



Common Wish and Continuation: A Study on the Protection and Activation of Ancient Dwellings in the Context of Rural Revitalization—Taking Tongxingli, Tiantian Village, Zhejiang Province as an example

Lingling Chen¹; Jinglin Dong^{2*}; Hua Wang³; Bo Wang⁴

¹ College of Civil and Architectural Engineering, Liuzhou Institute of Technology, Liuzhou, Guangxi, China

² Liuzhou Museum of Industry, Liuzhou, Guangxi, China

³ Liuzhou Five Star Sports Culture Co., Ltd., Liuzhou, Guangxi, China

⁴ Liuzhou Paul&Michelle Business Planning Co., Ltd., Liuzhou, Guangxi, China

*Corresponding Author. 87922417@qq.com

Abstract. As an important part of cultural heritage, cultural relics are non renewable resource. Protecting and utilizing these precious historical and cultural heritage is of great significance for inheriting and promoting the excellent cultural traditions of the nation and promoting the construction of socialist spiritual civilization. Studying the protection background and location overview of Tongxingli in Tiantian Village, Zhejiang Province, as well as the basic situation of Tiantian Village, as well as the overview, historical evolution, historical and cultural characteristics, protection and activation utilization of Tongxingli, is beneficial for providing reference basis for the planning connection, scientific implementation, characteristic development, and sustainable development of ancient residential protection.

Keywords: Protection, Activation, Rural Revitalization

1 The Background of Historical Architecture Protection in Rural Revitalization

Rural revitalization was a strategy proposed at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The policy of this strategy is to promote industrial prosperity, ecological livability, civilized rural culture, effective governance, and a prosperous life. President Xi Jinping also proposed that the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy requires the joint efforts of material civilization and spiritual civilization. Not only does it simply reshape and utilize rural material space, but rural revitalization also preserves and inherits the social humanities and distinctive culture in rural areas. In the context of rural revitalization, historical buildings in villages face enormous development opportunities. Therefore, effective strategies for the protection and activation of historical buildings in villages should be formulated based on their

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own actual situation, in order to stimulate the vitality of historical buildings and achieve the construction of charming rural areas with regional cultural characteristics.

2 Basic Overview of Tongxing Li

2.1 Location Overview

Tongxingli is located in Tiantian Village, Hengjie Town, Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province. Tiantian Village is located on the south side of Luqiao Airport, along Dongfang Avenue and Qinglongpu. Tiantian Village is adjacent to Yangyu Mountain Village to the east, Qianyang Pan and Shangyun Village to the south, Yangyu Village to the west, and Yangqiao Village to the north. Tiantian Village has convenient transportation, beautiful environment, and developed economy, with a total area of 0.62 square kilometers (as shown in Figure 1).





Figure 1. Location Overview of Tiantian Village.

2.2 Basic Overview of Tiantian Village

In ancient times, people in Luqiao District, Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province lived by fishing and boiling salt. Villages were formed in Luqiao District, Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province in the Song and Yuan Dynasties, surrounded by coastal salt fields. The first process of salt production is drying salt. Firstly, a field grid should be built on the beach, and a cylinder valve should be laid at the bottom, formerly known as Tange. Then, seawater should be introduced into Tan Ge to be exposed and concentrated into brine. This Tan Ge is also known as Tan Tian. The traditional village of Xing Tian, located in Tan Tian, is named after this.

The traditional village of Tan Tian has a long history. At present, a large number of Ming and Qing ancient residential buildings are still preserved in traditional villages in Tan Tian. According to records, at that time, Xing Tian Village had a simple folk style and a prosperous literary style, making it a true inheritor of farming and reading and known as the hometown of books. The village was originally built with Village communities such as Gaowuli, Laowuli, Flagpoleli, Santouli, Cotton Stick House, Sun Family, Xialuo, Xiawuli, Battery Path Li, Nichengli, Tongxingli, Xiangxichen, covering an area of nearly 100 mu. At present, there are well preserved former residences of Chen Shenyan, who served as a red agent and hero of the Communist Party of China's Nanjing underground party, ancient watchtowers, as well as the residence of Chen Zhenhui, a Qing dynasty guardian, in the village.

The overall structure of the houses in Tan Tian traditional villages is a typical wood and stone structure in coastal areas. The buildings are two stories high, mainly quadrangle dwellings. The living arrangements inside the house are reasonable and rigorous. The interior of the house includes complete and exquisite items such as gray carvings, pillars, window and door carvings, and plaques. The unique style and features contain profound cultural and historical value and humanistic atmosphere, and have high archaeological value.

The traditional village of Tan Tian has obvious regional cultural characteristics of Taizhou. As a microcosm of the pastoral landscape and farming culture of Taizhou

for hundreds of years, it embodies the wisdom, sweat, and labor achievements of previous ancestors.

2.3 The Historical Evolution of Tongxingli

Built in the third year of the Tongzhi reign of the Qing Dynasty (1864), Tongxingli (also known as Yuqing Tang in the genealogy) was the residence of Chen Zhenhui, a martial arts examiner in the Qing Dynasty. In the “Xingtian Chen Family Genealogy”, it is recorded in the “Xingtian Ancient House Treatise” that generations have migrated to the nearby water winding sand ring to form a bamboo tree on a flat bridge. Fengdao is in front, merchants are at the end, Lingshan is on the left, and the monk hall stands at its top. Although not for hundreds of years, there are still differences between before and after. (Lingshan refers to Yangyu Mountain)

As early as the Qing Dynasty, the Xingtian Chen family set up a shop in Hengjie Old Street under the name of Tongxing to sell Kaojuan. The Kaojuan business continued to expand, and the manufacturing factory located by Shayuan Gang developed to nearly 3000 square meters. Not only did it become famous both domestically and internationally, but the Tongxing Kaojuan also received praise and encouragement from the court. The ancestors of Xingtian and Chen adhered to the concept of loyalty to the sun and moon, as well as the concept of courage to be strong alongside the mountains and rivers. In order to maintain the prosperity of the Tongxing Kaojuan industry, the essence of Taizhou's Hehe culture was infused into the hearts of the Xingtian Chen people. They insisted on using their kindness and actions to benefit future generations in order to establish a sense of contract. At that time, they specially named Yu Qingtang Tongxingli, a Shinise, Tongxingli, which reflects a noble moral pursuit and spiritual sustenance of a family. From then on, the place name “Tongxingli” has been preserved and passed down to this day.

2.4 Historical and Cultural Characteristics of Tongxingli

The quadrangle dwelling in Tongxingli (called Yuqingtang in the genealogy), built in the third year of Tongzhi in the Qing Dynasty (1864), covers an area of 1560 square meters. The title and couplet “Loyalty, filial piety, poetry and calligraphy are vital to the prosperity and prosperity of the family” printed on the gate of the quadrangle dwelling are written by Wang Yongni, a famous scholar in Taizhou who was invited by the sages to have close contact with him. As the hope of the sages, it is an important guide for the family to grow up and live in harmony and prosper, forming a unique Taizhou Hehe cultural atmosphere with quadrangle dwelling.

The quadrangle dwelling is built with a mouth shaped full platform gate, patio, and dustpan floor style courtyard. The stone based high wall and brick wood structure have a simple layout, antique design, and a style of carving. In painted sculptures, there are flowers, herbs, birds, and animals, as well as dragons and phoenixes, unicorns, pine cranes, carp, or opera stories or majestic deities. The unique intangible cultural heritage wood carving technique with superb craftsmanship, the unique and self-contained intangible cultural heritage gray carving technique, the mysterious and royal exquisite arch of wooden architecture, and the auspicious doors and windows

with profound artistic connotation and full of spring express the thoughts and wishes of the sages vividly. Although the quadrangle dwelling, which is composed of low-carbon, environment-friendly, locally sourced wall protection fence, rammed earth powder and elegant and primitive stone slabs, has gone through years of change, it will always maintain its unique style. The whole quadrangle dwelling, with its simple and unsophisticated shapes, vivid auspicious patterns and totems, combines the culture of the Book of Changes in China, and integrates the laws of unity of heaven and humanity and Taoism following the laws of nature. It balances the use of the five elements of gold, wood, water, fire, and earth with its unique language, vivid and aesthetically pleasing abstract design style, expressing and inheriting the essence of ancestral culture, providing people with spiritual comfort and peace of mind. The quadrangle dwelling built with white walls and tiles in the background of green mountains, green waters and rivers, surrounded by clear rivers, look very harmonious and natural. They build a simple and elegant picture of beauty, which makes people yearn (as shown in Figure 2).



Figure 2. Unique Style of Tongxingli.

3 Protection and Activation Utilization

Tantian Village, Hengjie Town, Luqiao District, Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province was approved as one of the first batch of Taizhou City level traditional villages in 2019. The management measures are in accordance with the “Regulations on the Protection and Utilization of Traditional Villages in Taizhou City” for party building and management work. Tantian Village Tongxingli quadrangle dwelling was approved as the fourth batch of cultural relics protection units in Luqiao District of Taizhou City in September 2021. The management measures shall carry out the protection, management and reasonable utilization of cultural relics in accordance with the Law of the China on the Protection of Cultural Relics and the Regulations of Zhejiang Province on the Protection and Management of Cultural Relics and other laws and regulations. Although Tongxingli was approved as a cultural relic protection unit relatively late, its protection and utilization were carried out in an orderly manner in advance, thus achieving significant results in its protection.

3.1 Responsibility and Authority Coordination

The responsible party in Tongxingli, like most historical buildings, mainly consists of three parts: the owner, the regulatory party, and the public participation party. Among

them, Tongxingli has a construction area of 1100 square meters and is privately owned (jointly owned by 14 Chen family members). Due to the majority of the owners moving out, Tongxingli was once rented out, leading to a serious phenomenon of dilapidation of the homesteads. Later, descendants of the Chen family were responsible for organizing the revision of the Tongxingli genealogy and the preparation group for ancestral home renovation to manage and repair the ancestral home. After preparation and initiative, descendants of the Chen family donated over 400000 yuan for the renovation of their ancestral home. Meanwhile, regulatory authorities mainly include local township governments, planning departments, housing and construction departments, land departments, cultural and broadcasting departments, etc. The public participants mainly include descendants of the Chen family, operational management agencies, or other social forces. In order to improve the construction of local public cultural services and enhance the hematopoietic function of historical buildings, descendants of the Chen family spontaneously raised funds to repair Tongxingli, and constructed public welfare projects such as Hengjie village scholar Hall, Qiao Family Courtyard, Children's Home, Tiantian Home Elderly Care Center, Tiantian Village Cultural Auditorium, and Hehe Academy Yingxue Academy, which were established in the ancient homestead.

3.2 Repair

There are three methods for repairing and restoring ancient buildings in historical and cultural villages. The first method is to repair old buildings, which involves hiring old craftsmen and inheritors of traditional craftsmanship to use old building materials such as wood, bricks, and stones. They use traditional building techniques to repair the original building foundation, thereby giving the old building a new look and restoring its vitality. The second method is to hire a professional team for the restoration of ancient buildings, using new wood, bricks, tiles, and stones, and using modern building techniques and techniques to restore or build new buildings according to their original appearance, in order to restore the ancient buildings to their original appearance. The third method is to combine both methods mentioned above. During the restoration process of ancient buildings, efforts should be made to utilize old building materials and traditional techniques. Only use new materials and processes to replace when there is insufficient building materials or traditional processes cannot complete the repair. However, it is necessary to ensure the original layout, structure, and appearance of the restored ancient buildings.

The renovation of ancient houses is to reminisce about ancestors and preserve traditions, with the aim of achieving today and creating tomorrow. As early as ancient times, families had such moral or spiritual pursuits, and the descendants of Xingtian could not be lacking in their pursuit of culture. The descendants of Xingtian spontaneously raised funds in May 2015 and meticulously repaired them under the guidance of the superior cultural and cultural relics departments. They built the residence of Chen Zhenhui in the Qing Dynasty into a Folk art museum, and restored Binxing Temple and Yingxue Bookstore (as shown in Figure 3). The renovated courtyard has an ancient and lively appearance. Grey carving and wood carving are very exquisite, interpreting the once developed Confucian culture, Taoist culture, and imperial examination culture.

planning and combining resource carrying capacity and ecological environment capacity. In terms of scientific implementation, it is necessary to coordinate the layout of various functional elements, achieve maximum functional benefits, and highlight the scientificity and operability of planning. In terms of characteristic development, the protection and utilization of historical and cultural characteristics should be highlighted, and the coordination between humans and the natural environment should be promoted. From the perspective of sustainable development, while carrying out scientific and effective protection, it is necessary to adhere to the principles that are conducive to the protection and improvement of ancient buildings, as well as the realization of activated utilization and sustainable development. Only in this way can the unique traditional culture of ancient dwellings be better inherited and developed.

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