The memory of the city

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Abstract – Aim of the research is to reveal peculiarities of memory "image" in the architectural environment of different cities in the context of city esthetics and its comprehension by the groups and the in-groups as modern cities remain the arenas for the presentation of cultures and memory synthesis. Perpetual processes of social and public representation take their place within towns and architecture. That is, the process of accumulation of memory of the city is taking place.

Key words – the memory, the city, the architectural environmente, the emotional context, the process of reflection, the urban environment.

I. Introduction

Actual task for the humanity in terms of globalization and mega-urbanization is to preserve the memory. This multidimensional memory of humanity is reflected in the architectural time-dimensional environment of a city. Cultural heritage is "the guidance in the concept of time-dimensional environment of former generations" [1] and also the means of self-identification of the inhabitants of modern cities.

II. The problem of preserving the memory of the city

The need for self-identification in the environment and the memory preserving of a city of embodied in its dimension and architecture remains one of the priorities of the out-groups and the in-groups.

The study of the city architectural environment in the context of preserving the memory is an important task, which requires a multidisciplinary approach. It is known that the memory of the society is "... a process with the help of which the society actualizes and shapes its perception of the past ..." [2].

III. Analysis of recent research and publications

Some aspects of the problem are revealed by the following scientists: B. Asmus, P. Nora, A. Ikonnikov, K. Lynch, B. Cherkes, S. Slipchenko, Y. Yuryk. Works are very valuable in the context of present research V. Glazychev, A. Levinson, V. Timohin, S. Hasiyeva, V. Shimko, M. Omelyanenko, H. Shteynbah, N. Shebyk, S. Shubovych, I. Rozenson, Z. Yargina. Y. Shkodovsky.

This article is based on materials of sociological studies conducted by the author in 2013-2015.

The purpose of the article is to outline the features of the "memory" printing and retention in the architectural environment of the cities in the context of his perception of residents and tourists. The goal achieving involves the disclosure of the emotional features during memory mapping in the built environment of the city.

IV. The architectural environment

The attitude of the humanity to the cities is multivalent. It has created a complex surrounding around, but has not learned to live in harmony with the environment. M. F. Raimer was the first who interpreted the notion of "environment" and revealed its main components the interconnected subsystems: the environment; "second nature"; artificial environment – "the third nature" and social surrounding [3].

V. The aesthetic perception of the city

Interaction and "fight of the city and nature" reflects the variety of connection of a person and nature. It is the city esthetics [4]. These categories are also evaluated by a person in the landscape. Thus, the landscape and the micro-climate are fundamental to the formation of a city environment, which forms its functioning.

The role of natural-climate factor is overall the same for different cities. For example, the urban environment of cities form the peculiarity of topography (a city in mountains, in a plain) or the closeness to a sea, ocean or other "extreme" climate region (city in a desert) [5].

The esthetics of an environment is one of the most important features. The dimensional organization of a city environment is connected, at the same time, with the biological and social and cultural needs of its residents and tourists. The evolution of the needs causes the change of space organization of a city environment [6; 7].

However, modern cities remain the testing ground for materialization of the memory of different cultures and groups in terms of history context. Architectural environments of different groups have different social and cultural potential. There are European, Asian, American Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Figs. 3. and African cities [8].

It should be noted, that social and cultural potential of a city means the adjusting of parameters of the city environment to the needs of residents [9] and the capacity of citizens towards the development and representation in the dimension through self-awareness [10].

Associative abilities of a person play an important feature in the aesthetic perception of architectural environment [11], and "the mythological type of consciousness" is the foundation of perception [12].

Fig. 1. European city

Fig. 2. Asian city

Fig. 3. American city

Architectural environment of every city has its "emotional bond". Thus, the generalization of feelings and moods that arose from the environment perceiving in a person is the emotional content of a society. It is the dialectic unity of the opposites: "moods", "nuances", "motives" that form different situations derivative from such types of basic emotional feelings: monumentalism, playing on camera, "efficiency", relaxation [13].

What is the emotional content of the process of reflection of multi-aspect memory in the architectural environment of a city: the European, American, African, Asian, for instance, and "the places of memory", monuments, memorials, memorial parks, facilities, etc, in particular?

Speaking of the memory actualization of the emotional content of the environment of the European city, these are the places of Holocaust tragedy honor.

Activities to preserve and perpetuate the memory in the architectural environment of cities must find their adequate reflection and be the priority of the architectural and urban development of a city. Indeed, as A. Grunbach generalizes, the task of an architect is "to strengthen the urban memory" [14].

Conclusion

The Architectural and dimensional urban environment accumulates the city memory over time reflecting the level of social development and the culture of residents.

This paper highlights the process of materialization of the multidimensional memory of humanity in the architectural environment and dimensions of different cities at different levels, in the context of urban aesthetics; the peculiarities of its perception by the in-groups and the identity by the out-groups.

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