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MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN A HISTORIC CHINESE CITY: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

This paper investigates the interaction of modern architecture with various aspects of urban landscape, heritage conservation and cultural maintenance in Chinese historic cities. In the context of five thousand years of development history, there are many historical ancient cities with unique customs and traditions distributed in the land of China. In the rapid development process of urbanization and modernization, these historical cities are facing the balance and contradiction between the conservation of ancient architectural heritage and the needs of modern economic development. The level development of modern architecture is often seen as criteria for measuring the economic growth of a city. However, when this development demand collides with the traditional goal of environmental protection, modern architecture brings not only opportunities but also challenges. With the slow disappearance of historical sites and the gradual loss of traditional culture, attention is being paid to finding ways to harmonize architectural heritage preservation, traditional culture maintenance and sustainable urban design. This paper analyses modern architecture and its inter-developmental relationship with the urban landscape of historic cities through several case studies of Chinese historic cities in different locations, thus further exploring the potential opportunities, challenges and strategies within this framework.

Keywords: modern architecture, historic city, China

1. INTRODUCTION

China's long history and culture have created a rich and splendid ancient culture and built many heirloom architectural heritages. With rapid urbanization, it has become urgent to find a way to preserve the architectural heritage and develop a way to adapt to modern trends in the construction economy at the same time. This study

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investigates the opportunities, challenges and strategies arising from this state of historical and cultural collision.

1.1. Historical Importance of China's Ancient Towns and Cities

Historic cities are themselves witnesses to a country's long historical traditions and glorious achievements, and through their architectural heritage, these cities record thousands of years of China's development and stories.

The origins of China's ancient towns can be traced back to the middle of the Neolithic period, when villages of various sizes began to form in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, and towns of a certain size began to appear with the widespread emergence of a productive economy. Settlements at that time developed in combination with climate, land conditions and river basins [Liu 2005]. Over time, these historic cities witnessed the rise of various Chinese dynasties, each of which left its mark on the distinctive architectural style and texture of urban design [Chang 1963]. For example, the Tang Dynasty, as the heyday of ancient China, was the most powerful country in the world at that time. Along with the economic prosperity, the architectural technology and art of the Tang Dynasty also flourished accordingly, and the complete architectural system formed was manifested in the urban design of Changan at that time (Xi'an nowadays) [Wright 1965].

These historic cities are home to many World Heritage Sites, ranging from the Summer Palace in Beijing, which represents a royal garden, and Pingyao in Shanxi, which has the most complete Ming and Qing dynasty city wall in existence, to the ancient city of Lijiang in Yunnan Province, which is a concentration of Naxi architectural art and building styles. Many historic cities were once trade activity centres, such as the port cities of Hangzhou and Quanzhou, famous for the Silk Road. The development of historical cities along the Silk Road shows that economic activities were closely related to urban development and simultaneously created conditions for the collision and continuation of human cultures and civilisations [Du 2011].

The planning of historical Chinese cities usually corresponded to the beliefs and philosophies of the time. Feng Shui played a crucial role in determining ancient cities' masterplan layout and architectural orientation. For example, the Forbidden City in Beijing was designed in full accordance with Feng Shui. The architecture of the Forbidden City fully reflects the idea of "five elements". Feng Shui seeks to create a living environment that is "Unity of Man and Nature", where the human habitat is harmonised with the natural environment.

The enduring appeal of historic cities lies in their ability to bring the past closer to the present. Today, when skyscrapers dominate the city skyline, these well-preserved historical cities are like living fossil museums and are important carriers of the excellent traditional Chinese culture.

In conclusion, the importance of China's historic cities is multi-faceted, including the protection of cultural relics and monuments, the preservation of historic and

cultural districts, the protection and continuation of the ancient city pattern and landscape features, as well as the inheritance and development of outstanding historical and cultural traditions. Protecting historic cities is not only about maintaining old buildings but also through a scientific and intuitive understanding of China's many world cultural and natural heritages. It not only helps people understand this country's traditional culture but also helps to comprehensively and concretely understand the value and status of China as an ancient civilisation in the world [UNESCO 2008].

1.2. Development Trend of Modern Architecture in China

The development of modern architecture in China began in 1994, when excellent buildings of various types began to emerge. Unlike traditional ancient architecture, the design of modern Chinese architecture influenced by Western architectural systems, it has changed dramatically in terms of structure, materials, form and art, etc. In 1992, the economic development brought about by the market economy accelerated, and the development of real estate in China entered into a period of climax. Urbanisation drove large numbers of people to work and live in big cities, and high-rise, ultra-modernist buildings continued to appear in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai. Supertalls and skyscrapers are popping up in the cities, competing to change the city skyline.

Internationality: With the development of globalisation, China has achieved international integration, which has brought about a clash between Chinese and Western cultures along with economic development. This cultural fusion is evident in architectural design. Examples include Beijing's iconic Bird's Nest National Stadium and the CCTV headquarters, which was awarded the "World's Best Tall Building Award" by the World Institute of Tall Buildings in 2013.

The fusion of modernity and tradition: Chinese traditional culture has been developed over the past 5,000 years and has precipitated its own unique cultural heritage and connotation, which is irreplaceable. Traditional culture has also been passed on through architecture, such as the Qiao Family Residence in Shanxi Province, where the traditional idea of "Unity of Man and Nature" in feng shui principles was integrated into the architectural design of the courtyard-style living layout, which is still highly sought after today.

Sustainable Architecture and Urban Design: In the face of worsening global environmental problems, China, the world's second-largest economy, has begun to emphasise ecological construction and the promotion of sustainable urban development. As the world's largest market for solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal energy, China is applying new energy sources to a wide range of urban construction [Europe 2018].

Beautiful countryside construction: in order to achieve rural modernisation, rural revitalization has been proposed and implemented as one of the critical national strategies in China in the new era. Rural landscape construction mainly combines

modern technical standards and norms with nature-based solutions and coordinates the human-land relationship of the rural territorial system based on the national central functional area planning and local land space planning [Guo 2021].

Modern Chinese architecture is a form of presentation of the city's historical lineage, which has the characteristics of the times and reflects the region's cultural heritage. On the one hand, it demonstrates the changing styles and aesthetic trends in the millennium of architectural art, and on the other hand, it reflects the integration of new cultures in the architecture industry in the new century.

Fig. 1. Beijing, a blend of old and new (Author: Meow star man.
Source: https://699pic.com/tupian-501187694.html)

1.3. Heritage Conservation Efforts in Modern Times

In its 2020 report "Conservation of Modern Architecture – An Overview of China's Modern Architecture Conservation Work", the Professional Committee for the Conservation of Modern Architecture in China suggests that since the late 1980s, China has embarked on a process of expanding and deepening its exchanges with international cultural heritage preservation movements. With the rapid development of urbanisation and construction, conflicts have arisen between modern architecture and the use of historic preservation, and heritage conservation needs to be brought into focus.

Legal framework and policies: From the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics to the Outline for the Development of Cultural Relics Conservation Equipment (2018-2025), the government has formulated a series of laws and policies to protect architectural heritage.

International cooperation and recognition: Since 1985, when China officially acceded to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, China has attached great importance to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage [Huo 2016]. In the past 30 years, China has successfully nominated 55 World Heritage sites, which is one of the fastest-growing World Heritage sites in the world, and has successfully introduced expertise in World Heritage conservation while combining World Heritage with tourism to develop the local economy [Qiu 2023].

Community Participation and Public Awareness Cultivation: Disseminate the significance of modern-built heritage conservation, and disseminate the advanced concepts, knowledge, technologies and research developments in the field of modern-built heritage conservation and utilisation to the community, so as to let the most primitive component of the community, the "human being", to consciously form a sustainable and organic conservation method. Technical advice and training programs should be developed to train residents in conservation skills so that they can become the beneficiaries and protectors of heritage conservation.

In conclusion, China has a large cultural heritage, but the system of cultural heritage protection work started late and is still not well developed. However, China has begun to pay attention to the protection of its cultural heritage and has developed many legal and policy protection strategies.
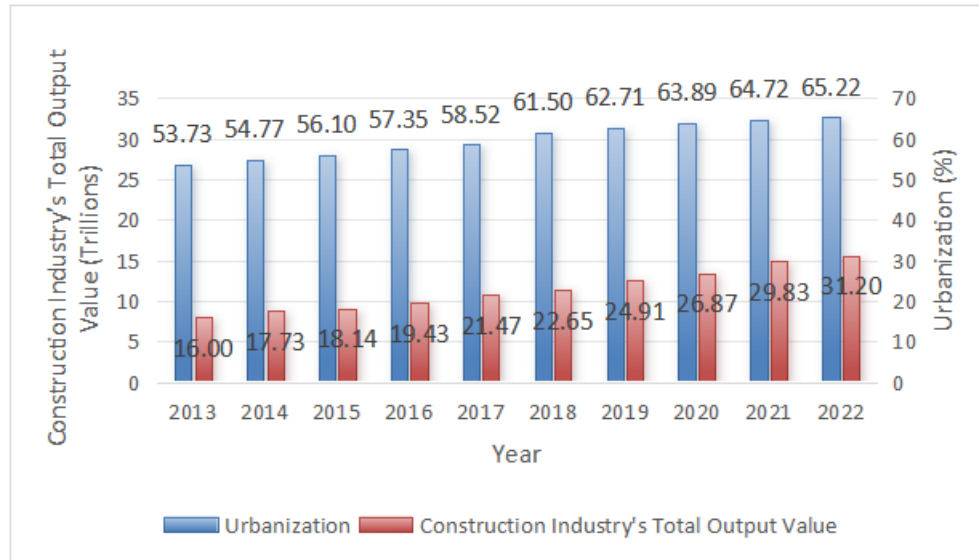
1.4. Impact of Urbanization on Architectural Evolution

Urbanisation is the process of transforming rural areas into cities, and over the past decade, China's urbanisation rate (see Table 1) has increased from 53.73% in 2013 to 65.22% in 2022. According to the urbanisation development data estimation, China's urbanisation level will reach 70.12% in 2030, which means that 190 million people will gather in big cities from rural areas in the future [Sun 2017].

A comparison of China's urbanisation rate and gross construction product over the past ten years shows that to adapt to urbanisation and population growth, the scale of the construction industry has expanded accordingly, and the city's-built environment has evolved accordingly.

Changes in skyline: Changes in a city's skyline can clearly indicate its urbanisation. As the population increases and land becomes expensive, buildings must compete for space in the sky. In 2020, more than 300 super-tall buildings over 300 metres were constructed worldwide, with more than 50 percent built in China [CTBUH 2021].

Table 1. Comparison of changes in China's urbanization rate and total construction output value in the past ten years (Author's work)

Space utilisation and mixed-use development: As urban densities increased, so did the volume ratios of cities. Mixed-use buildings became popular, such as commercial and residential buildings, with commercial buildings on the ground floor and residential functions on the upper part of the building. In contrast, mixed-use residential complex integrating various infrastructures were formed.

Infrastructure and connectivity: Many residential complexes are built at the nodes of urban transport hubs, such as metro stations and bus stops.

Sustainable Urban Environment: In response to the environmental challenges of urbanisation, the government is promoting the design and construction of green buildings and has developed a series of criteria for evaluating green buildings. By mid-June 2022, more than 90 percent of new buildings in China will be green.

Urbanisation has both positive and negative aspects for developing architecture in China. The positive side is that architectural design is becoming more internationalised, introducing new-world architectural design systems and advanced construction methods. On the other hand, the challenges faced by the construction industry are the increasing population in cities, the restriction of the living environment, and the loss of traditional culture.

2. CASE STUDIES OF MODERN CHINESE ARCHITECTURE IN HISTORIC CITIES

In order to deepen the understanding of the mutual integration of Chinese historic cities and modern architecture, three representative Chinese historic cities are used as case studies. Given the vastness and diversity of China's architectural landscape, the three selected historic cities are located in different geographical regions of China to find the influence of different climates, cultures and histories on architectural trends. The three historic cities are Pingyao Ancient City in Shanxi (山西) Province, Lijiang Ancient City in Yunnan Province and Xi'an in Shanxi (陕西) Province.

2.1. Case Studies

Pingyao: Famous Historical and Cultural City of China, World Heritage Site

The Ancient City of Pingyao, located in the centre of Shanxi Province, is one of China's most complete surviving prototypes of an ancient county town. As one of only two cases in China where an entire ancient city has been successfully declared a World Heritage Site, the ancient and modern architecture of this 2,700-year-old city is a unique blend. So, how did Pingyao absorb modern architecture's influence without compromising its rich historical essence?

Fig 2. Pingyao (https://k.sina.cn/article_7044280437_p1a3df307500100lue5.html)

- Historical value: The ancient city of Pingyao was built during the reign of King Xuan of the Western Zhou Dynasty, and is an outstanding representative of Han culture in China's Ming and Qing dynasties. The planning layout of Pingyao is a square, facing south from the north, with a 15-degree deviation to the east by the topography and sunlight. The central axis is symmetrical, the buildings are laid out on the left and right, and all the houses strictly adhere to the ancient norms of etiquette with courtyard spaces. All these reflect the architectural ideas of harmony of yin and yang in feng shui design.
- Challenges: Some buildings have fallen into disrepair and cannot be restored. There are challenges of over-exploitation and commercialisation due to the influx of tourists due to its listing as a World Heritage Site.
- Measures to protect and develop simultaneously: Contrary to some cities that have experienced rapid urbanisation, Pingyao's approach has been prudent and appropriate, without over-exploitation or over-protection.
- Adaptive reuse: Some residential areas no longer serve their original purpose. Under the basic principle of ensuring that the original appearance of traditional buildings remains unchanged, some old courtyards and traditional residences have been transformed into boutique hotels, cafes or museums.
- Infrastructure renovation: incorporating modern facilities such as underground cabling and plumbing to avoid disturbing the city's visual character.
- Visitor management: Regulate restrictions on visitors to specific areas during peak tourist periods and introduce staggered hours for popular attractions to manage the flow of visitors.
- Restoration work: Skilled artisans are employed to restore those buildings and components that need to be restored using traditional techniques and materials.
- Community participation: The original inhabitants of the old city can be regarded as the inheritors of human history, who are the continuation of the traditional culture. Protecting the original life style of the local inhabitants and inviting them to participate actively in the decision-making process, ensures that their socio-economic needs are met while prioritising conservation.
- New building design: The new building will adhere to the traditional Shanxi architectural style while minimising modern elements. Large modern buildings necessary to accommodate economic activities were constructed outside the city walls.

Results: The story of Pingyao proves that historic cities can still be healthy without losing their soul. Historic cities can seamlessly integrate modern and historic architecture through a rational and diversified co-existence, when dealing with urbanisation and through the dual protection of human and physical elements.

Lijiang: The city of romantic encounters where the old meets the new

Fig 3. Lijiang (https://500px.com/photo/-by-alen-guo)

The ancient city Lijiang is located in Yunnan Province, southwestern China at an altitude of 2.416 metres above sea level. Lijiang became a World Heritage Site in 1997, and due to the cascading explosion of tourism, it presents its own unique story of architectural evolution in the midst of rapid economic development. A city wrestling with ancient heritage and modern aspirations, Lijiang's journey is full of struggles and contradictions.

- Historical Overview: The streets of Old Town were built on the hillside and paved with red conglomerates. The city is densely populated with bridges and has no regular road network or city walls. The dwellings in the ancient city are a synthesis of the skills of the Bai, Tibetans and Han Chinese of the Central Plains, are mostly of earth and wood construction. Small green tiles, wooden frames, and courtyards are the unique styles of Lijiang's architecture [Huibin 2012].
- Challenges: The tourism development and the new towns construction have brought economic prosperity to Lijiang, but at the same time, they have also greatly impacted the old town. There has been an influx of tourists, and many old buildings have been converted into commercial spaces to cater for the tourism boom. With the over-exploitation of commercialisation, most of the original inhabitants have been forced to relocate out of the old city, and modern mainstream cultural influences are slowly overshadowing Lijiang's unique Naxi culture. Lijiang is not only a typical case of heritage conservation but also a case of heritage development, which makes it arduous to strike a balance between promoting modern development and preserving the charm of the historic city [Wang 2014].

- Strategies adopted: Separation and Integration: Lijiang has adopted model of "separation of the ancient city", in which the new urban area is built separately from the ancient city. Like Pingyao, Lijiang has carefully integrated modern infrastructure to ensure the city retains its historic appearance. Modern buildings are located outside the city centre, and are designed to follow the traditional architectural aesthetics of the region, maintaining the same architectural style as the old city.
- Cultural Revival: The folk culture of the Naxi people is a unique cultural heritage unparalleled in Lijiang. Activities to promote Naxi music, art, and dance have been carried out to ensure that the Naxi culture remains vibrant, and is passed on to the younger generation.
- Restoration projects: Restore damaged buildings using traditional techniques rather than opting for modern reconstruction.
- Sustainable tourism: limiting the number of daily visitors and promoting off-peak tourism to address environmental and infrastructure pressures.

The result: Lijiang today is a multifaceted city constantly mixing and influencing each other regarding economy and trade, cultural life and historical preservation. Adhering to the concept that "Ancient city carries culture, culture makes the ancient city", Lijiang has come out of a path of sustainable development.

Xian: Balancing Act between Old and New

Xi'an, known as Chang'an in ancient times, is one of the four ancient capitals of China. With a long history and unique cultural background, Xi'an was once the capital of thirteen Chinese dynasties. As a city at the crossroad of history and modernity, Xi'an is a city that combines old and new at same time [Li 2019].

Fig 4. Xian Bell Tower in the 1990s (https://www.sohu.com/a/191253217_713066)

Fig 5. Xian Bell Tower now (http://pic.people.cn/n1/2022/0705/c442119-32466621.html)

- Historical Overview: The ancient city of Chang'an, as the capital, has been the political, economic and cultural centre of the country. Xi'an served as the starting point of the Silk Road in Western Han Dynasty, when it was extended to Europe for the first time [Lin 2021]. As a world-famous historical and cultural city, Xi'an has extremely rich historical relics. Thousands of years of cultural inheritance have given Xi'an architecture a broad and profound historical heritage, telling its glorious past, such as the Terracotta Warriors and Horses of Qin Shihuang.
- Challenges: Despite its historical heritage, Xi'an has not been immune to the modernisation winds sweeping China. Economic development and the influx of people as a result of urbanisation have led to increased pressure on cities, and the corresponding need for new infrastructure often conflicts with the protection of monuments.
- Strategies adopted: Xi'an has adopted a multifaceted approach to meet these challenges as old and new cultures collide.
- Zoning regulations: The city has introduced strict zoning policies that limit building heights and architectural styles to ensure that high-rise development does not affect its historically significant areas.
- Cultural renaissance: The city has made great efforts to promote local crafts, arts and traditions so that the essence of historic culture can be kept alive through the changing times.

- Modern Architecture: Xi'an's modern architecture perfectly blends the old and the new, creating an interesting symbiosis of ancient artefacts and new symbols in the urban space. Instead of creating conflict, this form of symbiosis creates a unique cityscape that allows people to feel the intertwined historical weight and modern vitality in the same space and time. This new mixed-use architectural development in the city presents a perfect blend of modern design and traditional aesthetics.
- Skyscrapers and business districts: The new city highlights Xi'an's status as a modern metropolis. Xi'an's bustling business districts, skyscrapers, busy transport hubs, show Xi'an's vitality and progress as a modern city, but with history.

Results: Although Xi'an is famous for its history and cultural heritage, it is also a city full of charms, stories and vitality. Ancient historical heritage and modern architecture blend together organically in Xi'an, witnessing the symbiosis of the old and the modern. While the balance between the old and the new is intricate, with vision, planning and respect for its historical and cultural roots, the city's new and old can coexist in harmony.

3. DISCUSSIONS

3.1. Opportunities in Merging Modern and Traditional Designs

By blending modern and traditional design, historic cities are a significant scenario for the fusion of modern and ancient architectural preservation. Here, an in-depth exploration examines the multifaceted opportunities that arise when fusing modern and traditional design.

	Opportunity	**Example**
Cultural Continuity	Incorporate the design concepts of traditional architectural culture into the design, allowing the architecture to speak to the cultural traditions and values of the city.	The China Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo is an architectural masterpiece in the modernist style, incorporating traditional Chinese elements.
Architectural Diversity	Fusing old and new designs creates a rich and varied urban architectural landscape that enhances attractiveness and creates a unique urban image.	Shanghai's Bund is lined with buildings of various styles that represent the city's historical and architectural heritage, demonstrating the influence of the fusion of Chinese and Western cultures.
Economic Benefits	Projects incorporating traditional design can be a significant touris attraction, and tourists are keen to experience famous world heritage sites, increasing the city's revenue.	Hangzhou's West Lake area has achieved economic growth by integratin the design of modern hotels and resorts while retaining traditional garden design and architectural features.

Sustainable and Adaptive Reuse	Modern design methods combined with traditional techniques can create more sustainable buildings, rehabilitate older buildings and bring them back into use.	The "Tianan Sunshine – Thousand Trees" large-scale urban complex in Suzhou is a redevelopment of an old factory building, preserving its historical charm while accommodating new functions.
Enhanced Urban Livability	Integrating traditional ideas into modern design creates a comfortable and livable environment and improves the quality of life for residents.	Many new high-rise residential areas in the South are inspired by traditional Chinese feng shui, where residential buildings are designed with entry gardens for each family.
Technological Integration	Modern technology can enhance traditional designs to ensure that functionality meets contemporary needs while maintaining classic aesthetics.	Modern lighting and room temperature control systems have been integrated into the restoration and renovation of the old building to ensure the preservation of the artefacts and enhance visitor comfort.
Encouraging Innovation	The challenge of blending the old with the new inspires architects on all fronts to innovate technologically, to push the boundaries of what is possible and to bring about groundbreaking designs.	Traditional Chinese landscape paintings inspired MAD's design for Chaoyang Park Plaza in Beijing.

In conclusion, integrating modern architectural design and tradition is to achieve the inheritance of excellent traditional culture. With the technical advantages of modern architectural design, it meets the diversified needs of people in modern society, enhances the aesthetics and practicability of buildings, and realises the sustainable development of the construction industry.

3.2. Challenges and Potential Mitigation Strategies

Along with the demands of urban economic development, China's various historic cities face tensions between development and preservation, and various challenges have arisen. However, while addressing the challenges, development opportunities have also emerged. This paper examines some of the challenges that need to be urgently addressed and proposes potential mitigation strategies.

In conclusion, the path of integrating the new with the old is fraught with challenges, but it also presents opportunities for development. Through sound urban planning and architectural design, the development and active participation of the community at large, and with full respect for the historical and cultural heritage, the development of the city will be able to cope with this complex situation and ensure that the historical essence of the historic city is preserved, while at the same time meeting the ever-changing needs of its inhabitants and rationalising the development of a sustainable city.

Challenge	**Infrastructure Upgrades vs. Historical Preservation**
	The need for modern infrastructure in historic cities conflicts with the desire to preserve historic sites.
Mitigation Strategy	Ensure that a thorough design assessment is carried out before any significant infrastructure development and avoid extensive excavation, e.g., using non-invasive techniques for infrastructure projects.
Challenge	**Urban Overcrowding and Tourist Influx**
	An influx of tourists can put enormous pressure on the fragile infrastructure of a historic city.
Mitigation Strategy	Introducing advanced smart city management methods such as BIM and other advanced traffic management systems, rational management of visitor numbers during peak tourist seasons.
Challenge	**Cultural Dilution**
	With the encroachment of foreign cultures, the city is in danger of losing its unique identity and cultural essence.
Mitigation Strategy	Shaping the unique urban image of historic cities and encouraging Aboriginal people to preserve their original traditional cultural heritage, e.g. by organising activities such as traditional handicrafts.
Challenge	**Balancing Economic Growth with Preservation**
	The attraction of economic growth can sometimes overshadow the importance of preserving historical and cultural assets.
Mitigation Strategy	Promote sustainable tourism by promoting traditional attractions making full use of community outreach.
Challenge	**Modern Architectural Integration**
	Integrating modern architecture without disturbing historical aesthetics is a big challenge.
Mitigation Strategy	Encourag architects to seek inspiration from local traditional culture, materials and techniques. Establish specific review mechanisms to ensure that new developments are consistent with the city's historic character.
Challenge:	**Environmental Sustainability**
	Modernised construction can sometimes lead to environmental unsustainability.
Mitigation Strategy	Prioritise green buildings, emphasise the use of local sustainable materials and promote the integration of passive design techniques, green roofs and renewable energy.

3.3. Implications for Urban Livability and Cultural Heritage Preservation

The intricate relationship between urban modernity and cultural heritage preservation has broad and far-reaching implications for the urban landscape.

Urban Livability:

- Improves quality of life: Traditional history and culture are passed on in people's lives, and life satisfaction tends to increase in an urban facility that combines historical elements with modern amenities. Residents enjoy the comforts of modern amenities while still soaking up the city's historical narrative.

- Enhanced community spaces: Traditional Chinese design emphasises public areas and open spaces. When integrated into modern urban design, this type of public shared space promotes interaction among community residents, strengthens ties between all aspects of the community, and creates a comfortable public environment.
- Health and well-being: Traditional Chinese architecture promotes a natural environment that is "green hills, green water" and "human-centred". When these elements and cultures are preserved and integrated into modern design, the positive impact of comfort of the urban environment on people's physical and mental health is evident.
- Adaptive Reuse and Sustainability: Repurposing historic buildings for modern use, rather than demolishing them, often reduces energy consumption and waste of resources, resulting in a more sustainable urban environment.

Cultural Retention:

- Reinforcement of the city's image: A unique image is created for the city by preserving and integrating history and culture. This uniqueness attracts tourists, instils a sense of pride in residents, and deepens the connection between people and the city's heritage.
- Revival of traditional crafts and skills: Traditional building methods and crafts are given a new lease of life as historic buildings are restored or their designs integrated into new buildings, ensuring that traditional skills are passed on.
- Living museums: Historic cities that blend old and new become living museums so that each modern building with traditional elements tells its unique story.
- Cultural heritage: preserving the cultural essence of the historic city so that residents can deepen their understanding and appreciation of their cultural roots by living in it.
- Economic benefits from cultural tourism: Tourists can only be attracted if the unique cultural heritage is preserved and integrated with modern life.

In conclusion, the significance of combining modern development with historic preservation goes beyond architectural aesthetics, and it is important to realize that urban development in conjunction with cultural heritage preservation is fundamental.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

4.1. Policy Recommendations for Heritage Preservation

For cities with a rich historical and cultural heritage, preserving their heritage while developing modernity is essential and complex. Many policy interventions are necessary to successfully integrate the new with the old. The following are some recommendations for urban development policy makers in the field of heritage conservation:

Comprehensive heritage assessment: Conduct regular and comprehensive assessments of historic buildings, especially monuments, sites, etc., to determine whether their current state requires the implementation of certain conservation measures. Understanding what needs to be protected and why is the basis for effective heritage conservation.

Legal Protection: Introduce legal protection provisions for heritage and enforce strict protection for identified heritage sites to restrict unauthorised alteration, demolition or commercial development.

Community participation: Promote community-driven conservation initiatives involving residents in protecting their local cultural heritage, as they are the best custodians of their cultural treasures.

Financial incentives: Economic incentives can encourage stakeholders to align their interests with heritage conservation objectives.

Capacity-building: Organise training on modern conservation techniques for local authorities, artisans and other stakeholders.

Heritage education: emphasise the importance of local history, architecture and culture to instil pride and awareness in younger generations and ensure that heritage conservation is sustained.

Sustainable tourism: Develop policies to promote sustainable tourism and ensure that tourism activities do not damage historic sites.

Technology integration: Technology can bridge the past and present, providing advanced methods of preserving history and culture.

Partnerships: Pooling resources and expertise from different fields can optimise conservation outcomes.

Urban planning integration: Integrating heritage conservation into more comprehensive urban planning ensures that urban development does not undermine historic heritage.

In short, heritage conservation is not a static endeavour but a dynamic one that requires constant attention and innovation.

4.2. Architectural innovation and modernisation

Architectural design techniques continue to improve and innovate in response to technological and societal changes, and these innovations can be used to achieve the twin goals of preserving heritage and ensuring the modernisation and development of cities [Conti 2017]. In essence, combining architectural innovation techniques with modernisation can provide a great deal of viability for heritage buildings.

4.3. Public Awareness and Stakeholder Engagement

The role of public awareness and stakeholder involvement must be considered in the field of heritage conservation and modern architectural development in historic cities. Preserving historic environments and integrating new architectural elements into these environments is not just a matter of new technologies but also of social participation and public awareness. Public awareness and stakeholder involvement form the backbone of successful heritage conservation in modern urbanisation. When the public is involved in architectural development and preservation, historic cities can develop into spaces that honour the past while dynamically engaging with the present and future [Aas 2005].

5. CONCLUSION

While intricate, the relationship between modern architecture and China's historic cities is critical to national identity and heritage preservation. By understanding the challenges faced and taking advantage of the opportunity to develop sound strategies, creating a future that honours the past and embraces the good is possible.

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NOWOCZESNA ARCHITEKTURA W HISTORYCZNYM MIEŚCIE CHIŃSKIM: MOŻLIWOŚCI, WYZWANIA I STRATEGIE

Streszczenie

Niniejszy artykuł bada interakcję współczesnej architektury z różnymi aspektami krajobrazu miejskiego, ochrony dziedzictwa i utrzymania kultury w chińskich historycznych miastach. Na terenie Chin (mających 5-tysięczną historię) znajduje się wiele historycznych starożytnych miast o unikalnych zwyczajach i tradycjach. W szybkim procesie urbanizacji i modernizacji te historyczne miasta stoją przed wyzwaniem znalezienia równowagi i rozwiązania sprzeczności między ochroną dziedzictwa architektonicznego a potrzebami współczesnego rozwoju gospodarczego. Poziom rozwoju współczesnej architektury często postrzegany jest jako jeden z kryteriów mierzenia wzrostu gospodarczego miasta. Jednakże gdy ten popyt na rozwój koliduje z tradycyjnym celem ochrony środowiska, współczesna architektura przynosi nie tylko możliwości, ale i wyzwania. Ze względu na powolne zanikanie miejsc historycznych i stopniową utratę tradycyjnej kultury zwraca się uwagę na szukanie sposobów harmonizacji ochrony dziedzictwa architektonicznego, utrzymania tradycyjnej kultury i zrównoważonego projektowania miejskiego. Niniejszy artykuł analizuje współczesną architekturę i jej wzajemne relacje rozwojowe z krajobrazem miejskim historycznych miast poprzez kilka studiów przypadków chińskich historycznych miast w różnych lokalizacjach, badając tym samym możliwości, wyzwania i strategie w ramach tego kontekstu.

Słowa kluczowe: nowoczesna architektura, historyczne miasto, Chiny