

Research on the Inheritance, Protection and Utilization of Lingjiatan Site Culture

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Abstract

Cultural sites contain a wealth of value, including historical, cultural, scientific, artistic, and socio-economic aspects. Ensuring the protection and development of cultural sites is of great significance for the country's proposed rural revitalization and development strategy. In recent years, research has been conducted on the inheritance of site culture and the revitalization and development of surrounding rural culture. Disciplines such as planning, architecture, landscape, and cultural tourism have conducted beneficial explorations and attempts on the spatial form, living environment, and industrial models of rural areas near the site. This study takes Lingjiatan Cultural Site in Ma'anshan City, Anhui Province as an example to explore the inheritance, protection, development and utilization strategies of cultural sites. From the perspectives of historical development, geographical space, cultural orientation, and industrial construction, this study conducts an in-depth analysis of the correlation between the Lingjiatan Site and surrounding villages. By utilizing the two elements of space and atmosphere, the commonalities and individual characteristics between each village are identified, and the problems in the revitalization of the Lingjiatan Site and surrounding villages are summarized.

Keywords

Cultural sites; Lingjiatan; Inheritance and protection.

1. Introduction

Lingjiatan Site Landscape is located on the north bank of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, in Lingjiatan Natural Village, about 1.5 km south of Changgangji, southwest of Tongzha Town, Hanshan County, Anhui Province. The Lingjiatan Site is the largest and relatively intact Neolithic site discovered to date. There are a large number of important relics such as altars, cemeteries, and red burnt earth blocks in the site area, and numerous precious jade and stone artifacts have been unearthed.

2. The Development of Lingjiatan Site

2.1. Introduction to Lingjiatan Site

2.1.1. Excavation History of Lingjiatan Site

In the autumn of 1985, villagers first discovered this important late Neolithic site buried underground for over 5000 years in their fields. The Anhui Provincial Archaeological Team conducted a total of five excavations before and after. In June 1987, more than 200 cultural relics were unearthed at Lingjiatan Site, including a large number of exquisite jade articles such as jade tablets, jade turtles, and jade spoons. It is a 4.25kg stone shovel, the largest stone shovel ever found in the Neolithic in China. In November 1987, the Provincial Institute of Archaeology conducted a second excavation of the Lingjiatan Site, covering an area of 350 square meters.

More than 300 cultural relics and over 20 types of jade ornaments were unearthed. In October 1998, the archaeological team conducted the third excavation of the site, revealing one altar, one remains of a house, and 29 tombs. More than 500 cultural relics were unearthed, including important cultural relics such as jade dragons, jade eagles, and stone diamonds. In October 2000, the Anhui Provincial Institute of Archaeology conducted the fourth excavation of the site and discovered a large area of red pottery building ruins and a water well built with red pottery blocks in Lingjiatan Village. In May 2007, the archaeological team conducted the fifth excavation of the site, covering an area of 450 square meters. The total excavation area for 5 excavations is 2550 square meters. Until December 25, 2022, the Anhui Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology recently announced the new progress in the archaeological work of Lingjiatan Site in Hanshan County, Ma'anshan, Anhui Province. Archaeological experts not only discovered the remains of the Liao Festival on the west side of the cemetery, revealing a large public building site, but also unearthed a batch of unique jade artifacts, including the largest stone axe and largest jade pendant found in Lingjiatan, providing important information for in-depth research on the origin, formation, and development of Chinese civilization. A large number of jade artifacts have been unearthed at the Lingjiatan site, which have important archaeological, historical, scientific, aesthetic, and artistic values. For example, the relief jade figurine shows for the first time the complete body style of the primitive people, with a rectangular face, thick eyebrows and big eyes, double eyelids, garlic nose, big ears and big mouth, a round crown on the head, a belt with diagonal stripes on the waist, a Moustache on the lips, the jade figurine's arms are bent, five fingers are open on the chest, and the arms are decorated with jade rings, which indicates that there is an aesthetic concept at this time, and people decorate themselves by wearing jewelry. In addition, the unearthed jade tortoises and jade tablets may be ancient Luoshu and Bagua, which have special significance in the history of science and culture.

2.1.2. The Practical Significance of Lingjiatan Site

In 2022, the world-renowned decorative pattern on the back of the Beijing Winter Olympics medals incorporates the "double linked Bi" element unearthed from the Lingjiatan site. The overall image of the medals comes from the ancient Chinese concentric round jade Bi, symbolizing the "jade meets the Winter Olympics" and the "concentric" dream is realized. According to Zhang Jingguo, the first leader of Lingjiatan Archaeology, "The Lingjiatan Double Coupled Bi reflects the philosophical ideas of the Lingjiatan people over 5000 years ago. Double Coupled Bi shaped like this may be 'unique' among the jade artifacts unearthed in Chinese archaeology. This shows the importance and uniqueness of Lingjiatan jade culture in Chinese culture and even world culture. In the archaeological excavation of Lingjiatan Site, the stone drill unearthed is one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the Neolithic in China in the 20th century. Its discovery is of great significance to the study of manufacturing tools in the Stone Age. The design of the stone drill itself contains the basic principles of mechanics, mechanics and geometry. The screw drill is an original design with important academic value.

3. Research on Lingjiatan Archaeological Site Park

Lingjiatan Site was officially listed in the fourth batch of National archaeological park of China in 2022. On May 7, 2023, the second China Lingjiatan Cultural Forum was opened in Ma'anshan City, and the unveiling ceremony of Lingjiatan National archaeological park of China was held at the site of Lingjiatan Archaeological Heritage Site in Hanshan County. On May 7, Lingjiatan National archaeological park of China was officially unveiled in Hanshan County, Anhui Province. On the same day, the second China Lingjiatan Cultural Forum opened, with over 200 archaeological experts and scholars gathering to discuss the new archaeological discoveries and their important significance at the Lingjiatan site. Lingjiatan National archaeological park

of China was established to protect and display this precious site. For example, many national treasure level cultural relics that we are familiar with were unearthed from the tomb worship area of Lingjiatan Site. This area has a high elevation altar, built in layers of loess, stones, and stones. In addition to sacrificial pits, a large number of tombs are also scattered in this area. Of course, the current remains are all recovered from excavation scenes, not real tombs. The cultural relics inside are also replicas, and the original ones are extracted during excavation. Currently, they are in the cultural relics warehouse or museum exhibition hall. Since 2009, Lingjiatan has been included in the Chinese Civilization Exploration Project as a core site in the region. The China Lingjiatan Culture Forum held in Hanshan County in 2012 formally named "Lingjiatan Culture", and experts in the archaeological community reached a consensus that the emergence of Lingjiatan Culture has opened a new era, demonstrated the dawn of Chinese civilization, and played a symbolic role in the origin and formation of Chinese civilization.

Firstly, let's take a look at the largest and most abundant tomb 07M23 discovered at the Lingjiatan site, which means Tomb 23 excavated in 2007. We can see that the entire tomb pit is almost occupied by more than 300 various jade artifacts. These jade artifacts can be divided into two layers: upper and lower.

These artifacts include jade axes, jade axes, and stone adzes, among which the most eye-catching is the three "jade turtles" or "jade turtle shaped flat circular vessels" unearthed at the waist of the tomb owner, along with several jade sticks. There is currently considerable controversy in the academic community regarding the use of "jade turtles" or "jade turtle shaped flat circular vessels" and jade stickers. Some scholars believe that this set of artifacts is used for divination. For example, in the tomb 87M4, a set of jade tortoises and a jade plate with octagonal star patterns were unearthed. The two may be used together. Some scholars believe that this set of utensils should be bells attached to the tomb owner's waist and used as musical instruments during ritual dances. However, regardless of the perspective, the tomb owner must have had a very high social status during his lifetime, possibly as a great wizard or king of the Lingjiatan civilization, or as a witch king with overlapping identities.

It is also worth mentioning that a large number of jade rings unearthed in the tomb correspond to the position of the leader's arms. And on the arms of the jade figurine unearthed in Lingjiatan, there are also many armbands, just like the master who practiced the Hong family's Iron Wire Fist. From this, it can be seen that the image of the jade people in Lingjiatan is likely the image of local leaders. So some scholars restored the scene of the leader's burial based on the clothing of the jade man and archaeological excavation information. It is precisely because the archaeologists carefully recorded the accurate information of over 300 jade artifacts in the tomb that it is possible for us to reconstruct the direct connection between these jade artifacts and the tomb owner in the absence of their bones. So, the information brought by archaeological excavations of cultural relics is very important and valuable.

In addition to this tomb, other noble tombs also unearthed a large number of luxurious jade artifacts, such as the jade tiger head decoration, kneeling jade statue, jade ring, and jade ring unearthed in 07M22, the jade eagle and jade person unearthed in 98M29, and the jade dragon unearthed in 98M16. So the question arises, who made so many jade artifacts? The answer is also in this tomb worship area, where there are multiple independent artisan tombs. Compared with the noble tombs, their Grave goods are obviously less, but there are tools for making stone drills and a large number of jade cores. The discovery of the Craftsman's Tomb is sufficient to illustrate two points: firstly, there have been obvious jade handicraft groups in Lingjiatan; Secondly, the status of these artisans is not low, and independent artisan tombs can be buried in the same area as noble tombs. So when we visit the Lingjiatan Site today, in addition to lamenting the numerous exquisite jade artifacts, we should not overlook the workers who make these jade artifacts. After visiting the tomb worship area, let's take a look at the more fun digital display area. For example, on the digital interaction screen, we can click to view the star jade

artifact image of Lingjiatan, and the number behind the image shows the location of the cultural relic's excavation. Many of the unearthed cultural relics correspond to the burial and sacrificial areas we visited earlier. What's even more interesting is that there is a VR experience area here, allowing you to experience the fun of being the ancestors of Lingjiatan from four games: hunting, fishing, star watching, and jade making.

The patterns of jade pigs can be seen from time to time in the park. Pigs in Lingjiatan culture not only embody the wings of jade eagles on both sides, but also may be a symbol of wealth and status. The largest and heaviest jade artifact unearthed at the Lingjiatan site is an 88kg jade pig. Coincidentally, the "king" of Liangzhu culture was also buried near the altar, and was also covered with a body of jade. Researchers of Liangzhu culture said: "Even if Lingjiatan is not the direct source of Liangzhu, it should also be the uncle and father generation". "In the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, Lingjiatan people are the first pioneers to embark on the road of civilization." The impact of Lingjiatan on Liangzhu culture is obvious. The jade making technology of Liangzhu culture can be found in Lingjiatan, except for the micro carved line carving that has not been found in Lingjiatan. The rise of Liangzhu may be related to the influx of Lingjiatan ancestors.

At the same time, Lingjiatan culture and Hongshan culture also have exchanges. For example, the jade pig dragon of Hongshan culture and the jade dragon of Lingjiatan can be classified into the same category. Both sites have pig worship. Hongshan culture jade articles, no matter what type of article, have eyelets. Most of the jade articles unearthed in Lingjiatan have similar characteristics, which is probably because they are worn or sewn directly on clothes. A kind of horseshoe shaped ware of Hongshan culture, its use is still unknown, but Lingjiatan's divination shaped jade ware is similar in appearance. Hongshan culture "only uses jade for burial". It is hard to imagine that Lingjiatan has an original "jade burial". How did two prehistoric sites so far apart interact? In addition to VR experience, the future Lingjiatan National archaeological park of China will also have a museum and cultural tourism town, which is expected to open in 2024. Moreover, the archaeological excavation work here is far from over. I believe that the Lingjiatan Site will bring more surprises to archaeologists and ordinary audiences in the future.

4. The significance of protecting the Lingjiatan Cultural Site

4.1. Heritage and Protection of Cultural Sites

As a Major Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the National Level, Lingjiatan Site has rich cultural connotation and is known as the "golden card" of Anhui culture. As works of art in the outdoor environment, the cultural landscape of the site contains the historical culture contained in the site park, which can bring visitors the most direct feelings and Culture shock. First, we should strengthen the protection of the site park. The surrounding villages are important carriers and dissemination media of site culture, and the importance attached to site protection reflects the awareness and protection of site history and culture among villagers in the site area. Utilizing the Cultural resource management of the site can highlight the characteristics of the site more, reflect the historical culture of the site, activate the cultural value of the site, let the villagers participate in the site landscape, strengthen the villagers' recognition of the cultural value of the site, improve the villagers' awareness of protecting the site, and help the protection of Lingjiatan site culture.

According to the development of modern life, study the ways to use the Cultural resource management of the site, so that Lingjiatan site can keep pace with the times and not be forgotten. To bring historical relics that are in a state of "deep sleep" to life, it is necessary to continuously explore the essence of "Lingjiatan" historical relics, combine "Lingjiatan" historical culture with modern life, research and improve the creation and production of literary and artistic works, launch historical and creative works, and integrate historical culture into modern life, becoming

an indispensable part of people's lives. Let Lingjiatan's cultural heritage go deep into life. Rooted in people's art exhibitions, they are popular in modern society. Many rural areas have set up rural stages to hold artistic performances to let the culture pass on. Let the historical and cultural heritage of the "Lingjiatan" site "enter the hearts of the public through museums, characteristic cultural performances, and other means. Relying on the development of new media technology and digital networks, we aim to create a new form of cultural relics exhibition. Through means such as cloud archaeology, cloud exhibitions, and cloud live streaming, we can break through the limitations of time and space, and showcase the history of "Lingjiatan" from various angles at any time and place, allowing people to more conveniently watch and experience its historical and cultural heritage.

According to the requirements of the "Rural Revitalization" strategy, as well as the problems of incomplete spatial functions, poor sanitary environment, insufficient cultural atmosphere, inaccurate industrial development positioning, and inability to meet the needs of villagers' daily life and production. The rural landscape planning and design should be carried out to make it more reflect the historical and cultural characteristics of the site, restore the historical landscape, highlight the characteristics of the site, activate the value of the site, activate the rural "idle" Cultural resource management from an economic perspective, and serve the people's livelihood with the development of cultural creativity and cultural industrialization, recognizing the positive significance of "enriching the people with culture, revitalizing agriculture with design" in promoting the integration of cultural tourism into new industries and rural construction, Make contributions to the revitalization of rural areas. Firstly, a summary of domestic and foreign rural landscape planning cases and practical cases will be dissected and analyzed, and the experience of rural landscape planning models will be obtained through digestion and integration.

4.2. Protection Path Research

Pay attention to the existence value of the "Lingjiatan" site and stimulate its use value. Precious historical relics "not only belong to us, but also to future generations". There is a certain contradiction between the protection and "activation" of the Lingjiatan National Archaeological Site, which is related to the overall interests and long-term development, and the promotion of local economic development. Therefore, in studying and handling the relationship between the utilization of the Lingjiatan Site and economic development, it is necessary to protect the historical value of the cultural relics. Therefore, we must adhere to a global perspective, combine with the needs of the times, deeply explore the profound cultural value and spiritual connotations carried by the Lingjiatan National Archaeological Site, extract common values and spiritual pursuits from ancient and modern times, strengthen the use of ancient times for the present, and endow Lingjiatan Cultural Heritage with new functions through cultural and tourism integration, scene creation, digital virtualization, theme cultural creation, and other methods, so that it can gain new life through functional transformation, Becoming a cultural highland that meets people's needs for a better life.

The Lingjiatan Site has a rich and diverse culture, and rural landscape planning needs to be able to capture the key historical information contained in different regions, create a good cultural atmosphere here, and play a role in protecting the environment and conveying humanistic ideas. Therefore, the study of the application and expression of culture, function, emotion, and color in landscape creation is very important. Due to the unique geographical environment and regional division of the Lingjiatan Site, locality is a crucial factor in landscape planning. Firstly, it is necessary to observe and study the suitability of the landscape environment to avoid situations such as conflicting styles and abrupt placement. It is extremely important to follow the above research focuses in order to design innovative, ecological, interactive, and people-oriented landscape creation.

Exploring the application of Lingjiatan site culture in landscape is currently unknown. The research on Lingjiatan National archaeological park of China focuses on archaeological excavation. This paper analyzes Lingjiatan jade and site culture from other perspectives, condenses the symbols of site cultural elements, and displays them in rural cultural landscape in various forms. Starting from the current land environment, excavate and utilize the small design elements present in the site environment to create buildings that conform to local characteristics. Closely combining modern landscape construction to enhance the ornamental value of rural cultural landscapes and endow them with contemporary aesthetic characteristics. How to solve the existing social contradictions in rural areas, make good use of site culture to create rural landscapes, integrate site cultural elements into rural culture, and activate local culture. How to achieve the deep integration of rural cultural revitalization and site culture. Explore the integration mechanism between the protection and utilization of archaeological sites and the development of rural industries.

5. The significance of protecting the Lingjiatan Cultural Site

Lingjiatan Site is the first settlement site in China to build buildings by terrain levels. It has far-reaching significance in studying the evolution of ancient Chinese social forms, the exchange of Chinese and Western cultures and civilizations, the spatial layout of early Chinese cities, the study of ancient Chinese Place of worship, and the origin of early urban forms.

Firstly, from the perspective of integrity and continuity, the Lingjiatan Site Park includes the surrounding forests, ancient villages, and residential areas of the Lingjiatan Cultural Site within the scope of the protected area, expanding the scale of the site's landscape space. By utilizing modern electronic technology, virtual restoration and reproduction of the original landscape of the Lingjiatan Cultural Site are carried out, presenting the landscape style and spatial pattern of the Lingjiatan Site from a dynamic perspective. At the same time, the cultural accumulation of the site landscape is transformed into a cultural experience project activity for visitors to visit and play. The Lingjiatan Site Cultural Altar is one of the three earliest large-scale sacrificial relics discovered in China, indicating that the ancestors of Lingjiatan had entered a higher stage of civilization compared to natural worship and totem worship at this time. Secondly, the discovery of the complete landscape of Lingjiatan settlement site has enabled us to obtain information on various aspects of the life of the ancestors of Lingjiatan, especially the layout, architectural form, and lifestyle of the site. It has also provided new materials and perspectives for studying the organizational structure of Lingjiatan culture and society, basic social organizational units and their population, as well as the hierarchical differences within and between clans. The Lingjiatan Site Park treats the Lingjiatan Cultural Site landscape from two levels of protection and development simultaneously. Based on overall planning measures, it deals with the relationship between human behavior, site landscape, protection and development, ecology and culture in a holistic, systematic, and sustainable manner, thereby further enhancing the sustainable protection and utilization of the Lingjiatan Cultural Site landscape.

The charm of Lingjiatan Site landscape culture lies in its long history. Entering the site landscape can make people imagine the production and living conditions of ancient humans, accept the baptism of historical culture and spiritual journey, and stimulate the nostalgia for the past. The emergence of the Lingjiatan Altar, the remains of red pottery blocks, and jade ritual vessels is also of great significance for studying the origins of ancient religions, countries, primitive philosophical ideas, calendar systems, manufacturing technology, craft aesthetics, urban construction, dragon and phoenix culture, and so on. At present, Lingjiatan culture and other cultures of similar eras have laid a solid foundation for the origin of Chinese civilization, nurturing various characteristics of ancient Chinese civilization. Lingjiatan culture, due to its

early age and rich connotations, has become one of the pioneers in promoting the birth of Chinese civilization.

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