Thinking of Transformation in Rural Space Environment in Jianghuai Region

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Abstract: The reconstruction of traditional rural space environment is an inevitable trend after the city develops to a certain extent. The reconstruction of architectural image, the optimization and reorganization of space function and the reconstruction of traditional culture. This is an inevitable link in the road of rural revitalization. However, there are many problems in the existing urban and rural planning, architectural design and other methods, which make it impossible to implement the protection of many traditional buildings in the transformation of traditional villages. Starting from the traditional concept of our country's villages, this paper interprets the difficult problems in the rural reconstruction in Jianghuai region from the perspective of overall planning of urban and rural areas. Combined with the author's rural construction practice in Jianghuai region, it summarizes the strategies of traditional rural reconstruction such as “style continuation”, “tradition preservation” and “coping with changes”, which provide reconstruction ideas for rural construction.

1. Introduction

Since the Fifth Plenary Session of the 16th CPC Central Committee put forward the idea of “building a new socialist countryside”, the nationwide rural construction has begun. In 2012, the 18th National Congress of the CPC proposed to build a “beautiful China” and put forward the development concept of “new urbanization” at the same year's Central Economic Work Conference. Document No.1 of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in 2016 proposes to increase the internal impetus for rural development. In 2019, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the Central Committee Document No.1, proposing to make solid progress in rural construction and to speed up the completion of rural living environment and public services. Under the background of a series of policies in China, China's villages are facing various historic opportunities.

As one of the important cradles of civilization, Jianghuai region has profound cultural heritage and profound historical context. Its scope mainly refers to the areas north of the Yangtze River and south of the Huaihe River, most of which are in Anhui Province. At the same time, the author's rural construction practice is also in this area, so this discussion is mainly concentrated in the area between the Yangtze River and Huaihe River in Anhui Province. Anhui Province, as an economically underdeveloped province in China, lags behind economically developed provinces such as Jiangsu and Zhejiang in rural construction. Over the past ten years, the development of Anhui's rural industry and its overall image have shown a relatively single trend. Under the influence of urbanization development and blind pursuit of economic growth, a large number of rural spatial texture and architectural features are destroyed during construction, and the rural spatial environment is greatly impacted.

2. The Crisis of Rural Space in Jianghuai Region

Jianghuai region is located in the north-south transportation fortress and has been a commodity exchange center since ancient times. At the same time, due to its special geographical location, the cultural, economic and historical conditions in Jianghuai region are influenced by the culture of northern Anhui and also invaded by the culture of southern Anhui, forming its unique architectural language. There are not only the courtyard and horse head wall in southern Anhui, but also the
courtyard pattern of residential houses in the north. On the structure of the house, the wooden structure combined with the lifting beam and the bucket is used as the main load-bearing body, and the red brick, blue brick, rammed earth and stone are combined to form the building skin. Along with China's vigorous promotion of western culture on the road of modern development, the west wind is gradually spreading to the east, and the top-down trend of worshipping the foreign is prevalent. The early western modernist architectural thoughts and modern design principles were introduced into China through the first batch of designers with western academic design education background. Design began to affect the development of domestic local urban architecture.

In recent years, with the rapid progress of urbanization in our country, the relationship between urban and rural areas is gradually transforming. The city's concept of life and development is gradually permeating all aspects of rural production, life and habitat. A large number of young labor force have fled from the countryside and flowed into the city. The interior of the countryside is seriously hollowed out and low-end industries are gathering. Environmental pollution is getting worse and worse, as is the countryside in Jianghuai region.

2.1 The Architectural Style is Disordered

Out-of-order appearance of buildings: due to the evolution of villages in different periods, rural buildings show the characteristics of out-of-order organization construction, and the architectural appearance is separated from the local language. Few of these buildings retain the local traditional architectural style. However, due to the influence of urban expansion, more and more rural construction blindly follows, either applying the model of urban community or simply imitating the traditional rural style. As a result, many architectural forms show a four-dimensional state that is neither like urban buildings nor like rural buildings. Traditional rural buildings are embodied in ceramic tile houses, and buildings with European decorative elements are sought after. The original rural architectural form is considered outdated and backward in the consumption era. The reconstruction of the external form needs to change the concept and consciousness and re-integrate and shape the external image of the village.

Lack of internal functions of buildings: the indoor functions of rural buildings generally lag behind those of urban buildings. Among them, the traditional rural architecture has absorbed the folk feng shui concept, and is more a building mode accumulated by experience. In modern times, farmers built more houses, mostly in a pattern of “free growth”, without scientific construction methods. Therefore, there are many functional problems in the building space, such as lack of indoor sanitation facilities, unreasonable setting of moving wires and unreasonable opening of windows, resulting in dim and humid indoor environment. As well as the fact that the building structure cannot be adapted to the changes brought about by the functional transformation in the later period, a series of problems have also become difficult problems in rural construction.

2.2 Rural Space Texture is Broken

At present, the construction mode of rural residents in Jianghuai valley is still distributed in a dot pattern, showing a “free growth” trend toward the periphery of roads, rivers and ponds. Due to the lack of guidance and the spontaneous construction of farmers, the number of houses in the whole village is increasing day by day, and the illegal construction is serious. The building form and spatial scale are seriously deviated from the original village, resulting in the spatial form of “internal emptiness and external dispersion” in the village pattern. In addition, streets and lanes form the main structural framework of rural space, and are also the important components of spatial texture. Streets and lanes are not only responsible for daily transportation in traditional villages, but also important public activity spaces in rural life. Street space forms different scales and different forms in the countryside. At the same time, villagers use street space to talk, play and enjoy the cool. These activities themselves become an indispensable part of the public landscape, greatly enriching the visual experience of the rural landscape. However, the current development, in order to meet the needs of passepartout in the countryside, to allow motor vehicles to enter the countryside and to solve the problem of accessibility in the countryside, simply uses cement to directly pave the ground, which not only makes the rural roads lose their original appearance, but also makes the soil
lose its vitality. At the same time, the original lively streets and lanes have formed neat rows of transportation road networks with single machinery. It is this kind of planning that destroys the rural spatial environment and the rural texture.

2.3 The Structure of Production Space is Unbalanced

Population structure imbalance: due to the relatively backward local economy in Jianghuai region, the rural labor force is gradually moving to provincial capitals and developed regions, where there are more job opportunities, resulting in a series of imbalances such as rural hollowing out, aging, population structure and population quality. If we want to change the status quo, we must revitalize the countryside through industry, provide more job opportunities, and let young people return home to start businesses and find jobs. To attract more high-quality talents to join the rural construction.

Imbalance of industrial structure: The refined cooperative production mode brought about by industrialization has dissolved the small-scale peasant production mode with family as the unit. The existing land contract system can no longer adapt to the development. Modern agriculture, rural tourism, agricultural product development, etc. make it difficult to implement complex industries. Intensive use of land resources and unification of large-scale planting, operation and development are irresistible development directions. Only when the restructuring of the industrial structure is adjusted according to the changes in the economic development model can the value of land be used to the maximum extent and the 123 industries be better and more effectively integrated.

3. Reconstruction Ideas of Villages in Jianghuai Region

3.1 Continuation of Traditional Architectural Style

Most of the buildings in Jianghuai area are simple and concise, with flat terrain, mostly in plain areas. The construction area is large, and the width and span are larger than those of residential buildings in Jiangnan. Secondly, village features are also affected by environment, climate, humanities and other factors. For example, the humanistic feelings of buildings in the south of the Yangtze River, the exquisite workmanship of Huizhou style buildings, and the sincere and honest buildings in Shanxi are all the wisdom crystallization created by local residents who respect nature and conform to the natural environment. However, due to its special geographical environment, the buildings in Jianghuai region have not only absorbed Anhui style buildings in southern Anhui, but also been influenced by the buildings in vorak-Huai region in northern Anhui, which has also led to the diversity and inclusiveness of architectural styles. In terms of construction, the reconstruction of vernacular architecture in Jianghuai region should follow local craft, use local materials, respect local cultural customs, and make breakthroughs and innovations while preserving the traditional style and features on the basis of repairing the old as before and applying modern technology.

![Fig.1 Reconstruction of Kao Shanzhang Village A02 Residential Building in Chaohu, Anhui Province (the Picture Source is Drawn by the Author Himself)](image)

3.1.1 Reconstruction of Style and Features of Single Buildings

We take the protective reconstruction design of Kao ShanZhang village in Chaohu, Anhui province as an example (as shown in fig. 1). In this project, we chose several single buildings and borrowed some elements of residential buildings in southern Anhui. The screen door on the outer facade of the building is more concise in decoration than residential buildings in southern Anhui. At the same time, extensive materials and masonry techniques are adopted to highlight the characteristics of Jianghuai dwellings. Among them, we take the renovation design of No. A02
residential building (see fig. 1) as an example. first of all, in the renovation of this building, the key point is to restore the traditional style and features as the main design idea. The original building is a single residential building with no local characteristics. The designer first added stone foundation to the building and added horse-headed walls on both sides. At the same time, in order to solve the ventilation and lighting problems, the facade drew on the form of screen doors on the facade of the building in southern Anhui. At the same time, in order to add a single slope corridor, the designer continued the traditional style of the building and solved the defects of the original building function.

![Fig.2 Demonstration of Courtyard-Type Renovation of Kao Shanzhang Village Building Group in Chaohu, Anhui Province (the Picture Source is the Author's Own Drawing)](image)

3.1.2 Reconstruction of Building Groups

As the functions and forms of the existing rural buildings cannot meet the needs of the existing life and management, the buildings are facing functional transformation and upgrading. Among them, the original buildings are classified into a class of functional zones through the building forms or traffic organization relations, which greatly solves the problem of incomplete functions of the original single buildings. As shown in fig. 2, originally this area was composed of 6 households, but since it was designed as a residential hotel as a whole, its function has undergone essential changes. therefore, through the change of enclosure mode and reorganization of internal roads, a residential hotel with 18 guest rooms has been reconstructed into a whole functional space. So as to solve the respective functional requirements that cannot be provided by a single family. Secondly, the building group is also a better and more effective way to continue the village style.

3.2 Reconstruction of Life and Production Scenes

In the reconstruction of the rural space environment, the unique rural model integrating life and production is an important component. Life is a part of production. Even if production is a part of life, the living and production scenes such as the storage of production tools, the airing yard and the threshing yard are retained in the space environment as reconstruction elements. At the same time, some folk activities, such as lion dance, dragon boat race and singing village songs, can be used as elements in the reconstruction of the scene and can be preserved and carried forward. Preserving the original living and production conditions, living customs and cultural beliefs requires the support and understanding of the villagers so that the villagers can voluntarily and spontaneously join in. This kind of hometown style is the idyllic life that city people yearn for. In the later development of rural tourism, it can greatly enhance its commercial value.

3.3 Open a Bottom-Up Approach to Construction

Villagers are the owners of villages, as well as the beneficiaries and participants in the construction of villages. The wisdom and strength of villagers are important elements in the rural construction. Builders give full play to the role of villagers, and the bottom-up construction method is a better and more efficient construction method. Builders often transform some demonstration areas and model houses in villages, and villagers will follow suit. People have never lacked wisdom and creativity. For thousands of years of residential buildings in our country, professional designers have never participated, and more people have participated and spontaneously built houses. Set a benchmark in the village and let the villagers “copy” and “paste” spontaneously. Eventually, there will be a large number of independent reforms suitable for their own living and production functions. Due to individual differences, different cultures, different customs and different aesthetic tastes, each village has different final results. With such differences and diversifications,
architectural styles and features have differences in unification, and styles and features have obtained “unexpected” innovations in inheritance. This is exactly what we want to see.

4. Conclusion

Rural areas are the key areas of China's development in the coming decades, and they are also promising places. The existing rural construction is still in the stage of exploration while practicing. We need to discuss how to construct, how to protect rural space features and what to protect in reconstruction today. The idea of reconstructing rural space environment in this paper is based on the traditional rural life customs and a series of reconstruction and reconstruction problems encountered during the transformation of rural development in Jianghuai region. The development of villages should ultimately fall on the protection of the traditional features of villages. While fully exploring and protecting the local culture, it should also meet the development needs of modern economic life and combine the villagers’ bottom-up construction mode to finally realize the goal of complementary and balanced development between urban and rural areas.

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References


