

Josef Hlavka's Residence of Bukovinian Metropolitans in The Hot-Button Issues Context of Preserving The Traditional Character of Chernivtsi City Historical Landscape

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When great cultures have critical moments, the feelings of love to cultural wealth and the desire to preserve and protect it become especially strong.

We have had the need of visiting and reading about famous cultural heritages (bygone and current) for a long time.

City is one of the strongest and richest implementations of culture in its material and spiritual essences, it has unique history, image and 'phenomenon'.

Chernivtsi is one of the most interesting historical cities of Ukraine, which was first mentioned in historical works in 1408 [14].

Chernivtsi's 'Stone Book' highlighted a history of the city, which became a part of Ukraine only in 1944, before that time it belonged to different countries as well as the main part of Bukovina.

As a result of Poland's disintegration in 1770s Bukovina was included in multicultural Austrian-Hungarian Empire and remained its administrative unit till 1918. Starting from 1918 to 1940s Bukovina was a part of Romanian Realm.

The Residence of the Bukovinian Metropolitans – a main centre of Greek-Orthodox culture in the Habsburg empire.

Those historical periods strongly influenced the city's architecture having left hundreds of buildings with a unique cultural value. The city's thoroughfares and squares were full of multistoried

buildings, hotels, various public facilities, temples of different confessions of faith, hospitals, schools, gymnasiums, pedagogical colleges, Musicians Society, Industry and Crafts Museum and Josef Hlavka's Residence of Bukovinian Metropolitans.

The prosperity of eclectics took place during Hlavka's creative work period. It was the main international artistic style of Western Europe (the term historicism was used in Western European artistic literature, for instance in A. Marovansky's book 'Die Architektur der Donaumonarchie') [15]. Alike buildings were erected in every European country.

The process of the architectural 'language' internationalization did not exclude the pursuit and national means of ethnic expression. It caused specific, national-romantic styles of European architecture.

A striking example of European internationalization of eclectics became the Residence of Bukovinian Metropolitans, nowadays used as the main building of Yuriy Fedkovich National University in Chernivtsi.

The uniqueness of the Residence can be proved by an artistic analysis which has been published in different scientific issues by the author; the longing for traditional orthodox church architectural style and Western Ukrainian Romanesque (12th-13th centuries) can be traced here. Such contrast depicts the environment in which orthodox church resided in Western Ukrainian land then ruled by Austria-Hungary.

The majestic Byzantine Greek Church stands in splendor, this church creates a romantic image of the building, multifunctional by itself, orthodox church resides along with lecture halls.

The filling of window space has the elements of Byzantine and Lombard architecture in which arches are combined with cross-like stained-glass window. The portal itself is typical for Western European Romanesque style of 11th–12th centuries.

Similar compositions of perspective portals were used in the architecture of Central and Eastern Europe in 12th–13th centuries, for example, the monuments of Volodimir's Principality which were created by artists from Galicia and Northern Italy. Alike portals can be seen in the famous San Marco Cathedral, Venice [2, p. 4–8, 3, p. 48–50].

Josef Hlávka – a famous Czech architect in the Austrian-Hungarian empire

The Residence of Bukovinian Metropolitans was erected in 1864–1882 according to Josef Hlavka's project and became the most popular architectural monument of the city. The author derived knowledge from journeys around Western and Northern Europe. The Austrian researcher Dagmar Redl examined not only the specific language of metropolitan ensemble in the context of historical city scenery but also studied Hlavka's biography. In particular, she mentions that the architect born in Bohemia studied in Vienna in Architectural School of Fine Arts Academy, improved his



Side wings of the Metropolitan Residence complex, with the Residence Church.

knowledge traveling through Greece, Italy, France, Belgium and was a science protector and rendered great services for the foundation of Academy of Arts in Prague.

The motifs of different historical styles of Medieval architecture were harmoniously used in Residence creation. The Residence of Bukovinian Metropolitans is considered to be one of the outstanding phenomena in world architectural heritage of the eclectic period.

Complicated multiple-aspect semantics of this ensemble reflected history of Bukovina, its poly-confessional religious and poly-ethnic cultural traditions and complex political situation of that time.

Owing to the talented Hlavka's creativity the diversity of the architectural palette became a distinctive feature of the city and gave Chernivtsi a specific unique architectural image, which did not have analogues in the whole world.

Multifaceted stylistic architectural

language of Chernivtsi (19th–20th centuries) is vitally important for understanding of those evolution processes which took place in the world architecture of that time. During those decades the architecture of Bukovinian capital in its style development underwent the very stages which marked the history of European architecture, though the development of Chernivtsi's architecture was more complicated than in Western and Eastern Europe.

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The former Bukovinian Savings Bank (Bukowiner Spar-Casse) from 1900-01, designed by Hubert Gensser, pupil of Otto Wagner. Several details are very similar to works by Otto Wagner in Vienna.

It is significant to note that the tolerant heredity which we lack nowadays, preserved in the creativity of Chernivtsi's architects and builders. In the vast scope of professional searches one generation of architects handed the relay baton to the next one.

Pretendant for the Unesco World Cultural Heritage list

The report on the international significance of Chernivtsi's architectural heritage was presented for the first time on

the Second international Architectural Forum 'Preserving the unique cities of the world' in St Petersburg that was dedicated to the 3d centenary of the city. Authoritative scholars in the area of protection and preservation of cultural heritage from the 16 countries took part in the forum. The next International Meeting was offered to hold in Chernivtsi.

This idea was met with approval. In September 2004 the Second International Conference 'Preservation and Usage of the Ukrainian Cultural Herit-

age: Chernivtsi on Its Way to Unesco' took place in Chernivtsi dedicated to the matter of nomination of the historical center of Chernivtsi to the Unesco World Heritage.

The continuation of this important affair was the participation of the representatives of Chernivtsi City Administration in the international congress dedicated to the preservation of historical heritage, organized by the Unesco Central Committee in the autumn 2005 in Vienna. During this congress, among

The City Theater from 1905, designed by the Viennese architects Ferdinand Fellner and Hermann Hellner. Today it is named after Olha Kobylanska, a prominent Bukovinian Ukrainian writer in the decades around 1900



the 600 scholars of authority in the area of heritage preserving researches from the 55 countries of the world, not the questions of preservation of the particular objects but the entire town-planning ensembles in which the creative forces of the architects were conceptually depicted, were discussed for the first time.

The nowadays high estimated meeting of the scholars in the old university town of Lund, confirms again the facts, that the historical architectural heritage of Chernivtsi is extraordinary interest-

ing and the spatial architectural landscape composition of the city deserves the high level of presentation.

Chernivtsi – a city of a general important architectural heritage

The historical center of Chernivtsi along with the cultural wealth of its ensembles and high architectonical qualities of not only solo- but also ordinary building-up, owns very high world level of charm.

This is considered to be one of the most important criteria, which helps

to distinguish the area of the historical center of Chernivtsi as a comprehensive whole, that can be presented as the object of nomination to the Unesco World Cultural Heritage List.

The subsidiary document in the estimated affair of preservation of cultural national heritage for every high-developed country can be the Vienna Memorandum 'The World Heritage and the Modern Architecture – the Management of the Historical City Landscape' ratified by the members of congress and

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issued for the first time in 2005 [13, p. 12–20].

The place and the role of the historical city landscape in the area of heritage preserving, the principles and main directions of management in the field of preservation and development of the historical cities were described in this memorandum for the first time.

Taking into account the specific character of international affair of historical heritage preservation and the unique wealth of historical landscape of Chernivtsi, full of great number of historical heritage objects, as early as August 2004 the 'Complex Program of the Cultural

Heritage Objects Preservation in Chernivtsi 2004–2008' was acclaimed by the Chernivtsi City Administration.

Its main task is the preservation of cultural heritage of the city. 150 million UAH were issued from the state subventions for the preservation of cultural heritage objects of Chernivtsi and its social development), proves once again the importance of understanding of meaning of the historical heritage of this city not only in Ukraine but also in the whole cultural world.

For the revitalization of this unique process of restoration and rehabilitation the scientific researches of native and

foreign scholars in the field of heritage preservation were used.

There are quite enough general and actual questions practically for all historical cities, which acuteness require very fast and adjusted solutions.

Ukrainian developed legal regulations base on preservation and use of the cultural heritage together with international law documents are the basis of legal regulation of heritage preservations. But all these documents are dispersed in different sources and informational databases and it is not easy to use them.

The example of cultural heritage of



Chernivtsi shows the importance of using in practice the new methods of historical – architectural researches with profound study of historical landscape and greater attention to determination in it the historical habitats and their features.

Preservation issues

The main ways of preservation of the historical cultural heritage of Chernivtsi is the revitalization of known in Europe in the beginning of the 20 century restoration work, organization of independent institution of cultural heritage protection, particularly founded in win-

ter 2006, by the decision of Chernivtsi City Administration, the City Administration department on cultural heritage protection. The work of correction of the historic – architectural bearing plan of Chernivtsi and definition of use order of its historical habitats. Educational and instructive work with the citizens has been activated. In 2008 the opening of new Department Of Architecture and Building at the Chernivtsi National University is planned.

Nevertheless some difficulties take place. The pending problem is the lack of particular specialists in the field of cultural heritage researches, allocation

of funds planned for the ‘passportisation’ of the cultural heritage. But one of the first steps in the area of preservation of cultural heritage is the question of doing of restoration and rehabilitation of national heritage objects. Among these objects, the main attention is paid to the Residence of Bukovinian Metropolitans, city theatre of music and drama, Chernivtsi museum of art (former Central savings bank), entire city planning ensembles of the city’s main streets and squares.

The special attention is paid to the questions of restoration of the Residence of Bukovinian Metropolitans (nowadays the central building of the university). The building of this important object of cultural heritage in the city caused the active development of city planning. It is not surprising that its restoration begins from the reconstruction of unique polychrome ceramic and copper roof in which not only native but also foreign specialists take part.

This common active international collaboration confirms that cultural heritage of Chernivtsi has an important place not only in Ukraine but also in the whole world.

Regarding with historical landscapes the Unesco Committee has developed a new modern architecture planning methodic in the organically formed historical city space that depends on three basic destinations:

1. Preservation of the roof funds and conceptual ideas of historical roof landscapes evolution;

2. Creating a 'logic chain' order: political processes are the crystallization of historical cities planning and the quality of regulations historical cities' areas determination. It is a prestige of the new architecture as well as state policy;

3. Creating of a new system under the slogan of a conceptual dialogue between the 'new architecture and conventional' [16, p. 36–37].

On the background of cultural acquisition of the outstanding European cities which influenced the European and world architecture development the advantageous place belongs to the so-called 'provincial' historical cities. Their lot is as important as the lot of the outstanding architectural monuments. And such small cities as Chernivtsi need preservation and protection as they can enrich the multifaceted palette of world cultural heritage.

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