ARCHITECTURE

PROBLEMS OF THE ARCHITECTURE OF CHILDREN BOARDING-TYPE INSTITUTIONS IN THE DOMESTIC SCIENTIFIC DISCOURSE

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Abstract. The article examines the question of rethinking the architectural qualities of a boarding-type building in the domestic discourse. The evolution of views on the main priorities of the institutions of alternative care for children is traced. Also have been determined the key role of Ukraine's adaptation of the deinstitutionalization strategy in the development of approaches to the interpretation of the residential building. Within the chronological limits of the last 30 years, have been highlighted three stages of transformation of the theoretical opinion regarding the planning and spatial structure of the care institutions. One of them is related to the inertia of functionalist approaches, the priority of which were aspects of physical health and ensuring the appropriate social level. The second stage reflects the awareness of the inadequacy of vital pragmatics and the search for different ways of influencing social adaptation and the psychology of positive interaction. At the third stage, a gradual transition to the understanding of the residential building as a small scale structure with a capacity oriented to the family type of cohabitation is noted. This opened up the prospect of a significant rethinking of the methodology of designing alternative care facilities, searching for different methods of adapting existing buildings and designing new ones on the basis that, in general, correspond to the so-called deinstitutionalization strategy adopted by Ukraine in 2017.

In connection with this, there is a question of assessing the current state of domestic scientific opinion regarding the design of residential institutions. On the basis of the methods used, it is compared with the modern understanding of the facility for alternative care in Western countries, where the strategy of deinstitutionalization has a longer history and has given certain theoretical and practical results. In general, it was established that the domestic discourse in this field, despite the relatively small number of works, corresponds to the main trends in the evolution of ideas about the care environment for orphans and children with special needs. A number of features have been identified that are characteristic of current domestic ideas in the field of care and can become the basis for our own tradition of architectural interpretation of children's residential institutions.

Key words: boarding school, problems, discourse, deinstitutionalization, transformation.

Introduction. In August 2017, Ukraine adopted the National Strategy for Reforming the System of Institutional Care and Education of Children, designed for the period until 2026. This document marked the beginning of the process of transition to a new concept of care for children deprived of parental care. Research in the field of children's behavior and personality development has shown that there is a serious lag in the development of children who are brought up in so-called institutional institutions of the traditional type [1]. Therefore, there was a need to search for a new format for a residential institution, both in the sense of a pedagogical and an architectural and design organization. The emergence of the mentioned strategy in Ukraine shows that, in general, the country is aware of the existing challenges at the intellectual level and is ready for significant reform, which will require significant efforts and resources. An additional circumstance that actualizes the topic of development and improvement of residential institutions for children is the significant social changes associated with the consequences of the Russian military invasion in 2022, which significantly increased the number of orphans and children with special needs. The static nature of the field of alternative care, which was associated with objective circumstances,
should be changed to an active search for effective ways of organizing care spaces based on
dehostitutionalization and the use of modern developments in the field of psychological adaptation
and socialization of children left without parental care. In this regard, the domestic research base
needs to be studied and systematized, as well as a comprehensive assessment from the point of view
of a) cost for the purposes of practical implementation of the strategy of deinstitutionalization
transformation, the possibilities of involving certain theoretical developments in the design of new-
type residential complexes; b) its comparison with similar discourses in other countries, especially
those where deinstitutionalization processes already have a certain tradition and corresponding
analytical reflection. Thus, the preliminary hypothesis of the study arose from the fact that in
Ukraine there is a specific situation in the design of alternative care facilities, which is formed by
three factors: a) the inertia of the intuitive tradition; b) a sudden increase in the need for residential
institutions, which is connected with the consequences of the Russian military invasion of Ukraine;
c) a rapid change in the paradigm of caring for orphans based on modern research in this field.

Analysis of recent research and publications. In the domestic discourse, since the 1990s, it
is possible to note the interest in the topic of residential institutions for children deprived of parental
care. In particular, as early as 1993, O. Dorozhkina's dissertation appeared on the peculiarities of the
treatment of children in boarding schools [2]. In 2001, M. Komisaryk published a work devoted to
the use of phytoclimate in the rehabilitation and preventive work of orphanages [3]. Architectural
problems are considered in A. Arkhaimova's dissertation "Principles of architectural and planning
solutions of social rehabilitation centers (for homeless children and adolescents)" [4]. In the next
decade, interest in more detailed aspects of the problem and the need to revise the "institutional"
model of residential institutions and their architecture is manifested. In this context, we can note the
works of L. Gnes [5], N. Myroshnikov and Y. Doroshenko [6], P. Sankov, S. Tkach and A.
Podolinnyy [7], V. Abyzova and O. Voloshchenko [8] and A. Kirnaz [9]. The latest works examine
this problem through the prism of new achievements in the field of treatment of orphans, with an
emphasis on the problems of socialization and individualization, a person-oriented approach. Such
studies include the works of A. Koval-Tsepova [10] and Z. Obitochnaya [11].

The purpose of the article is to study and evaluate the current state of research on the
peculiarities of the architecture of boarding-type children's institutions in the domestic scientific
discourse.

Research objectives: 1) trace the stages of development of the national scientific discourse in
the field of boarding school architecture and outline their main characteristics; 2) outline its features
and specificity, including in comparison with similar discourses in other countries, especially those
where deinstitutionalization processes already have a certain tradition and corresponding analytical
reflection.

Research materials and methodology. The issue of the architecture of alternative care
institutions for children is an urgent direction of the development of domestic science, both given
historical reasons and modern challenges associated with the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.
In the context of the former, it is necessary to note the significant legacy of the "institutional"
concept of treatment of orphans and children with special needs, which has a complex nature and
concerns both pedagogical and educational techniques and their spatial solution. This state, at one
time, became the starting point in the transformation of ideas about the architecture of care
institutions in the domestic discourse during the 1990s. An example can be O. Dorozhkina's
dissertation "Formation of the need for aesthetic activity in pupils of orphanages and boarding
schools" from 1993 [2]. In the study, the problem is considered more generally, and certain aspects
of the functioning of residential institutions are interpreted in the spirit of the modernist industrial
worldview. Despite this, certain specific features are also noticeable in the dissertation, which
indicates that the "functionalist" approaches, traditional for the Soviet era, are beginning to be
rethought. The author focuses on the category of creativity, as one of the key means of solving the
main problem – the formation of an individual within the positive framework of self-esteem and
socialization. It is possible to note the style and methodological approach characteristic of the post-
Soviet scientific school, avoiding the "mechanical" perception of children only from the point of

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view of their welcome, not psychological and communicative needs. The further progress of
domestic scientific thought in the field of architecture of care institutions is connected with
rethinking the space and supplementing its welcome priorities with developmental and cognitive
elements. In this sense, it is possible to note, for example, the study by M. Komisaryk "Pedagogical
conditions for the use of paleoclimate in the rehabilitation and preventive work of orphanages for
orphans" [3]. Here, the subject of personal orientation education is developing, which is carried out
through the mechanisms of involving elements of photo design in deciding the interior design of
residential institutions. In the work, with the help of several arguments, the important role of micro
landscape zones in the psychological regulation of children who are in a care institution is asserted,
primarily it is about the negative effect of developmental delay due to alienation from the family
format of the environment of growth. It is worth noting that the author draws her conclusions at a
time when the ideology of "deinstitutionalization" had not yet gained popularity, and studies that
showed the need to revise the treatment of children deprived of parental care in special institutions
had not been conducted. In addition to the theoretical part, the research also has a practical
component, which is related to the specifics of landscaped areas in the interior. In this sense, we can
talk about the development of certain pedagogical techniques and practices related to the
arrangement of caring spaces. The result of the study is the experience of working with the
modeling of various formats of overcoming alienation and seclusion, due to the use of architectural
and design methods of using micro-landscape gardening, which, in turn, testifies to one's original
search for ways to transform the architecture of children's boarding schools in the domestic
discourse.

The further development of this topic is connected with the reception and development of the
deinstitutionalization strategy. In this context, it is worth mentioning the dissertation work of A.
Arkhamova "Principles of architectural and planning solutions of social rehabilitation centers (for
homeless children and adolescents)" [4]. Although the work was performed at a time when the
values of deinstitutionalization were just beginning to spread in the Ukrainian scientific and
educational space, the research is already distinguished by a rather deep understanding of the basics
of the problem and the author's understanding of the actual tasks of transforming ideas about the
architecture of care institutions. The author outlines three types of this type of facility – a
consultation center, a crisis center, and social patronage. Worthy of attention is the understanding of
the modern character of the residential building, which is seen as having the qualities of dynamism
and changeability. In this regard, the main architectural tasks have been defined, which should help
align the institution of alternative care with modern ideas about the growth of a child in special
conditions. Such principles as openness to the environment, self-sufficiency, and social orientation
are distinguished, as well as the participatory principle of organizing a common living space. Special
attention is devoted to measures to create "family" and communicative camaraderie.

In a certain sense, it can be said that A. Arkhaimova's dissertation is a kind of intermediate
link that combines two fundamental concepts of the architecture of care institutions for children
deprived of parental care. Already at this time (2005), the inadequacy and harmfulness of current
types of residential buildings, their functional rigidity, and visual dehumanization were determined.
On the other hand, the author suggests a gradual transition to the new principles of the architecture
of boarding facilities. Old buildings can continue to exist, however, However, on the other hand,
there is an opinion about the need to improve the care space, in fact, within the existing worldview
principles, regarding the stay of a child in such institutions.

The work performed at such a time, for obvious reasons, could not unequivocally abandon the
experience and heritage of "institutional" objects. Here, rather, we can talk about the intuition of the
necessary direction of their changes, which generally corresponded to advanced Western experience
in this area. It is worth noting that ten years before the publication of the results of the research on the
harmful effects of children's stay in institutional institutions, the author combines many valuable ideas
with their transformation precisely in the direction of family orientation and "family", which
corresponds to those measures that will be kept in the future to avoid defects of the institutional system.
Also worthy of attention is the idea of children of different age groups living together. The content of such distribution is to form social responsibility and inclusiveness by assimilating guardianship functions by older children relative to younger ones and thus achieving greater personal attention focused on each child. Therefore, a kind of new "family collectives" are formed, which transmit the appropriate atmosphere from one generation to another. In addition, it is worth noting the vision of care institutions as mobile institutions that can be temporary and solve certain tasks related to unforeseen circumstances, or reflect certain specific circumstances of a particular local context. In addition, various mobile care facilities are likely to be able to provide services to more children. This is becoming especially relevant now when in connection with the Russian invasion, a large number of temporarily displaced people appeared in Ukraine, there were changes in the family structure – mainly in connection with the departure of a part of the family abroad, etc.

In the future, it is possible to note the strengthening of the positions of the values of deinstitutionalization in the understanding of the actual tasks of the architecture of alternative care institutions for children. In this regard, it is worth noting the small in scope, but rich in content work of L. Gnes "Architectural and planning organization of family-type children's homes" in 2010 [5]. Here, the author briefly outlines the shortcomings of the traditional system of treatment of children in care homes and also considers the prospects for further progress in the framework of psychological and social adaptation. The methodology is based on the description, which made it possible to identify the main problems of "institutional" institutions and outline the range of measures for their improvement. The article distinguishes two types of environment – individual and collective. The effectiveness of children's growth is imagined as a search for a balance in these two spaces. In this case, architecture deals with the spatial materialization of complex concepts of growth aimed at increasing the individualization of the individual and its positive interaction with the surrounding social environment. Spaces for collective interaction have a complex nature and are intended for both traditional functions (eating, educational activities, etc.) and those aimed at revealing the child's personal qualities (various types of creativity, cognitive leisure, etc.).

Processes of commercial subjectivization of residential functions are a separate important topic characteristic of the domestic discourse on childcare institutions. During the period of Independence, a process of diffusion and complication in the field of care took place due to the emergence of various private and social initiatives, which largely developed in a chamber format by adapting premises originally planned for other purposes. In particular (and in the vast majority) these were multi-room apartments in residential buildings, in which, thanks to a change in design, care functions were incorporated. The positive side of this process was the decrease in the number of children in one institution, which is one of the main signs of a "deinstitutionalized" institution. However, according to the author's observation, such placement in a dense urban environment seriously complicates the formation of an effective space for child care, the priorities of which are personal-oriented development. The paper presents arguments that the most effective solution for a modern boarding-type institution is a single-family house in a suburban environment, in which planning techniques should be applied, the need for which emerges from the data obtained as a result of a questionnaire survey. Therefore, the work of L. Hnes, although not large in scope, contains important practical results and is an example of his reflection on the problems of the architecture of alternative care institutions in the domestic scientific environment.

Detailing and deepening of the national discourse around the topic of the architecture of care spaces for children deprived of parental care can be seen in the research article of Y. Doroshenko and N. Myroshnikov "Houses for the education of orphans: a retrospective and typology of care institutions" of 2015 [6]. The basis of the work is the structuring of four types of boarding-type institutions – a children's home, an orphanage, a boarding school, and a family-type orphanage. Considerable attention is paid to the principles of balancing between welcoming and personal aspects of the child's growth process. Thus, without directly mentioning the deinstitutionalization strategy, its main principles and values are objectively present here.

A rather ambitious goal was set in the 2016 article by P. Sankov, S. Tkach, and A. Podolinny "Methodology for the formation of houses – boarding schools for the social adaptation of preschool children". This approach provides a fundamental tool for deinstitutionalization.
and school-age children", which consists in "creating new methods of organizing boarding facilities" [7]. As a basis, the authors take the assessment of various designs of boarding houses in such countries as Great Britain, China, the USA, Germany, and others. Judging from the text, the authors do not yet rely on the deinstitutionalization strategy as an already formed programmatic phenomenon in their methodology and conclusions. The content of the material unequivocally indicates the feeling of the need for the development of a "chamber" and "family" in the organization of care space for children deprived of parental care. A significant amount of the material is an analysis of various methods of neutralizing the mechanical and deindividualizing reality of traditional residential institutions. The work focuses on the examples discussed in the article, illustrating various architectural methods that give the environment emotional sensitivity and contribute to the individualization of personal perception by exhibiting active visual markers open to multifaceted perception.

The development of similar developments can be noted in the 2018 work of V. Abyzov and R. Voloshchenko "Formation of the subject-spatial environment of children's shelters", which focuses on slightly different aspects of the architecture of care [8]. In a relatively small volume of work, the authors focus on the importance of the internal spaces of residential institutions. The inconsistency of the "barracks" planning and spatial design method for the strategy of humanization and deinstitutionalization, the implementation of which requires complex work in several fields, is emphasized. Hey emphasize the objective obsolescence of the "barracks" type of residential institutions, and much attention is paid to the need to find different ways of implementing programs of psychological rehabilitation and personal growth, which are needed by children left without parental care, to create an environment of positive perception of the environment and their personality. In this sense, the authors turn to such areas as the scientifically based use of color, develop the subject of mental integration into the inner space of micro landscape elements, etc.

The same theme was continued in the article by V. Abyzov and A. Kirnaz "Features of the formation of the space of family-type children's homes" in 2020 [9]. The authors pay attention to the practical aspects of design and set themselves the goal of laying a methodological basis for the further creation of a regulatory framework for the design of boarding facilities of a new deinstitutionalized type.

In contrast to previous explorations, which devoted a significant amount to theoretical reflection and conceptual proposals, looking for successful approaches to the actual understanding of spaces of care, here the principles of a practical recommendation program are developed. In particular, it is proposed to give preference to individual projects taking into account the specifics of one or another local base. Six schematic planning types of apartment blocks have been developed, as well as five types of apartments for the guardian-type family. The work develops the topic of recommendations for improving the emotional and communicative atmosphere within the framework of children's interaction with teachers and educators. Among them, the leading place is occupied by various design techniques. An important part of the work of V. Abyzov and A. Kirnaz became the proposals for designing children's towns oriented towards certain formats of joint stay of different age categories. By the principles of the scientific construction of the text, the authors also reveal a probable perspective regarding the directions of further work on this topic.

A. Koval-Tsepova's 2021 dissertation "Principles of Interior Design of Child Welfare Institutions" [10] can be considered a valuable contribution to the development of the architecture of care institutions. The research structure is aimed at positioning the topic in the context of the dynamic picture of changes in this area, as well as the need to involve an interdisciplinary scientific approach. The main task is the priority of overcoming the lag in the cognitive and communicative development of children who do not have direct parental care and are alienated from the family group. The author formulates her structuring of ways to solve the internal space, and also outlines a set of principles-recommendations that should be followed in the future. In general, the basis of the approach proposed in the dissertation in the formation of the caring environment remains classical artistic concepts and approaches, which only find their expression in solving specific tasks.

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Since the developmental delay of children in need of alternative care is currently considered the main problem of growth in residential institutions, special attention is paid to it in the work. In this regard, three principles of environmental design were formulated, namely: authentic, game, and professional orientation. Each of them allows, as it is believed, to contribute to ensuring the necessary indicators of intellectual development. In the sense of practical value and implementation of the results, several projects are listed, which are more likely to outline directions for further improvement.

Among the innovative ideas that were voiced in the domestic discourse in the context of the evolution of the architecture of residential institutions, it is important to note certain experiments with the temporality of stay in alternative care institutions. Two levels can be noted here. On the one hand, this is the stage that precedes resettlement with a foster family (if such resettlement is possible); on the other hand, it is the time that children spend between studies in institutions of a general educational nature or the framework of involvement in other forms of traditional social interaction. Under such circumstances, the understanding of the architecture of boarding schools in a certain way changes its character, reducing attention to the stationary functional and psychological solution of the space. However, the current state of development in this direction indicates the need for further, first of all, practical experiments with spatial structures, the design of which should not be limited only to the archetypes of traditional architecture.

The most recent scientific works devoted to the architecture of residential institutions for children include the 2022 study by Z. Obitochnaya "Functional and planning organization of the center for a joint temporary stay of the elderly and orphans" [11]. The main idea is the proposal to combine alternative care facilities for children and homes for the elderly. The main argument is the complementarity of the main needs and tasks of both institutions, which can therefore work in a complementary mode and mutually cover the special problems that are characteristic of each of these types of institutions. The references to foreign experience given in the article are introductory, and the proposed concept, which can be considered a valuable contribution to the topic of the architecture of alternative care institutions, requires a long process of practical tests and gradual reflection. Probably, in the future, facts will be revealed that will testify not only to the complementarity but also to the mutual contradiction of the specifics of both institutions. The need for individualized attention, which can overlap, on the other hand, does not always coincide with the expectations in the behavioral sphere, the dynamics of the daily cycle, etc., typical for both age groups. Despite this, the very fact of the emergence of such a concept testifies to the active development of the architecture of boarding-type children's institutions in the domestic scientific discourse.

Conclusions:

1. Three stages of the development of the domestic scientific discourse in the field of boarding school architecture are traced, which reveal an organic transformation of priorities in the direction of distancing from the practice of "institutional" institutions and a purely functionalist-welcoming approach in interpreting the care environment. At the first stage, relative inertia is still characteristic, in which a general orientation towards a re-emphasis of attention from a collective to an individual communicative format is felt. The second stage is characterized by turning to practical methods of architectural and design organization of the environment, searching for methods of supplementing and enriching the arsenal of practical tools designed to strengthen the qualities of a person-oriented model of growth, the politicization of communicative and social adaptation. The third stage represents a more mature form of understanding the values of deinstitutionalization in the design of residential institutions. Attempts are being made to outline the framework for the regulation of alternative care institutions on a new conceptual basis.

2. The peculiarities and specifics of the domestic discourse of rethinking the architectural qualities of the boarding-type building are outlined. It is established that it contains some specific features that make it possible to talk about certain individual features; in particular, these are experiments with the following issues: a) optimization of personal development by complementing different age groups, including children and the elderly; b) flexible interpretation of the space of
care through the involvement of a wide typological spectrum of adaptable premises; c) temporality and changeability of care processes, installation of the potential of temporary and mobile bookmarks of alternative care, development of appropriate architectural and constructive solutions. Therefore, it can be asserted that the national professional discourse has gone through its path of forming the values of deinstitutionalization of alternative care institutions for children and the search for its architectural expression. The current state of development is about several promising areas that can be developed in the future and lay the foundations for the development of a new school of designing residential-type institutions.

References


Проблематика архітектури дитячих закладів інтернатного типу у вітчизняному науковому дискурсі

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Анотація. У статті розглянуто питання переосмислення архітектурних якостей будівлі інтернатного типу у вітчизняному дискурсі. Простежено еволюцію поглядів на основні приоритети закладу альтернативного догляду за дітьми. Визначено ключову роль адаптації Україною стратегії деінституалізації у розвитку підходів до трактування інтернатної будівлі. В хронологічних межах останніх 30 років виділено три етапи трансформації теоретичної думки щодо планувальної та просторової структури закладу опіки. Один із них пов’язаний із інерцією функціоналістичних підходів, приоритетом котрих були аспекти фізичного здоров’я та забезпечення відповідного соціального рівня. Другий етап відображає усвідомлення недостатності вітальної прагматики і пошуки різних способів впливу на соціальну адаптацію та психологію позитивної взаємодії. На третьому етапі відзначається поступовий перехід до розуміння інтернатної будівлі як камерної маломісткої структури орієнтованої на сімейний тип співжиття. Це відкрило перспективу суттєвого переосмислення методики проєктування закладів альтернативної опіки, пошуку різних прийомів адаптації вже існуючих будівель та проектування нових на засадах, котрі, загалом, відповідають так званій стратегії деінституціалізації адаптованої Україною у 2017 році.

В зв’язку із цим, виникає питання оцінки сучасного стану вітчизняної наукової думки щодо проєктування інтернатних закладів. На основі використаних методів, наводиться її порівняння із сучасним розумінням споруди для альтернативної опіки у країнах Заходу, де стратегія деінституалізації має тривалу історію і дала певні теоретичні та практичні результати. В загальному встановлено, що вітчизняний дискурс у цій сфері, не дивлячись на відносно малу чисельність праць, відповідає основним тенденціям еволюції уявний про середовище піклування для дітей-сиріт та дітей з особливими потребами. Встановлено ряд особливостей, котрі характерні для актуальних вітчизняних ідей в царині піклування і можуть стати основою для власної традиції архітектурної інтерпретації дитячих інтернатних закладів.

Ключові слова: інтернат, проблематика, дискурс, деінституалізація, трансформація.

Стаття надійшла до редакції 28.12.2022