# Architectural Design Styles and Case Studies from Different Countries

## Rui Zhang<sup>1,a,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Visual Art, Mount Saint Vincent University, New York, The United States of America a. 20150725305@mail.sdufe.edu.cn \*corresponding author

Abstract: Through the appreciation and comparison of the various architectural styles of the East and the West, this paper studies the architectural form and structure produced in the context of different cultural differences and analyzes them in detail in various aspects. The essay takes the evolution of ancient and modern architectural styles of various countries in the East and West as the background of the study and explores the differences in architectural styles between different geographical countries and the factors that lead to these differences. Through the appreciation and analysis of typical architectural styles of these countries to compare the similarities and differences between the derivation of architectural styles, to explore the details of the characteristics of the architectural structure, to better derive the development trend of architecture and how to effectively help the future progress of architecture, which requires the mutual learning of the art and culture of each country, a joint effort. The exploration of architectural design requires more in-depth understanding and research, more refined through the integration of modern technology and traditional craft art.

**Keywords:** Architectural styles, art and culture, East and West.

#### 1. Introduction

The architectural styles of different regions are very different, this paper will divide the various types of architectural styles into Eastern and Western countries for appreciation and combined with different periods of the country's architectural style changes to be analyzed and compared.

Since the establishment of human civilization, different regions have produced different architectural designs with different styles. This study focuses on the typical architectural styles of Eastern and Western countries, the evolution of the process from ancient to modern, and the characteristics of the architectural style, this study is very meaningful for the study of the future of modern architecture, this study is mainly from the appreciation of Eastern and Western architectural styles of ancient and modern architectural style of the analysis and comparison of the specific aspects of the development of the study, the use of the literature analysis method of related information and literature to find and read. This paper will study the architectural forms and structures produced under different cultural differences and analyze them in detail in terms of regions and customs by appreciating and comparing the various architectural styles. The advantage of this method is to be able to advantage of this method is that it can well analyze the evolution of architectural styles in different countries and the origin of design concepts, which is conducive to the study. The ultimate goal of this study is to think deeply about how to achieve more mature, advanced and innovative

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architectural design concepts and how to obtain valuable content from the experience of predecessors, and to show that the combination of traditional architectural styles and new-age technological technology is very important for the development of the future development of architectural design. It also shows the importance of combining traditional architectural styles with new technology for the future development of architecture.

## 2. Case Analysis

In today's society, architectural design styles are constantly progressing, people are constantly introducing more innovative design concepts, and various design systems are becoming more mature. Designers understand architectural design differently based on the differences between different regions, such as geographical environment and cultural background.

## 2.1. Chinese Architectural Style

As a representative of several ancient countries with the earliest origins in the long history, Chinese architecture began to develop in a very long time. The most typical examples are the different architectural styles that have evolved from the ancient times of China, incorporating traditional Chinese culture and ethnic characteristics. Ancient Chinese architecture attaches great importance to "feng shui". That is to say, whether the location is auspicious or not, and pays attention to the landscape environment around the main body of the building, while the structure of the main body of the building is based on "big", for example, large doors and windows are often used, and large eaves are raised to form a semi-enclosed space under the eaves, which reflects the traditional culture of China and the characteristics of the famous ethnic groups. A semi-enclosed space, which reflects the traditional Chinese culture of "unity of heaven and man", the layout of the building complex is generally characterized by a flat to the depth of the development of the left and right to form a strict symmetry, the courtyard, and the buildings into one, forming a closed and independent residential complex, forming a regular style. In addition, class differences in ancient China also led to changes in architectural coloring and decorative styles, for example, the color of the residences of the nobility or royalty was brighter than that of the common people, and the decorations were more opulent and magnificent, to reflect the owner's noble status [1]. As a famous garden city, Singapore has infused the concept of green development and environmental protection into its architectural design in a very suitable manner.

Modern Chinese architecture, on the other hand, has demonstrated innovative design. These buildings still retain their indigenous Chinese national characteristics, such as large roofs and retrostyle finishes, but also incorporate new features and structures, utilizing constructed shapes and decorative patterns to explore national forms, an advancement in architectural design that can be seen in most countries.

#### 2.2. Southeast Asian Architectural Style

As a country in East Asia, Thailand's architectural style is also worth appreciating. Similar to the design concepts of ancient Chinese architecture, Thai architecture often adds some Thai religious elements, the most typical example of appreciation is the Grand Palace in Bangkok. As the royal palace of the Thai royal family, this building is the most perfectly preserved palace of all time, the largest and rich in ethnic characteristics of the palace. The Grand Palace of Bangkok is situated in the middle of a natural landscape, where the largest main hall of the entire complex is called Jogi Palace, the basic structure of the palace belongs to British Victorian architecture, and the roof utilizes the traditional Thai roof design, which, unlike the eaves of the ancient Chinese architectural style, often takes the shape of a pointed roof. During the architectural design stage, the designers chose the

Western style due to the influence of Western architectural styles such as the Italian Renaissance style, but later on, as the Thai people generally felt that such buildings lacked the country's local characteristics, the traditional Thai roof was added to the top of the building. Thai architecture is a combination of Thai architecture, painting, sculpture, and decorative arts, with religious elements playing a very important part [2].

Visually similar to the Thai architectural style is the Singaporean architectural style. As a Southeast Asian country with a highly developed tourism industry, both styles use bright and rich colors and incorporate a great deal of the country's traditional religious culture and folklore. One of the noteworthy points in Singapore's modern architecture is that Singapore's architectural style practices the concept of Singapore's garden city, combining greenery with urban architecture to create many very advanced green buildings, which is attributed to Singapore's modern architectural design concept of environmental protection and close to nature [3]. Many green buildings utilize a variety of architectural structures, such as recessed and elevated buildings, in which green belts are inserted to achieve the effect of installing green landscaping.

The architectural styles of Southeast Asian countries are very much a reflection of the region in which they are located. As a region with a tropical maritime climate, Southeast Asian architecture shows its unique religious nature while paying great attention to conditions such as shade, ventilation, and lighting, so the eco-architecture genre can be regularly reflected in Southeast Asian architecture.

## 2.3. Japanese Architectural Style

Another famous style of architectural design is the Japanese Wabi-sabi style. This architectural style originated in China during the Tang Dynasty, when the Chinese master Jianzhen traveled east to Japan, leaving the country deeply influenced by the Chinese culture, which was gradually transformed into their own Zen culture throughout history. The distinctive feature of Japanese style architecture is the use of raw wood tones to form a simple natural style, the exterior structure is made of wood as the basic material, which is a combination of traditional shrines, temples, and Chinese Tang Dynasty architecture, with a hermetic roof and horizontal formwork walls, and the interior design is the extensive use of natural materials to show the artistic concept of Japanese architecture close to nature [4]. The interior design utilizes a lot of natural materials to show the artistic concept of Japanese architecture close to nature.

The Japanese modern architectural style originated at the beginning of the 20th century and is similar to the Chinese modern architectural style, combining traditional and modern elements. After the Meiji Restoration, Japanese architecture began to emulate the architectural styles of Western Europe, gradually transforming from wooden buildings to brick, wood, and masonry structures, while retaining the traditional Japanese culture of interior decoration and structure.

## 2.4. Architectural Style under the Influence of the Renaissance

Eastern architectural styles are very distinctive, whereas Western architectural styles are very different. Take the Italian architectural style as a starting point, as the Renaissance period on the global art style of a significant impact on the country, the uniqueness and diversity of the Italian style of architecture are very outstanding, so here only selected Byzantine architecture as a representative of Italian architectural style to appreciate. With Christianity as its backdrop, Byzantine architecture takes its name from an ancient Greek colony that was an architectural culture during the division of the Roman Empire. The Italian architectural style is largely based on ancient Roman architectural culture and was widely reapplied during the Renaissance due to the advocacy of the revival of ancient Roman culture. This kind of building has a very strong religious color, the shape is characterized by a large dome and independent pillars support, the overall shape of the center of prominence, and the

top of the circle for the whole building's composition center. In terms of color, Byzantine-style buildings are often paved with colored marble on the walls, not convenient to paste the plane is decorated with colorful mosaic patterns, as people often see nowadays, like the church decoration. The Byzantine Empire was based on the aristocratic lifestyle and culture of ancient Rome, and blended with Arab and Islamic cultural colors, and the Italian architectural style during the Renaissance widely absorbed the Romanesque style and produced innovative designs, showing the world a rich architectural style [5]. In addition to Renaissance architecture, Italy has many other architectural styles, such as the Baroque style, characterized by its curvilinear beauty, and the Tuscan style, characterized by natural materials and idyllic landscapes, which are not only very diversified in form but also demonstrate humanistic care and aesthetic values in function.

Also heavily influenced during the Renaissance was the French architectural style. One of the typical French architectural styles is Gothic architecture, an architectural style that flourished during the Middle Ages. The development of Gothic architecture originated from one of the Germanic barbarians who participated in the overthrow of Roman slavery, "Gothic", due to the Renaissance movement's anti-feudal theocracy, encouragement and promotion of the resurrection of ancient Roman culture, to express the meaning of the negation of the architectural style named "Gothic", "Gothic". Gothic architecture developed in the center of France, where people built Gothic-style churches to compete for the expression of their cities, thus showing that Gothic architecture at that time was not only a purely religious building but also represented the center of public life in the city. Gothic architecture is generally found in Catholic churches, and the structure is mostly a Pointed Arch with a Buttress as an aid to support it [6]. Gothic architecture incorporates a considerable amount of Christian elements and displays a very important artistry along with a high level of technical sophistication.

Other architectural styles that received the influence of the Renaissance to lay down new architectural styles were the United States and Germany. As an immigrant country, the influences on American architectural style are very diverse, so the American architectural style was influenced by many mature architectural styles in the same period [7]. So in fact the American architectural style is a mixture of styles, constantly absorbing mature architectural styles and from this constantly developing and innovating eventually developing into the current modern minimalist style. German architecture has also gone through the same historical evolutionary influences. Germany, which was divided into East and West after World War II, inherited and developed the modernist architectural rationalism and expressionist architectural style in the West, which is a perfect fusion of traditional culture and international advanced architectural ideas [8].

Western modernist architecture can be encapsulated in one appreciation. In terms of the current world architectural landscape, Western modernist architecture has demonstrated a wide range of influences, adopting a minimalist as well as functionalist architectural style and focusing on the use of new materials and the development of new architectural structures, which corresponds well with today's world landscape, where architectural design is gradually becoming more and more innovative and high-tech in the face of rapid technological advances.

#### 3. Discussion

Architectural style, as a feature reflected in the content and appearance of architectural design, is mainly the original and perfect mood shown in the layout, form composition, artistic treatment, and utilization of techniques. From the comparison of Eastern and Western architectural styles, it can be seen that architectural style is not only related to the main body of the building but also related to the natural landscape around the building as well as the neighborhood, architectural design is a holistic concept that needs to be more comprehensively considered and promoted. Architectural styles vary according to the political, social, and economic constraints of the times, building materials, and

building technology, as well as the influence of architectural design ideas, perspectives, and artistic qualities, which is the reason for such a great difference between Chinese and Western architectural styles [9]. Every building is designed before it is constructed due to religious, and social conditions, the cultures of foreign countries, and so on [10]. It can be said that the design of a building is not only a visual art, but also a product that is designed to fully satisfy the expectations of the users and society, and this applies regardless of where in the world the building is located.

As a result, many distinctive architectural styles have been derived under the influence of the world's cultures and regions. Despite the different boundaries and preferred structures and colors, all of them have been nurtured by a strong cultural heritage. A great deal of valuable experience can be extracted from these different buildings, which is a very constructive study for both the refinement of modern architecture and the possible future development of architecture. Compared to the historical clash of architectural styles, the current state of architectural design across the globe has become more integrated, which demonstrates the progress of architectural integration and the influence of architecture without borders, but at the same time, it also raises some new thoughts, whether those architectural styles that were once very prosperous in the past will gradually disappear in the eyes of the public due to the emergence of new designs? The balance between the two is also very important.

#### 4. Conclusion

After appreciating and comparing the representative architectural styles of each geographical country, it can be seen that the evolution of the world's architectural styles is closely related to culture, historical processes, technological evolution, and even changes in the social order at different times. Through these influences, different architectural styles are also changing with the times towards a more mature, advanced, and innovative future, for any country to appreciate the architectural styles from different cultures are very meaningful references. As mentioned above, the problem of integrating ancient and modern architectural styles has been derived from the exploration of architectural design, which requires in-depth thinking to take into account more advanced functional design while preserving traditional architectural styles.

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