



THE PROBLEMS OF INTRODUCTION OF MODERN ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES INTO HISTORICAL CENTER OF CHISINAU

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Summary. *In recent decades, the architecture of the city of Chisinau has been enriched with a big number of new buildings of various typological purposes. In the modern development of the historical center of the city, the leading place is occupied by public buildings, the architecture of which is based on a variety of compositional principles and techniques. Approaches to the architectural design of new buildings are diverse, correspond to the main trends in the development of modern architecture in the world and can be described by the concepts of convergence, reminiscence and contradiction. It can be said that the architecture of the city reflects both the diversity of international design experience and the individual architectural and artistic style of the leading architects of modern Moldovan architecture, demonstrating the expansion of freedom of their creativity. Despite this, the analysis revealed a number of problems in the implementation of modern architectural structures in the historical center of Chisinau. Overcoming these problems is a task of paramount importance in the strategy of the development of the city's architecture and the adoption of architectural and compositional solutions for the new buildings and structures.*

Key words: *architectural and compositional techniques, the historical center of Chisinau, Moldavian architecture, trends in the development of modern architecture.*

Introduction

The architectural image of modern Chisinau cannot remain unchanged, acquiring a "frozen" form. The city must develop in a multifaceted way in economic, cultural, social and aesthetic terms, in which the solution of architectural and urban planning problems plays a decisive role. Modern architectural practice is diverse and contradictory. On the one hand, it demonstrates the use of laconic form-building, the application of new compositional techniques, various color solutions, which often lead to a change in the proportions and scale of development. On the other hand, it is necessary to preserve the historical environment, human scale and individual spirit of the city (*spiritus locum* - lat.) in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Moldova and international rules for the protection of architectural heritage and the preservation of historical cities.

Problems in defining the policy of development of architecture of the city of Chisinau

Modern Moldovan architects at various forums, congresses, discussions and in the media draw attention to the need to take measures to systematize and protect architectural monuments, regulate and control "new" development in the "old" city. According to leading architects "in historical zone of Chisinau should appear the buildings that correspond to the spirit of modernity, and at the same time contain motifs that characterize this historical zone". Architect Yu. Povar (chairman of the Union of Architects of the Republic of Moldova, 2011-present) believes that "if there is a serious point of view about the need to preserve the urban environment, then it is necessary to create rules of the game on how to preserve it. What is needed here is not criticism, but advice and recommendations of specialists with experience in this field" [1].



In defining of the policy of Chisinau development, based on the need to preserve the historical environment and the original spirit of the city, it is necessary to take into account that its architecture can evolve only when a consensus between two contradictory phenomena is found. The development of the city should occur in accordance with modern trends in world architecture based on the renewal and modernization of the city's development. But such innovations should fulfill the tasks of protecting the historical context, destroying the perception of the existing urban environment. The problem that has arisen is not limited to the compositional and stylistic opposition of the "old" and "new" architecture of the city. It is a consequence of a number of shortcomings and contradictions in the architectural and urban planning policy of recent decades and the absence of a “full package” of normative and regulatory documents that meet the requirements of the "Principles for the Conservation and Management of Historic Cities and Urbanized Areas" [2] adopted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 2011. The required principles are based on the resolutions on the protection of cultural heritage of the Athens Charter (1931) and historic monuments of the Venice Charter (1964), as well as UNESCO decisions.

Ways to solve the arisen problems

The solution to this problem can be found in two parallel planes – legislative-urban planning and architectural-compositional. The search for an architectural and compositional solution for new buildings and the issues of their inclusion in the existing historical environment largely depends on the development of a strategic program for the city's growth prospects. The question of the need to develop a new general plan for the development of the city has been raised repeatedly. The absence of a strategy and legislative acts regulating development in the historical center of the city has led to:

- violation of an integrated approach to solving urban planning problems;
- uncontrolled interference of multi-story point development in the existing context without any space necessary for organizing landscaping and transport parking;
- non-compliance with the Law of the Republic of Moldova "On the Protection of Monuments" and international acts of the protection of architectural heritage;
- lack of consideration of the status of monuments during new construction;
- uncertainty in the customer's choice of a construction site;
- the complication of compositional and stylistic tasks in buildings design.

Negative interference in the architectural appearance of the city occurs daily. This requires a quick and competent professional solution to the problem that has arisen with a broad mobilization of the architectural community.

It becomes obvious. that the Master plan for the development of the Chisinau requires revision as soon as possible. According to experts, the practical implementation of this process should begin with the development of a new transport strategy, which plays a decisive role in the formation of the city's framework. The city centre transport scheme should be based on a deep analysis of the surviving architectural monuments and the historical urban environment to determine the parameters and limitations associated with them. Based on the adopted transport scheme, it is necessary to prepare and approve the main provisions of the Urban Zonal Plan of the City Center (PUZ). But given the previous negative phenomena that have arisen in the urban development of Chisinau, the best solution is to develop a new Master Plan of the Chisinau (PUG), as a scientifically based plan for the reconstruction and further development of the city. The implementation period of this plan, based on national and international experience, may be about 20 years, and the period of scientific research and development may take 2-4 years.

The international practice shows, that the contradiction between the "new" architecture and the historical context is resolved in legislative terms by adopting regulations for the development of the historical center, taking into account the requirements of international and national principles for the preservation of historical and architectural heritage. In our situation, the function



of such regulation can be performed by the Zonal Plan of the City Center (PUZ). In addition, an urban planning silhouette can be developed for each street, establishing the average height and permissible height of buildings. The development of such urban planning silhouettes is practiced today in the Master's program of the Technical University of Moldova. The urban planning silhouette can determine not only the geometric parameters of future buildings, but also the function of the first levels, which are in the field of view of pedestrians and transport passengers.

The adoption of these documents would facilitate the work of customers, architects, and official bodies called upon to control this type of activity. Such acts can be especially useful at the initial stage of design in choosing of location and defining of volumetric concept. Such documents will help the customer navigate the permissible possibilities such as: geometric parameters and height of the building; capacity or throughput; architectural style; the possibility of landscaping the territory; the organizing of parking spaces; etc.

In the process of drafting of regulatory acts it is necessary to take into consideration the nature, significance and status of the existing buildings, determining its cultural, historical and architectural value. It is necessary to rely on existing official documents, such as:

- Law of the Republic of Moldova “On the Protection of Monuments” (1993) [3];
- Register of monuments of the Republic of Moldova protected by the state (1993) [4];
- List of historical monuments of the Chisinau municipality of local importance, developed by the Design Institute IMP „Chișinăuproiect” (2014) [5];
- Law of the Republic of Moldova on the permission to carry out construction works (2010) [6], etc.

The results of scientific research to identify valuable buildings, architectural complexes, buildings and the monumental art works that decorate them can also be used.

The architectural and compositional aspect of the problem, which determines the creative component of the solution to the current situation, consists in solving architectural and design problems using professional methods: individual selection of the style of the future object and the corresponding compositional and artistic techniques, volumetric and color solutions of the building depending on the historical and cultural value of the urban context. The compositional and structural systematization of buildings in Chisinau and the identified trends in the development of their architecture can provide significant assistance in the process of solving of architectural and urban planning problems in design of new objects. If we talk about the issues of reconstruction of existing buildings and reorganization of the historically formed center of Chisinau, this research can become the basis for professional decisions in preserving of the historical heritage.

The study demonstrated the need for an integrated environmental approach to the design of new buildings. The architectural and compositional analysis of the buildings, which allowed us to identify the main trends of development of Chisinau architecture, creates the opportunity to discover three main approaches to the design of new objects. The choice of a suitable method is determined by the priority design task in the triad: “context - environment - object”: [1]:

The first method - "Context" - assumes the primacy of the environmental approach to the design of a new building in the existing development.

The second method - "Environment" - assumes the presence of an architectural monument or another "exceptional" building of architectural and historical value next to the designed object, the leading role of which must remain undeniable.

The third method - "Object" - brings the building being designed to the forefront, making the environment and immediate surroundings secondary.

The proposed approaches fully reflect the directions of development of Chisinau architecture identified in the study. As one of the tools for managing the architecture of the urban organism, these approaches may be appropriate in the following cases: for the reconstruction and general harmonization of urban buildings; for the resuscitation of urban tissue - the elimination of



abandoned, degrading areas and the attraction of business to them; for the adaptation of the urban environment to various socio-economic fluctuations, including new needs of society.

The described approaches are proposed to be used in the development of regulatory acts for new construction in the existing urban environment. For each quarter, recommendations can be prepared for choosing the most suitable method and the corresponding compositional and stylistic techniques. This proposal should be more of a recommendatory nature, rather than establishing rigid compositional and stylistic frameworks, limiting the freedom of creativity of modern Moldovan architects.

Conclusion

Today, there is no clear view on the issues of transforming the city of Chisinau, especially its historical center, and incorporating new buildings into existing environment. Experts' opinions on this matter differ and sometimes become diametrically opposed. But one thing remains unchanged - despite its centuries-old history, Chisinau must be a city that meets all the modern requirements for the capital of a European state, which preserves its historical and cultural context.

A study of the architecture of Chisinau buildings demonstrated that the strategy for the continuous development of the city in the near future can be built on the implementation of the following tactical actions:

- Development of state policy in the form of a legislative and regulatory framework for the development of the city of Chisinau in general, and its historical center in particular;
- Preservation and careful attitude both to individual historical, cultural and architectural monuments protected by law, and to the existing urban texture of historical and architectural value;
- An individual approach to the development of the project of each new object, taking into consideration the context and status of the surrounding buildings;
- Finding compositional techniques and the scale of new construction that allow it to fit organically into the existing architectural environment;
- Organization of control at the state and professional level for the strict implementation of all of the above.

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