

Collapsing and Reconstructing of Building Language

Reflection on Development and Actuality of the Traditional

European Architecture in Qingdao City

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Abstract

Buildings have their own ways of expressing themselves and this kind of expression needs to be put in a certain proper occasion. And this essay aims to find the way how to express a building more perfectly after master the modern construction technologies by reflecting on the Catholic churches and the nearby building blocks in Qingdao City.

Keywords: Traditional European building, Building process, Building language

The Traditional European Architecture in Qingdao City and the nearby building blocks around them in Qingdao are witnesses of the history of this city. More than 100 years ago, the western colonizers arrive and what followed was nothing but the bitterness of Chinese people and the so called western civilization. However, these things provide a specific real first-hand material for us today. This kind of building is quite different from our traditional building systems which are unchangeable after so many years, therefore, leaves a great influence on the sculpture, function, structure, material, building as well as the management of the buildings for us today. Thinking back one hundred years ago, how great impact it may brought to us when the Catholic churches were set up on the harbor of Qingdao. Now, when we have enough economic strength and technology basis to support our city constructions, let us take a look back and watch this building blocks again to see if we can also master the language of the building when we master the modern building technologies.

1. The development process of Qingdao's traditional European architecture

Warner young scholars in Germany, "German architectural art in China," a book written in the preface of such a paragraph, "The Europe of the Asian style of the city still have eclecticism and modernism, Art Deco and performance, and is the best Code of the construction, which is building the same period a direct reflection of Germany, we can see all kinds of popular tendencies in Germany in the form, but on the other hand, there are also some highly personalized, and the trend to be the first to walk in the building, Qingdao is the only place to see. "Qingdao foreign buildings mainly concentrated in the mountains, the Hong Kong Road, Taiping Kok, Ba Taiwan, and other places. Major construction including the Governor House, Catholic, spent stone floor, Ocean University, and other buildings.

1.1 Qingdao before the liberation of the colonial era to urban construction stages and its two construction peaks

1.1.1 construction phase

- (1) 1897 -1914 the Germany Occupation
- (2) 1914-1922, the Japanese Occupation
- (3) 1922-1929 rule in Northern Government
- (4) 1929-1938, the national government rule
- (5) 1938-1945, the Japanese Occupation
- (6) 1945-1949, the period of Kuomintang rule

1.2.2 Two peaks of the building

- (1) From 1900 the initial planning to the expansion plan in 1910, all quoted European urban planning experience and advanced technology, with the colonizers own words, the difference of Qingdao with all the colonial cities is that The facilities in accordance with the principle of the same generation to do is urgent. "Therefore Qingdao is a good example of reflection of the contemporary city in Europe. And during this period mainly German-style oriented. In the southern slope of Signal Hill the sophisticated entitled "The Provincial Commander floor," Rough Road Park in Hubei Germany plastic Australian Police Department, Zhejiang Road, the majestic Cathedral, as well as Jiangsu Road solemn Christian churches, which are all typical German style architectures.

(2) In the 1930s, architects from all countries gathered in Qingdao, creating another construction climax after 1910 in the history of Qingdao. Its representatives are Badawan Village. There are Russian type, German, Japanese, American and Danish-style, Greek, Spanish-style, Switzerland, and other 24 countries-style architecture, which has been described as a "million construction of the Expo." Qingdao City Badawan building not only colorful, and can be said to be set epitomize European architectural art. The famous architects Horie in Japan read Badawan courtyard of the many, not without deep feeling, said: "On the one hand, the construction of Qingdao is a continuation of tradition, declared at the same time, the advent of a new era, in a sense it can be said Architecture is a bumper harvest of the times."

1.2 The reason why this stage will express the statements of Qingdao's construction is that this can compare the contemporary architecture in Europe in the development of Qingdao is how reflected.

Qingdao's Europe buildings will be put into the history of the development of modern architecture in which to compare the architectural language of the development and changes.

Qingdao, the first of the modern urban planning is the significance of the study in Germany in 1859, the East Asian tours. Then in 1869 and 1870 in Qingdao on the geographical environment transport, resources and carried out a detailed analysis and inspection, to be occupied in 1897 in Qingdao in 1900 to start preliminary planning and construction works long as 41 years. So the start of city construction of Qingdao is a typical modern city with the beginning of significance. The model of complete Western cities construction. From the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, during this period of time, precisely is thought crucial period of modern Western architecture, and Western architectural language in the trend of the times is in the development and changes.

1.2.1 An Eclecticism Building

From the stage 19th century to the 20th century, this is a period when China's feudal dynasty by day weakening farming civilization and the collapse of the Western powers began to colonial expansion, industrial civilization is full of exuberant vitality of modern Western economic / thinking / culture of a period of great development. With industrial social development, the need for a variety of construction to meet a variety of requirements. Eclecticism is the construction representative during this period, they do not stress fixed a popular architectural style. Arbitrary imitate the history of various architectural styles, the combination of various types of construction or free form, without a certain set of the French, only emphasizes balance, pay attention to pure beauty of form. And so the Greek, Roman, Byzantine, medieval, Renaissance and Oriental-style building in the city offered a mixed situation. Germany is also the same period of the case, in which many old buildings in Qingdao also have reflected.

During this period the development of industrial to bring new construction materials. In the 19th century reinforced concrete structures, steel and cement applied to a leap in housing construction changes. Along with the development of mathematics and mechanics, the late 19th century to master the general structure of the inherent laws established by the need for practical engineering theory and the calculation method of forming the structure of science. The characteristic of this modern architecture, Qingdao Catholic Church is an example. Catholic Church for the internal structure of reinforced concrete structures. But in the external form is entirely built on the traditional European architecture. Catholic Church from the top of the reinforced concrete pouring flattened, rather than the traditional church an elevation of the dome. This seems to span today is not a problem, but 100 years ago, it is a masterpiece of technology. But its external front, and strong special song embodies the characteristics of architecture, building up the overall line, tip against the sky, and gives us a heavy burden to get rid of the feeling of all the earth, and thick brick walls and narrow small window, a semi-circular arch volumes and decorative layer singled out the door frames and tall towers, while the construction of a Roman-style characteristics.

The original Japanese students teaching building of Ocean University, are the Japanese architect's work of Germany for imitation. Seem to confound truth to the point, if no one will tell many people will think that this is a German architect's construction from the hands. In 1896 the building of the headquarters of the Bank of Japan, Japan marked the rise of modern architects, and architects to mean that Japan can ease the use of Western architectural language. The teaching building is a good example. Overall, the construction eclecticism is still conservative thought, was not in accordance with the emergence of new materials and new construction techniques to create corresponding to the new architectural forms.

1.2.2 The seeds of modern architecture.

Qingdao Governor's residence was built in 1905 as a "German architectural art in China," the highest representative of the German architectural style typical William times with youth camp style approach of combining model, a variety of creative architectural art inclusive language and cultural ideas. In the Governor's residence a small protected steel frame structure, is now a studio. It is the use of steel - glass structure. From the 1851 World Expo in London for the construction of the factory started production of glass and iron components for building materials,

the use of prefabricated construction methods into large-scale exhibition adequate light construction. To the 1914 workshop to turbine - a milestone in the history of modern architecture, the first truly modern architectural development process. This can be seen steel - glass structure of the value of very important, it was the birth of modern architecture in the process of solidification of a moment, and this moment in the construction of Europe from the center of China. You can feel the beat of that era designers explore new thinking and the architectural forms of courage. At the same time, modern industrial development also requires corresponding to the architectural forms, in order to meet the needs of industrial production, the construction time to build the station, the locomotive plant to meet modern industrial production facilities. Founded in 1903 in Qingdao Brewery cassette appearance, without any decorative rectangular windows, large-span flat roofs, can be demonstrated some characteristics of modern architecture.

1.2.3 Modern Architecture

Since modernism from the 1930s to the rapid spread of the rest of the world regions, the middle of the 20th century has finally become the dominant modern architecture trend. Le • Modern Architecture Kebuxixie is the main advocate; in 1923 he published his famous work "to the new building," the book is a residential "living machines." A new five building characteristics in 1926: 1. Housing bottom of the adoption of a separate pillar 2. Roof garden, 3. Free plane; 4. Long horizontal window 5. Free Facade. Huiquan Bay in the East China Sea the hotel in 1936 built, reinforced concrete structure six buildings, local Layer 7. Plane with a free room used for the wrong stack layout, and 88 of the rooms can be direct to see the sea. Facade design level of scattered, light blue for the external walls, from the far to see like warships. Praised as an important modern architecture representative. We can see from this, Qingdao traditional architecture is the development of a fully synchronized, and the times, from the building to a modern architectural eclecticism over this process, can be found conclusive evidence.

1.3 The mutual process of adaptation of traditional European architecture and the local culture.

European architects in the construction of housing at the same time try to adapt to China's architectural traditions. For example, the "China school boy" for the Chinese people and run by the "Flower Hospital" on the use of the traditional Chinese courtyard style. Germany typical construction truss structure to support cross-cutting wood, a solid role, the Governor's residence early, navy hotels have adopted this method of decoration, and in the late architects know that this is in China's construction committing taboo, it has disappeared from the scene of the. At the same time, housing design maintain consistency in style, which is reflected in many construction using Hongwa, yellow walls, and change the roof, tiles style changeable. Construction of decorative detail was obviously popular European continent by the "new art movement" edify, architectural modeling novel and uniquely, to be generally green, with the surrounding architecture and the environment, resulting in the building of a harmonious artistic effect.

2. The analyzed for status of Qingdao's traditional European architecture today, the Old City of Qingdao traditional European architecture and planning ideas with the changes of the times is a change quietly.

From the overlook above, most trees hidden under the traditional Continental modeling of different groups have been gradually building some modern architecture by segmentation. These are mostly from Qingdao Lau Fau Shan quality granite stone vault, the overlying red Tongwa traditional architecture from every point of view, are quite ornamental. The tip of the Gothic, Denmark-ramps items, Greek columns, the Rome's are so beautiful. However, when we entered them, the traditional architecture of the atmosphere created by the gradual isolation and destruction. Renovation of traditional architecture of uneven and some of the original building has changed. New construction and a far cry from the original architectural style, is not coordinated. Therefore, the traditional European architecture Qingdao causes of the current situation analysis and reflection, it is very necessary.

2.1 The expression of present building language which was taking the old city centered by Zhongshan Road as an example

The old city centered by Zhongshan Road was planed by Germany designer in 1900 which comprises a great deal of Germanic style building blocks. And these buildings were built just in the eclecticism period of European building. And these Catholic churches in Qingdao city are the representative works of this building block. The Catholic Church first built in 1932 was called St. Emil Church which was designed by German stylist Arthur Bialucha according to Gothic and Roman architecture style. It was finished in 1934 and then became the highest building at that time. Despite the fact that its interior part was constructed with reinforced concretes, its exterior part was built in a traditional European way with its beautiful sculptures and elegant decorations. The top of the tower flies into the sky while its roof is covered by red tiles. Generally speaking, the church looks huge, elegant, simple yet sophisticated. At that time, the first thing people saw on the boat sailed from the front sea was nothing but the aerial tower top.

At that time, the bud of modern architecture had emerged. (Modern architecture emerged at the end of nineteenth century and flourished in the first fifty to sixty years of twenty century.) However China was in the area of war chaos. The traditional social system had been broken and new system had not been established, not even to talk about the theoretic basis of modern architecture and design language. German great architecture designer Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969), one of the founders of western modern architecture, brought forward the idea of “less is more” which could be realized by the materials of steel and glass. In his eyes, steel and glass are new materials; they could be a new architectural language when they combined with the new structure. On the other hand, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe preferred to purify the form of the architecture and to abandon all the redundant structure without function. Only the geometric structure of lines, right angles, rectangles and cuboids left, therefore we may see Seagram Building with steel frame and glass walls as well as today’s Parkson. (Seagram Building, jeans, coke, rock music represented American after-war culture of twentieth century)

And nowadays, in a proper position of the Qingdao Trestle, you will see that the skyscrapers, representing the modern and high technology stands quietly in the opposite of the Catholic church which represents the highest building achievement in the middle ages. But compared with the hugeness of modern skyscrapers, the Catholic Church seems so small and low. Do we really enter the modern time? Are we by-standers, destroyers, or followers? Or are we the real master of the building who have really mastered the building languages based on the modern industries.

The languages of the building have become a chaos.

The Catholic Church is high and sublime, but when we walk to the dormitory building on the other side of it, this kind of feeling disappears. This building seems so humble and so the language expressed by this building is quite unfit with the things expressed by the Catholic Church. And on the other hand, the skyscrapers on the opposite of the church seem so huge and high. Therefore, the harmonious building environment is destroyed. We can also see that the lamp boxes hung in front of the nearby shops are also quite unfit with these ancient buildings. A city without its past is a superficial hollow city. When people talking about Shanghai, they will think about the Bund and when they talk about The Bund they will think about all kinds of life there. These all because the city has some memorable things. But unfortunately, what embarrasses us is that on today's Zhongshan Road, there are only rows upon rows of shops and peddlers of fish. And the finding of a traditional formal coffee bar is by no means an easy work. This is a kind of lose and the degradation of the culture.

2.2 The function of building language in architecture

Nowadays, building language appears as a more abundant mode. Classical language, modern language and future language mix with the multi-cultural impact. One of the serious problems we are facing today is the polarization, collapse and reconstruction of the building language. Just as the case in point, what is wrong does not lie in the buildings themselves because all these building are built under standard designs. Why do we lose the inner meanings of the buildings even when we have mastered the modern building technologies? On one hand, we can not create our own building language, but on the other hand, what is more worse is that we are destroying the few remaining historical buildings. The master of the building technologies does not mean that we can have a good use of its language. This group of buildings in Qingdao city, whether it was built 100 years ago or is newly built, is all built under the western model. The former is pure while the later is built without adding any Chinese elements, but what is the reason why it seems so unharmonious when these two are put together?

As we all know, the foremost value of architectural art lies on its relationship with cultural integrity. It is the reflection of one culture circumstance with quality of integrity, inevitability and eternity. Auguste Rodin (Grace of Cultural Monument by Mo Xiao) ever said that all France was included in our churches like the whole Greece was comprised in the Parthenon. Architecture and architecture group convey a kind of culture, a spirit and an attitude through their forms and functions. The field of architecture influences the people and their lives all the time. When walking on the old streets of Qingdao City, which was paved by stone, people will feel that time flow back. Walking upstairs, getting across the floors, people may enjoy the beautiful scene of blue sky and sea. When sitting in front of the Catholic Church, touching the massive stone walls, people will have a great aesthetic feeling. The tall phoenix trees and elegant villas shape the temperament of Qingdao City, which is harmonious and great. Maybe many people do not understand European culture, but the beauty that these outstanding architecture shows may beyond the barrier of different culture. Architecture uses its own language convey the character. It bears the fruit of common wisdom of human beings.

Conclusion

The building are built and used by the people and so it carries the thinking and feelings of the designers. When walking on the old streets of Qingdao, people can see the special building treatment in a common wall, an ordinary

chimney and a corner, which comprises the understanding of architect in simplicity. Therefore, the language of the building is by no means of an isolated and closed system. On the contrary, it has a close relationship with the politics, economy, philosophy, drawing, music, literature, climate as well as the geography. The bad use of it always leads to the loss of languages inside it. The master of building technologies does not mean the master and good use of the building languages. Now, let us have a look at Japan. From 1896, with the finish of Japanese Bank Headquarter which symbols the rise of modern Japanese architects, it takes them more than 100 years and three generations' hard working to turn the western building language into their own language. And this process is by no means a plain road but accompanied by many kinds of mistakes and crooked roads. Therefore, the master and change of the building languages is a process which needs the hard working of some people.

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