

# Research on the Protection and Design Utilization of Ancient Village Landscape from the Perspective of Value Evaluation

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**Keywords:** Ancient villages, Protection, Traditional culture, Value evaluation

**Abstract:** At present, there are more than 300 ancient villages in China. They are a kind of heritage which is very different from material and intangible cultural heritage. Ancient villages witness and record rich historical information and cultural landscape, having high historical significance and cultural value. However, with the development of modern society and the acceleration of urbanization process, the protection of ancient villages is difficult to adapt to the urbanization construction. How to reasonably protect and evaluate the ancient villages in the rapid development of urban economy, design and use them on the basis of not damaging the original appearance of ancient villages, so as to unify them with the development of urbanization construction is a problem to be solved. This paper puts forward some protection measures according to the landscape value of ancient villages in China, the current survival status and problems, studies the design and utilization of ancient village landscape, and puts forward some suggestions.

## 1. Introduction

The existing ancient villages in our country have retained great historical evolution. The architectural environment, architectural style, and village site selection have not experienced too many changes. The landscape with unique folk customs has been formed in different areas. Although having experienced years of changes, the ancient villages still maintain normal production and life. The existence of ancient villages is the continuation of folk customs and the inheritance of civilization from generation to generation. It is unreasonable to measure ancient villages by material wealth. Therefore, we should not only pursue economic development but ignore the protection of ancient villages. Instead, we should seek the development concept to unity urban development and ancient village protection, and continue this civilization.

## 2. Landscape Value of Ancient Villages

### 2.1 Historical and Cultural Value

Ancient villages are known as the places of traditional culture. They are precious heritage left by our ancestors, carrying thousands of years of human civilization. After long-term production and life, unique folk landscapes are formed gradually. In ancient villages, many ancient living habits can be traced, and the existence of ancient buildings and ancient walls is the best evidence of history. They have high historical and cultural value and are the soul of traditional culture.

### 2.2 Cultural and Educational Value

After a long period of precipitation, ancient villages have a deep cultural heritage. The existence of ancient villages has a certain inspiration for photography, painting, literary creation and so on. In modern film and television works, it is common to go to the ancient villages to take pictures, showing excellent film and television works for people. The unique architectural style and cultural landscape of ancient villages also affect the aesthetic of generation after generation.

### **2.3 Humanistic and Tourism Value**

The modern fast-paced lifestyle makes people gradually tired of the “grid room” in cities, and more and more yearn for the leisure and quiet ancient village life. Many areas take the ancient villages and ancient towns as the center, carry out various forms of tourism projects, which meet the spiritual needs of people living in city, having high humanistic and tourism value.

### **3. Survival Situation and Problems of Ancient Villages**

At present, the survival situation of ancient villages in China is not optimistic, which mainly faces the following problems.

#### **3.1 Natural Decline of Ancient Villages**

With the rapid development of economy, people’s material is increasingly rich and the ancient houses are unable to meet the needs of modern people’s life. Therefore, many ancient villages begin to demolish old houses and build new ones. With the increase of the number of houses built, the original ancient villages are gradually damaged. In addition, some ancient villages are located in remote mountain areas, and the local economic development is slow. In order to survive, most of the young people choose to leave the ancient villages to study and work in the city, and gradually do not return to the ancient villages. As a result, the ancient villages gradually become bleak and then decline.

#### **3.2 Influence of Urbanization Process**

In many areas, many ancient villages have been demolished because the government is eager for quick success and instant benefit, and the developers have profit-seeking purpose and blindly carry out land development in pursuit of economic interests. Urbanization construction can really revitalize the economy and improve people’s living standards in the short term. However, the disappearance of ancient villages is not only the disappearance of stone walls and wooden beams, but also the disappearance of traditional culture and spiritual civilization.

#### **3.3 Lack of Corresponding Talents to Protect Ancient Villages**

In traditional architecture, pure wood or brick wood is the main structure, especially the carving of doors and windows are unique, which are made by hands of traditional crafts. With the loss of practice, they are gradually decayed and dilapidated. However, at present, it is difficult to find craftsmen who are familiar with manual carving technology, and it is difficult to restore the past fine art. Difficulty in inheriting the technology makes ancient villages hard to protect according facilities.

### **4. Landscape Protection Measures and Design Utilization of Ancient Villages**

In view of the existing situation and problems of ancient villages, the protection and utilization of ancient villages can be carried out from the following points.

#### **4.1 Clear Responsibility and Mobilize the Enthusiasm of Protection and Development**

The decline of ancient villages is largely due to the local people’s lack of awareness to protect ancient villages. The township government should issue relevant policies for the protection of ancient villages. First of all, it is necessary to strengthen the villagers’ awareness of protecting ancient villages, carry out training of historical culture and traditional crafts, and hold literary and artistic activities or competitions with local characteristics regularly, so that villagers can truly feel the strong artistic atmosphere of ancient villages. Secondly, the government should issue relevant

policies to stipulate that ancient houses cannot be demolished at will and government should pay for repairing long-term dilapidated houses. The responsibility of public facilities should be assigned to individual, so as to clear villagers' responsibility. For ancient villages in remote areas, the government departments should act according to circumstances, actively develop the local economy, attract young people to come back to work or start businesses, and inherit the traditional folk culture.

#### **4.2 Set Up Special Funds for Ancient Village Protection**

The protection of ancient villages is inseparable from the support of funds. Many building materials and techniques of ancient villages are difficult to find in the market, which requires a lot of manpower and financial resources to repair and restore. It is hard to bear the huge expenses only relying on the funds allocated by the local government departments. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate funds in many ways. On the one hand, government funds should be ensured to use for special purposes, and fund supervision should be done well to avoid misappropriating for other purposes. On the other hand, social help is available. Ancient villages can be recorded in the form of films to attract ancient village enthusiasts to donate money for repair. It is also feasible to attract investment according to the advantages of ancient villages, so as to develop the economy and solve the problem of insufficient funds from the source.

#### **4.3 Coordinate Ancient Villages and Modern Urbanization**

In the process of urbanization, economic development is not necessarily at the expense of ancient villages. To protect the ancient villages and avoid the destruction of ancient buildings while promoting economic development, various social forces need to make efforts together. While coordinating the direct relationship between ancient villages and modern urbanization construction, we must take the protection of ancient villages as the premise, rather than blindly pursue economic interests and ignore the protection of ancient villages. In the process of urbanization, we can focus on the ancient villages, such as setting up scenic areas for operation, and the villages or houses are still owned by the government and villagers, but the management rights will be contracted out. The income can be used for the construction of new rural areas, so that the overall appearance of ancient villages can be preserved while urbanization is carried out.

#### **4.4 Develop Humanistic Tourism Industry with Local Characteristics**

The humanistic tourism of ancient villages is not only an ancient building, a section of ancient city wall, but also the local traditional culture, special food, ethnic costumes and so on, which need to be inherited and protected. A unique cultural tourism industry can be created according to the resource advantages and folk characteristics of the ancient villages to avoid stylization, and the government should provide industrial and technical support. The ancient villages similar to other villages can't be favored by tourists. Villages can develop flower, weaving, paper cutting, embroidery and other characteristic industries according to local conditions. In addition, we should not over exploit the tourism resources. Instead, we should control the number of tourists in the peak season to avoid the destruction of the natural landscape caused by the large population. It is necessary to develop the tourism industry, but pay attention to the protection of the villages, maintain the traditional atmosphere of the ancient villages, avoid the heavy commercial atmosphere, and realize the sustainable development of the ancient villages.

#### **4.5 Strengthen the Protection of Traditional Culture and Handicrafts**

Culture is the soul of a nation, and the traditional culture of ancient villages is also the soul of the whole village. The existence of every ancient village has precipitated rich intangible cultural heritage, which is created by the ancient villagers and passed down from generation to generation. It

is the precious spiritual wealth in ancient villages and the birthplace of traditional Chinese culture. Protecting the traditional culture of ancient villages can not only make the ancient villages continue to develop, but also make them rejuvenate. In the ancient village scenic spots, billboards can be set up to actively display the culture of ancient villages to tourists around the world, so as to enhance the influence and attraction of ancient villages.

The traditional handicraft art of ancient villages also needs to be inherited and carried forward to keep up with the pace of the times and enhance the value of the times. For example, hand embroidery can be taken to make huge ancient village picture as a gift for the motherland on national day, or use local materials to make exquisite souvenirs with traditional handicrafts for sale. Each ancient village needs to develop according to its own unique advantages and characteristics. Only by protecting the traditional culture and handicraft art of ancient villages, can the ancient villages be truly charming and meaningful, and can they always maintain vitality and vigor,

## **5. Conclusion**

Ancient villages are the earliest gathering place of human beings, which can be said to be the birthplace of human diversity culture and the root of a nation. Even if time is passing and the world is changing, every people always has a nostalgic dream. The preservation of the traditional features of ancient villages and the inheritance of excellent historical and cultural heritage will have a great impact on the whole society. Protecting ancient villages, giving full play to the value of ancient villages in modern society, adhering to the road of integrating urban development with ancient village protection and integrating modern civilization with traditional culture is the only way to achieve harmony between nature and society, and the best choice to promote the sustainable development of ancient villages and to continue the characteristic culture.

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