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REANIMATION OF THE HISTORICAL SETTLEMENT
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The historical epochs, as well as their architectural-urban conceptions have stratified and formed the architectural appearance of the settlements. The most preserved forms, which have remained up to our days, are the old nuclei of the bigger settlements from the epoch of the Revival Period - the end of the 18th century and the whole 19th century, and separate complete settlements of the same epoch. From before that epoch, as well as to the present days, the architectural-urbanization pattern of the old historical nuclei in the present settlements has been built and renewed uninterruptedly.

The problem of reanimation of the old settlements, of the architectural heritage in Bulgaria is generally divided into two: 1. reanimation of old historical nuclei in bigger settlements and 2. reanimation of entire settlements (villages of population from 100 to 4000 people).

The problems appearing in front of the designer-restorer are more complex and considerably more concerning the old historical nuclei of the contemporary settlement. They are detached as reservations having separate building status and put forth a number of problems. First of all, the relation between the reservation site and the new settlement. Practically, in our country, is searched a gradual transfusion, coordinated in scale and architecture, from the reservation site to the contemporary constructions. The so called "contact" zones are designed. These are zones, having limited building scale in volume, which have to achieve a natural transition from the old nuclei of medium construction size - up to one-and-a-half storeys and the contemporary high buildings. In these zones greater business enterprises, schools, medical institutes, requiring greater volume, find their place. The sharp contrasts of

of high buildings in the immediate vicinity to the ancient nuclei provide a bad architectural effect. In such cases, the preserved old photo-archives and cadastre give possibilities for reconstruction of new volumes, which stop the direct visual contact with the new site and put it in the background. The entire appearance of these reservations is stabilized by restoring old disappeared volumes and replenishing with new volumes upon old buildings spots. A fundamental problem for their construction must be a maximum restoration of the ancient appearance. Along with preserving all the Revival Period buildings, as well as the later ones, inserted in a felicitous way among them construction of newly designed buildings are to be allowed too. The new buildings, according to us, must have a contemporary character, but in volume, partition and proportions, have to enter in harmonious unit with the surroundings.

The architectural solutions of the reservations can not be abstract. Workin upon them, the designer must be lead by the necessity to connect them with the requirements of contemporary life. The intensive transport is incompatible with the narrow street network, as well as with the preservation of the original old street pavement-cobblestone. In such cases, it is transferred to roundabout arteries feeding sidewise the reservation, or it is allowed to separate suitable places only. Calm zones for pedestrians are searched, though in some places it is possible only during days hours - from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. With keeping the old street network, in most cases the old original street pavement is kept or restored, if it has been diminuated. During street reconstructions underground sewerage, cable and other installations being necessary for contemporary live are layed. This

liberates the street silhouette and perspective, while at the same time it does not deprive these parts of the settlement of the modern technical achievements.

The residential houses are the most numerous in the preserved ancient historical nuclei. The public buildings are comparatively less in number, but most of them have kept their old functions. That is why, the chief care for us is the reanimation of the dwelling-housing resources, representing the greater percentage in the reservations. Preserving the dwelling character of the houses, by adapting them modern live normatives are secured. The internal installations, heat and hydro insulations of walls and ceilings, sanitary installations, heat installations are the first and most necessary equipment, securing modern living conditions for the population. These are the fundamental prerequisites for keeping the people living in such houses. Such house-improvements satisfy the needs of a hygienic home, which would not differ from the newly built residential units. The court-yard, typical for the ancient Revival Period house, is to be preserved too. With its green area it contributes for the closeness to nature, which is foreign to the new high constructions.

Some of the most brilliant architectural examples of the epoch, are determined for public needs. Museums, ethnographic expositions are to be developed in them, or they are adapted for the use of cultural institutions. Architectural memorial-houses that have belonged to well known Bulgarian poets, writers, revolutioners, composers are restored too. These new functions give an opportunity for free entrance and apprehension by the visitor. Revival Period buildings are also adapted for representative and reception buildings for the town councils. Carrying out

of topic conferences, meetings, press-conferences in the old nuclei, appears as a form of acquainting a broad circle of visitors with the architectural heritage and introducing organized life in them. Another form for using this architectural resources, is turning them into leisure hotels for cultural workers, writers, actors, artists, architects . Good conditions for work are created for meetings and other events of social standing exhibitions, lectures and concerts too. Such cultural events call forth an interest and their success as art creations is always accompanied by a certain percentage of calm romance, which is rarely to be found in our dynamic times.

The so far innumerable functions of the buildings, with exception of the dwellings, are premeditatedly studied, for giving them a wholesome meaning and including them into the new life.

There is a considerable number of public buildings in the old nuclei. They comprise chiefly the trade-activity of the contemporary life. The business areas are developed in the old warehouses, shops, coffee-shops, taverns and workshops. There are cases of spacious cellar premises - adapted for restaurants, pastry-shops, etc. Former trustures with business character are also reconstructed. Old inns(hotels), massive basement premises, roofed markets, bazars and specialized workshops are well preserved too, in the same manner: old handicrafts as coppersmith's trade, braid producing, jewelry arts, are reinstored in them. Such the creation of condition for development of a broad trade network, stimulates the full-blooded life in these nuclei. They do not remain isolated from the present modern life, as they respond to the daily needs of the population. Attempts have also been made for opening chil-

dren's institutes (kinder-gardens, study-halls and libraries with reading-rooms) in suitable Renaissance houses.

The other kind of reanimation activity comprises the so called "out dying" settlements. Such are the settlements, which gradually began to lose their population with the economic development of the country at the end of the last century and the beginning of this one. A migration toward the bigger towns began and gradually in the present days they have remained with a very small population, but having comparatively good Renaissance architectural character, almost unmarred by new buildings. Such settlements create problems for the architect-restorer, as well as to the economist-investigator. The accepted working line here is a museum outlook function having a hotel's character for separate parts of the settlements and preserving a certain part for residential needs. In other settlements with predominating dwelling character is forms are looked for of economic or other kinds of personal interest concerning the population. A successful experiment for keeping the young people, was made in the town Kotel, by opening a school for popular music and instruments in this small, but spirited Renaissance town having old educational and cultural traditions.

In the last years, more and more places and settlements of this character are under research with the intention to include them in the leisure network for the population. They offer perfect conditions for rest being far away from the big city, isolated from the noise and dynamic speed of life, and being located in beautiful mountain terrains. The climate, the nature and the architectural heritage make a harmonious unity. Just as in the old nuclei, the old houses here are adopted for the needs of the creative

unions. Some of them are used as leisure hostels either for the summer or for the whole year. The larger of these settlements are mainly subjected to the requirements of the old historical nuclei, and in order to reanimate them, they are included in tourist tours. Here tourism enlivens the economy and helps in the cultural exchange.

The reanimation problems put forth by the old nuclei and separate settlements, are many and different character. The designer and investigator are obliged to take into consideration the degree of their economic development, the diversity of the architectural heritage, the different conditions of nature and other factors. That is why the approach toward each of them is different, specific. It comprises the fundamental conceptions and tendencies for restoration, reconstruction and reanimation, but refracted always through the prism of the specific case. The individual appearance of the old historical nuclei up to these days gives its imprint upon the appearance of the present city, which, subjected to the building epoch is gradually typified. That is why our concern and activity with the old historical nuclei and separate settlements grows bigger, thorough and multiform.

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