

TOWNS IDENTITY IN THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE KARABAKH

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Abstract. 2020 will be recorded in history as the year of a glorious triumph, as the year when we returned our lands. [1] As is known, as a result of the occupation policy of Armenia, centuries-old ancient historical and cultural monuments belonging to the Azerbaijani people were destroyed and wiped off the face of the earth, some of them were falsified [2]. Actually, one of the priority of issues for Azerbaijan is the reconstruction of the livability of the area that has been occupied and plundered. In another view, there is a tendency from the past where one of the major processes in urban planning is still as dissolution of the individuality of city image. In that paper, we used the application of the analysis taken for the Karabakh lands that are under conducting the redevelopment programs of: tourism potential, agriculture, culture. The research was to study the identity of the historical towns in general by using of inductive approach, and descriptive analyses of the tendency of the local past and present in town planning, compared with successful strategy in urban planning. As result, we revealed the potential opportunity to set the identity in the initial strategy of the towns redevelopment.

Introduction. *Occupied territories in the soviet past.* During the period of the Soviet Union, all the republics developed in accordance with the planned economy of the USSR. But in this system, the republics were resolved by the possibility of fully managing their resources and could not use the full potential of their economic development. Such donor republics shared their economic potential with others. On May 12, 1920, forests, water resources, and subsoil were declared property of the state. On May 27, 1920, the oil industry was nationalized. [3] Azerbaijan has always been a strategically important territory. Trade routes passed here for centuries. There were born many outstanding personalities and creative talents. The Azerbaijani land has the richest historical and cultural heritage. In Soviet times, Azerbaijan was one of the essential foundations of the Soviet economy was based on the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Union of Soviet Republics is a state in Eurasia that existed for almost 69 years from 1922 to 1991. [4] In the 90s there was a collapse of the Soviet system and a painful restructuring of communist psychology for capitalist people. This time for a mighty country in the past was marked with empty counters, a giant shortage of food products, closed institutes of research, bankrupt industrial enterprises, etc. But the process of formation of an independent state became associated with particularly tragic events. Black January or also Bloody January is the suppression of political opposition by units of the Soviet Army. On the night of January 20, 1990, in the capital of the Azerbaijani SSR — the city of Baku, more than a hundred civilians, mostly Azerbaijanis were dead for independence. [5]

During this difficult time, in addition to all the problems in the economic and political aspects, the Armenian leadership, using the resources of the Soviet army units and hired terrorists, began to seize the lands of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian invaders exterminated defenceless civilians by entire settlements. Large-scale terror spared neither children, women nor the elderly. Local people were doomed to flight and death in 1992. The invasion of the land of the primordially Azerbaijani Karabakh was accompanied by the capture of the nearest territories of the cities and reached 20% of the country's territory. For 30 years, the Armenian side plundered everything it could. The Armenians cut down forests, desecrated cemeteries, and dismantled houses for sale. It is the result of Armenia's aggressive policy against Azerbaijan that over 10 thousand toponyms and names of historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories were changed to Armenian ones. [6] Attacks and shelling of front-line peaceful settlements were also earlier from Armenia. But this time the situation was distinguished by the fact that civilians and military personnel were again killed as a result of intensive shelling and civilian infrastructure was seriously damaged. By order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, the Azerbaijani army launched a lightning-fast counter-offensive operation along the entire front. In 44 days, the Azerbaijani army liberated 5 cities, 4 settlements and 286 villages from occupation. [7]

Restoration of cities and post-soviet reality. The liberated territories after the Armenian occupation struck the human imagination, how much and with what bloody hatred the whole environment was distorted. In other words, literally, everything is wiped off the face of the earth.

But our time had come, which we have brought closer as fast as possible we could. After so many troubles and sufferings of the people, the liberated cities of Karabakh require restoration. In them, literally, the called life should appear.

“Every society, and even each city individually, has developed throughout history its own system of values, lifestyle and everyday life, with which they gained worldwide recognition-fame.” [8]

The unique toward is that it is necessary to carry out work, in accordance with which it is important to restore the historical value of architectural monuments and build new buildings. The main thing is to grasp the main challenge now facing the cities of the Karabakh region. In addition to the quick recovery, the question is what list of concepts for different categories of restoration should be used. Also, the next challenge is that until recently, the practice of restoring such a scale and following the recommendations for maintaining the well-being of c was neither in the Soviet nor in the post-Soviet past. In cities, high-rise residential buildings and hotels are built incompatible distances from architectural monuments; the scale of the urban environment is not supported. Accordingly, there is a wide range of issues that have passed from past practice. At the same time, the experience of partner countries also cannot completely reflect the strategy of the patriotic position in Azerbaijan in their approaches. The paper draws attention to the retrospective of the development of different historical periods and points to the inherent trends of post-Soviet practice. One of the most important aspects is the content of urban restoration projects in which one and the primary toward is still not only to restore cities but to revive their identification in architecture and town planning.

In the 21st century, the world's scientists have provided a revision and rethinking of the priorities in the formation of the urban environment. The issue of sustainable urban development and the quality of the urban environment is also being updated and supplemented. Now it is also directed in the indifference of public communes inherited from the period of the socialist regime, this also affects the nature of the development of small and medium area cities, overcoming the crisis of single-industry towns and improving the environment of mass residential and industrial building construction.

Such ways should become a matter of discussion in local urban forums, highlighting the importance of restructuring the regional character of domestic cities. There is also a growing demand for specialists in the field of urban planning and urban design, architects who understand the urban context and are able to create a harmonious architecture inscribed in it, able to prompt solve existing urban issues.

As a recent example of the individualisation of the environment, we can figure out a particular model of a homogeneous urban space in the framework of an abstract quarter, filled with the same buildings. If such a quarter is inhabited residents who represent people of different ages, national, professional and cultural groups, then each resident will begin to change a little bit the environment of this quarter in their own way.

But the regularity of these changes is able to be observed if we approach this issue in terms of psychology. The rural background of some residents may lead to gardens and flower beds under the windows or tubs with flowers on the windowsills. The flag on the balcony hung out by an emigrant, is both a distinction and an element of memory about his ethnic background. All these distinctive features are the result of processes of the self-identification, personal correlation of an individual or identity with any phenomena, objects, events, culture, social groups, etc. Sometimes the scale of these changes grows into the appearance in the environment with uncharacteristic elements of architecture, such as Chinatowns in New York, San Francisco or London. Therefore, there is a clear translation of culture into the environment, a complex stylistic combination. They are their own kind of camp or stronghold of national culture in another country, stronghold preservation of ethnic traditions, language, architecture, design and method of protection of the migrated people from being taken over by this city. These models indicate that due to the human factor, any urban environment receives the modification and acquisition of elements of identity.

But what does this environment represent without control from professionals and aesthetic meaningfulness?

Methodology. The application of the analysis was taken for the Karabakh historical areas that are conducting redevelopment programs based on smart technologies tourism potential, agriculture, culture and heritage etc. The research methodology is two phases to study identity of historical town by using of inductive approach, and descriptive analyses the tendency of past and present in town planning, comparing with successful strategy of urban planning. The city can be compared with an interesting open book. Which tells about the historical events that took place on its territory. Thus, one of the most important duties of the environment is to transmit correctly to the new generation the culture of the area, respecting the best icons of

architecture.

Historical town identity. In general, the appearance of the concept of identity can be observed in the humanities. Numerous theories of the evolution of mankind in their definitions of the life period of society are based on legal, political and philosophical views, as well as on the aesthetic level, which is formed on the basis of the process of development of art, technology and social culture. The architecture of past centuries consequently reflects the economic and political thereby preserving the heritage of the era. With the development of architectural thought, the term "identity" was transferred to urban science.

Traditions in architecture, expressed in the architectural heritage, play the role of one of the components in the city identification. In addition, the architectural heritage, the revelation of culture and history itself is a "product" of a social category, serving as the psychic base of its cultural development. Therefore, not only architectural monuments and the aesthetics of the urban environment leave their marks on the identification of the city, but also the societies and character of the economy and power. Nevertheless, architectural monuments are represented as the material which proves the cultural level of society. And in the case of town planning, the alleged relationship with the economic city and its geographical areas is reflected in the nature of the settlement. (Huseynov F., 2011, Urbanizm 17)

Many issues related to the identification of the cities in Azerbaijan are of a global nature, however, the regional liberation of Karabakh is associated with particular toward that require non-standard certain solutions. At the beginning of reconstruction after the triumphant victory of the Azerbaijan army over the armenian occupiers and due to all towns had been demolished, it is important to rethink the potential regional triggers as the base of the identity which is especially important for the region of liberated Karabakh. On January 5, 2021, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev signed an order declaring the city of Shusha as Azerbaijan's cultural capital. The city's new status came months after its liberation from Armenia's decades-long illegal occupation on November 8, 2020. [9]

The Karabakh region has always had a rich cultural heritage. Scattered around the territory of the settlement, ancient castles, rich monasteries, places of worship (chapels, temples, mosques, madrasahs), residential buildings, palace buildings, memorial structures, caravanserais, bridges, and springs, create a special artistic world of architecture. Here, the architectural environment, presented in various spatial and compositional solutions, is an integral part of the historical heritage. Various architectural, planning and constructive techniques set a certain system in the interpretation of one or another artistic image of a building or town structure. Craftsmen and architects have brought up not only the traditions of local architecture and skilled technic of the past but at the same time, a sense of modernity and belonging to their era. [10] On this land, there is an exact way of the diversified image of the architectural heritage of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. This feature is manifested by individually expressed qualities, which are fixed in themselves by the artistic features of the historical development of Azerbaijan.

In essence, the aspect of the ancestral land of Azerbaijan remembers a lot of self-sacrificing struggles and heroic defense of the centuries-old roots of its ancestors. it is very important to introduce the characteristic features of the area into the aesthetic framework of the architectural environment of future cities.

"Cities are known as centers and resources of all positive things about people; such as civilization, progress, prosperity, aesthetics and culture" (Henden, B., & Korkmaz, G., 2006, p.344). "Cities are not constituted only for one individual. They are devoted to various people who have different pasts, characters, professions and ranks" (Lynch, K., 2010, p.122). Therefore, cities which contain different living environments. Providing this the sustainability/continuity is inevitable. Continuity of colour, texture, material, floor covering, scale, façade details, lightning, vegetation and silhouette also help to give that effect (Lynch, K., 2010). In this perspective, in order to speak of identity, it probably would not be wrong to say that continuity of certain conditions that must exist in the community should be provided. As it can be seen from the analysis, the identification contains multiple aspects, and also represents a kind of multi-level platform in the cross-section in which it is possible to observe the chronology of the historical events of the region.

But the challenge ahead is not only to preserve the rich architectural heritage but also being able to create conditions for a sustainable identification code for this territory.

"The towards of the architect is to give life a more intelligent structure." (Alvar Aalto)

Accordingly, it is important to understand that a reasonable restoration structure is not only one that embodies the most optimal functional or hightech design solution, but also the framework that is able to

conduct a dialogue with the environment and broadcast the memory of its generation, as well as one that has managed to present to the whole world the distinctive qualities of its traditional architecture in modern execution.

Post-soviet tendency in urban development. In the initial period of 1917-1932, the development of Soviet urban planning basically consisted of two stages. In the first stage, urban planners set breakthrough tasks for themselves, created design studies and set experiments. This was due to the small scale of work in the period up to 1926. In the second stage, the volume of real construction increased significantly, new settlements arose related to industrial development and the implementation of the planned five-year plan until 1932. At that time, urban planners focused their attention on the problems of socialist settlement and the study of the structure of socialist cities. This was followed by periods of urban reconstruction after the Second World War, as well as the mass resettlement of families and the improvement of the housing level, when the calculation of the population was taken as a direct dependence on the needs of the industrial sector. [11] Post-Soviet development in cities is associated with the global transition to a market economy. In retrospect of the years of post-Soviet development, an influential factor was the manifestation of strong business circles associated with the construction sector. The attitude in the construction sector to housing can be observed as construction is not for a comfortable life, but for quick investments of their funds. If we analyze the housing construction of new residential buildings, it will be seen that they are at best half full. The high price of square meters of housing makes them not affordable for everyone. Thus, there are buyers who purchase several apartments, and there are also others who cannot afford to buy even a one-room apartment in the respective complexes at all. Therefore, Parking, green spaces, landscaping, insolation, etc. often they do not include at least what the developer plans to create, and residents of the city get clusters of residential complexes that represent the fierce environmental conditions of our city.

Successful urban planning. A good perception of life, and sometimes the psychological mood of citizens is strongly associated with the local and everyday environment, the image of their city. Spatial environment has the property of influencing a person's cognitive perception. It is also important to be able to include in the cognitive properties of the urban environment a means of transmitting the identification of cultural and historical heritage. Before the implementation of global changes in the region, urban planners and architects should set the task of maintaining, and also taking into account the scale of destruction, to form an individual image of the settlement. All of these considerations into account combine wellbeing of citizens and is able to represent successful towns for working and resting.

Conclusion. Revision and formation, as well as improvement of the identification of cities during their reorganization and development of Karabakh. One of the main tasks of contemporaries in studying and preserving the identification features of cities can be an ideologically correct assessment of the potential of cultural monuments, without denying the periods of development in the past. Defining his attitude to the architectural heritage, Victor Hugo wrote: "The largest monuments of the past are not so much the creation of an individual as of a whole society, it is more a consequence of the creative efforts of the people than a brilliant flash of genius, it is a sedimentary layer left behind by the nation, layers deposited over the centuries.

During the Soviet era of urban planning, in the approach to development, as well as to the laying of new cities, the revision or definition of the image of the city, identification was rarely considered. The basic components mainly involved such units as the economy, natural and climatic factors, and of course the ideology of the state. The principles of attitude to the city and society were predetermined in accordance with the charter of the Komsomol, adopted at the Komsomol congress in the Central Committee. The economy was planned and the choice of potentials of the city was monolithically one-sided. Cities were treated not from the position of their attractiveness, strengthening their architectural heritage and individuality, but considering them as places of extraction of certain resources. Individuality was also suppressed at the level of the structure of society. Every proclamation of the identification of individual qualities of a person was perceived as an enemy by the established cult of personality, and its manifestation was unacceptable.

History leaves its mark on the physical and mental level of the city. Analyzing the norms and rules of urban planning, it is definitely noticeable that most of them have remained in the form of a census from Soviet analogues even in our time. As one of the results of the study, it can be determined that the time has long come to change the standards that do not correspond to modern methodology and have remained since Soviet times. [11] If we take for example the developments carried out by meat design organizations that have

practice in developing a master plan and (PDP) (detailed planning plan) of the city center. It is obvious that today this type of documentation is archived for all components of the city structure. Therefore, in this work, the design methodology takes an important understanding. It should have a contour of counteractions directed against the negative practices of the post-Soviet period and take into account the identification of the structural foundations of the composition of new historical cities. We need to think about it. Will the general plan include the division into regulatory zones according to color schemes and building heights, according to the density of the housing stock? Will the cultural heritage, the traditional construction of blocks and streets, the presence of historically valuable buildings, as well as certain sites for icon buildings be taken into account in the project? Whether the project will specify the transport infrastructure or the city's service system. How will the projected area be included in the general system of the city?

As the practice of urban planning shows, first of all, it is not the presence or absence of a master plan as such that is important, but an understanding of its regulatory role in the development of the city. [12]

In addition to the general plan, we need accompanying information describing the regulation of the city in its dynamic development, issuing prescriptions for specific urban sectors. The disadvantage acquired in the Soviet past partly lies in ignoring identification factors, fine-tuning the image of the city. Due to the total destruction, we are dealing with an almost new planning of the cities of Karabakh. And in this case, the planning of historical cities requires a revision of the methodology of their design.

Combining the problems associated with solving the towards set, it is possible to rely on such parameters of historical cities as: the individuality of space, the uniqueness of its visual content, the dialogue between centuries-old and new architecture. These characteristics of the architectural context are able to identify the image of the towns.

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