

# Research on Landscape Design of Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospitals Based on the Concept of Protection and Development of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Traditional Chinese Medicine

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**Abstract:** Based on the dual contemporary demands of the revitalization and inheritance of traditional Chinese medicine intangible cultural heritage and the improvement of the health care space quality in traditional Chinese medicine hospitals, this study explores the current issues of superficial integration, cultural disconnection, and functional imbalance between the two. With the core aim of exploring scientific integration paths and improving design strategies, this paper analyzes the convergence points between traditional Chinese medicine intangible culture heritage and hospital landscapes. The study concludes that only by prioritizing the cultural core and spatial function, establishing a layered integration system, and implementing precise optimization measures can the two aspects of traditional Chinese medicine intangible heritage inheritance and the improvement of hospital landscape quality be mutually empowered, and a distinctive traditional Chinese medicine health care landscape paradigm be constructed.

**Keywords:** Intangible cultural heritage of traditional Chinese medicine; Landscape of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals; Cultural integration; Landscape optimization; Wellness spaces

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## 1. Introduction

In recent years, the state has attached great importance to the revitalization of traditional Chinese medicine and the protection of intangible cultural heritage. Policies such as the “14th Five-Year Plan for the Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine” and the “Opinions on Further Strengthening the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage” have been successively issued, clearly requiring the integration of traditional Chinese medicine culture into public service facility construction. Traditional Chinese medicine hospitals, as the main platforms for providing traditional Chinese medicine services, have landscape design as an important carrier of cultural dissemination. However, at present, there are widespread problems in industry practice, such as symbolization, homogeneity, and overemphasis on form while neglecting the essence. They have failed to leverage the value of intangible cultural heritage. Based on this, this paper systematically explores the integration paths and optimization strategies to provide theoretical support and practical ideas for upgrading

the landscape of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals.

## **2. The core path of integrating intangible cultural heritage of traditional Chinese medicine into the landscape of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals**

### **2.1. Translation of cultural symbols and visual concrete presentation of the landscape**

The intangible cultural heritage system of traditional Chinese medicine contains a large number of highly recognizable cultural symbols. These symbols cover the forms of herbs, the diagrams of acupuncture techniques and the imprints of traditional Chinese medicine processing procedures, as well as the imprints of anecdotes related to famous traditional Chinese medicine practitioners. These symbols originally belong to the abstract cultural category and are difficult to directly integrate into the construction process of the real space. Landscape designers shall take the outdoor spatial scale of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals and the architectural style of surrounding buildings as the basis to refine intangible cultural symbols related to TCM. Instead of adopting simplistic, rigid collage, abstract cultural symbols are innovatively converted into visual elements that fit the actual spatial environment. The optimized cultural elements can be applied in multiple landscape design dimensions, including landscape wall carving patterns, sculpture forms, ground pavement textures and green plant collocation layouts, which ultimately constitute the core visual framework of landscape construction in TCM hospitals.

### **2.2. Integration of health preservation philosophy and landscape functional scenarioization**

The traditional health preservation thought accumulated in the development of traditional Chinese medicine constitutes the core connotation of TCM intangible cultural heritage. It embodies the philosophical concepts of harmony between human and nature and preventive treatment of diseases, and has long run through the whole process of TCM diagnosis, treatment and health preservation services. The landscape space of TCM hospitals is far more than a conventional greening area. It should fully absorb the inherent health preservation concepts of TCM intangible cultural heritage and satisfy the functional demands of different regional divisions.

Combined with the personnel flow characteristics of outpatient areas, the rest demands of inpatient wards, the rehabilitation needs of recuperation areas and the leisure and entertainment demands of public activity spaces, landscape planning should carry out targeted scenario-based design<sup>[1]</sup>. Designers shall follow the core logic of TCM health preservation culture, select ornamental medicinal plants with health-care value for combined planting, and create a quiet and comfortable spatial atmosphere by utilizing the natural growth characteristics of vegetation.

Meanwhile, independent quiet landscape resting areas should be arranged for inpatients, and the overall landscape layout should be optimized to assist patients in emotional regulation. In this way, hospital landscape space is no longer limited to basic ornamental functions. The scenario-oriented design practice can implement the health preservation concepts of TCM intangible cultural heritage into physical space construction, and form an organic connection between landscape visual presentation, auxiliary medical treatment and psychological soothing effects.

### **2.3. Construction of communication carriers and integration of landscape educational functions**

Hospital landscape space serves as an important physical carrier for the inheritance and development of TCM intangible cultural heritage. The construction of such carriers is not confined to conventional landscape greening but focuses on realizing the deep integration of cultural inheritance and educational popularization. Designers can reasonably utilize the spatial layout advantages of hospital landscapes to set up characteristic cultural dissemination nodes, such as professional medicinal plant planting areas, TCM intangible cultural heritage exhibition corridors and celebrity medical deeds carving areas.

All characteristic nodes are naturally integrated into the overall landscape without breaking the original spatial layout and functional streamline. This integrated construction mode enriches the offline inheritance and dissemination

paths of TCM intangible cultural heritage, and endows hospital landscape space with unique cultural inheritance value. It transforms ordinary urban greening spaces into display windows for TCM intangible cultural heritage, highlights the cultural brand characteristics of TCM hospitals, and allows the public to intuitively understand and perceive the essence of TCM culture in the process of medical treatment and daily rest.

### **3. Optimization and promotion strategies of TCM intangible cultural heritage integrated into hospital landscape design**

#### **3.1. Dig deep into cultural connotation and abandon superficial formalized design**

The value of TCM intangible cultural heritage lies not only in its external symbolic forms, but more in the spiritual connotation and practical value accumulated in the long-term historical inheritance. At present, several TCM hospital landscape designs only focus on the superficial application of cultural symbols, while ignoring the in-depth exploration of cultural essence, resulting in homogenized and shallow landscape works with insufficient cultural depth.

Designers need to break the conventional design thinking of simple symbol stacking, further explore the inheritance context and core ideological connotation of TCM intangible cultural heritage, and find the logical combination point between cultural connotation and landscape space. Landscape planning and design should always center on the intrinsic value of TCM intangible cultural heritage, rather than blindly piling up visual modeling elements<sup>[2]</sup>. The design thinking focusing on in-depth cultural connotation enables TCM intangible cultural heritage to get rid of simple landscape decoration attributes, integrate into the spiritual and spatial temperament of the hospital, and make visitors perceive the profound cultural heritage of TCM rather than merely staying on superficial visual symbols.

#### **3.2. Balance cultural expression and practical value to adapt to hospital spatial demand**

The integration of TCM intangible cultural heritage into landscape design needs to coordinate cultural expression and practical function construction. As professional medical service venues, TCM hospitals must conform to medical service procedures and the diverse needs of all groups. It is inadvisable to overly pursue cultural modeling while neglecting the practicality of landscape space<sup>[3]</sup>.

Designers should fully take into account the hospital's medical treatment procedures, epidemic prevention and control norms, pedestrian traffic efficiency and barrier-free accessibility requirements, and optimize landscape layout and supporting facility configuration according to the behavioral habits of patients, medical staff and accompanying family members. In the layout planning, cultural display areas should avoid core traffic lines and key medical areas to ensure a smooth medical streamline.

In terms of landscape facility design, it is necessary to adapt to the physical characteristics of patients and improve the safety and comfort of the space, so as to realize the coordinated development of cultural display and practical functions. This balanced design mode enables the presentation of TCM intangible cultural heritage to fit the actual operation scenario of hospitals. On the premise of retaining the characteristic cultural temperament of TCM, it makes landscape space better serve the daily operation and medical service of hospitals, and builds a hospital landscape environment with both cultural charm and practical service performance<sup>[4]</sup>.

#### **3.3. Establish a long-term guarantee mechanism to promote the implementation and iteration of the design**

The effect of integrating intangible cultural heritage of traditional Chinese medicine into hospital landscapes cannot be achieved without the support of a complete process. The construction of a long-term guarantee mechanism involves the collaboration of multiple parties, including the inheritors of intangible cultural heritage, landscape designers, hospital management personnel, and traditional Chinese medicine professionals. Each party performs its duties and is interconnected to ensure the continuity of the landscape design from conception to implementation. The operation of such

a long-term mechanism ensures that the intangible cultural heritage of traditional Chinese medicine in the landscape will not lose its vitality over time, and also ensures the sustainability of the cultural inheritance process. It avoids problems, such as cultural expression disconnection and functional aging, after the construction of the landscape. This maintains the vibrant state of the integration of intangible cultural heritage and hospital landscapes, and continuously exerts the dual values of cultural dissemination and space service.

## 4. Conclusion

The deep integration of traditional Chinese medicine intangible cultural heritage and the landscape of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals is an important path for inheriting excellent traditional Chinese culture and enhancing the soft power of traditional Chinese medicine services. A scientific hierarchical integration approach can solve the problem of cultural and spatial disconnection, and precise optimization strategies can make up for design shortcomings and improve implementation quality. In the future, it is necessary to continuously adhere to national policy guidance, maintain the original aspiration for culture, and innovate design concepts, so that the intangible culture of traditional Chinese medicine can truly be integrated into the landscape space and help traditional Chinese medicine hospitals create a high-quality environment with cultural characteristics and healthcare value.

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