

RESTORATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

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Kyiv is a picturesque city the image of which has been created over the centuries by its God-blessed architects. Kyiv, as well as Jerusalem and Constantinople, was one of the holiest places for Orthodox people. Today the city territory is 370 square kilometers. The territory of the historic center is 90 square kilometers. There are 12 thousand historic buildings in general. Forty two of the 3859 historical and architectural monuments are on the UNESCO World Heritage List and 279 are on the National Heritage List.

From the 10th to the 12th Centuries the urban complex was formed, every part of the city had its specific function: Dytynets - the principal palace part (Volodymyr's City); the administrative-representative part (Yaroslav's City); the princes' monastery town (Svyatopolk and Izyaslav's City); the economic center (the Kyiv Podyl); the trade and craft areas (Kopyriv Kinets, the settlements Honchary (the potters) and Kozhumiyaky (the leather processors); and the city necropolises (the Zamkova and Shchekavytsya hills). Its territory amounted to about 350 hectares. Yaroslav the Wise founded two world-known monuments: St. Sophia Cathedral and the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra.

One of the most interesting periods in the development of Kyiv architecture began in the second half of the 17th Century and continued until the mid 18th Century. In this period the major features of the Ukrainian baroque style were formed. By the middle of the 18th Century the construction of the complexes of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Cave Monastery) the St. Sophia's and the Vydubys'kyi monasteries was completed. In this epoch Kyiv was ruled under the Magdebourg right, the 500th anniversary of it of which we are celebrating now. In the 19th Century and at the beginning of the 20th Century, in the period of "historicism" and "moderne", the architectural image of the central part of the city was finally formed.

The revolution in 1917 spoiled the achievements of Kyiv architecture. Ideologically the Stalinist regime had to destroy all the Kyiv shrines as Kyiv was known to all of mankind as the capital of the Orthodox world. Stalin demanded the implementation of the idea - *if you relieve the nation of its monuments, then the nation will disappear in some time*. The same principles

were followed by the fascist ideology. In the period of the 1920 – 1930s, sixty-three religious buildings were destroyed.

Proclamation of independence in Ukraine brings us back to the sources of revival of a Christian nation ideology. This is, first of all, the restoration of the existing and reconstruction of lost monuments. We are reviving the national cultural heritage not only of Ukraine, but also of Russia, Byelorussia and the whole Orthodox world. This includes not only the monuments, but the Christian spirit of the nation, the ethic and moral norms and the national self-awareness. Therefore restoration and reconstruction of the lost monuments is now important, from the ideological as well as from the architectural and municipal building point of view, for the preservation of the fullness and wholeness of the historical environment of the city and the revival of the Christian values in the society.

In less than three years, since Oleksandr Omel'chenko became the Mayor of the city, many buildings were restored and reconstructed at the cost of the Kyiv City State Administration.

According to the provisions of the Venice Charter, all the restoration works are executed on the basis of thorough analysis of the archival, literary and iconographic sources thanks to which authenticity of the monument is reconstructed. This concerns both general architectural planning, compositional style solutions, minor decor details and elements of minor architectural forms. Restoration is always preceded and followed by archaeological investigations. Detailed documentation of analytical and scientific reports, illustrated with pictures and photos, is also compiled. In the documents all the stages of construction, such as technical and artistic elements used in the course of works. Documentation is preserved in the archives.

The natural beauty of Kyiv is due to its location on the high bank of the wide River Dnipro, crossing the city from the north to the south. A chain of green hills and high plateaus, surmounted with the silhouette of the ancient golden domed churches creates the main panorama of the city. In the Stalinist epoch this system of skyline accents was ruined together with many spiritual temples. And so with every reconstructed monument the historic silhouette is returned to Kyiv and the peculiarities of its planning are restored.

In 1995 President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma issued a special order about the restoration and reconstruction of the outstanding monuments of history and architecture, and this was an important step in the history of our state. This program of historical and cultural heritage preservation is carried out by the President and Kyiv mayor O. Omel'tchenko.

ST. MICHAEL'S GOLDENDOMED CATHEDRAL

St. Michael's Goldendomed Cathedral (1108) was the main municipal building dominating the Upper city, around which Kyiv developed. In 1937 the Cathedral was blown up and destroyed.



Picture 1. General view of St. Michael's Square

From 1996 till 1999 the archeological researches were made in the territory of the ancient Monastery. Practically all the territory of the Cathedral was investigated to the depth of 1.5 to 2 meters, and in some places up to 5 meters. The main nucleus of the temple of 1108 was a typical cross-dome plan building with a large porch. The temple was built in a mix of plynth brick and uncut stone referred to as *opus mixtum*. This was the common construction in Kyiv in this era.

The researchers and restorers came to the decision: put a concrete mat foundation over the remaining part of the Cathedral, and construct a new building upon it. The mat is not based on the old walls, and there are openings left in it to make certain parts of the Cathedral visible and to ensure the possibility of access for the future researchers to the original walls or the foundations, as the international charters on monument preservation have ascribed.

In autumn of 1998 to the north of St. Michael's Cathedral, remnants of another stone building were found. We can date it to the second half of the 12th Century. The building was decorated with columns and plastered with pink cement. Fragments of the fresco decorations with graffiti inscriptions and an Arabian coin were also found. Today we can say with certainty that it was a monastery gate of the church. The building was conserved and preserved.

In the course of excavations more than 300 burials of different times and rites were found. There are many finds connected with the architecture and decoration of the Cathedral. No doubt, the most important finds are the carved slate slab (size 113 by 153 centimeters) with the picture of the saint rider, the old Russian coins (Hryvnyas) and golden decorations.

Such principles were observed when choosing the conservation measures: as few additions should be made to the original building as possible. Before conservation of the masonry, investigations of its condition were completed, destructive cracks were found and the places for defining the volume and type of the conservation works that were in danger were defined. In the process of conservation of the masonry walls and foundations the following measures were taken: dry cleaning of horizontal and vertical surfaces of dirt, and destructured mass; gluing by mortar of the separate pieces of slates and fragments of masonry that have fallen off the monolith of the wall; injecting of cracks in the masonry; strengthening the masonry; structural strengthening of the slates and mortar in the upper layer by the method of saturation with a special solution; protective processing against weathering; and the conservation of fragments of fresco plaster.

By now almost all the monuments of architecture have been reconstructed on the territory of the complex of the St. Michael's Goldendomed Monastery. The building of the Cathedral was consecrated on May 28, 2000, in the course of the Day of Kyiv celebrations.

In connection with the reconstruction of the complex of the St. Michael's Goldendomed Monastery special attention is given to the reconstruction of the Sophia and Michael Square. As a result the visual connections of the dominant belfries of St. Michael and the St. Sophia have been renewed.

USPENSKY (DORMITION) CATHEDRAL

The reconstruction of the Uspensky (Dormition) Cathedral – one more monument of world significance – is going on at the cost of the city. The temple was blown up on November 3, 1941. It is still being discussed who caused the explosion: either the fascists or the Soviet guerillas.

The temple is of great historic, architectural and artistic importance. After uncovering and concurring the foundations and remnants of the temple, the restoration works are being carried out today.

The main problem for restorers was to join the preserved part of the Cathedral of the 11th Century and the newly reconstructed part. The architects conserved the old walls and the foundations and treated all the cracks. These works were done so that the two parts of the Cathedral formed a single unit. Special works on the strengthening of the foundations were performed with the help of inclined bored-injection piles jacked into place on the perimeter of the old foundations so that the foundations are based on them. After the pile insertion the two parts of the temple, the old and new, were joined together. A special architecturally decorated joining, tracing the meeting of the old and the new, was made between them. And measuring devices were installed to monitor displacement.

To define the fragments which should be exhibited, the construction evolution of the building was analyzed and the most characteristic stages of it were defined, represented by the remaining parts. After that the fragments to be exhibited were defined.

OTHER INTERESTING OBJECTS OF RESTORATION

In the last three years about 15 monuments of cultural heritage have been restored at the cost of the city. Reconstruction of the complex of the St. Michael's Monastery, the Bogoroditsya Pyrogoshcha Church, and the Uspensky (Dormition) Cathedral are going on today. This policy of national heritage preservation was started by the Kyiv mayor Omel'chenko, whom the Kyivans elected again in May 1999.

The historic past, the esthetic values are being returned to Kyiv, because it is beauty that will save the world. In the future Kyiv city authorities will continue to maintain cultural heritage preservation. Up to 2001 it is planned to execute the restoration and reconstruction of 9 more monuments.

For example, the interiors of the St. Mykholai Naberezhnyi Church, built in 1772 – 1775 by the architect Hrygorovich-Bars'kyi, have been restored.

The Bogoroditsya Pyrogoshcha Church, built in 1131 – 1135, was reconstructed. The church was destroyed in the 1930s during the epoch of the totalitarian regime. At this monument the old masonry was conserved and archaeological probing was performed. Conservation of the metal constructions of the belfry vault, cleaning of the surface of the limestone cornice of dirt, and dust, and cleaning of the colored stones in the interior of the church was also implemented. The authentic part of the Church was made into a museum.

The Western and Oriental Art Museum was restored. The house was built in 1881 – 1882 by the architect R. Meltser. The interiors were designed by V. Markoni and the paintings in the interior were made by the Austrian painter G. Makkart, Ukrainian painter V. Kotarbyns'kyi, and Spanish painter S. Barbuda. The museum was founded by a well-known industrialist and philanthropist Boghdan Khanenko and his wife. The palace, built in the style of a Renaissance Italian palazzo, was built as a suite of rooms with separate historic styles.

In 1998 St. Nicolas Church at the Askold Tomb (the burial place of the first Kyiv Prince Askold) and the place of the former Hungarian settlement was restored to its original appearance. The stone St. Nicolas Church was built in the classicism style in 1808 – 1810 by Melens'kyi with charity money.

In 1999 at the cost of the city the restoration of the Post office constructed in 1853 – 1864 by engineer Bensemann was completed. The building functioned as a post station until 1919. The outstanding writers Shevchenko and Pushkin lived here. Now it houses the exhibition dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the Magdeburg right in Kyiv.

The Column of the Magdebourg right was restored. It was erected in 1802 – 1808 at the expense of the city authorities and the citizens in honor of returning the Magdebourg right to the city in 1797. Architect Melens'kyi was the original designer of the Monument.

The Annunciation Church of the Brotherhood Monastery of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is an interesting object of restoration. In the course of its restoration in 1998 – 1999 paintings of the late 18th Century in the baroque style were uncovered. The restoration of the cupola is already finished, the cross has been mounted, and the restoration of the paintings is underway on. With the help of the Kyiv City State Administration, the National Philharmonics Building was also restored. It was built in 1882 by the architect Nikolaev for the Traders Assembly Club. The architecture of the building is a unique combination of exterior forms with the interior and it has a certain function – for public assemblies, concerts, and business meetings.

Also with the help of the City Administration the Greek Monastery was restored. It was built at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th Centurie. The monastery belfry was built in 1914 by the architect Eisner in the modern style.

There was also the restoration of the facade including painting the Kontraktovyi Building, constructed in 1815 – 1817 in the classicist style by architect Geste for the contract fairs.

In 1998 the monument to the Prince Volodymyr, the great Kyiv Prince and the Baptizer of Rus, built by architect Klodt in 1853, was restored. This is a sculptural statue of the Prince Volodymyr on a high pedestal with the cross in his right hand.

In 1998 the bronze monument to a great Ukrainian poet and writer Taras Shevchenko, erected in 1939, was restored.

But there are also many problems in the work of the Department on Monument Protection. In the absence of an approved general city plan (historical and architectural plan), city building and development rules lead to numerous violations of the laws in force. Development of the historic center has a chaotic, non-sanctioned character.

According to the law in Ukraine “On Protection and Use of Monuments of History and Culture” and by order of the Kyiv City Council “On the Limits of Historical and Cultural Preserves and Areas of Protection of Monuments of History and Culture,” the Department does everything possible to stop unlawful activity connected with restoration and reconstruction of historical buildings and construction of "alien" construction in the historical environment.

We are entering the third millenium and we are reconsidering all our historic achievements. I am sure that in some years we will be able to invite our respected colleagues to Kyiv and show the work that we have completed, so that our beautiful city – one of the oldest capitals of Europe – will continue to be the pride of Ukraine.