

A Study on the Colors of the New Tang Dynasty Architectural style

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Abstract. As the outerwear of a building, its color is one of the most significant features of a city. During thousands years of development the colors not only served for protection and decoration, but have been endowed with many intensions in the field of philosophy, politics, religion, culture and so on. Hence there has been formed a unique and integrated culture of colors. As many other cities, Xi'an is faced with the problem of maintaining its feature in the course of its development. On the basis of protecting the original style and features of the old town, delivering the profound cultural deposits, exploring the connection between traditional culture and modern architectural creation has become a common starting point for the architects in Xi'an. Based on the culture of Tang dynasty, the new Tang dynasty architecture is a bold attempt to shape a modern city and is also a direct reflection of the architect's feeling about Chinese traditional architecture. In this paper, the writer studied the relationship between the colors of the new Tang dynasty architectural style and the creation of the modern Xi'an architecture from the point of architectural history and architectural design. Also, the paper explored its impact and inspiration on the modern architectural creation of Xi'an from the perspective of time feature. Moreover, it disclosed the value of the new Tang dynasty architectural style in a modern way and provided references, enlightenments and new ideas for the modern architectural creation in a historic city.

Introduction

As a capital lasted the longest in Chinese history and a prestigious historic city, Xi'an has profound cultural deposits and ever-lasting cultural inheritances [1]. In order to respect its historical context, protect and propagate its historic culture, the municipal government of Xi'an hoists the ensign of "Reviving the Glory of Han and Tang". As a result, the new Tang dynasty architectural style has been promoted greatly.

In this paper, we conducted data analyses and field investigations to study the external characteristics and the development tendency of the colors of new Tang dynasty architectural style, discuss its conversion technique of historic tradition and conclude the successes and failures of the colors so as to provide theoretical references for the architectural design of traditional architecture image and regional expression.

The architect, Zhang Jinqiu, had a study on colors of the new Tang Dynasty architectural style of Xi'an from the traditional to the future - an exploration of architect in 1992 and 2006 [1-4]. And many master's thesis of Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, directed by associate professor, Wang Jun, from researching on the architectural creation of new style of Tang Dynasty in Xi'an of Xu Jie, to Zeng Tian's researching on the architectural creation of new style of Tang Dynasty in Xi'an-architectural creation methods based on the requirements of certain culture and preservation of historical district, all had a summarize on the colors of the new Tang Dynasty architectural style.

But the studies above mainly proceeded with the development, architectural morphology, creative concepts as well as techniques and provided further studies with valuable basic data. However, those data does not involve the particular conclusion and comparison of the colors of new Tang dynasty architectural style. Moreover, there is a huge margin between the inheritance and

development of the colors of new Tang Dynasty architectural style and Chinese traditional architectural colors. Consequently, this paper conducts analysis and research on the color of the jamb, metope and the foundation of the new Tang dynasty architectural style.

New Tang Dynasty Architecture

In 1970s, Zhang Jinqiu, the great architectural master built her first Tang-style architecture – the gate of Huaqing Hot Spring. In August, 1978, China and Japan issued The People's Republic of China and Japan Peace and Friendship Treaty and under such background, the municipal government of Xi'an planned to build a Abe no Nakamaro monument (Fig. 1). Then, Japan suggested building a Konghai memorial building in the Qinglong Ruins. This time, Xi'an cooperated with four counties in Japan including Tokushima. The cenotaph was designed by Japanese architect while the garden was designed by Zhang Jinqiu (Fig. 2). Konghai memorial building has become the first real Tang-style architecture in the history of Chinese contemporary architecture. Run back over the history of new Tang dynasty architectural style, the Abe no nakamaro monument and the Konghai memorial garden became the debut and beginning of the new Tang dynasty architectural style [7]. After then, the birth of "three Tang" program and the Shaanxi History Museum caused worldwide echoes and widely received. Also, it was rewarded with the Design Excellence Award which had gained great reputation and raised a strong tide in Xi'an.



Fig. 1 Abe no Nakamaro monument



Fig. 2 Konghai monument

After the series programs of Huaqing Palace Heritage Site Museum, The Great Loving-Kindness Templ, Xi 'an museum, the Big Goose Pagoda South Square, Lotus palace of Tang Dynasty, Danfeng Gate Site Museum, Chang'an Tower, the concept and technique of new Tang Dynasty architectural style has grown up and represented a new methodology of architectural design in Xi'an.

Features and Developments of the Colors of New Tang Dynasty Architectural Style

Our research team has investigated the 11 program that Zhang Jinqiu participated in Xi'an and has presented the features of the colors of the new Tang dynasty architectural style by chart (Fig. 3).

By comparing the architectural color of Tang Dynasty and the new Tang Dynasty, we can clearly find out that the notable architectural feature of new Tang Dynasty is the Tang-style appearance and shape. The Tang-style works in the early period such as Abe no Nakamaro monument result from the person's particular historic background (Tang Dynasty) and the special structure (monument) so it urged the architect to conduct cultural root-seeking. While the Qinglong Temple was designed around its Tang ruins, the Tang-style architecture is because of the style of the whole program. The gray roof, white wall and red pillow were wildly used in Tang dynasty which represented the style of Tang architecture.

The "three-Tang" program was built under the great background of the society. It combined the traditional architectural style with the modern demand and had a further development. It got rid of the painstaking copy and tried to find a transition between the past and the future. Tanghua Hotel is one of the examples which overstepped the Tang-style and presented a historic spirit with epic meaning. Both its form and its color reflected a profound, glorious and vigorous spirit and at the same time embodied the Tang-style [2]. And this is the first giant new Tang-style program that combined tradition with modern.

Architecture	Types	Colors				
		Roof	Wall	Door & window	Post	Stylobate
Abe no nakamaro monument	Memorial building					
Qinglong Ruins	Memorial building	■	■	■	■	■
Xi'an Garden Hotel	Hotel	■	■	■	■	■
Tang Cabaret	Commercial building	■	■	■	■	■
Tang Dynasty Art Gallery	Museum	■ ■	■ ■	■	■	■
Famen Temple Museum	Museum	■	■	■ ■	■	■
Huaqing Palace Heritage Site Museum	Museum	■	■	■	■	■
Shaanxi History Museum	Museum	■	■	■	■	■
The Great Loving-Kindness Temple	Religious building	■	■	■	■	■
Lotus palace of Tang Dynasty	Cultural park	■ ■	■	■	■	■
Xi'an museum	Museum	■	■	■ ■	■	■
Danfeng Gate Site Museum	Museum	■	■	■	■	■
Chang'an Tower	Observation Tower	■	■	■	■	■

Fig. 3 Colors of the new Tang Dynasty architectural style

The Historical Museum of Shanxi Province (Fig. 4, Fig. 5) shows the specific spirit and meaning of a museum by using the form of ancient palace and brings it a feeling of authority. Based on the original Tang-style, the architectural color was further abstracted [3]. By adopting elegant colors and simplified decoration, the new Tang-style architecture faced a significant step and the museum was a huge success. Although the appearance of the museum was the same as the buildings in Tang dynasty, it was simplified. The color laid particular stress on the dignity of the history with its stone cover.



Fig. 4 Shanxi history museum



Fig. 5 Shanxi history museum

Currently, the Danfeng Gate Site Museum of Daming Palace (Fig. 6) uses Imperial Palace main entrance's shape and structure, yardstick and module of Tang Dynasty, which was brushed by Fluorocarbon paint, which is light brown. It is similar to the Imperial Constructions tincture of Tang. The configuration of Chang'an Tower (Fig. 7) employed the Tang traditional wood tower characteristics, simultaneously [3], it used modern elements to satisfy shadow rhythm, comfortable ratio, accurate structures and bright appearance demonstrating the beauty of harmony concept of New Tang Style.

New Tang Style color utilizing experiences an evolution process. In the primary, it was limited by the backgrounds of architects and characteristics of projects and the designs emphasize the appearances of constructions. The colors of constructions illustrate the outline of Tang Constructions, which mainly used red line [6, 8]. As the coming of foreign culture, the aesthetic consciousness are changing, which supervise the protection of heritage and accelerates the changing

of New Tang Style. If said the primary was to archaize, the mid-term is to explore how to combine the traditional and the modern are. In the process of simple and elegant replaced the gorgeous, it emphasizes to use traditional colors and elements in order to show modern aesthetic consciousness. For instance, Shaanxi History Museum, Xi'an Museum color which employed light gray lines [3]. However, in the recently constructions, the colors and material utilizing are more bold. For example, the designs of Danfeng Gate Site Museum of Daming Palace, the color of constructions employed abstract method, which only used one color. It shows the new of New Tang Style and injects new vitality for the historical constructions.



Fig. 6 Danfeng Gate Site Museum



Fig. 7 Chang'an Tower

Although the time of construction color of New Tang Style is not subsequent, the creation system is keeping same style. Qionglong Temple, Shanxi History Museum, and Danfeng Gate Site Museum of Daming Palace demonstrate the three steps of the development of construction color. From these representatives, it shows the changing of new tang style construction color from realism to impressionism, and from color view can explain the color using development.

The New Tang Style constructions combine the traditional (ethnic, areas) and the modern. In the traditional, it emphasizes the environment, prospect and scale. In the modern, it emphasizes the functional materials and technologies. The constructions employ slope roof, cornice and passageway traditional elements, which from visual sense to show Xi'an style [5]. The internal of construction combine new function, fresh material and new technologies to illustrate modern characteristics. The 'three-Tang' program, Xi'an History Museum, and Lotus palace of Tang Dynasty, which around Daye Tower, combine traditional construction's layout and traditional construction elements, show Xi'an style combined new functional, material, color, also inject fresh vitality for Qujiang.

In the designs of Danfeng Gate Site Museum of Daming Palace, the designers did not employ the Tang construction, grey roof, red wood system, grey brick package city of footstep and traditional color of wall, and it uses new structure and fresh materials to create space which is benefit site protection and visiting [4]. It makes this construction shows Imperial Palace main entrance's shape, scale, modeling and magnificent and dignified style. Simultaneously, as the construction color using the abstract method, the color from up to down is similar to the color of loess, this makes the construction modern.

Conclusion

With the development of society and the growth in the living standard, the architectural color will invite more and more attention. Taking the new Tang dynasty architecture as examples, this paper analyzed and summarized the external features and develop tendency of architectural colors. By summarizing the appearances it discussed the relationship between the colors of new Tang dynasty architectural style and the modern architectural creation in Xi'an. The main research results are as follows:

The new Tang Dynasty architectural style is a style that inherits the marrow of Chinese traditional architecture. It derived from the rehabilitation and reconstruction engineering, developed during the architectural creation of historic conservation area of Xi'an and further developed to a broader horizon to explore the diversity of modern culture. Its design of architectural color has the same idea as the new Tang dynasty architectural style. So, the new Tang dynasty architectural style takes

the color of Tang dynasty as the prototype and presents a basic feature of Tang-style. It represents the wakefulness of traditional culture and the revival of traditional color ideology. Meanwhile, it reflects the writer's excavation of the colorful Tang culture in Xi'an and his exploration of history and culture.

The new Tang Dynasty architectural style is a tactic that coordinates the historical heritage and promotes regional renaissance. Xi'an is the material and cultural conveyance to the birth and development of the new Tang dynasty architectural style and its development and direction are highly attached to Xi'an. It is based on the integrity of the city and utilizes from multicolor to pure color to extend cultural context and demonstrate historic feature. At the same time, it reflects the exploration of color to suit the characteristics of the time.

The new Tang Dynasty architectural style is a traditional design methodology that based on the promotion and innovation of traditional architectural culture and regional feature. Despite the prevalence of modernism, it does not drift with the stream blindly but learn from the traditional culture, innovate in accord with reality and re-annotate modern architecture. It respects the history and the environment, pays high attention to the harmony between the architectural color and the external environment, and always takes city design as the tool. All these experience has provided references for the modern architectural design of Xi'an.

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