Research on the Application of Lotus Elements in Garden Architecture

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Abstract. "Lotus" is known as "living fossil", is one of the earliest origin plants in angiosperms, in the long history of thousands of years, the form and use of lotus has changed many times. Under the wisdom and cultural choices of the people, "lotus" elements began to develop, which is not only a decorative element of garden architecture, but also widely used as a medium for conveying feelings and spiritual sustenance. Starting from the development history and functional characteristics of lotus, this paper studies the material application and composition characteristics of "lotus" elements in ancient garden architecture, explores the symbolic meaning and cultural connotation behind it, and provides reference value for the application of other traditional elements in modern architecture in the future.

Keywords: "Load" element; "Lotus" culture; Landscape architecture; Cultural spirit.

1. Introduction

Chinese lotus is one of the top ten famous flowers in ancient times, which has medicinal value and cultural value. Lotus is also an important part of Chinese tradition. There are countless poems written by ancient Jiangnan literati to describe or use lotus. It played an important role in ancient garden life and garden construction. Its shape is used in garden architecture, carved on walls, etc. [1].

Starting from the element of "lotus", this paper studies Chinese traditional garden architecture and contemporary architecture, and explores the expression form of "lotus" element in garden architecture. Examples such as Shizilin Fan Pavilion, Humble Administrator's Garden, China National Stadium, Shanghai Grand Opera House, etc. are also listed to study the contemporary innovative application of fan culture and provide references for other design practices[2].

2. The "Lotus" Element

2.1 The history of the lotus is exquisite

"Lotus" has a long history. "Lotus" is one of the earliest plants in angiosperms. "Shuo Wen Jie word" contains: "Daphne Qu ye." Lotus "also known as lotus, a water Zhi. Buds call lotus houses, lotus seeds call lotus seeds." In the Western Zhou Dynasty, lotus flowers had gone from the wild state of the marsh near the lake to the ponds in the fields of the ancient people.

The Ming Dynasty began to record the medicinal value of lotus, "Food herbs" described the medicinal value of each part of lotus. Lotus uses its practical, medical value into the lives of the people, but also with its elegant and elegant color and posture deep into the spiritual world of literati.

From the pre-Qin period to the end of the Qing Dynasty, there are 550 ancient poems with lotus as the main object of description, and there are countless literary works with hundreds of lotus descriptions, fully demonstrating the love of ancient Chinese literati for lotus.

2.2 The cultural connotation of lotus elements

From its earliest wild state near the lake to its entry into People's Daily life and the object of poetry praise, lotus has been endowed with many meanings and cultural connotations and thoughts. Not only the way of use has changed, but also people's thoughts about its interior have changed and enriched[3].

Lotus element image has a certain symbolic significance in Chinese traditional religious culture, and lotus element is a classic symbol of Chinese Buddhism. Buddhist works such as the Heart Sutra
have chosen to use lotus flowers as the intention to explain the Dharma. During the prevalence of ancient Buddhism, lotus elements in Buddhist architecture were widely spread in ancient times. Many of the Longmen Grottoes and Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang are decorated with lotus engravings. In Buddhism, lotus is also called lotus, and the lotus is compared to Buddha, so it is the flower that best represents Buddhism. Just because the lotus has five characteristics related to Buddhism: first, the virtue of sludge, second, the virtue of a stem and a flower, third, the virtue of flowers and fruits at the same time, fourth, the virtue of a flower with many fruits, fifth, the virtue of the middle empty outside.

Taoism calls lotus the flower of DaoRuihua, which symbolizes the five turdities and evil world without staining the turdities, and regards lotus as the only high water practitioner in the world. Taoism developed from the Eastern Han Dynasty to the Tang Dynasty and reached its peak. Lotus flowers are also widely used in Taoist Spaces. In the space of Taoist temples, the shadow walls, railings, external walls and roofs are all decorated with wonderful and rich lotus images, symbolizing the purity and inaction of Taoism. Lotus in the five turbidities evil world and cumin a body, independent Gao Hua, bathed in manna, root Tizha mud. Such a spiritual creation, looking at it, elegant spirit, Xiang yuan Yi Qing, objective can not be obscene, in the eyes of Taoism, it is indeed rare and graceful gentleman, attach importance to character and cultivate virtue. Through the spread of Taoism, the lotus element became an auspicious symbol of truth, goodness and beauty in the eyes of the Chinese people, and also made similar images contain their virtues.

2.3 Application of the functions and characteristics of lotus in ancient Chinese dwellings

The folk houses in Ming and Qing dynasties pay special attention to decorative carving, its images not only have the role of beautifying decoration, but also have its deep cultural connotation, pay attention to "must decorate the picture, the picture must be intentional, the meaning must be auspicious". Therefore, because of its rich religious and cultural connotation and the literati's meaning for its truth, goodness and beauty, lotus element has important cultural research value in ancient dwellings[4].

Lotus elements are used in the decoration of ox legs, brick carving "ingots", stone carving balustrades, capitals and other architectural components. These architectural patterns reflect the ancient Chinese people's pursuit of aesthetics for thousands of years, praise for the quality of truth, kindness and beauty, and good wishes for the perfection of moral ethics.

Ancient China is a feudal Confucian society, based on the clan system, the clan culture is a fine tradition of Confucianism, respect for the family, emphasis on education and husband and wife. These are highly consistent with the beautiful symbolic connotation of the lotus flower. Using the lotus flower to promote the prevalence of Confucianism, and extending the lotus element to its inner meaning, gradually formed the social ethical atmosphere of the ancient times, which is "helping people's ethics and promoting education". In the use of images, it reached the role of punishing evil and promoting good and promoting LUN education, and comprehensively applied the religious ethics and the ancient perceptual aesthetic together. Formed a unique Oriental aesthetic architectural decoration. Figure 1.
3. The application of "load" elements in classical garden architecture

3.1 Lotus images in ancient buildings

In ancient China, people gathered together to strengthen the clan etiquette. Relatives and neighbors should live in harmony. This clan belief coincides with the connotation of the lotus image. Lotus elements are embellished and decorated in the interior space of the ancestral hall, and the beautiful vision of the clan life is happy and harmonious. Among them, lotus elements are often combined with waterfowl and fish to form a variety of carving and decoration themes. Among them, residential gatehouses, railings, capitals, hall doors and other building components fully show the decorative structure characteristics of various spatial forms.

The specific image description scene of the life of the clan of lotus elements is mainly to depict the lotus pond and lotus flowers, and often to carve with plants and flowers to enrich the picture scene. Usually through the description of vivid animals playing in the water scene to symbolize the family's children live and work in peace and happiness[5].

The ancient society also pays attention to clan inheritance, and the marriage system is an important content for the Chinese clan etiquette. Therefore, lotus flowers are often used as a symbol of pure love between husband and wife, and lotus seeds are also implied as a symbol of family abundance and happiness. In ancient marriage customs, the newlyweds will tie two fruit bags on their hands, there is love between husband and wife, and flowers, and the bag is loaded with lotus seeds and flowers, and there is a good meaning of early birth of your son. This marriage image will also be reflected in the couple's bedroom, hall, sedan chair. The carved flowers on the bedroom bed will be matched with lotus elements and animal figures to form various combinations. Lotus mandarin duck, He and two immortals are often used and appear on the bridal sedan in the entrance hall. Wish the couple a hundred years of good union and family harmony through the drawing intention.

Worship of literature and education, the social atmosphere of Confucianism is strong. The pure and honest picture symbol of lotus has become an important symbolic carrier of Confucianism. The carved wooden doors of the hall are often engraved with lotus element statues. For example, all the way glory, gold list title and other words. The graphic inscription is also often accompanied by antique artifacts and views of the pond. Lotus inserted into the bottle, with guqin, literary play, etc., showing the ancient style recluse, leisure and elegant life. Encourage their children to work hard and gain fame.
The true portrayal of the imperial career is "Wanshi family style but thick, hundred years of career in reading." Good family must be good, good children and grandchildren must read.

3.2 Lotus element decoration construction

Dongyang wood carving is the cultural carrier of the textbook of ancient Chinese traditional culture. The combination of the profound meaning behind the lotus and the unique primitive organic texture in the wood carving reflects the original Confucian ethical phenomenon. The lotus element uses the characteristic of wood carving to show the elegant and elegant, pure and beautiful temperament, reflecting the practical and aesthetic design concept. Wood carving "lotus" mainly adopts the carving techniques of flat bas-relief and line engraving, and chooses pine, fir and other materials with soft and delicate texture. Flat bas-relief is the most common carving technique of lotus wood skirt board, which is similar to the practice of "stabilizing the Hua head and branches before the flat ground and decompressing the outer space of the surrounding leaves" in the volume of the Song Dynasty "Building French Style". The skirt board petals are mostly combined with line carving techniques. The craftsmen use lighter shadow carving lines to deal with the front petals, and the positive carving lines to highlight the back petals. The overall wood carving presents a full and rounded posture of flowers.

The lotus wood carving in Dongyang mainly includes many forms, such as budding, semi-opening, blooming and fading. Buds, also known as "lotus-buds" in ancient times, used bas-relief combined with Yang carving techniques to carve the convex form of two to four petals on the back. Such "lotus" flowers were generally carved in the middle and lower part of the skirt plate, carving with shallow lines to highlight the vertical upward posture. The number of blooming "lotus flowers" is large, which is completed by bas-relief and line carving techniques. "First, the flower head is made by bas-relief on the flat ground, and then the open space around the outside of the petals is cut off to highlight the overall flower shape." The shape of the complete carving has fourteen to twenty petals, the shape is full and round, most of them are the visual center of the picture, and the level of petal carving is deep. The wilt-like lotus, generally only engraved three or four petals, the use of more engraving techniques, petals more inward depression, showing withered, crumbling decadence. The "lotus flower" on the wood carving is rich and diverse, and a variety of combination forms, in the complex and careful to see the ancient wisdom of Huizhou people.
4. The application of lotus elements in modern garden architecture

4.1 The application of lotus elements in modern garden architecture

In the design and construction of modern architecture, lotus is still a popular design experiment, and lotus aesthetics still has a fresh and refined vitality. In modern times, with the emergence of new materials and new technologies, the application of lotus elements in garden architecture is different from the traditional way. Modern lotus elements may be expressed more from the spiritual core, expressing the profound artistic conception of fresh and refined without staining the silt.

4.2 Lotus element application case - Honfukuji Mizudo

The Shingon Temple of Honfukuji, Japan, was built in 1991 on the hill behind the Honfukuji Temple. The upper floor of the building is a lotus pond, and the underground is a Buddhist hall. The whole building slopes down from the top through the wall of the water mold, forming a very long slope.

This architectural design does not directly use the lotus element, which is concretized into a specific architectural design language. But from the spiritual connotation, to achieve elegant and fresh realm, from the spiritual dimension and lotus want to convey the same artistic conception.

This particular building, the designer Ando Tadao built the theme "temple" under a large lotus pond, from the appearance may not be able to see what it is, but walk down its stairs, you will find that there is a special sky! To get to Shuiyudo, you pass the old temple and follow a verdant path up to an open area covered with white gravel. After passing through and around two curved concrete walls, you will find an oval lotus pond. In Japanese Buddhist monasteries, huge roofs have always been the most symbolic elements. In the design of Mizuodo, water and vibrant lotus flowers were chosen as symbolic elements, and they were arranged in the space sequence dominated by the flow of people.

Modern architect Tadao Ando did more than simply reverse the elevation of tradition to sacred ground, but adopted a series of different architectural Spaces that were conceived as a series of theatres for enlightenment. Walking among the lotus flowers, it feels like a place beyond ordinary life, a combination of architecture and nature, the echo of the calm water mirror, which naturally produces meditation and asceticism.
From here, the spiritual intention of the lotus flower is promoted to the extreme by the architect Tadao Ando, who uses the architectural language to express the elegance and freshness of the temple independent of daily life. The lotus flower echoes with the water mirror, expressing the characteristics of the humble gentleman of the lotus flower to the extreme.

5. Conclusion

For the modern design of Japanese Buddhist temples, their creation of lotus artistic conception and expression of lotus aesthetics are all worthy of our study. The expression of lotus design techniques in our country needs to be improved, and we need to start from its spiritual core.

Taking Chinese classical architectural decoration as an example, through the comparison of ancient and modern, it can be found that the application of lotus elements in ancient garden architecture design is not only to simply imitate the appearance of lotus objects, but also to pay
attention to absorbing and applying the internal cultural spirit of lotus, and to make the individual building and the surrounding environment as a whole corresponding, coordinated and unified.

Due to the emergence of new materials and new technologies in modern landscape architecture, the application of lotus elements has undergone fundamental changes compared with the tradition, some of which have changed the figurative lotus to the image of the lotus, and become delicate and small to grand. In recent years, the appearance of some modern buildings has fully applied the fan element and fan culture, and has achieved good results, fully indicating that the traditional lotus culture still has strong vitality in contemporary garden architecture.

6. References


