

**WE CAME TO YOU WITH FLOWERS. BLOOMING WALLS.
IN MEMORY OF KOST PRYSIAZHNYI**

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Received: November 14, 2016 / Revised: December 29, 2016 / Accepted: March 9, 2017

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Abstract. The article is devoted to historical aspects of the greening of buildings at the example of Lviv city. Based on iconographic and field research, jardinières (stands for placing pots of flowers), fences and trellis for climbing plants have been investigated. Directions for the usage of greening to humanize the appearance of buildings and to increase the attractiveness of the historical city have been provided.

Key words: historic buildings greening, Lviv, jardinières and trellis for climbing plants, gardening to humanize and increase attractiveness of the historical city.

1. Introduction

Lviv as a historic European city with a rich architectural heritage is a perfect model to study any phenomenon, including such a seemingly insignificant subject, at first sight, as greening. As we walk in the villa areas we admire old pines or linden trees, planted at the time when villas were built, or door-yard greening. When we observe Lviv from the height of Ratusha (the City Tower) or High Castle, we can see many big greened territories, parks and squares. This makes a big contrast with both the central part of the city, built of stone, and modern streets. The problem with greening could be successfully solved with vertical greening. This method, used in the city history before, is forgotten today. While parks are given enough attention in special research, including, monographs [3–7], the aspects of historical greening of Lviv buildings of the nineteenth and the third of the twentieth centuries, have remained unnoticed by researchers, despite their preservation and diversity. The exception was made by the outstanding restorer and teacher Konstantin Prysiazhnyi [2].

2. Basic theoretical section

Greening of balconies and windows was an integral feature of the historical Lviv. Galicia was the poorest part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. And yet, the capital of “Galicia and Lodomeria” got the energy to find means to arrange the flowering attire in Lviv similar to that of European capitals. In old sepia photos and in contemporary watercolors (e.g., a watercolor by S. Tondos “Rynok Sq.”) we can see greened windows and balconies. Stanislaw Lem in his autobiographical book “High Castle” described how house plants were put back onto balconies after an unhappy winter, especially “the oleanders that bloom in pink and white” [1]. In the existing buildings we can see numerous flower pot stands under windows, along balconies. Flowers adorned the windows not only in residential homes, but also in administrative buildings – such as the current “Vodokanal”. Architects, the authors of Lviv stone buildings, planned a place for flowers already at the time of the draft development. Flowers were planted into iron-wrought jardinières, especially arranged on sills, balconies, and corners of balcony fences. These jardinières-baskets were styled and decorated according to the general style and composition of façades. The jardinières that were located in windows, usually had a rectangular form, while those in balconies were placed in various locations and had a varied configuration. In particular, jardinières

could be located at the top or the bottom (3 Levynskyi Str.) of the balcony, be continuous or consist of several elements, rectangular or semicircular (37 Konovalets' Str.), they could be of metal, as well as balconies were, or contrast with its stone base (4 Dontsov Str.). The corners of balconies of some buildings, built at the end of the 19th and 20th centuries, are decorated with metal vases, the latter also had to be decorated with flowerpots (66 Franko Str.; 49 Kotlyarevskyi Str.; 8 Glibov Str.).

Only a few jardinieres survived since the beginning of the nineteenth century. They are characterized by a common style, i.e., metrically located rings between horizontal bars, in addition, there were stone vases for flowers (20 Horodots'ka Street).

In the second half of the nineteenth century a great variety of styles accordingly created a variety of jardinieres. The wooden balustered stands for flowers are the unique example of jardinieres of that time, they are preserved on the front façade of House No. 28 on Chekhov Street (Fig. 2).

Buildings in the pronounced historical style have jardinieres styled accordingly, for example, the quadrifolium of neogothic House in Herzen Street, 6 or curvilinear concave jardinieres of the neo baroque building in 5 Zelena Street,. Unique iron jardinieres with expressive artistic elements (flowers, stems, emblems) appear in Late Historicism. They can be considered as works of art, such as in 50–52 Chuprynka Str., and 49 Kotlyarevskyi Street, (Dashek's villa). However, most jardinieres of the late 19th – early 20th centuries are formed by a combination of circles, volutes, curls and saw palmetto (14 Str. Shevska, 13 Piskova Str.). Under the influence of decorative secession, jardinieres acquire concentric circles with a displaced center (5 Rapoport Str.) or linear complicated ornaments (8 Franko Str.; 16 Dontsov Str.). Traditionally, niches for God's Mother in Lviv were adorned with flowers, organized as jardinieres and richly decorated with garlands of roses, e.g., 12 Levynskyi Str. House with elements of folk style jardinieres reminding original jewelry from solid metal elements which provide little transparency (3 Karmelyuk Str.). Jardinieres of rational secession, typical of Art Nouveau, stylized elements of the previous styles, i.e., circles or ovals that are written in rosettes (4 Chuprynky Str.), squares or ovals on inscribed diamonds (65 Chuprynka Str.; 11, 49 Pekarska Str.), curls, spirals (49 Pekarska Str.), garlands (2 Levynskyj Str.). Also after 1908 jardinieres often acquire an interesting configuration, enriching a plain balcony or façade, as in 49 Kotlyarevskyj Str., (lost today).

Some attempts to create an illusion of volume on the plane are pretty quaint, such as the illusion of diamond rusty building in 12 Zdorovya Str. Art Deco style, often manifested in Lviv architecture in details, also affected jardinieres with its graphic design angles and kink pound (112 Chuprynka Str.; 38 Tarnavskyi Str.). Sometimes there is inclusion of folk elements (54 Tarnavskyi Str.). Jardinieres of functionalism were the epitome of a rational design of interwoven twigs crossing at right angles, or forming meanders (18 Kharkivska Str.).

The tradition of jardinieres application lasted until the postwar period, when balconies of houses of the Stalin and early Khrushchov period were equipped with these elements. Jardinieres of that time had a succinct, proportionate solution, supported in particular by small arms (57 Chuprynka Str.).

Having survived the war, and the Soviet way of managing, this lace black-smithing was preserved with a few exceptions. But flowers in it are seen more and more rarely. And such a situation recurs. While the authentic jardinieres are almost empty nowadays, balcony walls are hung with a variety of props from "birches" of the 50's to today's common plastic color terracotta pots or similar things. While walls are often painted in pale pink "to harmonize" with the owner's balcony.

Decorated with flowers and greening, façades acquired a rich polychrome solution, unfortunately, lost nowadays.

The greening contrasted with plastered façade shades of natural stone in the style of Historicism. Also, it complemented the red or yellow brick cladding of façades, made in style of "pittoresk", naturally transformed in stucco or majolica floral ornament Secession façades. The planting provided a mitigated and restrained form of heat in the styles of Art Deco and Functionalism, à propos, for half a century ahead of Emilio Ambaza thesis on "green on gray".

Small architectural forms in the historic city are also decorated with the greening. Stone and metal vases decorated buildings' fences; stands in form of a disk surrounded by barrier supported flower pole lamps (such as in middle of the Galician square). Then, lanterns were dismantled "for restoration". It returned to its place without a stand. Lviv residents can observe such lanterns, perhaps, only in Budapest.

Flowers of the Lviv “Dvirets” (the central railway station) used to meet and escort passengers. Daily, a Mr. Michael Ketsur used to come from Horodok to take care of them. High, on the landing-stage steel arches, the built platforms were equipped with vases stands. There were round shelves on sophisticated cast-iron column sheds at each station of the railway from Lviv to Chernivtsi. Most of them survived, but now they are unfortunately without flowers. It is worth mentioning that railways of Austria of that time bloomed all year round – in winter and in summer alike.

The city “vertical gardening” is very important as well, known still from the gardens of Babylon and improved by Patrick Blanc in the twentieth century. Frank Lloyd Wright advised to use it to hide the failures of an architect. In one of student competitions in streamlining of Mickiewicz Square the designers cleverly used climbing plants to save the monument from the aggressive visual impact of the building “Ukrsotsbank”. This practice of integrating a modern building in the historic environment exists in the world, as an example we can cite the expanding of the old hotel in the city of Amiens (France). The modern part of it was adorned with vertical greening [5].



Fig. 1. The greening of the façade as part of the architectural and artistic image of the building:
 a – prediction vases on flowers at the stage of project archival drawings (Lychakivs'ka Str., 15);
 b – braid building facade vines of wild grapes (Str. Kotlyarevskyi, 41) (the author: T. Kazantseva)



Fig. 2. Jardinières of the nineteenth century: a – the half of the XIX c. – stone vases on both sides of windows and a metal jardiniere on the window-sill, Horodotska Str., 20. Photo by T. Kazantseva;
 b – the end of the 19th century. The unique preserved wooden jardiniere, Chekhov Str., 28. Photo by S. Leonov



a



b

Fig. 3. A jardiniere of the early 20th century: a – decorative Art Nouveau, with a stylized floral ornament (Str. Rudanskyi,1);
b – Rational Secession, 22, Kotlyarevskyi Str. Photo by T. Kazantseva



a



b

Fig. 4. Jardiniere of the beginning of the 20th century: a – on the balconies in the courtyard, 16 Tarnavskyj Str. Photo by S. Leonov; b – in the interior space (staircase) of the rental house, 5 Horska Str. Photo by S. Leonov



a



b

Fig. 5. Jardiniere of the end of the 19th – the beginning of the 20th century: a – 41, Kotlarevskyi Str. Photo by T. Kazantseva;
b – 12, Levynskyi Str. Photo by T. Kazantseva.

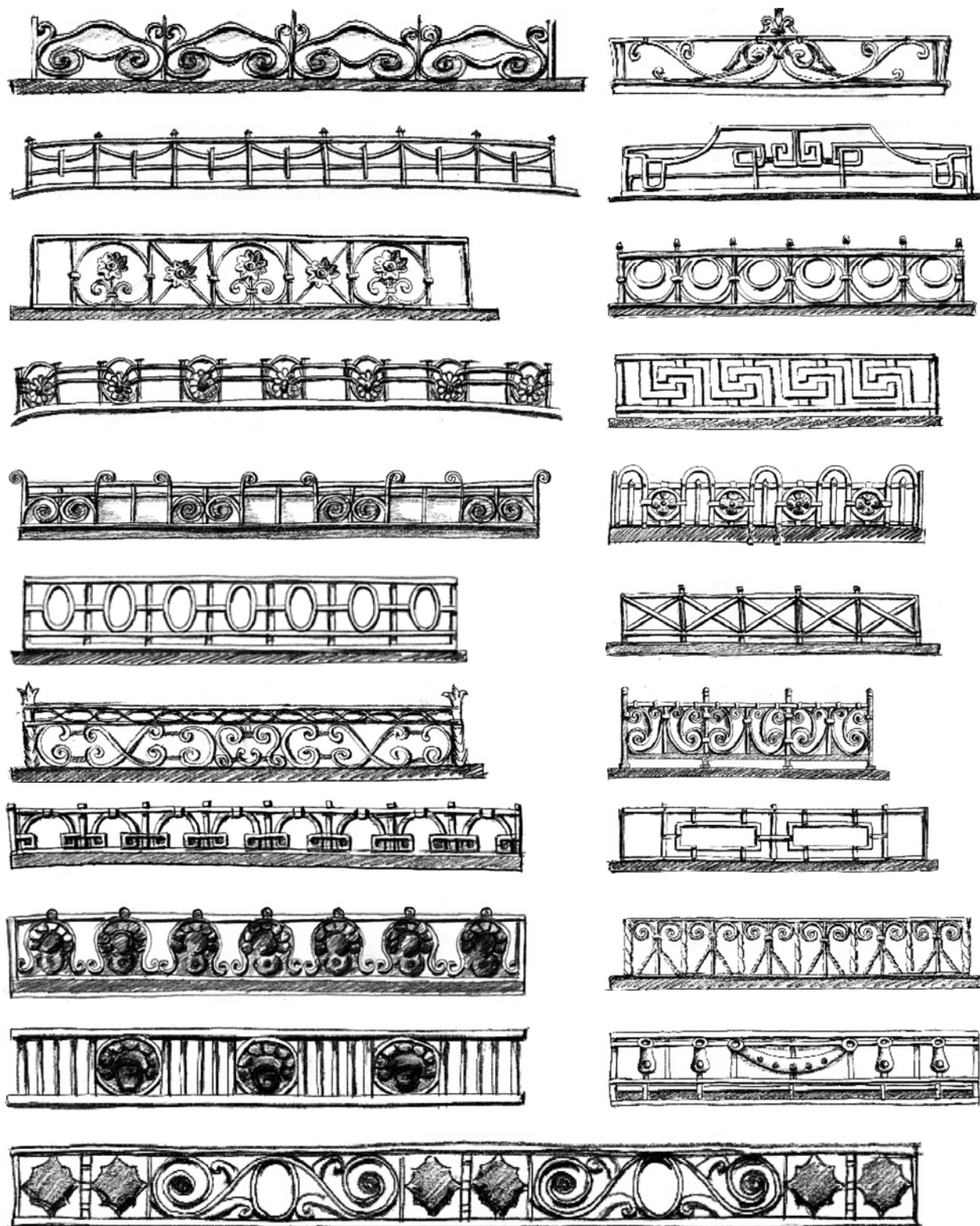


Fig. 6. Full-scale fixed jardinières of Lviv buildings (student works, headed by T. Kazantseva)

There is a preconception that the climbing greening erodes green walls, i.e., the roots decompress cracks and the leaves hold moisture. During the repair-works after removing vines or ivy, we repeatedly saw the plaster of 40–80 years old beneath was intact.

No trace of becoming soaked; conversely, leaves like tiles, guide the rain down, throwing it off the wall. Plant suckers do not put roots into the cracks, but keep to the surface, leaving little trace. In Lviv there used to

be many varieties of climbing plants, also evergreen ones. Wall bushes at the foot of houses were protected by artistically-wrought fences matching the style of the given house. Maybe, the last fence with a hundred-year old vine was destroyed on Shevchenko avenue in the mid 80s of the latter century. Only some side streets preserve such plants fences.

Nowadays, every new repair of the façade brings destruction to plants. Long ago, there was a practice to remove stems before the repair, to roll them into a ball and cover the earth in that place, and after the works, to strengthen it in the erect position.

The greening can be protected by ancient walls. Professor Miroslav Pshylentski, a former citizen of Lviv and a well-known Wrocław restorer, together with botanists developed a method of protecting the ruins with an especially selected greening with shallow roots that choke the seeds of trees and do not allow them to grow and destroy the wall, simultaneously withstanding moisture and the drying-out without requiring any extra maintenance. Protected by this method a wall does not require any correction for over 20 years [6].

How to revive this tradition? We propose to start with the Town Hall. A flowered town hall would proudly meet guests of the city. The residents of Rynok Square should be given some seeds or varieties of seedlings with the payment for them included in the charges for the apartment with the responsibility of taking care of them. It is well-known that in urban gardening proper care requires a large amount of money. Having spent money on seedlings, the city would save some on the care.

Flower shops should be returned to Rynok Square. Flowers in Rynok Square, a trumpeter at the Town Hall are all the old signs of European capitals.

Flowers – fest. Celebration of Our Building. Our Street. Our City.

Conclusions

1. Historical aspects of the buildings' greening of Lviv of the nineteenth century and the third of the twentieth century, despite their conservation and diversity, have remained unnoticed by researchers, with the exception of the restorer and teacher Kostya Prysiazhnyi.

2. The most important element of the buildings' greening in Lviv, in our opinion, is jardinieres which are style metal, (less often wooden or stone) stands for plants. Jardinieres are located on window sills and balconies, in a vase, on a pinnacle or various support configurations around the perimeter of a balcony. Jardinieres of Historicism and Art Nouveau decorative volutes formed combinations, circles, curls adding the unique iron-wrought items. In houses with elements of folk style jardinieres remind of the original decorations, with solid metal elements that provide little transparency. Jardinieres of Rational Secession are often characterised by stylized elements of the previous styles (ovals, circles, garlands). The Art Deco style in jardinieres manifested itself in the graphic ornament of broken lines and semicircles. In Functionalism jardinieres are created by rods that cross at right angles or form meanders.

Jardinieres of Functionalism are formed by rods that intersect at right angles or form meanders. Also, the lights and the floating jetty in the Lviv railway station were decorated with jardinieres, which, unlike jardinieres on the façades, are lost today.

3. Another option of the greening is directing plants vertically in form of a rod that climbs up the façade and is protected by iron artistic fences in the building's style. Now every new repair brings destruction to the climbing plants on façades, which, in addition to protecting the wall from becoming soaked, also enriched the aesthetic image of buildings (polychrome façade and plastic solution).

4. The vertical and chamber greening of modern buildings in the historical city promotes humanization and harmonization of forms of newly built facilities and integrates it into the historical environment.

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**ДО ВАС ІЗ КВІТАМИ. КВІТНУЧІ СТІНИ.
ПАМ'ЯТІ КОСТЯ ПРИСЯЖНОГО**

***Анотація.** Стаття присвячена аспектам історичного озеленення будівель на прикладі Львова. На основі іконографічних та натурних досліджень виділено особливості застосування жардиньєрок (для розміщення вазонів з квітами), трельяжів та огорож для витких рослин. Розкрито напрямки використання озеленення будівель для гуманізації та підвищення атрактивності історичного міста.*

***Ключові слова:** історичне озеленення будівель, Львів, жардиньєрки та трельяжі для витких рослин, озеленення для гуманізації та підвищення атрактивності історичного міста.*