Study on Folk-house’s Landscape Renovation of Pingwu—A Case Research on Senbola Folk-house in Doukou Town

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ABSTRACT

In order to design folk-house with unique village culture of Pingwu which provides short-term accommodation and create modern residential landscape environment, this paper researched the new methods and new forms of improving the folk-house’s landscape of Mianyang Pingwu by taking Senbola folk-house for example. We conclude that folk-houses should return to nature and retain characteristics.

Key word: folk-house; landscape renovation; Pingwu county

1 INTRODUCTION

Even today, the areas outside city, remain to be treasured and attractive. In natural environment and countryside, what we called “second nature”, there are vast land, mountains and rivers; there are also scenic spots, rural scenery, ancient villages. Modernization seems to have developed here from city, but they are more like a place filled with beauty of thousands of years, to eliminate the fever of modernization. So rural tourism becomes a primary choice for city dwellers for holidays, which promotes the growth of rural folk-house for short-term accommodation. From the tourism point, folk-house that based on knowledge economy and natural ecological environment meets the needs of the travelers for green experience. From the economy point, the development of rural folk-house transforms the rural economic structure and increases local resident income. From the culture point, excellent folk-house design is conducive to protecting the local
culture and natural environment, thereby restoring the charm of the countryside and promoting the cultural competitiveness. However, many of the original rural folk-houses are losing their true face on account of commercial exploitation and utilization. It is time to find the new methods and new forms improving the folk-houses’ landscape in Pingwu Mianyang.

2 STUDY AREA
2.1 Location analysis

The project is located in Pingwu, which is in northwest of the Sichuan basin and the gateway of the famous scenic area Jiuzhaigou and Huanglong. Gansu province is on the north and Jiangyou on the southeast.

2.2 Nature resource

There are abundant rainfall, mild climate, rich soil, pleasant natural environment and rich wildlife resources in Doukou town where the forest covers an area of 9687 hectares and forest coverage is 74%.

2.3 Culture resource

Doukou town is the main area of producing pingwu green tea, where old tea trees can be found frequently. Long Zhou Qing Si produced in Doukou town, a kind of famous tea, has dedicated to the emperor as a tribute in Song dynasty. The people who live here still carry on the ancient craft of hand-making tea.

2.4 Status analysis

Senbola folk-house which is on the mountainside is located in Doukou town, Pingwu county. There is a clear stream from the mountain flowing through here. Because there is no big industry, the air is fresh and the environment is quiet. The host of folk-house owns good peach grove and tea grove which are planted on three platforms. It is indicated that there are several advantages for developing a folk-house.

2.5 Function orientation

Making Senbola folk-house an integrated modern suburban folk-house includes these functions: agricultural production, sightseeing and picking, leisure and entertainment, science popularization education, ecological vacation, and health preservation.

3 METHODS

3.1 Design methods

Liu Cong, a travel planning expert, said that “There are only three ways to build an excellent folk-house. First, local cultural elements should be heavily
used. We should bear in mind that development is more significant than reconstruction. Second, devoting energy instead of money and only sincerity can move visitors’ hearts. Third, doing things rather than showing them. The details determine the overall impression. Different landscapes exist in different places, so in the construction of the residential landscape of folk-house, we emphasize remaining regional characteristics to enhance the identification and attractiveness of the rural folk-house. Three concrete methods are summarized as follows after analyzing the landscape elements of the countryside.

In order to identify the theme and design attractive spot, we should pay attention to explore local natural elements and find advantages based on the natural properties of the region.

To control human intervention and maintain natural texture, we need to refine the indigenous landscape elements of the planning area that would be applied to landscape architecture which transform the natural landscape to the minimum. For example, service buildings are built in local residential style which not only meets people's needs, but also reflects regional characteristics.

It is more important that cultural landscape should be create on the basis of protecting, perpetuating and making full use of natural resources, which is the only way to create a vibrant rural tourist landscape.

In conclusion, it is the worst that building folk-house in a "urbanized" manner or "luxury" style. The most important thing in the landscape design is keeping real country pastoral landscape. What’s more, improving rural infrastructure to meet the needs of modern urban people.

3.2 Holistic development concept

In consider of mountainous and complex terrain here, our planning and design relies on current situation and avoids large-scale soil adjustments. It is matter that the stream will be good used to be a feature landscape where people can freely communicate with nature through platforms and pavilions.

The ground is covered with the host's crops and fruit trees mainly including peach trees, plum trees and loquat trees. It is difficult to enter the land because of the lack of effective management and good growth of weeds. This part is planned to be a special gathering area where visitors can camp or pick fruit by adding a walkway and rest area.

The following aspects are considered emphatically: environmental planning, landscape quality, spatial processing, and infrastructure. All landscape elements are integrated which embodies the idea of “from nature and assimilated into nature”.

4 RESULTS

With the purpose of creating a convenient as well as unique residential area and achieving the harmony of production and life, we divided Senbola folk-house into 4 areas. It is thought carefully that natural environment pattern and industrial planning.
Residential area: We find out that the number of current rooms can't meet the demand of tourists by analyzing the number of visitors over the past few years. Therefore two options are given (see Figure 1): one is adding a 5-6m-wide platform where new build is built above on the outer side of the highway and the pillars is on the first layer platform. The total area of the new building is 220 square meters. The other is constructing “Diaojiaolou”, a unique type of residential building with Chinese characteristics, and the pillars is on the second layer platform. The total area of the new building is 400 square meters. The new buildings of two schemes both imitate traditional folk style and use local building materials.

Figure 1. New architectural sketches.

Camping area: Because there is abundant tea culture, a large number of tourists go to Pingwu to experience the pleasure of picking in spring. Senbola folk-house receives a lot of visitors every year who are interested in picking tea. Many people camp here with their own tents because of the shortage of rooms. According to this situation, the first and second platform are opened as a camping area which would be the first unique camping site of Pingwu. In the meantime, the signs, charging pile, shower room and public toilet should also be equipped to meet the demand of tourists.

Picking area: We reserve and improve the area where tea trees and fruit trees are planted in large quantities which appeal to a lot of tourists. Visitors can pick tea and admire beautiful flower in spring and pick fruit in summer and autumn. Many trails are set up to guide visitors into the area while small outdoor tables and chairs are placed to provide rest ground for visitors.

Stream area: When designing the stream landscape, we mainly consider the following three aspects. (1) Protection for natural resources: our planning and design is based on the current and natural vegetation. The observation deck and the pavilion are built in the open area according to the topography. (2) Security: setting up a wooden walkway or flagstone road along the stream and safety sign should be placed in danger area where people may slip and fall because of carelessness. (3) Nature of human's love for water: small bridges and stones are placed for people to go through which shorten the distance between people and water.
5 CONCLUSION

In summary, we concluded: designing folk-house landscape is based on ecology, aesthetics and sustainable development as theory basis, protecting the ecological environment, remaining regional characteristics, respecting rural life and promoting rural economic as design concept, following the principles of ecology, culture, characteristics, economy and suitability. What’s more, it’s equally important that adding modern innovation element in order to meet the demand of tourists and keep the vitality of folk-house. This paper provides an example for the design of folk-house landscape of Pingwu county by designing the landscape of Senbola folk-house.

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