

The application of fan culture in environmental design

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Abstract: The aesthetic conception derived from the fan culture is ever-changing in the environmental art space. The beauty of the environment is added to the landscaping method through the condensation of classical elements, which makes the environmental space contain profound cultural heritage. In this paper, the cultural connotation of fan is elaborated. The key point of the article is the use of fan culture in environmental design. The window, courtyard landscape and interior landscape in traditional gardens are taken as the core to provide reference for the development of fan culture in environmental design.

1. Introduction

The environmental design is not only to explore the actual functions, but also to create a soul of environmental space which is “image outside the image, scenery outside the scene”. Therefore, the application of traditional cultural connotations in design is crucial. In the thousands of years of Chinese history, the fan is widely recognized for its artistic beauty and quaint shape. However, the discussion on the specific application of fan culture in environmental design is still not on the agenda. This paper conduct research and analysis from this angle, the history of the fan and its expression in the traditional garden is introduced, and then its specific application in contemporary environmental design is elaborated.

2. The history of the fan

The word Shan (the fan), consists of two Chinese characters--Hu (the house) and Yu (the feather), was originally mean a bamboo door leaf. The kind of fan that people hold in their hands can be traced back to Cui Bao's Ancient and Modern Notes in the Jin Dynasty. It mentioned that “The Wuming fan (the fan of wisdom and ability) was made by the Emperor Shun. After accepting the demised throne of Emperor Yao, he widely listened to opinions and sought the talents to assist himself. Therefore, he made the Wuming fan.” The Wuming fan mentioned here does not have a very strong practical function, just a ceremonial fan. During the Western Han Dynasty, Chinese art design has entered a period of vigorous development. At this time, the fan is called “Bian Mian”, which is mainly based on practical functions, and fan surfaces are mostly large. In the Eastern Han Dynasty, on the basis of “Bian Mian” there was the round silk fan, which was the predecessor of the circular fan.

During the Southern-Northern dynasties, the market for the Bian Mian was gradually replaced by a fan made of bird and animal hair. In the record, there were “lup”, “tail fan”, “Wing fan”, etc. In Gu's “Luo Shen Fu Tu”, What Luoshen's Hand are holding is the wing fan.

Round silk fan, also known as group fans, have not been developed separately before. Until the Tang Dynasty, the fan of the group developed rapidly, and it became an elegant item that the aristocratic woman did not leave. The fan is made of bamboo and dragonflies. The materials used for the fan handles are very particular. Most of them are made of famous bamboo and lacquered lacquer. They are more expensive, with white jade and ivory as materials. His shape changes a lot, some shapes are round like a waist, some are like a full moon, some are shaped like plums, hexagons, etc., and they are soft and affectionate. At the same time, women in the Tang Dynasty loved group fans not only in daily life. At that time, when women got married, there was a “Etiquette of Removing Fan”, but “Etiquette of Removing Fan” means that when a woman gets

married, she uses a fan to block her face. After drinking HeJin wine, the bridegroom must chant poems, then the bride can put down the fan. This marriage custom continued until the Song Dynasty. At the same time, the appreciation of the fan makes many people with identity crazy. They spent a lot of money to buy fans with paintings by famous artists such as Wu Daozi and Huang Bairen. Paint flowers, birds, landscapes, figures, etc. in such a small area as a fan. This way has become a very popular atmosphere in the Tang and Song Dynasties. At that time, the fan was not just a living thing, but a symbol of culture and elegance.

In the Song Dynasty, the folding fan was introduced to China from Japan. At first, the price of the folding fan was very high, so it was only a rare collection of people. Moreover, the folding fan can be opened and closed freely and placed in the sleeve, so there is the title of “shoulders and elegant things”. The folding fan shape contains square and round shapes. Its craftsmanship combines engraving, calligraphy, painting and other methods, and a folding fan, which concentrates most of China's handicraft methods. In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the development of folding fans reached the peak, and the paintings on the fans became more and more mature. Qianlong once collected more than 300 famous fans. At that time, the literary classics and the folding fan in the performance were also important props, and the fan culture was integrated with the Chinese culture.



Fig. 1: Fan development analysis chart (Source: author homemade)

3. The application of fan culture in garden design

Fan culture is slowly entering the garden design, and fans are used in many places in traditional gardens. The reason is that Chinese literati have two identities, one is an artist and the other is a garden designer. As a garden designer, the literati used the composition of fan painting, the creative thinking of fan painting and the understanding of fan culture in garden design. At the same time, Chinese literati were influenced by Confucian Buddhism and Taoism. In the gardens they designed, everything in the garden has what they mean. The meaning of the fan is also the part of the garden design expression. “Fan” has the meaning of kindness and “wind”, and “good friend” also means “cool friend”. In traditional gardens with great emphasis on meaning and story, the use of fans expresses the good character of the master.

3.1 The embodiment of fan culture in the design of garden window

3.1.1 The use of fan's shape

During the Warring States period, there was a kind of “Bian Mian” made of bamboo. The main

color was red and black. There were two rectangular holes in the side handle, allowing the holder to peeping through the rectangular hollow while covering her face with the fan. This way has the same effect as the window opening in the garden, so that people in the park can peep into the city outside the park, and people outside the park can appreciate the elegance and quietness of the park.

The specific application of the fan shape on the window can be traced back to Li Yu's *Sketches of Idle Pleasure*. According to his description, fan-shaped windows were not originally placed in the garden. This kind of window was placed on the lake boat. The reason why the window is shaped like a fan is because the fan shape gives people a "painting environment", and people naturally imagine the scene of the window frame as a painting. The fan-shaped window is placed on the lake boat because the scenery changes with the movement of the ship. The people inside the lake boat can see different scenery, naturally become a landscape fan painting, while the people on the shore can know the inside of the boat. The manners of the person, naturally become a character fan painting. Through this kind of mutual view borrowing, the two sides have a considerable view.

After that, the gardener was inspired by Li Yu, applying the fan-shaped window to the garden design. For the window without scenery, or placing the potted landscape, or making the tracery embedded in the window, made a leaking window, to achieve the effect of "painting". There are scenic windows that can be enjoyed by the scenery, and the empty windows are used to form the natural depth of field by using the heights of the plants, so that the artificial scenery is comparable to the natural scenery, and echoes with the fan-shaped frame, making people seem to look at a fan painting from a distance.

3.1.2 The influence of fan painting

The development of fan painting also promotes the progress of landscape window viewing, but fan painting is different from field landscaping. When building gardens, stones, houses, and vegetation must be placed on the ground, but they must express deeper meaning. Taking stone selection as an example, Yuanye has a very detailed description of the stone selection. When building gardens in the field, due to the different places of piling hills, the stones placed are also particular. In the fan painting, the choice of the mountain stone, or light, or heavy, with bamboo, plantain, pine and cypress to express people's ambition. Shen Zhou's *The Fan Painting of Green Plantain and Lake Stone* has the same effect as the window scenery in the Tuisi garden. Shen Zhou's works show his understanding of Buddhism. Stone has the meaning of "transparent". plantain means "body empty", expressing everything in the world as illusory, if there is no obstacle, to penetrate the heart. "View" the change of all things, get a new life. In the gardening and window scenery, the combination of plantain and stone is also more common, but unlike the single in the fan painting, the landscaping is composed of many groups of Taihu stones, which are patchwork and form a beautiful mountain. With plantains, red maples, and octagonal silver plates, it is more lively than fan paintings. Therefore, in the gardening, this kind of collocation is not just the literati's pursuit of interpretation. At the same time, the "stone" means luck, the banana leaves are big, and there is also the feeling of "smooth" and "open branches and leaves". The kind of collocation is also based on the literati's current pursuit of family glory.

Demonstrating truth and ambition with the help of other matters is also the usual way of designing the artificial garden. It's still applicable in the fan painting. When painting, close-ups are drawn through ancient trees, and large trees should not appear in the distance. To depict the grove, you should first establish the "primary", and the characterization should have a detailed difference. At the same time, in the portrayal, he advocates: depicting the temperament of the sage by the form of the object. In the leaking window of the scenery window, the method is still common when the window is manufactured. The window frame of the leaking window is various in shape, similar to the shape of the outer frame of the fan. At first, it is square and round. After that, it expresses the meaning of blessing and disaster relief. The window frames are mostly auspicious and the shape is changeable. The production of the inner core can be roughly divided into three categories: one is a geometric pattern, and the window core of the leaking window is mostly matched with a basic pattern such as square and circle; one is a natural pattern, which is mainly composed of flowers,

birds and fish. Most of its patterns contain profound meaning, and the folding fan pattern is also used in many times. There are two main meanings of folding fan pattern. One is Feng Shui. Water can be conducted, but the wind can not be captured. It is represented by a fan shape. The second is the meaning, and the fan also has the meaning of “heart and kindness.” The last category is the sacred pattern. This kind of pattern is mostly related to the ancient Shinto worship and Buddhist Zen, such as Kui pattern, from The Classic of Mountains and Seas meaning “healthy longevity”.

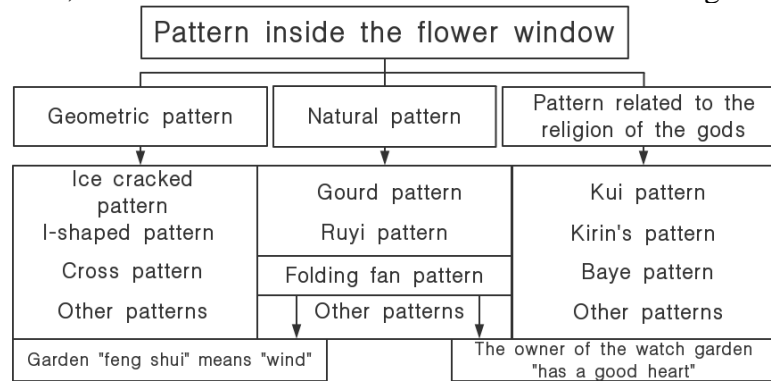


Fig 2 Picture of flower window pattern analysis (Source: author homemade)

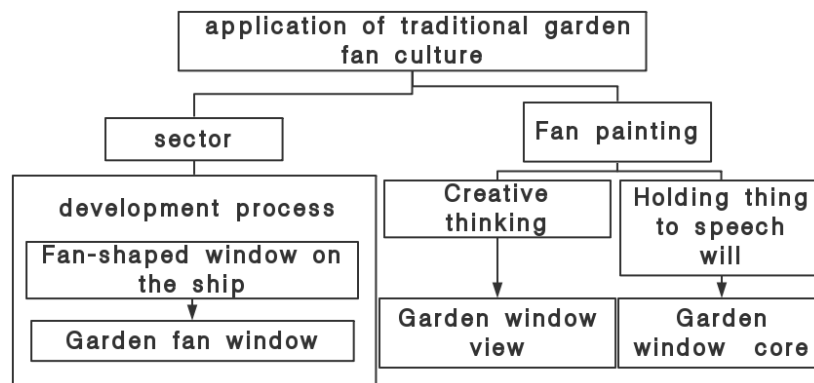


Fig 3 Analysis of the use of fan culture in traditional gardens (Source: author homemade)

4. The application of fan culture in the courtyard landscape

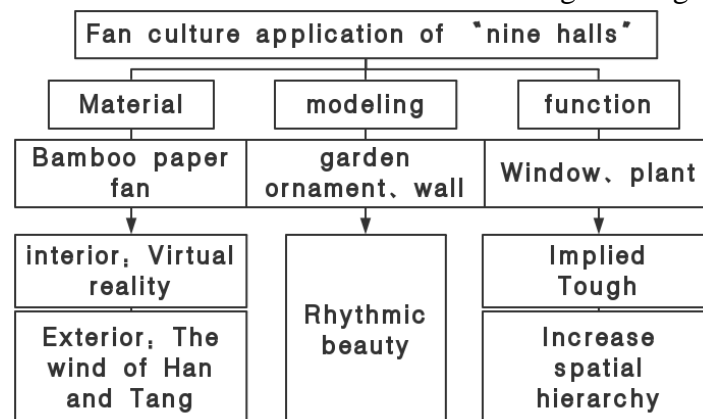
In ancient times, people used the fan to express their emotion, Integrate the spirit of the fan into the traditional garden. However, our research on fan culture never stops in traditional gardens. Today, The elegance of the fan and the profound cultural connotation behind the fan still play an important role in courtyard landscape design.

Now, the society is developing highly, new types of materials are emerging, science and technology are changing quickly and people wrapped in cement forests still retain one of their own paradise in their hearts. This kind of paradise must be preserved in the traditional garden. Therefore, a new garden landscape design method that uses the fashionable materials and respects the traditional method to create a contemporary garden begins to appear. This is a new Chinese style. The new Chinese design emphasizes traditional gardening techniques and color matching, it does not stick to tradition. Instead, tradition is used as an intrinsic spiritual symbol, which is presented from a very modern design, thus forging a very Modern Chinese courtyard space.

In the new Chinese design, in order to balance the relationship between people and space, the designer starts the concrete design from three levels. The first is to create a visually simple one. At this time, you can use simple patterns, colors, etc. In order to enrich the use function in the space, the second level is to reconstruct and combine the space to make it more in line with human requirements. The third level is emotional consideration, in order to enrich the story content in the space. Later, using the traditional garden landscapes, landscaping, landscaping and other gardening techniques, combined with modern materials, the “temperament” of the landscape is fully reflected.

The use of traditional elements in the new Chinese courtyard landscape is not rigid, it is simplified and recreated to become the most representative symbolic content. But the connotation behind this symbol can't be understood only by the designer, but also to those who enter the landscape space. For example, in the design of “Shanghai nine halls”, in order to reflect the theme of “three open three, that is, nine rooms”, the design of the courtyard basically follows the meaning of “deep courtyard”. In the process of communication, The outer walls of the nine halls are made up of slats and green bamboos, which create a secluded paradise. The courtyard is surrounded by fences and semi-transparent walls, so that the parks can communicate with each other without disturbing each other. Deepening the depth of field At the same time, it creates infinite changes in a limited space, making the courtyard landscape space both interesting and hierarchical.

In the construction of the inner courtyard landscape space with fan culture characteristics, first of all, in the similarity of raw materials, the bamboo is the bone, and the bamboo is used repeatedly in the landscape design of “nine halls”. One of the halls uses bamboo paper umbrellas, This umbrella makes the hall quite open to the Han and Tang dynasties in the distance. View from the inside to the outside, due to the blockage of bamboo paper, it can not be seen, but through the bamboo paper can be faintly observed, greatly enriching the fun of the landscape. Secondly, it is the similarity of the style. Compared with the use of the outer frame of the traditional garden, “nine halls “ express about the reproduction of the fan-shaped scales, whether it is a small thing in the garden or a wall of the building ,a large number of references to this form, adds to the rhythm and rhythm of the courtyard landscape space. Finally, in the communication of functions, the relationship between the fan and the window function in the traditional garden has long been self-evident, and in the design of the “nine halls”, in order to avoid the single wall, a variety of hollow nets are also set. The lattice and the window, the design is a good interpretation of the spatial relationship between “Virtual reality” in the garden landscape. At the same time, in the design of the “nine halls “ plant, it is more concise and clear than the traditional garden, but it is also profound and meaningful. The toughness of bamboo and the indifferent of orchid are all explained by the designer. Compared with the use of fan culture in traditional gardens, the use of the new Chinese garden landscape is more reserved and restrained, reflecting more of an “elegant” feeling that can only be said to be unspeakable. Simplicity and masterhood is closer to the fan “ shoulders and elegant things “.



Picture 4:Analysis of the use of fan culture in “nine halls”(Source: author homemade)

5. The application of fan culture in the Interior design

In Chinese traditional gardens, the window that is inseparable from the fan culture is not only embedded in the wall in the garden. In interior design, it still occupies a very important position. In the eyes of the Chinese, the window is far more than a window. It is a picture frame that brings sunlight and air. At the same time, it is necessary to introduce outdoor scenery. In the indoor space, you can still taste the interest in the garden.

Today, people’s living space has been rapidly compressed, and green is particularly valuable in urban construction. This kind of window, the role of introducing the natural scene into the house,

still makes it shine in modern interior design.

The re-use of the window in the indoor space can be classified more carefully according to the style and function of the space. For example, in a small-scale home design with simple style, the production of the window can use modern building materials, such as glossy metal materials, using ancient methods of production, but the texture of the window can not be too complicated. In this way, a transparent window is formed, which is embedded in the wall to form a semi-blocking device. This method not only increases the spatial change of the apartment, but also circulates the space between them, and strengthens the privacy of the space, avoiding the sense of urgency in the small space. The shape of the window makes the interior space more quaint and cultural. For larger styles of office or other functional spaces, the raw materials for the window can be made of wood, bamboo, tiles, or directly into a fan-shaped window, and then matched with indoor greening, combination pots or Japanese rock garden. Finally, use the indoor lighting to create a light and shadow change, so that there is a view behind the window to enjoy. Moreover, the fan-shaped empty window can make the scenery more easy to form a “drawing environment”, and adds a literati atmosphere to the indoor space.

The representative of the fan culture in the indoor space is not only the window. In the traditional indoor space of China, there is also a fan-related indoor device, which occupies a very important position and represents the “face” of a family. This is the screen.

The function of the screen and the fan is similar. The screen is used to cover people, and the fan is used to cover the face. They all contain the concept of traditional Chinese “hiding”. At the same time, the screen is used to decorate the interior space, and the fan is used to decorate the person. In the traditional Chinese concept, The inner beauty is very important. Fans and screens are the most intuitive expression of people's status. In “Dream of Red Mansions”, Jia Rong borrowed a glass screen that was very rare at that time and placed it at home to show that the family had a high status.

In contemporary China, this movable semi-blocking device is still a hot topic for interior designers. For example, in residential design, the traditional screen is mainly set at the entrance. There are two reasons for this. First, for the indoor “feng shui”, block the bad things outside, and second, for personal privacy, avoid the unobstructed Embarrassed. Modern screens still follow this function, but on this basis, the materials are updated and the functions are expanded. In the modern residential space, the design of the screen is more permeable and transparent, avoiding the oppressive feeling of traditional screens. Moreover, in the function of the screen, other functions such as storage and message board are added. These designs make it more in line with the requirements of modern people; in the display space, the screen is also very important, and the display space is very open. The space re-engineering ability of the screen is often used. Compared with the residential space, the material is more lightweight. And it needs more flexible movement. Its decorative features should be adjusted according to the theme of the show. Or directly into white, and then use multimedia methods such as projection to express the theme of the exhibition in this way.

Table 1: Fan culture uses summary Table in interior design (Source: author homemade)

Theme	The Way to express	Spatial classification	Specific method	effect
Fan culture	Windows	Residential space	Modern materials are matched with traditional forms to make indoor semi-interruptions	Increase spatial change while maintaining privacy
		Office Space	Empty windows are matched with indoor greenery to create an indoor landscape	Forming a “drawing environment” to add a cultural atmosphere
	Screen	Residential space	Focus on light and breathability, expand the use of functions	Avoid traditional space repression and focus on practicality
		Exhibition space	Focus on flexible mobility, with multimedia devices to express the theme	Space reconstruction

6. Conclusion

Environmental design once came from the west countries, but now, How to create an environment design with unique Chinese style is a new generation for designers to think about. According to the discussion in the article, you can understand that the fan has been used as a design material for thousands of years and fan culture is easy to recreate and express in modern environmental design. In the process of expression, the we should take its essence , combine the cultural connotation of fan with modern materials, emerging crafts, and contemporary aesthetics, and breed a new environmental space with Chinese character.

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