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TRANSFORMATION OF MOGILEV'S PUBLIC SPACES

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The article discusses the concept and feasibility of urban public spaces. The conversion methods are given on the example of the central historical part of the city of Mogilev. Brief characteristics of the selected objects are given. Conceptual proposals for improving the urban environment have been made.

Keywords: *public space, square, historical status, complex, pedestrian space.*

Introduction. On a city-wide scale public spaces can be represented by a combination of elements such as pedestrian streets, squares, parks, squares, boulevards, territories in front of public buildings adjacent to houses of the territory, etc. Spaces of this type are designed to facilitate the content of trade, the organization of leisure, cultural the development of citizens, the development of their social skills, regardless of their financial situation, ethnicity or gender. Consequently urban public spaces should be accessible, safe and comfortable in the first place.

The image of large European cities is often collected in the minds of people on the basis of the real appearance of historically developed public spaces. An example of this is Red Square in Moscow, concluded between the Moscow Kremlin and China-City, or the Triumphal Route in Paris, which originates from the Louvre and ends in the defense quarter [1].

Main part. The historical center of Mogilev was formed on the right high bank of the Dnieper. The old city was a commercial and religious center. As part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the city had the right to hold two fairs a year, and Magdeburg law allowed the city to acquire the town hall and accordingly the square in front of it. All of the above facts testify to the high social activity of the townspeople and the organization of various open public spaces, which now have historical significance.

The public spaces of Mogilev, discussed further in the article, namely squares, squares and boulevards, are adjacent to the main streets of the city - Pervomaiskaya Street and the pedestrian Leninskaya Street. In figure 1 is a situation scheme showing the main objects under consideration and the elements surrounding them. Therefore the fragment under study consists of an invitation site in front of the building of the cultural institution "Mogilev Regional Philharmonic", an avenue of heroes of the Mogilev region, the theater square, Herzen Square, the square of the Episcopal Palace, as well as the Slava Square and the Maxim Gorky Park. The common problem of these components of the urban environment is not rational functional use, not developed infrastructure and service system, and many territories are simply empty. The reason for this may be planning decisions of these territories that do not meet modern requirements, outdated equipment, inappropriate small architectural forms and the absence of a barrier-free environment. In an ideal situation, each of these spaces should fulfill several functions and have many scenarios for using them by the townspeople or guests of the regional center. However, it is worth noting that there is no single universal solution, therefore, each of the objects should be considered separately, taking into account its historical status and in combination with the surrounding buildings.

Compositionally the Slava Square is a node to which extended axial elements lead. A steep relief determined the completion of Pervomaiskaya Street with a dead end adjacent to the square. Located on the right bank of the Dnieper, it has become a natural, viewing platform. A huge territory is occupied by the Memorial complex "Fighters for Soviet power." The complex includes a twenty-meter stela symbolizing victory, eternal flame, the mass grave of the Red Army soldiers who died in 1920. The bronze bas-reliefs on the mass grave depict the themes: «Collectivization», «October Revolution», «Defense of Mogilev in 1941», «Partisan movement» and «Post-war time» [2]. The attitude of citizens towards the memorial complex is ambiguous. Large monumental forms cause a lot of controversy among the modern generation. However, it should be recognized that almost all excursions and city tours include visits to this square and neighboring attractions. In order to preserve the memory of the bloody events that befell residents of Mogilev the history of Belarusians in general, zoning of the territory should be carried out delicately.

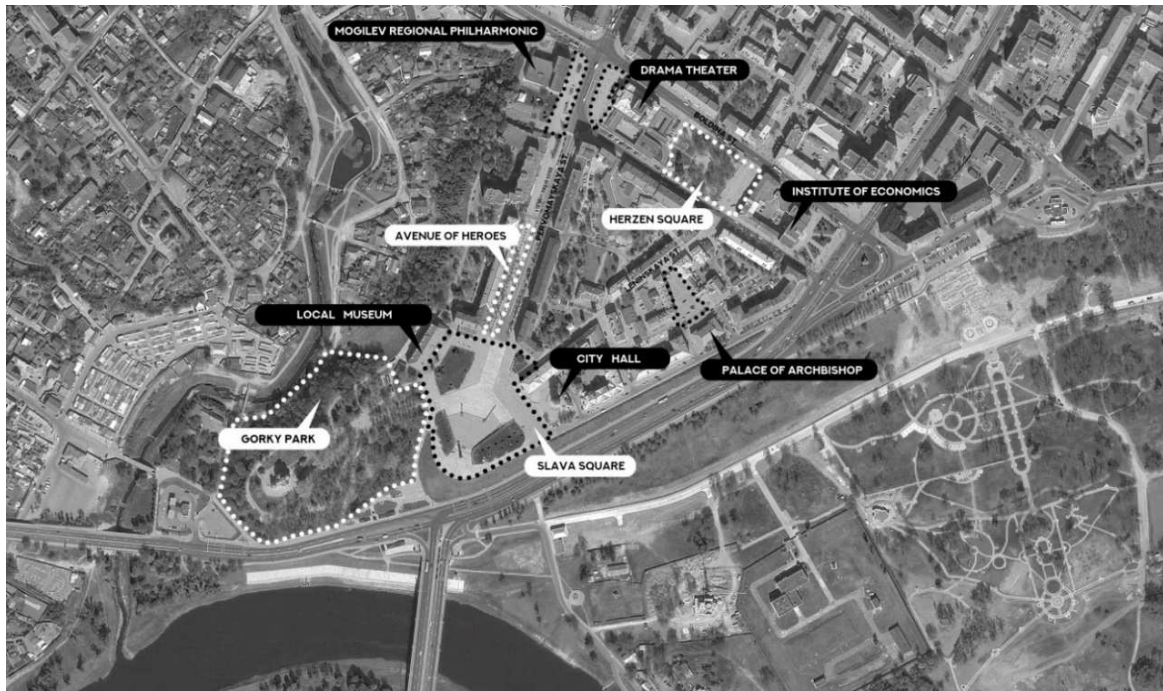


Figure 1. – Situation scheme

As part of the conceptual proposal, it is possible to develop an entrance group to the square from the Leninskaya street, to organize the square in front of the entrance to the museum of local lore that adjoins the Square of Glory by working with landscaping and paving. The section of Pervomaiskaya Street from the intersection with Boldina Street, which runs along the Heroes Alley, has great potential to become another pedestrian space completely free from cars, or a shared street. Public service facilities located on the first and ground floors of the adjacent residential development have courtyard driveways that can be used for loading and other needs, as an option. After necessary research, a decision can be made about using the underground space. The number of storeys (4-5 floors) of buildings is already man-scaled, and the transformation of the current roadway, crushing it into zones, new lighting design, will make the new space more cozy and friendly (Figure 2).



Figure 2. – New pedestrian zone

The area of the Bishop's Palace (second half of the 18th-19th centuries) has a more closed character in contrast to the Slava Square. This is a space deepened by several steps, bounded on three sides by outbuildings and having a fence with a front gate. The composition of the square is almost symmetrical about the axis of symmetry of the palace of Konissky's Archbishop. Several authentic buildings have survived on the territory of the old city, which survived numerous fires, perestroika time and WWII. The palace complex is one of such objects. Paving stones are still used as a covering material for sidewalks and driveways, the enclosing elements are

made of forged metal, and the color scheme of the facades is designed in calm pastel shades (Figure 3). The status of the objects, the general spirit of the place suggest that the most organic solution in this case will be the preservation and maintenance of the existing state of the palace complex. In this case, one should not introduce new functions into the sacred object, as, for example, this was done to St. Sophia Cathedral, a museum was created on the site of the church.



Figure 3. – Front gate of the palace complex

People's habits of attending cultural institutions have changed with an increase in the pace of life of the population. The storage area in front of the building is no longer used for meetings as before, information stands have already been replaced by advertising on the Internet. Herzen Square which is located near the courtyard facade of the Mogilev Drama Theater does not attract visitors it simply does not lie on the shortest path from one point of attraction of people to another. The summer stage of the theater which is a continuation of the courtyard facade is not used. The fountain established at the end of the 20th century, does not function, which is why it also ceased to be a place of attraction for citizens. As a conceptual solution to these problems, the creation of a dry fountain (without an open bowl with water) or a thematic installation can be proposed. In addition, a venue for outdoor events in the warm season can be thought out, with the possibility of using mobile and stationary equipment (spectator seats, screens, podiums, etc.). Interaction with an interesting object such as a musical or light fountain will help revitalize the square (Figure 4).



Figure 4. – Herzen Square

Invitation venues in front of the theater and philharmonic are surrounded by main streets. Near the above-mentioned objects (on bends), in the triangles of visibility, it is forbidden to install any large street equipment that interferes with a full-fledged visual view from the roadway. The creation of large installations, information boards is impossible. Therefore it is possible to solve the existing situation by means of not high elements

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of improvement of the environment: landscaping (lawn, flower beds, flower beds, undersized shrubs), the arrangement of seats.

Conclusion. The proposals for transforming Mogilev's public territories are based on the idea of creating individual, unique and modern urban spaces meeting current modern living standards. Which could adapt to the needs of citizens depending on the time of day or the time of year.

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