Research Article

The Influence of Digital Transformation on Intelligent Design of Architecture

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With the continuous progress of China’s social economy and the subsequent improvement of science and technology, intelligent architectural design has been gradually developed. At the present stage, the design of intelligent system in architecture has become a systematic design project, which is widely used in the field of architecture. The rapid development of artificial intelligence has not only brought new opportunities but also new challenges to the field of architectural design. On the one hand, digital architecture can share some of the functions of traditional architecture in its advantageous application areas, but inevitably new building function requirements and building design types will be formed. On the other hand, the depiction of building plans, elevations, and renderings, daylight adjustment, and volume calculation, as well as the transfer of text and graphic files via the Internet, are all closely related to digital architecture, regardless of which application software is used. In the current digital era, where real and virtual environments will coexist, digital transformation also has a lasting impact on intelligent building design, drawing out a new development model.

1. Introduction

With the rapid rise of the information economy, the world is accelerating its pace towards a new data economy period dominated by networks and big data platforms [1, 2]. In the central work report, the new requirements of developing information economy and building a data-oriented country are also clearly put forward [3, 4]. In recent years, the central government has repeatedly mentioned the requirement to promote economic development, and Premier Li Keqiang has also repeatedly mentioned the requirement to promote the development of China’s traditional manufacturing industry to network digital industry [5, 6]. Against the background of the two factors of "gigantic" and "large-scale construction," the construction industry accelerates the construction of digital business systems and digital supply chain, which can significantly improve the management level of construction projects, improve the quality of services, and reduce the hazards of construction quality, thus driving the growth of the construction industry, completing the transformation of the industry, and reshaping the core value.

2. Research into the Problems Faced by Intelligent Architectural Design in Digital Transformation

At the current development stage, the problems faced by intelligent building design in digital transformation mainly include lack of digital building index system, technical measures, and methods; insufficient top-level design for enterprise digital
construction; lack of overall system for digital information development; and lack of digital and professional composite talents. In this regard, the digital system of intelligent building design must be strictly regulated, so as to continuously promote the further development and improvement of this field.

2.1. Lack of Digital Building Index System, Technical Measures, and Methods. As the transformation and upgrading of digital technology in China’s construction industry is in the exploration and development stage, it still faces many practical problems [11, 12]. First, construction enterprises actively promote digital technology transformation, but the lack of information technology level of guidance, resulting in a large number of data silos between various technical application systems. Second, many enterprises do not have the awareness and strength to organize the development of technical standards that meet the characteristics of SMEs and companies. There are no specific and operable indicators in terms of ownership of information resources, authorization of use, and revenue distribution model of participants. Finally, the normative system of the company covering data security and technical development has not been improved. In summary, only by overcoming major problems such as technical standards and policy measures can the necessary impetus be given to the development and diffusion of digital technologies in China’s construction sector.

2.2. Insufficient Top-Level Design of Enterprise Digital Construction. Through the discussion of the specific situation of China’s current construction industry digitalization, it can be found that the problems and resistance encountered in the digital transformation of construction enterprises mainly come from three aspects. The first is enterprise planning. Due to the lack of overall strategy, planning, and enterprise-wide digital application development roadmap, the top management of enterprises lack a clear understanding of digital transformation and enterprise digitalization process [13]. The second is workflow. Due to unclear responsibilities and authority, project management data face the problem of not being able to collect process information such as time, efficiency, quality, and safety [14]. More importantly, various business units are challenged with information barriers. Third is the enterprise level. At the construction site of project management, information faces the problem of standardizing information such as labor services and materials [15]. All of the above greatly mitigate the efficiency and quality of project management and become obstacles to overcome in digital transformation.

2.3. Lack of an Overall System for the Development of Digital Information. The digital development of the Internet for construction projects is still in its infancy, and the digital divide between financing, architectural design, building construction, design supervision, operation and maintenance, etc.; the “fragmentation” and “systematization” of the construction industry are still obvious, and there is a lack of a comprehensive network platform including construction project planning, architectural design, building construction, operation and maintenance, etc. [16]. Therefore, without such an integrated system for digital information development, the intelligent design of buildings will be greatly affected.

2.4. Lack of Digital and Professional Compound Talents. Up to now, in the process of development of digitalization of construction industry, shortage of digitalized personnel has also become a severe problem in the practice of digitalization transformation. Although the relevant construction management departments in our country have clearly proposed the use of digital technology means such as BIM to assist the construction of engineering in the early years, there is no high-quality compound talents who master both digital information technology and engineering professional technology in the industry, resulting in the final reform cannot be implemented. In addition, there are also widespread problems in the field of personnel training in colleges and universities, such as the lack of training objectives for digital technology personnel, unclear personnel training methods, and the lack of effective coordination between personnel training methods and industry positioning.

3. Impressions of Digital Technology on Architectural Design

3.1. Language Shaping of Architectural Form in Digital Technology. The language of architectural form shaping in digital technology is shown in Figure 1.

When digital technology shapes architectural form language, stimulate creativity is impacted [17]. In architecture, with the aid of digital information technology, which is the huge computing system in the computer, designers can generate a large number of random images according to the function calculation, thus inspiring the designers’ architectural creativity. The computer’s data processing ability is able to accurately express this complex image and draw it into architectural drawings. Nowadays, numerous architects in the world are constantly exploring this brand-new idea of combining art with science and technology and digging out the potential of computer-aided architectural form conception from their own architectural process. When the wisdom view of architecture is applied in architectural design, the wind environment of residential areas can be systematically laid out. The green design of wind environment can maximize the application of wind regeneration and wind circulation technology in residential areas. For example, in the process of planning residential areas, the wind environment design can be applied to the plane functional layout and aesthetic design of residential areas, so as to ensure that the residential areas can maximize their functions and improve the utilization efficiency of renewable energy. For instance, in winter in residential areas, the problem of excessive wind speed will occur. When designing the wind environment, this defect can be taken into account, the location of the residential area can be relaid, and the best experience of residents in the residential area can be ensured by adding wind walls or transparent floor-to-ceiling windows. The wind environment design of residential area is the task center of residential area at the initial stage of design. On the basis of fully considering the gas flow in the residential area, it is of great necessity for designers to integrate the green concept into the wind environment design and build a good wind environment for residential
owners through plane layout, three-dimensional space layout, and body plane design.

3.2. Influence of Gardens on Architectural Design. The impact of the garden on the architectural design is shown in Figure 2.

The garden connotation of project design can often influence the architectural design intention of architectural design form. Before the introduction of computer equipment, the expression of complex architectural design is often unable to be effectively connected with the content of structural analysis. Radiation system around residential areas will be affected by water radiation and thermal environment. Therefore, to integrate the concept of intelligent architecture into architectural design, it is vital to organically combine residential areas with natural landscapes on the basis of increasing the green area of residential areas, so as to improve the indoor and outdoor thermal environment of residential areas with the help of natural landscapes. Second, it is necessary to ensure that a good matching ratio is formed between the green space system and the residential area in the architectural engineering design, so that the whole residential area can be built into a unified harmonious and intelligent system, and the microclimate within the area can be changed with the help of plants. In the process of designing the water environment, designers need to change “fixed water” into “flowing water” to improve the mobility of water sources, transforming the microclimate in the regional environment with the help of flowing water impact to ameliorate the habitability of the environment. Meanwhile, the water inlet and outlet pipe network should be redesigned in combination with the green concept. For example, the water resources in toilet or kitchen area should be recycled twice and transformed into reclaimed water, which ought to be applied to the landscaping of residential areas to improve the utilization efficiency of water resources.

In the design process from nonlogical thinking to accurate architectural design form, computer equipment can more efficiently manage relevant data and assist designers to consider in a digital environment until the realization of architectural design. The application of parametric model technology makes the structure and design analysis of complex forms more concise and effective. Based on the above parametric analysis and calculation, the architectural design idea is further deepened into more accurate architectural modeling.

3.3. The Emergency of Digital Models. As architectural design becomes more complex, physical model design is increasingly unable to meet the requirements of expressing creative and creative needs [18]. When the concept of smart building is incorporated into the design of exterior protective structures for building projects, the exterior protective structures can be used to guide the thermal environment around the building [19]. For example, in architectural design, by designing exterior windows and facades with different inclinations or directions, the wind direction around the building can be changed or the wind penetration into the interior of the building can be enhanced, and the convective heat transfer coefficient of the exterior surface of the building can be adjusted, thus creating the best living space for the building. In the design of intelligent building, the consistency index value of each random sample matrix can be calculated, and the average random consistency index RI value can be obtained by averaging these CI values. When CR = CI/RI < 0.10 it can still be determined that the ranking result of this hierarchical analysis is satisfactory and consistent and be regarded as having a reasonable weight coefficient. Instead, this means that the weight factor is unreasonable and needs to be readjusted, see Tables 1 and 2 for details.

In the calculation process, the software MATLAB is used for auxiliary calculation, so as to more accurately judge that the maximum characteristic root of the current matrix S is $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 4.0310$. In order to make this judgment matrix get more accurate consistency test, its consistency index can be calculated: at the initial stage of design, designers need to go deep into the construction site to carry out investigation and environmental test, so as to ensure that the designed peripheral protective structure can change the thermal environment and air quality around the building and meet the architectural design requirements. With digitalization, the current architectural modeling design can be effectively analyzed, and in this way, an effective digital model can be constructed.

4. Application of Digital Technology in Architectural Design

As far as the current development situation is concerned, digital technology is affecting the whole construction industry on a larger level [20]. Although it is also a new technology, its influence is not limited to traditional technology, but even includes a great change in the concept and means of architectural design [21]. Among them, the practical application
the technology of computer-aided design in the professional work of architecture is referred to as computer-aided architectural design technology. With the help of modern computer digital information technology, brand-new architectural concepts have emerged. For the recent development of China’s science and technology, its developing speed and application level have already shown strong vitality, whose advantages have also become increasingly evident in architecture, deeply rooted in the global architecture market. Taking advantage of the features of high speed, large capacity, high precision, and powerful functions of computers, the means of CAAD support or even replace the place of traditional architects in processing a large amount of graphics, data, and text information in the whole design process, thus greatly improving the quality of architectural design, reducing the cost of architectural design, shortening the life cycle of architectural design, and alleviating the investment in architecture, thus rising the profits.

4.1. Ability to Carry Out Conceptual Design and Modeling Effectively. In the past, designers used their own spatial imagination or simple sketches to complete architectural plans or stylistic schemes, but these primitive methods had significant limitations. However, this technology can provide designers with a powerful intellectual tool through which they can conceptualize the effect of a building’s three-dimensional shape, space, form, tone, and mass. In addition, they can incorporate the real natural environment surrounding the building in their thinking. The world-renowned architect I.M. Pei, who designed a giant glass pyramid in the Louvre Mall in Paris, France, was realized and completed through this engineering technology.

4.2. Scheme Optimization and Special Analysis. In the research process of architectural plane and layout scheme design, this technology is able to analyze and evaluate all measurable and usable engineering design indicators, attributes, and functional activity relationships in buildings and make feedback correction by man-machine interaction, thus forming an interactive man-machine optimization cycle [17, 22]. The methods to improve the design scheme is mainly decided by the designers here, while the computer system only plays an auxiliary analysis method and judgment function of data processing. At the same time, in the research time of architectural scheme engineering design, through this technical means, we can also make qualitative and quantitative analysis of all physical, environmental protection, and various functional design technical indicators, so as to enhance the rationalization and scientification of the building. Because most of the above information contents are technical and highly computable. Therefore, most of the input signals are extracted by this information system as much as possible, and the man-machine interaction method is adopted for feedback adjustment. This constitutes another interactive man-machine optimization cycle system. By integrating and combining the two interaction loops of man and machine described above, we can build a model that is perfectly suited for designing interactive optimal control systems with this approach.

4.3. Design Drawings and Technical Documents. At present, computer drafting technology has been developed, and architectural designers can use various drawings in the CAAD software system to arrange various categories of functions and establish a library of standards and accessories to make or decorate architectural drawings [23, 24]. Layers can be freely moved, flipped, compressed, and combined, and dimensions and diagrams can be labeled by themselves. Designers can not only store architectural information on different layers according to different jobs and contents but also randomly select different layers and synthesize the output according to requirements, thus forming various architectural drawings. The design system has a unified design data system, which can record and store all the project contents involved in the design scheme. It realizes the coordination of various types of architectural design work in operation, which is more conducive to unified error checking and correction. Most design architectural drawings can be assembled into design drawings by combining the materials in the detailed library of architectural structure and the material library of engineering structure. When the preliminary design work is completed, CAAD system can automatically extract all technical and economic files and statements related to engineering design, modifying them together with all engineering design documents. Therefore, the application of CAAD technology will bring outstanding economic benefits in the design of construction drawings, which will greatly reduce the drawing workload of architectural designers.

5. Countermeasures and Suggestions on Accelerating the Transformation and Upgrading of Construction Industry in Digital Economy Era

Recently, the digitalization of the Internet in other domestic industries has developed to the stage of informatization and artificial intelligence applications, but the digitalization of
the construction industry is still at the level of tooling and fragmentation [25]. If the construction industry requires completion of the deep cooperation with production enterprises, supply chains, and other units, problems of shared science and technology, management, policies, and other aspects must be solved; and cooperation with government departments, enterprises, universities, and other units is also required to further promote the application of digital information technology, digital transformation, and upgrading. In this case, the high-quality development of the construction industry can be achieved.

5.1. Build a Mature System of Policies and Technical Standards. First, the construction administrative department should build a unified technical standard system for the digital construction market in order to promote the formulation and development of management specifications for digital construction design, information technology application, testing and evaluation, and safety protection in the construction industry and gradually form a unified technical standard system. In addition, local government departments should also introduce specific investment incentives and management measures to improve the enthusiasm of SMEs in digital construction [26]. In the meantime, on the basis of existing measures, all localities should further improve the overall coordination between local industrial policies and regional development plans and attach importance to planning, which provides a strong guarantee for all-round digital upgrading of the construction industry.

5.2. Strengthen Top-Level Design and Optimize Enterprise Digital Management Mode. The concrete implementation of the modern digital transformation of the company mainly includes the company strategy level, the project organization level, and the manager function implementation level. Therefore, the first step is to design the top project of the digital transformation of the company’s managers and complete the digital transformation of the company’s management. The essence of modern digital transformation is to enhance the digital strength of the company. According to the new characteristics of digital information technology, industrial development trend, and company’s operation, the decision-making level of the company should make a long-term plan for the digital transformation of the company, increase the capital investment in the digital management of the company, and enhance the operational value of the company. Second, we should do the top-level design of the digital transformation of the company’s project management and complete the digital transformation of project management. Project management digital is the core of the company’s digital transformation [27]. Project management technicians use BIM model to integrate element data of project management processes such as project management time, cost, quality, and safety, so as to improve the technical level of the project. Finally, good performance in designing digital production scheme for management posts is also essential. Big data such as “human, machine, material, method and environment” obtained by the post from the operation layer in real time further improves the work efficiency of a single post. At the same time, all parties in the construction company have made use of modern digital construction technology and management mode to further enhance the comprehensive competitiveness of the group in strategic planning, market operation, construction methods, production control, etc., thus further optimizing the cooperation relationship between the internal team of the enterprise, the cooperation relationship between the company and users, and the intelligent relationship between the companies, thus promoting the more efficient development of the construction industry.

5.3. Create a Reasonable Digital Industrial Platform and Intelligent System. Digital platform is an important foundation for digital transformation of the construction industry. First, the digital platform system of the construction industry is formed as soon as possible. Considering the whole process and life cycle of project construction, build an information and communication network platform for product design, manufacturing, and management of architectural design enterprises. The platform integrates the big data information resources of departments and industry market entities and completes the integrated digital production line of construction management, including macro data analysis of market development of construction enterprises, decision analysis of regulatory government, and market information service.

6. Conclusion

To sum up, the digital transformation of the construction industry is constantly developing. It is of great necessity to objectively and rationally comprehend the new development situation and challenges encountered on the road of digital transformation and upgrading and actively promote the process of digital transformation of the construction industry. It should be the common responsibility of building materials industry workers and construction educators.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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