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TOWNSCAPE OF LVIV – PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT (the end of 18th – beginning 21th century)

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Abstract. This article considers the evolution of the townscape of Lviv in connection with natural landscape, civil buildings and housing during the end of 18th – beginning 21thcentury.

Key words: city, townscape, city landscape, city plan, architectural ensemble, architectural image.

1. Introduction

In the end of XVIII c. to 1918 Lviv is the capital of Galicia and Lodomeria Province of Austrian-Hungarian Empire, from 1920 to september 1939 the center of Lvov Voivodship in Poland, from the end of 1939 to half 1941 under Soviet rule, from 1941 to 1944 under German Nazi rule and from the end of II World War is the industrial, transportation, cultural centre of West Ukraine (capital of Lviv region) in Soviet Union, from 1991 in independent Ukraine. This article aims to carry out an analisys of evolution of Lviv city image during the time (from the end of XVIII c. to beginning of XXI c.) of the city development and show distinctive features [1].

2. Basic Theory

At the end of the 18th century town landscape of Lviv was formed by the following constituent parts: complex of the medieval town, encircled by the double ring of fortifications, and the strip of suburbs around it. Among the suburban areas Pidzamche (Under the Castle) with the Old Rus urban territory at the foot of the High Castle occupied a special place. Town's outskirts had their own spatial dominants, as for example, Cracow suburb – had the St. George's Cathedral, Lychakiv suburb – the church of St. Antonius, which at the same time were important components of the general town landscape, as was already emphasized.

The abolishing of the Magdeburg Law in 1793 and dismantling of towns fortification walls in 1777–1820 became a turning point in the development of the town landscape of Lviv. Elimination of walls opened new opportunity for the spatial formation of the town, facilitated creation of a new urban centre. According to the European notion of that time, new centre of the town had to consist of a system of boulevards with planted trees and shrubbery, and built-up parade mansions [2].

3. Results and Discussion

In Lviv two fragments of a planned circular boulevard – Gubernatorsky (Governor's) and Hetmansky (Hetman's) Ramparts – were formed. Hetmansky Ramparts boulevard – today Freedom Avenue ("Prospekt Svobody") became the main street of the town. It consists of two thorrrroughfares and a wide pedestrian lane between them. The housing of the boulevard got a new scale due to the construction of the monumental

buildings of the Opera Theatre and the National Museum (former – the Museum of Arts and Crafts), banking and office and dwelling edifices houses. Architectural forms of the housing of the boulevard are marked by resplendence of sculptural details and are interesting examples of the eclectic architecture at the end of the 19th century in Lviv.

Erecting of the new boulevards aimed the formation of a new urban centre to the West of the medieval town territory. That is why building of the residence of the Galician Parliament, with the main facade facing the Ivan Franko park, also facilitated this process.

At the same time, the development of directions of historical trade routes, radially forking from the medieval core of the town, is continued. They are transformed into the main thoroughfares and are built-up with 3–5 – storey dwelling houses with shops on the groundfloors. Thus, the radial streets remain the main streets and are connected with a vast network of small minor streets – that is how the territory is devided into numerous urban blocks, which almost ring about the medieval middletown.

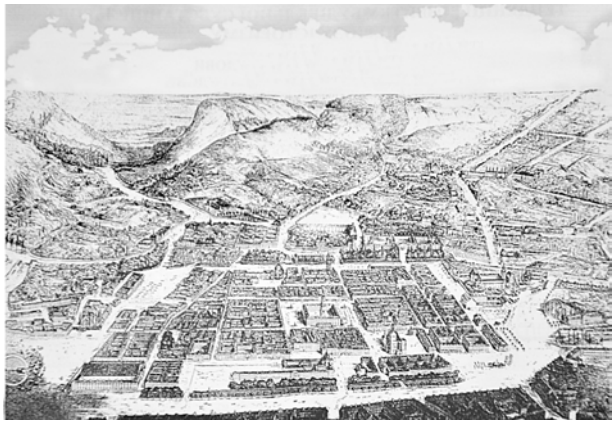

Fig. 1. General view of Lviv. According to K. Piller. 1866

Fig. 2. View of Lviv. According to A. Lange. 1830-th

Fig. 3. Hetmansky Ramparts boulevard (Prospect Svobody, Freedom Avenue). According to K. Auer. 1830-th

Fig. 4. Prospect Svobody (Freedom Avenue) (© Bohdan Posatskyy, 1999)

The townscape becomes homogenous due to the stylistic unity of housing at the cross of the 19th – 20th cc., caused by the forms of the Classicism, Eclecticism and Modernist style (Secession). The new Town Hall is being erected on the Rynok Square, with a massive tower (almost 60 – metre-high) which becames a partner of the Renaissance and Baroque towers in the silhouette of the centre of the town [3].

Castle hill still commands the housing in the central part of the town, but there is no more the construction of the castle itself, after it was dismantled into a quarry [4].

In the middle of the 19th century a town park was laid out on the terraces at the foot of the High Castle. An artificial mound was spread on the upper terrace, top of which is crowned by a viewing platform (411 m high above the sea level), commands a scenic panorama of Lviv townscape.

Fig. 5. Holy Spirit Square.
According to A. Zaykovski. 1865

Fig. 6. Galician parlament. According to B. Chekhovich.
End of 19th c

Railway, its track and buildings became a new considerable element of Lviv landscape in the second part of the XIX th century. Railroad line between Crakow and Lviv was built in 1861 and this improved the development of the Western and Northern town areas. The complex of the Main Railway Station, the relic of engineering and artistic thought at the early 20th century was completed in 1903, it is the best structure in Lviv of the Art Nouveau epoch [5].

The first half of the 20th century hasn't brought significant changes in the town landscape of Lviv. In the centre of the town dwelling housing was going on, new small villa housing plots in the outlying districts of the town were created – New Lviv ("Novyy Lviv") in the southern and the Professor's Colony ("Profesorska Kolonia") in the eastern parts. The eclectic and secession buildings were altered by the new forms of modern funccionalistic architecture, influenced by the prevalent trends of European architecture of that time [6].

It can be noticed, that architectural forms of dwelling and public edifices of 1920s – 1930s are more mild their proportions and details are smaller in comparison with the "classics of functionalism" in Western Europe [7].

a b

Fig. 7. Residential buildings in Saksahansky str. (a) and Kastelivka str. (b). 1930-years

The main radical approach to the development of the city was introduced in the reconstruction project, completed in 1943 during Nazi occupation in Crakow urban planning office.

Reconstructed street network was suppoused to be the foundation of the new spatial organization of the city. The main radial streets in the center were the same, but they were connected by the inner southern boulevard semicircle, which consisted of the two roadway separated by a green stripe.

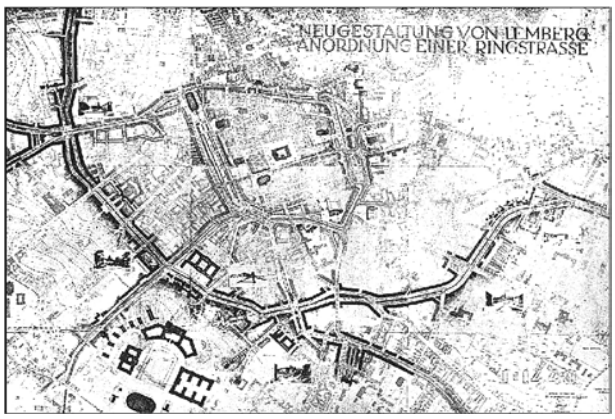

Fig. 8. Nazi project master plan of Lviv center
(© W. Hallbaver, 1943)

Fig. 9. General view of "city crown".
(© W. Hallbaver, 1943)

The project envisaged the formation of a new city government center on the Citadel hill, monumental complex of town planning was given the name "city crown" with the dominant role in the city silhouette, that should have demonstrated the supremacy of Nazi ideology. Concerning the urban aspect of the city center, project materials show that German planners anticipated two-centered system of the downtown and a radical change in architectural image of downtown [8].

After the reinclusion of Lviv to the USSR in july 1944, in 1945 Soviet authorities aimed at transformation of the city into the industrial centre. On the other hand, the main creative challenge of urban architecture was the formation of ensembles, that would symbolize the "socialism victorious walk" in their spatial forms of classical heritage.

From one side, in 1946 the soviet authors of Lviv's master plan understood the unique historical and architectural heritage of the city and offered to save it, from the other – it was necessary to transform the image of the city, making it alike typical Soviet style not only in essence but in form.

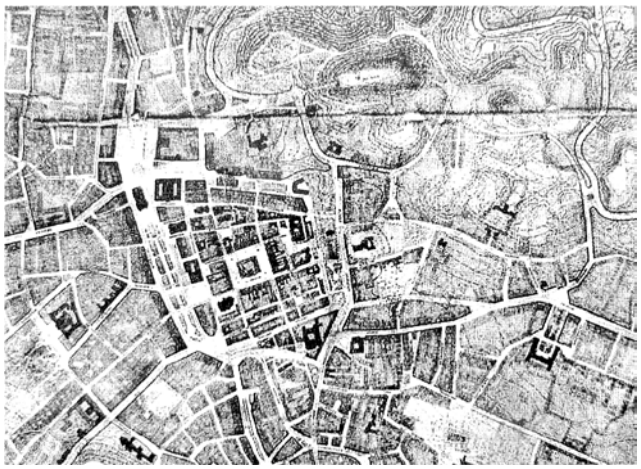

Fig. 10. Postwar soviet master plan of Lviv. Fragment. 1946.
(© Bohdan Cherkes, 1999)

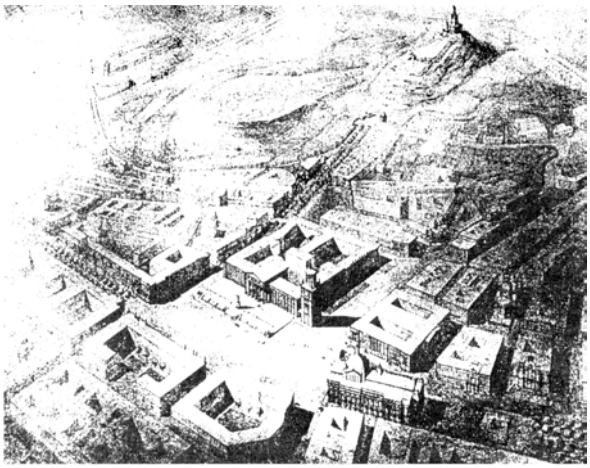

Fig. 11. General view of City center project. 1946–1948.
(© Bohdan Cherkes, 1999)

The central unit of the city, its core was supposed to be the new main square (one of the largest at that time in the USSR), located directly behind the Opera House and was to be connected by boulevard with barrow of High Castle. It was proposed to set a large statue of Lenin with total height of 50 m. Thus, "communist system of coordinates was canonized" in the city center [9]. Master plan of the city was considered in 1946 at the governmental level several times but ultimately it no approved and therefore it didn't became active town planning document. Residential and public buildings as well as the airport terminal were constructed.

Fig. 12. Residential building in Horodotska str.1953.
(© Bohdan Posatskyy, 1999)

Fig. 13. Lviv airport old terminal. 1955.
(© Bohdan Posatskyy, 2014)

Radical real changes in Lviv townscape commenced in the end of 1950s. Since that time the dynamic development of the town began, and facilitated towns transformation into the largest industrial centre in Western Ukraine [10]. Development of industry demanded mastering of the new territories for industrial enterprices and residential blocks. First new industrial and dwelling sites emerged in 1950–1960s in the western sector of the town, and in 1970–1980's housing appeared on vast territories of the southern, northern and eastern sectors of the town.

Fig. 14. Panoramic view
of Southern Residential districts

Fig. 15. Panoramic view of Northern Residential districts
(© Bohdan Posatskyy, 1997)

In the 1950–1980s apart from the industry (traditional branch of the soviet city economic activity), such branches as administrative management, culture, education, science were developing in Lviv. From the beginning of the 20th century Lviv was a well known centre of university education and science, that were represented in the city's space in large buildings. These functions were developed in 1970–1980, when ten state university educational establishments (70 thousand of students) were working in the city. To meet their needs the complexes of buildings of university education, scientific institutes (the new complexes of Lviv Polytechnic, Veterinary Academy, Academy of Arts, Institutes of researches of Academy of Sciences), students dormitories, sports grounds, etc. were built.

a b

Fig. 16. Lviv Politechnic. Main building (a), new Students Library (b). (© Bohdan Posatskyy, 2014)

The new industrial and dwelling districts gained quite a new (much more larger than previous one) spatial scale of urban management and housing of the territory, determined by theory of the Soviet urban planning of that time [11]. The territory planning presupposed the very change of the urban form, traditional blocks were altered by "free" located separate buildings on the territory. Dwelling housing, at first, consisted of 5–9-storey buildings. In 1970s and during the 1980s the height of houses was risen to 12–15-floors. Thus, large dwelling sites with great number of multistorey buildings were formed [12].

The compact town housing of the first half of 20th century was changed by the new image of urban areas, that consisted a "separately located" edifices with vast spaces between them (yet the young trees were not high).

Two, almost independent, town scapes emerged coegsisting on the town's territory: historical and contemporary townscapes (i.e. of the second half of the 20th c.). Luckily the relief of the site allows to separate visually historical and contemporary town landscapes: historical town is situated in the amphiteatre of the Poltva river valley, and the new residential areas occupy the eminence of the plateau around the valley. The general aspect of the town landscape is easily seen from the viewing platform on the barrow of the High Castle. On the foerground the historical core of the town with rich silhouette is located, it is surrounded of tracts of verdure and just the background the rectangular shapes of the new housing are seen, these territories are several kilometres far from the centre.

a b

Fig. 17. Lviv – Sykhiv residential district. General view (a), church of Nativity of the Holy Virgin (b).
(© Bohdan Posatskyy, 2009)

The peculiar example of the new town landscape construction is Syhiv residential site (district) in the southern sector of the town, being constructed during the last two decades. Housing of this area got started in 1980s, and during the first several years consisted of groups of 9-storey buildings of the same type, located almost regularly on the territory. This residential territory occupies an area of 300 hectares between Zelena and Stryjska streets, former trade routes, stretching to the north-eastern and southern directions from Lviv.

During the first decade the dwelling houses of Syhiv consisted of 9-storey large panel construction apartment building, later on, after 1990s, requirements of a total typification were eliminated, and separate 12–15 storey houses of a tower-type gained monumentum ; they were becoming spatial accents.

By 1991, architectural image of Syhiv was replenished by houses of religious worship – churches and chapels. First, they were built-up spontaneously, almost without architects. The largest new church in Lviv was constructed in the district centre of Syhiv after the design of Radoslav Zhuk. This church is must to become a spiritual and compositional centre of Syhiv area and must create new image of it [13].

Another new additions in central part of Lviv are several plomb houses in the surrounding of the 19th century house blocks. We can see this situation in very many streets in the 19th century part of town.

Lviv city authority and Lviv community employees of the Board of protection of historical environment at Lviv municipality. They have carried out great amount of work on the preparation of materials for including Lviv in the World Heritage List by UNESCO because the Lviv is “the only city in Ukraine that has completely preserved its Medieval planning scheme, peculiarities of urban building and greening. They represent practically all styles and trends of Central Europe urban form from the 13th to the 20th centuries” [14].

Restoring of economic freedom since 1991 on the one hand and collapse of large enterprises in Lviv (built after 1945) on the other led to the rapid development of the service sector and trade in the center of the city of Lviv. Function of service and trade back in the ground floors of houses, in summer many cafes occupied the outdoor area of old streets. Restoration of facades and interiors of historic buildings began by private owners of shops, cafes, bars, restaurants and other establishments.

Lviv traditionally belonged to the cities with developed financial activity and this after transformation in 1991 caused the construction of new buildings office centers and banks.

Fig. 18. UniCredit bank. 2001

Fig. 19. Taras Shevchenko monument. 1995

By this time, also debates were caused in 2001 concerning construction of the new building “UniCredit bank” (“Ukrsotsbank”) on the eastern side of the Mickiewicz Square, in place of removed buildings of the 19th century. Architectural forms of new buildings are aggressive and are in contrast with the surrounding architectural environment.

Few new monuments of the great ukrainians are the most significant elements of contemporary townscape of the city centre. One of it is the monument of the greatest Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko built in 1992–1995. To the left from the figure of poet is the Wave of National Revival, a high symbolic stele. This monument create the new image of main Lviv street – Svoboda (Freedom) Avenue.

In the beginning of 1990s, the territorial development of the residential and idustrial areas within the town was almost stopped [15]. Instead, private single family house architecture in the suburban zone gained momentum, and in 1991–1997 a ring belt of two and three-storeyhouses, that embraced multistorey housing areas of 1960–1980s was created. Another change of the spatial scale of the housing of a territory took place, this time – by its sharp reduce [16].

At the end of 1990s town landscape of the periphery zone of Lviv's central part (at the border with the new dwelling quarters of multi-storey housing) was slightly changing. Construction of the 5–9 storey multi-compartment dwelling houses with flats equpped in and correspondense to contemporary European requirements was commenced in this zone. These houses were erected by private investors on separate free plots, mostly among extant 2–3-storey dwelling housing, that engirdled 3–4-storey dwelling quarters (dated to the cross of the 19–20th c.) in the centre of the town. Due to their height the new constructions created local spatial emphasis.

Peculiar feature of architectural image of these buildings is combination of forms of European Post-Modernism and regional Sub-Carpathian architecture. Houses posses slopping roofs, covered with roofings, facades are built of brick, covered with plaster, wood is applied as well as glass, metal and plastic material.

In September 2010 City Council approved the general plan of the city until 2025. Master Plan does not provide the substantial population growth in the city, but provides a slight increase in the city by joining lands suburban villages located near the suburban ring road [17].

A new master plan envisages further development of the city center core in the north (Chornovil avenue) and west (Horodotska street), and southern (Stryiska street) directions. The general mode of protection area, called "historical areas of the city." In general, this area coincides with the central part of town, that territory, which was occupied by the city until 1939 and it is limited by rail grade crossings in a kind of quadrangle: Pidzamche station (in the north), the main railway station (in the west), Persenkivka station (in the south), Lychakiv station (in the east).

Interpretation of the polycentric system of the city center gained new emphasis in connection with the preparation of the city to host the European Cup in 2012. New terminal of Lviv airport is being reconstructed according to international standards, that is located in the city western part. Construction of new terminal alongside the existing airport building (built in 1955, according to a typical "soviet classic" project).

Fig. 20. Stadium "Lviv Arena". 2012

Fig. 21. New airport terminal.
(© Bohdan Posatskyy, 2012)

Since the area to build a new stadium was chosen on the southern outskirts of the city near the intersection of the beltway and Stryiska street and near big shopping mall "Auchan", it caused growing role of the southern sub-center. This sub-center in the general plan in 2010 provided mainly administrative function which should have developed, taking into account new social-economic and city planning preconditions.

In the early 21th century in Ukraine began the process for modifying the function of industrial areas. The former Soviet enterprices went bankrupt and their real estate was transferred to the new private owners.

These investors buy former business development centers and reconstructed them for their new purposes. Examples can given as the factory of industrial valves, transformed into trade and exhibition center "Lemberg" on Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street and territory of the gas plant on Pid Dubom Street, where the large shopping mall and entertaineinment complex "Lviv Forum" was constructed etc.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, we may state, that currently the city of Lviv has the following peculiar features.

Two, almost independent, town scapes emerged coegsisting on the town's territory: historical and contemporary appereance (i.e. of the second half of the 20th c.). Luckily the relief of the site allows to separate visually historical and contemporary areas: historical town is situated in the amphiteatre of the Poltva river valley, and the new residential areas occupy the eminence of the plateau around the valley.

The central part of the town has preserved historic street network and urban fabric that create townscape, evolutionally formed during the 13th – first half of 20th cc.

Around the central historic part of the town, on the eminenced plateau during the 1950–1990s quite a different type of the town area and townscape was formed. New urban areas were built-up mainly with multi-storey dwelling and industrial houses, radically increasing the spatial scale.

The training for Euro 2012 gave the new inspiration for spatial development of the Lviv.The main significant objects was located in the western and southern part of the city.

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[2] New city center occupied swampy areas in the Poltva river valley to the West and South of medieval town. It can presumed that there was an idea of surrounding of the city centre by the circle boulevard.

[3] The building of the new Town Hall, erected in 1835, is much more larger and massive then the previous one.

[4] Stones from the walls of the dismantled High Castle were used gor construction of the new urban boulvards and for the barrow on the eastern part of the terrace of the High Castle park, spread over to commemorate the 300-th anniversary of the Lublin Union in 1869: – Kniazhyy Lviv, Halytska Brama. 1996, No. 12, p. 8.

[5] Biryulyov Y. (ed.), (2007), Lviv. A Guidebook for the Visitor. Lviv: The Centre of Europe Publishing House, 268–269.

[6] In the first half of the 20th c. town developed mainly by intensive mastering of the territory. The old housing was altered by new one, maintaining the new spatial scale, set at beginning of the 20th c., as well as the planning of the territory.

[7] The Exhibition "City and Housing" which took place in Lviv in 1926, produced a tremendous influence upon the modern architectural forms of Lviv housing in 1930 s.

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[10] The Government of the USSR had subordinated urban development of Lviv after 1945 to the "Programme of the industrialization of West Ukraine", which drafted large machine-buildang and electronic plant in the town

[11] Soviet urban planning and urban desighn standards determined strictly hierarchi of the territorial units in the town. Simultaneosly the type of buildings was determined. In 1960–1970s only two main types of multifamily houses were generally applied: 5 and 9 storey.

[12] Multistorey dwelling houses were built of bricks (traditional technology) or of great concrete elements.

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[15] By renewing of Ukraine's independence in 1991 and transition to market economy state was no more main inwestor, while the "new" private investors still posses rather limited capital. At the same time, the collapse of the USSR caused an economic crises in Ukraine, which still lasts.

[16] Changes in the legislation facilitated this process, allowing to construct single family houses by private investors, practically with no limitation.

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Богдан Посацький

МІСЬКИЙ ЛАНДШАФТ ЛЬВОВА – ЕТАПИ РОЗВИТКУ (кінець XVIII – початок XXI ст.)

Анотація. *Розглянуто особливості еволюції міського краєвиду Львова в поєднанні з природним ландшафтом і комплексами громадської та житлової забудови впродовж XVIII – початку XXI ст.*

Ключові слова*: місто, міський краєвид, міський ландшафт, розпланування міста, архітектурний ансамбль, архітектурний образ*