Research on the protection and utilization of historical and cultural blocks under the New Museum Theory——Taking the Street Museum of Lihuangpi Road in Wuhan as an example

EnYu Chen¹, Hong Xu¹,*
¹School of Urban Construction, Wuhan University of Science and Technology, Hongshan District, Wuhan, Hubei, China
xuhong@wust.edu.cn

Abstract. The Street Museum is the first nationwide initiative in Wuhan to apply new museology to the protection planning of historical streets. The Lihuangpi Road Street Museum is the first street museum in Wuhan. It has played an active role in protecting historical relics, showing the unique architectural style and spatial texture of Lihuangpi Road, reflecting urban diversity, improving the living environment, and promoting the development of cultural and leisure industries effect. However, problems such as irrationality in planning and design, low follow-up investment, lack of management and supervision, and inactive participation of community residents have affected its effectiveness. Through in-depth investigations and interviews, this article summarizes the practical results and problems of the Lihuangpi Road Street Museum since its establishment, and proposes targeted opinions, with a view to providing further reference for the protection and planning of historical blocks in other cities.

1. Preface

1.1. Research background · purpose and significance

With the acceleration of urban renewal and industrial transformation and upgrading, historical and cultural blocks have been impacted to varying degrees. After centuries of exploration and practice, relevant theories and practices have been richer, but at the same time it has fallen into a bottleneck period and requires new ideological collisions to break through the bottleneck.

In 1980s, "new museology" was formed. It not only absorbs the essence of traditional museology, attaches importance to multidisciplinary linkage and public intervention, but also incorporates historical blocks, towns and villages into the scope of museum protection, and attaches importance to the protection of actual conditions and unique social environment and ethnic cultural traditions. The establishment of new types of museums such as ecological and community museums all over the world can be regarded as a practice under this trend of thought.

The street museum on Lihuangpi Road is a practice of community museums in the protection and renewal planning of Wuhan's historical and cultural districts under the new museum theory. How about its protection and implementation in the past ten years? Has the purpose of establishing a museum been achieved? This research introduces new museology in another field, provides new ideas and new methods, uses actual cases to analyze and summarize the contrast, aiming at solving the problem of protection and renewal of historical and cultural blocks more pertinently.
2. Overview of Street Museum in Lihuangpi Road

Former Concession District of Hankow is located between Zhongshan Avenue and Yanjiang road in Jiang'an District, Wuhan. It is the collective term for the English, Russian, French, German, and Japanese concessions of Hankou, with a total land area of 2.2 square kilometers. The Russian Concession to which the Lihuangpi Road Historical and Cultural District belongs is a cultural and commercial area and high-end residential area in Hankou.

The total length of Lihuangpi Road is 604 meters. This is a back-street path, without the traffic of Zhongshan Avenue and the commercial prosperity of Jianghan Road. Walking along this road, there are still buildings and houses with different styles—‘Figure 1’.

![Location Schenetic Diagram of Libuanapi Road](image)

Figure 1. Location Schenetic Diagram of Libuanapi Road

In 1997, Jiang'an District Government built Lihuangpi Road Street Muscum., which is intended to provide practical and in-depth historical reference for urban development, cultural landscape and even revolutionary traditional education, so that it can play the role of "preserving history, managing resources and educating people". The new museum theory emphasizes three important elements, three components of the Lihuangpi Road Street Museum are introduced below one by one.

2.1. Spatial element
Spatial elements include spatial texture, historical buildings, traditional dwellings and natural landscapes.

2.1.1. Spatial texture
Lihuangpi Road is divided into streets and lanes as the main skeleton, which divides the space of blocks into irregular meshes. European-style buildings along the street are eye-catching. The newly-built Changhai Hotel, Xinyuan Building and Wuhan Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital, three modern buildings with more than 15 floors, have destroyed the orderly layout of the buildings in this area, which are in great contrast with historical buildings in both height and volume scale.

2.1.2. Historical building
Historic buildings and interior points are the most important exhibits in the street museum of Huangpi Road, Li. There are 17 modern European-style buildings in Museum Street, Lihuangpi Road. Among them, the former site of Russian patrol house, Wanguo Hospital, Xinyi Building, Hankou Club of YMCA, Gao's Hospital and Bagong House are the most representative.

2.2. Collective memory
Collective memory embodies the "people-oriented" concept of new museology, which is different from old museology. It is of far-reaching significance for the inheritance of traditional culture and the
promotion of folk art. Collective memory is integrated with the daily lives of community residents, including urban events, street names, local folk customs, festivals, time-honored brands and so on.

For example, the concession buildings in street museums have witnessed the shameful history and recorded the heroic struggles of revolutionary martyrs, another example exists in Lifen. The living customs of the old Hankou, enjoying the coolness in summer, hanging wax in winter, and enthusiastic market slang, create a strong living atmosphere.

2.3. Community resident

The residents in the street museum of Lihuangpi Road are roughly divided into two types, one is to live here since childhood and witness the history and development of the block; The other is the immigrants who moved in later and adapted to and accepted local customs. According to the survey, most of the residents are elderly people who have lived here for a long time, with low income and insufficient housing space, but they all have deep feelings for this neighborhood. Most people hope to improve their living conditions without leaving this street, and enjoy this sluggish lifestyle and familiar neighbourhood relationships.

3. Problems in Street Museum of Lihuangpi Road

The Lihuangpi Road Street Museum has played a good role in the protection and utilization of historical and cultural blocks, such as protecting the authenticity of historical buildings, improving the living environment of the block, embodies the diversity of the city, played the role of publicity and education, promoted the development of cultural industry. But there are still some issues that need to be paid attention to.

3.1. The way of exhibition is too single

Most of the street museums in Lihuangpi Road take excellent historical buildings as their main body, which pulls in the distance between exhibits and people compared with ordinary museums. However, what visitors see is only the facade of the building, nor can they understand the lifestyle and living conditions of the concession. The tourist experience here is no different from other streets with historic buildings, and the characteristics of museumization are not fully reflected.

Compared with historical buildings with visible facades, the living space in Lifen and the traditional Chinese opera culture space are relatively abstract and not easy to exhibit, so it is not enough for people to understand and feel these historical cultures just by setting up signs.

3.2. The relationship between "exhibition " and "non-exhibition" buildings is not handled properly

In the process of investigating the protection effect of the protected block, I found that most of the excellent historical buildings in the block were well preserved, the building grade reached above the basic requirements, and most of them could continue to be used. For example, the former residence of Soong Ching Ling was changed into Wuhan Huangguang Art Museum, the Bangke Garden was changed into a healthy kindergarten, etc. These buildings focus on the impact of decoration on the street style. However, the maintenance effect of other buildings with low protection level in the block is not good. The groundfloor is mostly used for entertainment, catering, grocery stores, pharmacies, coffee shops, etc —'Figure 2',and their environmental quality maintenance level is low, and inappropriate decoration methods have a bad influence on the style and features of the block.

Due to the change of building function and building quality, the height or form of newly-built modern buildings in some places is not controlled, and the differences of building spacing and building height an both sides of the road are obvious, which destroys original street space scale and makes the original good space very depressed, which is manifested in the fact that the space on the east side of the river beach is relatively open. while the space on Zhongshan Avenue on the west side is relatively narrow. The environmental atmosphere of the whole historical street complex was broken by three modern buildings (Changhai hotel, Xinyun Building and Wuhan Traditional Chinese
Medicine Hospital) with more than 15 floors, and the height and scale control of the plot needs to be added.

Figure 2. Current Situation of Building Relations

3.3. The overall pattern of the block is rather chaotic
Through on-the-spot investigation, according to the difference of street space sense, I divided the whole historical street into three sections: the westernmost section was busy with traffic due to the existence of Chinese medicine hospital, which destroyed the original quiet atmosphere of the street. The building height of traditional Chinese medicine hospital is too high, which seriously damages the sense of scale of Lihuangpi Road as a historical protected street. In terms of transportation, the Chinese Medicine Hospital is located at the west entrance of Lihuangpi Road, and many vehicles are parked at the entrance of the hospital at random, resulting in a certain traffic jam at the entrance.

The interruption is relatively quiet, with pedestrian traffic as the main traffic. The location of flower plants is also coordinated with the street environment, atmosphere and scale. The new buildings basically respect the historical buildings, and the street scale space is completely preserved. The space of the interweaving opening is open and closed, and the sense of order and rhythm coexist.

The east section is adjacent to Yanjiang Avenue and jiantan park. The buildings retreated more, and the street suddenly widened. However, the first floor of the building was in disorder, and some new buildings did not respect the original historical buildings in terms of color and height—’Figure 3’.

Moreover, the function of the block starts from Song Qingling’s former residence at the southern end, from leisure and entertainment to administrative education, and then to medical shopping. The preservation integrity of historical buildings, historical areas and overall sense of space has gradually declined.

Figure 3. street space map of East, middle and West Road

3.4. Insufficient follow-up investment, lack of management and publicity
At the beginning of the construction, the investment cost, manpower, material resources are more, but the follow-up investment is less. The main facilities of the street museum are limited to a few signboards set on the street. Old Lifen, a historical and Cultural District on Lihuangpi Road, needs to be repaired and maintained due to its long construction period. At the same time, the infrastructure and
safety facilities of Lifen need to be improved. Strictly speaking, without follow-up investment and renovation, it is difficult to become a complete Museum.

Under the new museum theory, the street Museum also needs to expand its social influence and actively cultivate the audience. In the process of on-the-spot investigation, I interviewed 35 passers-by randomly. The results showed that many people did not know the street Museum of Lihuangpi road. Most of the young people came here because they heard that Lihuangpi road was a good place to take photos, and it was suitable for gathering. There were some fashionable signs and petty bourgeois shops, but they didn't know the street museum very well. At the same time, I found that the popularity of the street Museum on Lihuangpi road is very low among tourists from other cities. In the random survey of them, 50% of the visitors have never heard of Lihuangpi road and know little about the street Museum.

The reason is that it has not actively carried out publicity work on the street Museum of Lihuangpi road. In Wuhan's external tourism publicity, including city propaganda films and tourist maps, there are few opportunities for the street Museum of Lihuangpi road to appear, so the cognition level of foreign tourists to Lihuangpi road is low.

4. Suggestions on Protection, Renewal and Improvement of Street Museum in Lihuangpi Road

New Museology needs to be improved both in theory and in practice. For example, in dealing with the relationship between collections and people, New Museology emphasizes that the "collection" oriented should be transformed into the "audience oriented" one. It is not only about the collection of goods.

4.1. Enrich the display content and enhance the perception of tourists

The lack of popularity is a big problem faced by the street Museum on Lihuangpi road. To change this situation, we need to constantly enhance the attraction of the block, strengthen publicity, and use a large number of materials and theme activities to publicize it with the help of Wuhan tourism development publicity system. For example, the Tanhualin Art Festival in Wuhan has attracted a large number of art lovers and tourists, and has also promoted the popularity of the region.

4.2. Strengthen ties with communities and residents

The construction of street museums should not be a face-saving project, but should become an important material support for the emotional fate of local residents. In addition to maintaining the building itself, it is also necessary to enhance the vitality of the street museum and strengthen its contact with the community and residents. After certain training and management, the street Museum on Lihuangpi road can be managed by the community people. Only in this way can the museum play a practical role in community life and become a major part of the community public service system.

4.3. Create a vibrant space and create a sense of place

The sense of place is the emotion aroused by a certain experience in a specific environment. The old street often carries the memories of generations and can give people a sense of home. Some old streets with a long history are places where people live for generations. Taking advantage of this emotional advantage, we can create a unique sense of belonging on the basis of adding street activity facilities. For example, open-air "cinema" should be set up in the space of passageway or bridge opening, and vines should be set up in the corridor before buildings and buildings, and plants should be planted—‘Figure 4’, ‘Figure 5’ show the simple life atmosphere.

Therefore, taking advantage of the small street scale of the old block as the design advantage and creating a harmonious neighborhood leisure place will help the old blocks like Lihuangpi road in Wuhan recover their former style and increase the vitality of street museums.
4.4. Strengthen cooperation with other surrounding protected areas to achieve common long-term development of the area

For example, it should develop in conjunction with Jianghan Road, Zhongshan Avenue, Hankou River Beach, and the "August 7th" meeting site. At the same time, it will strengthen the internal connections of Wuhan's five historical and cultural blocks, integrate resources, and expand the influence of historical and cultural blocks in Wuhan.

5. Summary

Based on relevant theories and practices, this article takes the development of the Lihuangpi Road Street Museum as a reference, summarizes its development problems and proposes solutions, aiming to provide new ideas for the protection and renewal of other historical and cultural blocks ideas. I hope that in future theory and practice, there will be more related practices, more other majors can communicate with urban planning together to create a more perfect and comfortable living environment.

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