

A Comparative Study on the Construction Philosophy of Residential Buildings in Mount Tai and Mount Huang

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Abstract: This paper aims to comparatively study the construction philosophy of residential buildings in Mount Tai and Mount Huang, analyzing the differences in construction concepts, social and political factors, and natural factors. By exploring the Cheng-Zhu thought and commercial thinking in Huangshan residential buildings, and the Confucian thought and small-scale farming thinking in Taishan residential buildings, this paper reveals the deep-seated reasons and their influences on the construction philosophy of residential buildings in these two regions.

Keywords: Mount Tai, Mount Huang, Residential Construction, Philosophical Comparison, Social and Political Factors, Natural Factors.

I. INTRODUCTION

Mount Tai and Mount Huang, as two of China's most famous mountains, not only have distinct natural landscapes but also possess unique philosophies in residential construction. The residential buildings in Mount Tai are deeply influenced by Confucian thought, reflecting small-scale farming thinking; whereas the residential buildings in Mount Huang integrate Cheng-Zhu thought with commercial thinking. These differences not only reflect the uniqueness of regional culture but also reveal the profound influence of philosophical thinking on residential construction. Further research on the construction philosophy of residential buildings in these two regions is of great significance for inheriting and promoting traditional Chinese architectural culture.

II. RESEARCH STATUS AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The research on the construction philosophy of residential buildings in Mount Tai and Mount Huang has been a topic of interest among scholars. Studies have shown that the residential buildings in Mount Tai are characterized by their simplicity, practicality, and emphasis on family and social order, which are influenced by Confucianism and small-scale farming thinking. In contrast, the residential buildings in Mount Huang are known for their aesthetic beauty, commercial considerations, and integration with the natural environment, reflecting Cheng-Zhu thought and commercial thinking.

III. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS

The social and political factors that influence the construction philosophy of residential buildings in Mount Tai and Mount Huang are diverse. In Mount Tai, the feudal social structure and Confucian ethics played a significant role in shaping the residential architecture, emphasizing hierarchy and family values. In Mount Huang, the prosperous commerce and the influence of scholar-officials contributed to the development of residential buildings that combined practicality with aesthetic appeal.

IV. NATURAL FACTORS

The natural environment also played a crucial role in the construction philosophy of residential buildings in both regions. The rugged terrain and harsh climate of Mount Tai led to the development of sturdy, practical buildings that could withstand natural elements. In contrast, the mild climate and scenic beauty of Mount Huang encouraged the construction of buildings that harmonized with the natural landscape, emphasizing aesthetic beauty and environmental integration.

V. PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING COMPARISON

(A) Mount Huang—Cheng-Zhu Thought and Commercial Thinking

The residential buildings in Mount Huang are deeply influenced by Cheng-Zhu philosophy, which emphasizes the practice of "investigating things to attain knowledge" and the integration of observation and knowledge. The incorporation of commercial thinking also means that these buildings not only pursue practicality but also focus on beauty and economic efficiency.

Example Analysis: The Chengzhi Tang in Hongcun, Yixian, is a prime example of the combination of Cheng-Zhu thought and commercial thinking. The layout of Chengzhi Tang is rigorous, and its decorations are exquisite, reflecting the meticulous thinking of Cheng-Zhu philosophy and the opulence of Huizhou merchants. The intricate wood, stone, and brick carvings demonstrate the merchants' pursuit of a better life and the display of their economic strength.

(B) Mount Tai – Confucian Thought and Small-Scale Farming Thinking

The residential buildings in Mount Tai are influenced by Confucian thought, emphasizing family concepts, social hierarchy, and reflecting small-scale farming thinking, which focuses on practicality and frugality. The construction of these buildings is characterized by simplicity, practicality, family clustering, and respect for nature, reflecting the characteristics of an agrarian society.

Example Analysis: The Wang Family Courtyard at the foot of Mount Tai is a typical representative of the combination of Confucian thought and small-scale farming thinking. The layout of the Wang Family Courtyard is centered around the family, with a clear hierarchy, reflecting the family concept of Confucian culture. The architectural style is simple and practical, emphasizing frugality, which reflects the characteristics of a small-scale farming economy.

VI. CONCLUSION

Through a comparative study of the construction philosophy of residential buildings in Mount Tai and Mount Huang, we can identify significant differences in construction concepts, social and political factors, and natural factors. These differences not only reflect the uniqueness of regional culture but also reveal the profound influence of philosophical thinking on residential construction. The Confucian thought and small-scale farming thinking in Taishan residential

buildings, and the Cheng-Zhu thought and commercial thinking in Huangshan residential buildings, together constitute the rich content of Chinese residential construction philosophy.

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