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Landscape Analysis of Typical Yao-dong Villages on Gentle Gully Slope in Semi-arid Loess Plateau — Case Study of Shi-jia-gou Village in Fen-xi County Shan-xi Province

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Keywords: Chinese traditional inhabitation culture; Ecological Yao-dong villages' scenes; Landscape design principles

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Introduction

In Ming and Qing dynasty, most of the businessmen in Shanxi built their Yao-dong courtyards on the no-slope ground. Along the horizontal axis and the vertical axis, many deep and quiet courtyards are expanded one by one. Courts are connected to each other but also relatively independent, which constitute a clear hierarchy of space systems. Here, even the smallest courtyard has the basic space sequence: first the entrance gate, followed by the forecourt, then the Chui-hua gate to enter the main courtyard. Usually, the main courtyard is generated by one main room and two wing rooms, which fully embodies the living concept of Chinese people.

However, not all the businessmen built their Yao-dong manor on the no-slope ground, some people preferred gully slopes, so they had to be flexible to change some parts during construction compared with the original one. For example, while maintaining the basic space sequence, which is from the entrance gate, to the foreyard and then to the Chui-hua gate, the mountain terrain should also be taken into consideration to be flexible dealt with. Thus, it formed a lively and vivid layout of the courtyard, free but also rigorous, rigorous but also rich. What's more, the height differences of the slope made the yards launched a three-dimensional. So compared with the courtyards on the no-slope ground, this one is more interesting with distinctive features and great momentum. Here is an example of Shi-jia-gou village in Fen-xi county of Shanxi province, which aims at showing the landscape of Yao-dong village on the 35° gentle gully slope.

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