

Architectural features and cultural studies of Hakka Tulou

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Abstract: Hakka tulou is a kind of characteristic architecture in south China, mainly distributed in Hakka settlement areas in Fujian, Guangdong, Jiangxi and other places. As an important Chinese people, Hakka people have been known for their hard work, strong and brave spirit since ancient times. Tulou is their unique architectural form, which has played an important role in the long history. The inheritance of Hakka tulou requires the policy support of relevant departments and the attention and participation of all sectors of society. This paper will discuss how to promote the inheritance and development of Hakka tulou, and explore the application prospects of tulou in contemporary society.

Key words: Hakka tulou; Architectural features; Hakka culture

1. Overview of Hakka Tulou

(1) The definition and origin of Hakka Tulou

Hakka tulou can be defined as a unique architectural form, specifically referring to a multi-story alpine farming building built in the Hakka area of Minyue in South China. The Hakka tulou is a kind of architectural form that combines both housing and defense. It is composed of earth walls, wooden frames and stone platforms, and has a magnificent appearance. It is a unique architectural style developed by the Hakka people in response to external threats. Tulou are usually made up of multiple floors, each with an independent function. Tulou gradually came into being under the unique geographical environment and historical and cultural background, and became an important carrier for Hakka people to live, residents to help each other, and cultural inheritance.

(2) Types and distribution of tulou

Hakka tulou can be divided into many types according to their external shape and internal layout. According to the architectural form and function, the tulou can be divided into circular tulou, four-corner tulou and tall tulou and other types. Among them, circular tulou and square tulou are the two most common types. Circular tulou is round or oval in appearance. It usually consists of a flat circular hall with one to three floors, centered on a central courtyard and surrounded by each floor. The square tulou is square or rectangular in appearance, and the interior is a combination of atrium and side hall layout; The four-corner tulou is composed of four right-angled halls, while the tall tulou is presented in the form of interweaving living space and agricultural production space. The distribution of tulou is mainly concentrated in Fujian, Guangdong, Jiangxi and other provinces in the southeast coastal area of China, among which Fujian Tulou is the most famous, known as the "Kingdom of Tulou".

(3) The historical status and cultural significance of Hakka tulou

Hakka tulou occupies an important position in the history and culture of Hakka people. As an important part of Hakka culture, Hakka Tulou has far-reaching historical status and rich cultural significance. First of all, Hakka tulou is the crystallization of Hakka people's wisdom, and is the core of Hakka people's settlement and organizational life. The tulou provides a safe living space, enables the Hakka people to defend their homeland from the invasion of foreign forces, and is a form of residence for them to live in harmony with nature and resist the invasion of the outside world. Secondly, the tulou is an important symbol of the Hakka's living and life style, reflecting the Hakka's collectivism and concept of family affection. In tulou, there is not only a mutual assistance relationship between family members, but also the bond of blood community. It embodies the collectivism spirit and family values of Hakka people. In addition, the tulu also carries rich historical information and folk culture, representing the unique features of Hakka culture, reflecting the creativity and traditional skills of Hakka people, and its architectural form and layout are integrated into the lifestyle, beliefs and values of Hakka people, reflecting the unique charm of Hakka culture.

2. The architectural characteristics of Hakka tulou

(1) Structure and structural characteristics

Hakka tulou are known for their unique architectural structure and use of materials. First of all, Hakka tulou adopted a special form of round or square building with its outer walls made of thick clay. This structural design can not only provide good defensive performance, but also effectively withstand natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons. In addition, the walls of tulou have a strong seismic ability, which makes the tulou stand tall in the baptism of wind and rain for a long time. The structural characteristics of tulou are also its unique feature. The interior of the tulou adopts the multi-layer distribution of the ladder type structure. Each floor is composed of multiple rooms, forming a layout similar to that of a small village. The tulou also boasts spacious aisles and an inner courtyard, providing a good place for residents to communicate and gather. In addition, the floors of the tulou are connected by unique wooden or stone stairs to facilitate residents' access between the different floors.

(2) Features of function and layout

The functional zoning and layout characteristics of Hakka tulou reflect the social life and cultural traditions of Hakka people. First of all, the interior of the tulou is rationally divided according to different functional requirements. The first floor is usually used as an area

for living and agricultural production, including kitchens, living rooms and barns. The second floor was used to store food and household belongings. The top floor is used as a defense and viewing area. This partition design enables the living, production and protection functions to be effectively organized and utilized. The layout features of tulou are also very unique. The entire interior of the tulou is composed of small village-style rooms, and each family has its own entrance and exit and living space. Roads and passageways in the tulou connect each room and floor, forming an interconnected whole. This village-style layout not only optimizes the use of space inside the tulou, but also enhances communication and interaction among residents.

(3) Artistic and decorative features

The artistic expression and decorative techniques of Hakka tulou reflect the pursuit of beauty and the continuation of cultural tradition of Hakka people. First of all, a large number of exquisite carvings and colored paintings can be seen on the outer and inner walls of the tulou. These carvings and painted paintings show the rich artistic talent of the Hakka people and their love for nature and life. Secondly, the interior decoration of tulou is also very dainty. All kinds of paintings, calligraphy and painting are hung on the walls, and exquisite ceramic vessels and furniture are placed inside the house. All these decorative elements show the Hakka people's emphasis on quality of life and aesthetic pursuit.

3. The relationship between Hakka Tulou and Hakka culture

(1) Tulou and Hakka traditional social structure

As a unique architectural form of Hakka people, tulou is closely related to the traditional social structure of Hakka people. The Hakka people have always paid attention to family and blood relationship, and the tulou is not only a residence, but also a symbol of the Hakka family and a source of cohesion. The layout characteristics of the different floors of the tulou are directly related to the blood relationship. For example, the upper floors are usually inhabited by brothers and sisters, while the lower floors are inhabited by parents and grandparents, in order to maintain the family relationship and traditional social structure. Farming has always been the main livelihood of the Hakka people, and the tulou, as their form of living, reflects their special social structure. In Hakka society, the tulou was used as a home for the family, not only providing accommodation space, but also serving as the center of the family organization. The unique features of the tulou structure, such as multi-storey buildings, complex internal layout and high walls, are in line with the feudal society and family traditions of the Hakka people.

(2) Tulou and Hakka lifestyle and values

The architectural features and internal functional layout of tulou reflect the Hakka lifestyle and values. The architectural form of the tulou is closely linked to the life style of the Hakka people, who emphasize family unity and mutual assistance, which is reflected in the setting of public Spaces and shared facilities inside the tulou. For example, each floor has a shared kitchen, toilet and storage space, which is shared by family members, enhancing family intimacy. The structural design of tulou also enables different families to live in the same building, promoting the development of kinship and strengthening of family shared responsibilities. In addition, the tulou also embodies the Hakka values of diligence and frugality, and its solid building structure and unique choice of building materials, as well as the design concept of rational use of natural resources, all reflect the Hakka people's emphasis on resources and pursuit of lasting development. As a living space, the tulou also reflects the Hakka people's adaptation and utilization of the natural environment in the farming society, which is in line with their hardworking and simple attitude towards life.

(3) The religious beliefs and rituals of tulou and Hakka people

Tulou is an important place for Hakka people's religious belief and ceremony, and Tulou plays an important role in Hakka people's religious belief and ceremony. Confucianism and Taoism are the main beliefs of Hakka people, and there are permanent shrines and ancestral monuments in the tulou, which worship the ancestors of the family and other religious gods. Tulou is often regarded as a place of religious ceremony and ancestor worship. In the courtyard of the Tulou or in specific areas, Hakka people carry out various ritual activities and worship their ancestors, and express their respect and respect for their ancestors by connecting with the tulou. To pass on the family culture. The tulou is also a place to hold family gatherings, organize religious ceremonies and celebrate traditional festivals, and through the tulou as a carrier of religious belief, the Hakka people have integrated their faith into their daily lives, deepening their reverence and value for their ancestors and religion.

The Hakka tulou also showcases the rich traditional artistic and cultural expressions of the Hakka people. The unique aesthetic pursuit and craftsmanship of the Hakka people can be seen in the architectural structure, carved decoration and tile painting of the tulou. Artworks such as wood carvings, stone carvings and paper-cuts inside tulou contain rich cultural symbols and symbolic meanings. In addition, Hakka tulou is also an important place for traditional art performances such as Hakka opera, dance and music. These artistic and cultural expressions make Hakka tulou an important carrier of Hakka people's cultural traditions and enrich the connotation of Hakka culture.

4. Protection and inheritance of Hakka tulou

(1) The status quo and challenges of tulou protection

Hakka tulou, a unique architectural form in South China, has attracted much attention due to its unique structure and cultural background. However, the protection of tulou faces many status quo and challenges. First, the building materials and structure of tulou are worn down by time and the forces of nature. Many tulou have some degree of damage and collapse under the influence of long-term use and natural disasters. This poses a great challenge to the protection and restoration of tulou buildings. Secondly, the land use and urban

development where the tulou buildings are located also pose a threat to their protection. Due to the huge scale and traditional architectural style of tulou, land development and urbanization process may lead to the destruction or relocation of tulou. In addition, the protection of tulou also involves legal and policy support. The current legal and policy system does not provide sufficient guarantee for the protection of tulou buildings, and lacks clear and enforceable provisions.

(2) Protection measures taken by the government and social organizations

In order to protect Hakka tulou buildings, the government and social organizations have adopted a series of protection measures and policies. On the one hand, it is necessary for the government to strengthen law enforcement in the protection of tulou buildings, punish the illegal destruction of tulou buildings, and increase the economic investment in tulou protection projects. On the other hand, the government also needs to strengthen the publicity and promotion of tulou culture, which has improved the public's awareness of tulou protection. Secondly, social organizations play an important role in the protection of tulou buildings. Many non-governmental organizations and cultural heritage protection institutions actively participate in the protection of tulou buildings, promoting the sustainable development of tulou protection by organizing volunteers, carrying out cultural education and tourism promotion activities.

(3) Methods and strategies of tulou cultural inheritance

In order to realize the inheritance of tulou culture, it is necessary to adopt a series of ways and strategies. First, we need to strengthen the education and publicity of tulou culture. The knowledge and value of tulou culture should be popularized to the public through schools, museums, cultural heritage protection organizations and other channels to stimulate people's interest in and attention to tulou culture. Second, it is necessary to encourage the innovation of tulou culture and the inheritance of traditional skills. By cultivating young people's interest and participation, skills and techniques of tulou culture should be passed on to promote the innovation and development of tulou culture. In addition, focusing on cooperation and participation with local communities and residents is also an important strategy to inherit tulou culture, through interaction and cooperation with residents, understanding their needs and expectations for tulou, and jointly formulating and implementing plans for the protection and development of tulou. The protection and inheritance of Hakka tulou buildings is a complex and important task. Through the cooperation of the government and social organizations, and the adoption of effective protection measures and inheritance strategies, we can protect and pass on this unique cultural heritage and promote the sustainable development of tulou culture.

5. Conclusions

By studying the architectural features and culture of Hakka tulou, we can better understand and inherit the cultural heritage of Hakka people. As a unique architectural form, Hakka tulou not only has important historical value, but also contains profound traditional cultural connotation. Through reasonable protection and inheritance measures, Hakka tulou can become an important resource for local cultural tourism, and at the same time can pass on their own cultural identity and pride for Hakka people.

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