

# Research on the Embodiment and Transmission of Urban Culturality

Shuo Chen<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> College of Arts, Guilin University of Technology, Guilin, China

## Email Address

1047798871@qq.com (Shuo Chen)

\*Correspondence: 1047798871@qq.com

**Received:** 10 June 2022; **Accepted:** 24 June 2022; **Published:** 23 July 2022

---

## Abstract:

With the rapid development of the economy, people pay more and more attention to the presentation of the spiritual outlook of the city while the material needs are satisfied in the city life, so the attention to the construction of urban culture is increasing day by day. How to better explore and express the face of urban spiritual civilization design has become a key concern and thinking content of modern designers.

## Keywords:

Traditional Decorative Elements, Urban Landscape Pieces, Culture, Inheritance

---

## 1. Introduction

China is a country with a long history, many ethnic groups and rich cultural connotations. How to draw the essence of traditional culture and combine it with modern design, and create the culture and uniqueness of regional cities is the direction of research and consideration in this paper. Chinese traditional decorative art is inherited from traditional culture, and traditional decorative elements are rich in content, wide in subject matter, deep in connotation and diverse in form, carrying a profound history and containing the most original spiritual outlook of the Chinese nation's creation and aesthetics, which cannot be replaced by other arts. In the city, the landscape pieces are the best carrier for cultural inheritance and presentation, but the design of modern urban landscape pieces lacks cultural connotation, and the phenomenon of uniformity has failed to meet the spiritual and aesthetic needs of contemporary people. Combined with an innovative perspective, the integration of the essence of traditional decorative elements in the design of urban landscape pieces can play a pivotal role, not only to inherit and develop traditional culture, but also as a source of inspiration for modern design creation.

The integration of traditional decorative elements into the design of modern cityscape vignettes will not only enhance the practicality and aesthetics of the cityscape, but also show and convey the visual beauty and cultural spirit, which is of great importance to the design and positioning of modern cityscape vignettes. As an international tourist city and a famous historical and cultural city, Guilin's urban culture plays an important role in the development of the whole city and is an

indispensable and important factor in the development of urbanization. The rapid economic development has promoted the generation of human material civilization and driven urbanization, but along with this trend some old buildings and cultural objects are gradually disappearing, so people are more and more eager for the spirit. Urban landscape piece is a common element in the city, and its wide distribution, colorful forms and contents are closely related to people's life. Guilin is a city with a strong cultural and historical atmosphere, as a city where Chinese ethnic minorities live and integrate. The integration of traditional decorative elements into the city landscape small varieties, not only can add and reflect the strong cultural atmosphere of the city, but also the inheritance and continuation of the city's cultural lineage

## **2. The City Culture Embodies the Way: the Carrier of Culture - the Landscape Pieces**

Urban landscape pieces are embodied through public facilities, such as lighting fixtures, seats, newspaper columns, signage, railings, etc., as well as sculptures, murals and craftsmanship embodied by including artistic facilities. Landscape pieces are roughly divided into two levels: understood from a broad level, it is set in the outdoor landscape of small man-made buildings, such as architectural vignettes and sculpture vignettes, etc., which are characterized by the difference between large buildings. In a narrow sense, landscape pieces are sculptural vignettes, emphasizing their formal and connotative beauty, which can convey the cultural connotation and reflect the aesthetic spirit of the whole urban environment space.

### ***2.1. The Value of Urban Landscape Pieces***

Although small in size, the urban landscape miniature plays an important role in the surrounding environment, and is the embodiment of the artistic atmosphere of the city landscape, adding vitality to the city. In addition to its own unique charm and exquisite craftsmanship, the landscape pieces can also be used to express the personality and regional culture of the city landscape culture, while enriching people's lives and conveying visual beauty, showing the economic development of the city and the quality of people's living standards as well as the cultural heritage and spiritual civilization of the city. It not only enriches the city landscape level, but also highlights the charm of the city's culture.

### ***2.2. The Role of Urban Landscape Pieces***

Urban landscape pieces are one of the urban landscape elements scattered in every corner of the city,

and are one of the urban composition elements that the public has the most contact with, use most widely and communicate most easily. Therefore, to enhance the image and connotation of urban landscape elements is an important means to create city image, strengthen the construction of urban landscape and build good urban imagery.

### ***2.3. Aesthetic Requirements of Urban Landscape Pieces***

A good urban landscape piece not only satisfies the function but also must have aesthetics. In terms of enhancing and reflecting the cultural connotation of a city, the aesthetic nature of urban landscape pieces is more prominent. Designers in the creation of urban landscape pieces, in the form not only to pursue beauty, but also good use of psychological and cultural guidance, so that the audience to a positive

state of mind to view and interpret the work, to avoid the same old sketch form to produce visual aesthetic fatigue. As a designer, when creating a design, we should give full play to our imagination, combining terrain, materials and human subjective and objective factors, and the finished product should meet the requirements of function, art and space, and we should also pay attention to highlighting the theme and regional characteristics, and integrate with the environment. Cultural connotation, formal beauty and contextual beauty are the basis for reflecting the aesthetics of landscape pieces. Formal beauty is the most common form of beauty, is the primary level of aesthetics, is a form of sensory visual beauty. Landscape pieces are artworks facing the public, giving people visual feelings and visual beauty, and through the cultural connotation of the expression and display can better highlight the strong cultural atmosphere of the city. Cultural connotation is built on the landscape piece form beauty, and the form of beauty can be summarized as two forms: one is a regular, orderly beauty, corresponding to people's aesthetic habits and expression, and the familiar proportion and scale, balance and stability, rhythm and rhythm of the situation of the laws of beauty; the other is irregular, flowing change of beauty, disorderly, abstract performance symbols, giving people A chic and novel effect. Speaking of formal beauty, the concept and layout of the landscape pieces is also a very important factor affecting the aesthetic factors. Conception to have a high artistic aesthetic, to avoid the composition of a haphazard and empty pile. Contextual beauty is different from formal beauty, formal beauty is objective, while contextual beauty is the product of objective and subjective integration, is the unity of emotion and scenery, meaning and context, reflecting the designer's purpose, commonality and resonance of thought.

### **3. The City's Cultural Heritage: the Heritage of Culture - Traditional Decorative Elements**

Traditional decorative elements are cultural, with deep cultural connotation and unique regional characteristics. The design of an area's urban landscape piece should be built on the basis of a nation's traditional culture in order to deeply attract others and reveal the cultural characteristics.

#### ***3.1. Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Decorative Elements***

Chinese traditional decorative elements are the valuable wealth accumulated and deposited by ancient Chinese culture for thousands of years, with profound and profound origin, rich in content, various forms and wide coverage of subjects, reflecting the ideological understanding, aesthetic value and cognition of things produced by people in social life, with profound historical and cultural connotation. On the basis of the basic forms of traditional decorative elements, they are developed and associated to express their emotions and form symbols with symbolic meanings, and these symbols are given special meanings and symbols. Different traditional decorative elements express different symbolic meanings, using harmonious sounds and symbolic meanings to symbolize things, making a clever combination of form and content. For example, because "bat" is homophonic with "Fu", it has the meaning of "fortune"; "deer" is homophonic with "Lu", which means "good salary"; "bottle" and "Ping" have the same sound, which means "peace"; "Xin" is the same sounds "Qing", which means "good fortune". Through these elements to express the vision of life, he expectation and pursuit of happiness. Traditional decorative elements not only have allegorical meaning, but also have strong decorative properties. Through this cultural

beauty to arouse people's resonance and leave a deep impression and can effectively improve the aesthetics of the landscape elements.

### ***3.2. Value of Traditional Chinese Decorative Elements***

The social value of traditional decorative elements. Traditional decorative art inherits the national culture and has a deep cultural nature. In today's globalized economy, the rapid development of modern technology makes the design language tend to internationalize, which leads to the great integration of national cultures of various countries, resulting in the emergence of national art is more and more sought after and concerned by the public and designers, so that traditional decorative elements also receive unprecedented and continuous upgrading and development. People tend to identify with their own culture from the bottom of their hearts, and they admire the modest and virtuous way of production and life. In terms of aesthetic consciousness, the different national cultures also lead to different aesthetic tendencies of the public. For example, the images of dragons and phoenixes in Chinese traditional patterns are unique symbols of the Chinese nation, which are in line with the psychology of Chinese people, and thus also influence the aesthetic consciousness of Chinese people and distinguish them from other countries.

The humanistic value of traditional decorative elements. The humanistic value of traditional decorative elements is the tendency to guide the designers' thinking, grasp the aesthetic psychology and needs of people in different regions, and use the symbols of their traditional decorative elements to reflect in the landscape pieces, so that they can meet the public's psychological and emotional demands and close the distance between people and the environment. Each kind of decorative art has specific symbolic nature, such as architectural decoration and costume patterns, which provide richer materials and visual language for modern design, reflecting both the cultural nature of humanistic consciousness and humanistic spirit.

## **4. The Embodiment and Inheritance of Urban Culture Complement Each Other**

"Traditional decorative elements" are some basic decorative elements and design ideas formed by these elements that have been widely handed down in the formation and development of labor, life, culture, education and other factors since the formation of primitive mankind. Traditional decorative elements have strong expressiveness due to their own characteristics. When applied to the design of urban landscape pieces, they can highlight the theme and culture of landscape pieces, form visual points and have a profound appeal to the viewer. For landscape pieces, when applying traditional decorative elements to individual or small-scale landscape pieces, it highlights the local characteristics and cultural connotation of landscape works. If it is enlarged to the whole city, it will highlight the regionality and nationality, not only beautify the environment, but also improve the identifiability of the urban landscape, show the unique cultural flavor of the city and inherit the cultural spirit of the city. The combination of traditional decorative elements and urban landscape pieces can not only promote the diversity of urban landscape pieces design content, add the cultural atmosphere of landscape pieces, but also inherit and innovate the traditional decorative elements.

### ***4.1. Cultural Analysis Based on Traditional Decorative Elements***

Traditional decorative elements can improve the culture of urban landscape pieces. Culture refers to its local culture. Through the application of traditional decorative elements in urban landscape pieces, we can enrich the cultural connotation of landscape sketches. In the process of enrichment, we refine and create traditional decorative elements and apply them to urban landscape pieces, so as to reflect the cultural connotation of landscape pieces.

#### ***4.2. Based on Highlighting the Inheritance and Continuation of Urban Context***

Context is called “language environment” in linguistics, which is to use language to describe the situation and communicate. In a broader sense, it is extended to the relationship between one thing and other things in time or space. The translation of “context” in design should be understood more as the context and undertaking relationship of culture and thought. The context of urban landscape piece is the spatial environment between people and landscape piece, and the undertaking relationship between the spatial environment of landscape piece and history and culture.

Historical culture is the soul of a city, and context is the continuity and continuity of a city’s history and culture. Context is a unique historical, cultural, regional and landscape atmosphere and environment in a city’s long-term development and construction. It is a historical and cultural accumulation. If a city’s cultural meridian couldn’t be extended and its characteristics were no longer unique, it would gradually lose its charm and attraction. How to show the inheritance and succession of the city’s landscape design? Its research perspective needed to start with the infusion and condensation of the traditional decorative elements. From the appearance, form and color, it was inseparable from the absorption and refinement of the traditional decorative elements. As the material carrier of the city’s culture, the design of the landscape design was the product of the development of the modern city’s culture, which carried the inheritance and succession of the city’s context.

Therefore, when designing landscape pieces and creating context images, designers often endow landscape pieces with beauty through their traditional decorative element language, and also make landscape pieces have more cultural connotation and higher social value.

#### ***4.3. Concise Design Based on the Spirit of Landscape Pieces***

At present, in the practical process of the application of traditional decorative elements in the design of urban landscape pieces, most of them stay in the state of simple stacking or direct application of elements, and fail to explore the spiritual core of traditional decorative art, resulting in superficial, superficial and lack of deep meaning, and the design behavior of failing to carry out contemporary transformation of traditional decorative elements, which belongs to the formalism road. Therefore, how to make the urban landscape pieces design and the effective utilization of traditional decorative element resources should stand at the height of culture and explore the sociality of culture. With the rapid development of urban economy, the urban culture will develop accordingly. When the economy meets people’s material needs, people will pursue higher spiritual needs. Based on the design principle of “condensing and refining its spirit and transforming its form”, this paper explores a new design way of “transiting from form to its spirit, sublimating from spirit to form, so as to better highlight the national image”.

What is “condensing and refining its spirit”? The first is the depth and opinion of thinking cognition, and the deep meaning of traditional decorative art is recognized from the visual form and symbol of the object, and the essence of traditional decorative art is extracted and developed and applied. The essence of these culture is the scarcest factor in the design of city landscape pieces. With these traditional decorative elements, the spirit runs through the urban landscape pieces, which will give them life, meet the spiritual needs of modern urban residents and increase regional cultural characteristics. “Transforming its form” refers to refining the most representative or characteristic part of the traditional decorative art on the basis of “refining its spirit”, and reconstructing it on the basis of the original parent culture through artistic abstraction, so as to transform it into a symbolic visual form in line with the contemporary aesthetic psychology, and then apply it to the design and creation of urban landscape pieces. Such application “is not formal plagiarism or the arrangement and combination of old parts. It has not only the inheritance and development of spiritual level and design principle, but also formal reference and creation.” According to such design thinking and design principles, the form and artistic form content of urban landscape pieces will show colorful and new characteristics. The application of traditional decorative elements in urban landscape pieces is an excellent innovative way. Each city will have its own unique regional cultural characteristics. These unique regional cultural characteristics are the basis for the city to distinguish from other urban cultures.

Relying on the regional traditional decorative elements, modern design carries out the return and authenticity of the design, and vividly expresses it in the artistic form of urban landscape pieces. It can not only inherit the historical context of the city and reflect the characteristics of regional culture, but also endow it with the essence of modern design culture and reflect the urban spirit of the new era.

## 5. Conclusions

In the current practice of integrating traditional decorative elements into urban landscape design, most of them are still in the primary state—simply piling up elements or directly applying them, without exploring the spiritual core of traditional decorative art, thus causing superficiality, superficiality, lack of deeper meaning, and failure to contemporaryize traditional decorative elements. The design behavior of transformation is formalism. How to make effective use of urban landscape design and traditional decorative elements resources, should stand in the height of culture, explore the social nature of culture. The rapid development of urban economy, while promoting the development of urban culture, the economy to meet the material needs of people, people will pursue higher spiritual needs.

The design of modern regional characteristics must be rooted in and rely on traditional culture, and so should modern design, regional characteristics need to draw on the nutrition of traditional decorative elements in order to stand in the original out of its color, otherwise it is easy to deviate from the direction of modern regional characteristics design. Traditional decorative elements applied to the design of landscape elements, from a cultural point of view to shape the localization of the style of landscape elements, to change the current situation of a thousand cities, to better highlight the regional character. Each city will have its own unique regional cultural characteristics, and these unique regional cultural characteristics are the basis for the city to distinguish itself from other cities. The embodiment and inheritance of urban culture relies on modern design based on regional traditional decorative elements, the

return and authenticity of design, with the art form of urban landscape pieces for vivid expression, not only can inherit the city's historical lineage, reflect the characteristics of regional culture, but also give it the essence of modern design culture, reflecting the spirit of the new era of the city.

## Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

## Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

## References

- [1] Liao, X.M.; Zhou, X.R. Research on the governance of urban public space guided by culture. *Chang bai journal*, 2022, 2, 148-156.
- [2] Xia, Y.Q.; J, J.H. Public facilities and urban cultural gene inheritance. *Jiangxi Social Sciences*, 2021, 41(10), 246-253.
- [3] Chen, P.; Lin, X.Y. Analysis on the patterns and characteristics of Chinese urban cultural scenes - An Empirical Study Based on 31 urban cultural comforts. *Chinese Soft Science*, 2020, 11, 71-86.
- [4] Zhang, H.M. Research on the design of urban cultural landscape guidance system. *Packaging engineering*, 2020, 41(12), 281-284.
- [5] Huang, X.; Zhang, Y.J. The way of public art development under Urban Construction - a comment on landscape public art design. *Water conservancy and hydropower technology*, 2020, 51(4), 233.
- [6] Wei, Y.X. Cultural expression of urban public facilities design. *Packaging engineering*, 2019, 40(14), 294-296.
- [7] Chang, D.L. Multidimensional perspective on the vitality of urban culture in contemporary China. *Learning and practice*, 2019, 4, 110-117.
- [8] Jia, J.S. Analysis of Chinese urban cultural color and color culture. *Decoration*, 2008, 3, 77-79.
- [9] Yang, Z.Q. Research on recognizability design of urban landscape sketches. *Sichuan drama*, 2013, 10, 100-103.
- [10] Zhang, S. Cultural interpretation of exhibition space design in Ethnic Areas - Taking Inner Mongolia exhibition space design as an example. *Art Science and technology*, 2015.
- [11] Liang, X.X. Zhuang elements and Landscape. Huazhong University of science and Technology Press, 2017.



© 2022 by the author(s); licensee International Technology and Science Publications (ITS), this work for open access publication is under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0). (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)