

Postmodernism in the Formation of the New Identity of Armenian Post-Independence Architecture

Abstract

Postmodernism wasn't officially allowed in the Soviet architecture, and during 1960s up to 1990s (before the collapse of the USSR) Soviet architecture developed basically in the modernist path (often referred to as Soviet modernism). Nevertheless, different features of postmodernism rarely appeared in the late Soviet architecture.

After the Soviet era, modernist architecture stopped its development and gave way to a new architecture. The clear manifestation of this was the rejection of the Soviet path of architectural development. Simultaneously the new architecture started to incline the renaissance of identification distinctive architecture. Correspondingly, it was considered appropriate to refer to the traditional architectural elements in the architecture of the new times. This architecture should not be viewed as a continuation of the regional or neo-traditional movements in the architecture of the late Soviet period (1970s–1980s), where traditional motifs were sometimes applied in purely modernist buildings in a form of thematic decorative motifs, local stones facing, etc.

The postmodern condition became important in the formation of the new architecture that had to express its connection with its own history. The major projects realized during the post-Soviet period in Armenia demonstrate pluralistic principles, yet exclude any irony while accentuating its national self-identity. Overall, postmodernism can be considered as a technical method in the formation of the post-Soviet Armenian architecture. Here postmodernism manifests itself not as an ideology, but as a spontaneous method of representation of the revived tradition. Postmodernism in this case is not a result of the exhaustion of the modernism, but as an addition to the language since modernism itself was perceived not as an exhausted, but rather as an underestimated, uncompleted tendency. The paper intends to examine the ideological interpretations and formal representations in the post-Soviet Armenian architecture in the light of postmodernist architecture.

Keywords

Post-Soviet Architecture, Soviet Architecture, Postmodern Architecture,
National Identity, Post-Soviet Postmodernism