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Application and Analysis of Archetype Coupling in Urban Design — Taking the Special Planning for the Space Layout of Xishui City, Guizhou Province for Example

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Application and Analysis of Archetype Coupling in Urban Design —Taking the special planning for the space layout of Xishui City, Guizhou Province for example

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Keywords: Archetype, spatial archetype, archetype coupling, urban design, charm network, urban features

Abstract. Currently, the feature crises derived from complicated reasons faced by cities in China are very common in the urban planning circle. This paper brings forward a hypothesis: Ignorance of spatial archetype is one of the fundamental factors for loss of urban features in urban design dimensions. Based on that, this paper discusses how to develop spatial features in cities starting from the concept of "archetype" by taking "spatial archetype" as the work object, "archetype coupling" as the operating approach, and Xishui City of Guizhou Province as an implementation case.

Introduction

Every citizen would expect his/her city to possess features he/she is proud of, and such features would represent characteristics, temperament and style of the city, inspiring all urban citizens and visitors. However, as cities in China are under fast construction and development nowadays, most cities are constructed about the same, leaving people to realize strongly the familiar but also strange issue of "urban features". How to build urban features via the idea of spatial archetype is the theme to be explored and researched in this paper.

Origin of Archetype and Spatial Archetype

Origin of Archetype. Archetype literally means the original "type" from the very beginning. In other words, it is the basis for evolution of any "type" structure. The word comes from "archetypum" in Latin, and later from "ῥχέτυπον" and "ῥχέτυπος" in Greek, where "ῥχή" stands for original or initial, and "τύπος" for mark and impression [1,2]. According to Carl G. Jung (1875—1961), a Swiss psychologist, archetype means the condensation of spiritual experiences common in different races after generations of inheritance and accumulation, i.e.: the primordial image of human being, which is the projection of memories of different races preserved in collective unconsciousness of every race [3,4]. Based on what is mentioned above, the primordial image in collective unconsciousness is the source for archetype.

Spatial Archetype. In urban design, archetype is given the meaning of space and thus becomes "spatial archetype" [5,6]. Inheriting historical impressions while demonstrating innovation is a result of dual features of urban design, i.e. historical continuity [7,8] and future innovation. "Spatial archetype" is the most essential, critical and stable element or structure in space system. It is the basic framework created by designers based on natural, historical and cultural situations as well as future development requirements of the concerned city, just as the "space matrix" of a city, which guides and controls the most important construction pattern of the city [9].

The dual features of spatial archetype (historical continuity and future innovation) for urban design often appear simultaneously, which can not only waken people's memory on "primordial" space [10,11] and provide the city with a sense of belonging and identity, and address various demands for modern urban development and provide the city with regional features of the times, but also create feasible spatial structure for the future development of city. In other words, the spatial archetype is an invisible bridge between historical, current and future cities.