

Analysis of Water- -Designing Art for Chinese Classical Private Gardens South of the Yangtze River

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Analiza sztuki projektowania założeń wodnych dla chińskich klasycznych prywatnych ogrodów na południe od rzeki Jangcy

Chinese classical gardens could be divided into four types of royal garden, private garden, monastery garden and famous scenery garden according to different creators and users. The private gardens epitomize folk art and belong to the bureaucrats, landowners, wealthy merchants and literati. Private gardens in Ming and Qing dynasties spread all over the country, the north takes Beijing as the center, regions south of the Yangtze River to Jervois as a representative, the south to Lingnan Garden for typical. The private gardens south of the Yangtze River play the most representative role among the above types, whose landscape art reaches the peak of perfection.

The private gardens south of the Yangtze River, also called "literati impressionistic landscape garden", were mostly built by literati with small area for living. Due to its rich water resources, the regions south of the Yangtze River were known as "no garden without water". Water-designing becomes the most important ways of artistic presentation for private gardens, which is completely different from large gardens or royal gardens and interpretate the essence of classic private gardens based on the exquisite water, varied artistic processing and art form.

The water-designing features of private gardens

Woda - cechy projektowania cechy prywatnych ogrodów

I. Natural imitation, landscape dependencies

I. Naśladownictwo przyrodnicze, zależności krajobrazowe

The private gardens south of the Yangtze River are mostly built by literati and scholar-bureaucrats with deep artistic attainments and proficient in calligraphy and painting landscape art. They have lived in city for such a long time with deeply feeling on the complex dispute of reality society, hoping to get a fictitious land of peace far away from the secular disputes. Therefore, they imitate the natural environment to reappear nature in city life within limited space. Due to the area limitation, private garden is particular about the refining and artistic processing of natural landscape to reach the art realm of "although artificial, feels natural".

II. Sending feelings in water, comparing water to virtuousness

II. Przesyłanie uczuć w wodzie, porównywanie wody do cnoty

For the literati and officialdom advocating the Confucian, all natural elements could be significant only being endowed with people's morality symbol. As Confucius said, "wise man loves water, moral person looks forward to mountains". "Landscape with wise man and moral person" is to melt the natural landscape into the symbol of personality. In ancient China, people often compared water to be the virtuousness of gentleman and water treatment also penetrated into the ethics idea. A gentleman's landscape is rarely anhydrous, although a piece of land, never lacking of water with various forms, so as to embody "the virtuousness of gentleman".

The water-designing artistic theory of private gardens

Woda - teoria artystycznego projektowania ogrodów prywatnych

I. Zigzag set-off

I. Kompozycja zygzakowata

The water outline of private garden is spiral winding and zigzag changeable to increase the landscape depth and enrich levels. The changeable size and freely accept and put of banded water could produce the open joint rhythm. The plant surrounding the water bank set off and spread freely to form a pool of visual impression. The house is built above the water, disappearing and reappearing again to break the sight limitation of the shore side.

II. Dynamic and static combination

II. Połączenie dynamiczne i statyczne

The waterscape of Chinese classical gardens simulated the nature and could be divided into dynamic water and still water. Still water is serene guileless, while dynamic water is lively clever. The waterscape in private gardens is mainly for static watching and still water includes as followings: a. Ponds and lakes: the irregular shape gives the feeling of vast and mighty waves to people; b. Rivers: it is the bifurcated water of irregular belt type. C. mountain stream and ancient ravine: the landscape formed by the zigzag banded water surface and multipeaked moun-

tains. While dynamic water mainly includes falls and artesian.

III. Reasonable scale

III. Skala uzasadniona

The size of the water body should be coordinate with the surrounding building environment, since the form of the space size is decided by the surrounding factors. For the smaller area of the water body, the construction scale should also be small and close to the water surface so as to reduce the oppressive feeling. For the larger area of water body, it could appropriately enlarge the building scale near the water surface to integrate with the water mass.

The water space layout art of private gardens south of the Yangtze River

Sztuka układu powierzchni wody ogrodów prywatnych na południe od rzeki Jangcy

"Large, separating and small, gathering" summarizes the water-designing form of private gardens. "Scattered water is profound with endless meaning". For the large private gardens, the water usually adopt bridge, gallery, pavilion, pavilion on terrace, island and other "partition" means to separate the water surface

into a number of space, which enriches the water form and enhances the winding extension feeling; "water together, the boundless feeling is", for the small private garden, water together is better than partition. Concentrating usage of water could form centripetal spatial pattern and make the limited space to be open sighted.

I. Water surface of large private gardens fits for partition

I. Powierzchnię wody dużych prywatnych ogrodów można dzielić

The water of larger private gardens tends to distributed processing to form the figure-ground relation of a water base and building diagram. The water systems usually surround throughout the park scenic spots and the main scenic forms a relatively large area of the main water surface in order to distinguish between primary and secondary. Take the central water body of Humble Administrator's Garden as an example, Humble Administrator's Garden is the largest private garden in the gardens south of the Yangtze River and its total area is about 10 acres. The park is divided into three parts: the east, the central and the west part. The central part is the essence of the whole garden with an area of about three acres, the third of which is water surface. The middle of the water surface is divided into several parts by building, bridges and island, which forms



Fig. 1. Plan View of Humble Administrator's Garden [SuZhou Gardens 2008]

Fig. 1. Widok planu Ogrodu Pokornego Zarządcy [Ogrody SuZhou 2008]



Fig. 2. The Main Surface of Water in North of the Drifting Fragrance Hall

Fig. 2. Główna powierzchnia wody na północ od Pawilonu Unoszącego się Aromatu



Fig. 3. A West Scene of the Secluded Pavilion of Phoenix Tree and Bamboo

Fig. 3. Zachodni widok Pawilonu Zacisznego Drzewa Parasolowego i Bambusa



Fig. 4. A North Scene of the Small Pavilion of Quiet Meditation

Fig. 4. Widok północny Małego Pawilonu Cichej Medytacji



Fig. 5. The Boat-like Structure and the Listening on Jade Pavilion

Fig. 5. Budowlaniczym łódź i Słuchanie Pawilonu Nefrytu

Fig. 6. Elements differentiate the surface of the water

Fig. 6. Elementy różnicują powierzchnię wody



vast strip main water surface north of the Drifting Fragrance Hall. Branches run between the pavilion and forest, contact the architectural elements and increase the space level and scene depth. Watching from the west of the Secluded Pavilion of Phoenix

Tree and Bamboo, or north from the small Pavilion of Quiet Meditation, or enjoying the sight of the Boat-like Structure and the Listening on Jade Pavilion from the Pavilion in the Lotus Breezes, the shoreline is twisting with changeable water space full of the atmosphere of southern Chinese riverside town.

In private gardens with large broad water surface, island, construction and other relative large elements are commonly used to differentiate the surface of the water, such as there is two islands built in the central pool of the humble administrator's garden, only separated by a water gap both spacing and linking, setting each other off with layers. The small Pavilion of Quiet Meditation and the Small Flying Rainbow in the humble administrator's garden take the buildings and roads as a water division, not only separating the space, but also increasing the levels and depth of the landscape. Bridge connection was used in the narrow water surface. The



Fig. 7. Plan View of Garden of Pleasant [SuZhou Gardens 2008]

Fig. 7. Widok z góry na Ogród Przyjemności [Ogrody SuZhou 2008]



Fig. 8. The Main Surface of Water in North of the Lotus Fragrance Anchorage

Fig. 8. Główna powierzchnia wody na północ od Przystani Aromatu Lotosu



Fig. 9. The stone bridge divide band river systems

Fig. 9. Kamienny most dzieli systemy rzecznych wstęp



Fig. 10. A East Scene of the Painted Boat Studio

Fig. 10. Widok wschodni Studia Malowanych Łodzi

bridge body of the large private garden is empty throughout because of the broad water, such as the distance from the bridges to the water surface of the humble administrator's garden is oppositely far away, which makes the water space interpenetration, looks separate but actually linking, as well as increases level and produces the reflection effect.

II. Small Private Gardens

II. Małe ogrody prywatne

A. Stripped garden combining separation with assembling

Stripped private garden's area presents a long and narrow view or a ribbon view, the aspect ratio is greater than 2:1. Water systems generally take a comprehensive approach combining separation with assembling, with a series of major buildings connected through the

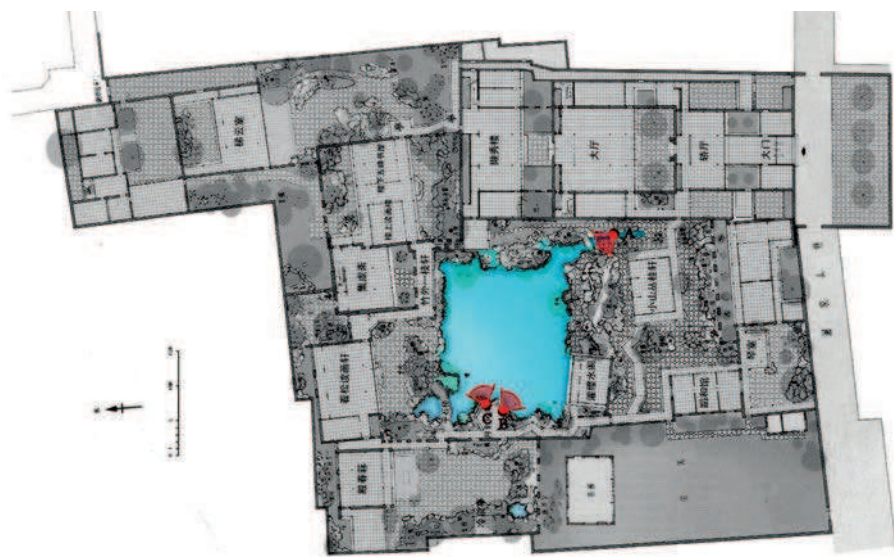


Fig. 11. Plan View of the Master-of-Nets Garden [SuZhou Gardens 2008]

Fig. 11. Widok z góry na Ogród Mistrza Sieci [Ogrody SuZhou 2008]



Fig. 12. A East Scene of stone arch bridges

Fig. 12. Widok wschodni na kamienny most łukowy



Fig. 13. The Main Surface of the Master-of-Nets Garden

Fig. 13. Główna powierzchnia Ogródu Mistrza Sieci



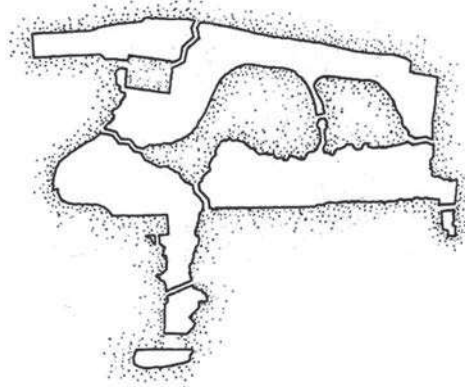
Fig. 14. The low gallery pavilion around pool shore

Fig. 14. Pawilon niskiej galerii wokół brzegów basenu

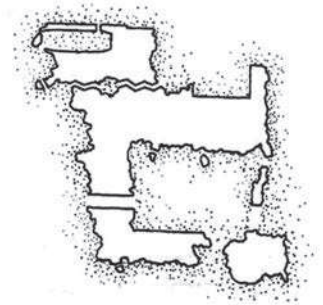
water. From the longitudinal direction of view, such a pool forms a level landscape. Take the Garden of Pleasant as an example, built latest in the Suzhou gardens, it collects each garden's advantages and forms the gallery gathering garden features, the whole garden area is approximately 1.53 acres, its layout presents long and narrow view in the east and west with compounded gallery in the center, buildings are dominant in the east, and the west is the focus of the whole garden dominant with mountains and water. Spreading in a smaller area, on the basis of the ribbon river, the local water system is relatively more gathering; As the north of Lotus Fragrance Anchorage to the center, the western and eastern ends are long and narrow so that the entire water system looks like a ribbon, where the water is gathering and dividing, flowing to the west and assembling in the Painted Boat Studio. The band water system is divided into three parts by zigzag bridge and water gate, it's long, narrow and tortuous with clear priorities, making rocks, flowers, hall and land boat etc. into different landscapes according to the water surface size.

B. Planar garden gathering on water surface

Planar private garden's area presents planar square shape pattern, the aspect ratio of less than 2:1, the water system mostly takes tortuous natural polymerizing simple pool as its center. Square main view

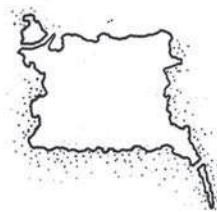


The Water in Humble Administrator's Garden



The Water in Lion Forest Garden

Fig. 15. Gardens with large area will apply more separating
Fig. 15. Ogrody o dużych powierzchniach będą rozdzielane



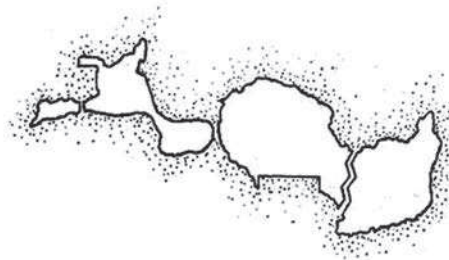
The Water in Master-of-Nets Garden



The Water in Garden of Cultivation



The Water in Lingering Garden



The Water in Garden of Pleasant



The Water in Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty

Fig. 16. Gardens with small area will apply more gathering [Liu Dunzhen 1979]
Fig. 16. Ogrody o małych powierzchniach będą łączone [Liu Dunzhen 1979]

pool is usually formed in the center with buildings arranged around the water, which creates a central and cohesive pattern, the centralized and static water surface making people feel cheerful and peaceful. Taking the Master-of-Nets Garden as an example, its' whole area is about 1.4 acres, divided into three parts eastern messuages, central landscape park with hills and waters and western park in the garden. The central part is the main park with square water body as its center. Southeast is a narrow creek originating from the south of the lake rockery, stone arch bridges (2.4 meters) across the streams pass, under the bridge the water driving into the open primary pool surface, which makes a contrast, reflecting the ocean's potential of main water surface. There is the tablet curved bridge low adjacent to the water surface in northwest. The water is flowing through the winding bridge to the hall and flower beds, forming the ending of water, endless. The pool shore gallery pavilion is relative low, it enhances the feeling of the large scale water surface compared with small scale construction. More or less space is left between the pool and the building where flowers are arranged and rockery is hidden, which soften the waterfront curve, and meanwhile the water reflection increases the visual range of the space.

Above both is the model of small garden. In a small private garden relatively small bridge is mostly used to separate the surface of the

water, which creates primary and secondary parts, and increases spatial contrast. The bridges are mostly built adjacent to the water so as to make people feel pool broader than its real size. Meanwhile, it will make landscaping more profound to set the bridge as close or medium shot. In addition, in order to increase the small garden's space visual zoom effect, the pool focuses on the design of the coastline and outlet: the shorelines are mostly meandered, blocking the transparent sigh to achieve the effect of spatial expansion; the outlets are usually just hiding the short inlets, which forms the sense of illusion that the water system extends outwards, breaking through the pool's close, and which create sensory impressions that the water flows endlessly.

Conclusion

Wnioski

The art of water system layout in private garden, delightly complicated is the key element. Water can be still and running, hidden and apparent with endless association. The best part lies in different space distribution, small and big, open and disclosed, contributing the rich landscape. The skill part is the water level control, high and low, by and near the water making various spatial senses. According to the size of the area, the water designing of south classical private garden will be handled differently. Gardens with

large area will apply more separating than gathering with buildings surrounded by water to set the building space off to extending. Larger water surface needed to make a distinction even with many separating. Gardens with small area, for planar space, will apply more gathering than separating with water surrounded by buildings to make a tranquil and cordial space; while for strip space, the main water surface combined with water system with building space mingled with water space to emphasize flowing space weaving into the buildings.

Figures by authors.

Ryciny opracowali autorzy.

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