

PhD Research | School of Design | The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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Heritage Protection,
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PhD Title:
Placemaking and Revival in Heritage Conservation Areas Located in the Centre of the City in China.

Keywords:
Placemaking, Heritage Protection, Urban Development, Chinese Cities.

Research Abstract:
In recent decades, to maximise economic benefits and meet the needs of urban development, most existing heritage conservation areas and their neighbourhoods located in the centre of Chinese cities have been subjected to overly frequent commercial activities or massive urban regeneration projects, destroying their heritage values and urban context to some extent. This study uses theories and approaches of placemaking to explore specific methods and strategies of heritage protection in heritage conservation areas, which not only conserve features and heritage values of these areas to realise their revitalization and create more economic benefits, but also retain urban context and authentic collective memory and meet the needs of socio-economic development together with the neighbourhoods. Consequently, the study is to set up the dynamic, feasible and comprehensive framework to alleviate the conflicts between heritage protection and urban development in China.

Research Methodology:
Based on the heritage conservation area as the material carrier of the urban context and history, this study adopts ethnography to explore socio-economic activities and the daily life of the residents in these areas, aimed at understanding the authentic collective memory and the specific place identity of heritage conservation areas. Moreover, the mixed methods are applied to specific case studies to collect data through random questionnaires, observation and interviews, ultimately to analyse cognitive differences about the heritage conservation area among stakeholders.

Results / outcomes:
1. To understand the cultural identity and the authentic collective memory of the heritage conservation area located in the centre of Chinese cities for the inheritance of urban context and history.
2. To explore urban design methods for the win-win situation between heritage protection and urban development aiming at comprehensively protecting heritage values and creating more economic benefits.
3. To propose the dynamic and multidisciplinary framework of heritage protection for realising long-time and effective heritage management.

Key Publications:
ZHANG, S., & LU, Z. (2013). Application of ArcGIS about Place-making in the Taiping Historical Block. *Journal of Huazhong Architecture*, 31(8), 43-46.

ZHANG, S. (2012), Application of ArcGIS geodatabase to the protection of historical features in the historical block. *Journal of Shanxi Architecture*, 38(31), 7-9.

ZHANG, S. (2012), Analysis on the construction technology of Vertical Greening of residential buildings. *Journal of Anhui Architecture*, 19(5), 17-18.