

ARCHITECTURE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL IN CHERNIVTSI

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The contribution of Armenian culture to the development of world culture, town planning and architecture is the subject of scientific interest and the works of many theorists and practitioners of architecture and art criticism (history). The cultural heritage within the existing borders of the Republic of Armenia has been studied significantly and has received international recognition. Invaluable treasures of Armenian architecture include: complexes of the monasteries Ahpata and Sanain, cathedrals and churches of Echmiadzin, Zvartnots temple, Geghard monastery, which were included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. As for the study of certain architectural objects that have emerged as the contribution of Armenians to the architecture of numerous European cities, in particular within the territory of modern Western Ukraine, these issues still await consistent scientific generalizations.

It is known that within the limits of the lands belonging to the territory of Western Ukraine during this period, large Armenian colonies were practically in all regions: in Podillya, in Galicia, in Bukovina (partly Chernivtsi region).

Armenian Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul was built between 1869 -75. At that time, Bukovina was part of Austrian Empire. The authoritative Austrian scholar and recognized expert on the history of Chernivtsi - Raimund Frederick Kayndl in his studies [1, p. 234] revealed the information about 4 Armenian-Catholic families, which were registered by the Polish border commissar Thomas von Voitsikevich for the period of province annexation, in 1774. And in 1820, the number of Armenians in Chernivtsi and its environs contained 30 families [2, p. 201], in 1865 there were more than a thousand families [2, p. 203]. Despite the fact that the number of Armenians was modest in comparison with other ethnic groups, they had sufficient influence. The area, where Armenians lived compactly, was adjacent to the central square of the city, Ringplatz.

In 1864, the construction of a grand architectural complex of the Metropolitan Residence of Bukovina and Dalmatia began, in Chernivtsi, under the directions of a young, but already well-known architect in Vienna, Josef



Figure 1. Street of Jakob von Petrovich.

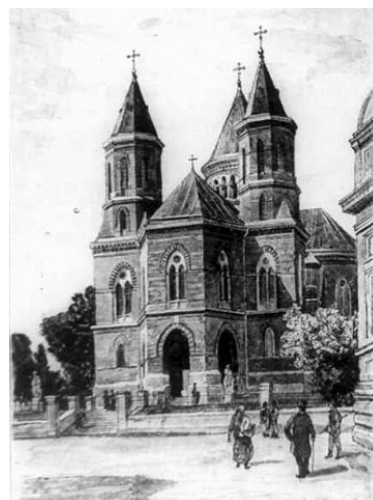


Figure 2. General view of Armenian Church.

Glavka. He was entrusted with the development of Armenian church project.

Taking into account the small number and modest financial situation of the Armenian community, as well as the huge costs of construction work, the committee was created for implementation of the construction, headed by the chairman, who issued an appeal to public and private individuals, to Armenian communities from all around the world with a request to provide financial assistance to implement the project.



Figure 3. Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (photo 2015).

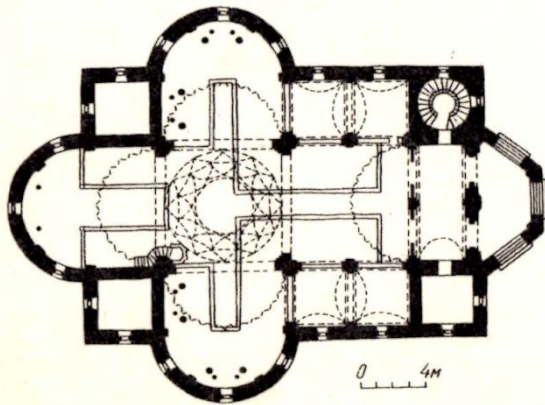


Figure 4. The plan is at the mark of 0.000 [5, p. 338].

The church is located in the historical center of the city, on a land plot of 0.5 hectares, pic. 3. The building is located on the axis of the street and closes its perspective, pic.1, and also organically merged with city's silhouette and panoramas of the historical center. The adjacent building creates a favorable background for the perception of a religious building. Dimensions of the structure are 32x24 meters (along the longitudinal and transverse axis of the cross).



Figure 5. The building of Armenian church on the map of Chernivtsi [4], 1898.



Figure 6. The modern general plan of the city.

The architecture of the Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is a combination of the canonical traditions of Christian architecture and fashionable stylistic trends that dominated in Vienna in the second half of the nineteenth century. Traditional prototypes of Armenian cult architecture³ were correctly interpreted by Joseph Glavka. The basis of compositional solution is a plan in the form of a cross. At the intersection of the central nave and transept, the main vertical axis of the structure is formed, Pic. 2. Vertically, it ends with a tower on a cylindrical drum with a tent cover. The main longitudinal axis of the plan is directed toward the altar apse of the semicircular shape. The influence of the medieval temples of Armenia –

Geghart, Ahpat, Sanain, Hagartsin (included in the UNESCO World Heritage List) is clearly visible. The decoration of the facades of Armenian Church in Chernivtsi is made of red glossy bricks. The facades of the residence of Metropolitans of Bukovina and Dalmatia are decorated similarly, which makes them look-a-like . It is known that the architect, Joseph Glavka, was a passionate admirer of the indigenous folk architecture and a supporter of the preservation and usage of its traditions. Moreover, Joseph Glavka also used non-Gothic motifs in his works. For the Armenian Church, these are arcabouts, buttresses, pinnacles, a characteristic arrow-shaped form of white-stone frames of window openings of the upper tier, Fig. 4.

The interior of the church enriches the artistic fillings of stained-glass window openings which are made of colored glass in lead bindings: in the lower tier of the interior window openings are with polychrome stained-glass, windows in the form of ornament are located; The second tier of windows of the transept and the altar part are filled with stained glass windows on the themes of the New Testament. The sails of the dome are decorated with frescoes of the evangelists' images.

The dome drum is based on sail arches and is constructed with the usage of the constructive scheme of medieval Moldavian architectural traditions (autochthon architecture) in the form of crossed arches.

In 1875, on October 9, the first consecration of the Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul took place. After 1944, church was closed, for a long time its premises were empty. Subsequently, the building was used as a warehouse, while the church was blocked by concrete bays.

By the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR No. 442 dated September 6, 1997, the Armenian Church was declared a monument of architecture of national importance (security number in the state register - 1736). At the same time, the operation of the building was stopped due to unsatisfactory technical conditions.

Some of the stained glass windows were destroyed, the rest - dismantled and placed for



a.



b.



c.

Figure 7. Facades a), b). Photo by Denis Duliak. c). Interiors [6, p. 64, 65].

the maintenance on the funds of the Chernivtsi Regional Museum of Natural History.

In 1983, a group of young architects addressed an open letter to the Chernivtsi newspaper with the initiative to carry out restoration works and further adaptation of the empty and ruinous building of the Armenian Church, as an organ hall. The collective appeal was considered and after the appropriate examination of acoustics (design institute B.S. Mezentsev, Moscow) was supported by the authorities.

In 1986 the church building was transferred to the balance of the Chernivtsi Regional State Philharmonic. The project of restoration and adaptation under the organ hall was carried out by the Kiev design institute Ukrproektrestavratsiya, the chief architect of the project is Vasily Bezyakin. In addition to the restoration work, the premises were equipped with modern heating, lighting, providing the humidity regime necessary for the functioning of the organ.

The restoration was carried out by Kamenets-Podolsky restoration workshops corporation "Ukrrestavratsiya". Stained glass windows are recreated in the restoration workshops "UkrZahidProektRestauratsiya", Lviv. The active participation in the work was carried out by administrators, architects, restorers: M. Revenko, V. Lenchinsky, P. Kaspruk, V. Verig, A. Martynyuk, N. Orlenko, M. Kaverdinsky, T. Zubovich, I. Mohitich, V. Kostreb, M. Ryabukha, S. Zubarev, M. Dutchenko, and others. In 1988, the reconstruction and restoration were completed, an organ, which was made by Regent-Klosse in Prague, was assembled.

The total cost of works amounted to about half a million dollars. In 2010, sculptors P. Lemsky, M. Lysakivsky, D. Gorshkovsky restored and returned to their place sculptures of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

Currently, the structure is simultaneously used as the Organ Hall of the Chernivtsi Regional State Philharmonic and for its intended purpose. On weekends and weekdays, worship services of the church community of the Armenian Apostolic Church are held here.

August 11, 2012, the temple was visited by the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church

Catholics and the Supreme Patriarch of all Armenians, Garegin II. Thus, the process of gradual revival of the historical significance of the Armenian Church in Chernivtsi is being realized as an outstanding object of the cultural heritage and spiritual center of the Armenian community.

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