

A Study on Borrowing Scenery in Landscape Design of Heyuan Garden

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Abstract. Borrowing scenery is an important way of garden landscaping. The space of a garden is limited so garden designers often employ borrowing scenery to visually expand the depth and width of the garden. Through using limited space to embrace infinite scenes, the sense of sight space can be enlarged and the bound of limited space to the human senses can be broken. As the first famous garden in the Late Qing Dynasty, designers of Heyuan garden greatly enriched the level of the scenery, which was achieved through properly organizing sight and space scenes.

Introduction

There are many ways of garden landscaping for garden scene such as techniques of framing, borrowing, dividing, opposite landscaping, clipping, omitting, adding and other methods. No matter it is an empirical palace courtyard or a private courtyard, the space of it is limited. The best way to expand visitors' vision and association of the scene and to see the whole scene through a small spot is to borrow scenery.

The meaning of borrowing scenery. In the garden arts, borrowing scenery refers to borrow scenic spots from outside the garden or from inside the garden to achieve the effects of mutual reflection and association [1]. During the process of artistic design of the environment, borrowing scenery is a perfect organization of the view spot and sight, which is a way of garden landscape construction via employing scenes outside the space to the view of sightseeing [2][3][4][5].

The significance of borrowing scenery. In the Ming Dynasty, Ji Cheng in his book "Garden Rule" pointed out that the art of garden landscaping lies in proper borrowing scenery while the essence of it lies in its appropriateness. Though there is a border between the inside garden and the outside one, the scenery borrow from either of it is with no difference in distance. For the distant scenes within the range of sight, if they were tacky, they would be screened out while the fine ones would be included in. Therefore, Ji Cheng took borrowing scenery as the most important thing in garden design. Li Yu in the Late Ming and early Qing Dynasty also advocated the idea that garden landscape construction lies in borrowing scenery. In Tao Yuanming's poem, which spreads through the ages, "Depicting chrysanthemum in the east fence, I leisurely see the Nanshan mountain", here the Nanshan mountain is an example of borrowing scenery which was seen by casual. The same is in Du Fu's poem "The snow in Xishan mountain can be seen through the window. Outside the door park the boats from east Wu, which is thousands miles away". The snow in Xishan mountain and the boats from east Wu both are examples of borrowing scenery. These can well justify that borrowing scenery can enlarge the sense of space, enrich the distant scenes, and add changes with not even cost a penny [6].

From the above sections, it can be seen that borrowing scenery plays an important role in garden landscaping. This paper explores how the Heyuan garden perfectly employs the technique of borrowing scenery in garden construction. Borrowing scenery is different with different distance, triangle, time, place. Usually, it can be divided into direct borrowing scenery and indirect borrowing scenery [2].

Borrowing scenery in Heyuan landscape

Heyuan garden is a large private garden functioning both a residential place and a tourist site. The total covering area is around 14 thousand square meters, with a total construction area accounting for 50% [7]. For garden landscape, the building density is high but if you are inside the garden visiting the scene, you will not feel crowded but feel the proper arrangement of building density, clear layers of scenes, and the amazing sense of seeing whole from the parts.

Direct borrowing scenery. Start from the south gate of Heyuan garden, the first scene falls into your sight is Yugui hall, which is the main hall of Heyuan functioning as a main place for owners to host guests. The hall built with phoebe absorbed the concept and representative ways of western architecture. With tall beam pillars and glass walls, the stereotype and tediousness of traditional Chinese hall are avoided. To coincide with the glass walls, bamboo and banana trees are planted between the back of the hall and the high walls. Taking the wall as paper, plants, mountains and stones as painting materials, a lively mural was presented within your sight. It naturally borrows the scenes outside the hall into the hall, no matter in spring, summer, autumn, or in winter, scenes can be seen from the hall (as can be seen in figure 1).

Figure 1



Figure 2



To compare a successful garden work to a wonderful poem is to compare lattice windows to beautiful lines. Then merits should be addressed to the lattice windows in the double-floor road corridors which located in the Xiyuan garden in Heyuan garden. There are in total 12 ornamental perforated windows of different shapes and designs from upstairs and downstairs. The building materials for lattice windows are specifically shape-fixed made water mill polished bricks, which are smooth, delicate, sturdy and durable. These not only add the sense of layering which make a harmonious coexistence of garden and residential area and break the isolating situation of buildings inside the high walls and deep yards, but present a scene of good view and flexibility in changing views which add changes to the inner garden environment. Visitors enjoy the views in the garden, walking to see different scenes and often with new views in sight (as can be seen in figure 2).

In the building with pieces of stones and mountain in small garden (Pianshishan Building), four scenes of lyre-playing, chess, calligraphy and painting are ingeniously designed. The room in the west is the study, with writing brushes, ink sticks, paper and inkstones inside it. Anytime when you feel the obligation to create something, you are allowed here. While the room in the east is a chess desk made from the ancient pagoda tree. Is it not an exciting thing to exchange experiences with your friends here? The squire windows on the above southern wall seem like a natural Chinese ink-wash painting every time when there is gentle breeze to shake the bamboo (as can be seen in figure 3). There are so many words about chess, calligraphy and painting, but what about the lyre-playing? In fact, the designers did not forget it and it was constructed with borrowing scenery.

Figure 3



Figure 4



Indirect borrowing scenery: it can be subdivided into borrowing of sound, shadow, fragrance, vagueness and so on. Visitors first coming to the garden seldom can guess that the lyre-playing should be the well in the middle hall. Every time the influxes of spring accompany a clear sound of bubbling, which is exactly accord with perched lyre-playing sound and bubbling spring. The scene is mainly on vision and this is the borrowing of sound.

A scene that is extremely easy to be ignored but is least deserve to be missed in building with pieces of stone mountain is the Jing Hua Shui Yue (flowers in a mirror and the moon's reflection in water). Between the walls of the corridors, a huge glass mirror was placed. Accompanying visitors' footsteps, relative views in different season can be reflected in the mirror (as can be seen in figure 4).

To the far opposite of the square mirror lurks a "bright moon" that never disappears in the lake under building of the pieces of stone mountain. As long as you move your feet within a meter, you can fully enjoy the wax or wane of the moon just like from the first day to the fifteenth day of the lunar calendar. In fact, it applies the principle of direct light. The right above of the "moon" exists a small round hole and the garden master Shi Tao set a lattice door at the back of the small hole. As a result, when the light is reflected into the building, the "moon" can be seen in full view. The shadows in the water also gracefully reflect the shape of the stone mountain. This kind of borrowing scenery of landscape construction can make the scene seems more far-reaching, enrich the scenery around, and hence a charming view is constructed.

The enlightenment brought by the borrowing scenery

Enlightenment for outdoor construction. The community landscape design in the fifth garden of Vanke in Shanghai fully employs the borrowing scenery. Pergola in corridor shape can provide a shade for rest, a place for plants to grow upward, and also can decorate the scene. Visitors cannot only take a rest there but at the same time enjoy the view. The pergola in the figure is far from these, it also seems like a delicate scroll painting which the pergola seems like to become a delicate frame to embrace all the great views (as can be seen in figure 5).

Figure 5



Figure 6



Enlightenment for indoor construction. Nowadays, more and more families purchase villas, the house type is a family-owned private residence with a very small covering area. The fitment work relies on walls to separate the room. In this way, placing a door on the wall becomes a way to expand visions. The Chinese lattice windows which originally functioned as a vent for fresh air or a passing way for passers-by now have the new function as "borrowing scenery" channel. Views outside the

house can be enjoyed by the house owners and a sense of “frame” of a painting can be felt because of the windows. People then will forget about the tediousness of cold walls inside the house. Separating the rooms, clearing the layering, and adding the twists and turns in the garden make the garden seems more profound (as can be seen in figure 6).

Conclusion

There are many ways of garden landscaping for garden scene. No matter it is an empirical palace courtyard or a private courtyard, the space of a garden is limited so garden designers often employ borrowing scenery to visually expand the depth and width of the garden [2]. Through using limited space to embrace infinite scenes, the sense of sight space can be enlarged and the bound of limited space to the human senses can be broken. The paper discusses the first famous garden in the Late Qing Dynasty, and points out that designers of Heyuan garden greatly enriched the level of the scenery, which was achieved through properly organizing sight and space scenes.

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