

## **The Application and Embodiment of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Decorative Art of Traditional Dwellings in Jiangxi Province**

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**Abstract:** The national culture of China has a long history, and it has relevant ethnic cultural customs in terms of food and residential areas in various regions. Then there are traditional dwellings represented by Jiangxi Province, and the decorative arts of these traditional dwellings are rich in content, exquisite in craftsmanship and profound in cultural heritage. They are attached to the geographical environment and humanistic meanings that are not used in Jiangxi Province. The unique charm shows the unique temperament of traditional dwellings. This paper will understand the cultural characteristics and charm of traditional dwellings in Jiangxi Province by understanding the application and manifestation of intangible cultural heritage in the decorative art of traditional dwellings in Jiangxi Province, as well as understanding some of the main features of traditional dwelling decoration.

**Keywords:** Traditional dwellings in Jiangxi Province; Decorative arts; Cultural heritage

Traditional dwellings are unique historical and cultural heritages of our country. They are not only rich and varied, but also adapted to local conditions. Since ancient times, the distribution of villages and the structure of residential houses have been inextricably linked with the natural geographical environment. The building structure can be roughly divided into three major areas according to the famous residence in Jiangxi Province, namely Northern Jiangxi, Central Jiangxi and Southern Jiangxi. The traditional dwellings in these areas have their own characteristics, all of which contain this rich cultural connotation. And the traditional art of decoration in Jiangxi Province, which occupies an important position in the field of architectural art in China, needs to be passed down and carried forward. Therefore, we need to pay attention to the decorative art of traditional dwellings in Jiangxi Province, and continue to inherit and carry forward the precious wealth that the ancient ancestors left us to ensure the integrity of the national culture.

### **1. Characteristics of traditional residential decoration in Jiangxi Province**

#### **1.1 Characteristics of traditional residential decoration in Northern Jiangxi**

##### **1.1.1 Implicative decoration**

Most of the traditional dwellings in Northern Jiangxi are Huizhou-style buildings in the Qing Dynasty. Their layout is solemn and rigorous. They are decorated by means of symbols, implicatures, homophonic tones and characters. In the decoration of dwellings in Northern Jiangxi, people often use a picture or the moral of a story to express some good wishes, such as myths and legends. Some also like to use some homophonic ways to express the yearning for a better life, such as happy eyebrows, "happy" is equivalent to "magpie", "eyebrow" is like "plum", because both magpie and plum express good moral, so "happy eyebrows" means that something good happens. It can make people yearn for life and have emotional sustenance, so people like it very much when decorating dwellings.

##### **1.1.2 Various decorative themes**

There are many beautiful meanings in the decoration of dwellings in Northern Jiangxi. The most important thing is to provide the carrier for these meanings, such as animals and plants. The people of

Northern Jiangxi are full of hope for life, so the decoration of dwellings is a pattern expressing the meaning of peace, auspiciousness, and wealth, which has become the main connotation requirement of choosing the theme. In traditional Chinese culture, dragon, phoenix and lion are all animals with good moral meanings. Therefore, these animals will often be used as decorative patterns of dwellings to symbolize rights and wealth. They often use both sides of the gate or partitions of the house. Plum, orchid, bamboo and chrysanthemum are the four gentlemen loved by the world since ancient times. Each of them has a very noble moral. Moreover, there are also peony and ganoderma lucidum, which are often used in the decoration of dwellings.

### **1.1.3 Various decorative techniques**

The decoration of dwellings has the connotations of animals, plants and stories. What is needed is the skills of decoration. These patterns and words with rich connotations are decorated in architecture. Traditional houses in Northern Jiangxi mainly use arts and crafts, painting, sculpture, calligraphy and other means of expression in decoration, making decoration more vivid, so that housing construction has more aesthetic value. The decoration of dwellings focuses on three parts, that is, doors and windows, walls and columns. These three parts are mainly wood buildings, while the external walls, walls and columns are mainly made of brick and stone materials. However, the residential buildings in Northern Jiangxi is mainly wood building, mainly used for doors and windows, columns, walls, furniture furnishings. In these decorations, line carving, relief, round carving and openwork are used according to their respective characteristics and needs to better display the decorative art incisively and vividly.

## **1.2 Characteristics of traditional residential decoration in Central Jiangxi**

### **1.2.1 Decoration with cultural charm**

The traditional dwellings in the Central Jiangxi are mostly the homes and ancestral homes of the returning officials. Therefore, the buildings are relatively grand and tall, but the decorative expressions are similar to those in the northern part of the country. In the traditional residential decoration in Central Jiangxi, the symbolic approach is often used to express the inner feelings of the master, which is the poet's commonly used method of carrying things. After all, the buildings in the central area are mostly established by officials. For example, plum, orchid, bamboo and chrysanthemum are used to express their noble quality; or longevity peaches and pine are used to express the meaning of longevity. In addition, people in Central Jiangxi also use words to express their good expectations for life. For example, the word "Fu Lu Shou" is more common to express good wishes.

### **1.2.2 Rich connotation of the theme of decoration**

The theme of traditional residential decoration in the central area is also very large, but the decoration is an expression of the owner's emotions or wishes, then it will be decorated with some special or beautiful words. For example, if the owner is more noble, the lion and phoenix will be decorated at the entrance of the house, or the dragon pattern will be carved on some walls to express honor and auspiciousness. If it is to express the quality of the owner's high cleanliness, it is generally decorated with the meaning contained in the characteristics of the plant itself. For example, plum represents a proud person and a noble person; orchid represents a lonely fragrance and self-admiration, and is for the sage of the world; bamboo represents a handsome and elegant man and a modest gentleman; chrysanthemum represents a non-inflammation trend and an outdoor hermit. Once with this decoration, the guest will understand the emotions that the owner wants to express.

### **1.2.3 Exquisite decorative skills**

The decorative techniques of traditional dwellings in Central Jiangxi are more exquisite and

delicate, and the art of carving is exquisite. Therefore, the carving art skills can be seen everywhere in the traditional residential decoration in Central Jiangxi. Wood, brick and stone are the three main materials of traditional dwellings. Wood carvings, brick carvings and stone carvings have been developed, and these three forms of carving have become the main forms of residential decoration in the central area. Wood carvings mainly include three methods of carving, embossing and openwork. According to the structure of the building and the functions that the decoration needs to perform and play, different carving techniques are used for engraving. For example, the use of sculpture and relief carving method lighting and ventilation are good, so it is often used for door and window decoration. The decorative space is small, but the carving is extremely fine, the decorative picture content is also very full, and the carving technique is extremely exquisite.

### **1.3 Characteristics of traditional residential decoration in Southern Jiangxi**

#### **1.3.1 Distinctive decoration**

The traditional Hakka dwellings are mostly preserved in Southern Jiangxi. The construction of traditional Hakka dwellings is influenced by Hakka culture. The level and primary and secondary of architectural decoration art are distinct. In the traditional layout of courtyards, family ancestral halls are emphasized as the center and the axis of the layout is taken as the axis. In the spatial layout, the layout of the front public, back private, left-up and right-down is emphasized, which is precisely influenced by the traditional patriarchal culture of our country. In addition, the traditional dwellings in Southern Jiangxi are also influenced by the Confucian culture of the mean, emphasizing that the construction and decoration of dwellings need internal and external differences, reflecting the primary and secondary relationship. In the decoration, it is also necessary to embody the sense of hierarchy through the structure of decoration and internal architecture, and to show the beauty of artistic conception between different levels.

#### **1.3.2 The profound theme of decoration**

Traditional dwellings in Southern Jiangxi are mostly made of wood. They are decorated and sculpted according to the color and pattern of wood. The main themes are usually myths, historical stories and character stories. In addition, some homonyms of animals and plants will be used as themes to express the wishes of good weather, plentiful clothes and food, family harmony, peace and happiness, such as Si (persimmon) Ji Ping (bottle) An, Ji (chicken) Qing You Yu (fish). Like the areas of Northern and Central Jiangxi, stone lions will be placed in front of the gates of traditional houses in Southern Jiangxi, but they are used to protect the homes and towns. While, in Northern and Central Jiangxi, lions placed in front of the gates are used to show the priority of power and position.

#### **1.3.3 Excellent decoration skills**

Southern Jiangxi has the same carving skills as Northern and Central Jiangxi in wood, brick and stone carving, while Southern Jiangxi has more decorative skills of painting and decoration. In a large house, there must be sculpture that does not show the skill of sculpture very well, or the method of sculpture that is not suitable for decoration. This is to show the artistic sense of decoration by means of colored painting or hanging decoration, showing more interesting. The combination of sculpture and color painting has created unique decorative skills in Southern Jiangxi, which shows unique Hakka cultural connotation and has high artistic value.

## **2. Morphological characteristics of decoration of traditional dwellings in Jiangxi Province**

### **2.1 Confucian culture**

Confucian culture advocates the artistic concept of “gentle and honest”, emphasizing the unity of

the individual parts of the whole, which has had a profound impact on ancient Chinese architectural art. The architectural structure of traditional houses in Jiangxi Province is not a separate part of decoration, but the beauty of the combination of the entire building, which also just confirms the Confucianism of "gentle and honest". Through a certain construction law, each monomer is combined into a tall building, which reflects a certain cultural connotation through its decoration. Traditional dwellings have been adorned with different arts and crafts such as carvings and paintings, which greatly demonstrates people's yearning for a better life, and reflects people's pursuit and creation of artistic beauty. A lot of beautiful animals, plants, historical stories and folktales are used as decorative objects to express inner wishes or emotions. The construction of dwellings pays attention to the axis symmetry, the upper left and the lower right of some construction "rules", which results from the comprehensive influence of Confucian culture and national culture. In short, the traditional residential decoration in Jiangxi Province is to express the Confucian ideology and culture through these popular and interesting themes, as well as the advocacy of some good qualities such as honesty and harmony.

## **2.2 Visual aesthetics**

Dwelling is a place where people live for a long time. In addition to the functions that can meet people's daily needs, they also need to satisfy people's visual aesthetics and bring visual enjoyment to the people. After all, it is a long-term living environment, and it must be comfortable and beautiful in order to make people live comfortably. Visual aesthetics is focused on collocation, emphasizing color matching and size matching, so that people can visually feel smart and comfortable, and produce the relevant emotions to be expressed with the decoration. Such decoration is a successful decoration.

## **2.3 Cultural heritage**

Most of the decorative arts of traditional dwellings in Jiangxi Province originate from decorative themes. They are the symbol of cultural connotation and cultural heritage. First of all, they express good wishes for life through the emotions and implicatures of things themselves to deepen the cultural connotation of buildings. In addition, the cultural implications from decorative art can be used to educate future generations. More and more cultural heritage will become the inheritance of good family style, and continue to carry forward the excellent culture.

## **3. Conclusion**

To sum up, the decorative art of traditional dwellings in Jiangxi Province is actually used to express a wish for a better life. It is people's spiritual emotional sustenance, and has a high artistic and cultural value. Different decorative themes express different emotions, and different decorative arts express different cultural connotations. Through understanding the decorative art of traditional folk houses, we can further understand the cultural connotation of the nation. Therefore, the decoration of traditional dwellings leaves us not only the enjoyment of visual beauty, but also the historical and cultural implications. Therefore, we should explore the art of traditional residential decoration actively, extract its essence and remove its dross, and integrate excellent traditional decorative art into modern decorative art, which has a very important influence on the inheritance of traditional residential decorative art and the development of modern decorative art.

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