

HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF USING MOSAICS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract: This article examines the historical development of mosaics as an important artistic means of expression in shaping the urban environment. The main stages of mosaic art evolution, from antiquity to the present day, are analyzed, highlighting its role in forming the architectural and artistic image of cities, as well as the social, cultural, and aesthetic significance of mosaics in public spaces. Particular attention is paid to the interaction between architecture, decorative-applied arts, and urban environment design.

Keywords: Mosaic, urban environment, architecture, design, monumental-decorative art, public spaces.

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается историческое развитие мозаики как важного художественного средства выражения в формировании городской среды. Анализируются основные этапы эволюции мозаичного искусства от античности до современности, подчеркивается её роль в формировании архитектурно-художественного облика городов, а также социально-культурное и эстетическое значение мозаики в общественных пространствах. Особое внимание уделяется взаимодействию архитектуры, декоративно-прикладного искусства и дизайна городской среды.

Introduction

The urban environment is a complex system composed of architectural, spatial, and artistic elements, which together define the visual and cultural character of cities. Throughout history, mosaics have held a prominent position as one of the most durable and expressive artistic tools in architecture. Their durability, decorative richness, and ability to convey symbolic, cultural, and ideological meanings have contributed to the widespread use of mosaics in public and urban construction projects.

The earliest examples of mosaic use in urban architecture date back to antiquity. In the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome, mosaic compositions were widely employed to decorate public buildings, forums, baths, residential structures, and city squares. Mosaics served not only decorative purposes but also conveyed information and symbolism, depicting mythological scenes, everyday life, and the social status of building owners or society.

During the Byzantine period, mosaic art acquired a sacred and spiritual significance. In churches and important public buildings, mosaics became a central artistic element, shaping the spiritual and aesthetic atmosphere of spaces. The use of smalt, colored glass, and gold enhanced the visual impact of architectural forms and emphasized the monumentality of urban ensembles.

In the Renaissance and subsequent historical periods, the use of mosaics in urban architecture persisted, although it became more selective. In the 19th and 20th centuries, amid industrialization and active urban development, interest in mosaics grew once again. During this period, mosaics became an important means of artistic decoration for building façades, metro stations, public buildings, and residential complexes. In the 20th century, mosaics occupied a significant place within the system of monumental-decorative art. In many countries, they were used to shape the visual identity of cities and convey historical, cultural, and ideological ideas.

Large-scale mosaic panels were integrated into architectural ensembles, enriching the artistic quality of urban environments.

From the perspective of contemporary architecture and design, mosaics are considered an effective tool for creating aesthetically expressive and comfortable urban environments. They are widely applied in squares, pedestrian zones, parks, underground passages, and transport infrastructure facilities.

The main advantages of mosaics include high durability, resistance to climatic influences, and the ability to harmoniously integrate into the architectural structure of buildings and structures. These qualities ensure the relevance of mosaics in modern urban development and allow for a combination of traditional artistic approaches with innovative design solutions.

Today, there is a tendency in architecture and design to reassess and reinterpret the historical experience of using mosaics. Mosaics are now regarded not only as decorative elements but also as a means of expressing a city's cultural memory and identity. In contemporary mosaic projects, traditional materials are often combined with innovative technologies, expanding the possibilities for artistic expression. Additionally, the preservation and restoration of historical mosaics is considered one of the key aspects of sustainable urban development and the conservation of architectural heritage.

The historical experience of using mosaics in the urban environment demonstrates their significant role in architecture and design throughout different periods. Mosaics are not only decorative tools but also an important form of art that embodies cultural, social, and aesthetic values. In modern urban development, the use of mosaic art contributes to creating a unique visual identity for cities while ensuring continuity between historical traditions and contemporary design approaches.

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