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## IN MEMORIAM F. KIESLER

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**Abstract.** The article describes the circumstances of the beginning and subsequent systematic studies of the phenomenon of creativity of architect F. Kiesler in Ukraine, conducted by the Department of Design of the Architectural Environment of the Lviv Polytechnic National University.

**Key words:** scientific intelligence, popularization measures, development of ideas.

### 1. Introduction

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century an international phone call was heard in my apartment. At that time international phone calls were different from those which were heard in Ukraine. I concentrated and answered the phone. “Good afternoon” – I heard woman’s voice in a few seconds. “This is your post-graduate colleague from Moscow calling” my interlocutor introduced herself. I was glad. It was because this person, as far as I knew, had moved to Germany a lot of years before. “So how did I get Germany interested?” I asked a friend from the past. “I don’t know about Germany but you will definitely be interested in the information I am going to provide now” she persuaded me. “Well, well” I continued with uncertainty. “You know Viktor, last year I visited my relatives, the Guggenheims in the USA and they are all here amazed by an architect F. Kiesler! They claim that he was born either in Vienna or in Ukraine! Do you know anything about this person? I knew the family of one of the richest person, however I had heard the surname “Kiesler” for the first time in my life. I promised to research this issue. I should admit that the activity and artistic heritage of an architect Kiesler has amazed me for all my life.

### 2. Basic Theory Part

At that time I was getting ready for doctorate habilitation and participated in various seminars, meetings and conferences as well. One of such events, where I submitted the materials of my presentation, was an international conference under the title “Chernivtsi architecture heritage of Austrian epoch” was supposed to be held in October 2001 in Chernivtsi. For participating in the conference I submitted the paper “Architecture phenomenon of city theatre in Chernivtsi”, where I discussed the design and construction of the theatre created by the architects F. Fellner and H. Helmer and which nowadays is named after O. Kobylanska. However, I presented the paper under the other title. At that time during a few months of work I had found the researches dedicated to an architect F. Kiesler, these were, first of all, done by M. Ragon and D. Bogner. Apart from that, I had found out some facts from Chernivtsi period of life of a worldwide known architect. Therefore, the paper got the name “Kiesler’s architecture phenomenon”, where some of my hypotheses were expressed regarding his origin, shaping and influence on a creative work. They were proven later. It was the first in Ukraine paper, fully dedicated to the architecture heritage of Kiesler.

### 3. Result and Discussion

In the following years Lviv architecture school conducted readings and scientific research dedicated to Kiesler's creative work. There was searching and conceptual designing where his ideas developed. Among these projects in 2005 dedicated to 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Maestro's birthday in Artistic museum in Chernivtsi an exhibition was organized which later appeared in the building of Lviv regional Jewish fund "Hesed ArieH".

Investigating the creative work of an architect Kiesler has become not only the goal of master's papers and doctoral theses but also influenced the creation of a unique academic project direction of the department of architectural environment design – conceptual design. With approaching 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary since F. Kiesler's birth the group of teachers and students of the department had an idea to hold an international conference dedicated to his activity and creative work exclusively and to hold the conference in the city where he was born and grew up, got primary education and was recommended for studying in Vienna with Caesar scholarship. The conference was to be held at Yu. Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University where the local architecture school had been established – the department of architecture, construction and decorating and applied art.

Organizers of the conference invited the researchers from Canada, Germany, Poland and, of course, from Ukraine – researchers from Kyiv National Construction and Architecture University, Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University, Lutsk National Technical University etc. (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Teachers and students of architecture schools of Lviv, Chernivtsi, Kyiv and Lutsk near the main building of Yu. Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University during the break between presenting the papers at the International conference dedicated to 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary since F. Kiesler's birth.

Source: From the archive of V. Proskuriakov

Unfortunately, due to certain conditions, having appeared in Ukraine before holding the conference (6–7 October 2015), the foreign researchers and delegations did not arrive in Chernivtsi. However, the event itself was bright, of a large scale and good quality. 20 papers had been prepared for the conference and most of them were presented according to the agenda. The exhibition of bachelor and master's qualification papers

fulfilled by the students of architecture environment design department of Lviv Polytechnic National University and dedicated to presenting the ideas of an architect F. Kiesler and their development was housed in the premises of the main building of Chernivtsi national university by Y. Fedkovych, as well. For the festive events there were specially prepared the leaflets, brochures and banners decorated the main building of the university.

On 7 October there was a ceremonial opening of a commemorative plaque to Friedrich Kiesler on the façade of the house No. 7 in Mariya Zankovetska street, where, at some point, a famous architect lived. After finishing the festivities the commemorative plaque and a house where F. Kiesler and his family lived at once were belonged to the objects of a city touristic infrastructure.

*Віктор Проскураков*

### **ПАМ'ЯТІ Ф. КІЗЛЕРА**

*Анотація.* У статті висвітлені обставини початку і подальших систематичних досліджень феномену творчості архітектора Ф. Кізлера в Україні, що веде кафедра дизайну архітектурного середовища Національного університету "Львівська політехніка".

*Ключові слова:* наукові розвідки, заходи популяризації, розвиток ідей.