

## Curatorial Practice Study of Traditional House Building Components Exhibition in Longwan District, Wenzhou in China

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### **Abstract**

*This paper examines the traditional house building components through Wenzhou Longwan district traditional residential architectural components exhibition. We found that the exhibition of architectural components of residential buildings has its own characteristics, and the collection, cleaning and organization of the components require a lot of manpower and material resources. This exhibition is based on social hotspots, and the exhibition was curated with flexible use of exhibition halls and content arrangement, allowing the audience to enter into "immersive" nostalgic memories through the experience of being present. In the wave of urban construction and development, the preservation of traditional residential buildings and their components is to inherit the local architectural culture and show the local natural and humanistic spirit.*

**Keywords:** *Traditional Building, Wenzhou Longwan, Architectural Components, Exhibition, Curator*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Traditional folk houses and buildings reflect the traditional culture, art, and history of the region. The design and convenience facilities of the building improve the lives of residents and enhance their creativity [1]. In order to rescue and protect the local traditional cultural heritage and preserve the context of local historical buildings, the local government of Wenzhou Longwan in China has adopted the mode of "on-site protection, migration protection and component protection to rescue the traditional historical buildings.

Wenzhou Longwan experienced the tsunami during the Reign of Song and Qiandao, the relocation of the early Qing Dynasty was burned down, after the liberation of the four Olds movement, the orig 30 years, and there is less cultural heritage of traditional folk houses and buildings that reflect the characteristics of folk houses in Longwan, Wenzhou. From 2015 to 2018, Wenzhou Longwan began to transform urban villages into "big demolition and renovation, big construction and big Beauty".

The building itself can actually be the first artwork to be appreciated in the city center [2]. Traditional architecture in a region combines architecture, philosophy, science, design, and actual art to form a comprehensive art. In the process of art integration, the art of architecture harmonizes the necessary universal and professional things, nature and artificial things, groups and individuals, conceptual and visually expressive elements into one artistic integration [3].

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We visited some architectural components exhibition, found some problems. The first is the lack of creativity in the way of display. In the normal component exhibition, small components are numbered orderly and placed in the exhibition cabinet, and large components are placed on the floor of the exhibition hall. The second is the lack of "immersive" experiences. The audience cannot experience the charm of the residential architectural space by watching the fragmentary components, so that they cannot fully understand and experience the true meaning and value of components. At the same time, it is difficult to arouse the audience's interest in the exhibition. This "Wenzhou Longwan District Traditional Residential Architectural components Exhibition" draws on the experience and lessons of previous similar exhibitions, breaks the traditional and inherent display mode, and experimentally summarizes the new ideas for the exhibition of Architectural components.

## **2. EXHIBITION SPACE DESIGN**

### **2.1 Current Situation of Exhibition Hall**

The exhibition space is located in the temporary exhibition hall of Wenzhou Longwan Cultural Museum. The exhibition hall is a curved design, and the entrance and exit of the exhibition hall are respectively at both ends of the exhibition hall. Inside the exhibition hall, there are floor-to-ceiling glass display cases, movable display cases and curved display walls. The roof and floor of the exhibition hall are grey. The lighting of the exhibition hall is based on the display of graphic works. The background of the floor-to-ceiling glass display case in the exhibition hall is a linen display board, which is relatively suitable for displaying Chinese painting and calligraphy works. The depth of the display case is also designed for this purpose. The curved white display wall, due to the radian reason, it is difficult to display large plane works. The movable display case in the middle of the exhibition hall also obstructs the view of the audience. Compared with ordinary exhibition halls, it is difficult and challenging to arrange exhibitions in this arc exhibition hall [4-9].



**Figure 1. Scene of Exhibition Hall of Wenzhou Longwan District Museum**

### **2.2 Interior Design of Exhibition Hall**

After comprehensive consideration of the current situation of the exhibition hall, the curator made a reasonable layout and distribution according to the exhibition contents of the Architectural components exhibition, grasped the key points, listed local details and the characteristics of various exhibits, and made a

perfect design for the display mode of the exhibition. The exhibition is divided into four parts: 1. "View from the window" consists of wenzhou Longwan traditional hall scenes and door and window components, showing the traditional customs and etiquette order. 2. "Four rivers return to the Hall" is a drainage and guiding system composed of various tiles, gutter, rain drain and water guide tube, expressing the ancient people's ideas of conforming to nature and the unity of nature and man. 3. "Artisan Shenghui" is composed of gray plastic, brick carving and stone components with decorative patterns, which highlights the ultra-high craftsmanship and cultural connotation of traditional craftsmen. 4. "Hongtu Huagou" is composed of wooden structures such as quti, bucket, rising, ang, arch and warping, revealing the mystery of ancient wooden architecture. On the right side of the entrance, the curators reassembled a traditional longwan hall scene based on Architectural components. This design takes us into a real live space. Together with the lighting design and layout, it highlights the humanistic temperament and display focus of longwan traditional residential buildings. Small components display are made in the facade glass showcase, which is a conventional way of cultural relics display.



**Figure 2. Longwan Traditional Hall Scene**

The audience can see the small components clearly according to the list and order of the curator. Hollow-out block type display cabinet, with a very good permeability, at the same time as the derivative part of the facade display cabinet, to show the way to add atmosphere and interesting audience to watch. As the most commonly used special "Architectural components", wood and bone mud wall remnants are displayed. The curator uses the way of lighting at the bottom to make the remnants of mud walls solemn and sacred. Long strip wooden structural components are displayed on the curved wall, forming a subtle arc stretch. This is also consistent with the Sculpture modeling of the component itself. The integration design of the entrance lobby, the display way of cultural relics of the facade display cabinets, the entrance design of hollow display cabinets, the lighting design of the bottom of special objects, the curved wall combined with linear wooden components, the curators cleverly combined the characteristics of the components themselves in the limited display space to carry out the space display design.

### **2.3 Exterior Design of Exhibition Hall**

The clever design of the exterior of the exhibition hall is a means to attract the audience. Although in the design process of many exhibitions at home and abroad, the design of the exterior of the exhibition hall is weakened, because the exhibition designers believe that this will distract the audience. The curator of "Wenzhou Longwan District Traditional Residential Architectural components Exhibition" believes that this

exhibition is an integrated concept of "big traditional residential buildings". The designer of the exhibition makes the front facade effect of longwan traditional residential buildings at the head of the door, which makes the audience have an impulse to open the door. Compared with traditional exhibition designers, this is a big challenge of reverse thinking. In my opinion, this challenge was successful. This exhibition breaks through conventional thinking, fully considers the space defects of the site, and at the same time takes advantage of the external environment of the exhibition hall. Virtual and real, primary and secondary, plane and three-dimensional are combined to connect the psychological exhibition lines inside and outside the exhibition hall. At the same time, the electronic display screen in the entrance hall of the museum plays the bulletin in turn, and the large outdoor exhibition poster is carried out outside the museum, so as to carry out linear streaming publicity of the exhibition.



**Figure 3. Exhibition Hall Entrance Design**

### **3. EXHIBITION FORM DESIGN**

The preparation of exhibits before the exhibition can be divided into the following steps: component collection, component cleaning, component repair, component filming, component text comb. The construction of the exhibition collection from 2015 to 2018 throughout the whole "big demolition and consolidation, big construction and big beauty" Wenzhou Longwan District village reconstruction process. The main means of collection is to send specialists to survey the historical value of the components of residential buildings before demolition. At the same time, they compete for time with the demolition team during the demolition. It can be said that the collection of components this time is long and the difficulty is not small. The staff collected the Architectural components stored in longwan Museum, cleaning classification. At the same time, the incomplete components are repaired, mainly wooden components are repaired. On the basis of not destroying the original design, wood of the same age is used as far as possible to achieve the appreciation after repair; After the components are repaired and sorted out, the staff will take photos of the construction one by one and mark their names; Finally, the Architectural components of traditional residential houses in Longwan District are classified as a whole and sorted out in words to prepare for the smooth layout of the exhibition.

The exhibition copywriting plan is the initial part of the exhibition design and is generally written by the curator, including the exhibition name, exhibition location, host unit or institution, exhibition time, exhibition scope, exhibition scale, exhibition positioning, exhibition budget, division of personnel, publicity and promotion plan and related activity plan, etc. At the same time, the exhibition curator also needs to write the exhibition preface, explanation, exhibition description board, make the exhibition brochure, determine the exhibition implementation unit, sign the contract of exhibition design and construction unit, etc. The

copywriting features of this exhibition focus on the collection and sorting of exhibits. The collection of exhibits will last for 3 years from 2015 to 2018. After nearly a year of design preparation, the exhibition will run from September 27 to November 30, 2019. "Wenzhou Longwan District Traditional Residential Architectural components Exhibition" is a special exhibition with epochal significance based on the preservation achievements of historic buildings in the reconstruction of urban villages in Wenzhou Longwan District, from collection, sorting to exhibition design.

Route arrangement and exhibition level: 6 Windows, 3 walls, 7 cabinets in the middle as the exhibition booth, to the flat surface as the object booth, facade as the background exhibition booth. The tour route is from the outside to the inside of the building, From the entrance facade component, wall component, hall zhao ping men component, window door component, eaves component, corridor zhu tou ke, internal load-bearing structure, ground component, backbone of a house, eaves, wall space, ground evil ward component, ground component, three way component, internal component, the whole traditional folk houses, and the photo of the door. Plane hierarchy: show material object and Landscape flowers and plants. Elevation hierarchy: display graphics and texts. Each exhibition block is equipped with background pictures. The background pictures show the explanatory text of the exhibits, describing its concept, function, origin, development process, characteristics or symbolic significance. The location of the exhibits in the house is reflected by pictures and texts, so that the audience can make progress and clarify their functions.

#### **4. EXHIBITION EMOTION AND AUDIENCE EXPERIENCE**

The immersive exhibition refers to the introduction of 3D and VR technologies into the exhibition, so that the audience can achieve an immersive feeling at the exhibition site, which is also quite popular among young people. This exhibition partially restores the sense of the scene of the traditional residential architecture in Longwan, Wenzhou, allowing the audience to recall their nostalgic memories and to enter into an "immersive" viewing experience.

After thousands of years, the ancient residential building components, with their unique vicissitudes and thickness, link history and the present together. After passing through a partition door at the exhibition site, the remnants of a wall from the Xia and Shang dynasties come into the view of the audience. This wooden bone and mud wall fragment was excavated from the late Neolithic to the Xia and Shang periods at Longgang Mountain, Yaoxi Street, Longwan, Wenzhou. This exhibition is precious to Wenzhou Longwan. When the traditional residential buildings gradually fade out of people's sight, and when the "old house" becomes a luxury, this exhibition provides the "historical relics "The exhibition is designed to mobilize the audience's visual and intellectual abilities. The exhibition is designed to mobilize the audience's visual perception in all aspects, forming an "immersive" viewing experience, guiding the audience to focus on the content of the exhibition, so that the strong "nostalgic memory" always runs through the exhibition hall inside and outside.

From 2015 to 2018, Longwan District, Wenzhou City, "big demolition, big construction, big beauty" urban village transformation period, the exhibition is also a memorial and a reminder of this special period of Wenzhou Longwan. In 2015, Longwan District of Wenzhou City faced a large area of urban village demolition and renovation. Longwan Museum workers went from village to village to find, register and make a book. Grabbing time with the demolition team, there are many hui su, doorsteps and other exquisite components in the ancient villages of Longwan, Wenzhou, which are rare historical relics of Longwan. Robbing time with the people, some villages have many precious doorsteps and que ti, and the working group wanted to protect them before demolishing the whole thing, but was obstructed by the local villagers. Villagers do not understand, think that these building components are private property, want to sell at a high price. Wenzhou Longwan Museum workers door-to-door mediation of the situation often occurs. "Rob" has become the main theme in the conservation of ancient residential building components, although difficult but often full of surprises, unexpected treasure. Chi wen, an extension of the Chinese dragon culture, resides on the ridge of

the roof and is used to calm the house and ward off fire. During the search, museum staff found a Chi wen in a residential house in Longwan Zhuyuan Street, Wenzhou, with the head intact and the tail broken off on the roof. Longwan Museum invited skilled folk masters to restore the Chi wen with brick material. This is the only complete brick Chi wen in Longwan.

This exhibition is a typical case of using social hotspots and curatorial stories to boost the emotion of the exhibition, and the social significance of the exhibition is thus created and amplified at the same time. It also answers a question that countless curators have asked themselves, why do they hold exhibitions.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This exhibition is based on social hotspots, and the exhibits were prepared for three years, and the exhibition was curated with flexible use of exhibition halls and content arrangement, allowing the audience to enter into "immersive" nostalgic memories through the experience of being present. The exhibition of architectural components of residential buildings has its own characteristics, and the collection, cleaning and organization of the components require a lot of manpower and material resources. Curators need to have good knowledge of ancient architecture, curatorial knowledge and team management skills. Longwan Museum as a district museum can seize the opportunity in the historical trend of urban village transformation in Longwan District, Wenzhou, to preserve the memory of residential architecture in Longwan, Wenzhou is rare. As a member of the Longwan District Museum Council, We witnessed the hardships of the staff behind the scenes of the "Wenzhou Longwan District Traditional House Building Components Exhibition". In the wave of urban construction and development, the preservation of traditional residential buildings and their components is to inherit the local architectural culture and show the local natural and humanistic spirit. This exhibition also provides a systematic reference for similar exhibitions in the future. This study has a limitation in that it was analyzed based on an exhibition, and it is hoped that future studies will supplement this.

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