Study on Traditional Gardening Methods in "Sharing Boundary" of Community

-Taking Changli Garden as an Example

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Abstract

In the past few decades, the construction of China has developed so fast that it has also brought about many problems. For example, many old communities with high-density are short of public space and supporting facilities, thus a community without vitality is formed; while there still exist so many urban spaces on the boundary, idle and passive, the urban spatial form is showing a "fragmented" state, and the issue has attracted widespread attention. The renewal of Changwu Community (namely Changli Garden) is a project which renovate the wall of Changwu Residential District, and it is located in such a high-density community as mentioned above. TM Studio transforms the 350-meter "fragmented space" into a linear garden according to local conditions. While dividing the community and surroundings, it creates opportunities for communication between the two, providing sharing space, forming a "Sharing Boundary" of community. This article analyses 3 methods of traditional gardening used in the project, "Meandering", "border", "framed scene, separated scene and borrowing scene", and discusses the application of traditional gardening methods in "Sharing Boundary" of community, and the relation between them, so as to shape "Sharing Boundary" of community, stimulate the vitality of streets and provide methods for sewing urban fragmented space.

Keyword: Changli Garden, "Sharing Boundary" of community, traditional gardening methods

Introduction

Traditional garden is the expression of the relationship between human and nature under the background of Chinese culture; Correspondingly, sharing community emphasizes the relationship among human in the context of globalization. The similarity of this relationship makes it possible for "traditional gardening" to be applied to "Sharing boundary" of community.

Background

Sharing under high density and contemporary expression of traditional garden

On the one hand, high density, as the inevitable result of population growth and urbanization, has almost become a synonym for the shortage of resources. The lack of public space, facilities and sharing space in the old community leads to the low vitality, trust and belonging of the community. How to make full use of the passive idle community boundary space to make up for the lack of public space. "Sharing" provides us with a good solution. Sharing is a kind of relationship between people. Four spatial forms of sharing are brought

up for discussion: separation, stratification, timing and differentiation. (Li Zhenyu, 2017) Its core idea embodies the permeability and openness of architecture, which, from the view of space-time, integrates and reorganizes resources, and maximizes the utilization, so as to solve the problem of resource shortage and restimulate the vitality of communities and streets.

On the other hand, with the development of architectural discipline and the improvement of cultural confidence, Chinese architects gradually focus on the tradition, and carry out a series of explorations on the contemporary translation of traditional architectural language to avoid the global sameness, basing on the local context. In 1999, Wang Shu put forward the word "method of garden" at the 20th UIA international architects conference. "It points out the new concept that the core of traditional garden is more than garden itself, and it is also another methodology aiming at the basic architectural concept. " （Wang Shu, 2009） In other words, our contemporary translation of traditional garden language, instead of focusing on its external form, should pay more attention to its internal spirit the relationship between human and nature.

Changli Garden

As a high-density residential community, Changwu community is built in the 1990s. The limited public space between buildings in the community is mostly used to solve the parking problem. Changwu community along the boundary of Nantou road is located in the core of the whole Changli residential area. It used to be a noisy commercial shop. In 2018, the demolition and rectification of the boundary left people there a boring "fragmented space". And it is 350-meter long, monotonous, enclosed and barren with overgrown weeds. Through the renovation of the community wall, TM studio hopes that the negative boundary with different width can be made into the activity center of the community. By the traditional classical garden method, they built a linear garden called Changli garden (Figure 1).
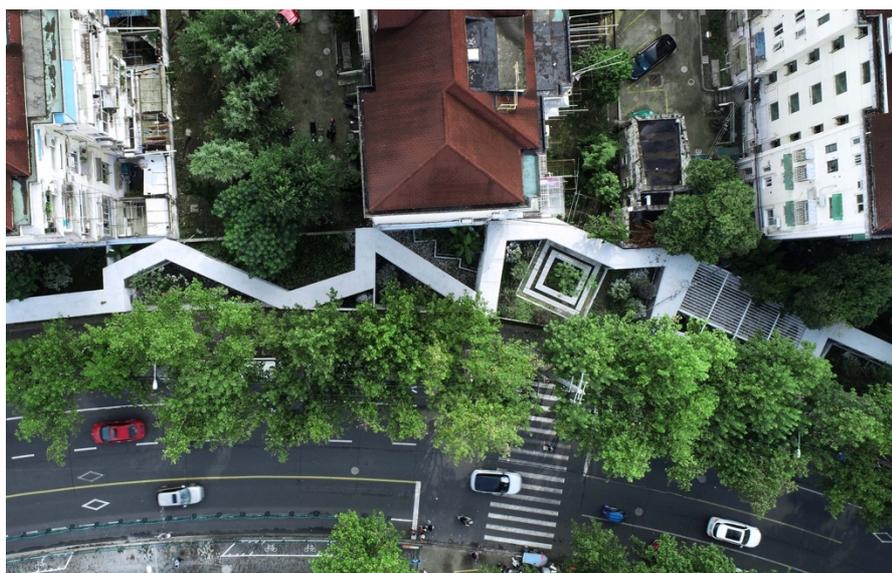

Figure 1. top view of south part. Image from TM Studio

Methodology

1.Meandering (concave and convex)

In traditional Chinese gardens, corridors play an additive role as "lines" to connect "points" into "faces". As described in Yuanye, the corridor in the garden "should be curved and long ", and the tortuous corridor brings endless changes to people's view of the garden. This kind of linear experience with "thickness" will trigger different space processing on both sides to form a shared space.

Like in the traditional garden, the concave and convex corridor space is not random, but the result of the analysis. Some of the concave and convex corridors become the reading courtyard for children after school, while some become the street reception hall for the elderly to get together and chat. While, the others become pocket space for the streets.

2. border (non-physical and physical)

In traditional Chinese architecture, border plays an important role. For example, the wall determines the introversion of the building, forming an introverted tradition courtyard space. The corridor in the garden, as a border, can also play the role of "subtraction" to separate the whole space, but the characteristic of the corridor differ from the wall in that it has permeability and is a virtual space, which can contact the environment inside community with the outside, eliminate the sense of obstruction, and form sharing space (Figure 2).
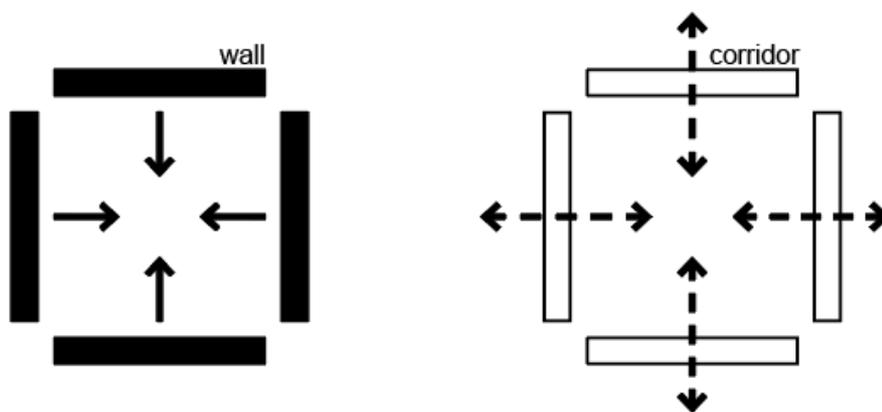

Figure 2. drawn by the author

3. framed scene, separated scene and borrowing scene (penetration and hierarchy)

According to the permeability, corridors in traditional garden can be divided into single-sided corridor, double-sided corridor and compound corridor. Single-sided Corridor, with leaky windows or door openings on one side, can often achieve the effect of framed scene, which has a higher sense of space enclosure, but still infiltrates each other, namely "revealing but not penetrating"; Double-sided corridor, with leaky windows or door openings on both sides, is relatively open. Because one can look into the distance from both sides, so it has the function of separated scene; The compound corridor can be regarded as the combination of two

single corridors or double corridors. And there exist the flower windows and openings on the partition wall in the middle of compound corridor, which produces the effect of borrowing scene. While, separation, as the most basic space form of sharing architecture, reflects the corresponding relationship between non-physical and physical, private and public. (Li Zhenyu, 2017) As a separate space, the corridor not only defines different spaces on both sides, but also forms a shared interface (Figure 3).
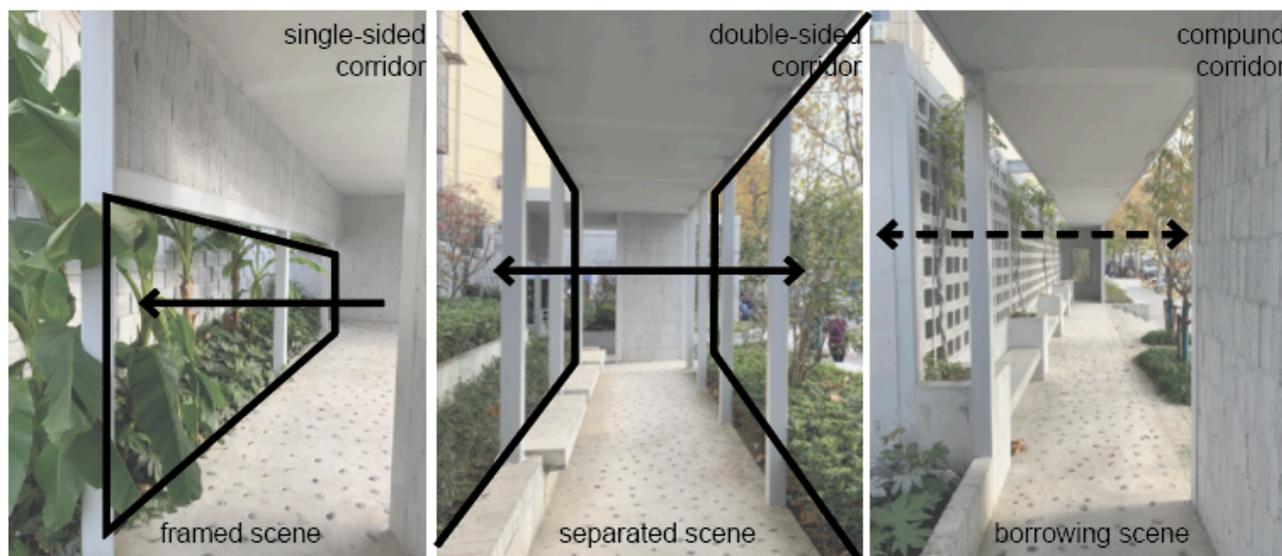

Figure 3. *photoed by the author*

Conclusions

Classical gardens embody the relationship between human and nature, while sharing reflects the relationship among people. The similarity of this relationship makes the "traditional garden" and "sharing community" connected. How to use traditional gardening methods to create "sharing boundary" of community and solve the problem of lack of vitality in high-density community. Changli garden designed by TM studio serves as a good example.

Acknowledgements

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