The Analysis of History, Culture and Garden Characteristics of Xishan Park

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ABSTRACT

With the changes of urban development, the city tends to shape its unique history and culture which contribute to the construction of park landscape, along with the accumulation of historic culture that could build up a cultural city with the identity of history and culture. Taking Xishan Park in Mianyang as an example, the study is to explore the role of the history and landscape on the landscape construction. It is approached by analyzing the combination of relics and the landscape with the view of inheriting the historical culture and highlighting landscape elements and though this article, hoped to provide certain references about theory research and practice operation for City Park at all levels about its landscape cultural characteristics.

Key word: Mianyang City; Xishan Park; Historical culture; Landscape Construction

1 INTRODUCTION

With the rapid development of economy, Urban Park, a public space with the city's history, culture and customs, has played an important part in urban construction to highlight the city culture, local people's living standards and to be a stage that shows the unique features of a city. This study is to explore its historical, cultural, landscape reflected in the system of relations, to highlight its unique regional culture about landscape.

2 AN OVERVIEW OF XISHAN PARK

2.1 Brief introduction of the park

Xishan Parks surrounding the Southwest University of Science and Technology, is one of the four major parks in Mianyang. Established by Mianyang Municipal

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Bureau of Culture in the 1986s, and covering an area of 39.7 ha, it is a Heritage Park integrated cultural sites, landscape and religions together. Accounted for 90% of the land area of the green area, the park, filling with oxygen, is providing a sufficient approach to the nature for the customers.

The rest of the land area is cultural relics sites, where the Zi Yun Pavilion which had been inscribed by one of the most famous contemporary litterateur Moruo Guo is in the center surrounded by pavilion, tumulus, temple, hippocrene, elongate bamboo and so forth. Taoist statues in Yu Nv Spring has been elected as one of the first batch of Historical and Revolutionary Cultural Relics Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Sichuan Province, Jiang Wan Tomb has been elected as Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Sichuan Province and Xishan Taoist Abbey has been elected as one of the first batch of Historical and Revolutionary Cultural Relics Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Sichuan Province. Zi Yun Pavilion, Jiang Wan Tomb, Yu Nv Spring and Xishan Taoist Abbey compose of four resorts in Xishan.

2.2 A few introductory storiettes about the park

According to legend, Yang Xiong, one of the most famous litterateurs in Han Dynasty, was devoting himself in study in Xishan Park where a girl, adjacent to Dushu Tai, called Yu Nv, had fell in love with him, however, he was beginning to go to the capital city for the test of governance to obtain high official positions soon after which made the girl thoroughly inconsolable. The girl’s tears were flowing into the spring, so we call it Yu Nv Spring nowadays.

3 HISTORICAL CULTURE OF XISHAN PARK

3.1 Cultures of Three Kingdoms

As saying goes ‘Heroes are in times of disorder’. Jiang Wan, a Prime Minister of the kingdom of Shu Han (221-263), was born in turbulent times and finally became great general in Shu. His contributions which was highly praised by descendants were recorded in history records which were preserved in Jiang Yuan where Jiang Wan Tomb was.
3.2 Cultures of Han Dynasty

In Han Dynasty, surrounded by mountains the Sichuan Basin was difficult to reach for ancient people who went on a long journey by horseback riding only which breeding a unique culture. Yang Xiong represented this unique culture with his talent, loyalty and honor. Liu Yuxi, a talented poet, spoke highly of him by writing an essay called *Lou Shi Ming*.

3.3 Cultures of religions

The Taoist principle of harmony with nature reflectes in the design of Xishan Park and Xishan Taoist Abbey, mixing with Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism, was a structurally-complete temple.

ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ELEMENTS

4. Ancient architect

4.1.1 Zi Yun Pavilion in Western

Zi Yun Pavilion was built to commemorate Yang Xiong who is one of the most famous litterateurs, linguists and philosophers of the Western Han Dynasty. Located in the Yang Xiong’s reading desk is the former site of which had been reconstructed twice hangs on Guo Moruo’s script Zi Yun Pavilion plaque and now it is renamed as Dushu Tai where is now a pavilion to overlook the vision and rest a while for visitors. Adopting antique pavilion style, the new construction integrating towers and pavilion together, is a blue glazed tile roofs where you will stuck in the elegant and majestic place.

Surrounding the Zi Yun Pavilion around, Camphor trees with its invisible green leaves make an elongation of the entire sense of space to make visitors feel safe and sound. Well-proportioned light and shadow of the trees irradiated onto the blue glazed tile to manifest unparalleled landscape effect. In the middle of the Zi Yun Pavilion comes to a sculpture describing a meditation posture of Yang Xiong which can make visitors affect by the dense historical atmosphere.

Approaching by planting tree with slender branches just like bamboo and vine, Dushu Tai creates fresh and exquisite atmosphere that makes you feel Yang Xiong’s invigorating reading sound. In the north of Dushu Tai is Ximo Chi which is set in the stairway and is by pile up huangshi to show it’s inspiration.

4.1.2 Jiang Wan Tomb

Jiang Yuan was built to memorize Jiang Wan who has maintained the regime of Shu. The figure of Jiang Wan Tomb is simple and solemn and in front of it is a monument carved ‘Han Da Si Ma Jiang Gong Hou’. The Tomb is a regular octagon consisting of four parts: seat, body, eaves and roof. To show their respect people try to built solemn and respectful atmosphere by planting green pines and blue cypress all around.
4.1.3 XISHAN TAOIST ABBEY

Xishan Taoist Abbey remains cultures of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism harmoniously. Built in the Sui and Tang Dynasties, it presents the unique character of Taoism. The main building of Xishan Taoist Abbey, called ‘Baxian Dian’, is featured by thick stone columns carving on script couplets to combine calligraphy, poetry, sculpture and architecture.

4.2 Ancient and famous plants

There is many botanical gardens in Xishan Park, such as Osmanthus Garden, Chimonanthus Praecox Garden, Sakura Garden, Crabapple Garden and Lotus Pond. The crape myrtle living for more than 600 years and Chinese Wisteria living for more than 200 years which are classified as ancient and famous trees are protected in Xishan Park. The thick vegetation becomes a major feature of Xishan park.

4.2.1 CRAPE MYRTLE

The crape myrtle has been living for more than 600 years in Xishan Park and is considered as ‘Living Sculpture’ by artists owing to its shape. It is like a beautiful fairy in Summer, and like a sculpture of a master of art, quiet still, and alive in Autumn.

4.2.2 CHINESE WISTARIA

Chinese wisteria living for more than 200 years, has made into a flower corridor in the courtyard. Its stems are winding and it’s flowers are hanging among the green leaves. In Summer, the fragrance of the flowers abounds in the courtyard, giving people a sense of leisure.

4.3 Water

Yunv Spring with clear, inexhaustible spring flowing out from the swallet is situated in the Xishan Taoist Abbey and adjacent to Dushu Tai. Between Yunv Spring and Dushu Tai, there is a rock with Cliff inscriptions of Taoism dating back from Tang and Song Dynasties that have been appraised as the Historical and Revolutionary Cultural Relics Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Sichuan Province.

Below the Yunv Spring a statue made by white marble in the middle of the Yunv Lake which is a bay of a jeweled mirrors lake. The organic combination of the style of Jiangnan gardens and the style of Western Sichuan gardens is approached by ancient architectures and meaningful plants.
5 CONCLUSION

From the above analysis of Xishan Park pointed out that the combination of history, culture and landscape planning are closely interlinked and the unique features of the mountainous region are maintained on the basis of protecting the historical and cultural relics. Although the functional organization of scenic spot is not very reasonable, the combination of history, culture and landscape planning of Xishan Park promotes the connotation of Mianyang City and displays the cultural relics with their history.

In short, history and culture will become an indispensable element in landscape construction.

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REFERENCES

