

Integrating Chinese and Western Pursuit of Excellence

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Abstract: “ShangHai furniture” was born under the combined effect of the localization of Western-style furniture and the westernization of faithful furniture. It is the most representative fusion of China and the West. This article analyzes the contribution of “Shanghai style furniture” to the fusion of Chinese and Western furniture and its positive effect on China's modern furniture innovation based on the four stages of “Shanghai style furniture”: “germination”, “development”, “rejuvenation” and “innovation”.

1. Introduction

ShangHai furniture is the product of ShangHai culture, which generally refers to the combination of Chinese and Western style furniture. It is a combination of the advantages of Western-style furniture. During the Republic of China, the beach was born and the place where all the nations came together, thus forming this vast and profound furniture. Shanghai style furniture is the product of the collision between Chinese and Western cultures, and it is partially integrated, so it has dual characteristics of Chinese and Western cultures. Although it is ordinary daily necessities, it is the bearer of China's historical culture.

Since ancient times, the Chinese nation has firmly believed in the idea of “harmony and difference” and “tolerance is greater”. Among the furniture, no one can better interpret the harmony culture than Shanghai furniture. Therefore, since its birth, it has become the spokesperson for the fusion of Chinese and Western furniture.

Based on the premise of visual beauty, Shanghai style furniture integrates fashion, comfort and practicality, showing the dignified atmosphere of oriental culture and the beauty of humanities in western culture. The fashionableness and modernity of Shanghai style furniture are worth learning from modern furniture, and it is worth exploring and innovating today.

2. Born in the Collision of Chinese and Western Cultures

After Shanghai opened its port, the trade center moved from Guangzhou to Shanghai, foreign capitals settled in Shanghai, and foreign immigrants brought western culture and western lifestyle to Shanghai, making Shanghai's architecture sprout, and Western furniture was also shipped to Shanghai in large numbers because of the Chinese and Western culture. The difference is that at the beginning Western furniture patterns were not favored by the Chinese, but the emerging bourgeoisie liked this furniture very much during this period, because they were deeply influenced by the traditional Chinese culture. These people asked the craftsmen to replace Chinese elements on Western furniture. Western-style elements, high-end Shanghai style furniture was born. The company that made furniture specifically for the upper class and the bourgeoisie was born with the trend. In the process of making furniture, the craftsmen learned and learned the design concepts and manufacturing techniques of western furniture.

In the tenth year of the Guangxu period of the Qing Dynasty, Le Zhenzhen was an apprentice at the age of sixteen at the “Taichang Woodenware Walk” founded by his father. Later, he founded Taichang Woodenware Company on the basis of the wooden furniture company founded by his father, becoming the first self-made furniture sofa company in Shanghai. The western-style furniture produced by his company combines traditional Chinese skills, adding traditional Chinese

elements, and creating a new era of Shanghai-style furniture.

The founder of the old Shanghai Shuimingchang Shui Yiming resigned after studying in Taichang Woodenware company and set up Shuimingchang Woodenware company. in Sichuan Road in 1992. It specializes in customizing high-end Shanghai style furniture for celebrities, wealthy businessmen, and military and political leaders. Its furniture is mainly high-end luxury European and American styles. According to the principle of few and fine, no more than 10 sets are put into production in each batch, and it is sold out as soon as it is listed. Therefore, Shui Mingchang's furniture is generally priced in gold.

Modern style furniture in the Republic of China period was like a sponge to absorb continuously, becoming the last carnival in the history of Chinese furniture. The emergence of Shanghai style art and culture also appeared in the social situation at that time, and most closely matched the living habits of the consumers at that time. It has the spirit of “inclusive innovation”, which not only adheres to the roots of Chinese culture, but also absorbs the soul of western humanities.

3. Development and Maturity in Twists and Turns

In the 1930s and 1940s, with the gradual deepening of western culture, western culture began to change people's lifestyles. People have developed a good impression on this style of Chinese-Western style furniture, and they have begun to accept it. Towards maturity.

Although the development history of Shanghai Style Furniture is only less than two hundred years, it is of great significance to the history of Chinese furniture. The formation of ShangHai furniture is difficult and tortuous. From the Opium War in 1840 to the Anti-Japanese War in 1931, after various hardships, it matured and developed in the difficulties, and finally formed the famous ShangHai furniture. This is why ShangHai furniture can Reasons to be admired in the days to come. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, the Shanghai furniture industry was almost stagnant, and the materials were so scarce that it had to buy old furniture and then process it to sell it. It can be seen that the quality of furniture in this period was not good, but it created a new type of package--Packaging method.

The furniture industry in Shanghai has developed rapidly, with a gradual increase in the number of categories, a sound system, and the phenomenon of “linking to manufacturers”. Materials have also evolved from a single wood to a variety of forms, and furniture forms have developed from a single wooden furniture to a large variety of materials Furniture, and Shanghai style furniture also began to use a large number of plywood to make furniture.

The furniture of different periods represents the social characteristics of different periods, and Shanghai style furniture represents the pursuit of fashion after absorbing western culture in Shanghai during this period, thus creating Shanghai style furniture with practicality and fashion.

The constant innovation of western-style furniture stores has promoted the gradual maturity of Shanghai's western-style furniture. With the continuous maturity of Shanghai's western-style furniture, Shanghai style furniture slowly penetrated from the upper class to ordinary residents, and slowly changed the lifestyle of Shanghai people.

4. Rebirth in Reform and Opening Up

The reform and opening up in the 1980s can be described as a “breakthrough” event. Among them, Shanghai-style furniture that has been sleeping for a long time ushered in another spring of its own.

When talking about Shanghai style furniture in this period, we have to talk about Gao Wei, the main successor of Shanghai style furniture in the contemporary era. Gao Wei grew up in Nantong, the hometown of the modern industrialist Zhang Ye. This young man born of Jianghai culture has loved furniture since he was a child. In 1979, Gao Wei began his journey of learning from the teacher, And with his own diligence and wisdom, he completed the first Shanghai style furniture work alone at the age of 16--Hai Pai Art Deco style domino stool. At this time, Gao Wei had begun to show his edge. Gao Wei, who arrived in Shanghai in early 1985, was fortunate enough to meet

the master of Shanghai style furniture Wang Zhangrong. Because of Gao Wei's hard work and learning, Wang Zhangrong decided to accept him as an apprentice. During his studies, Gao Wei absorbed and learned from the rich experience of his predecessors. In 1992, Gao Wei established Yazhen Furniture Company, which provided a platform for inheriting, innovating and disseminating the furniture culture of Shanghai Style.

In the early stage of reform and opening up, the country opened wide, people ushered in a climax of emancipation of mind, and social, economic, and cultural changes have taken place. Craftsmen innovated Shanghai style furniture during the Republic of China and formed a new set of Shanghai style furniture.

In order to meet contemporary people's pursuit of fashion, Shanghai furniture begin to change to elegant, simple and light. So the Livia series was born, the series is elegant

Color, giving people a brisk, energetic feeling, deeply loved by young people at that time, sales have skyrocketed. Since the reform and opening up, China's international status has risen, and Shanghai Furniture has also entered various large-scale furniture fairs and conference venues. This has also made Shanghai furniture more known and understood by Shanghai Furniture.

Compared with the rise of Beijing-made furniture in the same period, as a royal furniture, Beijing-made furniture shows a majestic and solemn momentum, but the furniture also absorbs Chinese and Western cultures, highlights the trend and fashion of the times, and collides with Chinese and Western culture Imprint.

The continuous innovation of Shanghai-style furniture reflects the progress of society and the progress of the furniture industry. It also means that advanced production methods and technologies have been introduced. It can be seen that now, Shanghai Style Furniture has got rid of the shackles of the traditional model, and has become a new era Shanghai Style Furniture with rich era characteristics. It not only witnessed the twists and turns of modern China, but also witnessed the step-by-step reform of modern Chinese handicraft industry.

Today's Shanghai furniture has added new fashion elements, which is more in line with the needs of today's social lifestyle. It has injected new vitality into Shanghai furniture and renewed its deep-sleeping Shanghai furniture.

5. Pass on the Fire, Inherit Innovation

Shanghai style furniture spans the century and the country; it closely follows the pulse of the times and meets the essential needs of people. For more than 100 years, it has spread all over the country, with Shanghai as its pioneer. To this day, with the changes of society and changes in market demand, under the exploration of artisans, it is still advancing and constantly presents a new look.

Whether it is Le Zhenbao, founder of Shanghai Furniture, Shui Yiyun, founder of Shui Mingchang, or Gao Wei, founder of Yazhen Furniture company, who has made outstanding contributions to the inheritance and innovation of Shanghai furniture, they have contributed their hard work and sweat, Left a thick ink in the history of Shanghai furniture.

“Innovation” is the theme of the development of today's era. All industries and industries must innovate in the development, and Shanghai furniture is no exception. Yazhen Furniture Company founded by Gao Wei, has made outstanding contributions to the inheritance and innovation of Shanghai Style Furniture. In 2013, the Shanghai Style Furniture Museum was established. The museum's design inspiration is derived from Renaissance and Shanghai Style culture. The furniture includes Mr. Mei Lanfang's chair--The Mei Lan chair and several sets of Shanghai modern furniture in the 1920s and 1930s. In 2014, Yazhen reinterpreted Shanghai old furniture from the 1930s and developed new Shanghai impression products, which are both Shanghai style, nostalgic and elegant, and meet the living conditions and aesthetics of contemporary consumers. In 2015, after various layers of audits, Yazhen Furniture was identified by Shanghai Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Center as the “intangible cultural heritage of Shanghai style furniture making skills” protection unit. In 2017, a new Shanghai style furniture from Yazhen Furniture stood out and won the honorary title of “China Good Sofa”. Yazhen Furniture's outstanding contribution to Shanghai

style furniture cannot be forgotten by every modern style furniture successor.

Ms. Wang Li, the president of Zhongchuan Group, a messenger of Shanghai style culture, has a passion for collecting classical furniture. She is a strange woman in Chinese and Western arts. The group's office building is both a collection hall of classical furniture and a showroom of Shanghai style furniture. As a child, she was associated with Shanghai ShangHai culture, and “Chinese and Western merger, have both Chinese and West leaning” are her aesthetic criteria. Therefore, she is very obsessed with ShangHai furniture, actively protects ShangHai culture, and collects ShangHai furniture, which has made a significant contribution to ShangHai furniture. Although ShangHai has a strong charm, it has always had the problem of “reduction of collectors and loss of collections”, so Wang Li began to innovate the road of “cultivating Tibet with Tibetans.” Furniture, of which the chair of the animal series appeared in the international magazine “Fashion Fashion”, let ShangHai furniture go to the world and let the world know ShangHai furniture from China.

Innovation has given ShangHai furniture a unique imagination space. During its development, the unique features of ShangHai furniture are important conditions for its future rise. As a combination of China and the West, innovation and absorption always accompany its development process. The stylish appearance and practicality of ShangHai furniture meets the aesthetic orientation of most people's pursuit of fashion. ShangHai furniture will also become a new trend. Because Shanghai-style furniture is the product of the fusion of China and the West, Shanghai-style furniture has the innovative spirit of daring to explore and make breakthroughs, which is also our spirit worth inheriting and developing.

The success of ShangHai Furniture is inseparable from innovation, and the design theme is the key to innovation. Only innovation will not keep ShangHai furniture at the end of the era, and only innovation will make ShangHai furniture go to the world and to the forefront of the times. In the era of rapid development, only tolerance and absorption, learning the advantages of Western furniture, learning from each other's strengths, and creating new-style Shanghai-style furniture, can Shanghai-style furniture go to the world and show China the world's splendor. As the representative of the carrier of the excellent Chinese home furnishing culture in the new era, it will proclaim China's excellent traditional culture to the world and eventually become a national pride.

6. Inspiration to Chinese Modern Furniture

Shanghai style furniture is an intensive stroke in the history of Chinese furniture, which is of great significance to China and provides a very valuable reference for contemporary furniture. With the development of the society, furniture production has also transitioned from manual to machine production in the early stage. China's furniture industry has also developed rapidly and made many achievements, but Chinese furniture has always been in the imitation stage, and its achievements are far less than that of Shanghai Furniture This is also a disadvantage of Chinese furniture at this stage, so domestic furniture does not have much influence on international furniture. Of course, ShangHai furniture is also imitated in the early stage. This kind of imitation is also a necessary stage in the development of furniture, and imitation is only a stepping stone for the next stage.

Today's modern furniture design should learn from the introduction of Shanghai style furniture without forgetting the original, inherit and have the characteristics of innovation, abandon the drawbacks of imitation, learn from China's excellent furniture, and integrate with today's furniture, make full use of advanced science and technology, Chinese traditional furniture cultural elements, design furniture with national characteristics and aesthetic taste, integrate classical furniture into modern furniture, re-create shapes, materials, and production, form the unique style of modern furniture in China, and create new Chinese furniture To make Chinese furniture “international”. Learning ShangHai furniture uses different wood according to the different components, so that the furniture has a longer service life.

The aesthetic characteristics of today's Chinese society are mainly influenced by foreign cultures, and they have the problem of “respecting foreign beauty” and forgetting their own cultural beauty. This is also one of the main issues for contemporary furniture designers to consider. Although ShangHai furniture imitates western-style furniture in the early stage, in the later period, the

craftsmen no longer blindly imitate, but instead fuse the furniture styles to create a new style of furniture. This is a point worth learning in modern Chinese furniture. We can learn from Shanghai's double-packing process, which not only saves wood, but also prevents furniture from deforming, extending the life of furniture, reducing costs, and protecting the environment. The important issue facing contemporary domestic furniture innovation and development is mainly "innovation is just a slogan", which has caused Chinese furniture to now be in the stage of imitating Western, European and French furniture. Although design innovation is a long process, it requires designers adhering to the original intention, we will improve our self-cultivation, continuously create design solutions, and make progress with the times, so that Chinese modern furniture can move towards the forefront of world furniture.

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