

# Integration and Development of Places of Interest and Modernized Architecture in Urban Planning

-- Taking Xi'an city architecture as an example

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**Abstract:** With the acceleration of urbanization, more and more urban scenic spots and historical sites are facing varying degrees of damage. This paper discusses the integration and development of Places of Interest and modern buildings in Xi'an through the study and analysis of Xi'an city planning cases, puts forward the corresponding strategies and practical suggestions in city planning in order to realize the sustainable development of the protection of scenic spots and historical buildings in urban planning.

**Keywords:** Urban Planning, Places of Interest, Modernized Architecture.

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## 1. Introduction

In the process of globalization and urbanization, many cities are faced with the challenge of balancing traditional cultural heritage with modern architectural development. As symbols of a city's culture and witnesses of its history, Places of Interest carry rich historical, cultural and social values. However, with the rapid development and modernization of cities, the protection and development of places of interest are facing new problems and needs.

Urbanization is a symbol of modernization and a necessary path for modernization. As the driving force of economic growth, urban modernization plays an indispensable key role in the process of Chinese path to modernization. Therefore, it is also placed in a very important strategic position[16]. At present, China's urbanization has entered a new stage of transformation and development focusing on improving quality, and urban development is facing both challenges and opportunities, which necessitates a change in the mode of urban development. The report of the 20th CPC National Congress puts forward, "Adhere to the people's city built by the people and the people's city for the people, improve the level of urban planning, construction and governance, accelerate the transformation of the development mode of mega-mega-cities, implement the urban renewal action, strengthen the construction of urban infrastructure, and create a livable, resilient, and intelligent city," indicating the basic direction for the promotion of the new urbanization centered on the human being in the new period. new urbanization in the new period, pointing out the basic direction. However, as people's awareness of history and culture continues to increase, more and more cities are exploring how to combine traditional culture with modern architecture in order to realize the protection and renewal of monuments. The inheritance of a city's culture is not only related to the city's cultural construction also to the development of politics, economy and ecology. This kind of integrated development implies both the respect and inheritance of traditional culture as well as the sustainable development and modernization of the city.

Next, this paper will select some representative case studies

of Places of Interest in Xi'an to provide experience and reference for practitioners and decision makers, to explore the impact of the integrated development of Places of Interest and modernized buildings on the city's image, cultural preservation and sustainable development, and to put forward suggestions for future research and practice. Through the research in this paper, we can better recognize the interaction between traditional culture and modern cities, and provide new ideas and methods for urban planning and cultural protection.

## 2. Ideas and Connotations

Urban planning is the macroscopic thinking and global design of urban development, which refers to the economic development and social development in a certain period of time, how to utilize the land, the use of spatial layout, and the overall aspects of all construction projects deployed, detailed arrangements, combined with effective management[22]. It includes the spatial organization of the city, land use, transportation facilities, public service facilities, environmental protection, cultural heritage protection, etc., aiming to achieve sustainable urban development and coordinated socio-economic development. Specifically, urban planning is a scientific method of integrating and utilizing urban space. Cultural heritage protection is also an important part of urban planning, which protects the city's historical and cultural heritage, places of interest and traditional architectural styles, and promotes the inheritance and development of urban culture. In conclusion, urban planning is a comprehensive work involving many aspects, aiming at realizing the sustainable development of the city and the coordinated development of social economy. Through scientific urban planning, the overall competitiveness and attractiveness of the city can be improved, laying a solid foundation for the long-term development of the city.

Places of Interest is a common term. As early as 1928, the Ministry of the Interior of the Nanjing National Government published the Regulations on *the Preservation of Places of Interest and Antiquities*. The Regulations consisted of eleven articles, in which the scenic spots and monuments were

divided into three major categories: lakes and mountains, buildings and relics.

In the *Dictionary of Criminal Law* published in 1989, places of historic interest and scenic beauty refer to buildings of preservation value inherited from ancient times, famous scenic spots that can be visited by people, and other places of research and commemorative significance approved by the State Council and the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. It includes buildings, sites and monuments with commemorative significance and research value related to major historical events, revolutionary movements and important figures, as well as tombs, grottoes, stone carvings and stone monuments with historical, artistic and archaeological value. Places of interest is a collective term recognized by the criminal law field. A book by the Criminal Law Office of the Legal Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress also argues that "scenic spots and monuments refer to famous scenic spots that can be visited by people, as well as ancient buildings, sculptures, stone carvings, and other historical monuments that are not approved by the people's government and declared to be cultural relics protection units, but have a certain historical significance." From these definitions, it can be concluded that ancient architecture and scenic spots are inseparable, and we must pay attention to ancient architecture as well as the integration and development of traditional culture and modernized architecture on the road of the inheritance of scenic spots and monuments[16].

### 3. Literature Review

#### 3.1. The Research Status at Home

Through studying foreign theoretical knowledge, our scholars Zhang Tingwei[23] (2012) divided urban planning theory into urban theory and planning theory (planning theory) two parts, planning theory is further divided into the theory of planning and the theory of urban development, more The theory of planning, according to Wu (2000) and others, is the study of cities and urban development, and more often draws on urban ecology, urban sociology, urban geography and political economy and other related theories of the city for further development. Urban theory pays more attention to the city itself, studies the root causes and mechanisms of urban problems, finds the problems of the city and the reasons for the problems, or the way the problems are manifested, but will not be solved; while the planning theory is more inclined to the outlook of the future, in the understanding of the urban phenomenon on the basis of trying to solve the current problems faced in the field of urban planning. In short, "urban theory" tries to "explain" the city, while "planning theory" tries to "change" the city[15].

In the early stage of China's development, in order to promote the rapid development of urban economy, some cities only focus on the construction of new buildings and neglect the protection of traditional buildings, and some historical buildings have been irremediably damaged due to new urban planning. Subsequently, a series of laws and regulations on the protection of cultural relics were proposed and enacted in the 1960s in response to the damage to the Places of Interest and monuments, but these regulations have not been well implemented. With the development of the economy, urban planning and management and historical

buildings are also closely related, and the Urban Planning Law was promulgated in 2004. The planning and management of cities and historical buildings are closely related. Cities need to develop sustainably while preserving historical buildings so that urban culture can be well inherited. Prof. Huang Qumin also studied the relationship between urban purple line and economy[14]. For historical and cultural buildings, China modifies the laws according to foreign laws and formulates laws in line with China's national conditions.

In China, researchers have recognized the issue of balance between cultural preservation and urban development in the integration and development of Places of Interest and modern buildings. They emphasized the importance of cultural heritage protection and proposed a series of methods and strategies to achieve a balance between cultural protection and urban development. Academician Wu Liangyong mentioned in his keynote report "Transformation of Development Mode and Rethinking of Urban and Rural Construction Science" that architecture and city are the organic carriers of material, spiritual and political civilization, therefore, modern urbanization should not remain at the material level of thinking, but should also be inherited, renewed and developed from the dormant cultural sources; Huang He (2010), in *Cultural Planning: Overall Urban Development Strategy Based on Cultural Resources*, discusses the theory of cultural planning from various aspects based on the perspective of urban planning and proposes an overall urban development strategy based on the elements of cultural resources. Some scholars pay attention to the design concepts and methods for the integration and development of Places of Interest and modernized buildings. They put forward some innovative design ideas, such as "integration and dialog" and "continuity and inheritance". These design concepts emphasize respecting and reflecting the historical and cultural values of monuments in modern architectural design, as well as forming a dialogue and symbiotic relationship with modern buildings.

#### 3.2. The Research Status at Abroad

The Places of interest belong to cultural heritage, and foreign research on cultural heritage and urban planning has been carried out from various aspects. Arjo Klamer(2002) analyzed the value composition of cultural heritage from the perspective of cultural heritage economics, and evaluated the economic value, environmental value and social value of cultural heritage[8]. In addition, the intrinsic cultural and emotional values of cultural heritage should be emphasized, and the preservation of cultural heritage is conducive to community and urban revitalization[6]. The multiple values of cultural heritage further affirm the necessity of its preservation and revitalization. In terms of the approach to conservation, many scholars have emphasized the need to be based on the principles of wholeness and authenticity[9], and some scholars have elucidated the problem of layering of historic landscape heritage resources in towns and cities, proposing that heritage conservation should be integrated with regional development as a means of avoiding insular musealization of cultural heritage conservation. In recent years, more and more people have realized the role of "people" in cultural heritage protection, explored the relationship between people, communities and cultural heritage, and emphasized that "people's living habits" are also an important component of cultural heritage[2]. With the

development of cultural heritage preservation, it is found that the preservation of cultural heritage using only restoration techniques is not conducive to sustainable socio-economic development, and it should be developed and utilized in order to maintain its vitality[10]. Yale (1991), using the example of Ironbridge Canyon, researched on the history and development of the old industrial base, and proposed the restoration of the damaged ecological environment and the construction of a thematic museum[11]. Calvin and Max (2001) take the example of the Carnarvon Industrial Estate in the United Kingdom to transform the spatial landscape of the cultural heritage and link up the spaces in the industrial estate, thus promoting the development of the local economy. With the development of digital technology, modern technological techniques are widely used in living the tourism experience. As a result, many scholars have begun to explore ways to combine heritage preservation with immersive digital technologies, not only to preserve heritage, but also to enrich the tourist experience and enhance the sense of interaction between tourists and history[4][5].

Foreign scholars advocate interdisciplinary research methods and collaborative approaches, integrating disciplines such as architecture, urban planning, and cultural heritage preservation to explore solutions together. Through the cooperation of experts and scholars from different disciplinary fields, aspects of the integration and development of Places of Interest and modern buildings can be considered more comprehensively.

## **4. Arguments**

### **4.1. Integration of Places of Interest and Modernized Architecture**

The Places of Interest are cultural symbols of the city, representing history and tradition. Modern architecture, on the other hand, is a symbol of urban development, representing the progress and innovation of the times. Integrating the two can realize the inheritance of history and culture and the development of modern cities. This integration can be realized through the following aspects:

#### **4.1.1. Conservation and Restoration**

The protection and restoration of monuments is the first task. Through scientific technical means and standardized operating procedures, the monuments can be effectively protected and moderately restored when necessary. Maintain their original appearance and historical characteristics, so that they can become the highlights and attractions of the city. The Datang Hibiscus Garden, a cultural theme park in Xi'an, is a comprehensive garden scenic spot combining modern gardening art and Tang Dynasty culture, located on the south side of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. It takes the Tang Dynasty culture as its background, and by utilizing modern construction technology and design concepts, it combines the style of Tang Dynasty royal gardens with contemporary gardening art to restore and create a modern garden with a rich historical and cultural atmosphere. The park features palaces, courtyards, lakes, rockeries and other landscapes, as well as a modern visitor center, dining facilities and performing arts venues. This design concept, which integrates traditional culture and modern architecture, allows visitors to learn about the history and culture of the Tang Dynasty while enjoying the beautiful scenery.

#### **4.1.2. Spatial Layout and Landscape Design**

Urban planning science not only emphasizes horizontal comparative planning of different spatial regions, but also emphasizes vertical planning research influenced by various historical planning trends at different times [13]. In urban planning, the spatial layout and landscape design of Places of Interest need to be considered. Through rational planning and arrangement, the monuments and the surrounding modern buildings echo each other, forming an organic whole. At the same time, pay attention to the beautification and greening of the landscape to provide people with a livable environment. For example, the renovation of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda Square, under the premise of protecting the cultural heritage of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, through the design and construction of modern public space, successfully realized the organic integration of the monument and the modern city. The protection and utilization of the Bell Tower Business District, through the restoration of traditional buildings and the introduction of modern commercial and cultural elements, has turned it into a landmark with both history and culture and modern vitality.

#### **4.1.3. Coordination of Style and Materials**

In the design of modern buildings, coordination with the styles and materials of Places of Interest needs to be considered. By using traditional elements and materials, modern buildings and monuments are made to complement each other in appearance. Such a design can not only maintain the historical appearance of the city, but also show the tradition and uniqueness of culture. As part of the ancient city wall of Xi'an, Xi'an City Wall Cultural Square is an intersection that connects the wall with city life. The square is designed to integrate traditional city wall elements and modern architectural styles. For example, the patterns of Tang Dynasty brick carvings are used in the ground paving of the square so that people can feel the historical flavor of the city wall. At the same time, the square is also equipped with modern leisure facilities and cultural display areas, providing visitors with a place where they can enjoy both traditional culture and modern conveniences. Xi'an Qujiang International Convention and Exhibition Center is a modern convention and exhibition complex located in Qujiang New District. The design of the project focuses on combining traditional cultural elements with modern architectural styles. For example, traditional ceramic elements and motifs from Tang Dynasty murals are used in the building's exterior and interior decorations, showcasing Xi'an's historical and cultural heritage. This integration gives the convention and exhibition center not only a modern function, but also reflects the unique cultural characteristics of Xi'an.

## **4.2. Problems Faced in the Development of Places of Interest and Modern buildings in Urban Planning**

### **4.2.1. Imbalance between Protection and Development**

As a famous historical and cultural city in China, Xi'an City has rich resources of scenic spots and monuments. Some imbalances do exist in the protection and development of Places of Interest. The construction and restoration of urban scenic spots and historical sites are most important to coordinate with the surrounding landscape [12]. However, the development process of the city park around the city wall may sometimes involve the destruction of the natural environment and excessive commercialized development, leading to an

imbalance in the balance between conservation and development. The Big Wild Goose Pagoda, on the other hand, is a famous monument in Xi'an, attracting a large number of tourists all year round. However, with the increasing commercial construction around it, the emergence of some high-rise buildings as well as business districts around it may visually affect the unique appearance of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, and may also bring pressure to the surrounding environment and traffic, making the balance between conservation and development challenged. The ancient city of Xi'an has preserved many historic districts and traditional houses, but the protection and utilization of these ancient buildings may sometimes be neglected in the course of modernization. Some historic districts or traditional dwellings have been demolished or renovated to fit the needs of modern construction, leading to an imbalance between conservation efforts and modernization. The construction projects themselves may generate noise and air pollution, etc.

#### **4.2.2. Insufficient Supervision and Imperfect Management System**

The urban planning and management system of Xi'an is not perfect enough, lacking scientific norms and effective regulatory mechanisms, and the relevant laws and regulations are not perfect enough. Collaboration between some urban planning and management departments is not close enough, and information sharing is not smooth enough, which leads to low efficiency in planning and management work. First of all, the responsibilities of management organizations are not clear enough, and the joint management of cultural heritage by several departments easily leads to confusion in decision-making and waste of resources. At present, a large number of illegal constructions still exist in Xi'an. These illegal constructions include unauthorized constructions and over-standard constructions, which seriously affect the urban environment and cityscape. Secondly, the relevant departments lack professional talents, and many places lack the necessary professional knowledge and skills in cultural heritage protection and planning and management, which leads to a long period of time in which problems related to the protection of Places of Interest and sites cannot be solved.

#### **4.2.3. Low Social Acceptance and Cultural Identity**

Since Places of Interest usually have the unique charm of history and culture, while modern buildings pursue innovation and fashion, there are differences in design style and appearance characteristics between the two, leading to visual conflicts when they are integrated. The design of some modern buildings may be in marked contrast to the surrounding monuments, making them difficult to be accepted by citizens and tourists. Insufficient recognition of the cultural values of the monuments is also a problem in the process of integration and development. Some modern buildings fail to fully consider the historical and cultural significance of monuments in their design and planning, and lack respect for and protection of local cultural heritage, which makes the integration of Places of Interest and modern buildings appear to be insufficiently organic and balanced, making it difficult to gain wide recognition in society. In the process of urban planning and construction, the degree of public participation is insufficient, and the public lacks the opportunity to fully understand and express their views on planning proposals, which has led to skepticism about the results of the integration of historic sites and modern buildings.

### **4.3. Strategies for the Integration and Development of Places of Interest and Modernized Buildings in Urban Planning**

#### **4.3.1. Strengthen Communication and Cooperation and Comprehensively Plan Regional Zoning**

In urban planning, the importance of protecting Places of Interest is self-evident. Sights and monuments represent the history and culture of a city and are valuable heritage resources. In order to ensure that the original character and sense of history of the city is preserved, appropriate conservation and restoration work on monuments is essential. This requires detailed comprehensive planning and the formulation of relevant policies and standards to guide the conservation and restoration of monuments. Therefore, urban planners need to find a balance between conservation and development, taking into account a number of factors such as historical, cultural, social, economic and environmental considerations, as well as fully communicating and cooperating with the relevant departments and experts; limiting the development of the area of the monument and ensuring that the development projects are compatible with the values and characteristics of the monument so as to meet the needs of the economy, the society and the growth of the population. Divide reasonable zones according to the characteristics of the buildings and clarify the functions and development positioning of different zones. For example, areas of scenic spots and monuments can be designated as historical and cultural protection zones, restricting development and construction, and focusing on the protection of the original features of the monuments and the environmental landscape; while areas of modernized buildings can be used as commercial, residential or industrial development zones, making full use of the functions and potential of modern buildings. Cultivate professionals with backgrounds in urban planning and architectural design, and improve their knowledge and skills in integrating monuments and modern buildings. At the same time, domestic and international exchanges and cooperation should be strengthened to learn from and absorb the experiences and practices of other cities. In urban planning, attention also needs to be paid to conducting environmental impact assessments to evaluate the potential impacts of development projects on the surrounding environment and to take appropriate measures to mitigate and manage these impacts.

#### **4.3.2. Strengthening Policy Guidance and Legal Protection**

The development of policy systems has played a crucial role in regulating, promoting, and regulating urban renewal practices [18]. All relevant departments should strengthen collaboration and establish an effective communication mechanism to ensure the coordination of urban planning and management. Cooperation between departments can be strengthened through regular meetings and information sharing. Law enforcement departments should increase their efforts to investigate and deal with urban planning violations and seriously pursue responsibilities to ensure the effective implementation of planning and management. At the same time, training and professional capacity enhancement of law enforcement personnel should be strengthened to improve the level and effectiveness of law enforcement. Establish a sound urban planning and management system, including planning preparation, assessment and approval, and project supervision, to ensure the scientific and effective planning and

management work. At the same time, strengthen the training and supervision of urban planning practitioners to improve management level and ability.

### 4.3.3. Enhance Public Participation and Strengthen Publicity and Education

The integration and development of Places of Interest and modernized buildings also needs to consider the issues of social acceptance and cultural identity. This means that public opinion and participation need to be widely solicited to understand their views and concerns about the development program. At the same time, the cultural identity and interests of local residents should be respected, and public hearings and symposiums can be held to enable the public to understand the development program and offer constructive comments and suggestions. Public participation can enhance the democracy and transparency of urban planning, improve the acceptability and sustainability of development proposals, and ensure that development projects are in harmony with local history, culture and social values. Strengthening publicity and education can raise people's awareness of places and monuments as well as urban planning, so that everyone realizes that this matter is inextricably linked to city residents and is closely related to the whole country; it can also raise the sense of responsibility of the government and social institutions, which, as the main parties responsible for the protection of cultural heritage, should shoulder the heavy responsibility of cultural heritage protection [21].

## 5. Conclusion

In this thesis, the integration and development of Places of Interest and modernized buildings in urban planning is studied in depth. Through the case study of Xi'an city and the review of related literature at home and abroad, the study finds that there are many problems in the process of integration and development, and some thoughts are given to different problems to summarize the related strategies. In general, through the protection and utilization of traditional culture and Places of Interest, combined with modern architectural technology and design concepts, Xi'an has not only preserved the original appearance of historical monuments, but also created scenic spots and buildings with modern functions and charms, which have enhanced the image and cultural value of the city, as well as promoted the development of urban construction and tourism industry, and provided tourists and residents with rich and diverse cultural experiences. This paper takes Xi'an as an example, but the research significance is not only limited to a certain city, China's long history, has countless Places of Interest and cultural heritage, a variety of rich, in other cities in China at the same time there are similar problems, between different regions and countries for the same problem also has a high value of reference and learning. Each city and country has its own uniqueness, and while learning from it, we must pay attention to maintaining the unique cultural charm of each place. In the context of globalization and urbanization, we must seek a balance between the integration and development of traditional culture and modern architecture, so as to protect and pass on traditional culture while meeting the needs of urban development and people's lives. This is a field full of challenges and opportunities, and we hope that this paper will provide useful references and insights for relevant researchers and practitioners.

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