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DEVELOPING AND PRESERVATION OF MEMORY IN THE ARCHITECTURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE CITIES

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Abstract. The paper focuses on the ways of memory preservation in the architectural environment of the cities. The peculiarities of memory applications as a source of inspiration for modern Ukrainian architects in the environment of the Ukrainian cities are considered.

The article highlights the problem of memory development in the architectural environment of the city by applying the architectural and design means. The specific features of the memory use as a multidimensional category are revealed; and considered as the sources of inspiration for modern architects in the environment of Ukrainian cities which serve as a memory storing device. The research results support the hypothesis that continuous processes of memory development, from personal to the global one, occur at various levels of the city environment using the means of architecture, design and art.

Sites of memory, buildings and objects-symbols create a spiritual framework of a city. It is shown that the perception of a city as a qualitative and valuable environment by the in-groups and the out-groups occurs in the context of self-identification with the urban space, natural and architectural environment, the cultural heritage and it is inextricably linked to the multidimensional nature of memory: historical, social, urban, individual, national, etc. A historic or new urban environment is the ground for materialization of identity and memory, along with the need to preserve the environmental sustainability, safety and diversity. Modern architecture and new public spaces should enable the communities to identify themselves with it and materialize the memory, as long as architectural design work should strengthen the memory of the city.

The study investigates two major groups of Ukrainian cities in terms of preservation of urban memory. The first group includes the cities with the preserved multicultural historical heritage and preserved memory, and where the continuous activity of the establishment of social memories by the communities occurs, and under the influence of the variables of state doctrine memory, the transformation processes happen. The second group consists of the cities which lost the memory expressed in the built environment during World War II and were reconstructed with the means of typical Soviet building techniques. In Ukraine, there is still no formed politics of memory, especially where public spaces should get priority-memory objects that would strengthen and form the city memory.

The article studies the peculiarities of modern art of architecture in cities of both categories as based on our expert sociological research, analysis of publications, and surveys of their natural environment, which the author carried out in 2013–2014. These objects are analyzed in the context of the city memory and the memory layers used by the architects in their artistic work are identified. Thus, a dominant value of the memory category in modern architectural and design work manifested itself in the environment of the Ukrainian cities is specified.

Key words: memory, places of memory, quality of the environment, conservation, perception, architectural work.

1. Introduction

The architectural environment of the city reflects the historical processes, development and social status of the communities and their attitude to the environment, their aesthetics, and is a reflection of the memory.

The idea of “memory” preservation is the central category in culture and architectural practice; however, its theoretical ground is not studied thoroughly in architecture [1].

It is necessary to conduct the interdisciplinary investigations of the city architectural environment in order to preserve their historic and cultural heritage and memory. The study has an initiative nature, yet agrees with the scholar field of the Department of Design and Architecture of the National University "Lviv Polytechnic".

2. Basic Theory Part

The need of self-identity and its retention is one of the main qualities of perception and evaluation of the environment of the city by a human.

The continuous processes of memory materialization happen in the space of the city at different levels. This feature of the environment, which serves as the memory storage, undergoes the constant reconsideration in terms of design and architecture means. The architects apply different layers of historical, cultural, national, and public memory of the city.

The research papers which study the notion of memory developed by the scientists from France, German, USA, Switzerland, the Great Britain are analyzed. The main principles of the phenomenon are postulated by Maurice Halbwachs, Le Goff, Pierre Nora and others. Some aspects of the problem are developed by the following scientists: Valentyn Asmus, Gary Warnaby, Christopher Day, Andrej Ikonnikov, Sigmund Freyd, Kevin Lynch, Igor Kondakov, Piter Giri, Bogdan Cherkes, Yaryna Yuryk. The following works which focus on different aspects of the development of architectural environment are of considerable importance in the context of present research: Vyacheslav Glazychev, Yan Geyl, Viktor Timohin, Svitlana Slipchenko, Donald Watson, Svitlana Hasiyeva, Nan Ellin, Volodymyr Shimko, Nadiya Shebyk, Zoya Yargina, and others.

It is necessary that the environment of the Ukrainian cities should be investigated in the context of memory materialization.

3. Result and Discussion

The city as a sociocultural phenomenon is a very complex object to research [2].

The means of design together with the means of protection of architecture and monuments are known to be of great importance for solving the problem of preserving the historical memory of the city and the "memory of places". The satisfaction of the urbanities is correlated with the contentment of basic human needs which provide "safe", "diverse", "comfortable" and "ecological" environment [3]. In words of Yann Geyl, "...in ecological terms the main task of the architecture and design during creation of the comfortable environment is the protection of the surrounding nature and preservation (renovation) of natural balance; the support of both physiological and psychological comfort of the human as the part of ecosystem; spending and restoring of its resources in a civilized manner." [4] "Quality" and humanity of the architectural city surrounding is defined by not only providing to the residents and the visitors of the town the necessary opportunities of identification with its architectural surrounding and orientation in it, but it is as well defined by the ability to represent and put in the space of the city its "memory".

"Perpetuation" as the means for preserving the memory of society is the measure for the state and society to be civilized. [5]. The cities are characterized by the idea of collecting memory as today modern city is the stratum of the memory. Indeed, according to the words of Piter Giri, "*the social memory is the process by which society actualizes and reformulates perception of the past as the essential part of its identity*" [6].

The "politics" of materialization of national memory has not been formed in Ukraine yet [7]. The single doctrine of national memory and its representation in the space of Ukrainian cities would allow to consolidate the Ukrainian society.

With the help of means of sculpture and design it is possible to develop "the fastest way" of memory materialization in an urban environment. At present, we need to remember not only the state representation of the memory in the urban environment but also contemporary public art.

The reconstruction of destroyed towns in the eastern part of Ukraine is the primary goal of the government after the ceasing of the anti-terrorist campaign. It is also necessary to solve an important task of identification and marking the town spaces of the cities which were ruined during the anti-terrorist campaign in order to perpetuate the memory of those killed there. The construction of memorials and establishment of memorial plaques is to be the common task for the authorities, architects and urban communities. It will reflect the level of civilization of Ukrainian society.

The tragic pages of modern Ukrainian history known under the name of “Euromaidan” events and Dignity Revolution are kept in the pantheon of the national memory [8]. The discussions of having the memorials to the Heavenly Hundred heroes have been held in Kyiv and Lviv; and the sites to commemorate the memory of Heavenly Hundred given in spaces of the towns and villages of Lviv region illustrate that the most representative ones are chosen by the communities themselves.

The result of the international competition *Territory of Dignity* held in Kyiv is to be the demonstration of the remembrance of the Ukrainian society.

The impact of architecture as a form of art onto the social memory is caused by “the level of influence of artistic images onto the soul and mind of man” [9]. Sigmunt Freud pointed out, “... artistic creation ... giving rise to the mutual experience of high feelings evoke a sense of identification which is desperately needed by every cultural group” [10]. Igor Kondakov stresses, “The artistic experience allows ... the viewer of the piece of art to interact with the social memory, which is both the part of the author’s work ... and is connected with the historical memory of the person ... in the end, it arouses the changes which lead to a social memory” [11].

Despite globalization and mega-urbanization, the architectural environment of the modern cities is a carrier of the memory multifold category: world (global), state, historical, ethnic, social, cultural, urban, religious, individual. This multidimensionality causes and enables the stratification of the urban environment. The means of the urban design, architecture, classical and contemporary art make it possible to solve various problems at the different levels. The “memory” appears as an inexhaustible source of inspiration in the works of the contemporary artists.

It is a very important task for the architect to be solved while designing the public spaces and public architecture. We can compare the neglect of social and cultural issues in architectural and city developing activity to “committing a crime.” In particular, public spaces cannot be thought in terms of “the monuments with the own architectural identity” [12], but only as spaces that help to develop the community identity and primarily materialize the memory. It means that all these important tasks should be considered in the context of the self-identification of the inhabitants with the cultural heritage who, in turn, are the carriers of memory and together with the city which is the “territory” of memory demonstrate the necessity to materialize. It is also important to specify that modern architectural constructions affect the identity of the inhabitants, their self-identity, create urban identity, and improve or ruin the urban memory. The main criteria that are taken into account while analyzing identity in the work of any architect together with the ability to solve the problem of preserving the multifaceted memory – personal, historical, social, national and urban - are the design of the objects considered as the symbols of certain memory; implementation of important or contra-version projects for the community, especially in the historical environment* of the city; application of local, urban, social, national or global memory as a source of inspiration.

The complex research of works of memory category application by modern architects which were carried out in Ukraine in the urban architectural environment was done in 2013–2014. The study is underpinned by the methods of field surveys analysis and photo-fixation of the architecture, sociological surveys to identify urban residents in historical and cultural environment of modern architecture, analysis of architectural periodicals and Internet publications. Their work is analyzed regarding the following criteria: author affiliation to a particular architectural school, possessing awards and being granted the state commissions, functional buildings (residential and public architecture, sacred or memorial), participating in national and international competitions. The approach like that enables to define social and public significance of the architecture and the right to design in the historic environment or beyond it. The comparative analysis of publications printed in professional and daily press on built objects was carried out. The publications in which authors prove a creative solution chosen for some specific objects and the creative doctrines they follow are also studied. Their understanding (direct or indirect) of the memory categories in the field of architecture and design, and also preservation of the historical memory in the urban space of Ukrainian cities is divided into two main groups. The first group includes the cities the communities of which competed for the approval of memory in architecture and historical space during their historical development (e.g., Lviv (Fig. 1), Ivano-Frankivsk (Fig. 2), Chernivtsi, Uzhgorod and other cities). The impact of the variable state doctrines of memory to which they belonged is crucial. This process is most materialized during the 20th century. The cities belonging to this group

* Areas on the UNESCO world heritage list.

are characterized with different levels and value of the preserved historical environment. It is the historical cultural heritage which influences the identification of residents, preservation of historical memory, comfort level, and memory materialization by the architects in its space. The second group includes Ukrainian cities which architectural environment was formed with a typical construction at the site of destructions caused by World War II [13]. It is also necessary to construct memorials in order to honor the victims of genocide and the Holocaust.



Fig. 1. Lviv, 2015



Fig. 2. Ivano-Frankivsk, 2014

Thus, regardless of the processes of globalization and mega-urbanization the urban architectural environment is the place which represents the complex and multifaceted nature of memory: global, state, historical, national, social, cultural, religious, and personal. This particular feature of memory enables and causes the stratification of urban environment. The means of urban design, architecture, classical and modern art help to design different tasks on various stages. “Memory” serves as the best source of inspiration for artistic work of modern architects.

However, we should remember that means of sculpture and design give the fastest “fix” of memory in an urban environment. Considering this aspect, it is worth to investigate representations of the state memory in urban environment and contemporary public art. The further research will be conducted in the light of this focus.

4. Conclusion

The meaning and nature of the memory category in modern architecture and design in the context of its significance for the architectural creativity and identity is defined. Regarding the level of preservation and the value of the historical environmental, the architects of the Ukrainian cities turn their attention to different layers of historical and social memory. Due to different historical periods of the Ukrainian cities caused by being the part of various states the application of the “memory” notion is different and the “places of memory” differ as well.

Along with the rebuilding of the cities, an important task for the authorities, architects and communities of the cities is the demand to honor the memory of victims in the spaces of these cities, establishment of memorials.

The measure of humanity level of the society and the state is the activity connected with the perpetuation of memory that should have its adequate reflection in the space of towns. This task outlines the means of urban design and sculpture together with the use of necessary means of heritage protection in the historic cities. The state doctrine of the memory is the main point in solving the problem of preserving the historical memory of the city and “memory of places”. This doctrine makes possible the consolidation of the state and society, respects and imprints the names of the heroes who gave their lives for the Motherland.

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КАРБУВАННЯ ТА ЗБЕРЕЖЕННЯ ПАМ'ЯТІ В АРХІТЕКТУРНОМУ СЕРЕДОВИЩІ МІСТ

***Анотація.** Досліджено аспект карбування та збереження пам'яті в архітектурному середовищі міста. Розглянуто особливості використання пам'яті як джерела натхнення у творчості українськими сучасними архітекторами у середовищі українських міст.*

***Ключові слова:** пам'ять, місця пам'яті, якість середовища, збереження, сприйняття, архітектурна творчість.*