The “Three Hills and Five Gardens” of Beijing with Its Organization and Representation as of a Landscape City

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要旨 :

18世紀はじめの清朝最盛期に、中国北京における西北郊外の一帯の西山の峰々を背景にし、「三山五園」と称される大規模な御苑がつくられた。「三山五園」という名称の由来は、中国清時代の中末期に現れた説であり、暢春園、円明園、香山静宜園、玉泉山静明園、万寿山清漪園を指す。園林群地形の多様性により、さまざまな園林形態があり、人工山水園、天然山水園、天然山地園として営造されており、中国伝統的な造園手法及び思想が集まっている。2007年6月に「北京市文物修繕及び保護の中長期（2008-2015）計画」が公布された。その中で、頤和園を中心にする「三山五園」歴史風景区における基本的な空間構成及び歴史環境に関する回復計画が立てられ、歴史風景の再認識及び研究が求められる。本研究は「三山五園」における造山及び造水に関する空間構成及び営造の特徴を明らかにすることである。北京の西北郊外にある優れた自然山水の区域が選ばれ、皇家園林として利用されるだけでなく、生態機能も生かされる要因が分かった。山体と水体に関する空間構成関係は風水学に影響されたほか、礼制文化にも深く影響を与えられた。山体における園林建築の営造は政治意向が強く、水体の営造は自然に生かす特徴が見られる。自然の地形に基づき、園林施設の営造は自然山水を生かし、多様な借景の造園手法で設けられた。伝統的な歴史風景空間の修繕に対して、空間構成の物理要素だけではなく、豊かな人文景觀要素も不可欠だと考えられる。

1 Introduction

(1) Background and Purpose

With the promulgation of “Mid-long Plan (2008- 2015) for Repair and Reconstruction of Historical Relic Architectures of Beijing Municipal” on June 21 of 2007, the planning focus was concentrated on the Summer Palace and adjacent royal gardens on their recovery of original environment and the fundamental space layout in “Three Hills and Five Gardens”. The “Three Hills and Five Gardens”, composed of royal landscape gardens and with the center of the Summer Palace, was a historical royal landscape area bearing various topographic forms. The

continuity of mountain massif and water area contributed to its predominant ecology system, being a representative landscape city renowned as of “Kiangnan in the North” previously. The research is quite important to repair work in this area for it is a premising study on the “Three Hills and Five Gardens” from the aspects of space layout, characteristic and social function to the local. On the meanwhile, the research is expected to be references for the landscape city establishment in municipal Beijing for its purpose.

As of previous research on the subject of “Three Hills and Five Gardens”, most analysis and comments were developed by

respective research on the Summer Palace or the Yuanming Palace. They are namely the analysis of garden construction characteristics of the Summer Palace with its steles, roofs, brick sculptures and flower language, conducted by Junhua ZHANG⁽¹⁻³⁾; a research of landscape constitution in the Summer Palace effected by West Lake in Hangzhou, conducted by Yue SHEN⁽⁴⁾ (including an analysis on the space representation of the Summer Palace and north side of Jade Fountain Hill); a planned land use study in sight of history evolvement and a comment on the landscape constitution in the Summer Palace influenced by Kiangnan landscapes, conducted by Dan ZHU⁽⁵⁾. As to the general space organization of “Three Hills and Five Gardens”, however, there has no specific research outcome, especially on the horizon of landscape representation. This research is trying to review and analyze the landscape representation and its space organization with water areas and mountain massif within “Three Hills and Five Gardens”, to make clear further their relationship between and site selection reason as well.

(2) Methodology

As of literature investigation for this research, a thorough search with keywords of “Three Hills and Five Gardens”, “Summer Palace” and “Yuanming Yuan” etc. were completed, covering related research papers, articles, periodical journals, collections publicized for the past few years. It was also investigated with papers from 1995 to 2007 of the Academic Papers Database of China. To grasp current situation, an on-the-spot investigation was conducted during the period from March 4th to 10th of 2008. In addition, satellite images are applied in analyzing the terrain and plain arrangement of “Three Hills and Five Gardens” here. By means of a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between hill groups and water areas,

it comes to a summarize conclusion in regards to landscape representative characteristics of “Three Hills and Five Gardens”. Furthermore, the research also reviewed local climate and hydrographical features to figure out possible considers for this site selection.

2. General Situation of “Three Hills and Five Gardens”

“Three Hills and Five Gardens”, a general name for all royal palaces in the west suburb of Beijing, actually includes three hills of Jade Fountain Hill, Fragrance Hill and Longevity Hill, and five large scale royal palaces such as the Jingyi Palace, the Jingming Palace, the Qingyi Palace, the Yuanming Palace and the Summer Palace. “Three hills and Five Gardens” was constructed originally from Emperor Kangxi and completed by his grandson Emperor Chianlung successively (see Chart I and Figure I). Since dynasties of Liao and Jin, the west suburb of Beijing was famous for its landscape beauty and scenic spot to the extent that it was regarded as Kiangnan of north China. During the 37 years reign of Emperor Chianlung (from 1738 to 1775), “Three Hills and Five Gardens” got a large scale construction or extension and finally came into being^(6,7) (see Figure-1 and Chart-1).

After such massive construction, these royal palaces were ultimately integrated together, connected with each other flowed through by the River Chang and the River Yu. In the meantime, farmland and cottages along rivers were also brought into the landscape enjoying scope. Qing Emperors might have appreciated the artificial landscape by boats, and at the same time visited farmlands inside. The skillful combination of inner and outer world enriched its landscape conception. Besides, there are about 20 courtyards endowed to nobles scattered inside

Figure-1 Plane Chart of Three Hills and Five Gardens

Chart -1 General Situation of “Three Hills and Five Gardens”⁹⁾

	Summer Palace (Longevity Hill)	Jingyi Palace (Fragrance Hill)	Yuanming Palace	Changchun Palace	Jingming Palace (Jade Fountain Hill)
Established	1866	1780	1860	1690	1753
Occupation	290ha	153ha	350ha	Not known for early destroyed	60ha
Purpose	Birthday Celebration for Emperor Chiamlung's mother	1. Xanadu 2. In memory of the 6 th Panchen Lama's coming to the court, and established the Temple of “Zongjing Dazhao” inside the Garden	Establishment of Primary Political Center out of the Forbidden City	In cause of politics hearing refraining from noise environment by Emperor Kangxi	For emperors' morality cultivation, mind opening and ambitions' establishment
Mountain Form and Features	Man-made hill and stand tall, but the smallest of three	Natural hill and the largest	—	—	Natural hill's and two-tumped in shape
Water Shape and Features	3/4 in water area as its main constitution element	Only with small pool for its highland terrain	Free arrangement of various connective water areas	Free arrangement of various connective water areas	In priority of small lake, and the Jade Fountain Hill is with rivers and lakes surrounding
Current Situation	Well Preserved	Well Preserved	Destroyed but Ruins	Completely Destroyed	Completely Destroyed
Main Features	Centralized as the core of “Three Hills and Five Gardens”	Infrequent Xanadu based on the Hill (Fragrance Hill), shared temple features both of Han and Tibetan nationality	The largest in five gardens, a royal museum with huge amount of treasures, and an imitation of Kiangnan garden.	The smallest of five, lack of natural landscape modality	In priority of temple architectures in free styles, centralized on the Hill.

the “Three Hills and Five Gardens”, as supplement of whole landscape area. Due to terrain variations, the landscape patterns are distinct in artificial landscape or natural hill-water landscape or natural hill landscape, but collectively represent traditional measures and design philosophy of ancient China⁸⁾.

3. The Space Organization and Characteristics of Hills

The “Three Hills” in sequence from the west to the east are Fragrance Hill, Jade Fountain Hill and Longevity Hill, and constitute main parts of Jingyi Palace, Jingming Palace and the Summer Palace separately. They are, however, different in characteristics. In accordance with the Analects of Confucius: “the wise find pleasure in water; the virtuous find pleasure in hills. The wise are active; the virtuous are tranquil. The wise are joyful; the virtuous are long-lived”. By the enjoyment from water and hills, it could be desirable and impossible to know the world, understand the nature, find real meaning of life and finally the spirit and soul will be the one combined into the universe nature. Such pursue of the harmony of man with nature is also complied with the supreme realm of Taoism⁹⁾. Owing to above traditional Chinese philosophies, hills in traditional gardens were remained with natural features to represent their mildness and origin. In addition, according to the theory of geomantic omen, four of five fundamental elements of the

universe such as earth, gold, trees and water can be all concluded in hills. Therefore, the enjoyment of hills, the study of hills, the love of hills and accompany with hills became a kind of classic aesthetic appreciation in ancient China. Within the “Three Hills”, the Zhaomiao Tower of Fragment Hill, Yufeng Pagoda of Jade Fountain Hill, and the Pavilion of the Fragrance of Buddha on the Longevity Hill are regarded as spiritual symbol architectures within the space organization for hills worship.

The Fragment Hill, at the west end of “Three Hills and Five Gardens, is the largest one connected with West Hill, and is the most convenient place in the suburb of Beijing for people's hill enjoyment. During the construction of Jingyi Palace, a lot of temples were set up. Since Jingyi Palace was also a Xanadu of Qing Empire, it is considered for the purpose of God's shield. The Peak of Fragrant Hill is about 400 m high from the foot, being the highest hill of “Three Hills”, moreover manifests the garden building idea of emperors' synergetic desire with the God. The space organization of Fragment Hill represents in successive hill massif primarily, and the space use implicates rich atmosphere of theology and religion.

The Jade Fountain Hill, located in the center of “Three Hills”, is isolated from Fragrant Hill and West Hills in terrain. To emphasize its space orientation, there was Yufeng Pagoda established on its peak. Such arrangement not only enriched the scenery contents of royal gardens in this area, but also provided a landmark for general space organization, by “borrowing” the

peak and pagoda into landscape to set off its center location of Jade Fountain Hill.

With regard to the Longevity Hill, it was an artificial hill by taking advantage of earth and stone after the construction of Kunming Lake, with consideration of garden space layout. The Hill is symmetrical with both sides of east and west and placid in its hillslope. Longevity Hill is the main part of the Summer Palace. All architectures inside were constructed based on its hill terrain. The existed part were reconstructed by Empress Dowager Cixi after the first ruin by the Eight Power Allied Force in 1860. Longevity Hill is situated in the center of the Summer Palace, which is the core architecture assembled functions of the political

court, religion and landscape. The architectural complex on the south side of Longevity Hill plays as the most important space for political activities. The complex appears scattered but ordered space layout in its vertical direction, and mostly composed of cultural landscapes. In sight of architectures facade, the general space layout illustrates an east-west symmetry characteristic. This arrangement complied with the central axis symmetry requirement of the traditional Chinese architecture under Etiquette culture. Reviewing the neat axis arrangement, orientation relations, and central axis symmetry, the construction of Longevity Hill reflects an intensive inclination of centralization of authority under emperor's reign. Therefore it is easily seen that the man made Longevity Hill probably ever played as a ruling emblem by its intended space layout full of political implication.

Being as the core of "Three Hills and Five Gardens", the Summer Palace adopted its middle scenery of Jade Fountain Hill as well as distant scenery of Fragrant Hill to borrow their beauty. If you look the west standing at the east lake bank, the scenery you may see might seem as a Chinese landscape painting with visual concern of Yuquan Tower of middle scenery Jade Fountain Hill inverted in the Kunming Lake. And the distant Fragrant Hill with farer West Hills are faded, being grey background of water landscape of east Kunming Lake bank. Therefore the different distance and space orientation of "Three Hills" represent

Figure-2 Axis Relationship of Three Hills

Figure-3 Section Plane of Three Hills

traditional landscape measures of "borrowing scenery" (see Figure-2 and Figure-3).

The organization of three hills indicates that Jade Fountain Hill is higher than Fragment Hill, which is much higher than Jade Fountain Hill as well. The west hill is taller than its east one. The horizontal space organization of which hills in the west are higher than those in the east shows three hills are in accordance with the Chinese traditional Etiquette culture. At the ancient time, this area was regarded as an oasis of Beijing comparing with other areas of the city.

As of the site selection for royal gardens of Qing Empire, it is clear that the west suburb of Beijing profited from its outstanding ecology environment. Especially in winter, Fragrant Hill and West Hills have functioned as natural walls obstructing from cold weather coming from the north. Furthermore, the Summer Palace, being the heart of "Three Hills and Five Gardens", can refrain itself from cold winds with barriers of Longevity Hill on the north side and adjoining Jade Fountain Hill on the west (see Figure-2).

4. The Space Organization and Characteristics of Waters

Inside of "Three Hills and Five Gardens", the most spacious water area belongs to Kunming Lake of the Summer Palace. What is more, the space organization of landscapes side along the Kunming Lake is the vital composition of all water landscapes

within “Three Hills and Five Gardens”. As above mentioned, “the wise find pleasure in water, the wise joyful and the wise is active” in eyes of Kung Tzu. The “wise” here refers to modest wise man, being learned and accomplished. These noblemen or philosophers deserved their wise for their knowledge to the world. And this knowledge could further make them free or liberal so that they could achieve most enjoyment and happiness. Water is somehow likewise free in its nature, and here was a metaphor of ideal personality which was advocated both by Confucianism and Taoism. Therefore, the water element and its space organization were endowed with particular cultural and philosophy value for traditional landscape construction in ancient China⁷.

In the Kunming Lake, there were three islands arranged averagely namely “Zhijing (to refer to the history and deal with affairs perspicaciously, literally) Pavilion”, “Zaojian (for enjoying algae literally) Hall” and “South Lake Island”. These islands with inner and outer lakes constitute the royal landscape arrangement according with the conception of “One Pond and Three Hills”, which was original derived from Qin and Han dynasties for royal landscape doctrine (see Figure-4). Such arrangement represents the imagination of Taoist Paradise and expresses the pray for long living from emperors. It is notable that there are no palace walls on three sides of the Lake. The intention to enlarge the Palace could be found since it was well combined with outside world. As thus outside scenery was naturally introduced into the Palace, where different layers by distance were well developed and broadened scope of view. The space origination of water area within the Summer Palace was basically imitated the West Lake of Hangzhou. The main characteristics are primarily displayed from its connection mode of hills and water, water shape, water division, lake banks and islands locations etc. This vivid imitation also reflected its founder Emperor Chiamlung for his sentimental attachment to West Lake of Hangzhou.

As to the back lake of the Summer Palace, which is no much a lake as a river, its width is not over 10 m at most. This lake was dug in a whole enclosing to the Longevity Hill. By reviewing the transition from the front lake (Kunming Lake) to the Back River, the water is in a sharp contraction. By means of the

meander river at the section point, the landscape appears natural with its water and fertile of variations in vision. In addition, in sight of its function played, such treatment slows down the water speed. It is obviously the back river and hill in the north make completed the landscape system of back scenery area. Architectures and courtyards scattered behind the Hill enrich the landscape in dense cultural color.

All in all, as for the water system through royal gardens in the suburb of Beijing, it was designed out of a comprehensive consideration for flood proofing, farmland irrigation and landscape construction. Under the reign of Emperor Chiamlung, water system within West Hills was quite reshaped to satisfy residents’ living requirement of Beijing and local agriculture or flood control. This construction included establishment of sluice gates, dredge of Yu River and Chang River, opening springs of Jade Fountain Hill, digging out sluice lakes and highland lakes, enlarging Kunming Lake, and connection of water system

Figure-4 Long Sweep of the Distant Views from Zhichun Pavilion in around 270°

Figure-5 Water System of Three Hills and Five Gardens and the Relationship With Ancient Beijing City

within Yumin Palace. The improvement of water system made it possible for landscape construction in the west suburb afterwards. And from then on, Palaces in the suburb were ultimately combined into one area and came out finally the “Three Hills and Five Gardens” (see Figure-5).

5. Conclusion

The royal court of “Three Hills and Five Gardens” embodies the Chinese traditional landscape disposition of the royal family. The Summer Palace’s final establishment made itself as the centre of the all royal gardens in west suburb of Beijing, along with a clear axis in the direction from the east to the west. All in all, the research may come to the conclusion that the general space organization of “Three Hills and Five Gardens” and the construction are deeply influenced by the traditional Chinese Etiquette Culture. With the compact integration of hills and water area, the landscape characteristic of royal gardens is distinctly revealed. There are three lake areas within the “Three Hills and Five Gardens”. By means of these lake areas and other rivers, landscapes are connected organically, representing the water enjoyment requirement in royal gardens. As for the whole Beijing city, downstream the rivers are well controlled by the enlargement of water area. The “Three Hills and Five Gardens” is an important composition for landscapes in Beijing, and its space organization and construction characteristics made it a significant foundation for future landscape construction in Beijing.

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