



A Preliminary Study on the Influence Factors of Architectural Landscape Spatial Function Change in Ethnic Tourism Village – A Case Study of Chengyang Bazhai of Dong Village, Sanjiang, Liuzhou

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Abstract. This paper analyzes the main factors affecting the change of landscape spatial function of ethnic tourism village architecture, and takes Chengyang of Dong Village of Liuzhou Sanjiang as a typical case. With the vigorous development of tourism and the advancement of modernization, the architectural landscape and spatial function of Chengyang Bazhai have undergone remarkable changes. Through literature review and field research, this paper identifies tourism development, modernization process, government policies, cultural inheritance and innovation, and socio-economic factors as the main influencing factors. It is found that tourism demand promotes the expansion of commercial and cultural spatial functions, while modernization process brings the renewal of infrastructure and the transformation of traditional spatial functions. At the same time, government policies have played an important role in the dual goals of protecting cultural heritage and promoting economic development. The interaction of cultural inheritance and innovation allows traditional and modern elements to be integrated into the architectural space. Through the case analysis of eight villages in Chengyang, this paper reveals the interaction of these factors and their comprehensive impact on the spatial function of the village, and puts forward corresponding policy suggestions and future research directions, in order to provide references for the sustainable development and cultural protection of ethnic tourism villages.

Keywords: ethnic tourism village; Architectural landscape; Chengyang Bazhai of Dong village

1 Introduction

Ethnic villages are an important component of China's rural system, carrying a rich and diverse array of tangible and intangible ethnic cultural heritage^[1]. With the acceleration of modernization and the booming development of tourism, ethnic tourism

villages have not only become significant carriers for tourism development but also serve as crucial platforms for the protection and inheritance of cultural heritage.

As one of the essential elements constituting ethnic tourism villages, architectural landscape not only represents the tangible culture of these villages but also embodies their multifaceted social, economic, and cultural functions. Architectural landscape is the most intuitive form of expression in ethnic villages, serving as an important cultural tourism resource for the tourism industry and a valuable cultural and artistic product for tourists, which can be developed into tourism products^[2]. The spatial functions of architectural landscapes in ethnic villages have gradually diversified, expanding from traditional functions such as residence, production, and religious activities to increasingly prominent roles in commerce, leisure, and cultural exhibition. This functional diversification reflects how ethnic villages adapt to external demands through spatial adjustments under market economy conditions. However, these functional changes not only bring increased economic benefits but also pose challenges to the original spatial order and traditional culture.

Chengyang Bazhai is a settlement of the Dong ethnic minority, where the Dong people have lived for thousands of years, giving birth to a splendid Dong culture. Among the most renowned aspects are the unique social governance system of the Dong ethnic group—Kuan, architectural cultural landscapes such as drum towers and wind-rain bridges, and song-and-dance cultural landscapes like the Grand Song of the Dong ethnic group. It is a typical ethnic tourism village.

Therefore, against the backdrop of cultural and tourism integration and the promotion of rural revitalization through tourism, studying the changes in the spatial functions of architectural landscapes in Chengyang Bazhai holds significant theoretical and practical importance for further understanding cultural changes in modern society, promoting cultural heritage protection, and fostering sustainable tourism development.

2 Concept Definition

2.1 Ethnic Tourism Villages

Ethnic tourism villages refer to minority villages engaged in ethnic village tourism. Ethnic villages are defined as localities that exhibit regional characteristics, showcase authenticity and original ecology, possess rich cultural connotations, and embody three features of an ideal landscape: beautiful scenery, unique customs, and ethnic flair^[3]. They serve as the best tangible carriers of specific cultural tourism, functioning as a microcosm of an ethnic group or a place^[4]. Ethnic village tourism is a comprehensive tourism activity that takes ethnic village communities as the tourism destination, utilizes village cultural phenomena and natural scenery as tourist attractions, and is motivated by the desire to experience heterogeneous cultures and lifestyles, as well as to enjoy rural pastoral landscapes. This form of tourism integrates various activities such as sightseeing, investigation, experience, vacationing, entertainment, and shopping, becoming a unique form of ethnic tourism in China^[5]. The development of ethnic village tourism not only promotes local economic growth but also

transmits and promotes traditional minority cultures, enhances ethnic pride, and increases the cohesion and unity of all ethnic groups. It holds significant importance for protecting China's cultural diversity.

2.2 Architectural Landscape

Architectural landscape is a term used in landscape studies to refer to the built environment. It is an artificial environment created by people to meet the needs of social life, utilizing mastered material and technical means, and applying certain scientific principles, feng shui concepts, and aesthetic rules.

3 Architectural Features of Chengyang Bazhai and Changes in Their Spatial Functions

3.1 Characteristics of Traditional Architecture in Chengyang Bazhai

Based on different usage functions, the traditional architecture of Chengyang Bazhai can be classified into four categories: "residential, recreational, entertainment, and transportation." All these structures primarily use fir wood as the main building material. Consequently, wherever the Dong people inhabit, the main tree species on the hillsides are necessarily fir forests.

Stilted Buildings (Diaojiolou) — Typical stilted architectures (pile-dwellings), as shown in **Fig. 1**, these are the traditional residences of the Dong people in Chengyang Bazhai. They are generally three stories high. The first floor is the stilted level, uninhabited, mostly used for raising livestock and poultry such as pigs, horses, chickens, and ducks, as well as for storing firewood piles, straw, and agricultural tools. The second floor is the living level, primarily used for residence and daily activities. The floor base consists of wooden planks and artificially leveled mountain ground. Fully grounded stilted buildings are entirely made of wood. The fire pit, as shown in **Fig. 2**, is generally also built on the second floor, which serves as the center of daily life for the Dong people. The third floor is used for bedrooms and granaries^[6]. The ground floor typically only has pillars touching the ground or simple partitions, while the second and third floors generally feature the characteristic "hanging feet" (projecting upper floors). The overall structure also exhibits the features of the column-and-tie construction style common in southern Chinese vernacular dwellings.

The wisdom and customs of the Dong people are gracefully displayed in the pavilions and winding corridors they meticulously construct during their leisure hours. These sanctuaries for rest, like gentle brushstrokes by nature's side, are commonly found along babbling rivers, nestled on green hillsides, and beside clear wells. They are masterpieces spontaneously organized and wholeheartedly built by the villagers themselves. Not only do they provide a haven for tired bodies, but they have also become a warm and harmonious scenic feature within the culture of Dong villages.



Fig. 1. Traditional Diaojiaolou (Stilted Building) in Chengyang Bazhai



Fig. 2. Dong Fire Pit Feast

The Dong ethnic group has been renowned since ancient times for their exceptional singing and dancing abilities. Their song and dance culture is like a brilliant and resplendent star river, rich and colorful, containing boundless wisdom and emotion. Among these, the Grand Song of the Dong ethnic group has crossed national borders and resounded throughout the world, becoming a dazzling cultural presenting the extraordinary artistic talent and profound cultural heritage of the Dong people to the world [7]. Therefore, in every tranquil Dong village, one can find carefully constructed theatrical stages. They are not only palaces of art but also sacred sites for cultural inheritance. During every festival and celebration, the Dong people gather here, dressed in splendid attire, expressing emotions through song and conveying intentions through dance, staging audio-visual feasts unique to the Dong ethnic group. This allows the joy and harmony originating from their hearts to resonate through heaven and earth, lingering on endlessly.

The drum tower, As illustrated in **Fig. 3**, the drum tower serves as the spiritual and spatial core of the village.serving as the soul and core of traditional Dong villages, is not only a convergence point for political decision-making, cultural inheritance, social interaction, and leisure entertainment but also the steadfast repository of hope and spirit in the hearts of the Dong people [8]. Beneath the drum tower, every

pulse and every vision of the village takes shape, with decisions on all matters emerging from the collision of wisdoms in this very space. Consequently, the layout of Dong villages is often ingeniously centered around the drum tower, with dwellings arranged around it, creating a harmonious and orderly picture of life. This demonstrates the Dong people's profound understanding and unwavering pursuit of the harmonious unity between nature and humanity.



Fig. 3. Drum Tower

The Chengyang Wind-Rain Bridge, as shown in **Fig. 4**, also referred to as the "Flower Bridge" by the Dong people of Chengyang Bazhai, is a traditional transportation structure unique to the Dong ethnic group, renowned for its distinctive architectural style and profound cultural connotations. It not only serves as a vital passageway for the daily lives of the Dong people but also stands as an important isotopic carrier and symbol of Dong culture. Within Dong villages, the wind-rain bridge is often regarded as a landmark structure, representing the wisdom and diligence of the Dong people ^[9].



Fig. 4. Chengyang Wind-Rain Bridge

3.2 Analysis of Factors Influencing Changes in Architectural Spatial Functions in Chengyang Bazhai

3.2.1 The Development of Tourism.

The Driving Force of Tourism Demand on Spatial Functions: Tourism demand, as a powerful external driving factor, has exerted a profound influence on the architectural spatial functions of ethnic tourism villages. With the rapid development of tourism, as show in Fig. 5, the growing demand from tourists for cultural experiences, sightseeing, entertainment, shopping, and other aspects has gradually transformed these villages from local living spaces into tourism production spaces^[10].

The increase in tourism demand is first manifested in the rapid expansion of commercial functions within the village. Spaces traditionally dominated by residential and agricultural production are gradually being reallocated and modified to meet tourists' needs for shopping, dining, and accommodation. For instance, buildings originally used for residence may be converted into homestays, while traditional handicraft workshops, local specialty shops, and catering facilities continue to increase within the village. This expansion of commercial functions not only enhances the economic vitality of the village but also provides new employment opportunities for local residents.

Tourism demand has also prompted ethnic villages to strengthen their cultural presentation functions. Tourists seek to experience unique ethnic cultures within the village, such as traditional architecture, crafts, festivals, and activities. This has driven the redefinition and utilization of spaces with cultural value within the village. Public squares may be developed into venues for cultural performances and exhibitions, while new facilities such as folk museums or cultural centers gradually emerge. These changes not only improve the quality of tourists' cultural experiences but also contribute to the inheritance and dissemination of ethnic culture.

With the development of tourism, the demands of tourists regarding infrastructure and public services within the village are also increasing, further driving changes in the functions of public spaces. To accommodate the influx of visitors, villages typically need to construct or upgrade tourism service facilities, such as visitor centers, parking lots, public restrooms, and guidance systems. Furthermore, infrastructure like roads, communication networks, and electricity within the village is also improved to better meet tourist demands. While enhancing tourist satisfaction, these changes also improve the living conditions of local residents.

Although tourism demand has brought economic growth and functional diversification, it has also impacted traditional spatial functions. For example, with the expansion of tourism-related commercial activities, traditional agricultural production spaces may be reduced or relocated, and community living spaces may be disrupted by tourist activities. This transformation could potentially weaken traditional ways of life and even risk leading to cultural homogenization.



Fig. 5. Chengyang Bazhai Dong Painting Museum

3.2.2 The Modernization Process.

Infrastructure Upgrades and Changes in Building Materials: In the process of modernization, the upgrading of infrastructure and the transformation of building materials are significant aspects that cannot be overlooked in the development of ethnic tourism villages. The enhancement of infrastructure improves the overall functionality and quality of life within the village, while changes in building materials directly impact the architectural style, living conditions, and cultural heritage of the village. These two factors not only provide the material foundation for the village's modernization but also, to a certain extent, drive the reshaping of the architectural spatial functions of the village.

In Chengyang Bazhai, the purely wooden structures that once dotted the landscape are now gradually becoming scarce, replaced by sturdy and modern brick-concrete buildings that are quietly reshaping the features of this land. Simultaneously, the warm and human-centric fire pit—an indispensable soul of traditional family life—has quietly retreated from the historical stage, making way for efficient and convenient modern-style stoves. While these stoves make life easier, they also evoke a sense of nostalgia for the warmth and rusticity of gathering around a fire pit.

The introduction and popularization of modern lifestyles have profoundly impacted the traditional spatial functions of Chengyang Bazhai. Traditional spatial functions were often closely intertwined with the village's culture, religion, economy, and social structure, supporting stable community and living patterns. However, with the advancement of modernization and the development of tourism, modern lifestyles have gradually permeated these ethnic villages, leading to significant changes in traditional spatial functions. This impact manifests in multiple aspects and exerts a profound influence on the village's cultural heritage, social structure, and way of life.

3.2.3 Policies and Regulations.

Government policies have played a crucial role in the development of ethnic tourism villages. As the macro-regulator and resource allocator for village development, governments at various levels have promoted infrastructure construction, economic

development, cultural preservation, and social management in Chengyang Bazhai throughout its tourism development process by formulating and implementing various policies. These policies have not only provided impetus for the modernization transformation of Chengyang Bazhai but have also, to a certain extent, influenced its spatial functions, cultural heritage, and residents' lifestyles.

3.2.4 Cultural Heritage and Innovation.

In the process of tourism development, Chengyang Bazhai faces the dual challenge of preserving traditional culture while integrating with foreign cultures. How to absorb and integrate foreign cultures while maintaining the characteristics of its own ethnic culture, so that it serves the development of the village, is a complex and important issue. Among these efforts, the protection of traditional architecture and village layout is a crucial means of inheriting traditional culture. To maintain the village's traditional appearance, the local government and community in Chengyang Bazhai have taken measures to protect historical buildings, the village layout, and the natural landscape, preventing damage from modern construction and development. These protective measures not only preserve the cultural integrity of the village but also provide a unique cultural attraction for tourism development.

3.2.5 Socioeconomic Factors.

There is a close relationship between the level of economic development and the architectural spatial functions of a village. With economic growth, the architectural spatial functions of Chengyang Bazhai have undergone significant changes. These changes not only reflect the adjustments in the social, cultural, and economic structures within the village but also demonstrate the spatial restructuring and functional repositioning of the village driven by external economic forces.

The transformation of social structure has had a profound and complex impact on the architectural spatial functions of Chengyang Bazhai. Factors such as population mobility, changes in family structure, social stratification, the evolution of community organizations, and the improvement of education levels have jointly driven the adjustment and transformation of the village's architectural spatial functions. Understanding the impact of these changes is conducive to better adapting to the needs of social development when planning and managing village architectural spaces, thereby promoting the sustainable development and social stability of the village. Through rational spatial planning and functional configuration, the village can maintain its vitality amidst changing social structures and achieve the harmonious development of culture, economy, and society.

3.3 Summary

In the process of the vigorous rise of tourism in Chengyang Bazhai, the diversification of its service objects, the profound transformation of building materials driven by modernization, the formulation and guidance of policies and regulations, the symbiotic coexistence of cultural heritage and integration, and the restructuring of the so-

cio-economic framework have collectively propelled the continuous evolution of the traditional architectural spatial functions in this region. This process is not merely a history of changes in architectural form and space, but also a vivid practice of cultural inheritance and innovation amidst the changing times.

4 Future Research Directions and Practical Suggestions

4.1 Future Research Directions

4.1.1 Construction and Validation of an Integrated Factor Model.

In studying the changes in the architectural landscape spatial functions of ethnic tourism villages, the integrated factor model provides a systematic and effective analytical tool. However, in current research, the selection of factors and the allocation of weights often rely on subjective judgment and lack unified standards. Therefore, future research can further refine the construction and validation methods of the integrated factor model, particularly in the following areas:

- 1. Systematic Integration of Multi-dimensional Factors:** In the process of model construction, more comprehensive factor dimensions should be considered, including economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. By systematically integrating these multi-dimensional factors, a more representative and predictive model can be constructed.
- 2. Objectification of Weight Allocation:** Future research should explore more scientific and objective methods for weight allocation. For example, big data analysis techniques could be introduced to determine the actual influence of each factor through statistical analysis, thereby reducing the interference of human subjective factors on the model.
- 3. Dynamic Adjustment of the Model:** Since the change in architectural landscape spatial functions of ethnic tourism villages is a dynamic process, future research could consider establishing a dynamic integrated factor model. Such a model would be capable of adjusting over time and with changing conditions, enhancing its adaptability and predictive power.
- 4. Interdisciplinary Model Validation:** Future research can integrate theories and methods from other disciplines, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing technology, and social network analysis, to conduct multi-dimensional validation of the model. This will help improve the scientific rigor and applicability of the integrated factor model.

4.1.2 Comparative Studies Among Different Ethnic Villages.

With the development of ethnic tourism, different ethnic villages may exhibit significant differences in the changes to their architectural landscape spatial functions. Therefore, future research should increase comparative studies among different ethnic villages to reveal the underlying reasons behind these differences. This can be carried out specifically from the following aspects:

- 1. Analysis of Regional Differences:** Due to differences in natural environment, resource endowments, historical backgrounds, and other factors, ethnic villages in different geographical regions may exhibit distinct characteristics of change in their architectural landscapes and spatial functions. Future research can compare ethnic villages from different regions to analyze the impact of

regional differences on spatial functional changes.**2.Comparison of Cultural Characteristics:** The cultural traditions of different ethnic groups have varying influences on village architectural landscapes. By comparing the cultural characteristics of different ethnic groups and studying their shaping role on architectural spatial functions, we can better understand the core role of culture in the evolution of spatial functions.**3.Comparison of Development Stages:** Different ethnic villages are at various stages of development; some may be highly commercialized, while others may still maintain a relatively primitive way of life. Future research can compare villages at different development stages to analyze the impact of the modernization process on changes in architectural landscape spatial functions, thereby providing targeted suggestions for villages at different development levels.**4.Research on Policy Impacts:** The policy orientations of governments in different regions may have different impacts on the development of ethnic villages. Future research can compare the changes in spatial functions of ethnic villages under different policy environments, explore the coordinating role of policies in cultural protection and development, and provide references for government decision-making.

By further refining the integrated factor model and conducting comparative studies among different ethnic villages, future research will be able to gain a deeper understanding and reveal the complexity of changes in the architectural landscape spatial functions of ethnic tourism villages. This will provide a more scientific theoretical basis and practical guidance. Such efforts will not only contribute to the protection and inheritance of ethnic cultures but also promote the sustainable development of ethnic regions.

4.2 Practical Suggestions

Based on the research into the changes in architectural landscape spatial functions of ethnic tourism villages, the following practical suggestions are proposed to promote the rational optimization of these spatial functions, enhance the relevance and effectiveness of policy formulation and implementation, and achieve a balance between protection and development.

4.2.1 Promoting the Rational Optimization of Architectural Landscape Spatial Functions.

Comprehensive Planning and Design: When conducting architectural landscape planning, comprehensive consideration should be given to cultural heritage, environmental protection, and tourism needs. By introducing systematic planning methods and integrating multifaceted requirements, it ensures that architectural landscape design can meet modern tourism demands while protecting traditional cultural heritage. It is recommended to adopt a full lifecycle planning approach, considering multiple stages such as building design, usage, and maintenance.

Community Participation: Encourage local communities to participate in the planning and design process of architectural landscape spaces. Community residents possess a profound understanding of local culture and spatial functions; their in-

volvement can ensure that design proposals are more locally relevant and practical, while also increasing community identification with and support for the projects.

Application of Technological Innovation: Utilize advanced technological means, such as 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR), and Augmented Reality (AR), for the design and optimization of architectural landscape spaces. These technologies can help visualize design effects more intuitively, identify and solve potential problems in advance, thereby improving space utilization efficiency and design quality.

Functional Diversification: When designing architectural landscapes, full consideration should be given to the diversity of spatial functions. By integrating functions such as residence, commerce, and cultural activities, not only is space utilization efficiency enhanced, but the attractiveness and practicality of the architectural landscape are also strengthened.

4.2.2 Enhancing the Relevance and Effectiveness of Policy Formulation and Implementation.

Data-Driven Policy Formulation: In the process of policy formulation, decisions should be based on detailed data and scientific analytical methods. Through data collection and analysis, understand the actual needs and development conditions of different ethnic villages, thereby formulating more targeted policy measures.

Policy Coordination and Cooperation: The formulation and implementation of policies require coordination and cooperation among multiple departments. It is recommended to establish an inter-departmental working mechanism to ensure effective coordination among cultural protection, tourism development, environmental management, and other related policies, avoiding conflicts between policies and waste of resources.

Dynamic Adjustment Mechanism: Policies should possess flexibility and adaptability, capable of dynamic adjustment according to changes in actual situations. Establish a policy feedback mechanism, regularly evaluate the effectiveness of policy implementation, and promptly adjust and optimize policy measures to enhance their practical impact.

Through these practical suggestions, the rational optimization of architectural landscape spatial functions in ethnic tourism villages can be effectively promoted, the relevance and effectiveness of policy formulation and implementation can be enhanced, and a balance between protection and development can be achieved. This not only contributes to the protection and inheritance of ethnic cultures but also promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity in ethnic regions.

5 Conclusion

This study takes Chengyang Bazhai of the Dong ethnic group as a case study to explore the influencing factors of architectural landscape spatial function changes in ethnic tourism villages. Through literature review and field research, five key factors are identified: **tourism development, modernization process, government policies, cultural inheritance and innovation, and socioeconomic factors.**

The findings reveal that tourism demand drives the expansion of commercial and cultural spatial functions, while modernization facilitates infrastructure renewal and the transformation of traditional spaces. Government policies play a dual role in balancing cultural preservation with economic development. Cultural inheritance and innovation enable the integration of traditional and modern elements within architectural spaces. These factors collectively reshape the spatial functions of the village, reflecting the dynamic adaptation of ethnic villages under external pressures.

This study contributes to the understanding of spatial function transformation in ethnic tourism villages and provides a theoretical basis for sustainable development and cultural protection. The findings also offer practical implications for village planning and policy formulation in similar contexts.

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