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RESEARCH ON THE APPLICATION OF JINLING KITE ELEMENTS IN MODERN LAMP DESIGN

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Jinling kites, as an intangible cultural heritage of the Nanjing region, carry unique artistic value and profound cultural significance. This paper explores the innovative application of Jinling kite elements in modern lighting design, based on the shape, colour, craftsmanship, and cultural symbolism of the kites. By analysing the historical origins and design characteristics of Jinling kites, and integrating modern materials and lighting technologies, the study examines how their light structure, aesthetic decoration, and cultural significance can be incorporated into contemporary lighting products. From the perspectives of aesthetic expression, functionality, and cultural preservation, a Jinling kite-inspired lamp is designed, balancing both artistic and practical considerations.

Key words: design, Jinling kite, cultural integration, intangible heritage innovation, modern lamp, artistic expression.

INTRODUCTION

Nanjing kites, also known as Jinling paper kites. During the Qing Dynasty, the Nanjing artists constantly innovated the kite style constantly renovated, the more tied the more clever. The Jinling Times and Times Records recorded: «Every year in my hometown, during the Qingming Festival, the kite flyers gathered in Yuhuatai outside Nanjing» [1]. In 2014, Nanjing kites were selected as one of the intangible cultural heritage of Nanjing. This study investigates the potential of incorporating Jinling kite elements into modern lamp design, aiming to explore how traditional cultural symbols can be reinterpreted through contemporary design principles and technologies.

PURPOSE

Investigate the historical and cultural significance of Jinling kites, focusing on their shape, colour, and craftsmanship. Examine how the aesthetic and symbolic aspects of Jinling kites can be integrated with modern materials and lighting technologies. Develop a design concept for a Jinling kite-inspired lamp that balances both artistic expression and functionality, while preserving the cultural essence of the traditional kite. By achieving these goals, the research aims to contribute to the broader field of design by offering new insights into how intangible cultural heritage can be brought into the modern era through design innovation.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The production of Nanjing paper kites involves four key stages: tying, gluing, painting, and flying. These steps include building the frame, attaching the paper, decorating it with patterns and colours, and finally flying the finished kite (Fig. 1). Each kite is carefully crafted by artisans and carries beautiful symbols and blessings.



Fig. 1. Craftsmanship of Nanjing Paper Kite: a -Tying up frames ;b -Gluingpaper; c - Painting flowers; d- Flying kites surfacesand colours

The composition of the paper kite is balanced and unified. In the morphological design process, individual elements were selected from traditional kite units, as shown in Fig. 2. These elements were then combined through modelling and silhouette outlining to create a cohesive design (Fig. 2 b).

The flowing structure of Jinling kites inspired the lamp design, evoking a sense of motion and lightness. Streamlined forms and dynamic curves were adapted into the lamp's frame, symbolising flight and freedom. To preserve both aesthetics and structure, modern materials such as lightweight metals and polymers were used.



Fig. 2. Design of paper kite elements: a- Element selection of paper kite; b - Element extraction of paper kite



Changes in colour will cause different psychological fluctuations, and the diversity of pattern sets gives consumers more possibilities to choose, bringing them different visual feelings[2]. Therefore, on the basis of following formal beauty, the extraction and use of the paper kite series pattern colour design is no longer limited to the traditional paper kite yellow, red, green and black colours, the use of the pattern colours, break the traditional thinking, the use of similar colours, in order to enhance the visual effect of the pattern itself. An example of such an application is presented in Figure 3a. - formation of a lamp design based on the design of a kite.



a



b

Fig. 3. Design based on kite design: a - Paper kite lamp; b - Warmth and positivity paper kite lamp

Jinling kites are rich in cultural symbolism, often representing good fortune, wishes, and prosperity. This symbolism was carefully incorporated into the lamp design, with motifs and patterns traditionally found on the kites being reinterpreted as part of the lamp's decorative elements [3]. For example, patterns symbolising harmony and luck were used in the lamp's base, while a gentle glow from the light source was designed to create an atmosphere of warmth and positivity in Fig. 3b, mirroring the cultural significance of Jinling kites.

The integration of these elements into the lamp design not only creates a product that is aesthetically pleasing but also serves as a cultural statement, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern functionality.

CONCLUSIONS

This study demonstrates that Jinling kite elements can be effectively applied to modern lamp design, bridging the gap between traditional craftsmanship and contemporary aesthetics. The integration of shape, colour, and cultural symbolism from Jinling kites into the design of a modern lamp successfully combines artistic expression with functionality, while maintaining a deep connection to the cultural heritage of Nanjing. The lamp designed in this research serves as a visual and symbolic tribute to the rich tradition of Jinling kites, enhancing both the artistic value and cultural relevance of contemporary lighting products. The careful consideration



of colour, decoration, and cultural symbolism ensures that the lamp is not only visually striking but also meaningful, encapsulating the essence of the kite's cultural significance. Furthermore, this design concept highlights the broader potential of incorporating intangible cultural heritage into modern product design. By revitalising traditional symbols through contemporary design, this approach contributes to the preservation and dissemination of intangible cultural heritage in a way that is accessible and relevant to today's audience. The results suggest that design innovation can play a pivotal role in preserving cultural traditions while simultaneously making them resonate in a modern context.

Future research could explore the application of other elements from traditional arts and crafts in modern design, further expanding the ways in which intangible cultural heritage can be integrated into everyday products. Through such efforts, traditional crafts can continue to thrive and be appreciated by future generations, while adapting to the evolving needs and aesthetics of modern society.

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МУ Цзінцзін, ВАСИЛЬЄВА О.

ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ ЕЛЕМЕНТІВ ДЖИНІНГОВИХ ПОВІТРЯНИХ ЗМІЇВ У СУЧАСНОМУ ДИЗАЙНІ СВІТИЛЬНИКІВ

Повітряні змії Цзіньлін, як об'єкт нематеріальної культурної спадщини регіону Нанкін, вирізняються унікальною художньою цінністю та глибоким культурним змістом. У роботі розглянуто інноваційне використання елементів повітряних зміїв Цзіньлін у сучасному світловому дизайні — на основі їх форми, кольору, майстерності виконання та символічного значення. Аналізуючи історичне походження та конструктивні особливості цих зміїв, а також залучаючи сучасні матеріали й освітлювальні технології, дослідження демонструє, як їхня пластична структура, естетичне оздоблення та культурна семантика можуть бути інтегровані в дизайн світильників. З позиції естетичної виразності, функціональності та збереження культурної спадщини була розроблена лампа, натхненна повітряними зміями Цзіньлін, що поєднує художню цінність і практичне застосування.

Ключові слова: дизайн, культурна інтеграція, інновації у сфері нематеріальної спадщини, дизайн світильників.