

## Research on Beautiful Countryside Construction in China: Taking Shandong Province as an Example

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### Abstract

With the rapid development of China's urbanization, some problems needing to be taken seriously occur, one of which is that poor protection of traditional village culture and traditional architectural culture and lack of regional characteristics in some countryside constructions. Taking the beautiful countryside construction in Shandong Province as an example, this paper analyzes and summarizes the relationship between the countryside dwellings in Shandong Province and various influence factors from the perspectives of history and current status of countryside dwellings in various places of Shandong Province, proposes a more scientific division method for distribution areas of countryside dwellings in Shandong Province, summarizes different regional characteristics of countryside dwellings in various places of Shandong Province and comes up with the new idea about the beautiful and livable countryside construction in various places of Shandong Province as per geographical environment and cultural custom. Aimed at the regional characteristics of various places in Shandong Province, this paper points out that how to carry out the principle of "ecological civilization, green and low-carbon, cultural inheritance and characteristics demonstration" in the process of beautiful and livable countryside construction and puts forward the feasible planning, construction and protective measures. All abovementioned contents proposed in this paper have the important application value and practical significance for researching and protecting the regional characteristics in the countryside of Shandong Province and promoting the

beautiful countryside construction. In the meantime, all abovementioned contents provide the basis for research and protection of regional characteristics of the countryside and dwellings in Shandong Province and the new thought for inheritance of urban and rural traditional culture and beautiful countryside construction in China.

**Key words:** Urban and rural construction; Beautiful countryside; Regional characteristics; Dwellings

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### INTRODUCTION

The urbanization is a natural and historical process going with industrial development, gathering of non-agricultural industries in towns and intensiveness of rural population in towns, an objective trend of social development of human beings and an inevitable course for national modernization. So far, China has entered into the decisive stage for building a comprehensive well-off society and is in the important period for economic transformation and upgrading and speeding up propulsion of socialist modernization and in a crucial period for in-depth development of the urbanization, thus, China must seize the huge opportunity contained in urbanization firmly, judge the new trend and features of the urbanization development accurately and meet the risks and challenges in urbanization appropriately, which have the important practical significance for construction and development of the beautiful and livable countryside in Shandong Province.

## 1. NEW THOUGHT ON CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF BEAUTIFEL COUNTRYSIDE IN SHANDONG PROVINCE

In the process of the urbanization development, developed countries in Europe and America attach great importance to the harmonious and joint development of the medium and small towns. In the researches on the rural development, the number of researches that integrate theories and methods of many subjects and center on various problems in ecological and cultural protection occurring in the rural development has increased obviously in recent years. These researches enlarge the depth and breadth, pay attention to establishing connection between the urban and rural spaces and also attach importance to protection of regional cultural characteristics of towns, rural ecological and cultural characteristics and natural landscape and ancient village culture, thus, combinations between the traditional dwellings and modern facilities, between beautiful natural landscape and comfortable living environment, and between historical culture and modern civilization inheritance are formed; in the meantime, the contents and development of rural cultural tourism industry are promoted. All of abovementioned contents are worth scholars' thought and learning in China.

However, with the rapid development of urbanization, there are also some contradictions and problems needing to be taken seriously and solved occurring in Shandong Province, one of which is that poor protection of traditional village culture and traditional architectural culture and lack of regional characteristics in some countryside constructions. Planning of some towns is inharmonious with the local natural environment characteristics due to the vague guiding thought and development goal and planning of a part of towns breaks away from the actual construction due to craving for things big and foreign. Thus, the natural landscape and cultural characteristics are destroyed in some countryside areas. In addition, there is also a part of countryside areas pulling down and constructing buildings in large scale, constructing new countryside by indiscriminately imitating the mode of urban community and simply imitating urban buildings and planning to replace the traditional natural countryside and idyllic scenery with picturesque scenery, which result in the severe cultural loss.

On March 16, 2014, Xinhua News Agency released *National New-Type Urbanization Plan* (from 2014 to 2020) printed and distributed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council. This macroscopic, strategic and foundational plan points out that China must start from the biggest actuality, i.e. the primary stage of the socialism and abide by the rules of urbanization development to insist on the new type urbanization with Chinese characteristics; in the process

of urban and rural construction, China must follow the principles of "people foremost, synchronization of four modernizations, optimized layout, ecological civilization and cultural inheritance" etc.. Contents pointed out in this Plan indicate direction for sound development of construction of urbanization and the beautiful countryside in Shandong Province. In the speech made by General Secretary Xi Jinping in February 2014, General Secretary Xi Jinping mentioned that essence of thought and essence of morality in Chinese excellent traditional culture shall be absorbed carefully and the national spirit cored by patriotism and spirit of the time cored by reform and innovation shall be carried forward strongly so as to make the Chinese excellent traditional culture become the important source for cultivating the socialist core values. In the meantime, Xi Jinping also pointed out that the relationship between the inheritance and the innovative development shall be handled well and the innovative transformation and the innovative development shall be focused on. This speech becomes the guiding thought for solving problems in protection of the historical and cultural heritages and lack of regional characteristics etc. occurring in the process of construction of the beautiful countryside.

From the perspective of the current status of the beautiful and livable countryside construction in various places of Shandong Province, we should carefully analyze and summarize the relationship between the countryside dwellings of Shandong Province and various influence factors, summarize the regional cultural characteristics of the countryside dwellings in various places of Shandong Province, explore how to carry out the principle of "ecological civilization, green and low- carbon, cultural inheritance and characteristics demonstration" in the process of beautiful and livable countryside construction and put forward the corresponding feasible planning, construction and protective measures, which will have the important application value and practical significance for researching and protecting the regional characteristics of countryside dwellings of Shandong Province and promoting the beautiful and livable countryside construction. In other words, in terms of the application value, these contents will provide the basis for research and protection of regional characteristics of countryside in Shandong Province, while in terms of the theoretical perspective, these contents will provide the new thought for inheritance of traditional culture and beautiful and livable countryside construction in Shandong Province.

## 2. PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE IN SHANDONG PROVINCE

In Shandong Province, there is complex and diversified geographical landforms and long historical culture.

In addition, the countryside areas and dwellings in various places of Shandong Province show the different diversified forms in terms of the structural layout, building materials and modeling characteristics. The comprehensive and solid basis can be laid for grasping the regional and cultural characteristics of countryside and dwellings in Shandong Province only after in-depth and detailed field investigation and collection of first-hand materials by means of referring to the large amount of materials and documents.

Forming of the regional characteristics of countryside dwellings in various places of Shandong Provinces has the intricate relationship with the geographical environment, regional economy, historical culture and customs. When analyzing and summarizing the different characteristics of dwellings in various places, the rational and comprehensive analysis shall be made in multi-perspective and all-around manner from the perspectives of the history and current status of Shandong Province, which is the only way to grasp the extension and intension of construction of beautiful and livable countryside in various places of Shandong Province in-depth and roundly.

In the process of promoting construction of beautiful and livable countryside, it not only should conform to the development of times and meet the people's ever-increasing living demand, but also should fully expand the harmony between the characteristics of countryside dwellings and the environment and the practicability of characteristics of countryside dwelling. In the meantime, the regional characteristics also need to be kept to develop the beautiful and livable countryside with the historical memory, cultural venation, regional landscape and local characteristics. In order to achieve this goal, we need to propose the feasible planning, construction and cultural protection principles and measures by means of comprehensive analysis on specific conditions in various places of Shandong Province.

In the process of protecting the regional characteristics of dwellings in the countryside and promoting construction of beautiful and livable countryside in Shandong Province, we also should pay attention to the cultivation of the cultural spirit, pursue the balance between the protection and development and strive to continue the historical context and protect the ecological environment when promoting the local economic construction and development. In the meantime, we should perfectly treat with the relationship between the inheritance of the traditional culture and construction of the beautiful and livable countryside, between the utilization of historical culture resources and development of local economy, and between the urban and rural planning and the ecological environment well so as to promote the sound development of construction of beautiful and livable countryside in various places of Shandong Province.

### 3. EMPHASIZING REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE IN SHANDONG PROVINCE

On the basis of investigation and research on countryside dwellings in various places of Shandong Province, this paper comes up with the innovative ideas about protection of regional characteristics of dwellings and research on construction of beautiful and livable countryside in Shandong Province. According to the natural environment and regional customs in various places of Shandong Province, dwellings in countryside areas of Shandong Province are divided into 6 types including central regional of Shandong Province, Weifang region, Jiaodong region, southwestern region of Shandong Province, northwestern region of Shandong Province and the southeastern region of Shandong Province. Based on the opinions of the historical materialism and from the perspective of history and the current status, this paper analyzes and summarizes the relationship between the dwellings and the countryside community and embodies the different regional characteristics shown in the construction of beautiful and livable countryside in various places of Shandong Province.

Aimed at the regional characteristics of countryside dwellings in various places of Shandong Province, this paper points out that how to carry out the principle of "ecological civilization, green and low-carbon, cultural inheritance and characteristics demonstration" in the process of the new urbanization and beautiful and livable countryside construction and puts forward the feasible planning, construction and protective measures. In the meantime, this paper proposes to make the concept of the ecological civilization completely integrated into the course of construction of the beautiful and livable countryside in various places of Shandong Province, spare no efforts to promote the green development, cyclic development and low-carbon development; intensively and economically use lands, water, and energy resources etc., intensify the environmental protection and the ecological restoration, reduce the interference and damages on the natural environment; popularize the green and low-carbon production and living mode and promote the sound development of the beautiful and livable countryside. According to the natural environment and the historical cultural features in different regions, embody the regional difference, advocate the diversified forms and prevent the phenomenon of "same mode in thousands of villages". In the process of development and construction, we should protect the beautiful and livable countryside with the historical memory, cultural venation, regional landscape and local characteristics and form the

new distinctive construction and development mode for beautiful and livable countryside areas conforming to the actuality.

Exemplified by the seaweed cottages in Jiaodong region of Shandong Province, the seaweed cottages in Yantai and Weihai are considered as the countryside dwellings that have most characteristics of Shandong Province and most characteristics of original ecology. The special natural environment makes local countryside dwellings have the unique regional characteristics. In the coastal areas of Jiaodong Peninsula, there is a kind of flexible, long and thin seaweed with performance of heat insulation. Local people build the wall with the thick stone and then build the seaweed cottages with the sun-dried seaweed for building the roof. Due to a large amount of halogens and colloid substances, the roof made of the seaweed not only features mothproof, mildew and rot proof and non-flammable, but also is characterized by warm in winter and cool in summer, comfortable and still sturdy after one hundred years. Walls of these seaweed cottages are made of dark red granites. The walls are thick and solid, beautiful and livable and give people the straightforward and uninhibited, simple and honest feeling. And these walls and their surrounding natural environment blend together well. Thus, the seaweed dwelling is the typical representative of countryside dwellings in Jiaodong Peninsula.

The traditional dwellings in Tai'an, Shandong Province also utilize local natural resources, are very harmonious with the local environment and have the unique regional characteristics. Mountain Tai is known as "the first of the Five Famous Mountains in China" and is the natural and cultural heritage of the world. Tai'an, located in the hilly and mountain area in the middle of Shandong Province, is full of various types of landforms including mountains, hills, plains, wet lands and lakes etc. The dwellings in various places of Tai'an vary in building materials, building modeling and layout inside the dwellings etc. Generally speaking, dwellings in the mountain areas mainly adopt the stone materials, while those in the plain areas mainly adopt the civil structure. For the areas from the north of Feicheng to Dongping, the dome and flat roof are mainly used for dwellings, while flush gable roof is mainly adopted in other areas. The form of houses is more uniform in terms of the traditional dwellings in Tai'an. In general, the principal room faces the south and the house is divided into three or five bays or has the side rooms on both sides. The courtyard is in the south to the house, and the room referred to as "dining room" is built in the east of the courtyard. The place for livestock is established in the southwest of the courtyard. The eastern side of the south wall of the courtyard faces toward the courtyard gate of the gable of the eastern room. In the meantime, the layout, orientation and matching between size and height of the building are paid great attention. In general, layout

inside the courtyard is as follows: The roller is installed in the west of the courtyard where is close to the central room and the jar of salted vegetables is next to the roller; a shed, which is used for storing farm tools, is installed in the south to the jar of salted vegetables; a water well is established in the place where is slightly in the north to the middle of the courtyard; some flowers, grass and trees are planted in the courtyard. Thus the unique courtyard scene in the mountain areas forms.

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## SUMMARY

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In the course of human history, dwelling is an important link for development of the social civilization. The dwellings are the outcomes of development of the social economy and history. Forming and development of dwellings are limited by the geographical environment, regional economy and historical culture etc.. Shandong is an important province located in the eastern coast of China with the complex and diversified geographical landforms and long historical culture. Limited by the unique natural environment, historical culture and customs etc., dwellings in various places of Shandong Province show the different regional features in aspects of the structural layout, building materials and the modeling features. In the meantime, dwellings in various places of Shandong Province are the organic components of the Chinese traditional dwelling culture, thus it deserves more attention and researches of people in the world.

With the rapid development of China's economic construction, the urban and rural construction in various places of Shandong Province will change quickly, thus, properly protecting the regional characteristics of countryside dwellings of Shandong Province and better constructing the beautiful and livable countryside become especially important. In the process of investigation and research on dwellings in various places of Shandong Province, this paper proposes the innovative idea about the regional characteristics of dwellings in Shandong Province and comes up with a more scientific division method for distribution areas of dwellings in Shandong Province as per the regional environment and the customs and make the representative dwellings in each district stand out. In the meanwhile, based on the opinions of the historical materialism and from the perspectives of history and the current status, this paper analyzes and summarizes the relationship between the dwellings in Shandong Province and various influence factors and summarizes the different regional characteristics of dwellings in various places of Shandong Province.

Standing out the construction of beautiful and livable countryside with Shandong characteristics has the popularization significance for lifting people's protection awareness of regional characteristics of dwellings in the countryside; has the guiding significance for various-

level governments and urban and rural planning and construction departments to carry out construction of beautiful and livable countryside; and has the promotion significance for protection of ecological environment and development of cultural tourism industry. We should popularize, guide and arouse people's high attention to protection of regional culture and ecological environment and construction of beautiful and livable countryside constantly.

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