

# Research on the Reflection and Rehabilitation of Commemorative Space Design

## -- A Case Study of the Martyrs Cemetery of Huxi Revolution in Shan County

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### Abstract

Predecessors have passed away, and posterity dialogue history through commemorative space. Commemorating the deceased is very important in today's society, and the shaping and spiritual expression of commemorative space directly affect the significance and value of the memorial. Huxi Martyrs' Mausoleum in Shan County was built in Huxi Anti-Japanese Base Area in 1945 in order to commemorate and bury the revolutionary martyrs of the Communist Party who died in the Anti-Japanese War. This paper introduces the overall design status of Huxi revolutionary martyrs' mausoleum, through the reflection, summary and thinking of the place spirit, landscape integrity and regional context of the revolutionary martyrs' mausoleum in single county, in order to have guiding significance for the design and expression of memorial space.

### Keywords

Commemorative space; Martyrs cemetery; Design reflection.

## 1. Introduction

Memorial space is to create a resonance of the psychological environment through the creation of the material environment, and then use material means to record a historical event or historical figures and successfully create a space to achieve the purpose of commemoration. The cemetery is one of the public places in commemorative space, the essence is to commemorate history, do not forget history, the pursuit of eternal. It is also a place where modern people hope to collide with the spirit of history and seek spiritual habitat. However, there are many problems in the expression of modern commemorative space, such as inadequate meaning transmission, inadequate utilization of public space resources, people's emotions and commemorative space can not find a meeting point, and regional context is not obvious.

## 2. The Value of Memorial Space

### 2.1. Records of Historical Processes

No matter how fast a nation progress, history has a vital significance for a nation. People try to record and retain history in various ways. The records, statues and ceremonies of primitive human murals express the memory of Deity. Altars, mausoleums, temples, archways and so on are established for their eternal beliefs. From ancient times to today's 21st century, people use art to express the wishes of commemoration. Memorial space refers to the materialization of emotion and the objective re-presentation of past historical events to modern people. Whether it can truly deduce the situation and atmosphere at that time is the issue to be studied in

memorial space. For the Chinese people, those warriors who fought for the country in the battlefield, died indomitably, rushed into battle, stood up to defend the country, is their life for today's happy home, but also expressed the true desire of people to love peace, against war.

## 2.2. Memorial Forever

People always use things or actions to express the feelings of remembrance of people and things, through this space to express emotions. The difference between commemorative space and other Spaces lies in its unique commemorative nature. The memorial space provides us with a place to express our emotions and shapes the most unique memories in the city. Located in Berlin, the Jewish Museum has become a unique architectural design in Berlin. The Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall has an indelible memory for the whole nation.

The Taj Mahal, a huge rectangular mausoleum of white marble, is a perfect building, almost a symbol of India, a "perfect building" created by The Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his late empress Ahjman Banu and a poignant love affair. The design of the tomb is so elaborate and perfect that it reflects Shah Jahan's original intention to commemorate it.

## 2.3. Solemn Atmosphere

Before the parting of life and death, people's mood can not help heavy depression. In addition, the atmosphere of the scene space is rendered, and deep words are used to give visitors a reproduction of the picture at that time. The coldness and depth of the whole space seems to make the audience feel the picture at that time, mainly to bring visitors to meditate, alert and education.

The Nanjing Massacre Memorial was built to commemorate the heartbreaking Nanjing Massacre in 1937. Among them, the site of Wanrenkeng fully reflects the heavy spatial atmosphere. The interior space makes the whole space deep and quiet by using dark lights, decadent steel bridges and sand-stone grounds. As soon as it enters the whole people, it seems to be sad. History is so close to reality that despair is in sight. Hope not to forget history, alarm bells ringing.

## 3. Brief Introduction of Huxi Revolutionary Martyr Mausoleum in Shan County

Shan county is located at the junction of Shandong, Henan, Jiangsu and Anhui provinces and eight counties, and Huxi revolutionary martyr cemetery is located in the south of the old urban area of Shan county. The cemetery covers a total area of 420 mu, including 412.5 mu of planned construction land, 112.5 mu of Lake area, Laihe River in the East and Qixia mountain in the West. The whole cemetery is solemn, quiet and simple. The landscape in the current mausoleum park includes more than 20 key martyr buildings such as Huxi revolutionary martyr memorial tower, hero Pavilion, Haoran Pavilion, anti Japanese War Memorial Pavilion, Junting corridor, martyr's famous monument, two martyr single tombs, four martyr cemeteries and memorial square, which bury 2641 martyrs. Huxi revolutionary martyrs cemetery is a place for the people to pay homage to the martyrs, an important patriotic education base in Shan county, and the spiritual and material wealth of Huxi people for generations, which is worthy of admiration by future generations.

## 4. The Main Problems in the Cemetery

### 4.1. The Spirit of the Cemetery Is Lacking

About "place", the connection of things creates a place. In the place atmosphere expressed by many things, it naturally gives the meaning of the existence of this place, that is, "place spirit". As a special kind of park category, memorial park stands out with its distinctive theme. How to

express its own particularity and essence must be rooted in the environmental atmosphere presented by the whole park, and create the cultural spirit connotation and its “place spirit”. The mausoleum is located in the middle of the bustling Paris Pedestrian Street and Shunshi Pedestrian Street in the north-south direction of the city. Although there are a large number of people, most of them rest or take a walk in the garden square. It is also noisy, which inevitably lacks some memorial significance of the mausoleum. The government has also made corresponding efforts. For example, the government and the school will organize party members and students to hold memorial ceremonies in the Memorial Tower Square every year during the Tomb-sweeping Festival, but the masses hold fewer spontaneous activities. In the past few years, the garden square has gradually become a leisure square for middle-aged and elderly people to dance square dance. In recent years, in order to keep the mausoleum quiet, this activity has been banned.

#### 4.2. Lack of Historical Materials

The excavation of historical and cultural data is not deep enough. Many construction facilities have been out of repair for a long time, and cultural relics are scarce and difficult to collate. The problem of backward display level of revolutionary memorial building space is serious. In 2009, Huxi Revolutionary Martyrs Mausoleum built the antique two-story building, “the Hero Pavilion” (see Figure 1). Its positioning is to use modern technology, sound, light, electricity and modern oil painting, sand table, pictures and words to show the magnificent revolutionary struggle history of Huxi during the New Democratic Revolution, the Anti-Japanese War and the Liberation War. But in recent years, it is not open to the outside world, and the information is not communicated to the outside world, which leads to the destruction of the form of direct communication between the people and the historical relics in the cemetery. There is also the “Erxian Temple” built in the mausoleum (see Figure 2). Due to the maintenance of the project, it is suspended and open, and the door is locked all the year round. This has resulted in the incomplete planning of architectural relics in the mausoleum, the inability to appreciate historical data, and the ignorance of planners, which has become a building decoration in environmental design.



**Figure 1.** The Hero Pavilion



**Figure 2.** The Erxian Temple

### **4.3. Insufficient Use of Regional Context**

According to the analysis, the county should make good use of the historical resource advantage of “Huxi Revolutionary Base” to build the county into a red memorial county of “revolution, unity and prosperity”, which not only highlights the outstanding contribution of the county in modern history, but also strengthens the cultural heritage and cohesion of the whole county, so as to achieve a win-win situation of cultural communication and economic development. Single county has a large population and a permanent population of 10.266 million (2021). However, there are very few people who truly commemorate martyrs every year. Single County is also a backward area in Shandong Province, and the number of tourists is even small. Its economic benefits are greatly reduced. As a relatively backward region in the whole province, it is particularly important for a single county to promote tourism industry and stimulate local economic growth by using local characteristic landscape and culture. Although the government proposed to build the mausoleum into a comprehensive and open ecological urban park based on the theme of the fairy lake, from a broad perspective, there are Qianshan Park, Fulong Lake Tourist Resort, Riverside Wetland Park, Daiyue Scenic Area and other open urban parks in a single county, while a single county is the revolutionary base in the west of Hunan and lacks attraction in terms of red tourism.

## **5. Suggestions and Thoughts on Cemetery Construction**

### **5.1. Promotion of Humanistic Atmosphere**

Although there are deficiencies in the design and planning of the Huxi Martyrs' Cemetery, the Huxi Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery is the precious spiritual and cultural wealth of people in Shan county. It is hoped that this red revolutionary base bearing the memory of several generations can become the cultural core and spiritual direction of the county. It is the primary task for the construction of the cemetery to increase the memorial place spirit, reconsider the park orientation and value orientation, re-endue the cemetery with educational significance and pay attention to the promotion of humanistic spirit. The memorial feature runs through the whole design of the cemetery, and imperceptible historical and cultural atmosphere is conveyed to people. This is the starting point and destination of the cemetery, and also one of the methods to promote the traditional cultural significance of the cemetery to keep pace with The Times.

### **5.2. Transformation of Interactive Experience**

Modern memorial places emphasize people's participation, encourage people not to forget history, and expect the subject to have a sense of identity and belonging to the object. But the fact is always contrary to wishes, the way the cemetery shows to the outside world is outdated,

mostly static display, lack of direct interactive activities, lack of appeal and shocking feelings. It is suggested to join modern science and technology and use the combination of dynamic and static methods to enhance the interactive experience between subject and object, so that visitors can truly experience their historical value, scientific value and social and cultural value.

### 5.3. The Location of the Cemetery

Huxi revolutionary martyrs cemetery as the city's only commemorative patriotic education base, the cemetery into a single county unique Huxi revolutionary base of the memorial cemetery is a top priority. The revolutionary spirit of Huxi revolutionary base unlimited continuation, cultivate people to form selfless dedication of love. The experience worth learning is that, like Nanjing Yuhuatai, Zhongshan Mausoleum, Song Qingling's Tomb, the impression of Martyrs ' Cemetery and the whole county will be improved. Memorial cemetery itself as a cultural space, the construction of more inclined to spiritual memorial cemetery, strengthen the commemorative educational significance, educational significance is always greater than entertainment.

## 6. Conclusions

By describing the design reflection of Huxi Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery, this paper makes clear the theme positioning of martyrs Cemetery, hoping that the space of memorial theme will attract more and more people's attention and participation. The memorial space should be designed with the participation of a variety of disciplines, so that the cemetery can meet people's pure commemorative behavior, pure spiritual shaping and psychological needs to the maximum extent. Only when visitors bring their own commemorative needs and cultural cognition to view, can the commemorative space play the biggest role.

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