Hospital town of the Nikolaev city hospital in Rostov-on-Don in historic retrospective

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Abstract. The article comprehensively analyzes the constructions of the Nikolaev Hospital City in Rostov-on-Don in context of the architect N.M. Sokolov creative style, discusses the volume-spatial composition of historic buildings, identifies the planning structural features of the complex and its style dominant for the first time. A deep study of the buildings of different time periods and their attribution is performed.

Introduction
The relevance of the article lies in the in-depth study of the complex formation of the Nikolaev hospital (now a part of the Rostov State Medical University territory), designed by the famous Rostov architect N.M. Sokolov. It is noted that even the modern perception of this ensemble is of undoubted interest. From the point of view of the new pavilion type medical institution architectural space historical development, this object of study is of historical, cultural and artistic value of the Rostov-on-Don city.

Main Part
The famous Rostov architect Nikolai Matveevich Sokolov, engaged in designing and building the central area of the city “Rich spring”, was born in 1859 in Riga and came from a noble family. To educate his sons, his parents moved to St. Petersburg, where Nikolai Matveyevich graduated from the Petersburg Institute of Civil Engineering and in 1886 was transferred to the post of the chief architect of Rostov-on-Don the city, where he continued developing the traditions of neo-Gothic “brick style” he mastered. The creative ideas of the architect were greatly influenced by the childhood and youth years spent in the Baltic States, and the beginning of the architectural and artistic activities that took place in Riga.

The work of N. M. Sokolov at the end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th centuries, which propagandizes the rationalistic trend in architecture was best implemented in the southern continental climate and contributed to the formation of the individual historical appearance of the central part of the city [4].

Sokolov Nikolai Matveyevich, being a bright master of the “brick style” of the late XIX-early XX centuries, designed buildings, which were included in the list of architectural monuments of Rostov bearing great historical value over time. These include the work of the architect on the medical institute territory, where he created the city hospital complex, which later received the name of Nikolayevskaya.

Since 1856, the city hospital has been a rented building for a long time, and the lack of funds of the city treasury did not allow the construction of its own hospital building. Since 1884, the hospital has been located in the tent camp and the wooden barracks of the “Red cross”, which were built in a short time because of the Russian-Turkish war in 1877.
But the tent camp did not meet the sanitary and hygienic requirements. In this regard, the issue of building a new hospital building continued to rise, and in 1890 it was decided to proceed with the construction of a new complex of the city hospital buildings, which was the Hospital City of the pavilion system, which also included the construction of a hospital church. Estimated Hospital City exceeded 400 thousand rubles, which in those times was a huge amount and would cause damage to the city budget. Therefore, the Rostov merchants who donated substantial sums came to help for the hospital construction, as well as the city residents, who helped with the construction of the hospital pavilions with money and construction materials [1].

The hospital complex included: a stone church, 13 pavilion-type buildings (one three-story - administrative building, two - two-story buildings and ten - one-story buildings). The new hospital complex was located on the territory of 10.09 hectares. The park area of about 2 acres of land separated the Bolshaya Sadovaya street from the hospital which was 218.5 acres or 2.185 hectares. To get such a huge territory in the very center of the city for the hospital needs of the entire urban population of Rostov-on-Don was a great achievement. The project was modified and supplemented during the construction, and, as a result, about 30 buildings for various purposes were built.

The “Vedomosti Rostov-on-Don City Council” newspaper from 1896 states that “... in the courtyard of the Rostov city hospital, designed by architect N.M. Sokolov the following buildings (steam laundry, ambulatory, chapel) were constructed. The ambulatory building was finally finished in 1896”. By this time, the hospital had already had 450 beds [5–9].

In 1894 the Red Cross Hospital Church of Archangel Michael was erected on the territory of the complex. The laying of the church took place on May 18, 1890, only a month after the ceremonial laying of the Nikolaev hospital. The construction of the temple was carried out for four years: from 1890 to 1894.

By the beginning of the twentieth century the hospital had already represented a large medical complex. Designed for 600 beds, the hospital was equipped with excellent medical and diagnostic equipment at that time and was staffed with highly qualified medical personnel.

In the Report of the Rostov City Nicholas Hospital for 1900 it is stated that the Rostov hospital is considered to be one of the best in southern Russia.

But the hospital buildings on the project by N.M. Sokolov were built in 1902. And in 1903 Nikolai Matveyevich Sokolov built the orphanage for the mentally ill people, located on the opposite side of Nakhichevan Lane. In 1904 the Pasteur station was opened and a pavilion for the children's infectious diseases treatment was built. In 1905 the anatomical department was rebuilt. In 1908 another building where the maternity shelter was located on the upper floor, and the surgical department on the lower floor. It is now the building of the Faculty of Surgery named after P.F. Sevryugov and S.A. Sevryugova. The central heating system was implemented for the hospital buildings the same year [2, 5–9].

24 medical units for various purposes and about 30 buildings were in the Hospital Campus buildings list in 1908.

We try to find out which of the nearly three dozen buildings on the Hospital City list belong to a famous city architect.

The photograph from the archive of the Rostov State Medical University shows that the composition of the complex designed by Sokolov had a classical symmetrical compositional solution, apparently the only correct one for the formation of a pavilion-type hospital, the central building of which was the main three-story building with a clock and a fire tower symmetrical in shape. The magnificent main alley with the cast iron fence behind which there was a beautiful classic park with flower beds and flower gardens led from the brick gates of the Nikolaev City to the main building of the Hospital Town (Figure 1).

The width of the avenue, in our opinion, was due to the delivery of patients on horseback to the hospital buildings. The alley stretched to a wide entrance into the central building with a tower, over which, as it can be seen from the photograph, a wide, extended balcony with an awning covering was organized, having the same metal fence as it was supported on cast-iron columns. The buildings supporting elements iron casting combination with rhythmically plasticized brick facades was a new rationalistic interpretation of the beam-support system (Figure 2).
The main building with a fire tower and a clock is made in a brick style with the neo-classicism elements. The tower with a spire, located in the center of the facade, had a stepped end, now lost, and gave the main building a “town hall” look at the same time serving as the high-rise dominant of the entire complex. A symmetrical three-story facade is completed with strongly unbroken projection. The ground floor is designed as a basement and is treated with rust. Rectangular windows are decorated with locking stones. The second and third floors are joined by pilasters of a giant order, rusticated to the level of five archivolts of semicircular windows on the second floor, also supplemented with key stones. In the narrow fronts of the projections the semicircular windows are replaced by rectangular ones, and the projections are hung with gables. The windows of the third floor are double rectangular, the frieze includes brackets and plaques between them (Figures 4-6).

The entrance to the Nikolaev hospital had a brick gate, built also by the architect Sokolov. The design of their pylons echoes the vertical divisions of the fire tower. To the left of the entrance, there was a window for donations in the enclosing wall. The donations were regularly collected by the population of the city in favor of the city hospital. It had a bow pediment, based on the semi-columns with interceptions, made in the Russian style. The brick pylons of the gate in the first tier are decorated with brickwork, in the second tier they are complemented by the semi-columns at the corners and are completed above the crowning cornice with small Russian four-sided tent towers (Figure 3).

The nowadays ten-story concrete wall completely obstructed the view of the hospital town, thereby destroying the historic town-planning ensemble, destroying the connection of the main street of the city with its central hospital complex (Figures 7-9).

On two sides of the historical main building there were n-shaped two-storeyed medical buildings, forming small flower yards inside from the north and south. The wings of these buildings from the north and south are crowned with triangular gables under a sloping roof. The rhythmic structure
of the internal space of buildings is traced on the facades. This is a corridor system of hospital wards, one above the other on both the first and the second levels. The rustication level of the first floor is enlarged. The floors are divided by a cornice. The second level has a vertical brick belt division of the French ribbon rust. The windows are framed with the exposed brickwork and have triangular pediments. (Figures 10-11).

The building very similar in style is located at the intersection of the Pushkinskaya street and Nakhichevan lane. It has the same enlarged rusting of the first floor, the belt division of the second level, the characteristic completion of window openings, and the classic pediment (Figures 12).

The composition emphasizing the center of the hospital complex, as conceived by Sokolov, to the left and to the right of the main axis of movement begins to be simplified, moving from the tower with the clock to the n-shaped two-story buildings, and from them to the two-story rectangular buildings of the simplified configuration along the complex flanks (Figure 1).

A photograph from the archive shows that these two buildings are in line with the main building with a clock and the two n-shaped buildings. To date, one of the buildings facing the Theater Passage, in which the Children's Diseases Department is located, is not the part of the complex. (Fig.13). But the building located behind it apparently belongs to the works of N. M. Sokolov (Fig.14-15).

The first and the ceremonial rows of the Pavilion Hospital City were closed here. The main hospital alley, leading to this row then turns left and goes into a less wide but more extended avenue inside the hospital complex. Apparently, it was also possible to transport the wounded or sick on horseback. It
spreads to the end of the hospital pavilions, from which it was possible to pick up or bring people. Behind the first row of the main hospital buildings there are eight small single-storey buildings of the hospital, between which a classic park is located in the center, and the stone church closes along the motion axis. The temple was built by the architect Sokolov in the Russian style (Figure 19).

The bell tower “octagon on the square”, which has a three-tiered division and is completed by a high tent tower, according to the plan, was located on the west side of the church. The central domed part was located along the axis of the tower-tower, to it led a small promenade central alley, which took place in the middle of the park. The bulbous, squat dome of the temple, which has two belts of window openings, arched and rectangular, was surrounded on four sides by miniature towers with small bulbous domes. Large zakomars, completing the parts of the planned cross, were flanked by small quadrangular hipped turrets of the vestibules. The whole structure of the temple complex performed by Sokolov has the character of Russian fairy-tale architecture, which is very large-scale and proportionate to the Russian person. The church was also viewed from the Bolshaya Sadovaya street; it was also visible behind the fire tower. Unfortunately, the Red Cross Church was destroyed during the war (Figure 20).

The presently existing two-storey buildings, located behind the first row of buildings and occupying the places of the former single-storey buildings apparently do not belong to the work of the architect under consideration, and the single-storey abandoned building located behind them very much resembles the master's hand (Figures 20-22).

According to the project, the complex on the Nakhichevan lane side was fenced with a brick fence, part of which, apparently, has survived. So, on the N.M. Sokolov’s architectural plan to the left of the main building with a tower another spire can be seen. It can be assumed that a part of this spire still exists in the form of a wide pipe leading from the incinerator (Figure 23). A part of the brick fence
(Figures 24-26) and a small rectangular building with a classic portico and a triangular pediment (Figure 24) can also belong to Sokolov.

The architectural ensemble of the pavilion-type hospital complex was formed a long time ago and continued to undergo changes after the death of its main architect in 1907. Therefore, the buildings that have been existing till nowadays are difficult to be classified. But by the size of the brick used in the masonry, one can definitely say that many buildings on the territory of the Rostov State Medical University appeared in the same time period (the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries).

Figure 23. Incinerator (modern look)  
Figures 24-26. The surviving parts of the brick fence and small buildings (modern look)

In 1915 the medical faculty of the University of Warsaw was placed in the hospital premises, and eventually became the independent educational institution - the Rostov Medical Institute, and then the Medical University. The Nikolaev hospital was included in its structure, and its hospital base was transferred to the clinic of the Rostov State Medical University and stopped its existence.

Summary
Based on the detailed study of the Rostov-on-Don Hospital Town buildings and the comparison of its project with existing buildings, the following features of the architectural complex were revealed: a central-axial compositional construction of a new type pavilion hospital, a functionally-defined spatial arrangement of buildings, a brick style with neoclassical elements and Russian style as the style dominants in the city. The authorship of N.M. Sokolov was established in the buildings design of the complex first main line, while the part of the buildings in the courtyard do not belong to his creative heritage, being nevertheless an integral part of the unified historical and architectural appearance of the Hospital. The necessity of the full inclusion of all the historical buildings of the Hospital Town in the historical and cultural heritage objects register with its subsequent restoration is substantiated.

Thus, the novelty of this study is the consideration of the historical retrospective of the Hospital City creation, the definition of the attributions of its numerous pavilions to the creative work of the master of brick style by N.M. Sokolov.

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