# Inheritance, Protection and Tourism Development of ''Silk Road Cultural Heritage''—Taking Xingguo Temple in Qin'an as an Example

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*Abstract:* As a typical immovable large cultural relic, cultural relic architecture is the product and symbol of a country and national civilization, which contains very rich historical and cultural information, and is a concrete representation of a nation's history. The building complex of the Xingguo Temple in Qin'an is the largest building cultural relics group built in the Yuan Dynasty, and also one of the longest preserved wooden structures in Gansu Province. It has not suffered much damage in the long history development process. Its architecture vividly reflects the unique characteristics of the architecture of the Yuan Dynasty - the inclined beam component, which is a rare historical and cultural treasure, with high cultural relics, scientific and artistic value. Taking the Xingguo Temple complex in Qin'an as an example, this paper, from the perspective of inheritance and protection, and excavates the historical and cultural connotation of the original complex on the basis of protective construction, so as to promote the development of local tourism and cultural industry.

# **1. Introduction**

The Xingguo Temple in Qin'an is a valuable architectural heritage in China. It has the main characteristics of China's early wooden structure architecture and vividly reflects the height achieved in the design and construction of wooden structure architecture in China. It is of great significance for the study of the development history of ancient Chinese architecture. However, the protection of wooden building structures has always been a complex and systematic project, which has been affected by many factors. It is necessary for researchers to carry out protective construction and development on the basis of strict compliance with the protection principles of wooden structures and in combination with the specific situation of the Xingguo Temple in Qin'an. In addition, during the long-term historical development process of the Qin'an Xingguo Temple, many historical and cultural stories have been born. These stories are a vivid reflection of the people's life and social trend of thought in that historical period. They are also the contents that need to be focused on when developing the tourism industry of the Qin'an Xingguo Temple, and also the difficult problems that must be solved in the follow-up basic research.

# 2. Overview of Xingguo Temple

Xingguo Temple is located in Xingguo Town in the center of Qin'an County, Gansu Province. Its overall architectural complex faces east and west, and is backed by Fengshan Mountain and Hulu River. There are very favorable natural and geographical conditions nearby. Xingguo Temple, formerly known as Xinggu Temple, was first built in the period from the Yuan Dynasty to Shun Dynasty. It was a representative Buddhist temple at that time. Its overall architectural style was simple and dignified, and it also had a more comprehensive consideration on the practicability of the building. It was listed as one of the "eight scenic spots in Qin'an" in the Ming Dynasty, which shows its important historical and cultural status. Since the founding of the Yuan Dynasty, the Xingguo Temple in Qin'an has enjoyed continuous incense and prosperity for hundreds of years. However, at some specific historical nodes, the Xingguo Temple will inevitably be affected by some unexpected factors, especially because of its own wooden structure, and the building itself will also be greatly affected by natural factors. In order to avoid the damage of the building itself caused by the aging of the building, the local government of Qin'an and some civil organizations are also carrying out continuous repairs to it. During the Wanli period of the Ming Dynasty, Zhao Bian, the county magistrate of Qin'an, organized a large-scale renovation work, and carried out a series of expansion on the basis of the original building group. [1]Later, in the Qianlong period of the Qing Dynasty, protective repairs were also carried out on the basis of the original building. After modern times, Xingguo Temple was not seriously damaged due to the war in Gansu Province, which was far away from the Central Plains. The only large-scale collapse was caused by the earthquake in Qin'an County in 1920. This earthquake caused many temples in Xingguo Temple to collapse and tilt. It was not until 1937 that the local Buddhist association in Qin'an funded the systematic repair. When the Jialan Hall of Xingguo Temple was repaired in 1953, people found the woodcut inscription "rebuilt in the 43rd year of the Wanli period of the Ming Dynasty". Later, when it was repaired in 1974, they found the woodcut inscription "built in the first year of the Yuan Dynasty", which also thoroughly clarified the construction and repair history of Xingguo Temple. The most recent repair was in 1999, which was the largest in the history of Xingguo Temple. This repair was directly responsible by the State Administration of Cultural Relics, with more than 3 million yuan allocated by the central government. On the basis of careful analysis of the architectural characteristics of the Yuan Dynasty, the ancient architectural experts of the Administration of Cultural Relics carried out protective repair and development in accordance with the basic principle of "repair as old". First of all, the well-preserved Prajna Hall, Vajra Hall, Jieyin Buddha Hall and Bell Tower have been comprehensively repaired, and then some of the more seriously damaged temples have been systematically rebuilt, such as the King of Heaven Hall, the Bodhisattva Hall, the Galan Hall and the Drum Tower. This repair work has established the basic architectural pattern of Xingguo Temple today, which makes Xingguo Temple sweep away the original sense of dilapidation and rekindle new vitality and vitality, Presented in front of tourists with a new look. At present, the Xingguo Temple in Qin'an covers an area of about 2800 square meters, with a building area of 442 square meters. Xingguo Temple is very unique in the overall architectural pattern. Most of the general temples are north-south, but Xingguo Temple is east-west with mountains and water behind it. Its overall architectural pattern shows a strict symmetry, arranged on a central axis from west to east. From the main entrance, the buildings in the temple are the Vajra Hall, the Heavenly King Hall, the Jievin Buddha Hall and the main hall Prajna Hall.

The Xingguo Temple in Qin'an is the most well-preserved wood-structured building complex in the five northwest provinces, which has important historical and cultural significance. First of all, it provided valuable physical materials for the study of architecture in the Yuan Dynasty, and made outstanding contributions to the improvement of the history of architecture development in China. On the other hand, the rich historical and cultural connotation of Xingguo Temple also gave the local opportunity to develop cultural tourism industry, which can effectively promote the development of local economy and cultural popularity.[2]

# 3. Current situation of cultural relics and heritage protection in Gansu Province

Since the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the protection of local cultural heritage has been attached importance by local people's governments. China's society is currently in the stage of rapid economic and spiritual development. On the one hand, the rapid economic development has made the material life of the vast majority of the people obtain unprecedented satisfaction, but the spiritual civilization has not reached the height consistent with it. Cultural relics, as precious historical and cultural materials in the process of China's historical development, are a concrete representation of China's ancient history and culture, with strong artistic and cultural value.[3] Gansu Province has a very rich historical and cultural heritage, such as Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes, Qin'an Xingguo Temple and the Great Wall Jiayuguan. In order to better protect these historical and cultural heritage, the Gansu Provincial Government has also adopted a variety of policies in the process of decades, effectively promoting the protection and development of cultural relics in the province. This paper mainly focuses on the protection and research of Qin'an Xingguo Temple, which is mainly reflected in the following aspects:

# **3.1.** Keeping in mind the central commission and building a "model" of cultural heritage construction

The Xingguo Temple in Qin'an is the most well-preserved wood-structured building complex in the five northwest provinces of China. It has a strong historical and cultural significance. Its protection has received close attention from the State Administration of Cultural Relics and the Gansu Provincial Government, and has issued some highly targeted policies to support the protection and development of this cultural heritage. First of all, the provincial government and Xingguo Temple have carried out active docking and coordination, and given some support in terms of policies, projects and funds, so as to better promote the protection and development research of Xingguo Temple. Secondly, it is to build a "model" for the protection of wood structure buildings in the five northwest provinces, set up a special research group to carry out field investigation and project research on the wood structure buildings of Xingguo Temple itself, and actively apply for the national key laboratory in the field of component cultural heritage. Finally, we should strive to build a "highland" for the cultural research of Xingguo Temple. The cultural research of Xingguo Temple in Qin'an is mainly reflected in two aspects. The first is the study of the wood structure architectural culture. The wood structure architectural construction method of Xingguo Temple is a typical traditional Chinese architectural form, which well displays the architectural cultural characteristics of the Yuan Dynasty in terms of architectural structure and architectural form. The second is the historical and cultural research of Xingguo Temple itself. Xingguo Temple has produced many historical and cultural stories in the longterm historical development process. Many historical and cultural relics have also been left in many places of the temple itself. The research and development of Xingguo Temple can well improve its reputation and cultural and historical connotation.

# 3.2. Benchmarking modern and optimizing the protection and utilization of cultural relics

The Xingguo Temple in Qin'an is a typical wood-structured building community. Its overall architecture is made of wood, and the selection of materials is exquisite. This kind of wooden structure building is different from ordinary ancient buildings. Because the wooden structure itself has certain difficulties in preservation, it is easy to be affected by various natural reasons, such as moisture

erosion, insect bites, etc., which will greatly affect the safety of the building. If it is not handled carefully, it will easily collapse or even damage the building. Based on this reality, the Gansu Provincial Government has carried out a series of research work on the protection of wooden structures in view of the specific situation of Xingguo Temple in Qin'an, using modern scientific means to analyze and solve the problems existing in the wooden structures of Xingguo Temple. Especially in the area of wood structure protection, Qin'an County Government has set up a special wood conservation, drying and anti-corrosion research team, which has developed a highly targeted wood protection strategy based on the specific situation of Xingguo Temple building wood, effectively improving the safety and stability of Xingguo Temple building in Qin'an, and laying a solid foundation for its long-term development in the future.

# 4. Inheritance and protection mode of cultural heritage in tourism development of Xingguo Temple in Qin'an

#### 4.1. Protection mode of wooden structure buildings of Xingguo Temple in Qin'an

The Xingguo Temple in Qin'an has experienced many small-scale destruction and reconstruction in the long-term historical development process, which is mainly determined by the characteristics of its wooden structure. Wooden buildings are very beautiful in shape and have strong artistic and aesthetic value, but one thing to note is that wood itself is a typical organic compound. Besides being very flammable, it is also very easy to decay and moth. Under the long-term impact of microorganisms and climate, it is difficult to preserve for a long time, and it must be reinforced and repaired every time. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct in-depth analysis and research on the protection and repair of wooden structures. In the past several repairs, the Xingguo Temple in Qin'an still adopts the traditional repair method, that is, adding iron materials around the building wood for reinforcement, but this repair method has great drawbacks. First of all, the iron material itself is easy to rust, so rust removal and anti-rust treatment must be carried out before use. This process is timeconsuming and laborious, and will also cause new damage to the building itself. At the same time, the construction period of the traditional repair method is often, and the site disturbance is large. In this process, the original structure will be changed to a certain extent. In addition to the need to reinforce the building itself, the insect prevention of wood is also a problem that needs to be focused on. The traditional insect prevention work is to treat the building with low-toxic insect repellent, but this way will make the toxic substances have a certain impact on people and the environment, which is not conducive to the long-term development of Xingguo Temple scenic area. However, at present, China's cultural relics protection units have developed new wooden structure building protection materials, which can effectively avoid the negative impact of the above traditional repair methods on the building.

#### 4.2. Tourism development mode of Xingguo Temple in Qin'an

The Xingguo Temple in Qin'an is surrounded by mountains and water, and its natural and geographical environment is very beautiful. Therefore, it is very suitable to combine the surrounding scenic spots for the dual development of human resources and historical and cultural resources, so as to achieve regional economic integration. On the one hand, Xingguo Temple itself has very rich historical and cultural resources. As an excellent tourism and cultural business card, it can well impress the tourism popularity of the region, thus attracting more tourists to visit and consume, which is also a kind of promotion and publicity of Xingguo Temple culture. On the other hand, the natural environment around Xingguo Temple can also provide good tourism supporting facilities for the temple. Taking Xingguo Temple as the center can also develop a variety of tourism forms such as

natural ecological tourism, which provides a rich source of income for the surrounding people, promotes the development of the local economy, and improves the living standard of the people.

# **5.** Conclusion

This topic takes the Xingguo Temple in Qin'an as the research object, based on the analysis of the basic situation of Xingguo Temple, and in combination with the cultural relics protection policy of Gansu Province, it has carried out some discussion and research on its scientific protection strategy, heritage tourism development mode, and provided a certain theoretical reference for the development of local tourism economy and cultural relics protection.

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