

INTRODUCTION

A significant date the 100th anniversary of urban education at Lviv Polytechnic helps looking back at the past to realize, understand and estimate our present and look into the future and prognosticate new tasks.

In the world practice the architectural profession and even more urban one is closely connected with the political and economic state of the country i.e. economic prosperity is accompanied by active construction and the political system changes or integration processes are accompanied by large-scale urban reorganization.

Urban planning education in Lviv was established at the initiative of the Lviv city council, when in 1913 Ignacy Drexler was asked to deliver the lecture course at Lviv Polytechnic on urban development. It was a time of rapid urban growth when cities increased their margins due to the suburban communities and became "big". Urban planning education was needed for construction workers, transporters and surveyors (geodesists). After the WW I there was another problem namely: the restoration of cities and their redevelopment and development according to the functional approach; the idea of "Big Lviv" also started to be implemented.

The WW II, boundaries changes, human losses and population resettlement changed the continuity of the region urban development. Lviv Polytechnic performed tasks set by the state authorities for the whole Soviet Union. The aesthetic vision of urban doctrines was changed, and the main direction of the Lviv development was its industrialization and building of mass construction blocks. The unification and typical solution of development tasks radically changed the whole design and construction system. The individual design was replaced by the typical one spoiling the image of the city.

Today Lviv is trying to find its identity creatively developing its image based on sustainable development principles and architectural and urban planning measures aimed to improve the life quality and to solve social and economic problems.

Urban planning is based on a solid theoretical foundation and is being developed as the science of planning of the cities and settlements, their formation and history of development. According to the professional requirements urban planning works out the planning concept based on the analysis of urban structures taking into account their optimal solutions.

All such projects have the main goal – they are to be man oriented. The urban challenges are to create friendly environment for the people as well as to minimize the conflicts between the interests of individual building users and environmental protection namely natural and cultural. Urban planning plays a significant role in the perception of city safety and securing the cities against the crimes.

The time requirements are changing. The ecological planning approach dominates in it and the theoretical concepts of spatial organization consider city as a product of the dynamic social forces. The idea that the modern world is impossible to be planned without a thought of its inhabitants is becoming increasingly popular among the urban planning experts. The European Union Programmes emphasize the role of public participation in urban projects. A professional designer should follow the needs of the society. Architects and urban planners are responsible for their performance results and have a moral obligation to be open to future client ideas.

Recently transformation of architect and urban planner social role being reflected in New Athens Charter of 1998 has taken place. It states that: "the process of city urban planning should meet the requirements of the cooperation and commitment at the local level to promote a social

interest in the environment shaping and the socio-economic conditions improving. If the needs and aspirations of all strata of the population must be fulfilled in the process of planning and urban development, the whole community should be involved into identifying their needs and aspirations and principles of spatial integration of local communities”.

Urban planning should be incorporated into a hierarchical scheme to be as close to people as possible. The social and cultural units at the local level support will promote the social interaction and understanding. Consequently, the architect – urban-planner plays an important role in ensuring the harmonic development of the society.

The editors