

UDC 72.05.

INFLUENCE OF ROMAN ARCHITECTURE ON ARCHITECTURE OF BELARUS OF X – XIII CENTURIES

KANSTANTSIN LYSIKAU, ALENA KHAMKOVA, ULADZIMIR AUSEICHYK
Polotsk State University, Belarus

The learning of the history of Belarus in the period from X to XII century shows, that on the territory of our land the rich and rather original culture was formed. However, historians differently assess the ethnic character of this culture. Some of them consider it as a part of the culture of the ancient Russian, while others consider it to be Belarusian culture. There are various concepts: "culture of the western land of Russia", "Belarusian culture", "Old Belorussian culture". [1] Nevertheless, the high organization of the society, the formation of statehood, the formation of new feudal relations, the favorable trade position, extensive political ties - all these points contributed to the cultural progress on the lands of Belarus. The vast development of cities which were centers of feudal principalities, as well as trade and craft centers and the adoption of Christianity, were the reason for the formation of new trends in monumental architecture in the period under consideration. [2] The determining factor in the cult construction was the influence of the Byzantine Empire, as Kievan Rus adopted the Christianity of the Eastern rite from the Church of Constantinople.

The penetration of Roman architecture into the architecture of the Belarusian land can be reduced to two main directions: penetration through Byzantine architecture and through direct contacts of cities with Europe. In the XI-XII cent. castles, towers, monastery churches, churches, city houses were built on the territory of Belarus to the Romanesque pattern. Buildings were noted for their monumentality, solidity of designs, and severity: they were decorated with abstract geometric patterns and sculptures. Unfortunately, nowadays there are very few monuments of Romanesque style preserved. All of them were later destroyed or ruined because of frequent wars, many of them were rebuilt, supplemented, reconstructed and did not save their original form. [3]

Sacred architecture. One of the first temples, built on the territory of the Belarusian lands, where you can see the influence of the Romans, was the St. Sophia Cathedral in Polotsk. It was built between 1044-1066. It was conceived as a "short version" of Sophia of Kiev and Sofia of Novgorod, where such temples had been already built, and should symbolize political equality with Kiev and Novgorod. The cathedral was rebuilt many times and did not save its original form, that's why there are some difficulties in the study of the original form. Some sources say that it was the cathedral with seven domes, others say that it was the cathedral with five domes. It was rebuilt 6 times, so the original architecture of the cathedral has now completely changed. According to a plan, the original form of the cathedral was a quadrangle with 5 naves and 3 apses and was of the type - basilica. From north to south, the length of Polotsk Sophia is 26.2 m. From the west to the east - 25.5 m. The walls of the temple were laid out of stone according to the technique of Byzantine masonry "with hidden rows". The foundation was the alternation of rows of stone (plinth) - one coincided with the plane of the wall, the other was heated to a shallow depth comparatively to the upper and lower stone. The niche, which was formed, was filled with a solution of sticky crumbs. This method of laying made the cathedral very picturesque. In some places, the system masonry "with hidden rows" alternated with inserts with work stones, which indicated the formation of the principles of the local architectural school. The decor of the interior was enhanced by multiple murals. [4] The introduction of faceted apses, as typical of wooden churches, is one of the features of the Polotsk Sophia Cathedral, neither in Kiev, nor in Novgorod, are such apses not found. A distinctive feature of the cathedral is the absence of external bypass galleries and towers. Due to this, the outer volume of the temple was more compact and dynamic.

The breadth of the range, the richness of types and the variety of building methods make up the distinctive features of architecture created on Belarusian land at that time. The most striking and characteristic examples of architecture of the 12th c. are the Cathedral of the Savior-Euphrosyne Monastery in Polotsk, the Church of the Annunciation in Vitebsk and Borisoglebskaya, or Kolozhskaya in Grodno.

The Cathedral of the Savior-Euphrosyne Monastery, built between 1128 and 1156 by architect John, is a six-columned one-domed building. It reflected the characteristics of the general direction of ancient Russian architecture of the 12th century. They are - small dimensions, simplicity of the plan, monumentality of appearance; as the combination of some basilica with an average square, inherent in the Romance style.

Vitebsk Annunciation Church of the XII century adjoins the Polotsk group of churches. Its elongated plan, dismembered by six pillars on the 3rd nave, looks like the plan of the Savior-Ephrensinsky Cathedral. Here, also, the middle nave is significantly larger than the lateral ones, in the western part of the temple there are

Architecture and Civil Engineering

choirs with a staircase in the thickness of the wall. In the Annunciation Church, as in no other buildings of this period, basilicas were determined.

Grodno school of architecture manifestation of the Romanesque style in the first place was the use of polished stone for decoration of facades and voice, which in form were closer to European analogues. The example of it is the Borisoglebskaya (Kolozhskaya) church. The building belongs to the six-pillar, three-apsed temples. Its walls are relatively thin, supporting pillars have a circular cross-section. The masonry of the walls of the church is made of thin brick-slab brick. For architectural details a different shaped brick is used. In the altar part under a thick layer of plaster the fresco paintings of the XII century were discovered in 1870 during the repair works. The most interesting points are the facades of the church: they are dismembered by vertical drafts-blades of a step profile. The surface of the walls is decorated with insets of rough polished multi-colored boulders and majolica plates different colors. Majolica and stones – certain symmetry, but not strict, that's why the facades have become even more picturesque: they are as if inlaid with precious stones. [5]

However, the Minsk Castle Church has the greatest interest in studying the influence of the Romanesque tradition on the temple architecture of Belarus, the elements of which were revealed during the excavations of 1949 in the territory of the detinets. According to the scientists' assumptions, this temple was erected by Polish masters in place of a wooden church, burnt in 1067 and had characteristic features of the Romanesque style. Unfortunately, its construction for unexplained reasons was never completed (the walls were erected to a height of just above 1 m), but the surviving fragments indicate the originality of the Castle Church construction. It was a small, three-apsed three-aisled temple with dimensions of 12/16 m with four pillars, on which the dome should rest. The main apse of the temple supported the perimeter of the walls by more than 4 m, which was typical of Byzantine churches. But the fact that this ledge in the wall was flattened by the protruding lateral apses was quite an original solution. Unusual for domestic architecture was the foundation of the church, which included wooden elements.

Such a deviation from Byzantine traditions can only be explained by the fact that during the construction of the church Minsk was independent of Polotsk and claimed to create an independent principality. But in 1084 Minsk was again destroyed by the troops of Vladimir Monomakh. And Polotsk restored his power here. Probably, for these reasons the construction of the church in Minsk was stopped, the stone remained were used to strengthen the outer wall, and the unfinished church turned into a city necropolis where archaeologists found 21 burial places. In the middle of the XIII century the fragments of the Castle Church were completely covered with earth, which saved them from further destruction. In 1993, in honor of the temple on the bank of the river Svisloch a small memorial was created - a contour of the church was laid out from the tiles and a commemorative sign dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the Minsk diocese was installed.

Besides Minsk, Romanesque temples were apparently erected in other cities of Belarus. Due to the Ipatiev Chronicle it is known that "Volynian towers" in Brest and Kamenets stone temples were built simultaneously. Unfortunately, the Kamenetskaya Annunciation Church was destroyed in the Middle Ages, and fragments of the Church of St. Petra in Brest were destroyed in the XIX century during the construction of the fortress. These temples were erected according to the technique of the Baltic masonry of large bricks. Most likely, they were cross-dome with three apses.

Defensive structures. The defensive structures of the ancient cities of Belarus included a moat and a shaft with wooden walls that surrounded the Detinets, the roundabout city and some of the villages. The complication of the system of fortifications was first carried out through erection at the corners of the fortress and at the entrance of multi-tiered wooden towers. However, in the XII - XIII centuries, on internecine feuds, the external threat from the side of the crusaders and the Mongol-Tatars increased. This required the strengthening of traditional defensive structures, which were no longer able to guarantee security. Grodno and Polotsk were able to replace the wooden walls of the detinets with stone ones, but the lack of a large amount of natural material made this way difficult and expensive.

In medieval Europe, the solution was found in the creation of the city or fortress of a separate well-fortified object. In France, these were the so-called "dungeons", which were a complex of stone structures with a large tower-dominant, adapted to the habitation of the feudal lord. In Germany, "burgfried", where the population sought shelter during the breakthrough of the enemy through the outer belt of fortifications.

On the Belarusian land, such defensive fortifications were spread from Western Ukraine, and therefore were known under the name of "Volyn Tower". Romanesque style was manifested:

Firstly, in the use of natural stones and large brick blocks.

Secondly, in the Vendian or Baltic masonry system, when two longitudinally placed bricks alternated with one transverse

Thirdly, in a certain design of joints and semicircular completions of window openings and flat niches. In contrast to Western Europe, these buildings in Belarus had a simplified composition (separate towers or towers defending the entrance to the fortress), and could also be built from wood. The last, of which disappeared only in the XVI-XVII centuries due to changes in the fortification and the transformation of castles into chic palaces.

The only "Volyn Tower" in Belarus preserved almost unchanged is the Kamenets or Belaya Vezha, located 40 km north of Brest. This stone 5-tier round in terms of construction (height about 30 m, wall thickness 2.5 m, outdoor diameter 13.6 m). The tower is built on a powerful stone foundation with a height of about 2.3 m, 16 m in diameter. It is made of bricks of dark red and yellowish color with characteristic oblong grooves in the lower part. [6] It should be noted that along with the Romance influence, the Kamenetz Vetz also absorbed the Gothic features.

Romance style in temple painting and sculpture. The most ancient frescoes in Belarus are the murals of St. Sophia Cathedral in Polotsk, murals of the Transfiguration Cathedral of the Euphrasinsky Monastery. They were made in 40-50 years of the XII century. This is the only monument that came to us in the original version. The system of murals of the Savior-Transfiguration Cathedral is similar to the Byzantine-Kiev cathedral. In the dome there is the image of the Savior, on the stained-glass windows - images of the Evangelists. At the end of the apse there is the image of the Mother of God. The paintings were made with an orientation to the Byzantine scheme. In addition to the monumental paintings in Polotsk, the outstanding achievements of painting of the XII century are frescos in the Dobroveschenskaya church in Vitebsk, Borisoglebsk church in Novogrudok, painting of the Lower Church (the first half of the 12th century) in Grodno. Monumental painting of the ancient Belarusian lands possessed a high level of development. Distinguished by some details, it indicates a unified nature of technical techniques, a single system of accommodation of artistic images in the interior, of orientation to Byzantine traditions [3].

The influence of Roman culture spread to sculptural monuments of the centuries. They are divided into two groups: cult and secular. They were small in size figures (sizes from 4 to 6 cm). A high artistic example is the image with the image of Constantine and Helena (middle of XII century), Found in Polotsk. The rectangle of the plate is completely filled with 2 figures. The work is characterized by conditionality and massiveness of forms

The article examined the influence of Romanesque architecture on the Belarusian land in the X-XII centuries. The main directions of the penetration of Romanics into the Belarusian culture are shown. The characteristic of the Roman architecture element in such areas as: temple architecture, defensive structures, monumental painting and sculpture is analyzed and identified.

REFERENCES

1. Дзмітрачкоў, П.Ф. Беларусь у IX – першай палове XIII в.в. / П.Ф. Дзмітрачкоў. – Мн., 1994. – 47 с.
2. Парашкоў, С.А. Гісторыя культуры Беларусі / С.А. Парашкоў. – Мінск, 2003. – 112 с.
3. Чантурия, В.А. История архитектуры Белоруссии / В.А. Чантурия. – Минск, 1977. – 141 с.
4. Лазука, Б.А. Гісторыя мастацтваў / Б.А. Лазука. – Мінск, 1996. – 253 с.
5. Коложская церковь [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа: <http://www.belarus.by/ru/travel/belarus-life/kalozha-church/>. –Дата доступа: 12.02.2018.
6. Каменецкая башня [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа: <http://yan.vydra.com/brest/brest13/kamenec-bashnya/>. –Дата доступа: 12.02.2018.