

# Explore the Design Model of Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in Urban Renewal in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

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## Abstract

**Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) is a water dweller with a long history in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Its unique water life mode is now facing many challenges. In view of its current situation, the article focuses on exploring the design mode of Danjia settlement in urban renewal, hoping to achieve a balanced relationship between the land and water communities, and put forward a feasible reference.**

## Keywords

**Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia), Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, urban renewal.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the past urban and rural planning or urban renewal designs, most of them focused on community planning on land, or land communities involving waterfront space. However, in reality, there are water communities that can be traced back to seven thousand years ago. Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia), most of them still live a life without water, or still take houseboats as their homes, and the old few generations live in the cabins; or rely on the banks of the river and sea, planting wooden piles to frame rafters, and placing bamboos. The rice is the top wall, the wooden planks are the floor mats, and the "dangjiaolou" (dry fence-style building) facing the water is a land-based residence that is convenient for working on the water(see Fig. 1.)

However, with the prosperous development of Guangdong cities, the promulgation of the outline plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the rapid development of urban and rural planning, there are now fewer and fewer Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) members who rely on boats as their homes, or they are forced to move under the grand urban development plan. Landing, or relatively backward economic reasons are not enough to support the current life, thus abandoning the original "turf".As far as the current urban planning is concerned, the ignorance of this unique community on the water, coupled with the old discrimination and the new era of "washing feet and landing" policies[1], all affect the inheritance and continuation of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia). From the perspective of urban heritage, the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) that needs urgent attention and protection is one of them. Gradually, the unique architectural posture, history, culture, and lifestyle of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) have drifted away[2].



**Fig 1.** Iron shed houses of Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in Coloane, Macau (Image source: the author's self-photo)

## **2. THE FEASIBILITY OF PROTECTING WATER-FARING COMMUNITY (DAN JIA) IN URBAN RENEWAL PLANNING**

In the actual situation, the protection of water communities such as Danjia settlements is faced with dilemmas caused by different factors. The living space, the evolution of houseboat and the management strategy of Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in urban renewal are different in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Cities have different explorations, and because of the execution power and operation time sequence of the management of each city, there are also different degrees of problems. The following will analyze the feasibility of protecting the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in the urban renewal plan.

### **2.1. Macro Policies Promote the Inheritance of Chinese Cultural Heritage**

At the beginning of 2017, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council of our country issued the "Opinions on the Implementation of the Inheritance and Development Project of Chinese Excellent Traditional Culture", which included the "protection and inheritance of cultural heritage" as a key task. The main areas include historical and cultural cities, famous towns and villages, historical and cultural blocks, former residences of celebrities, traditional houses, historical buildings, revolutionary cultural memorial sites, agricultural heritage, industrial heritage and other major areas and building types, and are mainly protected. Rescue first, while strengthening the management of urban characteristics.

In recent years, the construction of beautiful villages, the protection of historical districts, and the revitalization of rural areas have entered a construction frenzy. It seems that every city is constantly tapping its own cultural characteristics, becoming a business card of the new era, and building Protection and restoration of heritage. One of the manifestations of the houseboats of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in Hainan Province is the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) fishing raft, which is a form of aquatic architecture that combines the three factors of

breeding, fishing, and residence by the contemporary marine Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia). It is included in Analysis and Inheritance of Chinese Traditional Architecture among the ten traditional houses in "Analysis and Inheritance (Hainan Volume)", the styles in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao are slightly different from those in Hainan, but the protection of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) is feasible under the current general environment.

## **2.2. Local Spontaneous Protection of Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) Cultural Heritage**

The Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) has created a unique culture in the coastal areas of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and inland rivers. However, with the development of the city, many Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) members are forced to "wash their feet and go ashore." In the Fishermen Village, Sanshan North District, Nanhai District, Foshan City of Guangdong Province, there are 1217 people, most of whom still make a living by fishing. Although some people have gone ashore to live, they still cannot do without the life style of fishermen. They are basking in the sun to repair fishing nets, catch fishery products, and make fish food (canned or dried aquatic products). It is also because of this unique urban style and culture. In 2017, the fishermen's village future renovation plan was posted on the public notice at the entrance of the village, involving the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) Cultural Museum, theme park, fishermen's style inn and guesthouse, etc. There are also places for fishing boats and houseboats on the edge, and the water community is combined with the land community, and the cultural theme tourism area is used to make a natural transition.

## **2.3. Research promotion by folk scholars**

Although the culture and urban heritage of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) has not received widespread attention, the academic research on the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in the past few years can be described as "in the ascendant." In recent years, China has successfully held seminars on "Urban Renewal and Inheritance of the Traditional Culture of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in Fishing Villages" in China, including Sanya in Hainan, Shenzhen in Guangdong, and Yangjiang in Guangdong. At the Sanya Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) Culture Forum, led by Professor Zhou Weimin and Professor Tang Lingling of Hainan University, it simulates independent disciplines with unique groups as research objects, such as "Guangfu Studies", "Chaoshan Studies", "Hakka Studies", etc. The model and many scholars have advocated the establishment of an independent subject of "Danjia Studies", involving its ethnic origin, geographical distribution, economy, culture, physical fitness and historical changes, protection, urban renewal, etc., in order to promote its future development and make a broad Academic support.

## **3. RENEWAL DESIGN MODE OF WATER-FARING COMMUNITY (DAN JIA)**

Based on the perspective of urban heritage, while discussing the renewal design mode of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia), it also explores the balanced relationship between the water and land communities, and proposes the corresponding renewal design method from the renewal design concept.

### **3.1. The Goal of Urban Renewal**

Architecture is the carrier of culture, and culture is the connotation of architecture. Regardless of the method of renewal design, the goal is to preserve the functional integrity of the water community, and to trigger exchanges and interactions with the land community, and jointly build the city's historical culture.

### 3.2. Important Principles of Urban Renewal

(1) Meet the daily living and livelihood needs of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia), and then create a water community with mixed functions [3]. Protecting any urban heritage, whether it is a huge building or a seemingly inconspicuous small cultural relic, is the first function. It is also an important condition for the vitality of the community, daily life, and the sustainable development of ethnic groups. The second is to pay attention to the construction of public infrastructure in the water community. With reference to the traditional dwellings of Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) fishing rafts in Sanya, Hainan Province, where aquaculture, fishing and living are integrated, the water community should actively build common water communities in addition to the boathouses owned by its own property rights. Buildings and public facilities. Such as public activity space, public water school, community power supply, excretion, etc.

(2) Creating regional characteristics and preserving unique urban features are the source of the updated design. Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) has its own unique historical culture and development path under the influence of marine culture. Looking at the world, there are not many cities with unique marine culture. This is also one of the advantages of the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia). For the inheritance and protection of urban heritage, the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) should find cultural identity in the water environment and strengthen their strong desire for cultural protection.

(3) Improve hydrophilicity and increase the balance between land and water communities. In the current diversified urban cultural development environment, there is no excellent culture, and there is no distinction between good and bad. The renewal design of the community is also the same. There is no absolute distinction between land and water, whether it is better or worse, and residents who live on land or the water should not discriminate against each other. From the perspective of planners and designers, cities should not set up rigid, upright flood dikes or revetments in a unified "rigid" manner. They can try to increase the hydrophilicity to increase the balance between water and land communities. For example, consider setting up some submergible landscapes (recessed revetments) on the revetment at the junction of land and water. With the water level of the inland river during the flood season, the precipitation brought by the climate, and the ebb and flow of the ocean, the residents on land can view from different perspectives get close to the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia). The waterfront on the land can be set up for public activities, that is, it can be used for recreational activities, such as dancing, chess, etc., for the residents on the land. It is also possible for the Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) to find a space for drying equipment and tools for the fishery, and to promote communication between the residents of both land and water through public spaces.

(4) Increase the design of the marine ecological landscape. At present, most of our urban greening is aimed at the use of land, thus ignoring the huge ecological effects brought about by the water environment. Whether it is animals or plants, there are aquatic categories. Besides, the protection of the ecological shoreline of the city is very dependent on the ecological effect of the water environment. In areas such as urban lakes, the environment is often purified by designing ecological floating islands and planting aquatic wet plants. Around the water community, or on the shore, we can appropriately add wet plants and water plants that can purify water quality, adsorb pollutants, protect revetments, and increase the color of the landscape. If necessary, public art installations or waterfront recreational structures can also be added.

## 4. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

Although it seems that there are still many Water-Faring Community (Dan Jia) in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and some people even think that there is no

need to pay too much attention to it for the time being, if the Water-Faring Communities (Dan Jia) are divided into phases of "well-preserved and healthy development" from the development form, "General preservation, need for development" and "destroyed, on the verge of disappearing" these three categories, occupying more than 70% of the water communities in the "destroyed and on the verge of disappearing." However, no matter what kind of development it is, the most important thing is to establish their identity and cultural identity from the perspective of planning renewal and urban heritage protection, so that we have a strong desire for development. Sustainable development of spontaneous protection. Today, they are no longer the people on the water who were discriminated against in the past, and they are no longer an alien who cannot go ashore to interact with land residents. They are a part of our city residents and an excellent culture leftover from our historical changes. And the residential mode of the water community will also be able to enter into new ideas for further research in the context of rapid urban development due to land expansion.

## REFERENCES

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