Vol. 2, No. 2, 2016

Nadiya Sosnova

LVIV PUBLIC SPACES OF THE 18th–19th CENTURIES

Lviv Polytechnic National University
12, Bandery str., 79013 Lviv, Ukraine, rektime08@ukr.net

Received: December 05,2016 / Revised: January 27, 2017 / Accepted:

© Sosnova N., 2016

Annotation. The landmark public spaces for Lviv are Svobody and Shevchenko Avenues. These boulevards took on the role of a central representative city space since their laying. Socio-economic and political changes altered the cultural and symbolic image of Lviv; Lviv's structure became complicated over the years, however the central public spaces – boulevards, parks, squares, formed by the end of the nineteenth century remain the main formative elements in the issue of identity of the city.

Key words: public space, Hetmanski Valy Boulevard, Akademichna Street, landscape and spatial arrangement

1. Statement of Purpose

Landscapes of promenade representative spaces of the city were formed by the early 20th century – Hubernatorski Valy (Governor's Ramparts), Hetmanski Valy (Hetman's Ramparts), Akademichna Street and Halytska Square and a square near the Bernardine Church – Lviv received a network of high quality new public spaces.

Today, a part of once known representative spaces of the city has acquired signs of the urban space recession due to the urbanization processes. An issue of spatial arrangement and stylistics of the object arises during the reconstruction and improvement of the central public historically formed spaces. The dilemma is as follows: whether to carry out the redevelopment of urban public space according to modern globalization stereotypes or to return to the historical nature of the central space of the city.

The study of the genesis of the public spaces of Lviv should be the basis in a controversial issue.

The purpose of the article

To study the genesis of public spaces of Lviv in the 18th–19th centuries and the impact of socio-political factors and European trends in landscape architecture on their formation.

2. The main part

Throughout history the architectural and spatial pattern of the city center, as the main public space, has been a determining factor in the character of the city. The central space points to the belonging of the city to a certain culture and it is responsible for the identity of the city.

The central spaces of the cities meet two basic functions of the city: the first one, according to Weber [4], is trade, the second one is a visual vivid confirmation of the ability of authorities and the outlining of its achievements and intentions; as well as a statement of the political system and the socio-economic status in the state. Architecture and landscape architecture have always been a tool of visualization of transformations in the society. Change of style, fashion in architecture and landscape architecture occurred in the periods of political and economic changes. With the change of financially wealthy elites or political power, as formulated by professor B. Cherkes, in architecture "a search is initiated for means of expression of changes that have occurred in the society" [3].

There are many direct examples of the above-said in history. Thus, the Palace and Park of Versailles had to single out the French king along with France among other European ruling people. The glory of Versailles

only strengthened due to imitation of principles of design of Le Nôtre's creation throughout Europe. Only after the weakening of the French dominance in Europe, a new approach of England to arrangement of landscape without excessive costs managed to spread in the 18th–19th centuries. Again, the rest of the European countries began to redesign their gardens not to be outdated compared to England – an economically powerful fashion setter. A visual confirmation of the economic capacity of the country was required. Architecture and gardens were the means for demonstrating the status.

The late XVIII century was marked by a significant development of urban public landscape compositions in Europe. The defensive walls were torn down; wide boulevards were planned in their place that became the center of public life of the city. One of the most famous boulevard ensembles became the Ring in Vienna. In 1857 Emperor Franz Joseph I signed a decree to demolish the defensive city walls, which surrounded Vienna at that time, and to construct the boulevard in their place. The new Ring Boulevard and the buildings had to show the majesty of the Habsburgs and the Austrian Empire.

Transferring Lviv to the rank of the capital city of the crown province - Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, obliged to develop the city. Since the late 18th century the Austrian authorities began arranging municipal facilities by demolition of city walls and by laying broad streets. New quarters, residential buildings, banks, hotels, administrative and public buildings were constructed.

The architecture of residential and public buildings for the late 18th – early 20th centuries Lviv, marked by a vivid emphasis on Europeanness of the city and its belonging to the Austrian culture, was extended by the development of a system of public spaces, among which the main ones were Hetmanski Valy and Akademichna Street - modern Svobody and Shevchenko Avenues. These boulevards fulfilled the function of a central representative urban space as an important element in the city's status.

In the second half of the 19th century a constitutional and liberal reform was introduced in the Habsburg monarchy that stipulated territorial self-government. Some powers were handed over to the lower levels, to Lviv in particular, to avoid public discontent with authoritativeness of the power. The province acquired the powers which it did not have until that time. "Ustawa gminna" (municipal act) adopted in 1862 became a documentary proof of municipal self-government. The organization of the two largest cities of Galicia, i.e. Lviv and Krakow, was based on their own statutes. The highest authority in Lviv was the City Council. Its main objectives were: to take care of the property of the city, take care of order and beautification in the city, and culture and leisure of its residents. Over time, according to the Polish historian Łukasz Sroka, the key ones were the matters that dealt with public spaces of the city. [8] It was necessary to build new sidewalks, squares, streets and parks. The cost estimate of improvement of the capital city of Lviv was higher that the possibilities of the city budget. But the importance of vivid demonstration of the economic power of the new government and attempts to show qualitative changes to the residents of eastern Galicia, required not a lengthy development, but a rapid transformation of Lviv into the capital city. In the late 19th century the city budget and funds under loans, which the city government was forced to take to develop the city, were distributed largely for the improvement of the central public space. Thus, 500.000 zlotys were allocated to continue covering of the Poltva River with a concrete vault, 600.000 zlotys – for laying the streets with cobblestones, 700.000 zlotys were allocated for the construction of the theater, 250.000 – for development of a network of urban lighting, 100.000 – for surveying works on regulation of streets and squares [8].

The created commission called "For construction and public works" by the City Council consisting of 25 people, speaks for the importance of the development of the capital Lviv [8]. Those experts worked on spatial and aesthetic development of the city. Their duties also included control over the condition of streets, sidewalks, public gardens.

Sending delegations in the middle 19th century for business trips to the capitals of the European countries to get acquainted with the planning of administrative buildings [2] and experience of the cities development in general, is also indicative of the attempts to bring Lviv in compliance with the standards of the capital city.

Arrangement of the Svobody Avenue - the second public space of Lviv after the Market Square – began in the 1780's. Rampart fortifications were redesigned by 1800 and the Nyzhni Valy (Lower Ramparts) Boulevard with a pedestrian alley along the Poltva River were laid in their place. While the Market Square was protected against reconstruction by the city authorities, the surrounding territories underwent significant changes. And their development was carried out in the new contemporary forms and styles that could not be of interest to residents, unlike the "old" unchanged Market.

We can speak about the shaped public space of Lviv as a system of promenades, squares and public gardens since the XIXth century. Arnold Röhring was the main city gardener of this period who arranged and redesigned the main boulevards, gardens and squares of Lviv.

After covering the Poltva River in 1886–1890, the Nyzhni Valy Boulevard was called the Hetmanski Valy. Its redevelopment was carried out under the direction of A. Röhring. A central pedestrian alley was laid in the middle of the boulevard, the linear composition of which was decorated with two flower stalls.

A boulevard on Akademichna Street was also arranged under the A. Röhring's project. It consisted of separate trapezoidal shapes with rounded corners in the layout. Poplar, spruce and maple trees were among the plantations that gave shade over the benches set first on the avenue [1].

English naturalistic gardens were still relevant in the 19th century. Since the public space of Lviv was formed with consideration for the European trends, the municipal planted spaces also had features of landscapes. The main boulevards and squares were given a fashionable appearance of the recreational private garden that did not emphasize the linear composition of boulevards. The examples are the groups of different-sized plantations of Akademichna Street (Fig. 1), public garden of Mariacka Square (Fig. 2), public garden on Halytska Square.

Fig. 1. Akademichna Street, early XXth century

Fig. 2. Public garden of Mariacka Square

The criteria for urban landscape gardening changed over time. Lviv central landscapes also changed to match the trends. In 1922–1930-ies the boulevard on Akademichna Street was redesigned into a straight pedestrian alley with two rows of poplars. Trees on the green islands were uprooted, benches were taken away and flowerbeds were eliminated. The avenue changed by its content. After being a promenade and recreational space it became a transit one. Although benches are standing there again, the space is, in general, read as a component of the pedestrian network of the city, and not a place for a long rest. Active traffic in both sides of the boulevard is the root cause of this, however, the regular landscape composition with rows of trees is read as a steering, and not a recreational one (Fig. 3).

a

b

c

Fig. 3. Landscape and spatial transformations of Akademicka street during the XX century : a – early 20 c.; b – middle 20 c.; c – late 20 c.

At the beginning of the XIX century the Victorian garden established in Europe, where all other components were subject to flower gardens arrangement. The landscape fashion in the late 19th century spread to the public spaces of the city as well. They were actively decorated with flower beds and flower gardens as the components of landscape arrangement fashionable at that time in Europe. A wide-spread shape of the flower bed was a circle divided into segments (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4. Trentham castle, Staffordshire. England. Late 18th century. Project by Lancelot Brown. [5]

Other public spaces of the city also acquired fashion traits as a result of redevelopment by A. Röhring. Thus, the public garden on Halytska Square, founded in 1890–1893, was rearranged in 1909–1910 by A. Röhring and A. Zakharevych, and plants were replaced: old tall trees were uprooted, new were planted and flower gardens were laid [1]. The lower terrace of the City Park (now Ivan Franko Park) was redesigned in the late 19th century. According to the draft, the terrace acquired decorations with symmetric flower beds and flower gardens with regard to the axis of the main entrance to the university.

Fig. 5. Flower garden in front of the pavilion of industry at the Galician National Exhibition. Lviv, late 19th century. Project by A. Röhring

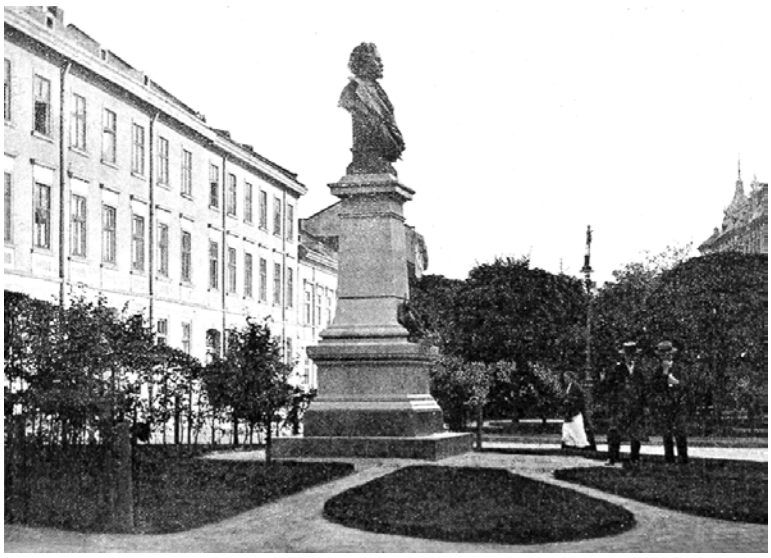

Fig. 6. Flowerbed around the monument to Kornel Ujejski on Akademichna Street. Lviv early XXth century. Project by A. Röhring

During the arrangement of less dominant green areas of the city, they responded to changes of landscape fashion not so quickly. For example, the landscape near the monument to A. Mickiewicz that united the spaces of the two Lviv boulevards was arranged in only a couple of years after opening of the monument to A. Mickiewicz in 1904. The architect T. Talovskyi in 1907 designed a project that suggested making a "green island" among the streets with traffic. [7] Although this piece of the urban green area cannot be interpreted as a pedestrian and recreational space, since it is cut off from the rest with the streets, but visually a single central area of the city is formed by its mediation.

Urbanization processes of the early 20th century, including the growth of population in Lviv[1], promoted further development of public spaces of the city. The number of the arranged squares and public gardens free from development was increasing.

3. Conclusions

The urban structure of Lviv became complicated over the years, however the central public spaces - boulevards, squares, public gardens, formed by the first third of the XX century remain the main formative elements in the issue of identity of the city.

Today the Ukrainian society needs changes, and this is reflected in the architecture and the desire to meet the world's architectural and spatial fashion, to build new. However, it is expedient to return to the traditional types of central urban spaces for the historically developed cities of Ukraine instead of the single-type patterns of globalized fashion.

References

[1] Arhitektura Lvova chas i styli. XIII – XXI st. / ed. Ju. Biriulov. – Lviv: Center Europy, 2008. – 720. – S. 512.

[2] Mudryi M. Budivlia Galytskogo Seimu: ambitsiji, mozhlyvosti, smysly // Visnyl Lvivskogo universytetu. Seriia istorychna. 2016. – S. 158.

[3] Cherkes B. Natsionalna identychnist v arhitekturi mist: monografiia / B. Cherkes. – Lviv: National univercity Lviv Politehnic, 2008. – 268 s.

[4] Weber M. Die Stadt. – Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft, Kap 8. Grundriss der Sozialokonomik. III. Abt. Tubingen, 1922, S. 513–600. // Maks Weber. Gorod. Electronic Publication: Center for Humanitarian Technologies. – 2008. Access: http://gtmarket.ru/laboratory/basis/3597. (viewed on November 25, 2016). – Title from the screen.

[15] In 1776 the number of residents of Lviv was 29,500; in 1869–87,109 residents; in 1910 – about 200,000 (residents along with the military); in 1921 – about 220,000 [6].

[5] Formal Gardens in England and Scotland. Their Planning and Arrangement. Architectural and Ornamental Features. Published by B. T. Batsford, London, 1902. Access: https://www.abebooks.co.uk/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi =1650521050&searchurl=tn%3Dformal%2Bgardens%26sortby%3D17%26an%3Dtriggs (viewed on November 25, 2016). – Title from the screen.
[6] Fryderyk Papée. Historia miasta Lwowa w zarysie // Książnica Polska, Wydanie drugie, poprawione i uzupełnione, Lwów-Warszawa 1924.
[7] Jurij Smirnow. Pomnik Adama Mickiewicza we Lwowie // Artykuły z kategorii Sztuki wizualne. Culture.pl 2005/07/05.
[8] Łukasz Tomasz Sroka. Wpływ samorządu Lwowa na przestrzeń publiczną miasta (1870–1914) // Visnyk Lvivskogo universytetu. Seriya istorychna. – 2016. – S. 256–257

Надія Соснова

ПУБЛІЧНІ ПРОСТОРИ ЛЬВОВА XVIII–XIX СТ.

Анотація. *Для Львова знаковими публічними просторами є проспект Свободи та проспект Т. Шевченка. Від часу закладення ці бульвари взяли на себе роль центрального репрезентативного міського простору. Соціально-економічні та політичні зміни міняли культурно-символічний образ Львова; з роками структура Львова ускладнювалась, однак центральні публічні простори – бульвари, сквери, площі, сформовані до кінця XIX ст., залишаються основними формотворчими елементами в питанні ідентичності міста.*

Ключові слова: *публічний простір, бульвар Гетьманські вали, вулиця Академічна, ландшафтно-просторова організація.*