The national ornament application of Kabardians and Balkarians as a quality architectural decor of the buildings’ facades

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Abstract. The results of studies on the application of the national ornament of Kabardians and Balkarians as an architectural decor of the buildings’ facades enhancing the architectural and artistic expressiveness of the buildings’ facades are presented. The Kabardians and Balkarians national ornament classification is given, the stylized patterns of the national ornament are considered and the variants of their placement on the buildings’ facades are proposed as an architectural decor.

Introduction
Kabardian and Balkarian ornament, as folk art, deserves the most careful study and creative application in architectural practice, whence there is an urgent need for a theoretical study of the architectural decor issues based on the folk-art practice.

Ornamental archetypes of Kabardians and Balkars are divided into the following types: geometric (rhombus, triangle), plant (petal, tree of life), animal (mutton and deer horns), cosmological (solar signs, tamga and amulets), anthropomorphic.

In turn, the main ornamental species are divided into the following types:

Geometrical ornament
Type 1 - straight: a) zigzag; b) triangles and their combinations; c) rhombuses and lattices from rhombuses; d) squares and combinations of them;
Type 2 - curvilinear (spirals, curls, vortex and rosettes).

Floral ornament
Type 1 - shamrocks in various modifications;
Type 2 - tulip motifs in various modifications;
Type 3 - other types of floral ornament.

Animal ornament
1 type - horn-shaped (mutton, deer horns);
Type 2 - stylization of natural animals (including ornithological motifs).

Cosmological ornament
1 type - solar signs (sun, moon, crescent, stars);
Type 2 - spiral, circumference, hoop.

Anthropomorphic motifs are found in mountain ornamentation rather rarely and in a modified form, which can be easily attributed to other types of ornament, for example, zoomorphic or plant.

Tribal and ancestral tamgas and tamga-like signs act as a separate type of ornamental elements.
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In the Kabardian and Balkarian ornamentation, zoomorphic patterns are most numerous; they are developed on the totem animals and birds' realistic images basis. One of the main motifs in the system of zoomorphic ornament is a horn-shaped figure. This element is often integrated into the composition of a wide variety of compositions and seems to be one of the most recognizable and typical symbols of the decorative and applied art of Kabardians and Balkarians.

When it comes to the elements of the Circassian ornamentation, the concept of “stylization” arises, and images of the ram's horn and trefoil are among the most frequently reproduced:

“... One of the most ancient elements of the Circassian ornamentation is the stylized images of the ram's horn ... . The threefold Adyg ornamental motif is common” [2, p. 37].

The horn-like curls combination with plant elements gives a rather complex and peculiar ornament.

The purpose of this study was to substantiate the possibility of using the national ornament of Kabardians and Balkarians as an architectural decor for building facades.

Below, Figures 1,2,3 show the photos of arts and crafts products, in which various national ornaments are applied.

In its most complete form, the traditional ornament is represented in the Kabardian mat (Figures 1, a, b) and Balkar felt (Figure 2). A particularly important place in the craftswomen folk art was occupied by sewing with gold and the associated production of braids and timbers, which were a mandatory attribute of traditional clothing of Kabardians and Balkarians. The festive attire of the minder girl was rather complicated: a dress richly decorated with gold and silver embroidery and lace, high conical or low cylindrical caps also decorated with rich embroidery and lace. Figure 3 shows an element of women's national clothing - an armband with a picture of an ornament.

Figure 1. a - prayer mat; b - wall mat
Figure 2. a, b - patterned felt

Figure 3. Hanger Armband

Figure 4 shows F. Karamurzova’s stylized ornaments [4]. Bas-relief architectural elements made on the basis of such stylized ornaments can be applied on the buildings’ facades. Fig. 5 shows the large-panel residential building facade on the Kuliev str., 6b, where a mosaic, flat, colored stylized national ornament is applied.

Figure 4. a, b, c, d - stylized ornaments
Figure 5. Ornament on the facade of a residential building

Figure 6 shows the entrance sign of the Nalchik city, in which the stylized volumetric ornament is applied (Author: architect Asanov V.Kh.). The 3D computer model of a stylized three-dimensional ornament is shown in Figure 7. Figure 8 shows the facade of a multi-storey residential building, where national ornament is used as an architectural decor (project author: architect M.I. Bzhahov).

Figure 6. Stylized volumetric ornament on the entrance sign in Nalchik
Summary
According to the research results on this topic, the following conclusions have been made:

1. The use of national ornament as an architectural decor for the facades of buildings will significantly enhance their national color and architectural artistic expression.
2. The ornament can be located on the building facade locally or in a linear pattern.
3. Ornament can be flat or three-dimensional.
4. The manufacturing ornament techniques will depend on the type of material used.
5. The volumetric sun-protection devices designs can be used in the form of a stylized ornament.
6. The proportions, the scale, the color scheme, the degree of stylization of the ornament will greatly influence the architectural and artistic expressiveness of the building.
7. To create a stylized ornament it is necessary to apply computer 3D modeling.

References
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