

Inspiration Development of Environmental Art Design

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Abstract: Concept of environmental art has emerged early in China. However, environmental art design is still an emerging industry due to short-time development as a discipline. As a multidisciplinary and wide-ranging interdisciplinary subject, environmental art design has new higher requirements for practitioners. The work analyzed environmental art design and the essential quality and design inspiration development of its designers, thus providing help for cultivation of design talents and development of environmental art design industry

1 INTRODUCTION

Environmental art design covers areas of urban planning, environmental aesthetics, architecture and gardens. The development of environmental art design plays an important role in landscaping and harmony between human and nature, promoting the improvement of people's life quality and sustainable development of economy and society. Environmental art has emerged in ancient times. People began to explore the harmony between human and nature, using related knowledge to construct a series of major projects conforming to modern environmental art. For example, the existing "Tai Chi Villages" reflect the harmony between human and nature in planning. However, with the blind pursuit of economic development, emphasis on the environment has been decreased, thus leading to a series of discordant problems. Recently, people began to re-examine their own behavior with the increasing conflict between human and nature, regarding environmental art design as an urgent mission.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL ART DESIGN AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

The term *environmental art* has emerged for a long time, but there are vague understandings and misconceptions on environmental art design in reality. The term *environment* can be referred to the

entire universe as well as a small house. Environmental art design includes environmental beautification and reform, and harmony between human and nature. It is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary subject, involving many disciplines and fields of art, decoration, gardening, architecture, urban planning and environmental aesthetics.

Back in the primitive society and slavery society, people began to use existing natural conditions for villages planning and urban layout. This is the first case of environmental art design. For example, the capital of Shang Dynasty, Yin, was formed along Huan River; the Eastern Han capital Luoyang was reasonably located between Mangshan and Luoshui. People took the initiative in the environment design based on harmony with nature and use of nature.

Besides aesthetics, environmental art design should follow natural laws in favor of harmony between man and nature. The book "Zhou Yi" with study of Yin-Yang can be seen as the first teaching material of environmental art design. Moreover, ancient China had designed a series of villages using Yin-Yang theory, such as "Tai Chi Village". These beautiful villages were consistent with the laws of nature, facilitating people's lives.

However, entering modern history with the development of Western civilization, people paid more attention to economic interests. They began the predatory exploitation of the nature, more concerned about maximizing benefits rather than environmental art and harmony of human and nature. This behavior and ideology led to tensions of relationship between man and nature. With the development of economy, the rapidly deteriorating environment sounded the alarm to people again and again. Finally, the

importance of sustainable development was realized by people, thus resulting in the development of environmental art design as a major.

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ART DESIGN

3.1 Integrity and Systematicness

Environmental art design can be classified into indoor and outdoor environmental design. If further subdivided, it also involves fields of landscaping, gardens, urban landscaping, urban planning, architecture and decoration. Therefore, environmental art design possesses strong integrity as a profession or as an industry. The different areas and knowledge cannot be isolated from each other since it is a major, thus environmental art design has systematicness.

3.2 Scientificity and Artistry

Environmental art design firstly involves "environment". Environment should be insistently protected in line with harmony between human and nature, conforming to the laws of nature. Therefore, one requirement of environmental design is scientificity to enable its feasibility. Different from simple environmental protection, environmental art design should comply with the laws of nature, possessing artistry, ornamental value and sense of beauty. Environmental art also pursues beauty as an "art", seeking another kind of harmony. Thus, environmental art design is a subject focusing on scientificity and artistic beauty.

3.3 Novelty and Creativity

Stereotyped environmental design will lead to aesthetic fatigue, without satisfying the characteristics of times and practical needs. As a mature and practical discipline, environmental art design has novelty and creativity, thus ensuring the achievement of other features and healthy growth of environmental art design.

3.4 Pertinence and Profession

Environmental art design includes indoor and outdoor design, natural environment and cultural environment, as well as urban planning and garden

design. Different areas have different specific requirements. Environmental art design makes targeted and professional programs according to characteristics of different areas. In other words, current environment design is no longer the practice spontaneously or simply following the nature as the ancient times, but forming a major as well as an industry. Conducted by professional environmental art designers, environmental art design reflects the profession of work forms and contents. The pertinence and profession are conducive to division of labor and enhancement of efficiency, ensuring the quality of environment art design.

4 NECESSARY QUALITIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ART DESIGNER

Any work is done by people, thus the efficiency and quality of work are directly determined by personnel's quality. Environmental art designers need to have necessary qualities.

4.1 Professionalism and Enthusiasm

Professionalism and enthusiasm are necessary for practitioners of any industries, thus mobilizing every cell to contribute him into work. Environmental art designers also need to have professionalism with full love in their work, integrating themselves with environmental art design.

4.2 Innovative Spirit

Environmental art design has features of scientificity and artistry as well as novelty and creativity. Environmental art designer is the direct perpetrator of environmental art design. Only with innovative spirit and the courage to break the routine and stereotypes can they make the design accord with characteristics of the times and customer requirements.

4.3 Keen Observation and Strong Learning Ability

Keen observation is necessary for environmental art designers to deeply analyze the environment and relationship between environment and designing project, thus designing a program as perfect as possible. Meanwhile, others' work is also the reference of making design. Designers should

possess strong learning ability, seeking advantages and lessons from others' work through careful observation and analysis. Using these strengths and lessons in their own work, the advantages can be fully played with reduction of unnecessary mistakes.

4.4 Strong Ability of Computer Application

The renderings of design need to be completed by a computer. The computer-generated renderings are conducive to customers' better understanding and acceptance of the design. Meanwhile, the rationality of design needs to be inspected, but practice of every test will cause irreparable loss. Computer technology can be used for simulate test, discovering the strengths and vulnerabilities for modification. Thus, the advantage can be expanded with bug fixes, ultimately achieving optimal results of the design as much as possible.

4.5 Strong Expression Skills

The design should be expressed through language and other forms, achieving understanding and acceptance of customers. Thus it requires strong language skills of environmental art designers. Meanwhile, consumer psychology need to be studied, which is conducive to the enhancement of ability and effect of language and expression.

4.6 Perfect Knowledge Structure and Excellent Operational Capabilities

Only with perfect knowledge structure and excellent operational capabilities can environmental art designer fundamentally solve problems in design. Thus good program can be really designed with customers' acceptance. Meanwhile, perfect knowledge structure and excellent operational capabilities are also basis of other capabilities above—namely other capabilities will be useless without these capabilities.

5 INSPIRATION DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ART DESIGN

People are familiar with Edison's "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration". However, perspiration will not work without inspiration. For environmental art design as

an "art", inspiration is inseparable. Then how to develop inspiration?

5.1 Enriching Knowledge and Literacy

The advents of famous achievements are inseparable from inspiration, such as the inventions of Thomas Edison and Newton's discovery of laws of mechanics, popular poetries of great poet Li Bai, and Titian's famous paintings. However, inspiration cannot be generated without rich knowledge—far-fetched fantasy cannot be applied into reality.

Environmental art designers should have deep "skills" with broad range of relevant knowledge. Inspiration will be generated by chance when the knowledge is absorbed. In other words, rich knowledge is a preparation for developing inspiration. Only with wealth of knowledge and high artistic accomplishment will inspiration no longer be generated by coincidence.

5.2 Developing Design Inspiration in Life

The design separated from life will not last for long time as water without source and tree without roots. Designers should often deeply feel the true meaning of life, continually absorbing nutrients and inspiration from life. Any art forms are difficult to achieve success without realistic life.

In addition to mastering relevant theoretical knowledge, a qualified environmental art designer should go deep into life with better understanding. It is necessary to understand people's aspirations with regular social practice, field trips and experience, helping designers learn wisdom and inspiration from life.

5.3 Obtaining Inspiration in Careful Observation

Cultivation of any skills and ability is inseparable from careful observation. Only with careful observation can designers discover beauty with inspiration. Scientificity of environmental art design requires careful observation to discover the laws of nature, the relationship between design and natural environment, as well as cultural environment and customer needs, thus generating required and scientific inspiration.

Art emphasizes on delicate operation and observation, so does environmental art design. Designers can appreciate the beauty of targeted object in careful observation, generating design

inspiration in the experience of beauty with true artworks.

5.4 Obtaining Inspiration in Appreciation and Learning

The ability of appreciating the beauty is necessary to create beautiful things. Environmental art designers should appreciate the beauty of nature, city and building, thus discovering beauty with creation.

Great achievements are not produced in closed doors—inspiration is difficult to be generated in single research without learning. As Newton said, his great achievements resulted from “standing on the shoulders of giants”. Environmental art designers should also make use of "giants". Qualified environmental art designers are personnel with meticulous observation and careful appreciation, learning scientific and excellent parts from others' achievements. Meanwhile, deficiencies and omissions in others' design should be supplemented, thus making own design inspiration into practical use through learning from others' achievements.

5.5 Grasping Inspiration and Insight

Inspiration and insight have a very important role in environmental art designs. In addition to cultivation, inspiration and insight should also be timely grasped to function due to their short-time and accidental emergence. Designers should make full preparation with hard work. The inspiration should be timely recorded with application, avoiding disappearance of the hard-won inspiration.

6 CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the importance of environmental art design will be increasingly significant in future social development. It has a great impact on promotion of harmony between man and nature, as well as improvement of sustainable development and people's living standards. Environmental art designers need to have a range of qualities and abilities, including the indispensable design inspiration. The development of design inspiration should be focused from various aspects for qualified environmental art designers.

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