

The Characteristics and Protection Strategies of Cultural Ancestral Temple Building in Hebei village fortresses—the case of Yuxian

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Keywords: The village fortresses, temple, culture psychology, protection strategy.

Abstract. In the traditional agricultural society, the temple is the religion-centric of the village settlement. In the villages of Yuxian fortresses, all have their own unique ancestral temple buildings which not only provide the place for residents praying, but also are local social place for defence, culture and education. With the time going, the temples become no longer the devotional, social, cultural and educational center for the local people and cultural significance of temple are gradually fading trend gradually. How to protect these unique geographical and cultural characteristics of village fortresses, historical and cultural values of these buildings and the spirit of traditional culture in village fortresses are all put forward in urgently. To solve these problems, through careful analysis in-depth, the appropriate protective measures are proposed.

Introduction

Because of the wars and the Minority Ethnic Groups Inhabited in Han dynasty, the Yuxian local people built walls around every village in order to avoid being robbed and killed. The village fortresses formed. From Yuan to Ming dynasty, "800 village fortresses" in Yuxian were built. Therefore, "village fortresses culture" is one of the most important features of Yuxian. Because of unique generative mechanism and background, traditional village fortresses in Yuxian, with defensive settlement type, have the characteristics of Jizhong regional architecture. With contemporary large scale construction of urban and rural areas, the traditional village fortresses in Yuxian which have been destroyed gradually need to be paid attention to repaired and protected. In the village fortresses, the best preserved buildings are gates, temples, theater and other public buildings. These buildings have their own unique architectural features with region culture characteristics and reflect the psychological needs of local residents in a particular historical period.

With the development of society, these ancient temples, as the architectural monuments of the most direct sign of feudal society in the rural areas, are destroyed wantonly. Especially with the economic development rapidly and village fortresses update quickly, the contradictions between protection and development of village fortresses in Yuxian are intensified and the protection becomes more difficult.

Fortunately, attentions have been aroused by higher authorities aiming at the situation. In November 12, 2005, the village fortresses in Yuxian have been awarded as the second installment of "historical and cultural towns in China" by Ministry of Construction and State Administration Center of Cultural Heritage, which not only are benefit to the protection to the village fortresses but also enhance the cultural confidence of local residents.

The Architectural Features of Ancestral Temples in Yuxian Village Fortresses

Chinese folk religion has its own characteristics and does not follow the boundaries of different religions strictly. In order to meet their own needs, the residents always combine the different gods that they believe in together, or put new abilities on the god according to their requirements, even create new gods. The temples of village fortresses in Yuxian are varied, the main temple, the God of wealth, the Dragon King Temple, Guanyin temple, Zhenwu temple, Mawang temple, Wenchang Pavilion and so on.

The grade and construction quality of the temple in village fortresses are the highest in the buildings of village. The temples are always built on the slopes or high pedestal, combining with gate of the fortresses that are built on or near the gate. All Chinese traditional architectures are made with wood whose roofs are Yingshan Roof with gray brick on mostly and Juanpeng roof and Xieshan roof are individual. There is the shibi on the each end of the main ridge and vertical ridges also have the tiles with animals. In the building, the colored statues of Buddha or God made by copper or clay locate in the center with the walls murals all around.

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cai Shenmiao | Long King Temple | Guan Yin Dian | Zhang shrine | Dizang temple |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| guanyin temple | Mural | Mural | guangong temple | Shengxin Church |

The ancient temples in Yuxian village fortresses become the place that not only meet requirements of villagers praying, but also provide the social space for culture and education to enrich the local people's spirit and culture in a certain period .

Categories of Ancestral Temple architecture and Its Cultural Psychology in Yuxian village fortresses

Temple Categories. Generally, there are all kinds of temples in Yuxian village fortresses located on the different place of fortresses harmoniously. They can be divided into two categories in general. the one is the ancestral temple for ancestral sacrifice with ancestral tablets in to hold rites to ancestors. the architectural forms of ancestral temple in Yuxian village fortresses are always one or three bay buildings with Yingshan roof covered by gray tiles. The ancestor worship psychology of local residents is expressed obvious in spite of the form of ancestral temple simple. The other is derived from various religious types and become the space to worship. The types of temples include Dragon King Temple, Zhenwu Temple, Mawang Temple, God of wealth, Sanguan Temple etc. even including the Church of the Sacred Heart.

Cultural Characteristics and Psychological Analysis of Temples. When disturbed state of the environment lead to material aspects of manpower to the limit, with a corresponding spiritual dependence on the gods, also gives emotional comfort, so, to worship the gods and the brightest will become local people pray for a stable life. It means. Meanwhile, devout worship of various gods and ancient fort can be seen as the spiritual requirements of the local residents who yearn for peace, tranquil life, the wish of many sons, seeking wealth and aspiration for fame. So, for local residents, the prevalent types of temples in Yuxian village fortresses are the most direct expression of the psychological needs. For example, because of Suffering from war and bandits, the local residents built some Wu Temples to satisfy the psychological needs to defend the invaders, which reflected the good wishes of the ancestors to aspire to a peaceful and stable life. the God of wealth temple also reflects the good wishes of the ancestors to seek money, blessing and fame. From the village of Fort temple folk cultural religious ideas spreading in long period, we can see that people, who are lack of knowledge in the external environment and unable to change the environment of frustration at the situation, demand for home life. They built all kinds of temples to achieve self-spiritual sustenance.

The Protective Policies to Yuxian Temple Architecture

Increase education quality and enhance self-protection awareness of grassroots cadres and local residents. After the reforms, affluent residents regard building a new house as their main pursuit in life involuntary, the old houses leaved by ancestors are considered as the dregs. Because of few people believing in God, seldom praying, the temples are neglected for lack of funds. which makes the the building of temple are on the gradual decline inevitably. for local residents, the cultural and historical value of these ancient temples is too abstract to touch and see. Grassroots cadres always do not understand the significances of these historical and cultural heritages and do not see the economic value of cultural heritage protection. Facing this situation, government propaganda departments at all levels should strengthen the education aiming at the protection of historical and cultural heritages to make the local residents know that their "old houses" have great historical and cultural value, and protect the "old houses" positively. the road of protection promoting development and then protection further is the best to these "old houses" .

propose scientific protection and development planning combined with whole and part. With the increase of the level of social development and scientific research, a global consensus has been constructed that the historical and cultural heritages have great influences on many aspects of politics, economy, culture, education and other factors and are benefits on the development of the society, economy and ecology. Our government also regarded the scientific protective and technological progress of the cultural heritages as an important part of the national strategy on the promotion of science and technology.

As the landmarks of village fortresses, the temples need to be repaired and protected continuously, it is important to make a spatial protective range and protect the natural and human environment surrounding the temples. At the same time, the experts should join in the works of evaluating the development of temple's restoration objectively, protecting the temples effectively, repairing the buildings scientifically, and promoting sustainable development of the temples.

Broaden the financing channels to protect the ancient temples and achieve the goal of sustainable development gradually. The biggest difficulty of protection and restoration to the ancient temples in Yuxian village fortresses is the shortage of funds. Unstable funding is an important reason to difficult to conduct an overall protection plan and repair construction.

In general, the funds of the renovation of ancient architectures internationally are provided by government. For example, there is 15 percent budget for culture construction in French to be used as protecting the cultural heritages. In Italy, 2 billion Euros are provided every year to ensure the protection of cultural relics.

In China, the government should increase financial support for cultural heritage protection and encourage companies and NGO funding.

In addition, if the fund provided by government can not be invested in time, the local residents should be required to protect and repair the important buildings such as gate , temples and other valuable ancient buildings in village fortresses as obligation in slack season with the money of materials provided by village committee. On this basis, through integrating culture of village fortresses, attracting tourists, promoting economic development and improving the living standards of local residents , the road of sustainable development of "snowball" type is constructed.

Conclusions

1. the valuable historical relics must be retained intactly with original appearance maintained and never modified absolutely. 2. the development of local tourism can be accelerated if the temples and other valuable ancient buildings are protected effectively which can promote the prosperity of the local economy. 3. The protection of temples in village fortresses maintenance, not only meet the spiritual needs of the occupants, but also enhance the moral self-discipline of local residents because of worshipping the gods. To some extent, worshipping the gods makes people forming good honest characteristics and helping each other in harmony which help village fortresses to achieve stability and unity.

Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by Education Reform project of Hebei University of Technology (201504025), Hebei Higher Education Institute Higher Education research project (GJXH2015-256) and Education Reform project of Hebei University of Technology (201304057)

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