

# Study on the Path of Protection and Adaptive Utilization of Cultural Relics Buildings in Yangzhou

Kexin Wei, Yuanzi Liang, Rong Zhu\*

School of Design, Jiangnan University, Wuxi, 214122, Jiangsu, China

zhurongseu@foxmail.com

**Abstract.** As the development of China's new urbanization continues to advance, how to balance the relationship between cultural relic buildings and urban modernization has become one of the important issues of urban development. The article takes Yangzhou City, the first batch of national famous historical and cultural cities, as an example, analyzes the characteristics and development history of cultural relics buildings in the city, grasps the actual development problems, and systematically explores the protection and adaptive use paths of existing cultural relics buildings, inherits and advocates the cultural relics buildings in the context of urban renewal, and helps continue the city's cultural genes.

Keywords: Cultural relic buildings in Yangzhou; Protection; Adaptive use

#### 1 Introduction

As immovable cultural relics carrying significant historical and cultural information, cultural relics buildings are cultural symbols that truly record the social style, aesthetic taste and cultural characteristics of a specific era of development, and are immovable, unrepeatable and irreplaceable<sup>1</sup>. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has repeatedly given important instructions on the protection of historical and cultural heritage, emphasizing that "we should protect the historical and cultural heritage of cities as if we cherished our own lives". In 2021, the "14th Five-Year Plan" for the protection of cultural relics and scientific and technological innovation put forward the protection of cultural relics buildings in the "14th Five-Year Plan". In 2021, the "14th Five-Year Plan" for Cultural Heritage Protection and Scientific and Technological Innovation proposed to do a good job of systematic protection of cultural relics buildings, innovate ways of rational utilization, and actively guide the participation of social forces. Yangzhou, as one of the first cities selected as a national famous historical and cultural city, has many cultural relics buildings. Along with the rapid development of urbanization and tourism, the "blurring" of basic information, the "isolation" of protection and management, and the "polarization" of utilization forms have become important issues for the sustainable development of Yangzhou's cultural relics buildings. The sustainable development of architecture has become an important challenge, but also its heritage of urban culture, building a high level of spatial governance system is still one of the key issues to be resolved. Therefore, there is an urgent need to comprehensively map out the basic information of Yangzhou's cultural relic buildings, and adopt a holistic and dynamic conservation and adaptive use strategy, which is conducive to the promotion of local culture and urban development.

#### 2 The Characteristics of Yangzhou's Cultural Relics Buildings

#### 2.1 Diversification of Functional Categories and Richness of Total Architectural Remains

As of June 2024, there are a total of 389 sites in the 3 municipal districts of Hanjiang, Guangling and Jiangdu under Yangzhou City and 1 county of Baoying as well as 2 county-level cities of Gaoyou and Yizheng, which are under the administration of Yangzhou City (Figure 1). Among them, there are 20 national cultural relics buildings, 40 provincial cultural relics buildings, and 329 municipal and county cultural relics buildings. Yangzhou, as a cultural center in China's history, has been home to Zhu Ziqing, Wu Daotai and other historical celebrities since ancient times, so there are as many as 173 residential buildings represented by the former residences of celebrities, which account for nearly 50% of the total number of such buildings. Relying on the unique landscape environment and natural resources, Yangzhou has become an important city for the development of handicrafts, transportation and other industrial and commercial trades, and 58 industrial and commercial buildings such as factories, warehouses, guild halls, workshops and other industrial, commercial and auxiliary production sites have been preserved. In addition, due to its well-developed transportation and trade industries, multiple cultures merged and collided here, resulting in the formation of a wide variety of non-production public buildings, such as cultural and religious sites, court buildings, and religious buildings, of which 158 remain to this day.

## 2.2 The Building Age Span is Large, the Number of Remains of Each Generation is Disparate

Yangzhou encompasses the Tang Dynasty to the modern period of cultural relics and architectural remains, most of the ancient buildings for the wooden structure of the building, after a long period of natural and man-made elements, so the longer the era, the more difficult to stay in the building, the preservation of the state of affairs is not respectable<sup>2</sup>. Ming and Qing dynasties, China's construction level reached a higher stage, brick and wood buildings gradually replaced a single wooden building, coupled with the economic, cultural, scientific and technological stability of Yangzhou at that time, so the construction and the number of cultural relics to be able to retain the largest number of buildings, amounting to 258, accounting for 66.32% of the total. The Republic of China period due to the introduction of Western construction techniques, masonry materials can be widely used, building quality to improve the preservation of the number of remains in the second place in the total. Since the founding of the PRC, the number of recognized cultural relic buildings is relatively limited due to the relatively short period of time.

### 2.3 The building is Concentrated in the Ancient City and Closely Related to the Life of the Residents

Combined with geographic location, socio-economic and other macro-factors, Yangzhou cultural relics buildings are mostly historical remains of the city's ancient urban areas, the distribution of the form of the "point slice combined" characteristics. As the seat of the ancient city of Yangzhou City, Guangling District and Gaoyou City for the main "piece" distribution of cultural relics where the building, respectively, retained 154 and 110 cultural relics building, accounting for 39.6% of the total number of cultural relics building and 28.3%, the remaining districts and counties of the number of cultural relics building basically the same, was a "scattered" distribution. The rest of the districts and counties have almost the same number of cultural relic buildings, which are distributed in a "scattered" manner. Among them, most of the cultural relic buildings are residential buildings, mostly located in or connected to old residential areas, with a high degree of association with residents' lives, forming the layout characteristics of cultural relic buildings mixed with residential communities.

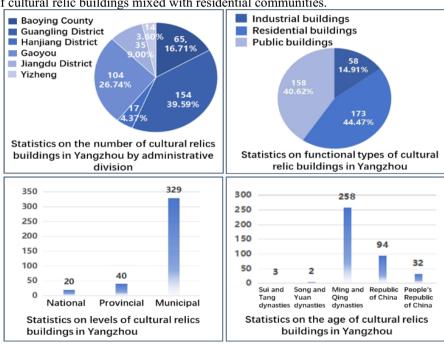


Fig. 1. Data analysis of cultural relic buildings in Yangzhou City.

## 3 Yangzhou Cultural Relics Buildings Development of the Reality of the Dilemma

#### 3.1 Lack of Operational Norms and Limited Financial Investment

Although the existing "Yangzhou ancient city of traditional residential repair subsidies for the implementation of the views (for trial implementation)", "Yangzhou ancient city of traditional style residential repair technical guidelines" and other rules and regulations to a certain extent focus on the ancient city of historical homes, the implementation of the "government-led, enterprise undertakings, residents to participate in the use of financial subsidies" mode, to encourage the public to carry out spontaneous renovation, but there is a lack of comprehensive and systematic protection and adaptive utilization norms for more types of cultural relic buildings and their surroundings. Existing norms tend to new projects model building technology and management regulations, for different functional types of cultural relic buildings protection and adaptive use of practice is more difficult to play a targeted role in guiding the specific planning whether to be accepted and implemented in the actual implementation of the more variables still exist. In addition, with the expansion of Yangzhou cultural relics building protection and adaptive use of the scale of the work carried out, the demand for funds to expand, relying solely on government funding is difficult to meet the existing demand, the lack of strengthening the market-oriented operation and to encourage and guide the civil society to carry out the spontaneous fund-raising mechanism.

#### 3.2 Lack of Professional Talents and a Single Participating Body

The adaptive use of cultural relic buildings is inevitably built on the basis of profound knowledge of cultural relic buildings, as a professional and comprehensive work, requiring the intervention of a large number of professionals in different fields. On the one hand, Yangzhou lacks the formation and coordination of multi-disciplinary professional teams, which makes it difficult to carry out systematic, large-scale and all-around professional guidance; on the other hand, some grassroots or community staff lack professional knowledge and working experience in cultural relics, which leads to the lack of grassroots efforts in the preservation and revitalization of cultural relics buildings. In addition, most of the cultural relics buildings in Yangzhou are closely related to public life, and their innovative development work inevitably requires the support and participation of the local public. At present, Guangling District and Hanjiang District of Yangzhou City have a higher degree of public participation, creating a number of cases such as "Left Qin, Right Book, Stacked Show Room", but the rest of the districts and counties are still led by the government, and the willingness of the public to participate in the work and the degree of public participation is relatively low, and the specific collaborative mechanisms, regulatory measures, etc., need to be perfected.

### 3.3 Deterioration of the Architectural Style and Solidification of the Utilization Form

As a result of the impact of age and man-made use, and compounded by the structural inadequacy of many cultural relic buildings, the aging of infrastructure, and the lack of daily maintenance, building components are subject to varying degrees of decay, alkalinity, weathering and other damages, and the buildings as a whole are in a serious state of disrepair. With the transformation of modern lifestyles, the contradiction between the inheritance of the integrity of the historical appearance of cultural relic buildings and the lack of adaptability of spatial functions has become increasingly obvious, and some residents, in order to improve their quality of life, have taken the liberty of using modern building materials to transform the structure and appearance of their buildings, or have illegally pulled electrical wires and chaotically laid pipes, which not only breaks the harmony and unity of the historical environment, but also poses a potential safety hazard.

In Yangzhou, 213 cultural relic buildings are under maintenance or closed all year round, and only 176 of them are open, but the way of utilization is relatively single. More than half of the building slightly modified to static tourism open to the public, the lack of protection and utilization on the level of the combination of traditional culture, modern business and other aspects of the comprehensive consideration. Similar architectural environment and homogenized display makes the public prone to aesthetic fatigue, resulting in addition to well-known buildings, most of the cultural relic buildings in the "no one knows, no one to see" state. Part of the cultural relics building blind pursuit of economic benefits, directly inside and outside the space simply rectify will be rented to the outside world, the use of the rough way, destroying the true cultural heritage of the building, so that it is empty of its shape. Although Yangzhou has a large number of cultural relics buildings, widely distributed, but due to the lack of integration of cultural relics building resources, the same region, the same type of cultural relics buildings lack of linkage between the development of fragmented development, integration between the various aspects of the building linkage between the depth and breadth of yet to be improved, it is difficult to form the core of cultural relics building brand features.

## 4 Strategies of Protection and Adaptive Use of Cultural Relics Buildings in Yangzhou

The protection and adaptive use of cultural relic buildings often stems from their value perception and the extent to which their comprehensive functions are adapted to the economic, social and cultural changes of the city<sup>3</sup>. In concrete practice, the value, function and benefit of the building should be inherited to the greatest extent through comprehensive analysis and specific directions for social environment adaptation, respecting and integrating the life cycle and development trajectory of the building itself. As a result, a three-level path system of Yangzhou's cultural relic buildings protection and

adaptive use is proposed (Figure 2), namely, "active government - effective implementation - powerful public".

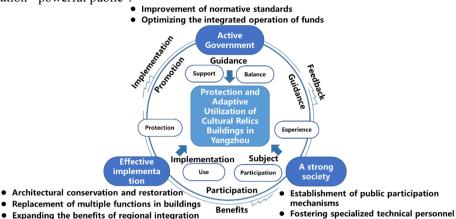


Fig. 2. Yangzhou cultural relic buildings protection and utilization path system

#### 4.1 Active Government: Improving Policies

#### 4.1.1 Improvement of Normative Standards.

To enhance the comprehensive adaptability of cultural relics buildings in the development of Yangzhou City as the goal, to build the actual protection and adaptive use of Yangzhou's cultural relics buildings normative system, the body of the cultural relics buildings and the spatial environment to achieve a comprehensive analysis of the "spatial coverage, the elements of the whole package" in the heritage of the city's cultural lineage, spatial transformation of the function of the change in the nature of the land, and the integration of the surrounding environment. In terms of urban heritage inheritance, transformation of spatial functions, change of land nature, integration with the surrounding environment, etc., it clarifies the technical specifications and implementation standards for the protection and adaptive use of cultural relic buildings. At the same time, through the empowerment and confirmation of the rights of multiple subjects, the public is encouraged to apply for and set up civil organizations on their own initiative according to the guidelines and regulations, so as to form a combination of upper and lower paths for the protection and adaptive use of cultural relics buildings.

#### 4.1.2 Optimizing the integrated Operation of Funds.

Combined with the economic benefits, improve the protection and adaptive use of cultural relics buildings economic support and management system, can take incentives to encourage financial and tax adjustment measures to promote the development of cultural relics buildings of the supply of funds, through the purchase of services, the development of tourism, cultural industries and other ways to introduce social capital to participate in the opening of the "cultural relics buildings subscription subsidy program." "private cultural relic buildings subscription subsidy program" and other financial support projects for the protection and adaptive use of cultural cultural relic

buildings special development funds subsidies or to be the corresponding tax incentives, to provide economic momentum.

#### 4.2 Effective Implementation: Concrete Operations

#### 4.2.1 Architectural Conservation and Restoration.

Regardless of the type of cultural relic buildings, the protection of the original features of cultural relic buildings is the first condition for their adaptive use<sup>4</sup>. Individual protection and repair of Yangzhou cultural relics buildings should be combined with the actual situation, counting the architectural elements of each cultural relic building, summarizing the characteristic elements that embody the value as well as those that produce negative impacts, so as to formulate corresponding protection and repair measures<sup>5</sup>. First, eliminate or reduce the factors leading to the damage of the cultural relic buildings in time; second, try our best to retain the current situation of the building, reduce the intervention on the cultural relic buildings and avoid causing new damage; third, as far as possible, keep the same or similar with the original elements of the cultural relic buildings in terms of materials, technology, etc. to maintain the overall coordination, and carry out the restoration of the part of the data records in time for archival purposes; fourth, without affecting the architectural style, appropriate Add or optimize the supporting infrastructure to ensure the needs of building use.

#### 4.2.2 Replacement of Multiple Functions in Buildings.

For residential buildings, such as Zhao's Residence, Hu's Residence, Li's Residence and other residential buildings that still bear residential functions, according to the real conditions of the buildings, under the premise of not affecting the historical appearance, the living environment is upgraded in terms of space utilization, structural reinforcement, updating of kitchens and bathrooms, and laying of pipes and wires, or combined with the conditions of the buildings, it is designed as a special B&B catering, speciality stores, and a family culture exhibition hall, etc., to ensure that it meets the needs of modern life and ensure that the needs of modern life are met and the architectural features are continued. At the same time, according to their own site conditions, the courtyards are arranged, flowers and trees are planted, and a characteristic residential courtyard landscape of "one courtyard, one view" is formed. The former residences of historical celebrities that cannot be remodeled, such as the former residence of Liu Wengi and Liu Shipei, the former residence of Chen Liuzhou, the former residence of Li Changle, etc., which are related to celebrities or major historical events, need to focus on highlighting the cultural spirit. Through the collection of relevant historical information, digital technology can be integrated to vividly reproduce historical scenes, or with the help of film and television dramas, plays, scripts and other emerging forms, to build a large-scale dynamic immersive interactive experience scenes, highlighting the value and benefits of ideological education in the residences of celebrities.

For industrial and commercial buildings, Lingnan Guild Hall, Hubei Guild Hall, Gaoyou Pawnshop, Green Yang Inn, Salt Audit Office and other post stations and guild halls, old stores, production and management of industrial and commercial buildings

with trade and commerce functions, based on their production and cultural characteristics, take the transformation mode of urban landmarks to create cultural and creative industries, industrial heritage parks and other social and public service spaces; trade and cultural memorial halls, handmade production and experience workshops, local The city will adopt the model of urban landmark transformation to create social public service spaces such as cultural and creative industry zone, commerce and culture memorial hall, handmade production experience workshop, local commodity market, etc.; or recreation and leisure areas such as art exhibition hall, small theater and tea house. For Wang Wanfeng Sauce and Vinegar Workshop, and other "old" cultural relic buildings that still bear the function of production and trade, we encourage the revitalization of the old and the formation of high-quality commercial and cultural brands with local characteristics by relying on their inherent cultural connotations, relying on different operational methods such as special production exhibitions, local catering and the development of special tourism commodities, and so on. revitalize old brands and form high-grade commercial and cultural brands with local characteristics.

Based on the former site of the command headquarters of two or three detachments of the New Fourth Army Advancement Column, the former site of the surrender of the Japanese invasion of China in Gaoyou and other red heritage public cultural relics buildings, adhere to the combination of cultural relics buildings and historical materials, the moderate use of modern technology, multimedia resources, and to promote the display of "Internet +" monumental cultural relics to enhance the interactive and experiential nature of the cultural relics on display and exhibition. Interactivity and experience. To build a number of Yangzhou red cultural thematic exhibition halls, memorial halls, education bases, study bases, theme parks and other thematic venues, and the establishment of sharing mechanisms with neighboring schools and communities, and actively open a new era of red cultural lecture halls, young students patriotism study tours and other activities, to give full play to the social and educational functions of the red remains of cultural relics buildings.

Combining the characteristics of religious belief public cultural relic buildings such as Wisheng Temple, Daming Temple, while maintaining the original functions of the buildings, relying on traditional activities such as religious festivals, folk ancestor worship and praying for blessings in the temples, the buildings can be transformed into museums, exhibition halls and other exhibition spaces, holding cultivation training classes, temple fair experience tours, Taoist concerts, Buddhist scriptures and cultural chanting classes and other celebrations of experiential cultivation, making full use of the building space to promote traditional belief culture and meet the public's motivation to seek new knowledge and different excursions. The building space can be fully utilized to promote the traditional faith culture and satisfy the public's motivation of seeking newness, knowledge and differences.

Plum Blossom Academy, AURORA Middle School Auditorium and other cultural and educational public cultural relic buildings are unique in terms of humanistic value, spiritual value, educational value and emotional value, etc., and combined with their spatial characteristics, they can be comprehensively integrated into the learning space, communication space, simple meal space and other diversified spatial functions to create office space for grass-roots community organizations, civic centers, Yangzhou

Literary and Educational History Exhibition Centers, community civic centers, libraries, urban cultural lounges and other public cultural activity spaces. Public cultural activity space such as cultural meeting rooms, so that it is integrated into the urban ecological leisure and cultural circle, to enhance the level of cultural construction in Yangzhou.

Garden, He Yuan and other gardens and public cultural relic buildings can be integrated with leisure and recreation, cultural tourism, fitness exercise and life exchanges and other functions, to create a theme culture park, garden tour area and other urban parks and green spaces, heritage of history and culture at the same time to improve the Yangzhou characteristics of the park system. Maintaining the original landscape environment, buildings and structures and fencing facilities, may be appropriate to increase the service facilities, landscape sketches, science and technology marking system with Yangzhou cultural elements of the design. On the premise of not jeopardizing the landscape, in addition to static daily activities, dynamic games and sports areas can also be designated, and traditional festivals such as lantern festivals and prayers can be carried out in conjunction with traditional arts and cultural activities that are different from the daily ornamental activities, so as to fully connect the space of the park with the life of the public.

#### 4.2.3 Expanding the Benefits of Regional Integration.

Combined with the overall tourism development needs, according to the time and space, content and other different elements of the standard will be built into a line of cultural relics, from the operation of a single body to linkage, planning a number of thematic boutique tourist routes, the formation of cultural relics of building clusters of benefits of the branding effect. Such as combining the former residences of celebrities to open the "Yangzhou celebrity homes" visit line; combining industrial and commercial buildings to open the "Yangzhou industrial and commercial style" visit line. In the meantime, it has widely integrated elements from various fields such as film and television communication, games and entertainment, and catering consumption, and created themed restaurants, exhibition halls, film and television filming locations and other attractions along the route, as well as cultural derivatives, to increase the development opportunities of various industries and enhance the publicity benefits of the local culture and tourism brand at the same time. In addition, relying on the ambience of Yangzhou's cultural cultural relic buildings and integrating the characteristics of the performing arts, culture and education industries, we will utilize the cultural cultural relic buildings to host a series of performances on Yangzhou's historical and cultural themes, such as "Spring and Autumn in Guangling, Splendor of the Sui and Tang Dynasties, the Development of Salt and Fisheries, the Renaissance of Jiangdu, and the Liberation of Yangzhou", as well as to hold lectures by specialists and scholars, books and books, and Yangzhou Culture Lecture Halls. These activities will form a brand of Yangzhou city, prompting the public to visit a number of cultural relics in succession while experiencing the activities, promoting the cultural relics to become a research point of Yangzhou culture and a learning point for Yangzhou citizens, and highlighting the economic and cultural benefits of the richness of the cultural relics.

#### 4.3 A Strong Society: Public Participation

#### 4.3.1 Establishment of Public Participation Mechanisms.

Yangzhou government can set up a series of "application, submission of programs, multi-party approval, implementation and construction, operation and maintenance, acceptance and evaluation" to guide the public to participate in the dual benefits of culture and economy. For the public property rights and private property rights of cultural relics buildings were set up "cultural relics buildings adoption program" and "private cultural relics buildings funding program", encourage the adopters or owners of the building property rights to submit a program application by the government and the third-party expert group discretionary financial support, consulting services and granting the right to operate, in the The government and a third-party expert group will provide financial support, consulting services and grant the right to operate the cultural relic buildings within the scope of the license and acceptance assessment. At the same time, for the characteristics of contemporary public life, with the "Yangzhou Local Treasure", "Yangzhou Government Services" WeChat applet and other new media platforms to build Yangzhou cultural relic buildings of multiple intelligent application modules, effectively connecting the government, the public and other interest organizations, to enhance efficiency and public participation. Improve work efficiency and public participation. Government officials can announce regulations, work deployment, knowledge popularization and reply to the public on the platform; the public can submit application proposals, monitor the progress of the project in real time, participate in the discussion of affairs, express their demands and give their opinions.

#### 4.3.2 Fostering Specialized Technical Personnel.

On the one hand, the Yangzhou government can join hands with university scholars, research institutions, enterprises and other social groups with different positions to form the Yangzhou Cultural Relics Architecture Professional Advisory and Certification Committee, which is responsible for the preparation of the guidelines for planners, architects and other professional groups as well as for the government's toolkit, and balancing the interests of the government, the design unit and other interests by making a third-party professional review of the opinions of the way, and at the same time, assisting in carrying out the public cultural cultural relic buildings At the same time, it will assist in carrying out public education on science popularization for the public, so that the utilization of built heritage can be shifted from a minority of elites to a wide range of the general public<sup>6</sup>. On the other hand, strengthen the cultivation of talents and improve the employment mechanism. Strengthen the construction of academic disciplines and basic education for the development of the cause of the use of cultural relics buildings reserve power. Introduce and set up a professional team of "architectural planners" consisting of diversified talents in history, sociology, design and other fields, and open posts of architectural instructors at different levels in districts, counties and streets, so as to provide comprehensive and professional guidance for the development of the protection and adaptive utilization of cultural relics.

#### 5 Conclusion

As an important cultural carrier of urban memory, cultural relics buildings are an important part of the city. Yangzhou is one of the early cities in China to explore the conservation and utilization of cultural relics buildings, but now it still faces certain difficulties. Based on an in-depth analysis of the characteristics of Yangzhou's cultural relic buildings and the existing difficulties, the article constructs a systematic protection and adaptive utilization system of cultural relic buildings, which is "active government - effective implementation - powerful public", and promotes the fine management of cultural relic buildings. In the future, it can be further combined with the actual cases of Yangzhou's cultural relic buildings to develop practical applications, to ensure that the theoretical value of the research significance and practical significance of the integration and unity of guidance, and to promote the development of cultural relics buildings and their historical environment systematic perpetuation of inheritance.

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