

Mosaic art in life and architecture

Nghệ thuật Mosaic trong đời sống và kiến trúc

> DR. Arch TRUONG THI THANH TRUC¹,

Arch NGUYEN TY PHU²

¹Professor of architecture

Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture

Email: truc.truongthithanh@uah.edu.vn

²Master's degree student in architecture

Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture

Email: kts.nguyentyphu@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Studying Mosaic art in life and architecture has the aim of identifying and synthesizing the values of this art and their contribution or application in architectural design and construction. These values bring more diversity in construction techniques and enrich the artistic creativity of the architect.

Keywords: Mosaic art, artistic value, artistic creation.

TÓM TẮT

Tìm hiểu nghệ thuật Mosaic trong đời sống và kiến trúc có mục đích xác định và tổng hợp các giá trị của nghệ thuật này trong việc đóng góp hay vận dụng vào việc thiết kế và xây dựng các công trình kiến trúc. Các giá trị nghệ thuật này giúp đa dạng hơn kỹ thuật xây dựng và làm phong phú hơn cho sự sáng tạo nghệ thuật của người kiến trúc sư.

Từ khóa: Nghệ thuật Mosaic; giá trị nghệ thuật; sáng tạo nghệ thuật.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mosaic is a form of art that assembles small pieces of materials into a unified whole. With the variety of materials used in mosaic art, Mosaic art has outstanding features such as:

- Advantages from the physical properties of materials: wear resistance, high hardness, good compression resistance, water resistance, acid resistance, salt alkalinity, color fastness, no dust, moss, etc.

- Advantage from the richness of materials, color sensitivities, ... of materials.

- Advantage from the ability to create aesthetic shapes on demand and according to cultural characteristics.

- Advantages from flexible production technology: manual or industrial production, small or large quantity, etc., which is flexible according to actual conditions and requirements.

Because of the above-mentioned advantages, Mosaic art has been applied in life and architecture for a long time and

is increasingly popular. Understanding how Mosaic art has contributed to life and especially in the design and construction of architectural works in the world as well as in Vietnam helps to understand the values of this art towards the more effective application of Mosaic art in the future.

2. OVERVIEW ABOUT MOSAIC ART

2.1. Overview about Mosaic art

Mosaic art is a form of decorative art that creates images from small pieces of materials such as colored glass, stone, ceramics, metal or other materials.

The Mosaic application can create themed artwork with an investment in layout, content, color materials, etc., but it can be merely a decorative motif for landscapes of buildings such as sidewalks, flower beds, etc. and sometimes it does not need a specific theme but still achieve visual effects. The name of the Mosaic material is specified as follows: Mosaic is named after its material's name. For example: Mosaic made of pieces of glass can be called glass mosaic, Mosaic made of natural stones is called natural stone Mosaic or ceramic Mosaic is the name of Mosaic from ceramic pieces, etc.

In Vietnam, Mosaic art is often found in architectural works such as pagodas, temples, mausoleums, etc. With the absorption of Western Mosaic art combined with Traditional aesthetics, mosaic art in Vietnam has created many unique values for architectural works with its own characteristics and national identity. Mosaic art flourished during the Nguyen Dynasty, careful mosaic materials and techniques made architectural works in Vietnam during this period sustainable and able to be resistant to time and harsh weather to survive up to this day. Compared to the application of mosaic art in the world, mosaic art in Vietnam has created its own unique and lasting artistic imprints throughout the nation's history.

2.2. Overview of materials used in Mosaic art

In the world of Mosaic art, there is a word used to refer to all the materials used to make Mosaic works of art, which is Tesserae - translated into Vietnamese means mosaics or mosaic units.

Any material used to create Mosaic art is called a Mosaic material - Tesserae. The world uses a lot of materials and improvises according to the preferences of the artist to create Mosaic art, the common feature of these materials is small shapes.

If it is a natural material originated from existing objects such as stone, gravel, glass, mirror, crockery, porcelain, etc., it will be easy to cut into pieces, then use traditional methods, or modern methods to craft manually. As for man-made materials such as crystal, grained glass, it often uses modern methods. However, the materials used in Mosaic art are mainly still in four main categories: glass, ceramics, stone and some other special materials.

3. HISTORY OF FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOSAIC ART

3.1. History of formation and development of Mosaic art in the world

Based on the historical development of Mosaic art, its characteristics and worldwide distribution, it can be summarized and classified as follows:

- Byzantine Mosaic.
- Classic Mosaic.
- Mosaic in Medieval Rome and Venice.
- Islamic Mosaic.
- Latin American Mosaic.
- Mosaic and Art Nouveau.
- Orient Mosaic.
- Contemporary Mosaic.

In summary, Mosaic art has been formed and developed throughout historical periods and associated with architecture and other forms of visual arts. It was formed from different civilizations and thus also reflected different cultural characteristics for each generation and each nation. Over thousands of years, this art has been maintained, preserved and developed more and more strongly. That is the feature that needs to be paid attention when researching and promoting the application of this type of Mosaic art in the future.

3.2. The appearance of Mosaic art in Vietnam

In the ancient folk in Vietnam, it was not called Mosaic art.

Mosaic art in Vietnam has existed for a long time and can be found in many places from simple crafts in the countryside to majestic works of art in the royal court. However, there were no records of numbers and documents about its origin and time of appearance. What is known today is only through meager historical records, artifacts or traditional industries in traditional villages. The best known ones are porcelain mosaic art, mother-of-pearl mosaic art (pearl mosaic, snail mosaic) or wood mosaic art.

4. MOSAIC ART IN LIFE AND ARCHITECTURE

4.1. Mosaic art in life

Mosaic art in real life is usually a figurative work in accordance with the author's wishes, mostly associated with sculptures, murals, decorative items or other objects.

For the climatic conditions of Vietnam, the application of Mosaic art to the surface of visual works (paintings - statues - household items,...) is extremely necessary because it ensures the durable and aesthetic use that is not degraded over time; Usually it is applied manually.



Figure 1. Mosaic art in architectural shaping.

4.2. Mosaic art in architecture

4.2.1. Decoration in urban landscape architecture

Mosaic art is used quite popularly and diversely in decorating, creating specific features, emphasizing or attracting visuals for

urban landscape architecture. We can see the appearance of Mosaic art in parks, squares, roads, etc. In urban landscape architecture, the use of Mosaic art to decorate flower beds, aquariums and fountains, etc., is not only to create aesthetics for works that highlight the space, but also to prevent slippery, sliding, dirt, moss, etc. during the use time.



Figure 2. Mosaic art in architectural decoration for urban landscape.

4.2.2. Architectural facade decoration

Architectural facade decoration with Mosaic art is now gradually becoming a trend because of the diversity of materials, making the work more lively, especially for modern and postmodern architectural styles. For the High - Tech architectural style, Mosaic art brings unexpected visual effects.

In addition, Mosaic art gives the work stability with all harsh weather conditions, especially hot and humid climates in Vietnam.



Figure 3. Mosaic art in decoration of facades.

4.2.3. Architectural interior decoration

Currently, Mosaic art is more and more popular and used in interiors. Because there are many preeminent features from diverse materials, colors, etc., designers and users are increasingly interested in, so the processing is gradually being industrialized with many types of patterns, colors, materials, ... which are more unique.



Figure 4. Mosaic Art in interior decoration.



Figure 5. Mosaic art in architectural detail decoration.

4.2.4. Decoration of architectural details

Architectural details are an important part of making a beautiful architecture overall. Architectural details, parts of the work such as: balcony, loggia, details of column tops, footings, balustrades, stairs, window frames, doors, seno details ... constituting a complete architectural work.

When observing architectural works from the perspective of miniatures, architectural details now play an important role, directly impacting the viewer's vision. Whether the work is evaluated aesthetically or not depends entirely on the combination of these details, so the application of Mosaic art in the decoration of architectural details also brings optimal efficiency in many aspects: creating aesthetic effect, increased resistance to weather and climate for structural components of the building, ... and another important feature, that is the sensibility of the material will show relatively clear the emotional intentions on architectural details through Mosaic art.

5. CONCLUSION

The application of Mosaic art may transform a specific object through creativity of the maker with patterns, compositions, colors, rhythms, lines, materials, etc. in order to transform an object into a more beautiful and attractive one, serving the essential needs of people both physically and mentally.

The application of Mosaic art in life is increasingly popular, rich and diverse with many different materials and purposes, its

expression, aesthetics and expression are very wide.

In Vietnam, Mosaic art along with traditional mosaic techniques, has contributed to enriching decorative arts in general and building architecture in particular.

Today, this form of art has more and more conditions to promote its application value in life and architecture thanks to diverse production technologies, creativity from designers and reasonable prices depending on needs and conditions of the consumers.

REFERENCE

1. Dang Thi Bich Ngan, Glossary of Art Terms, Education Publishing House 2002
2. Do Thanh Mai, "The art of porcelain mosaics in the Nguyen Dynasty from Chuong Duc Gate", Architectural Magazine No. 08/2004, p.112
3. Y Na, Mosaic art in architecture (Mosaic), Architectural Magazine, Viet Nam Association of Architects 2005
4. Nguyen The Ba, "Urban landscape architecture", Construction Publishing House 1996
5. Caroline suter & Celia Gregory, The Art of Mosaic: Contemporary Ideas for Decorating Walls, Floors and Accessories in the Home and Garden, Anness 2001