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Typology of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns in Ukraine

Abstract. The study aimed to identify the architectural, planning, functional and urban development criteria for classifying leisure-purpose buildings in small towns in Ukraine, and to justify the directions for their transformation in the context of contemporary public use, reconstruction and adaptation. The research methodology combined normative, functional-planning, typological, urban planning and reconstruction-engineering analysis with integrated modelling. The practical applicability of the proposed typological models was tested using the example of four leisure buildings in small towns in Ukraine: House of Culture in Kaniv, the Stebnyk People's House, the People's House in Bibrka, and the Zhovkva Municipal People's House. The results of the study showed that a house of enlightenment, a people's house, a house of culture, a club building and a cultural centre are not merely historical or institutional names for a single type of building, but reflect different models of public buildings, differing in their primary function, user composition, spatial core, level of multifunctionality, urban planning role and potential for transformation. The study established that the traditional club building in a small town was predominantly centred around a hall-and-stage complex; however, the modern needs of communities are driving a shift towards a multifunctional model, in which lobbies, club and training rooms, circulation spaces, technical areas, barrier-free entrances and adjacent public spaces become key elements. Five typological models of leisure building transformation have been summarised: a single-purpose hall building, a club and group building, a cultural and entertainment building with a developed stage and auditorium block, an adapted mixed-use public building, and a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre. The study established that the greatest potential for adaptation is in facilities where the hall area is combined with flexible spaces for everyday use. The practical significance of the findings lies in their potential application in the assessment, restoration and functional refurbishment of cultural and leisure facilities in small towns across Ukraine

Keywords: public building; public space; building typology; building functionality; cultural centre; community centre; leisure facility

INTRODUCTION

The development of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns across Ukraine is related to a reconsideration of the functional role of clubhouses, cultural centres, community halls and cultural centres within the urban environment. The research relevance is determined by the need to preserve the existing stock of public buildings and adapt it to contemporary scenarios of cultural, educational, communicative, youth and community use. In small towns, such facilities often serve a broader function than specialised leisure venues: they concentrate public ac-

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tivity, support local identity, create meeting spaces and remain integral to everyday urban life. Therefore, their typological analysis requires a historical-functional, architectural-planning, urban planning and reconstructive approach. Contemporary trends in the development of public building architecture demonstrate the growing importance of flexibility, multifunctionality, openness and the adaptability of space. L. Tiutina (2021) argued that 21st-century architecture is developing under the influence of new structural, technological and aesthetic possibilities, which are changing the nature of form-making and the spatial organisation of buildings. The latest architectural trends are linked not only to a visual renewal of form, but also to the search for materials, design methods and means of expressing the architectural environment. The issue of the functional and spatial organisation of public spaces is explored in the study by A. Davydov & S. Dvornikova (2024), in which recreational centres are considered as spatial systems combining various types of activity. The study emphasises the relationship between functional zones, the intensity of their interaction, and the alignment of the space with actual usage patterns. The issue of accessibility and inclusivity in the urban environment is explored in the study by N. Novoselchuk *et al.* (2025), where the universal design of urban spaces in Ukraine is analysed in relation to the needs of different user groups. The study concluded that accessibility is not limited to technical means of accessibility but depends on regulatory, organisational and spatial conditions, and should therefore be considered as a component of the architectural and planning organisation of the urban environment. The ecological and compositional dimensions of the regeneration of public spaces are elaborated upon by D. Chernenko & A. Davydov (2025). The authors found that vertical greening can enhance the quality of open spaces, humanise the built environment and strengthen the ecological component of architectural solutions.

In international academic discourse, attention has been focused on the inclusivity, adaptability and sustainability of the built environment. M. Zallio & P.J. Clarkson (2021) explored these issues in the context of accessibility, diversity, equality and user engagement in architectural design practice. The study establishes that accessibility should be viewed not as an additional technical parameter, but as a fundamental characteristic of the environment, within which a building is assessed not only by the composition of its spaces, but also by the clarity, safety and suitability of the space for various usage scenarios. The adaptability of buildings was examined in the study by E.R. Staehr *et al.* (2025), which explores the multidimensional nature of a building's adaptation to changing conditions of use. The results showed that adaptability was not limited to a one-off redesign but manifested in a building's ability to respond to changes in functional, technical and operational requirements. M.B. Hamida *et al.* (2022) interpreted building adaptability as a parameter of a circular approach, linked to the reuse of elements, the extension of a building's life cycle, and the preservation of its operational value. In the study, adaptability is considered not as a one-off redesign, but as a building's ability to maintain functional suitability under changing conditions. The issues surrounding sustainable design and the renewal of the built environment were explored through the interplay of energy efficiency, resource efficiency, material durability and the functional relevance of buildings. In this context, T. Poorisat *et al.* (2024) systematised the potential of sustainable design solutions and construction practices and demonstrated that the sustainability of the built environment was determined not only by technical characteristics but also by the building's ability to meet the long-term needs of its users. The urban role of sustainable design is elaborated upon in studies of post-industrial transformation. Using Katowice as a case study, K. Zwolińska-Glądys *et al.* (2025) demonstrated that the sustainable operational efficiency of buildings can be a factor in the regeneration of the urban environment, and that public facilities can serve as spatial and functional elements of this process. For small towns in Ukraine, this finding provides grounds for viewing club buildings, cultural centres and community halls not merely as leisure facilities, but as elements of the spatial renewal of the public environment.

Despite the existence of studies devoted to contemporary architectural trends, the functional and spatial organisation of public spaces, universal design, inclusivity, adaptability and sustainable construction, the issue of the typology of leisure facilities within public buildings in small towns in Ukraine remains insufficiently explored from an architectural and planning perspective. Existing approaches tend to focus on the cultural, social or organisational role of such facilities, whilst their spatial core, functional units, urban planning context, potential for renovation and structural and engineering adaptation require systematic consideration. This necessitates a shift from describing club buildings as cultural institutions to analysing them as public architectural objects capable of adapting their functional structure to the needs of small towns.

The study aimed to identify the typological characteristics of leisure facilities within public buildings in small towns in Ukraine, based on an analysis of their regulatory and conceptual status, functional and spatial structure, urban planning role, and potential for renovation and adaptation. To achieve this aim, the following tasks were set: to clarify the regulatory and conceptual status of leisure facilities within the system of public buildings in small towns in Ukraine; to establish the characteristics of their functional and planning structure; to identify typological models for the transformation of club buildings, cultural centres, community centres and cultural hubs, based on their urban planning role within the system of public spaces in small towns; and to justify the reconstruction, engineering and adaptation approaches to the development of such facilities as the basis for forming an integrated typological model of a public building in a small town.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted using a combination of regulatory-interpretative, functional-planning, typological, urban planning, reconstruction-engineering and integrated-modelling approaches. The source base comprised regulatory and legal, regulatory and construction, classification, international and analytical materials governing the functioning, spatial organisation, accessibility, reconstruction and contextual development of public and cultural and leisure buildings in small towns in Ukraine. This methodological framework made it possible to consider a leisure facility not merely as a separate functional entity, but as an element of public infrastructure linked to the historically formed environment, pedestrian connections, open urban spaces and contemporary usage scenarios.

At the initial stage, the theoretical and conceptual framework of the study was established, and the scope of the analysis of leisure facilities within the system of public buildings in small towns was defined. Law of Ukraine No. 2778-VI (2010) and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 984 (2012) made it possible to determine the institutional role of cultural establishments within the system of cultural services for the population, whilst NK 018:2023 was used to correlate such facilities with the classification categories of public buildings (Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, 2023). On this basis, the study distinguished between historical and contemporary names for leisure facilities – the house of enlightenment, the people's house, the house of culture, the club building, the cultural centre and the multifunctional cultural and leisure centre. This approach ensured terminological consistency for the subsequent functional, planning and typological analysis.

The functional, spatial and typological analysis was aimed at identifying the internal layout of club buildings, cultural centres, community centres and cultural facilities. The provisions of DBN V.2.2-9:2018 were applied to account for the general requirements for public buildings and structures (Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, 2018a), their spatial organisation, composition of premises and functional connections, whilst DBN V.2.2-16:2019 was used to analyse cultural, entertainment and leisure facilities, specifically auditoriums, stage areas, spectator areas, foyers, and auxiliary and technical spaces (Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, 2019). Within this section, the entrance area, foyer, auditorium, stage, club and teaching rooms, administrative block, technical and sanitary-domestic zones, as well as horizontal and vertical services were analysed. These parameters were used to determine the building's primary function, its planning core, the composition of main and ancillary spaces, the level of multifunctionality, and its capacity to support event, educational, club, exhibition, youth and community usage scenarios. The urban planning analysis determined the role of leisure buildings within the spatial structure of a small town. Law of Ukraine No. 2780-XII (1992) and Law of Ukraine No. 3038-VI (2011) were used to address general principles of planning, development and territorial development, whilst Order of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine No. 163 (2014) was used to specify design requirements for the reconstruction and functional adaptation of public buildings. The UNESCO (2011) recommendation on the historic urban landscape was drawn upon to interpret club buildings, cultural centres, community centres and cultural hubs as elements of the historically formed urban environment, local memory and community interaction in small towns. Within this section, the analysis covered the building's location in relation to central streets, squares, parks, pedestrian routes, neighbouring public facilities and the open space in front of the entrance.

The structural and engineering section of the methodology aimed to identify the spatial, technical and material requirements for adapting club buildings to modern standards. DBN V.2.2-40:2018 (Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, 2018b) and ISO 21542:2021 (2021) were used to assess accessibility, barrier-free circulation, entrance areas and sanitary facilities. ISO 20887:2020 (2020) was applied to analyse adaptability, planning flexibility and the potential for transforming spaces, whilst ISO 15392:2019 (2019) was used to account for the principles of sustainability, energy efficiency and the durability of material solutions. Based on this, renovation constraints were identified, in particular those related to the condition of load-bearing structures and service networks, accessibility, energy efficiency, sanitary and domestic facilities, and the possibility of changing functional scenarios without losing the building's cultural and spatial identity. To test the applicability of the typological models developed, open data on actual leisure facilities in small towns across Ukraine were utilised: The House of Culture in Kaniv, Cherkasy region; the Stebnyk People's House in Stebnyk, Lviv region; the People's House in Bibrka, Lviv region; and the Zhovkva City People's House in Zhovkva, Lviv region. Each facility was examined using a single analytical framework, which included institutional status, address or urban planning location, functional use, connection to public space, spatial planning structure, reconstruction constraints, and classification under the relevant typological model (Map of Modernism, 2023; Drohobych City Council, n.d.; Bibrka City Council, 2018). This approach was used to compare results and transition from description of individual buildings to the generalisation of recurring spatial and functional features. The systematisation of the obtained materials was conducted using an analytical matrix created in Microsoft Excel 365. The matrix compared the results of regulatory, functional-planning, urban planning and reconstruction-engineering analyses according to interrelated parameters: the primary function of the site, current usage, layout, spatial core, level of multifunctionality, nature of connection with the urban environment, accessibility, engineering constraints, material durability, reconstruction potential and adaptability. Based

on this, an integrated model of the typology of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns of Ukraine has been developed, combining functional, planning, urban planning, reconstruction-engineering and adaptation-typological components.

RESULTS

Comparative analysis of historical and contemporary types of leisure facilities

Comparative analysis of the definitions and concepts underlying historical and contemporary types of leisure facilities has shown that the terms "house of enlightenment", "people's house", "house of culture", "club building" and "cultural centre" denote different models of public buildings, shaped by the historical period, primary function, user composition and spatial organisation. For small towns in Ukraine, this distinction is significant, as a single leisure facility often combines cultural, educational, communicative, entertainment and community functions. The House of Enlightenment and the People's House historically developed as educational and community facilities with a relatively compact layout, in which the central space was occupied by an assembly hall or a multipurpose room, complemented by a reading room, a library section, rooms for club activities and ancillary spaces. The House of Culture, in contrast to these types, developed as a centralised cultural and entertainment model with a distinct hall-and-stage core, a foyer, backstage, auxiliary, technical and club rooms. In its contemporary architectural interpretation, the club building occupies an intermediate position between the traditional cultural centre and the multifunctional cultural centre, as it can retain the auditorium-and-stage core, but at the same time requires flexible ancillary spaces, an accessible entrance area, convenient access routes and the ability to adapt the premises to various usage scenarios. A modern cultural centre is characterised by its extensive multifunctionality, within which the foyer, auditorium, club rooms and surrounding area function as interconnected elements of cultural, educational, exhibition, youth, service and community activities.

A comparison of regulatory and conceptual frameworks demonstrated that the historically established names of leisure facilities do not correspond directly to modern regulatory categories. Within the legal framework, such facilities are associated with public and cultural buildings that operate within the structure of settlements and provide cultural services to local communities. The organisational dimension is specified by provisions on the basic network of cultural institutions, within which leisure facilities in small towns are regarded as elements of the local cultural infrastructure. At the level of building typology, historical names correspond not to individual regulatory types, but to groups of public, cultural-entertainment and leisure buildings. The defining features of such a correspondence are the composition of the premises, spatial relationships, functional blocks, the nature of use and the role of the facility within the public service system. The classification level confirms the validity of interpreting traditional names as historically established variants of public buildings for cultural and leisure purposes, integrated into the modern building classification system. To compare the historically established names of leisure facilities with their current functional, spatial and regulatory meanings, the summarised results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. A comparative analysis of the historical and contemporary types of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns in Ukraine

Historical or modern name of the site	Primary function	User characteristics	Base spatial elements	Modern normative compliance	Transformation vector
House of Enlightenment	Educational, cultural and educational, assembly	Local community, the intellectual community, and participants in cultural and educational initiatives	Meeting room, reading room, library or club room, ancillary rooms	Public building used for cultural and educational purposes; a facility comparable to cultural and leisure venues	Adaptation for a small-scale cultural and educational space or a space for community initiatives
Community Centre	Community, cultural, educational, and events-related	Residents, community organisations, amateur groups	Multipurpose hall, meeting rooms, club rooms, reading room, foyer or entrance area	Public building for cultural and leisure purposes, comparable to facilities within the basic cultural network	Reimagining as a community and cultural hub in a small town
House of Culture	Cultural and entertainment, mass leisure, club activities	City residents, creative groups, spectators, participants in public events	Auditorium, stage, foyer, backstage and technical areas, club rooms, administrative block	Cultural, entertainment and leisure facility within a complex of public buildings	Modernisation of the auditorium and stage area, foyer, technical systems and usage scenarios
Clubhouse	Leisure, communication, club, event	Local community, young people, creative groups, and participants in amateur activities	Hall, foyer, club rooms, administrative and ancillary rooms, utilities	Leisure facility or club within the system of public and cultural and entertainment buildings	Flexible zoning incorporating spaces for young people, education, exhibitions and community activities

Table 1. Continued

Historical or modern name of the site	Primary function	User characteristics	Base spatial elements	Modern normative compliance	Transformation vector
Modern cultural centre	Multi-purpose cultural, educational, exhibition, youth, service and community centre	Children, young people, adults, older people, community initiatives, creative communities	Multi-purpose or convertible hall, an exhibition and social foyer, educational and creative spaces, service areas, and an open public space	Multi-purpose community building for cultural and leisure activities	Integration of multiple functional scenarios within a single public facility

Source: compiled based on Law of Ukraine No. 2780-XII (1992), Law of Ukraine No. 2778-VI (2010), Law of Ukraine No. 3038-VI (2011), Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 984 (2012), Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (2018a; 2019; 2023)

The analysis presented in Table 1 showed that the typology of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns was not determined solely by the historical or institutional name of the building. A single name could encompass different planning contexts, whilst different historical types converged in terms of contemporary usage patterns. The main criteria for differentiation were the primary function, user composition, spatial core, set of premises, regulatory compliance and direction of future transformation. The House of Enlightenment and the People's House were centred on gatherings, education, reading and community interaction; consequently, their structure retained greater flexibility and was not always subordinate to a stage function. In contrast, the House of Culture had a hall-and-stage core geared towards mass events, which limited its everyday multifunctional use. The club building and cultural centre reflected a transition to a mixed model, where not only the hall and stage but also the foyer, club rooms, open spaces, accessibility and the possibility of changing the functional scenario took on typological significance. In small towns, this transformation was driven by the limited number of public buildings and the concentration of several functions within a single facility. Consequently, a modern cultural centre or a renovated club building was viewed as a multifunctional public facility that supported daily cultural, educational, communicative and community activities, rather than merely hosting occasional mass events.

Thus, a comparative analysis of regulations and concepts has shown that the transformation of leisure facilities in small towns across Ukraine was not merely a matter of changing names or administrative status. It was related to the reformation of the building's spatial core: from an assembly hall, an educational space or a cultural hall to a public structure that combined hall, club, educational, communicative, exhibition, service and open urban functions. This transformed a small-town leisure facility from a cultural institution into an architectural and planning system.

The functional and spatial layout of the club building as the basis for a typological analysis

A functional and spatial analysis of a club building in a small town has shown that its architectural structure is formed by a system of interconnected spatial blocks. In the traditional model, the main element was the auditorium, combined with a stage, foyer, and ancillary and technical rooms. In modern conditions, the typological differences between such facilities are determined not only by the presence of an auditorium or stage, but also by the nature of the interaction between the entrance area, foyer, club rooms, administrative block, service corridors, technical areas and the surrounding grounds. The auditorium retains its function as the spatial core, as it facilitates concerts, meetings, performances, ceremonies, public hearings, film screenings and other event formats. Its functional suitability depends on its ability to accommodate various usage scenarios. A layout based solely on the frontal "audience-stage" model limits the space's suitability for intimate, educational, exhibition or youth activities. In contrast, transformation, flexible furniture arrangement, zoning and technical retrofitting expand the hall's function into a versatile space for entertainment, communication, education and public use.

In the modern layout of a club building, the foyer serves more than just a distributional function. Whereas in the traditional model it provided access to the hall and a link to the cloakroom, sanitary facilities and service areas, in the transformed model it takes on the significance of an independent public space for exhibitions, informal gatherings, presentations, workshops and small events. This shift in the foyer's role marks a transition from a building dominated by auditorium use to a multifunctional cultural and leisure facility. Club, educational and creative spaces form the second level of the spatial organisation. In small towns, these ensure the building's daily use, whereas a large hall may be used only occasionally. The club block can accommodate musical, choreographic, theatrical, artistic, craft, educational, youth and community activities, reducing the facility's dependence on the calendar of mass events. Therefore, a building with a well-developed club block has greater adaptability than a facility in which most of the space is devoted to a single large hall.

Entrance area and circulation routes determine the building's accessibility and the logic of spatial orientation. For small towns, this is necessary due to a diverse user base: children, young people, adults, older people, members of creative groups, visitors to public events and representatives of community initiatives. Barriers at the entrance and poor connections to the pavement, square or public

transport stop reduce public accessibility. Horizontal and vertical circulation routes influence the ability to operate the main hall, club rooms, administrative block, sanitary and utility facilities, and technical rooms simultaneously. Administrative, technical, and sanitary and utility facilities do not constitute the main public space, but they determine the building's operational suitability. A lack of technical facilities, outdated engineering systems, the inconvenient location of sanitary areas, or poor connections between ancillary and main spaces limit the potential for transformation. In a modern cultural and leisure centre, these elements facilitate the organisation of mass, intimate, educational, exhibition, rehearsal and community-organisational modes of use. The adjacent public space should be regarded as an external extension of the building's spatial structure. In small towns, a club or community centre is often situated near the central square, the main street, a public garden, a park, or an administrative or educational hub. Consequently, the space in front of the building can be used for seasonal events, fairs, open-air concerts, community gatherings, exhibition installations, or simply as a place for residents to socialise. Thus, the functional and spatial structure of a leisure facility encompasses not only the internal organisation of the premises but also the system of external connections with the urban environment. The interrelationship between the main rooms of a small-town club building and its functional and spatial core is summarised in Figure 1.

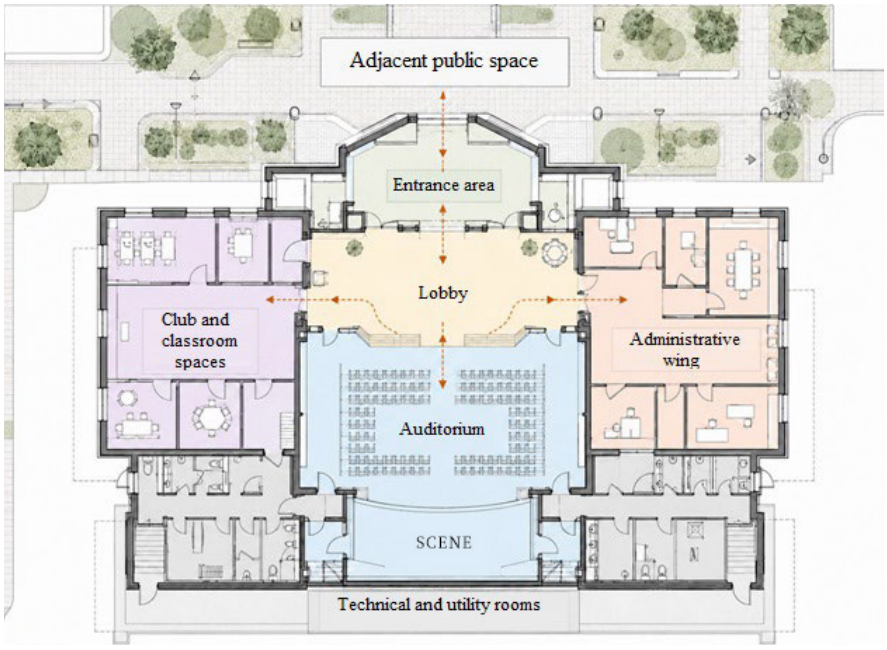

Figure 1. A generalised functional and layout plan for a club building in a small town
Note: diagram illustrates the interrelationship between the adjacent public space, the entrance area, the foyer, the main hall, the stage, the club and classroom areas, the administrative block, and the technical and sanitary facilities within the layout of a leisure centre in a small town
Source: compiled based on Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (2018a; 2018b; 2019; 2023)

Figure 1 shows that the functional and spatial structure of a small-town club building is multi-layered. Its core remains the auditorium and stage area; however, the building's contemporary suitability is determined by the interaction between the auditorium, foyer, club rooms, administrative block, technical areas and the adjacent public space. The systematic nature of these connections distinguishes a functionally developed leisure facility from a building that retains only a formal cultural and entertainment purpose. The most stable components of the club building are the auditorium, stage, entrance area and main service routes. They form the basic layout structure and determine the primary type of the facility. The most transformable components are the foyer, club rooms, ancillary rooms and the surrounding space. These zones provide the ability to adapt the building to new usage scenarios without completely altering its structural framework. Therefore, in typological analysis, it is necessary to distinguish between buildings not only by name or period of construction, but also by the nature of the interaction between stable and transformable functional blocks. The analysis has shown that the traditional hall model remains suitable for small towns provided its spatial resources are utilised in regular scenarios. In the absence of flexible spaces, the building functions primarily as a venue for occasional large-scale events. A well-developed system of ancillary and open spaces transforms it into a space for ongoing public use, in which the leisure facility fulfils not only an event-based role but also a daily communicative and educational function.

Thus, the functional and spatial layout of a club building forms the basis for its typological classification. The composition of its spatial components, the nature of their interconnections, and their adaptability determine whether the building remains a single-purpose hall or evolves into a multi-purpose cultural and leisure centre. For small towns in Ukraine, this approach makes it possible to assess leisure facilities not by their formal name, but by the building's capacity to support various modes of public use.

Typological models for the conversion of leisure facilities into public buildings in small towns

Typological analysis of functional and planning characteristics has shown that the transformation of leisure facilities into public buildings in small towns in Ukraine is related to changes in spatial structure, the expansion of usage scenarios, and the redistribution of the roles of the hall, club, communicative, administrative, technical, and open public components. For a significant proportion of these facilities, the original form remains that of a hall-based club building; however, the contemporary functioning of such buildings is determined not only by the presence of a hall or stage, but by the ability to support event, educational, exhibition, youth, communicative and service formats. In small towns, this is due to the concentration of several public functions within a single facility, which requires a shift from a single-purpose layout to a more flexible spatial and functional organisation. The study identifies five typological models: a single-purpose hall building, a club and group building, a cultural and entertainment building with a well-developed stage and auditorium area, an adapted mixed-use public building, and a multi-functional cultural and leisure centre.

The single-purpose hall building serves as the basic model for a leisure facility in a small town, in which the majority of the spatial layout is organised around an assembly hall, auditorium, stage or performance area. This type of building facilitates meetings, concerts, ceremonies and other large-scale events, but has limited potential for day-to-day use. Its potential for renovation is determined by reforming the foyer, ancillary rooms and technical areas, and by the possibility of adding small spaces to the building for club, educational or community activities.

The club and activity centre building reflects the shift towards the regular use of a leisure facility by various user groups. In this model, the main hall is combined with club, educational, creative or administrative spaces, ensuring organisation of classes, meetings, rehearsals, small events and educational activities without altering the basic layout. The cultural and entertainment building, with its well-developed stage and auditorium complex, retains its event-oriented focus. Its transformation involves the modernisation of the auditorium, stage, backstage areas, acoustics, lighting, ventilation, evacuation routes, engineering systems and barrier-free access, as well as the addition of spaces for regular cultural and community activities. An adapted mixed-use public building is characterised by the reuse of existing public infrastructure. Its layout does not necessarily have a classic auditorium-stage core, but can accommodate intimate, educational, exhibition, consultation, youth and community formats, provided it meets acoustic, technical, evacuation and accessibility requirements. A multifunctional cultural and leisure centre combines auditorium, educational, exhibition, youth, communication, administrative, service and open public components within a single spatial and functional system. In this model, individual zones can be used in parallel or sequentially depending on the event, educational, community or service scenario. Typological models identified differ in terms of their primary function, spatial core, composition of rooms, degree of multifunctionality, potential for renovation, and suitability for use in small towns. A summary is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Typological models of the transformation of leisure facilities in small towns in Ukraine

Characteristic	Single-purpose hall building	Club and society building	Cultural and entertainment venue with a well-equipped stage and auditorium	Adapted mixed-use public building	Multifunctional cultural and leisure centre
Primary function	Meetings, concerts, celebrations, public events	Cultural, leisure, club, educational and creative activities	Theatre, concert, entertainment and cultural events	Combination of cultural, educational, administrative, youth-related or community functions	Wide range of cultural, educational, exhibition, youth, communication and support activities
Planning core	Auditorium or performance hall	Hall with a club area	Auditorium and stage area	System of multi-purpose spaces without a dominant stage	Integrated social and communicative core
Main rooms	Auditorium, stage or performance area, foyer, ancillary and technical rooms	Hall, foyer, club rooms, teaching or creative spaces, administrative block	Auditorium, stage, backstage, foyer, technical, sanitary and administrative facilities	Multi-purpose rooms, meeting areas, learning spaces, a small hall, and service and administrative facilities	Multi-purpose hall, an exhibition and social foyer, creative and learning spaces, youth rooms, service areas, and an open public space

Table 2. Continued

Characteristic	Single-purpose hall building	Club and society building	Cultural and entertainment venue with a well-equipped stage and auditorium	Adapted mixed-use public building	Multifunctional cultural and leisure centre
Level of versatility	Limited by the fact that most functions are concentrated in a single hall	Determined by number, size and flexibility of small rooms	Designed for event-driven use, with the option to add regular functions	Depends on zoning and compatibility of various functions within existing structure	Ensures the building can be used in a variety of time and operational modes
Reconstructive potential	Reformation of foyer, ancillary and technical areas	Adaptation of space for educational, youth and creative activities	Modernisation of auditorium, stage, sound system, lighting, technical services and accessibility.	Redevelopment covering structural layout, technical condition and safety requirements	Flexible zoning, phased refurbishment and expansion of functions
Typical restrictions	Irregular use, dependence on event-driven operation, limited spatial flexibility	Limited space for ancillary rooms, outdated utilities, and a lack of flexibility in small rooms	Cost of technical upgrades, the complexity of redesigning the hall core	Incompatibility of the primary structure with cultural and leisure scenarios, acoustic and evacuation constraints	Need for integrated management, engineering upgrades and a coordinated spatial plan
Benefits for small towns	Beneficial provided it is supplemented with everyday functions	Suitable for regular use with different community groups	Suitable as a municipal cultural and events centre	Suitable for towns and cities with a shortage of specialist public buildings	Suitable as a model for building a community hub in a small town

Source: compiled based on Law of Ukraine No. 2778-VI (2010), Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 984 (2012), Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (2018a; 2018b; 2019; 2023), ISO 15392:2019 (2019), ISO 20887:2020 (2020)

The data in Table 2 show that the typological differences between leisure facilities in small towns are determined by the ratio of the main hall area to ancillary spaces, the level of multifunctionality, and suitability for renovation. A single-purpose hall building is primarily geared towards event use, whereas club-and-circle, adapted mixed-use and multi-functional models facilitate regular cultural, educational and community activities. For small towns in Ukraine, a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre can be considered a model in which hall, communication, educational, exhibition, youth and service spaces are combined within a single public facility. The applicability of the established typological models has been refined based on an examination of leisure facilities in small towns in Ukraine, for which institutional status, address, functional use or reconstruction context are recorded in open sources. Four examples were used for the analysis: the House of Culture in Kaniv, Cherkasy region; the Stebnyk People's House in Stebnyk, Lviv region; the People's House in Bibrka, Lviv region; and the Zhovkva City People's House in Zhovkva, Lviv region.

The House of Culture in Kaniv, Cherkasy region, represents a transition from a traditional cultural and entertainment venue to a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre (Fig. 2). According to materials from the Cherkasy Regional State Administration, the Kaniv House of Culture was intended to host clubs of various kinds, exhibition halls and spaces for literary evenings, whilst the building was to serve as a Shevchenko Cultural Centre for the cultural, educational and artistic needs of the community. The spatial and functional structure of such a facility encompasses event, club, exhibition, educational and youth components. Its urban planning role is related to the formation of a public hub within the city, whilst the reconstruction context relates to the completion of works, technical commissioning and the adaptation of the large hall structure to everyday usage scenarios. According to the proposed typology, this facility belongs to the category of a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre with a cultural and entertainment core. The Stebnyk People's House in the town of Stebnyk, Lviv region, listed within the structure of cultural institutions under the Drohobych City Council as a separate cultural facility, corresponds to the club-and-circle model of a leisure centre. Official records confirm the presence of amateur associations, interest groups and a municipal choir, as well as the use of the space for exhibitions and youth events. This indicates a combination of a hall or auditorium with rooms for regular creative, educational, club and community activities. Its location on T. Shevchenko Square defines its role as a local community hub for a small town. Adaptation constraints for this type of building relate to engineering upgrades, accessibility, the flexibility of small spaces, and the possibility of concurrent use by different user groups. According to the established typology, the Stebnyk People's House belongs to the club-and-circle model with the potential to expand into a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre (Fig. 3).

Figure 2. The House of Culture in Kaniv, Cherkasy Region
Note: a) – exterior; b) – interior
Source: Map of Modernism (2023)

Figure 3. Stebnyk Community Centre, Stebnyk, Lviv Region
Note: a) – exterior; b) – interior
Source: Drohobych City Council (n.d.)

The People's House in the town of Bibrka, Lviv region, reflects the transformation of a historically established public and cultural institution (Fig. 4). Documents from the Bibrka Town Council record the establishment of the Bibrka Town Community Centre, and in the community's reference materials it is listed among educational and cultural institutions alongside the music school, the children's and youth creativity centre, and the library. The use of the building for exhibitions and public events indicates its educational and community-oriented function. The spatial and functional structure of the building comprises an assembly or multipurpose hall, rooms for cultural and educational activities, and ancillary spaces. From an urban planning perspective, the People's House functions as a component of the local cultural and educational environment of a small town. Adaptation constraints are linked to enhancing the functional flexibility, accessibility and technical suitability of the premises for various formats of use. According to the proposed typology, the People's House in Bibrka belongs to the category of club and community centre buildings with the characteristics of a public and cultural centre of local significance.

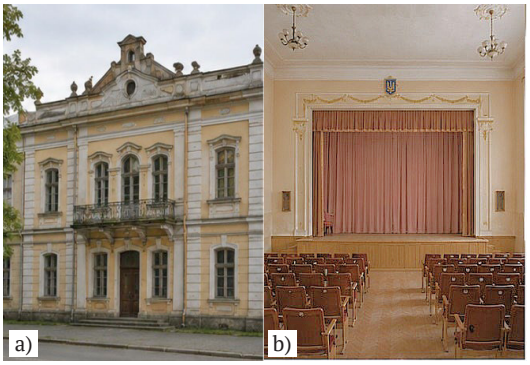

Figure 4. Community Centre, Bibrka, Lviv region
Note: a) – exterior; b) – interior
Source: Bibrka City Council (2018)

The Zhovkva City People's House in Zhovkva, Lviv region, demonstrates the use of a people's house as a municipal community hub (Fig. 5). Official documents from the Zhovkva City Council record the use of the facility as a reception centre for internally displaced persons during a crisis, which attests to the expansion of its function beyond its cultural and leisure purpose. In the planning documents of the culture department, the Zhovkva City People's House is also presented as a separate institution. Spatially, the building combines assembly, communication and auxiliary areas, which can be used for events, organisational and social activities. Its location in the centre of a small historic town emphasises the importance of the entrance area, the façade, accessibility and connections to pedestrian routes. According to the typological model, this building falls under the category of an adapted mixed-use public building, as its current use encompasses cultural, communicative and socio-public functions. The spatial-functional comparison of actual leisure facilities is supplemented by a visual analysis of their external appearance, entrance area and interaction with the surrounding public environment. This analysis correlated the typological model not only with the functional composition of the building, but also with its urban planning role, the nature of access, the organisation of the façade plane and its connection to the central public spaces of a small town.

Figure 5. Zhovkva Town Community Centre, Zhovkva, Lviv Region
Note: a) – exterior; b) – interior
Source: Bibrka City Council (2018)

The examples examined demonstrate a combination of features from several typological models within a single building. The Kaniv House of Culture is structured as a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre with a cultural and entertainment core; The Stebnyk People's House and the People's House in Bibrka correspond to the club-and-circle model with local community functions; the Zhovkva City People's House represents an adapted mixed-use community building. A comparison of these buildings shows that their potential for reconstruction and functionality is determined by the ratio of the main hall to smaller rooms, the foyer, the entrance area, the technical condition, the level of engineering upgrades, and the connection to the city's central public spaces. Consequently, it is advisable to classify leisure buildings in small towns according to their spatial and functional structure, urban planning role, level of multifunctionality, and ability to support various scenarios of public use. The formal name of a building does not reflect the full range of its functions, as cultural centres and community halls can combine event, educational, exhibition, youth, communicative and social scenarios. For small towns in Ukraine, this typology makes it possible to determine the direction of public building renovation, addressing existing spatial structure, local community needs and the potential for creating a sustainable community hub.

The urban planning role of leisure facilities in the structure of small towns

An urban planning analysis of leisure facilities in small towns in Ukraine has shown that a clubhouse, a cultural centre, a community centre or a cultural centre cannot be viewed merely as individual public buildings with an internal layout of rooms. Their role is determined by their position within the urban fabric, their connection to pedestrian routes, the central square, open public spaces, educational, administrative and service facilities, as well as their ability to form a local hub of urban activity. In small towns, this role is amplified by the limited number of public buildings and the concentration of several functions within a single cultural and leisure facility. In the spatial structure of a small town, a leisure facility is usually situated near the centre, the main street, a square, a park, a public garden or a cluster of administrative and public buildings. This location is linked to the need for accessibility, visibility and the inclusion of the facility in residents' daily routes. When situated near a square or main street, the building supports not only event-based activity but also the everyday use of the surrounding space. In this case, its architectural role extends beyond its internal function: the facility serves as a landmark, a meeting place, an element of urban memory and a spatial hub for social interaction.

For small towns, a model in which a leisure facility is integrated into a system of open public spaces is functionally sound. The area in front of the building, a square, a pedestrian zone, a courtyard or the area near the entrance can serve as an external extension of the cultural centre. They are used for seasonal concerts, fairs, exhibitions, public gatherings, children's and youth events, temporary installations or informal socialising. In such circumstances, the foyer, entrance area and surrounding space form a transitional zone between the street and the interior. The urban planning role of a cultural centre also depends on its connection to other public facilities. In small towns, a community centre or cultural centre is often located next to the town hall, library, school, art school, park, memorial site, public transport stops or retail and amenities. Such proximity creates the conditions for a community cluster. With convenient pedestrian links, barrier-free routes and clear spatial orientation, the leisure facility does not operate in isolation but as part of the city's service system. The reconstruction status of such facilities in small towns is varied. Some club buildings were established in a historically valuable environment, some within the system of Soviet mass cultural construction, and some in converted public or administrative buildings. Their renovation must therefore incorporate not only functional requirements, but also the context of the surrounding development, the scale of the street, the skyline of the city centre, the character of the façades, the proportions of open space, and local historical memory. In this regard, the UNESCO (2011) guidelines on the historic urban landscape highlight club buildings, community centres and cultural centres as components of a historically formed urban environment, rather than merely as functional facilities. The regulatory and urban planning framework provides grounds for assessing leisure buildings as elements of the settlement's planning organisation. NK 018:2023 can classify such facilities under categories of public buildings; however, this is insufficient for a typological analysis. The key parameters of urban integration are façade activity, accessibility of the entrance, connection to a square or main street, the potential for using the surrounding area, pedestrian accessibility, and the capacity to accommodate various scenarios of public activity. To summarise the spatial connections between a leisure facility and elements of the urban environment in a small town, a diagram of its urban integration has been drawn up, as shown in Figure 6. Figure 6 summarises the spatial connections through which the leisure facility is integrated into the system of open public spaces and everyday routes in a small town. Its urban integration is determined not only by its location in the central part of the town, but also by the quality of pedestrian access routes, the openness of the entrance area, and its connection to the square, the park, the main street and neighbouring public facilities. The transitional zone between the entrance and the space in front of the building determines the level of interaction between the leisure facility and the urban environment. A barrier-like or spatially disorganised entrance weakens this connection, whereas an active entrance area encourages brief stays, meetings, waiting and the hosting of small events. The urban significance of a leisure venue also depends on its ability to support activity at different times of day. A traditional club building, geared primarily towards

evening or festive events, has a limited impact on everyday urban life. In contrast, a cultural centre with diverse usage scenarios creates a more even distribution of activity across public space, attracts a variety of user groups and sustains activity in the centre of a small town beyond major events. Thus, the urban planning role of leisure facilities in small towns is determined by the creation of local community hubs linked to pedestrian routes, open spaces, neighbouring amenities and historically developed built environments. The typological value of a club building or cultural centre increases when the facility not only fulfils a cultural and leisure function, but also supports daily community activity, spatial orientation and the connectivity of the urban environment.

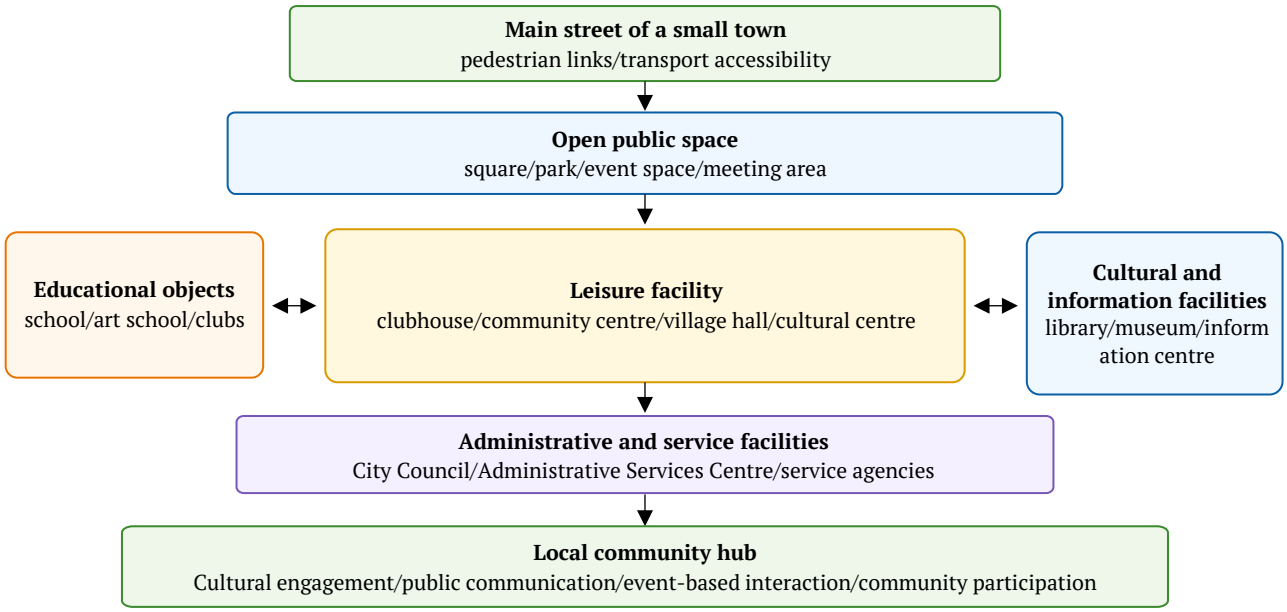

Figure 6. Architectural and urban planning scheme for integrating a leisure facility into the environment of a small town
Source: compiled based on Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 984 (2012), Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (2023), Map of Modernism (2023)

Structural, engineering and material aspects of adapting club buildings

An analysis of the structural, engineering and material parameters of club buildings in small towns in Ukraine has shown that their adaptation is not limited to façade refurbishment or localised repairs to individual rooms. The typological significance of reconstruction lies in harmonising the spatial structure, engineering systems, accessibility, acoustic and lighting comfort, energy efficiency and material durability. If the barrier-like entrance area, inflexible hall layout, outdated services, poor acoustics and low energy efficiency are retained, the building's suitability for public use remains limited, even if it has a large hall or a favourable urban location. The main constraint on the renovation of club buildings stems from the disconnect between contemporary usage scenarios and the outdated spatial and technical layout. A layout focused primarily on the hall and stage does not always support the simultaneous work of several groups, intimate formats, educational sessions or public meetings. Therefore, the renovation involves combining technical upgrades with increased spatial flexibility.

The entrance area is the first zone that determines the actual accessibility of a building. Typical barriers include high steps, narrow doorways, awkward vestibules, a lack of ramps or lifting devices, and poor wayfinding. Addressing these issues involves creating a level or barrier-free entrance, expanding the entrance area, incorporating tactile elements, providing clear visual wayfinding, and ensuring a safe connection to the external space. The main hall retains its role as the primary spatial resource of the club building, yet it is often the area that exhibits the greatest resistance to change. Rigid seating arrangements, poor acoustics, outdated stage equipment, inadequate lighting and limited flexibility reduce the number of possible uses. In a modern model, the hall must support concert, theatre, lecture, exhibition, forum and community formats. Appropriate solutions involve flexible zoning, upgrading lighting equipment, improving acoustics, modernising the stage, and enabling rapid reconfiguration of the space. The refurbishment of the foyer aims to enhance its spatial flexibility and operational quality. To this end, adequate lighting, transparency in the entrance area, wear-resistant materials, and the ability to accommodate temporary exhibitions, information displays and movable furniture are essential. Under these conditions, the foyer supports not only through traffic but also short stays and small-scale events. Club rooms, classrooms and ancillary spaces require refurbishment, incorporating lighting, ventilation, acoustic insulation, thermal conditions and the ability to quickly reconfigure the layout. Lightweight partitions, movable fur-

niture, wear-resistant flooring, localised lighting and updated utility connections enhance the adaptability of these areas without the need for a radical overhaul of the building. Utility networks are a factor that determines the limits of functional adaptation. Outdated heating, power supply, ventilation, water supply, lighting and fire protection systems complicate the use of the building in different modes. A cultural and leisure centre should be able not only to host a large event in the main hall, but also to ensure simultaneous operation of several smaller spaces. This requires the improvement of electrical networks, energy-efficient lighting, ventilation for spaces with varying levels of use, safe evacuation routes and a stable thermal environment.

The material choices for the renovation of club buildings are driven by durability, operational reliability and harmony with the urban context. For facades, key considerations include insulation, reducing heat loss, protecting the building envelope, and replacing windows and doors without compromising the building's architectural integrity. For interior spaces, wear-resistant floor coverings, acoustic panels, materials to improve the lighting environment, durable wall finishes, movable partitions, and furniture suitable for intensive use are significant. In small towns, material refurbishment should maintain the cohesive image of a public building and avoid creating a fragmented effect of modernisation. The functional transformation of club buildings requires the coordination of spatial, engineering and material solutions, as their interaction determines the possibility of the building's continued use as a modern leisure facility. The main directions for the adaptation of such facilities are systematised in the form of a diagram in Figure 7.

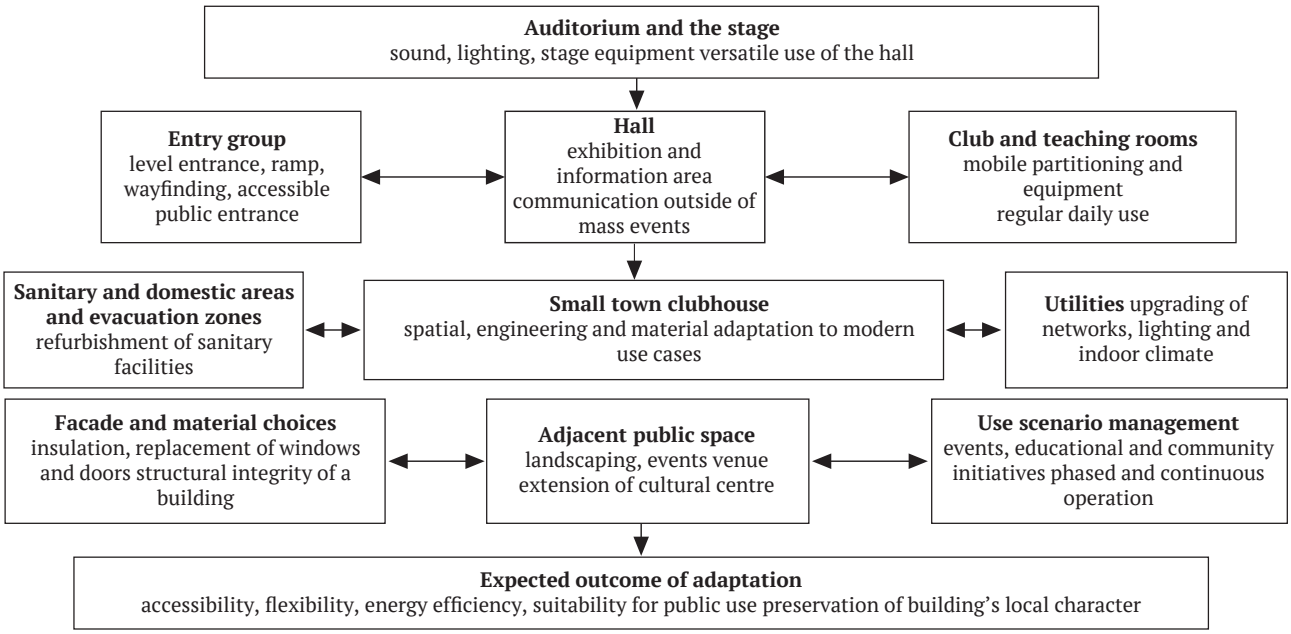

Figure 7. Reconstruction and engineering plan for the adaptation of a club building in a small town
Note: diagram illustrates the relationship between problem areas in the club building and the structural, material and functional solutions designed to improve the building's accessibility, flexibility, energy efficiency and suitability for public use
Source: compiled based on Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (2018a; 2018b; 2019), ISO 15392:2019 (2019), ISO 20887:2020 (2020), ISO 21542:2021 (2021)

An analysis of the data in Figure 7 shows that the adaptation of a small-town club building is systematic in nature and is not limited to the local refurbishment of individual rooms or structural elements. The entrance area, foyer, auditorium with stage, club and educational rooms, sanitary and evacuation zones, service networks, façade solutions, adjacent public space and the management of usage scenarios form an interconnected reconstruction structure. Its coherence determines the building's accessibility, functional flexibility, operational safety, energy efficiency, public suitability and ability to support cultural, educational, event and communication scenarios. Consequently, the reconstruction of such buildings should combine technical upgrading, spatial adaptation and the creation of a multifunctional cultural and leisure environment, integrated into the urban fabric of a small town.

An integrated model of the typology of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns in Ukraine

Synthesis of the results of the regulatory-conceptual, functional-planning, typological, urban planning and reconstruction-engineering analyses has shown that the typology of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns in Ukraine cannot be determined solely based on the facility's name or its original purpose. The actual type of leisure facility is determined by the interrelationship

between its functional composition, spatial organisation, urban context and suitability for reconstruction. This ensured a transition from a terminological classification to an integrated typological model. The first level of the model forms the functional block. It reflects not only the list of cultural, educational, youth, exhibition, communication, service or mixed uses, but also the extent to which these are spatially accommodated. The analysis showed that the functional suitability of a leisure facility is determined not by the number of stated areas of activity, but by the correspondence between these areas, the composition of the premises and the actual modes of use. Therefore, the functional block is linked to the building's actual capacity to support several forms of public activity. The second level is the planning block. It encompasses the spatial core of the building, ancillary zones and the nature of the connections between them. Within the integrated model, the planning structure is viewed not as the sum of the premises, but as a system that determines the level of monofunctionality, combined use or multifunctionality of the facility. The ratio of the main spatial core, ancillary spaces, services and adaptation zones makes it possible to determine whether a building retains a rigid specialisation or is capable of supporting multiple uses.

The third level relates to the urban planning context. At this level, the assessment focuses not only on the physical location of the facility, but also on its integration into the network of urban routes, open public spaces, neighbouring service facilities and the historically developed environment. The urban planning component shows whether the leisure facility functions as a local element of a small town's public infrastructure, or remains a spatially isolated building with limited impact on the urban environment. The fourth level comprises the structural and engineering component. It reflects the building's ability to support contemporary usage scenarios through engineering reliability, accessibility, energy efficiency, acoustic and lighting comfort, safety, material durability and operational sustainability. The analysis showed that reconstruction potential is not limited to the physical condition of the structures. It is determined by the extent to which the building's spatial, technical and material parameters can be aligned with its functional and urban planning purpose. The fifth level constitutes the adaptation and typological outcome. The combination of the functional, planning, urban planning and reconstruction-engineering blocks makes it possible to determine the actual type of leisure facility: a single-purpose hall building, a club and community centre, a cultural and entertainment building with a well-developed stage and auditorium block, an adapted mixed-use public building, or a multi-functional cultural and leisure centre. These models are not strictly separate, as in small towns they may combine, overlap or gradually transition to one another during the reconstruction process. An integrated approach makes it possible to determine not only the current state of a site, but also the direction of its future adaptation. To summarise the results obtained and visualise the interrelationship between the functional composition, spatial organisation, urban planning context and reconstruction-engineering suitability of leisure facilities, an integrated typological model has been developed, as shown in Figure 8.

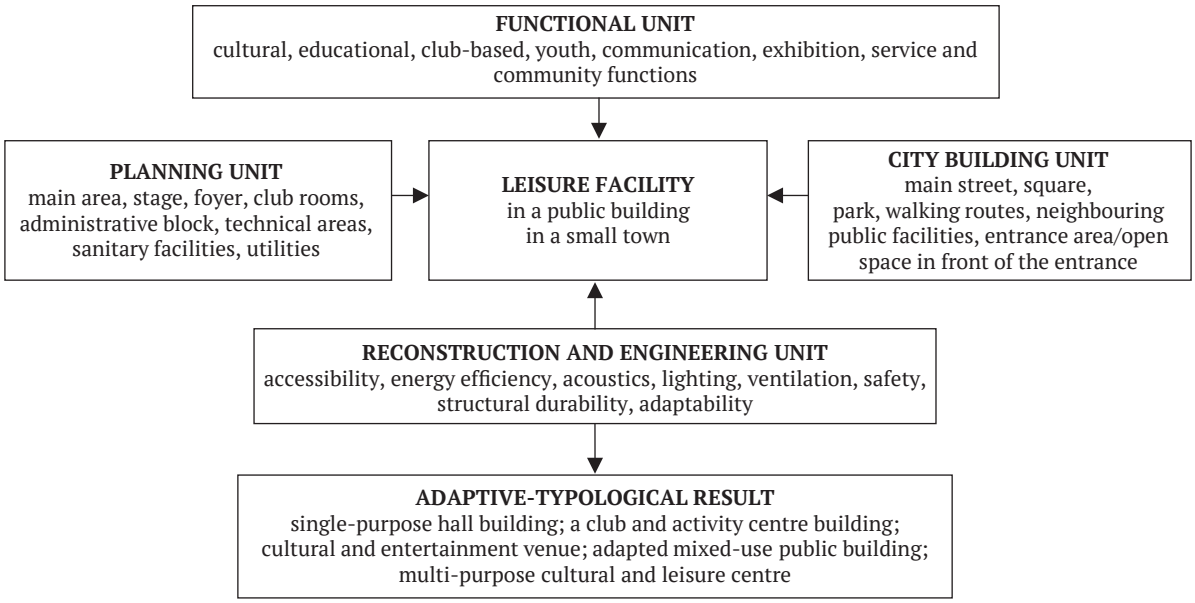

Figure 8. An integrated model of the typology of leisure facilities in public buildings in small towns in Ukraine
Source: compiled based on Law of Ukraine No. 2780-XII (1992), Law of Ukraine No. 3038-VI (2011), Order of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine No. 163 (2014), Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (2018a; 2018b; 2019; 2023), ISO 15392:2019 (2019), ISO 21542:2021 (2021)

The summary presented in Figure 8 shows that the typological status of a leisure facility is determined not by a single characteristic, but by the interplay between its functional composition, planning flexibility, urban integration and suitability for renovation. A large central hall alone does not ensure the building's full adaptability unless it is complemented by accessibility, engineering reliability and connectivity with the urban environment. At the same time, a compact structure can support various usage scenarios provided that its spatial, technical and urban planning characteristics are harmonised. The integrated model demonstrates that the typological renewal of community centres in small towns can be achieved not only through new construction but also through the phased adaptation of existing cultural centres, community halls and other public facilities. As a result, the model can be used to determine the actual type of facility and outline the directions for its future reconstruction.

DISCUSSION

The findings revealed that the typology of leisure facilities within public buildings in small towns in Ukraine was determined not by the historical name of the building or its original cultural purpose, but by a combination of architectural and planning, functional, urban planning, engineering, and functional-spatial characteristics. A club building, community centre, house of culture or cultural centre could not be regarded merely as a hall-type structure for individual events, as their contemporary suitability depended on their ability to support various scenarios of public, cultural, educational and communicative use. Therefore, the typological classification of a leisure facility was determined by the coordination of its planning core, multifunctionality, accessibility, connection to open urban space, potential for renovation and operational reliability. In this interpretation, a public building in a small town emerged as a local spatial node where cultural, social, engineering and urban planning logic formed an interdependent system. This conclusion is consistent with the views of P. Lényi (2015), who regarded the cultural centre as public infrastructure capable of bringing together various forms of activity. This comparison explains why the multifunctionality of club buildings, community centres and cultural centres emerged as a condition for preserving their functional relevance. An analysis of the spatial role of leisure facilities revealed that the cultural centre influenced not only the building's functional programme but also the organisation of the surrounding environment. This is consistent with the study by O. Dmytrash & I. Kopylyak (2016), in which cultural centres were linked to the formation of contemporary architecture in the university environment and the broader spatial influence of public functions. The comparison revealed a common approach to the cultural centre as an environmental factor, but clarified the scale and type of facilities: in small towns, this logic applied not to a specialised element of the educational environment, but to a local public hub integrated into everyday urban life.

A comparison with studies on the adaptation of existing buildings for new uses showed that the refurbishment of club buildings could not be viewed merely as a series of repair works. This is consistent with the systematic review by F. Vafaie *et al.* (2023), in which the success of a building's reuse was linked to the alignment of functional, technical, social and contextual factors. This comparison revealed why the typological suitability of a leisure facility was determined not by the mere fact of preservation or repair, but by the interplay of planning flexibility, accessibility, engineering reliability, material durability and connection to the urban environment.

An analysis of the revitalisation of leisure facilities revealed that the renewal of their function could not be separated from user scenarios and the long-term serviceability of the building. This is consistent with the study by É. Savoie *et al.* (2025), where revitalisation of historic buildings through adaptation to new uses was linked to the harmonisation of heritage, function, environment and user needs. The comparison explained why, for club buildings, community centres and cultural centres in small towns, it was not only the change in functional content that proved decisive, but also the ability to transition from occasional event-based use to regular community activity. The typological generalisation also clarified process-oriented approaches to the adaptation of historic buildings. In the study by F. Arfa *et al.* (2024), the adaptation of such buildings was examined as a sequential process with defined stages, tools and verification through case studies. A comparison showed that, for leisure-oriented public buildings in small towns, reconstruction should be viewed not only as a process of transformation but also as a basis for a typological interpretation of its outcome. This explained why the same building could be interpreted differently depending on the relationship between its functional composition, planning core, urban integration and suitability for reconstruction and engineering. Therefore, the integrated model supplemented the reuse process diagrams with an architectural-typological assessment tool. Typological analysis revealed that the adaptation of the existing building stock in small towns could not be reduced to a choice between preserving a building and replacing it with a new one. For club buildings and cultural centres, the decisive factor was whether renovation could change the mode of use, ensure accessibility, update the building services infrastructure, and integrate the building into residents' daily routes. This conclusion corresponds with the study by I. Serhiiuk & I. Kalakoski (2023), which, using the example of post-industrial buildings in Ukraine, demonstrated the tension between demolition, refurbishment for public use, and adaptation to new functions. This comparison explained why, for leisure buildings in small towns, the dilemma of preservation had not only an economic or heritage dimension, but also a typological one: the fact of preserving a building did not guarantee its public relevance. The reinterpretation of club buildings as a resource for the further development of territories is

consistent with the study by V. Yatsenko *et al.* (2024), in which the adaptation of historic rural school buildings in the Poltava region was linked to preservation, new function and the contemporary suitability of the buildings. For leisure facilities, this approach was used in a different type of public building – clubhouses, community centres, cultural centres and cultural hubs. Their adaptation required not only a change of function, but also a rethinking of the auditorium and stage area, the foyer, club rooms, technical areas and the surrounding public space as interconnected elements of a modern cultural and leisure centre.

In the context of historic small towns, the analysis showed that the renovation of a public building could not be viewed in isolation from the town's spatial structure. This is consistent with the study by N. Leshchenko (2023), in which restoration and reconstruction were linked to the sustainable development of historic small towns and the preservation of the urban environment. This comparison explained why the typological value of the club building was determined not only by its internal structure, but also by its connection to the square, the main street, pedestrian routes, the open space in front of the entrance, and neighbouring public facilities. The urban planning dimension of the typology was specified through a comparison with studies on the revitalisation of open public spaces in small towns. A. Jaszczak *et al.* (2021) correlated regeneration of public spaces in small towns within the Cittaslow network with increased public engagement, the quality of the outdoor environment and urban identity. The comparison demonstrated that open space could not be regarded merely as a background element to a leisure facility. For small towns, the area in front of a building, a square, a pedestrian route or an entrance plaza extended the functional and spatial structure of the facility beyond its physical boundaries. The issue of cultural sustainability was linked to research on the adaptation of cultural sites to new uses.

In the study by D.K. Amro *et al.* (2023), the conversion of a traditional house into a cultural centre was analysed in terms of cultural continuity, user perception and the preservation of the building's significance. This is consistent with the conclusion that the cultural sustainability of a leisure building in a small town was determined not only by the preservation of symbolic or material value, but also by its ability to support current scenarios of cultural, educational, communicative and civic activity. This comparison explained the link between cultural sustainability and planning flexibility, urban integration, and the building's suitability for reconstruction and engineering. The material-contextual dimension of the typology showed that the sustainable reuse of small-town club buildings could not be assessed solely based on the building's technical condition. The decisive factor was the coordination of material solutions, planning structure, urban context and modes of public use. This conclusion corresponds with the study by S. Mazzetto (2022), where the reuse of historic buildings was examined through a combination of environmental, socio-economic and socio-cultural parameters. This comparison explained why façade renovation, insulation, the replacement of translucent elements, or the use of wear-resistant materials should be interpreted not as isolated technical measures, but as components of the typological adaptation of a public building. An analysis of accessibility revealed that it could not be limited to the regulatory presence of individual barrier-free elements. For leisure facilities in small towns, accessibility was defined as a spatial system encompassing the route, entrance, facilities, wayfinding, sanitary and domestic areas, and the surrounding area. This finding is consistent with the systematic review by A. Gupta *et al.* (2025), in which accessibility standards and universal design principles were linked to the quality of use of open public spaces. The comparison explained why accessibility in the typology of leisure facilities should be considered not only as a social requirement, but as a criterion for the regular use of the building by different groups of residents.

This conclusion was further explored through a comparison with a critical review of urban accessibility within the framework of universal design. M. Papanicolaou *et al.* (2025) correlated the accessibility of the urban environment with experience of movement, use of space and interaction with urban elements. The results applied this logic to public leisure buildings, demonstrating that the central location of a club building or cultural centre did not guarantee its actual openness to the community if the entrance area remained a barrier, the routes were inconvenient, and the connection to a square or park was spatially disorganised. This comparison clarified the difference between a facility's location in the city centre and its actual inclusion in everyday urban life. This conclusion was further confirmed by a study of accessibility barriers in an urban environment focused on the proximity of everyday services. A. Ramírez-Saiz *et al.* (2026) demonstrated that the spatial proximity of a facility did not equate to an accessible experience for users with disabilities, as route obstacles, surface conditions, terrain, navigation and the organisation of the environment could significantly restrict usage. For small towns in Ukraine, this thesis was specified as follows: a leisure facility could be located in the centre but remain functionally isolated from urban life without barrier-free access, clear wayfinding, accessible entrances and connections to open public spaces.

The integrated model also demonstrated that the typological suitability of a leisure facility was determined not only by the formal characteristics of the building, but also by the extent to which the space corresponded to the actual ways in which different population groups used it. This conclusion is consistent with the review by Z. Zhang *et al.* (2025), in which the correspondence between people and the environment was considered one of the key areas of analysis of the built environment. This comparison elucidated the architectural dimension of this correspondence: for club buildings in small towns, it was shaped by a combination of functional composition, planning flexibility, accessibility, engineering reliability and urban

integration. A comparison with universal safe design approaches made it possible to clarify the role of safety in the typological assessment of leisure buildings. S.-Y. Baek & B.-Y. Jeong (2021) compared universal design and universal safe design through the interplay of accessibility, safety, usability and sustainability. The comparison confirmed this logic, but specified it at the level of individual functional and spatial components: the entrance area, circulation routes, sanitary and utility facilities, evacuation routes, the stage and auditorium block, and engineering systems. This demonstrated that safety and accessibility were not merely secondary requirements for the building, but influenced its actual capacity to function as a modern cultural and leisure centre.

An analysis of the functional and spatial structure revealed that the inclusivity of a leisure facility depended not only on the accessibility of the building, but also on the extent to which its layout created the spatial conditions for different user groups to participate in the everyday cultural life of a small town. This is consistent with the study by F. Pasenidou (2026), which considered architecture as a factor in the inclusion of users within the educational environment. Despite the difference in subject matter, the comparison confirmed a common thesis: space is not a neutral context for activity, but influences opportunities for access, orientation, communication and engagement. For leisure facilities, this logic was specified through the role of the foyer, club rooms, study rooms, the entrance area and the adjacent public space. The Ukrainian context of an inclusive urban environment was further correlated with the study by V. Bulatov (2025), in which aesthetic principles were considered in relation to the formation of an inclusive urban environment. The results obtained were consistent with this position regarding the interpretation of navigation, entrance areas, tactile elements, facade expressiveness and visual orientation as components of accessibility. At the same time, the study clarified that for club buildings in small towns, these solutions could not be viewed merely as elements of landscaping or decoration. These factors were associated with the typological suitability of the building, as they determined its openness to the community, the clarity of its spatial organisation, and its ability to accommodate various scenarios of public use. The resulting typological generalisation showed that public leisure buildings in small towns could not be assessed solely based on their functional composition or hall capacity, as their suitability was determined by accessibility, operational reliability, the quality of the indoor environment, their connection to open public space, and the sustainability of usage scenarios. This conclusion is consistent with the findings of M. Zinoski *et al.* (2025), where the architecture of public buildings is considered as a transformative model linked to health, sustainability and the quality of urban life. This comparison explains why club buildings, cultural centres, community halls and cultural centres in small towns should be analysed not as isolated functional entities, but as spatial hubs of everyday public activity.

The structural and engineering module of the integrated model demonstrated that ventilation, lighting, acoustics, thermal conditions, sanitary facilities and safe utilities determined not only the operational condition of the leisure building, but also the feasibility of its regular use by various population groups. This is consistent with the findings of H. Liu *et al.* (2023), where healthy buildings are linked to air quality, thermal, lighting and acoustic comfort, safety, life cycle and interdisciplinary coordination of solutions. This comparison confirmed that engineering parameters in the typology of leisure facilities should be considered not as secondary technical characteristics, but as conditions for the building's functional suitability. The material and energy dimension of the results showed that the sustainable renovation of club buildings in small towns should not rely on the direct transfer of complex technological solutions, but on a realistic adaptation of the building envelope: reducing heat loss, insulating facades, upgrading translucent elements, protecting the building envelope, and using durable materials without compromising architectural integrity. This conclusion is consistent with the study by W. Wang *et al.* (2023), in which green roofs, facade systems and integrated photovoltaic solutions are considered as components of a building with zero energy consumption and reduced environmental impact. The comparison showed that, for small towns in Ukraine, energy efficiency should be viewed not as a standalone technical objective, but as part of a reconstructive and typological transformation of leisure facilities, covering resource, structural and contextual constraints.

The findings as a whole, when compared with contemporary academic approaches, have shown that the typology of leisure facilities within public buildings in small towns in Ukraine developed as an integrated architectural and planning system, rather than as a formal classification of historical names or original functions. Functional composition, planning flexibility, urban integration, accessibility, engineering reliability, material durability and suitability for renovation determined a building's ability to support various scenarios of public use. The transition from a single-purpose hall building to a multi-functional cultural and leisure centre depended on the coherence of the hall area, foyer, club and educational rooms, entrance area, services, technical zones and the adjacent open space. Reconstruction-engineering and material solutions acquired typological significance when they ensured accessibility, a comfortable indoor environment, energy efficiency, safety, operational sustainability and the preservation of the building's architectural integrity. Consequently, the further development of club buildings, cultural centres, community centres and cultural hubs should be related to the phased adaptation of the existing public building stock, in which the renewal of the internal structure is aligned with the building's role in the urban environment, pedestrian accessibility, the open space in front of the entrance and the needs of daily public activity.

CONCLUSIONS

Consequently, the typology of leisure facilities within public buildings in small towns in Ukraine should be determined not by the formal name of the building, but by a combination of functional, spatial-planning, urban planning, renovation-engineering and material characteristics. The House of Enlightenment, the People's House, the House of Culture, the club building and the cultural centre reflect different stages in the development of public and cultural infrastructure and different models of spatial organisation. Their transformation is associated with a redefinition of the building's spatial core, the composition of its premises, the nature of its users, and the facility's capacity to support various scenarios of public activity. The traditional club building in a small town was predominantly organised around a hall-and-stage core, geared towards mass events, concerts, meetings and celebrations. At the same time, the contemporary needs of communities require a multifunctional model, in which the typological quality of the building depends on the interaction between the main hall space and the communication, club, educational, administrative, technical and open public areas. It is the nature of these connections that determines whether the building remains a single-purpose hall or takes on the characteristics of a modern cultural and leisure centre. The study identified five typological models for the transformation of leisure facilities: a single-purpose hall building, a club and group building, a cultural and entertainment building with a well-developed stage and auditorium area, an adapted mixed-use public building, and a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre. The study established that the greatest potential for adaptation exists in facilities where the hall area is combined with flexible spaces for regular use, and the surrounding area is integrated into the system of urban public connections.

An urban planning analysis has shown that a leisure facility in a small town becomes a key local community hub provided it is connected to the central square, the main street, pedestrian routes, and educational, administrative and cultural facilities. A structural and engineering analysis confirmed that the adaptation of such buildings must go beyond cosmetic refurbishment to encompass accessibility, the modernisation of utility networks, energy efficiency, acoustic and lighting comfort, flexible zoning, durable materials and the improvement of the surrounding area. An integrated synthesis of the results demonstrated that a promising model for the development of leisure facilities in small towns is a multifunctional cultural and leisure centre, which can be established not only through new construction but also through the systematic adaptation of existing club buildings, cultural centres and community halls. The applicability of the proposed typological logic is illustrated by examples of leisure buildings in small towns in Ukraine, in particular the House of Culture in Kaniv, Cherkasy Oblast; the Stebnyk Community Centre in Stebnyk, Lviv Oblast; the Community Centre in Bibrka, Lviv Region, and the Zhovkva Community Centre in Zhovkva, Lviv Region. An examination of these sites has shown that the greatest potential for adaptation lies in buildings where the hall-and-stage core can be supplemented by spaces for regular club, educational, social and community use. A limitation of the study is the theoretical and analytical nature of the research and the absence of a quantitative assessment of the completed renovations. Further research should focus on expanding the sample of sites, comparing actual reconstruction practices, and developing practical criteria for assessing the functional and planning adaptation of leisure buildings in small towns in Ukraine.

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Типологія дозвіллєвих закладів у громадських будівлях малих міст України

Анотація. Метою статті було виявити архітектурно-планувальні, функціональні та містобудівні критерії систематизації будівель дозвіллєвого призначення в малих містах України й обґрунтувати напрями їх трансформації в умовах сучасного громадського використання, реконструкції та адаптації. Методологія дослідження поєднала нормативний, функціонально-планувальний, типологічний, містобудівний і реконструктивно-інженерний аналіз з інтегральним моделюванням. Практичну придатність запропонованих типологічних моделей уточнено на прикладі чотирьох дозвіллєвих будівель малих міст України: Будинку культури в Каневі, Стебницького Народного дому, Народного дому міста Бібрка та Жовківського міського Народного дому. Результати дослідження показали, що дім просвіти, народний дім, будинок культури, клубна будівля та культурний центр не є лише історичними або інституційними назвами одного типу об'єкта, а відображають різні моделі громадської будівлі, відмінні за провідною функцією, складом користувачів, просторовим ядром, рівнем поліфункціональності, містобудівною роллю та потенціалом трансформації. Установлено, що традиційна клубна будівля малого міста переважно формувалася навколо зально-сценічного блоку, однак сучасні потреби громад зумовлюють перехід до поліфункціональної моделі, у якій важливими стають фоє, гурткові й навчальні приміщення, комунікації, технічні зони, безбар'єрна вхідна група та прилеглий громадський простір. Узагальнено п'ять типологічних моделей трансформації дозвіллєвих будівель: монофункціональну зальну будівлю, клубно-гурткову будівлю, культурно-видовищну будівлю з розвиненим сценічно-глядацьким блоком, адаптовану громадську будівлю змішаного використання та багатофункціональний культурно-дозвіллєвий центр. З'ясовано, що найбільший адаптаційний потенціал мають об'єкти, у яких зальна частина поєднана з гнучкими просторами повсякденного використання. Практичне значення результатів полягає в можливості їх використання під час оцінювання, реконструкції та функціонального оновлення культурно-дозвіллєвих будівель малих міст України

Ключові слова: громадська будівля; громадський простір; типологія будівель; функціональність будівель; будинок культури; народний дім; дозвіллєвий заклад