

Research on the Application of Ruyi Patterns in Modern China Chic Fashion Design

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the application value and innovative strategies of Ruyi patterns in modern China Chic fashion design. As a typical representative of traditional Chinese auspicious patterns, Ruyi patterns contain rich cultural connotations and artistic characteristics. With their symmetrical double-spiral structure, flowing lines, and diverse forms of expression, Ruyi patterns provide abundant creative materials for China Chic fashion design. Through a systematic review of the historical development, classification features, aesthetic qualities, and cultural connotations of Ruyi patterns, this study analyzes the evolutionary trajectory of Ruyi patterns across different historical periods and their application forms in various decorative objects. Combined with the developmental background and characteristics of China Chic fashion design, this research deeply discusses the cultural value, aesthetic value, and commercial value of Ruyi patterns in China Chic fashion, and proposes four innovative application methods: pattern application, structural application, material application, and symbolic application. The research shows that combining Ruyi patterns with modern China Chic fashion can effectively inherit and promote traditional Chinese culture, enhance the national characteristics and cultural connotations of clothing, and meet contemporary consumers' dual demands for national identity and fashion expression, providing new innovative paths for China Chic fashion design. This research provides practical references for the innovative transformation of traditional patterns in contemporary design and has theoretical and practical significance for promoting the application and development of traditional Chinese cultural elements in modern design fields.

KEYWORDS: Ruyi Pattern; China Chic Fashion; Traditional Culture; Pattern Application; Innovative Design

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Ruyi pattern is a traditional decorative pattern that symbolizes auspiciousness, a symbol of blessing and avoiding disaster, and a distilled reflection of traditional Chinese culture. The ancients regarded "double" as perfection, thus its structure is symmetrically designed, with double-spiral flowing lines symmetrically displayed as heart-shaped. The entire Ruyi pattern resembles a heart-shaped lingzhi mushroom, with its graceful posture also resembling auspicious clouds. Ruyi patterns frequently appear in people's daily lives, such as in architectural decorations, furniture decorations, textile decorations, utensil decorations, etc., often combined with other auspicious elements in traditional Chinese concepts to form patterns with auspicious meanings. For example, the combination of Ruyi patterns and the character "happiness" is called "Double Happiness and Ruyi," the combination of Ruyi patterns with bats and gourds is called "Fortune, Green, and Ruyi," and the combination of Ruyi patterns with elephants is called "Auspicious and Ruyi."

With the increasing enhancement of contemporary Chinese cultural confidence, these traditional patterns bearing profound cultural connotations are returning to people's vision in new forms. China Chic, as a fashion trend that has emerged in recent years integrating traditional cultural elements with modern design concepts, provides a broad platform for the innovative application of traditional patterns. Driven by the China Chic trend, the Ruyi pattern, a traditional auspicious symbol, is transcending time and space boundaries, evolving from ancient decorative objects to modern fashion design fields, emanating new vitality. As an important carrier for contemporary young people to express cultural identity and aesthetic pursuit, China Chic fashion design is actively exploring how to integrate traditional elements like Ruyi patterns with modern aesthetic concepts, both preserving the essence of traditional culture and meeting the fashion needs of contemporary consumers, paving new paths for the inheritance and development of traditional culture.

This research focuses on the application of Ruyi patterns in modern China Chic fashion design, aiming to explore the innovative expression of traditional cultural symbols in contemporary design contexts, providing

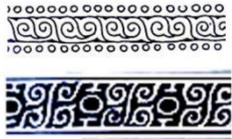
practical references for the modernization transformation of Chinese traditional patterns, while injecting new vitality into the cultural depth and innovation of China Chic fashion design.

II. OVERVIEW OF RUYI PATTERNS

The Ruyi pattern is an ancient decorative pattern with a distinctly symmetrical double-spiral structure, primarily heart-shaped in form. Ruyi patterns have diverse shapes, resembling lingzhi mushrooms, auspicious clouds, curling grasses, cloud formations, vines, flower petals, and heart shapes. Due to their rounded and fluid lines and structure, accompanied by the evolution of Chinese history and cultural accumulation, Ruyi patterns have gradually been imbued with deeper spiritual connotations. The connotations attributed to them are mainly auspicious meanings, representing a vigorous and positive attitude, reflecting people's pursuit of auspiciousness and wellness in specific historical backgrounds. Based on this, the existence and development of Ruyi patterns also fully reflect the Chinese nation's promotion of national spirit and pursuit of harmony and beauty.

2.1 Development of Ruyi Patterns

The development of Ruyi patterns in China bears the imprint of history. According to the timeline of Ruyi pattern development, it can be divided into the embryonic period, development period, and mature period of Ruyi pattern development. Following the historical evolution of Ruyi patterns, changes in the interpretation of Ruyi patterns will be displayed according to different historical backgrounds, social forms, and cultural characteristics.

HISTORICAL PERIOD	REPRESENTATIVE PATTERN STYLE	PATTERN DISPLAY		
Budding Period	Spiral Patterns	 Concentric circular spiral Ruyi pattern	 Central arc spiral Ruyi pattern	 Dotted spiral Ruyi pattern
Shang and Zhou Dynasties	Cloud-Thunder Pattern	 Square thunder pattern	 Hook-shaped thunder pattern	 Vortex thunder pattern I-shaped cloud pattern
Spring and Autumn & Warring States Period	Heart-shaped Structure	 Cloud and Ruyi patterns on Warring States jade bi discs	 Plant Ruyi patterns on Warring States roof tiles	
Qin and Han Dynasties	Double spiral heart-shaped design	 Ruyi patterns on Han Dynasty		
Wei, Jin, Northern and Southern Dynasties	Scroll grass Ruyi pattern	 Scroll grass Ruyi pattern		

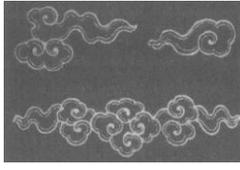
		Heart-shaped Ruyi patterns in stone carvings at Yungang Grottoes		
Sui and Tang Dynasties	Plant scroll patterns combined with double spiral heart-shaped patterns			
		Plant Ruyi patterns on Tang Dynasty stone bricks	Tang Dynasty scroll grass with bird and beast Ruyi patterns	
Song and Yuan Periods	Cloud Ruyi pattern designs			
		Plant Ruyi patterns on Song Dynasty Jizhou kiln vases	Yuan Dynasty Ruyi pattern gold plates	Yuan Dynasty cloud Ruyi patterns
Ming and Qing Dynasties	Four-joined Ruyi patterns, Various auspicious patterns			
		Ming Dynasty four-joined Ruyi cloud patterns	Ruyi patterns on Qing Dynasty doucai drum-shaped jars	Ruyi patterns on Qing Dynasty carved red lacquer incense boxes

Table 1 Ruyi Patterns From Different Historical Periods

2.2 Classification of Ruyi Patterns

PATTERN TYPE	SUBCATEGORY	MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS	APPLICATION SCENARIOS	CULTURAL CONNOTATIONS
Scroll Grass Ruyi Pattern	 Vine Interlacing Style	Double spiral structures interlock to form semi-enclosed heart shapes.	Cave mural borders	Strong religious color, originated from Wei, Jin, Northern and Southern Dynasties.
	 Yin-Yang Interlacing Style	Black and white contrasting plant patterns, creating visual three-dimensional effect.	Cave decorations	Echoes yin-yang culture, has religious significance.
	 Continuous Circular Style	Circular units arranged horizontally in continuous sequence, with stable and complete structure.	Cave decorations	Dignified and gorgeous, emphasizes symmetrical beauty.
	 Grafted Composite Style	Central decoration incorporates religious elements in various forms.	Cave decorations	Embodies yearning for beautiful life and faith.
Cloud Ruyi Pattern	 Facing Cloud Heads Style	Pairs of cloud heads facing each other, repeated in even numbers.	Roof tile end decorations	Smooth and dynamic, embodies the beauty of harmony.

		Pairs of cloud heads facing away from each other, expanding outward.	Ceramic surface decorations	Free-spirited, rich in rhythmic feeling.
		Heavy band-like structure, cloud heads merged with cloud bodies.	Mural decorations	Displays the flowing movement of natural elements.
Heart-Shaped Ruyi Pattern		Symmetrical double spirals, resembling a heart shape, with smooth and rounded lines.	Various decorative fields	Simple and elegant, symbolizes good wishes.
Lingzhi Ruyi Pattern		Axially symmetrical structure, double curves radiating from a single point.	Auspicious decorations	Symbolizes longevity and good fortune, concentrated cultural symbolism.
Auspicious Cloud Ruyi Pattern		Double curves converge in auspicious cloud shape, with bilateral symmetry.	Edges and bottoms of vessels	Incorporates auspicious cloud elements, enhances lucky implications.

Table 2 Classification of Ruyi Patterns

2.3 Artistic Characteristics of Ruyi Patterns

2.3.1 Aesthetic of Ruyi Shapes

The shape of Ruyi patterns has great aesthetic appeal, aligning with the aesthetic characteristics of Chinese people. Whether in composite combinations or as individual elements, they are treasures and essences of traditional culture, possessing strong vitality and vigor, representing Chinese people's emotional attachments and aesthetic pursuits. Chinese traditional decorative patterns emphasize the beauty of symmetry and harmony, placing great importance on formal beauty. Ruyi patterns, whether in terms of formal beauty or connotative beauty, represent a perfect combination. Ruyi patterns convey the profound nature of Chinese aesthetics—"the unity of heaven and man"—through the beauty of symmetrical overlays, the stability beauty of reciprocal rotation, the rhythmic beauty of light and agile lines, the transformative beauty of flexible and varied compositions, and the realm beauty of the combination of movement and stillness, straightness within curves. The visual pleasure created by Ruyi patterns for people stems from the typical representation of Chinese national aesthetic temperament and aesthetic psychology, rooted in the deeply accumulated historical culture, reflecting the aesthetic habits of Chinese working people, and being a traditional pattern rich in national emotion.

The shape of Ruyi patterns is derived from traditional Ruyi implements, with elements of Ruyi patterns being manifested on these implements at all times. The patterns on Ruyi implements are divided into three types: heart-shaped, lingzhi-shaped, and auspicious cloud patterns. The so-called "observing objects to capture their essence" means that through detailed observation of all things, abstract and symbolic imitations are refined, leading to the emergence of various patterns. The Ruyi pattern was formed through the imitation of the Ruyi implement, abstractly formed from the shape of the Ruyi head, and the shape of the Ruyi also mutually influenced the appearance of the Ruyi pattern, suggesting that Ruyi and Ruyi patterns are interconnected and dialectically unified.

2.3.2 Profound Connotations of Ruyi Patterns

Ruyi patterns represent auspiciousness. Research on the connotations of Ruyi patterns mainly analyzes the important position of auspicious culture in Chinese traditional culture. The concept of auspiciousness and "as one wishes" is deeply rooted in the minds of Chinese people, as can be glimpsed from unearthed and extant cultural relics. Auspicious culture, having undergone the test of time, has completely integrated with Chinese people's habits, preferences, customs, aesthetics, and concepts, reflecting the collective wisdom crystallization

of working people, and is the essence of the profound and extensive traditional Chinese culture. The connotations of Ruyi patterns are elaborated from the following three dimensions:

First, the meaning of auspiciousness and good fortune. The Chinese nation's advocacy of auspicious culture since ancient times reflects the ancient people's exploration of spiritual pursuit. The ancients, with their wishes for blessing and disaster avoidance, continually perfected the spiritual beliefs of their nationality and gradually created and derived representatives of auspicious elements embodied in objects. Ruyi patterns are a typical auspicious pattern derived from Ruyi implements. Ruyi, due to its beautiful name meaning, carries people's yearning and expectation for beauty, and the Ruyi patterns developed and derived from Ruyi implements perfectly embody people's cultural connotations and life interests in auspiciousness and good fortune. The concentrated essence of Ruyi patterns represents the embodiment of auspiciousness and good fortune, appearing in people's lives, buildings, clothing, and many other fields, expressing prayers for a good life through small Ruyi patterns, reflecting the ancient people's optimistic life philosophy and generous and open-minded spiritual pursuit.

At the same time, Ruyi patterns reflect the integration of Chinese traditional culture and Buddhist culture. Buddhist culture directly influenced people's imitation of Buddhist-related physical forms through its impact on human thought. Meanwhile, Chinese traditional culture would also take Buddhism as an important object of cognitive research, to culturally transform and influence it. Ruyi patterns, derived from Ruyi objects, combined with auspicious clouds, curling grasses, lingzhi, and heart shapes, completely satisfy people's pursuit of Buddhist peace, praying for happiness and wellness. They satisfy both the pursuit of aesthetics and the pursuit of traditional culture and Buddhist culture. Abstract pattern designs express the spiritual world of the people who created them, and different Ruyi patterns all represent auspicious blessings, containing the diversity, inclusiveness, and humanistic feelings of traditional culture, and are a microcosm of the blessing spirit of traditional culture.

Second, the meaning of expressing emotions through objects. Chinese people's expression of emotions is subtle and implicit, often using objects to express their feelings and likes and dislikes. One of the most direct ways to reflect human spiritual consciousness is through pattern designs, among which Ruyi patterns, due to their unique infusion of auspicious culture, provide spiritual comfort to people. This emotional resonance makes Ruyi patterns a symbolic representation of expressing emotions through objects, representing people's longing for all beautiful visions and auspicious wealth, and is the most subtle and implicit emotional attachment in people's spiritual world. Ruyi patterns reflect the unique aesthetic concepts influenced by Chinese traditional culture.

Third, unique aesthetic sentiments. Chinese traditional cultural consciousness has emphasized the beauty of symmetry since ancient times. The beauty of symmetry contains the dignified and honest temperament and stable and practical quality of the ancients, presenting a balanced and harmonious beauty. This beauty of symmetry originates from nature and also from the beautiful hearts of the ancients. The saying "no symmetry, no Chinese style" is the best interpretation of Chinese people's pursuit of symmetrical beauty. The structure of Ruyi patterns presents an obvious symmetrical layout, and regardless of how they evolve, their unique stable symmetrical structure has always been a characteristic of Ruyi patterns. This ethereal symmetrical beauty reflects the ancient people's posture of "seeing movement in stillness, seeing curves in straightness," reflecting people's aesthetic sentiment of "the unity of heaven and man," displaying profound cultural heritage and aesthetic interest, and is a pattern with strong Chinese traditional elements.

III. RESEARCH ON THE COMBINATION OF RUYI PATTERNS AND CHINA CHIC FASHION DESIGN

In the collision between tradition and modernity, Ruyi patterns, as the essence of traditional Chinese decorative art, are providing rich creative inspiration and expressive materials for national trend fashion design with their unique artistic charm and cultural heritage. This integration is not only an inheritance of traditional culture but also an innovative interpretation of national aesthetics, demonstrating the cultural confidence and creativity of Chinese design in a globalized context. The fusion of Ruyi patterns with national trend clothing both satisfies young consumers' demand for cultural identity and helps create distinctive visual language and brand image for national trend brands.

3.1 Development and Characteristics of China Chic Fashion

China Chic is a fashion trend that has emerged in recent years, integrating Chinese traditional cultural elements with modern design. China Chic fashion is the specific expression of this trend in the clothing field, combining Chinese traditional cultural symbols, patterns, colors, and other elements with contemporary fashion design language, creating clothing products that both have cultural heritage and meet modern aesthetics. The rise of China Chic fashion stems from the enhancement of cultural confidence among the younger generation of consumers and the improvement of their sense of identity with local culture.

With the rapid development of China's economy and the increase of its international influence, more and more young people have begun to pay attention to, appreciate, and inherit Chinese traditional culture. China Chic fashion has emerged and rapidly become an important trend in the fashion world.

The design characteristics of China Chic fashion are mainly reflected in the following aspects: First, it emphasizes the modern transformation of traditional cultural elements, integrating traditional patterns and symbols into modern clothing design in innovative ways; second, it emphasizes the originality and nationality of design, showcasing Chinese characteristics through original designs; third, it seeks a balance between tradition and modernity, neither blindly retro nor solely pursuing fashion, but finding connections between the two; finally, it values the expression of cultural connotations, with each piece of China Chic clothing having its unique cultural story and spiritual connotation.

3.2 Application Value of Ruyi Patterns in China Chic Fashion

3.2.1 Cultural Value

As a typical representative of Chinese traditional auspicious patterns, Ruyi patterns contain rich cultural connotations and spiritual implications. Applying Ruyi patterns to China Chic fashion design can inherit and promote Chinese traditional culture, enhancing the cultural depth of clothing. The auspicious meaning of Ruyi patterns aligns with the cultural confidence pursued by China Chic fashion, capable of conveying the positive spiritual outlook of the Chinese nation through visual symbols.

3.2.2 Aesthetic Value

Ruyi patterns have fluid lines and beautiful shapes, possessing high decorative and artistic value. Their double-spiral symmetrical structure conforms to the concept of "harmony" in Chinese traditional aesthetics, and the rounded lines and dynamic shapes can infuse China Chic fashion with a unique Eastern aesthetic charm. The rich types and expressive forms of Ruyi patterns provide diverse visual elements for China Chic fashion design, meeting design requirements for different styles and occasions.

3.2.3 Commercial Value

The application of Ruyi patterns in China Chic fashion has significant commercial value. The unique visual effect of Ruyi patterns can enhance the recognizability of clothing, helping brands stand out in fierce market competition. The cultural connotations of Ruyi patterns can meet consumers' demands for national cultural identity, strengthening consumers' emotional connections. The innovative application of Ruyi patterns can enhance the added value of products, making China Chic fashion not just a form of attire, but an expression of cultural symbols and lifestyle attitudes.

3.3 Application Methods of Ruyi Patterns in China Chic Fashion Design

3.3.1 Pattern Application

Directly applying Ruyi patterns as pattern elements in clothing design is the most common method. Designers can choose different types of Ruyi patterns, such as curling grass Ruyi patterns, cloud Ruyi patterns, heart-shaped Ruyi patterns, etc., and present them on clothing through printing, embroidery, jacquard, and other techniques. In pattern application, Ruyi patterns can serve as the main pattern elements occupying the visual center of the clothing, or as auxiliary patterns combined with other elements, forming rich and varied visual effects.

3.3.2 Structural Application

Structural application refers to incorporating the morphological characteristics of Ruyi patterns into the structural design of clothing, making the patterns an organic part of the clothing structure. For example, the double-spiral shape of Ruyi patterns can be applied to the design of necklines, cuffs, and hems, or three-dimensional effects of Ruyi patterns can be created on the clothing surface through cutting, pleating, and other techniques. Structural application requires designers to have a deep understanding of the morphological characteristics of Ruyi patterns, enabling them to cleverly combine them with clothing structures, creating designs that both have traditional charm and modern sense.

3.3.3 Material Application

Material application refers to creating textural effects of Ruyi patterns on the clothing surface through the selection and treatment of special materials. For example, laser cutting, hot stamping, embossing, and other techniques can be used to present Ruyi patterns on fabrics; or layers of rich Ruyi pattern effects can be created through the splicing and overlapping of different materials. Material application can give Ruyi patterns new visual and tactile experiences, enhancing the modern sense and artistry of clothing.

3.3.4 Symbolic Application

Symbolic application refers to simplifying Ruyi patterns into visual symbols with strong recognizability, expressing the spiritual core of Ruyi patterns through combinations of points, lines, and surfaces. Symbolic application emphasizes the reinterpretation and recreation of traditional patterns, distilling the essential characteristics of Ruyi patterns through modern design language, making them more easily

accepted and recognized by modern consumers. Symbolic application is usually suitable for minimalist style China Chic fashion design, conveying design concepts that both have cultural heritage and do not lack modern sense.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research has systematically explored the application of Ruyi patterns in modern China Chic fashion design. Through in-depth research on the historical origins, classification features, and artistic characteristics of Ruyi patterns, it has revealed the rich cultural connotations and aesthetic values contained in this traditional pattern, and explored its application value and innovative strategies in China Chic fashion design.

First, as a representative of Chinese traditional auspicious patterns, Ruyi patterns have formed multiple types, each carrying the Chinese nation's yearning for a good life, and are important carriers of traditional cultural spirit. Their double-spiral symmetrical structure, fluid lines, and rich expressive forms provide abundant creative materials for China Chic fashion design.

Second, the application of Ruyi patterns in China Chic fashion has cultural inheritance, aesthetic enhancement, and commercial value-adding triple values. At the cultural level, it inherits traditional spirit; at the aesthetic level, it infuses Eastern charm; at the commercial level, it enhances brand recognition and emotional connection.

Finally, Ruyi patterns can be innovatively applied in China Chic fashion through pattern application, structural application, material application, and symbolic application methods, meeting different design requirements. Pattern application directly displays pattern elements, structural application integrates into clothing construction, material application creates three-dimensional textures, and symbolic application extracts visual symbols.

The innovative combination of Ruyi patterns and China Chic fashion has realized a dialogue between tradition and modernity, both preserving traditional cultural connotations and giving them new expressions that conform to contemporary aesthetics, providing innovation paths rich in cultural depth for China Chic fashion design, and also offering valuable insights into the dynamic inheritance of traditional cultural elements in contemporary design.

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