

Protection And Reuse of Nanjing Yihe Road Historical and Cultural Block

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Abstract. The historic and cultural district of Nanjing Yihe Road has profound historical value, which should be preserved in today's society. To preserve these buildings means preserving the architectural history and culture of China. This paper examines the evolutionary process, the value and significance of the existence of the Nanjing Yihe Road Historical and Cultural Quarter, the existing problems, and proposes measures. The results show that there have been four stages in the evolutionary process from the implementation of the Capital Plan to the present. The value of the existence of the Yihe Road Cultural Quarter is divided into three aspects: cultural value, architectural value, and planning value. The construction of the Summer Palace has changed the traditional construction methods of the Chinese people for more than a thousand years and has pushed the construction of buildings in China onto the path of scientific design, which is also of great value in the history of modern Chinese architecture. However, some problems manifest in three aspects: poorly reflected values, poor preservation, and unsatisfactory improvement schemes. Several renovation proposals have been put forward in response to the problems, drawing on some excellent examples from China. Firstly, it is suggested to increase the functionality and spatiality of the building and pay attention to the development of Republican architecture.

Keywords: Nanjing; Yihe Road; Historical and cultural district; Value; Protection and reuse.

1. Introduction

The revival of historical and cultural districts is an important measure to protect historical buildings, continue the historical lineage and inherit humanistic traditions, and is an indispensable part of the new urbanisation. The protection of historical and cultural districts in China is also included in the scope of the protection planning of historical and cultural cities, which makes the protection and development of historical and cultural districts in China more and more important and standardized at the same time. For example, Gulangyu Island and Kuanzhai Alley are tourist Cities famous for their architecture and history.

The Summer Palace district of Nanjing has over 2,000 buildings, mainly built for state government officials. It was the district with the most significant number of public houses in the Republic of China. The Summer Palace District was an important organ of the Kuomintang, and wealthy people and foreigners lived in the villa gardens, known as the government district and embassy district of the Republic of China [1]. It is also one of the characteristic attractions of the Republican architecture in Nanjing. It reflects the development of Nanjing during the Republican period and bears witness to the history of Nanjing, and thus is known as the Nanjing Architecture Museum. The Yihe Road area is one of the few areas in Chinese history built according to the idea of a "garden city" and is one of the few success stories. A Yihe Road with half of the country's history. This shows the importance of Summer Palace Road. However, it also has some problems; for example: it cannot be fully protected because of the complexity of property rights.

This study examines the evolution process, the value and significance of the historical and cultural district of Nanjing's Yihe Road, its problems, and proposes measures.

2. Background

2.1. Historical background

The construction of the Summer Palace Road is examined firstly by going back to the establishment of the Capital Plan. Then it went through four important stages before forming the Nanjing Yihe Road area (Figure1).



Fig. 1. Historical protection block map in a) 1931' s; b) 1937' s; c) 1953' s; d) 1970' s; e) 2018' s

2.1.1. The imagination of the modern model capital in the new residential area construction period.

After the National government appointed the capital of Nanjing in 1927, it hoped to create a capital of Nanjing that would be comparable with the modern cities in Europe and America in a hundred years and play an exemplary role in the political and cultural construction of other cities, while driving the development of the surrounding cities. At that time, housing was in supply, and the residence of government officials and their families in Nanjing was urgently needed. At this time, the north of the city was mainly a wasteland, with low land prices and beautiful scenery, so it became the primary choice for the government to build homes. The plan completed in 1931 divided the entire residential area into four categories by different geographical locations: upper-class residential, general civil service residential, general citizen residential, and shantytowns. The Yihe Road Mansion District is still in view and is the only one of the four residential areas planned to be built.

2.1.2 Severe damage and slow development in war and the post-war recovery period.

Due to the rapid economic development of China's economy from 1927 to 1937, it was called the golden decade, during which the construction process of Nanjing developed very rapidly. Since the establishment of new residential areas in 1930, the construction of Nanjing city has experienced many difficulties, and it took only three years to complete the land acquisition work basically. When trading land in Nanjing winds, the blocked road has not been built since 1931. As of 1937, the Garden and foreign house area of Yihe Road was finalized. At that time, the supporting facilities around the residence were not perfect, and there were only a few main traffic lines, which was not very convenient for people in this area. The ensuing War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression greatly damaged the construction of Nanjing greatly. The Yihe Road houses were destroyed, some major buildings were bombed, and the twelfth area was more seriously damaged. Most buildings in the mansion area have been damaged to varying degrees, such as Wang Jingwei, Li Zongren Mansion.

2.1.3 "Great production" and "Great Leap Forward" of the rapid "automorphism" development period.

After the liberation, urban construction can be divided into three stages. From 1949 to 1957, Nanjing city completed the infrastructure construction and set up a special urban construction organization in the first stage. In the second phase, from 1958 to 1965, the "Great Leap Forward" movement led to urban land use chaos. The third phase, the Cultural Revolution of 1966 to 1976, abolished urban planning, during which the block was in chaos [2]. Dormitory, canteen, and other units of buildings, workshops, factories, and other industrial production buildings are interspersed the Yihe Road. Green space was occupied, courtyards were built in groups, historical sites were destroyed, and building components of garden-style houses were destroyed. This situation adds insult to injury to the already damaged mansion. Even now, the private courtyards in the Yihe Road residential area are still chaotic, and it is regrettable that the government cannot rectify this phenomenon because of the property rights problem.

2.1.4 From the garden residence to the cultural preservation object in the historical protection block period.

After 1979, the urban construction units resumed their work in planning, construction, and cultural protection. On the one hand, start the development of the new urban area. On the other hand, consider the reconstruction of the old city. After decades of suffering, the Yihe Road Mansion has finally developed itself again. As early as the 1980s, the Yihe Roadblock had a survey of cultural relics, but many mansions were blocked to protect historical relics. The resumption of the planning bureau's work has also improved the traffic congestion problem. In 1999, the residence roads, water supply, and drainage were renovated. In the mid-1980s, the authorities began issuing policies to repair it [3].

2.2. Architectural style

The city is divided into its functions, putting forward the principles of "the principles of European and American science" and "the advantages of our national art". The macro planning, given Europe and the United States, also introduced the technology of the United States at that time, planted trees around, and had a thick green shade along the road, absorbing the western architectural styles and different shapes (Figure 2) ^[4]. Most micro-architectural forms follow the principle of combining Chinese and Western, and can best reflect the characteristics of this kind of architecture. Taking Chen Bulei Mansion as an example, the roof of its two slopes is composed of green brick, representing simple style and shape (Figure 3). The material used is prevalent and practical but not made public, compared with modern architecture's arrogance and threatening spirit, although feeling shabby but more accurate. Such architecture includes the continuation and change of the traditional architectural style, as well as the introduction and development of the modern western architectural style. It reflects the social characteristics of China at that time and the process of blending Chinese and Western architectural cultures.



Fig. 2. Chinese Architectural Style with American Garden Urban Planning,



Fig. 3. Chen Bulei Mansion

3. The value of the Nanjing Yihe Roadblock

The Nanjing Yihe Road area has a very important value in today's society and is divided into cultural, architectural, and planning values.

3.1. Cultural value

Yihe Road in Nanjing has a long history and culture. It has witnessed the development of half of the Republic of China. It is the most vivid historical book in Nanjing and has irreplaceable cultural value. There is a lot of historical information. Most of these residences are Kuomintang dignitaries, rich and foreigners. These mansions are historical witnesses, such as Marshall, Sun Ke, Soong Ziwen, Wang Jingwei, Li Zongren and so on. These most influential figures then lived in Yihe Road Mansion District, and these mansions witnessed major events in history.^[5] Nanjing Yihe Road Block has profound historical and cultural deposits. Its emergence reflects the social background and the international situation at that time. It witnessed the occurrence of the war and the birth of new China today. It is of important reference significance for us to study the culture of the Republic of China period. Today, the residents in its blocks are not much different from the Republic of China period and are still key government officials. Because of the special nature of their work, a quiet living environment is needed, where the office cannot be disturbed and relatively safe. So the historical function of the block has been passed down.

3.2. Planning value

Nanjing Yihe road was the national government, foreign embassies and consulates and celebrities live place. The architectural style is mainly western, in the architecture of the distinctive street space scale, in the European and American style in the street, the trees planted on both sides of the street, elegant clear environment, residential buildings rich and colorful. The road network of Yihe Road Mansion area is distinctive and unique. The north side of the mansion area adopts a parallel and vertical direction with Zhongshan North Road. With a typical architectural style of European and American garden houses, the courtyard doors face one side, the overall layout is neat, and each courtyard is equipped with a garden structure. The block planning of Yihe Road plays an important role in the cultural display of the whole area. Studying the spatial form of the Yihe Roadblock is conducive to promoting the protection and development of the historical blocks.

3.3. Architectural value

Yihe Road in Nanjing has the artistic value of planning and architecture. The diverse architectural styles of the residence area are influenced by the western ideological trend of modern architecture, showing the characteristics of modernism and classicism. Some buildings in the residential area still use the slope roof building form of traditional Chinese architecture, which enriches the form and content of modern Chinese architecture such as No.8, Yihe Road, Yan Xishan Mansion (Figure 4). At the same time, the combination of Chinese and western architecture reflects the opening principle of the Republic of China period and shows the traditional charm of China.[6].



Fig. 4. No.8, Yihe Road- -Yan Xishan Mansion

4. Current status and problems

4.1. Poor value representation

The construction area of the Republic of China in Nanjing is mainly occupied with residential functions. Although it retains the history and culture, it does not play a practical role in contemporary society. With the development of Nanjing's modernization, in contrast, Yihe Road Mansion is hidden in the wall and lacks the atmosphere of the Republic of China. At the same time, large high-rise buildings were built in the surrounding area of Yihe Road residence area, which greatly conflicts with the residence area's style.

4.2. Poor preservation

According to the survey, it is known that the residence protection degree of Yihe Road is relatively low, and no relevant government could pay attention to these abandoned and vacant buildings in the Republic of China, causing a vicious circle. Because the property rights of residential buildings are unclear, there is no real full protection coverage. Some residential buildings lack maintenance and protection, resulting in these buildings in a passive position, with no protection and no repair [7]. According to nearby residents, the specific area includes most homes on Yihe Road and Jiangsu Road. Because the specific information cannot be accessed, we did not get an accurate range.

Yihe Road Mansion District is not only a batch of cultural relics buildings but also a special historical district. After decades of development, the overall environmental status quo still maintains the overall environmental characteristics of the year. Yihe road mansion area today's style protection planning is divided into overall protection and detailed protection scheme two content, the overall protection is from the continuity of the external street, street to the features of residents on high quality living environment security are made a detailed planning, embodies the Yihe road the mansion of the Republic of China historical features protection planning of humanization. In the detailed protection, the planning of blocks and courtyards has also been detailed and explained, and the work is meticulous, which effectively ensures the transmission of the cultural value contained in the historical relics of the Republic of China period [8].

4.3. Unsatisfactory improvement programme

Nanjing city planning bureau of the building protection planning of the Republic of China, in accordance with the "demolition, the building is auxiliary", "replacement momentum, auxiliary" principle, more than half of the villa has been demolished, at the same time imitate the building built many villas, thus lost the historical and cultural value of Yihe road mansion area itself [9].

5. Strategies to solve these problems

5.1. Increase the functionality and space of the building

The space of architecture is simply the artistry of architecture, and the functionality is architectural engineering and ergonomics. If a building has too much emphasis on space, maybe the building is not easy to build, or built after it has a highly ornamental value. However, people's use is very inconvenient, if the functional affects the conceptual play or inhibits the space, so although the building is no problem in use, boring, and lacks elements pleasing to the eye, it can also say no meaning of existence. Therefore, only when the conceptual and functional nature of a building is balanced can it promote each other and make a building both beautiful and practical [10-12].

Taking the Hong Kong Pavilion as a positive case, it exists in the form of a park and contains a considerable volume of open space. These once historical heavy areas have been transformed into art galleries for citizens to move freely and visit. The former prison playground is now an open public leisure space. The open space of the big hall is mainly in the parade square, including the prison playground, stone steps and other laundry factories. Open space is used as a place for free cultural activities to provide citizens with various forms of cultural and artistic experience, including "pavilion noon performance", "Sunday Stone Cinema", "magic encounter", and so on. The open space of the new institute includes celebration Square, Yulan Square, etc., Which often takes the open space as a place for commercial activities, and even turns the open space into a charging consumption space through markets and other forms during the activities [10].

Based on the Hong Kong Pavilion's style and characteristics, specific improvement suggestions are put forward for the historical complex of Nanjing Yihe Road Mansion.

(1) In the early stage of renovation, there was not a complete large demolition and construction, but selectively retained the valuable building in the area, and demolished the current buildings by classification. Among them, the demolition includes two parts, one part is "demolition", namely, that is, the demolition of new buildings outside the Republic of China buildings most of such new buildings were built in the 1980s and 1990s, and its overall architectural style and the Republic of China mansion, the plan to be demolished; the other part is "move", that is, the original residence in the residents replaced out [13].

(2) Transformation of the area under the condition of keeping the appearance of the building unchanged and protecting the safety of the structure, the interior decoration and plane function of the building shall be appropriately adjusted and transformed. At the same time, the damaged wall was repaired and the green belt was repaired in an attempt to reshape the landscape around the mansion [14].

(3) The transformation of the area does not blindly follow the "bar" style, but is the right medicine to find a development mode suitable for its development [15].

By learning from the successful experience of the Hong Kong Grand Pavilion, the reconstruction of the Yihe Road block needs to improve the quality and expand the inclusion, select the resources that can show the history and culture, build the cultural blocks representing the development process of the Yihe Road, and enhance the functionality. By exploring the cultural value of Yihe Road and increasing open space, tourists can feel the atmosphere of history and culture. The introduction of art galleries, and the establishment of cultural creativity, form a relatively strong historical, cultural and artistic atmosphere.

For example, the reconstruction of the 11th area of Yihe Road Historical and Cultural Block, passing through the plane trees to the 11th District of Yihe Road, seems to "cross" from the former closed block of the Republic of China to this cultural and artistic space integrating aesthetic appreciation and light social interaction. The theme installation of "Song of Spring and Summer" in the Eleven District of Yihe Road takes the rhythmic beauty of "bamboo" and "sheng" as the main melody, which perfectly combines the beauty of the East with the beauty of the West.

5.2. Highlight the culture of the Republic of China

In the mansion area, every quiet road has a series of *Lingyin*, *Langya* (a well-endowed region that has brought forward men of talent) and other graceful roads, full of Nanjing features. Among them, the blocks separated by the side of the road, are also located in different sizes, and scattered heights but similar to the Republic of China buildings. The modern historical architectural complex of Nanjing Yihe Road was built according to the Garden City thought. According to the unique features of Yihe Road residence area ^[16], it highlights the residence culture of the Republic of China, renovates the representative residence, and shows the residential area's history and style of buildings to tourists. Show the unique planning value and architectural value of Yihe Road. At the same time, the Architectural Museum of Nanjing Republic of China can also be built to permanently preserve the cultural history of Yihe Road in Nanjing, let the cultural development and historical evolution of Nanjing, and give play to the historical and cultural value of the Republic of China Mansion in Nanjing, so that tourists can better understand the culture of the Republic of China [17].

For example, in Nanjing Deji Art Museum, Jinling Picture can be put into painting through equipment and play, from which people can also learn historical and cultural knowledge and experience the charm of history and culture. This combination of the past and the present is worth learning from us [18].

5.3. Creating a unique landscape.

Yihe Road Mansion is mainly a residential area. When night falls, the block becomes quiet and lacks fireworks. Although Yihe Road is relatively quiet, quiet among only its charm, its quiet also drives part of the industrial development. In Yihe Road Mansion District, it is suggested to develop some cultural and creative products and use our unique advantages to create exclusive scenery ^[19]. Tourists can feel the Republic of China's cultural and architectural value, taste the Republic of China's special food, and buy special goods. Living in the characteristic hotels of the Republic of China, tourists can feel the unique connotation of the Republic of China architecture.

5.4. Combination of Chinese and Western

The cluster of buildings along Yihe Road in Nanjing's cultural district is a reflection of both Chinese and Western architectural styles. The structures that use western design are essentially divided into two categories. One is Western eclectic architecture, like the Yan Xishan Mansion, primarily concerned with proportionality and pure formal beauty and unconcerned with rigid French forms. The other is Western Modernist architecture, a functional, cost-effective, and aesthetically beautiful architectural design that makes it easier to incorporate new materials and develop innovative structures like the Chen Brei Public House.

Republican architecture in Nanjing is actively assimilated rather than having any politically or culturally enforced characteristics. Together with the beauty of classical Western architecture and the simplicity and clarity of modern architecture, the roughness of northern Chinese architecture and the dexterity and delicacy of southern architecture coexist and blend. The preservation of these western architectural components serves as a legacy to human aesthetic civilisation and a source of fresh design ideas for the architects of the current period. The preservation of these structures is crucial for their cultural worth because of the distinct social environment in which they were created.

6. Conclusion

This study examines the evolutionary process, the value and significance of the existence of the Nanjing Yihe Road historical and cultural district, the existing problems, and proposes measures.

From the establishment of the Capital Plan to the present day, there have been four stages of evolution: the construction of new residential areas, the period of war and post-war recovery, the period of "self-constructed" development, and the period of the historic conservation district. It has three values: cultural, architectural and planning. It is one of the few neighbourhoods in China that has been built according to the garden city idea, and it is of great importance. The construction of the Yihe Road changed the traditional construction methods of the Chinese people for more than a thousand years and pushed the construction of buildings in China onto the path of scientific design, which is also of great value in the history of modern Chinese architecture. However, it also suffers from three problems: poorly represented values, poor preservation and unsatisfactory improvement schemes.

This study proposes a few renovation options based on the existing problems and cases. The first option is to increase the functionality and spatiality of the building. Drawing on the successful experience of the Grand Pavilion in Hong Kong, the renovation of the Yihe Road neighbourhood needs to improve quality, expand inclusiveness, select resources that showcase history and culture, create a cultural neighbourhood that represents the development history of Yihe Road, and enhance functionality. The cultural value of Yihe Road should be explored and more open spaces should be added so visitors can truly feel the historical and cultural atmosphere. The second option: valuing and developing the culture of Republican architecture. Highlight the Republic of China's residential culture and renovate representative residences could show visitors the history and style of architecture of the residential area. Demonstrate the unique planning and architectural value of Yihe Road. The third scheme: creating a unique landscape Yihe Road Public House is primarily a residential area. Whenever night falls, the neighbourhood becomes quiet and lacks fireworks. Although Yihe Road is relatively quiet, there is only its charm in the quietness, and its quietness has led to the development of some industries.

Nanjing is a city with a strong historical and cultural atmosphere, while Nanjing Yihe Road has witnessed the development of half of the history of the Republic of China. It took 22 years for the Nanjing National Government to build the Nanjing Yihe Road Mansion area. Due to the war and the times' changes, these buildings and history were sealed together. The buildings here are ancient and modern, compatible with China and foreign countries, and integrate the north and south. Compared with the "westernization" of Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou and other cities, it can be called the epitome of Chinese and foreign architectural art in the specific historical period of western wind and east trend. These buildings have become the carrier of history and culture. After years of historical changes, Yihe Road in Nanjing still has high cultural value. The construction of Yihe Road has changed the construction method of Chinese people's traditional experience for over thousands of years, and promoted the domestic building construction on the road of scientific design, which is also of great value in the history of modern Chinese architecture.

Through the study of Nanjing Yihe Road historical and cultural blocks, their historical background and style is carefully analyzed. Compared with the Hong Kong Grand Pavilion and LAN Kwai Fong, learn from their advantages, find out the existing problems, and solve them, let these buildings be full of vitality and vitality. The cultural production areas should be planned according to their own characteristics, face up to their own historical responsibilities, show the unique historical culture of China, let the excellent Chinese culture go to the world, enhance the influence of the Chinese culture, create the real cultural value, and let more people understand the Chinese culture.

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