

Protection and Regeneration of Historical Ancient Cities from the Perspective of Urban Historical Landscape Theory: A Case Study of Zhaoyu Ancient City in Qi County

Zhaoyi Bai¹, Chaojie Zhang¹, Jiahao Wen^{2,a,*}

¹*School of Fine Arts, Shanxi University, 92 Wucheng Road, Xiaodian District, Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province, China*

²*School of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Xiamen University, 182 University Road, Siming District, Xiamen City, Fujian Province, China*

a. jh_wen1997@163.com

**corresponding author*

Abstract: In the face of the impact of rapid urbanization on historical and cultural ancient cities, the unique historical charm of ancient cities is gradually fading away, urgently requiring scientific theoretical guidance for their development and protection. In this context, the theory and methods of urban historical landscapes provide a viable theoretical framework. This paper, by analyzing the essence of urban historical landscapes, concludes that the protection and regeneration of historical ancient cities need to be approached from multiple dimensions. Taking Zhaoyu Ancient City as a case study, the cultural value and landscape features of Zhaoyu Ancient City are integrated through the dimensions of “time” and “space.” This integration serves to explore methods for the protection and regeneration of ancient cities, aiming to provide meaningful insights and references for the protection and revitalization of Zhaoyu Ancient City and similar ancient cities.

Keywords: Urban historical landscape, Zhaoyu Ancient City, Protection and regeneration, Historical and cultural famous city

1. Introduction

Historical ancient cities, as precious heritage of urban areas, bear rich historical and cultural significance, holding significant value for preservation and regeneration. In the contemporary era of rapid urbanization, addressing the urgent question of how to achieve sustainable development while safeguarding ancient cities has become crucial. The theory of urban historical landscapes, as a comprehensive methodology for protection and regeneration, provides us with a holistic perspective.

Zhaoyu Ancient City, being one of China’s historical and cultural famous cities, possesses abundant historical remnants and a distinctive urban form. However, it also faces an increasingly severe contradiction between preservation and development. Through the analysis of Zhaoyu Ancient City as a case study, we can concretely derive the practical application methods of urban historical landscape theory and the effects it can bring. This exploration aims to provide valuable insights for the protection and regeneration of other historical ancient cities, steering clear of a uniform preservation model known as “one pattern fits all.”

2. Concept and Comprehensive Review of Urban Historic Landscape Theory

2.1. Urban Historic Landscape

Examining past international heritage conservation development cases reveals a historical focus on individual historical buildings and monuments, neglecting the consideration of the overall historical and cultural value of cities over time. This singular approach to preservation may result in the fragmentation of historic urban areas and the loss of cultural significance. In order to improve cultural heritage conservation methods, the concept of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) was proposed and gradually implemented.

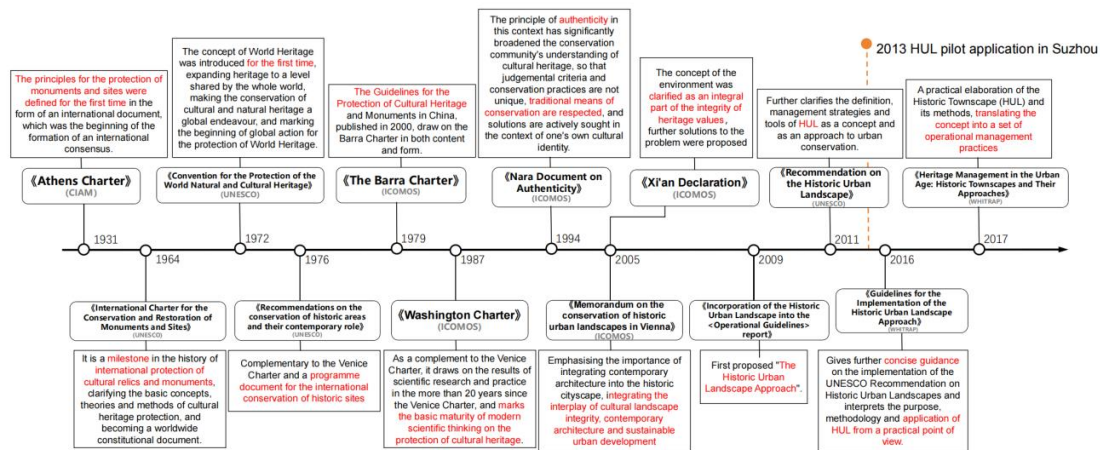


Figure 1: Conceptual Development and Practical Journey of “HUL”

As early as 1992, the World Heritage Committee introduced the concept of “cultural landscapes,” aiming to emphasize the interaction between elements such as people and nature across different times and spaces in the context of landscapes. This laid the foundation for the emergence of the concept of urban historic landscapes. In 2005, during the construction of the World Heritage site, the Historic Centre of Vienna, the “Vienna Memorandum” was promulgated, introducing the concept of “Urban Historic Landscape” [1]. In 2011, after years of research, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) issued the “Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape” [2], clarifying the concept of urban historic landscapes. The recommendation aims to perceive urban historic landscapes as holistic and comprehensive conservation objects, enhancing heritage preservation methods from multiple dimensions.

2.2. Connotation of Urban Historic Landscape

The concept of Urban Historic Landscape expands and updates the scope of comprehensive preservation, emphasizing the “interconnectedness” between various historical landscape elements and the “layering” of landscape forms during the dynamic development process of historical towns [3]. Analyzing the term “Historic Urban Landscape” literally, “Historic” translates to “历史的”, interpreting the landscape over time and emphasizing the historical value accumulated and developed over time. “Urban” translates to “城市的”, interpreting heritage in spatial terms and exploring how to address heritage preservation issues in the context of contemporary urbanization, providing a contextual background for preservation approaches. “Landscape” translates to “景观”, interpreting the research object and serving as the core concept of urban historic landscapes, further elaborating and enriching the content of the landscape [3]. The term “landscape” encompasses various material and non-material elements, demonstrating high inclusivity. Therefore, the connotation of urban

historic landscapes involves a reevaluation, re-protection, and regeneration of heritage values from a dynamic, interconnected, and holistic perspective, emphasizing the “time-space view.”

2.3. Conservation Approaches to Zhaoyu Ancient City from the Perspective of Urban Historic Landscape

The unique significance of historical ancient cities lies in the historical background and social value they carry throughout their long development process. When exploring preservation approaches for ancient cities, the “time-space view” can be used to analyze the inherent characteristics of historical ancient cities in the dimensions of “time” and “space.”

Firstly, in the “time” dimension, the historical accumulation experienced by Zhaoyu Ancient City can be divided into four stages: inception, growth, prosperity, and decline. Secondly, in the “space” dimension, analyzing the landscape characteristics of the ancient city from the outside in allows the extraction of protection directions at the levels of the town, streets, and buildings [4]. In summary, the interpretation of ancient cities from the perspective of urban historic landscapes relies on time, with a focus on spatial points, aiming to achieve a comprehensive understanding of historical ancient cities and explore a scientifically sound preservation approach.

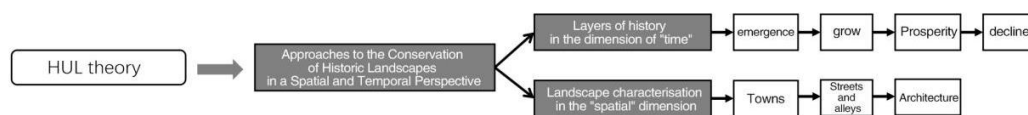


Figure 2: Conservation Approaches to Zhaoyu Ancient City under the “HUL” Theory

3. Landscape Characteristics of Zhaoyu Ancient City

Zhaoyu Ancient City is located in the urban area of Qi County, Jinzhong City, Shanxi Province, approximately 70 kilometers away from the provincial capital, Taiyuan. With its advantageous geographical location, rich natural resources, and flourishing Jin merchants’ culture, Zhaoyu Ancient City has a significant historical background. In ancient times, the southern part of the Taiyuan Basin was a waterlogged area covered with overgrown vegetation, known as “Zhaoyu Qize Cao.” Qi County derived its name from this, and “Zhaoyu” became an alternate name for Qi County [5]. In 1994, Zhaoyu Ancient City was recognized as a national historical and cultural city. In 2012, the Old Jin Merchant Street within the city was designated as a historical and cultural street, holding considerable value for historical research.

Presently, Zhaoyu Ancient City is facing challenges such as cultural heritage deactivation and severe aging of buildings and carvings under the impact of rapid urbanization.



Figure 3: Current Status of Zhaoyu Ancient City

3.1. Historical Stratification Exploration of Zhaoyu Ancient City in the “Time” Dimension

3.1.1. Initial Development Stage (Western Zhou to the Tang-Song-Jin-Yuan Period)

The earliest historical origins of Zhaoyu Ancient City can be traced back to the Western Zhou period. During this time, Qi County was part of the territory of the Jin State and began to take shape as an important city within the state. In the period of Duke Ping of Jin in the Spring and Autumn period, the land of Qi was granted to the minister Ji Xi as a fief, with a grand scale. Nearly 800 years later, the county capital was moved to the present-day Qicheng Village. During the reign of Emperor Xiaowen of the Northern Wei Dynasty, Shi Fenzan, the governor of Bingzhou, proposed relocating the county seat to its current location, constructing an earthen city with a history of 1,500 years, thus forming the initial layout of Zhaoyu Ancient City.

3.1.2. Flourishing Development Stage (Ming-Qing Period, 14th century to the early 20th century)

Qi County, with convenient transportation along the north-south axis, has a long history of prosperous trade and tea culture. In the mid-Ming Dynasty, the merchants in Qi County had already formed a powerful business group. By the Qing Dynasty, their development accelerated further. In the seventeenth year of the Daoguang era, the first prosperous Yuan Piaohao in Qi County was established, rapidly expanding and exerting a far-reaching influence. The prosperity of Qi County's Piaohao brought new life to the county's economy, and the construction of the ancient city reached its climax during the same period. The commercial activities at the crossroads were unprecedentedly prosperous, and the residential courtyards and businesses of prominent families and clans within the city constantly emerged, surpassing contemporary architectural forms in both scale and decoration. The ancient city reached its historical zenith during this era, only to decline thereafter.

3.1.3. Modern Expansion Stage (People's Republic of China - Early Years of the PRC)

During the Sino-Japanese War and the Liberation War, influenced by wartime factors, extensive defensive structures were constructed on the inner and outer walls of the ancient city. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC), changes in social structure and economic composition led to the expansion of the urban core of Qi County from the ancient city outward. The ancient city ceased to be merely a practical living space as before and needed to adapt to the new era.

3.1.4. Rapid Development Stage (Early Years of the PRC - Present)

Around 1970, the ancient city walls were destroyed, but the overall charm of the ancient city still remains. Today, the traditional layout and appearance of the ancient city have once again revealed new characteristics. Since the destruction of the city walls, Qi County's early development lacked scientific urban planning methods, resulting in the blurred boundaries of Zhaoyu Ancient City. In this process, inappropriate renovations and additions to buildings within the city, confusion in property rights, and the construction of modern buildings like the Qi County Hotel within the ancient city have, to a certain extent, damaged the original texture of the ancient city. The former grandeur of the ancient city's appearance is no longer evident.

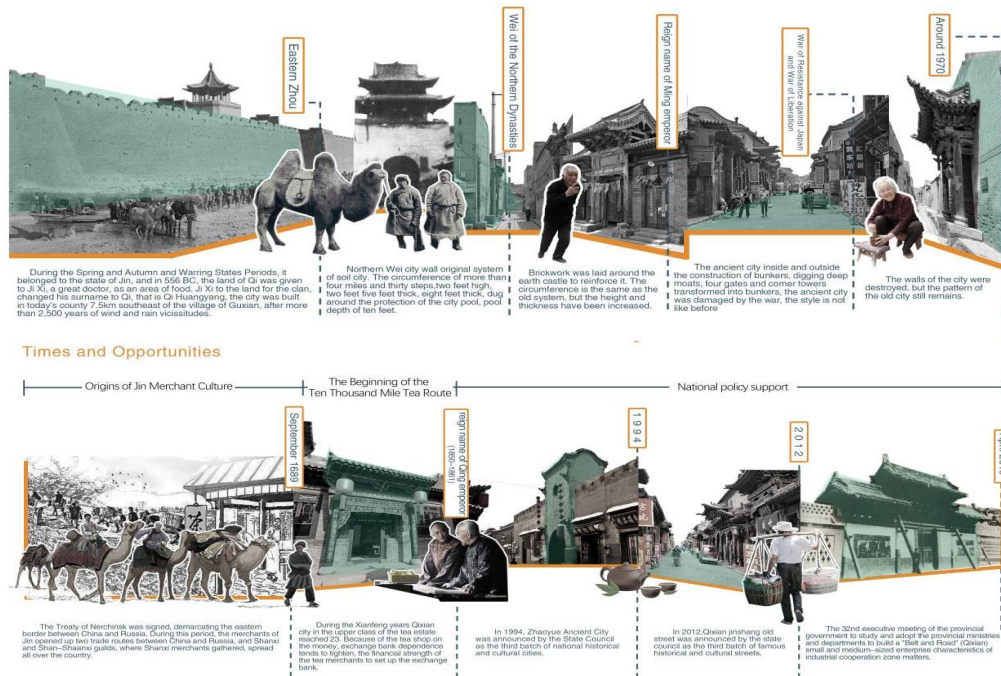


Figure 4: Historical Evolution of Zhaoyu Ancient City

3.2. Landscape Feature Identification of Zhaoyu Ancient City in the “Space” Dimension

3.2.1. Urban Layout

The selection of a city's location reflects the ancient Chinese reverence for landscape culture, advocating harmony with nature and the alignment of people, city, and nature. The layout of an ancient city is an embodiment of the urban planning tradition formed under the ancient social and political system. It projects the economic, political, and cultural development, as well as social relationships, under specific historical backgrounds [6]. The initial location of Zhaoyu Ancient City was on a plain, with the southern support of the Taiyue Mountain Range and a distant view of the Lvliang Mountain Range to the north, achieving a harmonious landscape pattern. The ancient city has an overall slightly elongated rectangular layout, with relatively positioned city gates and straight roads. The southeast corner of the city is designed with an internal angle of ninety degrees, resembling an ancient official hat, hence known as the “Shamao City.” The distinctive shape and layout of Zhaoyu Ancient City set it apart from most other ancient cities, showcasing the essence of its regional culture.

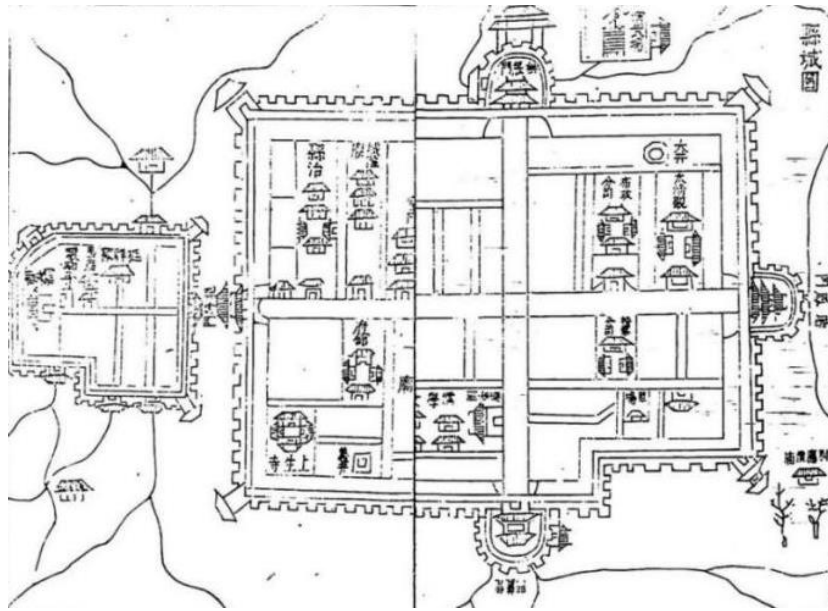


Figure 5: Urban Layout of Zhaoyu Ancient City as recorded in the “Kangxi Qi County Chronicles”

3.2.2. Street and Alley Layout

Zhaoyu Ancient City adopts a chessboard-style road network as its overall framework, retaining the layout from the Ming and Qing dynasties with “one city, four main streets, twenty-eight lanes, and sixty alleys.” The main axis of the ancient city and the intersections with other streets and lanes within the city form a “十” character, reflecting the merchant’s ideology of fairness [7]. The city’s transportation network combines streets, alleys, and narrower “gadao” (alleys) of varying widths and accessibility, creating an organically integrated road network. The layout of the road network is flexible, balanced, and achieves a harmonious unity of order and diversity.

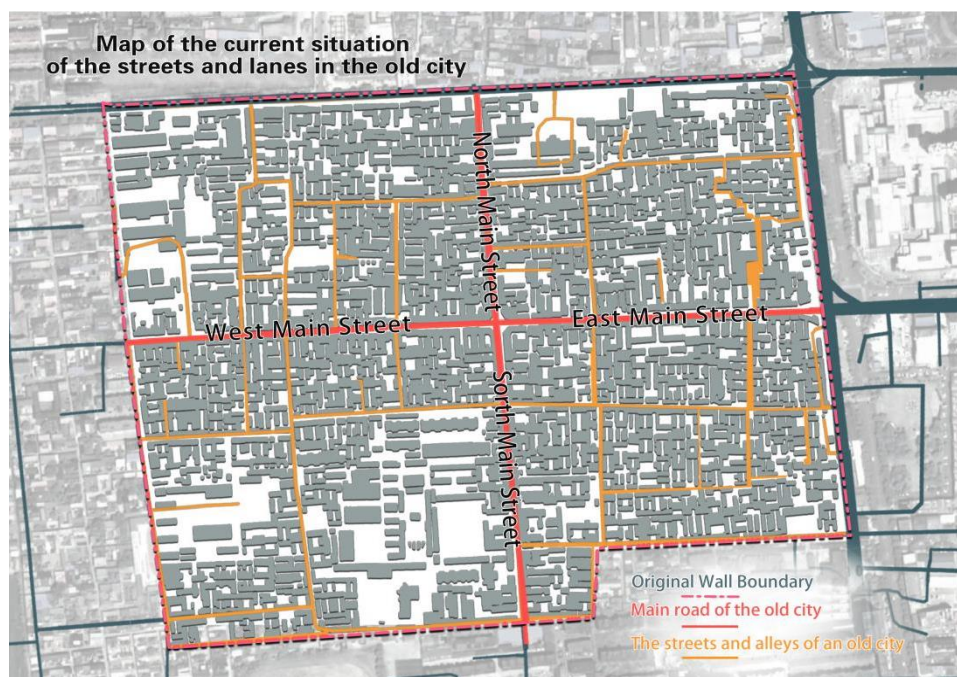


Figure 6: Current Status of Streets and Alleys in Zhaoyu Ancient City

3.2.3. Architectural Order

The architecture within Zhaoyu Ancient City primarily falls into three main categories: residences, shops, and public buildings.

Residences constitute the largest number of buildings within the ancient city, occupying the largest area. Representative examples include the Qu Family Courtyard, the Ma Family Courtyard, and other clustered residential compounds. The residences are evenly distributed throughout the various lanes of the ancient city, with many of them facing north. The courtyard walls are towering, with diverse forms and structures. The interiors of the courtyards are adorned with brick carvings, wood carvings, and stone carvings, featuring various patterns with exquisite craftsmanship and profound meanings. Each courtyard possesses unique characteristics.



Figure 7: Decorative Features of Residences in Zhaoyu Ancient City

Due to the influence of Jin merchant culture and the culture of draft banks, Zhaoyu Ancient City boasts a rich commercial atmosphere, with numerous shop buildings scattered throughout the city, including draft banks and tea houses. Based on their distribution within the ancient city, these shops can be classified into two types: those along the main streets and those along narrow alleys. Commercial buildings along the main commercial streets exhibit spatial characteristics that reflect orderliness, convenience, and flexibility. On the other hand, commercial buildings along the narrow alleys prioritize spatial features emphasizing safety and confidentiality. The layout order of these two types of shops enhances the diverse characteristics of the architecture in Zhaoyu Ancient City, catering to the varying needs of different commercial activities.

Public buildings within the city include the county yamen (government office), temples, schools, archways, and more. According to records in “Chinese City and Fortress History,” the county yamen in ancient Chinese cities was typically located at the center or slightly off-center of the county. However, in the case of Qi County’s ancient city, the county yamen is situated to the northwest, with the city center forming a concentrated and contiguous commercial area. This layout deviates from a symmetrical pattern, reflecting the ideological emphasis on commerce in Zhaoyu Ancient City.

4. Preservation and Regeneration of Zhaoyu Ancient City Based on the Analysis of the “Time” and “Space” Dimensions

4.1. Preservation and Regeneration Strategies in the “Time” Dimension

4.1.1. Heritage of Cultural Resources from a Historical Perspective

The exploration of cultural heritage in an ancient city from a historical perspective involves focusing on long-standing cultural elements and ensuring their continuation. Elements of cultural inheritance can be broadly categorized into material and non-material types.

In terms of material cultural elements in Zhaoyu Ancient City, the exploration can begin with Jin

merchant culture, extending to categories such as Piaohao (draft banks), the Grand Tea Road, century-old tea houses, and residential compounds. By situating culture within the rich historical spaces existing in Zhaoyu Ancient City, it provides practical venues for the reproduction, inheritance, and continuation of culture. This approach allows culture to be showcased by placing it onto the tangible historical spaces, transitioning it from an elusive ideology to a tangible entity, thereby enhancing the operability of cultural preservation.

Table 1: Spatial Placement of Cultural Historical Strata in Zhaoyu Ancient City

Cultural Accumulation in Zhaoyu Ancient City Spatial Localization	SPATIAL PLACEMENT
Jin Merchant Draft Bank Culture	Dadecheng Draft Bank Site, Dadeheng Draft Bank Site, Sanjinyuan Draft Bank Site, Heshengyuan Draft Bank Site
Grand Tea Road Culture	Changyuchuan Tea House Site, Yizhongheng Tea Ticket House Site, Dadecheng Tea House Site
Residential Courtyard Culture	Qu Family Courtyard, He Family Courtyard, Lianjie Lane Xu Family Courtyard, Majia Lane Luo Family Courtyard, He Family Courtyard, Guguan Lane Fan Family Courtyard
Opera Culture	Guanyue Temple, Opera Stage in Qu Family Courtyard

In terms of intangible cultural elements, Qi County boasts 57 registered intangible cultural heritage projects, including two at the national level: Qitai Yangge (a traditional dance) and Daishi Xinyiquan (a traditional martial art). At the provincial level, there are nine projects, such as Beitiegun (a traditional martial art using an iron rod), Xiaomo Xiangyou (a traditional method of extracting sesame oil), and architectural customs of residences in Qi County. In the planning of the ancient city, these rich intangible cultural heritages, characterized by the spirit of the people of Qi, should be incorporated as “checkpoints” to enhance the local uniqueness of the ancient city and elevate its overall appeal.



Figure 8: Representative Images of Qi County Cultural Heritage

4.1.2. Contemporary Perspective on the Integration of Culture and Urbanization

From a contemporary perspective, the ancient city unavoidably progresses in tandem with local economic and social development, meaning that the protection of cultural heritage must be based on the current economic and social network situations. Positive protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage resources in the ancient city, aligned with prevailing social trends, will foster sustained local economic development.

Recent advancements in various emerging technologies have made cultural industrialization an effective strategy for revitalizing cultural-historical resources. In the context of cultural industrialization, it is crucial to deeply explore representative cultural resources of Zhaoyu Ancient City. By centralizing Zhaoyu Ancient City and integrating various tourism resources within the region, including Gu Lian Village, a regional tourism sector can be collaboratively developed to enhance the influence of the scenic area. Furthermore, building upon the foundation of the regional tourism sector, derivative cultural industries can be developed to establish a branded culture. For example, designing intellectual properties (IP) related to representative elements such as Jin merchants, draft banks, and notable figures of Qi County can enhance the cultural identity of Qi County. Inside the ancient city, setting up folk shops to showcase traditional handicrafts like blown glassware and paper cutting, along with promoting local products such as Jialing Xunrou and Xiaomo sesame oil, can strengthen the cultural promotion. During festivals, organizing gatherings, performances, and cultural experiential activities related to Xinyiquan, Qitai Yangge, and folk culture within the ancient city can be impactful. Emphasizing the design and sale of creative cultural products and establishing cultural industry chains, such as draft bank museums and Grand Tea Road exhibition halls, can contribute to the overall cultural development.

Promoting culturally distinctive industries with Qi County's regional characteristics not only stimulates economic development but also diversifies cultural heritage transmission, presenting a novel strategy for cultural inheritance from a contemporary perspective.



Figure 9: Ancient City Creative Design and Activities (Image source: Internet)

The construction of basic service facilities in the ancient city is an essential need for residents and tourists from a contemporary perspective. Presently, the public service facilities in Zhaoyu Ancient City fail to meet the basic needs of tourists and even residents. Therefore, it is necessary to transform the infrastructure, including transportation, water, electricity, and heating, to avoid the loss of the city's original culture due to the departure of the indigenous population. This requires actively seeking resident opinions during the transformation process, improving residents' existing living conditions, and providing tangible happiness in their lives. This approach can better preserve existing cultural continuity and offer excellent tourist services.

4.2. Protection and Regeneration Strategies in the “Space” Dimension

The concept of “urban heritage” advocating complete coverage of the city's historical landscape, with

the principle of “protect as much as possible,” aims to construct a multi-level and comprehensive protection system based on “points,” connected by “lines,” breakthroughs achieved through “areas,” and the ultimate goal of city-wide protection[8].

4.2.1. “Area” - Integrated Protection of the Ancient City and Surrounding Landscape

Modern protection of ancient cities is no longer isolated and limited to the city’s boundaries; for the preservation of historical and cultural cities, holistic protection is a crucial principle[9].

In the delineation of the protection scope in the past, Zhaoyu Ancient City did not fully consider comprehensive protection. The city’s development and construction disrupted the ancient city’s boundaries, leading to insufficient distinction between the architectural styles of ancient city landmarks and modern structures. The unique charm of certain peripheral areas is gradually being eroded by urbanization. Reconsidering the city’s planning, it is essential to clearly define and expand the protection scope, including nearby scenic nodes, within the architectural preservation zone. Starting from the ancient city’s borders, restoration of the original city walls and the establishment of green belts or heritage parks along the walls can be implemented to emphasize the ancient city’s boundaries through landscaping. Additionally, an expansion from the ancient city borders to the outer area as an environmental coordination zone is crucial. This should include requirements for newly constructed buildings in terms of architectural style, height, and color, ensuring harmony with the ancient city’s landscape.

The protection of the “area” also necessitates a focus on the overall layout of the ancient city, maintaining the historical landform and enhancing the central pattern of the ancient city with the “cross” axis as its core. On this basis, constructing distinctive landscape axes enriches the spatial visual corridor between the central archways of the ancient city’s cross streets and the four gates in the cardinal directions, recreating the historical appearance of the ancient city as the “Wall Street of China.”

4.2.2. “Line” - Interconnected Protection of Street and Lane Characteristics

The protection requirements for the street and lane layout in the ancient city’s plan mandate the maintenance of the existing “cross” street and lane system, along with several lanes connecting to the cross streets. It emphasizes comprehensive, detailed, and differentiated control over various historical and cultural resources and landscapes along the streets and lanes. The establishment of various “cultural walking paths” to provide different ways of touring is recommended, combining the road network with cultural nodes. Advocating for the transformation of the grid road network into a green and shaded environment improves the street and lane surroundings, creating traditional streets and lanes with prominent features, diverse functional types, and rich spatial forms. The use of modern audio-visual technology can be employed at key points along the streets and lanes, displaying colorful nodes at night to showcase the ancient city’s street and lane pattern and create a public space environment with a more cultural atmosphere.

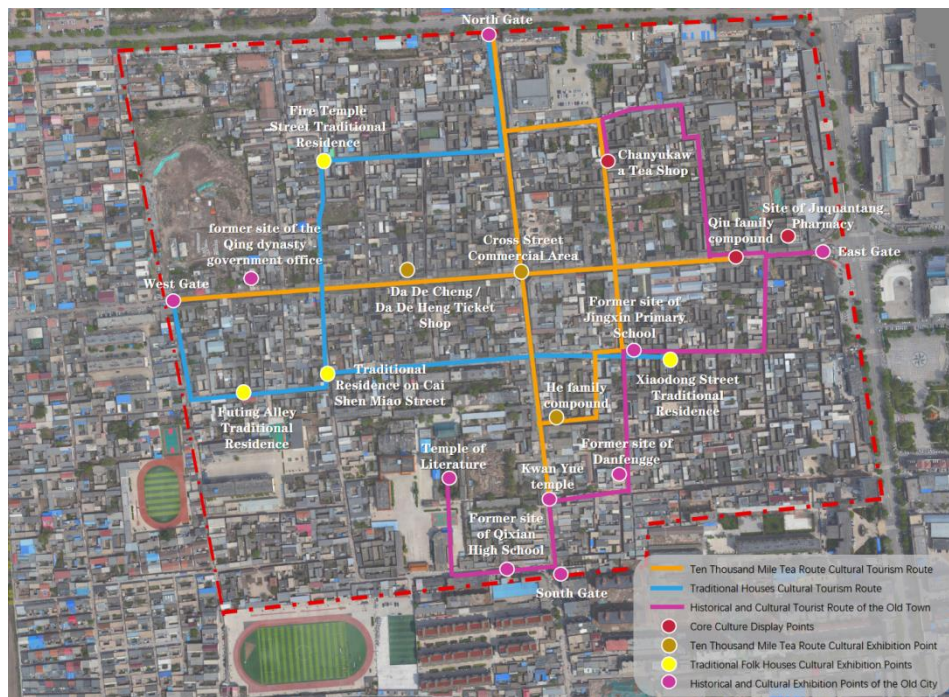


Figure 10: Zhaoyu Ancient City Cultural Tourism Route Planning

The protection of facade forms in street and lane layouts emphasizes the rich variations in height, concavity, convexity, and other natural architectural features. In Zhaoyu Ancient City, the facade patterns of the cross streets and lanes are the most diverse and distinctive. Various shops unfold along the streets, presenting a visual spectacle with the collision of Chinese and European architectural styles, the contest between curved and straight eaves, and the differences in roof styles, all greatly enriching the visual experience of the cross streets. The facades along the “Gedao” primarily feature the high and varied walls of residential buildings and entrance doors, with the elevation of official positions and the nature of family influencing the styles of residential facades. Therefore, the facades in the ancient city’s “Gedao” exhibit significant diversity.

Over time, these buildings inevitably undergo aging, collapse, and color fading. In the planning process, a detailed analysis of specific issues concerning individual buildings should be conducted, and maintenance measures should be implemented to protect the facade features of streets and lanes.



Figure 11: Diverse Facades of Shops on Zhaoyu Ancient City's Cross Streets



Figure 12: Diverse Facades along the “Gedao” in Zhaoyu Ancient City



Figure 13: Diversity in Building Forms along the “Gedao”

4.2.3. “Point” - Continuity Protection of Historical Landscape Nodes

The protection of “points” primarily encompasses the preservation of historical buildings, ancient trees, and other environmental elements within the ancient city. This requires specific, detailed, and context-specific protection measures.

Table 2: Cultural Relics Information of Zhaoyu Ancient City

NU MB ER	NAME	PROTECTION LEVEL	LOCATION	ERA
1	Qu Family Courtyard	National Key Cultural Relic Unit	33 East Street, County	Built in the mid-Qing Dynasty
2	Changyuchuan Tea House Site	Provincial Cultural Relic Unit	38 Duanjia Lane, County	Built in the mid-Qing Dynasty
3	Juquantang Pharmacy Site	Provincial Cultural Relic Unit	30 East Street, City	Ming Dynasty

Table 2: (continued)

4	Dadeheng Draft Bank Site	Municipal Cultural Relic Unit	51 West Street, County	Established in 1881 (Qing Guangxu seven years)
5	Dadecheng Draft Bank Site	Municipal Cultural Relic Unit	27-31 West Street, County	1932
NUMBER	NAME		PROTECTION LEVEL	LOCATION
6	Changtaiquan Business Site, Li's Residence, Sanjinyuan Piaohao Ruins, Zhang Yongxu Residence, Qu Yuanzhen Niufang Courtyard, Yishengquan Oil Shop Ruins, Yongtaisheng Qianzhuang Budian Ruins, Qiao Jiushao Residence, Qiao's Residence, Li Shoucheng Residence, Li Benqian Residence, Sihe Minglou Courtyard, Er Mang Cai Master Residence, Zhai's Residence, Original He's Residence, Taoist Temple, Guanyue Temple Gate Pavilion, Confucius Temple, Tailai Silk Shop Ruins, Jingxin School Ruins, Yihua Company Ruins, Hongjin Silver Shop Ruins, Qianhecheng Grocery Shop Ruins, Jinheng Silver Shop Ruins, Yizhongheng Tea Piaozhuang Ruins, Yijisheng Grocery Shop Ruins, Heshengyuan Piaohao Ruins, Xiaodong Street Guhuai Village, Jingxin School Library Ruins, Yang Xi Residence, Dadetong Piaohao Ruins, Minglou Courtyard, Jiejia Courtyard, Fan Ziyuan Residence, Jingxin School Ruins, Wufuwen Residence, Qu's Residence, He's Residence, Dade Tong Shopkeeper Residence, Jia Shiyu Qianzhuang Ruins, Xu's Residence, Zhang Dingjiu Residence, Yijin Dyeing and Weaving Factory Ruins, etc. 59 places.		County-level Cultural Relic Unit	Within Zhaoyu Ancient City

Zhaoyu Ancient City boasts numerous historical buildings, with significant development mainly attributed to the influence of Qishang culture since the Ming and Qing dynasties. Regarding historically and culturally valuable structures like Qu Family Courtyard and Changyuchuan Tea House, representative buildings with enduring historical value, existing conditions, architectural types, and protective value should be comprehensively assessed for graded and categorized protection[10]. Restoration efforts can extend to historically documented but currently damaged structures, such as the ancient county office, Danfeng Pavilion, and Chenghuang Temple—public buildings emblematic of the city's longstanding characteristics. The restoration of public buildings contributes to enhancing the city's cultural ambiance, restoring historical authenticity. Care should be taken during the restoration process, considering materials and construction methods to seamlessly integrate with the ancient cityscape, avoiding a sense of abruptness.

Preserving various historical environmental elements within the city includes 1 first-level ancient tree, 1 third-level ancient tree, and 259 scenic large trees. Establishing archives and markers for these ancient trees enhances their conservation and management.

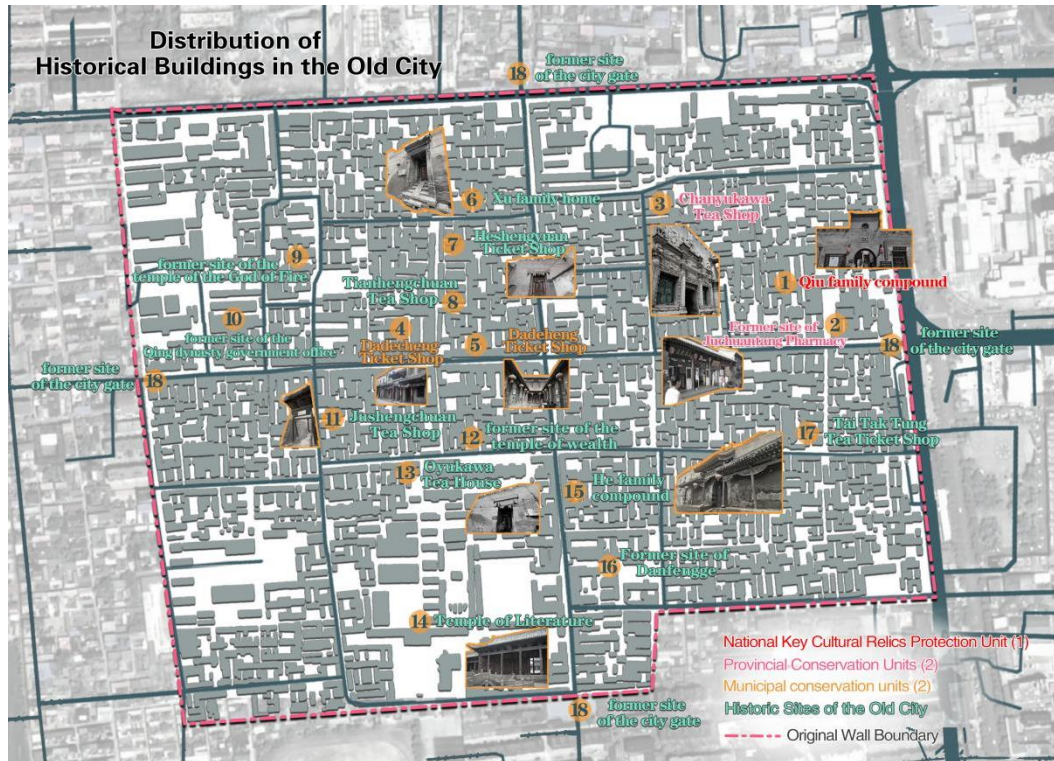


Figure 14: Distribution of Historical Buildings in Zhaoyu Ancient City

The goal of safeguarding “points” is to enhance the overall atmosphere of the ancient city. By focusing on these key locations and their interconnectedness, we aim to create a seamless landscape that covers the entire city. This approach is designed to elevate the environmental ambiance and improve the overall experience for visitors.

The research, based on the analysis of urban historical landscape theory, derives comprehensive and profound protection and enhancement strategies for Zhaoyu Ancient City. Approaching from the dimensions of time and space, the proposed measures and methods constitute a thorough and multifaceted approach. Deeply exploring the city's historical characteristics and providing rational optimization solutions for its spatial and cultural aspects represent the core essence of contemporary historical city preservation.

5. Conclusion

Given the current state of heritage preservation in China, the methodology of urban historical landscapes is worth emulating. In comparison to intangible heritage, which carries more cultural significance, our present approach to heritage preservation predominantly focuses on tangible aspects, such as the physical structures, neighborhoods, or specific locations. By exploring the multi-dimensional historical heritage preservation approaches of urban historical landscapes, we can better mobilize diverse resources within ancient cities, integrating and utilizing them to achieve sustainable development. Through an exploratory analysis of the multi-dimensional protection of Zhaoyu Ancient City, with a focus on the dimensions of time and space, a targeted protection strategy is proposed by delving deep into historical accumulation and landscape features. The aim is to ensure the continuity

of the ancient city's vitality in a modern context while respecting its inherent developmental characteristics.

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