

## CONNOTATION AND PRESERVATION PRINCIPLE OF SETTING OF MONUMENTS AND SITES

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### Connotation of the setting

The setting including historic developing message is the carrier of the cultural development, and this is considered as the difference between the setting and natural environment.

#### **1 The setting is the carrier of traditional culture**

In ancient China, it was emphasized that the nature and person is in one same unity originally. Nature is the human, the human is nature too, and the human should comply with the nature. It embodies the whole coordination in culture and the unity of the human and nature and inherits some traditional culture theory in China, such as "Yinyang", "Wuxing", "Bagua", "Qilun" and so on. The related cultural psychology has been formed between the human and the nature. The human realizes this from experience to the nature in poetical mood. The nature is one kind of object that maybe takes us cheerful or pleased sentiment. The people may obtain joyfulness in body and heart from it. In the esthetic activity, the individual joins into the nature to realize individual and natural fusion. It is the expression of Chinese traditional thinking manner that pursuing aesthetic sense in the intimate relations between the human and nature and catching on esthetic in an ecological ideology. In aesthetics the human is not the master or slave of the nature but the nature itself as same as the nature. That is a beauty and harmonious boundary. The setting of monuments and sites can manifest correctly this kind of cultural thought. The people used to have been living together with the scenery and nature. The positive principle and the pattern of the selected location of a city or village are in front of a mountain and behind water. The spiritual unity is taken into account and don't like to disperses everywhere. "In mountain" prevents the cold wind from the north in winter and "facing water" greets the monsoon from the south. The sunshine is abundant. The gentle slope avoids flooding disaster and can keep water from disappearing. This kind of relative close natural space is advantageous for forming a good ecology circulation and microclimate, and is adequate

for survival of the human and the need of ancient agriculture. In fact, the extant setting of monuments and sites is the succession of this kind of cultural thought, and it has become the carrier of traditional culture as same as what monuments and sites have ever done.

Fengxue temple in Henan Province famous for grove garden temple is the perfect union example of construction and the setting. The front half part of the Fengxue temple is symmetric placement around the Middle Buddhist Hall to demonstrate the serious and dignified characteristic. As background, the latter half with the real natural scenery is the grove garden layout, such as Zhenzhulian, Longquan, Daci fountain etc. The cultural landscape spreads in the deep and quiet valley forest, such as Wangzhou Pavilion, the Goddess of Mercy Chinese Style Pavilion, Lianyi Pavilion etc. The cultural landscape is auxiliary when natural view is primary. On the contrary, the natural landscape is auxiliary as cultural landscape is primarily. Both of them in a close integration depend on and supplement each other. Have a whole look to the placement of Fengxue temple, and the natural environment has been in a part of the temple itself. The partial environment has already become part of the temple culture. The most perfect location in ancient China should lean a main mountain that extend continuously to the Konlun Mountain and face a mountain (not too high but green and luxuriant) that takes the human with spiritual gratification. Mountains called black dragon and white tiger situating the left and right side around it express the meaning that this location is fit for God (of course the human) to reside. The curvaceous stream from northwest forms a deep pool with a mountain called Shuikou Mountain in one side of it in southwest and flow to southeast. The location of Fengxue Temple is perfect according to these features. The Fengxue Temple that a mountain with flourish trees in front of leans Yuhuang Mountain (one part of the Songshan mountain, connect with the Kunlun Mountains). The left and right side is QingLong Mountain and Baihu Mountain. A fountain comes from the northwest and forms Heilong pool with a Kuiguang tower on the Shuikou Mountain in the west of the temple and goes from the temple to the southeast. This

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kind of perfect placement is displayed specially in the Fengxue temple in which the mountain, the forest, the fountain, the stone constituted an entire cultural connotation together. It is the ideal performances of ancient Chinese people acknowledge and adapt the nature. The monuments and sites were the reflection of people at that time to society and the cognizance level to science and technology. This kind of cultural activity plays an important role in the change of the settings of monuments and sites, and the cultural radiation phenomenon is inevitable. In fact the cultural connotation in the settings is the succession and refection of the culture and it is the important content that we understand the whole meaning of the monuments and sites. Natural environment that has connection with the setting is an important part that we need to protect.

## **2 The setting consists of historical development information**

The settings of monuments and sites keep changing under the impact of human and nature, and we can find the marks of historic development in it. The natural environment has been in a long and continuous changing process. The natural change has its own rule that the changing process is in accordance with. Those changes of environment revolving a new social demand in another aspect are artificial creation. It is the capturing and mastery of the human to natural resource. It is the control of a certain individual to another one or a group to another one. In this process, maybe we can understand the social progress and the cultural renewal. As the recorder of social development, the settings of monuments and sites that keep changing especially reflected these changes. The settings of monuments and sites including much important historical information itself do not exist alone. Its sprouts and development and declining are all in a certain environment. These information manifests not only in itself but also in the environment that the settings have an effect on. As one kind of cultural manifesting, historical information in the monuments and sites and the settings echoes and supplemented mutually and interdependence. This kind of cultural manifesting we must study today remains down along with the time passing by.

Marks of historic development that we can find in the settings of monuments and sites would guide us to perceive the cultural connotation of monuments and sites in a wider angle and deeper level. The historic development information is direct or indirectly obtained from the monuments and sites, and certain of them are a kind of supplement of the cultural connotation of monuments and sites. It may cause us understanding strength to the monuments and sites through studying the settings of

monuments and sites. It is take into account especially in ancient times in china that the influence of the environment to the location of the city or village. *Guanzi*: if one nation is not under the mountain, then it must be above broad plain. The topography is not too high to possess enough water and not too low either, but approaching the water to be possible to reduce the pressure of defence. It is the full use in according with the natural environment. Therefore the walls mustn't comply with the rule and the path does not have to observe the rule either. Here emphasizes the full use of natural environment and how the human adapt to the circumstances. The influences of settings of monuments and sites to the position of the monuments and sites are latent in ancient time. Along with the social development, the influences to the settings of monuments and sites are expanding gradually until it breaks the balance between the settings and the monuments and sites. After the best decorous condition transforms to the reverse side, it will weaken the ability of regaining the balance of the nature though the change scope is not too wide under the stable condition between the human and the settings of monuments and sites. Such as rivers undercutting or change, soil perturbation etc. This kind of change can produce the vestige in the settings of monuments and sites, and it means the historical information. Thorough research to these vestiges may strengthen understanding to the characteristic of the monuments and sites and build a good basement for the protecting to cultural connotation.

## **The preservation principle of the setting**

The monuments and sites and the settings are an enormous and charming integration and indispensable. As the product of science and art, the settings have become the local symbol faithfully records humanity's thought and the trail and represent the historical culture already. The monuments and sites and the settings are the unique and rich record, although it is maybe left only the remnant wall or broken column, and also may eliminate the barrier of language even transmit the information in different nation or culture. The most important is that the monuments and sites and the settings are all unregenerate, even each tiny component of it is as rare as treasure. Therefore how to protect them effectively is the most important question that we must consider.

## **1 The criterion of judging the state of setting**

The settings in a good condition must have its own message of historic development and sustaining content of abundant culture, on the contrary, we can be sure that the

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setting has been destroyed. The setting of monuments and sites is not irrevocable, but has changes along with the historical development. It is no doubt that this kind of change has inevitable influence to the monuments and sites. Some time the setting of monuments and sites in the role that plays to the monuments and sites is limited, but may have some new influence to the monuments and sites after changes have taken place. This kind of uninterrupted influence and intervention can make the change of monuments and sites assume a certain historical rule. The setting of monuments and sites has clear historical development information can make us to understand the reason of the monuments and sites changing and grasp the evolution and carry on a well protection to it. The setting of monuments and sites with rich culture content is the cultural supplement that reflected the monuments and sites and the method that we fully understands the monuments and sites. The essence of monuments belong to the cultural category is the reflection of the process thought of the human knew and adapt the nature, and the setting of monuments and sites is the succession of the historical culture that the sites reflect, therefore the settings of monuments and sites contains the cultural content is inevitable. The settings of monuments and sites contain the cultural phenomenon is more rich, that we can more understand the essence of the monuments and sites. It is the important criterion to judge the state of preservation of setting that if it has a clear historical development information and rich cultural content, and it is also the starting point to protect the settings of monuments and sites.

## 2 The premise of the reconstruction of the setting

It is the premise to reconstruct the setting that the research to the historic development of setting and the correct analysis to the sustaining content of culture. The monuments and sites cannot be separated from the setting or exist alone, and the difference among different monuments and sites is the degree of the effect and intervention of the setting to the monument or site. In different time the demand of people to the environment is different. In the primitive society people took the security as the most important conditions when choose the environment. They built house or choose cavern in the place near the water and higher than ground 20 to 60 meters. The door of the cave is toward the sun and takes shelter from wind so that it is advantageous for taking water or hunting fish and can prevent the flood. Xiaonanhai cavern ruin in Houtuo village of Shanying town of Anyang County is a good example. Along with the historical development, people took the choice of residence environment from the construction of capital to village or temple more and more into account. The request of people to environment changes from the satisfaction of the substantial

need to the higher spirit demand. The location of Shaolin Temple in Taihe years in Northern Wei Dynasty emphasized the architectural function and use. Baatuo, a famous Western Region monk and deeply worship by Xiaowen emperor drawn up at that time to constructs the temple to lead a pious life for master in Luoyang City. But the lively metropolis and the comfortable abode cannot satisfy with Batuo's pious life actually. Because of liking quiet environment with trees and valleys is his characteristic that the location was established on Shaoshi Mountain. When Shaolin Temple newly established there has no many people and is extremely quiet with mountain all around and a brook river passing through in the jungle. The quiet environment and the peace place are precisely where the Buddhist practices. The different request to the environment is precisely the result of historical development. Only understanding the background of historical development and researching the historical development route of the settings then we can perhaps accurately judge the relations between the settings and monuments and sites. The monuments or sites are not different then the settings are not different too. The Great Wall most in the high mountain ridge has open sight in front and the path that the supply needs in behind. The temple then mostly lies in the remote mountain to eschew the flourish place and is advantageous for practicing the soul. It is beneficial to collect or distribute that the guildhall emphasized the convenient environment of manage and connection and most is in the key communication line or near the wharf. Most of the academies are in the suburbs or graceful place to avoid the marketplace noise and in order to attend to study. The influence and demand to the settings of monuments and sites is different if the connotation is different that the monuments and sites want to express. The quantity of the cultural connotation that the settings reflected is precisely the judge standard if the settings of monuments and sites are under a good state. Fully understanding to the connotation of the settings is a premise of protecting the settings.

## 3 The principle of reconstruction

As a result of unceasing appeal recent years, especially the enactment of *The Law of Cultural Relics Preservation*, and then the protection to the monuments and sites has straightened out. But the protection of the setting of monuments and sites cannot earn a very good understanding actually, specially the importance of the settings. For local benefit in future, some damage behavior, such as violation settings, randomly constructs business facility, the damage to old tree or famous wood, the river pollution, destroy natural landscape etc, is performing unceasingly. Some destruction for protection has even more harmed to the history and the

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culture of settings. The protection of settings is not the disorderly protection or absolute restoring the old style. The environment change is cannot keep off, but this kind of inevitable change is advantageous under the certain factor to the monuments and sites. And it is the historical development marks that we must strictly protect. On the contrary, some harmful change has threatened the survival of monuments or sites must be governed. The cultural phenomenon in the settings is another important content that should protect. Distinguishing their existence is no doubt an important supplement to the monuments and sites. For the protection and demonstration it is necessary to reconstruct the settings if the settings have been destroyed seriously. We must obey the principle of least interventions under the conditions that can display the historical development marks and the continuous cultural content. In the repair process of monuments and sites that the principle of least interventions is the criterion or standard, and it is advantageous to the protection of the settings. The change of settings is complex, and maybe it is naturally or artificially. In the artificial change, some is the result and marks of historical development, others is destruction to the monuments and sites and reduced the value of monuments and sites. The evaluation to settings is extremely important. If the setting extant or slightly transformation is advantageous to the survival of monuments and sites, then the intervention should be applied cautiously. On the contrary, if the extant setting does not advantageous to the survival of monuments and sites, or the setting all around is quite bad even seriously threatens the survival of monuments and sites, then we should distinguish that what are harmful or inevitable and apply interventions to settings according to the characteristic and the historical necessity of settings. These conservations are good or bad should be decided on if it satisfies the need of the essence of settings. The principle of few interventions happens to satisfy the need of protection and preservation of settings. The change of any settings has the deep level reason (no matter is advantageous or harmful), this all are the result of the historical development. Those harmful phenomena also is the thought reflection in some time, and when reconstruct we should carry on suitable construction under the condition that we can be sure that the harm is no longer to exist and cease further harm to the historical site. All works should keep original environment as possible as we can and sure that would not abase the cultural connotation and threaten the survival of the monuments or sites. The essence of the principle of few interventions is a kind of intervention that carried on in smallest degree to the settings under the premise that satisfies the survival and effective demonstration of the monuments and sites.

### **The end**

The protection and the reconstruction to settings should be more advantageous to the preservation of monuments or sites and demonstrate the cultural connotation, the historical origin and the value characteristic to public. The goal of protection and reconstruct of settings is to demonstrate well its cultural characteristic and more advantageous to the cultural exchange. The relations between settings and the monuments or sites just like the lip and the tooth, the lip perish must lead to the tooth feel cold. If monument or site is a Chinese landscape painting without filled up then the setting may be considered perhaps as the empty place in it. The empty place in a good picture is extremely appropriate and can be looked as the finishing eyes. The monuments and sites and the setting with unique significant history, the archaeology, the science and technology, the culture, the emotion, the artistic value play an important role in our spirit and let us realize a little ancient social information. Along with the social progress the pursuit of people to culture becomes stronger and stronger. The protection and conservation of the settings fix precisely in with the unceasingly strengthen demand of people to the cultural life. So long as persist diligently, we deeply believed that the state of monuments and sites and the settings would certainly be better and better.

## Abstract

It is the setting including the historic developing message and provides the condition that cuts out for the sustaining of culture that is considered as the difference between setting and natural environment. The settings of monuments and sites keep changing under the impact of human and nature, and we can find the marks of historic development that can guide us to perceive the cultural connotation of monuments and sites in a wider angle and deeper level. The acquaintance ability to the society and science of ancient human can be grasped by monuments and sites that are the whole reaction of the culture and the development of culture play an important role in the change of environment around monuments and sites, and it is a kind of sustaining of culture. The setting in a good repair must have its own message of historic development and sustaining content of abundant culture, on the contrary, we can be sure that the setting has been destroyed. It is the premise to the reconstruction of setting that the research to the historic development of setting and the correct analysis to the sustaining content of culture, at the same time, we must abide the criterion of lowest disarrange and try to retain the primitive historic message, which is benefit to the sustaining of monuments and sites and show its culture connotation, historic origin and value character to public.

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