

PRESERVATION OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IN UKRAINE

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Abstract. The question of preserving and restoring Ukraine's cultural heritage has never been more urgent. As are many other countries, Ukraine faces threats to its architectural heritage, including neglect, deterioration, urbanization, inadequate conservation practices, and armed conflicts. Given the relevance of preserving architectural heritage in Ukraine, the question arises: what can be done at this stage to effectively protect and preserve these invaluable landmarks?

Relevance of topic. Preservation of architectural heritage is a relevant topic in Ukraine due to its rich architectural legacy, historical significance, economic benefits, educational and research value, sustainable development potential, and the need to protect it from threats. Safeguarding Ukraine's architectural heritage is essential for upholding its cultural identity, promoting tourism, fostering sustainable development, and advancing knowledge and understanding of its history and culture.

The first issue to consider is the classification of our cultural heritage and how can it be organized. World heritage is divided into natural and cultural heritage. UNESCO divided cultural heritage into two categories: tangible and intangible cultural heritage [1]. To the first category we can refer to wooden churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and ensemble of historic centres of such cities as Lviv and Odesa (Fig. 1).

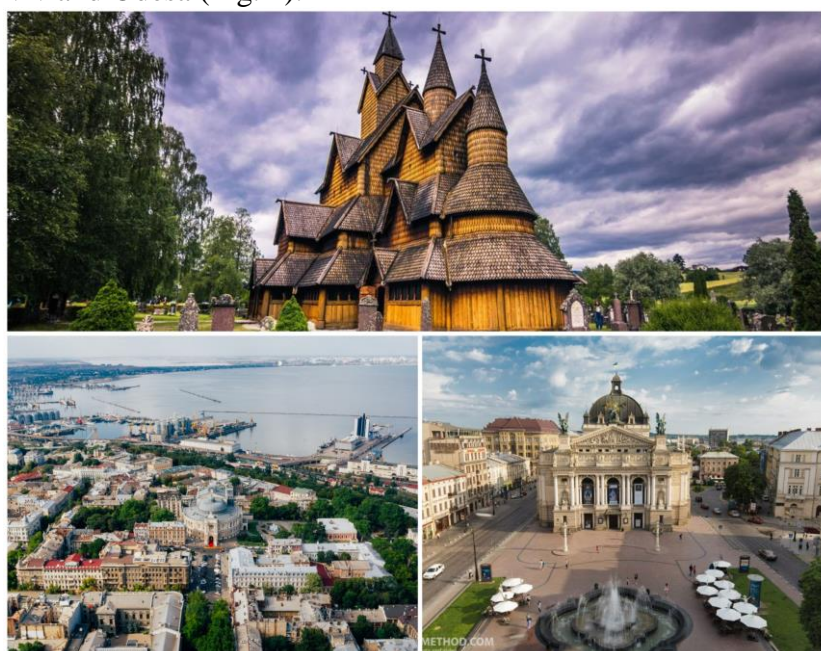


Fig. 1. Wooden churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and ensemble of historic centres of such cities as Lviv (right) and Odesa (left)

But the intangible cultural heritage in the context of Ukraine includes petrykivka decorative painting and cossack's songs of Dnipropetrovsk region. *Tangible* cultural heritage is divided into an immovable heritage and movable heritage. *Immovable* heritage includes historical buildings, monuments, and archeological sites, such as the Greek church of St. Trinity in Odesa (Fig. 2). *Movable* heritage includes paintings, sculptures, furniture, and wall paintings, many of which are housed in, for example, the Odesa Fine Arts Museum. *Intangible* cultural heritage consists of

traditions and expressions, including language. All these elements of culture together create a national image of our country and help people maintain spiritual ties with the past.

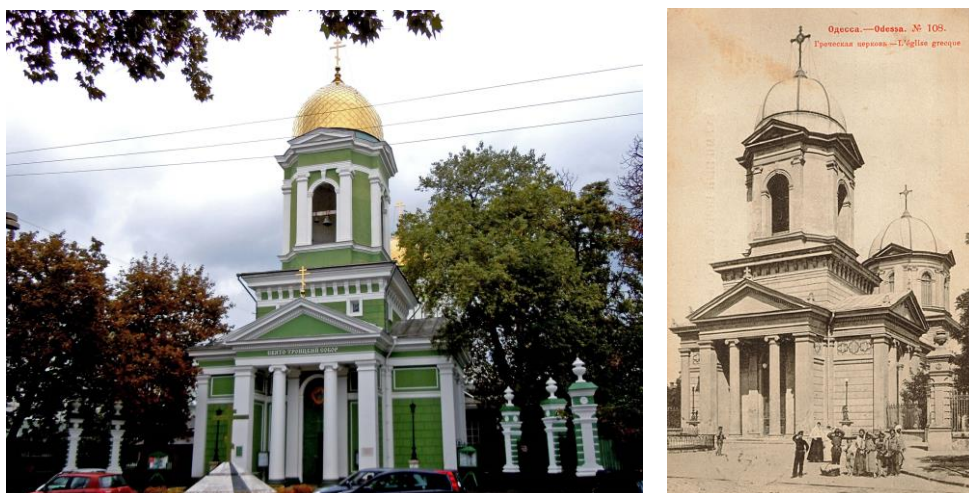


Fig. 2. Greek church of St. Trinity in Odessa. Modern and historical depiction from 1902

For a better analysis of architectural heritage, we need to understand the components of the historic urban environment and identify their characteristics. For example, when discussing buildings, we should consider their architectural style, construction materials, and decorative elements. [2] Historic buildings may have ornate façades, intricate detailing, and unique roof forms. Some historic buildings may also be associated with specific periods of history or architectural movements. In the context of historic space, we look at streets, neighbourhoods, green spaces, and alleys. Historical streets and squares often have distinct characteristics like paving materials, street furniture, and lighting. They may also have historical landmarks or monuments as important cultural and historical symbols. Their layout, planting schemes, and landscape design may characterise historic parks and gardens. The Shevchenko Park in Odessa comes to mind as an example. It appeared in 1875 and has become integral to the city and its history (Fig. 3). Overall, the main features of the components of the historical urban environment are their historical significance, unique design features, and cultural and symbolic value. These important cultural and historical assets should be preserved and protected for future generations.

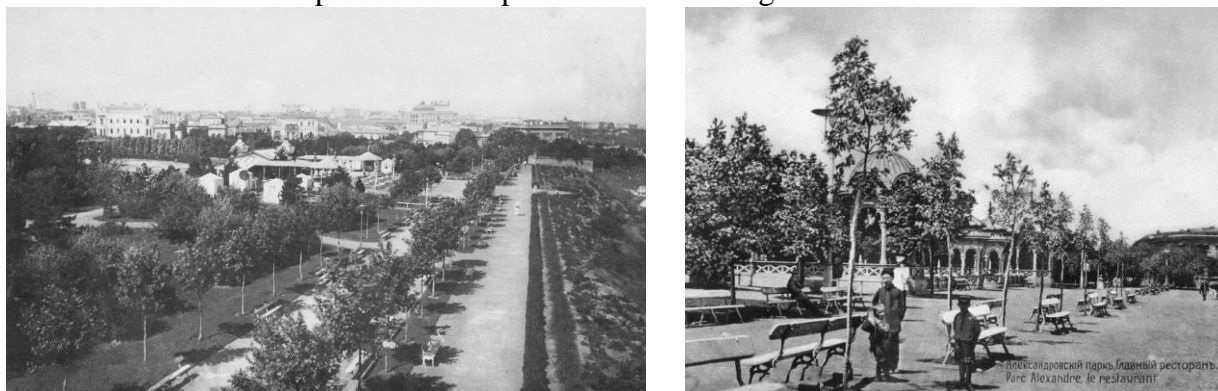


Fig. 3. The Shevchenko Park in Odessa. Historical images from 1914

Having a basic knowledge of the general concepts of cultural heritage, it is worth moving closer to the preservation of this heritage itself in Ukraine. If we look at the international experience in architectural conservation, we can see that Germany has most fully implemented an integrated systemic approach recommended by the 36th General Conference of UNESCO [3]. In Ukraine, at present, the “prohibitive principle” continues to prevail, that is, regulation and a ban on certain types of urban planning activities within rigidly fixed boundaries and freedom of action outside these boundaries, as a result of which the historical environment is unprotected and destroyed and the value of protected objects and historical appearance of the city (Fig. 4).

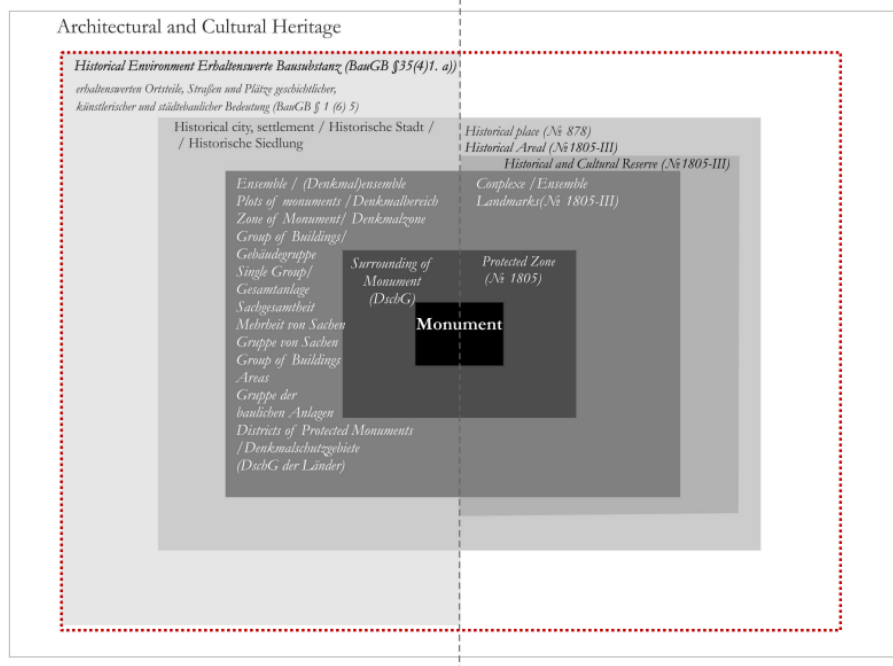


Fig. 4. The difference in the classification of areas of historical architecture in Germany and Ukraine. Scheme by Anastasia Malko, 2023

In terms of instruments that would be good to develop in Ukraine, there are several options we should consider. First, establishing a comprehensive inventory of historical buildings and sites would be an important step in identifying and protecting cultural heritage. Second, developing guidelines and standards for the restoration and maintenance of historical structures can help ensure that preservation efforts are carried out effectively and consistently. And also to expand the already existing Law of Ukraine on Protection of Cultural Heritage (Fig. 5).

Law of Ukraine on Protection of Cultural Heritage, 2000 № 1805-III

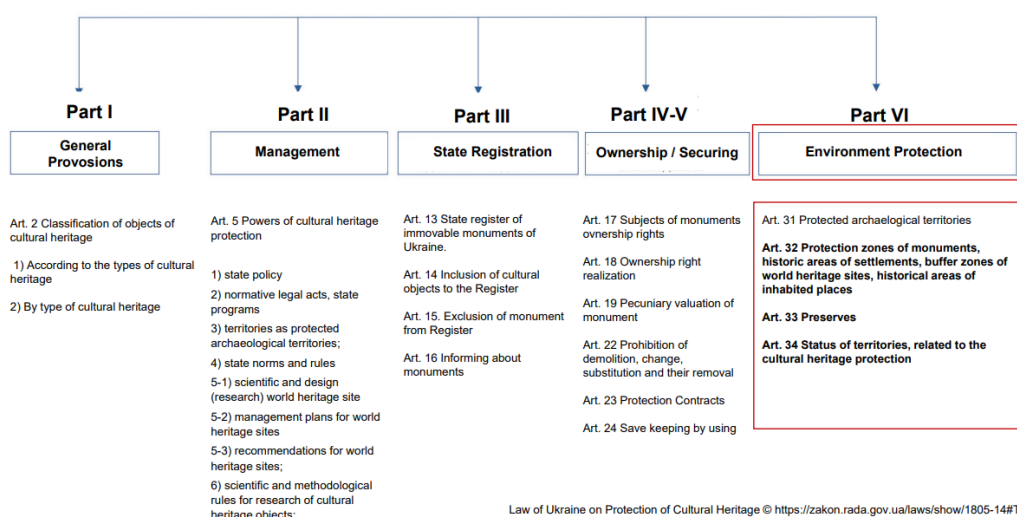


Fig. 5. Law of Ukraine on Protection of Cultural Heritage, 2000 № 1805-III

Third, providing financial incentives for heritage preservation, such as tax incentives or subsidies, can encourage property owners to invest in the upkeep and maintenance of historical buildings and sites. Fourth, promoting public awareness and education about the value of cultural heritage can help build support for heritage preservation efforts. We must instil in the younger

generation a love of their culture and a desire not only to enrich it with new achievements, but also to preserve what our ancestors created.

The change in attitudes towards the preservation of architectural heritage that began in the 20th century continues today. It is worth noting that many measures have been taken in recent years to protect the historic image of cities. The most important international documents on the development of historical urban area (towns and cities) in noted period include: Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works, adopted in 1968, Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas, adopted in 1976, Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas, adopted in 1987. Thanks to the international activity on the regulation of the doctrine of the preservation of immovable cultural heritage, which was preventive, the architectural heritage has legally become a part of "inherited urban planning obligations" that had to be taken into account in the planning process [4].

Conclusions. Returning to the question of our role in the preservation of historical cultural heritage, I believe it is in our power to improve the preservation system. This influence can manifest itself through the creation of new documents and the expansion of registers of our heritage, but also through self-education in this matter. Raising public awareness about the importance of architectural heritage and its preservation can garner support and participation from local communities, organizations, and individuals. With the right approach and the use of various methods, we can preserve not only the monuments but also the culture of Ukraine as a whole.

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