

**THE ROLE AND MEANING OF SACRAL BUILDING
IN THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION OF ARCHITECTURAL
AND PLANNING STRUCTURE OF GALICIAN TOWNS FOUNDED
IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 16TH – 17TH CENTURY
(Evidence from artistic heritage of vasył nahirnyi)**

*Associate Professor of the Department of Design and Basics of Architecture
Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv
e-mail: svitlana_topylko@yahoo.com
orcid:0000-0001-8405-4185*

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Abstract. The article outlines evolutionary stages of the architectural and planning structure of Galician towns founded in the second half of the 16th – 17th century from the moment of their foundation until now. It was established that sacral buildings present the most stable elements of the planning structure and act as compositional dominants.

Key words: sacral building, architectural and planning structure, town, an element of the planning structure.

1. Introduction

The period of the second half of the 16th – 17th century in Galicia is characterized by the foundation of a large number of urban settlements. Some of them were represented by fortified residence cities. However, the majority of them fulfilled the role of small towns in the historical system of settlement. In total, over 200 urban settlements were founded in the territory of modern Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Ternopil regions. These towns are examples of implementation of the Renaissance city planning ideas that formed and developed in specific political and socio-economic conditions. A typical city that was a one-time foundation was represented by a regular building system concentrated around the market with its rectangular and net structure.

2. Results and Discussion

The architectural and planning structure of cities and towns is characterized by geometrical clearness of the planning structure; regular planning system; the centric character of the composition; harmony between the whole and its parts; the spatial balance of dominants; proportionality; symmetry (M. Książek, 1988, p. 94). A city plan can be inscribed into a simple geometrical form – a square or a rectangle.

The metrological analysis of the planning structure established certain interdependence between the total area of the territory occupied by a city and certain elements of its plan, primarily a market or a construction parcel. It was established that the construction parcel served as a planning module in the layout plan of a city. Dimensions of all other structural elements of the planning structure, such as a market, a city block, passages and roads, as well as general dimensions of the central city area are divisible by the dimensions of the construction parcel. The main compositional and planning dominants of the architectural and planning structure

include a market square, a town hall and sacral buildings. Their location is subordinated to the general composition of the plan. A market square dominates in the layout of a town. It is much bigger than the medieval public square and concentrates all main functions of a town, serving as a crossroad for key communication ways. A specific feature of the market square is a planning “cross” of streets lying inside the blocks around the market square (S. Topylko, 2015)

2.1. Location of sacral buildings in the structure of a town

Sacral objects are the important dominants of the architectural and planning structure. Usually, these objects in Galicia include Orthodox churches and Roman Catholic churches, as well as Greek Catholic churches after signing of the Union of Lublin at 1569 (S. Kravtsov, 2007, p. 166).

Location of sacral buildings was subordinated to the general composition of a town. We can single out five groups of the location of sacral buildings in the structure of a town:

- 1) a group connected with the classical medieval layout of a town where a sacral object with its separate square was located at the corner of the market square;
- 2) sacral objects were located on main compositional or planning axes or next to these axes, a church square occupied the whole city block;
- 3) a sacral object was located in the suburb or in nearby villages;
- 4) a group connected with a specific rare layout of a town when a sacral object was located in the vicinity to the market square with its main facade facing the square;
- 5) a sacral building had a defensive function and could be included in the system of urban fortifications.

The second and the fourth groups are connected with the Renaissance tradition of urban planning. The first and the fifth group are noticeably influenced by medieval traditions of the urban composition planning. The third group can be characterized as the incompleteness of the urban planning process.

The architectural and urban planning structure of towns underwent a complicated evolutionary path throughout the centuries, numerous changing and renovating in the course of the historical process of renovation as a result of the reaction to socio-economic, cultural and spiritual needs of various historical epochs. We can single out several stages of evolution of the architectural and planning structure of towns.

2.2. Changes in the architectural and planning structure of towns from the moment of foundation until the early 20th century

Changes in the political situation and remarking of boundaries in the period from the middle of the 17th century until the end of the 18th century led to the irrelevance of the defensive function of towns and cities. Therefore, performing only the trade function, towns slowed down their development, and their number and amount of their population decreased respectively. At the end of the 18th century, there was a tendency to the general decline of the urban development process and to the degradation of urban settlements (H. Petryshyn, 2001, p. 49).

Talking about changes in the architectural and planning structure of towns from the moment of their foundation until early 20th century, we can accentuate several noticeable types of deformation of the architectural and planning structure of Galician towns founded in the second half of the 16th – 17th century.

– Deformations that appeared in the process of project implementation caused by the relief, the foundation of defensive buildings and efficient use of the natural defensive factor (presence of rivers, ponds, raising of banks), increase or decrease of the real number of dwellers at the moment of foundation of a town.

– Permanent deformations caused by natural calamities or military actions, migration of town dwellers, which also resulted in re-planning of a town (frequent rebuilding of urban substance, changes of initial dimensions of plots).

– Functional deformations that envisage building of new roads or loss of old roads, founding of new squares, change of dimensions of the market square. A building parcel was the most unstable element of the planning structure.

– Demographic and ethnic deformations. Essential changes were also made in the central part of a town where the traditional block layout was changed due to the appearance of Jewish centres, increasing the number of open spaces.

Regardless of changes and deformations of the architectural and planning structure, a market square still remains the planning and compositional centre of a town. In that period, it was the most stable element of the planning structure and sometimes even the single confirmation of the urban structure.

Furthermore, sacral objects still remained the most stable planning and compositional elements of small towns. There was a noticeable tendency to a reconstruction of sacral objects and the building of new, usually larger ones. The famous Galician architect Vasyl Nahirnyi designed a number of stone churches that were built in the researched towns at the end of the 19th – in early 20th century in Bilyi Kamin (1900), Bohorodchany (?), Velyki Mosty (1893), Dovhomostyska (1908), Kalush (1913), Klebanivka (1898), Kopychyntsi (1900), Leshniv (1905), Mykolayiv (1903), Vytktiv (Novyi)(1910), Yarychiv (Novyi) (1889), Novi Strilyshcha (1910-30), Sasiv (1895 (1898)), Skole (1892), Solotvyno (1904), Toporiv (?) (V. Slobodian, 1994, pp. 30–33). As a rule, churches were built on the place of the lost old sacral buildings (Fig. 1–3).



Fig. 1. Church in the village of Bilyi Kamin, Zolochiv district, built upon the project of Vasyl Nahirnyi in 1910; photo by S. Topylko, 2003



Fig. 2. Church in the village of Novyi Vytktiv, Radekhiv district, built upon the project of Vasyl Nahirnyi in 1900; photo by S. Topylko, 2003



Fig. 3. Church in the village of Sasiv, Zolochiv district, built upon the project of Vasyl Nahirnyi in 1895; photo by S. Topylko, 1998

The architectural heritage of Vasyl Nahirnyi counts several hundreds of objects including churches, chapels, parochial houses, public and private buildings. The most valuable are village churches that make up the

majority of his works. In 1882–1918, every fourth church in Galicia was built upon the projects of this architect. Vasyl Nahirnyi designed a hundred of churches, 83 of them are stone churches. In total, over 200 churches were built upon his projects (H. Bobosh, 2000, p. 351). The fullest list of all his church projects was compiled by Vasyl Slobodian (Kh. Lev, V. Slobodian, N. Filevych, 2013).

These projects became the foundation for the development of the famous “Nahirnianskyi” style that is based on the Byzantine style. According to V. Nahirnyi himself, “the connection of our rite with the East is marked by the dome that acquired various forms over time, however, was left on our churches and completes them in the same way as Byzantine sacred objects. First of all, the church is a sacred object and has a form that is traditional for our rite and our history”. Vasyl Nahirnyi was a big patriot, and its architectural works expressly point at the Ukrainian origin of a certain village, settlement or town in Galicia (H. Bobosh, 2000, p. 351).

V. Nahirnyi tries to combine different styles based on the Byzantine one and caring for preservation of the rite traditions. The architect worked both with the wood and the stone trying to identify the most characteristic features of the material and to create the authentic and original plastics. However, stone churches make up the majority of his creative works.

According to the research of H. Koznarska, one of the most popular types of churches in Galicia at the end of 18th – the beginning of 20th century was the cross-shaped type of the temple, together with the basilican, chamber and rotunda ones. The cross-shaped type was the most widespread and made up 54 % of all churches of Lviv eparchy of that period (H. Koznarska, 2014, p. 522, 524) Among the cross-shaped churches, we should highlight the churches designed by V. Nahirnyi.

The cross-shaped type has two variations: the first one is based on the addition of smaller squares or rectangles to the central square on four sides in cardinal directions; the second one is based on the addition of equal-sized squares or rectangles to the central square (by the intersection of two rectangles). Respectively, there are single-domed, three-domed and five-domed cross-shaped churches (H. Koznarska, 2014, p. 524).

Single-domed churches. Using cross-type dome construction as a basis, the architect maximally simplifies it and gives it the Byzantine character with elements of classicism. Taking into account the limited financial capabilities of the Ukrainian people, he offered a simple compact sacral building that was perfect from the engineering and technical point of view. However, every church is distinguished by its exquisiteness and uniqueness of forms (H. Koznarska, 2014, p. 524). For example, the stone Church of the Transfiguration in Sasiv (1895 (1898)) with the eight-sided apse and the church in Bilyi Kamin (1900).

Three-domed churches. Three-domed churches designed by V. Nahirnyi are distinguished by the expressed four-angled nave with adjoining sidearms on the northern and southern sides and the altar and narthex on the western and eastern sides. The characteristic elements are presented by the semicircular altar, hemispherical dome, segmentation of walls by pilasters, columns, double-arched windows, richly decorated projecting cornices. Combining the three-part space and cross-type layout, the architect created a three-dimensional composition that harmoniously combines the main traditions of the Galician architecture and modern interpretation of the correspondence of the form and the material (H. Koznarska, 2014, p. 524). The example of this is the Protection of The Holy Mary Church in Mykolayiv (1903).

Five-domed churches. Galician stone churches with domes laying on angles of the central square were designed by V. Nahirnyi. This type has a visual advantage since domes were constructed above the altar, nave, porch and sidearms, therefore the side domes do not block the view of the central one (H. Koznarska, 2014, p. 524). Five-domed churches were built in Kalush (St. Nicolas Church, 1913), Velyki Mosty (1893).

2.3. Construction activities in towns in the interwar period of 1918–1939

After World War I, Galicia became a part of Poland. The front lines of World War I were mostly situated in the territory of Galicia, so towns were greatly destroyed. The interwar period (1918–1939) was characterized by renovation, reconstruction and development of towns and cities. The regulatory plans for separate cities and typical design proposals for using in small towns were developed. They paid great attention to the regulation of

the street network and housing system, sanitary requirements, landscaping, perspective development of cities. Significant importance was also attached to the aesthetic factor. The protective approach to the historical buildings started to develop. As in the previous period, the market square and spatial sacral dominants remained the most stable planning and compositional elements.

2.4. Losses in the architectural and planning structure of towns in the period from 1939 to 1990-s

After the entry of Galicia into the UkrSSR in 1939, the network of cities and towns was revised based on the new criteria. As a result, around 40 % of old towns lost their urban status. The Soviet period is characterized by the active interference into the historical planning network, so the architectural and planning structure of settlements suffered the biggest losses in that time. The newly developed master plans of settlements ignored the historical network and spatial structure, and regional character of the housing system of the majority of towns and cities was distorted and sometimes even lost (B. Posatskyi, 1996, p. 35) (Fig. 4–5).

In that period, only sacral dominants remained the most stable planning and compositional elements. The protective position and express distinguishing of protected zones in master plans were typical only for those sacral buildings that belonged to the category of monuments of architecture. For example, the protective zones of architectural monuments were installed around the Assumption Cathedral in the village of Bilyi Kamin (1613). However, the church was mistakenly marked on the master plan of Bilyi Kamin as a monument of architecture instead of the Roman Catholic church what evidenced the formal approach to the development of master plans. The function of sacral buildings was also changed. The church and the former synagogue in Toporiv village were reconstructed into the museum and the reception building respectively, the church and the Roman Catholic church in the village of Bilyi Kamin – into the museum and the palace of pioneers, and the church in the village of Novyi Vytktiv – into the museum.

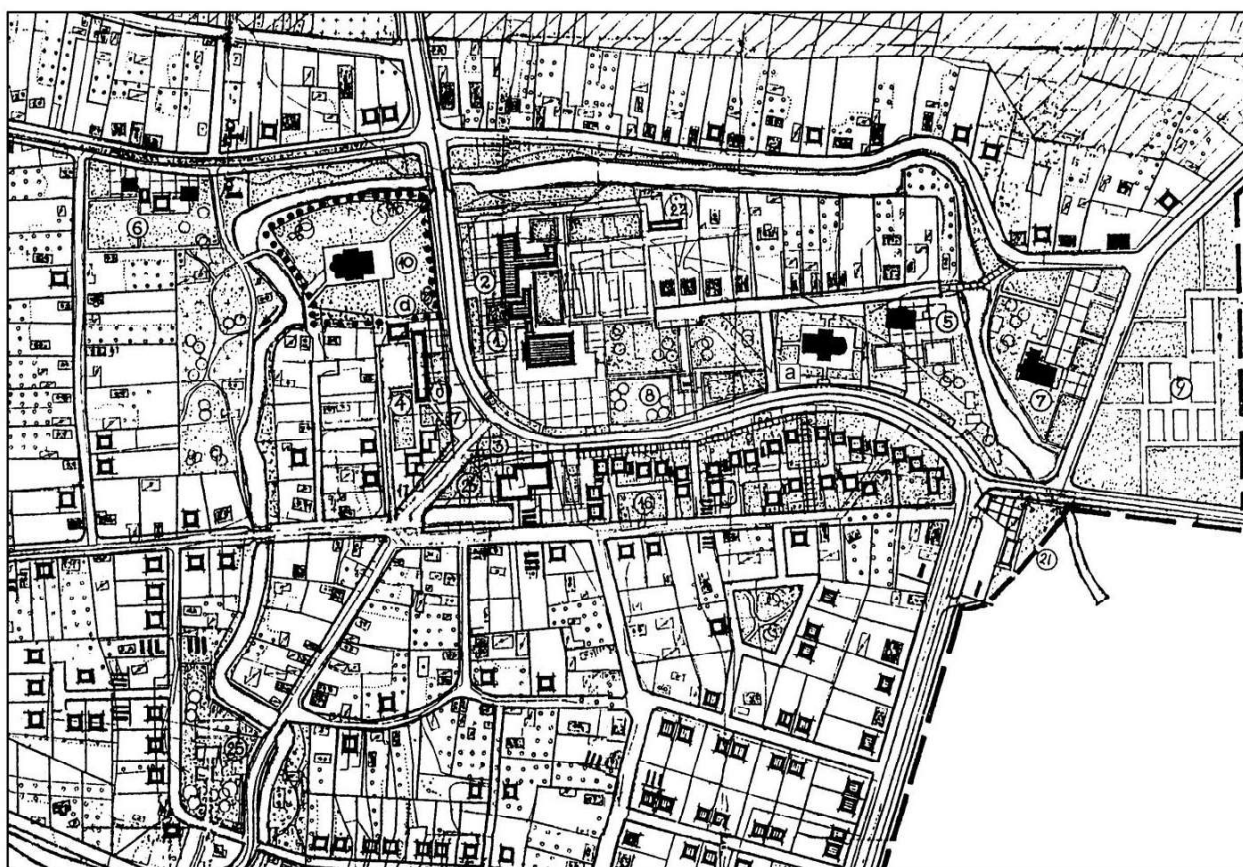


Fig. 4. A fragment of the master plan of the village of Bilyi Kamin, Zolochiv district, 1972 (General plan s.Bilyi Kamin, 1972)
a church of 1900 rebuilt upon the project of Vasyl Nahimyi

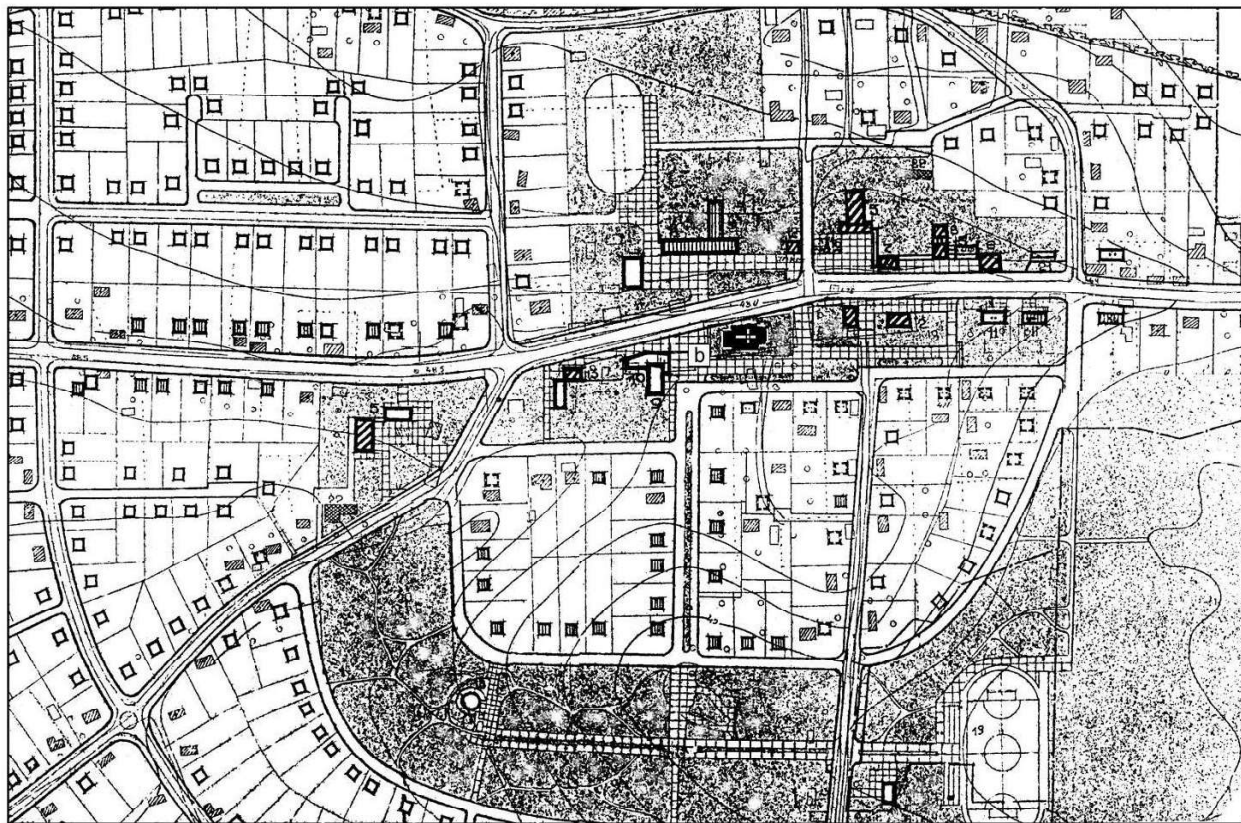


Fig. 5. A fragment of the master plan of the village of Vytktiv Novyi, Radekhiv district, 1978
(General plan s. Novyi Vytktiv, 1978)
b – church of 1910 rebuilt upon the project of Vasyl Nahirnyi

2.5. The modern state of the architectural and planning structure of towns

The modern architectural and planning structure of former towns is characterized by many changes: the territorial growth of settlements both at the cost of residential districts and industrial zones; designing of a “new” centre in 1960–70s with a typical composition of administrative and public buildings; loss or conscious destruction of sacral buildings; construction of new sacral buildings both within and outside the historical part of a settlement; laying of new streets in the historical part of a settlement that contradicts to and distorts the historical planning structure; implementation of projects of residential districts with uncharacteristic multi-apartment block or separate mid-rise housing system (or sometimes even multi-storied); building of settlements without account for historical parcelling, scale and compositional stylistics, destruction of the valuable residential housing system that leads to the loss of the authentic image; change of the natural micro landscape and the surrounding agricultural lands.

At the same time, we must note the fragmentary preservation of symmetry, proportionality, geometrical form, compositional idea. This statement is corroborated by the large percentage of the preserved historical planning network and fully saved spatial dominants, scale and character of the building system (Bevz M. V., 2001, p. 150). In this period, the stable characteristics of the architectural and planning structure were represented by dominants – first of all by sacral buildings, the character of the building system and elements of the secondary importance – communication (transport) ways, fragments of the planning structure.

The spatial structure of towns was formed historically. The modern state of settlements requires consideration of the architectural and planning structure as a single complex with the historical, architectural and urban development value in the process of completion of any works. However, unfortunately the problem of

preservation of monuments of the architectural heritage in the current times acquired the negative connotation in view of the imperfect legislation on monument protection, as well as unprofessional actions of the state authorities and local communities. In the restoration practice, there is a noticeable tendency of research of separate buildings. Examination and fixation of separate buildings (primarily the sacral ones) were carried out in some cities. There are on-going researches aimed at the identification of new architectural monuments. Namely, the churches built upon the projects of Vasyl Nahirnyi should be regarded as objects that must be included in the list of the cultural heritage of Ukraine. We are talking about development and introduction of administrative and legal, scientific and methodological, architectural and restorative, cultural and education, financial and economic measures that will enable proper preservation, use and popularization of monuments of the sacral architecture.

3. Conclusions

Main stages of evolution of the architectural and planning structure of Galician towns founded in the second half of the 16th century – 17th century are closely connected with the change of a complex of factors related to socio-political and economic changes. Analysis of each stage of the evolution process showed that sacral buildings are the most stable elements of the planning structure and are perceived as compositional dominants. Namely these buildings remain the most well-preserved in our time, especially when used for religious, cultural and educative purposes. We should especially focus on the phenomenon of Vasyl Nahirnyi – the Ukrainian Galician architect and public figure of the end of the 19th century – early 20th century. Actually, he was the first to attempt to create an original form of the Ukrainian sacral building at the professional level, trying to establish a new direction. His artistic heritage is mostly represented by single-domed, three-domed and five-domed churches with the cross-shaped pattern.

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Топилко Світлана

Доцент кафедри дизайну та основ архітектури
Інститут архітектури
Національний університет "Львівська політехніка", Львів
e-mail: svitlana_topylko@yahoo.com
orcid: 0000-0001-8405-4185

**РОЛЬ ТА ЗНАЧЕННЯ САКРАЛЬНОЇ СПОРУДИ
В ПРОЦЕСІ ЕВОЛЮЦІЇ АРХІТЕКТУРНО-ПЛАНУВАЛЬНОЇ СТРУКТУРИ МІСТЕЧОК
ГАЛИЧИНИ, ЗАКЛАДЕНИХ У ДРУГІЙ ПОЛОВИНІ XVI–XVII ст.
(На прикладі творчої спадщини василя нагірного)**

***Анотація.** Розглянуто еволюційні етапи архітектурно-планувальної структури містечок Галичини, закладених у другій половині XVI–XVII ст. від часу закладення до сьогодні. Власне цей період характеризується закладенням великої кількості міських поселень, понад 200. Ці містечка є прикладами реалізації ренесансних містобудівних ідей, що формувались і розвивались у певних політичних та соціально-економічних умовах. Типове місто, яке було одночасовим закладенням, – це регулярна забудова навколо ринку з прямокутно-сітчастою структурою. Важливими домінантами архітектурно-планувальної структури, поряд із ринковою площею та будівельною парцелею, є сакральні об'єкти. Розташування сакральних споруд в архітектурно-планувальній структурі підпорядковувалось загальній композиції міста.*

Архітектурно-містобудівна структура містечок протягом століть пройшла складний еволюційний шлях у ході історичного процесу, як відповідь на соціально-економічні, культурні і духовні потреби різних історичних епох. Можна виділити кілька етапів еволюції архітектурно-планувальної структури містечок Галичини: зміни архітектурно-планувальної структури містечок від закладення до початку XX ст.; будівельні заходи у містечках у міжвоєнний період – 1918–1939 рр.; втрати в архітектурно-планувальній структурі містечок від 1939 до 1990-х років; сучасний стан архітектурно-планувальної структури містечок. Розглядаючи кожен з етапів, виявлено, що найстійкішим елементом планувальної структури та композиційними домінантами є сакральні споруди, які є найкраще збережені на сьогодні. І саме церкви, збудовані за проєктом Василя Нагірного, слід розглядати як об'єкти, які доцільно включити в перелік культурної спадщини України. Йдеться про розроблення та здійснення адміністративно-правових, науково-методичних, архітектурно-реставраційних, культурно-просвітницьких та фінансово-економічних заходів, які дадуть змогу забезпечити належне збереження, використання та популяризацію пам'яток сакральної архітектури.

Ключові слова: сакральна споруда, архітектурно-планувальна структура, місто, елемент планувальної структури.