

The Research on the Usage on Decorative Tile for Decoration on the Architecture in Taiwan during Japanese Occupation Era

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ABSTRACT

Before World War II, the inlayed decorative tiles often appeared on the traditional houses in Taiwan and Penghu district. It is also easy to be seen on the traditional furniture and the modern time architecture during the Japanese occupation era. More than 95 percent of these tiles were made in Japan. Most of the tiles imitated the British Victorian Tile style, and were known as Majolica Tile in Japan. The manufacturing time was around the Japanese Taisho period to the beginning of Showa period. Since the manual glazing process would take a long time, the production was forced to stop in Japan after World War II.

The Majolica Tile was used in the traditional Taiwanese houses and the modern architecture. It was often called the “Decorative Tile”, or known as the “Color Glazed Tile”. Because of its colorful glazing and the variety of patterns, decorating on the traditional houses has always been eye catching. There are many collectors interested in these tiles, however, not many of them do know when, where, or by whom these tiles were made and how did the maker come out with these designs. Up to today, the research of these tiles in Taiwan architecture is still blank.

Tiles are the popular materials for modern architecture; They are different from other architectural materials. Many different kinds of information were written on the backside of the tiles. They could tell us the date when they were made, place where they were made, and by which company that the tiles were produced. Many tiles even have their model number on the back. Therefore, by knowing the information, we would understand more about the story of the tiles, and enable to find out where and how did the tiles come from.

Keywords: Japanese Occupation Era, Taiwan Traditional Folk Residence,
Decorative Tile, Majolica Tile, Victorian Tile

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