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FORMATION OF ETHNOCENTERS IN A SUSTAINABLE URBAN STRUCTURE IN AZERBAIJAN

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Abstract. The declaration of 2026 as the «Year of Urban Planning and Architecture» by the relevant Decree of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is an expression of a strategic state policy aimed at the sustainable development of cities in the country, the protection of historical heritage, the application of modern architectural principles and the acceleration of reconstruction and construction works in the territories liberated from occupation.

The main directions and objectives of the "Year of Urban Planning and Architecture" reflect priorities based on the preservation of the rich architectural traditions of Azerbaijan and the protection of historical and cultural heritage, the restoration and development of the liberated territories, international cooperation, and the creation of a sustainable environment.

This decision not only stimulates development in the field of urban planning and architecture, but also strengthens the national solidarity and ideals of statehood of our people. The holding of the World Urban Planning Forum (WUF13) in Baku in 2026 and the application of international practices to the country are a clear example of international cooperation. The creation of functional settlements based on green energy and ecological balance, focused on the human factor, is a manifestation of the development of a sustainable environment.

Today, the socio-economic development strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan identifies ensuring balanced development of the capital and regions and promoting sustainable settlement, as well as compliance with the United

Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as priority areas of architectural and urban planning activities.

Also, the application of innovative ideas in architecture, the development of modern, innovative projects, as well as the promotion and expansion of the application of progressive approaches that respond to new challenges in this field in the country are among the main issues [2].

The practical realization and application of new ideas, discoveries, or inventions in sustainable urban planning and regional planning requires a modern approach in architecture.In this direction, buildings distinguished by their modern, transparent and citizen-oriented architectural style, such as «Asan Service» and DOST (Agency For Sustainable and Operative Social Provision) centers, are being built in various regions of Azerbaijan. Glass facades, a wide open environment, accessibility and minimalist design form the basis of these buildings. This architectural concept supports the principles of service quality, innovative management, citizen satisfaction and inclusiveness.

At the same time, in the current period, there is a great need to create ethnocenters for the organization and development of cultural heritage in various economic regions of Azerbaijan. For this purpose, many projects that meet the requirements of the modern era have been implemented. The sketch projects of the complexes, which are presented as examples of modern architecture, take into account all the features that glorify the ethnoculture of the region in which they will be located and are considered beneficial from both a cultural and economic perspective.

The second stage after the construction is to bring attention to the surrounding environment of the complexes and create small recreational areas around them. These recreational areas may consist of cafes and teahouses serving national cuisine, small parks and souvenir kiosks. The area of these complexes may vary between 3000-9000 m^2, depending on their function.

Key words: sustainable urban planning, regional planning, ethno-centers, environment, complex.

Introduction. The modern Republic of Azerbaijan has passed a complex, but also honorable path in the years since its independence. The large-scale reforms implemented under the leadership of our great leader Heydar Aliyev and His worthy successor, President Ilham Aliyev, have served to

improve the socio-economic situation in our country and further increase the material well-being of our people. As a result of the far-sighted policy laid down by the National Leader and successfully implemented today, many social issues have been resolved, and important steps have been taken to strengthen the social protection of the population and further improve living conditions.

The relevant state institutions, operating in accordance with the national interests of our people, are implementing their independent policies more courageously and principledly in the face of new realities, based on the requirements of the Constitution and its sovereign rights, and are confidently moving towards their future strategic goals.

The interpretation of the main material. Azerbaijan has great potential for tourism development with its rich cultural and historical heritage and favorable natural conditions. There are wide opportunities for the development of many types of tourism in our country. The implementation of the State Program on the Development of Tourism in our Republic in 2002-2005 created favorable conditions for the development of tourism, laid the foundations for integration into the international tourism market, and increased the competitiveness of the national tourism complex.

In Azerbaijan, the exhibition of immovable heritage, as well as historical and cultural reserves as "Open-air museums" is one of the means for introducing our historical heritage to future generations and the world [5]. Proper organization of such museums, implementation of infrastructure projects, and promotion both within and outside the country can attract tourists to such places, which in turn can have a positive impact on the country's economy [1].

Today, the creation of ethnocenters in various economic regions of Azerbaijan, along with open-air museums, is one of the fundamental issues for the organization and development of cultural heritage. It should not be forgotten that the main purpose of preserving historical sites is, first of all, to ensure that a people realizes the value of their material and spiritual heritage and returns to themselves, and then to integrate their economy, politics, and culture into world culture [3].

Projects that meet the requirements of the modern era are usually implemented through tenders announced by the state. Some of these projects were implemented by our professional group under my leadership.

Museum of History and Ethnography

The sketch project of the Museum of History and Ethnography includes all the conditions for young people to spend their free time effectively, as well as organize exhibitions and sales of handicrafts. The building, designed in a rectangular shape in plan, facing the park, consists of unique, open, multifunctional and free spaces created in three dimensions on each floor.

On the first floor of the project, there is an electronic information corner about H. Aliyev, an internet room, foreign language courses, club rooms for handicrafts, a 3D cinema, a library, an exhibition hall, a recreation area, a winter garden. On the second floor, there is a conference hall, an open exhibition area, all the necessary sections, areas, and rooms to carry out these activities [4].

Fig. 1. Sketch project of the Historical-Ethnographic Museum

Fig. 2. Sketch project of the Sports and Culture Center building

A large recreation park, restaurants and cafes presenting our national cuisine are planned in the open-air area of the complex, which is planned to be located on an area of 1 ha. The total area of the complex is 3000 m^2. (Fig. 1).

Sports and Culture Center Building

The project of the Sports and Culture Center Building, which attracts attention with its unique architecture at first glance, consists of 3 sections. The central section contains sections that perform four functions at the same time, each with an independent entrance. The use of these sections can be changed according to the needs of the region where the building is located. The composition of the main central section of the complex is completed by a roof covering with a wavy geometric spatial system [4].

One of the main features of the project is the integration of the facade design with the immediate surroundings, while at the same time determining spatial flexibility in the plan. The central body of the complex is completed by three-story buildings with independent entrances from two sides. The plan of these buildings includes sections serving various areas of culture (Fig. 2).

Modern Educational Complex

The project of the modern educational complex with a total area of approximately 9300 m^2 envisages education with the principle of new innovation. The multifunctional building simultaneously includes various sections with independent entrances and auxiliary areas serving them (sanitary facilities, small cafes, etc.) without interfering with each other. These include the educational section (classrooms and laboratories), sports section (hall for various sports and all related auxiliary facilities), conference hall (hall for 350 people and auxiliary rooms), buffet-dining room, library, arts and crafts club, language courses. An open-air stadium is located in the courtyard of the complex [4]. The presented project envisages the combined use of concrete, wood, composite panels and natural stone materials (Fig.3).

Fig. 3. Sketch project of the Modern Educational Complex

Fig. 4. Sketch project of the Children's Art, Music, Painting and Choreography School

Children's Art, Music, Painting and Choreography School

The building, with a total area of 2950 m², is home to a concert hall, choreography, painting, wind instruments departments and a theory department. The project is planned as a space that provides collaborative work, rehearsal and concert platforms for students, artists, musicians and teachers. The open-plan concept, which includes mobile spaces at the entrance and on the upper floors, simultaneously provides wide and free, open (elastic) areas that provide equal opportunities for all functions and users [4] (Fig.4).

Sketch project of the Ethnography Exhibition Hall

Another complex with modern architecture is the sketch project of the Ethnography Exhibition Hall. In the building with a total area of 3600 m^2,

Fig. 5. Sketch project of the Ethnography Exhibition Hall

designed to demonstrate the history and culture of Azerbaijan, in addition to the exhibition section, there are also association rooms, sections for holding painting and sculpture courses.The exhibition section has movable decorative partition walls that allow changing the spaces according to needs. The building has been designed with skylights that bring natural light to the interior, and the application of different architectural elements. As well as inside the building, commercial sections such as a cafe - restaurant, a children's park, and a recreation section are planned in the courtyard [4] (Fig. 5).

Cultural Center Building

The complex is designed as a space that can be used as both a cultural center and an ethnomuseum. With its technical equipment, multifunctional structure and open plan concept, the complex has the ability to create spaces that can be changed from different perspectives. The area where the conference section, lobby and restaurant are located in the project has a more irrational and free geometric shape.

The area with an open plan structure also houses the administrative section. The technical areas serving the main spaces are planned in such a way that they can be moved when necessary. The project was designed based on the principle of a free plan, taking into account various users and changes in use [4] (Fig. 6).

Fig. 6. Sketch project of the Cultural Center and eco-center

Information and eco-center

A multifunctional building designed in a modern style is designed as a whole composition. The concept of flexibility applied in the proposed project is explained by the ability of the existing space to expand by adapting to new functions and, in parallel, the ability of technical equipment to allow for changes. In the building, in a free open space that is not divided, not limited by a load-bearing structure, all conditions are provided to meet the needs of new functions and new users in addition to the existing function [4] (Fig. 7).

Fig. 7. Sketch project of the information

Conclusion. In modern architecture, especially in public spaces, multifunctional spaces that adapt to the spirit of the times and accommodate various users and uses are of great importance. Regardless of terminology, architects create flexible spaces that can adapt and respond to changing human needs or evolving users. In modern projects that meet today's requirements, when it is necessary to change spaces to new functions, this is done not by demolishing buildings, but by designing them to serve a new purpose.

In the 20th century, innovations in the structural systems of complexes introduced concepts such as free-planned design of space, flexibility, adaptation to space, multifunctionality, open-plan design, mobile spaces, intermediate sections and ramps into modern architecture [6].

Designing such multifunctional complexes in the regions of Azerbaijan is an indispensable tool for promoting various areas of culture, developing tourism, and increasing the recognition of our ever-developing republic in the world.

The location of the area where ethno-centers will be located and the distribution of surrounding buildings are important issues. In many projects, the importance of the square is considered in the context of the functions of the surrounding structures and defines it as a square located between the temples of art, music, press, books, politics and culture. The landscaping of the surroundings of the complexes, the construction and repair of roads to the area where historical monuments are located, the expansion of greenery, the construction of gardens and parks, the creation of ethno-centers and museums are also very important in terms of the development of many tourism areas in the region.

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Sevinc Tangudur *(Azərbaycan)*

AZƏRBAYCANDA DAYANAQLI ŞƏHƏR STRUKTURUNDA ETNOMƏRKƏZLƏRIN FORMALAŞMASI

Azərbaycan Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin müvafiq Sərəncamı ilə 2026-cı ilin "Şəhərsalma və Memarlıq İli" elan edilməsi, ölkədə şəhərlərin dayanaqlı inkişafı, tarixi irsin qorunması, müasir memarlıq prinsiplərinin tətbiqi və işğaldan azad edilmiş ərazilərdə bərpa - quruculuq işlərinin sürətləndirilməsini hədəfləyən strateji dövlət siyasətinin ifadəsidir.

"Şəhərsalma və Memarlıq İli"nin əsas istiqamətləri və məqsədləri, Azərbaycanın zəngin memarlıq ənənələrinin yaşadılması və tarixi - mədəni irsin qorunması, işğaldan azad olunmuş ərazilərin bərpa və inkişafı, beynəlxalq əməkdaşlıq və dayanaqlı mühit yaradılmasına əsaslanan prioritetləri əks etdirir.

Bu istiqamətdə Azərbaycanın müxtəlif regionlarında Asan Xidmət, DOST mərkəzləri müasir, şəffaf və vətəndaş yönümlü memarlıq üslubu ilə seçilən binalar inşa edilməkdədir. Belə memarlıq konsepti xidmət keyfiyyəti, innovativ idarəetmə, vətəndaş məmuniyyəti və inklüzivlik prinsiplərini dəstəkliyir. Bununla yanaşı hazırkı dövrdə, mədəni irsin təşkili və inkişaf etdirilməsi üçün Azərbaycanın müxtəlif iqtisadi bölgələrində etnomərkəzlərin yaradılmasına böyük ehtiyac var.

Açar sözlər: dayanaqlı şəhərsalma, regionların planlaşdırılması, etnomərkəzlər, mühit, kompleks.

Севиндж Тангудур *(Азербайджан)*

ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ ЭТНОЦЕНТРОВ В РАМКАХ УСТОЙЧИВОЙ ГОРОДСКОЙ СТРУКТУРЫ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНА

Объявление 2026 года «Градостроительства и архитектуры» соответствующим указом Президента Азербайджана Ильхама Алиева является выражением стратегической государственной политики, направленной на устойчивое развитие городов страны, защиту исторического наследия, применение современных архитектурных принципов и ускорение реконструкции и восстановительных работ на освобожденных территориях.

Основные направления и цели года «Градостроительства и архитектуры» отражают приоритеты, основанные на сохранении богатых архитектурных традиций Азербайджана и защите его историко-культурного наследия, восстановлении и развитии территорий, освобожденных от оккупации, международном сотрудничестве и создании устойчивой окружающей среды.

В этом направлении в различных регионах Азербайджана строятся центры «Асан Сервис» и «DOST», отличающиеся современным, прозрачным и ориентированным на граждан архитектурным стилем. Эта архитектурная концепция поддерживает принципы качества обслуживания, инновационного управления, удовлетворенности граждан и инклюзивности. В то же время, в нынешний период существует большая потребность в создании этноцентров в различных экономических регионах Азербайджана для организации и развития культурного наследия.

Ключевые слова: устойчивое городское развитие, региональное планирование, этноцентры, среда, комплекс.