

# Exploration of Classical Aesthetics in Chinese Architectural Decoration Design

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**Abstract:** This article aims to explore the classical aesthetic elements in Chinese architectural decoration design, and analyze their application and value in modern architecture. By studying the embodiment of classical aesthetic concepts in architectural decoration, this paper explores how to combine classical aesthetics with modern design to create architectural decoration designs that have both traditional charm and modern aesthetics.

**Keywords:** Chinese style architecture; Decorative design; Classical aesthetics; Modern applications

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## Introduction

Classical aesthetics has always been an important design element and source of inspiration. Classical aesthetics embodies the essence of traditional Chinese culture, including principles such as harmony, symmetry, and simplicity, which have been widely applied in Chinese architectural decoration design. This article will explore the classical aesthetics in Chinese architectural decoration design, analyze its application and value in modern architectural decoration design, in order to provide reference and inspiration for future architectural decoration design.

## 1. The Basic Principles of Classical Aesthetics

### 1.1 Yin Yang balance

In classical Chinese aesthetics, the balance of yin and yang is a core principle. Yin and Yang, also known as Yin and Yang, are fundamental concepts in ancient Chinese philosophy, representing the two fundamental attributes and powers of all things in the universe. In classical architectural decoration design, the balance of yin and yang is mainly reflected in the following aspects:

(1) The balance of yin and yang in color. In traditional Chinese architectural decoration, red is considered a masculine color, representing vitality, passion, and strength; Dark colors such as black and blue are considered feminine, representing tranquility, composure, and introversion. In design, the appropriate use of these two colors can achieve a balance between yin and yang in architectural decoration, creating a harmonious and comfortable atmosphere.

(2) In terms of appearance, symmetrical shapes such as circles and squares are considered masculine, representing stability, order, and rationality; Asymmetric shapes such as curves and waves are considered feminine shapes, representing freedom, agility, and sensibility. In design, the appropriate use of these two forms can achieve a balance between yin and yang in architectural decoration, showcasing rich artistic effects.

(3) The layout emphasizes the balance of yin and yang, and the spatial layout also emphasizes the balance of yin and yang. For example, the plant arrangement in the courtyard should include both tall trees and low shrubs to form a balance of yin and yang; The arrangement of indoor furniture should include both square tables and circular chairs to create a balance between yin and yang<sup>[1]</sup>.

### 1.2 Smooth lines

In ancient China, lines were regarded as an important artistic expression technique. They not only outlined the outline of objects, but also expressed their inner spirit and temperament. Therefore, in Chinese architectural decoration design, smooth lines are considered a very important aesthetic principle. For example, the arch of wooden architecture, eaves, doors and windows and other decorative parts in ancient Chinese architecture all adopt smooth line design. These lines not only have practicality, but also create a

harmonious and unified aesthetic.

### 1.3 Symmetry and asymmetry

The principle of symmetry has been widely applied in Chinese architectural decoration design. Symmetry refers to the fact that an object or shape remains unchanged under a certain transformation, which usually refers to rotation, reflection, etc. In traditional Chinese architecture, the principle of symmetry is often reflected in aspects such as architectural layout, door and window design, and decorative patterns.

## 2. Classical aesthetic elements in Chinese architectural decoration design

### 2.1 Color application

In Chinese architecture, colors usually have symbolic significance, and different colors represent different emotions and artistic conception. For example, red is one of the most important colors in Chinese tradition, symbolizing joy, auspiciousness, and prosperity. In Chinese architecture, red is usually used in important parts such as doors, columns, and window frames to convey a warm and festive atmosphere. On the other hand, black and gray symbolize solemnity, composure, and mystery, and are commonly used on roofs, walls, and floors to convey a peaceful and profound atmosphere. In Chinese architectural decoration design, emphasis is also placed on color contrast and harmony. For example, color combinations such as red walls, green tiles, yellow tiles, and red walls create a sharp contrast while achieving a harmonious visual effect [2].

### 2.2 Material selection

Classical aesthetic elements are mainly reflected in the following aspects in material selection:

(1) Wood: Wood is one of the most commonly used materials in traditional Chinese architecture. It has a natural texture and beautiful texture, which can create a warm and natural atmosphere. In Chinese architectural decoration design, wood is often used for doors, windows, beams, columns, floors, and other parts, showcasing rich artistic charm through exquisite carving techniques.

(2) Stone: Stone has the characteristics of being sturdy, durable, and rich in texture, and is commonly used in the floors, walls, foundations, and other parts of Chinese architecture. The selection and application of stone materials need to be matched according to the overall style and functional requirements of the building, in order to showcase the charm of classical aesthetics.

(3) Ceramics: Ceramics are an important element in traditional Chinese architectural decoration, with rich shapes and patterns, and can be used for roofs, walls, floors, and other parts. The selection and application of ceramics need to be matched according to the overall style and functional requirements of the building, in order to showcase the charm of classical aesthetics.

(4) Bricks and tiles: Bricks and tiles are one of the most commonly used materials in traditional Chinese architecture, with the characteristics of being sturdy, durable, and rich in texture. They are commonly used in walls, roofs, and other parts of Chinese architecture. The selection and application of bricks and tiles need to be matched according to the overall style and functional requirements of the building, in order to showcase the charm of classical aesthetics.

(5) Paint: Paint is an important element in traditional Chinese architectural decoration, with rich colors and patterns, and can be used for doors, windows, beams, columns, furniture, and other parts. The selection and application of paint need to be matched according to the overall style and functional requirements of the building to showcase the charm of classical aesthetics.

### 2.3 Pattern design

Pattern design usually revolves around natural elements, myths and legends, historical stories, etc., showcasing unique artistic charm through rich colors, lines, and shapes. Designers usually incorporate elements such as flowers and birds, mountains and rivers, and cloud patterns from nature into their designs, creating a fresh and natural atmosphere. For example, various floral patterns can be carved on window frames, symbolizing prosperity and auspiciousness; You can also draw landscape paintings on beams and columns to create a peaceful and far-reaching atmosphere. Mythical legends and historical stories are also important themes in pattern design. Folklore, historical allusions, and other elements are usually integrated into the design, conveying rich cultural connotations through meaningful patterns.

## 3. The Integration of Classical Aesthetics in Modern Chinese Architectural Decoration Design

### 3.1 Innovation and Inheritance

With the development of technology, new materials and technologies emerge endlessly, providing designers with more creative space. For example, modern materials can be combined with traditional craftsmanship to create architectural decoration works that have both traditional charm and modern aesthetics. Classical aesthetics is a treasure of Chinese culture, containing rich philosophical

ideas and aesthetic tastes.

### **3.2 Balance between function and aesthetics**

In the design process, fully consider the functional requirements of the building and pay attention to the application of aesthetic elements. For example, when designing a living room, it is important to consider its functions such as reception and leisure, as well as the use of aesthetic elements such as Chinese furniture and decorations. The principle of harmony in classical aesthetics has also been widely applied in modern design. The principle of harmony emphasizes the coordination and unity between various design elements, which is particularly important in modern Chinese architectural decoration design.

### **3.3 Environmental Protection and Sustainability**

With the development of modern society, people's awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development is gradually increasing. Therefore, in modern Chinese architectural decoration design, the integration of classical aesthetics also needs to consider environmental protection and sustainability issues. In terms of material selection, modern Chinese architectural decoration design should try to choose environmentally friendly and renewable materials, such as bamboo, wood, etc., to avoid using materials that cause pollution to the environment, such as plastics, chemical coatings, etc. In the design process, efforts should be made to minimize material waste and improve material utilization to achieve sustainable resource utilization.

## **4. The Importance of Classical Aesthetics in Chinese Architectural Decoration Design**

The classical aesthetics in Chinese architectural decoration design is not only an important component of traditional Chinese culture, but also a valuable asset that cannot be ignored in the field of modern design. It represents a profound cultural accumulation and unique aesthetic concept, which is of great significance for promoting the innovative development of modern architectural design. The importance of classical aesthetics in Chinese architectural decoration design is reflected in its ability to provide rich cultural elements and design inspiration for modern design<sup>[3]</sup>. Chinese classical aesthetics contain rich symbolic meanings and profound philosophical ideas, such as landscape imagery, yin and yang elements, calligraphy and painting, etc., which provide a unique perspective and creative space for modern architectural decoration design.

## **5. The Application and Challenges of Classical Aesthetics in Modern Architectural Decoration Design**

Classical aesthetics, as an important component of traditional Chinese culture, its application in modern architectural decoration design is not only the inheritance of traditional culture, but also a challenge to modern design concepts. The core of classical aesthetics lies in the pursuit of harmony and balance, emphasizing the beauty of nature and simplicity, which is fundamentally different from the pursuit of innovation and functionality in modern design. However, it is precisely this difference that provides broader development space and innovative possibilities for modern architectural decoration design. On the application level, the embodiment of classical aesthetics in modern architectural decoration design is mainly reflected in the reference and integration of traditional elements.

## **6. Conclusion**

Deeply explored the classical aesthetics in Chinese architectural decoration design and analyzed its application in modern design. The basic principles of classical aesthetics, including harmony, symmetry, proportion, and order, were discussed, and their embodiment in Chinese architectural decoration design was explored. Subsequently, by analyzing different decorative elements such as color, pattern, material, and spatial layout, the fusion and innovation of classical aesthetics in modern design were demonstrated.

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