

Compositional Peculiarities of Planning the Pochayiv Lavra Architectural Ensemble

Abstract

The article highlights the process of the formation of the Pochayiv Lavra architectural ensemble and the role of the shrine in the history and culture of Ukraine. The historical preconditions for the construction, architectural and planning structure of the complex have been analyzed. The relevance of architectural and planning structure of the Lavra to socio-political factors that influenced the architecture of the complex has been established. The Lavra complex planning has been analysed and its compositional dominants have been determined.

Keywords: volumetric and spatial composition, listed building, social and political processes, baroque, classicism, art nouveau, architectural ensemble, cathedral

1. Introduction

Architecture can reflect the periods of the heyday and decline of society. The Pochayiv Lavra architectural ensemble, which has been formed for centuries, shows all social and political processes that have been taking place in Western Ukraine since the 15th century. During its long history the Lavra has always been in the centre of all historical and political events of the region, played an important role in promoting Christian values, and has been the centre of education and culture.

The purpose of the article is to highlight the process of forming the architectural ensemble of the Pochayiv Lavra, analyse architectural and planning structure of the complex and determine its compositional dominants.

2. Setting the problem and relationship with important scientific and practical tasks

The world-famous Christian spiritual centre, the Holy Dormition Pochayiv Lavra, is an important part of the spiritual and cultural life of the Ukrainian people. At the time of its foundation it was the centre of Ukrainian Orthodoxy. In May 2016 Ternopil Regional Council made an appeal to the President and Cabinet of Ministers concerning the return of the state reserve status to the Pochayiv Lavra [12]. In terms of establishing civilizational choice of Ukraine and the necessity to solve political, national and cultural problems of modern state development it is very important to know the history of one's own region, the history of one's own sacred places.

3. The analysis of recent research and publications

The Development of Ukrainian architecture as well as the architecture of the Pochayiv Lavra complex was studied in "The History of Ukrainian Architecture" [1]. The illustrated essays on the shrine [2, 3] and its significance in the history of Ukra-

inian culture and Ukrainian national revival have been explored by historians, ethnographers, architects [4-8]. However, the architectural and planning structure of the Pochayiv Lavra, its characteristics and determination of architectural dominants have not been presented in the science of art history which specifies the **actuality** of this research.

Objectives of the research: to explore the process of forming the Pochayiv Lavra architectural complex; to analyse the ensemble planning and determine its compositional dominants.

4. The main part

The first written mention of the monastery belongs to 1450 (other sources give the date 1527). The development of the monastery began in the end of the 16th century under the patronage of a local land-owning lady Anna Hoiska [3, p. 131–136].

In the 17th century the monastery was a fortified defensive structure, it was surrounded by stone and wooden walls with towers that were adjacent to the church and palisade in the south. The yard was free of buildings. Near the northern and eastern curtain defensive walls one-storey buildings of cells stood [1, p. 168] (ill. 1).

From 1713 to 1832, when the monastery of Pochayiv belonged to the Greek-Catholic church, the greatest amount of building work was carried out at the site of the architectural



Ill. 1. The Pochayiv monastery in 1800 (illustration from the open sources)

ensemble [9]. One of the best cathedrals in Ukraine, the Holy Dormition Cathedral of Pochayiv, was built during the reconstruction of the monastery complex at the end of the 18th century in the late Baroque style [10; 2, p. 19–21]. The authors of the project (G. Hoffmann, P. and M. Polejowski, K. Kulczycki) radically changed the volumetric and spatial composition of the ensemble.

The buildings are terraced on the slopes gradually ascending to the main focus, the Dormition Cathedral, which is located on the highest point of the Pochayiv hill [11, p. 142-143] (ill. 2).

Another very important building of the monastery is the refectory (arch. K. Kulczycki) built in 1771–1783. The building is of a multi-purpose type that combines a church, a refectory hall and utility rooms. The refectory is associated with the Last Supper, has a mystical meaning and performs a sacred function.

Its three-dimensional composition is linear with a high dome over the eastern part [1, p. 209]. In 1771–1780 cells were constructed (arch. G. Hoffmann). All buildings are rectangular and interconnected with each other and the Dormition Cathedral forming a courtyard. In 1825 on the hillside the bishop's house was built in the style of the early classicism. Its facades are of various heights: the eastern facade is three storeys high, southern one is four storeys high, the western and northern facades have two storeys which is conditioned by difficult terrain.

The stone wall built in the 19th century surrounds the part of the monastery [3, p. 131–



Ill. 2. Dormition Cathedral (photo from the open sources)

136]. The complex within the walls included many utility and production buildings, a printing house, a hospital, an icon painting workshop, a candle factory, a monastery mill, the bishop's house, fields, forests, orchards, gardens and cemeteries which also had certain theological symbolism. Analysis of the volumetric and spatial structure of the Pochayiv Lavra shows that the construction of the monastery complex demonstrates attempts to isolate the Monastery from the surrounding area. The wall besides its defensive function also served as a barrier between the religious world and the secular world likening the monastery to town and emphasized its self-sufficiency [9].

Vertical focus and an important component of the Pochayiv Lavra is a five level bell tower built in 1861–1871 (arch. Rastrukhanov). In 1835 the construction of the front entrance gate began (arch. Mykhailovskyi). The direction of the monastery entrance remained unchanged. The Holy Gate is located at one of the lowest points of the monastery territory.

In 1835 the monastery ensemble was supplemented with a two-storey gate building constructed in the style of the late classicism. In 1862 the church located in the eastern wing of cells was consecrated in honour of the Holy Trinity (Honorable). In the early 1860s the St. Barbara's Cave Church was rebuilt.

The controversial monument of the Pochayiv Lavra is the Holy Trinity Cathedral built in 1906/1912 in the art nouveau style (arch. A. Shchusev). Despite its undeniable artistic value, it violated the artistic integrity of the architectural ensemble of the baroque and classical epoch [2, p. 26-29] (ill. 3).

5. Conclusions

1. The analysis of the history of the construction of the Holy Dormition Pochayiv Lavra

Ill. 3. Pochayiv Lavra in XXI century (photo from the open sources)



shows that the biggest change in the volumetric and spatial composition of the ensemble took place in the 18th century in the times of Basilian monks.

2. It has been revealed that besides the sacred function the monastery also performed defensive, cultural, social, political, and economic functions. The complex included utility and production buildings.

3. The main focus of the complex which towered over all the buildings was the cathedral. The refectory dominated residential and utility buildings. The bell tower as an essential compositional centre in its turn dominated the refectory. The Holy Gate is located at one of the lowest points of the monastery territory. Thus, the building work was carried out in accordance with the functional areas and the construction bears a clear hierarchical system.

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