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ZHOVKVA – A TOWN BUILT AT THE END OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING PATTERN BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF THE RENAISSANCE IDEAL CITY

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Abstract: On the base of the historical and urban studies it is presented the hypothesis that the town of Zhovkva is an example of late Renaissance urbanism and was built at the end of 16th century according to the project based on the concept of *ideal city*. The towns are characterised with a well-preserved original Renaissance planning structure and a number of architectural monuments that are connected with it. Reconstruction of the original historical townplans allows us to express the hypothesis of its similarity to the projects of cities published in the treatise of the Italian architect of the 16th century Pietro Cataneo.

Key words: town of Zhovkva, Renaissance, urbanism, planning structure, *ideal city*, Pietro Cataneo.

Introduction

In recent years, interest in historic cities has grown significantly in connection with the intensification of international scientific cooperation in the Eastern Europe related to studying and popularizing the architectural and urban heritage. This interest is also related to the identification of applicants for introduction in the UNESCO World Heritage List [1]. In the list of historic cities of Ukraine, the attention is first of all drawn to the well-known large cities – Lviv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kamianets-Podilskyi and Chernihiv. The ensemble of the historic center of Lviv has been on the list of UNESCO heritage sites since 1998. A part of the city center of Chernivtsi (an ensemble of sacred and administrative buildings of the Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitan of the 19th century) was listed in 2011. There are very valuable urban complexes in the structure of small Ukrainian towns as well. Even today, the value of such cities or towns in Ukraine is often not very noticeable either because of insufficient scientific study of their architectural history or due to insufficient coverage in leading scientific journals. To a large extent, this situation may be explained by the fact that in 1950–1980 no thorough research was carried out in the field of historic urban planning. That is why, one of the small historic towns in the Western Ukraine was selected for study to present its urban and architectural values.

Results of the study on urban-planning development of town of Zhovkva

Zhovkva belongs to one of the insufficiently studied but highly important urban-planning formations in the Halychyna region (Western Ukraine). The city is located 23 km north-west of Lviv. Zhovkva is the modern title of the town. In the historical documents, it is named Zholkiev (or Żółkiew, pol.) – it was also the name of family town of Żółkiewski in the Lublin region [2]. Next to the official name, Ukrainian casual *Zhovkva* was also used, which was established as a modern name. During the times of the Soviet Union, for a short period, it was inappropriately called *Nesterov* [3].

Scientific and academic works which have appeared in the recent years state that Zhovkva is an example of late Renaissance urbanism and was built in late 16th century according to a project based on the concept of *ideal city* [4, 5, 6]. In accordance with historical sources, this city was founded by Stanisław Żółkiewski (Zholkevski) [7] in 1594 on the territory which was part of the village Vynnyky [8]. The village was owned by the Wysocki's family at that time. Foundation of the town started on the eastern bank of the Svynia River, near the old castle of the Wysockis. It is worth to mention that in the middle of the 19th century, the bridge over the river which led to the western gate of the city did not belong to the city but to the territory of the village. It means that the agreement between Stanisław Żółkiewski and Michał Wysocki on the transfer of the part of the settlement territory, gave the old owner the control over the bridge and, of course, over the bridging tax collection. Unfortunately, only archeological traces remain from the castle of Wysockis.

Nowadays, Zhovkva has become the object of broader studies by historians and architects [9, 10, 11]. In particular, in 2016 it was published the *Atlas of the City* [12] in which the general stages of its development are reconstructed. In 1995, according to the decree of the Government of Ukraine, the historical part of the city received the status of the State Historical and Architectural Conservation Area. The Conservation Area is still functioning providing the restoration works in the castle and in the central part of the city.

At present one of the architectural objects of Zhovkva is included into the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage of Ukraine. In 2013, the wooden church of the Holy Trinity located in the Zhovkva suburb at the road from Lviv was added to this list. The church is one of the 16 shrines of the joint Ukrainian-Polish nomination *Wooden churches of the Carpathian region of Poland and Ukraine* [13]. The church was built in 1720 has preserved a unique, Renaissance iconostasis of high art value. It is characteristic that the iconostasis was created by craftsmen of the local Zhovkva painting guild. It was probably transferred to the church of the Holy Trinity from an older church. It is evidenced by the very architecture and design of the iconostasis, showing the rebuilt parts of it, "fitted" to the size of the church interior.

According to the characteristics of its historical architectural and urban structure, Zhovkva complies with the main requirements of the *List of historical settlements of Ukraine* regarding to the criteria of uniqueness, authenticity and consistency of the heritage. The city has a well-preserved original Renaissance planning structure and a number of architectural monuments that are associated with it. The existence of the Renaissance plan makes the city unique both in Ukraine and in the Eastern Europe. The wooden church of the Holy Trinity is one of the reference objects of the Renaissance city planning. It is located in the place where a defensive gate at the entrance to the fortified suburbs on the road from Lviv was put [14].

By the time of its foundation, Zhovkva has been one of the cities of the late Renaissance which arose on the eastern borders of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, creating a system of fortified settlements to strengthen the defense capacity of territories often attacked by southern neighbours (Tatars and Turks). However, the architectural and planning features of this fortress city have not yet been the subject of special scientific consideration in comparison with the defining examples of European Renaissance urbanism (Fig. 1). Today, the researchers have not yet agreed on the genesis of the Zhovkva Planning Pattern; the specific characteristics of its Renaissance city-building composition have not been identified and compared with similar implementations in other parts of Europe, although in general, the identity of the city plan was studied in the works by O. Sosnowski [15], V. Chornovus [16], S. Kravtsov [17], A. Martyniuk-Medvetska [18], and I. Krypyakevych [19], M. Książek [20], K. Kuśnierz [21, 22], H. Yaremych, Y. Kalika [23], and others. In our previous publications, we have already covered the issues of uniqueness of urban studies in Zhovkva [24, 25, 26], so now we are trying to develop this topic further. We believe that the immediate task of researchers is to explore the scheme of the planning structure of Zhovkva at the time of its foundation, to find out its prototypes, and compare the architectural and urban composition of Zhovkva with other objects of European urbanism of the Renaissance age (Fig. 2).

The history of Zhovkva being put on the historical map of Halychyna is unique. This city was founded in the last decade of the 16th century as a private fortified residence city. The times of the city's foundation were marked by a constant threat of military actions on the lands of the Western Ukraine and, in particular, in Halychyna. Poland, Ukraine (which strived for autonomy), Turkey, Austria, Tataria, Wallachia and Transylvania confronted each other here. Constant wars caused to its development as one of the most active new fortress-city construction areas in Europe in the 16th–17th centuries. Almost all these new cities were private, that is, they were founded by the rich owners of large land latifundia [27].



Fig. 1. Photo of central square of town of Zhovkva at the beginning of 20th century. The blocks of late Renaissance buildings with loggias-arcades in parter (northern part of square) [<http://www.polona.pl>].

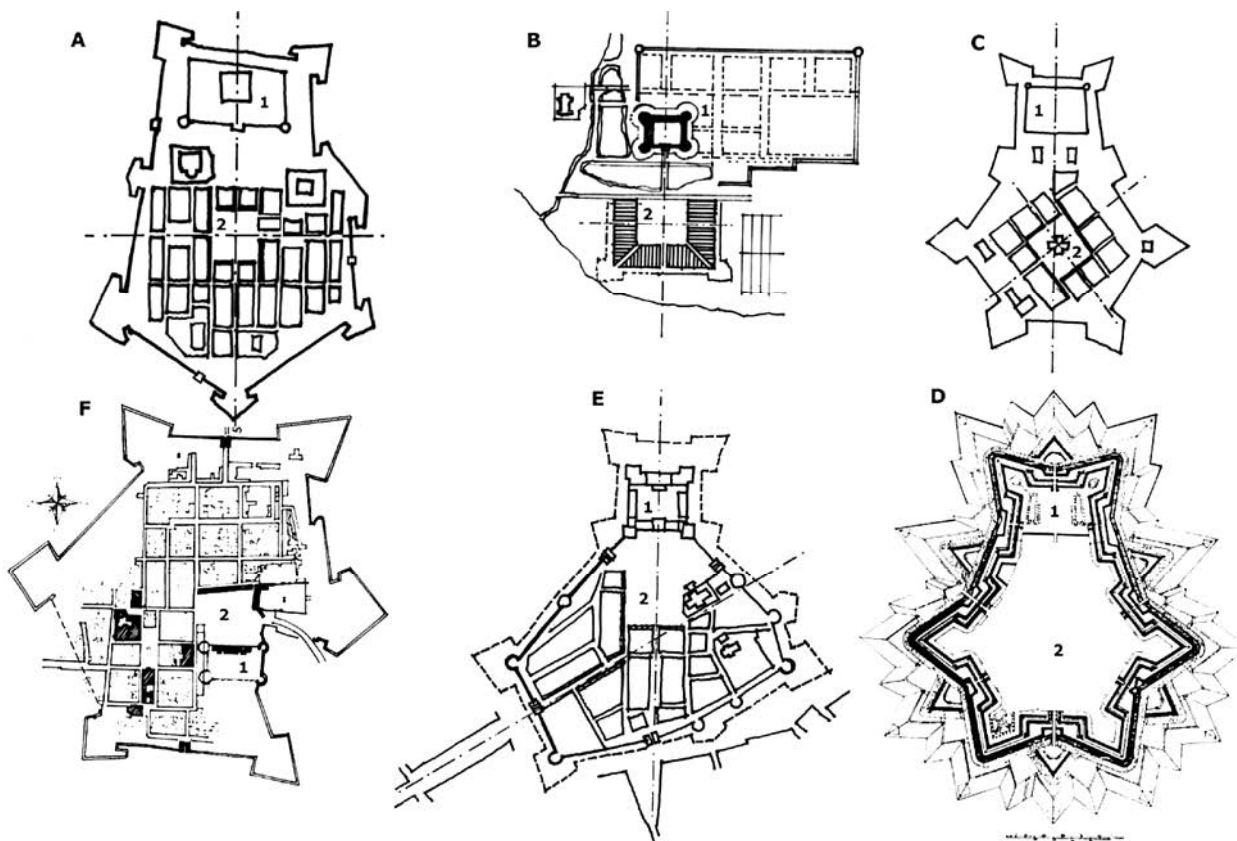


Fig. 2. Comparative analysis of city plans (towns located in the 16–17th century): A – Zamość; B – Krasieczyn; C, D – Stanislaw; F – Sabbioneta; E – Zhovkva; 1 – castle, 2 – middletown.

The development of the construction of private cities in Ukraine in the 16th and 17th centuries, unfortunately, has not been studied yet. The history and geography of such cities are also to be thoroughly investigated. However, with the reference to the article by K. Kuśnierz it can be argued that the urbanization processes in Halychyna at this time occurred in much larger scale than in the rest part of Poland [28]. This era

left extremely valuable examples of urban planning, most of which, unfortunately, have been reconstructed or completely destroyed in later times (e.g., the planning structures and fortifications of the cities of Berezhany, Rohatyn, Uhniv, Kukeziv, Vasiuchyn, Kniahynychi, Burshtyn, Svirzh and many others [29]).

Another characteristic feature of urban planning at the end of the 15th century is the emergence and expansion of new concepts of the city planning in Halychyna and Ukraine, based on the imitation of Italian planning structures for the construction of the *ideal city* of the Renaissance. Italian architects, many of whom worked at the princely or noble courts, at monastic orders (Pietro Sperendio, Bernardo Morando, Aurelio Passaroti, Giacomo Briano, Paolo Clamensi, etc.), or those who settled as practicing architects in larger cities, encouraged this. For example, about ten architects of Italian origin practiced in Lviv at the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries – Paolo Dominichi, Pietro di Barbona, Ambrosio Nutklaus and others [30].

The inspiration and the implementation behind the state-of-the-art urban planning ideas were encouraged by the princely or noble ranks of the Polish state [31], and Halychyna was the part of it at that time. Halychyna and then all of Ukraine went under control of the Polish king through hereditary law at the end of the 14th century. Accordingly, all the Ukrainian (Ruthenian) gentry or prince's families were in service of the Polish king and had some of the high positions in the Polish state. Some special efforts were demonstrated by the ancient Ukrainian noble families who owned huge estates in the east of the Polish state i.e. in Halychyna, Podillya, Kyiv region, and belonged to the group of the richest people of the kingdom (for example, the Ostrogskis, the Vyshnevetskys, the Sieniawskis, and others as well as the Żółkiewskis). At the time of the founding of Zhovkva, Stanislav Żółkiewski had a high state office and title of crown hetman owning significant estates in the Ruthenian, Belz, Lublin and other voivodeships [32].

The emergence of well-fortified private residential cities in Ukraine was a well-prepared and characteristic phenomenon for that time. In addition to military factors, the construction of such cities was determined by the presence of relevant customers and by their financial capacity, which was underpinned by the corresponding development of engineering and architectural thoughts; there was a profound economic background for building new cities (Fig. 3, 10).



Fig. 3. Buildings with loggias-arcades in the central part of Zhovkva (drawing made at the beginning of the 19th century) [Zhovkva. Atlas ukrayinskykh istorychnykh mist. T. 3. Sc. Editor M. Kapral, Lviv, 2016, p. 32]

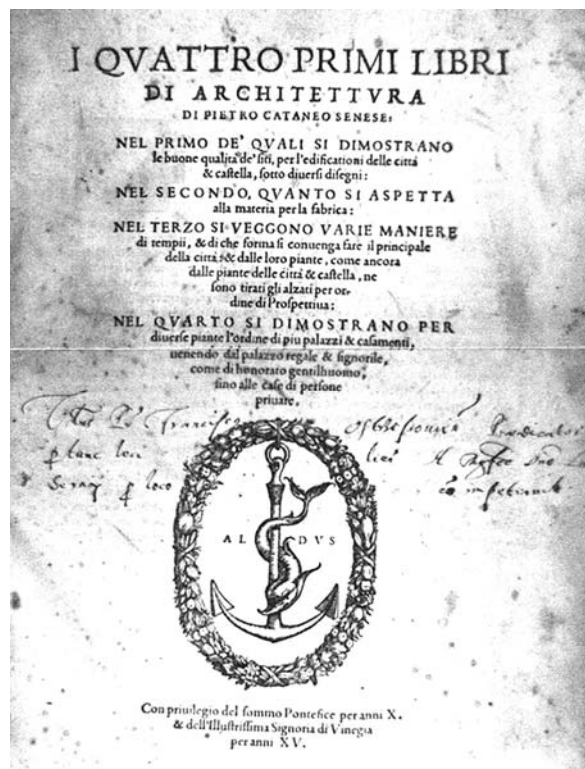


Fig. 4. Cover page of the book by Pietro Cataneo Senese [Quattro primi Libri di Architettura di Pietro Cataneo Senese. – Venetia: 1567. – P. 1. Photo by M. Bevz]

Zhovkva was one of the earliest implementations of the concept of *ideal city* on Ukrainian lands. There is only a small amount of Ukrainian cities that have preserved the Renaissance structure to this day. One of them is the town of Sharhorod in Vinnytsia region which was founded in 1580 by the Chancellor of the royal court Zamojski with the participation of architect Bernardo Morando. However, the detailed study of the building system which was conducted in 1988 (Yu. Nelhovskiy), and in 1994 (T. Trehubova) [33] did not find traces at the site that would sufficiently confirm the Renaissance planning and fortification which were characteristic of that time. According to T. Trehubova, the structure of the central part of Sharhorod, which is preserved to our time in rather full historical form, does not confirm the Renaissance principles of its planning layout [34]. Therefore, the planning model of the city and the nature of its lost fortifications from the 15th century remain the subject of theoretical scientific discussions and hypotheses.

To the later implementations of the ideal city concept belongs Stanislav (Ivano-Frankivsk; Fig. 2). Until the 1970's, this city still retained the remains of its bastion fortifications, but they were destroyed during the reconstruction of the city center for the construction of a Soviet administrative buildings. This construction destroyed the unique layout of the city center which distinguished this city from other historic cities of Ukraine.

Experts estimate that there are many more cities in Halychyna, which, at the time of foundation, did not receive a purely Renaissance but a transitional architectural and planning style with elements of a medieval and Renaissance city. These include Berezhany, Ternopil, Nemyriv, Novi Strilyshcha [35], and other cities.

Brody is also considered to be one of the earliest Renaissance cities in Ukraine. It is worth mentioning that the city, which was called Liubych in the beginning, also belonged to the possessions of Żółkiewskis. The founding of the city, like in the case with Zhovkva, was carried fourteen earlier on the initiative of hetman Stanislav Żółkiewski, i.e. in 1580 (but the researcher S. Kravtsov presents another date of laying of Brody – 1584) [36]. The city is located relatively not far away from Zhovkva – about 70–80 km to the north-east. The city consisted of a castle which was located on an island in the middle of a large pond. The original planning of the city has not fully survived. In 1630, Stanisław Koniecpolski, the new owner of the city, carried out a radical reconstruction, enlarging its territory and transforming its planning structure [37].

3. Results and Discussion

Taking into account all the facts collected about the town of Zhovkva, we argue that it has been the oldest preserved example of the Renaissance ideal city in Ukraine. And, what is more important, the state of preservation of the city's building and planning system is relatively sufficient and allows.

One of the special features of the Renaissance cities was the principle of planning a square in front of the residence of the city owner. In most cases these squares were planned separately from the rest of the more utilitarian squares of the city and formed a special front space in front of the owner's palace (e.g., the cities of Zamość, Quastalla, Sabbioneta, etc.) [40]. One of the most important features of Zhovkva is that this square was combined here with the main public and commercial square of the city. That implies, on the one hand, that Zhovkva belongs to the so-called classical planning type of the Renaissance city, when the ring or square of the defensive walls of the castle touches the city ring of fortifications with one side, and on the other, it is an example of the so-called “compositional combination” of the owner's castle and the main square of the city [41] (Fig. 7). This type of layout was not very common but we can indicate two more similar towns possessing the same structure – Krasiczyn in Poland, and Sabbioneta in Italy [42] (Fig. 2).

In the early Italian period, the residential square in front of the castle was formed at the entrance to the prince's palace through the expansion of the street (along the entire length of the palace facade). The square-street in front of the Palazzo Pitti in Florence is the illustration of this structure. Therefore, it can be argued that the planning of the square used in Zhovkva has certain associations with the early urban experiments in Italy. On the other hand, the combination of ceremonial (castle) and public city functions which are carried out by the Zhovkva's main square is a distinctive factor for contemporary urban planning practices. The final

assignment of the solemnly-representative functions (ceremonial places near the palace) to main squares of the residential cities took place only in the middle and second half of the 17th century, mainly in the French projects of ideal cities, namely in the projects of Jean Errard Bar-le-Duc [43, 44], and also in the project of ideal city by Adam Freytag (1631) [45].

It is noteworthy to point out another prerequisite of Zhovkva emergence – the rapid development of urban science at the times of laying the city foundations. Having this in mind, among the theoretical works of the architects who worked out the principles of the layout of the ideal city, we should consider only the works which preceded the time of its construction. The list is not long – these are the studies of Francesco di Giorgio Martini (1501), Pietro Cataneo (1550, 1567), Daniele Barbaro (1567) and Bartolomeo Ammanati (1570) [46]. In particular, the works of these authors could serve as a model for the planning works in Zhovkva, since they were published and distributed among architects before 1580–1590s. In these works, we often find suggestions for the installation of defensive urban fortifications, mainly in the form of walls with semicircular bastions [47].

In view of this, it becomes clear why the old system of fortifications (defensive walls, towers and bastions) were used in Zhovkva, rather than a completely new bastion one. However, it should be noted that the entrance gates to the city are already implemented under the new system as well as the fact that along with the defensive walls an additional line of earth bastions was implemented. However, the researchers have not reached an agreement about the time of its appearance. It is believed that it might have appeared somewhat later. Though, one should pay attention to the fact that documents from 1621 mention almost finished defense structures of the city and Zhovkva is named there as “complete fortress” [48]. It should be also noted that the documents of 1621 indicate the existence of four city gates – Lvivka, Zvirynetska, Glynska and Jewish. Thus, we can assume that they are not the products of later times either. This fact ensures that the city has already possessed a bastion defense line. It is quite probable that the entire system of urban fortifications was built in a relatively short period – from 1594 to 1621. The combination of new and old defense construction systems in Zhovkva is really thought-provoking and requires more detailed study and more specific dating. In particular, a comprehensive archaeological study of selected sections of the defensive walls and adjacent bastions could be very practical for further scientific development.

If we carefully analyze the plans of cities proposed by the mentioned above Italian theorists of urbanism, it is easy to trace the huge similarity of Zhovkva's planning style to one of the theoretical projects by Pietro Cataneo [49] (Fig. 4, 5–6, 7–8).

We can find one more striking feature in the works by Pietro Cataneo and it is that two versions of the planning layout of the ideal city have been developed. The first layout is with an irregular configuration of the plan and the second one presents a regular one (Fig. 5–6, 7–8). Actually Zhovkva has a similar layout according to the general compositional plan of the first irregular type. The second (regular) type is very similar to the planning of Brody. The planning structure of Brody was changed in 1630s when the city was enlarged and reconstructed. But there is enough evidence to suggest that this reconstruction was based on the previous planning pattern. This idea is deeply elaborated in the studies by B. Chornovus [50]. And later, S. Kravtsov has convincingly proved that the town consists of two layouts which divide it into the Old and the New part with different planning structure and metric conformity [51] (Fig. 8).

The fact that both Zhovkva and Brody were founded almost simultaneously and by the same owner – Stanislav Zholkevski (Żółkiewski) – and perhaps by the same architect Paolo de Dukato Clamensi (known also as Pavlo Shchaslyvyi, Pawel Szcześliwy) [52], manifests that their similarity appears not to be accidental. We can suggest that these Western Ukrainian cities are a unique implementation of the theoretical project concepts of the ideal Renaissance city by Pietro Cataneo.

The hypothesis developed above requires more in-depth investigation, balanced discussion, and deep comparative studies of the theoretical or realized models of Renaissance city-planning in Italy and other countries. On the basis of our research it is consistently emphasised that Zhovkva and Brody should be regarded as worthy of more attention in the field of national and European urbanism in the late 16th – early 17th centuries.

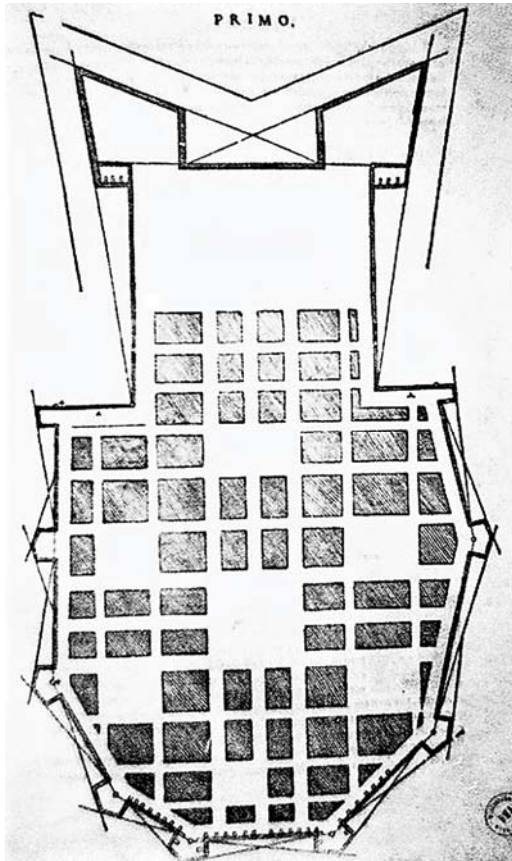


Fig. 5. The planning model of city plan with irregular perimeter [I Quattro primi Libri di Architettura di Pietro Cataneo Senese. – Venetia: 1567, p. 19. Photo by M. Bevz]

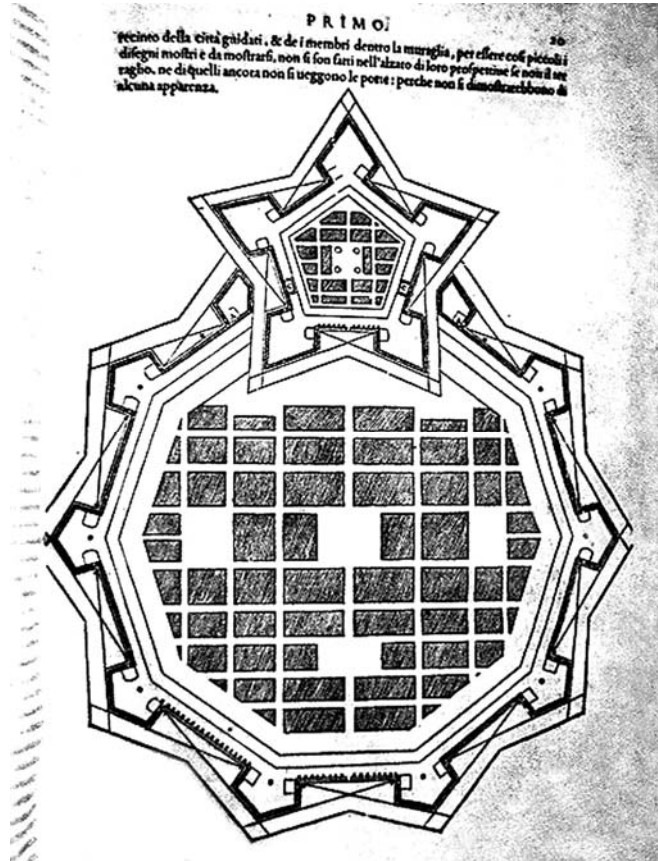


Fig. 6. The planning model of city plan with a regular perimeter [I Quattro primi Libri di Architettura di Pietro Cataneo Senese. – Venetia: 1567, p. 20. Photo by M. Bevz]

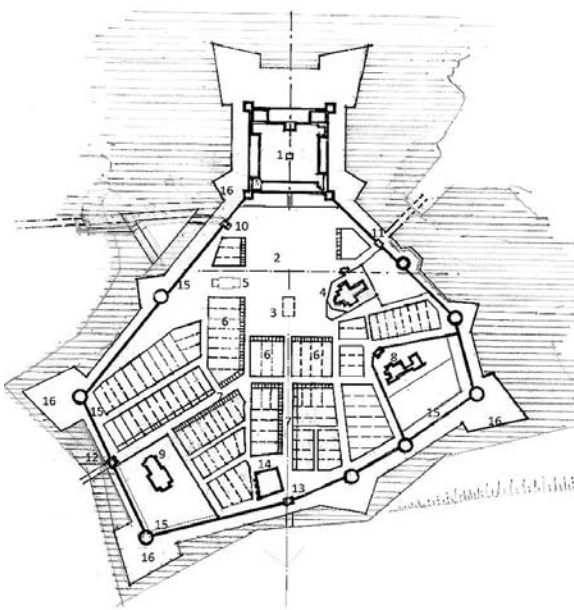


Fig. 7. The planning scheme of town of Zhovkva, 17 century [by M. Bevz]

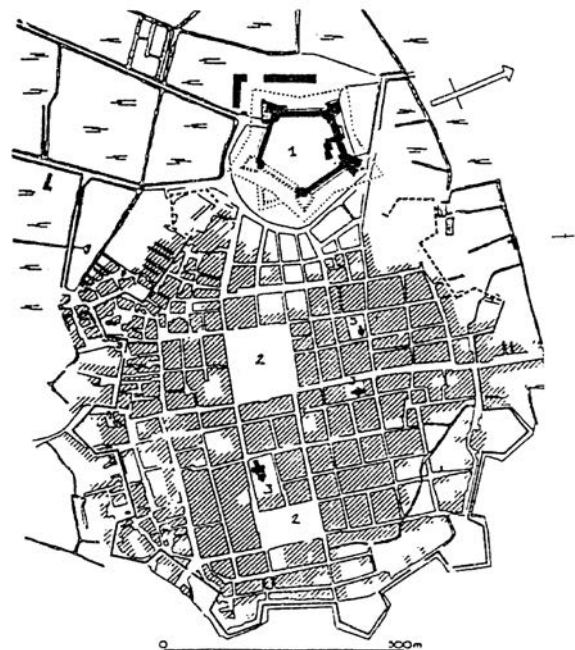


Fig. 8. The planning scheme of town of Brody, 17 century [by M. Kalinowski]

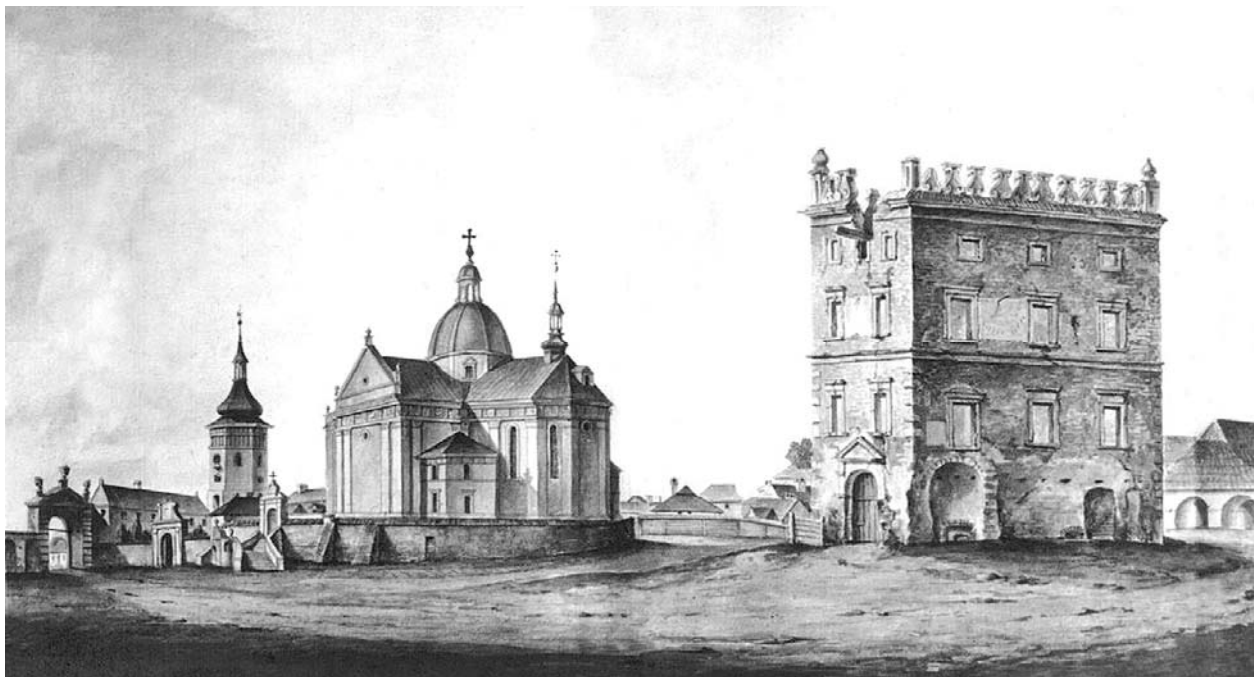


Fig. 10. Drawing of Rynok square in Zhovkva with the church and town hall building in the last few years of the 18 century
 [https://polona.pl/item/zolkiew-w-koncu-18-wieku,NDAYMTgyMTY/0/]

4. Conclusions

1. The town of Zhovkva belongs to the late Renaissance foundations of private residential towns in the territory of the Polish state at the end of the 16th century. The urban-spatial structure of the city was designed according to the concept of the Renaissance *ideal city*. The spatial structure of the town consisted of two conjugated parts: the castle and the fortified middletown. The combination of these two parts – the central square of the town is combined with the main facade of the castle complex – was infrequent at that time.

2. Zhovkva is one of the few towns the architect of which is a well-known person – the Italian architect Paolo de Ducato Clamensi (in Lviv he was known under the name of Pavlo Shchaslyvyi (the Happy Paul)), a member of Lviv craft masonry guild who at that time was in service of hetman Stanislav Zholkevski. In 1601–1612, he was assigned for the position of the Head of the Town Court. The construction of the castle and the town itself became an ambitious project and a life-long dream for the architect.

3. The facts of the analysis allow us to state the hypothesis that the architect planning the town used theoretical ideas of the Renaissance *ideal city* in its architecture. We believe that he implemented one of the schemes of an *ideal city* which was described in *Four Books on Architecture* by Pietro Cataneo (published in Venice in 1567). Thus, Zhovkva is one of the only European towns built on the conception of the Cataneo's theoretical model.

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**ЖОВКВА – МІСТО, ЗАКЛАДЕНЕ НАПРИКІНЦІ
XVI СТОЛІТТЯ НА АРХІТЕКТУРНО-РОЗПЛАНУВАЛЬНИХ ЗАСАДАХ
РЕНЕСАНСНОГО “ІДЕАЛЬНОГО МІСТА”**

Анотація: Матеріали дослідження висвітлюють гіпотезу про те, що Жовква є унікальним прикладом пізньоренесансного містобудування і була побудована наприкінці XVI століття як приватне місто-резиденція за функціонально-просторовою схемою “ідеального міста”. Місто має частково збережену автентичну розпланувальну структуру доби ренесансу та низку архітектурних пам’яток, пов’язаних із нею. Теоретична реконструкція схеми первісного історичного розпланування середмістя і замку дозволяє висловити гіпотезу про її схожість з проектами міст, що опубліковані в трактаті італійського архітектора XVI століття П’єтро Катанео “Чотири книги про архітектуру”.

Ключові слова: місто Жовква, містобудування, Ренесанс, розпланувальна структура, “ідеальне місто”, П’єтро Катанео.