

Qingdao Modern Church Contrast and Analyzing Based on Religious Influences Perspective: Examples from Qingdao Catholic Church and Qingdao Christian Church

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Abstract. Qingdao, as a city with a colonial history, has numerous architectures that combine traditional Chinese architectural style and Western architectural style. One of the most distinctive types of architecture is the church. Churches have significant mental support functions as well as their function as shelters. They are symbols of the city, and valuable for the city to present its architectural scene. This article wishes to state the backgrounds and history of Catholicism and Protestantism; compare the differences in external spaces, internal spaces, decorations, and volume of Qingdao catholic church and Qingdao Christian church to analyze the architectural differences based on different religious backgrounds; emphasize the characteristics and connotations for churches. Studying church architecture can reveal the creativity and technical proficiency of ancient architects and craftsmen. Church architecture encompasses knowledge and skills from various fields, including structural engineering, sculpture, painting, and decoration. Such research contributes to the advancement of architectural design and engineering technology. Church architecture is a reflection of human creativity and cultural traditions, and it holds significant importance for the study and preservation of cultural heritage.

Keywords: Qingdao, church, religious influence, contrast and analyzing.

1. Introduction

Qingdao attaches importance to the city's historic and cultural architecture. Qingdao sees those architectures as a vital part of the city's culture and tourism. It is beneficial to reinforce the protection of historic architecture to improve the city environment, culture preservation, and even the industries of Qingdao. Churches are the symbols of Qingdao, different religious denominations and architectural styles constitute modern Qingdao's variety [1]. Most of the research of predecessors is aimed at a certain architecture, there is a scarcity of horizontal comparison. Churches serve as places for religious activities, and their architecture is closely tied to religious beliefs. By studying church architecture can gain a deeper understanding of various aspects of different religions, such as rituals, symbols, and ceremonies, and reveal the connection between religion and architecture. This has significant relevance for the study of religion and the understanding of different religious cultures. This article will be based on the scarcity to compare the churches in Qingdao horizontally, and relate them to different religious backgrounds, to reinforce the understanding of Qingdao churches and architecture.

2. Analyzing of the Religious Denominations in Qingdao

2.1. Catholicism

In the 16th century, Jesuit missionaries entered China, and created Catholicism (called the host of the sky) in China based on the traditional Chinese proverb "The highest is the sky, the highest is the host." [1]. There are relatively fixed beliefs and doctrines in Catholicism. The leader of churches is the pope, they obey life-long tenure.

In 1897, Germany invaded Jiaozhou Bay. Bai Mingde, a German catholic missionary, came to Qingdao to preach. He organized a wood house at Tianhou Temple, Taiping Road, Qingdao for preaching, which became the earliest activity site in Qingdao [2].

2.2. Protestantism

Protestantism is one of the three denominations of Christianity. It is often called “Christianity” directly in China. Its doctrine emphasizes “righteousness by faith”, which believes Jesus had sacrificed for humans to atone for their guilt. In Protestantism, humans don't need to do good deeds in exchange the rescue from God, God will save humans only because of their beliefs. The Bible is the only authority of beliefs in Protestantism, which denies papacy in Catholicism. In Protestantism, every believer has the right to be a priest [3]. Protestantism was independent from Catholicism in 1521 according to the formal statement from Martin Luther [4]. Difference from Catholicism, Protestantism has many churches, so the period they appeared in Qingdao is different, and the sizes of each church are also different [1].

3. Overview of the Two Churches

3.1. Background of the Catholic Church

Construction on the Aier Catholic Church began in 1932 and was completed two years later, funded by the Germans and designed by the German architect Bilouha. The original plan was to build the Gothic style, but later due to the changes of the German regime, the construction plan was forced to change, and finally, the church architecture was changed to Romanesque architecture.

During the Second World War, the Catholic Church was controlled by the Japanese, and later during the Cultural Revolution, many sacred objects were looted and structures destroyed; the church was restored and finally reopened in 1982.

3.2. Background of the Christian Evangelical Church

The Christian Evangelical Church was built in 1908 and two years later, under the jurisdiction of the German Evangelical Church and designed by the German architect Roger. During World War I, the German church was short of funds and eventually sold the Christian Evangelical Church to the Lutheran Church of America. After the founding of New China, the domestic Christians launched a revolutionary movement and finally acquired the jurisdiction of the Christian Evangelical Church. In 1999, the church was restored and officially opened to the people [2].

4. Comparison of the Two Churches

4.1. Outside Space

In terms of site selection, Aier Catholic Church is located on Qufu Road, Asian Road, Zhejiang Road, and the hillside platform [5]. Unlike the conventional Catholic church, considering the pier view, it is designed to be north and south, at the endpoint of the radial road [6]. The Christian Gospel Hall is located on a small hill, surrounded by mountains on three sides, the west is View Mountain, the east is signal Mountain, the north is View Mountain, the south is Qingdao Bay, and the distance is the east end of Yishui Road.

The main entrance of The Catholic Church is located on the south facade, flanked by two pointed towers, longitudinal high in the middle low, and is completely symmetrical [7]. The main entrance is very decorative, with three columns with botanical relief, and three slender rectangular windows [8]. On the south side of the two towers, the Windows above the side door are round coupons, and a cast iron cross is erected on the spire of both sides [9]. The eaves and waistlines of the church adopt the small coupon of Roman buildings [9].

The main entrance of the Christian Evangelical Church is located on the south facade, and on the left is the towering bell tower, all in an asymmetric form. In the middle of the facade, there is a circular glass window with three rectangular Windows under the window. On the square window has two groups of slender rectangular Windows, each group has two [8]. The left side is the main door, there

are three small Windows above the main door, and the windowsill is laid with cow tongue tile for dispersing water; the right side is the side door, with only a small window above the side door [8].

4.2. Interior Space

4.2.1. Streamline of human activity

The Catholic Church adopts the cross-symmetrical building form, the hall has a vertical longitudinal axis in the center, and the north end of the hall is the altar; the altar is the half arc dome, inside the dome mural; a transverse space built in front of the altar, forming the whole cross plane [6]. The pillars within the hall extend from the sides of the chancel into two vertical lines, directing the view to the chancel [9].

Christian Evangelical Church has three entrances, respectively from the hall to the hall; the structure of the hall is very simple, with only the upper arch ribs, and a longitudinal axis leads the line of people to the altar in the center of the hall [6].

4.2.2. Components of the function

The main part of the Catholic Church is mainly divided into two towers and an auditorium. The original design planned to place clocks in the spire of the two towers for time reporting; the clock had to be abandoned due to reduced reduction during construction [9]. The interior of the hall is arranged with its longitudinal axis, with a corridor on both sides; the altar is semicircular, located at the top of the longitudinal axis of the hall, the warning pavilion is located on the side of the corridor on both sides, and the four entrances are equipped with pools. There is an organ above the hall gate, used for singing chant accompaniment, the scale is very large [10].

The main part of the Christian Evangelical Church is mainly divided into a bell tower and a chapel, [10]. The chancel is located on the north side of the hall, with a wall platform on the right side, and the east, west, and south sides of the hall with a side corridor, for the visiting [7]. Above the hall gate is the organ, due to the choir chant.

4.3. Ornamental

The total construction area is 2623.57 square meters, with a length of 64.86 meters from north to south, 37.6 meters wide from east to west, and a main height of 56.9 meters [9]. The Christian church has a total construction area of 1167.18 square meters, with a length of 45.3 meters from north to south, 36.99 meters wide from east to west, and a main height of 17.28 meters [8].

The Catholic church of Holy Eyre boasts a mesmerizing display of architectural features. Vibrant stained-glass windows illuminate the interior, while elaborate murals adorn the dome and altar. The grandeur is further enhanced by the presence of seven colossal bronze chandeliers. Every inch is meticulously decorated with intricate Renaissance-style patterns, exuding a sense of timeless beauty.

On the other hand, the Christian evangelical hall takes a more minimalist approach to its layout. Within the hall, one's attention is immediately drawn to the soaring cross-arch ribs that reach towards the heavens. The space itself is open and expansive, creating a sense of awe-inspiring vastness. The hall's design incorporates circular flower windows, allowing natural light to stream in, creating a serene and uplifting atmosphere. The simplicity of the design resonates with the essence of the Christian faith, focusing on the spiritual journey and the message of the cross [10].

These contrasting examples exemplify the diversity and richness of church architecture, each capturing the essence of their respective religious traditions while showcasing unique features and aesthetics.

5. Analysis of Discrepancies Due to Religious Reasons

5.1. Outside Space

In the Catholic Church, the Pope has the ultimate authority to interpret the Bible, so the Catholic Church is located in the middle of the city, around the roads. The Protestantism understanding of the

Bible is personal and free, so the east end of Yishui Road, which is surrounded by mountains on three sides and the square, has a broad vision.

Catholicism attaches great importance to tradition and etiquette, so the whole Aier Catholic Church is in the form of a cross, completely symmetrical, rigorous, and solemn. Protestantism is more diverse than Catholicism, so the form of the Christian gospel Church is more flexible, free, and overall asymmetrical.

5.2. Interior Space

In the Catholic Church, the priest and other clergy are given high status and the right to public prayer, so in addition to the altar and seat, the Catholic Church also has a confession room for communication between the priest and the priest, to establish the relationship between the priest and God. Protestant religion believes that everyone has the right to communicate with God in public, so the internal composition is relatively simple, with only the altar, seat, and podium.

Both Catholic and Protestant churches regard singing as a very important religious ritual, and the Catholic and Protestant churches have choirs, so above the gates of the Catholic Church and the Christian chapel are rooms for organ and choir members.

5.3. Ornamentation

Catholics worship Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, and many saints, so there are many holy images in the inner wall of the church, and the colorful window patterns are complex, which erect the image of God in the heart of psychological suggestion, to better restrain the behavior of believers. Protestantism explicitly forbids portraits of gods so that believers can interpret the Bible from a personal perspective, so the inner wall of the Christian Evangelical Church is white, without murals.

5.4. Body Weight

Catholicism, as supported by the Roman Pope, is historically known for its substantial financial resources compared to Christianity. The Catholic Church has often possessed significant wealth, allowing for the construction of elaborate cathedrals, the adornment of exquisite artwork, and the establishment of educational and charitable institutions. In Catholic worship, the presence and guidance of ordained priests or fathers play a crucial role, leading the congregation in sacraments and administering religious rituals.

Protestantism places a strong emphasis on the doctrine of "faith alone" or "sola fide." This theological stance has resulted in the emergence of numerous branches and denominations within Christianity, each with its own distinctive beliefs and practices. Protestant churches, while often smaller in size, are generally more numerous. These churches may not possess substantial financial resources or elaborate architectural structures like Catholic cathedrals. Instead, they prioritize the congregation's relationship with God, focusing on the interpretation of scripture and the spiritual growth of individuals.

This diversification within Christianity has resulted in a rich tapestry of different traditions, worship styles, and community structures. While Catholicism reflects a centralized authority and significant resources, Protestantism highlights the autonomy of local churches and a wider distribution of religious communities.

6. Conclusion

Due to the essential differences between Catholic and Protestant doctrines, the Aier Catholic Church is also different from the Christian Evangelical Church. Under the strict Catholic ceremonial tradition and organizational structure, the Catholic Church also strictly follows the law of symmetry; Protestantism pays more attention to personal understanding, so the design of the Christian Church is free and flexible. The Aier Catholic Church and the Christian Evangelical Church have a very high historical value, and the influence of the religion behind them cannot be ignored. Understanding the

relationship between religion and church buildings can help to deepen the understanding of the formal characteristics of architecture, the historical value, and the connection between history and reality, and then promote the protection and regeneration of church buildings in Qingdao.

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