



The Eco-Cultural Architectural Relationship of Taiping Lake Scenic Area in Yunnan Province: a Regional Cultural Perspective

Lingxu Li^{1,a*}, Mingchang Ma^{2,b}, Chong Xiang^{1,c}, Zitong Ma^{2,d}

¹Dianchi College of Yunnan University, 650500, Kunming, China

²Changchun Institute of Technology, 130012, Changchun, China

^a*llx20082024@163.com, ^bmmchangyhy@163.com

^cyndy86@yeah.net, ^dmzt_1021@163.com

Abstract. This study explores the development of construction projects in the Taiping Lake Scenic Area, located in the Maitreya region of Yunnan Province, through the lens of its distinctive regional culture. It examines the cultural characteristics of the Taiping Lake Scenic Area and their impact on architectural design and engineering practices. The paper proposes strategies for cultural preservation and development that should guide construction efforts in the region. By integrating analyses of regional culture, natural landscapes, and architectural requirements, this study offers practical recommendations and design concepts for architectural projects in the Taiping Lake Scenic Area. The goal is to foster a harmonious blend of cultural heritage and contemporary architectural practices.

Keywords: Maitreya, Taiping Lake Scenic Area, regional culture, architectural engineering, cultural preservation

1 Introduction

The Taiping Lake Scenic Area, situated in Maitreya City, Yunnan Province, is a renowned tourist destination characterized by its stunning natural landscapes and unique regional culture. As tourism flourishes and infrastructure demands grow, the challenge of integrating regional culture while preserving its distinct characteristics in construction projects has gained increasing attention.

This study aims to explore development strategies for architectural engineering projects in the Taiping Lake Scenic Area from a regional cultural perspective, offering insights on achieving a balance between cultural preservation and architectural modernization. By analyzing the interplay between cultural heritage and development needs, the study seeks to contribute to sustainable architectural practices in the region.

Previous research has applied various methodologies, including literature reviews, field investigations, and case analyses, to evaluate the regional culture and architectural requirements of the Taiping Lake Scenic Area. For example, Xia Sen [1] proposed

tourism planning and design strategies tailored to the specific engineering context of Taiping Lake Tourism Resort in Maitreya City. These strategies emphasized enhancing the integration of cultural and tourism real estate projects within the region. Similarly, Zheng Mengling [2] highlighted the developmental prospects and governmental plans for the Taiping Lake Health Town, advocating for a blend of cultural preservation with modern town planning that reflects the characteristics of the new era.

This paper builds upon these insights to propose actionable strategies that address the cultural and architectural challenges faced by the Taiping Lake Scenic Area.

2 Overview of Regional Culture of Taiping Lake Scenic Area

2.1 Regional Cultural Background

The Maitreya region has been inhabited by ethnic minorities since ancient times. Archaeological findings indicate that human activity in this area dates back to the Neolithic Age, evidenced by numerous cultural relics and sites. Historically, Maitreya and its surrounding areas were significant centers of Cuan culture, a vital component of Dichi culture[3].

The Taiping Lake area is renowned for its stunning natural environment, with the lake and its surrounding ecosystems providing abundant resources that have shaped local cultural traditions. These traditions, often rooted in a deep reverence for nature and the lake, reflect the harmonious relationship between the environment and human life.

In recent years, Taiping Lake has emerged as a prominent tourist destination in Yunnan, combining cultural tourism with ecological tourism. The integration of traditional culture with the modern service industry has catalyzed rapid economic and cultural development in the region.

The traditional architectural styles of the Taiping Lake Scenic Area reflect the ethnic characteristics and natural environment of Yunnan. Additionally, these styles are influenced by religious and cultural elements, particularly Buddhist architectural traditions, which are evident in many structures within the area. This synthesis of ethnic identity, ecological awareness, and religious influence forms the unique cultural backdrop of the Taiping Lake Scenic Area.

2.2 National Architectural Features

The cultural and architectural identity of the Taiping Lake Scenic Area is deeply influenced by its Buddhist heritage and the diverse ethnic composition of the Maitreya region.

The name "Maitreya" has a profound connection to Buddhism, which is reflected in the architectural style of the scenic area. Temples and pagodas, such as the Maitreya Temple and the iconic large Buddha statue, showcase typical Buddhist architectural elements imbued with religious symbolism. These structures are often adorned in gold,

red, and white tones, featuring intricate carvings and grand designs. Roofs with elegantly curved cornices convey an air of elegance and solemnity.

As a defining symbol of the Taiping Lake Scenic Area, the architectural style of the Maitreya Buddha fuses traditional Buddhist temple design with modern elements, creating a distinctive cultural landmark[4]. The surrounding courtyards and sculpture installations further enhance the spiritual ambiance, emphasizing the region's rich Buddhist heritage.

Maitreya area is also a multi-ethnic place, mainly Yi, Miao, Han and other ethnic cultures interwoven, so in the Taiping Lake scenic area architecture, ethnic characteristics are distinct. Traditional Yi architecture focuses on practicality and aesthetics. The roof is usually a sloping tile roof, and the appearance is mostly wooden structure. Wooden beams and wooden columns are important architectural elements. In some scenic spots, the form of Yi people's stilted houses can also be seen, especially in mountainous areas.

Miao buildings are often made of wood, and the roofs are typically tall and peaked, symbolizing protection and protection. The traditional stilted houses of the Miao people are also preserved in some scenic spots, fully demonstrating the architectural wisdom of the Miao people and their adaptation to the natural environment.

2.3 Architectural Style of Natural Integration

The Taiping Lake Scenic Area is renowned for its stunning natural environment, and the architectural designs within the region often emphasize harmony with the surrounding landscape. Traditional buildings are thoughtfully integrated into the natural setting, reflecting a design philosophy that values the seamless coexistence of architecture and nature.

Many structures, particularly those in visitor centers and cultural exhibition areas, adopt a courtyard-style layout. This approach fosters a close relationship between the architectural clusters and the surrounding landscape. Courtyard buildings are typically open in design, surrounded by lush vegetation. Interiors are characterized by transparent spaces that maximize the use of natural light and frame scenic views. This integration ensures that the buildings are not isolated from their environment but exist in dialogue with it, creating a sense of continuity between the natural and built worlds.

In the core scenic areas of Taiping Lake, architectural designs often orient toward the lake, utilizing the proximity to water as a central design element. Lakeside buildings frequently incorporate structures that connect directly with the water, enhancing the visitor experience by providing serene and immersive views.

To further blend with the natural environment, the architectural exteriors commonly employ natural materials such as wood and stone[5]. These materials not only enhance the aesthetic connection with the surrounding landscape but also reflect the ecological and cultural consciousness of the region.

This architectural style, rooted in the principles of natural integration, reinforces the harmonious relationship between human structures and the environment, making the Taiping Lake Scenic Area a model of sustainable and context-sensitive design.

2.4 Architectural Style Combining Tradition and Modernity

With the growth of tourism in the Taiping Lake Scenic Area, modern design elements have been integrated into new buildings while preserving traditional architectural aesthetics. Structures such as hotels and visitor centers retain traditional features like roof forms and natural materials but incorporate modern concepts in their shapes, functional layouts, and interior designs. For example, elements like glass curtain walls, clean lines, and contemporary interior facilities coexist with traditional styles, ensuring both cultural continuity and modern usability. This approach blends tradition with innovation, meeting the needs of a contemporary tourist destination.

2.5 Decoration of Folk Craft

The traditional architectural decoration of Maitreya area is also very distinctive, and many buildings will use local folk crafts, such as wood carving, stone carving, murals and so on. The traditional patterns of the Yi and Miao ethnic groups are often applied to the doors, Windows, eaves and walls of buildings, demonstrating the rich local culture.

The traditional architectural style of Maitreya Taiping Lake Scenic area is a diversified fusion, which not only has the traditional architectural characteristics of Yunnan ethnic minorities, but also is deeply influenced by Buddhist culture, and combines the characteristics of natural landscape with the innovation of modern architecture. Through the inheritance and innovation of this cultural and architectural style, Taiping Lake not only retains the traditional style, but also reflects the dual pursuit of aesthetics and functionality of modern tourist attractions.

3 Influence of Regional Culture on Architecture

The architecture in the Maitreya region is profoundly shaped by its rich national culture and historical background. It reflects a harmonious integration of diverse cultural elements, blending local traditions with modern innovations to create a unique architectural identity[6].

3.1 Influence of National Culture

The traditional architectural styles of various ethnic groups blend to create unique, locally distinctive forms. Yi architecture, in particular, emphasizes practicality and a strong connection to the natural environment. In the Maitreya area, most Yi buildings are primarily constructed from wood, with sloped roofs built using bamboo and timber. These structures are designed to be wind-resistant and shockproof. Stilted buildings, a hallmark of Yi architecture, are especially suited to the humid climate of the mountainous region, allowing the structures to coexist harmoniously with the natural surroundings. In addition, Yi buildings are often carved with totems symbolizing auspiciousness and good luck, reflecting the spiritual connotation of Yi culture. The archi-

ture of the Miao nationality has strong national characteristics, and the common form of stilted buildings reflects the adaptation to the natural environment, especially in the mountainous terrain. Miao buildings often use wood and stone, the roof is often pointed, the eaves are high and decorative. This Miao character can also be seen in some of the buildings in the Maitreya area, especially in some ethnic villages and scenic spots. The influence of Han architectural style in Maitreya is widespread, especially in the traditional houses in and around the city. Han architecture is usually based on brick and tile structure, pay attention to symmetry and structural stability. Many typical Han architectural elements can be seen in the traditional houses in the Maitreya area, such as cornices, ridge decoration and door and window carving.

3.2 Religious and Cultural Influences

The Maitreya region is deeply connected to Buddhism, as reflected in its very name, which is associated with the Buddhist concept of Maitreya (the future Buddha). This profound religious connection has significantly influenced the region's architectural styles, particularly in the design of temples, stupas, and other religious structures[7].

Key Buddhist structures, such as the Maitreya Buddha and other temple buildings, showcase traditional Buddhist architectural features, including curved cornices, ornate turrets, and intricately carved Buddha statues. These temples serve not only as places of worship but also as cultural hubs that preserve and disseminate traditional practices and beliefs.

For instance, the construction of the Maitreya Buddha monument exemplifies a fusion of traditional Buddhist symbolism with modern architectural concepts. This blend creates a design that honors Buddhist heritage while appealing to contemporary aesthetic sensibilities.

The influence of Buddhist culture is also evident in the design of stupas and monastic quarters, which are prominent in the temples and Buddhist scenic spots throughout the Maitreya region. Stupas typically feature tiered structures, meticulously designed with intricate details. Their facades often include reliefs or mosaics depicting stories from Buddhist scriptures, symbolizing the rich history and profound wisdom of the faith.

These religious and cultural influences contribute to the architectural landscape of the Maitreya region, creating structures that are both spiritually meaningful and architecturally significant. By integrating traditional Buddhist aesthetics with modern innovations, the region's architecture embodies a harmonious blend of historical reverence and contemporary relevance.

3.3 Influence of the Natural Environment

The natural environment of the Maitreya region profoundly shapes its architectural style. With its mountainous terrain and mild climate, local architecture reflects a harmonious integration with nature, embodying a philosophy of coexistence between humans and the environment[8].

In the Taiping Lake Scenic Area, architectural designs are closely tied to the landscape, incorporating elements of lakes, mountains, and rivers. Many structures, such

as courtyard houses and tea houses, adopt open layouts to maximize their connection with the surrounding natural beauty. These buildings emphasize both functionality and environmental harmony, reflecting the local people's deep respect for and reliance on nature. Architectural design often takes into account topographic characteristics in form and structure, such as pitched roofs to adapt to the accumulation of rainfall and snow in mountainous areas, and the use of local materials (such as bamboo, wood, stone) can better cope with local climate changes.

3.4 Cultural Blending and Modern Influence

As modernization progresses, Maitreya's architectural style has increasingly incorporated modern design elements alongside traditional cultural motifs. Contemporary buildings and tourist facilities often retain traditional features, such as arched doors, cornice roofs, and intricate carvings, while integrating modern materials like glass and steel.

Modern interior layouts and advanced technologies enhance functionality, allowing these structures to serve modern purposes while preserving cultural continuity.

3.5 Influence of Tourism Culture

With the rapid development of tourism, many traditional buildings in Maitreya have been renovated or rebuilt to suit the needs of tourists. Many buildings are modern in design, but still maintain certain ethnic characteristics, such as the integration of Yi and Miao elements in the hotel, visitor center and other buildings, which not only retains the local culture, but also can meet the needs of modern tourists.

The influence of Maitreya regional culture on architecture is mainly reflected in the combination of national culture, religious culture and natural environment. The local architectural style not only inherits the traditional characteristics of the Yi, Miao and other ethnic minorities, but also is deeply influenced by Buddhist culture, reflecting the harmonious coexistence of traditional architecture and nature. At the same time, with the development of The Times, modern elements are gradually integrated into the architecture of Maitreya, forming a unique cultural integration landscape. These buildings are not only living and activity Spaces, but also important carriers of historical, cultural and social changes in Maitreya.

4 Future Outlook

In designing resort facilities, it is crucial to prioritize environmental protection by minimizing impact on the natural ecosystem. Sustainable building materials and energy-efficient solutions should be central to the design process. The concept of ecological architecture must guide development, focusing on reducing carbon emissions and ensuring a seamless integration with the surrounding natural environment.

The artistic works and architectural design in the scenic area should be organically combined to show local art, such as the traditional sculpture of the Yi people and the

weaving art of the Miao people. These art forms can become decorative elements of the building, or as independent landscape pieces, integrated with the building.

The architectural design strategy of Taiping Lake Scenic area should be based on the unique natural landscape and cultural tradition of Maitreya area. In the design process, we should not only pay attention to the practicality and comfort of the building, but also pay attention to the inheritance of cultural connotation and the innovation of modern functions, to ensure the harmony and unity of the building and the environment, culture and social needs. Through the combination of cultural features and modern construction techniques, Taiping Lake will become a tourist destination with cultural depth and natural charm.

The architectural design strategy from the perspective of regional culture focuses on integrating local cultural characteristics into the architectural design process, so as to achieve the harmony and unity of architecture with its natural environment, social background and historical context. This strategy helps to enhance the cultural identity of the building and enhance its functional and aesthetic value.

5 Conclusion

From the perspective of regional culture, the architectural eco-cultural relationship of Taiping Lake Scenic Area in Yunnan Province demonstrates a profound integration of the natural environment and local traditions. The region's rich ethnic heritage and natural landscape offer unique inspiration for architectural design, with building forms closely connected to the environment and cultural customs. The design process takes into account the local climate and ecological conditions, utilizing sustainable materials and construction techniques. This approach not only protects the ecological environment but also preserves and innovates the region's cultural identity.

Reference

1. Xia Sen. Research on tourism project planning strategies from the perspective of characteristic Regional culture: A case study of Taiping Lake Project in Maitre, Yunnan Province, *Urban Architecture*, 2023, 20(21):64-68.
2. Zheng Mengling. Research on the function performance of Maitreya City Government in the construction of Taiping Lake Forest Town. *Yunnan University of Finance and Economics*, 2023.
3. Jake W. The Spirit of the Pluriverse: Africana Spirit-Based Epistemologies and Interepistemic Thinking. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2024(4):4. DOI:10.1093/jaarel/lfae028.
4. Chojnacka-Pelowska E. FINANCIAL STANDING OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE VOIVODESHIP. *Scientific Papers of Silesian University of Technology. Organization & Management / Zeszyty Naukowe Politechniki Slaskiej. Seria Organizacji i Zarzadzanie*, 2024(192). DOI:10.29119/1641-3466.2024.192.5.

5. Li Lingxu, Ma Mingchang, Ma Zitong, Su Yifeng. Study on the development value of the relationship between natural landscape and human ecology in Maitreya. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research* 874. 2024. pp:319-327.
6. Chojnacka-Pelowska E .FINANCIAL STANDING OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE VOIVODESHIP. *Scientific Papers of Silesian University of Technology. Organization & Management / Zeszyty Naukowe Politechniki Slaskiej. Seria Organizacji i Zarzadzanie*, 2024(192). DOI:10.29119/1641-3466.2024.192.5.
7. Nowak M ,Kokocińska, Magorzata. The Efficiency of Economic Growth for Sustainable Development—A Grey System Theory Approach in the Eurozone and Other European Countries. *Sustainability* (2071-1050), 2024, 16(5). DOI:10.3390/su16051839.
8. Jake W .The Spirit of the Pluriverse: Africana Spirit-Based Epistemologies and Interepistemic Thinking. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2024(4):4. DOI:10.1093/jaarel/lfae028.

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.

