Ancient cultural centers of the Southern Urals: preservation with a view to development.
I. Three thousand years of Settlements of the Ufa Peninsula.

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Abstract

The Ufa peninsula is located at the confluence of two major rivers of the Southern Urals – the Belaya River (the Akidel) and the Ufimka (the Karaidel). The lowland river Dema flows into the Belaya River in the west. These rivers form part of the Volga basin. The peninsula rises above transfluvial lowland floodplains to a height of 60-100 m. Protected by navigable rivers and steep banks, the peninsula is a natural fortress and, at the same time, a river transport crossroad. Obvious advantages of the peninsula led to the fact that people arranged their settlements over 3000 years here.

About 100 archaeological monuments of different epochs, from the Stone Age to the late Middle Ages, were discovered on the Ufa peninsula. There are 6 fortified settlements, numerous burial mounds and ground burials among them. The Ancient city Ufa-II with a 4-meter cultural layer had existed for nearly 1,000 years from the fourth up to the sixth centuries AD. A fortress, later the city of Ufa was established at the site of the ancient settlement in 1574 by the decree of Tsar Ivan IV the Terrible. More than 600 objects of cultural heritage protected by the State and identified as cherished building from the point of
view of history, urban planning and architecture are concentrated on the territory of the historical part of the city.

A special importance to the cultural heritage of Ufa is given by its surprisingly well preserved landscape. In our opinion, the most valuable city-planning "matrix" authentic to the medieval city has been completely preserved here.

Two centers historically developed one by one are coexisting in modern Ufa:

1. Medieval – round the Kremlin with an arrangement of streets and side streets located along the ravines going down from Sluchevsky, Usolsky and Sergiyevsky mountains. The ravines were used both for protection and traffic arteries. According to archaeological data, the resettlement with the use of ravines remained fixed throughout 15 centuries, passing from the ancient settlement Ufa II to the resettlement round the Ufa Kremlin with preservation of streets, estates and other infrastructure.

2. Classical – designed at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries and set round Verkhnetorgovaya Square on a plain high part of the city.

Keywords: Ufa, cultural landscapes, historic settlements, the cultural heritage, historic center.
Introduction

A fortress, a castle and a Kremlin of historical cities of the world are integrated into features of a landscape. The location on the hill near the place of the confluence of rivers was characteristic for many medieval Russian cities such as Kostroma, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Orel, Pskov, Tver, Ufa, Yaroslavl, etc. [1, page 14]. In the process of formation of states and fortification of external borders there was no necessity in fortress walls. From a perspective of new construction technologies and municipal services the ancient and medieval centers of the cities are inconvenient. Plain sites are more convenient for the formation of city infrastructure and building. For this reason, almost all landscape city centers with a spontaneous and complicated street layout underwent the stage of decline and even destruction.

In the latest times cultural landscapes of ancient capitals became significantly image-building and tourist objects. Large global, national and municipal programs of preservation and restoration of historic centers of the cities are working. Ufa has not been involved in this process yet.

Let us consider the evolution of the center of Ufa and prospects of restoration of authentic image of the medieval city.

Historical and modern Ufa: evolution of the city center

The first fortified medieval settlement of a city type was created in the fourth century AD [2, page 472]. It was located on the cape between Ilyinsky and Nogai ravines, near the place where the Ufa Kremlin was constructed in 1586 [3, page 495].

The Ufa Kremlin was founded at the site where the Sutoloka river is running into the Belaya river. Maps of 1732, 1736, 1745, 1760, 1771, 1781 years reflect the development of Ufa in close connection with the landscape [4]. More than 200 years the city developed along the bank of the Belaya river, mainly up Sluchevskaya mountain and, to a lesser extent, up Usolskaya mountain (today's "the Old Ufa"). City building and main highways were formed on local terrain of ravines [5, p. 10, 11]. These are Ilyinsky, Nogaisky, Spassky, Uспенский and Siberian ravines, Sovalin ravine from the direction of the Old Ufa and the biggest Sutolotzky ravine along with the Sutoloka river.

There is a quote from the notes of a military surveyor in "The History of Ufa": "this City lies between eight great and deep gullies, in one of which, that goes across the city, flows the Sutoloka river, and it is surrounded by high mountains" [6, p. 63].
In terms of city planning and way of using the landscape, the waterfront beginning from the Sutoloka river and up along the "gullies" is a typical medieval city developed around the Kremlin [7, p. thirty]. At the beginning of the nineteenth century Ufa consisted of 32 streets, lanes and settlements and occupied the area of 3 km². Trading, entertainment and public institutions located there. It was a fully valid medieval city, inserted in a complex rugged landscape authorized for functions of defense, work and rest of inhabitants [8, p. 22].

Pribelskiy landscape "gullies" are especially attractive for people. The high bank of the Belaya river, at least twice, with an interval of more than a thousand years, became a "topographic" basis of a large settlement. In the first settlement (Ufa-II) people lived more than 1,000 years - from the fourth to sixteenth centuries and about 450 years in modern Ufa. The third wave of interest in Pribelskiy landscapes was formed in the nineteenth - twentieth centuries among the noble class and creative intellectuals. The ancestral mansion of the Aksakovs is located with the view of Zabelskiy distant prospects. The Governor's House and the courtyard of the Bishop (now there is the House of the Republic; this place inherited the name of "Arhiereyka" derived from the courtyard of the Bishop) are located just above. At the same place there is a house of a painter Erast Tyulkin where young F.I. Chaliapin lodged. The first Cathedral Mosque (1830) and several presently destroyed Orthodox churches were built on a steep bank [9, p. 30, 31]. Inhabited and populated over the ages areas have a complex of material and aesthetic features, which are called the "spirit of place." "The québec Declaration on the preservation of spirit of place" states that tangible and intangible elements of the "spirit of place" give meaning, emotion and value to the places that must be taken into account in all projects of conservation and restoration of monuments, sites, landscapes, routes, and collections of objects." [10]

Unfortunately, the Ufa cultural landscapes aren't included in "The register of especially protected natural territories of the Republic of Bashkortostan" [11]. Now the historic landscape center of Ufa is a thrown, collapsing and forgotten by all suburb of the city. However, planning of the streets, configuration of the yards and landscape have remain unchanged so far. Judging by photos of the beginning of the twentieth century, drawings of earlier times, as well as the ancient settlement "Ufa-II" fragments, the nature of building and "not upsetting usage of landscapes" have not been changed for the last one and a half thousand years. In our opinion, the most essential "matrix" authentic to the medieval city remained unchanged here.

The first plan of a regular building with rectangular blocks in the region of Karl Marx and Lenin streets appeared only in 1785. It was finally approved at
the beginning of the twentieth century. (Fig. 1). The center of public life of the city was shifting from the old landscape streets in the region of the Kremlin towards a modern center in the region of Lenin, Karl Marx, Pushkin and Kommunisticheskaya streets. Park districts named after Ivan Yakutov and districts of the train station were explored in the second half of the twentieth century, as industrial suburbs owing to the construction of the railway [12, p. 72].

Now the center is being actively developed. The rapid and uncontrollable replacement of historic buildings with different institutions and modern high-rise "luxury" houses has taken place in this area for a few decades. So, more than 140 cultural heritage sites, including whole blocks of historic buildings have been demolished in Ufa for the last 20 years, [13, p. 121].

Thus, two centers were formed in Ufa: the first is a historical landscape along the high bank of the Belaya river and the Sutoloka river, and the second, a more recent one is a modern scheduled center beginning with Zaki Validi street and Verhnetorgovoy Square towards Revolutsionaya street and a railway station.

The fate of these historic centers of Ufa are different. The only thing that unites them now is the lack of the “spirit of place” and tourist attraction. Now Ufa is in search of its identity. Faceless industrial metropolis without its own historical, cultural, architectural and artistic image is a keynote of speeches of administrators, architects and residents at various public tribunes.

Tourist attraction of Ufa

The map of Ufa dated to 1785 is to a great extent the same as the landscape of the modern city. Suburbs that have grown and stretched underwent changes. We define the region beginning with Boulevard Ibragimova, passing along Lenin-Karl Marks streets towards Zaki Validi street as a modern regular center. The high bank of the Belaya river from the Kremlin to Muslim cemetery and surrounding streets are defined as a historic landscape of the city (Fig. 2).

Nowadays the territory along the bank of the Belaya river from the monument to Salavat Yulaev up to the Monument of Friendship is not assumed as a single unit. Historical wooden buildings were preserved closer to the highway bridge. The House of the Republic and the Bashkir state University dated to the epoch of socialism do not form an integrated architectural complex.

It is not clear how the monument to Salavat Yulaev, a new hotel complex located on the slopes of Large Cherkalikhin ravine and Tukaeva, Salavata streets and Arhiereyka will look. The landscape of the historical city has not been rebuilt “within the framework of inside structure".
In our view, the medieval and modern centers of Ufa are poorly defined, they are not connected with each other. There is no concept of preservation and development in the sense of historical authenticity and traditions, the “spirit of place” has not been recreated, there is not any tourist infrastructure. We regard a set of modern and landscape centers as a large center of Ufa, and its improvement will make it possible to unite the main parts of Ufa of different epochs; to connect the existing tourist attractions with the help of convenient tourist routes; to emphasize from integrated culturological, architectural and planning positions and where it is necessary to recreate historicism and the “spirit of a place”; to expose to view magnificent and unique city landscapes of Ufa; to construct sightseeing platforms where one can observe the city and distances on the other side of the river; to create new workplaces in tourist companies of medium and small-sized business.

Discussion

What can make the center of Ufa more attractive for tourists?

1. Essential concept and scheme of development of "The large city center" as a single structure consisting of sites with strong planning, style and design statement, with its historicism and the “spirit of a place” is necessary. Brilliant examples of combining quarters of different historical epochs in the integrated space convenient for people are the Kremlin, Kitay-gorod, the Boulevard and Garden ring in Moscow, the Old city and boulevards in Riga and Tallinn, Gothic quarter and Eshampl's region in Barcelona. Government environmental, historical and cultural monuments protection authorities should develop a joint scheme of development of cultural landscapes of Ufa of different epochs of development together with architects and city-planners.

2. Tourist "highlight" should be the reconstruction of a medieval landscape of the city center. In fact, it already exists. Comprehensive and careful preservation and development of the city center is necessary. These measures must be primarily directed to the lanes on steep slopes of the Belaya river in the region of the first Cathedral mosque, district of Sluchevskaya mountain and "Eighth gullies". The alleys that go in the direction of the steep bank of the Belaya River end in natural sightseeing platforms. Farther there is a steep and the Belaya River. Now these rocky banks are inapproachable and are presenting an undeveloped land.

3. There are few sightseeing platforms, no cafés with views of the city and distances on the other side of the river in Ufa. Reconstruction of "Sofyushkina alley" as a walking area on Tukaeva street is only the first but a
very important step towards the development of the old tourist center. There are currently no preservation programs on landscape lanes located on the slopes of the Belaya river and Ufa ravines as a landscape and historical-architectural complex.

4. It is necessary to locate the objects of the Museum of Wooden Masterpieces which is planned to be built in forest zone of Ufa on the high bank in the region of Sluchevskaya mountain and Arhiereyka, outside of historic city landscapes. Two-storeyed wooden houses, which stood on Frunze street (now Zaki Validi street) were the main decoration of these places. These houses can be restored. They are stylistically similar to the ancestral mansion of the Aksakovs, and may become historic hotels facing distances on the other side of the river. It would be remarkable to restore wooden houses in the garden named after Alexander Matrosov (now Lenin’s garden) and the garden named after S.T. Aksakov.

5. Ufa is a multiconfessional city. Now two mosques decorate the southern entrance to Ufa: the first cathedral and a majestic new one named after Salavat Yulaev. And it will be reasonable, if Orthodox churches appear on the steep bank. The historic center is in need of both interreligious world and architectural dominant symbols. In this case the main entrance to Ufa will be decorated with mosques and churches. So the idea of friendship will be presented much more convincing.

6. It is necessary to integrate a converted to museum status land of the settlement "Ufa-II" in the ensemble of the landscape center. Now plans of such a museum are being worked out alongside with the intensive building and construction work around it. The inclusion of this unique archaeological monument in tourist routes requires a designated area for a tourist center and a bus parking area.

7. Special attention should be paid to functional saturation of the medieval center. Now there is neither infrastructure nor shops within walking distance. Meanwhile according to the maps of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries numerous public functions have been accomplished in this area. Churches, shops, stores, pubs, craft producers are indicated on maps. All these are working now or have been reconstructed in many cities around the world and bring a sustainable income to citizens and the municipal exchequer. However, the recreation of the historic center as a modern tourist protected and functioning area requires a detailed study and tactful decisions.
Existing models of economically efficient historical center.

World experience offers a variety of revival schemes of attractive objects and areas for tourists. "The International Charter for the Protection of Historical Cities" (adopted by the General Assembly of ICOMOS, October 1987), "Recommendation on the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas", "The Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage of Europe" [14], the Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities [15], have been developed, accepted for the execution and are being successfully implemented in practice.

The state program of preservation and rational use of historical building in historic centers of the USA "Glavnaya Street (The Main Street)" was implemented in 1700 cities located in all 50 states of the country. Over the last 25 years the volume of reinvestments to these city streets made $23 billion. 67000 new small and large enterprises were established, 308000 new workplaces were created and 94000 buildings were reconstructed. For each dollar invested in implementation of the local program "Glavnaya Street" nearly $27 were received in the form of additional investments [16, page 142,143]. As a reminder the USA is a homeland of huge multipurpose shopping centers of "MEGA" type. However realization of the alternative to these malls has been found necessary for implementation: the spirit of the main historical street is also necessary to the citizens of the USA, as well as modern hi-tech city infrastructure.

Tourist zones in Ufa as a factor of development in the Republic of Bashkortostan

In accordance with Article 4 of the Federal law № 116-ФЗ "On special economic zones in the Russian Federation« adopted on 22.07.2005 (revised on 13.07.2015) tourist and recreative special zones are developed on one or several territory zones [ ]

One of the main purposes of forming economic zones is development of tourism and sanatorium and resort sphere. Tourist economic zones (TEZ) act as an instrument for developing a competitive tourist product and volume of tourist services export increase. These zones allow to raise the quality of life and the population’s employment in the region.

The process of developing tourist economic zones faces a number of problems:

1) because of financial and economic the volume of TEZ financing has been reduced;
2) low development level of the transport infrastructure in the region;
3) deficit of skilled specialists in the sphere of ecologic and socio-economic
problems of the territory.

It is necessary to create a free economic tourist zone to implement an
excursion route in the wooden medieval center of Ufa. Detailed discussions of
architectural, organizational and economic aspects should be carried out with the
broad participation of professionals of different profiles and Public sphere.

All successful projects of restoration of historic centers have one general
compulsory condition, namely the first step is a political decision. We consider
that the historical landscapes where a normal multifunctional urban environment
existed more than one and a half thousand years and is still existing, must be
taken into account in the new concept of the development of Ufa.

**Legislative framework of development of historical center of Ufa**

Currently, the federal legislation and thereunder regulations provide a legal
platform for the decision of the most difficult task of preservation and rational
use of natural, historical and cultural heritage of Ufa. This decision involves
attaching a status of a historic settlement of Federal or Republican importance
to historic center of Ufa.

It is enough to include in borders of the historical settlement an urban
district with the highest concentration of memorial buildings which can be
relatively marked with the streets such as Gafuri, Revolutionaya, Prospectus of
Salavat and the bank of the Belaya river (with a small enclave in the region of
the Monument of Friendship – earlier the location of the Kremlin of Ufa), that is
provided by the Federal law "About objects of cultural heritage (historical and
cultural monuments) of the people of the Russian Federation" of 25.06.2002 No.
73-FZ,

Along with chapter XII of "Historical settlements" of the Federal law,
issues of attaching the status of the historical settlement are fixed in the
following normative legal acts:

1. The Federal law of 30 12, 2015 459 FZ “On inserting amendments in the
Federal law “On objects of cultural heritage (monuments of history and culture)
of peoples of the Russian Federation and certain legislative acts of the Russian
Federation”.

2. The decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated
28.11.2013 № 1095 "On approval of requirements for identifying the boundaries
of the territory of the historical settlement".

3. The order of the Ministry of culture of the Russian Federation from
27.03.2014 № 534 "On approval of the Procedure of inclusion of the locality in
the list of historical settlements of Federal importance, the establishment of the
object of protection and the boundaries of the territory”.

4. Letter of the Ministry of culture of the Russian Federation dated
30.04.2015 no. 164-01-39-SE "On the development of complex of measures on
preservation and development of historic settlements, the protection of cultural
and historical urban and natural landscapes, establishing a special order of
regulation of city-planning activity on the territory of historical settlements of
the Ministry of culture of Russia”.

Conclusion

Ufa seems to satisfy those the criteria applied to historic settlements by
federal legislation and its object of protection includes the whole necessary
complex of historical, cultural, natural objects and cultural landscape areas.
However, the current state of the historic center of Ufa raises concerns. They are
based on the following:

1. There is still no fixed concept of development of the historic center as a
single landscape-architectural complex. The result is a destruction of historic
buildings that are the monuments of material culture. Over the past 20 years
more than 130 officially registered artefacts have been demolished in Ufa.

2. So far, the economic mechanism, making profitable the preservation of
historic buildings and ensembles has not been worked out. Now the scheme of
“demolition of old dwellings for the sake of commercial construction project” is
working. Foreign experience suggests that preservation and usage of historic
buildings, ensembles and whole settlements is profitable in market economy.

3. The concept of involving tourists in historic center of Ufa hasn't been
developed. The international experience shows that the elaborated strategy of
involvement of tourists creates renewable (nonexpendable) resources for
effective commercial activity.
References


