

## Traditional Decoration in Interior Design

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Traditional decorative motifs serve as a unique language and symbol that conveys national and regional cultural information from a particular era. They are frequently used in design, particularly interior design, and they not only represent the legacy of traditional culture but also amply illustrate the continued relevance of traditional decorative motifs in the field of interior design. To create works with a distinctively oriental flavor, this paper examines the history and current state of Chinese interior design, researches how to modernize and pass down traditional interior design features, and in-depth analyses of the modern significance of those characteristics. It will enhance the perception of Chinese traditional decorative culture and display the distinctive characteristics of both modern interior design and traditional Chinese decorative art.

**Keywords:** Henri Lefebvre, Urban Form, Utopia, Architectural Criticism, Close Reading

### 1. INTRODUCTION

With the accelerated development of industrialization, the trend of urban construction is rapidly sweeping the country (Li, 2022). All cities are competing with one another, constructing highways and bridges. The once serene and beautiful natural beauty has suffered significant harm, and the ecological state of the planet is declining. Interior design is a crucial component of the link between individuals, society, and the environment and should take on a new historical goal and mission under the three "P" problems of "population explosion," "environmental pollution," and "resource depletion." The design must take into account these three concerns. The future society must be sustainable (Ling, 2021; Y. Zhang et al., 2006). A clever fusion of man and nature can be seen in ancient Chinese decoration. The ancient Chinese philosophy of "the unity of heaven and man" is at the core of all planning; it calls for the creation of

a healthier and more vibrant environment as well as a safer, more effective, peaceful, and more productive way of life. A harmonious ecological beauty is created by natural spatial features, opening up new aesthetic possibilities. Since ancient times, people have decorated their homes. The interiors of those ages were all exceedingly magnificent, from the Half-Po site in prehistoric China to the Alfang Palace in the Qin Dynasty and the Weiyang Palace in the Western Han Dynasty. Ancient Chinese interior design provides people with the charm of going back to nature in a natural setting. It is more vibrant and dynamic than ordinary handicrafts and enhances the sense of life in the interior environment with its unique natural beauty (Ren, 2021). People's lives depend heavily on decorative features, especially in the home setting where they can foster satisfaction and a sense of community. By examining pertinent ideas and design concepts, this study will investigate the connection between conventional ornamental themes and interior

decoration. A thorough examination of traditional Chinese ornamentation enables us to comprehend the material lifestyles of the ancient Chinese while also providing ideas for modern home design. Efforts are made to realize the ultimate care that design brings to people(Wang, 2021).



Figure 1: Gain quick success

## 2. LITERATURE

### 2.1 Analysis of traditional motifs

China's traditional patterns have a long history and have been developed and innovated in the long and continuous history, creating excellent patterns with unique national styles, decorated with many elements (Kaur, & Gupta, 2017), like porcelain, silk, bronze, etc., which are not only rich in content but also exquisite in craft production, promoting the development of decorative patterns in the world. Taking folk decorative patterns as an example, wall flowers, window flowers, and happy flowers in paper-cutting are profoundly auspicious. Wedding paste happy flowers, spring festival paste window flowers, patterns such as rich and safe, gourd giving birth to a baby, gain quick success, small herding cattle, and also many historical stories, etc. are among the profoundly auspicious patterns. These classic themes all feature traditional pictures, which are combined by working people with subjective creativity and beautiful ideals, as well as with free and flexible expressions and shapes. These traditional patterns all contain the aesthetic value of traditional culture(Khan et al., 2019).

### 2.2 Status of Traditional Decorative Patterns

Modern interior design has largely favored Western culture; from the stunning Baroque sofa to the Nordic decoration style, the distinctive traditional Chinese decorative features have been badly overlooked. Interior design has evolved alongside economic and cultural progress to become more diverse. Young people tend to choose some trendy and modern decorative aspects when they carry out home design decoration, making conventional elements slowly disappear from public consciousness as certain personalized elements have acquired popularity.

The study of the application of traditional elements is beneficial but not harmful, as people's food, clothing, and use are all developed under the influence of traditional culture(Zhu, 2016). It has been tempered and precipitated for countless years, and it has long had some unique and representative application laws. It can give modern designers a rich form of design expression when combined with contemporary national aesthetics and the application of various design techniques for analysis and research.

### 2.3 Traditional Chinese Decoration Type

Analyses of handicrafts, colorful fabrics, and traditional painting and calligraphy. Traditional calligraphy displays a distinctive form of modeling art through pictographs, oracle bone inscriptions, regular and cursive characters, etc. Landscape painting, flower and bird painting, and figure painting are all examples of traditional painting, and each picture has a unique visual style. The best source of inspiration for contemporary interior design is frescoes, which are an enduring form of artistic expression. For instance, the paintings in the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang, which are rich in shape and color and feature characters in a variety of poses, have a strong decorative flavor. Additionally, beautiful materials with patterns, such as rugs, drapes, and porcelain objects, are fantastic design elements. These patterns can be used to further enhance the innovation of interior design in terms of artistic expression(Liu et al., 2021).

Traditional architectural details like columns and funnel windows. The classic Chinese window is a picture frame with a strong Chinese charm. It is attractive in shape, subtly mystifying, skillfully carved, and rich in patterns, mostly including

birds and animals, flowers and wells, and geometric motifs. Through the design of windows, contemporary interior design space innovation can capture the essence of traditional culture, giving them comprehensive beauty and purpose. Columns are more significant traditional decorative components in China because they may make a wall feel lighter and because they are a distinctive symbol that combines functionality and ornamentation.

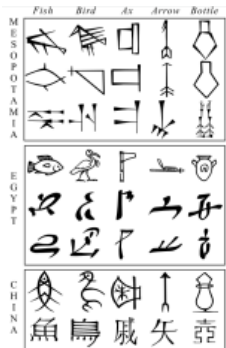


Figure 2: Pictogram



Figure 3: Oracle bone Inscriptions



Figure 4: Mogao Cave Murals at Dunhuang



Figure 5: Window lattice



Figure 6: Carved stone pillars

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Basic Methods

**Direct use.** As a result of thousands of years of evolution and inheritance, Chinese culture has a rich past and numerous traditional components that have been passed down. You can utilize these wonderful materials, ornamental elements imbued with people's well wishes, or lovely moods without making any artistic modifications. However, for this direct use to be effective, it must adhere to the design's overall theme and be able to satisfy the criteria of no alterations; otherwise, it will just be a jumble of parts that won't raise the room's decorative level. In contrast to contemporary society, it is preferable to have the sensation of "wanting to say but not to say." Excellent design is that each location must have a decorative atmosphere to support it, as opposed to an accumulation of components.

**Abstraction.** People can abstract particular traditional decorations because they can think abstractly, but they must be of a particular kind that is widely recognized. When employing this technique, it's crucial to understand the traditional element's essence to convey its connotation. To

"take its meaning and forget its shape," do not focus on the shape of the thing, but rather, pay attention to the expression of the context. Even if they are not frequently used, the appropriate ornamental components can still bring interest to the interior furniture. These "points" add charm and adorn the furniture's outside form.

**Reorganization.** When creating a design, the touched pieces can be broken and rearranged to satisfy the design specifications. The production of new ornamental art and the secondary processing of materials are these artistic techniques.

**Displacement.** Removing some of the conventional components and replacing them with fresh components. For instance, to create a new visual effect and flavor, replace the decorative patterns of screens and windows with the patterns of men's and women's clothing. It is even possible to ignore the specific shapes and focus on the expression of mood (Malika, n.d.), using modern techniques to create designs that are different from the usual decorative elements.

The merging of both techniques is not only an imitation or patchwork, but a careful examination of the similarities between the two and the resulting design aesthetics. For instance, the floating eaves, window flowers, screens, paintings, and other elements play a functional role in addition to being highly attractive and crucial in setting the inhabitants' desired mood.

### 3.2 Design Principles

The use of the past for the present is meant to be innovative. The application of traditional decoration in modern interior design is not to copy (K. Zhang, n.d.), but to analyze and study the intrinsic meaning of each element based on scientific design theory, combined with modern concepts, from the tone and space, to achieve recreation, show the traditional decorative language, the traditional Chinese culture and art in modern interior design bloom, while there to promote interior design The concept of innovation.

combining elements and emphasizing harmony. The design approach must incorporate both traditional and contemporary aspects, as well as historical, regional, and other considerations while maximizing tactile and visual appeal. It can be made rich in the mood of the time and reflect national qualities by recreating historic ornamental components. In the application

process, the corporate culture, design theme, and traditional decorations are all coordinated to produce the desired state of "wanting to speak but not to stop" and the ideal fusion of technology and traditional elements (Sun, 2022).

Respect for customs and a focus on others. Instead of focusing just on innovation or beauty in modern interior design, which does not support the continuity of the national culture, we should pay attention to the national cultural heritage expressed in traditional decoration. Modern designers should adopt "human-centeredness" as their fundamental guiding principle, emphasize it, define their design concepts, and create the spaces that people need (Othman et al., 2015).

The method of this research is focusing on the development and characteristics of 37 numbers of traditional Malay settlements by an in-depth literature review located in Kuala Terengganu, Dungun, Kemaman and Besut region.

## 4. THE APPLICATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE DECORATION IN MODERN INTERIOR DESIGN

### 4.1 Application of traditional patterns in contemporary interior design

As was already noted, the majority of ancient patterns are proficient at utilizing the unique Chinese character "harmonics" and have auspicious meanings. Teachers that are skilled at doing this and preserving the spirit of these traditions are those like the Confucius Institute. A few pairs of Chinese-knotted shoes, a typical element of Chinese interior design, can be put on the wall to represent the harmonics of the words "wall" and "avoid," "evil" and "evil," and "evil" and "shoe." Nowadays, classic ornamental elements such as writing, which is the symbolic transmission of human civilization, and the music score, which is the symbolic narration of music, are increasingly lost due to the impact of the gradual richness of social information. Chinese traditional culture and art must be fiercely inherited and developed if modern designers are to bring it back to the public and express the rich oriental spirit.

First, interior ceilings can be decorated with classic designs. Gypsum board and mineral wool board make up the majority of modern ceiling

materials. People prefer simple, generous designs with grandeur, yet more intricate patterns can create a convoluted, melancholy environment. The ceiling decoration has a significant visual impact on the interior, so designers may want to draw inspiration from traditional decoration patterns like flying patterns, lotus patterns, bird patterns, flower well patterns, etc. to convey a particular mood. These patterns reflect the style and allure of the past. Second, the inside walls may be decorated with conventional designs. After having a thorough understanding of the many indoor space types, it can be decorated with frescoes, hanging screens, and other traditional patterns depending on the practical scope, purpose, and demands of the users. Examples of these spaces include hotel lobbies, exhibitions, and other walls. To add some beautiful patterns to the interior floor and play a perfect decorative effect, traditional patterns may also be used to enhance the cultural charm of the interior design space(Lu, 2022).



Figure 7: Landscape painting application examples



Figure 8: Examples of traditional patterns in ceiling applications

## 4.2 Application of traditional furnishings in contemporary interior decoration

Paintings and calligraphy, handicrafts, and ornamental fabrics with a strong Chinese influence are examples of traditional furniture. When these items are placed inside, a gentle, exquisite, introverted affinity and a sense of nostalgia are created. First, we discuss how traditional calligraphy and painting can be incorporated into contemporary interior design, which, like poetry, can provoke thought. A framed scroll or table frame decoration is a common example of how the application in current interior design should be able to carry on the tradition and represent the times and personal style. For instance, the distinct charm of traditional Chinese writing can be conveyed through the brushwork, chapter organization, and Chinese calligraphy, which also infuses creativity into ornamentation.



Figure 10: Craft Application Examples

Painting is inextricably linked to calligraphy, and the two arts can be combined to enhance the harmony of architectural design. One of the earliest types of painting is mural painting, which is typically found in caves and temples and peaked during the Tang Dynasty. The modern interior design uses frescoes' color and shape as decorative accents. Second, describe how handicrafts are used in contemporary space design. The majority of traditional handicrafts express pleasant, auspicious, and long-lasting healthy meanings, including ceramics, wood carving, clay sculpting, textile, and animal skin crafts. Consider ceramics as an illustration; they are more frequently employed in contemporary interior design and are increasingly becoming more personalized. The specific design should represent people's will, behavior, and aesthetic feelings as well as deal with the proportional

connection of interior space, take into account the needs of spiritual function, and properly harmonize with the general environmental style. Finally, consider how conventional fabric ornamentation is used in contemporary interior design. In the stressful modern world, traditional materials like pillows, carpets, and curtains are quite popular. Traditional needlework methods and three-dimensional fabric shapes can be used to transmit fortunate and lovely symbolic meanings and produce strong Chinese charm(Zhou, 2016).



Figure 11: Traditional patterned carpets

#### 4.3 The application of traditional architectural components in modern interior design

Walls, hu funnel windows, and columns are examples of traditional Chinese architectural constructions. These elements have long been linked to interior design, presenting a variety of novel design creation techniques in places like Beijing courtyards, Shanghai lanes, Shanxi houses, and Fujian Hakka tulou, all of which effectively combine local culture with interior space(Wei et al., 2014).



Figure 12: Shanxi houses

Start by looking at things from a column viewpoint. There are many more antique columns in contemporary interior design, and to be innovative, designers should take inspiration from traditional Chinese culture and combine it with cutting-edge technology to enhance the visual impact of columns and counteract the blandness

and uniformity that modern concrete structures bring. The author thinks that carving the columns or combining them with murals would increase their artistic appeal. Second, begin by considering windows that are dripping. Leaky windows are the artistic embodiment of leaky windows and a more sophisticated component of modern interior design that can reflect the relationship between seclusion and openness. Windows is divided but not totally separated and permeable but not fully permeable. To achieve harmonious beauty and to exude the connotation of traditional culture and a rich sense of hierarchy, the traditional short hollow window staff should be used properly in modern interior design practices to create a blur of light and shadow, add an endless sense of anger and flow, and separate various functionally different compartments(Guo & Dai, n.d.).



Figure 13: Application of window pane elements

#### 4.4 The use of traditional furniture in contemporary interior decoration

Direct use. Some classic Chinese furniture, like Ming furniture, has a lovely shape and structure that is compatible with contemporary style and may be incorporated right into the interior design. When choosing furniture for direct usage, look for pieces with complementary colors and textures. You should also consider the furniture's texture and color. This doesn't appear to be too abrupt, and the interior décor and furniture create a sense of harmony and beauty. The classic furniture and modern interior integration impact is fairly wonderful because "ancient for the present" creates a different traditional and modern fun. It also adds some of the cutting-edge characteristics of the modern world to classic furniture(Attfield, 1997).

Make the design simpler. Some traditional pieces of furniture emphasize shape beauty, while

others emphasize ornamental beauty, as is indicative of the dichotomy between the Ming and Qing dynasties' furniture. Traditional furniture can be matched reasonably with the home design by being basic, appealing in shape, and functional. Red tape reduction Qing furniture can be stripped of its intricate adornment, and contemporary style increasingly favors quick, simple designs. Interior design for modern society is a service that simplifies the design of bulky conventional furniture to adapt to modern people's aesthetics.



Figure 14: Direct use of Ming-style furniture



Figure 15: The inspiration of Ming furniture to modern furniture

Creating a cultural atmosphere. The cultural ethos of traditional furniture is well recognized, and the cultural ambiance of traditional Chinese ornamental items is these mysterious spirits (Jin et al., 2022). These pieces of furniture, which are also attractive, convey a sense of unwavering calm without using words. They infuse the modern, fast-paced living environment with a touch of peace and vintage comfort as if they were recounting the tale of a thousand years. For instance, a study room with traditional Chinese desks and bookcases might have a strong bookish

vibe to it, giving the people who live there a material and spiritual living space (Teasley, 2002).



Figure 16: Study Room

## 5. FUTURE TRENDS

Interior space design is a continuation of the idea of traditional culture and dynamic development, and it is this ever-changing rich nourishment to the current stage of interior design provides the re-creation design concept. Once the heritage of traditional culture is removed, design loses its soul. the design will lose its soul. Traditional culture and modern interior design must complement and combine with each other, with the former being the source. The former is the source and driving force, and the latter is the inheritance and promotion. We need to follow the traditional design concept. We should follow the traditional design concept and flexibly apply it to contemporary interior design. We should follow the traditional design concept and apply it flexibly to the contemporary interior space design, so that the two can intermingle and innovate and coordinate with each other.

## 6. CONCLUSION

In summary, contemporary space design is a form of design that highlights the aesthetic value of both structure and space. The components found in traditional ornamentation are an endless source of inspiration for modern design in today's world of preserving and promoting traditional culture. To create modern interiors that reflect both distinctive national characteristics and a strong sense of the times, modern interior designers must investigate the characteristics of the elements in traditional decoration, appreciate the concepts and principles, and incorporate them

into the features of modern interiors. Become ingrained in philosophical thought as the idea of heaven and man being one. This custom is not only seen as a part of historic Chinese culture but also as a current trend that never raises a veil.

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