

# Exploration on the Application of Taoist Aesthetics Thought in Modern Interior Indoor Space Design

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**Keywords:** Taoist aesthetics thought, modern interior space design, application

**Abstract:** For living space design, the Chinese design field pay more and more attention to inheritance of Chinese traditional culture and the mode of combining modern living space design and Chinese traditional thought. Based on this, this paper briefly expounds the research on application of Taoist aesthetics thought in modern living space design.

## 1. Design principle of “letting nature take its course”

From perspective of the nature, the living space design must persist in the principle of “letting nature take its course” to realize the low-carbon and environmental-protection ecological idea. The nature inspires the designers, besides, the designers are in the front of “creation” and persist in the principle of “letting nature take its course”, which can benefit all humans, therefore, there is no reason for designers to break the principle of “letting nature take its course”.

From philosophical perspective, the “nature” in the sentence that “Tao models itself follows nature” has the meanings of non-intention and non-affectation. Intentional design should be avoided in order to pursue economic benefit or satisfy the public, but instead, design should be natural and unmannered. However, such kind of non-affectation doesn't mean presenting individual design technique randomly and excessively, but persists in the idea that “natural design” is best, therefore, unmannered design is best. While such kind of “natural design” also follows the aesthetic characteristics “simplicity” of Taoist aesthetics thought. Adhere to the design principle of “letting nature take its course” for “natural design” and let people only feel the space is good without seeing any artificial things, which can be vital living space design of “resembling natural” to be able to realize “communication” and “interaction” with people.

## 2. Design idea of “thing and man being one”

It couldn't be better for living space to achieve the level of full communication and interaction between things and humans to the largest extent and even “thing and man being one”, which is one the important evaluation standards to judge whether the living space design works is excellent. Taoism adheres to the nature, but not only that, it advocates people to seek for spirit sublimation in the nature. For the purpose of helping people to realize closer connection and communication with the nature, it takes the nature as the source of beauty for eulogizing. Besides, such kind of spirit enlightens the future generations and also has profound influence to the traditional living space design. China has a vast territory, accordingly, different regions present different climates and terrains as well as living styles, but all these adhere to the principle of harmonious communication between the nature and humans, therefore, the designed living spaces are all livable. Moreover, it is needed to absorb the essential parts of traditional design ideas and methods for modern living space design.

In order to realize the living space design of “thing and man being one”, the designers should fully consider the external factors of natural environment, integrate the external landscapes, buildings and interior design well thus to realize full connection and interaction among human, landscape and articles, and even make inhabitants feel the realm of “thing and man being one”. But from perspective of design method, scientific progress allows us to select more available materials, which can be intensified in modern living space compared with traditional residences. Furthermore,

the articles such as picture window can be set in interior living space to realize mutual integration between interior space with external landscape thus to realize more sufficient interaction of interior and exterior spaces, which can not make interior space dull. In addition, the designers can also refer to the design mode of traditional residences to directly introduce the natural landscapes such as waterstone, plants and luminous environment into interior living space design, accordingly, with the new material appearance based on scientific development, better effect can be realized for modern living space design compared with traditional residence design. If the interior space is not enough for waterstone and plants, the designers can learn the traditional mode to introduce the “condensed” articles such as pot culture, small Lingbi stone, small geyser and fish tank into interior living space instead of large natural articles thus to create a artistic conception like landscape painting.

Humanization design is the essential supplementation of the design idea “thing and man being one”, which is also one of the important evaluation standards for design all the time. Humanization design can enlarge the connection between human and the nature in interior space to the largest extent. In case of living space design, the designers should base on the idea of “thing and man being one” to fully consider the demands and thirsts of inhabitants from the standpoint of the inhabitants. For example, they should consider the occupation, character, aesthetic characteristics and the demand on interior space atmosphere of the inhabitants, consider the difference in customs of different regions and consider the design trend from the perspective of global environment, therefore, design based on thirst is humanized. Certainly, besides the design aesthetics factors and humanistic care, the designers should fully consider practicality factor, comfort and usage value, meanwhile, they should consider the affordable price range for the users. Finally, they can find out the balance point to integrate into the design style and Taoist aesthetics thought. What’s more, the design should also be tightly connected with human engineering and development situation of modern science and technology. Such kind of design is humanized. Therefore, the designers should reach to the “empty” status in design, however, when they are not distracted and disturbed by anything from the outside world, they can reach to the realm of “emptiness” thus to make their works free from vulgarity and enter into a purely-aesthetic realm, which can be helpful for designers to create natural works of “thing and man being one”.

At present, the nature has been in a state of devastation by humans, the ecological deterioration has been increasing and the biological diversification has been declining, which are all owing to “things being different from each other”. The tolerance of “Taoism” allows all things to develop freely while humans neglect and destroy natural rule in the development process. Therefore, paying attention to the idea of “thing and man being one” is not only for creating more beautiful and artistic living environment but also for benefiting all humankind.

### **3. Design method of “existence between to be or not to be”**

Imaginary space bases on entities to presented the atmosphere and psychological hint while entity relies on imaginary space to realize maximized usage value and aesthetics value, which are mutual intersection and integration of form and artistic conception, supplemented with each other. As the main design mode of traditional residences, “existence between to be or not to be” can be realized in modern living space, the limited interior space can be extended largely while the sense of depth of space can also become enriched, flexible and interesting thus to create tasteful space.

In living space design, luminous environment is imaginary space, it is well-known that light and shadow can combine with entity to create different visual effect, while from perspective of natural light, different light and shadows can also change in different times thus to make people form different psychologies and visual feelings, which cal also make space more charming, vital and stratified. Light intensity can also affect people’s psychology, for example, bright light can make people feel broadness, dark light can form comforTable atmosphere while shady light can form fear. Transparent materials such as glass also belong to imaginary space, while the reflection and refraction of these glasses can form endless changes and create dreamy landscape by accident, besides, the mutual integration of light and shadow effect with entity can make interior design full of endless changes and sense of depth.

For instance, opening the skylight above a narrow and short aisle can also form good effect. Make a shutter bar below the skylight and allow the natural light to get in thus to achieve the mottled effect, which can form enriched light and shadow changes with the time going, based on this, the sense of depth will be more enriched and the artistic conception will be more vivid, moreover, more lights can be allowed in days.

The surrounding walls, ceiling and ground are entities to protect individual security and privacy. Spacial division relies mostly on combination of imaginary space and entity, for instance, the step and carpet make the imaginary space full of sense of depth. While some spaces are divided only based on imaginary space such as light and shadow or real space.

The usage of entities such as mirror will also produce the effect of space extension for imaginary space, for example, the washroom has small space, people tend to form negative emotions in such kind of space, but generally, one mirror will be placed in the washroom to extend the space visually, therefore, the negative emotions caused from small space will disappear. In addition, the reflection effect of the mirror will also incorporate the real space into the imaginary space thus to weaken the entities hindering view and affecting beauty. For another example, if one space is full of entities completely, people will also feel depressed, but if the half-open design is introduced, the space will become flexible and vital.

Imaginary space can not only reduce the crudeness of entity to reach to the sense of “tenderness” but also can make people form numerous psychological hints, which can make entity full of vitality and taste. While entity is the medium to make imaginary space have sense of depth and realize change. Virtual things and entity supplement with each other to make the whole interior design become more reasonable and beautiful.

#### **4. Conclusion**

One tradition and corresponding thought can establish a life and living mode, wherein, Taoist aesthetics thought, as the most important page of Chinese traditional aesthetics thoughts, is fully presented in traditional residence design. Nowadays, though the living spaces in China are mostly Westernized, Chinese people have transformed their aesthetics way of thinking from “western aesthetics thought” to “eastern aesthetics thought”, which makes countrymen pay more attention to specific presentation of Taoist aesthetics thought in modern living space design. This paper expects to combine the Taoist aesthetics thought with modern living space design to present the living space design method featured with Chinese design elements and Taoist aesthetics idea.

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