

A Study on the Historical Evolution of Artistic Style and Layout Characteristics of Buddhist Architecture in Tang Dynasty

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Abstract: Based on the historical evolution of the artistic style and layout characteristics of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, this paper takes the Great Wild Goose Pagoda as a case study. The study reveals how the Great Wild Goose Pagoda is a combination of Han and foreign architectural styles, so as to show the exquisite construction technology of the Tang Dynasty in the structure, showing its important role in the spread of Buddhist culture. The research program on Tang Buddhist architecture provides methods and approaches for understanding and preserving these precious cultural heritages. This paper explores how to shape the architectural heritage of Buddhism and makes an in-depth analysis of Tang society's support and admiration for Buddhism. Therefore, we can know the influence of Buddhist policies on the development of Buddhist architecture, so as to provide useful reference value for protecting and inheriting the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation.

1 INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on the Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty, as a treasure of ancient Chinese architectural art, which not only carries the sanctity of religious belief. It is a direct reflection of the social, cultural and religious background at that time. Over time, these buildings have undergone significant stylistic evolution, and their artistic style and layout characteristics have changed accordingly. The research questions of this project focus on the historical, cultural and religious motivations behind these changes, and how they shaped the heritage of Buddhist architecture as we see it today. This study is conducive to the balance of historical and artistic values in the process of restoration and conservation. Through in-depth analysis, it can provide scientific basis and practical guidance for the protection and inheritance of these cultural heritage.

This study mainly starts from the Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty, and specifically carries out its research, protection and inheritance. Literature analysis is used to search and read relevant materials and documents. The advantage of this method is that it can well analyze the unique style of architectural art of Tang Dynasty at the academic level and provide examples for the study of Tang

Dynasty architecture. In terms of culture, it embodies the integration of national cultures, helps to excavate and carry forward the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, protects and inherits the Buddhist architectural culture, and is conducive to the conduct of research. The research issues cover the evolution of architectural style layout, the integration of sculpture and built environment, and the balance of restoration and conservation values. Through a variety of research methods, it is found that the Buddhist architectural style of the Tang Dynasty integrates multiple elements, the layout reflects function and order, the interaction between sculpture and architecture is good, and the restoration and protection need comprehensive consideration. The ultimate goal of this study is that the research program of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty provides methods and approaches for the in-depth understanding and protection of these precious cultural heritage (Hu, 1997).

2 CASE STUDY

Among the many Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty, the Great Wild Goose Pagoda reached its peak in artistic expression (Tayhuadong and

Inkarojrit, 2024). Through the case of the Great Wild Goose Pagoda, this paper discusses the historical evolution of the style and layout characteristics of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty and its important role in the spread of Buddhist culture (Lv and Lv, 2012).

The historical evolution of the artistic style and layout characteristics of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty can be fully reflected in the landmark building of the Great Wild Goose Pagoda (Lv and Lv, 2012). Located in Xi'an, Shanxi Province, the Great Wild Goose Pagoda is the earliest and largest existing brick pagoda of the four-sided pavilion style of the Tang Dynasty (Pang, 2010). Its architectural style integrates the characteristics of Han and foreign nationalities, reflecting the integration of multi-ethnic cultures (Pang, 2010). The design of the Great Wild Goose Pagoda not only shows the exquisite architectural technology of the Tang Dynasty in structure but also reaches a peak in artistic expression (Shi, 2018). The body of the tower is square, the appearance is solemn and upright, and the cornice, doors Windows and brick carvings of each layer are exquisite, showing the exquisite craftsmanship of the architectural art of the Tang Dynasty.

The reliefs and colors of the Great Wild Goose Pagoda mainly show the stories and characters in the Lotus Sutra and Avatamsaka Sutra. These decorations not only beautify the pagoda but also convey the profound and profound connotation of Buddhist culture (Shi, 2014). This practice of integrating Buddhist stories and culture into architectural art is an important embodiment of the evolution of Buddhist architectural style and layout characteristics in the Tang Dynasty. It not only enhances the religious significance of the building but also makes it an important medium for the dissemination of Buddhist culture.

2.1 Architectural Appearance

The reliefs on the stupa, the stone statues, and the content of the scriptures all convey the meaning of Buddhist wisdom and compassion so that people can appreciate the profound connotation of Buddhism while appreciating the art. At the same time, decorative elements such as sculptures and murals in temples and halls can create a strong Buddhist atmosphere and enhance the religious experience of believers. In the restoration and protection of Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty, a reasonable selection of restoration techniques and materials and emphasis on cultural preservation and inheritance can achieve the balance between historical value and

artistic value. For example, in the protection and inheritance of Tibetan Buddhist architectural culture, the protection and restoration project of Palcho Monastery carries out scientific analysis of the shape characteristics, building materials, and building structures of Palcho Monastery buildings, and retains the historical information of its value to the maximum extent in the process of protection and restoration, to protect the authenticity and integrity of the temple. The combination of Buddhist sculpture and architectural environment in the Tang Dynasty creates a unique religious atmosphere. For example, the stone sculpture of the Kowloon bathing Buddha is usually placed in the important places of the temple, such as the Front gate and the front of the hall of Mahavira Hall, with far-reaching implications, and the details of each dragon are full of symbolic significance.

2.2 Structure Layout

The Buddhist temple architecture in the early Tang Dynasty was probably influenced more by the Northern and Southern Dynasties. With the Sinicization of Buddhism and the development of social culture in the Tang Dynasty, the layout centered on the pagoda gradually evolved into the form of multiple courtyards with Buddhist halls as the main (Zhang, 1993). This evolution reflected the integration of Buddhism with traditional Chinese culture, as well as the changing demand for Buddhist architectural functions in Tang society.

In the architectural layout, the building structure and the environment are integrated into each other, becoming a symbol of religious ceremonies and cultural inheritance. Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty usually have a clear central axis, and the larger monasteries are arranged like corridors on both sides of the main hall, and the main court and each small court are surrounded by corridors. This layout is convenient for worshippers to worship and practice, reflecting the hierarchy and sense of order of Buddhist architecture.

2.3 Restoration and Protection

The Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty has gone through thousands of years, and it is necessary to balance the historical value and artistic value in the process of restoration and protection. Take the protection and restoration of local temple buildings and architectural groups as an example. For example, Liangping Shuanggui Tang in Chongqing, the protection planning should comprehensively consider

regional characteristics, cultural and historical characteristics, architectural nature and other factors to ensure that the authenticity of cultural relics and monuments is not changed, while preserving their historical integrity, and the complete historical information left on the same cultural relics and buildings in different periods of history is not arbitrarily removed and altered.

In the restoration and protection of Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty, reasonable selection of restoration techniques and materials and emphasis on cultural preservation and inheritance can achieve the balance between historical value and artistic value.

3 SIGNIFICANCE OF RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF BUDDHIST BUILDINGS IN TANG DYNASTY

3.1 Academic Significance

As a treasure of ancient Chinese architecture, Buddhist architecture in Tang Dynasty provides a new research perspective and method for related disciplines. The construction of Buddhist architecture in Tang Dynasty was widely distributed in time and varied in forms, which reflected the development process, construction skills and decoration techniques of the architectural art in Tang Dynasty. For example, the Buddhist buildings of the Tang Dynasty were transformed from stone imitation wood to real wood structures with square planes, showing superb architectural techniques. The surface of the tower is decorated with glazed tiles, painted, relief and other decorative techniques, such as the relief and painted of the Great Wild Goose Pagoda mainly show the stories and characters in the The Lotus Sutra and Avatamsaka Sutra, showing the profound and profound connotation of Buddhist culture. At the same time, the architectural style, relief and color painting of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty provide a valuable reference for the study of Tang architecture (Zhang, 2018).

3.2 Cultural Significance

The Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty embodies the integration of national culture, helps to excavate and carry forward the excellent traditional

culture of the Chinese nation, and protects and inherits the Buddhist architectural culture (Zuo, 2017). Taking Guanzhong Buddhist brick Pagoda of Tang Dynasty as an example, it integrates the artistic elements of many nationalities, both the characteristics of Han and the style of foreign nationalities. For example, the Great Wild Goose Pagoda adopts the "beam and column structure" and "dougong system" of traditional Chinese architecture, while combining the characteristics of foreign architecture, more majestic. Another example is Buddha Temple, which is oriented to the east and west according to the mountain, and the building is divided into three layers. Its unique layout and architectural style also reflect the integration of multi-ethnic cultures. In the Tang Dynasty, the pagodas in Chang'an City were widely distributed and diversified in forms, which also reflected the integration of national culture. The research and protection of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty can provide inspiration and enlightenment for the creation of contemporary architectural art and promote the development of cultural tourism industry.

3.3 Practical Significance

Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty provided scientific basis and practical guidance for the protection and utilization of Buddhist architecture, and promoted the development of cultural tourism industry. For the restoration and protection of Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty, it is necessary to choose restoration techniques and materials reasonably and pay attention to cultural preservation and inheritance. For example, in the protection planning, regional characteristics, cultural and historical characteristics, architectural nature and other factors should be considered comprehensively to ensure that the authenticity of cultural relics and monuments is not changed, while preserving their historical integrity. As an important tourism resource, Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty can attract tourists to visit, feel the charm of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, and promote the development of cultural tourism industry.

4 DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTION

Consult academic works, research papers and professional reports at home and abroad on Buddhist

temple architecture, sculpture and restoration and protection, and study Buddhist classics, historical documents and local Chronicles. Through consulting relevant academic works, research papers and professional reports at home and abroad, we can understand different scholars' research perspectives and methods on Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty. For example, from the architectural art, cultural connotation, historical value and other aspects of in-depth discussion, to provide a rich theoretical support for the study. At the same time, by studying Buddhist classics, historical documents and local Chronicles, we can understand the historical background, religious significance and cultural connotation of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty. These documents may record the construction process, architectural style, sculpture art and other aspects of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, which provides an important basis for in-depth study of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty. Field research Conducted field visits to Buddhist temple buildings in different historical periods, recorded the status quo and characteristics of temple buildings, observed the relationship between sculptures and the built environment, and investigated restoration and protection cases. Field investigation is an important way to understand Buddhist architecture in Tang Dynasty. A field study of Buddhist temple architecture in different historical periods can give us an intuitive sense of the scale, layout and artistic style of Tang Buddhist architecture. By taking photos, measuring and drawing, the present situation and characteristics of the temple building are recorded, including the structure, materials and decoration of the building. By observing the relationship between sculpture and the built environment, we can understand the status and role of sculpture in Buddhist architecture, and how sculpture and architecture integrate with each other to create a unique religious atmosphere. By investigating restoration and protection cases, we can learn advanced restoration techniques and protection methods, and provide references for the protection of Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty. Case studies Select representative Buddhist temple buildings and sculptures for case studies and summarize lessons learned from successful and failed cases. The representative Buddhist buildings of Tang Dynasty, such as the Great Wild Goose Pagoda, Buddhist Temple, silver coffin of Longquan Temple pagoda and Xingguo Temple, were selected for case analysis. An in-depth study of the artistic style, layout characteristics and interaction of these buildings, and a summary of their successes and shortcomings. For

example, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, as the earliest and largest existing brick pagoda of the Tang Dynasty, integrates the characteristics of Han and foreign nationalities in its architectural style, reflecting the integration of multi-ethnic cultures. The buildings, sculptures, murals and inscriptions of Buddhist Temple are known as the "four wonders", which have high historical and cultural value. Longquan Temple pagoda fund coffins and silver coffins are well made, using relief, carving, chiselling, gilding and other techniques, showing the Tang Dynasty's superb production technology and artistic level. the hall of the heavenly kings of Xingguo Temple is a relic of Tang Dynasty, and the Stone scripture building is a relic of Tang Dynasty, which has high historical value. Through the analysis of these cases, we can sum up the general laws and characteristics of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, and provide references for further research.

Interviews with experts and scholars in related fields, architects, heritage conservators and people in the Buddhist community for exchange and discussion. Interviews with experts and scholars in related fields, architects, cultural relic conservators and people in the Buddhist community can listen to their views and suggestions on the art and function of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, the interaction between sculpture and the built environment, and the restoration and protection of buildings. In-depth exchanges and discussions with experts can help you understand the problems and challenges they encounter in their research and practice, as well as the methods and ideas to solve these problems. For example, experts may analyze Tang Dynasty Buddhist architecture from the aspects of architectural history, artistic aesthetics, religious culture, etc., to provide new perspectives and methods for research. At the same time, the expert's advice can also provide scientific basis and practical guidance for the protection and utilization of Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty.

A comparative study of Buddhist temple architecture in different periods and regions, comparing Chinese Buddhist sculpture with international religious sculpture. A comparative study of Buddhist temple architecture in different periods and regions can reveal the development laws and regional characteristics of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty. For example, comparing the Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty with that of the Northern and Southern Dynasties, one can understand the evolution of Buddhist architecture in terms of artistic style and layout characteristics. By comparing the Buddhist architecture of the Tang

Dynasty with that of Japan, Korea and other countries, we can understand the influence of the Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty on neighboring countries. By comparing Chinese Buddhist sculpture with international religious sculpture, we can analyze the characteristics and differences in their interaction with the built environment. For example, Chinese Buddhist sculpture pays attention to the integration with architecture, creating a strong religious atmosphere; International religious sculpture may pay more attention to individual expression and artistic value. Through comparative study, we can broaden the research horizon and provide more references for the study of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty. Data analysis Collates and analyzes the data obtained from field research and case studies to draw quantitative conclusions. Through sorting and analyzing the data obtained from the field investigation and case analysis, statistical methods and data analysis software can be used to discuss the art and function of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, the interaction between sculpture and the built environment, and the restoration and protection of architecture. Through data analysis, some quantitative conclusions can be drawn to provide a more objective and scientific basis for the research. For example, through the analysis of the scale, layout, decoration and other aspects of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, we can understand the artistic characteristics and development trend of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty. At the same time, data analysis can also provide decision-making support for the protection and utilization of Buddhist buildings in the Tang Dynasty, and improve the effect of protection and utilization.

5 CONCLUSION

As an important part of ancient Chinese architecture, Buddhist architecture in Tang Dynasty has high historical, artistic and cultural value. Through the study of Buddhist architecture in the Tang Dynasty, we can better understand the social history, culture and art of the Tang Dynasty and the development of Buddhism, and provide useful references for protecting and inheriting the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation. At the same time, it also provides reference and inspiration for the development of modern architectural art. The Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty showed its unique charm in layout, structure, craft and style integration. The obvious changes in the layout of the

central axis and the position of the pagoda reflect the integration of Buddhism and traditional Chinese culture and the changes of social culture. From the stone imitation wood to the real wood structure, the decorative art is rich and diverse, reflecting the superb architectural technology and artistic level of the Tang Dynasty. The integration of multi-ethnic cultures, the inheritance and development of ancient architectural traditions and the emphasis on the connotation of Buddhist culture make the Buddhist architecture of the Tang Dynasty an artistic treasure.

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