

# On the Design of Landscape Elements of Theme Park

## ---- Taking Tang Paradise for Example

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**Abstract** - Tang Paradise is a large cultural theme park of royal garden style. By analyzing the design characteristics of landscape elements, this paper proposes the design of hills, pools, buildings and landscape furniture, which not only reflects the tourism function and cultural inheritance, but also reflects the complete harmony between Tang culture and the nature.

**Key Words:** Landscape Element, theme culture, Tang Paradise

Hills, pools, buildings, plants, animals, steles are the main elements that are used to build Chinese ancient gardens. In the eyes of the Chinese people, gardens shall be derived from the nature with the theme of expressing the natural scenery with hills and waters, and shall pursue for the beauty of nature; while at the same time, the gardens shall also be higher than the nature. Therefore, even the most uniquely designed landscape in the garden must achieve the effect that "though it is man-made, it looks like being totally created by nature."

### I. Overview of Tang Paradise

Tang Paradise was built at the north of the historic site of former Furong Garden, Royal Garden of Tang Dynasty. It is a large landscape garden cluster and covers an area of 670,000m<sup>2</sup>, with a gross floor area of 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a water area of 200,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Boasting the largest-scale architectures with a style of the Tang Dynasty and the largest sculpture group that exhibits poetry culture of Tang Dynasty in China, Tang Paradise reveals the tremendous momentum, prosperity and dignity of Tang culture in a panoramic and all-sided manner by using 12 cultural themes<sup>[1]</sup>.

### II. Landscape Design Characteristics of Tang Paradise

#### A. Rich in landscape elements

Tang Paradise adopts various building forms, such as hall, lobby, booth, stand, kiosk, pavilion, shed, cabinet, boast, corridor and bridge, and can be walked through, visited, toured and dwelled, which are not only a highlight of the landscape but also a separation of the landscape.

##### 1) Theme building

Building is the monument of human culture and human thought. Tang building is the peak of eastern buildings. In the Tang Paradise, there are various types of Tang buildings with over 40 single buildings and building groups.

The 39-meter high<sup>[2]</sup> Ziyun Building is the very building that can fully demonstrate the prosperity of the Tang Dynasty. It is located in the center of the Paradise and adopts the building form of constructing hall on the high stand, surrounded by booth and with high pavilion and bridges. The

39-meter high<sup>[2]</sup> Wangchun Tower employs light and graceful hexagon structure, well showing the elegance of a heroine. Caixia Pavilion combines the booth and corridor of the Tang style. Rambling in the Caixia Pavilion at dusk, you can see the rosy clouds both in the lake and sky; in addition, you can also enjoy the Dayan Tower standing silently far away. Tang fair building group is composed of Tang Fair, Pingong Street and Baixichang. The concentration of stores and wine shops makes people feel the commercial atmosphere of ancient Chang'an which used to be the place where merchants gather and the connection between China and abroad. Luyu Teahouse is a garden architecture with Tang style. Sitting here by the window, meeting friend, drinking tea and watching the waves of Qujiang River makes one forget all the worry and be detached from the world.

##### 2) Hills, steles and piled stones

In Tang Paradise, the hills take advantages of the nature in a skilled manner, the steles show great originality, while the piled stones echo the deficiency and excess. Such kind of building form not only focuses on the originality of natural environment, but also attracts the tourists from sight, hearing, touch and smell.

Taking tableland as the background, the Silver Bridge Waterfall looks more real, majestic and forceful. However, the function of such tableland is not limited to this: it serves as a view-blocking landscape for the tourist entering from the west entrance and faces the north of main road, looking like many rivers flowing into the sea; the tableland is high, but after complete greening, its profile is gentle and mild; set at the height are Dogwood Platform and some Buddhist sculptures. Tangshi Gorge was constructed by taking full advantage of the terrain that runs from top to low, and people can walk downstream to recite poetry with a cadence, enjoy the smooth Chinese calligraphy, reflecting on the past life, or go upstream to read the poetry of Tang Dynasty, feeling the strength of Tang Dynasty and the style of great litterateurs. The use of tableland is made in a winding manner, which is very close and near, but looks like full of mountains, gullies and streams<sup>[3]</sup>.

The nature, color and shape of the stones used by stone path and stone canyon that leads to Qujiang River Garden are nature, which provides a basis for refined scholars to relax and drink. The stones used in Tangshi Gorge are required to carve Tang poetry and demonstrate calligraphy art, so the large pieces of artificial stone are relatively flat and in the same color as red sandstone, and relief sculptures are uniquely

carved. In this way, the stones not only bring their function into full play, but also integrate into the surrounding natural and humanistic environment.

The most eye-catching piled stones of Tang Paradise lie in Silver Bridge Waterfall. The fairy fog and streaming water can always attract tourists, while the stones used by the artificial hill are heavy and thick, and are arranged in an orderly yet exclusive and natural manner, which perfectly echoes with the waterfall and Furong Bridge.

The tiny stones, such as stone bench and stone lamp that are scattered around in Tang Paradise act as ornament to the landscape.

### 3) Pooling

The Tang Paradise was built along Qujiang River where Tang people used to gather, drink and reciting poems, so it is also called Qujiang River Garden. Qujiang River Garden built a natural, simple, graceful and implicit landscape space in the form of natural mountain-water Landscape, while at the same time providing a space for tourists for relaxation and mental regulation.

The main landscapes at Tang Paradise are basically built along the winding bank of Furong Lake, and all the landscape area at the Tang Paradise are linked by water way with flowing water. Even for the water surface with low flowability due to certain reasons, some measures are taken to make it run, such as the water scoop used in Fenghuan Pool.

### 4) Plants

Flowers and trees, as foils to rock landscape, can express the theme separately, or make the waterscape more beautiful. Various kinds of plants are planted at the Tang Paradise, which play an important role in building landscape atmosphere of different themes.

Several bamboo trees at the courtyard of Luyu Teahouse may add calm and ease to those who drink tea there, while the quietness at Zhunei Pavilion near Chunming Entrance is also attributable to a dense of green bamboo trees. The reeds planted at the side of Jianjia Booth near the center of lake add poetic quality of flavor to the tourists. Landscapes that are closely connect with plants also include Xing Garden, Siluhuayu, Hetingwenxiang, Liuyingbaizhuan, Songlintingtai and Taohuawu. The greening and fragrant lotus leaves at Furong Lake perfectly echo the Chinese name of Tang Paradise.

## *B. Landscape Furniture Add Brilliance to the Present Splendor*

Landscape furniture refers to the small-scale building facilities that boast unique ornament and use function after being processed by the designer under certain environment conditions<sup>[4]</sup>.

### 1) Ornamental and practical landscape furniture

The chairs in the garden use both stone and wood, and change the modeling and length as usually used in other gardens. The common chairs in the garden are square, with winding flat wooden armrest set at one side. The long seat

allows the tourists to have a short rest on it, or to appreciate the beautiful scenery. The explicit or implicit garden chairs, backrests and scattered stones on the grassland not only take into account the use function and safety factor, but also exist in harmony with the environment without leaving any tracks.

The garden bridge is also made of both wood and stone, while glass can be adopted as well. The forms of bridge include arch bridge (e.g. Furong Bridge), curved bridge (e.g. Hechiguanyu), straight bridge and even a slabstone crossing the water surface. These gardens not only connect the landscape and add to the depth of field, but also make the waterscape more graceful and implicit.

The garden lamps at Tang Paradise have dozens of types. On the main garden road are windproof square lamps of ancient style with cover on the top and with cylindrical lanterns made of red silk at the bottom, from which we can see the relics of Tang Dynasty. The cuboid floor lamps embedded into the winding chair armrest are set at the sides of greenbelt that leads to Royal Dinning Palace. Set at the green land by water are elliptical lamp with cream-colored housing and in the shape of long white gourd; the bottom covers are copper tripod sculpture with full classical taste. Also presenting in Poem Gorge, the stones at the side of stone gorge or corner occasionally reveal a seam at the edge, which light the two landscapes with leaving any trace. At the front of Baixi Building, there are red lanterns strung together to highlight the warm atmosphere. In the pinewood of Dogwood Platform are high lamp panel with oblate and lotus housing, which provide light for the low space. Used in the grass are green lamplet with round head, which can not only be stepped on, but also guide the tourists with soft light. The headlamps are set at the both sides of guiding square stone blocks that lie at the turning of garden road; such headlamp beautify the stone blocks while providing guidance and light for the tourists. Co-existing with the splendidence and magnificence of Ziyun Building are golden silk lanterns arranged in rows at height. In addition, the bright red square lamps on the sightseeing boat, rows of pillar at the front of Ziyun Building, lightful searchlight at the side of water without fence, floor hood downlight at the side of water with fence, and the purple or blue cold-light lamp at the outer of bridge profile all play an important role in building the atmosphere needed. It is the clever and skillful use of these lamps and lights that the glory of Tang Paradise is created.

Other landscape furniture at Tang Paradise is also featured by novel design. For example, the blue and white porcelain used at washbasin, copper booth at the front of Yuyan Entrance for the tourists to get tourist maps by themselves, side drum, aroma stove and other ornaments reflected the luxury and richness of Tang Dynasty.

### 2) Ornamental Landscape Furniture

Fountains are widely used in Tang Paradise. At the square in front of Yuyuan Entrance, many small fountains are use to put the theme concept of waterscape into the heart of the tourists, and the wonderful scenery of Tang Dynasty is successfully separated from the noisy human society. Such

concept is enhanced by different fountains and mist spray at Datangtianwei and at the east of Caixia Pavilion. The large fountain at Furong Lake and the largest water screen movie in the world indicate the great courage and prosperous spirit of Tang Dynasty.

Sculptures can be seen in almost every theme park, such as fluting, hobbyhorse, calligraphy practicing, and spiral arms in Children Recreation Area; riding horse in spring, dancing with music, washing clothes and playing with water in the Lirenxing Park; black tomb figure, Hu people eating with bag, Hu people with queue and exposed bosom in Qujiang Hudian Area. Other sculptures: pink gold flying dragon is golden yellow; the colors of gilding silver bowl, gilding fine silver cage and gilding fine silver measure at Luyu Teahouse are the same as their originals, which demonstrates the luxury of Tang Dynasty, while the image pillar and the Six Steeds of Zhao Mausole are made of stainless steel, which highlight the characteristics of the landscape.

Landscape furniture arouses people's aesthetic taste from the sense of sight by showing its appearance, sound and color, while at the same time, enriching building space, boasting the environment atmosphere and adding to space interests.

### III . Concluding Remarks

#### A. *Landscape elements closely link with featured culture theme*

The Tang Paradise is the first theme park that focuses on Tang culture, and it aims to show the culture of Tang Dynasty, such as history, poem, painting, architecture and many other cultural themes. This point is deeply embodied in the building, landscape furniture, carved stones. For example, Ziyun Building, Wangchun Tower, building group of Tang style are

good at reflecting the royal culture theme, female culture theme and diplomacy culture theme by taking advantage of their inherent building forms.

#### B. *Landscape elements use many landscape constructing methods*

The Tang Paradise also adopts different landscape constructing methods to enhance the sense of beauty of landscape and to enrich the gradation of landscape, such as dual scenery at Ziyun Building and Wangchun Tower, enframed scenery at Caixia Pavilion, borrowing scenery at Furong Lake, obstructive scenery at Silver Bridge Waterfall and abbreviated scenery at lattice window.

#### C. *Take full advantage of pooling method*

The main landscapes at ilare basically built along the winding bank of Furong Lake. In addition to full use of such pooling methods as hiding, partitioning and breaking, modern technological methods are also used to make full use of advantages in resources, such as various kinds of fountains and the largest water screen movie in the world. The modern technological methods are adopted in such a complicated manner that many tourists even ignore the most culture connotative "Qujiang River Garden".

### References

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