THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SOVIET MAUSOLEUM IN THE CONTEXT OF TIME

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Abstract

The Soviet Mausoleum in Red Square is an object of historical, political, architectural and town-planning significance. Lenin’s mausoleum is a construction of absolutely exceptional importance, not limited to the red square, Moscow or even the entire Soviet Union. This building is unique both for its purpose and architectural forms and artistic qualities. The creation of the Mausoleum is an integrated approach of the architect, according to the time period in which the design was carried out. The identification of its viability, nowadays, is an actual task for representatives of various professions: sociologists, psychologists, political scientists, city planners and architects. The analysis of the history of the mausoleum creation, the establishment of time parallel and also an assessment of the importance of town planning and space planning solutions let us suggest possible prospects for the existence of this object.

Keywords: Red Square, mausoleum, ziggurat, radiation

I. Introduction

A comprehensive analysis of factors, such as social, economic, architectural and town planning, artistic and technical, is carried out during the process of creation of an architectural object. The following elements of these factors get estimated: socio-economic conditions; the leading function of the territorial object; the organic and systemic interaction with other functions; the insurance of the proper interaction of architectural, town planning and landscape aspects; the individual artistic appearance; promoting of functional and visual interconnection of zones; regulation of microclimate (noise level, reduction of a dust concentration), the choice of building materials. A professional choice of these elements allows us to do design «from the general to the particular», in other words, from the state of the environment to the object itself, including its details. This is how we ensure the interaction of buildings with the environment and reach a particular degree of harmonization with a terrain that have an impact on how long an architectural object will be able to be actual and demanded by society. This complicated complex of questions belongs to the competence of urban planning and landscape architecture, which are partly discussed in works of Associate Professor, candidate of architecture A.M. Bazilevicha. At the same time other factors that affect durability and Inviolability of the building on the

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area are also exist. So, it's interesting to analyze an example of such a unique, mysterious and famous construction that the mausoleum in Red Square is, moreover, this construction is out of the modern political system of Russia.

II. Methods of Research

Moscow was founded in 1147. The architectural ensemble of Red Square was evolving over the centuries: in the beginning it was a wooden citadel, then a white stone one and finally now a brick one. Tsars came to the throne one by one, while walls and towers of the citadel were getting rebuilt, nearby areas were getting explored – forests were cut down, fields appeared, the population was growing and active construction works were carried out. Endless wars dictated the need to strengthen the settlement. Those way new built walls were higher than old ones and defensive moats were dug. The improvement of technical equipment and the growth of the city and also problems that big cities were tend to have – a dirt, an overpopulation, fires – were changing the city – it was getting rebuilt outwardly and the town planning was also changed. Streets were getting changed too and their covering: earth roads, wooden and cobblestone ones. Since 1909 till 1930 there was a tram in Red Square [I]. Now we can see the red medieval wall, towers with stars, the St. Basil's Cathedral, the Monument to Minin and Pozharsky, the restored Pokrovsk gates, the historical museum and the mausoleum in the middle of Red Square.

Red Square is famous and symbolic. Looking through its history, we can highlight the following the main centuries of its formation: the Middle Ages; the new time and the newest. In the middle Ages, in 1493, there was a line of a viewable space in front of the Kremlin wall. This line was about 240 meters. It was created to ensure the security of the Kremlin as for fire cases (permanent fires in wooden buildings), as for military ones and also for the expansion of the retail space. In the first references the Red Square was called “Torg” or “Fire”. The oldest construction of the Red Square, which also exists now, was the place of execution. It's the initially wooden, then brick dais, where tsar's decrees used to be announced, processions used to took place at, the relics of the saints used to be exhibited and next to all that convicts used to be executed, they made death scaffolds (Strelets riot, executed bribe takers).

In the new time, in 1812, during the capture of Moscow by Napoleon, the square and buildings were burned down again. At that time, about a hundred thousand Moscow’s population died. One of the burial places was the earlier mentioned moat near the fortress walls. In the newest times, the bodies of the Red Guards who died in October 1917 were buried in this place and also the bodies of some Soviet military and political figures. The mausoleum is located exactly at this place. In other words, this is a place of historical burial grounds, a cemetery where people with a hard fate were buried. Thus, the choice of location for the construction of the mausoleum is logical. Although the place for the mausoleum and burial of Soviet leaders in the center of Red Square leads to certain thoughts [X].

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Formation of an idea, design and construction of a building is always a social order of a person, society or state. The revolution and new political system demanded a new approach to the management of society. Taking into account the patriarchal structure of tsarist Russia, the deep Christian roots and the observance of the rules and customs related to religion, the new authorities understood that, taking God away from people, they were supposed to give something in return. So, the party elite of that time decided to create a cult building - the mausoleum, where Lenin’s body would be kept “imperishable”, like the relics of saints that Russian people had been worshipping over the centuries. According to the political scientist, Oreshkin – this more looked like the formation of a pagan cult, where the mummy was the object of worship, and the high priest was the general secretary. N.I. Bukharin wrote in a private letter: “instead of icons of saints, we will put portraits of leaders at the walls...”. Thus, analyzing the architecture of the mausoleum, it is possible to say with confidence that the architecture and purpose of the mausoleum were similar to religious buildings, in particular, Aztec religious buildings and Ziggurats Interfluves [XIV].

Lenin's death sparked controversy about the appropriateness and correctness of the decision on the question of the burial of Lenin's body. [VIII]As a result, the decision was to create a crypt for his body. After Lenin's body got delivered to Moscow, a competition for the project of the mausoleum was announced. From the town-planning point of view, the mausoleum was proposed to be placed on the historical cemetery, in Red Square [V].
Works of this competition were varied. A place for the mausoleum was getting chosen not only in frames of Red Square's borders. But still exactly Red Square had been chosen as a perfect place for construction of the mausoleum. Many of the projects took into account if the construction fit into the architectural appearance of the historical ensemble of Red Square, the other ones were opposite and sharply different from constructions of those years. The results of the contest weren't discussed broadly. Shchusev received an order for the project. (Competition projects see below)

The historical fact is that, despite the variety of offers, the competition didn't really exist. The row of sources claims that even before the Lenin's death Shchusev got the order for the mausoleum design [VII].

Let's make an analysis of the Lenin's mausoleum according to the following criterias:

- Social prerequisites of formation;
- Architecture (space-planning solutions);
- Urban placement and composition;
- Constructive and construction materials.

Social background. As it was mentioned before, the government of that period decided to keep the leader's body. So, that way they were creating the national ideology and new religion. Now religious people openly say that atheism is a religion of satanism. Modern information resources allow people to form their own opinion on a particular subject based on the latest technological advances, historical sources that are connected not only with visible and tangible shells.

So, here evaluation factors come, such as: anthroposophical, metaphysical, physical, medical. Not all of them are officially recognized but definitely they have an impact on a public opinion [IX].

Anthroposophy of architecture – it is a connection, harmonization of human, architecture and nature. Keeping a human's body "imperishable" in purpose of management and influence on people is against the law of the spiritual development of society.

The metaphysics of this phenomenon is to create a dominant structure, the idea of which is in worshipping relics in an atheistic country, creation of a symbol of hierarchy and power. Considering its architecture - down-to-earth stepped cubes stacked on top of each other, completely absenting zenith, i.e. going up [XIII]. The architecture of the mausoleum clearly indicates the essence of power – possession, cleansing and total control of the masses [XV].

Medicine is an official science that is trusted. Paul Kremer conducted experiments at the beginning of the 20th century and confirmed the theory about the radiation of energy that dead and dying cells have [XVI].
The first temporary Mausoleum (built on January 27, 1924) was made of the wood. In architectural sense, it didn't have special qualities; its space-planning solution was made in shape of a cube, topped with a three-step pyramid. The second Mausoleum was also made of the wood and was existing for 5 years (since 1924 till 1929). It was erected in the spring of 1924 and opened in August of the same year. The second wood Mausoleum was similar to the first one in the shape sense, excepting that it also had tribunes. (pic.2). The third version of the mausoleum was the granite construction what had the inner mourning hall and impressive and the concise exterior architecture [III].

It’s important to mention that every next version of the Mausoleum is a new step of development of the previous one.

![Fig. 2: The project of the wood Mausoleum, 1924](image1)

The laconic forms of the second Mausoleum were used during creation of design of the third one, it's a now existing version made of a reinforced concrete, with brick walls, a granite cladding, a marble finish and a crimson quartzite (porphyry) (1929—1930, by the design of A.V. Schusev with a group of authors). Inside of the building there is a lobby and mourning hall designed by I.I. Nivinsky, its area is 100 m². In 1930 new guest tribunes were erected on the sides of the Mausoleum (architect I. A. Frantsuz), also the graves were near the Kremlin wall were reconstructed [VI].

During the Great Patriotic War in July 1941 the Lenin's body was evacuated to Tyumen. In April 1945 the body was delivered back to Moscow.

In 1973 the bulletproof sarcophagus was set up (chief designer N. A. Myzin, sculptor N. V. Tomsky).

![Fig. 3: The final version of the Mausoleum](image2)

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Structurally, the building is made on the basis of a reinforced concrete frame with brick-filled walls, which were lined with a polish stone. The length of the mausoleum's facade - 24 meters, height - 12 meters. The upper portico is shifted to the Kremlin wall. The mausoleum pyramid consists of five uneven ledges.

The underground part of the temple is goes down under Red Square to a depth of 6-storey building. Under the tribune of the high temple there is a meeting room and a rest room for the Bolshevik rulers. There is a buffet with food and good wines, a billiard room and a guard room.

There is also a service lift that gets used for ensuring the functioning of laboratories and the manipulation of the corpse, this lift puts the mummy down to the right floor for routine, preventive and cosmetic works, and then delivers it to the working point.

If we remove the mausoleum from the ground and place it on the surface, its height will be of about a 10 floor house size [II].

Monumentality - the main feature of the architecture of the mausoleum.

It is different from the old buildings in Red Square because of its monolithic appearance, the simplicity of the silhouette, the balance of horizontal and vertical masses and the lack of aspiration upwards.

The bulk of the Mausoleum has an interesting specify – this is the presence of spading or the absence of a right angle if we have a look at the facade of the construction. And there is no explanation for that.

The discussions on the subject of the fit ability of town-planning significance and architecture of the mausoleum can take a long time but thy are tied up with the era of country's life and this mausoleum is rightfully a monument of architecture of its time.

The first thing that makes us stop and takes our attention at the entrance of Red Square is the Lenin's mausoleum. A visitor, moving down the square, doesn't take his eyes off this main core of the composition and sees the mausoleum in various combinations with other buildings.

Setting of The mausoleum at the cross of two main axis of the ensemble composition — central transverse axis, that goes through the Senate Tower and the geometric center of the square plan with the main visual, longitudinal axis passing along the main facade of the square, i.e. the Kremlin wall and also removement of the monument to Minin and Pozharsky from the center of the square to the cathedral, construction of tribunes along Kremlin walls, a vertical layout, in the result of which the mausoleum took the highest point in the square — all this brought radical changes in the general plan of the square and character of the ensemble. Cutting off one quarter of the width of the area, it goes to the foreground from all points of view, the elements of the old ensemble stepped back to the background. The square space got filled with the only strong monolith bulk of the mausoleum that became the predominant object of visual perception and buildings at the background turned into
some kind of decor that encloses and decorates the space where the mausoleum dominates [IX].

III. Results and Discussion

According to the analysis that we've made it's possible to highlight the following main points:

1. The history of Red Square tells us that this place was the key one in life of the city during various eras. It had a function of trade and entertainment fairs, was the place of the announcement of the royal orders and also the place of executions and burials.

2. The mausoleum was built at the place public burials, what is quite logical.

3. There are similar constructions in the world. Their purpose is described in historical sources. At the same time the mausoleum in Red Square surprisingly looks like the building located at the top of the Pyramid of the Moon in Teotiukan where the Aztecs brought human sacrifices to their god Huitzilopochtli. [XIII] So, a comparison of the ziggurat in Red Square with the Babylonian and the South American one confirms the coincidence of the shapes of the buildings.

4. The public assessment of the Lenin's mausoleum is also in mystical approaches of formation of opinions about this construction and in the scientific confirmation of the controversy of the architecture and purpose of the object. The architecture of the mausoleum is dominant relative to other existing buildings. But the fact of the asymmetrical space planning solution of the construction is interesting and inexplicable.

5. The graphic comparison of the historic buildings of the Red Square with the silhouette of the Mausoleum marks a noticeable resonance in architectural forms, decor. The historical aspiration upward is put against the mundane and flat forms.

Economically it's always expensive to serve the mausoleum. It includes technical support of the building that has 6 underground floors which together are of the size of 10 floors building including the underground and ground floors. And also support services for Lenin's body.

IV. Conclusion

Earlier mentioned facts tell us about the ambiguity of the existence of this building in the modern society. On the one hand, it's the architectural monument that UNESCO includes, that is an attribute of a whole epoch of state existence, the symbol of power and achievements of the Soviet government. On the other hand, it's wrapped into the mystical contradictions. Representatives of the modern state say that the mausoleum is obsolete now, that it's outdated and economically useless and impractical. Representatives of the old government, the Communists, on the contrary, don't allow even a thought about possible transformations of the mausoleum. The mausoleum is the place of attraction and worship of the Communists from all around the world. As an example makes sense to mention representatives of the People's
Republic of China who come to worship V. I. Lenin. The number of population of this country is the largest in the world, and the flow of tourists is economically good as for the city as for the country in general. The architecture of the mausoleum is absolutely untypical for Red Square, so anyone can notice it even by just a quick glance. The discussion on this subject has been going for a long time and probably will keep on going like this.

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