

Research on the Integration of Environmental Installation Art and Landscape Design

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Received: 9 July 2024; Accepted: 30 July 2024; Published: 21 August 2024

Abstract:

Installation art is an innovative art form used by designers to arrange space, and freely use various artistic means to express human infinite artistic concepts and ideas. It highlights the characteristics of postmodern art. This paper analyzes the artistry, participation and variability of installation art, and combines two art installation practice cases to summarize the creative integration strategy of art installation and landscape design: the integration of concepts and ideas, the interaction and experience of space, the innovation of materials and processes, and the balance between practicality and aesthetics. It is believed that the integration of art installation and landscape design enhances the cultural connotation and artistic value of landscape design and promotes its innovative development.

Keywords:

Art Installation, Landscape Design, Creative Integration

1. The Concept of Installation Art

Installation art is a promising finished art that highly integrates people and the environment. It artistically and effectively selects, utilizes and combines material cultural entities that have been consumed or not consumed in people's daily lives, allowing them to interpret new artistic forms and show the rich spiritual and cultural connotations of individuals or groups. Therefore, installation art is an art of comprehensive interpretation that combines venues, materials and emotions. Art installations are designed and arranged to display artworks or achieve a certain display effect, including but not limited to installation art. It is a means of displaying and presenting artworks.

2. Characteristics of Installation Art

2.1. Artistic quality

The commonality between installation art and landscape design is reflected in the remarkable artistry of both. Landscape designer Bray advocates the interconnection

between arts. The artistry of installation art is reflected in its innovative expression techniques and profound conceptual communication. Art installations are usually not limited to the forms and materials of traditional art, but use a variety of media and techniques to create works that are both visually impactful and can arouse emotions and thinking in the audience. Through the reinterpretation of everyday objects and the careful arrangement of the environment, designers construct unique art spaces that themselves are part of the artwork and can provide an immersive experience.

2.2. Participation

As a modern art form, installation art is characterized by the fact that designers create not only static visual works, but also environments or structures that can interact with the audience. This interactivity is one of the core elements of installation art. It breaks the boundaries of traditional art viewing and allows the audience to no longer be passive observers, but to become active participants in the art experience. Participation is reflected in audience interaction, environmental integration, social interaction and other aspects. It is a bridge for communication and interaction between designers and audiences. It not only enhances the appeal of artworks, but also expands the boundaries of art and the audience's participation. By participating in installation art, the audience can experience and understand art in a whole new way. This interactivity is an important part of the unique charm of installation art.

2.3. Variability

Installation art is a variable art, and art installations can adjust their spatial properties according to different exhibition environments or audience interactions. This variability can be achieved through the flexible structure designed by the designer and the materials used, so that the installation can adapt to different spatial layouts or produce different visual and sensory effects in the same space. This variability not only enhances the interactivity and appreciation of art installations, but also allows the audience to experience the diversity of installation art at different times and under different conditions. Through the exploration of spatial variability, designers can break the fixed framework of traditional art and create works of art with temporal and spatial fluidity, thereby providing a richer and more multi-dimensional artistic enjoyment.

3. Art Installation Practice Case Study

3.1. Participatory “Tire Garden” art installation

Designing art installations from the perspective of audience participation means putting the interaction between artworks and audiences at the core, emphasizing the role and influence of artworks in audience perception. Such art installations are usually designed to be more interactive and participatory, and can stimulate the audience's sensory and cognitive responses. Taking the “Tire Garden” in the third classroom building of South China Normal University as an example (Figure 1 and Figure 2), starting in 2019, we tried to use about two weeks in the landscape design practice planning to guide students to create natural perception installations. Materials are taken from nature and used for nature. It is not only an environmental practice to reuse waste tires, it can also be regarded as an artistic creation, through which environmental protection, sustainability, and the harmonious coexistence between man and nature can be explored.



Figure 1. Tire Garden site renovation.



Figure 2. Partial photos of the tire garden.

The process of creating a tire garden usually involves collecting used tires and transforming them into containers for growing plants. These tires can be painted bright colors or kept in their original black color, and then arranged in a specific layout to form a visually appealing landscape. This type of garden not only provides an opportunity to increase green space in cities and rural areas, but also becomes a case for discussing reuse and recycling. (Figure 3, Figure 4)



Figure 3. Before site renovation.



Figure 4. After the venue renovation.

The significance of this art installation lies in its ability to inspire new forms of reuse of natural and man-made objects. In the tire garden, the transformation of discarded objects into a new source of life is itself a powerful environmental message. Through art, it calls on people to rethink our consumption habits and the impact on the environment.

In addition, as an art installation, the tire garden provides an opportunity for students of art colleges to participate. For students of art colleges, the tire garden provides a place for observation and practice in the real world. Planting plants in the tire garden can not only effectively utilize waste tires, but also contribute to environmental beautification and ecological protection. Select some plants that can be used as natural dyes to provide rich handmade materials for students majoring in fashion design. Pigments are obtained from different parts of flowers, grasses, trees, stems, leaves, fruits, seeds, skins, etc. [1] Plants with soft colors are selected, covering red, yellow, blue and other colors. [2] (Figure 5) In addition, these plants can also be used as sketching objects in art education for students to copy and paint. In this way, students can not only learn the growth characteristics and color changes of plants, but also enhance their perception of natural beauty and ability to express art.



Figure 5. Plant dyeing.

In summary, the plant dyes grown in "tire gardens" are summarized as shown in the following Table 1:

Table 1. Illustration of plant dyes from the “Tire Garden”.

Type	Name	Use
Plant dyes	 Indigo	The plant is the main source of the blue dye indigo and is highly adaptable, growing well in warm and humid climates.
	 Su wood	Su wood is one of the important red plant dyes in ancient China. The earliest historical record of Su wood being used for dyeing can be found in the Western Jin Dynasty.
	 Rubia cordifolia	Rubia cordifolia produces a red dye that is used primarily for dyeing cloth and yarn. It has low soil requirements and is suitable for growing in warm climates.
	 Gardenia	An evergreen shrub with white flowers, its fruit is used as a dye, and its pigment component is gardenia glycoside. As a yellow plant dye, it can be dyed directly or with the addition of some mordants.
	 Lithospermum erythrorhizon	Lithospermum erythrorhizon root can produce purple-red dye and is often used in traditional dyeing techniques. It is suitable for growing in a warm and humid environment.

The “Tire Garden” provides a unique learning and growth opportunity for students of the Academy of Fine Arts, allowing them to have a deeper understanding and sense of participation in environmental protection. Through practice, observation and participation, they not only improve their artistic skills, but also enhance their environmental awareness and social responsibility. As an art installation that focuses on audience participation, the “Tire Garden” has a profound significance in that it is not only a way to beautify the environment, but also a tool for environmental education and campus construction. Through such projects, people can more intuitively understand the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development, while also appreciating the creativity and beauty of waste utilization.

3.2. Variable “Dragon Soaring in the Clouds” art installation

This year, the postgraduate students of Environmental Design at the School of Fine Arts of South China Normal University chose to create the “Dragon Soaring in the Clouds” art installation in the Year of the Dragon, combining the image of the dragon with the dynamics of the soaring clouds to create an installation with profound cultural connotations and high artistry. (Figure 6)

As the totem of the Chinese nation, the dragon represents strength and majesty and is a core element in traditional culture. The meaning of soaring, rising and upward development contained in the “Dragon Soaring in the Clouds” installation is consistent with the mission of the Academy of Fine Arts to pursue artistic excellence and cultivate innovative talents. At the same time, this art installation also reflects the importance of artistic innovation and expression. Through modern artistic techniques and technical means, the traditional cultural elements are recreated and re-expressed, which not only demonstrates the designer’s innovative thinking and artistic attainments, but also inspires the enthusiasm and inspiration of teachers and students of the Academy of Fine Arts for artistic creation. This combination of innovation and tradition will help promote the in-depth development of art education and cultivate more talents with innovative spirit and artistic literacy.

As the iconic landscape at the entrance, the “Dragon Soaring in the Clouds” art installation brings new vitality to the entire entrance area through its unique shape and material application. The transparency and refraction effect of the acrylic material presents an unpredictable visual effect under different light conditions, attracting a lot of attention. The image of the dragon not only represents the wisdom and power in traditional culture, but also shows the innovative spirit of contemporary art through modern materials and design techniques. This combination of tradition and modernity not only enhances the overall image and taste of the Academy of Fine Arts, but also highlights the artistic atmosphere and cultural heritage of the academy.

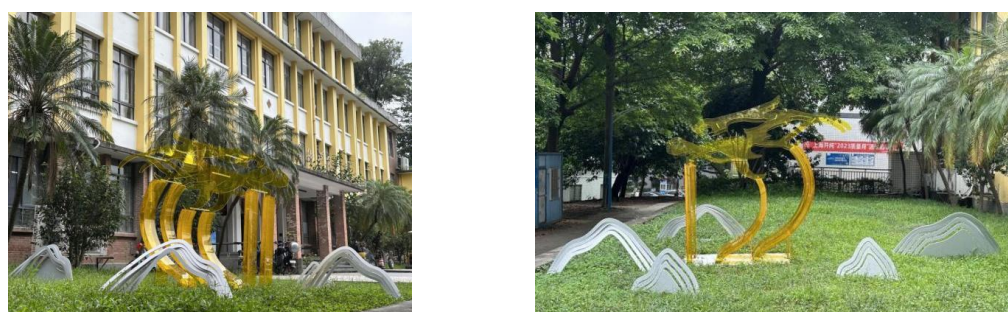


Figure 6. T “Dragon Soaring in the Clouds” Art Installation.

The Changan Chang team was invited to decorate the scene for the 2024 annual meeting of Guangzhou Renmai Education (Figure 7). The project is located on the 5th floor of the Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou. The design scope includes the entrance hall, agate banquet hall, corridor tea break area and Sapphire Hall. (Figure 8)

The variability of space gives installation art rich creative possibilities and ways of expression, making it a unique art form. The installation design extracts the “golden dragon” symbolizing wisdom and power from Chinese traditional culture as the core, and is surrounded by natural elements such as rockery and dry landscape (Figure 9). In order to express the mystery and power of the dragon, the design team uses acrylic material as the main body of the dragon. Through the transparency and refraction effect of acrylic, the image of the dragon is looming, combining the real and the virtual. At the same time, the design of the dragon not only focuses on the expression of the form, but also integrates creativity and meaning, aiming to create an installation art with profound artistic conception and visual impact through this unique design language. The overall layout shows different light and shadow effects in the changing space, allowing the audience to feel the charm and layering of the installation art from different angles and positions.



Table 7. Before site renovation.



Table 8. Design renderings. (Drawn by Zhang Rui of Changan Chang team)



Table 9. Site photos.

Whether at the entrance of the Academy of Fine Arts or at the Guangzhou Renmai Education Annual Conference, “Dragons Soaring in the Clouds” adds endless artistic charm and profound cultural connotations to every scene through its unique artistic expression and spatial variability.

4. Creative Fusion of Art Installation and Landscape Design

In modern landscape design, the introduction of art installations has brought new possibilities and diversity to the environment and space. Art installations not only exist as a visual element, but also give landscape design a deeper cultural and aesthetic value through their unique form and concept. The creative integration of art installations and landscape design will be discussed from the following aspects:

(1). Integration of concepts and ideas

Art installations emphasize creativity and innovation, while landscape design focuses on functionality and beauty. The integration of the two lies in the collision and interweaving of concepts. Designers transform materials, space, light and shadow into creative installations through their unique understanding of elements, while landscape designers use these works to transform the venue into a space with cultural connotations and visual impact. In this way, the landscape is not only a natural landscape for people to appreciate, but also an intersection of art and life.

(2). Interaction and experience of space

In the creative integration of art installations and landscape design, spatial interaction and experience are the core elements. It transforms art installations into a dynamic and participatory environment through multi-dimensional strategies such as sensory stimulation, environmental response, social interaction and educational inspiration. It can establish connections with the audience through sensory channels such as vision, hearing, and touch, encourage communication and cooperation among the audience, and convey knowledge and inspiration in the interactive experience, making the art installation not only a visual focus, but also a link between people and space, people and people, and people and nature, creating a vibrant and fascinating public art space.

(3). Innovation in materials and processes

Art installations often use a variety of new materials and new processes, which can provide new inspiration and possibilities for landscape design. Designers give art installations novel textures and functions by exploring new materials, such as waste materials from sustainable sources, advanced synthetic composites, and smart materials that can respond to environmental changes. At the same time, the use of innovative process technologies, such as digital manufacturing, 3D printing, laser cutting, etc., not only improves production accuracy and efficiency, but also allows the realization of complex geometric shapes, expanding the boundaries of design. These innovations not only enhance the aesthetic value of art installations, but also help express deeper concepts and stories, while ensuring the durability and environmental adaptability of the works. Through the combination of these materials and processes, art installations can better integrate into the landscape environment, interact dynamically with the audience, and provide rich sensory experiences and deep emotional connections.

(4). Balance between practicality and aesthetics

The application of art installations in landscape design should not only focus on their aesthetics, but also consider their practicality. By organically combining functionality and aesthetics, designers can create spaces that are both artistic and practical. This requires designers to work hard on material selection, structural design, and detail processing to find solutions that are both durable and aesthetically pleasing. For example, weather-resistant materials can be used to resist the erosion of the natural environment, while surface treatment and light and shadow effects can be used to increase the artistic expression of the work. In addition, the maintenance cost and sustainability of the work should also be considered during the design process to ensure long-term practicality and aesthetics. Through this comprehensive consideration, art installations can not only become a visual focus, but also be integrated into daily life and provide practical functions, thus achieving a harmonious unity of art and practicality.

In general, the creative integration of art installations and landscape design not only enriches the expression of landscape design, but also enhances its cultural connotation and artistic value. By combining the creativity of art with the functionality of landscape design, we can create a public space that is both beautiful and practical, allowing people to feel the charm of art and the influence of culture while enjoying the beauty of nature. This trend of creative integration will surely promote continuous innovation and progress in the field of landscape design.

5. Conclusions

Installation art is presented in landscape design in a variety of ways. Its widespread use has brought new aesthetics to architecture and public environments. [3] The integration of installation art and landscape design is an innovative practice that vividly presents landscape themes to viewers by integrating multiple art forms. This integration not only enriches the cultural heritage of outdoor space, but also greatly enhances the depth and breadth of environmental experience. Designers are constantly exploring and using cutting-edge technology, creative means and green materials to inject new vitality into natural landscapes. They always pursue the harmonious coexistence of man and the environment, and by continuously improving the interactivity and functionality of installation art, they can meet modern people's desire for the spiritual world and promote closer dialogue and communication between man and natural landscapes.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare 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.

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