Preservation and Reformation

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PRESERVATION AND REFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

Taking the conservation and development of the Old Town of Luoyang as an example, this thesis explores the issue of largescale renovation and reconstruction of old city in the background of urbanization, and attempts to seek the balance between old town preservation and local residents’ life quality enhancement. It is needing to be aware that, as a result of the layering and intertwining of cultural and natural values over time, the urban historical heritage includes both tangible and intangible components. To protect historical heritage in the city, we should not only just imitate the history scenes, more importantly, it should become a strategy to improve the living quality, generate urban innovation and diversity, leading sustainable urban development culturally and economically.
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The urbanization in China

Currently, the process of urbanization in the world is intensifying. Based on the data provided by UNESCO (United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) “by 2015, 54% of the world’s population resides in urban area” (1, Moreno). This massive urbanization promotes the rapid development of cities and also brings both opportunities and constraints. On one side, urbanization provides opportunities for employment and education meanwhile respond to people’s evolving needs materially and mentally. On the other side, the rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, however, leads to the urban livability decreasing as well as cultural convergence, resulting in millions of cities lose their cultural identity (Figure 1,2).

In China, the rate of urbanization is growing by one percent each year. It is predicted that, by 2030 the rate of urbanization will reach seventy percent. It seems that China will take 50 years to obtain the accomplishments in urbanization as western countries did in the past one hundred or even two hundred years. But it has to be awarded that, the rapid urbanization in china is not in a sustainable way both culturally and environmentally. For instance, the unplanned expansion and over-exploitation such as demolition and reconstruction in cities completely destroyed the historical landscape and cultural identity associated with the built and natural environment. The direct result of such a rapid and disorderly change is the forced obliteration of memory in a city. Just like Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa points out that “Memory is ground of self-

Figure 1, Downtown Manhattan NYC, Figure 2, Downtown Shanghai, China
identity; we are what we remember” (190, Treib). While historical memory, cultural identity and sense of belonging are disappearing together, tremendous cultural crisis has been brought to China with the process of urbanization. Sadly, the once brilliant farming civilization starts to be considered as a performance of backward productivity. People do not want to inherit and carry forward this traditional culture. Therefore, preserve the cultural identity and remain the memory in urban area becomes an urgent task for current rapidly developing China (Figure 3).

1.2 Memory in the city

In the book the ‘The City in History’, American historian, sociologist Lewis Mumford considers the city lives by remembering. He said “The development of symbolic methods of storages immensely increased the capacity of the city as a container: it not merely held together a large body of people and institutions than any other kind of community, but it maintained and transmitted a large portion of their lives than individual human memories could transmit by word of mouth. This condensation and storage, for the purpose of enlarging the boundaries of community in time and space, is one of the singular functions performed by the city; and the degree to which it is performed partly establishes the rank and value of the city; for other municipal functions, however essential, are mainly accessory and preparatory” (156, Mumford). Memories of the city dwell in the minds of individuals, yet through incorporating elements of common experience, help in the development of shared conceptions that
bind our thoughts together. It is not only a sign of recognition of the place, but also will stimulate local residents’ sense of belonging.

The historic urban landscape in the city as a result of the layering and intertwining of cultural and natural values over time, is an important tool to record the ‘Collective Memory’, which is also a cultural and spiritual carrier. It records cities’ civilization and ecological changes, with a strong symbolic significance. Protect the historical urban landscape is a significant way for restore the memory in the city, and for residents to find a sense of place and pride of citizens so that we can better cherish cultural value in the city.

However, urban cultural heritage protection work in China is facing circumstances of destructive development. A lot of historical cities take historical urban landscape development as a tourism or real estate development projects. The dominant way of historical site transformation is "replacement - demolition - reconstruction", to re-create the so-called "Old City style." People from many well-designed, sophisticated construction of the "historical scene" to see some of the changed, distorted pieces of commercial history. Evan if they can inspire people’s imagination or memory of history, it is also temporary, entertaining and sensual. The memory of the city not only exist in the physical form of the built environment; it could also be recalled through event that take place rooted in the location. Furthermore, it could also be presented and represented in the flow of daily life. Therefore, to preserve the urban historical landscape and restore historical memory in such urbanized China, it is far from enough by merely rebuild the historical scene. The memory of the culture should be retained in the tangible and intangible components of historical urban landscape, under the dimension of space and time, presented by the factors of urban diversity, innovation and regeneration.

1.3 Historical Urban Landscape Approach

The historical urban landscape protection in the worldwide has the process shift from an emphasis on architectural monuments primarily towards a broader recognition of the importance of social, cultural and economic values. In 2011, UNESCO published
the recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, in which it clearly defined that “the historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of ‘historic center’ or ‘ensemble’ to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting. This wider context includes notably the site’s topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural features, its built environment, both historic and contemporary, its infrastructures above and below ground, its open spaces and gardens, its land use patterns and spatial organization, perceptions and visual relationships, as well as all other elements of the urban structure. It also includes social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity” (323, Porfyriou). In this recommendation, it considers historical urban landscape as a key resource in enhancing the livability of urban areas, and fosters economic development and social cohesion in a changing global environment. It provides us with important knowledge to guide planning strategies and changing management.

As an important tool for the retention and continuation of urban memory, the historical urban landscape conservation has become a strategy to achieve a balance between culture preservation and quality of life on a sustainable basis. To protect historical landscapes in the city, we should not only just imitate the history scenes, more importantly, the urban historical landscape should adapt development of urban culture and infuse new vitality into the historical site, and continually generate new memory for the future.
CHAPTER 2. SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Historical layers in Luoyang

Located in the center area of China, Luoyang had always been an important city in Chinese history. In the long history of more than four thousand years in China, about 90 monarchs took Luoyang as the center of the country's politics, economy and culture with a history of more than 1,500 years. From the first dynasty of Xia Dynasty, there were 13 dynasties such as Shang Dynasty, Eastern Zhou Dynasty, Western Zhou Dynasty, Eastern Han Dynasty, Cao Wei, Western Jin Dynasty, Northern Wei Dynasty, Sui Dynasty, Tang Dynasty, Beiliang Dynasty, Later Tang Dynasty and Later Jin Dynasty. Luoyang is the earliest and largest number of capital city in the history of China (Figure 4).

Luoyang lies in the northwest of Luoyang Basin with two main rivers running through the urban area, which is regarded as good “fengshui” in ancient Chinese
ideology (figure 5). The urban construction of the ancient city of Luoyang has strong relationship with this geographic character, it represents as the precise alignment and scale control with the surrounding mountains. This has important historical and cultural value for the study of the construction of the ancient city. However, in last twenty years, the rapid urbanization and expansion of Luoyang completely forgot it’s nature surroundings. The disorderly development of city is forcing this city losing its culture identities. Luoyang is no longer that historic city with a special status in Chinese history. It is on the process turning into a highly urbanized city, just like other modern cities in the other places of the world (Figure 6).

2.2 Luoyang Old Town District

The Luoyang Old town district is a historical and cultural district that is characterized by the traditional life style that still exists in Luoyang City. For a long time, the protection and renovation of Luoyang old town district have been affected and destroyed by the rapid development of the city. In addition, the decay of residential buildings and infrastructure in this historical district has been in the situation of neglected, and many historical and cultural districts that can reflect the traditional life of Luoyang are gradually disappeared. The legacy of ancient city features and historic cultural character urgently require the preservation.

The old town district began in the Song and Jin Dynasties and built upon the site

Figure 6, Current layout of old town district
of Sui and Tang dynasties which located in the northern part of the current Luoyang. It plans to continue the square-shaped system of the Sui and Tang dynasties, form a pattern of mountains and water, and rely on the socioeconomic-spatial structure of the Luohe and Weihe rivers. It is a typical example that embodies the ideas of ancient urban planning and construction, has prominent universal historical and cultural values, and is a spatial form directly related to economic and social development. The old town district is an urban space that is still developing in the history of Luoyang and inherits all the urban civilization of Luoyang (Figure 7). At present, the important historical relics in the old town district are mainly concentrated in the east and southwest side. The total land in this area is 90.58 hectares. By the end of 2010, there were still 7,470 registered households and 21,207 persons, with an average of 2.84 households. The actual population is about 18,000.

The current historical heritage in the old town district is mainly composed by cross streets and large residential areas. Cross Street is a commercial street in this area (Figure 8, 9). It was formed in different eras, has unique cultural values, and is the most dynamic section in this area. In the residential area, there are more than 1600 existing courtyard buildings, of which only 5% of the courtyards still maintain the appearance of the Ming and Qing courtyards, and the vast majority of them are “red brick buildings” that have been formed in recent years by the residents themselves. However, as most of these transformations took place within the original homestead area, the overall layout of the old city and the traditional street and lane system remained intact. The residential alley of the old town district is also mixed by buildings in different eras. This
state of coexistence enriches the cultural strata in this place and constitutes the historical matrix of the old town district.

The spatial features in old town district could represent in the following aspects. First, the continuity of urban development. The inheritance and continuous transformation of the old town district since the Yuan, Ming, Qing, and the Republic of China and have continued today. It has a profound cultural heritage, from the 1,500 years of underground culture heritage to the last 600 years of spatial form heritage, the old town district of Luoyang has a deep culture accumulation shows a continuous history of urban development from underground to ground. Secondly, the integrity of urban pattern. Although the Old City experienced many war destruction, the real historical buildings and traditional houses are rare, but the urban space pattern is basically intact, the traditional street and lane system still exists, landmark landmarks remain, the remains of the city walls can still be traced, most of water system still surviving. Therefore, at the city level, the structure of old town district during the Song, Jin, Ming and Qing Dynasties was still relatively clear and complete. Thirdly, the diversity of urban special. Old town district is a living place of profound culture heritage, in addition to the existing residential and market space, it can also be find a variety of temples, cultural facilities as well as government agencies heritages. The spatial pattern with the cross street as the center, the commercial street as the main axis, and the city gate, temples, drum tower as the high spot has been formed. In this well-ordered environment, a rich and diverse city life has been represented.

Figure 8, Intangible culture heritage in old town district
Beyond the special heritages, a large number of Intangible cultural heritages also remained in this historical district. It covers oral traditions, traditional performing arts, folk activities, ceremonies and festivals, folk traditional knowledge and practices related to the natural world and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship skills and so forth. However, with the continuous transformation of the old town district, these intangible cultural heritages could be disappeared with the moving out of the residence (Figure 8).

In the process of preservation and development of the old town, local indigenous, developers and the government have difficulties in reconciliation. The physical environment of the old town is in urgent need of improvement. Most of the existing buildings, especially the private houses, are not suitable for living because of the long-term disrepair, and the aging of supporting facilities needs to be reconstructed. Although the residents are deeply attached to the living environment of the old town district, they are in the interest chain of urban regeneration and not able to improve the living condition by them own. While, the government and developer are driven by interests and try to move out all the residence and turn it into a tourism and commercial purpose real estate project. In this scenario, how to carry out the transformation of the old town district without disturb the daily life of the indigenous people is an unavoidable problem in the renewal of the old town district.
3.1 Datong historical district

In 2008, Datong started the overall reconstruction of the historical district. The plan includes rebuilt the city walls, hundreds of antique courtyard houses, three historic landmark buildings that have not existed, and eight new antique commercial streets. Due to the need of rebuilding the whole old town district, from 2008 to 2013, there were 17,230 residents, six middle schools, five primary schools and two municipal hospitals have been relocated out of this district. According to the reconstruction plan and the resettlement estimates of the residence, the overall reconstruction of the...
historical district in Datong need a total investment of nearly 10 billion yuan. As of the end of 2012, nearly 2 billion yuan has been invested. However, to proceed with the project, an investment of about 8 billion yuan will still be required. Such large-scale implementation of the historical district project, leading to the government's financial burden more and more heavy. Currently, the reconstruction of the ancient city of Datong entered a stagnation after it began a third of the time (Figure 9,10).

However, after the boom of reconstruct the historical district has receded, various problems have gradually surfaced. First, it is destroyed the authenticity of this historical urban heritage. As the core value of cultural heritage, authenticity is closely attached with the historical, scientific and artistic values. Yet a large number of demolition historical heritages, built false unified antique buildings in the short term, ignore the time layer associate with the built environment is the seriously damaged of historical authenticity of the historical district and caused irreparable damage to the cultural heritage. Secondly, it is destroyed the traditional life network and normal city function. Historical district as an important unit in an ancient city, still undertakes the basic functions of residence, commerce, and recreation, and plays an irreplaceable role in modern society. The traditional life network in historical district is also an important carrier for the continuation of authentic culture. However, the large-scale reconstruction and relocation of the original residents destroyed the long-term accumulation of the life network and social structure of the ancient city, and has seriously violated the development regulation of ancient city. In Datong historical district, the proportion of unused land is currently as high as 20%. Public facilities such as hospitals, schools, and cultural centers are almost completely decommissioned, community management is chaotic. Traditional living networks and order are no longer there and in the process of depression. Thirdly, the mode of the government dominates the develop process lacks a precise judgement of market conditions (Figure 11). Currently, the protection and development Datong historical district project are mainly invested by the government. There is only sporadic participation of market enterprises while the community residents are completely in a passive position. This kind of
government-led model not only cos the excessive financial pressure, and high cost of the maintenance and operation fee to the government, and also seriously reduce the vitality of the historical district we well as the attraction of this urban historical heritage.

3.2 Hangzhou Southern Song Dynasty Royal Street

Also in 2008, the government of Hangzhou launched the renewal and renovation project for Southern Song Dynasty Royal Street project. In the process of the reconstruction, instead of restoring the unified historical scene of the site, the primary task shifts to protect the historical and cultural heritage as well as restore the memory of the city through the use of historical relics. Similar to the Datong project, by that time. The Southern Song Dynasty Royal Street still has a large number of residents. Even though its spatial form has been developed on the basis of the original, there are still problems remain, such as incomplete public utility systems. Therefore, in the process of update and protection of the historical district, improve residence's living condition and quality of life also been considered as part of the planning.

As a result of the multiple layers of culture in its long history, the architectural style of the Southern Song Dynasty Royal Street is complex. The building style in this district covered from the earliest Southern Song to the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and also include some of the western architecture built in the Republic of China period as
well as the creative modern architecture. In this historical district, 800-year history of cultural development have clearly been represented by the building styles.

Through a long period of survey and research, Chinese architect Wang Shu who won the 2012 Pritzker Prize, and his students came up an overall plan for the renewal and renovation of Southern Song Dynasty Royal Street. Wangshu insist in believing that the protection of historic blocks should be continually. History or tradition refers to everything that has happened continuously until today, not that the longer the time, the more historic it is. He also believes that the indigenous people are an important carrier for maintaining history, and proposes to stop the demolition and relocation of all old buildings while remain the local residence on site (Figure 12,13).

Therefore, in addition to renovating the historical building from the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the project remains and preserves the modern western architecture and the Republic of China period architecture as well. Furthermore, Wangshu also designs several new structures to meet the needs of the function. By means of street furniture, plants, and characteristic sculptures, the integrity and continuity of the spatial interface are maintained, so that old and new buildings coexist in harmony in this historical district.

Figure 14, work flow in Hangzhou project
In the process of Southern Song Dynasty imperial streets development, the common participation of community and merchants has been encouraged (Figure 14). On the one hand, the community engagement helps to understand the existing problems and needs; On the other hand, it also has stepped up publicity efforts to deepen the cultural awareness of the neighborhood as well as maintain the original appearance of the building and continue the complete memory of the space.

### 3.3 Summary of case study

In the two models of preservation and development of historical district, the most important difference is the participation of communities. The result of two cases indicate that, involve the community into the decision-making process of the development helps remain the authenticity of historical district and keep the vitality of this neighborhood. It needs to be aware that, the historical urban heritage is not a static scene, it is a process of changing. Both tangible and intangible heritage are significant segments of culture preservation in urban area. The built environment,

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**Figure 15** Project goal diagram

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including buildings, historic places, monuments, artifacts closely associate with the oral
traditions, performing arts, social practices and festive events, to represent the culture
heritage from the past, and continuously changing with the development of urban
culture.

Consequently, the preservation of historical urban heritage should develop in a
sustainable way and find the balance between culture, environment and economic. It
should promote vernacular culture passed down from generation to generation as well
as enhancing the livability, improve the living condition for residents. Beyond that, it
also should foster economic development, infuse new vitality into the historical site
(Figure 15).
CHAPTER 4: DESIGN AND PLANNING

4.1 Overall Strategy

The development and protection of the old town district should be based on a comprehensive analysis and classification of the existing historical resources, using the model of development in phases. In order to ensure the sustainable flow of development funds, and to minimize disruption of the daily lives of local residents. The development should company with the protection of the old town district. In addition, the scale of development led by the government and developers should also be limited. Give back the right of transform and develop the old town district to residents' own hands, encouraging residents to participate in the construction of the old town district. Using replacement of existing houses Instead of large-scale reconstruction and development. Considering the current stage of the old town district and development as a part of its historical natural replacement.
4.2 Phase I

As the start-up phase of the project, the development of the project should start from the area where is seriously been eroded by the urbanization. This area links the old town district to the new developed area. The characteristics of the ancient city have disappeared and the value of protection has been lost. The project can use the current status and develop this area into commercial area, affordable housing and low-rent housing. On the one hand to buffer the destruction of the old town district pattern by urbanization. On the other hand, it provides accommodation for the relocation or temporary residence of residents in the old town district. More importantly, it provides effective revenue for the government and developers and provides funds for the further development of the project.

The development and construction of this area should be controlled at the height, materials and layout of the building. To integrate it into both traditional and modern urban fabrics, become a model area for innovation in conservation. And also provide a more comfortable living environment for current residents (Figure 16).

![Figure 17, Existing Road system](image17.png)

![Figure 18, Proposed road system](image18.png)

![Figure 19, Proposed parking area](image19.png)

![Figure 20, Proposed utility pipe system](image20.png)
4.3 Phase II

The development of this phase should focus on improving the basic living conditions of existing residents. First, the road network of residential areas will be added to improve the accessibility of residential areas. Penetrate the vitality that originally focused on the cross street into the community. Provide conditions for community regeneration (Figure 18). Second, the use of commercial areas and potential public open space to build underground public parking facilities to address the incompatibility of existing street scales and existing major modes of transport (Figure 19). Finally, a complete integrated utility pipeline network will be established under the newly constructed road network to meet the basic needs of residents for health, water, electricity, and internet use, and to improve the quality of life within the ancient city (Figure 20). The improvement of these infrastructures helps to increase residents’ enthusiasm for participation in the regeneration of old town district, and remain the residence on site.

4.4 Phase III

4.4.1 Design Process

This phase is the of development of cultural resources in old town district. In this phase, the functions of the government and the developer should be limited to the classification and integration of historical resources. First of all, it is necessary to evaluate the architectural heritage in the old town district (Figure 21), preserve ancient buildings with high historical value. Rehabilitate buildings with lower historical value.
into commercial or public service facilities, and serve residents and tourists. In addition, the right to develop the modern residential houses reserved to residents, allowing and guiding them reconstruction their own homes. It must be clear that, all protection and renovation should be limited to the scope of the original homestead (Figure 22), so as not to damage the overall layout of the old town district.

Use preservation terminology defined by U.S. national Park Service as a reference the term of preservation, rehabilitation, reconstruction should be defined as below. “Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project. However, new exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment. The Standards for Preservation require retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric along with the building’s historic form. Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while
preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. The Rehabilitation Standards acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic building to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the building’s historic character. Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. The Reconstruction Standards establish a limited framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving building with new materials, primarily for interpretive purposes” (Dickenson).

Second, evaluate the natural resources of the ancient city, including rivers, ancient wells, and ancient trees, to ensure that the remains of ancient geography will

Figure 24, Historical walk design examples
not be destroyed in the development of old town district.

Finally, overlay the historical human and nature resources, identify areas that need priority protection. Furthermore, establish a historical walk linking these historical resources to make it a continuous and complete system that increases overall value (Figure 23, 24).

Through this method, on the one hand, the main development right is reserved for residents. On the other hand, the government-led ribbon-shaped historical trail also boosts the value of the surrounding land and increases the enthusiasm of residents to participate.

4.4.2 Material Study

Figure 25, Traditional house material study

Figure 26, Modern house material study
Figure 27, Overall Material strategy
In the process of renovation, the control of the material is a very important part of the transformation in old town district. The use of materials should be based on original materials in the site and could be appropriately innovative. By studying existing materials indicates that black bricks are the major material used in the traditional housing (Figure 25). However, modern buildings are made of red bricks (Figure 26). Therefore, the old town district presents a red and black tone. In the preservation process, the material use should respect its historical character, renovate as old as possible to restore its historical scene. While, in the rehabilitate and reconstruction area, the new material such as metal and glass could also be included to increase the sense of the times (Figure 27).

4.4.3 Design Example

This block is the area contain preservation, rehabilitation and reconstruction three type of land use (Figure 28). The preservation area in this block is function as a cultural heritage center and travel attraction, to improve the property value of the whole block. While the rehabilitation area could function as mix-use, gallery area to support the travel attraction and also serve for the local residents. In addition, the reconstruction area protects the daily lives of residents and also provides a narrative about how the city been developed (Figure 29).

Figure 28, Study area Location map
Figure 29, Study area diagrams
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

Urban historical culture heritage preservation is an issue that all cities in the world should pay attention to, and consider this issue within the background of globalization, urbanization and managing the historical heritage in dynamic and constantly changing urban environment. Quote from The HUL GUIDEBOOK that “In the era of globalization, cities are increasingly competing with one another, both nationally and internationally. Globalization makes cities similar in terms of finance, information technology or patterns of modern urban development, whilst culture and heritage are the resources which will always distinguish them from one another. Culturally, vibrant cities build stimulating environments, acting as incubators for creativity and appealing to diverse groups of people. The conservation of heritage, culture and creativity in cities can help maintain and showcase their unique character, while increasing their international visibility and placing them within a global continuum. Culture-led regeneration strategies that reuse heritage buildings and engage with local citizens, for example, can reinforce local culture and a community’s sense of pride and local identity.”

Furthermore, it also need to be point out that. Protect the urban historical heritage could not equal to create a “Historical Scene”. We should consider the protection as part of the urban develop process. “Ruins provide the incentive for restoration, and for a return to origins. There has to be (in our new concept of history) an interim of death or rejection before there can be renewal and reform. The old order has to die before there can be a born-again landscape. Many of us know the joy and excitement not so much of creating the new as of redeeming what has been neglected, and this excitement is particularly strong when the original condition is seen as holy or beautiful” (102, Jackson).
BIBLIOGRAPHY


VITA

Yedi Zhang, a native of China, received her bachelor’s degree at Nanjing Forest University in 2014. After that, she continued her education at Louisiana State University. She plans to graduate in May 2018.