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Revitalization of the urban environment and contemporary trends of its humanization via the means of art

Rewitalizacja środowiska miejskiego i współczesne trendy jego humanizacji za pomocą sztuki

Key words: urban environment, means of humanization, revitalization, artistic functions.

Słowa kluczowe: środowisko miejskie, środki humanizacji, rewitalizacja, funkcje artystyczne

Introduction

As mentioned by Professor M. Dyomin in his scientific works, modern urban development, with the participation of the population, takes place against the background of the dynamics of demographic processes and the intensification of urbanization. The need for systematic measures focused on humanizing the urban environment is evidenced by the problems of the countries of the post-Soviet space, including those related to additions to and extensions of houses, unauthorized alteration of facades and their colour, with signs of degradation of the urban environment.

Today, research and possibilities of the use in future of municipal space are one of the major directions of municipal planning of the world's developed countries. This space is constantly transformed, it changes the functional loading and, as a result, it is possible to attain positive economic, social and cultural effects with the correct use of municipal territories. Research touches on the renewal, reconstruction and reformatting of old industrial structures into modern public cultural spaces. In fact, over the course of recent decades, the economy of both developed countries and Ukraine have substantially changed in focus – they have transformed from industry-oriented economies into service-oriented

ones. This phenomenon has been named revitalization in western literature.

The main task of revitalization is the reconstruction and re-design of industrial buildings and territories around them with the aim of the socialization of space and improvement of infrastructure elements that assist in cultural development (fig. 1, 2).

The problems of the modern architectural environment and methods for its harmonization via the means of art

In the broadest sense, the architectural environment is a complex hierarchical system that includes subsystems: spatial, territorial, residential, industrial, recreational and- landscape, a subsystem of small architectural forms, subject environment, interior, infrastructure, and an artistic and aesthetic component. With the development of society, the architectural environment is naturally transforming. The development of the components of the architectural environment occurs with differing dynamics, depending on the nature of changes in the economy, politics, and the mentality of the population. Under these conditions, a conflict is growing between new development and the preservation of historical architectural heritage; the issue of the

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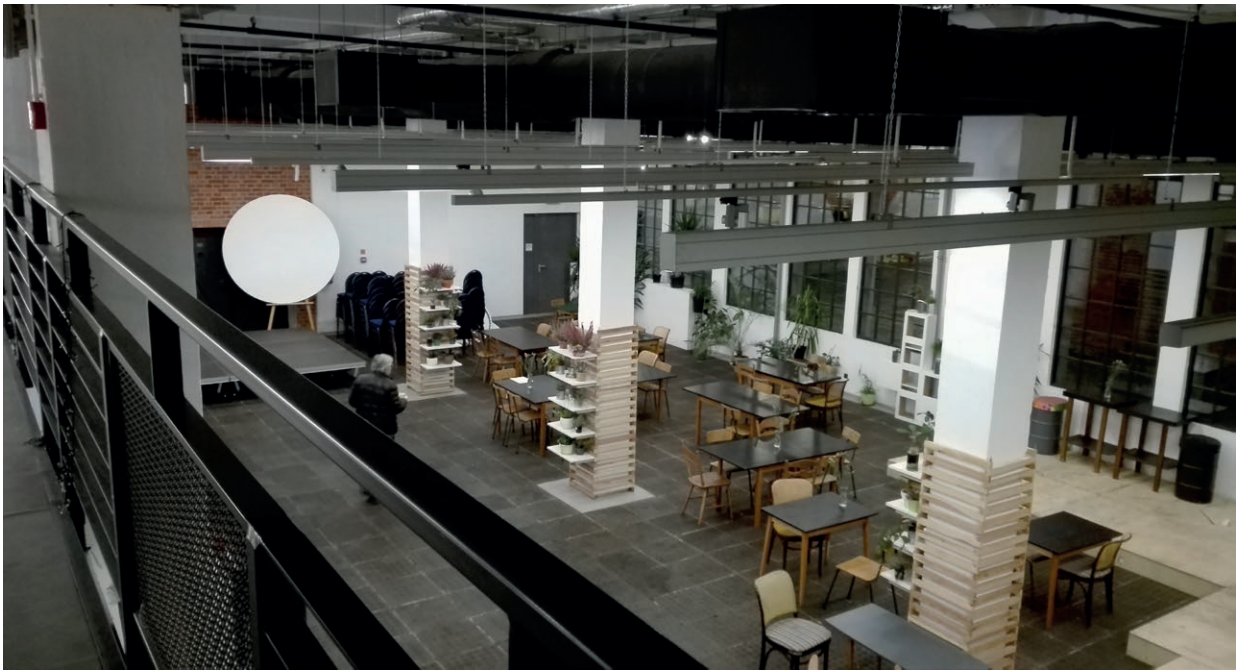


Fig. 1. Fabryka Sztuki (Art-incubator), Łódź; photo by O. Ivashko 2019.



Fig. 2. Fabryka Sztuki (Art-incubator), Łódź; photo by O. Ivashko 2019.

humanization of the living environment of the population is becoming urgent.

Historical architectural objects undergo authenticity loss processes due to the physical destruction of their structural elements and parts, reconstruction, change in the function of the building, the use of new construction and decoration materials as well as operating technologies.

The change in the semantic, aesthetic and compositional qualities of historical architectural objects is negatively affected by the new buildings that surround them, as well as their structure and colour. At the same time, the subsystem of the synthesis of the arts, architecture and the landscape is being modified.

The components of the synthesis of artistic and architectural subsystems are sculpture, monumental and decorative sculptural vividness, monumental painting, mosaic, stained glass, metal plastic, the colour of surfaces, building details, ornament, etc.

New development changes the scale and architectonics of the modern architectural space due to the increase in height, the size of architectural objects, development density, the saturation of space with temporary buildings, engineering structures, visual information tools (advertising, highlighting of objects, etc.), transport objects.

Since these trends are international and appear in many countries of the world, it is not surprising that scholars from different countries raise the problems of humanizing the urban environment with particular artistic means. This explains the appearance of art movements that take into account the considerable dynamism of social processes¹. Despite the lack of an established academic base, there are a lot of materials on the Internet that are devoted to the problem of re-profiling historical and industrial objects, including for ar-

tistic functions. At the same time, despite the carrying out of numerous projects aimed at the revitalization and functioning of such facilities, academic criteria for evaluating the concepts of „the creative industry”, „the creative space”, and „the art cluster” have not yet been formulated, in particular, it was not determined which industries are creative, what they focus on and what kind of space is meant by the term. The problem of the appearance of such „creative spaces” is actually rooted in the rapid pace of the urbanization of cities and the degradation of the urban environment, it is related to the problem of the humanization of urban space.

At present, the term „creative cluster” or „art cluster” often denotes structures whose functionality and the specificity of their operation do not fall under the concept of either „art” or „cluster”.

Academic studies by various authors reference the academic publication of Catarina Selada, Inês Vilhena Da Cunha and Elisabete Tomaz, devoted to the concept of the creative cluster in urban space². At the same time, in this article, the authors do not consider the definition of the signs of a creative cluster. Thus, the problem of the terminological definition of this phenomenon remains open³.

Competence basis for the humanization of the urban environment in the curriculum of the Faculty of Architecture of the Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture

The problems of the humanization of the contemporary urban environment result in appropriate improvements to the training of future professionals— architects and designers. At present, architectural and design education is performed in an organic unity with art, science and practical art and design activity.

The training of specialists in the field of architecture, design, art, who are to possess competencies in organizing the modern architectural environment, including historical development, at the Faculty of Architecture of the Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture⁴ is continuous and based on the following principles:

- mastering the fundamental theoretical foundations of the evolution of historical buildings;
- extending the creative capabilities of professionals through the improvement of practical techniques for modelling the architectural - subject environment with the inclusion of new projects in historical development;
- consolidation of knowledge on the creation of an architectural environment as a holistic information system;
- solving many compositional, colouristic tasks of architecture and design through the synthesis of arts;
- the democratization of decision-making processes in architectural and urban planning practice.
- This approach, in turn, involves expanding the skills of students in mastering the programme.

Students should be able to:

- collect, record, analyse and systematize information on the object of the new design, restoration, reconstruction and renovation projects;
- accumulate and use progressive experience in the implementation of design developments, including mastery of the methods of restoration, reconstruction and renovation;
- form the concept of the creative task of developing a harmonious environment;
- create artistic images of objects in a subject medium according to the method of the synthesis of mystery and architecture;
- determine the development trends of the architectural and object environment, accounting for the specifics of the preservation of the architectural heritage;
- apply the latest information tools in the study and modelling of objects of the architectural, natural and object environment and the like.

At the Faculty of Architecture, the „Synthesis of the Art and Architecture” programme was developed and implemented for the „Architecture and Urban Planning”, „Design” and „Fine Art, Decorative Art, Restoration” specialisations, which account for, the means of harmonizing the urban environment, the innovative ways of artistic transformation of the environment of a given architectural object, along with traditional types of monumental and decorative art⁵.

General conclusions

The preservation of historical development and the absence of conflict between old and new buildings is a significant aspect in the humanization of the urban environment. The preservation of architectural heritage, its semantic value, requires the advancement of a prognostic concept for future development.

The principal areas of this concept, based on our research, are as follows:

1. Rehabilitating the space of the historical structure as a landmark. At the same time, intending new development to act as a background in silhouette, structure and colour, when a zone of visual perception of the structure is provided as an accent in the local, visible space, that is, the composition of the space is one of contrast.
2. The architectural form becomes an element of the continuum structure, built on the basis of a nuanced composition.
3. A harmonized information environment is formed with the use of all means of filling the modern architectural environment based on a diverse complement of features of a historical structure using both the first and second approaches in planning volumetric spatial composition and colour schemes. Industrial architecture and engineering buildings need particular attention in the process of revitaliza-

tion due to their scale, the enhanced perception of their power, the sound effects of industrial activity, the proportions of the surrounding areas of sanitary zones.

The preservation of their semantic significance requires structuring the surrounding space according to a staged system as a transition from a new building to a work of historical industrial architecture.

A generalizing approach to the organization of architectural and natural, subject environment, including a historical work of architecture, is the ability to organize space according to a certain concept:

- informational unity;
- information differentiation;
- informational statics or dynamics, that is, an information visual space with the established scenario.

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² C. Selada, I. Vilhena da Cunha, E. Tomás, op. cit.

³ Ibidem; M. Dyomin, O. Ivashko *The systematic approach to the revitalization of historical fortifications and industrial enterprises under art clusters*, Chelm–Lviv, 2018, no 10, p. 30–33; O. Iwaszko, *Spoleczna przyroda nowych artystycznych kierunków w miejskim środowisku*, „Przestrzeń – Urbanistyka – Archi-

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⁴ O.V. Kashchenko, *Conceptual foundations of architectural and artistic education*. Architectural Bulletin of the KNUCA: Scientific and technical collection / P.M. Kulikov (Ed.) – Kyiv 2019, no 17–18, p. 18–26.

⁵ M. Dyomin, O. Ivashko, op. cit.; O. Iwaszko, op. cit.; O.V. Kashchenko, op. cit.

Streszczenie

Artykuł dotyczy problematyki rewitalizacji i humanizacji środowiska miejskiego za pomocą sztuki. Przeanalizowano czynniki związane z pojawianiem się przestrzeni twórczych w miastach o różnej gęstości zaludnienia oraz wpływ różnych rodzajów sztuki na transformację środowiska miejskiego. W artykule podkreślono rolę nowoczesnej edukacji architektonicznej oraz przedstawiono potencjalne kierunki przygotowania do pracy osób wysoko wykwalifikowanych.

Abstract

This article discusses the issue of revitalization and humanization of the urban environment via the means of art, analyses the factors of the emergence of creative spaces in cities with different population densities and the influence of various types of art on the transformation of the urban environment. The article emphasizes the role of modern architectural education and the tasks solved in the preparation of professionals.