

Research on Cultural-oriented Regeneration of Urban Public Space

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Introduction

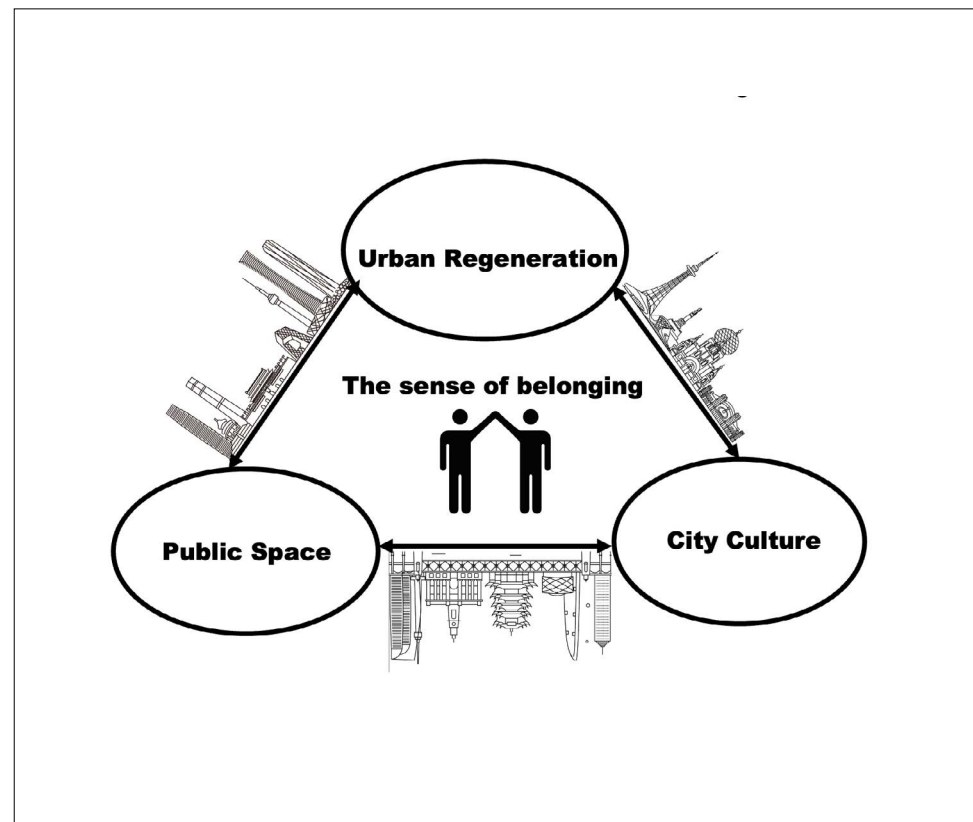


Fig.1 Source: Designed by Author

With over 40 years of aggressive growth in the infrastructure, a great amount of cities in China have entered a new stage of urban development. Focusing on the speed and scale of the development does not meet the common demands of the modern culture who desires life quality and artistic taste. Culture-oriented urban regeneration provides theoretical support for cities with certain needs from a new perspective and becomes an essential component of the strategy for upgrading the urban public space. Regeneration of outdated urban public space guided by culture, not only notes the cultural excavation and inheritance of urban characteristics, but also moderately adds practical functions of certain public spaces. Therefore, the regenerated urban space meets the quality pursuit and spiritual needs of the urban residents.

Culture-oriented urban regeneration will and shall become one of the most important form of future urban development model. Ameliorating the public spaces can help improve the city's appearance, in the process of conducting the work, landscape architects shall research more into the indigenous culture, and read into the history of the city, which can increase the allure of urban public space. Based on the successful scenarios we've observed across the globe, we can see that by exploring the methods of architectural landscape design, urban regenerations have been better developed through the synergy provided by the urban public space, urban indigenous culture and social public life.

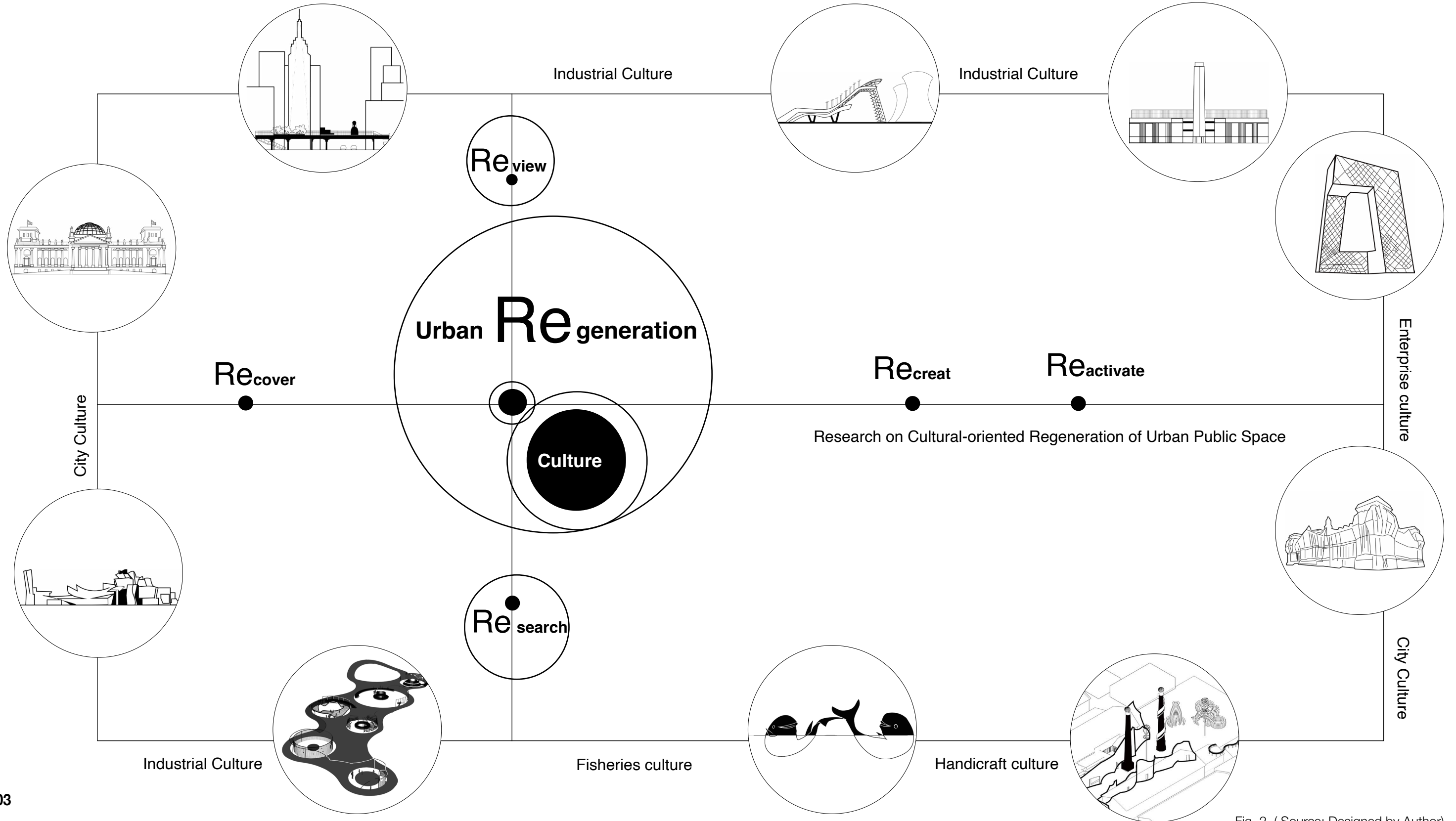


Fig. 2. (Source: Designed by Author)

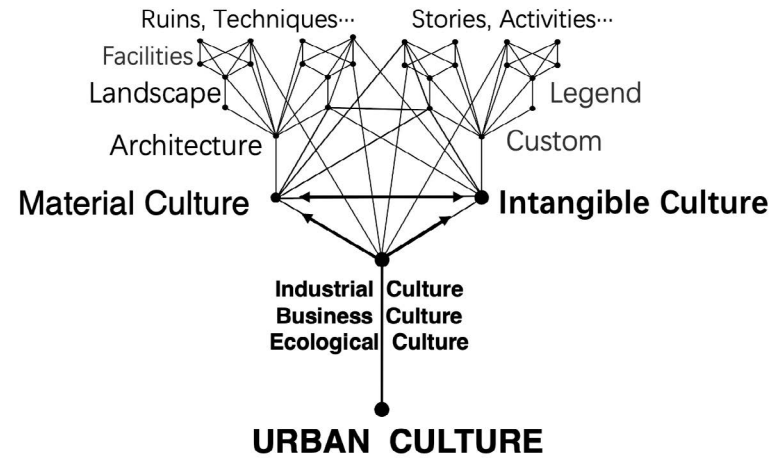
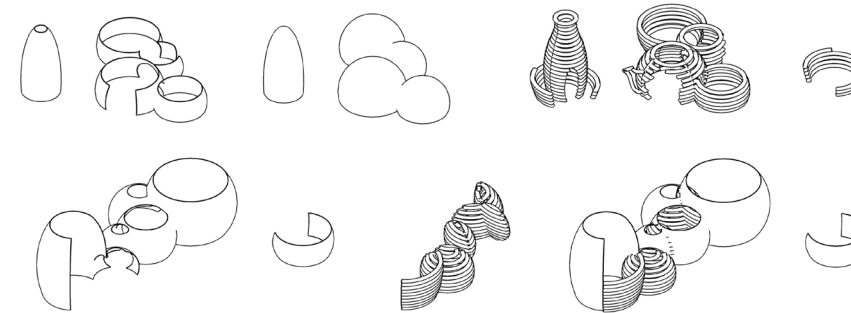


Fig.3 Urban Cultural elements ,(Source: Designed by Author)

To conduct the design of urban public space, the preparatory study should pay more attention to researching on unique urban cultures, additionally taking into account the growth of regional cultures. Deep exploration of local culture can provide significant support to the designers carrying out space design work.

For urban regeneration, the essence of design lies in the unique urban culture which is impossible to be replaced or imitated. Urban culture is divided into two categories: material culture and immaterial culture. In most situations, these two are in a relationship of intergrowth. The material urban culture mainly consists of historic sites, buildings, public cultural amenities, etcetera. The immaterial urban culture contains historical events, artisanal practices, industrial culture, urban folk traditions, urban events, historical legends, cultural activities, and many other intangible cultural activities.

In the practice of urban regeneration, the inheritance of urban culture shall be well considered by landscape architecture designers and how to merge and create a harmony between the old and new urban culture shall also be an important topic to discuss.



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Fig.4 Jingdezhen is famous for its ceramic culture_Chapter 5, (Source: Designed by Author)

Fig.5 Incorporate cultural elements into the design_Chapter 5, (Source: Designed by Author)

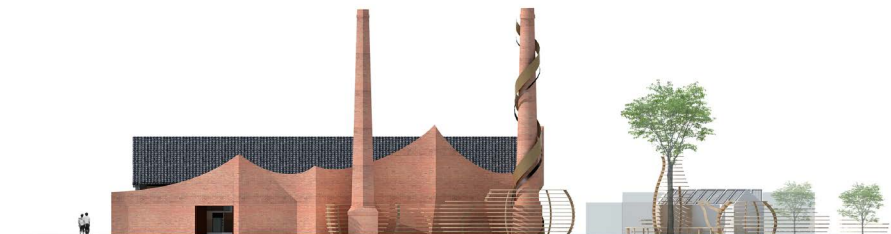
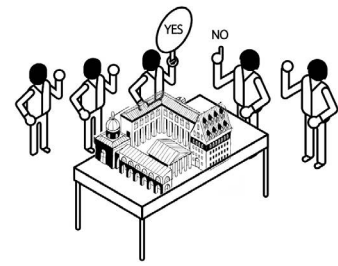


Fig.6 A Design project for Jijngdezhen, elevation-_Chapter 5, (Source: Designed by Author)

THESIS 2



Solicit the Public's Wishes



Visit and Survey the Locals

Fig.7 Public involvement (Source: Designed by Author)

As a preparation of the urban design, it is crucial for the designers to go on visits in the designated areas and conduct due diligence surveys. By increasing the degree of the public involvement, the amount of work could be overwhelming, but it is certainly necessary, because the result of the design represents relatively better the will and wishes of the common society and the design itself will be more feasible than impractical. Urban regeneration does not only need the work of urban planners and architects, it also requires the support of national policies or regional regulations, moreover it is critical to solicit general public desires and opinions. More opportunities shall be provided to the public for them to participate in urban regeneration projects.

The public's experiences and memories of the city might inspire the architects to create. Integrating the urban culture stories into landscape architectural design allow the public to understand and connect with the changes in urban history, therefore achieving the goal of organic renewal of urban growth.



Fig.8-10 Landscape architecture design project for Laoshan community, Shijingshan District, Beijing_ Chapter 4,(Source: The project team drew)

THESIS 3

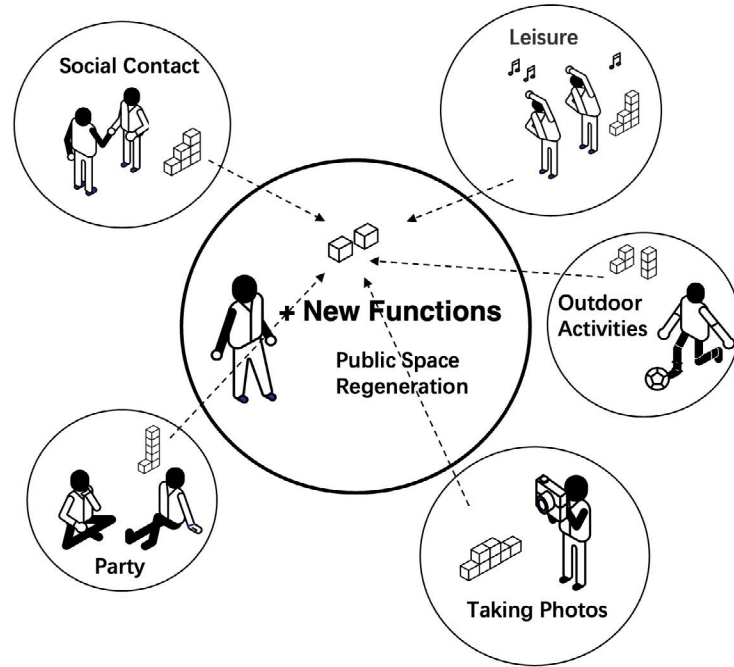


Fig.10 (Source: Designed by Author)

From the aspect of practicability, urban construction needs to develop new functions of the urban space. From the perspective of the culture attributes, it also requires the improvement of the urban space function to be the focus of future urban construction. Excavating local culture, combining cultural elements with the functions of public facilities can help creating a unique signature of the urban space during the landscape architecture design. Such designed urban space provides the society comfort and sense of belonging instead of simply duplicates the design with standardized functions.

To conduct the public space regeneration, by adding new functions, the goal of reactivating old public spaces can be well achieved. Renewing the functions can stimulate the vitality of urban space and accelerate the regeneration of the city.

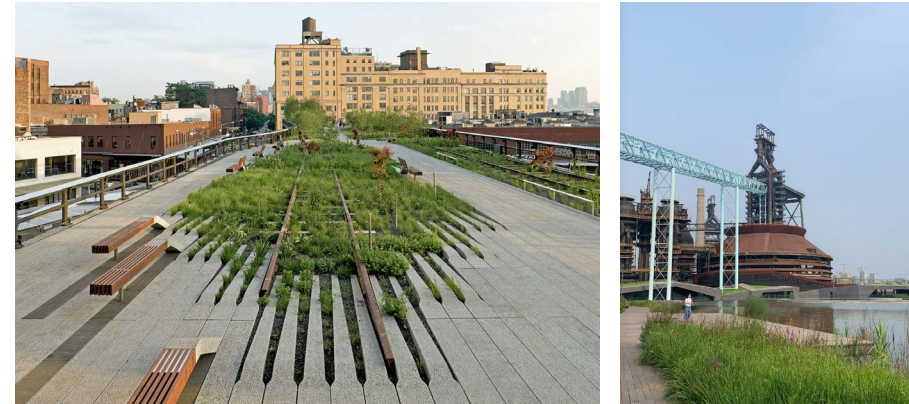


Fig.11. The High line _ Chapter 3 (Sorcer: google)

Fig.12 Shougang Park, Beijing_Chapter 3 (Sorcer: Photo by author)

Fig.13 The Tate Museum _ Chapter 3 (Sorcer: google)

THESIS 4

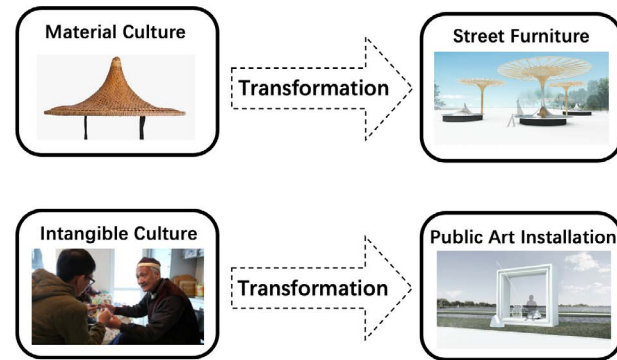


Fig.14 (Source: Designed by Author)

Visual transformation of cultural elements is one of the most important design methods of public space design. under the context of urban regeneration. The application and the amount of material cultural elements on landscape architecture design can help improve the public sensing the cultural meaning behind it. Historical sites remaining in the city are the witnesses to urban evolution. They are valuable historical and cultural resources, which should be valued, protected, and developed in the process of urban regeneration, therefore to complete the picture of mankind urban history. From the culture-oriented angle, material cultural components can be used directly for design and development in some cases or can be deconstructed and recreated, and local natural resources can be used as construction materials.

To fully present the intangible culture in urban regeneration, cultural elements can be recreated through artistic creation so that the public can better experience intangible culture. In analogy with the way narrative painting works as the visual presentation of ancient legends, the portrayal of urban culture story in landscape design is the recreation of culture in spatial tridimensional form. This concept of cultural design provides ornamental value, at the same time, it integrates new functions into recreation which leads to a unity of the function and culture in urban space.



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Fig.15-18. The process of making steel_Chapter 5 (Sorcoe: www. baidu.com)

Fig.19-20.The “electric furnace low blowing” space_Chapter 5 (Source: The project team drew)

THESIS 5

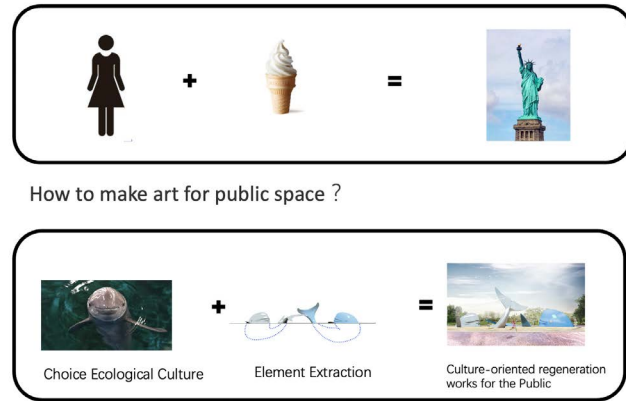


Fig.21 (Source: Designed by Author)

Art plays an extremely important role in inheriting the urban culture while conducting the culture-oriented urban regeneration. The artistic design form will penetrate and break the cold functionalism design, therefore makes design more humanized and localized. A city is more than just a "material area" for human habitation, it shall also be an "art space" for people to enjoy living. Artistic landscape architecture design incorporates culture into people's daily lives, which is a trend in the evolution of architectural landscape design. Culture can drive a city's regeneration, and artistic urban space is an ideal cultural carrier. The ideal goal of urban regeneration shall be for culture to become more visible in public life. Art can help improve the living experience of the society by embellishing the surrounding environment. The cultural and artistic enhancement of urban architecture landscape design will become a common method to use in urban design. Positive opinions and recognitions will be built while the residents realize the enjoyment of artistic urban public space which eventually will form an urban culture consensus.



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Fig. 22 Landscape Architecture Design for Jingdezhen _Chapter 5, (Source: Designed by Author)

Fig.23 Landscape Architecture Design for Wuhan River Beach Park _Chapter 5, (Source: Designed by Author)

