

The Interplay of Landscape Design and Cultural Identity: A Philosophical and Axiological Inquiry

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Abstract: With the in-depth development of globalization, local cultural characteristics have been impacted, and the importance of landscape design in shaping local cultural identity has become increasingly prominent. Based on this background, this study comprehensively uses the case analysis method and literature research method to conduct an in-depth analysis of the relevant theories of landscape design and local cultural identity. The study reveals that landscape design mainly shapes local cultural identity through three mechanisms. The first is to accurately extract and skillfully use regional cultural elements, and integrate unique local cultural symbols into the landscape. Second, it is committed to the reproduction and inheritance of history and culture, with the help of the protection and utilization of historical and cultural relics and the restoration and interpretation of historical scenes, so that the cultural memory of the past can be continued. The third is to promote the deep integration of natural landscape and cultural connotation, fully explore the cultural symbolism behind natural landscape, and realize the organic unity of nature and humanity. Suzhou Gardens is a subtle presentation of the water town culture in the south of the Yangtze River, the Yellow River National Cultural Park is a powerful demonstration of the Yellow River culture, and Songtang Village in Foshan. However, it cannot be ignored that landscape architecture faces problems such as cultural convergence caused by the impact of globalization, inherent limitations of design concepts and technologies, and low public participation in shaping local cultural identity. To this end, this study proposes targeted strategies, including strengthening the excavation and expression of regional cultural characteristics, innovating design concepts and technology applications, strengthening public participation and cultural communication, etc., aiming to lay a solid theoretical foundation and provide practical guidance for landscape design to better serve the shaping of local cultural identity.

Keywords: Landscape Design; Local Cultural Identity; Regional Cultural Elements; Historical And Cultural Inheritance; Public Participation

1. INTRODUCTION

At a time when the process of globalization is accelerating, countries around the world are increasingly engaged in exchanges in the economic, political, cultural and other fields, and different cultures collide and integrate with each other (Gibson, 2016). While this trend of globalization

promotes economic development and cultural exchanges, it also brings about the problem of cultural homogenization. The local cultural identity of many places has been gradually weakened by the impact of globalization, and the urban landscape has become more and more similar, and the cookie-cutter buildings, squares and streets can be seen everywhere, and the uniqueness and diversity of regional culture are seriously threatened. As a unique culture formed in the long-term development process of a region, regional culture is a concentrated embodiment of the history, life and values of the local people, and has irreplaceable value. It carries the memory of the place, reflects the local natural environment, historical changes and social customs, and is an important symbol that distinguishes a region from other regions (Till, 1999). For example, the pink walls and tiles, small bridges and flowing water in the Jiangnan water towns reflect the gentle and delicate cultural characteristics of the Jiangnan region; The caves on the Loess Plateau in Northwest China reflect the unique geographical environment and lifestyle of the local area. The protection and inheritance of regional culture is of vital importance to maintaining cultural diversity and enhancing local identity and belonging. As an important means of shaping urban and rural spaces, landscape design plays a key role in the protection and inheritance of regional culture. Excellent landscape design can not only provide people with a comfortable and beautiful living environment, but also become the carrier of regional culture, through the design of spatial layout, architectural form, landscape elements, etc., the connotation and characteristics of regional culture are displayed, so that people can feel the charm of regional culture in daily life, so as to enhance the identity of local culture. For example, with its exquisite layout, unique architectural style and rich cultural connotation, Suzhou Gardens has become an outstanding representative of the regional culture in the south of the Yangtze River, attracting countless tourists and making local residents proud of their culture. However, in the current landscape design, there is a problem of ignoring the characteristics of regional culture. Some landscape designs blindly pursue modernization and internationalization, copying Western design concepts and styles, while ignoring local cultural traditions and natural environments, resulting in a lack of regional characteristics and cultural heritage. This phenomenon not only deprives cities and villages of their unique charm, but also weakens people's sense of identity and belonging to local culture. Therefore, how to integrate regional cultural elements into landscape design and shape the landscape with local characteristics has become an

important problem to be solved urgently in the field of landscape design. The purpose of this study is to explore the shaping role of landscape design on local cultural identity, analyze the application and effect of regional cultural elements in landscape design through the study of relevant theories and cases, reveal the intrinsic relationship between landscape design and local cultural identity, provide theoretical support and practical guidance for landscape design practice, promote the protection and inheritance of regional culture, and enhance people's identity and sense of belonging to local culture (Marques et al., 2021).

2. RELEVANT WORK

In the 60s of the 20th centuries, the American scholar Kevin Lynch put forward the theory of five elements of urban imagery in his book "Urban Image", including paths, boundaries, areas, nodes and markers, emphasizing the importance of these elements in shaping the unique image of the city and the psychological cognition of residents. It lays a foundation for the study of landscape design and local cultural identity. Later, the Norwegian architectural theorist Christian Norberg-Schulz delved into the relationship between place, architecture and culture in "The Spirit of Place: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture", proposing that "the spirit of placeThe concept that architecture and landscape should reflect the culture and history of a specific region, so that people can feel the unique atmosphere and significance of the place in the space, further promotes the research on the connection between landscape design and local culture (Liu et al., 2014). In terms of practice, for example, the Place des Vosges in Paris, France, as one of the oldest squares in Paris, its architectural style, layout and decoration all reflect the cultural characteristics of French classicism, carry rich historical and cultural memories, and become an important symbol of the cultural identity of Parisian citizens. Marionplatz in Munich, Germany, is surrounded by Gothic, Baroque and other buildings of different styles, and the buildings and sculptures such as the town hall and the Frauen's column on the square not only have artistic value, but also contain local historical stories and cultural traditions, which is a concentrated display place of Munich urban culture, and enhances the citizens' sense of identity and belonging to the local culture. In recent years, the research on landscape design and local cultural identity in China has gradually increased, and with the acceleration of urbanization, the protection and

inheritance of regional cultural characteristics have received extensive attention. Scholars have studied the regional cultural elements in landscape design from different perspectives. Professor Kongjian Yu proposed "Bigfoot Aesthetics" and "Sponge City". The concept emphasizes that landscape design should respect nature and regional culture, integrate with local natural ecology and history and culture, and build a sustainable landscape. Based on the local natural wetland, through ecological restoration and landscape construction, Yongning Park in Taizhou, Zhejiang Province, which he presided over and designed, integrates local farming culture and folk culture elements, shows regional characteristics, and enhances the cultural identity of citizens to their hometown (Amoruso & Battista, 2020). In addition, there are many scholars who have conducted research on the regional culture of a specific region, such as the application of Jiangnan water town culture, Lingnan culture, and minority culture in landscape design, and discussed how to integrate the characteristics of regional culture into landscape design and enhance local cultural identity.

2.1. Basic Concepts and Elements of Landscape Design

Landscape design is a comprehensive discipline that creates an outdoor space with aesthetic value and ecological function to meet people's material and spiritual needs through planning, design and transformation of land and space objects. The International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) defines it as the science and art of land separation, planning, design, management, conservation and restoration, which involves both artistic creation and the scientific understanding and management of the natural and social environment (Motloch, 2000). It covers a wide range of areas, including urban parks, streets and other outdoor spaces, not only focusing on visual effects, but also emphasizing the use of functions, ecological sustainability and harmony with the surrounding environment. Landscape design includes two major elements, natural and human, which jointly shape the landscape style. Natural elements are the foundation, covering topography, water bodies, plants, and climate. The topography determines the landscape form and layout, and different terrains bring different experiences, such as Chongqing Hongya Cave is built on a mountainous area, and the architecture and the mountain are integrated into a unique landscape (Hubbard & Hubbard, 1917). The water body adds vitality, regulates the climate and improves the ecology, and the mountains and rivers of Hangzhou West Lake depend on each other, and the scenery is

picturesque. Plants have a variety of functions, and designers match different plants according to the needs of the landscape to create a rich landscape, such as Suzhou gardens with bamboo, lotus, etc. to create a quiet and elegant atmosphere. Climate affects plant growth and seasonal changes in the landscape, tropical landscapes mostly use high-temperature resistant plants, and cold zones pay attention to plant cold resistance, such as Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden shows tropical style, and Harbin Ice and Snow World uses cold climate to create ice sculpture landscapes. The human element is the soul, carrying information such as regional history and culture, including architecture, cultural relics, folk customs and works of art. The architectural style reflects the regional culture, and the layout of the Beijing courtyard reflects the traditional family concept and hierarchy. Cultural relics witness history, and the landscape design around the ancient city wall of Xi'an not only protects the heritage, but also allows people to feel the charm of history. The integration of folk customs into the landscape can add local characteristics, and Lijiang Dayan Ancient Town retains the Naxi culture, and tourists can feel the ethnic customs. Artworks add cultural dimension to the landscape, and the glass pyramid in front of the Louvre in Paris blends with the ancient building to become an iconic landscape.

2.2. The Connotation and Formation Mechanism of Local Cultural Identity

Local cultural identity is the in-depth cognition, emotional belonging and value affirmation of the local culture of an individual or group, covering understanding, acceptance, inheritance and development, and is the psychological basis for the continuous development of local culture. Its constituent elements include the recognition of local material culture, such as unique architecture, handicrafts, food, etc., which intuitively show local characteristics, and Fujian tulou has become a symbol of Fujian culture with its unique layout and decoration. The recognition of intangible culture is also crucial, including language, beliefs, customs, traditional arts, etc., which are the core of local culture. The formation of local cultural identity is complex, involving psychological and social mechanisms. In terms of psychological mechanism, individual cognitive development plays a fundamental role, and children initially recognize local culture from contact with the environment, and deepen their understanding and form identity with age, such as the deepening of children's cognition of water culture in Jiangnan Water Town (Jensen et al., 2011). Emotional factors are a powerful driving force, individuals

establish emotional connections with places, and the wanderer's identification with his hometown culture is deepened by longing. In terms of social mechanism, the family is the first station of cultural edification, and the elders pass on the culture by word and deed, such as teaching the traditional customs of the younger generation during the Spring Festival. The school imparts knowledge through courses and activities, cultivates students' sense of cultural identity, organizes visits to cultural venues, and offers folk art courses. Communities create a cultural atmosphere and strengthen identity through cultural activities and neighborhood interactions, such as community organizations such as temple fairs. Social media expand their influence and promote the formation of identity by disseminating local cultural content, such as local culture documentaries to attract audiences to understand local culture.

2.3. The Intrinsic Connection Between Landscape Design and Local Cultural Identity

Landscape design is closely linked to local cultural identity, which profoundly affects people's cognition, emotion and sense of belonging to place. Landscape design is an intuitive carrier of local culture, which concretizes cultural connotation through material form and spatial layout. The traditional architecture reflects the local history, climate, etc., and the white walls and tiles of the Hui style architecture reflect the importance of the Hui Shang culture to the family order. The design of public space carries the local culture, and the landscape elements of the central square of the old European town record the urban development and the memory of the residents. The plant configuration expresses cultural characteristics, and the lotus planted in the south means nobility. Landscape design is the emotional bond that connects people with local culture, familiarity with the landscape evokes memories, gives the landscape emotional value, and triggers emotional resonance. In a characteristic landscape, cultural information is in line with the need for inner identity, such as the landscape of ethnic minority settlements that stimulates people's love for local culture. The landscape design creates a unique landscape, enhances the recognition and attractiveness of the place, and strengthens people's perception of local culture, and the Sydney Opera House and the Eiffel Tower in Paris have become local cultural symbols. Excellent landscape design also promotes the dissemination and exchange of local culture, attracts tourists to understand local culture, provides a platform for residents to display their culture, and enhances residents' cultural confidence and sense of identity

(Bird, 2002).

3. THE MECHANISM OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN SHAPING LOCAL CULTURAL IDENTITY

3.1. Extraction and Application of Regional Cultural Elements

3.1.1 Classification and Characteristics of Regional Cultural Elements

The regional cultural elements are rich and diverse, mainly divided into natural elements and humanistic elements, which together build a profound heritage of regional culture with their unique cultural and artistic characteristics. Natural elements include local topography, climatic conditions, natural resources, flora and fauna, etc. Significant differences in topography and landforms, such as mountains, plains, hills, basins, etc., provide rich inspiration for landscape design, and also shape a unique landscape style, such as the Yuanyang Terraces in Yunnan, which cleverly use the mountains to create a spectacular terraced landscape, highlighting the wisdom of harmonious coexistence between man and nature (Hussain, 2023). Climatic conditions affect plant growth types and seasonal changes of landscape, and winter snow scenes in cold areas in the north have become important landscape elements, such as the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival, which uses cold climate to create ice and snow sculptures; The warm and humid areas in the south are evergreen all year round, and the garden landscape often uses bamboo, lotus, etc. to create a fresh and elegant atmosphere. Natural resources, such as minerals and water resources, not only support local economic development, but also affect the formation of regional cultures, such as the formation of unique cultural phenomena around salt in salt-producing areas. Flora and fauna are also an important part of the natural elements, and the willow trees in the water towns of the south of the Yangtze River and the specific animals in ethnic minority areas as totems are closely connected with the local culture and folk customs. The humanistic elements cover a wide range of contents, including historical sites, traditional architecture, folk customs, religious beliefs, art forms, language and writing, etc. Historical relics carry rich historical and cultural information, such as the Forbidden City in Beijing, which embodies the highest level of ancient Chinese imperial architecture and is a historical and cultural treasure of the Chinese nation (Marques et al., 2021). Traditional architectural styles, forms and materials are closely related to the local natural environment, lifestyle, and cultural traditions, and Hui-style architecture is characterized

by pink walls and tiles, horse-head walls, and exquisite decorative arts such as wood carving, stone carving, and brick carving. Folk customs are a vivid embodiment of regional culture, and the celebrations of traditional festivals such as the Spring Festival, as well as folk art forms such as paper-cutting and embroidery, all reflect the life and emotions of the local people. Religious beliefs have unique expressions in architecture, rituals, art, etc., and the temple buildings in Tibetan Buddhist areas are brightly colored and the murals are gorgeous and colorful. Art forms include music, dance, drama, painting, etc., with different styles in different places, such as the Xinjiang Uyghur dance and the Yunnan Dai peacock dance, both of which have local characteristics. The language is rich in cultural information, and the dialect retains ancient vocabulary and grammar, such as Cantonese, which disseminates the culture of the Guangdong region through Cantonese songs and movies.

3.1.2 Element Extraction Methods and Design Applications

Extracting regional cultural elements is the key to integrating them into landscape design, and it is necessary to use scientific methods to dig deep into the connotation and characteristics to ensure that the elements are representative and unique. Field research is the basic method, and the designer communicates with local residents and obtains first-hand information by inspecting local historical and cultural sites, traditional buildings, folk activities, etc., such as visiting ancient towns such as Wuzhen and Xitang when designing the landscape of Jiangnan water towns. Literature research is also indispensable, consulting historical documents, local chronicles, etc., to systematically understand the development process, connotation and characteristics of regional culture, such as consulting the "Historical Records" and "Hanshu" when designing the landscape of Xi'an. Communicating with local cultural experts and scholars can gain more in-depth and professional knowledge and help designers grasp the essence of regional culture, such as communicating with Tibetan experts when designing Tibetan landscapes (Gibson, 2016). After extracting the elements, they need to be skillfully applied to the landscape design, and the cultural elements should be transformed into specific landscape forms through reasonable design techniques, so that they can be integrated with the landscape environment. Form extraction and imitation is a common method, which is applied to the design of landscape architecture, sculpture, sketches and other designs after analyzing and refining the morphology of regional cultural elements, such as Suzhou Garden, extracting traditional

architectural form elements and Taihu Lake stone form. The use of color can express the characteristics of regional culture, different regional cultures have unique color preferences, and the colors loved by the Naxi people are used in the design of the landscape of the ancient town of Lijiang in Yunnan Province to create a strong national cultural atmosphere (Kaygusiz & Baris, 2023). The choice of materials can also reflect regional characteristics, and the use of local traditional building materials can enhance the sense of cultural identity, as exemplified by the use of raw earth, wood and stone in the landscape design of Fujian tulou. The use of cultural symbols is a direct integration method, and the traditional patterns, signs, and totems are applied to landscape design to strengthen regional cultural expression, such as the use of Mongolian traditional patterns and totem poles in the landscape of Mongolian settlements.

3.2. The Reproduction and Inheritance of History and Culture

3.2.1. Protection and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Relics

Historical and cultural relics are important carriers of local culture, witnessing historical changes and carrying rich cultural connotations. Scientific and reasonable protection and utilization in landscape design can not only continue the historical context, but also add charm to the modern landscape, and become an important symbol of local cultural identity. The Xi'an City Wall was built in the Ming Dynasty, is the largest and most well-preserved ancient city wall in China, the government repairs and maintains it, builds a park around the city, organizes cultural activities, combines historical relics with modern life, and enhances people's sense of identity with Xi'an's history and culture (Gibson, 2016). Fujian Tulou is an outstanding representative of Hakka culture, and the landscape design of the scenic spot follows the principle of "repairing the old as the old". The principle is to protect tulou buildings, plan tour routes, carry out cultural activities, inherit Hakka culture, and enhance cultural identity. The hometown of Lu Xun in Shaoxing retains many historical relics related to Lu Xun, carefully protected and repaired, set up cultural display elements, retains traditional houses and shops, combines historical relics with modern tourism, and enhances people's recognition of Shaoxing culture. The protection and utilization of historical and cultural relics should follow scientific principles, respect authenticity and integrity, rationally plan and utilize them in combination with modern needs, carry out cultural activities and education and publicity, and

enhance cultural identity and protection awareness.

3.2.2. Restoration and Interpretation of Historical Scenes

The restoration and interpretation of historical scenes is an important means to inherit local culture, using modern technology and design techniques to reproduce historical scenes, events, lifestyles, etc., so that people can feel the charm of local culture immersively, deepen their understanding and memory of history, and enhance cultural identity (Till, 1999). Based on the "Qingming Riverside Map", Kaifeng Qingming Riverside Park restores the life scene of the Northern Song Dynasty in Tokyo, where visitors can experience the folk customs of the Northern Song Dynasty, participate in interactive projects, and feel the traditional culture. Xi'an Tang Paradise restores the grand scenery of the royal gardens of the Tang Dynasty, interprets the glory of Tang culture through imitation Tang Dynasty architecture, cultural performances, cultural activities, etc., and enhances people's pride and identity in Xi'an history and culture. The Old Town of Lijiang retains a large number of traditional houses of the Naxi people in the Ming and Qing dynasties, displaying traditional dances, handicrafts, folk culture, etc., restoring and interpreting the history and culture of the Naxi people, becoming a window to display the culture of the Naxi people, promoting the development of cultural inheritance and enhancing the national cultural identity. The restoration and interpretation of historical scenes need to dig deep into the connotation of local history and culture, combine modern design concepts and technical means to create an attractive and appealing landscape space, pay attention to detail restoration, adopt diversified forms of expression, enhance tourists' sense of participation and experience, and promote the formation of local cultural identity.

3.3 Integration of Natural Landscape and Cultural Connotation

3.3.1 The Symbolism of Natural Landscapes in Local Culture

Natural landscape carries rich and profound symbolic meanings in local culture, and is an important part of regional culture, affecting people's cognition and emotion of place. Landscape has a central symbolic position in many local cultures, and in traditional Chinese culture, Zhongshan symbolizes stability, sublimity, and eternity, such as Mount Tai is revered as a sacred mountain, and Mount Kunlun is full of mystery in Taoist culture (Liu, 2013). Water symbolizes agility, change and the source of life, and the Yellow River nurtures Chinese civilization and is a symbol of the unity and cohesion of the Chinese nation. The water of the

water towns in the south of the Yangtze River embodies the gentle and delicate cultural characteristics. Vegetation has a unique symbolic meaning in local cultures, such as Japanese cherry blossoms symbolizing spring and beauty, Chinese bamboo symbolizing tenacity, integrity and nobility, and Mongolian culture using grassland pastures to symbolize the continuation of life and prosperity. The animals in the natural landscape are also cultural symbols, the yak in Tibetan culture symbolizes tenacity, diligence and bravery, and the peacock symbolizes auspiciousness and beauty in Dai culture.

3.3.2. Design Strategies for the Integration of Nature and Culture

To realize the organic integration of natural landscape and cultural connotation, it is necessary to think about planning at multiple levels and use scientific and reasonable design strategies (Marques et al., 2021). The landscape design should fully respect and protect the original style of the natural landscape, deeply understand the local natural environment, retain the natural outline of the mountain landscape, and pay attention to the protection of the ecological environment in the water landscape, such as the design of Tianmen Mountain Scenic Area in Zhangjiajie and Xixi National Wetland Park in Hangzhou. Excavate the cultural stories and legends behind the natural landscape, and display them through landscape sketches, sculptures, cultural walls and other forms to add cultural connotation to the landscape. The use of local natural materials for landscape construction, reflect local characteristics, enhance the coordination with the natural environment, the mountainous area with stone, the south with bamboo to build landscape facilities. According to the local climatic conditions and vegetation types, suitable native plants are selected for landscape configuration, creating local characteristic plant landscapes, protecting the ecological environment, different native plants have different cultural symbolic meanings, poplars, willows, locust trees in the north, bamboo, lotus, osmanthus and other reasonable configuration in the landscape design, can convey rich cultural connotation.

4. ANALYSIS OF SUCCESSFUL CASES OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN SHAPING LOCAL CULTURAL IDENTITY

4.1. Suzhou Gardens: A Model of Jiangnan Water Town Culture

As an outstanding representative of the water town culture in the south of the Yangtze River, the landscape design of Suzhou Garden contains

and shows rich regional cultural elements through landscape elements such as architecture, landscape, and plants, and has become a unique symbol of the water town culture in the south of the Yangtze River, as shown in Figure 1. In terms of architectural style, the wooden structure is the mainstay, the pavilion, the platform, the building, the pavilion, the pavilion, the pavilion and other shapes are exquisite and elegant, the flexible appearance of the eaves and the corners of the eaves is in line with the gentle and delicate temperament of the water town in the south of the Yangtze River, such as the small Feihong Corridor Bridge in the Humble Administrator's Garden, the vermilion railing reflects in the water, and the green trees and clear water constitute a picturesque beauty. The layout of the building follows the concept of advocating nature and pursuing harmony, and does not stick to symmetrical forms, but is flexibly laid out according to the undulating terrain and the meandering water system (Su et al., 2025).



Figure 1: Suzhou Gardens

The landscape is an artistic reproduction of the natural features of the water towns in the south of the Yangtze River, the rockery simulates the natural landscape with Taihu Lake Stone and Huangshi, and the thinness, leakage, transparency and wrinkle characteristics of Taihu Lake Stone make it the first choice for rockery, and the rockery group of Lion Forest is typical (Jiang et al., 2022). The water body simulates the water network of the water town, and the forms are diverse and interconnected, adding a dynamic beauty to the garden, as evidenced by the layout of the central scenic spot of the Humble Administrator's Garden centered on the large pool. The selection of bamboo, lotus, willow, etc., which is suitable for the climate and soil conditions of Jiangnan, not only has ornamental value, but also contains cultural implications, and the changes of plant

landscape in four seasons reflect the perception of natural changes and the pursuit of life interest of Jiangnan culture. With its unique landscape design and profound cultural connotation, Suzhou gardens play a significant role in stimulating and inheriting the cultural identity of the water towns in the south of the Yangtze River. For tourists, it is a window to gain an in-depth understanding of the culture of the water towns in the south of the Yangtze River, and tourists can have an intuitive and profound understanding of the culture of the water towns in the south of the Yangtze River by appreciating the landscape and cultural displays. After the tour, foreign tourists have a strong interest in the culture of Jiangnan water towns in China, which has enhanced the international influence of Jiangnan water town culture. For local residents, the garden is an important source of cultural identity, carrying historical memory and emotional sustenance, and the traditional activities in the garden have become a part of the residents' life, enhancing their sense of identity and belonging to the culture of their hometown. The cultivation of children's garden culture by families and schools cultivates residents' pride and sense of inheritance of hometown culture. In addition, the garden also attracts many scholars to study, and the garden management department popularizes the knowledge of garden culture by holding activities, and promotes the inheritance and development of garden culture.

4.2 Yellow River National Cultural Park: A Blend of Nature and Culture

As an important space carrier of the Yellow River culture, the landscape design of the Yellow River National Cultural Park exquisitely demonstrates the dual attributes of the Yellow River's nature and culture, and has become a vivid model for inheriting and promoting the Yellow River culture, as shown in Figure 2. In terms of the expression of natural attributes, the park fully respects the unique natural features of the Yellow River Basin, and uses and protects the natural elements of the Yellow River, such as river channels, river beaches, and wetlands, to create a natural landscape with regional characteristics. The original riverbank wetland is preserved and native plants are planted to form a unique wetland landscape, showing the diversity and richness of the natural ecology of the Yellow River. The construction of viewing platforms, plank roads and other facilities allows tourists to enjoy the scenery of the Yellow River at close range, and the design of the facilities pays attention to the integration with the natural environment, using

environmentally friendly materials and natural style modeling (Yuan et al., 2023).

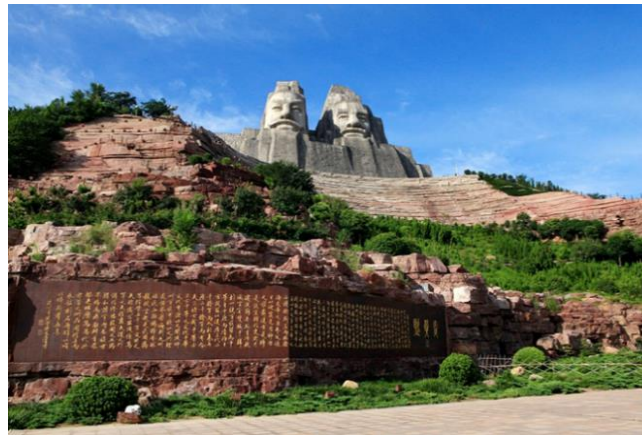


Figure 2: Yellow River National Cultural Park

In terms of cultural attributes, the park deeply excavates and displays the connotation and value of the Yellow River culture through landscape elements such as cultural sculptures, murals, and inscriptions, as well as cultural venues such as the Yellow River Culture Museum and the Folk Culture Center (Feng et al., 2021). The cultural sculpture takes the Yellow River culture as the theme, showing the historical changes of the Yellow River Basin, such as the Yellow River Mother theme sculpture at the entrance. Through the display of cultural relics and multimedia demonstrations, the cultural venues allow visitors to intuitively experience the charm of the Yellow River culture. The landscape layout of the park also integrates the traditional architectural style and folk elements of the Yellow River Basin, the antique architecture draws on the characteristics of ancient architecture, and the folk villages retain traditional houses and folk activities, so that tourists can experience the traditional way of life and understand the folk connotation of the Yellow River culture. The Yellow River National Cultural Park plays a vital role in enhancing national cultural identity. The Yellow River carries the historical memory and cultural genes of the Chinese nation, and the park allows people to have an in-depth understanding of the origin and development process of the Chinese nation through the concentrated display and inheritance of the Yellow River culture, and enhance the sense of identity and pride in the national culture (Li et al., 2024). After visiting, tourists have a deeper understanding of the Chinese national culture, which stimulates national self-esteem and self-confidence, and enhances national cohesion and centripetal force. The park provides a platform for people to experience and participate in the Yellow River culture, and through cultural activities,

people can experience the charm of the Yellow River culture, integrate into the inheritance and development of the Yellow River culture, and enhance their sense of identity and belonging to the national culture. In addition, the park promotes cultural exchanges and integration between different regions and different ethnic groups, enriches people's cultural life, promotes national unity, and makes positive contributions to enhancing national cultural identity.

4.3. Songtang Village, Foshan: Guardianship of Rural Landscape and Local Culture

As a typical representative of Lingnan water towns, Foshan Songtang Village has made many efforts to preserve and innovate the cultural atmosphere of water towns in the transformation of rural landscape, and has become a model for inheriting regional culture, as shown in Figure 3. Songtang Village has a long history and unique natural features, including Hechong and Sankey fish ponds. In landscape renovation, designers dig deep into natural and cultural resources and integrate them into the design. In terms of natural landscape protection, the original natural ecosystem should be preserved to the greatest extent, the growth environment of the ancient banyan tree group should be respected, and it should be integrated into the landscape design, the wetland should be retained and aquatic plants planted around it to attract birds, and the undeveloped area should be retained to meet the needs of villagers for planting vegetables and arable land (Huang & Li, 2023).



Figure 3: Songtang Village, Foshan

In terms of architectural style, it continues the traditional characteristics of Lingnan water towns, adopts elements such as green bricks, gray tiles, and sloping roofs, with a compact layout and pays attention to ventilation and shading. When repairing and renovating dilapidated buildings, the original structure and style are retained, and the cultural elements of water

towns are integrated into the architectural decoration, such as wood carving, brick carving, gray sculpture, etc., to show the life scene and cultural connotation of Lingnan water towns (Huang et al., 2022). The design of landscape facilities also fully reflects the cultural characteristics of the water town, creating a spatial landscape style of "one belt and multiple pieces". The waterfront landscape belt is equipped with waterfront platforms and other facilities to let people feel the smart beauty of the water town; A number of public open spaces have their own characteristics, integrating the cultural elements of the water town, the stone tablet of the word "Fu" in the small square at the main entrance means beautiful, the sinking public park creates a quiet and comfortable atmosphere, reflects the humanistic care, and the multi-functional small square provides residents with leisure and communication space. After the landscape transformation of Songtang Village, the villagers' sense of identity with the local culture has been significantly improved (Huang et al., 2024). On the one hand, the renovation has improved the living environment of the villagers, repaired dilapidated houses, improved public facilities, met the needs of the villagers for leisure, entertainment and socialization, and made the villagers have a stronger sense of belonging to their hometown. On the other hand, the renovation retains and inherits the rich elements of local culture, evokes the cultural memory and emotional resonance of the villagers, and makes them realize that these cultural elements are an important part of the unique symbol and identity of their hometown. In addition, the renovated village attracts tourists, brings economic benefits and increased popularity, and villagers feel a sense of pride in the recognition of their hometown culture, and are more active in protecting and inheriting the local culture. In the process of transformation, the villagers actively participated and their opinions were respected, which enhanced their sense of responsibility and belonging to the village, and also allowed them to understand and identify with the local culture more deeply.

5. CHALLENGES AND COUNTERMEASURES OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN SHAPING LOCAL CULTURAL IDENTITY

5.1. Challenges

In the context of globalization, local culture has been strongly impacted, and the phenomenon of cultural convergence in the field of landscape design has become increasingly significant. On the one hand,

the wide spread of Western culture with the help of economic and technological advantages has led to the landscape design of many places being deeply influenced by the Western modernist style, and the city squares, commercial streets and residential quarters have presented the same appearance, and the regional characteristics and cultural connotations are seriously lacking. Some cities blindly pursue internationalization and modernization, and adopt a large number of Western design concepts, architectural forms and materials, destroying the original style and cultural context of the city, and weakening people's sense of identity and belonging to local culture (Hussain, 2023). On the other hand, the homogenization of landscape elements is prominent, and a large number of the same elements are used in landscape design around the country, such as stainless-steel sculptures, colored floor tiles, fountains, etc., which lack the in-depth excavation and utilization of local natural and cultural resources, and it is difficult to show local cultural characteristics. In addition, globalization has led to an increase in the contact of the younger generation with foreign culture, a decrease in their understanding and recognition of local culture, and insufficient attention to the inheritance of local culture in landscape design, resulting in the loss of traditional landscape elements and design techniques, and the gradual disappearance of local cultural carriers. At present, landscape design has limitations in terms of design concepts and technologies when shaping local cultural identity. Some landscape architects do not have a deep understanding of regional culture, and their design concepts pay too much attention to form and function, ignoring the excavation of cultural connotation. In the design process, there is a lack of systematic research and analysis of local history, folk customs, religion and other cultural elements, and only the simple accumulation of cultural symbols fails to reflect the essence of regional culture, resulting in the inability of cultural elements and landscape to form an organic whole, and it is difficult to arouse cultural resonance (Evans & Foord, 2004). Some designers blindly pursue innovation and fashion, follow the international trend, and use a large number of modernist and post-modernist design concepts that are incompatible with the characteristics of local culture, so that landscape design is out of touch with local culture. At the technical level, although new technologies and new materials are emerging, there are limitations in reflecting local cultural characteristics, some modern materials are not strongly related to local culture, digital technology also has problems in showing the charm of regional culture, and the limited level of construction technology also affects the accurate restoration of regional

cultural elements. Public participation in landscape design is of great significance in shaping local cultural identity, but public participation is generally low at present. Landscape design is for the public, the public as users and beneficiaries, their needs, opinions and suggestions are crucial, participation can improve the practicality and comfort of the landscape, enhance the sense of public identity and belonging, promote the development of local cultural inheritance, but also to explore more local cultural elements and stories(Liu, 2013). However, in the planning and design process of many landscape design projects, there is a lack of effective communication with the public, and the opportunities for public participation in decision-making are limited, resulting in the design scheme may not fully consider the needs and wishes of the public, and it is difficult to reflect the local cultural characteristics. The reasons for the lack of public participation include the public's limited awareness and understanding of landscape design, lack of awareness and ability to participate; The decision- making mechanism of landscape design is not transparent enough and lacks effective participation channels; Designers and policymakers do not pay enough attention to public participation; and the lack of relevant laws, regulations and policy support.

5.2. Coping Strategies

In the face of the impact of globalization and the phenomenon of cultural convergence, landscape design needs to dig deep into the regional cultural characteristics and integrate the design concept. Designers should conduct comprehensive and in-depth research on local history, folklore, religion, art, etc., and collect materials through field trips, interviews, and literature review (Marques et al., 2021). For example, in the landscape design of the Miao settlement in Guizhou, the designer went deep into the village to collect Miao cultural elements. On this basis, the regional cultural elements are refined and integrated, and abstraction, metaphor, symbolism and other techniques are used to transform them into landscape language and integrate them into landscape design, such as extracting the elements of local traditional building slope roofs and applying them to landscape sketch design. At the same time, it pays attention to the combination of regional culture and modern life, sets up modern leisure facilities and cultural activity places in the landscape, and integrates cultural elements, such as fitness facilities in urban parks and children's play areas. In view of the limitations of design concepts and technologies, landscape design should innovate design concepts. Establish a "people-oriented" design concept, fully consider the needs

and experience of the public, and pay attention to the openness and interactivity of the space, such as an urban square adopts an open design concept, integrates with the surrounding facilities and sets up interactive landscape facilities (Marques et al., 2021). Pay attention to the application of ecological and environmental protection concepts, adopt sustainable design methods, and use ecological technologies to reduce environmental impact, such as the use of rainwater collection systems, solar street lights, and planting native plants in an ecological park. In terms of technology application, we actively introduce advanced technologies and use digital technologies such as VR, AR, GIS, etc. to provide more creativity and expression for landscape design, such as the use of AR technology to present historical and cultural elements in a historical and cultural district. Pay attention to the innovation and improvement of construction technology, cultivate a professional construction team, and ensure the accurate implementation of the design plan. In order to improve public participation, landscape design should establish a sound public participation mechanism and broaden the channels of participation. In the project planning stage, public opinions and suggestions are widely solicited through questionnaire surveys, symposiums, hearings, etc., and the public is invited to participate in discussion and review during the design process. Use modern media and social platforms to strengthen the dissemination and promotion of local culture, produce promotional videos, cultural documentaries, popular science articles, etc., and interact with the public through social media, such as a city making historical and cultural documentaries and using social media to publish landscape design information. Carry out cultural activities, such as cultural festivals, art exhibitions, folk performances, etc., with landscape design as the background and carrier, to provide the public with opportunities to experience local culture, and enhance the public's sense of identity and belonging to local culture, such as a city holds a cultural festival every year, and holds various cultural activities in parks and squares (Gibson, 2016).

6. CONCLUSIONS

This study deeply analyzes the role of landscape design in shaping local cultural identity. Landscape design is an intuitive carrier of local culture, which concretizes the connotation of local culture through material form and spatial layout, enables people to contact and feel local culture in daily life, becomes an emotional bond connecting people and local culture,

evokes emotional resonance and a sense of belonging, enhances local recognition and attractiveness, and promotes the dissemination and exchange of local culture. The mechanism of shaping local cultural identity is mainly reflected in three aspects: the extraction and application of regional cultural elements is the foundation, through the classification and study of natural and human elements, the use of field research, literature research and other methods to extract representative cultural elements, through the form extraction, color application, material selection, cultural symbol use and other design techniques into the landscape design, showing the regional cultural characteristics; The reproduction and inheritance of history and culture is the key, through the protection and utilization of historical and cultural relics, follow scientific principles of rational planning and utilization, so that they can be combined with modern life, and the use of modern technology and design techniques to restore and interpret historical scenes, continue the local historical context, and enhance cultural identity; The integration of natural landscape and cultural connotation is a feature, and the natural landscape has symbolic significance in the local culture, through the respect and protection of the natural landscape, excavation of cultural stories, the use of natural materials, the configuration of native plants and other design strategies, the organic integration of the two is realized, creating a unique landscape space. Through the analysis of successful cases such as Suzhou Garden, Yellow River National Cultural Park, and Songtang Village in Foshan, the role of landscape design in shaping local cultural identity is verified. However, landscape design also faces challenges in shaping local cultural identity, such as cultural convergence and dilution of local cultural characteristics due to the impact of globalization. The limitations of design concepts and technologies affect the effective expression of regional culture; Insufficient public participation hinders the effective shaping of local cultural identity in landscape design. In view of these challenges, this paper proposes to strengthen the excavation and expression of regional cultural characteristics, innovate the application of design concepts and technologies, and strengthen public participation and cultural dissemination.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Shanxi Province Art and Science Planning Project "Research on the Reuse Design of Abandoned Railways and Surrounding Industrial

Heritage from the Perspective of Cultural Tourism Integration - Taking Taiyuan Taibai Railway as an Example" (No. 24BG051).

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