

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN THE PROGRESS OF BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS

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As a metropolis well-known for its history and culture, Shanghai boasts a civilization that is dated back to 6,000 years ago. Originally a small fishing village, this modern metropolis has experienced a long-time evolution, where cultural heritage sites of various periods and their environments have constituted the important part of the City. These sites not only reflect a clear clue of cultural development, but also showcase the unique spirit of the City.

In the progress of building up the image of a international metropolis, the local government has made out a special system and measures to preserved the cultural heritage sites and their environments besides making appropriate use of them.

Great attention to the environment of cultural heritage sites

The long history justifies the versatile sites in Shanghai.

1 Total number

The cultural heritage sites in Shanghai amount to 4,199 of different categories. Among them, 31 sites are dated Majiabang Culture (6,000 years ago), or Songze Culture (5,000 years ago), or Liangzhu Culture (4,000 years ago), or Maqiao Culture (3,000 years ago); 16 sites are important cultural heritage under the state protection, including the Fuquanshan Site and the architecture complex on the bund; 114 sites are important cultural heritage under the protection of Shanghai Municipality; 635 sites are registered as immovable cultural heritage; 12 sites are conferred as cultural heritage districts, such as the old town, as well as 4 famous towns of history and culture including Zhujiajiao.

2 Composition

The composition of the cultural heritage sites in Shanghai features rich prehistory sites and a large number of latter-day monuments and architecture. The representative historical

sites and architecture, altogether 83 places, account for 73% in the cultural heritage under the protection of either the State or Shanghai Municipality while 27% features other history sites and monuments, including tombs, grotto carvings, ancient pagodas, and etc.

3 Characteristics

- a) Concentrated location. The prehistory sites, such as Fuquanshan and Guangfulin Sites, are located in the suburb of Songjiang and Qingpu Districts, while latter-day sites such as the Yuyuan Garden and the Formal Residence of Dr. Sun-Yat-Sen, are mainly located in the central districts, such as Huangpu and Luwan districts.
- b) Highly environmental dependence. The cultural heritage sites and their environments carry a typical character of integrity, authenticity, sensitivity and interactivity. Any change in the sites and their environment will affect their value in history, arts and science.
- c) Environmental sensitivity. 70% of cultural heritage sites are located in the area inside the inner ring road, where construction in large scale take place. Facing to the great pressure of the reconstruction of the downtown area, the original environment of the sites become very sensitive.

Challenge to the environmental protection of cultural heritage sites

1 Direct influence of the reconstruction in the old town district.

Within the recent years, up to 27,870,000 m² old buildings and 3,650,000 m² collapsing houses have been pulled down by the government. As the demolished buildings and houses are mostly concentrated in the old town district, they directly affect the authenticity and integrity of the cultural heritage sites and the surrounding environment.

2 Side effect of Urbanization

Urbanization counts in building up a comparatively well-off society. The towns in Shanghai suburb has been integrated into the metropolitan development policy of “commercial construction and social management”, which cause a rising cost to protect the sites and their environment. Meanwhile, the changes of environment and pollutions by human living and industries, that have been brought by urbanization, challenge the preservation of the sites. This is the side effect of urbanization.

3 Office buildings and apartment buildings built in large scale unbalance the environment

Over 2,000 office buildings, skyscrapers and apartment buildings spread every corner of the City, which directly affects the environment that the sites has long time depended on and weaken the interdependence between them.

4 The influence of globalization on the preservation of national culture

The preservation of the sites and their environment, in nature, is to protect the cultural heritage of our nation. As a city of a developing country and a window to showcase the opening policy and exchanges with the other countries, Shanghai also receives the impact from abroad on its culture. To keep and improve the recognition of our national culture and its value, is a prerequisite to protect the cultural heritage sites.

Establish a mode: “effective protection in coordination, sustainable development in creation”

1. Complete related theories, and promote renovation of the system and measures

For many years, the Shanghai Administration Committee of Cultural Heritage has made out a set of theories to protect the sites and their environment as a whole, including material form and spiritual form, to cooperate the construction in this metropolis. These theories have been carried out for many years, and taken obvious effect.

The material form of cultural heritage sites include the site itself and its environment, while the spiritual form refers to the intangible cultural heritage elements, such as the related society, culture, practice, way of living, cultural conception, traditional techniques, and language as well.

The Yuyuan Garden, as an important cultural heritage architecture under the state protection, was first built in the 38th year of Jiaping Reign (1559), Ming Dynasty, covering up to 20,000 m². The Shanghai Municipality not only had the architecture renovated, but also helped the old street behind the Garden restored, thus to preserve its material form. Besides, traditional techniques, such as paper-cutting, maltose-figure making, and New Year pictures, have been also brought to the Garden area, showcasing the practices and customs of wedding, festival, laboring. In this way, the spiritual form of the Yuyuan Garden has been preserved. The perfect combination of historic sites and related practice, not only improves the historical value of the sites, but also benefits the society and economy. The Yuyuan Garden helps build up the international image of Shanghai City.

2 Restore the function to make full use of the sites and further preserve them

The Architecture complex alongside the Bund, as the important cultural heritage buildings under the state protection, includes 19 buildings of western style constructed in 1920s and 1930s, known as the Museum of International Buildings. These buildings were the cradle of Chinese modern Banking business. After 1949, however, these buildings mainly accommodated the government units, designing companies. To restore their original spiritual form, it is very important to restore their function to banking buildings, in order to protect its material form effectively.

Leading by the government units, these buildings were restored under the principle of combining function restoration and preservative renovation, as well as promoting the preservation of the material form by first restoring their original function. The preservation of these buildings take three steps as follows. Firstly, establish the principle of site renovation, which covers four different levels: original building unchangeable, partly changeable in interior, appropriately changeable in interior, and appropriately changeable on both exterior and interior. Secondly, make out the contract of function restoration and building renovation for these banking buildings, clarifying the individual renovation standard for each building, as well as the rights and obligations of both parties. Thirdly, ascertain the qualification of construction companies, and stipulate that only those A-level designing unit and first level construction company which have the experience in classical Chinese architecture, and a very good reputation in this field, can bid for the renovation project.

Take the CitiBank as the example. The CitiBank Shanghai’s original building was Sasson Building, which

Section I: Defining the setting of monuments and sites:
The significance of tangible and intangible cultural and natural qualities
Section I: Définir le milieu des monuments et des sites-
Dimensions matérielles et immatérielles, valeur culturelle et naturelle

was then occupied by China Machinery Company, East China Branch. According to the renovation principle “appropriately changeable in interior”, the Bank paid nearly one billion Chinese yuan to renovation. The renovation changed the crowded situation of the building, and completely restored the original style of the architecture.

The banking buildings alongside the Bund, after their functions being restored, have been preserved very well and made good use of.

3 Integrate the protection of the sites and their environment into the city planning through mechanism coordination

With the attendance of Shanghai Administration Committee of Cultural Heritage, Shanghai City Planning Bureau, and Shanghai Administration Bureau of Real Estate and Resources, the Protection Committee of the Historic Area and Excellent Architecture in Shanghai has been established to coordinate the protection of the sites and their environment, and integrate the protection into the scope of city planning.

Establish the information-sharing system. The governing units, including cultural heritage, city planning, real estate, share the information on excavation, protection, and operation to establish strict approval procedures.

Establish the restriction system. The different governing units of the government will exert their responsibilities in various points of view to form the restriction system.

Establish the professional evaluation system. the Protection Committee of the Historic Area and Excellent Architecture in Shanghai provides specialists in various fields to evaluate the protection project of the sites.

Through the cooperation mechanism, the protection project of the sites has been integrated into the overall city planning, and further improve the protection effect.

Implement the laws to ensure the sustainable development of the sites and their environment

The governing units of the Shanghai Municipality cooperate to carry out laws and stipulations, including Protection Law of Cultural Heritage, Law of City Planning, Statute of the Protection of Historic Area and Excellent Architecture in Shanghai, according to the international treaties and pacts, as well as the Protection Principles of

Chinese Cultural Heritage Sites made out by China National Committee of International Cultural Heritage Sites Council. These laws and stipulations have ensured the protection of the sites and their environment.

Promote wide international cooperation through cultural exchanges

In the recent years, the governing unit of cultural heritage have organized many international symposia, such the International Summit Forum of Museum Directors and ASEMUS Shanghai Conference. It also actively promotes the cooperation and exchanges with international organizations such as ICOM, ASEMUS, and Melon Foundation, encourages Chinese professionals to attend the China National Committee of International Cultural Heritage Sites Council, and sends curatorial staff to USA, UK, France, India, Egypt as cultural exchange activities.

Within recent years, the governing unit of cultural heritage in Shanghai explores actively the theories, systems and measures related to the sites in Shanghai to cope with the rapid construction demand of this international metropolis. It has taken charge of the restoration of 97 classical architectural buildings, including Songjiang Square Pagoda, Longhua Pagoda, Temple of Town God, excavation of 12 pre-history sites, and moving the Shanghai Musical Hall. The unit complete the task of restoration of the important cultural heritage under the protection of the State and the local government. Basically ensuring non-risk condition of these important sites, the restoration provides a solid foundation for the sustainable development in further protecting and administrating the sites and their environment.