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## Art object – an integral component of shaping the architectural environment of a modern city

**Abstract.** Shaping the image of a modern city, its aesthetic and artistic qualities, improving its appearance and attracting the attention of residents and guests of the city to his certain parts with the help of traditional, modern and exclusive art objects is an up-to-date question. The main purpose of the research was to theoretical materials, explored art object characteristics, functions, role in modern city architecture, and residents' attitudes towards art object use in urban spaces. The research program included the following stages: preparatory, research and summarising with the integrated use of general scientific research methods. The methods included analysis of scientific literature, field research, analysis of architectural solutions, analysis of similar projects, and generalisation of previously proposed ideas for the formation of public space. As a result of the conducted comprehensive research, the main functions of art objects, the properties of art objects and the role of art objects in the formation of the architectural environment of a modern city in the system "art-objects – public space – residents" were summarised. The main characteristic features that art objects should have in the context of urban space are analysed and systematised. Through the survey of the city's population, it was established that existing art objects in cities require thematic and compositional adjustments, since a group of art objects and each of them individually form the image of the city, reflect its uniqueness and originality. The survey revealed that residents for the formation of the urban environment prefer art objects of historical and cultural themes. In order to take into account the culture and traditions of the city's residents during the design and placement of art objects, it is necessary to conduct a survey and expert evaluation, which should be an important part of the process of shaping the urban space. The theoretical and practical value of the research results lies in the fact that the materials, provisions and conclusions contained in it can be included in the preparations of educational materials on environment design and also used as recommendations for improving the process of forming of the image of the urban environment in the activities of government agencies, design organisations, and developers of regulatory documentation

**Keywords:** role of art objects; the image of a modern city; public space; functions of art objects; properties of art objects; characteristics of art objects

### INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the research topic is due to the need to harmonise the visual urban environment with the help of art objects that meet the interests and current demands of residents, taking into account the history, culture,

tradition, legend of the society to create unique and exclusive visual effects that are able to interest and attract the attention of residents and guests of the city. The development of the planning structure of the urban environment

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is associated with changes in society, internal and external factors, which largely contribute to changes in the architectural appearance of the city.

In the broadest sense, the architectural environment is a complex hierarchical system that includes subsystems: spatial, territorial, residential, industrial, recreational and landscape, subsystem of small architectural forms, object environment, interior, infrastructure, artistic and aesthetic component as noted O. Kashchenko *et al.* (2020). At the same time, T. Penyaz & O. Sleptsov (2023) noted that the image of the urban environment is thought of as a category, the achievement of which is the work of an architect-designer. In architectural and design projecting, art objects are a means of attracting the attention of the urban population to a certain part of the city and beautifying the appearance of the architectural environment. Art objects use a wide range of expressive means and their possibilities in various types of art: architecture, garden and park art, sculpture, installations, graffiti, video art, multimedia art, etc. underlined S. Quesada-Garcia (2021).

The existing practice of architectural and design planning does not always take into account the real needs of residents, the available opportunities for transformation, development and improvement of the urban environment. As a result, the process of orientation in the city is complicated; the positive image of individual historical fragments is blurred, which leads to a negative impression of the city as a whole.

An additional argument for the relevance of this study is the growing interest of city residents in improving the image of urban space: recreational areas, public spaces, parks, squares and residential areas by placing various thematic small architectural forms in them.

Traditionally, an art object is understood as an architectural image of an object, its artistic solution. The most common art objects are paintings, stained-glass windows, statues, architectural elements, designer furniture, lamps and elements of artistic forging, etc., which are used in the formation of the urban environment. Based on the above, there is a need to investigate the role of conceptual art objects, which are dynamic and expressive, attract human attention in the formation of the urban environment and reveal the essence of the city, taking into account modern trends in architectural and artistic design in the system “art objects – public space – inhabitants”.

Many works are devoted to the study of the question of art objects, but a significant part of them considers an art-object as a work of decorative and applied art. At the same time, the harmonious inclusion of art objects in a specific urban environment, taking into account the culture, tradition, history and identity of the inhabitants, as well as the specifics of the city, has not been studied much.

The analysis of scientific publications shows that certain aspects of the study of the role of art objects in shaping the urban environment are covered in the works of many scholars, among them: O.V. Olkhovska (2020),

who in her paper outlined the peculiarities of the impact of art objects on the urban environment and the solution of the problem of urban development. In a joint article, V.A. Abyzov & N.L. Bazelyuk (2020) studied the significance of art design, in particular, art objects in contemporary Ukrainian culture. Practical recommendations for the use of art objects in the space of a modern city are covered in the work of N.B. Musienko (2020), who also substantiated the classification and specificity of contemporary public art. A.E. Alekseeva (2020) examines art objects in interaction with public space.

However, the studies conducted do not sufficiently cover the role of art objects in shaping the architectural urban environment, taking into account the culture and traditions of a particular city, as well as modern trends in architectural and design planning in the system “art objects – public space – residents”.

Among the foreign researchers and practitioners who have made a significant contribution to the study and practical application of art objects in public space, we can note the works of the following scholars. A.L. Baldini (2022) pointed out the importance of taking into account the factors of specificity and national identity of city residents when designing and selecting art objects. A.V. Simoes (2023) provided a detailed analysis of the world's experience with the placement of street art objects.

The aim of the research is to reveal the role of art objects in shaping the image of the urban environment, to identify the main functions, properties and characteristics of art objects and to find out the attitude of the population to different types of art objects by means of a survey.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In accordance with the plan and purpose of the study, the methodological basis of the research was as follows:

- Conceptual analysis, review of literature sources on the theme of the researches. In order to reveal the topic of the study, the author analysed and studied archival materials, literary sources, scientific articles, abstracts, and monographs, which made it possible to systematise and summarise existing theoretical materials and to introduce new information based on the results of this study.

- Surveys and questionnaires. Practical research to collect practical information (oral and written surveys) to assess people's understanding of the role of art objects in shaping the urban environment and to find out how people feel about existing public space objects.

- Observation. Direct and indirect observation made it possible to systematise facts and compare different artistic styles of art objects.

- Classification of the collected data and general analysis – to draw up the final conclusions of the study.

From the Official portal of the City Council (2023), the master plan of the urban environment, photographic data, projects and materials of exhibitions, at which the city development plan was presented, also served as informational material.

The research was conducted during 2023 in order to determine the role of art objects in the formation of socio-cultural urban environment and to find out the attitude of city residents towards such objects.

In this study, the opinion of city residents was studied, which must be taken into account during the design and placement of art objects in the urban environment. For this, a survey was conducted among residents and guests of the city of Cherkasy (Ukraine). Semi-structured surveys were conducted among 397 participants. Two groups of people – experts and ordinary residents – were chosen to conduct surveys. The method of non-random sampling of experts and random selection among city

residents was used to select survey participants. The participants included 33 architects, 65 designers, 54 artists, 214 residents of the city and 29 visitors of the city (Table 1). The age category of respondents includes men and women from 16 to 70 years old. Respondents informed about their profession and age voluntarily. The geography of the respondents covered Cherkasy, Poltava and Kyiv regions (Ukraine) at the expense of students and guests of the city of Cherkasy coming from these regions. The survey involved mainly students of the Cherkasy State University of Technology. The survey was conducted in organisations among working people and on the streets of the city.

**Table 1.** Distribution of respondents by profession

Survey respondents	Educators	Students	Government employees	Business employees	Others	Total
Architects	3	5	8	11	6	33
Designers	7	16	9	15	18	65
Painters	6	8	7	12	21	54
Residents	15	28	16	71	84	214
City guests	1	3	6	14	5	29
<b>Total</b>						<b>397</b>

**Source:** prepared by the article's author

The criterion for selecting respondents among specialists in organisations and representatives of local authorities was targeted, and on the streets of the city was random, which allows covering the opinion of specialists and ordinary people.

Semi-structured surveys were conducted by the author and students who volunteered to help the author. In

accordance with the objectives of the research, respondents were asked six open-ended questions (Table 2) regarding the content and subject matter of art objects to be placed in the urban environment. The questions asked reflect the current situation in the cities. After completing the initial analysis of survey data, the author performed statistical processing of the results.

**Table 2.** List of survey questions

No.	Questions	Response options
1	In your opinion, should art objects appear in the formation of the image of the urban environment?	A. Yes B. Not necessarily C. I can't say
2	On what subject would you like to see art objects in the urban environment?	A. Historical and cultural topics of the city B. Branded European themes C. General international social and cultural topics D. Art objects of the future
3	In your opinion, can art objects visually transform urban space into a socio-cultural object?	A. Yes B. No C. Difficult to answer
4	Evaluate your attitude to the art objects in the city.	A. Positive B. They require topics – compositional adjustment C. Negative D. Neutral
5	How do you assess the importance of creating new art objects in the urban environment?	A. Essential B. There is no value C. Difficult to answer
6	Do you think it is necessary to discuss the type of art objects before placing them on the territory of the city with its inhabitants?	A. Necessarily B. Not so important C. Enough at the expert level D. Difficult to answer

**Source:** prepared by the article's author

At the time of the survey, participants were familiar with the concepts of art objects and knew the main types of such objects existing in the city. These respondents were considered well informed about the importance of their opinion for the implementation of urban design strategies. The study adhered to the principles of The Declaration of Helsinki (2013).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

With the development of cities, a person's need for a comfortable environment is increasing every time. Modern cities are actively developing and for many of them the problem of spatial environment organisation is particularly acute. The appearance of the spatial environment of the city is formed from many compositional details.

The development of urban spaces and the formation of the design of a modern city, taking into account the modern trend and the dynamics of the development of urban environment design tools, is the task of an architect-designer. The formation of the image of a modern city, its aesthetic and artistic qualities is achieved by the filling of various components. Art objects are one of the components of filling public urban space. Art objects act as an active compositional tool that creates an image of an emotional and harmonious urban environment. It is thanks to art objects that streets, parks and yards are transformed. Art objects form a brand and make a city recognisable.

P. Crowther (2021) emphasises that the semantic content of art objects is of paramount importance. The different object forms of each visual environment express the spatial, temporal and historical events of a given locality. Although the book refers to the reflection of the traditions and history of the community by art objects, the interpretation and perception by residents is not clearly stipulated.

A positive impression of the city for residents and visitors is created through the right choice and harmonious compositional arrangement of accentuating art objects in the urban public space in general. Understanding modern needs, taking into account the requirements of residents and choosing socially significant themes of art objects when shaping the urban environment makes the city unique. O.B. Roa *et al.* (2020) noted that the design of the architectural environment of urban landscapes greatly influences on the mood and behaviours of residents.

Community participation can help designers and architects fully consider history, regional culture, religion and people's needs. At the same time, Y. Liu *et al.* (2023) remarked that public participation in the discussion can also contribute to the sustainable development of urban infrastructure. V. Watchorn *et al.* (2023) propose to use the principle of universal design, which is aimed at creating maximum convenience for all categories of the population, and in order to achieve results, it is important to involve people with disabilities in the processes of discussion of urban environment projects.

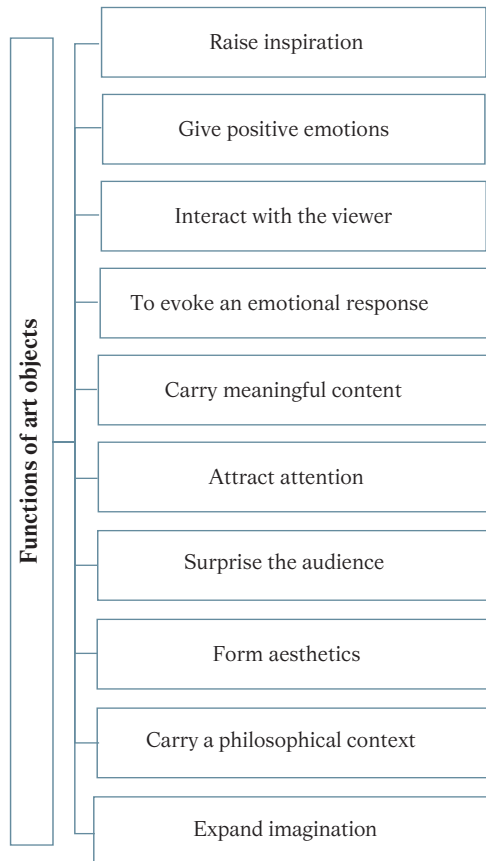
A. Dornas (2019) emphasises that the design of the urban environment should reflect the identity and culture of the population and develop the aesthetic consciousness and aesthetic activity of society. C. Baumgarth & J.B. Wiek-er (2020) point out the importance of street art in organising urban space and reflecting the culture and history of a society, taking into account the public's attitude towards an art object. O.D. Pylypchuk *et al.* (2021) in a joint study analyse the importance of the colour range of the surface of art objects for harmonisation and creation of interrelation between the individual components of urban space. Thereby indicating that the appearance of art objects should be visually appealing in order to attract the viewer.

Every day we hear the term "Art object", which has become commonplace. It is often used to denote new manifestations in modern directions in architecture and art, superseding other commonly known terms such as "architectural monuments" or "works of art". The word "Art object" consists of two components: Art – "Art" and "Object". O.Ya. Prysiashniuk (2020) defines that, an "Art object" is a subject, thing or other object that is endowed with some artistic content. The term "Art object" is not clearly defined in the scientific literature, but is widespread in the publicistic sphere. I.V. Bulakh (2021) noted that the use of perspective modern trends, methods of organisation and architectural techniques of public space formation improve the overall appearance of the city. In modern society, the process of art design takes on a new meaning, as designers are constantly required to perform new; important tasks that meet current trends in the economic sphere add L. Bilozub *et al.* (2023).

I.M. Bosiy & N.S. Bryzhachenko (2019) in their works shared their experience of creating creative compositions on various topics using art objects made of wood and other materials to attract the attention of the population and create a harmonious environment. This emphasises that art objects are an important component in the formation of a harmonious urban environment

The research has shown that an art object is understood as a spatial architectural and artistic composition on various themes that evokes a vivid emotional response from the viewer. Art objects, unlike other art forms, are not subject to any precise rules. Spontaneity, impulsiveness, freedom are their basis. Looking at the art object, the townspeople, in addition to the opportunity to relax, get some useful information about the city, as well as an emotional feeling.

Modern society needs objects that can motivate and make people think. Art objects in the modern urban space are very diverse, but have some common features that are reflected in the concept of a visual solution. Art objects are unique valuable elements of the urban environment, serve as identifiers of space and bring modern features of art into the informational context. The art object reflects modern trends of striving for uniqueness, formation of a new style, directions of development and improvement of the concept of art in urban space. At the same time, art objects must perform certain functions (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Functions of art objects in urban space

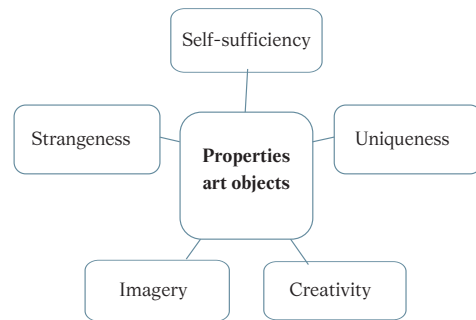
Source: prepared by the article's author

Each art object that is placed in the urban infrastructure must fulfil its main functions – attracting attention, creating a visual effect and adding zest to the urban environment. Attributes of an object that uniquely define it and allow it to be distinguished from similar objects by a number of features, such as parameter, shape, colour, artistic feature and other properties are an important part of the selection and design of art objects for their location in an urban environment.

In the context of the organisation of the urban environment, the aesthetic component and the public's perception of a particular object involved in the formation of the city's image are important. Many architects and designers practice the harmonisation of the architectural and landscape environment with the help of art objects.

O.D. Pylypchuk & A.P. Polubok (2022) emphasise that the external colour solution of art objects, as a means of creating a harmonious architectural environment, is one of the most important properties of art objects. In his monograph, O.V. Chepelyk (2019) describes the main themes of art objects and their properties that they should have in urban space. Researchers note that art objects are not just figures, but must also have certain properties.

Static and dynamic art objects in the urban space should have the following basic properties (Fig. 2).

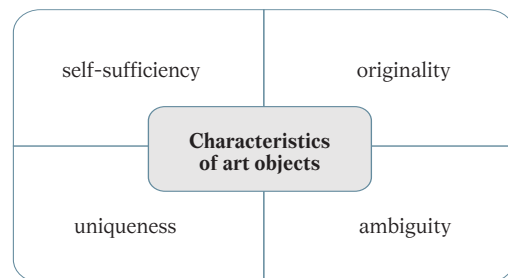


**Figure 2.** Properties of art objects

Source: prepared by the article's author

When mastering the main positive properties, the art object will become an accent of the urban environment and become more popular among the population.

An art object in the space of the city often becomes a semantic dominant. It attracts the eye, arouses interest and tells a story related to a specific place or event. At the same time, it directs the movement vector, becoming part of the planning of a park, yard, street or square. In addition, art objects are designed to evoke different emotional reactions of the viewer, to make him think, to look at everyday life from a new angle, that is, they must contain certain characteristics (Fig. 3).



**Figure 3.** Characteristics of art objects

Source: prepared by the article's author

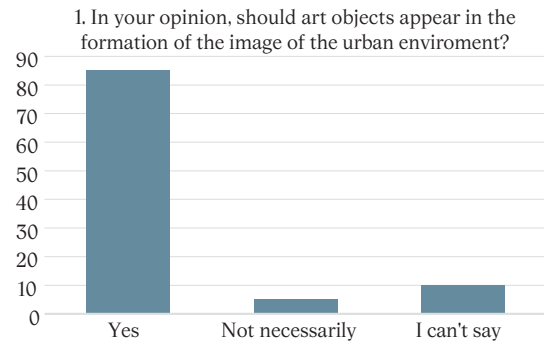
The formation of an art object is always based on its special, internal content and constructive-functional characteristics, when perceived, a harmonious content form emerges. The problem of the visual environment of cities is a subject of special attention not only for scientists, but also for society as a whole.

The modern socio-cultural reality has a global world character. Trends in the artistic design of urban space are also global. Art objects play an important role in shaping urban space. They can be accents or dominants, fit organically or work in contrast, can carry a philosophical undertone, be an expression of a certain urgent social problem, help to rethink the surrounding space. Harmonisation of the subject-spatial environment of the city is designed to solve the needs of residents based on universal values. When organising the subject-spatial urban environment,



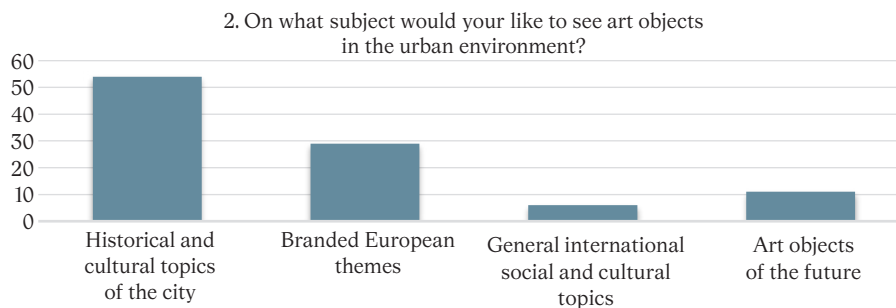
various filling elements are used, among them: different types of vegetation; street furniture; non-capital stationary buildings; small architectural forms; navigation, video art, performances, many new genres, installations, art objects and much more.

A sociological study to find out the attitude of city residents to art objects created in the urban environment was conducted by means of a survey (questionnaire). The following results were obtained during the conducted research (Fig. 4). The research results showed a positive attitude of city residents towards the inclusion of art objects in public space. The need for art objects in the urban environment was determined by the majority, as citizens understand that art objects create a unique image of the city. The results of the public opinion poll on the thematic focus of art objects were also obtained (Fig. 5).



**Figure 4.** Evaluation of the opinion of residents regarding the inclusion of art objects in the urban space, %

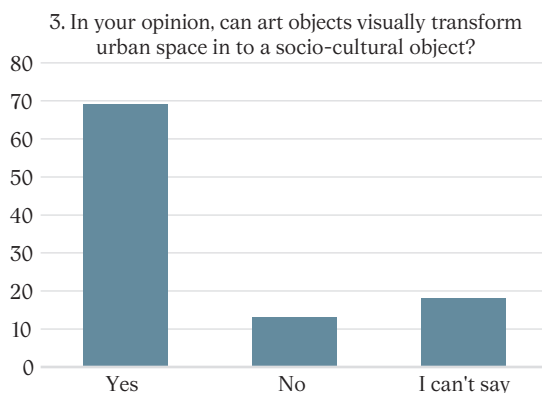
Source: prepared by the article's author



**Figure 5.** Evaluation of the thematic plot of art objects, %

Source: prepared by the article's author

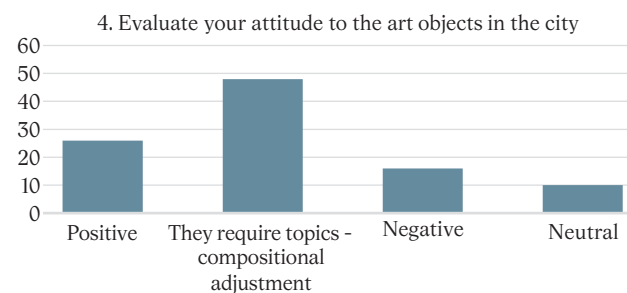
The choice of predominantly historical and cultural themes of the city's art objects explains the preference among the urban population for socio-cultural solutions to the organisation of the urban environment. That is, the city needs its own brand; people want to promote their identity. Many respondents rate the presence of art objects in the city space highly. This shows that people can no longer imagine a city without these facilities (Fig. 6).



**Figure 6.** Assessment of residents' attitude to art objects, %

Source: prepared by the article's author

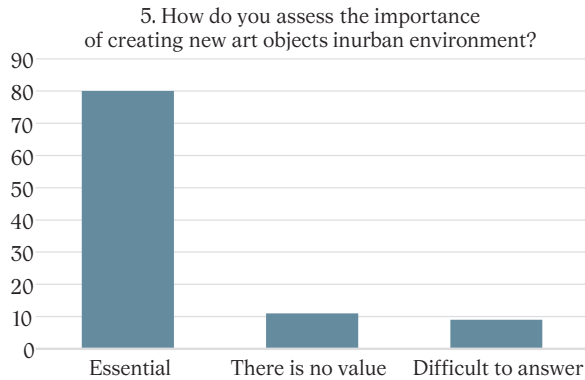
In general, the results of the sociological survey showed a positive attitude of citizens to the presence of art objects in the urban environment. An assessment of the public's attitude to the presence of art objects in the urban environment is shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 7.** Assessment of existing art objects in the city, %

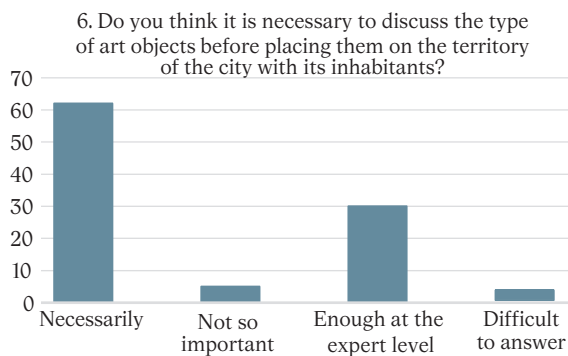
Source: prepared by the article's author

Defining the role of art objects in the city, the majority of respondents tend to believe that these objects require thematic and compositional adjustment, because a group of art objects and each one separately form the image of the city; reflect its uniqueness and inimitability (Fig. 8).



**Figure 8.** Assessment of the significance of art objects, %  
Source: prepared by the article's author

Understanding the significance of art objects in the formation of the architectural environment of city spaces indicates that citizens take such objects seriously. To assess the opinion of the population on the issue of participation in the selection of art objects for placement in the urban environment, it shows that people understand the importance of art objects in shaping the image of the city and want to participate in their selection (Fig. 9).



**Figure 9.** Assessing the coherence of art objects with the population, %

Source: prepared by the article's author

The survey results show that the majority of respondents believe that before placing art objects on the territory of the city at the stage of the preliminary design, it is necessary to discuss the theme and content of the planned art objects with the city residents. Public participation in

the selection and assessment of the quality of art objects is an important procedural component for further placement and formation of the urban image. The popularity of art objects in the urban environment largely depends on the degree of consistency with the opinion of experts and city residents.

## CONCLUSIONS

Organisation of the urban environment and the role of art objects in the shaping of visual perception depend on the culture and traditions of the inhabitants of a particular city. As a whole, the art objects of each city should create a unique and unrepeatable image, which is distinguished by contrast, attractiveness and diversity with the use of innovative technologies and materials, as well as taking into account the culture and traditions of the inhabitants. The integrity and inseparable unity of each element, content and aesthetic component of art objects will create emotional exclamations of residents and guests of the city. In order to take into account the culture and traditions of the city's inhabitants during the design and placement of art objects, it is necessary to conduct a survey and expert evaluation, which should be an important component of the process of shaping the urban space.

The principle of interaction in the system "art objects – public space – residents" should be built by creating an environment that meets the high aesthetic demands of modern society. Art objects in the urban environment are the main element of identification of the urban space. Art objects, along with the solution of the organisation of the architectural and spatial task, serve as educational, cognitive, communicative, recreational components.

The prospect of further research on this topic is the preparation of relevant regulatory documents that control the placement of art objects in the urban environment, as well as the development of criteria for the participation of the urban population in the selection of art objects to be placed in urban space.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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## Арт-об'єкти – невід'ємний компонент у формуванні архітектурного середовища сучасного міста

**Анотація.** Формування образу сучасного міста, його естетичних і художніх якостей, покращення зовнішнього вигляду та привернення уваги мешканців і гостей міста до його окремих частин за допомогою традиційних, сучасних та ексклюзивних арт-об'єктів є актуальним питанням. Основна мета дослідження полягала у вивченні теоретичних матеріалів, дослідженні характеристик, функцій, ролі арт-об'єктів в архітектурі сучасного міста, а також ставлення мешканців до використання арт-об'єктів у міському просторі. Програма дослідження включала наступні етапи: підготовчий, дослідницький та узагальнюючий з комплексним використанням загальнонаукових методів дослідження. Методи включали аналіз наукової літератури, польові дослідження, аналіз архітектурних рішень, аналіз аналогічних проєктів, узагальнення раніше запропонованих ідей щодо формування громадського простору. В результаті проведеного комплексного дослідження було узагальнено основні функції арт-об'єктів, властивості арт-об'єктів та роль арт-об'єктів у формуванні архітектурного середовища сучасного міста в системі «арт-об'єкти – громадський простір – мешканці». Проаналізовано та систематизовано основні характерні риси, якими повинні володіти арт-об'єкти в контексті міського простору. Через опитування населення міста було встановлено, що наявні арт-об'єкти в містах потребують тематичного та композиційного коригування, оскільки група арт-об'єктів та кожен з них окремо формують імідж міста, відображають його унікальність та неповторність. Опитування виявило, що мешканці, для формування міського середовища, надають перевагу арт-об'єктам історико-культурної тематики. З метою врахування культури та традицій мешканців міста під час проєктування та розміщення арт-об'єктів необхідно провести опитування та здійснити експертну оцінку, що має стати важливою складовою процесу формування міського простору. Теоретичне і практичне значення результатів дослідження полягає в тому, що матеріали, положення і висновки, які містяться в ньому, можуть бути включені при підготовці навчальних матеріалів з дизайну середовища, а також використані в ролі рекомендацій для вдосконалення процесу формування образу міського середовища в діяльності органів влади, проєктних організацій, розробників нормативної документації

**Ключові слова:** роль арт-об'єктів; образ сучасного міста; публічний простір; функції арт-об'єктів; властивості арт-об'єктів; характеристики арт-об'єктів