

## UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN MODERN CITIES OF CHINA

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**Abstract.** This article explores the role of university campuses in modern Chinese cities and their impact on the urban environment and culture. The study highlights the importance of openness and interaction between universities and society, and also identifies ways to strengthen this connection through breaking campus boundaries, sharing resources and creating cultural attractions. The results of the study indicate the potential of universities as centers of cultural and educational development of cities in modern China.

**Keywords:** *university campuses; modern cities; China; urban environment; culture; openness; interaction; breaking boundaries; sharing resources; cultural attractions; educational development.*

## УНИВЕРСИТЕТСКИЙ КАМПУС В СОВРЕМЕННЫХ ГОРОДАХ КИТАЯ

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**Аннотация.** В статье рассматривается роль университетских кампусов в современных китайских городах и их влияние на городскую среду и культуру. В исследовании подчеркивается важность открытости и взаимодействия между университетами и обществом, а также определяются пути укрепления этой связи путем преодоления границ кампусов, совместного использования ресурсов и создания культурных достопримечательностей. Результаты исследования указывают на потенциал университетов как центров культурно-образовательного развития городов в современном Китае.

**Ключевые слова:** *университетские кампусы; современные города; Китай; городская среда; культура; открытость; взаимодействие; преодоление границ; совместное использование ресурсов; культурные достопримечательности; развитие образования.*

Universities are not only a place to gain knowledge, but also a place where future leaders and intellectual personnel are formed, contributing to urban development. Universities are also a source of new ideas, perspectives and concepts, and their cultural and ideological values raise the level of culture and education in the city. Taking into account the general trend of modern scientific, technical and economic development, most countries of the world make a strategic decision to create global centers of scientific and technical innovation. This includes bringing together diverse talents and sectors of the economy in order to stimulate innovation. University research clusters contribute to such an association of universities and enterprises, providing a synergistic effect. Consequently, Universities often reflect the spirit of the city and play an important role in determining the direction of its development. They provide high-quality professional specialists and research results that contribute to the development and construction of cities.

Differences in the philosophy of management of educational institutions are reflected in the layout of university campuses, leading to the formation of various styles. Universities focused on the humanities are characterized by flexibility and intellectual wealth, they are imbued with the spirit of humanism and are distinguished by an elegant style, an example of such an institution is Nanjing Pedagogical University. Universities with a focus on science and technology usually follow strict and rational principles, their style is characterized by brevity and accuracy, as in the case of the University of Science and Technology of China [1, p. 59]. Integrated universities, in turn, combine various philosophies and disciplines, including both humanities and scientific and engineering disciplines. When planning campuses where various disciplines such as science, engineering, management, law, medicine, agriculture and forestry, economics, education and the arts are taught, great attention is paid to the values of honesty, extensive characteristics of the humanities and integration with the environment. This is also related to innovation strategies. Some universities, such as Peking University and Xiamen University, have a rich history and significant cultural heritage. Regardless of the type of educational institution, the campus layout should reflect the principles of justice, humanism, openness and respect for human nature.

Universities with a rich history are mostly closed or semi-closed campuses. In China, many universities still observe this tradition. Each university pays special attention to the formation of a common cultural atmosphere on its campus. Morphological features of the campus often serve as a reflection of its history and cultural heritage. The gates of many famous universities have become an integral part of their brand and symbol, for example, the old gate of Tsinghua University and the western gate of Peking University. Over time, some campus gates continue to fulfill their functional role of entrance, while others have become a symbol of

history, culture and humanistic spirit. They have become symbols of the university, surpassing their original functionality. Therefore, whether it is a new university or an expanded campus, the design of the entrance gate should fully reflect the unique features and spirit of this educational institution [2, p. 167].

One of the key elements of a landscape that can become symbolic is its uniqueness, which manifests itself in a unique form or the ability to create deep impressions and memories of a particular territory. The sights of university campuses are usually represented by specific objects, such as buildings, structures, sculptures, famous historical trees, landscape compositions and much more. Wuhan University, having the advantage of mountainous terrain, actively uses the terrain features of Mount Luojia to create beautiful natural landscapes with mountain and water elements. Thus, the architectural and natural environment of the campus are organically combined. The general layout of the campus is mainly a variety of yard compositions. The student dormitory complex has a classic roof shape and corresponds to the color scheme of the building complex. The main building of the Engineering College has a square shape, and the symmetrical placement of four-sided group halls emphasizes the engineering specialization of the faculty. With an emphasis on strict academic features, the buildings of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences present a visual contrast with engineering structures. During the restoration and expansion of the buildings, innovative solutions were introduced that preserved the historical character of the campus. The layout of Wuhan University embodies the concept of the integrity and harmony of man and nature [3, p. 67]. The layout of the Suiyuan campus of Nanjing Pedagogical University embodies the concept of humanism. The Suiyuan Campus, similar to an ancient park, is distinguished by a wealth of traditional Chinese architectural features. The campus gates in the form of traditional Chinese gatehouses create a distinctive atmosphere. Every brick and tile on the campus evokes a sense of historical transformation, testifying to the era. The student dormitory building is designed in the style of the Republic of China, which gives it a unique, elegant look and inspires every new generation of students. The Suiyuan Campus is the former Jinling University Women's University, where many famous personalities such as Tao Xingzhi and Xu Beihong taught, and which has a rich historical and cultural heritage. The layout of the Suiyuan campus combines regular and organic elements interacting with local conditions, including hilly terrain and the size of the territory. Buildings, paths, ponds, plants and other components harmoniously fit into the surrounding landscape, creating a unique space.

There are many universities in China, but schools with outstanding characteristics, as described above, are quite rare. Therefore, experts and scientists conduct various studies in the field of planning university campuses, their architectural design and compliance with modern concepts of sustainable

development. Some scientists are of the opinion that architectural structures should reflect regional, cultural and modern features, as well as contribute to sustainable development [1, p. 60]. From all that has been said, it is clear that experts and researchers consider the layout of university campuses from various points of view, including architectural style, spatial organization, functional planning, landscape environment and public space. However, despite the variety of approaches, there is a certain lack of consideration of the worldview and human nature in the design process. With the exception of a few colleges and universities that have outstanding characteristics, most educational institutions have fairly standard architectural forms, including academic buildings and student dormitories.

Despite the desire for global unification, we should not forget that each university has its own unique style and character. For example, when mentioning Peking University, Weiming Lake comes to mind, and Wuhan University is associated with cherry blossoms. This highlights the importance of planning university campuses taking into account local characteristics and context. First of all, an integral part of the architecture of the campus is the local natural conditions, such as mountain rivers and green landscapes. When designing, it is necessary to take into account the growing conditions of plants and the water element, creating multi-level compositions that will enrich the landscape. The level of landscaping should be within 50 % – 60 % to achieve a balance between greenery and functionality. The campus should be considered as a single whole, in which the building layout, landscaping, transport infrastructure and other aspects should harmoniously interact. Secondly, it is important to preserve and develop the history and culture of the university. Each educational institution has a unique history and heritage. Celebrities and scientific achievements of the university can be reflected in the architectural elements of the campus, such as sculptures, street lights, seats, etc. [4, p. 87]. Thirdly, it is important to create a connection between the old and new buildings of the campus. Old buildings carry a historical context and reflect the spirit of the times. When expanding the campus, it is necessary to ensure the consistency and character of the new buildings. Traditions should not be neglected. New buildings can match the style of the old ones, taking into account modern materials and technologies. It is important to preserve and emphasize regional peculiarities and cultural heritage. For example, when planning a university campus in Nanchang, you can use red and green symbols to reflect the local culture, and add elements related to aviation culture to emphasize the unique features of the university. In general, the planning of university campuses requires attention to local characteristics and cultural heritage, as well as consideration of balanced development and sustainability.

The layout of the university campus is aimed at providing comfortable conditions for students and staff and should fully take into account their needs.

Firstly, this includes improving the educational infrastructure [5, p. 54]. To maintain academic effectiveness, it is necessary to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of educational institutions and libraries. Libraries should be equipped with modern air conditioning and hot water systems on each floor. Each academic building should also have classrooms and places for students to study independently. It is important that the presence of public spaces on campus is sufficient to create spaces for interaction and communication between teachers and students. Secondly, rational planning of the road infrastructure on the campus is of great importance. Studies show that most teachers and students prefer to walk. A reasonable distance between classrooms and dormitories should not exceed 10 minutes of walking (about 800 meters). This means that the distance between student and academic premises should be kept to a minimum. It is necessary to ensure the dense placement of sports grounds so that students can easily engage in physical activity. It is important that the road infrastructure on campus takes into account the flow of people and prevents the movement of vehicles during periods of maximum activity in order to prevent traffic accidents and ensure the safety of all users of the campus.

University campuses are an important part of the urban environment and should promote two-way interaction. First, it is important to break down the boundaries that may exist around campuses. The presence of gates and walls can create psychological isolation, limiting the interaction of universities with the city and society. For example, Hunan University, which has no walls due to its topography, maintains close relations with Hunan Pedagogical University, which is also devoid of walls due to historical factors. Students of both universities can freely visit each other, use libraries and canteens of both sides. The concept of "without walls" also helps to reduce the psychological distance between universities and society. Secondly, it is important to ensure the exchange of resources. Functional areas of university campuses, in addition to educational ones, can gradually open up to the urban population and society. The introduction of fees for the use of sports equipment and playgrounds allows not only to increase the use of resources, but also to reduce the operating costs of educational institutions. It also promotes closer interaction between universities and society, increasing the openness of university campuses. When planning campus infrastructure, such as water, electricity, gas and road networks, it is necessary to actively use existing urban infrastructure to reduce consumption and effectively manage resources. Thirdly, the attractions of campuses that attract tourists not only represent universities, but also become important business cards of cities, attracting visitors from all over the country. While foreign universities are often open to the public, limiting the number of visitors and gradually opening up, domestic universities can develop similar security measures for tourists, which contributes to improving

relations between universities and society.

Thus, the conducted research allows us to conclude about the important role of university campuses in modern Chinese cities. University campuses are not only places of education, but also important elements of urban infrastructure that affect the lifestyle and cultural atmosphere of citizens. The study revealed several key aspects that determine the successful interaction of universities with cities. It is important to eliminate psychological and physical barriers, such as walls and gates, in order to promote open communication between educational institutions and society. Access to university resources should be more accessible to citizens, which contributes to the sharing of infrastructure and strengthening ties between universities and cities. The creation of attractions on university campuses that attract tourists and residents strengthens the role of universities as important cultural centers and draws attention to the cultural and educational potential of cities.

In general, university campuses in modern Chinese cities have more opportunities to integrate with the urban environment, and the planning and development of campuses should strive for active interaction with society, in order to improve the quality of life and create a more open and inclusive urban environment.

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