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SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE RESTORING IN THE FOCUS OF THE UKRAINIAN RESEARCHERS

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НАУКОВИЙ І ПРАКТИЧНИЙ ДОСВІД ВІДНОВЛЕННЯ АРХІТЕКТУРНОЇ СПАДЩИНИ В ЦЕНТРІ УВАГИ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ДОСЛІДНИКІВ

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The modern restoration process of ancient sacred buildings requires thorough research aimed at analysing the architectural and structural solutions of Orthodox temples and their connection with the canonical requirements of the Church, identifying historical methods of construction and creating characteristics for the specifics of repair and restoration work. One of such demanded scientific works was recently published. This is a monograph “Construction and restoration of Orthodox Churches”, authored by Kharkiv researchers Dmytro Honcharenko, Serhii Yevel, Oleksandr Kharchenko and Pavlo Chechelnytskyi, as well as Viktoriia Lykhohrai, who also was responsible for the general editing of the publication.

The monograph presents studies on the construction and restoration of masonry Orthodox churches. It consists of the analysis of the architectural and structural decisions of the churches and their relationship with Orthodox canons, the coverage of the traditional and modern construction methods, revealing the specifics of the survey and performance of repair and restoration works on an existing church building, the development of rational constructive, organisational and technological solutions for their restoration.

The first chapter, “Architecture and symbolism of Orthodox churches”, discusses the canonical requirements and the symbolic significance of architectural elements in Orthodox temples building. Spatial planning decisions of Orthodox churches are analysed on the example of temple construction in Eastern Ukraine. Christian sacred buildings were classified by functional purpose, and the differences between types of buildings were highlighted. Architectural and constructive decisions of elements of different churches are discovered.

The second chapter, “The specifics of the construction of Orthodox churches”, analyses the regional features of building materials using. The construction process was always influenced by the location of high-quality clay, lime, potash, and natural stone deposits. The size, weight,

density and strength of the bricks of the XIX century churches were analysed in the chapter. It was found that the size of bricks produced in Ukraine differed slightly from the standards generally established in the Russian Empire. In particular, it is a question of errors of length from 5 to 20 mm. Characteristic schemes of formwork construction and erection of brick vaults using them are investigated. Constructive solutions of the domes of Orthodox churches are analysed. The issues of construction traditions of domes heads, their basic designs, shape-forming elements and a covering are separately considered.

The third chapter, “The investigation of the factors that influence the durability of the Orthodox churches”, is devoted to full-scale studies of the technical condition of masonry temples. Different factors affecting the operational reliability of Orthodox churches and the safety of their interior decoration are also investigated. The authors give the evaluation of the factors that lead to the destruction of Orthodox churches buildings. The scientists have identified five reasons that led to the loss of architectural heritage and their relative weight: the policy of the communist regime (65 %), the causes of utilitarian nature (19 %), wars and revolutions (8 %), natural disasters (4 %), and low cultural standard of living (4 %).

The fourth chapter, “The construction, technological and organisational solutions of the Orthodox churches reconstruction”, deals with studying the types and performance specifics of repair and restoration work. The peculiarities of such scientifically substantiated measures on historical and architectural monuments as conservation, restoration, repair, reconstruction and rehabilitation are revealed in the context of domestic and international regulations. The experience of approaches to the conservation and restoration of architectural structures in different countries (including Italy and the USA) is studied. The authors described the nuances of harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with the requirements of the Venice Charter for repair and restoration work. Attention was also paid to technological aspects of formwork production, domes installation and organisational solutions for the reconstruction of Orthodox churches.

Thus, the monograph combines the theoretical and practical experience of researches in several fields, such as history, art studies, retrospective architecture, restoration, building materials science and construction methods.

The book is published with the very high printing quality. The publication is full of various illustrations, namely: photos of temples and their constituent elements, drawings, diagrams, calculation plots, and data tables.

The disadvantage of the study is focusing mainly on the temples of the Kharkiv region and adjacent regions of Ukraine. The monograph would be more saturated and would benefit significantly from expanding the geographical boundaries of the study.

However, the preceding does not detract from the scientific achievements of this comprehensive study and its significance in theoretical and practical terms. So the monograph will be helpful for historians and art restoration specialists as well as for architects and constructors. The book can be used as additional literature in the educational process for university students.