

Cultural Continuity and Innovative Pathways in Environmental Art Design during Urban Regeneration Processes

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Abstract: Urban regeneration is the core pathway for improving the quality of urban stock space and achieving sustainable development. As an important bridge connecting urban space and humanistic connotations, Environmental Art Design's core mission lies in balancing the optimization of spatial functionality and the continuity of regional culture. In current urban regeneration, Environmental Art Design often faces challenges, such as superficial cultural expressions, lack of regional characteristics, and disconnection between cultural continuity and innovation, failing to fully explore the local cultural genes and struggling to meet the demands of modern life. This paper delves into the core essence and existing problems of cultural continuity in Environmental Art Design based on the humanistic orientation of urban regeneration, extracts the inherent logic of cultural continuity and innovation integrating practice cases, explores design trajectories that integrate cultural resonance, functional efficacy, and contemporary relevance to catalyze urban regeneration to transcend the homogenization trap, make environmental art an important medium for carrying urban memories, highlighting cultural characteristics, and serving civic life, and achieve the symbiotic coexistence of urban space and humanistic connotations.

Keywords: Urban Regeneration; Environmental Art Design; Cultural Continuity; Innovative Pathways; Regional Culture

DOI:10.12417/3029-2344.25.11.019

1.Introduction

As the urbanization process enters the stage of urban stock space development, urban regeneration has shifted from merely the physical space renovation to a comprehensive improvement of the urban cultural connotation, living quality and spiritual value. Environmental Art Design runs through the entire process of urban regeneration, covering multiple aspects such as public space, architectural styles, and landscape creation. It not only shapes the visual appearance of a city, but also carries the historical memories and cultural genes of the city. Cultural continuity is the soul of Environmental Art Design, and cultural innovation is where its vitality lies. Design that is divorced from culture will degenerate into meaningless formal construction, while cultural continuity without innovation will cause culture to become rigid and decline. Currently, in some urban regeneration projects, Environmental Art Design blindly pursues modernity and commercialization, neglecting the exploration and expression of local culture, resulting in the loss of uniqueness of urban space and the gradual disappearance of cultural memories ^[1]. Based on this, it is of important practical significance for highlighting urban characteristics, improving urban quality, and enhancing citizens' cultural identity to conduct in-depth exploration of the cultural continuity and innovative pathways in Environmental Art Design during the urban regeneration processes, resolve the contradiction between cultural continuity and innovation, and achieve the organic integration of the two.

2.The Core of Cultural Continuity in Environmental Art Design During Urban Regeneration Processes

During urban regeneration processes, cultural continuity in Environmental Art Design does not merely involve simple symbol replication or element assembly. Instead, it is a deep exploration, precise refinement and dynamic continuity of the urban cultural genes. Its core lies in preserving urban memories, highlighting regional characteristics, and conveying humanistic warmth. This enables citizens to experience the influence of culture in their daily space and achieve the continuity of cultural identity from generation to generation.

2.1 The Core Essence of Cultural Continuity

In Environmental Art Design, cultural continuity essentially refers to the systematic continuity of the historical context, regional characteristics and lifestyle of a city. The historical context of a city encompasses rich elements such as architectural texture, folk customs, and human stories. It is the core identifier that distinguishes a city from other regions. Environmental Art Design needs to transform these intangible cultural connotations into tangible spatial language, enabling the historical context to continue in the updated space. The cultural continuity of regional characteristics focuses on the local natural environment, material technology and cultural symbols, accounts for the local climate conditions and geographical features, and uses local materials and traditional techniques to build environment landscapes that align with local temperament, avoiding the homogenization in designs [2]. At the same time, cultural continuity should also pay attention to the lifestyles and emotional needs of the citizens, preserve the humanistic warmth in the original urban living scenes, make Environmental Art Design align with civic daily life, and achieve the deep integration between cultural continuity and life needs, rather than a cultural display detached from reality.

2.2 Current Challenges in Cultural Continuity

In current urban regeneration processes, the cultural continuity in Environmental Art Design still faces many prominent challenges, which hinders the effective delivery of cultural value. The first is superficial cultural expressions. Some designs merely simply copy traditional symbols without delving into or interpreting the cultural connotations behind them, resulting in superficial cultural expressions, failing to deliver the core value of regional culture. Moreover, there may even be cultural misinterpretations and misalignment. The second is homogenization of regional characteristics. They blindly imitate the design models of other cities, neglecting the local natural and cultural traits, and excessively pursuing modern commercial styles. As a result, the environmental landscapes of different cities have become increasingly similar, and the cities have lost their unique cultural signifier. The third is the disconnection between cultural continuity and the reality. Some designs overly emphasize retro elements, neglecting the life needs and spatial functionality of modern citizens. As a result, the continued cultural elements are incompatible with modern life and struggle to be accepted and recognized by citizens. Eventually, they fall into the predicament of rigid cultural continuity. The fourth is fragmented cultural continuity. Cultural continuity fails to conduct a systematic review of the urban historical contexts. Instead, it merely expresses individual cultural elements in isolation, lacking a holistic narrative logic of culture and failing to create complete cultural space experience [3].

3. The Dialectical Relationship Between Cultural Continuity and Innovation in Environmental Art Design During Urban Regeneration Processes

In the Environmental Art Design during urban regeneration processes, cultural continuity and innovation are not antagonistic, but rather a complementary and dialectically unified whole. Cultural continuity is the cornerstone for cultural innovation. Without cultural continuity, cultural innovation will degenerate into water without a source or a tree without roots. Cultural innovation is the driving force of cultural continuity. Without cultural innovation, cultural continuity will lose its vitality, struggling meet the demands of the times. The organic integration of cultural continuity and innovation is the key to achieving the sustainable development of Environmental Art Design.

3.1 Cultural Continuity Is the Cornerstone and Prerequisite for Cultural Innovation

The cultural genes of a city are the core materials and sources of inspiration for Environmental Art Design innovation. Without cultural continuity, any innovative design will inevitably lack soul and uniqueness, and fall into the homogenization trap. The innovation in Environmental Art Design should be based on a deep exploration and understanding of local culture to continue the historical context, regional characteristics and humanistic spirit of a city, and preserve the core value and excellent elements of its culture. Only by being rooted in the local cultural soil can innovative design acquire unique cultural salience, and can it elicit emotional resonance and cultural identity of the citizens. For instance, in the renovation of historical districts, Environmental Art Design needs to preserve the

original architectural texture, spatial patterns and traditional construction technology, and, based on this, carry out functional optimization and form innovation. Only in this way can Environmental Art Design not only retain historical memories, but also adapt to modern life, and achieve the synergistic promotion of cultural continuity and space renovation [4].

3.2 Cultural Innovation Is the Driving Force and Pathway for Cultural Continuity

Times are evolving, and the life needs and aesthetic concepts of citizens are also constantly changing. Traditional cultural narratives and space design models have become unable to meet the demands of modern urban regeneration. The cultural continuity in Environmental Art Design does not involve rigid replication and preservation, yet reinvigorates traditional cultural elements with contemporary vitality through innovative design languages, technical means, and spatial-functional congruence, achieving dynamic perpetuation of living heritage. Cultural innovation can transcend the constraints of traditional cultural continuity, integrate traditional culture with modern aesthetics, modern functions and modern technologies, enable cultural elements to be presented in a way that is closer to civic life and aligns more with the times, and make cultural continuity integrate into the entire process of urban regeneration and become an intrinsic driving force for urban development. At the same time, cultural innovation can also promote the expansion and development of cultural connotations. By aligning with the demands of the times, it provides new interpretations for traditional culture, enabling urban culture to innovate in cultural continuity and to continue in cultural innovation [5].

4. Cultural Continuity and Innovative Pathways in Environmental Art Design During Urban Regeneration Processes

Each city should align with the core requirements of urban regeneration and the practical experience in Environmental Art Design, account for the dialectical relationship between cultural continuity and innovation, and explore the cultural continuity and innovation pathways that integrate cultural resonance, contemporary relevance, and functional efficacy from four dimensions—cultural exploration, cultural narratives, technology application, and spatial-functional congruence to solve the current design problems and achieve the synergistic development of urban space and humanistic connotations.

4.1 Deeply Exploring the Cultural Genes to Construct a Systematic Cultural Narrative

The foundation of cultural continuity lies in the in-depth exploration and systematic organization of the local cultural genes, transcending the fragmented and superficial cultural narratives, and ensuring cultural heritage transmission remains rooted in ancestral wisdom and traceable through genealogical continuity. In the early stage of Environmental Art Design, it is necessary to carry out a systematic cultural research, visiting old urban quarters, consulting local historical records, listening to the oral memories of the citizens, and comprehensively exploring the historical context, folk customs, architectural features, human stories, and other core cultural vessels of a city, select the most representative, and most unique cultural elements and core value, and construct a complete and coherent cultural narrative system, avoiding the blind appropriation and isolated presentation of cultural elements. On the one hand, it should focus on material cultural heritage, deeply explore the structural texture of historical buildings, the spatial layout of ancient streets and alleys, and the craftsmanship details of traditional components, extract visual symbols and craftsmanship techniques that can be transformed into design language, and skillfully integrate them into designs, and preserve the original spatial texture and historical memories of a city, enabling citizens to awaken cultural resonance through the spatial scenes. On the other hand, it should focus on intangible cultural heritage and transcend the constraint that “intangible culture is difficult to express”, and transform intangible cultural elements, such as local folk activities, traditional handicrafts, and local humanistic spirit, into tangible spatial narratives through concrete spatial design, enabling intangible cultural heritage to leave the museums and integrate into public space for citizens’ daily leisure and interaction, becoming perceptible and experiential cultural scenes. Concurrently, it should align with the development history of a city and the characteristics of the times, combine the core of

traditional culture with contemporary humanistic spirit and value pursuit, discard feudalism, inherit excellent genes, and construct syncretic cultural narratives imbued with historical sedimentation and contemporary resonance, making it an important vessel for telling a city's story, transmitting cultural value, and fostering citizens' cultural identity.

4.2 Innovating Cultural Narratives to Achieve Symbiotic Integration of Ancestral Wisdom and Contemporary Paradigms

Environmental Art Design should transcend reductive appropriation of traditional symbols through abstracted, metaphorical, and situational design methodologies to achieve contemporary transduction of cultural elements, thereby rendering cultural expressions with heightened contemporaneity and affective potency. Abstracted translation involves condensing traditional complex cultural symbols and patterns into simple and concise design elements that meet modern aesthetic demands, while preserving the cultural connotations behind the symbols and achieving semiotic resilience through signifying rupture and semantic continuity in heritage transmission. Metaphorical expressions involve indirectly delivering the cultural connotations and spiritual value through spatial layout, material selection, and landscape creation, enabling citizens to experience the cultural influence within the space, and avoiding direct cultural display. Situational design methodologies involve recreating traditional living scenarios, optimizing them in accordance with modern life needs, and creating space with humanistic warmth, enabling citizens to experience traditional culture during their daily activities and enhance their cultural identity. For instance, in the renovation of old communities, traditional folk elements can be abstracted into landscape sculptures and wall decorations, integrating smart recreation amenities to co-design community commons embodying culturally-rooted resonance and place-specific utility, achieving the organic integration of traditional culture and modern life.

4.3 Leveraging Modern Technological Means to Empower Cultural Continuity and Innovation

The development of modern technology has provided new pathways and means for the cultural continuity and innovation in Environmental Art Design, transcending the constraints of traditional designs and achieving the diversification of cultural expressions and the enrichment of spatial experience. Integrating digital technology, new materials, etc. with Environmental Art Design cannot only enhance the functionality and practical utility of the designs, but also enable traditional cultural elements to be presented in a more neoteric way. In terms of digital technology application, cities can utilize technologies, such as light and shadow technology, interactive technology, to create immersive cultural space, enabling citizens to interact with traditional culture and enhancing the fun and engagement of cultural experience. Digital means can be used to restore historical scenes and cultural elements to enable living heritage display and transmission. In terms of the application of new materials, cities must integrate local traditional materials with modern new materials to retain the temperature and characteristics of traditional craftsmanship, but also enhance the durability and environmental friendliness of the space, achieving the synergistic innovation of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology. Simultaneously, they must apply modern design concepts and technological means to optimize the spatial functionality, ensuring that the Environmental Art Design not only meets the requirements of cultural continuity, but also align with the lifestyle and aesthetic needs of modern citizens.

4.4 Anchoring the Requirements of Spatial-Functional Congruence to Achieve the Symbiosis of Humanities and Practicality

The primordial vocation of Environmental Art Design resides in serving civic life, wherein cultural continuity and innovation must be grounded in spatial-functional congruence. This imperative eschews detached formalism to actualize the symbiosis of humanistic value and practical utility. During urban regeneration processes, Environmental Art Design should integrate cultural elements in a targeted manner based on the functional requirements of different space so as to achieve the deep integration between cultural continuity and spatial functionality. For instance, in the renovation of historical blocks, it is necessary to preserve the original architectural

styles and cultural characteristics, while optimizing spatial commercial, leisure, and residential functionality, to create the space that integrates cultural heritage and commercial vitality. In the renovation of urban parks, Environmental Art Design can integrate with local natural cultural elements, and align with modern leisure and fitness needs to create public space that integrates ecological features, cultural resonance, practical utility. Concurrently, Environmental Art Design should pay attention to the diverse needs of the citizens, and account for the aesthetic and usage requirements of different age groups and different communities, enabling Environmental Art Design to not only show cultural characteristics but also align with civic life, achieving the synergistic development of cultural continuity, spatial functionality and citizens' needs, and making the updated urban space truly serve the citizens to enhance their sense of happiness and belonging.

5. Conclusion

During the urban regeneration process, the cultural continuity and innovation of Environmental Art Design are crucial for highlighting a city's characteristics, enhancing the city's quality, and preserving the city's cultural heritage. Cultural continuity is the soul of design, which should be based on the local cultural genes and achieve in-depth exploration and systematic continuity of culture; Cultural innovation is the vitality of design, which needs to align with modern aesthetics, technology and demands to realize the modern translation and dynamic development of traditional cultural elements. These dimensions exist in reciprocal symbiosis and dialectical unity: cultural innovation detached from cultural continuity lacks epistemic depth, while cultural continuity devoid of innovative reinvention forfeits sustainable pathways. The cultural continuity and innovation pathways proposed in this paper can effectively solve the current challenges in Environmental Art Design, such as superficial cultural expressions, absence of regional characteristics, and disconnection between cultural continuity and innovation, and achieve the organic integration of cultural continuity and innovation by deeply exploring cultural genes, innovating cultural narratives, leveraging modern technological means, and anchoring the requirements of spatial-functional congruence. In urban regeneration practice, Environmental Art Design must always adhere to a humanistic orientation, account for cultural resonance, functional efficacy, and contemporary relevance, make environmental art a significant vessel that carries urban memories, highlights cultural characteristics, and serves civic life, catalyze cities to transcend the homogenization trap, achieve the symbiotic coexistence of urban space and humanistic connotations, and promote the high-quality and sustainable development of cities.

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