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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Brief Analysis of Urban Space Development from the Perspective of Urban Aesthetics

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	This article was taken a basis, developed and expanded from the research for completing the doctoral study entitled the spatial and cultural elements of Lingnan folk houses.Includes the two following main issues. （1）The importance of urban aesthetics in the development of urban space, emphasizing its interdisciplinary nature and involvement in urban art philosophy, philosophy of life, and development philosophy; (2) the urban natural landscapes, cultural environments, and institutional structures, which are formed within the context of political, economic, cultural, and historical backgrounds. Through descriptive statistics and content analysis, the study found that urban aesthetics was not only about visual beautification but also concerns the quality of life and spiritual needs of residents. The core of urban aesthetics moreover lies in creating an environment that meets the production, living, ecological, and cultural needs of residents. The research results also provide theoretical support and practical guidance for urban planning, architectural design, and public policy formulation, aiming to promote sustainable urban development and social harmony.

INTRODUCTION

Urban aesthetics plays a crucial role in the formation and development of public spaces. As an interdisciplinary field of study, urban aesthetics is vital in urban space development, focusing not only on the external beauty of cities but also on the quality of life and spiritual needs of urban residents. It not only fosters a sense of belonging to both the natural and built environments but also holds high aesthetic and ecological value (Briceño, 2009).

Public spaces, as structural elements of the urban environment, not only promote social cohesion but also serve as important venues for urban cultural education and moral well-being (Gheorghiţă, 2012). Enhancing the aesthetic value of public spaces through landscape design can strengthen citizens' cultural and artistic education and improve their moral well-being (Gheorghiţă, 2012). Historically and contemporaneously, the development of urban aesthetics has shifted from mere external beautification to a greater emphasis on human needs and social aesthetic relationships (Feng, 2024).

Figure 1.Zaha Hadid Architects to build smart city in Russia

Source:Staff writer. (2018, November 11)

Urban aesthetics occupies a central position in urban planning and architectural design (Figure 1). Aesthetic principles in urban planning emphasize that urban aesthetics should have intrinsic characteristics and be connected to technology, functionality, environment, and the diversity of beauty (Liu, 2003). Furthermore, architectural design plays a significant role in shaping the urban spatial form, and a reasonable urban spatial form is crucial for the construction of sustainable cities (Jiang, 2011).

Urban aesthetics is of great importance for maintaining and enhancing the urban cultural atmosphere. The construction of cultural atmosphere in urban design is one of the core goals to improve the quality of urban design and enhance the cultural charm of cities (Ma, 2012). By building the cultural atmosphere through different spatial locations (such as old and new urban areas) or different spatial levels (such as the entire city, cultural blocks, and landmark nodes), the aesthetic value and cultural appeal of the city can be effectively enhanced (Ma, 2012).

Urban aesthetics also emphasizes people-oriented approaches, focusing on the actual needs and experiences of residents. Modern urban aesthetics no longer caters solely to political or economic goals but pays more attention to resident participation and experience. This concept requires fully considering the needs of the masses in urban construction, carrying out organic updates, and ensuring that urban hardware configurations meticulously meet every need of the masses (Feng, 2024). Moreover, urban aesthetics is closely related to urban culture and historical context. The creation of urban aesthetics cannot be separated from local cultural support and needs to reflect the unique cultural charm of the city through the design of artworks and public spaces (Yan, 2014). For example, Hangzhou City in China has integrated history with modernity in the comprehensive protection and organic renewal project of Zhongshan Road, pursuing the combination of city and culture in terms of aesthetic significance, which not only adds to the charm of the ancient city but also meets the lifestyle of modern people (China Academy of Art Press, n.d.).

The core of urban aesthetics lies in creating an aesthetic and benevolent lifestyle to establish an aesthetic city that meets people's production, living, ecological, and cultural needs (Feng, 2024). This aesthetics is not only about the visual beautification of buildings and landscapes but also about the optimization of the overall urban environment, including the coordination and unity of streets, public facilities, greening, and other aspects (China Academy of Art Press, n.d.). Urban aesthetics has profound significance in urban space development. It not only enhances the visual beauty and overall quality of the city but also promotes the quality of life and spiritual satisfaction of residents. Therefore, in promoting the process of Chinese modernization, it is necessary to integrate people-

centered urban aesthetic ideas throughout the entire process of urban construction, renewal, and governance, to create a livable, business-friendly, and tourist-friendly beautiful city (Feng, 2024; China Academy of Art Press, n.d.).

The aesthetic characteristics of cities are significantly related to the psychological health and happiness of residents. For example, a study in Singapore found that communities perceived as beautiful tend to be more optimistic and safer (Wang et al., 2023). It is necessary to identify the aesthetic characteristics in urban landscapes. These characteristics include naturalness, openness, diversity, uniqueness, and harmony (Wu et al., 2017). Aesthetics is not only a reflection of physical beauty but is also closely related to community belonging and social values. For instance, in Miami, aesthetics is one of the important drivers of community belonging. The impact of aesthetics on community cohesion can be measured through community surveys and participation assessments (The Metropolitan Center at Florida International University, n.d.). Aesthetic characteristics enhance the quality of life by improving environmental quality. For example, increasing green spaces and restoring specific buildings or streets can improve environmental quality, thereby enhancing the overall happiness of residents (Hornyák et al., 2023).

The interest of this study lies in exploring the relationship between cities and human nature, the interaction between cities and people, and the evaluation of artificial beauty, attempting to answer how to make cities a home and enhance the sense of belonging and emotional connection of residents. The significance of the study is to provide theoretical support and practical guidance for urban planning, architectural design, and public policy formulation to promote sustainable urban development and social harmony.

2. Research Questions

The research questions of this paper include the following three:

(1) How does urban aesthetics affect the quality of life and happiness of residents? (2) What are the manifestations and influencing factors of urban aesthetics in different cultural and political-economic contexts? (3) How can urban aesthetic concepts be effectively integrated into modern urban planning and architectural design to promote sustainable development?

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Eastern and Western Urban Aesthetics

3.1.1 Chinese Urban Aesthetics

Chinese urban aesthetics have developed unique characteristics through the integration of history, culture, and modernization, reflecting the concepts of people-oriented, nature integration, and cultural preservation. Firstly, Chinese urban aesthetics focus on the core idea of "people-oriented," enhancing the livability of cities by optimizing public spaces and improving the quality of life for residents. This includes green parks, walkways, accessible facilities, and public art that cater to the needs of different groups, all demonstrating a concern for residents' life experiences. This human-centered aesthetic concept not only enhances residents' sense of belonging but also promotes social harmony and community cohesion. In the process of urban beautification, modern Chinese urban design has gradually shifted from purely political and economic goals to being guided by residents' production, living, and cultural needs, showing a profound understanding of human care.

Urban aesthetics emphasize the deep integration of historical culture and modern cities, presenting the dual charm of tradition and modernity. Traditional Chinese urban design emphasizes the integration of the five senses, not only focusing on visual landscapes but also paying attention to auditory, olfactory, tactile, and gustatory multi-dimensional experiences. For example, the Ten Scenes of West Lake, such as "Spring Dawn at Su Causeway" and "Lotus in the Breeze at Crooked Courtyard," create picturesque effects through the changes of day and night, seasons, and the integration of the five senses (Tao et al., 2022). This combination of culture and aesthetics is not only reflected in the appearance and functional layout of buildings but also in the protection and

revitalization of historical buildings, such as transforming old buildings into museums, creative spaces, and other multifunctional venues. Additionally, urban aesthetics endows cities with a unique spiritual temperament and enhances cultural identity and attractiveness through the display of public art and historical culture.

Finally, Chinese urban aesthetics take green aesthetics and sustainable development as their core, advocating for ecological priority and resource conservation. Through the construction of "sponge cities," three-dimensional greening, and ecological corridors, cities achieve optimization of ecological functions while satisfying visual aesthetics. Green aesthetics not only improve the urban microclimate but also enhance the quality of life for residents, such as reducing the urban heat island effect through vegetation coverage and alleviating urban flooding through rainwater gardens, demonstrating the practical benefits of ecological design. Moreover, Chinese cities actively absorb multicultural influences in the process of globalization while emphasizing the uniqueness of local culture, showing the unique charm and cultural diversity of different cities through local architectural styles like Lingnan arcades and northwestern cave dwellings. This inclusive aesthetic strategy allows Chinese cities to maintain cultural confidence in a global context while promoting the goals of building beautiful and livable cities.

In summary, people-oriented urban aesthetics: Modern Chinese urban aesthetics have gradually shifted from a past political and economic orientation to a people-oriented approach, emphasizing the quality of life and the cultivation of spiritual beauty. The "Park + Arts and Crafts" project in Shanghai's Fuxing Park combines traditional cultural elements, leisure experience functions, and modern arts and crafts concepts to create public spaces with new connotations and aesthetics (Li Bing, et al., n.d.). This people-oriented aesthetic practice not only meets the functional needs of residents but also enhances the emotional value of urban spaces. This aesthetic concept not only focuses on the beautification of the urban environment but also pays attention to residents' production, living, ecological, and cultural needs (Feng Zhiming, 2024). Chinese urban aesthetics enrich the connotation and extension of cities through people-oriented design concepts, the protection and revitalization of historical culture, and the sustainable development of green aesthetics, providing residents with livable spaces that are both aesthetically pleasing and functionally complete. It is not only an important part of modern urban construction but also a key way to shape the city's image, enhance social cohesion, and achieve ecological civilization.

3.1.2 Japanese Urban Aesthetics

Japanese urban aesthetics, blending tradition with modernity, exhibit unique aesthetic thoughts and practices. Its core characteristics are reflected in the reverence and integration with nature, the philosophical pursuit of wabi-sabi aesthetics, and the balance between urban diversity and functionality.

(1) Deep Integration of Nature and City One of the notable features of Japanese urban aesthetics is the reverence for and deep integration with nature, embodying the concept of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. In urban design, natural elements are carefully incorporated into the city's public spaces and architectural design. For example, traditional gardens in Kyoto and urban parks in Tokyo both closely combine nature with the urban environment through the use of water features, vegetation, and seasonal flowers, providing residents with an aesthetic experience that changes with the seasons. Nature is not an adversary of urban construction but an organic part of it. From the street scenes during cherry blossom season to the bamboo groves of Sagano, they all reflect the clever use and respect for natural landscapes in Japanese cities. This aesthetic concept not only enhances the happiness of residents but also shapes the unique charm of the city (Bret, n.d.).

(2) Philosophical Pursuit of Wabi-Sabi Aesthetics As an important part of Japanese culture, wabi-sabi aesthetics have profoundly influenced urban aesthetics. Wabi-sabi beauty focuses on "imperfection, impermanence, and incompleteness," emphasizing a sense of tranquility and peace through the presentation of simplicity, nature, and the passage of time. The concept of "wabi-sabi" in Japanese

culture accepts the beauty of imperfection and transience, in stark contrast to the Western pursuit of perfection and eternity. This aesthetic is reflected in Japanese behavior and in the realms of business and politics, showing a dynamic vitality (Bret, n.d.). This philosophy is also continued in modern urban aesthetics, as seen in many modern architectural projects in Tokyo that adopt a low-key, simple design language, emphasizing the natural integration of functionality and texture. This wabi-sabi philosophy endows urban spaces with a unique "quiet beauty," allowing cities to retain restraint and depth amidst rapid modernization.

(3) Balance of Diversity and Functionality Japanese culture contains an aesthetic of "infinite depth," the concept of coexistence of opposites. This aesthetic is not only reflected in daily life and art but also in urban planning and design, such as the diverse face of Tokyo's Shinjuku district (Bret, n.d.). Japanese urban aesthetics are also known for their balance between diversity and functionality, demonstrating a profound understanding of humanization and social diversity. For example, in Tokyo's Shinjuku district, one can see the coexistence of bustling commercial streets and tranquil shrines, a design approach that embodies the "contradiction and unity" of different urban functions. Additionally, Japanese cities focus on the rational use of small spaces, meeting the diverse needs of residents through compact and efficient design on limited land. For instance, Tokyo's "mini parks" and Osaka's subway station neighborhoods fully demonstrate this concept, enhancing space utilization efficiency while satisfying residents' public life needs.

In terms of diversity expression, Japanese urban aesthetics provide residents and tourists with multi-level aesthetic experiences through rich cultural activities and public art forms. From traditional fireworks festivals and Shinto festivals to modern contemporary art exhibitions and architectural design awards, the city's cultural atmosphere and aesthetic value complement each other. Furthermore, Japanese urban aesthetics pay attention to the needs of different groups, such as designing barrier-free paths for the elderly, providing modern art communities for young people, and offering cultural landmarks for tourists. This diversified design concept enhances the inclusiveness and attractiveness of urban spaces.

Japanese urban aesthetics, through the deep integration of nature and city, the philosophical pursuit of wabi-sabi aesthetics, and the balance of diversity and functionality, create a unique aesthetic experience. This aesthetics is not only manifested visually but also permeates into the daily life and cultural activities of residents, infusing the city with deep cultural charm and human care. Against the backdrop of rapid modernization, Japanese urban aesthetics not only retain the tranquil beauty of tradition but also provide residents and tourists with vibrant and attractive urban spaces through innovation in diversity and functionality. This aesthetic concept provides an important reference and inspiration for the construction and renewal of cities worldwide.

3.1.3 Western and American Urban Aesthetics

Western and American urban aesthetics are characterized by their diversity, historicity, and innovation, showing unique multi-dimensional expressions in urban space design, cultural heritage, and functional optimization. Their core features are reflected in the orderly aesthetics of Baroque style, the branding and diversity of postmodern cities, and the deep integration of public art and social functions.

(1) Orderly Aesthetics of Baroque Style An important core feature of Western and American urban aesthetics is the pursuit of order and grandeur, which is fully embodied in the urban planning and architecture of Baroque artistic style. In North America, the Baroque artistic style was widely applied in urban architecture, symbolizing elegant culture and order. This style not only implies a connection with the great cities of Europe but also helps legitimize the Anglo-Saxon ruling class and institutions in the United States (Knox, n.d.).

European cities represented by Paris and Rome widely apply Baroque symmetry and grandeur in street layout, architectural design, and landscape shaping. For example, the Palace of Versailles and its surrounding areas display the beauty of architectural order and symbolize the centralization of

power through the layout of straight main axes, radial streets, and central squares. This style was later introduced to North American cities, such as Washington D.C., shaping the solemnity and cultural symbolism of urban planning.

Baroque aesthetics emphasize visual coherence and the ritual sense of space, bringing about highly monumental urban spaces. The design of this style not only meets functional needs but also enhances the artistic atmosphere of the city, making the city a symbol of authority and culture. In contemporary urban design, this pursuit of orderly aesthetics can still be seen in many administrative and historical and cultural districts of Western cities, showing cultural continuity and deep historical roots.

(2) Branding and Diversity of Postmodern Cities Under the influence of postmodernism, Western and American urban aesthetics show a high degree of diversity and commercialization. This feature is particularly prominent in cities like Las Vegas. Postmodern fantasy cities like Las Vegas have become centers of leisure and consumption through strong branding and commercialization. The aesthetic expression of these cities reflects changes in the socio-economic structure and shapes people's behavior and values (Doyle, n.d.). Postmodern cities are characterized by strong branding and entertainment, creating centers of consumption and leisure through exaggerated architectural forms, bright colors, and unique thematic designs. For example, hotels and entertainment venues in Las Vegas replicate landmark buildings such as the Egyptian pyramids and the Eiffel Tower, forming a city landscape full of fantasy and visual impact.

This postmodern urban aesthetics not only reflects changes in the socio-economic structure but also shapes the behavior patterns of residents and tourists, stimulating urban vitality. However, this branded aesthetic design has also sparked controversies about urban authenticity and cultural depth while bringing economic benefits. Nevertheless, postmodern urban aesthetics provide Western cities with highly differentiated and international competitiveness through innovation and diverse expressions.

(3) Deep Integration of Public Art and Social Functions Another core feature of Western and American urban aesthetics is the deep integration of public art and social functions, reflecting the urban design's focus on humanization and diversity. Urban cultures around the world have their own characteristics, such as historical cities, religious cities, political cities, and immigrant cities. These cities display different soul charms and cultural characteristics in the pursuit of harmonious coexistence (China Academy of Art, 2009). In international metropolises like New York and London, public art has become an important part of urban space. For example, sculptures in New York's Central Park and modern art installations along the Thames River in London not only provide citizens with opportunities to appreciate art but also enhance the interactivity and cultural atmosphere of urban spaces.

Western and American urban aesthetics, with the orderly aesthetics of Baroque style, the branding and diversity of postmodern cities, and the deep integration of public art and social functions as their core features, achieve a balance between visual impact and human care. From the traditional historical aesthetics of Europe to the commercial aesthetics of North America, and then to the sustainable aesthetics of Nordic cities, Western cities show their rich cultural connotations and innovative capabilities. This multi-dimensional expression not only enhances the attractiveness of cities but also provides new possibilities for urban cultural heritage and functional optimization. Through continuous exploration and practice, Western urban aesthetics provide important references for shaping more attractive and livable urban spaces in the process of global urbanization.

3.2 Urban Aesthetics Case Review

3.2.1 Cases of Urban Aesthetics Concepts Applied to Urban Space Development

(1) Bogotá's Ciclovía Project: This project has attracted a large number of citizens to participate in urban activities by transforming bicycle lanes into pedestrian paths, becoming an internationally renowned model of urban movement. This innovative urban planning practice not only enhances the vitality of the city but also improves the quality of life for residents (L'Institut Paris Region, 2018).

(2) San Francisco's "Pavements to Parks" Initiative: This project has transformed parking lanes into parks, beautifying the urban environment and promoting interaction between citizens and nature. This model has been replicated in the Bronx River Greenway in New York, the Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration Project in Seoul, and the Amis de la Bièvre project in the Paris region, showcasing successful experiences in the reuse of urban spaces (L'Institut Paris Region, 2018).

(3) Amsterdam's Blijburg Beach Project: This project addressed the issue of residents' reluctance to live in new urban areas by constructing a beach and cafés next to new residential developments, stimulating the vitality of the real estate market. This innovative design not only enhances the city's attractiveness but also promotes local economic development (L'Institut Paris Region, 2018).

(4) Minneapolis's Nicollet Mall: Architect Philip Johnson covered the external spaces between skyscrapers and other multi-story buildings with a large glass roof, creating a welcoming space akin to an Italian plaza. This design not only improved the street's image but also enlivened the existing city, becoming a successful case of urban space beautification in the United States (Ashihara Y., n.d.).

(5) Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum: The successful marketing of the museum and the revitalization of the urban environment demonstrated the key role of architecture and urban planning in the transformation of the city's image. Although this case is now subject to strict criticism, its successful experience in urban aesthetics and spatial development still holds important reference value (Zbigniewa Z., n.d.).

3.2.2 Cases of Urban Aesthetics in Enhancing Urban Space Visual and Ecological Quality

Specific case studies on the enhancement of urban space visual and ecological quality by urban aesthetics involve various aspects, including urban design, planning, architecture, and the application of landscape elements. Here are a few specific case studies:

(1) Sustainable Interventions in Marunouchi Town: This study focuses on addressing the decline in urban aesthetics in mountainous cities due to rapid urban infrastructure growth. By enhancing public spaces, prioritizing pedestrian infrastructure, and encouraging community participation in the design process, strategies to improve the visual quality of Marunouchi Town were proposed. The study used questionnaires and visual place quality dimensions for evaluation and implemented the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to assess and rank various physical factors, ultimately proposing feasible solutions to enhance street squares, sidewalk widths, and revise planning, development regulations, and legislation.

(2) Contemplation Landscape Model Assessment in the Central Area of Singapore's City Center: This study used the central area of Singapore as a case study to assess the applicability of the Contemplation Landscape Model (CLM) through 360° photographs and expert scoring. The study found that CLM is a reliable and suitable tool for fine assessment and improvement of the visual quality of urban living environments, considering the psychological health and well-being of urban residents (Hou et al., 2020).

(3) Impact of Landscape Elements on Enhancing Urban Space Visual Quality: This study aimed to extract the most effective landscape elements affecting the visual quality of urban spaces so that designers can make better design decisions. By identifying and ranking the most effective landscape elements affecting visual design elements, the study provided a prospective framework for future design decisions for urban designers and architects (Shedid & Hefnawy, 2022).

(4) Panoramic View of Urban Environment and Architectural Restoration in Berlin: This study analyzed the relationship between panoramic views and spatial organization and how the reconstruction of panoramic views as an aesthetic tool can develop the character of the city. Berlin has developed its urban character by utilizing panoramic views from different historical backgrounds and cultures, demonstrating that visual perception, such as panoramic views, is an essential tool for organizing the city's identity (Chun & Nam, 2014).

(5) Visual Quality Perception of High-Rise Buildings in Istanbul: This study discussed the aesthetics of the built environment, assessing users' evaluations of the formal aesthetic dimensions of dense high-rise buildings in Istanbul's fourth Levent district through visual landscape assessment techniques. The study results provide an important resource for future urban landscape research for urban stakeholders (Aşur & Yazici, 2019).

3.2.3 Examples of Landscape Design and Enhancement of Urban Aesthetic Value

(1) Integration of Natural Elements: Modern landscape design emphasizes the role of the natural environment in enhancing public health and well-being. For example, in urban landscape design, the principles of restorative public space design include using natural elements and user-friendly design to enhance the attractiveness and functionality of spaces (Wang, 2024). This design not only enhances the aesthetic value of the space but also promotes interaction and communication among community members.

(2) Application of Contemporary Landscape Architecture: In some cases in China, contemporary landscape architecture has transformed abandoned sites into multifunctional public spaces by respecting the original history, culture, and natural conditions. These designs not only provide options for leisure and entertainment but also increase the vitality and attractiveness of public spaces (Zhou, 2020). For example, by applying diverse forms and techniques, these designs effectively promote the integration of education and leisure, in line with sustainable ecological principles.

(3) Design of Community Gardens: In the Drwinka River Park project in Krakow, landscape engineering and aesthetic methods were used to design community gardens. The project aimed to create a friendly space for residents to rest and gather, enhancing aesthetic and quality of life (Halecki, 2022). This design strategy emphasized the importance of green spaces in urban economic development and demonstrated how to optimize these spaces through responsible management.

(4) Innovation in Plant Design: In projects such as the High Line in New York and the Lurie Garden in Chicago, new planting design styles have become a fundamental element of urban space regeneration. These projects demonstrated how carefully designed plant communities can improve the aesthetic value and ecological adaptability of public spaces. This design not only enhances the visual beauty of the city but also improves its ecological sustainability (Russo, 2024).

(5) Application of Public Art: In Taman Suropati Park in Jakarta, the placement of public art pieces not only beautifies the space but also promotes social interaction. These art pieces stimulate people's imagination and attract various activities, creating more active and vibrant public spaces (Lukito & Zahra, 2018).

4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs based on to analyze the theoretical and practical significance of urban aesthetics. By collecting and analyzing sample data from fields such as history, geography, culture, art, and architecture, this paper defines the research population and selects appropriate sampling methods. The analysis of data primarily relies on descriptive statistics and content analysis techniques to reveal the interdisciplinary nature of urban aesthetics and its role in enhancing residents' sense of belonging and emotional connections. Additionally, this paper utilizes proposed by contrasting different urban aesthetic cases to explore the manifestations and influencing factors of urban aesthetics in various cultural and political-economic contexts. The integrated use of these methods provides an empirical basis for understanding how urban aesthetics shapes urban spaces and affects the quality of life for residents.

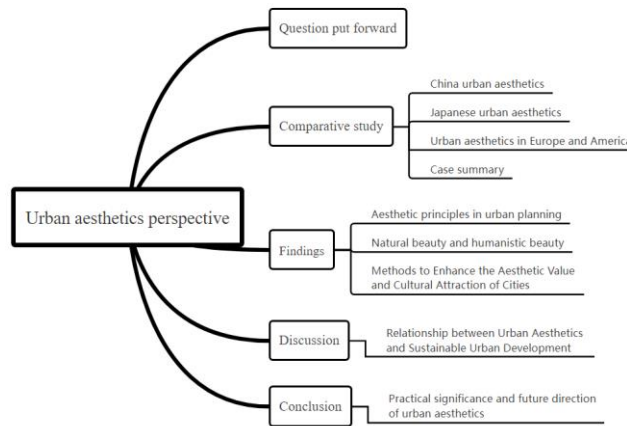## 5 Theoretical Framework and Research Framework

Figure 2: Urban Aesthetics Research Framework Diagram

The framework of this paper (Figure 2) begins by introducing the importance and interdisciplinary nature of urban aesthetics, is followed by a literature review and case analysis to explore the manifestations of urban aesthetics in different cultural and political-economic contexts. It then provides a detailed analysis of aesthetic principles in urban planning, methods to enhance the aesthetic value and cultural appeal of cities, and key strategies for integrating urban aesthetics into modern urban planning. Finally, it discusses the relationship between urban aesthetics and sustainable urban development and looks forward to future directions for the exploration of urban aesthetics.

6 RESEARCH RESULTS AND FINDINGS

6.1 Aesthetic Principles in Urban Planning

The aesthetic principles in urban planning primarily involve integrating natural beauty, cultural beauty, historical continuity, and harmonious urban color composition into urban design. These principles not only focus on the visual aesthetics of the city but also emphasize functionality and environmental sustainability (Hui-don, 2006).

The aesthetic principles of urban planning include the principles of natural and cultural beauty, which require considering the harmonious coexistence of natural landscapes and architecture in urban design, as well as how to reflect and respect the local cultural and historical context through design. For example, the design of urban colors should continue the city's historical context while also considering the harmony of the city's zoning and overall color harmony (Gediminas, 2018).

The aesthetic principles in urban planning also involve enhancing the match between the city's ecological, aesthetic, and social functional needs through design. This includes using landscape architecture methods and principles to optimize the interaction between nature and urban structures to achieve sustainable urban development. For example, through landscape architectural design, the ecological, aesthetic, and social functional needs of the city can be effectively addressed, forming a unified and sustainable trinity system (Shabnam & Farah, 2014).

Furthermore, the aesthetic principles of urban planning include defining cognitive and aesthetic standards for urban landscapes. This involves how to meet people's psychological and aesthetic needs through the design of urban landscapes, creating a safe, convenient, and beautiful urban environment. For example, urban landscapes should consider the shape, scale, and aesthetics of buildings, as well as how to prevent inappropriate changes in urban landscapes and the destruction of valuable buildings.

The aesthetic principles of urban planning also emphasize socially based, complexity-guided, and landscape-driven design approaches. These principles require urban design to be based not only on

social needs but also to consider the complexity of the city and the foundation of the natural landscape, as well as innovative and unconventional design methods (Roggema, 2017).

6.2 Methods of Enhancing Urban Aesthetic Value and Cultural Attraction

The following four aspects can be comprehensively organized:

(1) The combination of cultural regeneration and urban design is a key strategy for enhancing urban aesthetic value. Urban design plays a crucial role in the process of cultural regeneration, and by using mixed-use development, environmental improvement plans, and public art, it can enhance and showcase the unique cultural characteristics of an area (Wansborough & Mageean, 2000). For example, Manchester's Northern Quarter is a successful case of developing a specific cultural area through urban design techniques, demonstrating how design can strengthen the cultural identity of an area.

(2) The shaping of urban branding and cultural identity is crucial for enhancing the cultural attractiveness of cities. Cities can establish and highlight their unique urban images through art and culture, which includes associations with famous figures, iconic buildings, and signature events (Ciuculescu & Luca, 2024). The connection between Barcelona and Gaudí, Paris's Eiffel Tower, and the Cannes Film Festival are examples of enhancing urban branding through cultural elements. These cultural identities not only raise the city's international profile but also attract global tourists.

(3) The creation of a cultural atmosphere in public spaces is another important aspect of enhancing urban aesthetic value. Integrating cultural elements in urban public spaces, such as urban furniture and environmental art, can shape cultural themes with local characteristics (Zheng et al., 2018). The case of Xi'an Zenba Eco-district shows that through systematic transformation and construction, the overall image of public spaces can be gradually enhanced, strengthening cultural soft power and external influence.

(4) The exploration and utilization of historical and cultural heritage are of great significance for enhancing urban aesthetic value and cultural attraction. In-depth research on the city's historical background and cultural heritage, by protecting and integrating, combining historical culture with modern functions, creates unique landscape design schemes (Wang & Ismail, 2024). This method not only attracts tourists and promotes the development of the tourism industry but also enhances citizens' cultural identity and pride. At the same time, the permeation and prominence of regional culture, as well as the continuous innovation and renewal of urban culture, are also important methods for enhancing urban aesthetic value and cultural attraction (Chen, 2021; Wu & Chang, 2020).

In summary, enhancing urban aesthetic value and cultural attraction requires a comprehensive consideration of the combination of cultural regeneration and urban design, the shaping of urban branding and cultural identity, the creation of a cultural atmosphere in public spaces, and the exploration and utilization of historical and cultural heritage. Through these strategies, cities can better showcase their unique cultural charm, attract more tourists and investment, and promote sustainable urban development.

6.3 Key Strategies for Integrating Urban Aesthetics into Modern Urban Planning

People-oriented urban aesthetics is at the core of modern urban planning. This strategy emphasizes the needs and experiences of residents, aiming to create a living environment that is both aesthetically pleasing and practical, thereby enhancing the quality of life for residents (Feng, 2024). In the urban planning process, it is essential to focus not only on the aesthetic design of buildings and streets but also to ensure their functionality and practicality, making the city a livable and business-friendly paradise (Zhou et al., 2022).

Secondly, exploring and protecting local culture is another key strategy in urban aesthetics. The image of a city is deeply rooted in its local history and culture, and urban planning should fully explore and showcase the city's unique cultural genes. For example, Changping District in Beijing has

showcased the city's "roots" and "soul" by exploring its rich historical and cultural resources, such as the Juyongguan Great Wall and the Ming Tombs, and combining them with modern technological elements to demonstrate the city's vitality and competitive edge (Feng, 2024).

Thirdly, the unity of functionality and aesthetics is an important aspect of urban planning. Urban planning should combine aesthetic functions with practical functions to avoid the phenomenon of cities looking alike. The "14th Five-Year Plan for New Urbanization" proposes that in urban planning and design, it is necessary to optimize the layout of functional spaces such as residential, industrial, commercial, transportation, and ecological areas, and to promote urban design that strengthens the shaping and control of urban character, facilitating harmony between the volume, style, and color of new and old buildings (Zhou et al., 2022).

Lastly, the concept of green and low-carbon is another key strategy in modern urban planning. This design philosophy not only helps to improve the environmental quality of cities but also enhances their sustainable development capabilities (Zhou et al., 2022). Additionally, street design and cultural systems are important components of urban aesthetics. Through the color and form design of street furniture, it is possible to enhance citizens' regional memory and sense of belonging, and protect historical buildings and cultural heritage (Wu et al., 2021). During the urban renewal process, urban hardware facilities should be reasonably configured, always following the principle of seeking needs from the people, ensuring that urban renewal retains historical context while integrating modern elements (Feng, 2024; Zhang, 2021).

From the above four points, it is clear that integrating urban aesthetics into modern urban planning requires a comprehensive consideration of human needs, protection of local culture, unity of functionality and aesthetics, green and low-carbon concepts, as well as street design and cultural systems. Through education and policy guidance, aesthetics and functionality should be seen as complementary, jointly promoting the sustainable development of cities (Örebro Universitet, et al., n.d.).

7 DISCUSSION

This paper discusses two main issues that can be further researched in the future as the followings.

7.1 The Relationship Between Urban Aesthetics and Sustainable Urban Development

Urban aesthetics can promote the concept of sustainable development. For example, Hangzhou emphasizes the importance of urban aesthetics in the process of promoting organic urban renewal, maintaining the city's uniqueness and ecological balance in the modernization process through promoting the city's characteristics and the inheritance of historical culture (China Academy of Art Press, n.d.). This aesthetic concept not only helps prevent the phenomenon of cities looking alike but also enhances residents' sense of identification and belonging to the city, thereby promoting social harmony and sustainable development.

The balance between architectural aesthetics and sustainability is also key to achieving sustainable cities. Studies have shown that integrating biophilic design concepts into architectural design can improve human well-being and environmental sustainability (Patterson, 2024). For example, the introduction of sustainable features such as green roofs and walls not only enhances the aesthetic value of buildings but also brings economic and functional benefits, promoting systemic cultural change (Downton, n.d.).

Furthermore, urban aesthetics can enhance the quality of life and happiness of residents. For instance, the aesthetic experience of urban landscapes has a positive impact on residents' mental health, improving their perception and experience of nature and urban spaces (HOPE, n.d.). This aesthetic experience not only helps enhance the city's attractiveness but also promotes residents' environmental awareness and participation, thereby promoting sustainable urban development.

7.2 Future Directions for Urban Aesthetics Exploration

The future exploration of urban aesthetics can be discussed from multiple dimensions.

Future urban aesthetics exploration will be conducted from multiple dimensions, which together outline an integrated and comprehensive development blueprint. Firstly, the development of urban aesthetics needs to go beyond the traditional rationalist perspective, emphasizing the centrality of humans and placing human experiences and feelings at the center of design. This shift means that urban design will no longer focus solely on functionality but will place greater emphasis on aesthetic value and human sensory experiences, thereby achieving a more humanized and livable urban environment (Mansur Garda, 2021).

Secondly, the integration of art research and urban space will become a key force in shaping future urban spaces. By combining art with architecture and urban design, it is possible to promote the sustainability of ecological, economic, and social dimensions, bringing new vitality and creativity to cities (Winter, 2022). At the same time, urban design needs to consider a variety of factors, including economic, production, environmental, technological, and formal construction aspects, to address the impacts of global environmental challenges, economic transformation, and technological revolutions (Чернов et al., 2021).

Lastly, the pursuit of aesthetic values in sustainable cities will become an important direction for future urban aesthetics exploration. This includes finding design and planning characteristics that can achieve sustainable development, as well as enhancing the urban and architectural vocabulary that adds aesthetic value to contemporary urban development (Al-Qaraghuli & Al-Hinkawi, 2016). Urban design theories and practices need to integrate new aesthetic and methodological foundations that incorporate temporality and rhythm to better cope with the accelerated development of cities and the demand for improved quality of life (Wunderlich, 2014). Additionally, the visual guidance of urban colors, the rise of ecological and environmental aesthetics, the role of public art in shaping urban experiences, the ecologicalization and aestheticization of urban landscapes, and the spatial morphology of urban social ecosystems are all key areas for future urban aesthetics exploration (Chaohai, 2011; Golkar, 2008; Bayman, 2019; Briceño et al., 2010; Marcus, 2011).

8 CONCLUSION

This paper, reveals the important role of urban aesthetics in shaping urban spaces and enhancing the quality of life for residents. We found that urban aesthetics not only enhances the visual beauty of cities but also promotes residents' sense of belonging and emotional connections. The practical significance of urban aesthetics lies in its ability to enhance the cultural atmosphere of cities, increase residents' happiness, and promote social harmony. The research results emphasize that urban aesthetics should be integrated throughout the entire process of urban construction, renewal, and governance to achieve the goal of building a beautiful city that is livable, business-friendly, and tourist-friendly. In addition, urban aesthetics is closely related to sustainable urban development, and its future exploration directions should include human-centered design, the integration of art and architecture, the pursuit of sustainable development, and the integration of new aesthetic and methodological foundations. These directions will jointly promote the development of cities towards being more beautiful, livable, and sustainable.

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