

Several Typical Ways for Promoting Regional Vitality with Cultural Space in Urban Renewal

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Abstract: Regional vitality is an important part that needs to be studied in urban renewal. Like other living systems, regional vitality has some organic characteristics. As a bridge to stimulate vitality, it is necessary to carefully study the reasonable construction of cultural space under different renewal scales, so as to provide a reference for specific regions to drive the interactive development of urban material environment and social connection.

1. Introduction

Urban renewal is to improve the spatial form and function of the urban built-up areas. In urban renewal, cultural space can serve as a bridge between the restoration of urban physical space and the activation of social and cultural environment. For one thing, culture means a concentrated reflection of city history, and for another, it also contains a sense of belonging, recognition and participation. In many urban renewal cases, regions create very different cultural spaces based on different cultural capital. Regional vitality takes cultural space as the sustainable power unit, and various visible and abundant activities resist the occurrence of old city decline with unique regional particularity in the transformation of urban development mode.

Jacobs, Jane's *Death and Life of Great American Cities* states that the core factor of the "death and life" of the urban environment is the vitality of the city. As urban renewal pays more and more attention to human experience, the single and rigid planning mode cannot help to drive regional vitality in the built environment of the city. In order to activate the depressed inner city economy, some cities demolish and build new areas on a large scale, or only retain a small part of the physical cultural material environment, buildings and facilities. This means of abrupt renewal carries great risks for regional vitality, like the cultural disconnection brought by the collective removal of indigenous people and the uncertainty of the new large-area commercial development. In the article "Urban Character", Ge Jianxiong proposed that the context of a city cannot be separated from those who can inherit the context. Residents are not only the guardians of the city's character, but also its critics, changers and shapers. The activation of cultural space can not only keep the historical memory of the city, but also retain the vitality of the region through public participation, thus gradually ushering in the comprehensive renewal of society, economy and culture. Since the concepts of cultural space and regional vitality both have complex deep connotations and involve multiple factors such as the uniqueness of urban history and the contingency of social economy, it is necessary to sort out specific cases of stimulating regional vitality with cultural space at home and abroad, summarize typical ways, and discuss common problems in depth, so as to provide experience for the renewal of urban cage areas in Shanghai at the present stage and supplement the possible deficiencies.

2. The Practice of "Culture-guided" Urban Renewal in Glasgow, UK

2.1 Glasgow city renewal background

Glasgow, located in the west of Scotland, is currently Scotland's largest city and largest commercial port, and the third largest city in the United Kingdom. It has a prosperous history of industrial and

commercial trade. During the Industrial Revolution, Glasgow was known as the "second city of the Empire" after London and the third European city after London and Paris, which has a population of one million. However, due to the effects of the Great Depression and two World Wars in the 1930s, the economy in Glasgow began to decline. In the early 1970s and 1980s, Glasgow cities began a prolonged depression following high unemployment and declining living standards due to the decline of heavy industry.

With the rise of neoliberalism, the formulation of urban renewal planning needs to meet the different demands of the living environment. Glasgow is trying to improve its image by tapping into its heritage in an effort to attract more investment. In 1976, the Scottish Development Agency was established with the main aim of promoting economic development, and in 1985 it commissioned McKinsey Consulting to identify the root causes of Glasgow's decline and recommend ways to address them, and proposed to gradually build a spiritual image of the city for citizens and visitors through a redesign of the city centre.

2.2 "Glasgow Action"

The agency commissioned McKinsey Consulting to identify the root causes of Glasgow's decline through research and provide solutions to the problem. The "Glasgow Action" focuses on making the city more attractive to the population through culture-led regeneration. Some important cultural space elements that enhance the city's image are the Scottish Opera, National Symphony Orchestra, New Civic Centre, Design of Mackintosh, Burrell Collection, the second largest art collection in the UK, Royal Music and Drama and Concert Hall. The old shipyard base along the city has been partially dismantled and partially renovated into high-grade residential buildings and office buildings, becoming an important element in the cultural-guided urban renewal.

In addition, in order to cultivate the citizens' sense of urban pride, historical and cultural identity, the city government implemented the Glasgow's Miles Better urban movement while transforming the material environment, convincing citizens and tourists that Glasgow's once prosperous industrial and commercial trade historical and cultural factors could become a comparative advantage and important resource in urban development. In addition, "Glasgow Action" promotes culture in the minds of citizens by directly supporting culture-related grassroots arts activities such as short-term exhibitions, community art projects and competitions.

After a series of above efforts, Glasgow was elected as the Capital of European Culture in 1990 and the "City of Architecture and Design" in 1999. The city's tertiary industry is thriving and Glasgow is now one of Scotland's most popular tourist destinations, having made the transition from a declining pre-industrial city to a post-industrial one.

Glasgow's successful revival of cultural space provides a valuable path for other industrial cities with a long history and cultural resources to transform into a commercial consumer city. However, the urban renewal means of Glasgow from simply preserving historical heritage and supporting simple cultural activities to a more complex promotion of urban image remains inadequate. This culture-led renewal strategy did not create much actual benefit for the poor population of the city, and the foreign floating capital and tourists have gained the main benefits. The economic achievements of urban renewal in the society have not been rationally redistributed. The downtown area have prospered again, with the exodus of the middle class and young people, while new slums and new social isolation have re-emerged on the city's fringes. Therefore, Glasgow's strategy of invigorating the city centre with cultural creativity and pioneering design leaves room for improvement.

2.3 Similar cases

Leipzig, the largest city in the German state of Saxony, has adopted a similar strategy to revitalize the city through cultural revitalization, which promotes local economic development through cultural, artistic and sports activities. Historically, Bach, Wagner and many other musicians once lived in Leipzig, thus the federal government explores the city's musical tradition and promotes the city's vitality and tourism development through various music festivals and concerts. Many old factories in the city have been transformed into cultural facilities such as museums and cinemas. The most

representative example is the century-old Leipzig cotton mill, which has been transformed into an art center with 14 high-end galleries and has become a cradle for budding artists.

Since the mid-1990s, the northern Spanish port city, Bilbao, has been in the decline of deindustrialization. Through the cultural investment oriented urban revitalization strategy, Bilbao has realized the economic and environmental rebirth of the city and developed into an important destination for cultural tourism, relying on the construction of the Guggenheim Museum and a series of important cultural facilities.

3. Cultural Network Enhancement in the Development of Temple Bar, Ireland

3.1 Temple Bar with an updated background

Temple Bar is located on the south bank of the Liffey River in the heart of Dublin, Ireland, and it experienced urban decline during the 20th century. There are many derelict buildings in the block, and since the block is not attractive to developers, it is fortunate to retain the narrow cobblestone street pattern of the middle Ages. Until the 1980s, Coras Iompair Eireann planned to purchase and completely demolish the entire block to build a new bus terminal. During the planning phase of the project, transportation companies rented the block buildings purchased at low rent, and many small businesses, artists, and galleries were attracted to the block to spontaneously form a cultural atmosphere. The bus terminal project was subsequently cancelled due to protests by residents and commercial shop owners, and the government began to intervene in the development of the Temple Bar.

3.2 Enhancement of the context network in the Temple Bar

In order to prevent the "gentry" in the development process, retain the social network and intangible cultural assets, the government first issued a function hybrid plan, encouraging the bottom space for small cultural facilities and leisure places, retail business, and the upper level allows for residential and office functions, preventing the block from developing from multi-cultural to a single commercial function. At the same time, through planning and regulation, a certain proportion of housing is guaranteed to be used as student dormitories or low-rent housing to retain local aborigines. Subsequently, a main pedestrian street connects various scattered cultural facilities, leisure places and outdoor plazas to form a complete cultural network. Three urban squares built from abandoned spaces on the main pedestrian street are used as venues for weekend public themed events, such as the Meetinghouse Square, which hosts food markets on Saturdays and outdoor film screenings in summer, and Temple Bar Square, which hosts a book fair on weekends.

The friendly and vivid context network provides many rich activity space for the vitality of the bar. Due to the successful development of the Temple Bar, more Irish cultural institutions are attracted to the block, including the Irish Photography Center, the Irish Film Society, the Temple Bar District Music Centre, the Temple Bar Area Gallery and studios, as well as financial facilities such as the Irish Stock Exchange and the Central Bank of Ireland. At night, the area is the main nightlife center, with many accessible nightclubs, restaurants, and bars.

However, the context network of the Temple bar has limited coverage. There are several important historical and cultural sites near the Liffey River around the block. In the development planning, the cultural network has not been extended to these sites, and the waterfront space has not been included in the cultural context of Temple Bar as a place of urban cultural activities.

4. A Case of Single Building Being Transformed into Cultural Space: Shanghai 1933 Old Workshop Renovation

Shanghai 1933 old workshop is located in 10 Shajing Road, which is a large-scale slaughtering farm built by the Shanghai Public Concession bureau in 1933 to control the spread of plague and to uniformly slaughter food cattle. It was designed by British architect Carl Wheeler and built by Chinese Businessman Yu Hongji Construction Factory, which covers an area of 15,000 square meters and a

building area of 31,700 square meters. With the modernization of meat processing production, the building was vacant for a long time and used as a biochemical factory. In August 2006, the old building was transformed into 1933 and completed by the end of 2007 to maintain its structural system and architectural style. It was positioned as a cultural industry cluster of architectural design, cultural creativity, advertising media, film and television show and Internet, and successfully attracted "creative class" to settle in and injected economic vitality into the old buildings.

By transforming the historical buildings into a cultural and creative industry base, 1933 has successfully held various cultural activities with its complex architectural layout and internal creative industry as an attraction and marketing means. However, at the present stage, 1933 mainly serves a wider range of citizens and even non-local tourists, but lacks the functional connection with the surrounding residents, resulting in to the emotional alienation between community residents and space.

Through linking a city's physical environment with its historical process, a dynamic urban environment can be more reasonably explained. The overall structure and functions of the city remain stable. Local functions and their carriers in the city can be metabolized with the changes of the times, adjusted according to the deep mechanism of different times, and new elements can be added to the inherited historical heritage.



Fig. 1. Residents surrounding of Shanghai 1933 old workshop (Source: Taken by the author)



Fig. 2. Inner space of Shanghai 1933 old workshop (Source: Taken by the author on 28 December, 2019)

5. How to Promote Regional Vitality with Cultural Space in the Renewal of Shanghai Chengxiang Area

In history, Shanghai old city was the center of Shanghai, which was influenced by a series of historical processes such as the opening of Shanghai port, the establishment of concessions, and the expansion of trans-boundary road-building areas. Although the wall was removed after the Revolution of 1911, the county and concession integrates. However, compared to the concession area, dinan region in the second half of the 19th century basic retained the original structure and environment, the Nanshi area largely retained its original structure and environment in the second half of the 19th century. A large number of architectural relics, such as banks, guild halls, academies, private gardens, temples and churches, houses and lanes, can still vividly show the historical changes of Shanghai from Ming and Qing Dynasties to the Republic of China, and are the key space connecting the whole historical and cultural system of Shanghai.



Fig.3. Brick carvings gates of the hidden building
(Source: Taken by the author on January 1, 2020)



Fig.4. Chunze Hall south goods public sector monument (Source: Taken by the author on January 1, 2020)

In the modern and historical urban areas with multiple collage, the buildings and their functional conditions of different ages coexist, and the same area exists in combination and harmony. The general principle of enhancing regional vitality is to connect and repair the broken urban spaces. For the urban area, the regional renewal driven by cultural space needs to carry out local and small scale gradual adjustment, encourage spontaneous "voluntary renewal" within the area, and minimize social disturbance on the premise of ensuring orderly upgrading of land economic value. As an area with characteristics of geographical location in the central area of the city, concentration of historical relics, and lack of cultural facilities serving ordinary residents, Shanghai old city is suitable for the renewal strategy of promoting regional vitality with cultural space for different groups. For foreign tourists, it is necessary to promote the representative cultural marketing projects, so as to promote commercial economic growth. For the "creative class", the construction of cultural and art areas can enhance the regional creative culture and promote the growth of industrial economy. For ordinary citizens who have lived for generations, activities are organized with community cultural centers as the link to further promote the support mechanism of neighborhood protection of the community and retain a stable and firm community relationship network.

6. Summary

Whether for the whole city, blocks, or single buildings, regional vitality needs to be understood as a dynamic process in urban renewal. The marketing, creative, and improved cultural space services all focus on urban residents living in the region. Cultural space carries the history, context and vitality of the region, and also connects the use, communication and interaction of regional residents. The integration of cultural resources, the intervention of cultural elements, and the organization of cultural activities should all be integrated into the urban structure under the premise of the planning of complex functions.

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