

The Architectural Features of Uygur Dwellings in the Period of the Republic of China

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Abstract:

In the long history of Uygur formation and development, Uygur people created their own ancient architecture culture and modern architectural civilization. The Uygur traditional residence is closely related to the various elements of the Uygur nationality, such as the social structure, religious belief, life style and the local natural environment. It is a concentrated embodiment of the material living standard and spiritual life of a nation. The paper tries to demonstrate and analyze the structure, classification and characteristics of Uygur dwellings during the republic of China. Thus, it has a profound understanding of Uygur dwellings, and reveals that the Uygur people have made an important contribution to the development of the Chinese nation's history and culture for the creation of multi ethnic unity China.

Keywords:

Religion, Uygur Nationality, Folk Houses, Characteristics, Architecture

1. Introduction

In a broad sense, folk houses refer to the habitat and hiding place of human beings when they are alive, they are a form of architecture [1]. At the same time, from a historical point of view, these buildings are not only used to create a nation, but also an important and effective way to mark the existence of a nation [2]. So it can be seen that the residence is a symbol of the dominant national culture, each nation has its own unique living culture, and the residence of each nation is a picture that can show the general picture of its own national culture.

Uighur has different translations in Chinese literature in different historical periods. In the book of Weishu Gaoche in fourth century ad, Yuanhe was the first Chinese translation ever seen by Uygur. Later, Uygur had all kinds of names, such as Weihe, Huihe, Weiwuer and Huibu. In the twenty-third year of the republic of China (1934), 29 November, the name of the Uygur was nominated by the Bao Erhan. On the

committee of the provincial government, the committee voted to pass the appellation of the Uygur nationality, and released in December 15th of the same year [3]. The Uygur word contains the meaning of union and assistance. The Uygur nationality is a nation with a long history and splendid culture. On the origin of Uygur, that is, the problem of ethnic origin, Chinese historiography generally believes that the main origin of the Uygur ethnic group is two, one is the Huihe contained in Chinese historical records, the other is that the Hui he moved westward to the indigenous peoples (or agricultural peoples) living around the Tarim basin in 840 ad. Today's Uygur are the two main sources. Specifically, the Uygur mainly comes from the region of the Selenga River and the Orkhon River in the Mongolian steppe. The hometown of the Uygur is in Mongolia, and the other is Xinjiang. Today, the Uygur mainly live in fertile fields around the Tarim basin in the south of Tianshan, and some oases in the northern Zhungeer basin of the Tianshan Mountains. In addition, there are also a small number of Uygur populations in Taoyuan county of Hunan province and Mianchi county of Henan province. In the 38 years between the Republics of China, the daily life of the Uygur people was basically spent in peace. In spite of the turmoil of the 1933 ma zhongying and the inflationary twists and turns of the last two years in the republic of China, the self-sufficient natural economy and the style of life for men and women were still the continuation of the secular life of the Uygur residents. Most of the Uygur residential buildings still follow the style of the Qing dynasty. Meanwhile, the uygur residents' buildings have absorbed the foreign culture to develop and innovate, and have the ethnic characteristics and style of the Uygur nationality.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. The Basic Structure of the Uygur Dwellings in the Period of the Republic of China

Influenced by many factors, such as region, climate and culture, Xinjiang, Uygur residences show different characteristics. At the end of the nineteenth century, western industrial capitalism developed rapidly, Xinjiang and central Asia region were seen as the edge of the civilized world by westerners. For energy and market, they are eager to expand to this marginal area, and the visiting team has become a prelude to western colonial expansion. The western expedition visited the place, robbed a large number of cultural relics, and noted the local customs. Therefore, the Uygur residence in the republic of China was regularly recorded by members of various national expedition teams: the housing of the wealthy families is built with brick or adobe, and the roof is made of edge wood, the roof is covered with grass, the roof is slightly skew, basically flat top. Because there is little rain or snow in the area, there is no need to worry about snow capping or leaking. From the outside, there are two or three square small windows. If the window frames and the surrounding walls are smeared with mud, it will become different from the soil color. The appearance of the building is not obvious. In the interior walls painted with white clay, a number of square or projectile shaped tables are excavated. A variety of goods are placed on it. Some things are hung on walls, such as paintings, plaque and hanging shafts. The courtyard is skillfully combined with small round wood, which are painted with multicolored patterns. There are tables, chairs, glass windows and all kinds of carved decorative floors with gorgeous carpets in the house, it is exquisite and beautiful. The common people's houses are surrounded by thick two or three feet of earth walls, and

the roof beams are made of poplar wood or Chinese parasol tree. The top is covered with reeds and sorghum stalks, and then coated with grass and mud. Indoors, the common people usually lay blankets on the ground, placed rough wooden beds and tables, and displayed several pottery or wooden objects. The walls of the room are also coated with grass and mud as well as the external walls. The square holes are dug out to make a table without any decoration; Uighur houses are cleaner than other races. There are also yards around the house, planting willow, fruit trees, etc [4]. During the same period, the Uighur houses also impressed the government officials at that time: According to the official, Uighur houses with flat roofs are built on earth, people can walk on them, and can accumulate things. The door of the house is more north, the roof is opened one day window to pass the air, the inside of the house is Kang, the kang is more than one foot high, the middle of the kang is solid, the man can rest on the Kang, the hole wall is a stove used for warm in winter [5]. Through the fragmentary records of these original data, we can easily depict the original style of Xinjiang Uygur residence in the republic of China. Generally speaking, the Uygur residences in the republic of China do not gather in the city like Qing dynasty. The Uigur residence is relatively concentrated, and dozens of households or even hundreds of households gather into villages. The general survey of Xinjiang once described one of the Uygur city of Kashi: Kashi city, one of the Uighur settlements, has a large scale and magnificent weather. The market in the city is vertically and horizontally, the buildings are lined up, and the market is just like Urumqi south. People living outside the city must also live near the city, there are many dogs in each family [6]. In particular, the Uygur residence is composed of two parts of the courtyard and the living room. The housing is usually a square or rectangular flat with a civil structure, which is more sitting in the north and south to make use of the winter lighting. The bedroom consists of a living room, a dining room and an inner room. In front of the living room, there is a broad front porch with grape stands on the porch for summer. There are furnaces in the room, and the stove is made of adobe and placed along the wall for cooking and heating. The four walls have niches of different sizes, for displaying containers, bedding and other objects.

Kashi is the largest city in the southern part of Xinjiang. Because of its densely populated land, the city's houses have developed into a small courtyard of one to three floors, with the exception of buildings, small courtyards, street buildings, and so on. This is the residential features of the city, and the verandah style houses are particularly common here. The porch style is that the house has a wide and large outer corridor of about 2 m. The shape is like a corridor, but it is not only the function of the corridor. It is common in the corridor building with kang and Taizi, which is used as a place for family to rest, eat, and entertain. The top edge of the veranda is decorated with wooden structures such as column type, stigma, cornice, etc. Large houses are often surrounded by corridors. The corridors, staircases and railings around the courtyard can be flexibly matched with the height of the house. The outline of the veranda is slightly carved, and it forms a concise and beautiful combination with the curved joists, eaves and roof railings of the veranda pillars. Brick staircases are decorated with brick patterns, wooden railings are small and varied, and cornice brick masonry is decorated, all of which have luxurious decoration. The ceiling or wall of the gallery is decorated with plaster flowers with soft colors. The tops of all courtyards are covered with tall wooden frames covered with vines or movable reeds. A potted landscape still can be arranged on the reed shed.

Some trees and flower bonsauses are planted in the courtyard. Carpets and tea sets are provided in the gallery to make the courtyard a delicate and comfortable rest environment, the use of flat roofs as a rooftop yard is a powerful way to expand outdoor space. The greening of the courtyard canopy has just played the role of the central flower bed of the roof courtyard. In Kashi, most of the houses are outside, rooms and dining rooms. These are made up of one or more complete flat units. The outer part of the plane element is not only the hub of transportation, but also the center of plane combination. Each unit has different housing depths, and there are more small rooms in each unit. The layout of the exterior walls, the layout of the guest rooms and dining rooms are all very particular.

The soil kang of the three sides depend on the wall is bigger. The kang is solid and not burning, about one foot high. The big kang is covered with blanket and people sit and lie on it. Inside and outside the yard, there are more ditches. The fruit is luxuriant. Planting fruit trees and flowers beside the house make the yard clean and beautiful, like a small garden. Due to climate differences between the north and the south, there are great differences in the specific layout of housing in different regions.

In northern Xinjiang, the climate is colder, and there are more rain and snow. The soil on the walls and on the roof is thicker. In southern Xinjiang, the climate is mild and the rain is scarce. The roof needs a small amount of wood, and the walls are mostly made of adobe. The roofs are flat and open skylights, which can be used for drying things, stacking grain, fruits and other sundries. In the summer, the Uyghur must lead the family to the wild life every year. They drive their own carts, carry Mongolia bags and dogs, come to place of their sheep and live in a wild life [7]. When the autumn weather gets cool, they come back again. Dogs and horses are healthy, and their hair is mirror gloss. Children are rich in bronze and muscle. Some of them retain the nomadic lifestyle of Uyghur ancestors, which constitute a unique and highly Uighur lifestyle. Figure 1 show a residence in Yili, Xinjiang. Figure 2 show a residence in Turpan, Xinjiang. Figure 3 show a residence in Kashi, Xinjiang. Figure 4 show an indoor map of Uyghur residence in all parts of Xinjiang.



Figure 1. A residence in Yili, Xinjiang.

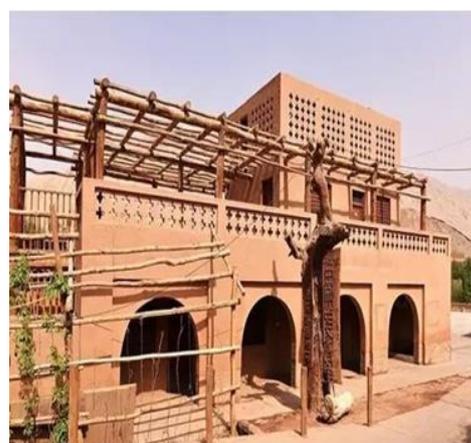


Figure 2. A residence in Turpan, Xinjiang.

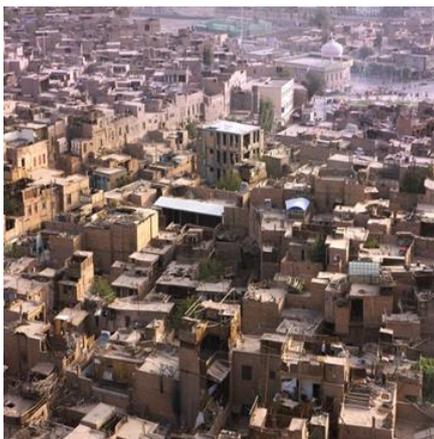


Figure 3. A residence in Kashi, Xinjiang.



Figure 4. An indoor map of Uyghur residence in all parts of Xinjiang.

2.2. The Classification of Uyghur Dwellings in the Period of the Republic of China

The Uyghur residence in the republic of China can be divided into the following types: (1) Ahyi wang style house. Ahyi Wang is a bright place for Uighur language. This form of architecture is very famous in the Uyghur. It has a local national character and is known for its popular history at least in 2000. This form is the most representative of the southern Xinjiang Yutian. It is a building between open outdoor courtyard activities and enclosed indoor activities. (2) Veranda style house. The veranda style architecture is mainly represented by residents in Kashi and Hotan. The biggest feature of this kind of residence is that the houses have broad corridors, just like corridors, but they are not limited to corridor functions. It is commonly seen in the gallery, which is used for shelter, dining and entertainment. The top edge of the veranda is decorated with wooden structures such as columns, stigma, cornice, etc. Large houses are often surrounded by corridors. (3) Cave dwelling house. Cave dwelling houses are the most typical in Turpan. The general structure is to dig a whole more than 1 meter deep on the ground, surrounded by reeds. It is covered with other reeds in a shed of half a meter to two meters, and then covered with reeds [8]. Its characteristic lies in the ingenious use of terrain and the two layers of combined buildings on the ground and underground. The walls are very heavy and often arched, the cost of the room is low, but it is warm in winter and cool in summer. (4) Comprehensive house. For example, there is a paragraph describing a specific building in travel notes: his residence is a palace in this area, where we live in the front porch main room; this is a large square space. The four walls of the space are built on a stone rammed clay platform about 2 and 5 meters wide. A fireplace is built on the wall of the door. The platform is equivalent to the full length of the wall, through the other three walls of the platform; it is pierced to other rooms. There is a large space in the middle of the hall, and the corridor is about a metre deep as the aisle. Then a platform is seen, which is a place for people to move. People eat, live and wait on this platform. The lower space is the place where the owner puts his shoes [9]. It is seen that these buildings are one of the Ahyi Wang style, the corridor and the floor style and the courtyard, which are often seen in the Uyghur residents in the southern Xinjiang.

2.3. The Characteristics of Uyghur Dwellings in the Period of the Republic of China

(1) The universal use of niches. In the rich Uygur family, there are niches in the four walls, and the niches are different in size. According to the traditional layout of the indoor building, the general rear wall has a large niche with a height of about 1, 2 meters and 1 meters wide. There are small niches on both sides of the great niche, about 60 centimeters high and about 30 centimeters wide. It looks like a window sill; the small niche is mostly arched. Furnishings and decorations can also be placed in the niche. There are few niches left on the walls of the Uygur poor families.

(2) The use of the fireplace. The use of fireplace was learned by Chinese businessmen from the soviet businessman in the early republic of China. According to historical records, the rich Uygur families use many foreign cookers, a furnace produced abroad can carry smoke to the outside, the room is not only warm but also without gas.

The tangle of the nation is part of the Uygur, the six-edge blast furnace is wrapped up by the tangle of the nation in the corner of the house, the smoke can be transmitted to the outside, and the method of use is the same as that of the furnace produced abroad. Building a fire hole in the ground for burning kang is more advantageous than the three northeastern provinces of China [10]. This kind of fireplace is used in the living room. It is made of brick on the side of a wall. There are no holes in this small fireplace, and there are three holes in the big fireplace. The wall of fire reaches the chimney at the top of the house. The wealthier Uygur people often use wooden carvings to suppress beautiful decorative patterns when the soil is still soft. For the ordinary people's kiln house, the indoor fire wall is set up, and the foreign made furnace is used.

(3) In addition, since the republic of China, the living conditions of the uygur have improved to some extent, and a living room has been built in the interior. At the same time, the Uyghurs changed their skylights to glass windows. The weather in north Xinjiang is relatively cold, and the doors and windows are generally closed. The windows are also double decked, so the room is as warm as spring indoors [11]. The interior gradually began to have tables, chairs, and so on. Even some royal noble families are sitting on luxurious couches [12]. Uyghurs hang tapestry on walls, doors and windows. They paint the doors and windows green or blue, the portraits of the corridor are painted like a small garden. To sum up, the characteristics, decoration and culture of Xinjiang's folk houses in different regions are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. *the characteristics, decoration and culture of Xinjiang's folk houses in different regions.*

Region	Climate	Residential Structure	Dwellings Decoration	Cultural Characteristics
Yili, west of Xinxiang	The climate is humid and rainy.	A typeface, a storage room and a kitchen	Brick decoration	Buzkashi
Turpan, east of Xinxiang	The climate is dry and seldom rains	Soil arch bungalows and civil buildings	Plaster decoration	The flower cap is red flower and green bottom
Kashi, south of Xinxiang	Dry and windy sand	Terrain homestead asymmetry	Woodcarving decoration	Roast beef with red willow

2.4. The Cultural Connotation of Uyghur Traditional Dwellings

Residential architecture is the root of the national traditional material culture and the stereoscopic display of the traditional cultural concept of the nation, which in turn is of great significance to the dissemination and maintenance of these ideas. Uygur traditional dwellings also embody their unique cultural characteristics.

2.4.1. Religion

The Uygur believes in Islam, and religious belief also reflects the housing construction, which is mainly reflected in the following three taboos: (1) The door of the house is forbidden to open westward because the holy land is in the west. This taboo is not very strict among the Uygurs in the northern Xinjiang. (2) When the Uygur sleep, they can't sleep with their heads to the east, and their feet cannot face west. The limbs cannot stretch straight, their heads face south, their feet point to the north, and their faces face the west. (3) In Uygur living rooms, people do not want to hang up portrait. They usually hang landscape paintings or landscapes of flowers and fruits, and animals are forbidden in the landscape because Islam forbids idolatry.

2.4.2. Economy

Morgan points out that the residential architecture itself is related to the family form and the family life style, which provides a fairly comprehensive portrayal of the human beings from the ignorant society into the civilized society [13].

The Uygur nationality is an oasis farming ethnic group, the natural and geographical environment of the Uygur people is very bad, the drought and desertification have been threatening the survival of the people. The Uygur has struggled with the arid desert in a long period of production and life, which is concentrated in the traditional residence. First of all, the Uygur courtyard is centered on the dwellings, it is usually planted with grapes, and a grapevine is built with a wooden bar. In the summer, the greenery and fruit are crowded before the door, there are many fruit, and the Uygur people gather under the green shade to talk in the cool. Fruit trees are planted behind the courtyard, and more than ten fruit trees are planted in the average family. Fruit varieties are diverse, and fruits from daily consumption and guests are taken from their own orchards, fruit is fresh and tasty. Secondly, the courtyard also has the animal circle, which is used to captive the donkey, the horse, the cattle and so on. In the Hetian area of the southern Xinjiang, the feed house is also covered on the roof of the residents. The sheep and cattle have become an important source of agricultural sideline income. The garden eaves are hanging utensils and pots, this is a good place for dove to live, there are chicken cages placed in the corner railing of the yard to raise poultry. In the end, a nang pit is built to make the daily main food of the Uygur people, Uygur residence and its auxiliary facilities form a life of self-sufficiency and self-satisfaction.

2.4.3. Practicality

In Uygur traditional houses, furniture is generally not furnished. There are no tables, chairs and stools. The main activity place in the family is kang. The kang is mostly made of earth blocks, just like the soil kang of the northwest nationality. The Uygur's kang is three sides against the wall, the kang is about a foot high, and the area is large. Most of them don't make fire, and the upper part of the kang has felt kang has many cultural functions in Uygur families: (1) the function of bedtime and dining, in the Uygur families, the population is generally large. In addition, in the past, both men and women and young people in the family were sleeping in the home, only using the

pillow to separate their respective positions. The kang was fully adapted to the needs of the Uygur family to get home and rest. At the same time, the kang is the place of dining. When the whole family is eating together, a cloth of the size of a tablecloth is laid on the kang, the whole family is surrounded by the cloth, or the small square table is placed in the middle, and the food is placed in the middle. (2) The function of entertainment and hospitality, the Uygur is a comparatively hospitable nation, but there is no living room in the people's residence. The kang naturally becomes a place of hospitality. After the guests came, they all sat around the kang, and some big kang could seat more than 40 people [6]. Therefore, no matter how many people chat on the kang, it is not crowded and is the best place for family entertainment. (3) The function of production, it may be the reason for economic life. Uygur women often spin on the kang and put carpet weaving machines on the kang so that women kneel on the kang to knit blankets [14,15]. Kang has become a unique cultural phenomenon in Uygur dwellings. Its existence leads to the emergence of a series of Uygur customs, such as kneeling custom, guest custom and so on, showing unique national characteristics. In different parts of architecture, plaster, coloured drawing, wood carving and tile are generally adopted [16,17]. Plant and geometric patterns are the main decorative patterns. The zonal pattern around the niches is used for the circular and polygonal patterns of the ceiling, as well as the sharp pointed arches on the walls. Patterns are drawn from peony, lotus, sunflower, chrysanthemum, plum blossom, rose and other flowers. In gypsum plaster, the combination of plant and geometric patterns is natural and uniform [18,19,20]. The decorative colors are mostly red, green and blue. Red is often used in woolen fabrics. Green is more common in glazed brick and face brick. Blue is more common in the color of the walls of houses. The overall decoration gives people a sense of economy, application and beauty, which reflects the Uygur people's simple, bold and unconstrained personality.

3. Conclusions

Several special elements, including adobe wall, kang, alcove, fireplace, veranda and the grape trellis were formed the basic living environment of the Uygur people in the republic of China. At the same time, it also fully reflects the general characteristics of Uygur residences during the republic of China. That's the external rough, and the interior is beautiful. The Uygur cleverly integrates foreign furniture and decorative materials into the national characteristics, making the national dwellings more economical, practical, comfortable and beautiful. In this rough mud world, what actually contain are the spirit of a nation and the cultural connotation of a nation. It can hide the culture and spirit in the small courtyard and the folk house without losing its voice and publicity. Everything is wrapped in it, which may be the unique feature of Uygur dwellings formed during the republic of China.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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