

# Architectural Peculiarities of the Christian Theological-Humanitarian Educational Institutions in Ukraine

## Abstract

The analysis of architectural peculiarities of the Christian educational institutions of the theological-humanitarian type, as based on the example of the Ukrainian Catholic University building complex in Lviv, was done in the article. The factors having the major influence on formation of architectural and space-planning organization and on stylistic decisions of the buildings of Christian theological-humanitarian institutions in Ukraine have been distinguished.

Keywords: Architectural peculiarities, Christian educational institutions

## 1. Introduction

The last several decades witnessed the alarming tendency to atheisation of society spiritual life in the European Christian countries. The development in the sphere of informational technologies and the unmonitored dissemination of contradictory and unverified information create the fertile ground for spiritual dismay, apathy, depression, and the consequent search for dubious moral orienting points. First and foremost, the problem is topical for the youth, whose natural maximalism makes them vulnerable to the beyond Christian ideas. Due to the limited program of Christian education, the primary, middle and higher educational establishments cannot fully compensate the negative impact of atheistic outlook on the youth. Specialized theological educational institutions, in their turn, are focused on educating priests and theologians. The gap between theological and civil education only grows. However, Christian teaching is at the wellspring of European and world science and due to theologian scholars humanitarian and natural sciences were developed. In Ukraine, these were the wide known Ostroh Academy and Kyiv-Mohyla Acedemy, as well as the ecclesiastic schools led by the Society of Jesus. In the contemporary history of Ukraine, this is the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv that continues the tradition of integrating the theological and civil education via the means of launching new disciplines into the program of its humanitarian faculty. In fact, the new *theological-humanitarian* type of higher education institutions has been formed and, therefore, the traditional approaches to architectural and space-planning organization, design and building construction of theological higher institutions should undergo significant changes as well. The topic of architecture development of Christian theological and theological-humanitarian educational institutions of all religious denominations in Ukraine is

not well covered and requires additional research.

Currently, during the period of significant shifts in the social and political life in Ukraine, the role of Christian theological institutions generally and theological education in particular is important more than ever before. The unifying mission of the Church should be based on the well-educated range of ecclesiastics and theologians-humanitarians. Their quality training requires not exclusively some educational programs that would correspond to the complex challenges of the modern Ukrainian society, but the approaches to architectural-planning and functional organization of the institutions of spiritual and theological education should be changed as well. The principles of wide integration of the theological and civil education as reflected in construction projects of innovative theological-humanitarian educational centers in Ukraine need to be implemented.

## 2. The purpose of this publication

The purpose of the undertaken research is to analyze the architectural peculiarities of Christian theological-humanitarian educational institutions in Ukraine as based on the example of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv; to distinguish the main factors having a significant impact on architecture formation in theological-humanitarian educational institutions of different Christian denominations in

Ukraine, and to highlight the modern tendencies of space-planning structure and aesthetic environment formation via the means of architectural and artistic expression.

### 3. The analysis of recent researches and publications

Architecture of sacral buildings and theological-humanitarian educational institutions was the object of research in the scholarly works of B. Cherkes, V. Proskuriakov, S. Linda, V. Kutsevych, O. Zhovkva, O. Shuldan, R. Stotsko. The scholarly research of the current publication was conducted as based on the results of general theoretic problems of sacral architecture and urban development depicted in the scholarly works of I. Derevyanka, H. Bobosh, M. Kiba, Yu. Dyba, O. Horbyk, L. Hrytsak, M. Yatsiv, as well as R. Halysch, R. Zhuk, B. Kutsevych, O. Lesyk, Yu. Lukomskyi, O. Nesteruk, L. Prybeha, V. Proskuriakov, A. Ralliev, Ya. Shvets.

### 4. The main part

Nowadays, the structure of theological education in Ukraine includes approximately thirty Christian higher educational institutions. They represent four branches of Christianity: Catholicism, Greek Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Protestantism. Ukrainian Orthodox Church is divided as well into three denominations: Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate and Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

Catholic education in Ukraine is represented by the Higher Theological Seminary of the Lviv Archdiocese of Roman-Catholic Church in Lviv, the Higher Theological Seminary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Kyiv region and the Higher Theological Seminary in Khmelnytsk region. The biggest theological educational centers of the Greek-Catholic Church are the following: Lviv Theological Seminary, Drohobych Theological Seminary, Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk Theological Academy, Higher Theological Seminary after Y. Slipyi in Ternopil region and Uzhhorod Theological Academy. Orthodox ecclesiastics are educated in Kyiv Theological Academy and Seminary, Ternopil Theological Seminary of Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Odessa Theological Seminary, Volyn Theological Seminary in Lutsk, Poltava Missionary Theological Seminary, Pochayiv Theological Seminary, Tavriyska Theological Seminary in Simpheropil, Kharkiv Theological Seminary, Luhansk Theological University and Chernivtsi Orthodox Theological University. Protestantism education in Ukraine is represented by such higher educational institutions as Kyiv Christian University, Kyiv Theological Seminary, Institute of Christian leadership development in Kyiv, Ukrainian Evangelistic Seminary of Theology in Kyiv, Lviv Theological Academy, Lviv Theological Seminary, Odessa Theological Seminary, International Christian College in Dnipropetrovsk[1].

The analysis of architectural and space-planning design of the buildings of above mentioned theological educational institutions allows us to distinguish their four main types [2]:

1. *Theological seminary*
2. *Theological academy (university)*
3. *Theological seminary and academy (university)*

### 4. Theological-humanitarian university

Each of the types is characterized by its peculiarities in architectural organization of spiritual, educational, household, and recreational spaces. *Theological seminary*, as a rule, envisages spiritual life, education, residence and recreation of students on the same territory closed from civilians, – the so called *monastery subtype* [3]. According to functional criterion, buildings and spaces of seminary complex are divided into: *spiritual-educational complex* (church, chapel, classrooms, conference halls, museums, workshops, studios, etc.); *residence-household complex* (dwelling rooms, canteen, café, laundry, and garages); *sports-recreational spaces* (gym, open sport grounds, park zone with small architectural forms); *administration rooms* and *first-aid post*.

Functional structure of *theological academy or university*, unlike a seminary, does not presuppose location of all buildings on the same closed territory and the availability of residence-household complexes and sports facilities is not obligatory [4]. Theological academy (university) is an open theological educational institution of *university subtype* with a free access of civilians and free exit for student outside the territorial boundaries of the educational institution.

*Theological seminary and academy (university)* in the same building complex is the type of theological educational institution, which is frequently met on Ukrainian terrains because it joins the two stages of theological education – bachelor's and master's [5]. As a result, architectural and space-planning design of such complexes possesses features of both a seminary (availability of a temple, educational, residential, sports and household buildings) and a university (part of the complex is open for free access of civilians). This type is characteristic for Kyiv Theological Academy and Seminary and the Center for Theological Education in Lviv, which includes Lviv Theological Seminary and Philosophical-theological faculty of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

*Theological-humanitarian university* is a new type of theological educational institutions, which widely integrates theological education and humanitarian disciplines. It is brightly represented by the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic church, the building complex of which is located in Lviv at Stryiska (Pic. 1) and Khutorivka (Pic. 2) Streets. [6].



il. 1. UCU Complex at Stryiska Str./ Ukrainian Catholic University [Electronic Resource]. – Mode of access: URL: <http://ucu.edu.ua/> – Title from the screen

Educational doctrine of the above mentioned university influenced organization of its spiritual, educational and recreational spaces. Architecture of the building complex reflects the theological and civil educational grounding of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). The university has two faculties: philosophical-theological and humanitarian. Therefore, stylistics of the complex facades is the mixture of spiritual, mainly conservative, and modern architectural motifs [7]. The main architectural dominant and the spiritual-ideological core of the building complex of the UCU humanitarian faculty at Stryiska Str. is, without any doubts, the temple (Pic. 3), which is currently on the stage of construction. Designed as a classical Ukrainian church of the Cossacks era, the university temple is a multifunctional facility. It is envisaged that besides liturgies

it will be the place for conducting educational process in theological disciplines. For this purpose, academic classrooms, a pastoral center and a modern informational library complex are projected within the temple building. On religious holidays, the university temple will be available not only for the students' youth but for the city parishioners as well. Besides the temple, the complex of the Ukrainian Catholic University humanitarian faculty includes the academic (educational) building and the residential building (Pic. 4) with the related household infrastructure. The modern design of academic and residen-

il. 2. UCU educational complex at Khutorivka Str. / Ukrainian Catholic University [Electronic Resource]. – Mode of access: URL: <http://ucu.edu.ua/> – Title from the screen





il. 3 The temple UCU humanitarian faculty/ Ukrainian Catholic University [Electronic Resource]. – Mode of access: URL: <http://ucu.edu.ua/> – Title from the screen.

il. 4. UCU residential building at Stryiska Str./ Ukrainian Catholic University [Electronic Resource]. – Mode of access: URL: <http://ucu.edu.ua/> – Title from the screen





il. 5. Project of UCU academic building / Ukrainian Catholic University [Electronic Resource]. – Mode of access: URL: <http://ucu.edu.ua/> – Title from the screen



il. 6. Interior design fragment of UCU educational building/ Ukrainian Catholic University [Electronic Resource]. – Mode of access: URL: <http://ucu.edu.ua/> – Title from the screen

tial buildings supports the doctrine of Church openness and orientation of eternal Christian values into the future (il. 5, pic. 6).

The prevalent youth contingent of the UCU students can enjoy the created architectural environment on the complex territory, which includes landscaped recreation zones with small architectural forms, namely the sites of students' communication and rest, a summer lecture hall and a mini-theatre, an internet café, numerous cycle lanes and skate-grounds for active rest during free time, as well as a multi-seated bike parking equipped with electric charging stations. Such modern environment helps to perceive a theological-humanitarian educational institution as a center of progressive theological thought, which as integrated with other civil humanitarian sciences creates an ideological future for further professional growth of its graduates. The idea of a theological-humanitarian educational institution is expressed by the rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University father B. Prakh, PhD: "... New academic building is another step to our goal of creating an open site for the city... Participants of the new magisterial program – MS in Technology Management LvBs – will study in the academic building. It will become an open space for communication and meetings. Here, experiences, paradigms, programs, and outlooks will overlap. Such overlaps are the key to innovations that the Ukrainian society lacks..." [8].

The research of architectural and space-planning organization of theological educational institutions in Ukraine generally and the Ukrainian Catholic University in particular results in distinguishing major factors that have the most significant impact on architecture formation in higher educational institutions of the theological-humanitarian type. Architecture conception of theological-humanitarian educational institution in Ukraine is grounded on the following factors:

- a) *Spiritual-ideological*;
- b) *Educational-integrative*;
- c) *Functional*;
- d) *Urban planning*;
- e) *Natural-climatic*;
- f) *Constructive-technological*;
- g) *Economic*.

Spiritual-ideological factor forms architecture of a theological-educational institution in Ukraine as based on the sacral

stylistic tradition of different branches of Christianity and different denominations [9]. Consequently, architecture of Orthodox theological-educational institutions is rather traditional and conservative in its planning and façades design [10]. As opposed to Orthodox artistic and aesthetic outlook, buildings of Christian Protestant educational institutions are characterized by an absolutely free and modern interpretation of theological educational institution planning and design. Architecture of Catholic and Greek-Catholic educational complexes in Ukraine usually differs in rationality of planning and spatial structure of their buildings and spaces, moderation and synthesis of western and eastern sacral and stylistic motifs in facades decoration.

Educational-integrative factor is defining in formation of theological-humanitarian educational institutions architecture, because they are characterized by planning and stylistic features of both theological and civil educational establishments.

Functional factor influences planning of a territory, separate buildings and spaces in a theological-educational institution as based on the organizational peculiarities of spiritual life, educational process and recreation of students and lecturers.

Urban planning factor designates the mutual alignment of a temple, educational, residential, household, and sports buildings and recreational spaces in relation to main streets and squares of metropolitan cities, and forms the architecture of a theological educational institution as a major architectural dominant of a street, a neighborhood, or a micro district.

Natural-climatic factor introduces significant differences into architectural images of theological educational institutions located in different climatic regions of Ukraine. Openness of building plans, roof constructions, glazing square and form, sunscreens, availability of

energy generating wind and sun devices, relief and site landscaping are the elements that have a significant impact on theological educational complexes architecture.

Constructive-technological factor also influences architectural and space-planning organization of separate buildings and the whole theological educational complex through the selection of construction schemes, building materials and technologies. It takes into account planning of transport and pedestrian communication lines, utility networks, etc.

Economic factor determines the possibility of implementation of the project in general or its constituent components. Financial backing influences the quality and regularity of construction works, finishing buildings and supplying educational spaces of theological and theological-humanitarian educational institutions with necessary equipment. Economic factor is particularly important within the building industry in Ukraine.

The Department of Architectural Environment Design in the Institution of Architecture at National University "Lviv Polytechnic" was the first in Ukraine to start researching architecture of Christian theological-humanitarian educational institutions, as well as typological principles of such architecture, and developed the educational program of architectural environment design of buildings and spaces in theological-humanitarian educational institutions [11]. Pic. 7 illustrates a fragment of educational building of the Humanitarian and Social Sciences Institute at National University "Lviv Polytechnic" in Lviv at Stepan Bandera Street (author – student D. Kutsan, supervisors: prof. V. Proskuriakov and assoc. prof. R. Stotsko).

## 5. Conclusions

Having analyzed the peculiarities of Christian theological-humanitarian educational institutions architecture in different Ukrainian cities, we concluded that the architectural and space-planning organization of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv is the most representative for such type of theological educational institutions in Ukraine and should be subjected to detailed research. As based on the conducted research, the main factors that influence formation of architecture of theological-humanitarian educational institutions of different Christian denominations in Ukraine were distinguished. Architectural conception of educational institution of theological-humanitarian type is grounded on such factors: *a) spiritual-ideological; b) educational-integrative; c) functional; d) urban planning; e) natural-climatic; f) constructive-*

*technological; g) economic.*

The enlisted factors caused the formation of a new type of higher educational institution – *theological-humanitarian university*, the architecture of which is characterized by the peculiarities of both theological and civil educational institutions. This is, first and foremost, a sacral architecture, which takes into account all features of students' spiritual life but, at the same time, is modern, open, communicative, as peculiar for humanitarian universities.

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il. 7. Project of educational building of the Humanitarian and Social Sciences Institute at National University "Lviv Polytechnic" in Lviv at Stepan Bandera Street / Photo of the author

