

## Discussion on Teaching Method of Landscape architecture Design Course

-----Written as a Visiting Scholar at South China University of Technology

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**Abstract.** Combined with the studying experience gained in the workroom of Dean He of South China University of Technology (SCUT) as a visiting scholar, this paper recount how Dean He lead the design group to design Xiang'an campus of Xiamen University and Zhuhai opera house and how he run through his creation concept in it, meanwhile, this paper also introduce Dean He's academic report, recount the things and feelings learned from He and the thought caused by the learning experience.

### Introduction

Landscape architecture design course is the specialized course of Landscape architecture major which emphasize on the student's comprehensive using ability of knowledge. Through the study of this course, students can understand the basic principles and methods in architectural design. In the design process, students are asked to learn and master the general theories of Landscape architecture construction and the space thinking methods in order to cultivate the student's rigorous diligence and truth-seeking spirit and to cultivate the student's strong comprehensive ability in architectural design thus make a good preparation for the practical ability as a registered architects and designers.

For the purpose of better cultivate the students and improve the teaching ability, the writer gin the opportunity to study as a visiting scholar at SCUT and learn from Dean He about the concerned knowledge.

### Background Introduction

Jingtang He is a design master in the fields of architectural creation, academic research and Landscape architecture education. In recent years, he has made great contribution to campus and cultural construction fields.

In architectural creation aspect, he has designed more than 100 major projects successively. Among theses results, 35 items was awarded as excellent designation by nation, ministries and provinces, including 1 gold award and 2 copper award of national; 11 first prize and 10second prize. In the academic research, he rooted lingnan(south of the Five Ridges), proposes two view----- holistic view and sustainable development and three characteristics ----- regionalism, culture, temporal spirit in architectural philosophy and creative ideology. He also published four treatise and research papers; what's more, he published a great deal of research papers in some National core journals and promotes our modern architectural theory research and exploration.

In Landscape architecture education aspect, he cultivated a large number of architectural talents for nation. Dean Jingtang He said to study Landscape architecture, the first thing that we should do is to learn how to behave. Architects should have virtue. In teaching, he paid attention to both students exercise of creative thinking, the enhancement of student's innovation ability and the cultivation of future architect character, emphasizes modestly, diligent, cooperation spirit of a architect. The range area and workload is big in Modern Landscape architecture creation, and it related to many areas, such as social, political, economic, cultural, scientific etc, it needs collective wisdom and strength, rather than a man, so must we should learn how to cooperate with others[1].

## **Studying Period-----Design Communication**

From the ordinary architect's point of view, Dean He Jingtang has some mysterious aura. The first time we meet was in his office, at that time, I feel both nervous and joy. After mutual introduction, with warm smile, Dean He welcomed me actively to their university and their workroom. His Simple sentences let me relaxed suddenly. He likes a kind elderly people, concerned about my study in SCUT, asked my request, and arranges my study and work reasonable according to the my actual situation and time.

Dean He Jingtang, about 70 years old, has kept agile and careful thought and exuberant creativity. His two view-----holistic view and sustainable development and three characteristics ----- regionalism, culture, temporal spirit in architectural philosophy and creative ideology embody a lot of architectural creations. Here introduce several different complete team works mainly under the guidance of HeYuanChang during my study in south China University of technology.

**Genera Design of Xiangnan Campus of Xiamen University.** Go with the right time of this project, with the total land area of nearly 9,000 acres and the 141 million square meters of school construction area , Xiamen university has three campus, including school-based department, Zhangzhou campus and Xiangnan campus, the student's apartments basically realize "421" target. Among them, Xiangnan campus of Xiamen University is situated in the southeast direction of Xiangnan distict, that is north part of Xiangnan South Road and the south part of Queniaoji, within the area of 2,430,707.95 square meters (total land area 3,645 mu). Xiangnan campus of Xiamen university intends to arrange 30,000 full-time students and 5,000 staff's study, life, teaching, scientific research and experiment, etc.

The surrounding areas of Xiamen University located in eastern part of Xiamen city and the southeast coast of Xiang'an district. The eastern part borders on Nan'an city; the other side of the river is Da Yu Island and Jinmen County. The northern part of it is the Fragrant Hills which is a provincial scenic spot. Xiamen University is designed by the famous patriotic overseas Chinese leader Mr.Chen Jiageng and was founded in 1921. Mr. Chen determined the style feature at the beginning of campus building. He designed the unique architectural and the campus building plan elaborately combined the western especially southeast Asia's building features with the local traditional folk culture. This style of Landscape architecture is called "the jiageng buildings". Xiamen University's cultural construction concern a lot of the culture of minnan(southern Fujian province) and the traditional culture of jiageng buildings, meanwhile, Dean He also requires the campus design should take Mr. Chen's building spirit and Architectural style. This reflects the two of the three characteristics put forward by Dean which are regionalism and culture.

The first discussion of the design members was on September 1. Firstly, they analyzed the building site and the construction characteristics of Jiageng buildings; what's more, they showed a great number of pictures. And everybody discussed actively. Finally, Dean He put forward two guiding suggestions from two aspects: On one hand, the planning should be noticed on the relationship between yin and yang (mountain for Yang and water for Yin), and mutual penetration and harmony should be paid more attention to between them; the left of the building site should be constructed based on the landform to conform a yard, while the right side should be more regular and conform like a grid, with water made yard, scatter to relative neat, composition similar to the, water through it in order to break the grid and look more flexible. the other aspect is the function and three points should be focused on: First, with the primary concern of the college, we should pay attention to the relationship between students' dormitory and the college, and in order to make a good teaching atmosphere, it relates the layout of the gateway. Secondly, the whole context must be clear, and we should make a clear distinction between campus primary and secondary campus building. Finally, the space should be combined with the landscape, and we should make full use of the building site characteristics to make the density proper among all the buildings. This fully embodies the two views proposed by Dean He--- the overall view.

After Dean He arranged the duty, everybody went back to do the related work and made the next appoint time. The second group discussion has made a reasonable area allocation of different functional partition. According to their plan, the third discussion is to make the model (mainly dimension) in order to analyze.

Several discussions were road system, relationships of each big function subareas after that. For different opinions, Dean He divided them into three groups, each present the scheme according to their own idea and meanwhile(refer with :Fig. 1), he request everyone should thought have the open mind and prepare the next discussion. For one primary and four secondary of jiageng' buildings, we also discussed several times about how to embody the idea of "one primary and four secondary building" of main building and co-exist with the integral campus space. During this time, we saw slides frequently and have a deeper understanding the characteristics of the jiageng' buildings.

Dean He began to "close" that is forming the final plan after the fierce discussion.



Fig. 1 One Group Discussion

In the whole planning design of Xiang'an campus, each discussions, Dean He's two views and three characteristics of building can be seen everywhere, and at the same time, he can guide our architectural design in a proper time. According to each group's creation view and comprehend Dean He's meaning, they have achieved the final agreement and completed architectural design after several times dissuasions.

**Zhuhai Opera House.** Located in the reclamation area of north of Yeli island of Xiangzhou district in Zhuhai city, Zhuhai opera house takes about 17 million square meters. The total investment of the project is 10.8 billion. The project covers an area of 50,000 square meters, with a total construction area of 4.3 million square meters, including 1600 block comprehensive theatre, 400 seats multi-function hall and other auxiliary facilities. This project aims to build city landmark buildings. It is required to satisfy the need of such large variety shows as opera, dance, drama, symphony and play, and should have the conditions and ability to accept world-class art performance group.

After the arrangement has been made, Dean He arrange the design members to collect data, this include the on-the-spot survey and the comprehension of local cultural customs, etc. On September 5, Dean He put forward the basic requirements: base construction is the primary concern, architectural design is required to be pure and more attention should be paid to the landscape across from the building. Wharf is an important issue and we should concern more about it. Building should be combined with the environment, the height of the mountain should be considered and the opera house can be seen through it. Dean He also requires the flexible thinking of everyone; at the same they should fully consider the base itself status and urban landscape.

In the following discussion, each group puts forward his own ideas, such as plan one: fishing nets cover architectural entity, and make a mutual echo with the sea. This likes pay out a net and also likes the extension of the landslides. Dean He suggested that the following building can be pruned away. He thought that mountain road has a poor coordination with the massif itself. In general, he thought the integrity is strong of this scheme and he suggested that net should not only make the epidermis, but also should be made combined with the construction in order to looks better. Scheme will be built into a fold face form, Dean He thought that it should to bedding face but not too high, and building should be purity.

In the whole discussion activities, Dean He always listen to the opinions from each design members, questioned and put forward some guiding opinions, these include his two views covers and three characteristics in building(refer with: Fig. 2).



Fig. 2 Discussion

In each discussion, the scene is quiet, no matter who give the presentation, others listen respectfully, occasionally have not clear whispered between each other. When Say happy things, everyone will also send happy laughter. Discuss table and workshop are very close, but the discussion had no interference to other workers. Everything seems so quiet, harmonious and orderly. It is the core characters – Dean He who has the strong cohesion and excellent leadership skill that make such a good team. He is the spiritual leader of the group. We should say it is nervous and pleasant to work in this team. We feel nervous because there are many projects to deal with and we feel happy because of the harmonious atmosphere in the group.

Although I stayed in Dean He's workroom with a short time, but when I left, I still miss their working environment and atmosphere. Not only I have learned his architectural ideas during my study there, but also learn how to lead a team for architectural design in teaching, how to use of teaching methods flexible.

### Academic Reports.

There are a lot of academic reports in SCUT, Dean He also take out time to do an academic report. The topic is understood Landscape architecture, learn Landscape architecture and create building, subtitle is the cultivation of architects.

The firstly one is the comprehensive understanding of the Landscape architecture and architectural design.

He discussed it from four aspects.

The nature and purpose of building; duplicity and comprehensive of building; diversity and unity of building; People-oriented, applicable, economics, aesthetics is the eternal theme of architectural design.

Secondly, learning Landscape architecture according to the characteristics of the specialty

Dean He said it is necessary to a grasp overall rudimentary knowledge of Landscape architecture and make a good fundamentals skills; to observe frequently, do practice diligently and be good at thinking. When saying here, Dean He presented his picture of hands-on exercises and English learning when he was a student. (refer with: Fig. 3); to learn dialectical creative thinking; finally he also talked about the architect's literacy problems. He thinks that a good architect should have both a mathematician logical thinking ability, and also have the artist image thinking ability; Both must know  $1 + 1 = 2$  ability, it should also cultivate  $1 + 1$  does not equal to 2 which is dialectical thinking ability, learn and master dialectical analysis and methods to solve the problems. Dean He also thinks that a good architect should have creative spirit, constantly self-denial tolerance and the attention the cultivation of original thinking. The teaching idea has a guiding role to the architectural design course.



Fig. 3 the Sketch

### Thinking after Learning

In the modern society, the current reform of China is in the key moment, many people consider money first, and many architects can't calm down to carefully think about how about their attainment and what they have done. Whether our design is just the embodiment of a leadership or a department, or like Dean He to insist on his own of architectural creation view?

Our education system should be focused on how to cultivate our future architect: Tell them how to cultivate their architectural creation, to cultivate their literacy and building moral, train them to have a good team cooperation spirit and make full use of the power of a group... These are the problems that we should focus on.

### Summary

Because of the limited time, I participated a few projects during my study in SCUT, and I have attended the two seminar of the projects introduced above. Though time is very short, but I have achieved a lot. Not only on professional knowledge, but also includes teamwork and how to lead a team, how to guide architectural design... , the things I have learned from the masters still need to be digested slowly and then become my things. Still, there are many things deserved to be learned from Dean He Jingtang, and I hope to have the chance to go there to learn.

### Acknowledgement

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### References

- [1] Information on <http://hejingtang.114news.com/build/02/4502-77800.html>