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## 20 YEARS OF COOPERATION IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION BETWEEN VIENNA AND LVIV

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**Abstract.** This article describes the main aims and presents the initial vision of cooperation between the major architectural schools of Vienna (Austria) and Lviv (Ukraine). These reflections are supplemented with a discussion of results obtained in the context of common activities during the 20 last years of cooperation.

**Key words:** academic cooperation, workshop, architectural publications, Vienna, Lviv.

### 1. Introduction

For the last 16 years, I, as the professor of Vienna University of Technology, have had a wonderful opportunity and an interesting challenge to work with many colleagues of the Institute of Architecture from Lviv Polytechnic National University in a close professional and personal cooperation. It has been a valuable experience, highly forming my thinking about architecture and urbanism. It broadened my mind widely into the East of Europe.

Lviv was and is still the *entrée* into the Eastern European world, where, in this city, western and eastern influences mix together into a pleasant and well-experiencing new Matter.

My friendly feelings for Ukraine, for the city of Lviv, for Ukrainian people, and especially for the Faculty of Architecture, have been sharpened crucially during the many years of cooperation ... and that all this became possible is due to the close collaboration of both our faculties since 1995.

### 2. Basic Theory Part

The contacts between the two faculties of Architecture, that of Lvivska Polytechnika and that of the Vienna Technical University, reach far back into times before the First World War, when Lemberg (Lviv) was still the seat of the Governor of Galicia during the K. and K. monarchy (The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy).

From 1844 until 1918 Lvivska Polytechnika was an educational establishment of the Technical University of Vienna in Galicia, at which, already at that time, the aim was to include Lvivska Polytechnika in contemporary standards of architecture schools.

Because of the political re-arrangement after the First World War, Lemberg became the capital city of a Polish voivodship from 1919 until 1939. It was part of the Soviet-Ukraine from 1939 to 1941 and was the capital city of the District Galicia from 1941 to 1944. From then on, it was part of the Soviet Union.

This political development implied that the close contacts of the period before 1918 between the two faculties have been interrupted. Only at the turn of 1991, the ties from the 19<sup>th</sup> century have been re-established.

The change in the general and political framework of Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 1990s paved the way for the first attempts by Prof. Martin Kubilik, Ordinarius for Architecture and Building Measurement at the Vienna Technical University, followed by first contact conversations with the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Lemberg Prof. Dr Bohdan Cerkes and. Lemberg, at that time, being the leader of the East-Southeast-European outpost. Mrs. Dr. Elisabeth Hofer had the objective to re-activate the old contacts and to create new ones between the two Faculties of Architecture.

From the start of these activities in 1994 many exchanges of students from both Faculties to the relative partner city have taken place.

Beyond that, the Faculty of Architecture and Planning could send some of the teaching staff of the Technical University Vienna with actual themes about architecture and urbanism to Lemberg to inform the local students and teachers about the newest developments in Europe.

Finally, in February, 1995, a memorandum to create an institutional cooperation between these two Faculties of Architecture was signed. In 1995 the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research ensured a yearly financial support for this cooperation that is still valid today, what we are all thankful for. Without this financial support many things within this cooperation could not have been possible.

The purpose of the agreed memorandum was, above all, to establish an institutional cooperation on the level of the Faculties of Architecture promoted by the Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Culture.

This memorandum has been extended every second year since 1995 by the relative academic institutions, as arranged in the contract.

During the first years since the foundation of the cooperation until the year 1999, Prof. Martin Kubelik from the Institute of Architecture and Building Measurement at the Vienna Technical University and Prof. Bohdan Cerkes, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Lemberg, have been the “engines” and responsible for the agreement.

After Martin Kubelik left the Technical University in winter semester 1999/2000, I, together with Dr. Andreas Hofer from the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, were assigned as substitution and now as the advisors of the mentioned memorandum.

In the year 2009, the number of advisors extended including Mrs. Elisabeth Leitner of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning in Vienna.

On the part of Lvivska Polytechnika, the coordination of the agreement remained with Prof. Bohdan Cerkes.

In this new constellation, we started to fill the memorandum with new life. Our collective contents of scientific collaboration and cooperation in teaching Architecture have soon become a fixed-point in architecture education in Lviv and in Vienna alike.

With the foundation of the new state of Ukraine 1991, the effort to declare the old city center of Lviv, that was also essentially built by Austrian architects in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, part of UNESCO world cultural heritage, was supported within this cooperation-memorandum. In the end they were successful and in 1998 the old city center of Lviv was recorded in the list of the UNESCO.

An additional goal of the memorandum was, and still is, the assistance to overcome the still noticeable border between East and Central Europe.

What was it about in that time? What is it about today?

- integration of the Faculty of Architecture of Lvivska Polytechnika as a former establishment of the Vienna Technical University in Galicia (1844–1918) into the network of Europe’s architecture schools;
- preparation of the students to the actual and future scopes of duties of their professional life, in particular, in the Eastern and Central European context (teaching);
- advancement and exchange of information and skills on the level of teachers and students (research);
- practice of the teaching content and the reviewing of the suitability of daily use through shared projects (applied teaching and research);
- support in the management of their cultural heritage (the recording to the UNESCO-List. Lemberg 1998, Vienna 2001) through the academic activities of both faculties.

The scientific cooperation between Vienna and Lemberg has intensified not only the dialogue between East and Central Europe, but it should also serve to overcome the new European Union’s external borders from 2004.

### 3. Results and Discussion

What has taken place within these 20 years?

Since the year 1999 we have realised important and, above all, future-orientated architecture and urbanism projects on the level of research, scientific publication, exchange of professors, collective excursions of the yearly design-workshop – very close to practical assignments of Ukrainian cities.

Over all, more than 20 scientists from Lemberg have had the possibility to work, in the context of support of their scientific projects, on their research work for a certain time in Vienna. The results of their work have been published.

The interest, which Bohdan Cerkes, in particular, has inspired in students, through his scientific input and lectures on subjects of architecture and urban development in Eastern Europe within the frame of the memorandum, has produced, in the meantime, a broad effect. Which is why many students and graduates have dealt with the subject of Ukraine’s new orientation in their seminar or diploma thesis.

Out of many publications, I want to name just the following exemplary titles:

- **Identity, Architecture and Reconstruction of the City** by Bohdan Cherkes;
- **Linear City Charkiv 2011** by Andreas Hofer, Elisabeth Leitner and Bohdan Cherkes;
- **Urban Metamorphoses for Crimea, 2006** by Bohdan Cherkes, Andreas Hofer and Klaus Semsroth;
- **Lemberg Lviv, Architecture and City, 100 Landmark Buildings, 2012** by Andreas Hofer, Elisabeth Leitner and Bohdan Cherkes.

Overall, many students have dealt with actual problems of architectural and urbanistic developments of Ukrainian cities.

In 2007 **Andrea Überbacher** wrote a much-respected work about “**Aboard Settlement in Ukraine. From a Peripheral Large Housing Estate to an Urban Quarter**”.

One year later **Tanya Mayr** dealt with “**The URBAN SPACE IN DNIPROPETROVSK**” after an intensive on-site study.

And in 2012 **Christian Gigler** wrote a fundamental work about the perspectives of urban development of “**ODESSA**”.

Much can be reported about the urbanistic and architectural workshops, favored by many students, which have been held since 1994 due to the support of the memorandum. From the first urbanistic workshops in **Lviv** (1998 and 1999), followed by others in the **Crimea, Jalta** and **Alushta** (from 2000 to 2004), in **Kiev** (2004) to the point of the town planning activities and developments of restructuring measures for **Odessa** (2005 to 2008 and 2012), in **Lviv** (2009), in **Charkiv** (2010 and 2011) and in preparation of the European soccer championship 2014 again in **Lviv**.

The most recent workshops 2015 and 2016 were held in Vienna, due to the tight political situation in Ukraine. We hope to continue our urbanistic workshops in Ukrainian cities soon.



**Fig. 1.** Harbourpolis Odessa 2007



**Fig. 2.** Harbourpolis Odessa 2012



**Fig. 3.** New Urban Density. Vienna 2015

Three short comments of students will show how favored these workshops have been:

**Jean-Philippe Bellemare**, an exchange student from Montreal wrote after the workshop in Odessa 2007:

“During the workshop in Odessa, I had the opportunity to discuss with other students from diverse Universities and countries the future expectations and the learning paths in their particular countries. The differences were huge; however, I found the discussions very helpful and I learned a lot about the particular critical perceptions through this comparison”.

**Christian Gigler** wrote as a memory of the workshop in Odessa 2005:

“The most important and interesting experience in this workshop for me, was an open collaboration with the students from Lviv and Odessa, although we had big communication problems. It was a highly interesting experience to see what great hopes and motivations Ukrainian students put into the future of their country after the political changes. I am convinced that the various contacts that we made during the days of collaboration will develop into long-term friendships”.

**Dagnija Smilja**, Erasmus-exchange student from Riga, 2008:

“I have truly enjoyed the workshop in a team ... also the many animations of the professors. It was important to concentrate entirely on your thoughts and create a solution that you could also show to the others. We had to compare one position with another and to harmonize and connect everything...and it worked”.

#### 4. Conclusions

These collaboration activities between the two Faculties of Architecture are highly visible and successful. The results meet a big response in Ukraine.

A great gratitude should be given to the Ministry of Science and Research, particularly the Council of Ministers Dr. Ramoser, as well as to the coordinators of both Faculties of Architecture Bohdan Cherkes, Elisabeth Leitner and Andreas Hofer.

This intense academic collaboration represents a large knowledge and discussion potential for students and teachers, but also for the development of Ukrainian cities. I wish to bring the results of our cooperation, stronger to the public, for the good of the country.

Above all, such future-orientated insights could put focus on the Austrian-Ukrainian collaboration, so that one day Lviv finds itself in the middle of this big European Nation instead of having entrée-functions at the border of European Union-external frontiers.

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#### 20 РОКІВ КООПЕРАЦІЇ В АРХІТЕКТУРНІЙ ОСВІТІ МІЖ ВІДНЕМ І ЛЬВОВОМ

*Анотація.* Описано основні цілі та подано первісне бачення кооперації між головними архітектурними школами Відня (Австрія) та Львові (Україна). Ці міркування доповнені обговоренням результатів, які отримано під час спільних заходів упродовж 20 років кооперації.

*Ключові слова:* академічна кооперація, семінар, архітектурні публікації, Відень, Львів.