



Application of Textiles With Plant Textures in Soft Decoration of Home Furnishing

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Abstract

Textiles with plant textures have been widely applied in soft decoration of home furnishing and decoration means are diversified. This paper discusses the design foothold of textiles with plant textures in soft decoration of home furnishing, elaborates their different varieties in soft decoration and the basic principles of application, analyzes the concrete application methods of textiles with plant textures in different soft decoration styles, and predicts their development tendency in soft decoration of home furnishing, thus offering theoretical basis and method reference for the application of textiles with plant textures in soft decoration of modern home furnishing.

Key words: Plant textures; Home furnishing styles; Natural; Application methods

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INTRODUCTION

The decorative patterns extracting design elements from plants are pervasive in the real life. With plant material as the inspiration, the textile fabrics woven in the plant growth forms or in the plant texture and pattern or with the fiber materials extracted from the plants are more and more applied in the soft decoration of home furnishing

with the advantages of simple and easy use, large arbitrariness and convenience in cleaning as well as the low-carbon, environmentally friendly and natural design concepts. In the various home furnishing styles, the textiles with plant textures presented in different forms take a very important role in the soft decoration of home furnishing, and its main source of inspiration comes from textures seen from the microscopic images of plants and the appearance modeling of plants.

1. DESIGN FOOHOLD OF TEXTILES WITH PLANT TEXTURES IN SOFT DECORATION OF HOME FURNISHING

The soft decoration of home furnishing in board sense refers to the furnishing and furniture whose positions can be changed in the interior space as well as the changeable household decorations such as curtain, sofa cushion, back cushion, tablecloth and wall cloth, etc.. They are used for secondary decoration for the interior house to create comfortable environment (Zhou, 2011). Textiles are widely applied in the indoor soft decoration with the advantages of convenience in changing and cleaning.

The so-called textile fabrics with plant textures refer that the textiles are with figures and lines presented in the plant surfaces and sections which can be perceived through vision or touch as well as the appearance of plants reflected during their growth. The design of textiles with plant textures requires repeated thinking on the materials constantly accumulated and collected. During the process of inspiration gathering of designers, the knowledge of bionics and micro-technique can be used to learn the macroscopic and microscopic structures of plants, so as to expand the field of vision, to enrich the design themes and produce design inspirations based on the surface textures of plants and composition of plant

cellular structures. Then, conception is made to the inspirations through metaphor, metonymy, association and imagination, and combining the current fashion trend. The visualized representation is taken as the design basis, to extract the concrete plant materials in colors and forms, deliver design intentions through proper representation techniques, and make design effects of various textile fabrics achieve the unity of form and spirit (Long, 2004, pp.56-60).

In the creation of modern home furnishing environment atmosphere, people pursue for the life style of sustainable development so that they tend to apply many textiles with plant textures into the soft furnishing of modern homes. The wide application of textiles with plant textures in the soft decoration of home furnishing mainly takes its basis on that ability of plant textures to really adjust human psychologies into the livable condition and create the green and natural home furnishing environment.

With the constant improvement of people's living standard and the rapid pace of life in modern cities, people show much concern about the environment they live and pursue for closer touch with the nature. Therefore, using the decoration effects of textiles reasonably from the aesthetic view and taking advantage of the plant textures originated from nature and the unique softness of textiles can give people spiritual relief in the home environment, so the relief of fatigue after work has become the basic foothold of the design of textiles with plant textures. Combined with the new concept of modern urban people to embrace nature and pay attention to ecology, the current indoor decoration styles also transfer from the complexness and luxury to simplicity and nature, so the green, environmental friendly and natural textiles with plant textures also become the first choice in indoor soft decoration.

2. CATEGORIES OF TEXTILES WITH PLANT TEXTURES IN SOFT DECORATION OF HOME FURNISHING AND THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF APPLICATION

In the soft decoration of home furnishing, the textiles with plant textures are widely applied, mainly including the category of curtains (including curtains, door curtains, curtain for separation, draperies, etc.); category of bedding articles (including bed sheets, bed covers, mosquito nets, etc.); category of furniture cover (including sofa cover, appliance cover, table cloth, etc.); category of wall decorations; category of floor decorations; category of furnishings (such as wall hangings, light covers, etc.) and category of sanitation and kitchen (such as towel, placemat, duster cloth, etc.) (Tang & Yang, 2011, pp.5-15).

The advantages of textiles in soft decoration lie in the convenience for cleaning and change as well as their comfortable and environmentally friendly textures. The

textiles with plant textures can appear in the room environment with the elegant and gorgeous or romantic and beautiful styles, softening the rigid lines in home space with its unique flexibility, and endow the home environment with the functions of get close to nature, liberate heart and relieve pressure. When the textiles with plant textures are applied in the soft decoration of home furnishing, the colors and graphics shall be coordinated and unified in the home environment. As it has its own features compared to the household articles of other textures, its own design principles shall be followed during the design process.

2.1 Harmony Between Colors of Textiles With Plant Textures and Home Environment

The color matching of textiles with plant textures influences the psychological changes of people, and the reasonable color matching plays vital role in the soft decoration of home furnishing. In the home environment of one same space, the textiles generally select the same color motif and adopt the proper color matching percentage based on the changes of colors in purity, lightness and hue (see Figure 1) or the principle of color uniformity, so as to achieve the atmosphere of coordination and uniformity, and make the overall home environment beautiful but not disordered, active and not stiff (see Figure 2).



Figure 1
The Same Color Tone

2.2 Coordination of Proportions of Textured Patterns

In any kind of design, the proper proportion will give people the visual and psychological perfection, tranquility and comfort. The application pattern of textiles with plant textures shall be in proper proportion with the home environment. In the home environment, the design of textiles should be in harmony with the overall atmosphere no matter in color proportion or size proportion (Xu, 2009). As seen in Figure 3, in the decoration of the living room, the materials for curtains, seats and pillow covers select fabrics with plant textures, and the harmony plant texture proportion gives people the natural and comfortable feelings in American rural style.



Figure 2
Different Color Ratio



Figure 3
The Harmony of Texture

2.3 Reasonable Unification of Materials of Textiles With Plant Textures

In the soft decoration of modern home furnishing, the textiles of various textures are widely applied. The textiles with plant textures can realize different feelings with different manufacture techniques and processing methods, and the home atmospheres created by textiles with different textures are also different.

The plant textures can be reflected in many kinds of textiles, so relative uniformity can be achieved in the selection of materials and then reasonable matching can be adopted. For example, the silk fabric and silk can be matched together with different means, to realize the coordination feeling in vision and touch in the overall home environment.

3. APPLICATION METHODS OF TEXTILES WITH PLANT TEXTURES IN DIFFERENT HOME FURNISHING STYLES

As a kind of decoration means to the home environment, soft decoration design in home furnishing involves the matching of many textures, colors and patterns, so firstly the overall design style should be confirmed. Influenced

by the architecture styles in many places and the regional and humanistic features, the soft decoration has diversified styles and the main style categories include classical style, natural style, modern style and national style, etc. (Xu & Lin, 2014). The design of textiles with plant textures is originated from the figures and lines in two-dimensional plane and the three-dimensional texture effect of plants. The cultures of various countries can be assimilated and their quintessence can be absorbed, then the life experience and feelings of designers can be combined to express novel design themes, active forms, rich cultural connotations and effective affective communications in the textiles with plant textures based on their artistic foundation and expression techniques. Except various techniques and the modern computer aided design technologies are used to express the creativity ideas, emotional communication is conducted with the computer and injected into the design creativity of textiles with plant textures (Ren, 2005), so that the textiles with plant textures and the diversified expression forms are used in many decoration styles.

3.1 Classicist Style

The classicist style sets its foot in traditional form, its modeling and decoration are inherited with the traditional form, and the elegant and gorgeous colors and textures make it long stay in the design style. The classicist style is divided into Chinese style and western style and featured by elegance and decency. The textiles with plant textures also play an important role in the soft decoration of home furnishing and they are mostly used in the categories of curtains, floor covers, wall covers, and bedding articles.

In the textiles of curtain category and wall decoration category, the western classicist style generally adopts the classic patterns evolved from the naturally curved vines during the growth of plants, such as the matured patterns of grass with rolled leaves and spiracle. In contrast, the patterns of plant texture graphics of Chinese classics will select plants implying some ideas in the long history of China or reflecting the dream for beautiful life or expressing certain artistic conceptions as the source of inspirations, such as wood line, bamboo, peony, lotus and chrysanthemum, etc.. In the selection of colors, both the Chinese and western styles take the intense and deep colors with a high saturation, such as crimson, golden yellow, deep green and black, to reflect the solemn design culture and design connotations (Gong, 2004). Technically, the textiles with plant textures in classic style mostly select brocade and jacquard weaving, printing, embroidery, three-dimensional decoration and flocking to reflect the feeling of luxury. The curtain in Figure 4 is to represent the textures of leaves in the way of embroidery, and then the leaves in the form of 3-D embroidery pieces are used for decoration, to produce emboss effect and show delicacy and elegance.

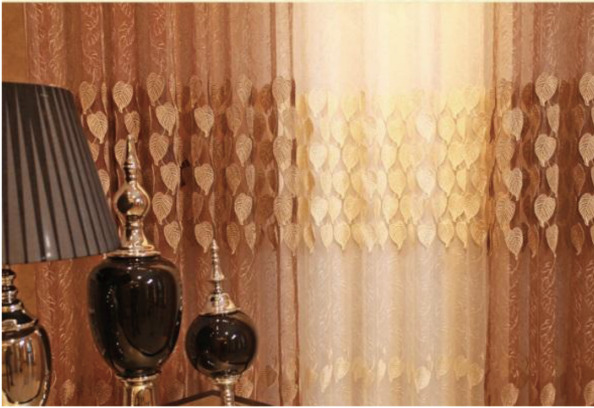


Figure 4
Show the Texture of the Leaves Through Embroidery

3.2 Natural Style

The natural style advocates the “return to nature” and embracing nature. It intends to express the leisure, comfortable and natural garden delight of life, create the natural, simple and elegant atmospheres, and express the aspiration of urban citizens living in the society characterized by high technology and high speed to the nature with the plain and genial decoration styles.

The cotton and linen textile fabrics with plant textures are very important elements to be used in the natural style decoration. The texture feeling of plants and the natural style can be well coordinated to show a natural and remote feeling. The textures of all kinds of flowers and plants have been the important source of design inspiration for fabrics in natural style soft decoration. Designers will add the textures of plants into the natural style fabrics in the graphic combination way or other special techniques. The textiles with plant textures in the natural style home environment have a wide range of



Figure 5
Show the Petal Texture by Patchwork Quilting

application, and they have been adopted in various kinds of soft decoration fabrics, including curtains, wall decorations, floor decorations, furniture covers, etc. In the selection of colors, the natural style textiles with plant textures mainly adopt light colors. In terms of graphic combination, the sceneries, animals, geometrical combinations or plant growth forms will be used and arranged, to make the home environment more natural and full of more vitality. In the natural style textiles with plant textures, except for the printing method, also the cloth patchwork and sewing or 3-D decoration will be adopted. To represent the textures of growth with the method of cloth patchwork is generally used in the design of home use textiles. The veins and textures of plants can be well displayed with cloth of different colors and different lines. In the artworks produced with cloth patchwork in Figure 5, during the sewing process, the lines are just the texture lines of petals. In the natural style, the 3-D decoration method is adopted to represent the growth form of plants in the textiles, so that the figures and lines in two-dimensional plane of the plant texture are presented in the three-dimensional space.

3.3 Modern Style

The modern simplicity is originated to the western modernism in the early 20th century. Advocating the simple style in home furnishing environment is to minimize the design elements, colors, lighting and raw materials to the minimum degree, but the requirements for colors and materials are very high (Gong, 2004). The application of textiles with plant textures in the modern simple style requires simplifying the plant textures in the design process, modifying with geometric lines and lively colors, and presenting with points, lines and surfaces. The textiles with plant textures in modern style mostly adopt the printing or jacquard weaving techniques for decoration.

In the application of design practices in Figure 6, the design conception of fabrics patterns comes from the main vein direction of leaves and the generalized lines are



Figure 6
Plant Texture in Modern Textile

used through imagination and arrangement to express the composition forms with different density levels. Such seemingly simple and arbitrary lines are just the experience of designers for life and their enthusiasm for creation. The decoration of fabrics with clear lines is applicable to the modern simple household decorations and also the hues can be adjusted according to the customer demands to match with different seasons.

3.4 Modern Style

National style is the artistic features of a nation formed during its long-term development. Along with the increasingly frequent global cultural communications, the various nations learn from each other by strong points to offset their weakness, so that the national style becomes a popular design style now. The application of national style in the home environment is the inevitable result of the social development. The currently popular national features in the world include Bohemia style, African style, Eastern European style, Indian style, Southeast Asian style, Chinese style and the Middle East style (Wei & Xiao, 2010, pp.89-91). The textiles of national style represent the humanities customs, habits and the ecological environment of certain nations, while the national style textiles with plant textures put the humanistic connotations of a nation into the patterns of plants and then present them into the living environment in the form of textiles, so as to cater to the aesthetic needs of the times.

The national style textiles with plant textures will select representative colors according to national features, and in most cases the colors will be relatively rich. In the aspect of technology, except for the common printing and jacquard weaving, different nations have their characteristic technologies, such as tie-dyed, batik and embroidery in different techniques. As seen in Figure 7, the growth forms of leaves and flowers are presented in the means of tie-dyed, so that they are suitable for the home environment of national style and have profound cultural connotation.



Figure 7
Show the Leaf and Flower Morphology by Tie-Dyed

4. DEVELOPMENT TENDENCY OF TEXTILES WITH PLANT TEXTURES IN SOFT DECORATION OF HOME FURNISHING

As the economy in current China develops rapidly, various kinds of soft materials enrich and change the cold and rigid lines formed by cement, stone, wood, ceramic and glass, etc. in the indoor space with their softness, so in the modern design, the modern concept of “less emphasis on decoration and more emphasis on furnishing” is gradually influencing the life and thought of people (Yang, 2015). In the modern life featured by high speed, people begin to pursue the life style and living environment of return to nature. With the awakening of environment protection consciousness, the urban citizens are more and more fascinated with the freshness and tranquility of nature and home furnishing style of return to nature has become the design trend now (Wang, 2013). The intention of textiles with plant textures used in soft furnishing is the closeness to nature and aspiration to original ecology, and the application of textiles with plant textures also conforms to the advocacy of modern people to the concept of sustainable development and to the natural type household fabrics. The cultural connotations and visual modalities reflected in plant textures are in conformity with the aspiration of people for the ideological return as well as the concepts of consumers to pursue in nature and individuation.

The textiles can fulfill their value only after they are affirmed by the market, i.e. the customers. Therefore, to apply the plant textures in the design of textiles, designers should locate targeted customers accurately, learn the economic ability of targeted consumption groups, and learn the psychological and physiological requirements of customers. Only in this way can they grasp the design points of plant textures better.

CONCLUSION

Textiles with plant textures are widely applied in the modern home furnishing environment design. Designers present textiles with plant textures into the home environment in different ways. In the age of pursuing nature, the application of textiles with plant textures in accordance with the fashion tendency in the home environment design will conform to the psychological and physiological needs of customers. Designers shall be brave enough for innovative and open design, combine multiple disciplines, try various manifestation techniques, and follow the fashion tendency, so as to present the various plant textures in the home environment and the aesthetic needs of customers.

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