**Thesis Proposal Approval Form (Full version)**

Doctor of Philosophy Program in Visual Arts and Design

Master Degree ☒ Thesis ☐ Independent Study

Doctoral Degree ☐ Plan 1 ☒ Plan 2

**Admission in semester** .....1..../...2024.....

**Termination in semester** .....3...../....2029.....

**Consistent with the strategic issues of graduate research**

**Strategic Plan** .....

**Strategy** .....

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| Miss Li Wuwei<br><br>Student ID<br>67U74610114 | **Title**<br>The Architectural Aesthetic Values of Hanqiao Sankun Hall in Nanning, Guangxi, and the Research on Its Cultural Heritage Conservation Pathways | 1. Advisory committee<br>Asst. Prof. Dr.Omsiree Pandamrong<br>Asst. Prof. Dr.Kridtayot Comeming |
| | **Background and significance of the problem**<br>Since ancient times, Nanning, Guangxi has been an important center of the Lingnan region. Due to its advantageous geographical location and prominent economic development, it has accumulated a rich cultural heritage. According to national policy, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized (2024) “to enhance the sense of identity of the whole nation with outstanding traditional Chinese culture, and to protect, inherit, and develop the heritage of Chinese civilization.” The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Local Chronicles Compilation Committee (2025) reported that by 2022, Guangxi already had 342 nationally recognized traditional villages and 10,495 immovable cultural relics. However, under the promotion of policies at the national and provincial levels, cultural heritage protection has mostly focused on the macro level, while research and protection specific to individual villages and traditional residences remain insufficient.<br>Hanqiao Sankun Hall is located in Hanqiao Village, Hengzhou City, and was built during the Daoguang period of the Qing Dynasty. It is the ancestral mansion of the Li family, covering about 6,000 square meters, with a construction area of about 2,000 square meters. This architectural complex was built along the hillside with a rigorous overall layout, consisting of Dehui Hall, Guangyu Hall, Jingxiu Hall, a garden, and a watchtower (Xie, 2015). Its roof ridges, doors and windows, stone carvings, wood carvings, and mural craftsmanship are exquisite (Meng,, Wei, & Guo, 2021). It not only demonstrates the ritual layout of Guangfu dwellings in the | 2. Student’s signature<br>Li Wuwei<br>(Miss Li Wuwei)<br>24/9/2025<br><br>3. Thesis advisor’s signature<br>(Asst. Prof. Dr.Omsiree Pandamrong)<br>6/10/2025<br><br>4. Chairperson of Program’s Signature<br>(Asst. Prof. Dr.Kridtayot Comeming)<br>6/10/2025 |

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| | "three-bay layout with two side corridors" but also integrates the regional wisdom of "adapting to the hillside" in Guangxi's hilly areas, serving as a typical case of the fusion of Lingnan culture and Guangxi's local culture.<br>However, with the acceleration of modernization, traditional residential buildings are gradually facing abandonment, demolition, and oblivion. Due to the lack of systematic research and protection measures, the cultural connotations of traditional residences such as Hanqiao Sankun Hall have not been effectively excavated, and public awareness is limited. In particular, the younger generation lacks sufficient understanding of their historical and aesthetic value. This situation makes the work of cultural heritage protection face severe challenges.<br>The historical study of Hanqiao Sankun Hall is not only a case investigation of a Qing Dynasty mansion but also has multiple values as follows:<br>In terms of historical and cultural inheritance value, Hanqiao Sankun Hall carries the rise and fall and cultural memory of the Li clan and witnessed the interaction and integration among Guangfu immigrants, Hakka people, and local Zhuang and Yao ethnic groups (Qin, Qin, & Mo,2009). As a material remnant of the convergence of Lingnan culture and Guangxi regional culture, it provides important physical evidence for studying migration, clan systems, and cultural exchange.<br>In terms of architectural aesthetics and craftsmanship value, the complex reflects the superb skills of Qing Dynasty craftsmen in layout, scale, and decoration. The plaster ridge decorations, wood carvings, stone carvings, and mural couplets not only have aesthetic features but also embody auspicious meanings and ethical order, serving as important samples for studying the aesthetics and architectural symbolism of Qing Dynasty dwellings (Han, 2015).<br>In terms of clan and social system value, Hanqiao Sankun Hall, as a clan residence, is organized around the ancestral hall, reflecting the Qing Dynasty Han family structure of "family–lineage–branch." It carried functions of worship, deliberation, defense, and education, providing valuable materials for studying the relationship between the clan system and settlement space (Qin, 2009). | |

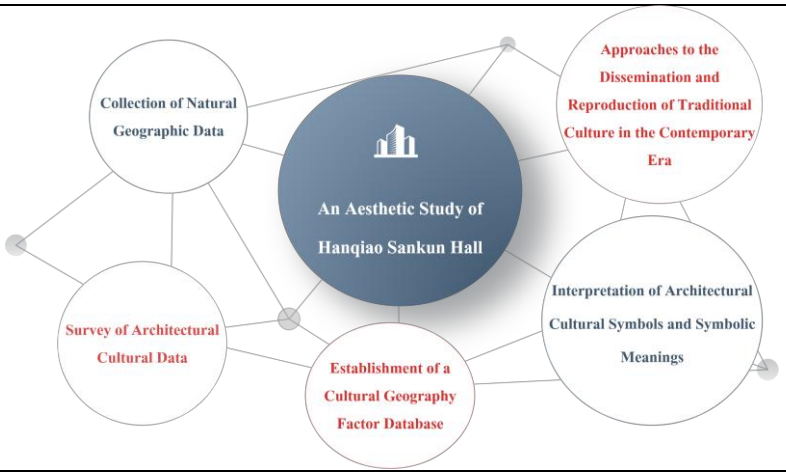
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| | In terms of cultural heritage protection value, in the context of rapid urbanization, many traditional dwellings have been demolished or transformed. Systematic research on Hanqiao Sankun Hall not only can provide practical experience for the protection of traditional villages in Guangxi but also, through exhibition design and public education, promote cultural tourism and rural revitalization.<br>Therefore, the historical study of Hanqiao Sankun Hall helps to deepen the understanding of the cultural ecology of traditional villages in Nanning, expand the academic perspective on the aesthetics of Qing Dynasty dwellings, and provide practical academic and applied value for cultural heritage protection and regenerative development. | |
| | **Research questions**<br>(1) What is the significance of the aesthetics of Hanqiao Sankun Hall in the historical context of the Qing Dynasty for the protection of cultural heritage in Nanning?<br>(2) How do the spatial planning and functional zoning of Hanqiao Sankun Hall reflect the cultural anthropological framework of Chinese families in the Qing Dynasty?<br>(3) How do its decorative details, including stone carvings, wood carvings, and murals, embody the symbolic meaning system of residential architecture in the Qing Dynasty?<br>(4) How can the beauty of Hanqiao Sankun Hall's architecture be presented so that the public can engage with it and be inspired to raise awareness of cultural heritage protection? | |
| | **Research objectives**<br>(1) To study the cultural ecosystem of Hanqiao Sankun Hall and the symbolic meanings and connotations embodied in its decorative forms such as sculpture and painting.<br>(2) To analyze and synthesize the spatial planning system, architectural proportions, and construction techniques of Hanqiao Sankun Hall, and to explore it as a typical case of residential architecture in the Qing Dynasty.<br>(3) To present the architectural aesthetic values of Hanqiao Sankun Hall in terms of thought, culture, and materiality through exhibition forms that incorporate multiple media. | |

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| | **Research hypothesis**<br>Hanqiao Sankun Hall is a typical representative of residential architecture in the Qing Dynasty. It not only conforms to the normative standards of design of the same period but also presents unique and interesting differences. This building can serve as an important example for understanding the beauty of Qing Dynasty residential architecture, particularly in terms of spatial planning, proportional systems, and the symbolic meanings of decorative motifs. Through presentation in exhibition media, it can not only effectively stimulate public awareness of cultural heritage protection but also provide support for cultural tourism planning in Nanning. By concretely understanding the relationship between people and the environment, Hanqiao Sankun Hall has the potential to become a core carrier of the city's cultural tourism. | |
| | **Research limitations (if any)**<br>Urban design and planning centered on the residential architecture of Hanqiao Sankun Hall must be incorporated into an overall design framework together with other buildings. Therefore, the related research and planning will be further developed in subsequent stages. | |
| | **Research conceptual framework** (Please specify the theoretical concept)<br>Large family residences of the Qing Dynasty were not only the center of family life but also the core of urban economy and urban development. In conducting research and design for tourism development planning, this study must simultaneously understand both aspects. Therefore, the research is advanced in both a "large framework" and a "small framework": collecting macro-level data at the urban scale while also delving into detailed data at the architectural level. | |

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| | **Operational definitions**<br>（1） Hanqiao Sankun Hall (翰桥三昆堂)<br>Hanqiao Sankun Hall was built in the 12th year of Jiaqing of the Qing Dynasty (1807). It is the ancestral residence of the Li family in Hanqiao Village, Mashan Town, Hengzhou City, Nanning, Guangxi. “Hanqiao” refers to the place name, and “Sankuntang” means three brothers living together in harmony in three mansions. The architectural complex consists of five parts: Dehui Hall (德惠堂), Guangyu Hall (光裕堂), Jingxiu Hall (敬修堂), Garden (花园), and Waolou (碉楼). It was built along the hillside, constructed with a mixture of earth, stone, and wood, on a large scale.<br>（2） Aesthetics of a Residential (住宅建筑美学)<br>The “aesthetics of a residential” studied in this paper refers to the aesthetic characteristics and cultural values embodied by Guangfu dwellings, represented by Hanqiao Sankun Hall in Nanning, Guangxi, combined with architectural examples reflecting the regional features of the hilly areas of Guangxi. These residences reflect spatial aesthetics, functional aesthetics, and cultural aesthetics, specifically manifested in cultural geographical characteristics, historical lifestyles, and construction techniques.<br>（3） ArcGIS (地理信息系统)<br>The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a comprehensive computer system used to collect, store, manage, analyze, and present geographic spatial data. In this study, GIS is used to analyze traditional villages, taking their types as major factors, and applying the method of Overlay Analysis to explore the influencing factors of village formation as well as to analyze and | |

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| | evaluate the cultural characteristics of traditional villages. Through the study of similarities and differences in cultural landscapes, GIS can help extract cultural factors and present the analysis results through visualization on maps or layers. | |
| | **Methods of conducting research (in brief)**<br><br>1. Research Method (Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods)<br>This study adopts a Mixed Methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques. Qualitative methods include literature review, field surveys, architectural mapping, and semi-structured interviews with experts and local residents. Quantitative methods include structured questionnaires and GIS-based spatial data analysis.<br><br>2. Population and Sample<br>The research population includes:<br>(1) Traditional villages in Nanning, Guangxi (with a focus on Hanqiao Sankun Hall as a representative case).<br>(2) Key stakeholders such as experts, local officials, villagers, craftsmen, and tourists.<br>(3) The sample covers both village-level cases (e.g., Hanqiao Sankun Hall, Yangmei Ancient Town, Three Streets and Two Alleys, Qingwafang Ancient Village) and individual participants (approx. 150–200 respondents across different groups).<br>3. Sampling Method / Target Group Selection<br>The study employs purposive sampling for case villages (based on representativeness, diversity, and accessibility) and stratified purposive sampling for human participants: | |

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| | (1) Experts and scholars in architecture, cultural geography, and heritage conservation.<br>(2) Local government officials and village leaders.<br>(3) Clan members and villagers from Hanqiao and surrounding areas.<br>(4) Tourists and residents from outside the village.<br><br>4. Research Variables<br>The research variables are cultural-geographic factors influencing traditional villages, including:<br>(1) Independent Variables: Natural environment (topography, hydrology, climate), historical-cultural factors (migration, agriculture, commerce), clan system, religious beliefs, architectural aesthetics.<br>(2) Dependent Variables: Village spatial patterns, settlement typologies, architectural forms, cultural symbols, and heritage values.<br>5. Research Instruments<br>(1) Questionnaire: Designed for villagers, tourists, and stakeholders (developed by the researcher, bilingual Chinese/English, with Likert scale and open-ended questions).<br>(2) Interview Form: Semi-structured guide for experts, local elders, and craftsmen (developed by the researcher, adapted from previous cultural heritage studies).<br>(3) Architectural Survey Tools: Manual measurement, laser distance meter, AutoCAD, and drone aerial photography.<br>(4) GIS and Database Tools: ArcGIS, SketchUp modeling, and cultural factor database. | |

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| | 6. Data Collection<br>Data were collected in three phases:<br>(1) Documentary Phase: Collection of historical archives, gazetteers, clan records, and previous academic studies.<br>(2) Fieldwork Phase: On-site surveys, mapping, photography, drone aerial imaging, questionnaires, and interviews.<br>(3) Digitalization Phase: Compilation of CAD drawings, GIS spatial analysis, database construction, and 3D modeling of Hanqiao Sankun Hall.<br>7. Data Analysis / Statistical Analysis Methods (if any)<br>(1) Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding of interviews, cultural symbol interpretation, and architectural semiotic analysis.<br>(2) Quantitative Analysis: Descriptive statistics of questionnaire responses, Likert scale evaluation, and comparative analysis between different village types.<br>(3) Spatial Analysis: GIS overlay analysis of geographic and cultural factors.<br>(4) Modeling and Visualization: 3D reconstruction and cultural factor database for visual interpretation.<br>Note: (For multi-phase research, researcher should specify research methodology separately for each phase) | |
| | **Expected benefits**<br>(1) To help deepen the understanding of the cultural ecosystem of traditional villages in Nanning and to establish a traditional residential architecture database centered on “Hanqiao Sankun Hall.”<br>(2) To help reveal the cultural symbolic meanings of the decorative motifs of Hanqiao Sankun Hall. | |

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| | (3) To help summarize the residential aesthetic system formed through the integration of Guangfu dwellings and Guangxi hilly residences in the Qing Dynasty, thereby expanding the academic perspective of research on Chinese residential aesthetics.<br>(4) To obtain an architectural “typical case” that can serve as a reference, providing guidance for subsequent protection and design practices of related villages.<br>(5) To promote the enhancement of cultural heritage protection awareness through exhibition design and public education, thereby contributing to cultural tourism in Nanning and rural revitalization. | |
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