Alina Matsokha ⓘD

PUBLIC SPACES AND THEIR IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture, Kyiv, Ukraine

One of the most pressing problems today is the quality development of the urban environment and the health of its inhabitants. Since the end of the XVIII century as a result of the industrialization of society, there has been a great leap of urbanization, which led to a rapid increase in the size and number of urban settlements. With each year humanity have been more and more distancing from nature and entrapped within historically mixed stone aggregation.

The processes of urbanization have completely eliminated the opportunity to enjoy the environment. As a result, people get a homogeneous and aggressive environment, which, being unnatural, not only does not bring aesthetic pleasure, but also causes a significant number of social problems (V.A. Filin). Among the problems of human ecology, an extremely important aspect is the interaction with the visual environment, which is the key to the psycho-emotional health of the population. Thus, the development of urban lifestyles leads to the creation of new structural elements that will contribute to improving the quality of urban habitat and public health. Among them there are public spaces, as the main points of human concentration, performing a lot of functions. Public spaces are universal public areas which have various sizes, locations and destinations that involve the presence of people and their realizing their needs.

Analyzing investigations concerning public spaces, we can recall the concept of Jan Gayle "Cities for People" and identify the following main factors: a) quality of visual perception of the environment; b) ergonomics of the environment; c) psychological comfort and harmony of the environment (Y. Gayle).

An important aspect of a "successful place" is its authenticity. Exploring the issue of urban renewal to a higher level, N.V. Bauer in his dissertation "The Culture of Forming a Sustainable Urban Environment by Landscape Design Methods" states the importance of creating the so-called "place spirit". The formation of the urban environment integrity is impossible without the unity of material, ecological, aesthetic, ethical and spiritual systems (N.V. Bauer). The harmonious combination of the historical and contemporary context of the city -

as an indicator of the quality development of the urban environment, guarantees its recognition and uniqueness. The cultural potential of each city, and especially the historical one, is a basic tenet of settling and creating public spaces in the urban environment. A great number of experts in various fields of science have long come to the conclusion that the basis of the well-being or the disadvantage of a particular city is its individual cultural potential (V.A. Glazichev).

Taking into consideration all factors, we can state the necessity of creating public spaces in the historical city centers which are the starting point of any settlement. At present, the methodology for regulating and organizing public spaces within historical sites and habitats is imperfect. Preserving the historical component and ensuring the quality of further city development is the key to creating a healthy environment, which has a positive impact on the overall social development. That is why, as one of the options for solving the problem of healthy city population, we have identified the need to develop a number of methods of public spaces landscape organization within the historical city environment. Such methods will cause a positive effect the psycho-emotional state of the population:

- improving the quality of the visual urban environment;
- preserving and utilizing the cultural city potential;
- increasing tourist demand, which will positively affect the economic state of the country;
- preserving the authenticity of the place, creating a "place spirit ";
- creating an aesthetically, ethically, economically and socially "successful place".