



CONTEMPORARY URBAN FORMS

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the authors explore the challenges and objectives of shaping the urban environment and urban space, as well as the factors influencing the formation of urban structures. They also explore the concept of functional zoning and the most relevant functions of the urban service system today.

Architecture is one of the key sectors in the formation of the urban environment and urban space, as recorded in the final document of the XXII General Assembly of the International Union of Architects (Berlin, July 2002).

Shaping the urban environment and urban space is a complex task of national economic activity, where the productive, social, and cultural spheres of human activity are closely intertwined. It is in this sphere of human activity that contradictions arise between productive forces and production relations, modern technical processes and technologies, population growth and social security, natural and human resources, and so on.

Over the course of evolution, we can observe the dynamic changes in the structure of construction, from primitive human settlements to modern, comfortable buildings and structures. Certain patterns of settlements, villages, and towns developed, each with specific functions at its core, initially as shelters from natural disasters and later as fortifications against enemies. These towns typically arose at the intersections of trade routes, in areas of settled human habitation. The population engaged in agricultural processing and manufacturing, and small settlements grew into large cities. Locations along riverbeds were considered the most favorable for urban development, as rivers served as transportation routes and sources of water supply. History clearly demonstrates how acutely urban architectural development responds to the socioeconomic development of a state; the development of human civilizations can be traced. Time dictates the needs of a particular type of urban development, as well as the specific characteristics within each type, characteristic of a given historical period and a given economic system. Currently, the defining moment is the blurring of boundaries between individual types, the emergence of semi-functionality, universality, interpenetration, and the

interweaving of factors that shape a type. A. L. Gelfond, in his work, emphasizes the significance of socio-economic factors in the role of urban development...economics in architecture and urban development may contradict the interests of urban development [1, p. 11]. At its core, urban development design is a public action, an expression of public consent or solidarity, according to many architectural construction theorists. The organization of urban development complexes, multifunctional ensembles, and buildings is increasingly being replaced by the insertion of individual objects. This approach leads to the creation of a larger number of dominant features than an established city can accept, to the creation of a larger number of dominant features, dictated by the main investor and the management of urban development banks. This statement is taken from the works of leading authors Khasiev S. A., Ikonnikov A. V., and Vesin A. A. on architectural design [2, 3, 4]. In their opinion, another aspect of this same problem is the division of functions manifested in urban development. This appears in two ways: as a division of the economic functions of labor, penetrating all spheres of human activity and the sphere of production. As a result, two trends are emerging in the urban development industry:

- cooperation and specialization of functions dictate the need for a multi-story complex located in the city's public center;
- the dispersion of functions dictates the need for low-rise public buildings away from the city center.

When developing urban planning documentation for the development of settlements and their construction, zoning schemes are developed that determine the type of use of territories and establish restrictions on their use for the implementation of urban planning activities.

The theory of functional zoning, however, leads to the ideology of freely constructed buildings surrounded by vast territories, which leads to a significant loss of usable space. A clear example is supermarket parking lots that remain empty at night, as well as business districts, a situation that can be observed in all major cities. For example, the Khan- Shatyr shopping center and the EXPO-2017 pavilion in Astana.

Like a single multifunctional facility with various functional units, it is a flexible structure, easily adaptable to a variety of conditions dictated by the times. The commutability of such a structure in relation to the city as a whole will be realized in the future precisely on the basis of its versatility. The most relevant function at the present time leads to an undesirable imbalance in the city's service system.

The famous law of form-function correspondence, proclaimed by the sculptor H. Green , defines beauty as the promise of function, and action as its fulfillment. Beauty is understood not only as the preservation of cultural heritage sites but also as a constantly renewed sphere dictated by the historical reality of life. The entire spectrum of public functions—cultural, educational, entertaining, economic, informational, domestic, transport, etc.—reflects the process of everyday human activity. It is precisely this interaction that ensures the viability of the city: the inherent value of heritage, on the one hand, and functional saturation, on the other. The economic crisis of the late twentieth century affected the development of the industrial sector in our region as well; many factories and plants were closed: the K. Zetkin Sewing Factory , the K. E. Voroshilov Mechanical Plant, the Ural Meat Canning Plant, the Ural Fur Factory, and the Omega Plant—the buildings and structures were repurposed. As a result, these structures lost their original functional purpose. It should be noted that the need for a particular public

function is not always clearly understood. However, it must be present in the overall structure to ensure its integrity and full saturation. Architects propose a selective placement of structures without regard for the functions, structures, and forms of neighboring buildings, without proportioning these components within the urban development balance, which leads to a violation of the city's historical integrity.

Violation of functional purpose leads to serious consequences.

The current stage of development of Kazakhstani architecture is characterized by the growing importance of urban planning, new principles of spatial organization of populated areas, and the comprehensive implementation of urban development measures. In this regard, the Republic is actively pursuing a variety of initiatives to improve the foundations of state urban development policy and the integrated development of populated areas and regions across the country.

The modern urban development industry is a reflection of human activity in all spheres: social; economic; cultural; industrial; environmental; technological.

Social contradictions arising in society are shown as the dominant factor influencing the formation of the urban structure.

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