

Research on the Artistic Characteristics of the Classical Gardens in Suzhou

Wanxi Wang

Yangtze University, Jingzhou, Hubei Province, 434025, China

Keywords: Suzhou classical garden, Artistic features, Treatment techniques

Abstract: The Classical Gardens in Suzhou is the art treasure of China with a long history. As the representative of private gardens in the south of the Yangtze River, its construction history can be traced back to the Spring and Autumn period, and it has been thousands of years. The combination of house and garden has the characteristics of playing, watching and living. This paper focuses on the artistic characteristics of Suzhou classical garden, analyzes the specific content of Suzhou classical garden art, and describes the artistic characteristics of the garden for reference.

1. Introduction

From the Five Dynasties to the middle of the Qing Dynasty, the development of Suzhou classical gardens gradually expanded. Suzhou combines commerce and handicraft industry together. With the support of natural conditions, a large number of high-quality painters and poets have emerged. As a result, many dignitaries and rich businessmen have been attracted to stay and strive to create gardens. In the design and construction of Suzhou classical gardens, a large number of artistic ideas have been integrated, making it the garden with the highest artistic level so far. It has a profound and poetic style. The analysis of its artistic characteristics is helpful to summarize and innovate the garden art, and has a positive significance for the practice of related industries.

2. The Specific Content of Suzhou Classical Garden Art

2.1 Architecture

In the construction of Suzhou classical gardens, the local characteristics are mainly combined, and the cornice, angle warped roof and roll shed roof of wood structure are used to give people a lively visual feeling. Pavilions and walls are used to connect the buildings, adding a more obvious sense of hierarchy to the space. Moreover, whether in the external decoration of buildings, internal furniture decoration, or color, they are in harmony with the natural environment, so that the building and the environment are integrated. [1] Suzhou classical garden building modeling and color processing techniques are used in many areas. For example, Yiqin Garden and Yi'an Garden in Tongling area are transformed by using the modeling and color processing techniques of Suzhou classical gardens for reference.

2.2 Rockery

The rockery of Suzhou classical garden is also unique, which integrates the unique art in the design of rockery, and Tongling district also uses the rockery art style of Suzhou classical garden for reference in the design and transformation of rockery. For example, the Bijia Mountain built in Tongling area in the late 1990s, which uses a large number of Yellowstone to make flower beds, is an extension of the method of stacking Yellowstone rockeries in Suzhou classical gardens.

2.3 Layout of Waters

Suzhou is known as a water town. In the classical garden, there are many rockery; the existence of rockery is bound to have the water background, so it is more realistic. In the layout of waters, gardens are mainly divided by mountains and water as the axis. In the actual process of water layout, two methods of gathering and dividing are used. When the geological conditions and area of the garden are different, the generated shoreline is also different. When dealing with the water surface, Suzhou classical gardens follow the principle of raising the water surface, so that the water surface can be closer to the shoreline, giving people a kind and calm feeling, and this water layout method can increase the overall three-dimensional sense of the garden. [2]

2.4 Matching of Ornamental Plants

For any garden, plants are a very important component, through the configuration of plants can improve the vitality of the garden. Therefore, plants in the garden mainly play the role of embellishment, foil, ornament. In Suzhou classical gardens, all the ornamental plants have special requirements for collocation and configuration, which also reflects the garden art. In the design stage, the designer will combine the rockery, buildings, water and other factors in the garden to design the corresponding plant type, and the suitable growth area for plants, so as to coordinate the plants with all the surrounding environment. [3] According to relevant data, there are hundreds of plants planted in Suzhou classical gardens.

3. The Main Artistic Features of Suzhou Classical Garden

3.1 Poetic Charm

One of the overall artistic characteristics of Suzhou classical garden is poetic and pictorial. Whether in the design, construction or maintenance of the garden, we should follow the principle of “taking from nature, better than nature”, so that the garden is full of more natural elements. The poetic and pictorial features of Suzhou classical gardens can be mainly reflected in the following aspects: from the Song Dynasty to the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the construction of Suzhou classical gardens is from literati scholars or poets and painters. While painting and appreciating the scenery, poetry will be left, adding a sense of calligraphy to the garden, and higher requirements for the artistic conception of poetry and painting are put forward in the construction of gardens. For example, there are two water surface island mountains in Drifting Fragrance Hall of the Humble Administrator's Garden, which are divided into main mountain and auxiliary mountain. From the overall layout, the theme of the main mountain is “the Prunus Mume Pavilion”, and winter elements are adopted in design and construction. The theme of the auxiliary mountain is “the Orange Pavilion”, and autumn elements are integrated. Although the styles of the two island mountains are different, they have different styles. In addition, the theme of “Chinese Parasol and Bamboo Pavilion” selects summer elements; the “Malus Spring Castle” in the garden resentment is to

integrate spring elements, which makes people feel the spring breeze. Loquat garden, which is connected with the “Malus Spring Castle”, can reflect the scenery of early summer. The poetic and pictorial characteristics of Suzhou classical garden can be fully reflected in different themes of spring, summer, autumn and winter.

3.2 The Organization Space is is Much in Little

The organizational space of Suzhou classical garden has the characteristics of “much in little”. This paper takes the garden as an example to analyze. The total area of the park is about 50 mu, which is very large. It can be divided into four parts, namely, the central, eastern, northern and western areas. The east is mainly a courtyard area, and its most representative building is the five peak immortal hall. In the east of the five peak immortal hall, there are also the Reading Office and Yifeng Pavilion and other halls. In the design, the designer has expanded a narrow area. The use of courtyard corridor as the dividing point and connection point makes the original narrow space have a turning point, which can reflect the artistic characteristics of Suzhou classical garden organization space. [4]

3.3 Contrast and Complement Each Other

In the construction of gardens, we attach great importance to the size, height, level, light and shadow, hue and texture used by the form. By designing these factors reasonably, many landscape elements in the garden can be set off. Taking two water island mountains in Drifting Fragrance Hall of Humble Administrator's Garden as an example, the rockery in the south is small in volume and larger in the north. This design is mainly for small lining. In the south, the rockery is located in the South and North. The overall outline of the rockery will not be exposed to the sun, or it can be called “Shade Mountain”. The rockery in the north is facing the south, and its outline will be exposed to the sun, and it can also be called “Sun Mountain”. In this way, the design can reflect the relationship between the two rockeries “with dark lining”. This contrast set off processing method has a lot of attention and requirements in Suzhou garden, and also built a unique rockery landscape.

3.4 Movement of Steps and Shift of Scenes

It is precisely because of the use of the method of organizing space to see the big from the small that Suzhou classical gardens also have a little bit of artistic characteristics of step-by-step landscape design. The reason for the spatial organization of the garden is to design a more intuitive and convenient tour route, so that tourists can directly go to the viewing point according to the tour route. In Suzhou gardens, the ornamental scenery is mainly concentrated in the landscape, greening, buildings, interior design and furnishings, plaque poetry and other aspects. Whether tourists are indoors or outdoors, they can enjoy a good viewing experience.

3.5 Garden in Garden

On the whole, Suzhou classical garden covers a large area, and its main artistic conception is to reflect the leisure and interest of beautiful scenery. Therefore, in the design stage, the sense of hierarchy and space are paid more attention, and the designer adopts the method of connecting hierarchy and space to design, reflecting the artistic characteristics of the garden. Like the Humble Administrator's Garden. It was established in the Zhengde Period of the Ming Dynasty. At present, the garden mainly presents the scale of the late Qing Dynasty, which can be divided into three parts: the central part, the eastern part and the western part. Among them, the central part is the core of the

garden, covering an area of about 18 mu. There are two small islands in the pool of the garden, on which pavilions are built and curved bridges are built as connections. In the south of the pool, the main body of the building is Drifting Fragrance Hall. In the East, an independent courtyard is built, named loquat garden. In the south-west of the pool, Line Gallery and Xiangzhou Garden are built. In the west of the Humble Administrator's Garden, there are mainly pools and islands in the water. In the south of the pools, there are thirty-six Mandarin Duck Halls. [5] In the east of the Humble Administrator's Garden, Espace Elastique has few old buildings, but more are newly built in modern times.

4. Conclusion

This paper mainly analyzes the artistic characteristics of Suzhou classical gardens. Through the above analysis, it can be found that the construction of Suzhou classical gardens mainly combines the local characteristics and integrates a lot of artistic ideas, making it the highest artistic level garden so far. Suzhou classical garden architecture, rockery, water management, ornamental plant collocation can reflect the artistic characteristics. In addition, Suzhou classical gardens have many unique artistic characteristics, which can be reflected in the following aspects: poetic charm, the organization space is is much in little, contrast and complement each other, movement of steps and shift of scenes, garden in garden and so on.

References

- [1] Chang Xin. *Research on the application of Suzhou classical garden elements and techniques in resort hotel landscape design* [D]. 2019: 56
- [2] Yu Xuedan, Liao Haiyun, Ding Zheng. *Analysis of bridge rhyme in Suzhou Classical Gardens* [J]. *Henan Building Materials*, 2020 (03): 114-115
- [3] Chen Kexin. *Analysis of the landscaping function of Suzhou classical garden doors and windows* [J]. *Modern Horticulture*, 2020, No. 404 (08): 95-96
- [4] Tong Yonglin, Huang Xi, Huang Zijun, et al. *Study on historical development and Modern Deduction of stone setting in Suzhou Classical Gardens* [J]. *Journal of College of Electronic Engineering*, 2019, 008 (010): p.217-217
- [5] Wang Hui, Ma Jianwu. *Poetic analysis of boat in Suzhou Classical Garden -- Taking A Red Boat as an example* [J]. *Building Materials and Decoration*, 2020, 000 (006): 62-64