Features of the Architecture of the Consular Buildings of the Great Britain and Their Manifestation in Manchuria at the Beginning of the 20th Century

T A Smolianinova1,a and D S Tceluiko1,b

1Department of Architecture and Urbanistics, Institute of Architecture and Design, Pacific National University, 136, Tihookeanskaya St., Khabarovsk, 680035, Russia

E-mail: a design.total@yandex.ru, b dima123117@gmail.com

Abstract. The article discusses the architecture features of the consular buildings of Great Britain on the territory of Manchuria in China during the first half of the 20th century. The historical background of the appearance of consular posts is analyzed. The space-planning and functional features of the objects and their characteristic features and techniques are revealed. A special role in the planning decision was played by an unshakable requirement in the creation of separate blocks delimiting personnel zones, receiving visitors to the institution and the living space of the consul. At the same time, more attention was paid to the planning structure of the consular house than to architecture. The stylistics of the objects is close to eclecticism, and the motifs trace the features of the Georgian style.

1. Introduction
The article is devoted to the study of the architecture of the consular buildings of Great Britain in the cities of Manchuria during the period under review. The aim of the study is to identify the space-planning and functional features of the architecture of the British consulate by means of architectural analysis. The subject of the study is the buildings of the British consular offices in Manchuria. The object of study is the architecture of the British consular buildings in Manchuria during the first half of the 20th century.

Using literary and Internet sources devoted to this topic, it was possible to identify lost and preserved objects, historical information about which was compiled using archival materials. The architecture of the cities of Manchuria is presented in the works of N. P. Kradin [1, 2], S. S. Levoshko [3]. The works of N. E. Ablova [4], M. A. Vivdych [5], T. Iu. Troitckaia [6], V. Zatsepine [7] are dedicated to the history of the construction of the CER (Chinese Eastern Railway). The role of the activities of Russian engineers in the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway is described in the works of N. P. Kradin [8–9] and M. E. Bazilevich [9–10]. V. G. Datcyschen considers Russian-Chinese relations in Manchuria, including the consulate [11]. These works were the first step in the study of European architectural heritage in the cities of Manchuria, became the starting point in the study of this issue by the author and laid the foundation for the study of the architecture features of consular objects in cities located on the territory of Manchuria during the period under review [12–16]. To date, many buildings have been lost, but their references are found in archival materials, historical photographs and postcards.
2. Background and the beginning of the formation of the consular districts of Great Britain in China

Because of the penetration of foreign states, such as England, Belgium, Great Britain, Japan, the USA, Russia and others [17], China was divided between the spheres of influence of the imperial powers. Under their pressure, the Chinese borders were forced to open for foreign trade, and a number of contracts for the construction of railways were signed. Thus, railway construction under foreign control formed an impressive at that time railway network with a length of about 10,400 km, where Great Britain and nine railways with a total length of 4,500 km got a large share [18]. Such an impressive penetration of Great Britain led to an increase in its influence on various spheres and the way of life not only of the Chinese people, but also of the country as a whole. With the beginning of railway construction in Manchuria, stations began to open, on the basis of which cities with a significant share of the European population were formed. All this stimulated the formation of legal relations between the representations of various countries, because of which an extensive network of consular posts began to form, the development centers of which became settlements, separate from the Chinese part of the city. Such facilities were opened mainly in large administrative centers or important strategic and transport hubs [19–20].

Global geopolitical changes of the early twentieth century and the reorientation of the European powers towards the development of Northeast China led to the opening of consular offices in Manchuria, which had not previously been seen as a promising territory. During its presence in China, Great Britain during the period of the 19th–the first half of the 20th century opened 48 consulates, most of which were created in open ports. Therefore, at the beginning of the 20th century, the British government first created consular offices in the cities of Manchuria, such as Shenyang (1906) [21], Dandong (1908), Harbin (1910), Dalian (1912), Yingkou. To provide the consuls with suitable living and working premises, the British government financed the designs and construction of most of the consulate buildings. For these purposes, was opened in 1867, a small construction company in Shanghai, which until 1942 was responsible for the new buildings of almost all the consulates of the United Kingdom in China.

3. Features of the design of British consulates in Manchuria

The geographical diversity between South and North China rarely influenced the layout, architecture of consulates, or the lifestyle of diplomats. Consulates were mainly designed from several volumes, consisting of consuls' houses, office and service blocks. The primary object was the houses of consuls; their architecture was given special attention, in particular the planning structure, which is associated with office and service units. The dominance of the consul’s residence indicates that the status of official representative was the main concern of British architects. They were planned with at least three living or reception rooms, which included a living room, study and dining room. There can be seen a typical layout at many residences in Beijing and at consulates in Tianjin, Guangzhou (Canton) and Yingkou.

The projects of the British consular offices were carried out in an architectural bureau in Shanghai. The architects, in the first place, paid more attention to the layout of the building, in the structure of which the usual British existence was reflected, which played an important role in the life of consuls in China. Among the buildings, preference was given to the architecture of the consular house, which demonstrated a single motif in the popular Georgian style.

The architecture of British diplomatic, judicial and consular institutions in China developed in 1872. Its social structure and spatial organization remained virtually unchanged, regardless of the date of their construction. The technologies used and the development of the construction industry, as well as the change in the number of family members, had little effect on the architecture of the institutions. The spatial structure of the consulate, especially the consular house, remained almost unchanged; the only transformation was an increase in the number of bedrooms. Therefore, in the layout there is a music room for playing the piano and watching plays, billiard room and bowling. Such an addition in the plan assumes orientation to family life with children.
Paying attention to the architecture of consulates, it can be noted that the main facades of office blocks are decorated more modestly, unlike the consul’s house, and were mainly built on one floor. Various types of portals, the appearance of which varied from pediments to developed entrance groups, distinguished entrances to the buildings and entrance arches (port-kosher, French porte-cochere). A fireplace and a porch, as two cultural symbols of British architecture, were invariably present in consular objects regardless of the time and place of construction. This is primarily due to the desire of British architects to emotionally and culturally maintain a connection between the British home in the metropolis with their usual rhythm of life and a home in any part of the world, in particular in China. That is why greater importance was given to the architecture of the consular residential building than to office blocks. However, despite this, it is possible to note the almost complete absence of decor, where the brickwork of the wall, completed by a pitched roof, the predominance of right angles, and the geometricity of buildings prevails.

4. Space-planning structure and functional zoning of consular objects of Great Britain in Manchuria

The objects with a typical British layout include the consulate in Shenyang. The construction consists of a building of three volumes, in the center of which there is a two-story consular house, on the right side there is a one-story office block with working rooms, and on the left is a one-story service block. A detailed examination of the consulate's plans clearly distinguishes the separation of the private space of the consul and office premises. The office of the consul general in Shenyang was located in the administrative building and was located between his personal reading room and staff offices. Such an arrangement of the cabinet played an important role in the planning structure of the complex.

An analysis of the planning structure of consular facilities in Harbin and Dalian [12] revealed that the working block of consulates and the consul’s residence were located in the same building, which is not typical for this type of structure, and is an exception to the general rules. This is primarily due to the limited area of the site. So, in Harbin, the consul’s office was located between residential and office premises, as a result of which the layout was different from the prevailing design principles of the British consulates, where the main task was to create separate blocks delimiting the intersection of flows of visitors, staff of the institution and the consul, which was difficult to achieve when using one building. It features office space, a junior staff area and the consul's residence. All this led to the appearance of long unlit corridors that contributed to the separation of the flows of people of four different ranks, which is not typical for the layout of the British consulates. As a result, the building has a traditional exterior, but the interior is oversaturated and distorted compared to the classic layout of the British consular posts. It is impossible to find halls in the building with carefully designed stairwells, which are represented at the Consulate of Shenyang.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of objects revealed the following:

- British consular buildings reflect the characteristic features of European eclectic architecture, demonstrating a single motif in the popular Georgian style;
- the primary object was the house of consuls, in which the main task of the architects was the formation of the usual British way of life of the metropolis for consuls in China;
- the geographical location, local traditions, as well as the qualifications of the builders had little effect on the current concept of British diplomatic structures in China;
- consular objects can be distinguished buildings in Harbin and Dalian, which differ from the prevailing principles of designing consular buildings. Consulates are located in a cramped area and consist of a single block, where a considerable amount of space is occupied by long unlit corridors designed to divide at least four different status groups of people;
- the connection of the architectural image of consular offices in different cities of Manchuria is traced.
6. References

[1] Kradin N P 2001 Harbin—Russian Atlantis (Khabarovsk: Khabarovskaya kraevaya tipografiya)
[2] Kradin N P 2010 Harbin—Russian Atlantis (Khabarovsk: Khabarovskaya kraevaya tipografiya)
[3] Levshoko S S 2003 Russian Architecture in Manchuria. End of 19th–First Half of the 20th Century ed N P Kradin (Khabarovsk: Chastnaya kollektsiya)
[4] Abalona N E 2005 CER and Russian Emigration in China: International and Political Aspects of History: The First Half of the 20th Century (Moscow: The Russian Academy of Sciences. Institute of the Far East)
[5] Vivdych M A 2011 Railway Construction in the Far East in the late 19th–Early 20th Century (Blagoveshchensk: Blagoveshchensk State Pedagogical University)
[6] Troitskaia T I 1996 Features of the Architecture of the Chinese Eastern Railway (Late 19th–First Third of 20th Centuries) (Novosibirsk: Siberian State Academy of Communications)
[7] Zatsepine V 2013 Russia, railways and urban development in Manchuria, 1896–1930 Harbin to Hanoi. The Colonial Built Environment in Asia 1840 to 1940 ed. L Victoir and V Zatsepine (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press) pp 17–36
[8] Kradin N P 2018 Russian Engineers and Architects in China (Khabarovsk: Khabarovskaya kraevaya tipografiya)
[9] Kradin N P and Bazilevich M E 2020 Architects and Engineers of the Far East. Creative Activities of Graduates of the Capital’s Educational Institutions—in Transbaikal, Yakutia, Primorye, Primor’e and China (Khabarovsk: Khabarovskaya kraevaya tipografiya)
[10] Bazilevich M E and Tceluiko D S 2020 The Influence of professional activities of railway engineers on the development of architecture in the Far East at the turn of the 19th–20th centuries IOP Conf. Ser.: Mater. Sci. Eng. 753 022070 https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/753/2/022070
[11] Datcyschen V G 2013 Consulate of Manchuko in Russia. The History of Soviet-Japanese-Chinese Relations in 1931–1945 Far Eastern Affairs 5 pp 135–143
[12] Smolianinova T A and Kradin N P 2018 Buildings of consular institutions as part of the historical appearance of Dalian (Manchuria) IOP Conf. Ser.: Mater. Sci. Eng. 463 022082 https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/463/2/022082
[13] Smolianinova T A and Kradin N P 2018 Features of the architecture of the Russian-Soviet consulate in the New City area of Harbin News of Higher Educational Institutions. Construction 7(715) pp 88–99
[14] Smolianinova T A 2018 Consular office buildings in Harbin (Pristan area) in the first half of the 20th century Architecture: Proceedings of Higher Education 3(63) pp 1–12 http://archvuz.ru/2018_3/12
[15] Smolianinova T A 2019 The Architecture of the lost consular buildings in Shenyang (Mukden) in the first half of the 20th century Architecture: Proceedings of Higher Education 3(67) pp 1–10 http://archvuz.ru/2019_3/12
[16] Smolianinova T A and Bazilevich M E 2020 Architecture of consular buildings in Manchuria (Lubin) during the first half of the 20th century IOP Conf. Ser.: Mater. Sci. Eng. 753 022084 https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/753/2/022084
[17] Surin V I 1932 Railways in Manchuria and China: Materials on the Transport Problem in Manchuria and China (Harbin: s n) p XXII
[18] Surin V I 1932 Railways in Manchuria and China: Materials on the Transport Problem in Manchuria and China (Harbin: s n) pp 6–7
[19] Kim A A and Tceluiko D S 2018 The border of cultures as a zone of formation of eclectic architecture IOP Conf. Ser.: Mater. Sci. Eng. 463 022093 https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/463/2/022093
[20] Kim A A and Luchkova V I 2018 Assimilation of traditional architecture influenced by the imported styles ITU J Faculty Arch 15 pp 71–80 https://doi.org/10.5505/ituufa.2018.32032
[21] Zhang T 2017 The Consulates of Various Countries Hundreds of Years Ago Have Now Been Demolished, Turned into Residential Buildings, and Have Been Satirized as “Cottages”! Sohu
http://www.sohu.com/a/205492867_99971767

Acknowledgments
The reported study was funded by RFBR, project number 20-012-00316.