

Analysis of Ancient Chinese Outdoor Furniture and a Case Study of Modern Outdoor Furniture

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Abstract: Outdoor furniture is an important part of human outdoor activities. Through Chinese archaeological excavations and existing books, murals and other materials, it is found that outdoor furniture appeared in the early days of human society in China. This article is based on the understanding of the development of ancient Chinese outdoor furniture, and created the outdoor furniture work "Landscape Stream". This work expresses the author's understanding of traditional culture, and tries to learn from the past. How to apply traditional culture in modern design is to try to find a balance in the combination of tradition and modernity, and how to innovate better on the basis of inheriting tradition. How to better express the traditional spirit with modern methods, instead of treating tradition and history as a burden, in order to explore the better and more possibilities of modern furniture design.

1. The Historical Background of Ancient Chinese Outdoor Furniture

The development of outdoor furniture is accompanied by the the development of human beings. From the current archaeological excavations and existing data, it can be understood that the prototype of furniture appeared in the primitive society of mankind. Existing ancient Chinese materials include scenes and records of using outdoor furniture in sacrificial rituals, hunting and other activities of ancient people. The development of outdoor furniture is accompanied by the development of furniture. First of all, the lifestyle of sitting and lying on the floor has gone through a long period in Chinese history. Before the appearance of hanging furniture, mats were the main furniture in the lives of ancient Chinese people, both sitting and bedding. At that time, the mat played an organizing role in the order of the indoor space, and a corresponding etiquette system was developed accordingly. After the appearance of the Hu chair in the Wei, Jin dynasty, Southern and Northern Dynasties, the outdoor furniture also developed correspondingly with the development of furniture. The definition of outdoor furniture in ancient China is different from that of today. Outdoor furniture has developed with the development of society, mainly because of the limitations of the ancient social productive forces. The materials retained today are mainly reflected in the scenes of royal hunts, sacrifices, and wars. The manifestation of, and the manifestation in activities such as outings of literati and aristocrats. The author believes that such activities will also be common among the people, for example, there are records in ancient Chinese books. However, the research materials are mainly based on documents, calligraphy and painting, and also record the activities of literati nobles and royals. Correspondingly, in these activities, the corresponding furniture will inevitably be used. The development of ancient picnic furniture also developed with the development of ancient Chinese furniture.

The origin of outdoor furniture is furniture that is normally used in the context of primitive society. Returning to the origin, returning to its essence is furniture, but in the modern context, it has a completely different meaning and its purpose is different. At that time, it was the level of social and economic productivity. Restrictions, moreover, are due to people's requirements for closeness to the outdoors and nature on the satisfaction of people's basic living standards. In the early days, outdoor furniture appeared as simple furniture, such as mats. The difference between the nobles and the poor is mainly in material and craftsmanship. Among the nobles, they are mainly sebum and silk materials and better craftsmanship. Ordinary people use general materials and materials, such as cattail.

2. Case Study

Landscape Stream Furniture is a work made during the training when participating in the National Art Fund Design Furniture Talent Project in 2018. Based on the history of the development of ancient Chinese outdoor furniture, the furniture creation on the basis of combing and learning the skills of traditional Chinese outdoor furniture has created "Landscape Stream" (Figure 1).



Figure 1. "Landscape Stream", the author's self-photo

2.1. Design Concept of "Landscape Stream"

In terms of design thinking, the author pays attention to the inheritance and shaping of the traditional spirit in the application of tradition, instead of emphasizing the form too heavily. The essence of tradition should be inherited from the spirit instead of blindly emphasizing the form and avoiding the burden of historical inheritance. The design of the table of Landscape Stream is embodied in that when choosing the theme, it uses landscape as the theme, which is intended to express people's pursuit of mountains and rivers and nature, reflect the harmonious relationship between man and nature, and people's attitude towards being close to nature. Therefore, it pays attention to the shaping of spiritual meaning in the transmission and shaping of the spirit. For example, the cloud shape extracted from traditional landscape paintings Combining with the ancient porcelain pieces with a sense of history , it expresses the sense of history and memory of the development of picnic furniture. The selection of ancient porcelain is mainly the porcelain of the Southern and Northern Dynasties, the white porcelain of the Tang Dynasty and the ancient porcelain of the blue and white porcelain of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The choices of these times symbolize an important historical node in the development of furniture. From the Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties to the Han Dynasty, sitting on the ground until sitting down. In particular, the further integration and development of the Hu chair since the Tang Dynasty, especially the rapid migration of ethnic minorities, requires the furniture to be easy to carry, which all reflects the important embodiment of outdoor furniture. Then, especially the development of Ming-style furniture in the Ming and Qing dynasties, Ming-style furniture has almost become synonymous with traditional Chinese furniture. Ming-style furniture pays special attention to interpersonal engineering, and the materials are perfect and the work is skillful. This is the crystallization of ancient Chinese wisdom, and its influence is far-reaching, and even modern furniture design masters have their thoughts. The blue and white porcelain of the Ming and Qing dynasties is the

most ancient porcelain piece, which is also an expression of the importance of Ming furniture.

The phoenix tree is the king of the tree. The ancients considered it to be a tree of spiritual energy, knowing the season and the commands. "Wen Jian Lu": "Indus and hundreds of birds dare not roost, and avoid the phoenix." As the king of birds, the phoenix embraces the universe, and the fat phoenix tree does not inhabit. Therefore, in the design of "Landscape Stream", the tabletop chose the sycamore wood, which represents the beautiful hope of traditional culture. More importantly, the naming of the design of "Landscape Stream" also implies the two characters of mountain and water in Yu Boya's classic song "High Mountain and Flowing Water". When the user uses it, it mainly meets the needs of two people, which means to express the users of Landscape Stream are for the good expectations of friendship.

In addition, the selection of the brackets for the picnic shore of Landscape Stream is simplified from the mountain abstraction in traditional Chinese landscape paintings (Figure 2). The four supports use basic isosceles triangles, and the triangular brackets overlap in the side view, as if Atop the lofty mountains, a simple artistic conception of the picnic table in "Landscape Stream" is formed, in which the bracket focuses on the shape of the mountain, which means the beautiful appeal between the mountains and the mountains. The choice of materials for the frame frame of the table in Landscape Stream is a steel frame. The steel frame is a product of modern industry, which also represents the modernity of design. Here is an attempt to dialogue between tradition and modernity.

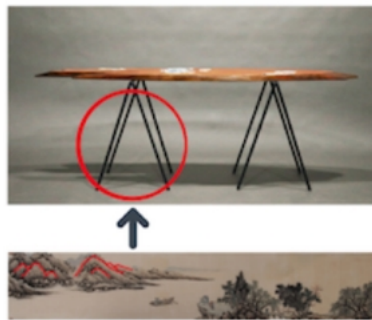


Figure 2. "Landscape Stream", drawn by the author

2.2. Design Technology

The technical methods of outdoor furniture mainly use some traditional lacquer techniques and porcelain inlay techniques. The specific method is that the design width of the table surface of the outdoor furniture of Landscape Stream is 39 cm. When two people sit opposite each other, the distance between the two people is within 0.5 meters. This distance is an intimate distance in ergonomics. Within the scope, the relationship between the two is an intimate relationship, which provides strong engineering and technical support for the communication of people and the spiritual expression of life confidants.

In terms of the overall technique, it focuses on the application and learning of Chinese classical traditional techniques. In this design, it is well conveyed how the classical and traditional techniques are applied to the current design function. Moreover, in this furniture design, it is not only to highlight the traditional Chinese craftsmanship, but the more important purpose is that the traditional craftsmanship serves functions and people. Therefore, all traditional craft techniques serve the function of this furniture. What needs to be emphasized again is the application of the traditional technique of Lutian technique. Luotian is a very mature traditional furniture manufacturing method in Chinese traditional furniture, and it is also a relatively common traditional decorative art. This technique has a strong decorative effect. The moiré on the tabletop of the furniture in Landscape Stream is filled with ancient ceramic pieces using the method of snails, trying to apply traditional techniques. The third is the application of lacquer. Lacquer is widely used in furniture design. The traditional Chinese lacquer-

ware culture itself is extensive and profound, with strong representation. On the tabletops on the furniture of Landscape Stream, lacquer is mainly used to highlight the natural texture of sycamore wood and emphasize the natural beauty of wood.

3. Discussion and Conclusion

The publicity of outdoor furniture is required to meet the needs of more people. It emphasizes openness. In engineering, it emphasizes the application of interpersonal engineering and the application of public behavior psychology. Picnic furniture emphasizes convenience and portability. Early picnic furniture requires etiquette. Decorative, modern, more emphasis on practicality, without blindly pursuing form, focusing on the combination of function and form, mainly focusing on function and comfort.

Richard Sennett, a famous American socialist, said: All the work that pursues the highest quality can be classified into the category of craftsmanship. The pursuit of craftsmanship in our traditional culture is reflected in the development of our craftsmanship, and the design of furniture is even more typical. Especially in the current context, it is imperative to re-examine the traditional craftsmanship, and this article expects for the possibility of better design, it is more important to reflect on how we should inherit the tradition and whether we can convey it through the spirit instead of the tradition as the form. In addition, the Nordic design and attitude towards tradition are more worthwhile we learn. The design of the picnic table in "Landscape Stream" is an attempt to inherit traditional craftsmanship, and also to explore more and better design possibilities.

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