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**SIGNIFICATION OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE  
IN TERMS OF PRESERVING IDENTITY OF MODERN  
ARCHITECTURAL SPACE IN UKRAINE**

In modern conditions the preservation of individual peculiarities and national identity of architectural environment is becoming a necessity.

Nowadays, architectural environment turned into a permanent state for a great number of people living in big cities. This cities have to provide residents with opportunities to identify themselves with their place of residence, the presence of such individual features of habitant that form an image of a “small homeland”. Traditionally, this opportunity was provided by the natural surroundings of a town or a settlement – with their original topography, water spaces, trees. However, under the circumstances when the development, which is the place of the residents’ permanent stay, occupies large areas a visual link with the surroundings is deteriorated or even completely lost. Then a natural landscape cannot any longer provide the individuality of the urban image independently (with a

few exceptions, when it has a very showy elements – lake, as in Chicago or a large river with steep banks, as in Kyiv) and this task remains with the architectural environment. One of the most common and rational ways to provide architectural identity of the environment is the preservation and purposeful formation of its local traditional features. At the beginning of the XXI century the task of reproduction of Ukrainian architectural traditions in modern buildings and in modern materials is still essential. Traditional Ukrainian architecture, especially its national construction, was the subject of many scientific papers and articles which described and recorded the construction materials, constructive solution, planning, spatial organization of plots of land, forms of structures and their details, traditional ornament motifs of different ethnographic regions of Ukraine. The principles of forming the environment were applied in sacred construction : «Temples could be located in residential area or outside – in the natural environment, but visual connections with the settlement were considered». These public complexes became compositional focuses of traditional rural development and largely shaped the architectural appearance of the settlements.

Ukrainian folk architecture implements an extensive use of a natural landscape in architectural environment composition. At the level of general urban composition, this feature can be seen in the placement of architectural landmarks on the outstanding points of relief, using it as a kind of pedestal for the building; at the estate level – in the placement of buildings on the functionally most appropriate places, taking into account the local landscape and focus on cardinal points; in construction of fortifications – in involving the natural barriers – marshes, cliffs, rivers with steep banks. Traditional Ukrainian construction is actively involving experience of nature in an architectural composition of space and shaping its individual elements. This occurs mostly in the two following ways. The first one is delegation to natural elements and these functions are usually performed by artificial objects. These natural elements can represent both inanimate and living nature. One of the examples is using trees for marking the boundaries of the area (willow fence around the yard, a church with the adjacent area (“cemetery”), surrounded by lime trees), providing trees or ground grass-covered mounds with memorial functions, using appropriate contrasting plants and flowers as informative means of social communication. The second way is interpretation of shapes and compositional concept characteristics of nature in the

architectural environment. In traditional Ukrainian folk architecture internal and external spaces were very closely intertwined.

The peculiarities of the climate are reflected in such traditional constructive elements of Ukrainian folk architecture as porches, sheds, galleries. . A philosophical aspect Ukrainian folk architecture follows “nature knows best” principle. An active cooperation of architecture with the natural environment, ecological approach to design, development of organic architecture are considered to be the results of progressive architectural ideas of the twentieth century. According to the dictionary of architectural terms, organic architecture is a philosophy in architecture of the twentieth century, linked with the idea of creating architectural forms, which, like the forms of living organisms, would follow the function of the building and its environment. Another meaning of the term “organic architecture” is architectural creativity, which is based on the principles of conditionality of the architectural form by objective factors: function, natural environment, properties of material, etc.), its construction – from the interior space up to exterior parameters and characteristics, as well as buildings, constructions and their complexes, as the results of this kind of architectural creativity orientation.

An ecological approach and landscape integration, traditional for Ukrainian folk architecture, which could become the basis for preserving its identity in future, in most cases coincide with the concept of modern organic architecture as well as modern understanding the relationship between society and nature. One of the ways to continue the Ukrainian environment identity is to apply the principles of organic architecture to the process of up-to-date construction.