

Is my practice contemporary?

The direction of my doctoral practice and research is about spatial optimisation and landscape design of urban waterfront spaces, I have also been mainly engaged in practice and research in this area before. Is my practice contemporary?

The urban Waterfront Space refers to the urban land edges adjacent to the waters of the sea, lakes, rivers and streams (Hoyle, 2002, PP.141-162; Xi et al., 2021, PP.224-229). It consists of three parts: the water area, the water-land line and the land area. The scope generally includes 200-300 meters of water space and adjacent land space. Depending on the type of water body adjacent to the waterfront, the waterfront space can be categorized into coastal, lakefront and riverfront types (Li & Wang, 2023, pp. 111-117). In my doctoral research, urban waterfront space specifically refers to the riverside type.

From ancient times to the present, urban waterfront space has served as an important carrier for urban development, and the evolution and development of urban civilisation is closely related to the water system. Many ancient and renowned cities around the world, such as Paris with the Seine River and London with the Thames River, have experienced rise and fall alongside prominent rivers. With the advent of the post-industrial era, the functions of waterfront spaces in many cities have undergone significant transformations, shifting from primarily serving as transportation ports to becoming recreational and leisure spaces (Shi et al., 2021, pp. 31-38). However, urban waterfront spaces, as integral components of urban public spaces, continue to be one of the most vibrant areas where human activities interact with the natural environment. They also play a crucial role in shaping the distinctive characteristics of urban spaces and facilitating public health and leisure experiences.

Urban waterfront space, based on its unique economic and social value (Avni & Teschner, 2019, PP. 408-420), its renewed design and landscape optimization has become a trend in many cities (Dyson & Yocom, 2015, PP. 189-208). Firstly, urban waterfront spaces have a positive impact on various aspects of the city, including its economy, society, ecology, culture, and entertainment (Hagerman, 2007). It is an important window to reflect a city's image and characteristics (Ding et al., 2023), show regional culture, and improve the attractiveness of the city (Feldman, 2000; Che et al., 2012). Secondly, waterfront space can provide opportunities for many urban renewal projects, and it can also promote the city's humanistic history, enhance the quality of urban life and raise the city's visibility. Therefore, Landscape renewal design of urban waterfront spaces can provide new opportunities for sustainable urban development.

With the rapid development of urbanization, Many waterfront spaces in China are losing their traditional 'city-water interdependence' spatial forms, social interactions, and regional cultural spirits (Wang & Ding, 2015, pp. 111-116). Many vibrant traditional waterfront spaces in cities have been surrounded by industrial areas and residential neighborhoods, becoming gray areas and negative spaces (Shi et al.,

2021).

Therefore, landscape renewal and cultural rejuvenation of urban waterfront space is the mission of landscape designers, which is of contemporary significance and social value.

One of my previous practice projects, the landscape design and spatial optimisation of the Huaiyuan lake waterfront space in Xiamen, China ,is shown below:



Figure 1. Bird's-eye View



Figure 2. Layout Plan



Figure3. Effect Picture

Introductory bibliography:

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