Three problems of the spatial organization of urbanized territories

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Abstract. The article examines the methodological problems of modern urban planning exemplified by the next "new" initiative. The weakness of the declared goals, of methods and means of the modern urban planning practice is shown. The root of the problem lies in the elimination of professionally trained people from all spheres of urban planning. The problems of the spatial organization of urbanized areas are concentrated today around the issues of social comfort of the urban environment. Therefore, the study of the peculiarities of people's perception of the surrounding architectural space can become a methodological platform for overcoming urgent problems of urban planning. The path to the development of a comfortable urban environment runs through the development of a program to obtain a meaningful, expressive, memorable system of images. Cognitive urban studies allow one to give a systematic assessment of models of urban spaces and add a humanitarian aspect to the algorithms for the spatial organization of urbanized territories.

Key words: Urban planning, urban studies, urban development management, professional retraining in urban studies, cognitive urbanism

1. Introduction

Plans for the demolition and relocation of the remaining five-story buildings have once again drawn the attention of the general public to issues of urban planning and urban construction. By this time, the profession of an urban planner had already been sufficiently discredited and partially replaced by the activities of urban community activists and initiative developers. Expert urban planners and architects are not invited to public hearings in an effort to reduce the whole problem of fair compensation for lost housing and funding [1]. The issue of ownership and funds for urban planning reconstruction of microdistricts consisting of five-story buildings, which is how the “relocation of five-story buildings” is called in professional language, is very important, but a condition for its successful solution can only be professional urban planning activity in the form of its three components: policy / planning / management [2]. Let us try to restore the system content of urban planning activities using the example of the next “new” initiative. Let us trace why the stated goals, methods and means of modern urban planning practice lead to new problems, instead of the expected “comfortable urban environment”.
2. Goal
The goal of the renovation program is “to increase the affordability of housing and the quality of housing provision for the population, improve the quality and reliability of the provision of housing and communal services to the population, and create a comfortable urban environment” (Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of April 15, 2014 No. 323 “On approval of the state program of the Russian Federation “Provision of affordable and comfortable housing and utilities for citizens of the Russian Federation”). Based on the goal, the main provisions of the urban planning policy, as well as the principles for achieving local renovation projects, taking into account economic initiatives, environmental restrictions and social justice are detailed. It is assumed that the interests of the population are represented and defended by the elected self-government bodies, city hall departments and heads of districts. In practice, the interests of the population are actualized only when discussing the finished project, which makes it extremely difficult to have a constructive dialogue during public hearings. The loss of social expediency of urban planning activity turns it into a service apparatus for servicing departmental reporting, a “Procrustean bed” of the commercial payback of private initiatives. The goal was set by the subject of management responsible for the efficiency of the processes and the quality of results, but with poor realization of the prospects for urban development and modern ideas of urban planning. Traditionally, this was the role of an architect, an urban planner, but for the sake of “straightening, speeding up and simplifying design and coordination” architects are no longer in the planning and management of spatial development of the cities. Unfortunately, due to the fact that the goal-setting of urban planning projects solves the problems of yesterday, we observe weak efficiency of urban planning. There are doubts if “there is a need for a general construction plan”, if it is time to “move to the master plan” and to the “implementation of socio-economic programs” where “it is easier and cheaper”. The problem lies in the methodology and organization of urban planning.

3. Methods
Methods of planning are based on finding a compromise between strategic plans and real development opportunities. The current understanding of this compromise is the idea of "sustainable development" that is, the preservation of resources for future generations while simultaneously solving the urgent problems of today. In general, urban planning resources (as opposed to economic ones) are represented by four groups of spatially distributed factors:

- the quality of the natural environment and the value of the territory areas for human life;
- the quality of the created urban environment, including engineering infrastructure;
- the quality of local economy and business climate;
- the quality of social life and the comfort of the urban environment.

Even if such a compromise can be reached in the form of a general construction plan or a "design of development" (a canceled document), then it has very little chance of implementation, due to the adopted order of urban planning and approval. In practice, the "innovativeness" of projects is highly valued, which, unfortunately, is understood as the ability to find interested forces and means to overcome the adopted city planning regulations and restrictions. As a result, urban development plans, recommendations and rules are violated by all available means, mainly through selective implementation, while formally following the letter of the law. It should be noted that any urban planning project goes through several rounds of such "improvements and approvals" as a result of which it becomes impersonal, more convenient for investors and builders and less pleasant for the urban residents and the natural environment. Thus, the second major problem is the organization of urban planning.
4. Means
The means of solving urban planning problems is, of course, construction: capital construction, construction of engineering infrastructure and roads, green construction, etc. However, construction is only a visible part of the territories development and of the use of allocated funds. The cost of construction is only a third or even a quarter of costs, the remaining three quarters of the costs of implementing urban development plans are the costs of organizing, managing, connecting, financing, maintaining a construction site, resolving conflicts, and training personnel. In addition, the investment cost of the project also includes spending on marketing campaigns, on sponsoring various city events, unforeseen expenses, etc. apart from the costs of creating infrastructure. Sustainable maintenance, the use of effective technologies can be incorporated into the project, but in the absence of permanent long-term interests of the developer and operating companies, a speculative approach prevails for the sake of momentary profit. As a result, a careful approach to future costs is not ensured, and the cost of maintaining buildings and areas is not taken into account when evaluating projects. Examples of incompetence and lack of professional culture emerge during the "public discussion" of seemingly "insurmountable" problems of urban development, the reasons for which include the lack of technical literacy and organizational capabilities of the personnel of design and management companies, such as the impossibility to sort waste, lack of parking spaces, constantly reducing green spaces, ugly paving tiles with a relief for the visually impaired, banning the use of roofs and attics, the fight against autonomous and engineering systems, including the most effective of them (roof boiler rooms), etc. Thus the three main problems of modern urban planning, which have arisen due to the elimination of professionally trained people from all the spheres of urban planning, are manifested in

- ostensibility and commanding style of goal-setting in urban planning policy, weakness of customers responsible for public welfare;
- an oversimplified understanding of strategic goals and design tools, poor organization of urban planning;
- inconsistency in planning and management of the territory, elimination of urban planners and architects from the process of organizing urban space and of using the territory.

The problems are worthy of public attention, state financing and, of course, staff development.

Several centers for professional retraining of city planners and urbanists have been formed in Russia, but the municipal structures do not show any real interest in this activity. For more than 10 years, the Scientific Educational Center "Urbanistics" of the Moscow Institute of Architecture has been carrying out a one-year Professional Retraining program for obtaining the qualification "Urban Planner" in addition to the main educational program 07.04.04 (Master of Urban Planning), which is carried out at the Department of Urban Planning of the Moscow Institute of Architecture.

Unlike the master's program, the professional training program at the Moscow Architectural Institute [3] is intended for students who already have a higher education, therefore, it does not contain general education disciplines and research work. The program consists of three training modules:

M-1 Urban planning analysis and models of territorial systems. Colloquium: preconditions for the development of the territory
M-2 Urban development concept of the territory. Colloquium: general construction plan as a Strategic Development Tool
M-3 Urban planning regulations and local recommendations.
Final qualification work: planning and development of the priority development area.

5. Conclusions and recommendations
The problems of spatial organization of urbanized areas are concentrated today around the issues of social comfort of the urban environment. Therefore, the study of the peculiarities of people's perception of the
surrounding architectural space can become a methodological platform for solving the urgent problems of the spatial organization of urbanized territories. The most important features of the processes of cognition, mental reconstruction, interpretation and semantic deciphering of the urban environment are:

- division (disintegration) and identification of areas of the territory in accordance with the expected behavior of people;
- anthropological interpretation of spatial conditions such as location, environment, distances, boundaries, directions;
- assessment of space needs through models of environmental behavior, social scenarios, and topological models of environmental complexes;
- development of a special language, a system of representations and access to generalized, basic models of phenomena and processes.

The path to the development of a comfortable urban environment lies through the development of a program, consisting of archetypes, and the building of a topological scheme to organize the territory in order to obtain a meaningful, expressive, memorable system of images [4]. For these reasons, a number of technical and technological problems of construction, landscaping, engineering equipment, lighting and security are being solved. Cognitive urban studies allow one to give a systematic assessment of models of urban spaces and add a humanitarian aspect to the algorithms for the spatial organization of urbanized territories.

6. References
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