

# The National Elements Displayed in Public Art Design

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**Abstract:** National element is widely used in each side of the public art design. With the development of our society, people not only need more things in visual effects but also pay more attention in ethnic flavor of our public environment. This article attempts to base on the communal point of public art, expounds how to use the national elements better and rouses the people's mind of national culture.

**Keywords:** public art design; national culture; national elements

China is a vast land, it has many kinds of nationalities, so people often say "there are different wind in hundred miles, and different customs in thousand miles." Because of the different custom formed a kind of original and unique culture in particular area, also means the regional culture. It has varied form, such as language expression, dietary habits, ethnic customs and folk beliefs, public buildings, etc.

In public art design, architect are used to generalize and re-compose a variety of regional culture, and formed national elements based on different ethnic culture background. The designers Convey various informations of national element, the informations come from the designers' own feelling of regional culture. we can understand the regional culture through the national elements of public art in specific areas and we can arouse the new understanding about national culture.

## 1.The value of national elements in public art

### 1.1. The concept of public art

The concept of "public art" originally was introduced in China in the 1990s, it appeared with the city sculpture and mural in the city as the main form of the space, this is due to the rapid development of China's economy brings higher cultural spirit, because of this concept, unfold a nationwide and massive movement about city sculpture.

People want to understand the concept of public art clearly, must learn to distinguish the concept of "public art" and "art in public space". "art in public space" means put the artwork in public space to satisfy the demand of urban planning. "public art" emphasize a kind of space art form to express specific cultural spirit. It not only surpass materialized symbols, but also provide concealed educational functions, the most important is the "public art" put forward the new thinking of culture by the designer, volkswagen, environment etc.

### 1.2.The national spirit salved in public art

Since the reform and opening-up, western culture into

China, corrode our traditional culture in some extent. Many precious ethnic culture fade away from people's perspective. Although some people have taken measures to protect our traditioanal culture actively, but western culture has the dominant position. Advocating western style blindly and ignoring national tradition are still the grievous problem in professional designer's work in china.

Industrialized society makes city taking economic construction as the core, this single and irrational development mode bring some serious problem, such as ecological crisis, cultural crisis etc. Many people have realized the severity of the problem and thought much in many areas.

From the development trend of the city itself, simple physical space will be turned to the construction of the city culture. The national elements in public art offer high-quality living space for the people living in the city, at the same time, arouse people have a new cognition about national culture. The more important is, we construct the national atmosphere have the function of remedy culture spirit, busy people can witness the faraway national culture in the construction of national atmosphere. The atmosphere saved the disappeared national culture and connected to the emotion from all ethnic groups in our country, rescued the different national spirit.

### 1.3. Regional identity strengthened by ethnic elements

National culture is a connotation of city and a very important part of scientific development of area. Through various visual expression, public art let national culture into people's daily life and preserved different national culture in physical form. This form arouse people's ethnic emotions, establish the close relations between ordinary citizens and cities, make a more comprehensive urban construction.

The design in torch of the notional palaestra Show the regional features of the national elements in public art. Main elements including traditional chinese moire symbols and the red beared Thousands years culture of

china. The initial design concept come from “harmonious symbiosis” in moire symbols of china, through the tolerate open-minded spirit of oriental, spread peaceful culture, transfer oriental civilization. Visitors through the intuitive feeling of the torch can experience forceful oriental flavor. (Figure 1)

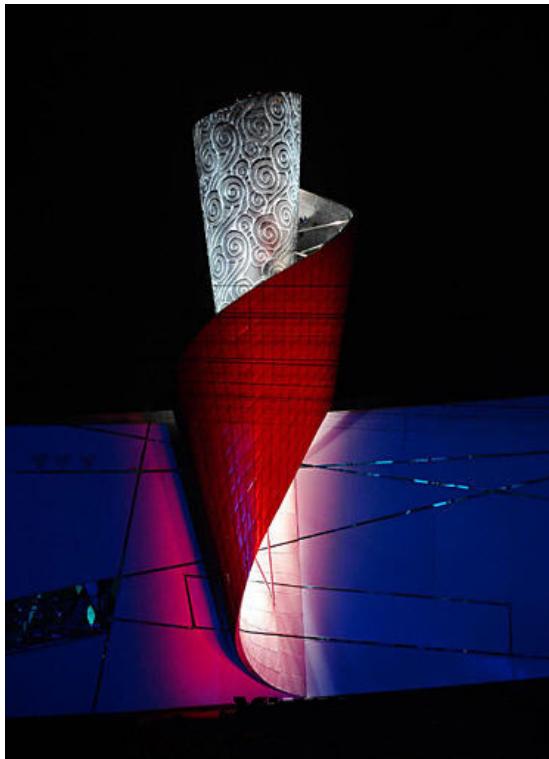


Figure 1 Torch in the notional palaestra

## 2. National elements used in the public art design

There are many ways to use the national elements in public art, generally can be divided into two kinds: one kind is the naked eye can see, and can be applied to the design directly, such as traditional auspicious texture, national costumes etc. Another kind can not be used directly, expressed by designers' experience about regional culture and national customs, then people will see the result through the concrete form, we called indirect expression of national elements in public art design.

### 2.1. the direct application of national elements in public art design

Public art design is different from other kinds of design, it should not only consider aesthetic demand of the masses and the rational use of public space, but also consider its culture expression to public environment. When public art design need to use national elements directly, designers need to consider comprehensively.

First, the using of the national elements should have certain restriction. Whether in content or form are

thought to thorough research, analysis and innovate, using the national elements should accord the folk custom, and develp concordantly with the peripheral public environment.

Secondly, its content is very important about using national elements. Such as traditional auspicious patterns: each kind of auspicious patterns have particular meanings, and several design combined have specific significance, contains the concept of regional culture in the back of patterns. Therefore, the combination between the national elements and public art not get together simply, need to further analysis and understanding about the concept of traditional culture and public environment. Overall national element is used to know oneself in the culture connotations of urban public environment clearly. The designer need to strengthen understanding about the concept of cultural attribution. Only to do that, no frustration in the basic form of public art design.

Using the national elements in public art field, designers must understand auspicious concept, philosophy and regional culture, etc. in these elements, then combine particular urban spatial environment and people's consciousness of age, designers can get the perfect job that the combination of national culture and public art.

### 2.2. the indirect application of national elements in public art design

Sometimes the expression of urban space have no ready-made symbol to use, the designer shall divert attention to excavate and refine the spirit of regional customs, summarize their feeling of regional flavor, to get a new form of expression.

#### 2.2.1 Notice moulding, shape ethnic flavor

The moulding is very important way to create beautiful space effect and visual effect, the practice of urban public space is limited, and is often need to use some method to change or improve the quality of space. Put the ethnic flavor into moulding can get colorful culture connotation, even is a fascinating art experience.

There is a design of street lamp in a domestic park, in addition to general lighting function, the designer has the special feeling in modelling, the form of abstract ethnic girl drawing water active the atmosphere and spread national culture. Tourists strolling under the lamp will feel better( Figure 2).

#### 2.2.2 Notice colour, reveal ethnic characteristics

Colour is an important part of national elements, each nation will also have the special color represents the nation. The system of ethnic coloir from the unique geographical features, each region has the speciality to constitute the colour system which bely lead to shape a colourong the local, this specialit system of national culture, because these colour come from genes of dif-

ferent regional culture, produce a unique color effect. People often can feel local ethnic flavor directly from color properties in public environment.



Figure 2 Street lamp in the park



Figure 3 The China Pavilion

China's national system is the combination of black, white, red, blue and yellow. The combination is the basic criterion to use traditional Chinese colour. But with the development of the society, the national colour also has some changes. The China Pavilion looks great with the national colour element in the 2010 World Expo of Shanghai. "China red" absorbed 600 years history of Beijing's tiananmen square and the expression of the Forbidden City, "China red" symbolizes the national character of warm, progressive and unitive. a public art exhibition in Shanghai with city environment reflect the

spirit of the Chinese nation (Figure 3).

### 2.2.3 Notice cultural atmosphere, outstand national consciousness

Culture is a kind of mental experience, chinese culture is profound, public art provide a good show for national culture. National element itself have cultural atmosphere for designers to express various design thought and aesthetic intent, at the same time, national element provide rich expression language. Stylist need to respect the cultural spirit, combine with the space, select the important part of cultural spirit, create characteristic public art.

The opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games get the great prise, grand scene and gorgeous colour give people a deep impression. the most memorable performances are rich chinese elements in it. As one of the forms of public art, stage performance have more intense visual shock, through national element, designers will express the value of the spirit of the chinese nation completely (Figure 4).

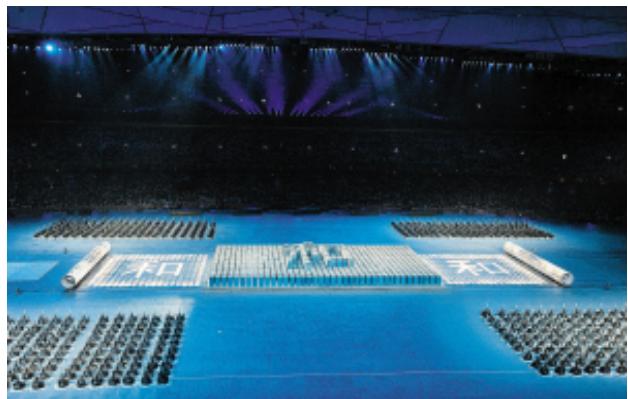


Figure 4 The opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

### 3. Epilogue

National culture is the precipitation of the history, it is the expression of national spirit. With the changes of the times, different national cultures also communicate with each other. Public art design should inherit the splendid culture, combine with the urban environment, create a new kind of design for the development of the times, awake people's new knowledge of the national culture.

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