

Study on the Traditional Style and Protection of the Historical Street in Dingzhou City

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Abstract: The level of urbanization is not high in the small towns and economic development is still the primary goal of such cities. The primary industry and the secondary industry are the main pillars of the industrial structure. The historical and cultural protection and utilization have not been taken seriously. China has thousands of years of splendid history of civilization, while traces of historical accumulation can be easily found in every city. The different characteristics of the historical styles can be seen in many small towns and in tier four and five cities. Dingzhou is located in the middle of Hebei Province with heritage of Zhongshan culture. Dingzhou has rebuilt many times as a capital and set as state government in many generations and dynasties. History of the river in Dingzhou ancient city has played an important role. The structure of the Dingzhou ancient street plays a main function where all the other main cities. Development of Dingzhou City should be taken seriously as the focus of the development of urban culture. This article mainly analyzes and discusses the related aspects of the traditional style protection of the historical streets of the central city of Dingzhou.

Keyword: Dingzhou; ancient city; Central Street; historical district; traditional style; protection

1. Geographical location of Dingzhou ancient city

Dingzhou ancient city is located at the northern foot of the Taihang Mountains, the Tang River flooding alluvial sector and the North China Sea River Basin. The ancestors stayed beside the river, while the overall terrain from northwest to southeast is slightly tilted. Tang River is known as constant water in the “Yu Gong”, as retraining water in the “Zhou Guan”, as flowing water in the “Shui Jing Zhu”, and named as Tang River in the “Tai Ping Huan Yu Ji” (Li Jinghan, “Social Situation Survey in Dingxian”). Tang River is the mother river of Dingzhou ancient city and is the important criteria to build a city.

2. Establishment of the Axis of Urban Space in Dingzhou City

The axis is in a linear relationship with the space visually or spiritually. It can express the relationship between materials and can also express the relationship between non-material spaces. The functions of 2axis include can organize the space order, control the overall pattern and enhance the meaning of space. The source of the ancient Chinese city axis is the Chinese traditional culture that emphasizing the spatial ritual connotation, and the orientation

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and distribution of the relevant street building.

2.1 Establishment of center of the city

At the beginning, construction of the Dingzhou ancient city did not have the axis concept. The north gate and the south gate of city are connected to the main streets. The street intersects the east and west main streets, and the crossroads become the center of Dingzhou city. The northeast corner of the intersection is the political core, while the northwest corner is the cultural core. The southeast of city is the location of Kaiyuan Temple and Kaiyuan Temple Tower. The core of the three cities emphasized the importance of this city center. In the public awareness, this cross street will be the core of the city. According to the “Dingxian Notes”, the public gathered at the cross street during the winter and chatting beside the wall.

2.2 Linear extension of center

There are two directions from the core point in an axis relationship, which are the north to south and east to west. From the Dingzhou city floor plan, we can see that the connection between the two main doors is not strong. The location of the city center has two blocks of dislocation. The traffic of the north-south road is smooth, but the north and south gates are not in a straight direction. Therefore, the location of the government office formed an angle at the north-south road. Many schools, churches and units were established on the north and south roads due to the convenience of transportation and the favorable geographical location. The South Street and North Street also has the largest population in the city. With the improvement of living standards, the north-south axis is becoming more important and full with the most frequent activities of the streets. With continuous improvement of the economy, the east-west road intersects with the main streets and connects to province.

“Zhongshan Road” supports the modern Dingzhou city as the city government and units are located at both sides of the main road. The North and South Streets have a large number of cultural relics, the urban planning of this area is known as cultural protected area and thus no drastic development in this area. It is still in the vicissitudes state, simple style and heritage of the ancient state. East and west roads develop towards the modern city axis, while the north and south roads are full with cultural spirit.

2.3 Summary of the Historical Features of the Central of Dingzhou City

Dingzhou city is one of the ancient cities in China. Its urban landscape has both the common characteristics of ancient city and also has its unique characteristics.

3. Commonness of Ancient City Style in North China Plain Area

3.1 Urban spatial pattern

Most of the urban construction in the plain areas of North China is mainly in square with the cross street runs through the city center. The city has four main gates, four main streets, and some important buildings such as the court, the bureaucracy and so on. Other buildings are in symmetrical layout. The overall plan of Dingzhou ancient city is similar to the other ancient cities in the North China plain area. The layout of the city streets is similar and based to the square blocks with more structured streets.

3.2. Major buildings

In the feudal society, besides the government, the hospital and other constructions, the most important building in the general constructions of the city is the temple construction. In general, the major five buildings are Confucius Temple, Wu Temple, Cheng-Long Temple, Tai-Shan Temple and Ma-Shen Temple. Buildings of Dingcheng ancient city has no different from other ancient cities, but there are slightly different in the selection of the building location.

City center generally has a landmark pavilion, such as the bell tower, drum tower and arch. These are the city landscape features of the city center, which are generally higher than the surrounding buildings and are the focuses of the city view. In the ancient city of Dingzhou Street, the bell tower and drum tower are located on both sides of the North Street.

3.3. City architectural style

The style of the ancient city architecture is more unified like other cities around the city. Most of the Yuan Dynasty or the Song Dynasty style are retained in the late Qing Dynasty architectures and a few monuments. The architectural style has a distinct level includes the roof system and roofing materials. The public buildings building level are generally higher than that of the residential, the roofs are made from the small gray tiles, red beams, and carved decorations.

4. Characteristics of Historic Districts in Dingzhou

Materialism of a city has no big difference with that of the surrounding cities. The roles of people and culture form different characteristics of each city.

Due to the special geographical location, Dingzhou ancient city has a strong military force. The historical buildings are including the Kai-Yuan Temple Tower, Gun-and-Fire Street and Du-Fu Camp.

Kai-Yuan Temple is a famous Buddhist temple in many cities. The construction of tower is also very common in the temple for worship, placement of relics, scriptures and various objects. The Kai-Yuan Temple Tower also has function as a watch tower and it has become a representative of Dingzhou architecture. At the same time, Kai-Yuan Temple is the center of the sight landscape that formed unique city style of Dingzhou.

5. Strategies of Protection and Promotion of Traditional Style in the

Central District of Dingzhou City

5.1. Summary

At present, the traditional street area of Dingzhou city faces several problems: First, the traditional style area is concentrated in the central part of city and there are no connections between the north and south wings; Second, the overall architectural is a continuation of the traditional layout, but the appearance of the traditional characteristics is not prominent and not coordinated; Third, the commercial building is not harmonious with the traditional style; Fourth, the landscape structure and axis performance is not clear, and lost the original view of the ancient city. Fifth, the neighborhood culture is unclear and thus it is difficult to form the axis of the spiritual leadership and cultural identity.

5.2. Protection and promotion goals

The protection of cultural and historical heritage is important to maintain the relationship between urban historical and cultural protection and urban construction, so that the ancient culture, tourism development and urban life can combine successfully. In order to further improve the historical and cultural system, the city grade should be improved to achieve harmonious symbiosis of the protection of historical and cultural heritage and urban modernization.

5.3. Content of Protection and Promotion

5.3.1 Functional positioning

1) Enhance the continuity of cultural axis. The status quo of Dingzhou city has formed a cultural core area in the southern and northern ends with scattered historical style buildings. The continuity of cultural axis should be emphasized so that the historical style becomes more unified and complete. Furthermore, the urban culture is becoming more prominent and more attractive. 2) Improve the mix of commercial and residential model. The mixed mode of commercial and residential can be improved as it is the main historical mode of residence in the central street. The original commercial and residential mixed building should undergo renovation. On the other hand, the new residential with low-level high-density approach can be taken to consider and actively integrated into the original urban texture. 3) Enhance cultural, leisure and tourism services. The advantages of the central street and the original historical and cultural characteristics of resources should be fully used. The cultural, entertainment, hotel industry and other related industries should be optimized and upgraded, such as renovation of some characteristic buildings, clubs, themed bars, artistic hotels and so on. 4) Increase the green and open space. It is a necessary condition for urban development and tourism reception in order to improve the quality of the existing public green space and to enhance the existing road greening, like broaden the sidewalk, increase the chairs and flower beds.

5.3.2 Landscape Planning

In order to ensure the integrity of the historical street landscape and to protect the historical features, it is necessary to form a landscape control network in the area. First, the landscape structure is composed of two landscape corridors. At present, the south gate-central axis and Kai-Yuan Temple-north gate are the two important sight corridors in the landscape structure. In addition to the focus of the two corners of the corridor, there are also need to have the landscape attractions in the middle.

1) Restore construction of the bell and drum towers, and the north gate. 2) Protect the status of street texture, restore the street in the archway building to enrich the landscape level and extend landscape control line. 3) Coordinate landscape control of street and building style to create a traditional historical atmosphere. From the status of development, we can give priority to consolidate the traditional style of the South Street to enhance the gradual extension to the central part of the North Street, step by step.

5.3.3 Street rectification

The function of the South Main Street is mainly based on the pedestrian street. The North Street is not actively opened for external function. Early stages of development mainly focused on residential and small commercial, then gradually extended to the center of the South Street. The overall structure of the street should be protected.

1) The Central South Street continues the historical function as a commercial pedestrian street, while the Central North Street is mainly for living purpose. 2) Develop the traditional business model in South Street where the front part is for commercial purpose and the behind part is for residential purpose. Renovation and repair should be done in the original premise to improve the facilities and the environment. 3) Expand the width of the sidewalk, change the sidewalk flooring material to bluestone. Road renovation should be carried out, especially for the cement road. 4) Apply the management method of motor vehicle diversion limit to restrict the motor vehicles on the North Street. Improve the traffic of the South Street. Construct Dingzhou Pedestrian Street. 5) Limit the street parking. The parking lots should be built behind the building. 6) For the existing high-rise buildings, use fence and trees to reduce the sense of

lack of coordination, and remove when condition approved. 7) To ensure the safety and beauty of the pedestrian street, remove electricity, telecommunications and other poles, and use underground pipelines for heat and gas. 8) Increase the characteristics of the street and landscape effect, such as pedestrian street, the arch, bell tower and other public landscape architectures.

5.3.4 Building renovation

Determine the reservations, remediation and update different strategies according to the specific situation of the building and the surrounding environment, so that the height, volume, scale, materials, color and other historical environment in harmony with the surrounding.

1) Repair the original characteristics of the building facade. 2) Make sure the original modern architecture coordinates with the style. Maintain continuity along the street facade interface. Updated street building or fence should be built on the red line. 3) The style of the fence and other structures should be properly designed with reference to historical style. 4) New buildings along the street or high-rise buildings should not be too large. 5) Focus on the commercial buildings in the South Street. 6) Retain the front shop backyard-layout to achieve the overall style of unity. 7) Repair doors and windows and the construction detail, demolish the modern buildings that blocked the traditional buildings. 8) Demolish poor quality, smaller building, and update the style of the building and temporary structures. 9) Refurbish the slope roof, restore the practice and materials of the traditional style of the streets, or transform the symbolic slope roof method, and not allowed to be blocked by commercial signs. 10) Change the inappropriate shop ads, remove the horizontal large shop ads, set the signboard between the first-floor windows and second-floor window. The signboard should not be too high. Promote the vertical signboards under a limited size and use the billboard material. 11) Renovate the wall, restore the wall material (mainly brick), and remove the existing paint painting. Maintain a unified of building materials and style with the central street, to restore the traditional style of building, including the proportion of wooden doors and windows, and frame width of doors and windows.

The density of the population living in the region should be gradually reduced to create the necessary conditions for renovation and repair of historical buildings. Locations with traffic convenient in the streets should be selected to restore the traditional style of the ancient building and as a public service function, such as hotels, teahouses and so on. Retain the flat roof building and remove the illegal construction of the multi-storey houses to protect the courtyard layout.

5.3.5 Cultural atmosphere

History and culture in Dingzhou is expressed mainly in the central street. The material composition of the central street is relied on the history and culture to highlight the charm of the city. 1) Organize a variety of cultural activities in the Kai-Yuan Temple, such as the Dingzhou opera, Yang-ge and other folk arts to the public. 2) Introduce the history and development of Dingzhou, from the most direct point of view to protect the history and culture in the Confucian Temple. 3) Avoid the transition of commercialization and increase the involvement of cultural elements in the temple festival, market and other activities. 4) Publicize the traditional handicraft industry, old shops and special food in Dingzhou. 5) Gradually build a landscape rich with traditional characteristics.

Conclusion

The traditional style of Dingzhou City Historic District is not superior to many towns and the state of protection is still not satisfactory. However, it is not easy for a developing small city to hold such a region. The city update is not too fast because of the restrictions of the economic level. Therefore, the basic skeleton and texture of the city is retained in a good condition. The traditional style and the unity of the landscape should be gradually structured to complement the

support in the city highlights as the historical and cultural axis of the characteristics and importance of promoting the development of the city.

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