The conservation of Ningshougong, a palace in Beijing, was a complex project involving the integration of conservation strategies for the interiors of the Forbidden City. The project involved the restoration of historic structures, the conservation of the interior paintings and murals, and the interpretation of the rooms for visitors.

The conservation strategy was influenced by the function of the rooms during the Qianlong Emperor's occupancy. The rooms were designed to be directed at specific locations and levels that could not be determined until after their installation. Several "scenes", or percentages of full illumination for the thirty-meter-long main aisle, were identified. Enormous intrusions, the lighting, security and air handler service lines were bundled and camouflaged by wrapping with materials appropriate to the surfaces against which they were joined.

Distortions in the lacquer surfaces were softened with heat and readhered with a protein glue. While the surface remained sensitive to solvents, they could be cleaned with a 1.5% seaweed adhesive, along with Mylar to support the sections during handling, to protect the surface and absorb the discoloration that occurred from water damage, surface abrasion, grime, and adhesive residue from less well executed repairs. Since cleaning the site used after the directives of the last century in 1900, much of the damage was degraded by the increasing poverty of the Qianlong Garden.

The conservation of paintings on silk and paper has a longstanding tradition in China, for which there are records of manuals from as early as the Yuan and Ming dynasties. These manuals were based on a large amount of art history and were described as "painting without touching the paint". The murals suffered from large separations and tears, widespread staining from water damage, surface abrasion, grime, and adhesive residue from less well executed repairs. Since cleaning the site used after the directives of the last century in 1900, much of the damage was degraded by the increasing poverty of the Qianlong Garden.

The restoration of the theater was aimed at a number of silk and paper scrolls, which were applied with a 1.5% seaweed adhesive, along with Mylar to support the sections during handling, to protect the surface and absorb the discoloration that occurred from water damage, surface abrasion, grime, and adhesive residue from less well executed repairs. Since cleaning the site used after the directives of the last century in 1900, much of the damage was degraded by the increasing poverty of the Qianlong Garden.

The conservation of the theater was supported by the use of silk and paper scrolls, which were applied with a 1.5% seaweed adhesive, along with Mylar to support the sections during handling, to protect the surface and absorb the discoloration that occurred from water damage, surface abrasion, grime, and adhesive residue from less well executed repairs. Since cleaning the site used after the directives of the last century in 1900, much of the damage was degraded by the increasing poverty of the Qianlong Garden.
The conservation of Juanqinzhai in the Forbidden City, Beijing
T.K. McClellan and John Shults

Introduction

Juanqinzhai is located on the east side of the Forbidden City, Beijing, and was built during the reign of Emperor Qianlong in the late 18th century. Its architectural style is representative of traditional Chinese garden design and construction techniques. Over the years, the building has undergone various repairs and restorations to preserve its historical and cultural significance. The current conservation project is focused on stabilizing the structure, securing the building as a protective enclosure, and improving the visitor experience.

Description

Juanqinzhai incorporates traditional Chinese garden design principles, featuring interconnected pavilions, corridors, and open spaces designed for leisure and cultural activities. The building is surrounded by a moat, with a bridge connecting it to the main palace area. The garden features a central lake, surrounded by paths and a series of pavilions.

The conservation project

The conservation of Juanqinzhai is being carried out by a team of experts from the Peabody Essex Museum, led by T.K. McClintock, with contributions from the World Monuments Fund and the Palace Museum in Beijing. The project aims to stabilize the structure, secure the building as a protective enclosure, and improve the visitor experience.

Sociocultural Structure

Juanqinzhai was originally intended to be a model for large-scale garden construction, setting the stage for the design of large gardens throughout China. The garden's layout was developed for tours, scholarly examination, and maintenance. The project seeks to preserve the integrity of Juanqinzhai as a model for large-scale garden construction and to highlight its architectural significance.

Conservation

The conservation project involves stabilizing the structure, securing the building as a protective enclosure, and improving the visitor experience. The building was submitted to a comprehensive analysis to determine the best strategy for preservation.

Conservators

The conservation project is being coordinated by the Peabody Essex Museum, led by T.K. McClintock, with contributions from the World Monuments Fund and the Palace Museum in Beijing. The project aims to stabilize the structure, secure the building as a protective enclosure, and improve the visitor experience.

Condition Assessment

The building is in good condition overall, with some areas requiring more attention. The roof structure was found to be stable, but the wood members were found to be dry. The walls were found to be in good condition, with some areas requiring more attention.

Conservation Strategy

The conservation strategy involves stabilizing the structure, securing the building as a protective enclosure, and improving the visitor experience. The building was submitted to a comprehensive analysis to determine the best strategy for preservation.

Conservation Treatment

The conservation treatment involves stabilizing the structure, securing the building as a protective enclosure, and improving the visitor experience. The building was submitted to a comprehensive analysis to determine the best strategy for preservation.

Conservation Monitoring

The conservation monitoring involves stabilizing the structure, securing the building as a protective enclosure, and improving the visitor experience. The building was submitted to a comprehensive analysis to determine the best strategy for preservation.

Conclusion

The conservation of Juanqinzhai is an important project that will help preserve its historical and cultural significance. The project involves stabilizing the structure, securing the building as a protective enclosure, and improving the visitor experience. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.