

HOSTED BY



ELSEVIER

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

www.elsevier.com/locate/foar

Frontiers of
Architectural
Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Conservation of architectural paintings at Xiaonan Garden, former residence of Weng family in Changshu



Weijun He^{a,b}, Shi Hu^{a,*}, Lifang Ji^a

^aArchitecture Academy, Southeast University, Nanjing 210096, China

^bNanjing Museum, Nanjing 210096, China

Received 7 December 2014; received in revised form 30 December 2015; accepted 31 December 2015

KEYWORDS

Architectural colored painting;
Conservation

Abstract

Xiaonan Garden is the back garden at the Weng family's former residence, a famed mansion in Jiangnan. Various architectural colored paintings in the Jiangnan style, including a rare plaster colored painting, are preserved in the garden. This study examines the wooden support, pigments, and structure of the painting and conducts a series of conservation experiments in situ and in the laboratory. Several conservation problems, such as the manually brushed lime, re-adherence of flaking painting layers, and consolidation of gold foil, were solved, and good results were obtained. Virtual recovery provided a solid foundation for protection and example of research on architectural colored paintings in Jiangnan.

© 2016 The Authors. Production and hosting by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

The former residence of the Weng family in Changshu exhibits the features of the mansion of a prestigious family that lived in Jiangnan, China during the Ming and Qing dynasties. The architectural colored painting preserved at Caiyi Hall, the main building, is a typical colored painting in Jiangnan. In December 1996, the former residence of the

Weng family in Changshu was listed as one of the Fourth National Key Protected Cultural Relics.

Xiaonan Garden was constructed during the Ming Dynasty as the back garden of the former residence of the Weng family. "Xiaonanyuan" also called "Boguxuan" was a part of the Garden mansion in Changshu, which belonged to the celebrity "Sang" during the early Ming Dynasty. The place is named after the ancient cypress trees in the courtyard and also features a rock garden consisting of Taihu rocks. Wengtongjue, who was the third brother of Wengtonghe who lived during the Qing Dynasty, bought the mansion and resided in it. Wengtonghe and Wengkuisong, who was the grandson of Wengtongjue, also lived there. Subsequently, the mansion had a succession of owners and finally became part of the Weng

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +86 13605162827.

E-mail address: hshleo@163.com (S. Hu).

Peer review under responsibility of Southeast University.

family's former residence. Connected to Caiyi Hall, Xiaonan Garden is the former residence of Yan Na (the minister of the Personnel Department and a scholar at Wuying Hall during the reign of Emperor Jiajing of the Ming Dynasty) and Yan Tianchi (son of Yan Na and founder of the Yushan Qin School). With its long history, Xiaonan Garden has been the residence of many noble families and famous persons and is valuable to Changshu and to the rest of China.

2. Condition survey

Xiaonan Garden was privately owned; thus, unknown to the public, the architectural colored paintings have been hidden by the sprung roof and brushed with lime. Through a survey, we discovered colored paintings in the Jiangnan style on the beam, column, tiebeam, and purlin. Delicate patterns, such as *Ruyi* and cirrus clouds, can be identified. The colors, including green, blue, black, white, yellow, and red, are elegant. The tone is gentle, presenting the delicate and exquisite style of the past. On the five beams rests a rare decorative pattern that shows four lions playing with a silk ball and created by dropping powder liquid and gilding.

Xiaonan Garden has been renovated many times. The architectural colored painting can be categorized into three types: colored painting with a yellowish brown bottom and pine-grain pattern, colored painting with a Jiangsu-style

brocade cloth-wrapper pattern, and paster colored painting. The first two types overlap with the third one on top, indicating that the paster colored paintings were painted last. The coexistence of the three types is a prominent feature of Xiaonan Garden and has not been observed in other areas. Thus, the style deserves further research.

The investigation indicates that the style of the architectural colored painting in Xiaonan Garden differs from that at Caiyi Hall. In particular, the colored paintings on the beam and tiebeam fully display the diversity of the techniques used in Jiangnan (Figs 1 and 2).

However, because Xiaonan Garden was historically used as a civil residence, the colored painting has been damaged by daily use and various natural factors. In many parts, the colored painting is flaked and damaged, and dust and dirt are found on its surface. The failure of conservation has compromised the intrinsic value of the colored painting.

3. Analysis and test

Through continuous investigation and scientific analysis, the traditional technique of the colored painting on an unplastered wooden surface has been summarized (He, 2009). Given the diversity and uniqueness of the colored painting in Xiaonan Garden, we need to conduct basic physical and chemical analyses of collected samples to identify the wood

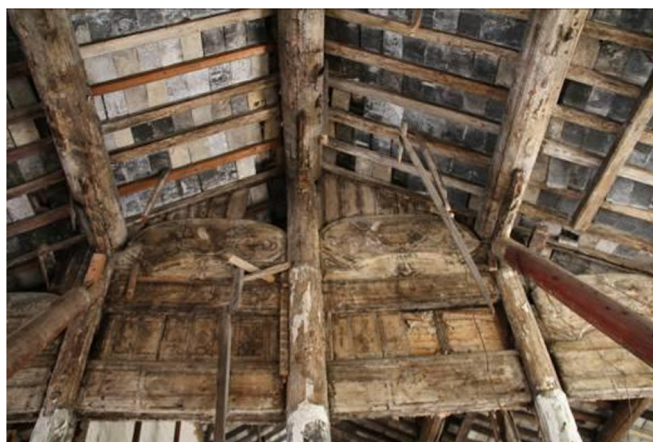


Fig. 1 Heavily polluted surface.



Fig. 2 Surface covered with lime.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/270689>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/270689>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)