Classical Revival——the Context Inheritance of Urban Renewal

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Abstract
The inheritance and development of urban context is one of the most significant considerations of design. While the classical conception in the sense of cultural geography expresses a sort of cultural concept, which exists as a typical representation of cultural characteristics of the past, the classical cultures of colonial cities differ in the means and methods of the implementation of context continuation. This article studies the formation of architectural context in Harbin, focusing on the problems of classical revival, which exist in Urban renewal, style evolution, context continuation, and the relationship of inheritance and innovation, and puts forward some principles and methods of architectural design from the perspective of morphology. City space is physical, as well as animated and spiritual. We are seeking not only the regeneration of traditional physical space, but also the regeneration of culture and spirit, which reflects a care of the city’s history.

Keywords: Urban renewal; Classical revival; Context inheritance; urban morphology

1. Introduction
Harbin, a Chinese city, was established in the late 19th century, and was massively built after the 20th century. Its unique urban architectural context was gradually formed in 50 years of development. The main research methods used in this paper are investigation method and literature research method. Harbin is a characteristic emerging modern city which was developed under specific historical conditions. This paper interpreted the conceptions relevant to architectural style, summarized the development process of the architecture art of Harbin, and analyzed the European history and the developing trend of the international architectural style since the new century, which provided sufficient theoretical basis and practical research for the positioning of urban architectural style and the study of planning layout.

2. Context basis of the architectural style of Harbin
2.1 Classification of the style of urban historic architecture art
The modern context of the urban architecture art of Harbin was obviously diversified, and not only fully

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reflected the collision and evolution of the western new and old thoughts of architecture in the beginning of the 20th century, but also authentically showed the traditional style of the architecture in some regions. Therefore, it can be divided into three categories generally:

First, according to the artistic style of architecture, it can be divided into 11 categories, including architecture style of Art Nouveau, Byzantine, decoration, Baroque, Gothic, the Arts & Crafts Movement, Eclecticism, Renaissance, early modernism, and castle-style building;

Second, according to the national and regional architecture style, it can be divided into four categories, including Russian style, Jewish style, Islamic mosque style, and Chinese traditional style; in modern times, there are other forms of examples, Although this kind of architectures were few, they played an important role in the context of the architecture art of Harbin.

Third, according to the typical architecture style of different times, it includes the typical buildings constructed from 1950s to 1980s; these constructions are bridges for forming the historic context of architecture style, and represent the typical architecture style and feature in all ages.

2.2 Development of urban architecture art
2.2.1 Features of historic architecture

(1) Features of Art Nouveau architecture style

The original Harbin railway station built in 1903 was the first large waiting station for passengers of the Middle East Railway (Fig.1), and its construction was the beginning of the transmission of the Art Nouveau thoughts. The emergence of Art Nouveau architecture was one of the steps of the simplifying and purification of modern architectures, and many of the later architectures were affected by it. For example, the style of the Modern Hotel in Central Avenue belongs to the Art Nouveau architecture. The Art Nouveau architecture tried to get rid of the restriction of the classical traditional form to the modern buildings, in order to create an unprecedented succinct technique and simplified adornment adaptive to the spirit of the industrial age (Fig.2).

(2) Features of Renaissance architecture style

The buildings during the renaissance had infiltrated Harbin with the eastward expansion of European colonization. Some buildings such as the Department Store all reflects some features of the architectures during the renaissance, especially the features of France. The primary characteristic is the classical technique of the elevation handling, which abides by the rules of composition of five lateral zones and three longitudinal zones. The roof is the mansard double fold slope crest popular in France with special-shaped dormer window, forming the attic. Sometimes, combining with the void parapet wall makes the head of the building soften. Square base and cove were common in the architectures during the France renaissance and were widely used because they beautified the building outline and the skyline of cities (Fig.3).
(3) Features of Baroque architecture style
Baroque architecture style appeared almost at the same time with the above architectures. For example, the Education Bookstore in the Central Avenue belongs to this style. Its feature is the pursuit of novelty and change on the basis of the renaissance architecture, and the stress of the change of concave and convex, cockamamie carving decoration and strong light and shadow effect, etc.(Fig.4).

(4) Features of the classical revival architecture
The thoughts of classical revival contradict and interpenetrate with Baroque style, and gradually become the mainstream of the European architecture form. There are also some examples in Harbin. Some are public buildings and some are private mansions. The Revolutionary Leader Activity Memorial Hall located in No. 1, Yi Yuan Street, Nan gang District, was constructed in 1909 and was originally the private residence of Jewish businessman. It is typical classical revival architecture. The building consists of two layers, and also includes basement and attic. The center is the convex section up to the top supplemented with the large Corinthian order, which enhances the vertical division (Fig.5).

(5) Features of romantic style
The feature of romantic architecture style is the avoidance of reality, the advocating of traditional cultural art, and the pursuit of the pastoral life interest and exoticism of the middle ages. It usually imitates the fortress or Gothic style of the middle ages, which produces a mysterious and romantic atmosphere. For example, the rotating staircase of the outpatient department of the Central Hospital of Harbin Railway Bureau was constructed in the form of fortress in the middle ages, which let the building seem tall, straight and forceful. Besides, the Gothic pinnacle on the parapet wall of part of the roof works in concert with the pointed arch, which makes people meditate on the past (Fig.6).

(6) Features of the Jewish constructions
There are architectures with different national styles and features because there are many nationalities in Harbin. The Jews accounted for a large proportion of the foreign nationals in Harbin, which was also reflected in the architecture. The Second Korea Middle School in Tongjiang Street, Daoli District, was originally synagogue's religious school with distinct architectural features. The frieze is decorated with beehive-shaped stalactite vault. The entrance has U-shaped arch window. The windows of the second floor are all pointed arch windows which still remain the Jewish stars (Fig.7).
(7) Features of eclectic architecture

There is much eclectic architecture in Harbin. The emergence of each architecture form is neither obviously ordered like Europe, nor the architecture styles are rigorous. They penetrate and complement mutually with eclectic style, such as the Harbin Railway Cultural Palace and the large number of buildings along the street.

(8) Features of the early modern architecture style

With the development of history, modern architecture arose at the historic moment, especially before and after the Japanese invasion of the northeast China. The features of these architectures are concise shape, purified decoration, protruding geometry, and massive application of ceramic tile, or disposing model by combining with the mould and furring tile.

2.2.2 Urban architecture characteristic in the new era

In the 21st century, the spacial structure of Harbin expands constantly. The developing zone becomes more and more large, and the traditional urban area becomes more and more new. The architectures in the "old city" and the "new city" have formed more obvious context features. The first problem faced with is how to deal with the relation with the original urban context, which has given rise to the "new classical" tendency of the architectural creation. Neoclassicism includes two meanings: one is the new constructed traditional architecture style, which is the so-called "fake antiques" and belongs to the superficial imitation of "similarity in appearance"; the other is the simple classicism architecture style or "Modern Classicism", which belongs to the deep expression of "similarity in spirit". The typical representative works are Harbin Children Palace and the Baroque street in Dazhi District, etc.

(1) Modern aestheticism

At the beginning of the 21st century, urban context has changed significantly because a large number of modern buildings were constructed. According to the developing period, the modern architecture can be divided into three styles. The new buildings in the new urban area adopt simple modern abstract geometry, such as Harbin International Exhibition Center Stadium composed of horizontal and vertical mass. The constitution of modern aestheticism is a modern style following the abstract geometrical form, represented by the Heilongjiang Science and Technology Museum. Meanwhile, affected by the foreign architecture thoughts, the architecture creation tends to overturn the traditional aesthetical standard, which is manifested by the avant-garde work which breaks routine and emphasizes form supremacy and the style focusing on game features. Many works are created in the development and construction of the new area, such as the Harbin Ice and Snow Art Center, etc.

(2) Neo-localism

Urban construction depends on the natural environment of Heilongjiang: black soil, dense forest, heavy snow and rivers, etc. Unique geographical conditions nourish the vigorous temperature and stretched architectural language of the northern buildings. The black soil and wilderness is embodied as the terrain feature of alpine, light hilly and plain represented by the design of the new Museum of Heilongjiang Province. The architect tried to compare the image of "White mountain and Black water" with simple abstract language and express the modern local aesthetic complex.

3. Positioning of the development of the architecture style of Harbin
Urban renewal is faced with the dilemma of the accept or reject and coordination of the architecture of the "old" and "new" city. It is necessary to draw lessons from the research method and experience of the "old" and "new" urban area of the international famous cities. Moreover, on the basis of the basement feature of the inseparable relation among the architecture style, historic context and the tradition of architecture art of the old urban area of Harbin, the developing positioning of the urban architecture style shall be decided.

3.1. Organic renewal area-classical revival

The research method of the developing positioning of architecture style at home and abroad is usually "three partition", that are the old city, new city and coordination area. The research referred to the advanced experience of Paris, London, Frankfurt, Moscow and St. Petersburg, The old city should respect the historic buildings, and inherit and carry forward the original architecture style. The control of the architecture style in the coordination area should be organically unified with the old city. The new city should pay attention to the contrast and innovation compared with the old city (Table 1).

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<th>Table 1. Comparison of types of urban districts</th>
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<td>Paris</td>
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Old city

Coordination area

New city

In order to control and guide the planning and design of architecture style and realize the systematization and legalization of architecture style management, Tianjin has developed the guideline of architecture style control. Taking the unique classical architecture culture as essence, dominated by the modern eclectic buildings, Tianjin has three zones with different styles integrating diversified forms:

1) Historic appearance district

The historic appearance district concentrates the historic architecture styles and constantly continues the urban historic context of Tianjin. In this district, the building color of the new constructed, reconstructed and expanded projects are required to be coordinated with the color and style of the specified representative buildings. The specific control points are as follows:

① The space layout of architecture should respect the original texture, and continue the existing building size. Facade construction and symbol should absorb the classic symbol of each area.

② The building height of the history and culture preservation district and the buffer area should be controlled.

③ The architecture design should adopt the sectional treatment of facade. The facade member and symbol should absorb the classicism elements of each area.

④ It is encouraged to adopt diversified building materials with local characteristics.

2) Modern metropolitan area
The new constructed, reconstructed, expanded buildings in the modern metropolitan area should embody the regionalism, culture and originality and adopt modern simple design method, in order to create efficient modern city image and show vibrant metropolis atmosphere.

(3) General area

The general area is a coordination area between the historic appearance district and the modern metropolitan area. In this area, the color of the new constructed, reconstructed and expanded buildings should be coordinated with the overall environment of the area. The color of the building in this area could not be large-area pure color or dark color.

3.2 New city of times--new regional style

According to the building location, age and feature of the new city of Harbin, the architectures in the new city of times can be divided into the existing buildings and the new buildings.

(1) Neoclassicism—Neo-Baroque architecture style

On the aspect of the creation of artistic image, the neoclassical revival architecture not only believes the European classic architecture of the ancient Greek, Roman, Gothic and Renaissance, but also widely absorbs the ideal beauty of the classic buildings of different nationalities in the world, emphasizes the integrity of classic art form and the sculptural model, and pursues elegance, solemn and harmony. The representative work is the main building of Harbin Engineering University.

(2) New Deconism---new Gothic revival architecture style

On the basis of summarizing the modern decoration features of the Arts Crafts Movement and Deconism, the architecture style of new Deconism massively applies modern building technologies and materials, and obtains coordinated and unified beauty by modern decoration. In terms of architectural aesthetics, it emphasizes the combination of natural beauty and geometric beauty, as well as the uniform of abstract beauty and the concrete beauty; in terms of plastic arts, geometry or fold line are used for decoration and steel and glass are materials; strong pure color, contrast color and metal color are emphasized. Structural and surface decoration is common Medias of design method. The representative work is the Harbin Planning Exhibition Hall (Fig.8).

Fig.9 Harbin West Railway Station
Fig.10 Harbin Theater

(3) Art Nouveau architecture style—unique in Harbin

The architecture style of the Art Nouveau in Harbin is consistent with that of Europe in terms of time and features; this is reflected by the innovation of formation, decorative patterns and materials. The representative works is the Harbin West Railway Station (Fig.9).

(4) New technology aesthetics---furnishing articles of urban living room

It is not only a landmark building by applying modern material and technology to reflect regional, natural, geographical and cultural features, but also one of the most representative architecture styles in cities. The examples of new technology aesthetics in the new city of times is the Harbin Theater (Fig.10).

(5) New urbanism---regionalism style of group space

It is the combination of regional building spaces from the perspective of urban design. It mainly includes: large-scale landmark buildings such as the skyline city design in the terminal of Sun Island, and the characteristic unit area in Harbin such as the Harbin Ai Jian community.

4. Guidance for the layout of Harbin architecture style
Zoning planning of urban architecture style is the basis for guiding the implementation of architecture style. The Harbin urban area is planned to be divided into organic renewal area and new city of times. And mainly emphasizes the legal status of historic buildings and the legislation control and protection of the important spacial texture. New city of times is the new zone of Harbin. The architecture style in this area should continue to use the architectural symbol of the historic and cultural building of Harbin besides reflecting the international style. Meanwhile, it is also the important developing demonstration area of the inheritance and evolution of the architecture style of Harbin, as well as the significant demonstration zone of the integration of classic architecture style and modern international urban style of Harbin.

References
