

# **How Geographic Location and Cultural Blending Have Shaped the Traditional Village Residential Architecture: The Case of the Guilin Region, China**

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**Abstract:** This study examines how geographic location and cultural blending have shaped the traditional village residential architecture of Guilin. The research highlights the profound influence of Guilin's distinctive geographic and climatic conditions, particularly its karst landscape, subtropical monsoon climate with hot, humid summers, mild winters, and intense seasonal rainfall. These factors have dictated the architectural orientation, building layouts, and structural adaptations, with village settlements seamlessly integrated into the natural terrain. The extensive use of locally available materials such as clay, bamboo, and limestone reflect a sustainable architectural approach, well-suited to the environmental conditions. Cultural and religious influences have played an equally significant role in shaping Guilin's architectural identity. While Han culture predominates, the region's cultural diversity, with significant populations of Zhuang, Yao, and Miao ethnic communities, has fostered a rich architectural hybridity. The coexistence of these groups has resulted in integrated and adaptive designs, blending stilted homes, courtyard layouts, and decorative motifs reflective of shared cultural expressions. Furthermore, traditional Chinese philosophy and religious principles have deeply influenced architectural practices. Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism have each contributed to different aspects of design and spatial organization. However, Daoism, particularly through the application of Feng Shui principles, has exerted the most notable impact on residential architecture, guiding house alignment, placement, and harmony with the natural surroundings. This research underscores Guilin's architectural uniqueness, where environmental adaptation and cultural synthesis have shaped sustainable and symbolically rich built environments.

**Keywords:** Guilin Architecture, Geographic and Cultural Factors Affecting Architecture, Coexistence with the Environment, Sustainable Architecture.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The architecture found in the traditional villages across China reflects the unique cultural heritage, aesthetic values, and local geography (Li & Chen, 2024). Although many traditional buildings found these days in the traditional villages of China have been built with the functional needs, however, in the majority of cases, the architects designing and constructing such buildings went beyond utilitarian values and gave equal importance to

the cultural heritage and aesthetics (Li & Huang, 2024a). One such traditional village with a unique karst scene, along with exciting cultural unification that could be found in China, is Guilin, which is located in the Guangxi Autonomous Region (Huang & Brown, 2023). Significant artistic symbolism could be witnessed in the village, as it has rich historical connotations, as Guilin has been home to multiple ethnic groups who were living together (Liu & Zhang, 2024). Different ethnic minorities who were living in the village include Dong, Miao, Zhuang, and Han people. Hong *et al.* (Hong et al., 2024) are of the view that unique architecture has been created in the village largely because of the convergence of different architectural styles that offered significant cultural and symbolic values. The topography of Guilin has been categorized as ‘karst topography’ as the village is distinguished on the basis of precipitous hills, snaking rivers, and unique sandstone formations (Feng & Zhou, 2024). Liu and Zhang (Liu & Zhang, 2024) are of the view that these distinguishing geographic features of the village have not only shaped the physical layout of Guilin, but also architecture design and construction work carried out in the village have also been significantly affected by such factors. The residential architecture mostly sheds light on the unique historical, social, and environmental identity of different ethnic groups and their civilization of Guilin (Hong et al., 2024; Li & Park, 2023). In particular, Zhang and Li (Zhang & Li, 2024) believe that the architecture found in the region is a medium of cultural transmission and the aesthetics of the people living in the village. Chen and Zhang (Chen & Zhang, 2024) are of the view that unlike other parts of China, the architecture found in Guilin is unique, as it effectively merges nature with human activities. Particularly, Zhang and Li (Zhang & Li, 2024) have asserted that different buildings, including houses, courtyards, and public spheres, found in Guilin harmonize with the surrounding karst hills. The integration of human-nature unity, which is central to traditional Chinese philosophy, could thus be witnessed throughout Guilin village. Irrespective of the karst terrain of Guilin, ethnic minorities that were once living in the village have carried out construction work that is in complete harmony with the nature, which in turn has minimized the disruptions that could have been otherwise caused to the environment (Chen & Zhang, 2024; Wang & Chen, 2024). As the architecture found in the Guilin village showcases unique geographic location and cultural blending, this research has been organized with the aim of taking the case of Guilin village and analysing how geographic location and cultural blending have shaped the traditional village residential architecture. The research will, on the one hand, thus analyse the architectural opportunities and challenges that local

residents of Guilin could have encountered because of the geographic factors, while on the other hand, what architectural opportunities and challenges have been created through the cultural blending of different minorities that were living in the village. The study is significant due to the fact that it sheds light on how environmental and cultural factors converge to shape the vernacular architecture. In particular, the study offered greater practical value as the analysis that has been presented in the research offered lessons to contemporary professional architecture regarding sustainable designs where cultural and environmental factors are effectively blended.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Geographic and Environmental Impacts on Architecture

#### 2.1.1 The Karst Landscape

The Guilin village has karst topography, as it features caves, steep limestone hills, and natural depressions. According to Feng and Zhou (Feng & Zhou, 2024), the unique characteristics of Guilin's topography have not only affected the construction techniques that have been used in the village but also the choice of building materials and spatial organization. However, Huang and Brown (Huang & Brown, 2023) have pointed out that unlike other regions of the world, complete harmony between nature and human beings could be witnessed in the architectural work carried out in the village, as houses, courtyards, and public spheres have been built in complete harmony, thus minimizing ecological disruptions. Considering this, Chen, Li, and Wang (Chen et al., 2021b) have pointed out that Guilin architecture reflects the traditional principles of “harmony between human and nature.” Liu and Zhou (NBSC., 2023) are of the view that traditional villages found in the karst regions are usually strategically located, as they are founded with the aim of taking unique advantage of natural formations, including rivers and hills. As a result, the hills are used as protection from floods, while the rivers are utilized for optimizing agriculture. Hong, Chen, and Zhang (Hong et al., 2022) have thus asserted that houses are clusters in the depressions, and spatial balance could be thus witnessed. The authors have pointed out that spatial planning could be witnessed in the case of Guilin, which is in accordance with the Shui principles, highlighting environmental harmony. The architecture found in Guilin is considered sustainable, and according to Wang and Liu (Wang & Liu, 2021), such sustainability has been gained due to the use of local materials. In particular,

the use of limestone that was available in abundance due to karst geography has been used as the core material in the foundation and wall that ensured the desired durability. The authors have also pointed out that the bamboo and clay have also been extensively utilized in the village, reflecting a blend of nature and the built environment. Although Zhang, Zhou, and Chen (Zhang et al., 2023) have pointed out that due to the karst topology of Guilin, the inhabitants could have witnessed extreme challenges in terms of soil erosion, Chen, Li, and Wang (Chen et al., 2021a) are of the view that the inhabitants of the village used raised flooring that helped in safeguarding against floods, besides ensuring the desired airflow that helped in overcoming the humid conditions of the region. The authors have further pointed out that the majority of houses built in the Guilin village have been designed with sloping roofs and compact layouts that helped in the smooth channelling of rainwater. The extensive adaptation of architecture as per the weather and terrain of Guilin, in turn, reflects vernacular construction that has been used in the building architecture.

#### 2.1.2 Climatic Considerations

According to Liu, Zhang, and Li (Zhang & Li, 2024), the climatic conditions of the Guilin region have been traditionally labelled as ‘subtropical monsoon climate’ as extremely hot and humid summers coupled with mild winters are witnessed. The architectural strategies of the region have been affected by the climatic conditions, as buildings not only contain extensive measures for protection from moisture but also natural ventilation and thermal comfort, which have also been core elements of architectural activities. However, Zhou, Chen, and Zhang (Zhou et al., 2023) note that the raised flooring lifts have been used with the aim of ensuring the desired insulations; however, Hong et al. (Hong et al., 2024) are of the view that such structures have been primarily adopted as safeguards against seasonal flooding due to extreme monsoon raining. Furthermore, Zhou and Li (Zhou & Li, 2024) are of the view that the use of a sloping roof along with wooden shingles primarily aimed at structural stability, denoting effective integration of functional and aesthetic attributes of architecture. In addition, Liu, Zhang, and Li (Liu & Zhang, 2024) have pointed out that the use of open courtyards and lattice windows in Guilin has ensured natural ventilation and lighting, besides overcoming heat build-up and moisture that could have been otherwise experienced. In the majority of cases, large windows and open-plan design have been incorporated in houses, which ensured sunlight, thereby reducing the needs for artificial lighting. Li and Huang (Li & Huang, 2024a) and Zhou, Chen,

and Zhang (Zhou et al., 2023) have noted that the range of these measures that the local population of Guilin has employed in turn denotes a sustainable approach to energy use that is in line with the traditional Chinese ecological value.

### 2.1.3 Water and Land Management

The village structure and residential architecture of Guilin have been particularly influenced by the Li River (NBSC., 2023). Wang and Chen (Wang & Chen, 2024) are of the view that the Feng Shui principles have been widely employed in the village, whereas water resources have been channelled effectively for the prosperity, health, and good fortune of the local inhabitants. Furthermore, Wu and Thompson (Wu & Thompson, 2024) have noted that by relying on the Feng Shui principles, cooling impact during the hot summers has been ensured, which also denotes harmonious relations of Guilin inhabitants with the natural environment. Li and Huang (Li & Huang, 2024a) are of the view that the water management process in the Chinese traditional culture has been carried out with the aim of showing respect for the natural resources; thus, cultural and spiritual symbolism could be witnessed in the area of water management. Liu and Thompson (Liu & Thompson, 2023) have also noted that water in the traditional Chinese philosophies is not only the symbol for life but also denotes purity and adaptability. The Daoist philosophy that shaped the traditional Chinese culture stressed the significance of water as a balancing force in the universe, and as a result, one could observe that different buildings in Guilin feature decorative water motifs, denoting their spiritual values (Zhang & Li, 2024).

## 2.2 Impact of Culture and Religion on Traditional Guilin Architecture

### 2.2.1 Ethnic Integration in Guilin

The Guilin region is considered one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse regions of China, where different ethnic groups, including Han Chinese, Zhuang, Yao, and Miao, are living together (Feng & Zhou, 2024). As according to Tan and Zhang (Tan & Zhang, 2023), ethnic orientation and culture are the core factors that affect architectural activities; unique residential style and a blend of different cultures could be readily witnessed across Guilin village. Although the dominant population in the region is still Han Chinese, Chen and Zhang (Chen & Zhang, 2024) believe that the ethnic population also has a huge contribution to the total population of the village. According to Liu and Thompson (Liu & Thompson, 2023),

Hans Chinese have constructed traditional courtyard houses in the village; however, the ethnic group Zhuang is the largest ethnic group, who have mostly constructed stilted wooden homes. These homes that are called “Diaojiolou” have been constructed as a means to adapt to the humid subtropical environment and hilly landscape of Guilin (Chen and Wilson, 2023). According to Wang and Li (Wang & Li, 2024), stilted structure has been founded in the region with the aim to ensure the desired protections against flooding while at the same time ensuring effective ventilation. Contrary to such observation, Chen and Smith (Chen & Smith, 2024) have noted that rather than following unique ethnic styles that are popular amongst different ethnic and cultural minorities living in the village, a hybridization process could be witnessed in the village, whereas the architectural styles of these different ethnic groups have been combined and integrated. Huang and Brown (Huang & Brown, 2023) have pointed out that in Guilin, the large courtyards in the houses have been taken from the Han design; however, adorned and curved eaves have been influenced by Zhuang, while the multi-tiered balconies have been shaped by Miao and Yao minorities. Zhou, Chen, and Zhang (Zhou et al., 2023) have asserted that unique craftsmanship found in Guilin is largely influenced by Miao and Yao, as such people have professional wisdom and skills that they used in the field of architecture. From this one could observe that Guilin not only reflects the integration of different cultures, but also coexistence could be found within the Guilin region.

### 2.2.2 Guilin Philosophical and Religious Symbolism

The building and architectural activities of Guilin have been significantly affected by the traditional philosophies found in the region (Chen et al., 2021a; Li & Chen, 2024). According to Huang and Brown (Huang & Brown, 2023), there are three dominant philosophies that people of Guilin adhere to, which include Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. These three philosophies that are witnessed throughout the country not only stressed interfaith harmony but also stressed spirituality, which is reflected in the architectural design found in the region. For example, as Confucians stressed collectivism, reflected in the family hierarchy, the courtyard found in Guilin village symbolically represents such family unity (Li & Park, 2023). The core hall of a house is usually occupied by the elder of the house, which signifies his/her authority (Hong et al., 2022). On the other hand, the Daoism philosophy that could be found stressed the harmonious living with nature. As a result of such orientation, Lin and Morris (Lin & Morris, 2024) are of the view that the majority of houses in the village have been

designed with Feng Shui principles, reflecting the flow of energy. Houses usually face rivers and hills, which is considered an effective layout as it ensures a well-balanced perspective of life and the environment (Zhou & Miller, 2023). Buddhists have also influenced the architecture of Guilin, whereas the use of different motifs and decorative carving found in the village could be traced to Buddhist philosophy (Liu, Chen, and Li, 2024). Zhang and Davis (Zhang & Davis, 2023) are of the view that Buddhist shrines and altars have been integrated into the architectural interiors of Guilin.

### 2.2.2 Ceremonial and Communal Space

The traditional village of Guilin also has dedicated spaces for carrying out ceremonial and communal activities. These spaces reflect the cultural and religious beliefs of the people, whereas different places in this regard include communal courtyards, ancestral halls, and temples. These different places not only fulfilled the social interaction needs of the community living in Guilin, but also family and religious rituals have also been offered in such ceremonial and communal spaces (Liu and Thompson, 2023). Different temples found in the village have been constructed by Daoist and Buddhist origin worshipers. According to Zhang and Davis (Zhang & Davis, 2023), the architecture of the different temples reflects symbolic values, including protection, respect, and success. On the other hand, ancestral halls have been constructed for performing family and communal rituals; besides, such places also served the purpose of ancestor worship and ceremonies (Zhang & Li, 2024). Wang and Anderson (Wang & Anderson, 2024) have asserted that the space located in ancestral halls in Guilin is usually larger than temples and other buildings, which not only entail greater participation in the communal activities but also signify the unity of the different ethnic groups and social exchange between different groups. Furthermore, Liu and Zhang (Liu & Zhang, 2024) have found that hierarchical spatial spaces could be found in ceremonial and communal spaces, which is in line with the Confucian order and respect.

## 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Research Design

While investigating how geographic location and cultural blending have shaped the traditional village residential architecture, this research adopted qualitative research design. A qualitative research design is more suited

when an investigator is interested in the in-depth exploration and significant consideration of the context. Furthermore, the research design of the study is based on the secondary data, which is the collected and published data that has been already collected and analysed. There are different secondary data sources that have been used for this study, which include archival documents, previous studies, peer-reviewed journals, scholarly articles, and books. Rather than relying on the primary data, the study adopted the secondary data sources, as considerably extensive data and documents could be found regarding the geographic location and cultural characteristics of Guilin. The secondary data sources that have been relied on in the research are not only cost-effective but also more time-efficient. Although there were plenty of sources that could have been utilized for the study, the study relied on credible sources only, which include archival documents, peer-reviewed journals, books and monographs, government reports, and different case studies.

### 3.2 Data Collection Process

The peer-reviewed articles have been found through key databases including JSTOR, CNKI, Scopus, and Google Scholar, whereas keywords including Guilin Village, Feng Shui architecture, karst topography, and ethnic integration in Chinese architecture have been used. Although there were plenty of studies on the topic, the investigator selected only contemporary studies that are relevant, credible, and have been published after 2020. On the other hand, archival documents, books, and monographs have been located through the Beijing Public Library, which has a huge collection. In addition, online sources have also been utilized for finding out such documents. Government reports have been collected from the Chinese government sources online, relying on government and regulator and government-affiliated agencies websites. Different documents that have been thus collected have been organized on the basis of core themes.

### 3.3 Data Analysis Process

There are three key data analysis processes used in this research, which include document analysis, content analysis, and comparative analysis. The document analysis helped in the textual analysis of collected journals and historical records and government reports, which helped in the better analysis of how geographic location and cultural blending have shaped the traditional village residential architecture in Guilin village. On the other



hand, the content analysis process has been utilized to objectively analyse qualitative data on the basis of key themes. For each of the key themes, the investigator established a code, and relevant data that has been collected has been coded. Furthermore, comparative analysis has been used to analyse the collected data in the research, whereas comparisons and contrasts of the architectural activities have been carried out that were constructed in different points and different cultural and ethnic groups.

#### 4. FINDINGS, ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSIONS

##### 4.1 Karst Landscape of Guilin and Settlement Pattern

Although karst landscape is witnessed throughout Guilin, which has affected the settlement pattern in the village. An example of a karst landscape is Dongyuan village within Guilin. The majority of the population in the region have selected steep hills and caves as the core region, which in turn enabled them to ensure the desired safeguard measures against floods, take the benefit of natural windbreaks, and live in geographic closeness to water resources (Bureau., 2020). The inhabitants of Dongyuan have utilized sloping roofs for the sake of rainwater runoff. The architecture in the village has been largely built utilizing local materials, including clay, bamboo, and limestone. The clay has been used for bricks and roof tiles, which provided the local inhabitants with the desired insulation and structural strengths, while the use of bamboo ensured flexibility and ventilation. On the other hand, limestone has been used in the foundation and wall to ensure durability, besides protection against extreme weather conditions (Government., 2021).

##### 4.2 Adaptation of Architectural Activities as per Climatic Consideration

The Guilin region has subtropical weather, whereas extremely hot and humid summers coupled with mild winters are experienced throughout the region (NBSC., 2023). Due to the unique climatic factors thus witnessed, the architectural activities within the village are affected by these factors. For example, the inhabitants have used raised flooring (Feng and Zhou, 2024). Li and Park (Li & Park, 2023) have noted that such trends are more common amongst Zhuang ethnic groups; however, this trend has also affected the construction activities of other minority groups also. Furthermore, due to climatic considerations, the majority of buildings have sloping roofs, which was more prominent amongst Hans Chinese; however, other resident groups also copied the trend as it helped in the

efficient drainage of monosomic rainwater, besides providing the resident with the desired insulation needed against hot and humid weather conditions (Government., 2021). Furthermore, the climatic factors have resulted in the establishment of large courtyards that ensured natural light to interiors besides effective ventilation (Wu & Thompson, 2024). The locals have also utilized the lattice windows that helped in ensuring cross-ventilation.

#### 4.3 Water and Land Management

The layout of Guilin has been significantly affected by the rivers and water, as the majority of houses in the region have been built using the Feng Shui principles (Bureau., 2020). Chen and Wilson (Chen & Wilson, 2023) are of the view that with the help of the application of this principle, not only is the desired harmony with the natural environment ensured, but also the application of this principle is the means through which flood-prone areas have been protected. In addition, the Guilin Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau (Bureau., 2020) report has pointed out that the villagers of Guilin have utilized ponds and small canals for establishing greater connections and relations with nature in the village. The water within the village has been largely symbolized, which is a core belief found in Daoism, which reflects renewal, harmonious living with nature, and relations with the environment. Furthermore, Zhou, Chen, and Zhang (Zhang et al., 2023) have pointed out that the local inhabitants have also used water ripple motifs while designing their wooden beams and door panels. Zhou, Chen, and Zhang (Zhang et al., 2023) are of the view that such patterns denote prosperity and harmony.

#### 4.4 Ethnic and Cultural Integration

Han Chinese are the major population in Guilin; however, it is not the only group living in the region, as different minorities, including Zhuang, Yao, and Miao, are still living in the village areas (Government., 2021). The ethnic and cultural diversity of these different groups has significantly shaped the architecture of the region, with different groups having their own influence. In this regard, the symmetric layout and courtyard are due to Han influence; however, stilted houses and the use of wooden pillars were popular amongst the Zhuang (NBSC., 2023). On the other hand, multi-tiered balconies have been shaped by Miao and Yao minorities. As per the findings of Feng and Zhou (Feng & Zhou, 2024) and Li and Huang (Li & Huang, 2024b), these different influences could be found in the

village; however, cultural integration has been witnessed where hybridization and consolidations of the different features, popular amongst diverse inhabitants, could be witnessed. Cultural adaptation is evident from the large courtyards, stilted elements, and multi-tiered balconies. In particular, the Daxu village, which is part of Guilin, has significant wooden latticework, coupled with wider courtyards and balconies that could be witnessed (Bureau., 2020). Although this area has been commonly occupied by Zhuang ethnicity, however, cultural influence of Han, Miao, and Yao could be readily witnessed in the architecture of the village.

#### 4.5 Guilin Architecture and its Integration of Philosophic and Religious Symbolism

The philosophical and religious symbolism found within China, including Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism, has significantly affected the architecture in the Guilin village. In particular, the house constructed in the area called Daxu Ancient Town, which is part of Guilin, one could see that the majority of housing units have been constructed along the Li River, which effectively balances and harmonizes human life with the natural order (Bureau., 2020). As per the data analysed by NBSC (NBSC., 2023), the courtyards, rooms, ancestral halls, and communal spaces found in the region symbolize Confucian family hierarchy and the collectivism, while the Feng Shui principles that shaped the core architecture of the village are attributed to Daoism. The Feng Shui principle has been used to ensure harmonious living with nature, as the majority of buildings in the area are south-facing for optimum light utilization. On the other hand, the decorative patterns, particularly cloud patterns and water ripple motifs, have been used to stress and symbolize Buddhist values. In particular, in the Jiuxian area of Guilin, there is an ancestral hall that has been established as a ceremonial and communal space; however, the analysis of the architecture revealed that intricate carving with cloud motifs has been extensively used to symbolize the concept of blessing found in the Buddhist philosophy.

### 5. CONCLUSION

#### 5.1 Summary of Research

As per the core analysis conducted in the research, it is very clear that geographic factors, particularly the climate and topology of Guilin and cultural and religious factors practiced in Guilin, have a significant

influence on the village architecture. Guilin is distinguished from other parts of the country as the region has karst landscape, with extremely hot and humid summers and mild winters along with extreme levels of rain in the monsoon. These different factors have a considerable influence on the architectural orientation, as the layout of buildings and the structure have been effectively aligned with the topography of the village. The inhabitants have extensively utilized the local materials, including clay, bamboo, and limestone, whereas many of the buildings constructed fulfilled the sustainable architecture criteria. Furthermore, the religious and cultural factors of the people living in Guilin have significantly affected the architectural activities. The cultural analysis conducted in the research revealed that although Han culture is the major culture, the village is home to culturally diverse people, including Zhuang, Yao, and Miao communities. As these communities were living together, significant adaptation and blending of these different cultures could be experienced in the region, as more hybrid and integrated designs affected by these different cultures could be witnessed within the region. Moreover, traditional Chinese philosophy and religious factors also affected the architectural activities, whereas greater impact of Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism has been noted in architectural activities. Although these three philosophies have affected different aspects of architectural activities in Guilin, however, the significant impact of Daoism has been noted as the Feng Shui principle has been the most widely used principle affecting architectural activities.

## 5.2 Implications of Research

This research offered a mix of theoretical, practical, and cultural implications. The theoretical implications of the research are that new insight has been added to the vernacular architecture as the research provides significant insight regarding the impact of geographic environment and cultural and religious factors on architectural activities. In particular, the research stressed the interdisciplinary approach for studying vernacular architecture. The practical implications of the research are that, as Guilin traditional architecture offered significant functional and symbolic values, it is vital that core steps should be taken to preserve such traditional architecture. The research also offered practical value to individuals who could be pursuing professional careers in the field of architecture. In particular, it highlights the value of sustainable architectural activities through the adaptation of material as per the unique climate and spatial organization. The cultural implications of the research are that the research stressed the significance of cultural preservation through the

saving of traditional architecture. The rich and unique culture found in Guilin could be preserved through the safeguarding of its unique architecture.

### 5.3 Limitations of Research

Although the study contributes theoretical and practical value, there are different limitations of the research that should be observed before generalizing the findings of research. The major limitation of the research is that the findings are based on secondary data alone, and no primary research has been conducted. This could have affected the focus of the study. Furthermore, the study has focused on selected villages within the Guilin region, rather than analysing the entire region as a whole. As a result, it may lack a comprehensive analysis of the entire Guilin region architecture activities and the key factors that affected such architecture. In addition, no benchmarking has been carried out in the study, as the findings of the research are based on the Guilin region alone.

### 5.4 Recommendations for Future Research

For future research, it is suggested that instead of relying solely on secondary data, mixed research methodology comprising both primary and secondary research should be adopted. In particular, through field research, where first-hand data could be collected through interviews with the local community, more in-depth analysis of the impact of geographic and cultural factors on the architectural activities could be carried out. Furthermore, for future research, it is also recommended that instead of focusing on selected villages in Guilin, the entire areas and different clusters constituting the area should be the focus of such research. This in turn could help in presenting a more comprehensive analysis of the key factors affecting the architectural activities in the region. Furthermore, for future research, it is also recommended that the process of benchmarking should be used, whereas the impact of cultural and environmental factors in Guilin should be compared with other parts of China. In particular, regions having similar environmental conditions and cultural factors could pinpoint more effective analysis of the impact of these factors.

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