

## **Aesthetic Creation and Application of Plant Patterns in Guzheng**

### **Decorative Design**

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*Abstract: The pattern is an important representative of the Chinese traditional decorative culture, especially a variety of plant theme patterns is more exquisite and colorful, meaning beautiful and well known, loved by the masses of the people, is widely used in practice. In the design of Guzheng musical instruments, adding proper plant patterns can not only improve the temperament and aesthetic feeling of guzheng, but also bring better visual experience to the audience. Therefore, this article as a clue, mainly from the guzheng instrument design point of view, discussed how to better use of plant patterns, which brings unique aesthetic and visual impact. In the study, a large number of cases are explained, which can better highlight the beauty and function of the plant patterns in guzheng design.*

*Keywords: plant pattern, guzheng, aesthetic feeling, traditional culture*

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## **1. AN OVERVIEW OF PLANT PATTERNS**

### **1.1 Concept of Plant Patterns**

Traditional patterns can be traced back to the primitive society when ancestors were awestruck by the unknown world and patterns were mainly reflected on ceramics [1]. Patterns during this period had a significant impact on later patterns and laid a solid foundation for traditional patterns. As time goes by, traditional patterns has developed constantly and made great progress in social practice [2]. It has become an important part of traditional Chinese design and decoration culture. Thick with culture and history, it has become an important carrier and icon of traditional culture [3].

Therefore, plant patterns are actually patterns themed by plants and a part of pattern systems in traditional Chinese culture, as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Plant Patterns

### 1.2 Categories and Contents of Plant Patterns

Plant patterns can be classified into different categories. From the perspective of plants, they are divided into flower patterns, tree patterns, crop patterns and other patterns. In terms of the contents, plant patterns are generally vivid and realistic representation of plants by virtue of sketching and realistic painting. Although such method is vivid and direct, it has some deficiencies in respect to art.

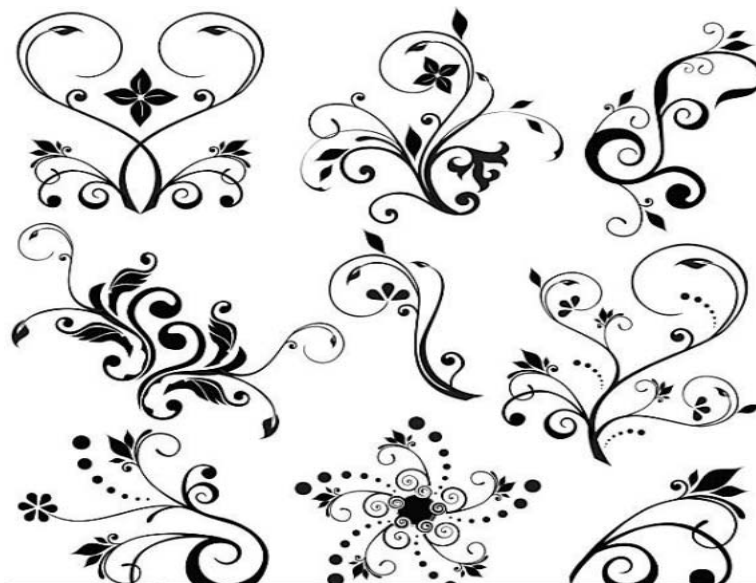


Figure 2 Plant Patterns

Another method of expression is freehand depiction, namely, omit some details of plants. For example, it is possible to reserve lines of plants, without describing the color or texture meticulously, thereby making a more concise impression on observers. The third method of expression is image depiction. In other words, objects are abstracted to simple patterns that are similar to symbols, thereby causing association and representing elements of plants (as shown in Figure 2). Plant patterns can better demonstrate their beauty and design value when they are applied to the design of musical instruments such as Guzheng.

### **1.3 Features of Plant Patterns**

Judging from features, there is no doubt that plant patterns have strong visual sense. As a kind of stick figures, plant patterns achieve outstanding visual effects. Different colors bring different visual experience, different lines create different aesthetic effects and different viewing angles give different senses of depth and distance, which determines that plant patterns can exert their unique values when they are applied to the design of musical instruments such as Guzheng.

In addition, plant patterns are specific forms of the plants to be drawn, namely, visual representation of the objects to a certain extent. Plant patterns are plant based artistic creation, rather than subjectless casual description. It is feasible to simply and realistically grasp the most obvious or essential spiritual characteristics of objects. In other words, plant patterns that look like nothing or everything are failures. Vivid plant patterns can present all features of the objects, without separating themselves from the fundamental forms. What's more, such plant patterns can be identified in various ways, with diversified application values.

## **2. APPLICATION OF PLANT PATTERNS IN GUZHENG DECORATIVE DESIGN**

### **2.1 Application and Expression of Plant Patterns**

Patterns are the foundation of existence and application, and the key carriers of visual expression of plant patterns. According to Figure 3 (Application Effects of Plant Patterns in Guzheng Design), round, convolute and traditional plant patterns are important decorative images of traditional culture. In addition, local design of the musical instrument follows the shape of plant patterns and the overall design of plant patterns conforms to the requirements of traditional culture. All these reflect Chinese characteristics of Guzheng and bring people visual and sensual pleasure.

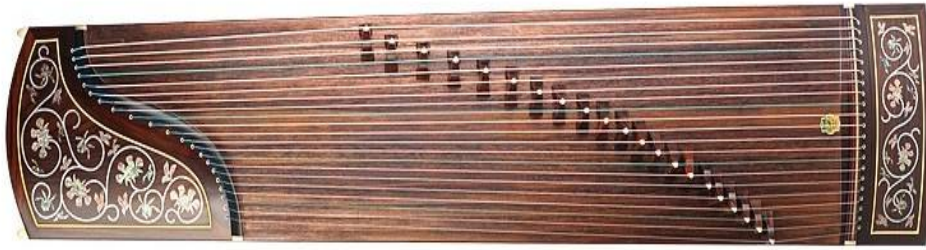


Figure 3 Application Effects of Plant Patterns in Guzheng Design

Pattern design plays an important role in the overall design of plant patterns. As shown in Figure 3, traditional patterns of curling tendrils are utilized to form a circle and represent perfection. The cutout design provides for the real in the unreal and for the unreal in the real, and impresses people as elegant and grave. In terms of complementary colors, red and gold are adopted to beautify the appearance of the musical instrument, enhance its classical charm and highlight the beauty of plant patterns.

## 2.2 Collocation and Combination of Pattern Colors

Colors are not only core elements of visual expression, but important carriers to represent features and connotations of plant patterns. Undoubtedly, different colors have different implications. For example, deep red plant patterns represent auspiciousness, rich and peacefulness; white plant patterns stand for purity and future life; gold plant patterns are designed exclusively for the royal and noble family. Therefore, different colors of plant patterns have different application values, which is referred to as color identification.



Figure 4 Application Effects of Plant Patterns in Guzheng Design

Guzheng are perfectly combined with plant patterns by virtue of similar materials, so as to impress people as mature, stable, elegant and magnificent. As shown in Figure 4, brightly colored ornaments are added to Guzheng on this basis, thereby giving the musical instrument a sense of the times. The perfect combination of the two interprets the implicit, beautiful, refined, simple and fashion nature of Guzheng incisively and vividly.

### 2.3 Collocation of Pattern Elements and Other Elements

Plant patterns are important cultural images of Chinese traditional patterns and carriers of traditional culture. In the context of the rapid development of modern technology and civilization, traditional plant patterns serve as centuries-old and positive civilization images. They have been widely applied to contemporary Guzheng design and commercial activities, obtained outstanding artistic achievements and become an important symbol of the development and recovery of Chinese traditional decorative culture.



Figure 5 Application Effects of Plant Patterns in Guzheng Design

Local details of modern Guzheng ornaments reflect the respect of plant patterns for decoration. Bright colors are organically combined with the delicacy of plant patterns, thereby improving quality and artistic beauty of Guzheng. It's revealed in Figure 5 that the combination of Guzheng design technologies and plant pattern elements not only gives the musical instrument national characteristics, but also combines them with fashion elements perfectly, which reflects the complete harmony of classical and modern elements and brings out the best in each other.

## 2.4 Beauty of Plant Patterns

Plant patterns, which are based on traditional Chinese culture, are characterized by cultural identity and artistic beauty. In the meantime, they have diversified economic values. Wherein, cultural beauty is the value of plant patterns and the fundamental reason why they become important materials for modern design. In addition, plant patterns have a strong and multi-level sense of artistic beauty (as shown in Figure 6), which makes people feel extremely comfortable and happy. All these are attributed to the artistic beauty and charm of plant patterns.



Figure 6 Application Effects of Plant Patterns in Guzheng Design

For many Guzheng designers in modern times, it is necessary to profoundly study features of plant pattern design and make innovations on this basis, so as to grasp the essentials of designing plant patterns. When applied to Guzheng design, plant patterns carry forward decorative art. They take ornaments as the major ground to highlight Guzheng temperament, highlight its attributes, promote classical design and represent the unique beauty of plant patterns by extensively designing and reforming their patterns, brilliance, colors, graphics and lines.

## 3. CONCLUSION

To sum up, this paper elaborates application values of plant patterns to Guzheng design and reveals: the beauty of plant patterns originates from the unique graphics, colors, ornaments and symbolic meanings. It is essentially a kind of comprehensive artistic features. The application of plant patterns to Guzheng design can significantly beautify the appearance of Guzheng, improve its attractiveness, greatly enhance its traditional cultural charm and bring people better experience.

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