

Research on Traditional Village Protection and Living Inheritance Strategies - Taking Yangkun Village as an Example

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Abstract: As an important carrier of regional culture as well as ecological wisdom, traditional villages are facing multiple dilemmas of protection and development in the rapid development of urbanization and new rural construction nowadays. The study takes Yangkun Village in Jinjiang Town, Chengmai County, Hainan Province, as a typical representative of volcanic villages in northern Qiongbai, and systematically analyzes the challenges faced by Yangkun Village, such as architectural aging, cultural faults as well as population loss. Based on the literature research and study, we put forward the strategy of “spatial restoration+cultural activation+community co-governance” as a trinity of living heritage. The study explores the common path between traditional culture and modern social development from several different dimensions.

KeyWords: Traditional Village Protection; Living Inheritance; Yangkun Village; Volcanic Rock Village

1 Introduction

Traditional villages are important carriers of Chinese civilization for thousands of years, carrying regional cultural genes and ecological wisdom, and can be called living museums of regional culture. However, under the impact of urbanization and modernization, traditional villages are facing serious challenges. Against the background of the fourth national cultural relics census, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council have successively issued the “Opinions on Strengthening the Protection and Inheritance of Historical and Cultural Heritage in Urban and Rural Construction”, “14th Five-Year Plan” and other documents, emphasizing that the protection and living inheritance of the traditional villages need to take into account the

cultural continuity, ecological restoration and sustainable development. Qiongbai volcanic villages as a unique carrier of Hainan regional culture, its protection and living heritage faces more complex ecological and cultural challenges. As a typical representative of this type of village, Yangkun Village is exemplary in both theoretical and practical dimensions.

2 Overview of Yangkun Village and Current Research Situation

2.1 Overview of Yangkun Village

As a typical case of volcanic villages in northern Qiongbai, Yangkun Village is located in the northeastern part of Jinjiang Town, Chengmai County, Hainan Province, about 18 kilometers away from the county. The location advantage is significant. The Hainan West Line (G225) and the Hainan West Ring Railway pass through Yangkun Village from 12 kilometers west of it.

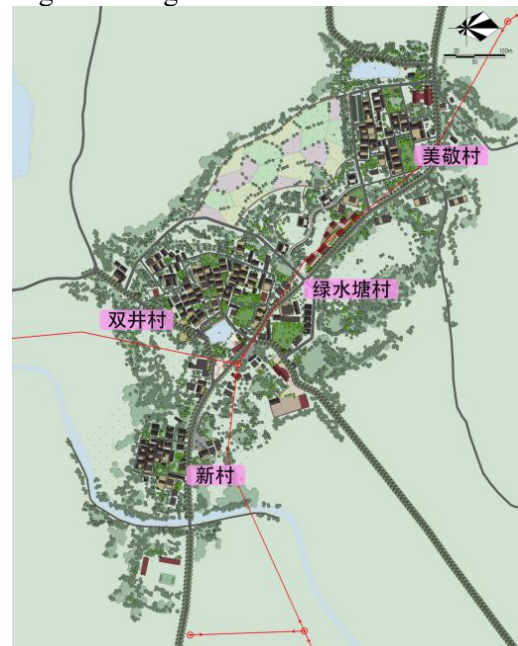


Figure 1. Village Layout

(Source: China Social Science (Beijing) Urban and Rural Planning and Design Institute -

General Layout Diagram 2015.5)

A rural road connecting the central line expressway and the Hainan West Line passes through Yangkun Village, which has become an important external passage for the village and injected new possibilities into the village protection planning. Looking back on the development of Yangkun Village, the village was formed in the Ming Dynasty, after which people continued to move in, and eventually formed a unique pattern of “four villages living together”. Yangkun Village consists of four small natural villages, namely Lvshuitang, Shuangjing, Meijing and Xincun. Lvshuitang named for the green pond; Shuangjing Village named for the two parallel wells; Xincun was settled by the Huang family in the early Qing Dynasty from Haikou and Dongshan; Meijing Village is also known as Meiqing Village, for the Wang family and was the earliest scheduled to live in the village of Yangkun people.

2.2 Characteristics of Yangkun Village

2.2.1 Spatial layout characteristics

Regardless of whether it is the macro site selection or the micro layout, the space within Yangkun Village always embodies the construction wisdom of "harmony between heaven and man": Chengmai County, volcanic ancient villages feng shui site selection and planning basically follow the “backing mountains, facing water, high position, low orientation,” the layout of the principle of the ancients, and “the front has a light, behind the back of the back “The feng shui standard is consistent. Yangkun village has several ponds, the village everywhere in the ancient trees, homes built on water, it can be said that “not ponds, not villages,” Lvshuitang village to the village in front of the pond as the center, arranged in a fan-shaped distribution; in Shuangjing Village, there is a pond with two levels of high and low in front of the village; Meiqing village in front of the village is a crescent-shaped shaped pond. Each village adapts to different natural environments, forming a relatively free and flexible layout. This flexible adaptability is also reflected in the layout of residential buildings. The comb-shaped layout arranges the buildings in a flat grid pattern, with the lanes leading directly to the outside of the village, constituting an overall ring of buildings. This siting pattern not only conforms to the natural geographic features, but

also creates a livable environment for the village through rational planning.

2.2.2 Architectural Analysis

Yangkun Village is a typical representative of the traditional villages of volcanic rocks in northern Hainan. There are 110 volcanic buildings preserved in the village, and the proportion of traditional buildings is as high as 98%. Yangkun Village preserves the traditional civilization of the agrarian era and its unique way of life and historical memory. The village is rich in cultural heritage, with ancient residences, old trees, inscriptions, and historical relics. These elements, along with distinctive landscapes and traces of ethnic cultural interaction, form a unique "volcanic stone cultural landscape." It serves as a "living fossil" for studying the architectural art and construction techniques of residential buildings in Hainan Province, China.

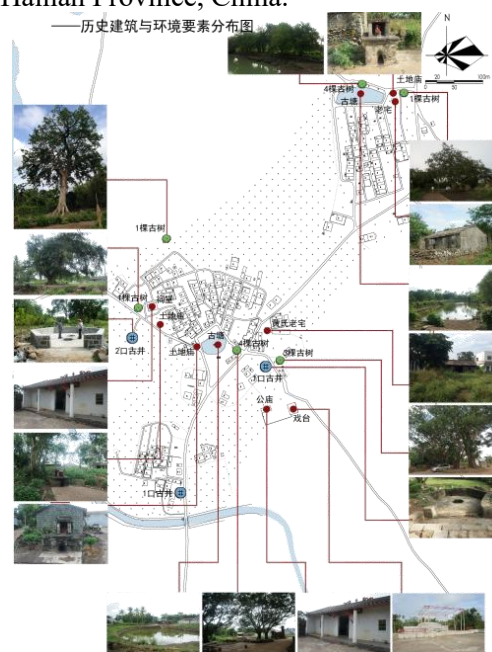


Figure 2. Distribution Map of Historical Buildings and Environmental Elements

(Photo source: China Social Science (Beijing) Urban and Rural Planning and Design Institute - Distribution map of historical buildings and environmental elements 2015.5)

2.2.3 Intangible cultural characteristics

The intangible cultural system of Yangkun Village is also very close. Festivals and ritual culture is one of the most significant features, through the Junpo Festival, the Cultural Festival of Madam Xian, collective rituals to strengthen the clan identity, its historical continuity and spatial radiation constitute the skeleton of cultural dissemination. The inheritance of local

operas is transformed by relying on Qiong Opera. This traditional culture appears in temple fairs and other scenes, which not only entertains the gods and people, but also improves the cultural consensus of villages. What really makes the culture of Yangkun village take root is a deeper spiritual heritage, including not only various "intangible cultural heritages", but also a large number of unique historical memories, clan inheritance, slang dialect, township ordinances and regulations, etc., making Yangkun village a living sample of the cultural genes of northern Hainan.

2.3 Analysis of Research Status

2.3.1 Architectural status

Since the promulgation of "Regulations for the Protection of Famous Historical and Cultural Cities, Towns and Villages" in 2008, China has gradually formed a "national - provincial - municipal" three-tier protection system for traditional villages. Since 2012, The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development has jointly launched the "Traditional Chinese Villages" list selection program with multiple ministries.

As of 2024 has included 8155 villages, of which Hainan has included 76 villages, Yangkun village in the third batch of traditional villages in China included in the list of traditional villages. The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development issued the Basic Requirements for the Compilation of Traditional Village Protection and Development Plans (Trial), emphasizing the principle of "protection first, dynamic inheritance and farmers as the main body".

However, there is a reality gap between the policy regulations and the practical implementation, which is particularly obvious in living villages like Yangkun. Although Yangkun village of the overall style of the historical buildings are well preserved, the existing buildings to maintain the traditional form of volcanic rock dwellings accounted for a high percentage, but the quality of the building showed a significant differentiation: most of the buildings are in a medium level of quality due to the age of the building is in disrepair, and only a small portion of the preservation of the well-preserved or seriously damaged.

More conflicts come from the needs of the residents of the ancient villages for their own development and village protection, the villagers

build new houses in favor of reinforced concrete structures, and the conflict between tile veneer and volcanic rock texture is intensified. These new buildings not only cut the spatial continuity of the villages through the differences in volume, material and texture, but also exacerbate the visual contradiction between the old and the new due to the lag in the repair of the traditional buildings. What is more serious is that some of the traditional buildings still inhabited by human beings still retain their primitive lifestyles of mixed living and poor drainage due to the serious lagging behind of the infrastructures, which creates a huge gap between the reality and the modern hygienic standards. This also reveals a paradox: the "villagers as the main body" advocated by the policy has accelerated the hollowing out of the traditional building complexes in the absence of realistic conditions to support it.

2.3.2 Cultural Status

As the core carriers of village culture and ecology, historical environmental elements such as ancient trees, water ponds and wells are not only important spaces for villagers' production and life, but also living testimonies of traditional customs such as feng shui layout and seasonal farming. However, at present, the protection of ancient trees only stays at the stage of census, and most of them have not been listed for protection, which makes it impossible for them to be protected systematically; what forms a chain reaction is the inheritance crisis of intangible cultural heritage: intangible cultural heritage activities such as sacrificial ceremonies and Qiong opera performances are ineffective in spreading due to the lack of special cultural exhibition space; many traditional handicraft skills are facing the problem of inheritors due to the lack of systematic digitalized archives and mechanisms for training the inheritors. Many traditional handicraft skills are facing the great risk of a break in the generation of inheritors because no systematic digitized archives and inheritor training mechanisms have been established. Further investigation reveals that, more profoundly, with the decline of traditional dwellings, the millennia-old cultural genes such as the "agriculture-reading inheritance" ethical system and feng shui spatial wisdom, which coexist with them, have been rapidly eroded, leading to a vicious cycle of "building collapse-custom extinction-cultural disconnection," directly threatening the integrity of the village's

cultural ecosystem.

2.3.3 Status of economic development

Yangkun Village's economic development predicament highlights the structural contradiction between the protection of traditional villages and the living heritage: the economic lag has led to the young and middle-aged people going out to work, the high vacancy rate of the old houses, and the hollowing out of the village has directly weakened the social basis for the survival of the cultural heritage; the nature of the traditional village as a living community requires that it must go beyond the "static protection" thinking as a living community, traditional villages must go beyond "static protection" thinking -- it is not only a cluster of volcanic rock dwellings, but also a cultural venue for intangible cultural heritage activities such as Qiong Opera performances and public rituals. The key to cracking the problem lies in building a "protection-development" coordination mechanism in villages: at present, due to the lack of systematic protection and development strategies, it is difficult to attract young and middle-aged people back through industrial upgrading, and it is impossible to transform existing cultural resources into economic momentum.

The core of solving this dilemma lies in the realization of the dual goals of protection and restoration strategies - protecting the integrity of cultural ecosystems and developing a "low-intervention, high-participation" community-based economic model, which will ultimately lead to "Habitat improvement, cultural survival and industrial revitalization"; to ensure that villagers change from "passive recipients" to 'active co-constructors', and to achieve a win-win situation between conservation and livelihood.

3 Spatial Protection and Environmental Restoration Strategies

3.1 Design Concept

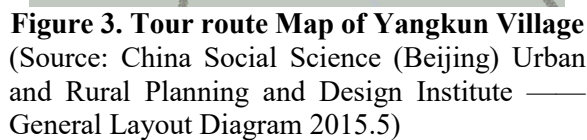
Yangkun Village's "harmony between heaven and man" wisdom and non-heritage cultural system not only provides innate resources for the living heritage, but also puts forward systematic requirements for the protection strategy. Based on this, our study puts forward the following program ideas: Yangkun Village protection and living heritage strategy design with "respect for history, cultural heritage, revitalization and

utilization, community integration" as the core concept, aims to comprehensively protect and pass on the historical and cultural heritage of Yangkun Village through scientific planning and careful design, at the same time combining with the reality of the needs of modern development to achieve. Through scientific planning and careful design, it aims to comprehensively protect and inherit the historical and cultural heritage of Yangkun Village, and at the same time, combine it with the real needs of modern development, so as to realize the living inheritance and sustainable development of traditional villages. The design focuses on maintaining the historical authenticity of Yangkun Village, the authenticity of life and the integrity of the style, to create a unique charm of the traditional village protection and living heritage model, to achieve a win-win situation of economic development and cultural heritage.

3.2 Environmental Protection Planning Strategy

3.2.1 Public space landscape regeneration design
With the core concept of "culture as the soul, ecology as the foundation, community as the basis", through the trinity mode of "protection-inheritance-activation", to create the double IP of "Volcanic Stone Village+intangible cultural heritage culture" in Yangkun Village, and to promote the development of the traditional village with its unique charm and living heritage. Emphasis is placed on the protection of historical features and ecological fundamentals, tapping the value of local culture, stimulating the community's endogenous momentum, and realizing the living heritage of cultural heritage and rural revitalization of the organic integration. For example, restoring the volcanic stone buildings, optimizing the landscape of public space, continuing the traditional feng shui patterns such as "fan-shaped layout" and "Mingtang Reservoir"; developing related characteristic industries through cultural and tourism integration, forming the "ecological agriculture+cultural experience+leisure tourism", and enhance the villagers' income. Under the community perspective, villagers' cooperatives can be set up, and industrial skills training mechanisms can be established to enhance villagers' participation and independent development ability.

3.2.2 Design Ideas Combined with Neighboring Resources



3.2.3 Non-heritage cultural revitalization and experience space design

Transform the idle buildings in the village into intangible cultural heritage workshops, set up charcoal portrait customization, porcelain painting experience, colorful carving DIY and other interactive projects, Yangkun Village provides the whole process from raw material processing to finished product production experience, supporting the cultural and creative products exhibition and sales area. Combine with the “The Cultural Festival of Xianfuren”, “Junpo Festival” and other festivals, planning the theme of ntangible cultural heritage bazaar,

4. Conclusion

Acknowledgments

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