

‘Architectural Ensembles in Landscape’

The Plein Air, which took place from 23rd to 30th of June 2013 at Lviv Region (Ukraine), had had, as its main aim, the creation of pictures spotlighting the still existing architectural ensembles of magnate residencies of XVII–XVIII c. at Brody, Olesko, Zolochiv, Pomoriany and Svirzh. These include buildings of residential, public and economic purpose. These residencies both with parks and gardens have complemented the natural landscapes of massif Voroniaky.

As written by Volodymyr Vernadsky, the energy of human culture is recorded in the architectural images of these historic landscapes. They are formed by sown fields, planted gardens, picturesque farmsteads and not always appropriately modernized buildings of burghers. Significant feature of selected areas of historic landscapes is their decoration with special ‘pearls’ of cultural heritage – unique examples of palaces, castles, gardens, churches, pavilions, sculptures, parks of magnate residencies, which are disjoint architectural works of the Renaissance, Baroque and Classicism in Ukraine. Perennial fate of these lands has ordered so, because even on the pages of the book of memory of authentic artistic, archaeological and architectural landmarks is recorded the history of civilization processes in this region.

The best way to ‘read’ the history of the development of the area is going through its historic landscapes with pen and brush when communicating with residents, living next to them, learning about the features of former times and the present. The process of site selection for performing sketches and paintings ‘from life’ is responsible and specific. The author of

future work for long enough time looks for a place to which some particular architectural object or an entire architectural ensemble in landscape is exposed in best way. This sometimes requires long and careful selection between existing variants of sites which includes extraction of foreground from background, search for composition dominants, picking appropriate coloristic and tone balance. Then one tries to quickly capture the impression derived from what he saw. In this context we can recall the works of Impressionist painters who painted in the open air during late XIX – early XX c. in ‘one go’, just ‘not to lose the sun’.

Important feature of the plein air was bringing to participation in it not only students, but also three lecturers of the ‘Design and Architecture Fundamentals’ dept. of the Lviv Polytechnic National University. Thus plein air’s tasks were not only informative but also artistically educational. Every day the teachers carried out the analysis of created works. They often had to make short lectures on subjects of art history, composition and chromatics. We have brought with us catalogs and albums which were eagerly examined, analyzed and discussed by students. Daily minibus was driving our creative team to the next area where we worked during all day. Within six days we have worked with architectural heritage of Olesko, Svirzh, Zolochiv, Pomoriany, Brody and Pidhirtsi. The best works will be on display at the 226 auditorium of the main building of the Lviv Polytechnic National University. Exhibition is to be opened on September 26, 2013.

This Catalogue of plein air, named ‘Architectural Ensemble in Landscape’, presents historical information

about the area, photo-fixation of architectural images of attractions and that Most-Precious-Thing which the authors has recorded in their art works with the help of their eyes, souls and artistic talent. Besides of that author publishes here some particular articles dedicated to preservation and revalorization of architectural ensembles in historic landscape.

We are grateful for the financial support of the plein air, publishing of catalogue and preparation of works for the exhibition to the next: team of motel “Zakutok”, personally Mr. Rostyslav Vasio, Professor Bogdan Tschherkes (director of the Institute of Architecture of the Lviv Polytechnic National University) and Mr. Volodymyr Turetskyi from NGO ‘King Danylo’s Foundation’.

Images of beautiful natural landscapes with the addition of architecture, represented at the catalogue’s paintings, made by artists-architects, was a necessary step of recording the current state of such samples of valuable historic urban objects as the architectural ensembles. The program of revalorization of architectural ensembles is dedicated for their research, preservation, and adequate exploitation. The program will be presented in the materials of the international scientific conference ‘Revalorization of the Architectural Ensembles of XVII–XVIII centuries (Brody, Pidhirtsi, Zolochiv, Olesko, Pomoryany, Svirzh, Zhovkva)’ which will take place at Lviv Polytechnic National University from 26 to 28 September 2013.

Oresta Remeshylo-Rybchynska