹ School of Art and Design, Xijing University, Xi'an 710123, Shaanxi, China
20200118@xijing.edu.cn

² School of Architecture and Rail Transit, Xi'an Vocational and Technical College,
Xi'an 710077, Shaanxi, China

Abstract. In most cases, urban culture is perceived by the public through urban heritage, sites, and cultural space. As an important part of urban landscape heritage, the cultural space of urban heritage park plays an essential role in site protection, cultural display, and mass communication. It is of great significance to evaluate the cultural space of urban heritage park, both in terms of the protection, inheritance and development of the heritage site and the cultural space of heritage park. The value connotation of cultural space of heritage park was interpreted here from the perspective of Alois Riegl, François Choay and Randall Mason's heritage value theory through literature study and induction. In addition, on the basis of a deep understanding of the significance of cultural space value evaluation in heritage park, the practice and study were summarized on world heritage cultural landscape value evaluation, American historical landscape evaluation, and historical urban landscape value evaluation, to further seek the referential experience and methods. Thus, win-win strategies can be provided for urban researchers, managers, and planners to take into account the development of urban construction and the protection of cultural space of heritage sites.

Keywords: Heritage park · Cultural space · Value evaluation · City

1 Introduction

Culture is the soul of a city as well as an important dimension for human beings to understand it. The urban culture in time and space generally blends into the concrete space in the form of material (such as heritage, ruins, landscape, and architecture) and immaterial (such as language, etiquette, habits, and customs). The concept of “cultural space”, originated from “space production” theory of Henri Lefebvre, is a physical space place with cultural significance or nature, which is of great value in carrying the spirit of the city, shaping its characteristics, and highlighting its culture [1]. Since the concept was further defined by UNESCO in 2002 as “the physical space or symbolic space where people meet, share or exchange cultural practices and ideas”, the cultural space has been endowed with both material and spiritual connotations [2].

Y. Feng, J. Ye and C. Zhao—Contributed equally.

© The Author(s) 2023

B. Majoul et al. (Eds.): ICLAHD 2022, ASSEHR 726, pp. 168–176, 2023.

https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-494069-97-8_21

Cultural space in urban context includes material attribute, social attribute, and perceptual attribute. Among them, the material attribute usually includes the pattern, characteristics, forms and identification system of urban blocks, streets, parks, and squares; The social attribute refers to the social communication and cultural activities that take place in the cultural space; The perceptual attribute refers to the perception of a series of behaviors, activities, events, and memories that take place in the cultural space [3]. A heritage park is a kind of public space mainly formed by important sites and background environment. As an essential part of urban landscape heritage, these urban heritage park not only have demonstration significance in site protection and display, but also play a vital role in enhancing the function of urban cultural space.

At present, the theoretical study of cultural space mainly focuses on the summary of regional characteristics and changing trends of large-scale urban agglomerations or urban and rural cultural spaces, with the tendency to explore the construction mechanism of cultural space and the transformation and utilization of cultural values [4, 5]. While there are rare small-scale theoretical studies on cultural space, especially the study on cultural space value and evaluation methods of urban heritage park. In fact, this part of knowledge system is the theoretical support needed by urban heritage park in the practical fields of policy making, renewal and protection, planning and design, etc. Therefore, the importance of study on cultural space value and evaluation methods of urban heritage park is self-evident.

2 The Value Connotation of Cultural Space of Heritage Park

Everything has value. It is precisely because of their value that heritage parks and their cultural spaces are protected. The value is subjective. Therefore, the value of protected objects is not the same for different heritage parks and their cultural spaces.

The cultural space of heritage park is a value body with both timeliness and spatiality. The timeliness of it is reflected in the events in each historical period where the site is located, and the people and things associated with the events, which gradually form a stable cultural space value embodiment with the passage of time. The spatiality of the value refers to the objective reality in the space itself or in the field. The space-time coupling value is not static, but different ways of expression and interpretation will appear with the development of society, economy, and culture.

The most fundamental value issue in heritage protection was analyzed initially from the perspective of the significance of heritage to human beings in *The Modern Cult of Buildings: Its Character and Origin* by Alois Riegl. In the book, the protected objects of heritage are defined as “Monuments”, and the values of which are divided into Commemorative Values and Present-Day Values. The former includes Age-value, Historical Value, and Intentional Commemorative Value, while the latter includes Use-Value and Art-Value. In addition, Art-Value is divided into Newness-Value and Relative Art-Value (Table 1). Alois Riegl believes that in the treatment of heritage, restoration may be one-sided, for Age values itself can show its value, and heritage should emphasize “Conservation” rather than “Restoration”, which can be used for reference in the protection and inheritance of cultural space of heritage park [6, 7].

The *L'allégorie du Patrimoine* written by French scholar François Choay embodies her theoretical thought of heritage protection. François Choay holds the view that the

Table 1. Classification and Connotation of Monuments Value of Alois Riegl (Self-drawing)

Value Classification		Value Connotation	
Commemorative Values	Age-value	The value accumulated with the passage of time is the embodiment of time continuity, as well as the appreciation of nature and the awe of the law of rise and fall.	
	Historical Value	It can represent and record the specific historical stage of human activities and has the specificity and recording of time.	
	Intentional Commemorative Value	At the beginning of its establishment, it was endowed with a specific commemorative purpose, which was used to show and evoke memories of specific historical moments.	
Present-Day Values	Use-Value	It can continue to maintain and meet the basic use and functional value of the memorial.	
	Art-Value	Meet the modern aesthetic standards of art, that is, have Art-Value.	
		Newness-Value	The monuments still in use maintain the integrity of shape and color, and do not conflict with Age-value.
	Relative Art-Value	People know and perceive monuments according to the present artistic will.	

protection of urban heritage can be carried out at macro, meso and micro scales. On the macro scale, the protection of urban heritage should be integrated into the current regional and national planning; on the meso scale, the relationship between urban heritage and the surrounding environment should be paid attention to; on the micro scale, the integration and reconstruction should be carried out on the basis of respecting the spatial scale and shape of the site itself. From this perspective, the protection practice of heritage park should belong to the meso-scale, while the cultural space of heritage park is more closely related to the micro-scale. Therefore, the direct and indirect influence of different scales on the protection of it deserves attention and study. Besides, François Choay proposes that the practice of urban heritage protection should not only stand on the simple thinking of “whether to keep or demolish” but should proceed from the value of heritage as well as the perspective of urban development and innovation, to carry out active practice of urban heritage protection.

Randall Mason, an American scholar, absorbed the essence of *The Burra Charter*, emphasized the Cultural significance of heritage, and put forward the strategy of

Values-centered preservation. His heritage value theory originated from the understanding of culture. While acknowledging the diversity and fuzziness of cultural meanings, he pointed out that dynamics is the primary feature of culture—culture is a process. Randall Mason thinks that there are two kinds of “cultural tensions” in the practice of heritage protection, that is, “practical/technical” and “strategic/political”. The traditional heritage protection work is more inclined to the “practical/technical” strategy, which is a static cultural view and an inward-looking method, focusing on technical or artistic issues, as well as the interpretation or register of heritage; Contemporary heritage protection work normally understands the demands of stakeholders through “strategic/political” thinking, and establishes a common foundation between purely technical solutions and implementation plans that incorporate political and economic factors. This is an export-oriented method [8]. For the cultural space of heritage park, the best protection practice is the integration of “practical/technical” one and “strategic/political” one.

3 Value Evaluation Method of Cultural Space of Heritage Park

3.1 Significance of Value Evaluation

In the practice of urban development, the problem that puzzles urban managers and planners is “how to give consideration to urban development and urban site protection in the context of rapid urbanization, so as to make the urban landscape heritage and its value have continuity”. As an important part of urban landscape heritage, the premise of reasonable protection is to realize the value of the cultural space. Similarly, the value cognition of it is the basis of value evaluation as well.

The evaluation is of great significance, both in terms of the site itself and the protection, inheritance, and development of the cultural space of heritage park. Firstly, the overall understanding of it can be strengthened through historical and cultural information sort-out. Secondly, by recognizing the value of the site in all aspects, the stakeholders can participate in and understand the significance of site protection. Thirdly, the relevant protection and management measures can be further revised after mining of the cultural space value and the comparison between ancient and modern times.

3.2 Experience and Method of Value Evaluation

Due to the rich types and different scales of urban heritage, there is no unified method system for the evaluation of cultural space of heritage park at present. However, through the mining and collation of literature, it is found that we can find the referential experience and methods of cultural space evaluation of heritage park from the practices of world heritage cultural landscape evaluation, American historical landscape evaluation and historical town landscape evaluation.

Table 2. Key Points of Cultural Space Value Evaluation of Heritage Park Under the Framework of Outstanding Universal Value (Self-drawing)

Number	Key Points of Value Evaluation
1	Represent the masterpiece of human creative genius.
2	In a certain period or a certain geographical area, it shows human value and has an important influence on the development of architecture and its technology, memorial art, urban and rural planning, and landscape design.
3	Have a unique or at least special witness to the existing and disappeared cultural traditions.
4	Show examples of buildings, construction techniques and landscapes at an important stage in human history.
5	When the environment becomes fragile under irreversible changes, the synergistic symbiosis process between human beings and the natural environment, including the examples of traditional human settlements, land use, and ocean use.
6	It is directly related to events, thoughts, beliefs, arts, life traditions, and literary works with outstanding universal significance.

Cultural Landscape Value Evaluation

The concept of cultural landscape is a part of the world heritage, including landscapes intentionally designed and built by human beings and organically evolved landscapes. The former is the landscape of gardens and parks that are built for aesthetic reasons and closely related to commemorative buildings, while the latter is the landscape that originates from social, economic, and administrative needs and develops in harmony with the surrounding natural environment. There is a natural connection between the cultural space and cultural landscape of heritage park.

According to *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, the cultural landscape is in the category of cultural heritage, and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is regarded as the most important judgment basis for the selection of world heritage. For the cultural and natural value of OUV is an extremely rare value, which transcends the national boundaries, and has universal significance for all mankind [9]. The evaluation should focus on the Outstanding Universal Value based on regional geography and culture (Table 2).

Historical Landscape Evaluation

The *National Register of Historic Places* is a national project to identify, evaluate and protect historic sites in the United States. The overall evaluation steps include: i) Classify the protected objects; ii) Judge the historical significance from the historical context; iii) Evaluate its importance according to the evaluation criteria; iv) Decide whether to protect according to the evaluation criteria; v) Evaluate its integrity. Although there are no specific evaluation rules for urban historical landscape, there are design-oriented evaluation methods published by the National Park Service of the United States, which have essential reference significance for cultural space value evaluation of heritage park (Fig. 1).

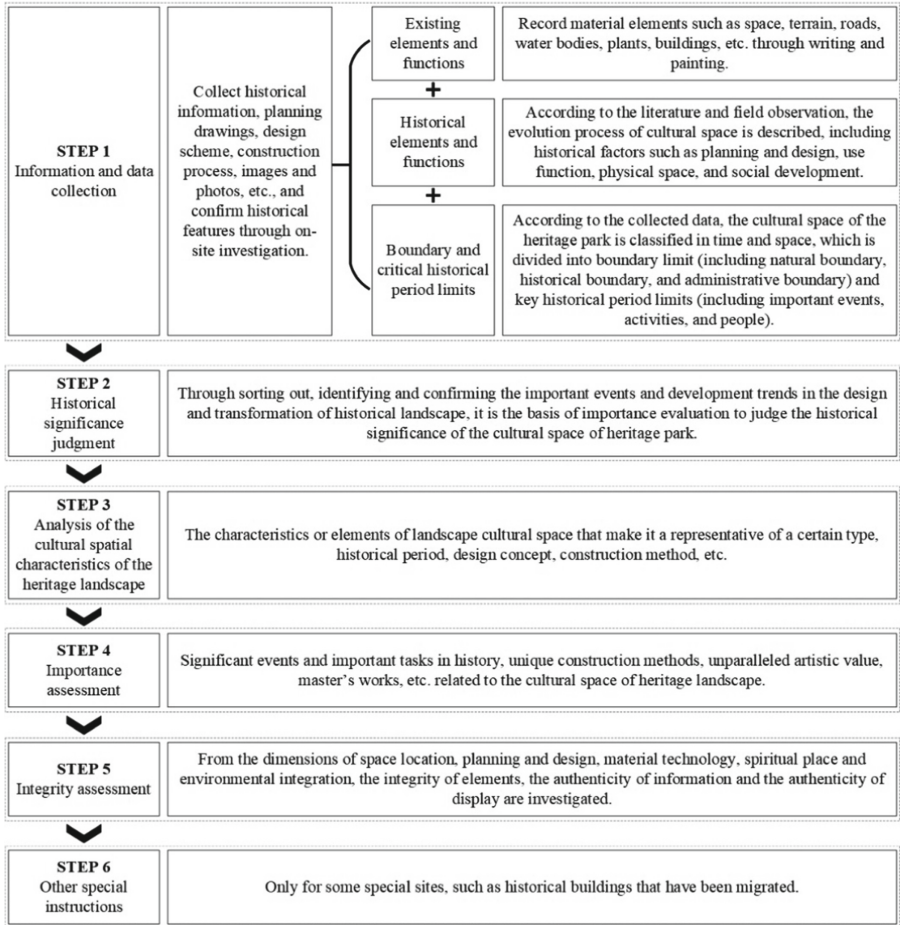


Fig. 1. Steps of Cultural Space Value Evaluation of Heritage Park (Self-drawing)

Value Evaluation of Historic Urban Landscape

As a tool, method, and mode of thinking, Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) emphasizes the integrity and continuity of urban heritage protection to solve the contradiction between “history” and “contemporary” in urban protection. Although there are few detailed discussions on the value evaluation of Historic Urban Landscape at present, it is encouraged to utilize some commonly used value evaluation tools of HUL, such as mapping, participatory planning & consultations on values. In addition, compared with the previous value evaluation methods, Historic Urban Landscape pays more attention to the value concepts such as cultural diversity, fragility, and continuity, and some of them can provide reference for the value evaluation of cultural space of heritage park [10, 11].

Cultural diversity is the objective common heritage of mankind, as well as the source of human communication, innovation, and creation. As a field where citizens share cultural practices and ideas, its cultural diversity value is as important as the role of biodiversity in maintaining the biosphere balance, because protecting the cultural diversity of historical cities and cultural space of heritage park is helping human beings to protect and adapt to the limited and critical resource in social and economic development. In addition to the authenticity and integrity, the vulnerability and continuity evaluation of the cultural space of urban heritage or heritage park also attracts much attention. Because the rapid urbanization will squeeze the urban heritage and cultural space, it is very important whether such space has adaptability and resilience in the face of these threats. The vulnerability and continuity evaluation of the cultural space of heritage park is the prediction of the possible impact on the future.

In a word, it is a unique feature for Historic Urban Landscape to focus on the present and future value of cultural space of urban heritage and heritage park. However, a consistent and influential value evaluation strategy has not been formed yet, especially there are few mature cases in the continuity of value evaluation, which is one of the future exploration directions.

4 Conclusions

Urban economic construction is as important as cultural construction. However, it is difficult for today's urban construction to escape from "emphasizing speed and neglecting culture", which has made the originally scarce cultural space such as urban landscape heritage been squeezed. As an important part of urban landscape heritage, the cultural space of urban heritage park plays a significant role in site protection, cultural display, and mass communication. It is of great significance to evaluate the cultural space of urban heritage park, both in terms of the protection, inheritance and development of the heritage sites and the cultural space of heritage park.

In this paper, the value connotation of cultural space of heritage park was interpreted from the perspective of Alois Riegl, François Choay and Randall Mason's heritage value theory through literature study and induction. It is found that Commemorative Values and Present-Day Values are two aspects included in the culture space value of heritage park. In addition, Conservation rather than Restoration should be emphasized in the cultural space of the park. It is suggested that from the perspective of urban development and innovation, the conservation practice strategy of "practical/technical" and "strategic/political" ought to be practiced. Although the value evaluation methods of cultural space of heritage park have not yet formed a unified and mature system due to the rich types and different scales of urban heritage, through the practice and study summary of world heritage cultural landscape value evaluation, American historical landscape evaluation and historical urban landscape value evaluation, It is considered that the six key points of value evaluation under the framework of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) can be used for reference by the value evaluation of cultural space of heritage park (Table 2), and the steps of it can follow the basic logic of "information and data collection → historical significance judgment → cultural space characteristics of heritage landscape analyze → importance evaluation → integrity evaluation → other special explanations" (Fig. 1).

In the future, the referential experience and methods can be further sought on the basis of a deep understanding of the significance of cultural space value evaluation in heritage park, thus win-win strategies can be provided for urban researchers, managers and planners to take into account the development of urban construction and the protection of cultural space of heritage sites.

Acknowledgments. This paper is the phased achievements of the Scientific Research Project of Education Department of Shaanxi Provincial Government, *Study on the Value Evaluation and Optimization Strategy of Cultural Space of Heritage Park under the Concept of Park City* (Grant No. 21JK0416).

References

1. H. Lefebvre. *The Production of Space*[M]. Wiley Blackwell, 1992.
2. D.X. Dai, Y.X. Chen. Measuring and Analyzing of Cultural Space Value of Historical Urban Park—A Case Study of Lu Xun Park in Shanghai[J]. *Journal of Tongji University (Social Science Edition)*, 2019, 30(03), pp. 52-65. (in Chinese)
3. Y. Gao, S.S. Wang, L.J. Zhang. Review on Progress and Prospect of Urban Cultural Space and Cultural Planning[J]. *Urban Planning Forum*, 2019, 253(06), pp. 43-49. (in Chinese)
4. L.Y. Lai, I. Said, A. Kubota. The Roles of Cultural Spaces in Malaysia's Historic Towns: The Case of Kuala Dungun and Taiping[J]. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2013, 85, pp. 602-625.
5. L. Shen, W. Lu, B. Wang. Strategic Thinking on the Cultural Spatial Planning of Shanghai Toward a Global City [J]. *Urban Planning Forum*, 2016, 229(06), pp. 63-70. (in Chinese)
6. A. Riegl. *The Modern Cult of Monuments: Its Character and Its Origin*[J]. *Oppositions*, 1982, pp. 21-51.
7. L. Guo. The Concept, Essence and Practical significance of Age Value on Historic Building Conservation[J]. *Art & Design Research*, 2017, (04), pp. 103-109. (in Chinese)
8. D.X. Dai, N.N. Dong. *The Conservation and Regeneration of Urban Landscape Heritage*[M]. Shanghai: Tongji University Press, 2019, pp. 124-136. (in Chinese)
9. UNESCO. *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*[Z]. Paris: UNESCO World Heritage Center, 2008, pp. 20-21.
10. F. Bandarin, R. van Oers. *The Historic Urban Landscape: Managing Heritage in an Urban Century*[M]. UK: John Wiley & Sons, 2012.
11. Y. Zheng, C.M. Yang. Learning from Historic Urban Landscape (HUL): From Historic Urban Area Preservation to Urban Heritage Conservation in a Wider Framework of City Development[J]. *Urbanism and Architecture*, 2012, (08), pp. 41-44. (in Chinese)

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

