

Research on Modern Interior Space Design in Natural Style Influenced by Lingnan Garden

Yuan Yao¹, Na Chang^{1*}

¹ School of Fine Arts, South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China

Email Address

1477240670@qq.com (Yuan Yao), 309784066@qq.com (Na Chang)

*Correspondence: 309784066@qq.com

Received: 15 July 2024; Accepted: 31 July 2024; Published: 21 August 2024

Abstract:

The influence of Lingnan garden on modern interior natural style design is profound. Through an in-depth analysis of the history, culture, and artistic characteristics of Lingnan gardens, combined with modern interior design concepts, this paper explores how to integrate natural style elements into modern indoor environments, creating living spaces that not only embody the traditional charm of Lingnan but also meet the demands of modern life. Employing methods such as field research and case analysis, this study comprehensively discusses the application of design elements from Lingnan garden in modern interior design. It finds that the natural landscapes, architectural layouts, and decorative arts of Lingnan garden can effectively enhance the natural beauty and comfort of modern interior environments, offering new ideas and methods for modern interior design.

Keywords:

Lingnan Gardens, Interior Design, Natural Style, Modern Interpretation

1. Overview of Lingnan Garden

Lingnan Garden located in the Lingnan region of southern China, represent a unique garden style distinct from those in northern China and the Jiangnan area. Due to its unique geographical and climatic conditions, Lingnan garden have developed their own aesthetic characteristics and artistic value. The history of Lingnan garden dates back to the Tang and Song dynasties, but their true development and flourishing occurred during the Ming and Qing dynasties. During this time, as the economy prospered and culture developed, scholars, literati, and wealthy merchants in the Lingnan area built private gardens for relaxation and socializing.

Lingnan garden emphasize the techniques of borrowing and transferring views, skillfully using natural terrain, water systems, and plants to create the effect of natural landscapes. These techniques allow the garden scenery to integrate seamlessly with the natural environment, creating an ambiance as if "though made by man, it appears naturally formed"[1]. The architectural layout in Lingnan garden is flexible and varied, commonly featuring halls, pavilions, and covered walkways that complement the

garden landscape to form an organic whole. The architectural style often utilizes traditional Lingnan lifting beam and through-penetrating structures, with roofs typically covered in blue tiles and eaves that curl upwards, reflecting a strong local flavor.(Table 1) The arrangement of plants in Lingnan garden is meticulous, including various flowers, bamboo, and fruit trees, with tropical fruit species such as lychee, longan, and jackfruit being particularly prominent. These plants not only enhance the garden's aesthetic appeal but also reflect the tropical flair of the Lingnan region.

Water features in Lingnan garden are abundant and varied, including ponds, streams, and artificial mountain waterfalls. The design of these water features is ingenious, combining dynamic elements like waterfalls and flowing water with static elements such as ponds and lakes to create a harmonious balance between motion and stillness.

Today, Lingnan garden are not only a valuable cultural heritage but also an important tourist attraction and a crucial component of urban greening. In modern urban development, the design principles and aesthetic values of Lingnan garden continue to hold significant relevance, providing rich inspiration and guidance for modern garden design and urban landscape planning.

Table 1. *Lingnan traditional architectural style.*

Illustration	Architectural Forms	Architectural Features
	Half Pavilion	Plaster Sculpture Painted Decoration
	Corridor	Painted Decoration Wood Carving Stone Carving
	Octagonal Pavilion	Plaster Sculpture Oyster Shell Window
	Hall	Manchu Window Wood Carving

2. Natural Style in Modern Interior Space Design

2.1. Definition and Connotation of Natural Style Design

Natural style interior design reflects a close relationship with nature, creating a more pure and authentic natural ambiance that alleviates the stress and tension of modern life [2]. It aims to create comfortable, healthy, and relaxing indoor spaces by

introducing natural elements and imitating natural environments. This approach goes beyond simple plant decorations or the use of natural materials. It involves a comprehensive use of elements such as light, air, color, and texture to create an indoor atmosphere that closely resembles nature. Natural style design emphasizes the beauty of nature and ecological balance, highlighting the openness, breathability, and fluidity of space. This makes the indoor environment vibrant and dynamic, promoting physical and mental relaxation and enjoyment.

2.2. The Origin and Development of Natural Style Design

The origin of natural style design can be traced back to early human living environments and architectural forms. At that time, people primarily relied on natural resources such as wood, stone, and soil to build houses, with architectural forms largely dependent on natural surroundings. Over time, particularly after the Industrial Revolution, people began to prioritize the convenience and comfort brought by industrialization, gradually overlooking the importance of the natural environment.

In the mid-20th century, with the rise of environmental protection and sustainable development concepts, natural style design regained attention. Particularly during the environmental movement of the 1970s, natural style design became a trend, advocating for harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. During this period, many designers and architects began to explore how to incorporate natural elements into interior design, aiming to create living environments close to nature through the use of natural materials, the introduction of green plants, and the full utilization of natural light.

Entering the 21st century, with the improvement of living standards and the enhancement of environmental awareness, natural style design has gained wider application and recognition. The development of modern technology has also provided more possibilities for natural style design, such as smart home systems and the use of energy-saving and environmentally friendly materials, making natural style design not only aesthetically valuable but also functionally practical and beneficial.

2.3. Current Application of Natural Style in Modern Interior Design

In modern interior design, natural style design has become a significant trend, widely applied in various spaces such as residences, offices, and hotels. Its current application is mainly reflected in the following aspects:

(1). Introduction of Green Plants: Green plants are the most common element in natural style design. By placing various plants indoors, air quality can be effectively improved, and the space can gain more vitality and a natural feel. The selection of plants has become increasingly diverse, ranging from traditional potted plants to vertical greening and plant walls, adding more possibilities to interior design.

(2). Use of Natural Materials: Natural style design emphasizes the use of natural materials such as wood, stone, and bamboo. These materials not only have natural beauty and texture but also possess good environmental performance. The use of natural materials in interior design can bring warmth and comfort to the space.

(3). Utilization of Natural Light: Natural style design highly values the introduction of natural light. By using large windows, skylights, and glass walls, natural light sources can be maximized to create bright and transparent indoor environments.

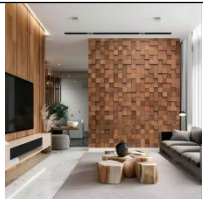
Additionally, the use of natural light can reduce the need for artificial lighting, saving energy and aligning with sustainable development principles.

(4). Open Layout: Open layouts are another significant feature of natural style design. By reducing indoor partitions, spaces become more open and fluid, enhancing the interaction between people and nature. Open layouts not only facilitate the circulation of light and air but also increase the flexibility and functionality of the space.

(5). Application of Ecological Technologies: With technological advancements, more ecological technologies are being applied to natural style design, such as green roofs, rainwater collection systems, and solar energy utilization. These technologies not only improve the environmental performance of buildings but also provide residents with a healthier and more comfortable living environment.

By exploring the current application of natural style in modern interior design, it is evident that natural style design is not only an aesthetic pursuit but also a reflection of lifestyle and environmental concepts. In its future development, natural style design will undoubtedly continue to play an important role, creating better and healthier living spaces for people. (Table 2)

Table 2. *The main aspects of the application of natural style in modern interior design.*

Natural style applied methods	Illustration	Function	Spatial Presentation
Introduction of Green Plants		Improve Air Quality, Enhance Natural Feel	Vertical Greening, Potted Plant
Use of Natural Materials		Eco-friendly, Enhance Natural Feel	Wood, Stone, Bamboo
Utilization of Natural Light		Utilize Natural Light, Save Energy	Large Windows, Skylights, Glass Walls
Open Layout		Increase Interaction Between Humans and Nature, Facilitate Light and Air Flow, Increase Spatial Flexibility	Reduce Walls and Doors
Application of Ecological Technologies		Improve Building Environmental Performance	Green Roof, Rainwater Harvesting System, Solar Energy Utilization

3. Application of Lingnan Garden Elements in Modern Interior Design

3.1. Application of Natural Landscape Elements

3.1.1. Introduction of Plants and Water Features

In modern interior design, the plant and water elements of Lingnan garden can be introduced in various forms to create a natural and tranquil atmosphere. Firstly, various plants commonly found in Lingnan garden, such as pothos, crape myrtle, and areca palm, can be placed indoors. These plants are not only aesthetically pleasing but also help to purify the air and regulate humidity. Secondly, water elements such as flowing water ornaments, water walls, and fish tanks can also be introduced indoors. The movement and sound of water add vitality and liveliness to the space. Additionally, mini water gardens can be designed, combining plants and water features to create a small indoor natural landscape.

3.1.2. Integration of Garden Ornaments and Decorations

Ornaments such as stone carvings, wood carvings, and ceramic pieces from Lingnan garden possess strong local characteristics and artistic value. In modern interior design, these garden ornaments can be incorporated as decorative elements. For instance, placing exquisite stone carvings or wood carvings in corners, on windowsills, or on bookshelves can enhance the cultural atmosphere of the space. Additionally, ceramic vases and bonsai can be used as accents to imbue the indoor environment with the charm of Lingnan garden. Screens and partitions can also be utilized to organically integrate these ornaments with the indoor space, creating a unified design style.

3.2. Application of Architectural Layout Elements

3.2.1. Spatial Segmentation and Sense of Layers

Lingnan garden emphasize spatial segmentation and a sense of layering, using clever layouts to create a distinct sense of depth and winding paths. In modern interior design, this feature can be emulated by using various partitioning methods such as screens, bookshelves, and green walls to divide the space into multiple functional areas. This approach maintains the openness of the space while adding a sense of layering and privacy. Furthermore, designing platforms of different heights and using various materials and colors for flooring can also enhance the sense of layering, making the interior environment richer and more diverse.

3.2.2. Design Concept of Dynamic and Static Elements

Lingnan garden focus on the combination of dynamic and static elements, creating a harmonious environment through the interplay of movement and stillness. In modern interior design, this concept can be applied to create comfortable and pleasant living spaces. For example, dynamic elements such as water features and dynamic lighting installations can be set indoors to complement static furniture and decorations, forming a visual contrast between movement and stillness. Additionally, transitional spaces such as corridors and buffer zones can be designed between different functional areas, enhancing the fluidity and layering of the overall interior layout.

3.3. Application of Decorative Art Elements

3.3.1. Selection of Colors and Materials

The choice of colors and materials in Lingnan garden is diverse, commonly featuring natural materials such as wood, stone, and ceramics, as well as natural color tones like green, red, and brown. In modern interior design, these color and material choices can be borrowed to create a natural and cozy atmosphere. For example, using wooden furniture, stone decorations, and ceramic ornaments, combined with the color schemes of Lingnan garden, can enhance the natural ambiance of the indoor environment. Additionally, combining different materials such as wood and stone, or bamboo and ceramics, can add layers and texture to the space.

3.3.2. Modern Interpretation of Traditional Decorative Patterns

Traditional decorative patterns found in Lingnan garden, such as flowers and birds, landscapes, and cloud motifs, carry rich cultural connotations and artistic value. In modern interior design, these traditional patterns can be modernized and incorporated into interior decor. For instance, modern-style traditional pattern prints can be used on walls, carpets, and curtains, preserving the distinctive features of Lingnan garden while meeting contemporary aesthetic standards.

By exploring the application of Lingnan garden elements in modern interior design, it is evident that these elements can not only enhance the aesthetic and cultural value of indoor environments but also create healthier and more comfortable living spaces. In the future, with the continuous advancement of design concepts and technology, the application of Lingnan garden elements in modern interior design is expected to become more extensive and profound. (Table 3)

Table 3. The application strategy of Lingnan garden elements in modern interior design.

Application method	Illustration	Function	Common combination
Introduction of Plants and Water Features		Create a Natural Atmosphere Aesthetic, Increase Air Humidity, Purify the Air	Flowing Water Ornament, Water Wall, Fish Tank, Mini Water Garden
Integration of Garden Ornaments and Decorations		Enhance Cultural Atmosphere of the Space	Stone Carving, Wood Carving, Ceramic Ornament, Screen
Spatial Segmentation and Sense of Layers		Maintain Space Openness, Enhance Spatial Layering, Increase Spatial Privacy	Screen, Bookshelf, Green Plant Wall, High and Low Platforms, Different Material Flooring

Design Concept of Dynamic and Static Elements		Create a Harmonious Environment, Increase Spatial Fluidity, Enhance Spatial Layering	Water Feature, Dynamic Light and Shadow Installation, Corridor Buffer Zone
Selection of Colors and Materials		Create a Warm Natural Atmosphere, Increase Spatial Texture, Enhance Spatial Layering	Natural Materials, use Green, Red, and Brown Tones
Modern Interpretation of Traditional Decorative Patterns		Enhance Environmental Aesthetics, Increase Cultural Value	Desktop, Wall Surface, Carpet, Curtains (With Traditional Pattern Prints)

4. Design Strategies

4.1. Design Strategies for Natural Landscape Elements

Diverse Plant Arrangements: Select common plants from the Lingnan region, such as areca palms, bamboo, and bougainvillea, to create a natural and rich green landscape through diverse plant arrangements. Plants can be placed in courtyards, balconies, windowsills, and other areas to enhance the natural atmosphere of both indoor and outdoor environments.

Water Feature Design: Design small water features indoors or in courtyards, such as fish tanks, flowing water ornaments, and water walls. The movement and sound of water can increase the dynamic beauty and comfort of the space. When choosing the location for water features, consider the relationship between light, sightlines, and space to make the water feature a highlight of the interior.

Integration of Nature and Function: Combine plants and water features with functional indoor spaces. For example, place a green wall in a workspace to beautify the environment while helping to purify the air and regulate humidity. Set up water features in rest areas to provide a relaxing and contemplative environment.

4.2. Design Strategies for Architectural Layout Elements

Flexible Space Segmentation: Use elements such as screens, partitions, bookshelves, and green walls to flexibly divide indoor spaces. This approach maintains the openness and transparency of the space while creating a clearly defined and layered spatial structure. The design of partitions should consider materials, colors, and heights to ensure coordination with the overall space style.

Enhancing Sense of Layers: Enhance the sense of layers through methods such as differences in floor height, ceiling design, and wall decoration. For example, use platform designs to distinguish between the living room and dining area, adding a three-dimensional effect through varying heights.

Combination of Dynamic and Static Elements: Apply the concept of combining dynamic and static elements in design, clearly dividing dynamic and static areas. Dynamic areas such as living rooms, kitchens, and entertainment areas should maintain fluidity and openness. Static areas such as bedrooms, study rooms, and meditation rooms should focus on privacy and quietness. Through clever layouts and partition designs, ensure the harmonious coexistence of dynamic and static areas.

4.3. Design Strategies for Decorative Art Elements

Selection of Colors and Materials: Choose natural materials and colors, such as wood, stone, and bamboo, to create a warm and natural atmosphere. Color combinations should emphasize harmony and contrast. Using soft tones and textured materials can add layers and artistic sense to the space.

Modern Interpretation of Traditional Patterns: Modernize traditional Lingnan decorative patterns such as flowers and birds, landscapes, and cloud motifs, and integrate them into wall surfaces, furniture, and fabrics. Utilize modern techniques and design methods to give new life to traditional patterns while preserving their cultural connotations.

Combination of Decoration and Function: Consider functional needs in decorative design, such as in lighting, furniture, and wall decorations. Focus on aesthetics as well as practicality. Through clever design, organically combine decorative and functional elements to make the space both beautiful and functional.

5. Conclusions

Through the study of the application of Lingnan garden elements in modern interior design, it is evident that these elements not only possess aesthetic value but also enhance the comfort and cultural ambiance of spaces, fostering harmony between humans, nature, and space. The use of diverse plant arrangements and water feature designs can create a natural and pleasant indoor environment. In the application of architectural layout elements, flexible space segmentation, enhanced layering, and the combination of dynamic and static elements create a clearly defined, harmonious, and unified spatial structure. In the application of decorative art elements, the selection of colors and materials, the modern interpretation of traditional patterns, and the combination of decoration and function imbue the interior space with cultural connotations and artistic charm.

In the future, as people place greater emphasis on the natural environment and cultural heritage, the application of Lingnan garden elements in modern interior design will become more widespread and profound. This not only helps to enhance the aesthetic value and practicality of interior design but also preserves and promotes Lingnan culture, adding a unique charm to modern life. Through continuous exploration and innovation, Lingnan garden elements will undoubtedly play a greater role in modern interior design, creating a more beautiful and healthy living environment.

Conflicts of Interest

The author 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.

References

- [1] (Ming)Ji, C. Garden Forging. Chongqing Publishing House, 2009.
- [2] Yue, Y. Exploration of the Pursuit of Natural Style in Interior Design. *Grand Stage*, 2012, 11.
- [3] Huang, S.; Li, T.T. Aesthetic characteristics and contemporary application of traditional Chinese gardens. *Beauty and Times (City Edition)*, 2023, 09.
- [4] Li, L.J. Talk about the garden art of Yuyin Mountain House. *Art education research*, 2015, 12.
- [5] Lu, Q. Lingnan Gardening and Aesthetics. Beijing: China Architecture and Building Press, 2005.
- [6] Li, S.Y. An analysis on the aesthetic interest of naturalism of Lingnan School. *Seek*, 2023, 04.
- [7] Hu, J. The application of natural style in interior design. *The art Sea*, 2012, 03.
- [8] Zhao,Y.M. The visual presentation of “natural wind” in contemporary Chinese interior design. *Beauty and Times (City Edition)*, 2015, 10.
- [9] Zhang, Q.N.; Zhong, X. Architecture and environment symbiosis, human and nature harmonious integration--Guangzhou Nansha Lingnan Garden Resort Hotel design. *Architectural skill*, 2019, 06.
- [10] Wu, Z.B. The influence of Lingnan culture and natural background on the characteristics of Lingnan garden is discussed. *Architecture and decoration*, 2007, 07.



© 2024 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/>)