

Design Strategies for Host-Guest Sharing in Fishery Culture-Themed Cultural Tourism Spaces from the Perspective of Productive Landscapes

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Received: 1 May 2026; **Accepted:** 25 May 2026; **Published:** 17 June 2026

Abstract:

The profound transformation of rural cultural tourism has driven traditional fishing villages to transition from production spaces to consumption spaces. However, current landscape renewal practices often fall into the “de-production” pitfall, resulting in the deprivation of local workspaces and the dual alienation of physical spaces and social relationships. This article analyzes the current pain points of cultural tourism spaces in traditional fishing villages, explores the core values of integrating the “productive landscape” concept, and proposes micro-intervention design strategies for host-guest sharing from three dimensions: flexible spatial superposition, the tectonic translation of materiality, and the softening of behavioral boundaries. Through the spatial stitching of authentic production processes and modern aesthetics, this article emphasizes the dismantling of the binary opposition between production and consumption, aiming to achieve functional symbiosis and psychological alignment between host and guest groups. It is hoped to provide a practical, low-intervention, and highly authentic sustainable renewal paradigm for fishing villages, offering reference and inspiration for research and practice in rural spatial justice and resilience.

Keywords:

Traditional Fishing Village, Productive Landscape, Host-Guest Sharing, Cultural Tourism Regeneration, Spatial Design

1. Introduction

Along with the intensive development of rural cultural tourism, traditional fishing villages are currently undergoing a drastic transition from “production spaces” to “consumption spaces.” However, current landscape renewal practices often fall into the pitfall of “de-production,” blindly pursuing sheer visual aesthetics, which results in the forced eradication of local residents’ workspaces for fishing labor. Such spatial deprivation not only triggers a “host-guest game” between local villagers and external tourists, but also strips the fishing villages of their most authentic atmosphere of daily life.

2. The Practical Significance of Integrating the Concepts of “Productive Landscape” and “Host-Guest Sharing” into Fishing Village Cultural Tourism

During the profound transitional period of rural cultural tourism, introducing the concepts of “productive landscape” and “host-guest sharing” into the spatial renewal of traditional fishing villages is not merely a physical environmental repair, but a deep restructuring of rural socio-spatial relationships. This perspective breaks away from the obsolete path of “museumifying” vernacular heritage in traditional development, advocating for the transformation of authentic daily labor scenes—such as net drying and sorting—into living landscape elements. This approach enables fishing villages to maintain their internal productive momentum while achieving the authentic continuation of the regional cultural context. The host-guest sharing mechanism, established upon a genuine production foundation, further serves as an effective shield to safeguard rural “spatial justice.” Through flexible site planning and the insertion of mixed-use functions, the living and social spaces of local residents are protected from the encroachment of excessive commercialization, thereby fundamentally dissolving the conflict of spatial interests between external cultural tourism capital and local communities. The rurality of fishing village tourism is primarily manifested in its physical landscape and culture. The physical landscape serves as the foundation of tourism development, whereas culture is its core [1]. More importantly, this unembellished, productive “authentic atmosphere of daily life” perfectly aligns with modern tourists’ profound demand for immersive experiences. It not only endows traditional fishing villages with the core competitiveness to break through the homogenization dilemma of “a thousand villages sharing one face,” but also provides a sustainable spatial paradigm for the benign symbiosis between cultural tourism industry development and local community revitalization.

3. Current Pain Points of “De-production” in the Cultural Tourism Spaces of Traditional Fishing Villages

In recent years, with the rapid development of the tourism industry, coastal fishing villages in China have successively entered a stage of massive development. The landscape environment has been somewhat damaged, and the folk culture attached to the lives of local residents is also gradually disappearing [2]. In the wave of capital-driven cultural tourism development, the renewal of traditional fishing villages often falls into the trap of excessively pursuing visual landscapes and commercial efficiency. This tendency toward “de-production” at the expense of local working spaces directly leads to the dual alienation of both physical spaces and social relationships within fishing villages. This is specifically manifested in the following three dimensions of pain points:

3.1. Hardening of the Production Base and the Loss of Flexible Working Fields

The daily labor of traditional fisheries highly relies on the flexible, rugged, and informal “gray spaces” along waterfront areas, such as open mudflats for mending fishing nets, gravel slopes for sorting mooring ropes, or gentle tidal flats for drying catches. Although seemingly “disorderly,” these spaces form the spatial foundation for fishermen to sustain their generational wisdom of survival. However, current rural landscape transformations mostly adopt the standardized logic of urban municipal engineering, leaning toward the use of large-scale concrete paving, uniform rigid

flood-control dykes, and enclosed landscape greenbelts, which results in the rigid dissection and hardening of the originally organic “water-shore-village” ecotone. This inflexible spatial displacement not only destroys the originally organic ecological micro-environment but also imposes an implicit “spatial deprivation” on villagers at the physical level. As this hardscaping progresses, original informal spaces are leveled on a large scale, leaving local residents without the public working fields upon which they depend for their livelihoods. Ubiquitous production behaviors, such as net mending and sorting, are forced to retreat into narrow indoors or are completely eradicated. Consequently, the intrinsic productive momentum that sustains the fishing village is thoroughly extracted. The space presents a refined yet indifferent aesthetic landscape, completely bidding farewell to its once rugged and vibrant production atmosphere.

3.2. Stagnation of Fishery Symbols and the Stripping of Authentic Experiential Scenes

At the level of cultural display, “de-production” plunges fishing villages into a severe crisis of symbolization and false narratives. During cultural tourism renovations, abandoned wooden boats, rusted anchors, and old fishing gear—which carry the somatic memories of fishermen and were originally organic components of dynamic labor processes—are often forcibly stripped from their practical context, solidified into “static sculptures” or “window displays” merely for tourists to take photos. This landscape treatment, which de-functionalizes and de-laborizes production tools, essentially severs the core dynamic production logic within fishing culture. More seriously, this approach constructs a false landscape order: once-authentic fishery production facilities, after being finely polished and repainted, are displayed merely as symbols, losing the labor processes and temporal accumulation behind them. During their visits, tourists are forced into becoming mere “visual consumers.” Due to the lack of embodied perception of authentic fishing, mending, and processing procedures, this superficial novelty-seeking behavior makes it impossible to foster a profound, localized tourism experience. The fishing village culture is reduced to shallow, flat labels, losing the cultural vitality and authentic historical depth on which its survival depends.

3.3. Rigid Severance of Host-Guest Behavioral Interfaces and the Vacuum of Social Interaction Spaces

To solve immediate problems, some regions treat recreational fisheries as a lifesaver rather than supporting and protecting them. Disregarding the interests of recreational fisheries, they develop blindly and rush in all at once, resulting in a disorganized and chaotic recreational fishery market. The cultural essence of recreational fishery development is lost, and distinct characteristics are lacking [3]. Driven by the goals of facilitating management and maximizing commercial profits, the planning and layout of many fishing villages artificially delineate clear “tourist consumption zones” and “villager living zones.” This rigid spatial zoning erects an invisible barrier between the host and guest groups, obstructing their natural convergence in daily life. On the one hand, villagers excluded from the core cultural tourism areas are reduced to a “backdrop” on the periphery of the scenic spots, losing their sense of belonging and spatial identity; on the other hand, tourists situated in completely commercialized, enclosed loops find it difficult to encounter authentic local culture and customs. The lack of shared nodes capable of hosting the common

behaviors of both hosts and guests—such as daily transactions, casual chats, and pauses—results in a severe vacuum of public interaction spaces.

4. Design Strategies for Host-Guest Sharing from the Perspective of Productive Landscapes

In response to the crises of “de-production” and spatial alienation faced by traditional fishing villages during their cultural tourism transition, environmental design should transcend mere visual beautification and return to a deep respect for the laws of rural production and life. It is necessary to prioritize ecology, put people first, ensure the sustainable development of industries and spaces, and satisfy the needs of humanistic care and aesthetics. The construction and development of fishing village landscapes should be guided by the principles of protection, restoration, inheritance, regeneration, and development [4]. Based on the concept of the productive landscape, this study proposes micro-intervention design strategies for host-guest sharing from three dimensions: space, materiality, and behavior. This aims to achieve the profound integration of fishery labor and cultural tourism experiences within the physical space.

4.1. Flexible Spatial Superposition: Constructing Shared Fields for Temporal Multiplexing

Aiming at the problem of rigid segregation between host and guest spaces, the design needs to break the limitation of single-function sites and introduce the concept of “flexible gray space.” In the core waterfront nodes or ancient ferry areas of the village, fixed large-scale flower beds or irreversible hard landmarks should be abandoned. Instead, semi-hard paving with moderate blank spaces, such as grass-embedded bluestone slabs and permeable brick mosaics, should be adopted. By inserting modular landscape facilities such as track-mounted seating and foldable operating tables, the flexible switching and functional superposition of the site along the timeline can be realized. From early morning to noon, this field prioritizes satisfying the authentic production needs of villagers, such as sorting catches and mending fishing nets; in the afternoon and at night, with the cessation of labor and the deployment of modular facilities, the space rapidly transforms into a cultural and creative market, outdoor leisure seating, or a starry camping site for tourists. Without adding extra construction land, this temporal multiplexing (time-sharing) mechanism greatly enhances the spatial resilience of use, enabling the host and guest groups to achieve a harmonious chronological alternation within the same field.

4.2. Landscape Translation of Materiality: Tectonic Expression of Production Tools

Facing the dilemma of solidified fishery symbols, the design should transcend the simple piling up of discarded vernacular objects and employ architectural techniques to endow traditional production tools with brand-new structural attributes as landscape elements. For example, traditional wooden net-drying racks can undergo morphological deconstruction and reorganization to optimize their array proportions and spatial scales. This allows them to retain their original tool attributes when villagers hang nets for drying, while naturally transforming into large-scale shading pergolas with a rhythmic sense of light and shadow when idle. Similarly, the load-bearing keel structures of discarded wooden boats or the tensile networks of abandoned ropes can be extracted and ingeniously translated into the load-bearing components and semi-translucent shading surfaces of waterfront rest pavilions. This

approach of converting production waste into practical landscape structures not only preserves the authentic weathered textures of the materials but also allows tourists to imperceptibly perceive the tectonic wisdom of local labor while lingering and touching. This fundamentally interrupts the “scenographic” tendency of cultural tourism landscapes.

4.3. Softening Behavioral Boundaries: Interface Implantation of Immersive Labor Experiences

To break the interaction barriers in the daily behavior of host and guest groups, it is urgent to implant flexible interactive interfaces with transitional properties between enclosed tourist areas and authentic production areas. The productive activities showcased in fishing villages can stimulate tourists’ curiosity and generate a desire to learn. The content of productive activities is rich, such as drying seafood, making fishing nets and gear, and painting fishermen’s art. When tourists participate in labor experiences, it deepens their impression of the fishing village’s productive landscape [5]. The design can rely on existing low-lying revetments or tidal flats to restore some ecological ponds and composite dike-pond wetlands with actual economic output. Furthermore, sunken waterfront steps, ecological wooden boardwalks, and spacious operating platforms can be set up in accordance with the micro-topography. This land-water ecotone, which blurs the boundary between hosts and guests, serves not only as the daily labor site for local residents to conduct flowing-water aquaculture and harvest aquatic vegetables, but also naturally transforms into an experiential interface that allows tourists to deeply engage. Through local demonstrations by villagers and embodied participation by tourists—such as experiencing light labor like hauling nets, weaving, and ecological harvesting—the originally unidirectional visual sightseeing is transformed into an interactive behavior of mutual presence. Such spatial co-creation based on authentic production scenarios effectively dispels the psychological estrangement between external tourists and local villagers, reshaping the warmth and social cohesion of the fishing village’s public space.

5. Conclusions

In summary, the cultural tourism regeneration of traditional fishing villages should not be a “scenographic” reshaping at the expense of local residents’ production and daily lives; rather, it should be a spatial stitching based on a profound respect for the site’s inherent logic. By introducing the concept of the productive landscape, this study transforms fishery labor from a marginalized, passive state into a core element of landscape design. Through flexible spatial superposition, the tectonic translation of materiality, and the softening of behavioral boundaries, the design successfully achieves functional symbiosis and psychological alignment between host and guest groups within the physical realm.

This micro-intervention strategy, grounded in “host-guest sharing,” not only provides a solid spatial framework for the living heritage of fishing culture but also safeguards rural “spatial justice” across the social dimension, achieving a dynamic balance between the livelihood rights of local residents and the economic benefits of cultural tourism development. At a time when global rural tourism faces the challenge of severe homogenization, landscape reconstruction from a productive perspective offers a low-intervention, highly authentic, and sustainable renewal paradigm for fishing villages undergoing socio-economic transitions. Furthermore, it serves as a

valuable exploration for the future trajectory of rural landscape design toward greater social orientation and spatial resilience.

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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