Historical prescriptiveness: characteristics identification and overall protection of historical cities from the perspective of spatial translation

Take the ancient city of Shipu, Zhejiang, China as an example

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Abstract

The rapid development of Chinese cities in the past three decades has caused the transformation of the structure of historical urban spaces, resulting in the fragmentation of historical environment and the blurring of historical pattern. This study proposes to use the epistemology of historical prescriptiveness to recognize the characteristics of urban historical environment, so as to effectively protect the city as a whole. Historical prescriptiveness refers to the spatial-temporal correlation effect in the process of urban historical environment change, which makes the current historical elements of the city present as a whole with hierarchy, structure and system. This kind of epistemology is most prominent in ancient maps. The schema-symbol relation can express the paradigm of traditional structure, the schema-symbol choice can express the order of multiple symbols, and the schema-symbol intention can express the meaning of camp city culture. Based on these potential criteria, this study summarizes the logical relations and existing forms of the old and new elements in urban space, and then explores the historical prescriptive content. The specific content of historical prescriptiveness is embodied in the following aspects: the implicit control of the historical pattern in spatial positioning, the transformation and recognition of historical elements in evolutionary comparison, and the inheritance and continuation of urban memory in the extraction of connotations. Taking the ancient city of Shipu in Zhejiang as an example, the study explores the characteristics of the ancient city of Shipu from three aspects: the succession of Haiphong's fortification and city-port structure, the alienation of the texture of the ancient towns and streets of Jiangnan, the rejuvenation of the city with the reappearance of culture in eastern Zhejiang. Based on this case, this study proposes a holistic conservation idea of historical city in the modern context of "space and time compression".

Keywords

Historical prescriptiveness, Spatial translation, Historical city, Characteristic identification, Overall protection

1. Introduction

Ancient cities in China have undergone a long period of evolution. Generally speaking, since the technology of industrial revolution was introduced into China, people's production and life style have taken on a leap of change. However, the ancient city has been gradually impacted by the process of urbanization. After 2000, "constructive destruction" under the pretext of "urban quality improvement" is becoming more and more serious. And the focus of ancient city protection has also retreated from the overall urban protection to the historical block protection. At present, the protection of the ancient city is faced with a practical dilemma, that is, whether to give up the overall protection of the ancient city and

turn to the management of the patchy historical blocks, or to emphasize the continuity of the overall protection of the ancient city.

In the early stage of China, the research on the protection of ancient cities was based on complete protection (Liangyong, 1983, Dehua and Jinghui, 1982, Yisan, 1990, Qin, 2004), such as listing protection, project approval protection and so on. Although the latter research involves dynamic conservation fields such as functional replacement and organic symbiosis (Lin, 2016, Chao, 2017, Jiangbin, 2017, Bian, 2017, Wenli et al., 2020, Weixin, 2020), it is rarely involved in the protection reference samples such as ancient maps. However, in fact, the ancient city map is an important tool and material to study ancient Chinese cities (Yuzhen, 2008). Through drawing, the ancients reflected their cognition of the city. Due to the limitation of measurement tools (Xiaocong, 2008), the ancient maps are more "meaning" than "shape". Although they lose the intuitive sense of proportion, they can reflect the social hierarchy and values behind the drawing period (Liang et al., 2017, Jiang et al., 2017).

Shipu ancient city is a typical research object. Although Shipu town was established as a famous historical and cultural town by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China in 1991, its physical remains are still being eroded by urban expansion after entering the new century. Therefore, this paper analyzes the basis of the detailed protective planning of Shipu ancient city in Ningbo City, attempts to compare the ancient map with the modern map, explores the historical prescriptiveness in the development process of Shipu, and the correlation and evolution mechanism of ancient and modern elements. And this paper conducts overall discussion on the distribution of public buildings, city density and city spatial structure evolution, so as to obtain the regular understanding of development. At last the paper explores the development of Shipu from the perspective of ancient map, in order to put forward the corresponding protection mechanism and provide reference for other cities and towns of the same location and type.

2. Interpretation of ancient maps: The way to identify urban context

2.1. The relationship between graphic symbols: Paradigm of traditional structure

China has been a unified feudal country for a long time in history. In the framework of urban construction system, from the imperial city to the local city, it has become an important significance for the city to "build a city to protect the monarch and build a kingdom to guard the people". The spatial structure of ancient cities in China is reflected in the center, axis and boundary. The palace city becomes the center of the city in the middle. The orientation of urban space is determined by the axis, and the starting point of urban space is found by the center, so that the urban space has a certain relationship of orientation, orientation and boundary in the whole, which constitutes the structural elements of urban space and becomes the base. The ancient map is the most direct embodiment of the traditional structural paradigm. In addition to expressing the most basic graphic elements such as geographical location, spatial factors and built-up environment, the relationship between the elements also fully shows the internal order and the overall significance relationship between the forms. For example, four groups of graphic symbols, such as traffic facilities, city signs, official facilities and faith buildings in the local chronicle city map, are the basic image elements of the city map, which constitute the image expression background of the city map, and reflect the social functions of the city's politics, power, governance and education, as well as the orderly and clear spatial order. In addition, in the map of Shipu ancient city in Qing Dynasty (figure1), the ancient city of Shipu, which takes the government office in feudal China as the center, takes the T-shaped road as the axis, and finally forms the boundary of the space scope and visual scope of the ancient city with the city walls and mountains.

This paper compares the diachronic ancient map with the modern map. This kind of overall discussion on the distribution of urban public buildings, urban density and the evolution of urban spatial structure will help to obtain the regular understanding of urban development (Yuzhen, 2008).

Figure 1 A map of Shipu city in Qing Dynasty

2.2. The graphic symbols selection: Order of multiple signs

The landmark is the impression that people form by observing and distinguishing the direction and orientation of a city. As an entity space reference point for easy memory, it is shown as the graphic elements and space elements in the relationship between the city map and the base. It is worth noting that the intention expressed on the map can't be equated with the sensory image because the ancient city construction paid attention to the shape of city and ignored the people's feelings. Generally speaking, due to the limitation of the size of ancient maps, they mainly express various kinds of markers and become a system containing multiple marks. For example, the important building groups and single buildings in ancient maps such as the Yamen (government in ancient China) and the Confucian temple have played a symbolic role. The landmarks depicted in the ancient map of Shipu city can be divided into three types: military defense type, spiritual belief type and living facilities type. Among them, the military defensive symbols include: fort, Qing Liang Zhai(A military stronghold), martial arts hall, patrol inspection division, sub government office, government office; spiritual belief signs include: Wenchang Pavilion(educational services), Zun Wang palace(religious sites), river heart temple, Thean Hou Temple, Dongyue Temple, Sansheng temple, Zhenwu palace, San Guan hall, Guan Yu Temple, Song King Temple and Town God's Temple; and the living facilities sign includes: Yi Shu(private school in ancient China). It reflects the complexity and diversity of the functions of Shipu ancient city as an important defense town in Xiangshan peninsula of Ningbo.

2.3. The intention of pictorial graphic symbols: Implication of urban construction culture

The ancient map of China has a certain artistic conception, which implies the values, cultural and social views of a specific period, and shows a complete and traditional cultural image of city construction. At the same time, as a pictographic interpretation language, ancient map is also a direct means to observe the core ideas behind the overall outline and internal structure of the city.

Scholars usually use "detailed in water but poor in mountain" to describe the artistic conception of Chinese ancient map. That is to say, it is closely related to the landscape painting on the surface. It pursues artistic conception in drawing principle, but does not care about accuracy. It pays attention to

contrast and does not stick to the proportion. According to the needs of displaying city, drawing techniques and viewing angles, the graphic ancient maps mostly use the image drawing method of combining plane and inside. The ancient bird's-eye map mostly adopts landscape painting, so the position and proportion of various features in the map are relative. These techniques express the implication of the city building culture implicitly in the following three aspects. First, it reflects the idea of choosing the location of a city. Secondly, it expresses the strict hierarchy between the capital and the local cities. Thirdly, it marks the characteristic function and external environment of the city.

3. Historical Prescriptiveness in ancient maps: The spatial translation of urban characteristics

3.1. Spatial orientation: The recessive control of historical pattern

Due to the dynamic nature of urban development, "building a city on the city" has become a common phenomenon. The spatial relationship of the city is also dynamic. In the dynamic evolution of historical cities, the spatial pattern of the ancient city has changed from explicit external expression to recessive inner existence. Under the context of the prevalence of ancient Confucian rites, the exploration of the regulation of city construction, which is typical of the book of *Zhou Li Kao Gong Ji*, and the idea of "standing in the middle" and "axis against the mountain" emphasized in *Lu's spring and Autumn Annals* and *Historical records of Qin Shihuang's annals*, shaped the basic principles of spatial location selection and city construction of traditional Chinese residential environment. And it also deeply influenced the construction of ancient capital cities such as Chang'an City in Tang Dynasty and Beijing City in Ming and Qing Dynasties. The later urban construction was slightly adjusted according to the original urban planning rules due to factors such as geographical environment or artificial setting, the mutual reflection of "ritual elements&spatial order" has become the model followed by Chinese traditional governing cities since ancient times, and has become one of the stable factors controlling the urban spatial structure. They are: the center of symbolizing power and spirit; the axis of combining ceremony and function; the boundary of entity defense. They are expressed in the space of the ancient city through the central place, axis street, city wall, moat and other control elements

In the process of development and evolution of the ancient city, especially after the collapse of Chinese feudal system. The constraints of ritual construction are also disappeared. Influenced by the industrial revolution, in order to adapt to the needs of modern life, the pattern of ancient city was also challenged. Compared with the ancient and modern times, it is found that the current town presents the control pattern under the hidden elements, with several characteristics: (1) the transfer of spirit and power center. There are different urban centers in different social forms. Nowadays, due to the secularization of life, the urban spatial pattern tends to be homogeneous and flat. The center of the spirit and power of the ancient city no longer highlights the absolute core value. The Yamen building in the historical center has disappeared and replaced by other buildings or sites. However, the above ground land boundary or underground cultural layer relics, which symbolize its historical center, can still reflect the location scope of the site a hundred years ago; (2) the axis is weakened. After the disappearance of its ceremonial function, axis street gradually "succumbed" to the arrangement of use function and hid in the urban road network, but its location and traffic function still continued; (3) the boundary was hidden. The boundary of ancient city generally takes the solid city wall system as its spatial control element. As the boundary of the city wall, due to its public property rights, some of the city walls were demolished and turned into ring roads, such as Zhongshan Road in Wuhan and Changchun Road in Ningbo; some of them were turned into green space around the city, typically represented by the Ring Park in Hefei; some were converted into public buildings and wall houses, such as Xinjiang. The city wall also changed from the

entity existence to the virtual historical memory, and its characteristics also changed from the explicit existence to the recessive expression (figure2, table1).

Figure 2 The relationship between historical prescriptiveness and planning

Table 1 Comparison table of urban image elements in ancient maps of Shipu city

Historical factors		Contents of ancient maps	Now the content	Archived way
The wall	East gate -- North gate	The wall	Outside the wall + Jicheng Road + Ruins of East City Wall + ruins of North City Wall + Fuzzy boundary	Part of the remaining
	North gate - West gate	The city wall/moat	Ximen Wai Road + Fuzzy boundary + Chengxi Road	fuzzy
	West gate -- East Gate	The city wall/moat	Chengxi Road + West City Wall Site + East City Road	Legacy place
The streets	East-west main street	Wanfu Street - Sai Hang Tau Road - Front Street	Renmin Road -- Middle Street	Part to broaden
		backstreet	backstreet	Maintain
	North-south main street	Chenghuang temple road	Chenghuang temple road	Maintain
Marks system	Military defensive type	Shipu inspection department	Local-style dwelling houses	Physical preservation
		Shipu inspection department hall	A home stay facility	Physical preservation
		Fire alarm tower	Local-style dwelling houses	Fuzzy
		battery	battery	Legacy place
	Spiritual belief type	The three holy temple	The three holy temple	Physical preservation
		Zhenwu palace	Zhenwu palace	Physical preservation
		The three officer	The three officer	Physical preservation
		The song dynasty	Local-style dwelling	Physical preservation

		emperor temple	houses	
		Chenghuang Temple - Guanyin Pavilion	Chenghuang Temple - Guanyin Pavilion	Physical preservation
		Guandi temple	Guandi temple	The reconstruction
	Living facility type	Jinshan academy	Shipu Central Primary School	Part of the remaining

3.2. Evolution contrast: The transformation of historical elements

Based on the analysis of ancient maps, this paper finds that in addition to the central place, axis street, moat and other elements reflecting the historical pattern, there are also different "living" changes such as belief space, historical landmarks and residential courtyards. Some of them can be obviously continued by the way of cultural relics protection, and the other part is hidden in the present urban space through the way of transformation, such as the replacement of land use function within the boundary of historical elements, the transformation from the above ground remains to underground sites, and the transformation of spatial existence into collective memory, all of which reflect the "presence" of history.

The symbols in the ancient map of Shipu are military defense type, spiritual belief type and living facilities type. In the present space, it presents the characteristics of the remains of the stage. As coastal defense facilities, Fenghou fort, navy camp and school field have been almost replaced in the historical evolution. However, the scope of the original address is still reserved, but the function is replaced by other uses. As a coastal defense system, the Yamen and the office hall of are still in existence, but their administrative functions have disappeared, and now they have been transformed to residential buildings and residential accommodation.

There are many temples in Shipu ancient city, reflecting the phenomenon of polytheism. Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism and Christianity coexist. Because of its particularity as a coastal defense City, in addition to its own religious beliefs, the temple reflects the spiritual defense characteristics of the protection of gods. The space performance is as follows: one gate-one temple, many temples along the mountain, and all kinds of immortal niches gather in the city. North gate and Sansheng temple; West gate and Chenghuang Temple; East Gate and Guandi Temple; Yanshan temple, Longshen nunnery, Jing Hun nunnery, Xiu Ming nunnery, Zhenwu palace, Sanguan Tang, and so on. In addition, there are relics of some temples, such as Wenchang Pavilion, Shuixian palace, Dongyue palace, Tianhou palace, Sizhou hall, evangelical hall, etc. These facilities are people's spiritual sustenance, so the demand for them continues to this day.

The Jinshan Academy in the history of Shipu ancient city was transferred to the current Shipu Central Primary School, and its function has been well inherited in the historical evolution (figure3 and figure4).

Figure 3 Historical map of layout of Shipu Port area (left)

Figure 4 Current situation map of Shipu Port area (right)

3.3. Connotation extraction: The inheritance and continuation of urban memory

Halbwachs, a French sociologist, put forward the concept of "social memory" in his book on *collective memory*, and held that collective memory has dual properties: It is not only a kind of material object, material reality, such as a statue, a monument, a place in space, but also a symbolic symbol, something with spiritual meaning, something attached to and imposed on this material reality for group sharing (Coser, 1992). Mannheim, a German sociologist, further pointed out that collective memory has the function of location, emphasizing the transmission of text and place in social memory (Mannheim, 1970, Hansheng and Yaqiu, 2006). As the direct carrier of witnessing the source of this kind of memory, ancient map is the product of collective long-term inheritance. After being defined and coded, ancient map uses a kind of "Imagery" metaphor and protects the village in a special way. Therefore, it also carries the historical and local memory from a broader level.

For example, the ancient city of Shipu, which was built up by military forces and flourished by fishing, is closely linked with the memory of fishing port from its ancient map (figure5 and figure6). The "historical stipulation" of its city memory is reflected in two aspects: One is the inheritance of coastal defense construction and port pattern. Shipu ancient city was an important part of the coastal defense system of the southeast coast of China in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. It was historically known as the "an important city in the middle of Zheyang", and formed an integrated coastal defense system with Changguowei and Dongmen island. In the layout map of Changguowei (figure7), we can clearly read the spatial and geographical pattern of 16 castles and 34 barracks along the coast of Zhejiang Province, which are vertical and horizontal from north to south, line up in a line, with tight coastal areas and sparse hinterland. Today, these ancient cities are still in the form of a city, which has become the historical witness of the coastal anti aggression and anti-Japanese invasion in eastern Zhejiang Province. Among them, Shipu ancient city is the evidence of the coastal defense linear heritage of castles and barracks. The

second is the derivation of fishery and eastern Zhejiang culture. Shipu was established as a commercial port before the Tang Dynasty. Merchants from all directions gathered here one after another from the sea. The Shipu ancient city, as the supply and distribution center of fishing port, reached its peak in the Qing Dynasty. In the ancient map of silk trade in Shipu, the grand scene of fishing port is described as "thousands of worshippers in the daytime and thousands of lights at night". Today, the memory of the old city with fishing culture as the core, such as special diet, craft and activities, has been preserved with the ancient map, making Shipu the only historical and cultural town with living fishing port type in China (Yi, 2004, Yi, 2005, Yanfei et al., 2019).

Figure 5 The geographical environment of Shipu depicted in the ancient map (left)

Figure 6 A scene of life in Shipu depicted on an ancient map (right)

Figure 7 A layout diagram of The Shipu Defense city

4. The protection strategy of the ancient city of Shipu under the historical prescriptiveness

4.1. Structural strengthening: The overall protection of the pattern characteristics of the ancient city

The overall protection of the ancient city of Shipu is firstly reflected in the improvement of the overall spatial structure. In the planning practice, the tourism system planning is taken as the first to establish the series of "mountain-sea-city" in the Shipu ancient city to create four scenic areas, including Shipu ancient city scenic area, Yanchang old street scenic area, Fishing port coastal scenic area and Hougang mountain scenic area (figure8). Among them, Shipu ancient city scenic area is an expansion project of the scenic area of Shipu old street, which is a comprehensive scenic area integrating vacation, sightseeing and experience project. Yanchang old street scenic area combined with the entrance of industrial relocation, to create a "mountain-sea-city" as one of the sightseeing and fishing culture experience scenic area. The coastal area of Shipu old city is combined with Yugang middle road to establish fishing port coastal scenic area. Hougang mountain has a good view point, as the basis for the construction of Hougang mountain scenic area.

In addition, connecting the ancient road is an important condition for the integrated development of Shipuso city and Yanchang old street (figure9). On the basis of road accessibility, the buildings on both sides are renovated and a series of sightseeing and leisure business areas are developed. Therefore, it is planned to set up the old city landscape section, the old city fishing port section, the fishing port

landscape section and the Yanchang fishing port section. These sections respectively carrying the functions of religious sightseeing, leisure business, tourism hiking and mountaineering, so as to connect and activate the whole "Shipu-fish port-ancient city" area.

Figure 8 Shipu ancient city tourism overall layout and scenic area planning(left)

Figure 9 Shipu ancient city "mountain - city - sea - port" line - style historical landscape restoration system(right)

The cultural protection is a covert plot of holistic protection. By retaining the living place and residents, we can inherit the life story and interest. At the same time, we will expand the unique festival activities such as "Wandering God" in Shipu fishing port (figure10). The preservation of the site for the festival and the expansion of the scope of the site will be included in the scope of the material space planning, which will achieve the overall integrity of the material and non-material aspects.

Figure 10 The site and folk custom of Shipu ancient city

4.2. Symbol highlighting: The related protection of the characteristics of ancient city elements

The element protection of Shipu ancient city is related based on characteristic signs, including the following three aspects:

First, the protection of the elements of the ancient city pattern. In history, ancient cities in China have a complete set of construction system, forming the pattern characteristics of ancient cities. The natural environment was determined when the city was located, and the artificial environment was determined when the city was built. Shipu ancient city is a mountain city with high and low twists and turns, and its natural environment is a special spatial pattern of "half mountain and half city". The key to the protection of Shipu pattern lies in the protection of the boundary elements, the location of the city gate and its ruins. The structure of street, backstreet, Chenghuang Temple road and Renmin Road is complete. And the integrity of Town God's Temple, Guan Yu Temple, Sansheng temple, Zhenwu palace, three official hall, and Shing Hun hall system are also protected (figure11).

Second, the protection of streets and environmental elements. In addition to the protection of cultural protection units, historical buildings and the pattern of the ancient city, the historical environment, historical streets, and place elements of the old city should also be protected. The key protected streets and environment elements in Shipu include defensive environmental elements, historical street elements, temple and ancient well site elements. It includes ancient city wall, gate and its ruins, middle street, Fujian street, various temples, ancient wells and valuable ancient trees (figure12).

Figure 11 Protection plan of streets, alleys and environmental elements (left)

Figure 12 Protection plan of old city pattern (right)

4.3. Memory recovering: The construction and protection of the cultural characteristics of the ancient city

Finally, the plan aims to fully retain the memory of Shipu. According to the four types of defense resources of the ancient city, the coastal defense characteristic tourism development is carried out. The city wall and gate are used as the ancient tourism route, the coastal defense system is the cultural and educational center. And the coastal defense facilities and spiritual defense are combined with the city gate and wall as important sightseeing and functional nodes of the circular route (figure13). In this way, the historical memory of Shipu as an important coastal defense town is reproduced.

The site memory is an important part of Shipu's collective memory. There are four types of dependency (figure14): (1) The site of the city wall: the site of the fort, the site of the castle, the site of the king's palace, the site of the Weng Cheng – Guandi Temple, the Song Huang temple - the city wall site; (2) The temple site: Xicheng - Chenghuang Temple place, the North City Gate - three official Temple, the Dragon Saint place, the Jingxiu nunnery, the Xiu Ming nunnery. (3) The streets and alleys: Taihai square-Nier square, middle street, back street, Jinshan Academy; (4) The residential type: Yaochi ice and snow house, Xujiashai- dafudi place, Xiejiannong place. The planning of such historical sites should be reasonably reserved, and non-governmental organizations should be used to inherit culture and guide the healthy development of historical districts

Figure 13 Restoration plan of coastal defense

Figure 14 Site space plan of old city

5. Conclusion

As the paradox of the “*Ship of Theseus*”, the basis for determining whether a thing is still itself is not the elements that make up the whole thing, but the internal structure formed by these elements and the continuity of time and space of things. From this point of view, many historical urban areas in China still have the meaning of “ancient city” and have important value.

From the perspective of historical prescriptive and space transformation, the study of Shipu ancient city shows that the historical pattern of the ancient city not only has a prescriptive role in the development of urban space, but also further marks and highlights the historical and cultural characteristics of the ancient city. By mining the historical pattern of ancient maps, the urban spatial system can be divided into three levels: structure, marks, culture, and its internal and implicit spatial constraints can be effectively identified. Based on such a mechanism, planners can give beneficial guidance to urban structure strengthening, logo highlighting and memory recovering. Therefore, it is a beneficial and enlightening way to explore the elements of urban protection from ancient maps.

On the other hand, from ancient times to the present, the proportion and precision of map expression are not the same, the expression elements of map are also constantly changing, and the complete expression of historical provisions needs to be further improved. Paying attention to the historical maps of different periods, forming a complete space-time impression, and then forming the principle of regional universality is the direction of future research.

6. Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the National Science Foundation of China (52078228).

7. References

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