

The Influence of the Zhuang Nationality Buluotuo Culture on the Art of its Residential Architectures

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Abstract: As the largest minority nationality in China, Zhuang nationality has a long and splendid history and culture. In addition, in the course of historical development, the Zhuang nationality has created a variety of traditional and national cultures for China. Therefore, this paper mainly summarizes the Buluotuo culture of Zhuang nationality, and analyzes the influence of the Zhuang nationality Buluotuo culture on the art in residential architectures.

Keywords: The Buluotuo Culture of Zhuang nationality; Art in Residential Architectures; Impact Analysis

Introduction

The Zhuang nationality is an indigenous ethnic group in south of the Five Ridges, whose ancestors belong to the ancient Baiyue ethnic group, such as “Xi ‘ou”, “Luoyue” and other tribes, which are the representatives of Baiyue. So, the Zhuang nationality is the witness of China’s 5000 years of historical development and a long ethnic group created in the long history from the perspective of historical development.^[1]In addition, the Zhuang nationality has left a variety of unique stilt style architectures in their development, which are China’s traditional cultural heritage. Therefore, it is of great significance to study the Buluotuo culture of Zhuang nationality and art in residential architecture.

1. Overview of the Zhuang Nationality’s Buluotuo Culture

Buluotuo is the ancestor god of Zhuang nationality, so there is a saying in the folk that means “coming bird man” as the Zhuang nationality is the descendants of birds. In the Zhuang nationality legend, March 3 is the birthday of Buluotuo, the Zhuang nationality ancestor, as Buluotuo is the ancestor of the Zhuang people, who concentrate their wisdom, knowledge and spirit on the Buluotuo according to their own understanding of life, their own ideal and will to life, making it a national ancestor god that is cherished and worshiped by everyone. According to the Zhuang nationality creation Classic Poem Buluotuo Classic Poem, Buluotuo is the Zhuang nationality’s ancestor, an omniscient and omnipotent god of creation, where the poem describes the journey of heaven, earth, sun and moon, the origin of human beings and the life of our ancestors, which is the Zhuang nationality of ancient “encyclopedia”. At the meantime, it also describes the Zhuang nationality of ancient architectural forms and cultural characteristics while Buluotuo culture has a deep influence on art in residential architecture of the Zhuang nationality.

2. The Influence of the Zhuang Nationality Buluotuo Culture on the Art of its Residential Architecture

2.1 The Influence of the Zhuang Nationality Buluotuo Legend on the Art of Ancient Residential Architecture

Buluotuo is the founder of the Zhuang nationality, who is inherited in the form of culture among the people. As Buluotuo is the transliteration name of the Zhuang language, in which “Bu” is the consciousness of a respected old man, “Luo” means knowing in Zhuang, and “Tuo” means creative in Zhuang. And the combination of these three characters means “an all-knowing, respected and creative old man”. In addition, Buluotuo is a god with personal consciousness, infinite power, and intelligence that far exceeds that of humans.^[2] In the ancient Zhuang nationality of people’s ideas, Buluotuo can create the world, all things in the world, establish social order, clarify ethical relations and so on. There is a fairy tale in the Buluotuo Classic Poem: “The birds have their own nests and the bees have their own hives, but the Zhuang nationality people do not have their own houses. Later, a wise old man built a wooden tripod, put horizontal bars on it and covered it with branches, leaves and thatch to form a hut...” Therefore, the complete form and rich connotation of Buluotuo culture have exerted a lasting influence on the Zhuang nationality people in ancient times.

2.2 The Influence of the Zhuang Nationality Buluotuo Culture “Na Culture” on Residential Architecture

The Zhuang nationality people mainly make a living by growing rice, thus producing the farming culture of Zhuang nationality. And the “Na” in Na culture of Zhuang nationality Buluotuo culture means paddy field in Zhuang language. In the study of Buluotuo culture, some researchers point out the “Na Culture” in the culture which is named after “Na” in zhuhai drainage area in south China

according to the distribution of place names, and also in Xijiang drainage area in Guangxi and Southeast Asia, etc.^[3] And in the ancient myths of Zhuang nationality, Buluotuo and rice also have a deep origin and close relationship. The Buluotuo Classic Poem mentions that grain seeds were created by Buluotuo and taught people the skills of planting, describing how rice was invented and how it was grown and cultivated, presenting a vivid scene of early farming for people.

In Zhuang language, the field is called “Na” and the house is called “Lan”, while the field is closely related to people’s lives in real life, so the position of the field is particularly important, that is, the position of “Na”. Zhuang people depend on “Na” for living and food. Therefore, the dwellings of Zhuang people are bound to be influenced by “Na”. The dwellings are built near paddy fields, and each dwelling is surrounded by a fire pond and a sun terrace which also reflect that the residential buildings of Zhuang people are carried out by agricultural production.^[4] On the eve of the Spring Festival each year, in the Zhuang nationality region of Guilin, local residents have the custom of “Chenian”. Each family will pack a larger Zongzi called “Mu Zongzi” and several smaller ones called “Zi Zongzi” and put them on the table for ancestor worship. Until years later, the fifteenth day of the new year, waiting for the ancestor worship before withdrawing, on this day, the family reunite together to open the “Mu Zongzi” by distribution according to the pecking order, everyone eats dumplings, combining the complete eating “Mu Zongzi” of customs, which is also derived under the Buluotuo culture, affected by “the culture” where we can obviously see the profound influence of the Zhuang nationality Buluotuo culture on residential architectures.

2.3 The Influence of Buluotuo Culture on the Building of Pit Dwelling and Stilt Style Architectures

Stilt style architectures are the traditional residential buildings of the Zhuang nationality. In Guangxi, where there are high mountains and dangerous waters, and the climate is hot, humid and rainy. The stilt style buildings at the bottom can meet various living requirements, such as moisture-proof, anti-animal, anti-burglar and ventilation at the same time. Up to now, the relatively intact stilt style architectures should be Guangxi Longji Thirteen villages. Generally, the overall structure of stilt style architectures has three floors. In of Buluotuo legends, there is a building legend, the wise old man guide people out of the cave, set up the tripod by wood, laid branches and thatch so that people gradually in this way, change the cave life, gradually live to the plain, which is a simple nest building form, is also the foundation of stilt style architectures. After that, the Zhuang nationality people gradually learned to use wood to make pillars and build houses on them. Under the pillars, they laid about one meter of bluestone as the foundation to prevent the damp ground from corroding the wooden pillars and affecting the stability of the houses.

2.4 The influence of Zhuang Nationality Buluotuo Culture on Art Form in Residential Architectures

The Zhuang nationality’s residential architecture art form has a distinct feature, that is, sculpture and roof ridge art decoration, there is no geometric shape of the kind of space dull sense, has some aesthetic meaning. The art decoration of the roof is mostly in the shape of horns and gourds, which are all elements of agricultural life extracted from “Na Culture”. For a house, the ridge is in the highest, the most prominent position, so people often put the most exquisite ornaments on the ridge, consigning the good wishes of house host, also adding a kind of line beauty for the house. In the legend of Buluotuo, Buluotuo sent a nine-tailed dog to heaven to steal grain for the common people. When the nine-tailed dog sees the grain pile, he rolls on it. Driven by people in heaven, the nine-tailed dog drops grains of rice for common people in the process of escape. Therefore, stone dogs, as decorations, have been spread to the present, becoming a spiritual symbol and art form of the Zhuang nationality of people’s architectures.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, Buluotuo culture is the crystallization of the Zhuang nationality’s ancient people’s wisdom, which not only expresses people’s good intentions but also has a profound influence on the Zhuang nationality’s residential architecture today. The formation and development of the Zhuang nationality’s residential architectural art are inseparable from Buluotuo culture, under its influence, has given the Zhuang nationality its unique national cultural nature and connotation.

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