Creative heritage of architects of Blagoveshchensk city (the second half of the 19th – the early 20th century)

M E Bazilevich

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

E-mail: mikhailbazilevich@gmail.com

Abstract. The article discusses the main directions of professional activity and objects of creative heritage of L. M. Annenkov, R. I. Blum, I. I. Bukovetsky, S. V. Krygin, M. I. Lashchenko, F. O. Livchak, F. Y. Mishin, A. R. Stankevich, E. I. Shefer, A. D. Fialkovsky and L. O. Tchaikovsky, who worked in Blagoveshchensk in the second half of the 19th - early 20th century. Brief biographical data are given, various types of buildings are considered. The distinctive features of the work of individual architects are highlighted, formed under the influence of two factors: features of vocational training and local conditions, as well as common features characteristic of the architectural creativity of all architects of Blagoveshchensk associated with the specifics of the town-planning development of the city architects in the Far East.

1. Introduction

The history of any city or region can be viewed from the point of view of the activities of architects. Knowing the details of their biographies, the creative base and the architectural schools to which they belonged, it’s becoming possible to determine the stylistic origins of regional architecture more accurately.

The relevance of this study, on the one hand, is due to the need to fill in the existing gaps in the history of architecture of Russian regions and to identify the cultural and artistic value of architectural monuments of the pre-revolutionary period, and on the other, the importance of studying and summarizing materials relating to the creative activities of architects and engineers working in Blagoveshchensk in the second half of 19th - early 20th century and their contribution to the development of the planning structure and architecture of the city.

The structure of local government in the Far East in the period under review repeatedly changed. Formed in 1858, the Amur Region, with its administrative centre in Blagoveshchensk city, was originally under the jurisdiction of the Main Directorate of Eastern Siberia. During this period, the formation of the first public administration structures began in the region. This structures are created for the organization of the arriving population and its arrangement in the mastered territory. The arrival of the first professional architects in the Far East, sent to the eastern outskirts from Moscow and St. Petersburg, dates to this time.

The purpose of this article is to study the professional activity and creative heritage of architects, who worked in Blagoveshchensk in the second half of the 19th - early 20th century.
2. Literature review
The Russian scientific school has gained quite a lot of experience on the problem of studying the history, architecture and urban planning of the region, affecting some aspects of the problem studied in this article. The scientific works of N. P. Kradin [1] and S. S. Levoshko [2] deal with general issues of urban planning and historical development of cities in the Russian part of the Far East and former Russian cities in northeast China. The studies of N. A. Vasilyeva [3, 4] analyse the historical features of the formation of the layout and development of Blagoveshchensk. Questions of the history of the city and details of the construction of the most significant historical buildings are covered in the book by T. A. Khokhina and L. A. Chayun [5]. Monographic research of L. E. Baklyskaya [6] is devoted to the stylistic features of the architecture of cities in the Far East. In the Ph.D. thesis of A. P. Ivanova [7], the architectural heritage of the «Kunst and Albers» trading house was studied, which had offices in many cities of the region, including Blagoveshchensk. The dissertation research of Yu.V. Okhotnikova [8] is devoted to the problem of the history of the formation and development of Orthodox church architecture in the south of the Russian Far East. However, the creative activity of the Far Eastern architects who worked in the region in the second half of the 19th - early 20th century is considered rather fragmentary. There are practically no systematic studies devoted to the work of individual architects, as a result of which the problem requires further analysis and systematic study.

3. Materials and methods of research
The main method of this research is a complex and relative study of various sources on this issue (archival, literary, mapping materials). The author conducted a field survey, measurements and photofixation of the surviving objects of the creative heritage of the architects of Blagoveshchensk, which allowed for a compositional and stylistic analysis of buildings of various typological purposes. As a result, the characteristic features of the work of local architects, as well as a number of aspects of the influence of the activities of military, civil engineers and architects on the development of architecture and urban planning of the city, were revealed.

4. Results

4.1. First architects
The first professional architect who worked in the Amur region was Stepan Vasilyevich Krygin, who arrived in Blagoveshchensk in 1859. A graduate of the Moscow Palace Architectural School, he worked in the Far East for more than 20 years. Earlier, the author noted that Krygin is known for authoring the first master plan of the city of the capital of the Amur Region [9]. In addition, it should be noted that he was the author of the project and the builder of the church "In the name of the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Doomsday" at the city cemetery (1871-1873), and also served as a city architect for a long time, repeatedly elected Duma, free of charge served as the chief architect in the spiritual, military and other departments, thus having a significant impact on the development of the architecture of the city.

For some time, civil engineer Anton Dominikovich Fialkovsky worked in Blagoveshchensk. A graduate of the St. Petersburg Construction School in 1863 first held the position of an architectural assistant in the construction and road commission in Olonets gubernia (1863-1865), and then as an architect in managing the construction and road parts of Eastern Siberia (1865-1870) [10]. In 1870, Fialkovsky was transferred to the same post in the Amur Region, where he was involved in the drafting and construction of buildings for various purposes and road constructions. In 1873, the architect went to St. Petersburg [11].

4.2. Civil engineers
A new stage in the development of the region is associated with the creation in 1884 of the Amur General Governorship. During this period, civilian and military engineers began to arrive in the region, having received education in higher institutions of St. Petersburg. It should be noted that by the
decision of the Senate at the end of the 19th century the title of "architect" received only those who graduated from the Moscow School of Painting Sculpture and Architecture (formerly the Moscow Palace Architectural School), as well as graduates of the architectural department of the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts. Nevertheless, graduates of higher educational institutions who gave "thorough training in architectural work", in particular the Institute of Civil Engineers (civil engineers) and the Nikolaev Academy of Engineering (military engineers), could use the rights of an "architect" [12]. Graduates of these educational institutions received the right to produce architectural works and could occupy positions of architects and engineers in the administrative authorities of cities and settlements. The high level of engineering training of these groups of specialists was particularly relevant in the conditions of the Far East. The intensive economic development of the region and the influx of population, on the one hand, and the need to retain vast areas of Primorye and Priamurye within the Russian Empire, on the other, required the development of a road and transport network and associated infrastructure facilities, the construction of a large number of civilian buildings and utilitarian facilities, and the creation of modern fortifications.

As a rule, civilian and military engineers arrived in the Far East in the direction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Military Department and after serving a fixed time returned back to the west, but there were also those who remained in the region for many years. So, for example, in 1897, civil engineer Anton Romualdovich Stankevich arrived in Blagoveshchensk. After graduating from the Construction School in 1879, he worked at different times: as an architect of a fair office at the Nizhny Novgorod Fair, he served as an architect in the construction departments of the Nizhny Novgorod and Kazan provincial boards [13]. In October 1897, by order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, he was appointed to the post of regional engineer of the Amur Region, which he held for 13 years. It was established that during the period he was a member of the construction committee for the construction of the Post and Telegraph Office (1898-1900), prepared the project and executive estimates and supervised the construction of the Alekseevskaya Women's High School (1902-1911) [14]. In 1903–1906 the Diocesan Women’s School was built by the project of A. R. Stankevich in Blagoveshchensk. The building was built of red brick with the use of characteristic elements of the Russian style (kokoshniks, chirinka (Russian version of caissons), etc.). The spatial composition of the structure is based on a contrasting combination of different-sized blocks (educational building, church, transition). The architecture of the building is characterized by ascetic forms and restraint of details.

Another civil engineer who worked in Blagoveshchensk was J. I. Bukovetsky, who in the early 1890s. worked as an architect of the Amur region. According to the available data in 1890, I. I. Bukovetsky was engaged in budgeting and the construction of the building of the Blagoveshchensk city government [15]. Red-brick, two-storey, U-shaped in terms of volume, the main (northern) facade faces the red line of Lenin Street (at the time of construction of Bolshaya Street). The architecture of the building can be traced eclectic combination of different style elements. Traditional symmetry of the plan and the main facade belonged to neoclassicism. Narrow semi-circular arched window holes of the second floor, combined in pairs by arches of a larger radius belonged to the Russian-Byzantium style. Details of the central part of the main facade, pushed forward by a small Avant-corps: an entablature supported by pilasters, an attic with a ledge, a complex-shaped pediment with a round medallion in the centre - all this is the evidence of the influence of neo-baroque.

I. I. Bukovetsky is also known as the author of the project of the Triumphal Arch (“Tsar's Gate”), built in 1891 for the arrival of the Tsarevich in Blagoveshchensk. The arch was located on the bank of the Amur River, in the very place where the Russian soldiers met Count Muraviev-Amursky, who visited Blagoveshchensk in 1858 after signing the Aygunsky Treaty (now Victory Square) [16]. The tall 20-meter stone volume, topped with two towers with double-headed eagles, was made using elements of the neo-Russian style. Thus, for the architectural creativity of I. I. Bukovetsky, the use of axial symmetry in the construction of the composition of the plan and the facade, as well as the use of different style decorative elements, was typical.

In 1896, after graduating from the course of science at the Institute of Civil Engineers, Leonid Mitrofanovich Annenkov arrived at the service in the Far East. During the year, he served as an
architect in the Office of Construction and Road Parts at the Amur Governorate-General in Khabarovsk, and in 1897 he was transferred to Blagoveschensk to the same position. Details of the creative activity and time of stay of the architect in the capital of the Amur region, unfortunately, are not established. However, it is known that L. M. Annenkov served as a Simbirsk city architect, and also authored the project of the Church of the Resurrection (cemetery), built on the old city cemetery in Simbirsk, after the death of Annenkov (1906) in 1911 with the participation of another civil engineer-architect Fedor Osipovich Livechak.

For some time, a famous Khabarovsk architect, a civil engineer L. O. Tchaikovsky worked in Blagoveschensk, in the city he was engaged in the construction of a Roman Catholic church of the Mogilev Archdiocese. According to some data [17], a civil engineer is the author of the project of this church, built on Irkutsk Street in 1896, according to others [18] - only by the author of a two-tier, four-sided bell tower attached to the cathedral in 1911. The single-nave church was built in the style of late Gothic architecture, which was typical of similar buildings in the Far East at the turn of the 19th – 20th centuries (The Lutheran Church and the Catholic Church in Vladivostok, V. A. Planson).

Civil engineers Mikhail Ilich Laschenko and Reingold Ivanovich Blum, who worked in Blagoveschensk at the beginning of the 20th century, were the founders of the “Bureau of engineers M.I. Lashchenko and R. I. Blum” [19, 20]. One of the first works carried out by this office was an estimate for the construction of a home church of the country bishop's house. Mikhail Ilich Laschenko exercised architectural supervision over the construction of buildings for the city’s power plant and the house of the military governor of the Amur Region. Both constructions are built in strict laconic forms with the use of decorative elements in the neoclassical style.

In 1908–1909, R. I. Blum was engaged in the construction of the building of the third city fire department, the project and budget for which were drawn up by the architect K. Andreev. R. I. Blyum was the author of the projects and the producer of the buildings of the city district school in memory of the 300th anniversary of the house of the Romanovs and the city district school in memory of the Patriotic War of 1812. An analysis of the architecture of these two structures made it possible to reveal the characteristic compositional techniques and details used by R. I. Blum: the subordination of the planning structure to the functional purpose of the object, the symmetry of the main facade, the vertical character of the facade divisions. Both structures have a certain compositional and stylistic similarity, which suggests that they were designed by one architect. The central parts of the main facades, dissected by elongated rectangular and arched window holes, and pilasters extending over two floors, barely protruded rizalits on the flanks. Stylistically, the architecture of both structures is modernized, as evidenced by the combination of smooth plastered walls and pilasters with textured surfaces of window niches, as well as the realization of decorative elements framing the windows of the basement city school and 300th anniversary of the Romanovs of the second floor of the City District School in memory of the Patriotic War of 1812.

In 1915, R. I. Blum took office of Blagoveschensk city architect, and then head of the housing bureau. After the revolution, a civil engineer continued to work in Blagoveschensk. In December 1930, he was sentenced to three years in exile in Western Siberia [21].

After graduating from the course of sciences of the Institute of Civil Engineers in 1910, Philipp Yakovlevich Mishin arrived at the service in Blagoveschensk. As a junior architect at the Office of Road and Construction Parts, he carried out an extension (boiler room) to the Grigoriev Theater building on Ofitsserskaya Street (now Mukhina Street) in Blagoveschensk [22]. Took part in the work of technical commissions and meetings to review projects and implemented buildings [23]. In 1914, at a technical meeting of the Office of Construction and Road Parts under the military governor of the Amur Region, he took part in reviewing the estimates for the construction of the gymnasium, as well as the project for the construction of the building of the dance and concert hall of Blagoveschensk.
4.3. Military engineer Edward Schefer
At the turn of the 19th - 20th centuries, a military engineer graduated from the St. Petersburg Nikolaev Academy of Engineering named Eduard Ivanovich Shefer worked in Blagoveshchensk. The architect had his own house on Ofitsserskaya Street, and also was a member of the Blagoveshchensk City Duma and taught at the Blagoveshchensk male gymnasium. According to his projects, the city has built: «Kunst and Albers» universal store, a city police department building and a second fire station, a post and telegraph office, a gymnasium for women and men and a number of utilitarian military departments. In addition, E. I. Schefer oversaw the construction of a cathedral in the name of the Annunciation of the Mother of God in the period 1880-1891. on the Irkutsk Street (Gorky) in the area between Rameslennaya Street (Tchaikovsky) and Seminarskaya Street (Polytechnic) [24].

The study of the buildings of the Blagoveshchensk by E. I. Schefer showed that his architectural creativity was characterized by stylistic diversity, in his works the architect turned to the Russian style (the building of the department store of the «Kunst and Albers» Trading House, the Blagoveshchensk male gymnasium), neo-classicism (postal telegraph office, Alekseevskaya female gymnasium) and the “brick” style (the building of the city police department and the second fire station), using architectural features typical of these architectural direction techniques and details. Despite significant stylistic differences in the architecture of some objects, it should be noted the similarity of three-dimensional solutions. For example, the buildings of the Male and Alekseevskaya female gymnasium: the angular position in the structure of the building, the complex configuration of the plan, the volume-spatial solution based on a combination of protruding axial and flanking rizalits, the same number of floors, completely rusticated ground floor, solved in the form of a socle. In addition, the similarities consisted in the engineering equipment of objects. The fact is that both buildings were equipped with water heating, plumbing, ventilation and sewage systems, the device of which was made by the technical office of the «Kunst and Albers» trading house. Characteristic features of the buildings of E. I. Schefer are the subordination of the planning to the functional purpose of the object, a high level of detailing of the street facades, the use of tents and domes to emphasize the corner elements and central volumes.

Arriving in the Far East as an ordinary engineer, E.I. Schefer left him, retiring in the 1910s, in the rank of Major General, he would be a widely known architect in the region, the author of a large number of buildings that greatly enriched the architectural appearance of the capital of the Amur Region [25].

5. Conclusion
The professional and creative activities of architects and engineers who worked in Blagoveshchensk in the second half of the 19th - early 20th centuries, associated with administrative work, urban planning, development of individual design and construction of various functional objects, had a significant impact on the development of the planning structure and architectural appearance of the city. Creativity of the Blagoveshchensk architects and engineers, on the one hand, reflected the all-Russian trends and approaches to architectural activity associated in the pre-revolutionary period with the design "in styles", on the other hand, had its own distinctive features due to the specifics of the development of the city and the features of professional training of the designers themselves. So, for civil engineers, the features of a new for that time Art Nouveau style, which was actively approved in the region at the beginning of the 20th century, built by military engineer E. I. Schefer, on the contrary, is more conservative and stylistically belongs to neoclassicism and Russian style. The lack of a strongly marked relief and the presence of a large number of free building plots led to the fact that most buildings of the Blagoveshchensk architects have an island or angular position in the structure of urban development and are designed for visual perception from different viewpoints, which explains the integrity of their space-planning composition and an equivalent plastic study of facades.

Architects and engineers introduced advanced building technologies and current stylistic trends into the architecture of Blagoveshchensk, which contributed to the appearance of architectural monuments in it, which have their own unique face and in many ways formed the historical core of the city centre.
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