THE STATUS OF CHINESE COPPER FURNITURE IN CHINESE COPPER CRAFT

Peng Zhao¹ & Noppadon Sangwalpetch²

^{1,2} Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Thailand. Email: S66563832003@ssru.ac.th¹, noppadon.sa@ssru.ac.th²

Introduction

China's copper technology has a long history. As an important part of Chinese civilization, its exquisite technology and profound cultural heritage have attracted worldwide attention. Among many copper craft products, copper furniture, with its unique artistic charm and practical value, has become an outstanding representative of Chinese copper craftsmanship. This paper aims to explore the status of Chinese copper furniture in Chinese copper craft, and reveal the unique status and cultural significance of copper furniture in the field of copper craft through the analysis of its development history, types, crafts and artistic value.

Copper has rich historical and cultural connotations. As a decorative material, copper has its own characteristics and is superior to other metal materials, and has been widely used in modern home decoration. However, its traditional craft and unique aesthetic value are still not fully recognized and fully utilized by people today. At present, copper in modern home decoration design, its craft methods to be inherited and developed, copper as a cultural symbol value to be explored. Based on copper components, copper lamps, copper wood furniture and other carriers, the application of copper in modern home decoration design and its function and representative cultural connotation are emphatically analyzed, so as to demonstrate the unique artistic charm of copper as a decorative material.

Keyword: Copper technology, Development history, Copper material; Copper component; Copper lamp; Copper-wood furniture

The status of copper furniture from a historical perspective

1. History of copper technology development

China's traditional copper furniture has a long history, dating back to the 17th century BC, about 3700 years ago in the Shang Dynasty. For thousands of years, China's furniture has always maintained a unique national style and enjoys a high reputation in the world furniture system. China's furniture art is an integral part of our national cultural heritage, but also the crystallization of our working people's wisdom and wisdom in the long-term practice.

Due to the change of people's living habits, Chinese traditional furniture has experienced from the Shang and Zhou Dynasties to the Qin and Han dynasties of kneeling on the floor of the low furniture, from the Wei and Jin Dynasties to the Sui and Tang Dynasties of kneeling on the floor and sitting on the foot of the transition period of furniture, to the Northern Song Dynasty of sitting on the foot of the high furniture evolution process, and after five hundred and six hundred years of historical copper technology continuous development and improvement, in the Ming Dynasty reached its artistic peak.

The history of Chinese copper technology can be traced back to the Bronze Age thousands of years ago. Bronzes have become the symbol of ancient Chinese civilization with their exquisite shape, complex decoration and excellent casting technology. From the Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties to the Qin and Han Dynasties, the production technology of

bronze ware gradually matured and formed a unique artistic style and craft system. Subsequently, with the development of The Times, the copper process continued to evolve, and the application scope also expanded from the sacrificial rites to daily necessities, including furniture. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the production of copper furniture reached an unprecedented height, which not only inherited the exquisite skills of traditional bronze ware, but also integrated more innovative elements, becoming a symbol of social identity and status at that time.



Figure 1 The Simuwu Tripod was made in the late Shang Dynasty (about the 14th century BC to the 11th century BC)

Figure 2 The four Yang Square Zun is a bronze ritual vessel in the late Shang Dynasty Source: History of Chinese traditional furniture, Baidu Pictures

This four-legged persecutor extends to the Zhou dynasty. The upper side of the persecutor is an inverted trapezoid, the upper side is wide and the lower side is narrow, and the four walls are drawn diagonally. The platen is a trough shape, which is the precursor of the food plan with water blocking line that appeared later.

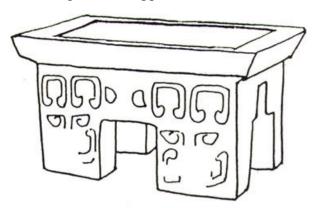


Figure 3 Stone utensils unearthed in Anyang, Henan (Shang Dynasty) Source: History of Chinese traditional furniture, Baidu Pictures

The Taotie Cicada-shaped platters made of bronze and has a long, narrow face, tilted ends and a slightly concave middle. Encircle the body with cicada, kui and Taotie patterns. We can see the shape of the later table furniture from the shape of this board foot

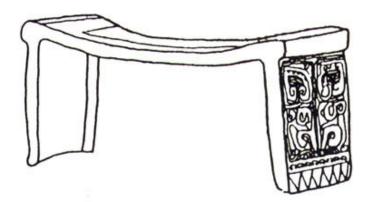


Figure 4 Taotie Cicada-shaped platters (Shang Dynasty to Zhou Dynasty) Source: History of Chinese traditional furniture, Baidu Pictures

In addition to its artistic value, bronze ware also has practical value, including kitchenware, wine ware, Musical Instruments, weapons, ritual ware and many other aspects. In ancient times, people regarded bronzes as a symbol of power, wealth and honor, and some wealthy nobles and royals would decorate their homes and residences with bronzes to show their power and enjoyment

2. Types and processes of copper furniture

There are many kinds of Chinese copper furniture, including tables, chairs, cabinets, screens and other types, each of which contains rich cultural connotations and exquisite craftsmanship. In the process, the production process of copper furniture includes material selection, forging, casting, polishing, gilding, engraving and other links. Among them, forging and casting techniques are the most critical, they require not only a high level of skill, but also a deep understanding of the properties of materials. In addition, the application of decorative techniques such as gilding, gold and silver errors, enamel decoration, etc. has added infinite brilliance to copper furniture, making it of high artistic value.

3. Copper furniture artistic value

The artistic value of copper furniture is reflected in many aspects. First of all, its diverse shapes, smooth lines, dynamic and rhythmic sense, showing the excellent design talent of ancient craftsmen. Secondly, the decoration on the copper furniture is exquisite and profound, such as the dragon and phoenix auspicious, auspicious clouds and auspicious beasts and other patterns, not only reflects the aesthetic pursuit of the ancients, but also their yearning for a better life. Moreover, the production process of copper furniture is complex and fine, every detail reveals the craftsman's heart and focus, and this spirit of ingenuity is an important part of the artistic value of copper furniture.

4. Summarize the historical status of copper furniture in copper technology

Copper furniture plays an important role in Chinese copper technology. It not only represents a peak in the development of copper technology, but also an important embodiment of the material civilization and spiritual civilization of ancient society. The production of copper furniture not only requires superb skills and rich experience, but also requires a deep understanding of materials, design, technology and other aspects, so it has become a fine work in the field of copper technology. At the same time, the wide application and inheritance of copper furniture has also promoted the continuous development and innovation of copper

craft technology, and provided valuable experience and inspiration for the production of copper crafts in later generations.

The modern status of copper furniture in China

Modern home design is in a diversified stage of development, with various new technologies and new materials emerging in endlessly. Among the many new materials, copper material stands out for its unique quality. Copper materials show excellent quality and strong performance effect in modern home design, which not only inherits the ancient copper culture, but also shows the new cognition of copper materials under the new technology and new technology. Copper materials are more and more accepted and recognized by more people and designers.







Figure 5 Cloud Dragon Chair (Modern)

Source:Design research of Copper cultural furniture based on Category Innovation, Wen Hao **Figure 6** Fuzi Chair (Modern)

Source: Design research of Copper cultural furniture based on Category Innovation, Wen Hao **Figure 7** Beautiful Albizia Chair (Modern)

Source: Design research of Copper cultural furniture based on Category Innovation, Wen Hao

1. Market demand and consumption trend

Consumption upgrade: With the improvement of people's living standards and the change of consumption concepts, more and more consumers have begun to pursue high-quality, high value-added household products. Copper furniture with its unique material, craft and artistic value, to meet the needs of this part of consumers, become their first choice to highlight personality and taste,

Diversified needs: modern home design style is increasingly diversified, copper furniture with its diversified shape and wide applicability, can be well integrated into a variety of home styles to meet different consumption individual needs of.

2. Technology and process innovation

Material innovation: Modern copper furniture pays more attention to environmental protection and sustainability in the material selection, and improves the durability and corrosion resistance of the furniture through the use of new copper alloy materials, while also reducing production costs

Process innovation: With the continuous progress of science and technology, modern copper furniture has also achieved many innovations in the production process. For example, the use of advanced casting, forging and surface treatment technology, so that the surface of the furniture more smooth and delicate, more rich texture.

For example, copper-wood furniture is a simple furniture style that has arisen recently, which is a combination of traditional Chinese wood furniture and copper material in modern furniture craft. Its most notable feature is that the furniture is connected with the mortise and tenon structure, "no iron nail" is a major feature of copper wood furniture. Another notable feature of copper-wood furniture is the use of modern technology to interpret the role of copper in modern furniture design. Copper wood furniture made of copper and precious wood is durable and green. This kind of furniture in addition to very practical, there is a unique artistic aesthetic value.

The bronze color is eye-catching and dazzling, which can coordinate the difference between different colors in the interior space, so that it can rule other colors with "gold" and achieve harmony and unity, so as to create bright, gorgeous and brilliant visual effects. Compared with gold and silver, brass is not expensive, but it can enhance the taste and style of furniture in the design of living space, making the furniture appear stylish and elegant. In particular, the color of brass and the traditional precious wood texture formed a sharp contrast, so that the copper and wood in the copper wood furniture of these two different materials formed a great contrast, and ultimately created a unique furniture style aesthetic taste. For example, the light yellow of brass and the deep red of rosewood match, and the two materials of copper and wood complement each other, and the copper and wood furniture is noble and gorgeous. Brass and walnut combined, copper wood furniture has become stable and low-key, luxury but not publicity.



Figure 8 Modern copper-wood furniture

Source: Discussion on the application of copper material in modern home design, Wang Yu and He Yan

3. Summarize the status of modern copper furniture in copper technology

Fine work: Copper furniture as a fine work in the field of copper technology, its production process is complex and fine, requiring superb skills and rich experience. Therefore, it occupies an important place in the copper process

It represents a peak in the development of copper technology.

Inheritance and development: The production of copper furniture is not only the inheritance of traditional copper technology, but also the innovation and development of it. Through the continuous absorption of modern design concepts and advanced technology, copper furniture while maintaining traditional characteristics, but also show a more fashionable and avantgarde appearance.

To sum up, the status of copper furniture in modern China is irreplaceable. It not only carries the cultural tradition and artistic essence of the Chinese nation, but also meets the pursuit and personalized needs of modern people for high-quality life. With the continuous

progress of science and technology and the constant changes in consumer demand, the development prospects of copper furniture will be broader

The status trend of copper furniture in China

The status trend of copper furniture in China will show a series of positive development trends, which can be mainly elaborated from the following aspects:

1. Market demand continues to grow

Promotion of consumption upgrading: With the development of China's economy and the improvement of residents' income level, consumers' demand for quality and personalized household products continues to improve. Copper furniture with its unique material, exquisite craftsmanship and rich artistic value, in line with modern people's pursuit of high-quality life, so its market demand will continue to grow.

Increased awareness of environmental protection: modern society's attention to environmental protection and sustainable development continues to increase, copper material as a recyclable, renewable green material, in line with the concept of environmental protection. Copper furniture has less impact on the environment during manufacturing and use, which will further promote the growth of its market demand.

2. Technological innovation and design improvement

Process technology innovation: In the future, the production process of copper furniture will continue to innovate and improve, by introducing advanced manufacturing technology and equipment, improve production efficiency and product quality. For example, the use of new technologies such as 3D printing and laser cutting can achieve more complex and fine designs, making furniture more beautiful and practical.

Improvement of design level: With the renewal of design concept and the continuous growth of the designer team, the design level of copper furniture will be further improved. Designers will pay more attention to the combination of practicality and artistry of furniture, and launch more furniture products that meet modern people's aesthetic and lifestyle.

3. Application areas continue to expand

Home decoration field: The application of copper furniture in the field of home decoration will be more and more extensive, not only limited to the traditional living room, bedroom and other Spaces, but also expand to the kitchen, study, balcony and other corners. At the same time, with the development of smart homes, copper furniture will also be combined with smart technology to achieve a more convenient and comfortable living experience.

Public space: In hotels, restaurants, cafes and other public Spaces, copper furniture with its unique texture and artistic value, can create a noble and elegant atmosphere. Therefore, the application in these fields will continue to expand.

4. Brand building and market competition

Brand building: In the future, copper furniture enterprises will pay more attention to brand building, enhance brand awareness and reputation by improving product quality, optimizing service system, strengthening brand promotion and other means. The development of branding will help enterprises to occupy a favorable position in the market competition.

Market competition: With the growth of market demand and continuous innovation of technology, the competition in the copper furniture market will become increasingly fierce. Enterprises need to continuously improve their own strength, strengthen technology research

and development and innovation capabilities to meet market demand and win market competition.

In summary, the future status trend of copper furniture in China will show the characteristics of continuous growth of market demand, technological innovation and design improvement, continuous expansion of application fields, brand building and intensified market competition. These trends will jointly promote the healthy development of the copper furniture industry and provide consumers with more high-quality and personalized home products

References

- Wang Yu &He Yan (2018). Discussion on the application of copper material in modern home design. *National Social Sciences Database*, 89-91.
- Wen Hao (2021). Design research of Copper cultural furniture based on Category Innovation. Journal Design, 23
- Zhu Bingren. (2004). Chinese Contemporary Copper Architectural Art .*Hangzhou: Zhejiang People's Publishing*, 2-3.
- Xu Huajun.(2008). Visual symbols of Arts and Crafts, Research on methods of Copper decoration in architectural decoration and interior design. *Shanghai Arts and Crafts*, 37-39.
- Hu Lingyi Zhen Shaojiang. (2016) Discussion on the reproduction design of bronze culture in furniture product design -- taking Lijiashan bronze culture furniture product design in Jiangchuan, Yunnan Province as an example. Fine *Arts Review*, 120.