

Evolution Characteristics of Urban Residential Environment in Tibet Since the Reform and Opening Up

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Abstract: After the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the urban residential environment in Tibet has undergone historic and profound changes after more than half a century of development and vicissitudes. The Tibetan people have gone through an unprecedented transformation from a miserable and poor life of not having enough food and clothing to a peaceful and peaceful life in which everyone can live and work in peace and contentment. Especially since the reform and opening up, the urban residential environment in Tibet has achieved great development, with the housing area constantly increasing, the internal environment of the living room changing with each passing day, and the external environment of the residential building continuously improving. Based on the changes of urban development in Tibet since the reform and opening up, this paper tries to investigate the evolution characteristics and causes of urban residential environment, and summarizes the regular content of promoting the improvement of urban residential environment, so as to provide reference for solving the housing problem in Tibet in the process of modernization.

1. Introduction

In the early years of reform and opening up, the housing welfare distribution system was implemented in cities and towns of Tibet province, which met the basic housing needs of most residents in a relatively short period of time and ensured that residents had their own houses.

According to statistics, “The urban population of Tibet was 378,300 at the beginning of 1994, when the total number of urban families was about 7.56, and nearly 70 percent of the urban residents moved into new houses”. In 1994, the reform of the housing system was carried out and “the system of housing material distribution was stopped and housing monetary distribution was implemented”. The housing conditions and living environment in Tibet's cities and towns witnessed a great leap forward, and the urban housing environment in new Tibet continued to improve. The main features are as follows:

2. The Housing Area Continues to Grow

Since the beginning of the 1980s, “the construction wave of large-scale, one-time congregate houses sweeping across the country completely formatted our hometown environment”. Just as Ye Rutang, the former vice minister of Construction, commented, “Half of the houses built in the past year are residential. In terms of architectural achievements, the number of residential buildings ranks first”, and the area of urban housing in Tibet has also been greatly improved.

Statistics show that in 1998, the per capita living area of urban residents in Tibet was 17.33 square meters, an increase of 8.24 square meters over 1987, which was “higher than the national average at that time”. By 2015, the average per-capita housing area in urban areas had reached 26.19 square meters, while that in rural areas reached 32.75 square meters, a dramatic change from the past.

3. The Environment inside the Bedroom Changes with Each Passing Day

3.1 Changes in Building Structure

Traditional residential buildings in Tibet are mostly tibetan-style houses with civil structures.

“the columns and beams are wood, the roofs are mostly covered with grass and mud, and the walls are built with adobe”, which are easily damaged and collapsed. Since the reform and opening up, with the change of The Times and the development of the society, and the continuous improvement of people's living standard, the civil structure Tibetan house gradually tends to the reinforced concrete structure Tibetan house. According to the survey data in 1990, “all the 685 households and 1,596 people in the Lugu community, an old slum in Lhasa, live in permanent houses built of reinforced concrete and stone”.

At the same time, a large number of buildings with column and beam bearing or wall and column mixed bearing or wall bearing appeared. “There is a balcony on the roof, which can be used for sunning and sightseeing”. In addition, on the layout of the unit, no longer eat and drink and sleep all in one room, but a separate kitchen, bedroom, and is equipped with, such as sitting room, living room, niches, study on the interior walls of lime or coating, some Mosaic tile, even with all kinds of painting, its glorious general diaphragm coated with paint, topped with sheathing, dust-proof and wet.

3.2 Popularization of New Housing Construction Materials

Traditionally, the building materials of houses in Tibet are “local materials”, mainly raw earth, rubble and wood, which are not conducive to ventilation, lighting and shock resistance and are easily damaged. With the deepening of the reform and opening up, the living standard of Tibet's urban residents is constantly improving. Besides keeping the national characteristics of residential houses, a large number of new building materials such as prefabricated boards, cement bricks, glass and steel bars are also used, and aluminum alloy glass Windows are installed in order to facilitate lighting, heating and ventilation.

3.3 The Furnishings Became Newer

In 1965, the head of Shenzha county lived in the best house, “only a camp-bed, a burning stove, a bag of cow dung, and a small table with small Windows. There is enough spare room in the house for one to stand or sit “. After the reform and opening up, along with the improvement of living standards, the furnishings in residents' homes also look brand-new. “All kinds of Tibetan furniture are arranged in the room. There are Tibetan carpets on the floor. In the living room, there are sofas, tea tables, cassette recorders, TV sets, VCDs (DVDs), which are very luxurious. Household durables such as computers, washing machines and air conditioners are becoming more common as disposable income rises.

In the meantime, conditional family, still go up in stigma, room beam, sitting room metope USES painting adornment, appear very showily. As citizen Tsering Lamu said, “Life is much better now than in the past. Of course, we should try our best to decorate our lives. Flowers can best represent my current mood.” On the Ten-mile Long Street of Lhasa, on both sides of the high stone steps of the Potala Palace, “all the way to the courtyard where I live, you can see the pink and white 'Zhang Da Hua' swaying in the wind, emitting a faint fragrance”. Half a century ago, however, owning a house of one's own was a luxury.

4. The Environment Outside the Residence Continues to Improve

4.1 Great Progress Has Been Made in Urban Greening

Greening system has the functions of adjusting urban microclimate, improving urban environmental sanitation, protecting urban environment, beautifying urban landscape and so on. It plays an irreplaceable role in urban residential environment. Around the 1980s, only small-scale afforestation was carried out in towns and cities in Tibet, and some county governments organized workers to “carry out afforestation and afforestation activities” in county organs, without forming large systematic green belts.

In March 1987, Tibet held a conference on the greening of Lhasa riverside, which not only conveyed the task of greening Lhasa Riverside park, but also carried out ideological mobilization

on the “great significance of afforestation, greening the motherland and beautifying the environment”, and made arrangements and put forward the implementation methods. Since the 1990s, with the increase of the state investment in greening Tibet, the greening of cities and towns has been significantly improved. In 1994, Bomi County government “invested 1 million yuan to complete the greening of the roads and squares of the county”. With the vigorous implementation of the greening, sand prevention and tree-planting activities, the “greening rate of Alishi Quanhe Town reached about 30%”.

4.2 Relevant Supporting Facilities for Residential Buildings Have Been Continuously Improved

Adequate housing, including “adequate infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation and waste management”, and improvements in living conditions also depend largely on “the accessibility of public service facilities and modes of service”. After decades of construction and development of Tibetan town water supply and drainage, energy, health and other residential infrastructure continue to improve and perfect, not only “water and electricity supply”, and “communications, transport facilities, radio and television, all kinds of entertainment and business services cover from the county seat, medical and health facilities”, has a set of modern city and facilities, with a strong breath of times.

5. Conclusion

Since the peaceful liberation of Tibet, great changes and development have taken place in Tibet, one of which is the leap-forward development and evolution of the urban residential environment. Firstly, the transition from theocratic feudal serf society to free and democratic socialist society provided a solid institutional guarantee for the development and evolution of the urban and residential environment in Tibet. Secondly, it cannot be separated from the strong support of national policies, especially the special projects and national counterpart support since the reform and opening up, which make the city and living environment of Tibet have made brilliant achievements. Third, the continuous improvement of the urban and residential environment in Tibet has benefited from economic development and improved transportation conditions, especially the opening of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, which has brought a large number of modern elements conducive to urban development and housing improvement in Tibet.

Therefore, compared with the evolution track of inland cities and residential environment, Tibet city has its particularity. First, the urban development of Tibet is mainly built on the basis of “atypical dual economic structure”. The urban construction mostly relies on external support and lacks internal impetus. Therefore, the residential construction is mainly carried out under the guidance of policies, which more reflects the will of the rulers in different periods. Second, in terms of the speed of evolution, cities and towns in Tibet are significantly faster than those in the inland areas. In particular, they have achieved unprecedented leapfrog development in just a few decades since the reform and opening up.

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