Research on the Application of Guangxi Bronze Drum Ornaments in Modern Design

Jianfeng Zhang, Jianhua Wang
College of Arts, Guilin University of Technology, Guilin 541006, China

Abstract: Research the application path form of Guangxi bronze drum decoration in modern design. Taking Guangxi ethnic minority culture as the source, exploring the connotative culture and expression of copper drum decorations through relevant materials, summarizing related design application methods, and focusing on urban landscape design, jewelry design, logo design, and urban furniture design in the field of modern design. In other aspects, typical design cases are used to demonstrate design ideas in line with the development of the times, and to explore the future development direction of Guangxi bronze drum decoration. Guangxi bronze drums are diverse in shape, rich in patterns and unique. They are the crystallization of the wisdom of the ancestors of ethnic minorities. Incorporating them into modern design can further show the characteristics and beauty of Guangxi bronze drum patterns, and at the same time, it can better inherit and carry forward the ethnic culture of China. Art shows the rich heritage and unique charm of our culture to the world.

Keywords: Guangxi; Copper drum decoration; Modern design; Application path

1 Introduction

There are many ethnic groups in Guangxi, and their unique ethnic culture is colorful and rich in content. All ethnic groups have created rich cultural heritage and wealth in this rich and beautiful land. The bronze drum is one of the most mysterious cultural treasures. It combines the casting skills and aesthetics of the ancient ethnic minority ancestors, and embodies the wisdom and hard work of the ancestors of the ethnic minorities in my country. The Zhuang, Yao, Miao, Shui and other ethnic minorities in the land of Bagui still retain the traditional customs of beating bronze drums, singing bronze drum songs, and dancing bronze drums during festivals, weddings and funerals. Bronze drums continue to participate in people’s lives in their ancient ways. Daily life affects people's behavior and concepts, and even becomes an important cultural symbol in these areas (Li, 2020; Haung, 2017).

2 Brief Introduction of Guangxi Bronze Drum Decoration

Guangxi bronze drum decorations are diverse in variety and complex in content, and their functions have gradually developed in the long historical evolution process. They are mainly practical
utensils, musical instruments, war drums, ritual implements and powerful instruments. It is a folk
cultural treasure of ethnic minorities in Southwest my country. After long-term combing and in-depth
research on bronze drums by Chinese and foreign academic circles, the bronze drum decorations in
Guangxi are mainly divided into geometric decorations, animal decorations, plant decorations, and
character decorations. The overall characteristics of the decorations are high abstraction, patterned
features, and decorative effects. Vivid, strong visual impact (Jiang, 1985). The bronze drum is a
metaphor for the view of the universe of the ancestors of the Zhuang nationality. The bronze drum
is divided into a drum face, a drum body, and a drum foot, corresponding to the sky, earth and
underground of the universe. According to the position of the ornamentation, it can be divided
into drum face ornamentation and drum body ornamentation (Figure 1). The pattern reflects the
ancestors’ fear and worship of nature and the records of people’s life scenes. The drum surface is
generally engraved with sun patterns, cloud and thunder patterns, heron patterns, cirrus patterns, and
reciprocating patterns composed of light bodies and rays round nail patterns, etc.; on the edge of the
drum surface, or three-dimensional statues of ethnic totems such as frogs, cows, and egrets; the drums
are mostly narrative patterns of characters, such as the more common records of the ancestors rowing
boats and ferrying (feather people rowing pattern), singing and dancing sacrificial ceremonies (feather
people dancing pattern); most of the bulging feet are reciprocal patterns and inverted mountain
patterns (Yang, 2014). The patterns are various in form, and their modeling features have different
characteristics, and the expressions are rich. See details Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pattern type</th>
<th>Ornamental name</th>
<th>Decorative characteristics</th>
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| Geometric pattern| Moire pattern, money pattern, mat pattern, circle pattern, zigzag pattern, fixed victory pattern, eye pattern | 1. High degree of abstraction  
2. Has patterned features  
3. Vivid decorative effect  
4. Strong visual impact |
| Plant decoration | Four-petal pattern, leaf vein pattern, circle center hanging leaf pattern, folded rose pattern |                                                                                           |
| Animal pattern   | Deer pattern, zodiac pattern, fish pattern, galloping horse pattern, flying heron pattern |                                                                                           |
| Character decoration | Deformed feather human pattern, lotus hoe old farm pattern, feather human dance pattern, feather human rowing pattern |                                                                                           |
3 Application Techniques of Guangxi Bronze Drum Decoration in Modern Design

In the field of modern design, the corresponding design techniques are mainly processed according to the difference of the target carrier, the selected visual elements are refined, and the abstract meaning and image artistry are retained into the carrier, and the design works are finally presented. There are many types of bronze drum decorations in Guangxi, which contain a wealth of ethnic minority artistic symbols. Integrating them with modern design forms and concepts can fully stimulate the contemporary role of Guangxi bronze drum decorations, which is in line with cultural heritage and innovative ideas. In traditional cultural symbols, through the integration of cultural elements to mobilize cultural concrete representations and image representations, and then combined with modern art design, it can further exert the artistic form of traditional cultural symbols and unique connotation culture, and become a kind of contemporary culture. Design works (Meghan, 2017; Zhao, 2019).

3.1 Extraction Form

The patterns of Guangxi bronze drums are complex, with various types, rich in Guangxi ethnic minority culture, and unique historical and cultural connotations. In the modern design process, a single or multiple elements are often used, while retaining the original meaning, and undergoing design techniques such as refinement, reorganization, and heterogeneity to simplify the elements to form brand-new characteristic symbol elements that conform to modern aesthetics.

3.2 Incorporate Color

The Guangxi bronze drum decoration is placed on the bronze drum, showing a bronze color. In the process of modern design, the elements of related themes are often given corresponding colors to make its own characteristics more obvious and richer in visual language.

3.3 Incorporate Meaning

The decorative patterns of Guangxi bronze drums are based on the culture of ethnic minorities
and often use imitation, pictograms, and symbolic techniques to express the corresponding cultural attributes. In the process of modern design, metaphors and other similar design techniques are often used to express, infusing cultural and other related information into visual symbol elements.

4 The Application Path of Guangxi Bronze Drum Ornaments in Modern Design

The bronze drum is an important visual cultural symbol in Guangxi ethnic minority culture, and it is a gift from the ancestors of ethnic minorities to future generations. Guangxi bronze drum decoration is an indispensable and important part of my country's traditional culture. It has accumulated profound design resources for many modern design fields in my country, and has also given my country a huge potential for the development of related cultural industries.

4.1 Guangxi Bronze Drum Decoration in Modern Urban Landscape Design

With the development of the city, the city's landscape has become a symbol of the city's economy and culture, reflecting the values, aesthetics and tastes of modern people (Han & Im, 2009). Some modern urban landscape design is only for "landscape" and "landscape", which makes the blind construction of urban landscape lose its characteristics and the essence of urban landscape. Instead, it should take the historical development and cultural customs of the local area into consideration. Let the urban landscape play a real role, such as the floor paving of Nanning Jinhu Square, which uses a variety of Guangxi bronze drum decorations to fit the regional characteristics, as shown in Figure 2.

![Figure 2 Xianglu pattern floor paving of Nanning Jinhu Square](image)

4.1.1 Environmental Coordination

In the modern urban landscape design, harmony and nature are required, so that the environment and the landscape want to be in harmony, and the overall style of the design is grasped, rather than a single-part design. Reasonable arrangement and combination of appropriate characteristic elements in Guangxi bronze drum decorations form a new-style plane texture, which is applied to the details of modern urban landscape design, and the overall style tends to be consistent, ensuring a harmonious
and beautiful environment.

4.1.2 Cultural Dependence

In addition to strengthening the coordination with the environment, urban landscape design should also pay attention to the preservation of the cultural characteristics of the urban landscape. Nowadays, more and more urban landscapes tend to be homogeneous, without regionality and characteristic. Reasonable use of Guangxi bronze drum decorations, highly condensed its charm, makes the landscape more suitable for the cultural environment in which it is located, and allows people in Guangxi to understand the culture while enjoying the beauty of it.

4.2 Guangxi Copper Drum Ornaments in Modern Jewelry Design

In the jewelry design process, there are design contents such as modern life, traditional culture and imagination creation based on reality. Modern jewelry design is slowly moving from fashion luxury to cultural integration. Culture has become one of the key factors to promote the development of modern jewelry design, and my country's long history and culture has provided it with a lot of design inspiration and materials (Wu, 2017). China’s long history of Guangxi bronze drums has a wide range of themes, varieties, and connotations. Combined with modern jewelry design, it can burst out different brilliance. For example, Li Zhanjingxuan designed the "Sun Pattern" in Guangxi bronze drum decorations as the theme. "Dream" pendant, see Figure 3 for details.

4.2.1 Shape Evolution

In modern jewelry design, the design often focuses on shape and form. By combining the patterns on the bronze drums in Guangxi with modern aesthetic concepts, and rationally using modern expression techniques, the patterns and shapes are reconstituted to meet the needs of modern design and reach a point of harmony between tradition and modernity (Xiu, 2017).
4.2.2 Spiritual Inheritance

Chinese ancient artists did not seek similarity in form, but only in spirit. "God" can not only be placed in the body, but also can penetrate the truth into signs and phenomena. This kind of "god" exists in all things in the world, and is an extension of "shape", making "shape" more aura (Wu, 2017). Therefore, in the reshaping of the elements of Guangxi bronze drums, it is not only the use of the surface, but also the extension of its "shape" and its "meaning", and the cultural essence of Guangxi bronze drum decorations is integrated into modern jewelry design.

4.3 Guangxi Bronze Drum Decoration in Modern Logo Design

The logo design mainly uses the optimized combination of points, lines, planes and bodies, or the deformation of various fonts and letters, to present a change in form and convey relevant information. In modern logo design, its inherent symbolism plays an important role in human life, and the symbolic representation is often cultural elements or other characteristic elements. Incorporating Guangxi bronze drum decorations through corresponding design methods can change the original rigid regional logo and create more sense of identity. For example, the logo design of the "Iron Bird" brand sauce in Nanning, Guangxi, whose design elements are derived from Guangxi bronze drums The "xiang heron pattern" in the ornamentation is shown in Figure 4.

![Figure 4 Logo design of "Iron Bird" brand sauce in Nanning, Guangxi](image)

4.3.1 Symbolic Design of Element "Shape"

Guangxi bronze drum decoration is a simple and natural method used by the ancestors of ethnic minorities to express their awe and worship of nature. Its decoration forms are simple, abstract, and emphasize decorative. In the logo design, the decoration should be appropriately weakened, and the characteristic line shapes of the selected patterns should be extracted, condensed, and form innovations to conform to the modern aesthetics. On the one hand, the decoration is reduced, and on the other hand, the characteristic is retained, thereby enhancing the symbolic characteristics of the logo design.
4.3.2 Visual Design of Element "Color"

In the logo design process, the color selection needs to follow the style of the theme, combined with the related methods of visual impact, and integrate the original simple Guangxi bronze drum decoration into modern colors to make it alive. In the processing of visual color techniques, it is not enhanced by noisy colors or quiet colors. Appropriate color selection will make the logo more vivid.

4.3.3 Intrinsic Design of Element "Meaning"

In addition to the grasp of "shape" and "color", logo design must pay more attention to the treatment of its inner meaning. The decorative content of the Guangxi bronze drum embodies the emotions, thoughts and culture of the ancestors of ethnic minorities. In the design process, it is necessary to repeatedly try to figure out the charm, so that the final output logo meets its inherent requirements.

4.4 Guangxi Bronze Drum Decoration in Modern Urban Furniture Design

In the design of urban furniture, it is designed not only as the material and spiritual load of outdoor furniture, but also as a system of interdependence, mutual influence and interaction (Alpak, Düzenli & Mumcu, 2019). In the process of modern urban furniture design, in addition to the principles of ecological design and ergonomics, it also pays attention to the cultural characteristics contained therein. The embedding of cultural elements can give people a sense of joy and intimacy, such as Guangxi National Museum The design elements of the street lamp in front of the gate are mainly derived from the "sun pattern" and other geometric patterns in the Guangxi bronze drum decoration. The bottom piers extract the overall line characteristics of the bronze drum, as shown in Figure 5.

![Figure 5 Street lights in front of the gate of Guangxi National Museum](image)

4.4.1 The Rationality and Beauty of Morphological Structure

Urban furniture has its standard scale, proportion, volume and other constraints, so it must satisfy the usability of its functions in form and structure. At the same time, in modern design, the relevant
techniques of formal aesthetics are often used to design, and the Guangxi bronze drum pattern is used for innovative design expressions and integrated into the carrier, so that people can feel the beauty visually and enjoy the beauty when resting.

4.4.2 Connotation and Performance

The design of street furniture should highlight the regional cultural characteristics and environmental characteristics of the city, and express the original character of the city (Alpak, Düzenli & Mumcu, 2019). In modern urban furniture design, more should be extracted from local cultural elements with a higher sense of identity to derive their image representations, such as the "sun pattern" used in the street lights in front of the Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, to make the theme echo the carrier. Bronze drum culture is deeply rooted in the hearts of Guangxi people, so its decorative features as the source of urban furniture design can arouse the cultural identity of Guangxi people and fit the regional characteristics of the urban culture.

4.4.3 Environmental Protection and Sustainability of Materials

The selection of urban furniture is diverse, and a piece of urban furniture is often made of a combination of materials with different properties. In the design of modern urban furniture, the requirements for materials are becoming more and more stringent. "Environmental protection", "green" and "sustainability" have become the main tone and premise of material selection. Therefore, considering the use environment of urban furniture, environmentally friendly materials with corrosion resistance, resistance to deformation, acid and alkali resistance, easy recycling, high strength and high hardness are often the first choice.

5 Conclusion

In many areas of modern design, Guangxi bronze drum decoration has slowly found its own development path, and at the same time, it has provided valuable material and cultural wealth for modern design. Integrating the bronze drum culture of China's Guangxi ethnic minorities with modern design, innovative design ideas are not only conducive to the inheritance and development of this culture, but also through the circulation of such cultural design products, let more people at home and abroad understand Guangxi. The bronze drum culture of ethnic minorities, let it radiate magnificent cultural light on the international stage.

References


