

A Study on the Form of Historical and Cultural Districts from the Perspective of Conzenian School—As the Shengjin Town District in Nanchang City for an Example

Background

The protection of cultural relics and historic sites in my country began in the 1920s. In 1982, the State Council announced the first batch of 24 national historical and cultural cities. In 1986, the State Council announced the second batch of historical and cultural cities to clearly protect historical districts (Gu,2003), according to my country The current policy standards divide the protection of historical and cultural heritage into three levels, namely: cultural relics protection units, historical and cultural blocks, and historical and cultural cities(Wang,2004). As a medium-scale cultural heritage protection system, historical cultural blocks have gradually become a hot spot due to their relative cultural integrity and operability on scales, and multi-dimensional and comprehensive research has been launched (Dai et al.,2012).

In 2011, the People's Government of Jiangxi Province approved the three historical and cultural districts including longevity Palace(Wanshou Palace), Shengjin Tower and jinxiancang Historic District in the protection plan for the famous historical and cultural city of Nanchang. "The Nanchang Metropolitan Area Plan (2015-2030) was announced in 2016"pointed out that the "One City, Three Streets, Four" historical and cultural blocks and historical features of Nanchang City should be protected. In 2017, the "Shengjin Tower Historical and Cultural Block Protection Plan (2015-2020)" was proposed for the construction of the planned area. The land is changed to commercial land for unified commercial development.

In the process of urban replacement, historical and cultural blocks are inevitably destroyed, leading to the loss of traditional style and existing historical structure. Conzenian School of Urban Morphology is used to study the historical and cultural blocks of Shengjin Tower and analyze its historical causes. The protection and renewal have median level research significance.

Summary

The Conzenian School is a theory of urban morphology that originated in Germany and developed in the United Kingdom. It focuses on conceptual and analytical research from a historical and geographic perspective(Gu,2001). This theory is fully described in Alnwick, Northumberland: A Study in Town-Plan Analysis written by M. R. G. Conzen(1960).Among domestic and foreign scholars,after Gu Kai introduced the Conzenian School to China in 2001, JWR Whitehand(2006,2007b,2007a) of the University of Birmingham reviewed the urban form of China. , successively reviewed Beijing,China,The Zhishanmen area, Pingyao Ancient Cityand other areas were studied, and then the urban morphology research was carried out on the Guangzhou Hualinsi area and Tongfu Xilu area to study the adaptability of urban morphology in China. After a long period of development, the development of urban morphology in China is mainly embodied in three aspects: theory introduction, localization application, and case practice and application.

In terms of theory introduction, Gu Kai(2005) proposed that the research and analysis methods of the material form of historical towns formed in the West after the 1950s have important reference value for the theory and practice of Chinese urban history and development research; Tao Wei, Tang Jingwen(2010) and others further Introduced the western urban landscape protection and management methods and policy framework; Zhang Jiantao(2004) took the central area of Luwan District, Shanghai as an example, and discussed the application prospects of urban morphology theory in the planning of traditional Chinese protected areas. In terms of localized application, due to the differences between Chinese and Western social cultures, the introduction of Kangzeen Urban Morphology has aroused scholars' thinking about its application to China. Among them, Yao Sheng(2013) took the Liwan 10th Fu Road Historic District as an example, and proposed a solution to the dilemma in the process of applying urban morphology to China. In case practice,Professor Tian Yinsheng's Urban Morphology Research Office has made significant contributions. Most of the researchers focused on cities, neighborhoods and villages, analyzed their evolution and morphological causes, and made suggestions for local historical and cultural protection; Xiao Jingxin(2017), Xiong Xiao(2017) etc. used the theory of Conzenian School to study the Guling Town of Lushan, and explored the protection and management strategies applicable to the urban landscape.

In addition, Duan Jin and Qui Guochao(2008) studied the rise and development of foreign urban morphology, including the British Conzenian School, the Italian Muratori-Caniggia School that French Versailles School and their new development trends.

Conzenian School of Urban Morphology and the Architectural typology of the Caniggia School were merged to produce morphological typology, which was introduced into China by Chen Fei (2010)and proposed 7 research elements that can be used as morphological typology, and Chen Jintang and Tian Yinsheng(2015,2017) used the theory to Study the morphological evolution of the construction of new villages in Guangzhou, and discuss the localization of theories and the application in urban planning; Liu Peng etc.(2020) took the

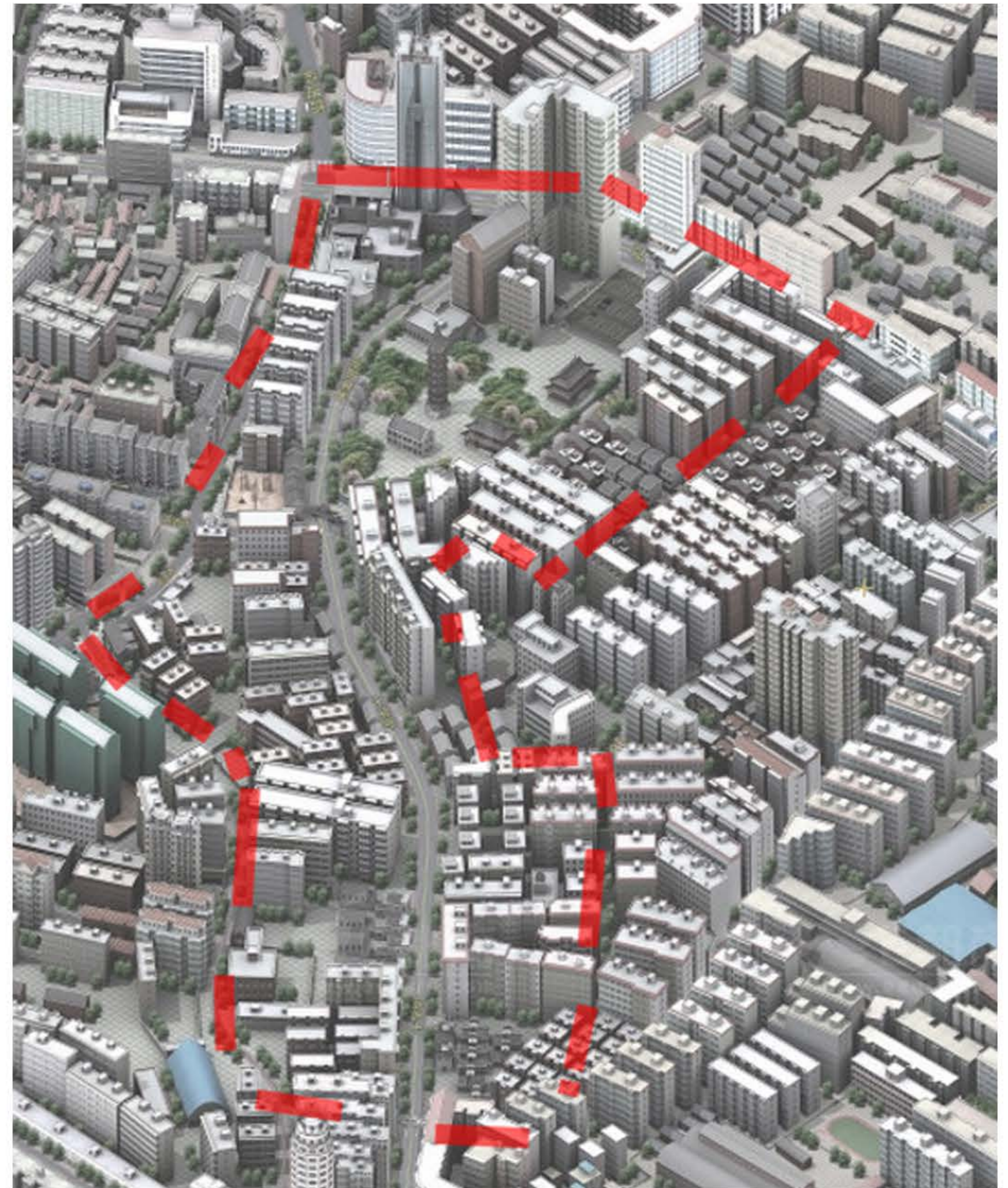


Fig1.Aerial view of Shengjin Tower historical and cultural district

historical urban area of southern Nanjing as an example, and its plot type units after the founding of the People's Republic of China And analyze the evolution of block morphology units, trying to establish an analysis framework based on the morphology and type of plots; after 1994, the establishment of the International Seminar of Urban Form (ISUF: International Seminar of Urban Form) was the result of the three. Combination and exchange provide a platform for interdisciplinary research to provide opportunities(Moudon,1997).

In the above studies, most of the research on Conzenian School of Urban Morphology is limited to historical and cultural districts, involving some villages and residential areas. The scope of the research objects is not enough, and most of the research objects are in the Pearl River Delta regions such as Guangzhou and Macau. The inland areas of Central China are less involved, especially concentrated in areas with more historical data. The general applicability is not strong. Most of the research is limited by historical data and has not been widely used in China.

Most of the research on the historical and cultural block of Nanchang Shengjinta is done by the local university research team in Nanchang, and most of its content is studied from a macro perspective. In the early days, Gao Wenlong(2016) analyzed the current situation of Shengjinta historical and cultural block, summarized three major problems in block protection and development, and made suggestions. He and Li Heping etc.(2016) used the delayed acceptance algorithm to quantitatively analyze the win-win problem of shantytown reconstruction and historic district protection, and proposed the best matching mode in the two-way selection between the two. After that, the research on Shengjinta historical block focused on the combination of commerce and historical block. Chen Yiran and Li Lixin (2019) studied the commercial space form of block and explored the mode of combining modern commerce and historical block. In 2020, Zhong Yanfen and Du Feiyu(2020) used POI data to use spatial syntax and ArcGIS technology to analyze the correlation between commercial agglomeration and urban space from a macro, meso and micro perspective. The research on Shengjinta block mostly stays in the research of the current construction and its business model, while the analysis of its historical development process and micro-scale urban form is relatively lacking.

The author hopes to use the existing historical maps as the main research

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object, combined with the network satellite real-world maps, supplemented by the current situation, to study the urban form, and on the basis of the research, the current situation after the plan is updated and reconstructed. Analyze and provide data for future research and construction development.

Research

According to the "Nanchang Historic and Cultural City Conservation Plan (2010-2020)" published in 2011, three historical and cultural blocks are planned for Wanshou Palace, Shengjin Tower and Jinxiancang Historic District. Afterwards, the "Shengjin Tower Historical and Cultural District Protection Plan in Nanchang" compiled in 2017 divided the Shengjin Tower Historical and Cultural District into the core protection zone and the construction control zone. The core protection area is Shengjin Tower Park and the sections on both sides of Cross Street, covering an area of 5.11 hectares. The construction control zone includes the area 50-80m from the core protection area, north to Zhanqian West Road, and south to the north side of Qianjin Branch Road. It extends to the west of Jinta East Road in the east, and Qianjin Road and Qianjin Zhilu 1st Road in the west, with a protection area of 14.5 hectares.

The core theory of Conzenian School of Urban Morphology is to obtain the morphological area by studying the three urban morphological evolution elements of plane-unit, building type, and land use. Plane-units are the most important and stable part of the three urban morphological elements, which are derived from the different street system, plot pattern, and building block-plans. The building type is composed of three elements: building plan, building facade and architectural style, and is relatively stable. The land use approach consists of a single land of different nature, which is the simplest and most changeable element among the three elements. The morphological area is a comprehensive analysis and superposition of the above three urban morphological elements. It has unified morphological characteristics and is independent of the surrounding area. It reflects the structural relationship and evolution law between various morphological elements. It is the urban material form structure formed by historical development. The projection of the system on geographic space.

Plot development cycle theory is a study on the dynamic change of the building density inside the parcel due to the different land use intensity of the parcel, and it reveals the evolution law of the urban form on the micro-scale (Dai, et al, 2006). The plot changes over time, and its interior is continuously divided by building infills. However, the plot will be re-used and developed after the building density reaches a certain height. This process is the Plot development cycle.

Due to the relatively low level of map surveying and mapping in the early years and the limited accuracy of historical records and map data on urban development, the existing historical maps are mainly large-scale 1933, 1953, and 1970, and the rest of the maps show streets and land parcels. In terms of boundaries, for example, a large-scale local map in 1976 is used as a reference for architectural form. Due to the discontinuity in time of the existing data, the building types of the block plots are mainly based on the existing map records and the local field research combined with the network satellite real-world map to make reasonable guesses. According to the process of urban development and construction in Nanchang, this article can be divided into the period of the Republic of China (1919-1949), after the founding of the People's Republic of China and before the reform and opening up (1949-1978), and after the reform and opening up to 2009 (1979-2009) and four periods from 2000 to present.

Analysis

street system

According to Conzenian School of Urban Morphology theory, in the plane-unit, the street system is the most stable form, and it is the most likely element to be preserved in the urban construction process, so that it can be further developed on this basis, and play an important role in the future planning and design.

The author draws a map of the evolution of important streets around and inside the Shengjin Tower historical and cultural district through the study of historical maps (Fig2-Fig5). The current main street, Zhanqian West Road, was built in 1959 and rebuilt in 1982. As the boundary of the reserve, it is responsible for the main traffic entering the Shengjin Tower block. Inside the block, Shengjin Tower Street was used as the main traffic road. It was called Jinxianmenwaizhi Street during the Qianlong and Tongzhi Periods of the Qing Dynasty. It was later merged with Diaoqiao Street and Zhushi Street and called Shengjin Tower Street. Its street system has been preserved to this day. Qianjin Road contains two branch roads, one of which is the boundary of the protected area, which was called Luoyang Bridge and Yuqingguan during the Xuanton Period of the Qing Dynasty, and later merged into Qianjin Road. Its road system has been preserved to this day. Jinta East Street was planned and designed after 1970, and combined with the original roads, the core protection area of Shengjin

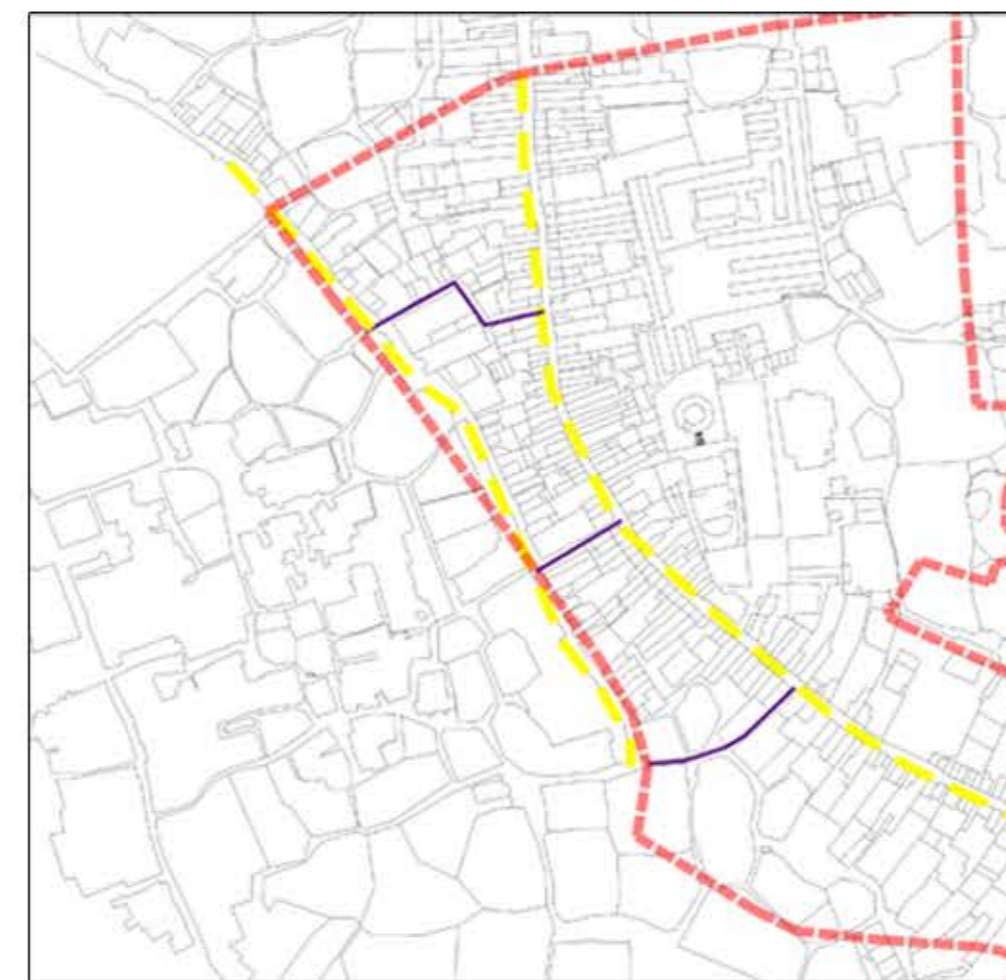


Fig2. Street system in 1933.

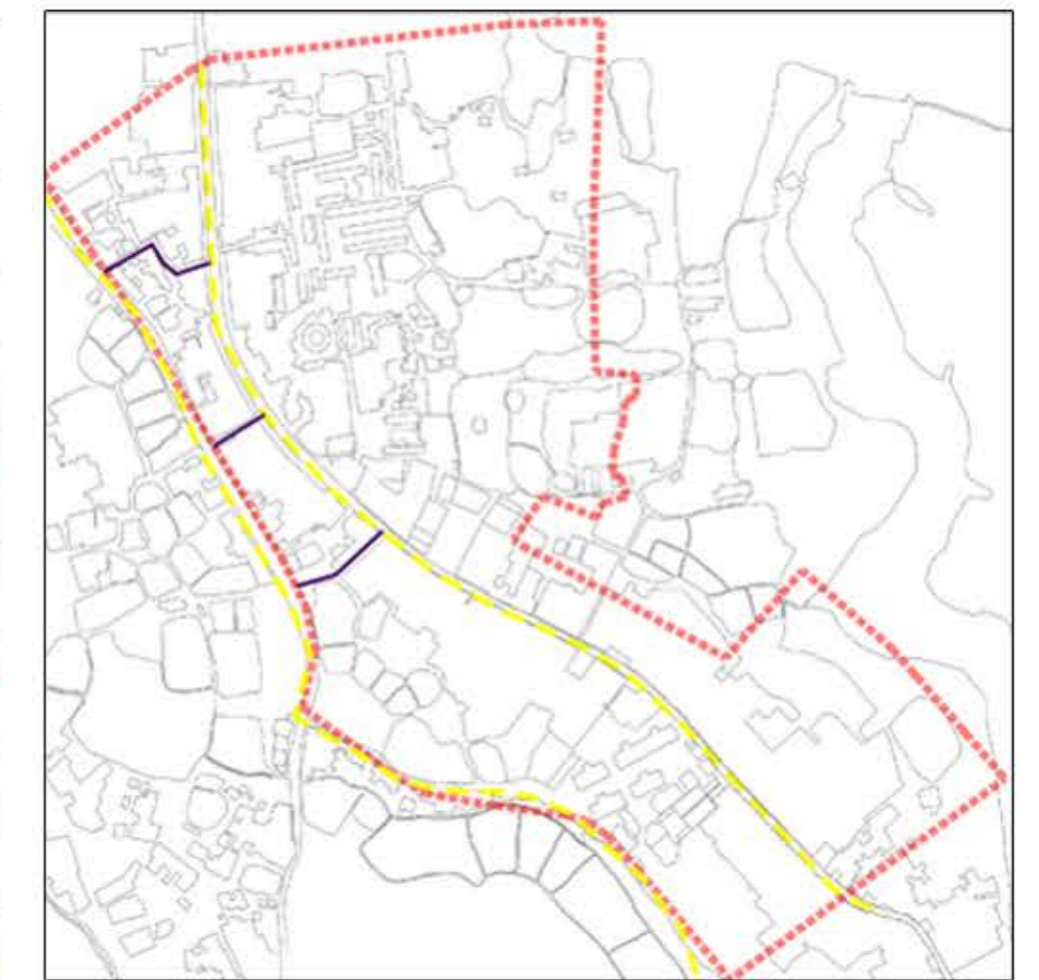


Fig3. Street system in 1953.

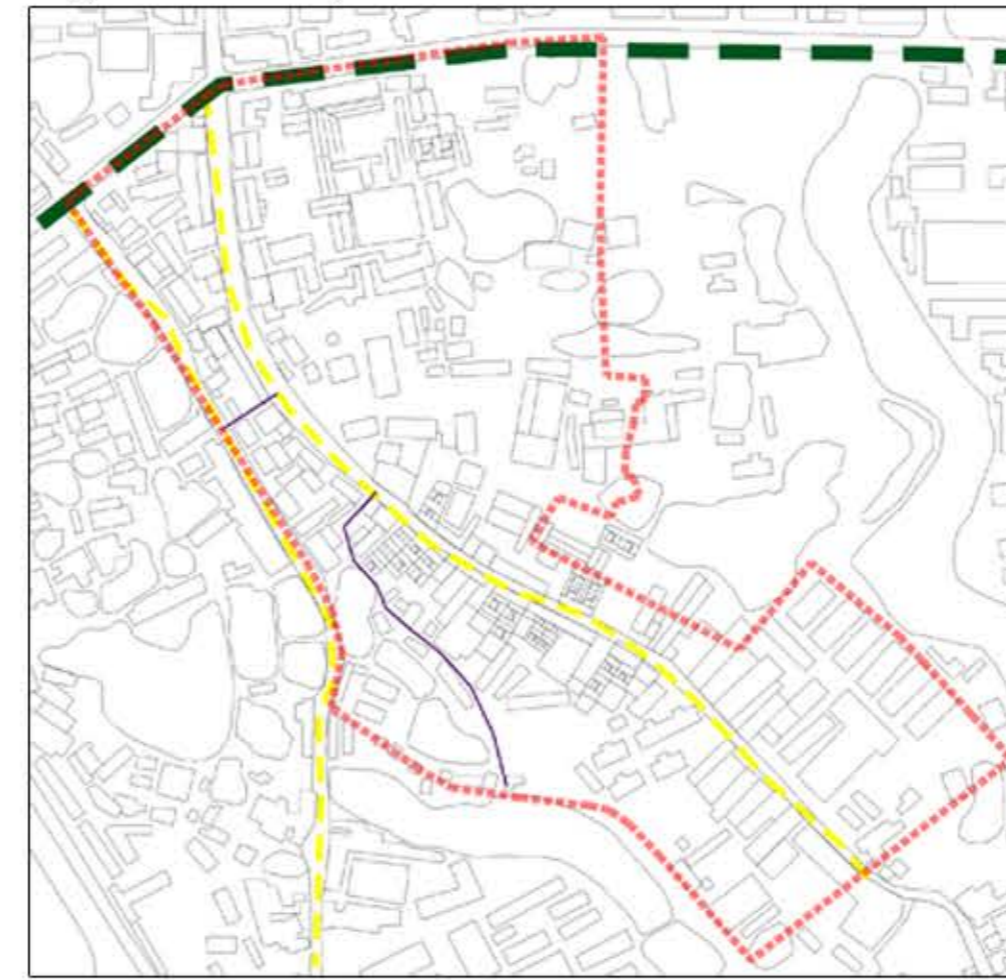


Fig4. Street system in 1970.



Fig4. Status quo street system .

Tower was delineated, separated from the surrounding residential buildings, and the original only delimited by Shengjin Tower Street. The two planned areas are further divided to form 4 areas. The street between Qianjin Road and Shengjin Tower Street follows the original street layout and is further divided to divide the entire plot into four.

Building type

The type of building is affected by factors such as society, economy, and population size, and its formation and construction conditions are related to the needs of life. Shengjin Tower, as the main religious place outside the old city of Nanchang City, in addition to meeting residential needs, it often gathers many commercial buildings. However, with the progress of construction policies and social development, the type of development within its blocks has been different in different periods. The characteristics and forms. (Fig 6-Fig 9)

In terms of residential buildings, before the reform and opening up, residential buildings were mainly distributed inside the plots, mostly in the form of single-storey buildings with front stores and rear dwellings. The building density is high, so the patio courtyard is used for lighting. After the reform and opening up, with the further development of urban construction, the city There is a lack of internal land, and the original buildings cannot meet the needs of modern life. The planning policy of "large demolition and large construction" has destroyed the original building texture inside the reserve. There are only a few traditional residential buildings, and the scale of new residential buildings has increased significantly. Large and emerging multi-storey residential buildings and commercial buildings form commercial and residential buildings. In terms of commercial buildings, before the construction of Zhanqian West Road, it was mainly distributed on both sides of Shengjin Tower Street and Qianjin Road, forming a belt-like distribution. Concentrated in the first half of Shengjin Tower Street; after the construction of Zhanqian West Road, commercial buildings began to extend in its direction, eventually forming large commercial buildings covering the entire plot, such as the intersection of Zhanqian West Road and Shengjin Tower Street Large commercial building on the side. In terms of industry, education, and public buildings, there were no industrial buildings on the land before the founding of the People's Republic of China. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, factories, cooperatives, and schools were gradually built, public buildings were gradually improved, and buildings such as police stations and neighborhood committees appeared. However, in the 20th century, all factories were moved out of the city due to consideration of the internal environment of the city, and new residential or commercial buildings were built.

Before 1933, commercial buildings accounted for a relatively large portion of the land. From 1933 to 1970, with the gradual increase in the types of residential and public buildings, the proportion of commercial buildings decreased, and



A Study on the Form of Historical and Cultural Districts from the Perspective of Conzenian School—As the Shengjin Town District in Nanchang City for an Example

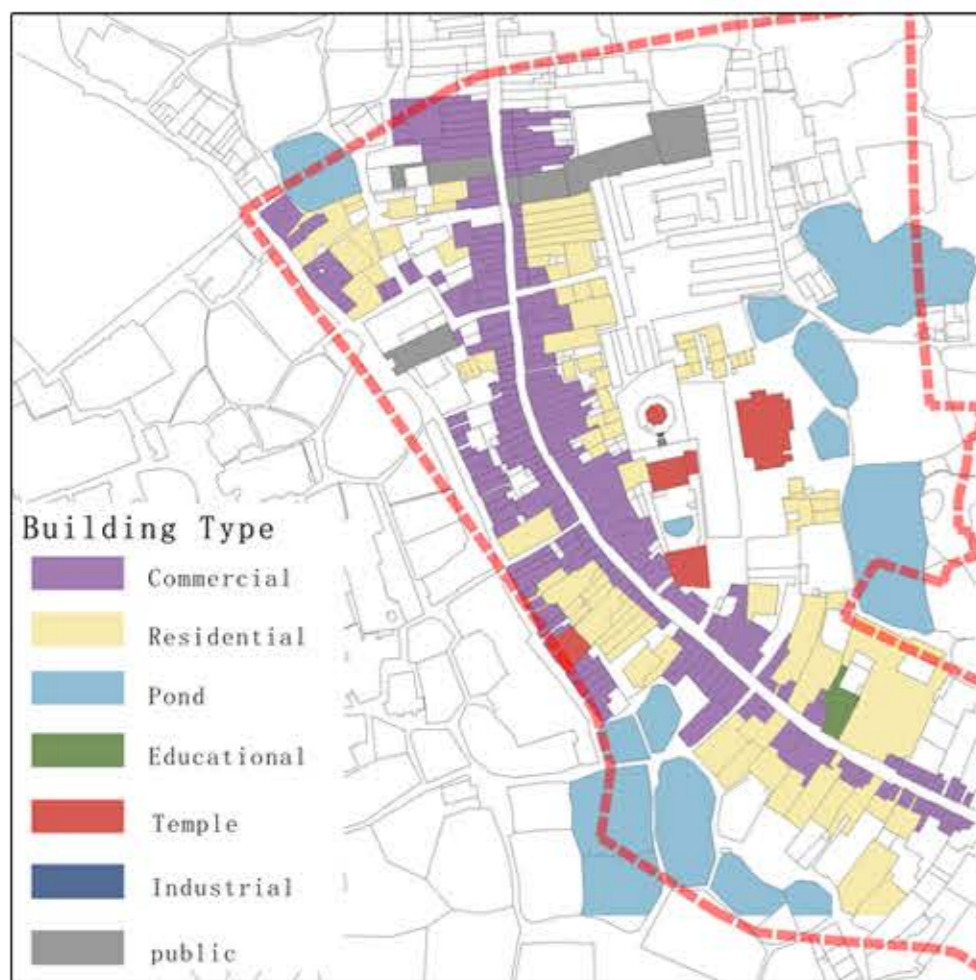


Fig6.Type of building in 1933.

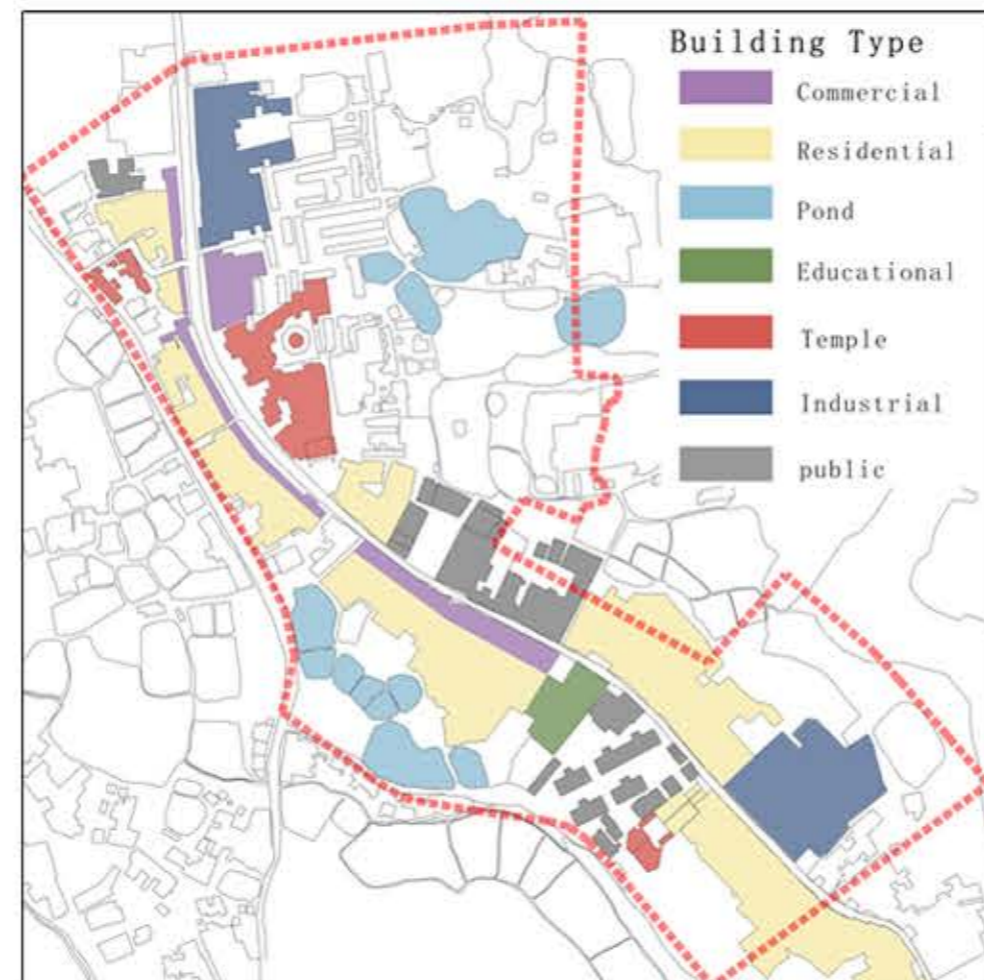


Fig7.Type of building in 1953.

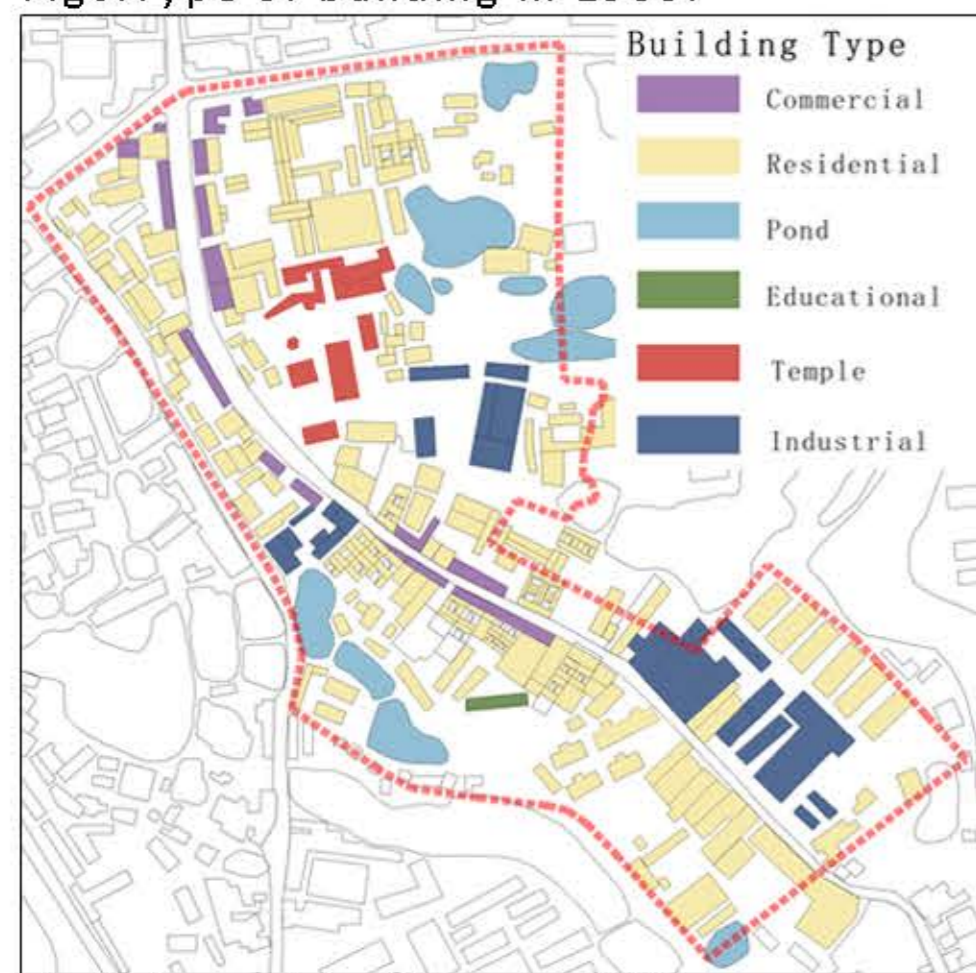


Fig8.Type of building in 1970.

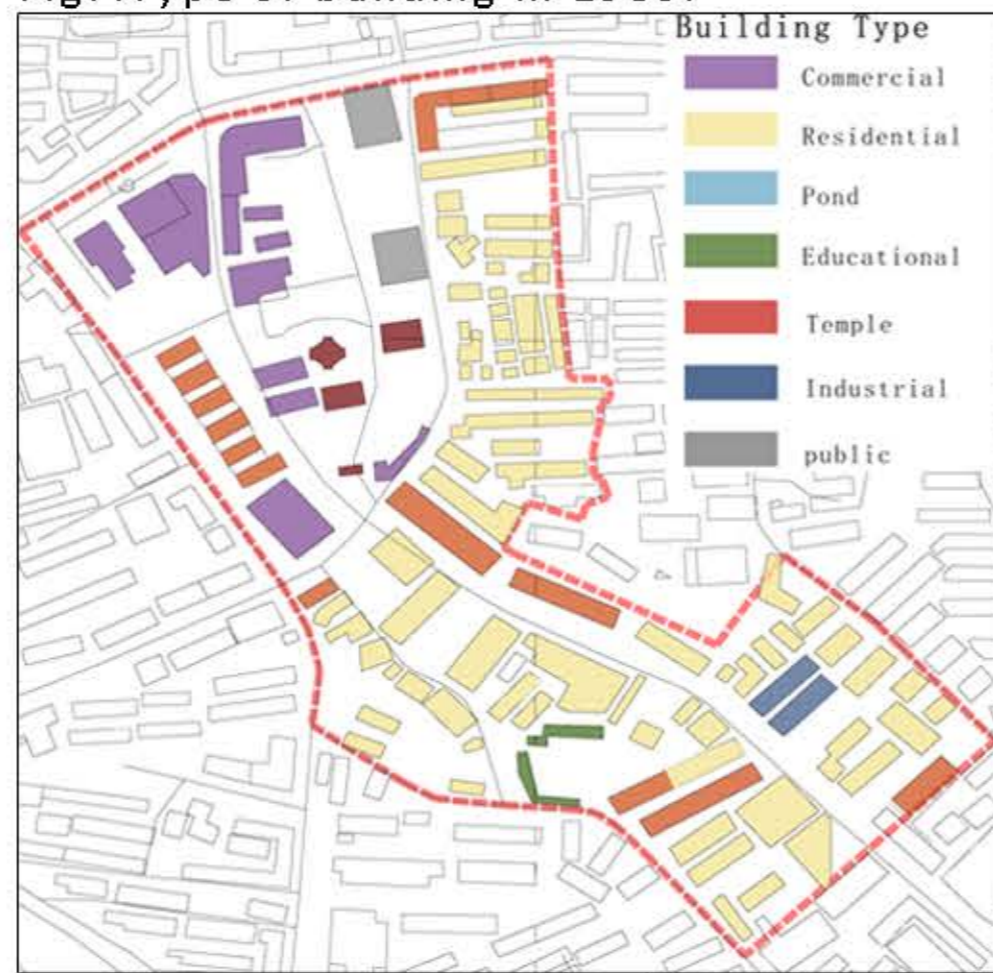


Fig9.Status quo type of building.

only the local commercial buildings on both sides of Shengjin Tower Street ; Since 1970 to present, as Shengjin Tower was included in the protection plan of the historic city of Nanchang in 2011, the commercial transformation of Shengjin Tower’s historical and cultural block has also begun, with the original old houses and shanty towns in the block It was demolished and replaced by pure commercial buildings and mid-rise commercial and residential buildings to promote commercial development in the area.

Building block-plans

Building block-plans often show diversified characteristics from building forms that are different from plot forms and building use functions, but generally speaking, the same or similar building types and building base forms under similar time backgrounds have similarities. The analysis of the building base form of the block helps to deepen the understanding of the changes and types of its plane layout. (Table 1)

Over the years, the architectural base of Shengjin Tower historical and cultural block has four main forms: street style, enclosed style, centralized style and determinant style. The street style is mainly derived from the layout of commercial and residential buildings in traditional buildings. It is characterized by a compact layout. The main block pattern is composed of long strips of shops, which is the main form of construction base before the founding of New China. The enclosed type is formed by a series of buildings with a large area enclosing a courtyard, and its opening direction is mostly toward the main street or forming a backyard. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, it was distributed more before the reform and opening up. Most of the centralized buildings are commercial buildings, which are derived from the huge centralized layout after the reform and opening up and after the commercialization of the blocks. Since the reform and opening up, the determinant layout has been the main form of residential buildings inside the block.

Due to the different backgrounds of different times and the changes in building types, the forms of construction bases inside the Shengjin Tower block have shown a diversified trend. After the commercial transformation, the original construction base model disappeared, and the original architectural texture form disappeared and replaced it. It is a new architectural model and a large-scale urban texture.

Architectural plan organization form	Feature description	Schematic diagram of building plan organization
Street style	The buildings are arranged along the street, with a long strip layout, wide and narrow in depth. Most of the types are commercial buildings before the founding of the People’s Republic of China.	
Enclosed style	The building forms an enclosed form, with one side adjacent to the main street, with a large building scale. The types are industrial buildings before block reconstruction and some public buildings.	
Centralized style	The building embodies a concentrated architectural form, and the two sides and above are adjacent to the main street layout. The building volume is huge, all of which are medium and high-rise buildings. The type is a large-scale commercial building newly built after the commercialization of the block.	
Determinant style	The building is perpendicular to the main street in the plot, forming a regular and orderly parallel layout. The types are mid- and high-rise residential buildings newly built after the reform and opening up and commercial and residential buildings newly built in recent years.	

Table 1 List of Architectural Plan Organization Forms

Plot development cycle

Plot development cycle theory is an important part of Conzenian School of Urban Morphology theory. It recognizes the evolution of urban morphology on the microscopic plot scale. It is mainly divided into four stages: intrinsic, climax, decline and urban fallow, which provides an analysis of the evolution of urban morphology. Academic basis. Combining with the morphological scale of Shengjin Tower block, based on the theory of land block circulation, the evolution process is analyzed. (Table 2)

Before the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the Shengjin Tower Historic District was densely built, with only a small amount of vacant land remaining. Most of the land has been used for residential and commercial purposes. Many residents used simple sheds behind their houses to increase the area of their homes and reduce the vacant land inside the plot. . After the founding of the People’s Republic of China, urban construction restarted. Due to the high population density, some old houses were demolished. For example, in the lower left corner of the plot shown, some sheds in the plot were also demolished. The density of buildings began to decline. After the reform and opening up, some houses inside the plot were demolished, and only some buildings along the street remained. The building type of the plot inside changed from residential and commercial buildings to industrial buildings, and new construction activities continued to take place.

The current stage of the renovation of Shengjin Tower historical and cultural block is based on business model development. Most of the plots are demolished and reconstructed, and the plots enter the "fallow period". In the latest renovation of the Shengjin Tower historical and cultural block, the planning function of the plot is mainly cultural tourism, and the building density and floor area ratio are strictly restricted, and modern commercial large-scale blocks are adopted in form.

Due to the further expansion of the city, the scope of construction land has increased. On the basis of the original scope of land, the original ponds and fields on the south side of Shizi Street on the east side of Jinta East Road will be occupied for construction for residential use. The residential land between Qianjin Road and Shengjin Tower Street and the residential land on Linzhanqian West Road were occupied by commerce, and the nature of the land was changed. The west side of Jinta East Road was originally residential and used as Shengjin Tower Park as a temple public land.



A Study on the Form of Historical and Cultural Districts from the Perspective of Conzenian School—As the Shengjin Town District in Nanchang City for an Example




Period	Feature	Land use
Before the founding of New China (1919-1949)	The building density in the plot is high, the gap between the houses is small, and the buildings outside the plot extend from the block direction to the inside of the plot.	 1933
From the founding of New China to before Economic Reform and open up (1949-1978)	The building density inside the plot is reduced, and there is partial open space, and the building density outside the plot remains unchanged.	 1953
After Economic Reform and open up (1979-2009)	The density of the plots has risen again, and the vacant land created in the previous stage will be constructed again, resulting in a different architectural form from the previous one.	 1974

Table 2 List of land use conditions

Conclusion

Nanchang Shengjin Tower Historical and Cultural District has witnessed the certification process of Nanchang City. It is an indispensable historical evidence in the development process of Nanchang City. It has certain historical and cultural and aesthetic value. Mainly manifested in the process of the evolution of its block morphology. The evolution characteristics of its different historical periods are summarized as follows:

(1) Before the founding of the People's Republic of China, the scale of buildings was small. Most of them were residential and commercial buildings. They were regularly arranged on both sides of the main street. The building type was single. The area of ponds in the block was relatively large. Large room for development.

(2) After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the previous street system continued, and the types of buildings increased significantly, and the types of buildings such as public industries appeared. The original single building form was broken, and many plots appeared empty, and the building density decreased.

(3) In the 1970s, due to the gradual expansion of commercial buildings on Zhanqian West Road, public industrial buildings continued to increase, and the original residential building forms changed. The original courtyard houses were demolished and new modern multi-storey houses were newly built. The original building texture was broken, there were gaps on both sides of the road, and the building was no longer built close to both sides of the road.

(4) In recent years, Jinta East Street has been opened up on the block scale to separate the core protection area from the residential area and strengthen protection. In terms of building types, due to the development of commerce, the original residential buildings gradually evolved into commercial functions, forming a large-scale commercial building on the main street, forming a commercial street.

According to the above analysis of the long-term historical evolution of the Shengjin Tower block, the main reasons for its block morphology are as follows:

(1) The construction of urban roads and road refurbishment. The construction of Zhanqian West Road changed the distribution of commercial buildings in the area and enhanced the connectivity between Shengjin Tower block and surrounding plots.

(2) Changes in urban planning policies. For example, after the founding of the People's Republic of China, new factories and public buildings have brought new building types to the block; The shantytowns are demolished and large-scale commercial buildings are built.

(3) People's living needs. With the increase of population, the original construction land cannot meet people's needs. The original ponds and paddy fields are transformed into construction land, which increases the building density in the area.

The historical and cultural district of Shengjin Tower has undergone many renovations in recent years. On the basis of respecting traditional culture, it has gradually formed a commercial district with unique local characteristics in Nanchang. The originally decaying buildings and blocks lacking traditional features are gradually being restored to life and gradually improved. Supporting facilities for community life, improve the quality of living, and drive the cultural atmosphere in the area with the Shengjin Tower historical and cultural block, so as to activate the vitality of the old city and enhance the vitality of the streets.

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