

The Relation Of Garden Design And Daily Activities To Aesthetics And Art In Japanese Culture

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Abstract - The Japanese culture is unique, as it is interested in all of daily activities details and Garden design, through respect and appreciation, which produces the Japanese aesthetics and art that mixed with beliefs and religion. Since they believe in Buddhism that the deities are in all over the place, so it was logical that they should respect and appreciate everything, as well as creating the Japanese environment as the headquarter for worship and meditation, also make it like a paradise on the earth and connect it with the spiritual world, this is embodied in the interest of simplicity, humility and discipline, that can be seen in many examples of designs and daily activities. This paper aims to clarify the connection between garden design and daily activities with the traditions and religions of Japan, which reflects the moral and aesthetic dimension of this culture, through mentioning some of examples. This paper was done by studying previous books and articles that touched the same subject.

Key Words: Aesthetics, Japanese Design, Daily Activities, Zen Philosophy, Art, Japanese Gardens, The Moral Dimension, Japanese tradition & Culture, A Japanese Nature, Oku, Wabi, Sabi, Yugen, Sakuteiki, Japanese Lunch Box, Origata, Ikebana.

1. INTRODUCTION

Expanding the concept of art and aesthetics to accommodate a wide range of human experience in daily life, which contains many activities that usually have high artistic and aesthetic value, where scientists believe that beauty is relief which we encounter everywhere, Japanese culture included this concept by connecting the daily activities with art, religion and beliefs that embodied in all aspects of daily activities which is not possible to separate, and this increasing attention which is mixed with creativity and arts creates morality aesthetics and simplicity, respect, appreciation, discipline and humility that gives aesthetic value and reflect the moral and aesthetic dimension and distinguishes the Japanese culture and makes it different from other cultures, that is clear in some of their daily activities such as, the tea ceremony, flower arrangement, Noah theatre, Wabi, Sabi, Yugen, which is embodied in the regarding food packaging and design gardens, letter writing, music, in addition to aesthetic of cooking and the development of behavior and good ideals. The paper aims to clarify the overlap of daily activities, design, art, and aesthetics with the traditions and religion to create a unique

culture that worship, appreciate and respect deities through all the daily activities, which in turn creates a moral and aesthetic dimension of Japanese culture.

2. JAPANESE GARDEN DESIGN & DAILY ACTIVITIES

There are many Japanese activities and aesthetics which are practiced in daily life, packaging is one of the daily life activities which describe the physical object, dealing with the package is embodied in unwrapping, which gives the moral values and emphasizes the humility, the cultivation of moral feelings and the principle of respect for the innate characteristics of the object, and also the needs of human. The Japanese packaging tradition is well known for the use of aesthetic and functions of materials, where the design of various packaging materials is not only to protect the content, but also in order to emphasize the innate characteristics. The purpose is to infer aesthetic pleasure to the hidden pleasure, This is known as the temporal sequence of the recipient's, And the process is first open the tape then open the wrapping paper and after that open the gift this gives more understand for aesthetics of the hidden and behind layers so that they cannot access for things directly and be in a hidden image as well as bamboo wrap and wrap the cloth. For example, Furoshik: it's a traditional Japanese wrapping cloth which is used for anything, Origata: the traditional Japanese paper wrapping. There is a spiritual relationship for appreciating things and giving kind of aesthetic pleasure [1]. As shown in figure 1.

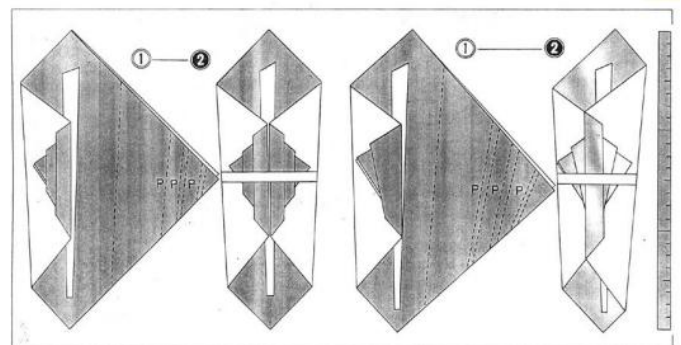


Fig -1: "Origata" Aesthetics multisensory. Example of the way packaging of equipment and gifts, for the participation of all the senses [2].

Japanese architecture uses Oku in art and design which is important layers that are kind of unseen, which makes lack

of perception of things that will come in the next. Oku is used in interior or exterior of a building or place, forest or mountain, and the depth of Oku is not governed by absolute distance, it is an arrangement of space to suggest depth by means of overlapping as seen in figure 2. The Japanese traditional house could not be understood from only one aspect, so there is a need to discover the design house of several places that by walking, begins from the external part to the entrance and then the inner part. In addition, stroll gardens in the Japanese landscape are constructed by intentionally blocking or particularly obscuring the scenic view through dense planting. The spatial design in traditional houses ranges from the external part to internal part where the inner parts of the house are hidden. The involvement of vision or sight is very important factor of recipient's experience. It is the guidance of recipients, where the sequence of aesthetic experience starts by vision. Also the traditional buildings, such as Buddhist temples, and shrines of Shinto are hidden by series of enclosures and walls, gates, the individual begins moving from outer to the inner, the sequence of vision starts. The glimpse of the person gradually unfolds the inner contents as he keeps walking through walls and gates, so walking during gardens to tea house is an unfolding process and the main element of this process is vision. Thus, recipients experience is guided and created basically by vision and recognition [3].



Fig -2: Oku; the visitor's sense of depth is reinforced by the fact that the approach is not straight but winding. The curve affords alternating viewing points and locomotion [4].

Another example is wrapping sushi, the Japanese food is prepared differently, when open (wrap sushi) can touch the

wrap, than can open the food and touch and taste it, this will make visual stimulation and imagination goes away with all these sensations which have gravity sensory and known as the multisensory aesthetics [1]. Attitude is also embodied in respect for, and appreciation of the quintessential character of an object. Moreover one of the garden design is Sakuteiki which is putting the rocks in a distinctive way, that give an aesthetic value of these rocks, and this principle suggests that the arrangement of rocks are dictated by their innate characteristics, therefore garden design attracts and holds attention [5], as seen in figure 3 and 4. It organizes the view into orderly groups with emphasis to describe the nature in the design process. and the temporal sequence of describing Japanese garden design, by arrange stones in an irregular manner and different shapes and sizes, creates simplicity and diversity together to balance each other. Changing the axis leads to attention for every details in the garden and changes thoughts which leads to more engaging and enriching by providing different angles. That is the way to see all the important things in the scene. From the strategy of Miegakure: literally meaning "now you see it, now you know" [1], even from inside the building you can see the scene from several aspects.



Fig -3: The rock garden of Ryoanji-temple creates a place for deep meditation [6].



Fig -4: Japanese garden in shigemori museum of garden art [4].

In addition, Ikebana: the Japanese art of flower arrangement is an art form within certain rules for arrangement, where nature and humanity are brought

together. It is the philosophy of developing a closeness with nature, which is a creative expression and the meaning latent in the total form of the flower arrangement by creating a link between the indoors and the outdoors. The art of flower arrangement in Japan is an important aspect, there are many ways of coordinating the flowers, and that lies behind each of them has different philosophy and method [1], as seen in figure 5.



Fig -5: Basic style Ikebana [7].

In the tea gardens design, attention is given to every interesting details of garden by listening for all the sounds, also by moving the smell of flowering, pruning the trees, and putting the rocks in a distinctive way, this gives an aesthetic value of humility and respect for the material, as well as captures the inner beauty of nature and respect for everything without any change [3], as shown in figure 6. Also public gardens related to inspiration and meditation, for example waterfalls in these garden mean that the life of youth are fast to getting ideas, but when the water be fall slowly this means that young has stopped thinking about the future. Additional to that, seasonal change and weather conditions all give a spiritual feeling [8], as shown in figure 7. One of other important factor is respect of material aesthetics which includes a deep respect of materials is that the design of gardens always uses nature materials in the design to respect and give value for all details of nature. In addition to tea ceremony is private ritual that stems from the Japanese tradition, which making a tea is done according to appreciation of aesthetic that is performed by the conversation between the host and guests and provision the tea in a private room, and use materials from nature, such as cups and pots which are usually made of pottery or wood in addition to tea, which it must be fresh and prepared by nature way, and move it by a special brush. It gives a positive effect reflecting the good properties that need to be instilled in everyone, such as morality, simplicity, appreciation [1].



Fig -6: An example of tea house garden [4].



Fig -7: Public Japanese garden in the adachi museum of art [4].

One aspect of the Japanese traditional culture is the traditional art performances, which are very popular. They include Art Theater and musical theater which reflect the aesthetic dimension. There are various rituals aesthetic daily which we don't find emphasis on them, such as ceremonies, and funerals, which express religious commitments toward life, nonetheless plays a crucial role in various cultural practices. The religious life in Japan is the life of long history of interaction between religious traditions and customs. And include Shinto or Buddhism [8]. It is the aesthetics of Japanese daily activities, known as functional spaces, that is flexible in providing Japanese food which give beauty, taste and texture for things. For example, the lunch box in the Japanese kitchen, where meals are served once in a single panel and various forms. In the lunch box there are voids of space divided in different forms. This difference gives us the flexibility and functionality, as well as the balance between parts, which increases the joy and anticipation when you open the lid. This is known as the spatial arrangement [3], as seen in figure 8. Another example is knives. "That the aesthetic value of a knife consists not only of its visual qualities and its feel in my hand, determined by its surface texture, weight, and balance but, most importantly, by how smoothly and effortlessly can cut an object with it" [8].



Fig -8: The aesthetics of the Japanese lunch box [9].

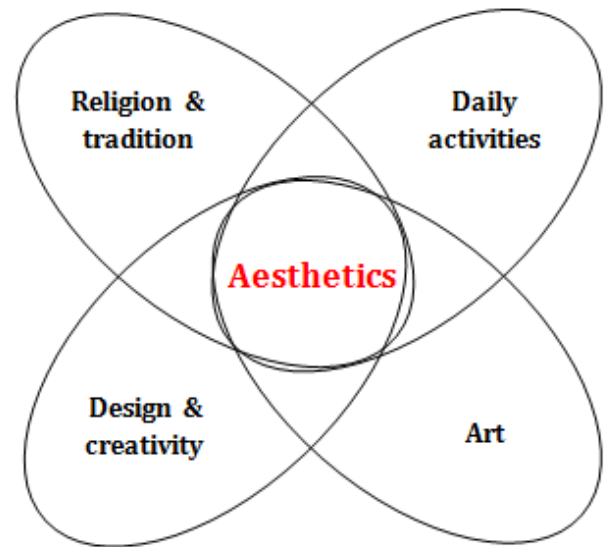


Fig -9: The most important factors that affect the creation of aesthetics in Japanese culture.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Daily life contains many events and activities that can be of an aesthetic and artistic value. Japanese culture is able to link the daily activities, art and garden design with tradition and religion to create a great combination of aesthetic that is reflected in all aspects of life and supports the simplicity, humility and appreciation, through some of cultural behavior and distinct ideals which brought together a variety of religious beliefs that stemming from the Japanese environment and Buddhism religion, which in turn leads to enhance aesthetics and creates a unique culture interested in art and aesthetic and spiritual world, also it is closely linked with the thoughts and religion, as pointed out in some of the examples mentioned for daily activities, which deduce that Japanese culture has a strong relationship between design and daily activities to create art and aesthetics, and this relation is composed by religion and tradition Japanese, as shown in figure 9.

As Japanese believe in Buddhism religions that deities are everywhere, So it makes sense that they must respect and appreciate every things and make the Japanese environment as a headquarters of worship and contemplation, thus linking it with the spiritual world to become a paradise on earth. This increased attention gives creative and artistic value, which in turn reflects the aesthetic and ethical dimension in Japanese culture.

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