

### Revitalization Design of Maritime Silk Road Cultural Heritage from the Perspective of Place Spirit - A Case Study of Xiuying Port in Haikou

Yaping Liu 1\*, Xuanrui Huang 2

(<sup>1</sup> Hainan Tropical Ocean University, Sanya, Hainan, 572019, China) (<sup>2</sup> MACAU University of Science and Technology, MACAU, 999078, China)

Author's Name: Liu Yaping\* E-mail:592772031@qq.com

**Abstract.** Xiuying Port in Haikou City, Hainan Province, as an important material and cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road, has significant cultural value. This paper starts from the perspective of place spirit and proposes suitable protection and renovation strategies for Hainan's Maritime Silk Road cultural heritage. It then conducts a validation analysis of the design practice at Xiuying Port, focusing on the cultural dissemination of space creation, so that the place has its unique and unrepeatable spirit and atmosphere.

Keywords: Place Spirit, Maritime Silk Road Culture, Xiuying Port

## 1 THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HAINAN MARITIME SILK ROAD

#### 1.1 The Spiritual Connotation of the Place

The Theory of the Spirit of Place, developed by Christian Norberg-Schulz, a famous Norway architectural theorist. This theory focuses on the psychological feelings formed in the process of interaction between people and space. "Phenomenology" is the basis of its observation and the source of its concept, that is, the process of observing the generation of "symbols" from "sensations" in the place. When a place derives contextual meaning from historical, cultural, social, activityal, or regional conditions, it has a character and essence, which is also an important difference between place and space, as well as a significant difference between different places, that is, "space and context are place". The image of the place is the image of the external environment summarized by the individual mind, which is the joint product of direct experience and experience memory, and embodies "people's true cognition of the environment and their own existence". The unique spirit of the place can bring people an aesthetic experience of "imagery and fun", and give people who enter it a unique "psychological image". Each place has its own special natural conditions, culture and function.

The spiritual theory of place emphasizes the uniqueness, historicity, culture and interaction between places and people, which has important guiding significance for architectural design, urban planning and other fields, and helps designers better understand and create spaces with specific atmospheres and meanings to meet people's needs for place identity and belonging.

#### 1.2 Analysis of the Cultural Heritage of the Hainan Maritime Silk Road

The Epochal Evolution of the Cultural Heritage of the Maritime Silk Road. The Maritime Silk Road, as an important commercial and cultural exchange channel connecting the East and the West, has witnessed the magnificent process of prosperous trade, deepening international exchanges, and the integration of art and culture. Originating from the Oin and Han dynasties, flourishing in the Tang and Song dynasties, and with frequent trade with the Western world, China and foreign art exchanges and mutual learning, there was a diversification and integration. Nowadays, the "Belt and Road" initiative has made the Maritime Silk Road from a historical concept to a heritage concept, giving the Maritime Silk Road a mission in the new era. "Incorporate traditional heritage, such as ancient buildings, ancient ruins, ancient tombs, and other tangible material remains, into the abstract system of "cultural routes". Among them, the humanities and arts play an important role in this process, not only showing the rich cultural diversity of the countries along the Maritime Silk Road through various art exhibitions and cultural exchange activities, but also promoting the integration and innovation of modern design concepts and traditional crafts, adding new connotations to contemporary international exchanges<sup>[1]</sup>.

Regional Characteristics of Hainan Maritime Silk Road Culture. The early culture and art of Hainan Island was heavily influenced by the aboriginal cultures of the Li and Miao peoples, and was characterized by primitive pottery, weaving, carving, and totem worship. With the deepening of cultural exchanges along the Maritime Silk Road, foreign cultural elements, such as architectural styles and handicrafts from the Nanyang region, gradually penetrated into Hainan, initially promoting the diversification of local art styles. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative has made Hainan more active in the field of culture and art, as a window for coastal countries to enhance mutual understanding, a bridge for solidarity and cooperation, and a link to promote friendly exchanges, further promoting the international development of Hainan's culture and art. Its cultural and artistic works such as coconut carving, Li Jin, etc., are also constantly developing and innovating under the influence of the Maritime Silk Road culture. These works not only have artistic value, but also become an important carrier of Hainan culture under the influence of Silk Road culture.

Existing Problems of Hainan Maritime Silk Road Culture. (1) Insufficient activation utilization. Hainan's rich cultural resources of the Maritime Silk Road have not been fully and systematically excavated and integrated, and many potential cul-

tural stories and cultural heritage have not been effectively utilized and have not been fully transformed into cultural products and services.

#### (2) There are certain obstacles to cultural dissemination

The international dissemination of the Maritime Silk Road culture is insufficient, and factors such as language barriers and cultural differences affect its recognition and attractiveness on a global scale. Traditional cultural communication methods are difficult to meet the needs of modern communication, and the insufficient use of new media and digital technology limits the speed and breadth of cultural communication.

#### (3) The pressure on the protection of cultural heritage is heavier

Hainan has a long coastline and a humid climate, and many cultural heritages of the Maritime Silk Road, such as ancient ports, ruins, and cultural relics, are under the dual threat of natural erosion and human activities. In addition, as Hainan is an international tourist island, the protection of cultural heritage may conflict with tourism construction activities.

# 2 STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND RENEWAL OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HAINAN MARITIME SILK ROAD

According to the Haikou Historical and Cultural City Protection Plan (2020-2035) compiled by the Haikou Organization, the current principle of cultural heritage protection in Haikou is "value-oriented, should be ensured as a whole, scientific management and rational utilization, inheritance and development", and its long-term purpose is to effectively protect and make full use of historical and cultural heritage, and the institutional mechanism that dare not destroy, cannot destroy, and does not want to destroy is fully completed .

On the basis of the current heritage protection plan of Haikou, combined with the experience and cases of cultural heritage protection, this paper takes Xiuying Port in Haikou City as an example, and proposes relevant methods for the protection and renewal of the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road.

## 2.1 In-Depth Exploration of Cultural Connotation and Condensation of Cultural Value Recognition

Xiuying Port has unique historical and cultural resources and geographical advantages, and there are many historical and cultural heritage relics in it, including the port's buildings, facilities, cultural relics, etc., which are witnesses of history and carry rich cultural information. Through the detailed investigation and analysis of these tangible cultural heritages, we can learn about the architectural styles, craftsmanship, and lifestyles of the people at that time. At the same time, through the restoration and display of these heritages, people can feel the historical and cultural charm of Xiuying Port more intuitively, so that more people can understand the historical and cultural value of Xiuying Port, so as to enhance their sense of identity with the Maritime Silk

Road culture, and in addition, the cultural connotation of Xiuying Port can be combined with modern society to give it a new era value<sup>[3]</sup>.

## 2.2 Strengthen the Process of Public Participation and Improve the Level of Display and Publicity

The public participation process should run through all stages of the protection and renewal of Xiuying Port, so as to inject multiple perspectives and vitality into the development of Xiuying Port. In terms of planning, we will solicit opinions and suggestions from the public, understand the public's expectations and needs for the future development of Xiuying Port, fully consider their opinions and suggestions, and formulate a planning scheme that is more in line with the public interest and local characteristics; In terms of display and publicity, we actively guide the public to participate and become one of the main bodies of publicity, and show the charm of Xiuying Port through the different perspectives of the public. It can also be built into a platform for scholars and residents to communicate and interact, so that Xiuying Port can better demonstrate its spirit of place, and attract more people's attention and participation in conservation and renewal work<sup>[2]</sup>.

## 2.3 Rationally Plan the use of Resources and Maintain Authenticity and Integrity

To protect the historical features and spatial pattern of Xiuying Port, it is necessary to preserve the original architectural appearance as much as possible, avoid large-scale demolition and reconstruction, and repair and protect the buildings with historical value so that they can continue the historical memory. However, Xiuying Port is not an isolated existence, it is closely related to the surrounding natural environment, urban landscape and community life, and needs to be coordinated with the original style and surrounding style in planning and utilization, so as not to destroy the overall atmosphere. In the process of protecting and renewing Xiuying Port, it is also necessary to fully consider the sustainable use of resources, avoid over-exploitation and waste, and realize the effective use and value-added of resources through the development of cultural tourism and creative industries, and at the same time provide economic support for the protection of Xiuying Port.

# 3 RENEWAL DESIGN OF THE MARITIME SILK ROAD CULTURAL HERITAGE "XIUYING PORT" BASED ON THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE

Xiuying Port, Haikou City, Hainan Province, as early as the Southern Song Dynasty, has been officially opened to handle foreign trade transportation business and open to foreign ships, is the main port of Hainan Island and the mainland since the Song and Yuan Dynasties, Xiuying Port was formally built in 1936, and then was established as a cultural relics protection unit in Hainan Province in 2016 due to social development.

After field research and analysis, it is believed that an old building 150 meters away from the coast has a unique advantage. The building is the ticket and waiting building of the old Xiuying Port, carrying the historical memory of the people and tourists of Hainan. It is now updated and designed, and a reference strategy is proposed for the historical and cultural heritage of Xiuying Port.

## 3.1 The Relationship Between the Spiritual Theory of Place and the Translation of the Façade of the Old Building of Xiuying Port

The original old building is mainly gray and white, with some characteristic patterns, the front and back of the building are symmetrically designed(Fig.1and 2), and most areas of the building façade have traces of cement repair in the later stage, and the color is not consistent with the original building, and the aesthetics are poor. However, the original gray-white main color and characteristic patterns reflect the architectural style and aesthetics of a certain period. Although the later cement repairs were subject to color inconsistencies and aesthetic problems, this trace of age was itself part of the site's history.



Fig. 1. Real view of the front of the building



Fig. 2. Real view of the back of the building

The Place Spirit Theory emphasizes the unique association of architecture with a particular place, as well as the emotions and memories it evokes. For the old building in Xiuying Port, the translation of its facades needs to be based on respecting the history and the current situation, and realizing the inheritance and innovation of the spirit of the place<sup>[5]</sup>. Based on the original form of the port building, the original form of the arcade, and the original of integration and renewal, there is no need to do much

renewal in the process of building facades renovation, and the elements of arcade are introduced to enhance the deep integration of the building and local culture; Adding Hainan's unique pattern symbols adds unique cultural connotation and artistic value to the building facades; Retaining the unique "old" form of the wall and adding a sense of texture can not only preserve the historical vicissitudes of the building, but also add texture and layering to the building through rich changes in texture. This "old" form is complemented by newly added patterns and elements, forming a dialogue between the old and the new, the traditional and the modern (Fig.3).



Fig. 3. The renovated building

## 3.2 The Artistic Expression of the Exhibition Area in the Old Building of Xiuying Port under the Spiritual Theory of the Place

The design of the old building exhibition area of Xiuying Port uses literature review, on-site interviews, expert consultation, case analysis and other methods to obtain rich information on Hainan's local culture and Maritime Silk Road culture, and sorts them out, screens out key information and core elements, and interprets the unique cultural connotation of five different exhibition areas through artistic expression, creating a distinctive art display scene<sup>[5]</sup>.

Ancient Port Heritage Exhibition Area: Based on black marble, the background panel with the theme of the ancient Maritime Silk Road is displayed in the form of a screen on the wall. It is combined with a river model to form the exhibition part. The glass display cabinet uses interactive smart glass, which allows visitors to touch and interact, and finally the hanging text display platform assists in the explanation. The channel, inspired by the port containers, abstracts and refines the vertical and horizontal lines of the containers placed on the wharf, constructs square brackets on both sides and above the passage, and attaches rectangular text display and explanation light boxes to create an immersive "time channel" effect. The channel exhibition area is located in the connection area between the ancient port heritage exhibition area and the new face of today's Hong Kong, and the content of the display is also displayed from the ancient Maritime Silk Road cultural knowledge placed at the entrance of the passage to the current status of modern Maritime Silk Road culture at the end, playing a role in connecting the previous and the next.

Jingang New Look Exhibition Area: Inspired by the wave-proof bottom shape of the port coast, the undulating square shape is extracted and used on the sides and top of the space. The hollow part of the wood cube is used for physical display, and the solid wood cube can be used for a short period of sitting and resting. The top is all made of hollow wood, with small undulations in shape, so that the overall space will not be too crowded, and the placement of spotlights is also concentrated in the area of the central pillar, so that the space has an obvious visual center to attract the attention of the viewer.

Silk Road Huazhang Exhibition Area: In this area, because the wall is built in the center of this exhibition space, the space is shaped into a hollow exhibition area, which also echoes the fourth and fifth chapters of the need to separate lanes on both sides. In this paper-shaped exhibition area, one side of the exhibition area uses a hanging display board with a display light strip to create an exhibition atmosphere, and on the first floor near the glass handrail, a long glass display case is used, which will not block the line of sight interaction with the first floor during the browsing process.

Port Dialogue Exhibition Area: The overall enclosed space adopts virtual reality technology to interact with the audience, the wall shows the ancient Maritime Silk Road style, the modern Maritime Silk Road charm, and the future Maritime Silk Road outlook, and the ground part adopts the virtual reality scene of black and white waves, which not only conforms to the overall space atmosphere, but also enables the audience to get a good interactive experience while walking. This kind of interaction refers to the process of mutual influence and interaction between people, exhibits and space when viewing exhibitions. This process is two-way, and the purpose is to achieve friendly communication and good information dissemination between the three through the integration of new media technology and physical space.

Future Voyage Exhibition Area: Inspired by the shape of the Hainan boat-shaped house, the shape of the triangular eaves of the boat-shaped house is abstractly extracted and repeatedly arranged to create a rest area with a view. In the viewing area, a large area of rectangular deformation window view is adopted, which not only alleviates the needs of tourists to visit the exhibition, but also gives the audience a different visual experience, and feels the magnificent scene of Xiuying Port now, so as to imagine the development of the future port and the Maritime Silk Road.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

Through the study of Xiuying Port in Haikou City, Hainan Province and the use of the spirit of place theory, it promotes the exploration and practice of the protection and renewal of the tangible cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road, aiming to update the old buildings within the scope of Xiuying Port cultural relics protection and build them into the Maritime Silk Road International Communication Center. In the process of digging deep and continuing the unique spirit of place carried by this building, it is not only a building, but also a bridge connecting the past and the present, China and

the world, and the innovative functional transformation makes it adapt to the needs of the times. The spirit of the place is inherited and developed in a new function.

#### REFERENCES

- 1. Xie, H., & Chen, D. (2020, December). Quanzhou Maritime Museum: Spatial Production of Maritime Silk Road Culture. In 7th International Conference on Education, Language, Art and Inter-cultural Communication (ICELAIC 2020) (pp. 461-467). Atlantis Press.
- Lin, W., & Liu, W. (2023). Resilience evaluation of ports along the Maritime Silk Road from the perspective of investment and construction. Journal of Advanced Transportation, 2023(1), 8818667.
- 3. Daldanise, G., & Clemente, M. (2022). Port Cities Creative Heritage Enhancement (PCCHE) scenario approach: culture and creativity for sustainable development of Naples Port. Sustainability, 14(14), 8603.
- Schnabel, M. A., & Kvan, T. (2003). Spatial understanding in immersive virtual environments. International Journal of Architectural Computing, 1(4), 435-448.
- Coşkun, S. T., & Coşkun, E. (2021). RE-INTERPRETING THE BODRUM CASTLE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM: SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION AND EXHIBITION DESIGN STRATEGIES. TÜBA-KED Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi Kültür Envanteri Dergisi, (24), 159-188.

**Open Access** This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

