

On the study of the architecture with
Art Nouveau in Harbin

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1. Background and objectives

Harbin is a famous city in north China, it is a developing modern city with its own feature formed under a special historic condition. A large number of foreign emigrants entered after the construction of China-Eastern Railway and Harbin became an international at that time. Within a rather short period concentrated tens of nationalities who brought excellent architectural design achievements of their own and practiced in Harbin. So that, Harbin is a modern city in which concentrated world architectural heritages with higher artistic qualities rarely seen in the world.(Fig.1)

In former times, many nationalities were concentrated in Harbin. It is inevitable that many traits including architecture must be brought in. In the same historic period, Baroque, Romanesque, Classical Revival, Eclecticism, Modern Architecture, Chinese Classical Architecture, Moslem Architecture, Art Nouveau and various western and eastern architectural schools appeared in Harbin.

Art Nouveau took an important place in the Architecture in Harbin.

2. Characteristics

The brief introductions of Art Nouveau appeared in Harbin are going to be made. Originated from Belgium in 1880's Art Nouveau was propagated to Russia and so became to a fashionable in 1900's. It intends to smash the trammels of traditional classical forms and to create unprecedented succinct design approaches and simplify decorations which suit the spirit of industrialization. Because of the influence of Art Nouveau, many architectures in Harbin later were more or less affected.

The architecture of Art Nouveau in Harbin are characterized by simplified contours, getting rid of traditional decorations, use of smooth geometric curves imitating the natural plants as the decoration themes for walls, banisters, windows, lattices and door and to give

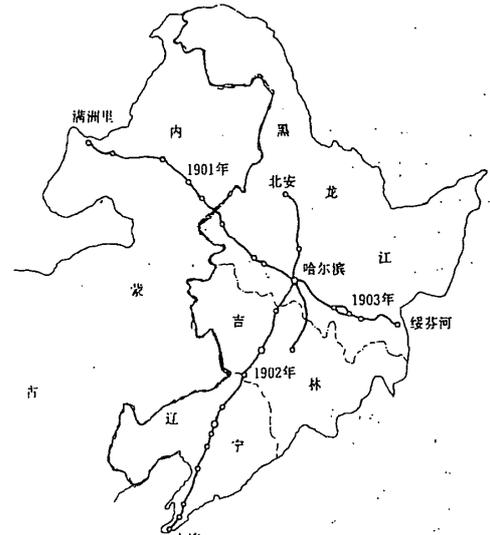


Fig 1. Harbin's place in northeast of China (at the beginning of 1900's)

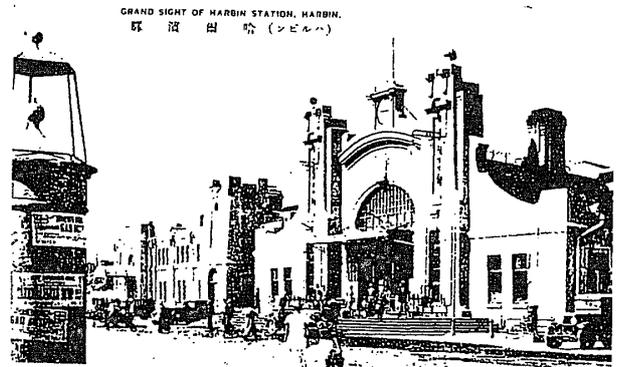


Fig 2. Former Harbin Railway station (built in 1903)



Fig3. The Hotel of Harbin Railway Bureau (built in 1904)

ハルビンにおけるアール・ヌーヴォー建築に関する研究

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them the vitality, lively, free and dynamic expression. Replaced by decorated walls or piers between two windows up warding directly above the roofs to give the sculptural characteristics, ordinary cantilever eaves and hollowedout parapets are not to be used. At times, the intermittent cantilever eaves are retained as the decoration symbols only and without the founctions.

Sometimes the square based vault having, the French features is used to emphasize the building axis and enrich the architectural modelling. Frequently, exaaggerated and deformed supporting stones are used under eaves board. The periphery of openings window and door are usually taken in the forms having square lintels with two little round angles and arches with three centres of circle. The lattices, arches and even sides of openings are decorated with concave and convex geometric mouldings. Embossing decorations with round plates, hoops and group of ribbon mouldings are used to take the place of the classical wall posts on piers between two windows. Especially, the periphery of door openings are decorated by curved embossing mouldings with artistic exaggerated yardsticks and streamlined piers.

3. Conclusion

Art Nouveau and the Neoclassicism styles made their imprint on Harbin's architecture during the town's construction period. As it's characteristics, the window and the door openings are varied each other for each stories, but they are carefully integrated. Metal members with plant forms are usually used to eahance the feeling of times. The architecture with Art Nouveau in Harbin is lively, flourishing feelings and attracting and so on.(Fig.2-7)



Fig 4. Harbin Railway Bureau (built in 1904)

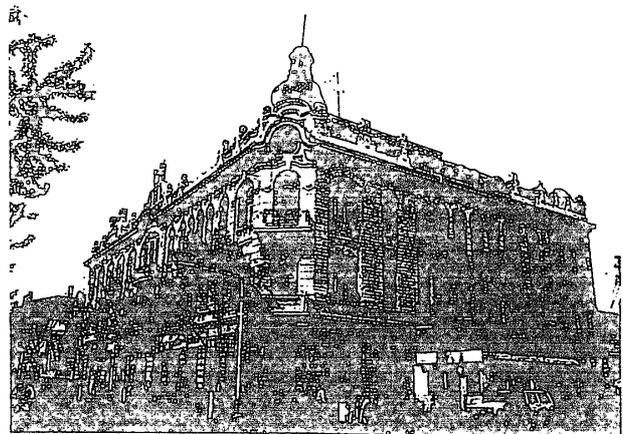


Fig 5. "Modeme" Hotel in Harbin (built in 1913)

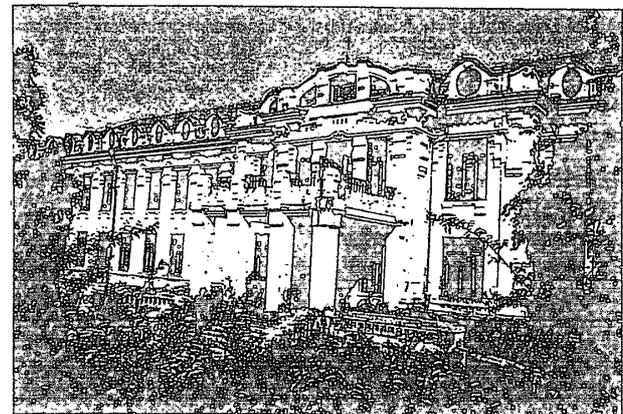


Fig 6. Sabtitle Building of Harbin Institute of Technology (built in 1929)

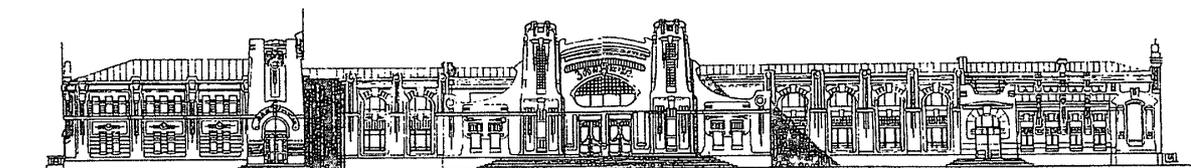


Fig 7. Former Harbin Railway Station (drawed by Jian Zhang)

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