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## **NATIONAL MENTALITY AS A FACTOR IN THE MORPHOGENESIS OF THE CITY SUBURBS (ON THE EXAMPLE OF KRASNOYARSK)**

**Abstract.** *Mentality is a relatively stable set of vital installations of the individual or society. The originality of the mentality of Siberian inhabitants has been determined by a number of factors (historical, climatic, political). A set of economic and political processes has led to an uncontrolled growth of the city suburbs at the expense of private zones, including unauthorised construction. Residential outskirts of Krasnoyarsk have low aesthetic quality, which is explained by the peculiarities of the mentality of the inhabitants of Siberia. Over time, the outskirts of the territory become marginalised sections of society. In the dormitory districts in the periphery of the city boxed-type garages and basements in residential backyards appear. Growth of the city of Krasnoyarsk has led to margin entered by the main urban fabric. The structure of these territories has acquired a number of characteristics. Russian society is currently experiencing a transition from the old social order to the new one. The administration of the urban development process is not aimed at solving existing problems. Registration of property rights to illegally constructed buildings will only aggravate the situation. The solution of many problems of the city does not refer to the professional competence of an architect, but to a greater extent to the administrative and legal sphere.*

**Keywords:** *national mentality, urban outskirts, unauthorised construction, administration.*

### **Introduction**

Morphogenesis approach is one of the main research approaches to urban spaces morphology studying. This approach “intends to record the process of emerging of separate objects and detached urban structures modifications during the time which is believed to provide an opportunity to study the open space in two directions: evolutionary and dynamic” (Petunina T.Yu. Shipitsina O.A., 2015). Morphogenesis includes the study of internal and external environment factors influencing the city space territories. The aim of this work is to determine the peculiarities of local Siberian mentality as a factor influencing the city structure and its suburbs development.

Interconditionality of construction and social processes allows to claim that a city is a form of spatial organization of society. The dependence of the considered processes often has a complex, non-linear character. Society is a multilevel system which is characterised as dynamic, non-linear and open. Society viability depends on its relationships with certain environment both natural and the one created by human beings.

Mentality is one of the most important social characteristics. Generally, it can be defined as a relatively sustainable set of life principles of an individual or society. The origin of this term connects it with such notions as world understanding, the way of thinking, spirit (Kolmakova E.A., Solomina N.V., 2017). Mentality, to some extent, defines national self-consciousness, and is a political culture component. “Mentality functional nature consists of fundamental thinking matrix formation and social activity of a man” (Baglieva A.Z., 2008). One can talk about both national and local mentality, which follows from the notion determination.

The mentality problem can be considered in various aspects: geological, landscape, ethnic, cultural, political, psychological, etc. Different factors interaction provides the mental evolution which (similar to the society one) can be represented as progressive periods and alternation of the bifurcation point. More stable feature with relative inaction are being formed during progressive periods. Periods of radical public relations that break and change the society development paradigm become the bifurcation points.

### Typical features of local mentality

Nature and geography of the Krasnoyarsk Territory are unique. There are a lot of areas undeveloped by construction and natural resources' abundance (among them cheap building materials), which enabled the formation of a peculiar feature of mentality such as **inclination to extensive area development**. This peculiarity reveals itself at governmental level. Nice houses are being actively built in the suburban areas with decrepit urban development and non-exploited constructions in central city districts.

Local mentality is defined by ethnic and national peculiarities. The Krasnoyarsk Territory population is multinational. The indigenous peoples are represented by the Evenks, the Khakass, the Nenets, the Yakuts, the Buryats, the Kets and other minor nations. Traditionally, the main activities of native people was nomadic cattle breeding. Indigenous people compile the smallest part of regional population.

Siberia was developed by migrants from the central part of Russia. The Krasnoyarsk Territory was the place where repressed people, political prisoners and criminals had been exiled since old times. In the 1930s-40s the dekulakization policy caused the elimination of prosperous peasants. Those processes contributed to appearance of such mental peculiarity as the **feeling of not being an owner**. "Feeling not being an owner" notion means assiduous man attitude to his property, reasonable economy and thrift. It results in low construction culture and insufficient development of suburbs.

The situation has become more acute since the 1990s when outskirts population considerably increased as a result of migration processes when the representatives of Eastern republics (former USSR) came to Siberia. As a rule, migrants buy or rent cheap and tumbledown houses in the outskirts. Those who have enough money open cafés, small shops and car services. Such constructions are bright examples of grossly and vulgar ones in architecture. Other group is represented by temporal migrants attracted by the opportunity to find a job. Their life principles are directed to survive in alien natural and mental environment and they do not care about preservation of their temporal place of living.

A considerable number of Germans live in the Krasnoyarsk Territory as a result of the Soviet repressive policy. Demonstrative dependence on the quality of living conditions and residents' mentality is illustrated by the fact that despite the repressions, representatives of the German ethnos were able to preserve the features of their national mentality. i.e. love for order and thoroughness in household. Such feature was considered to be negative by marginal representatives of suburbs.

The process of marginal territories formation is inevitable and is a typical feature of modern cities. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century such territories in Krasnoyarsk were formed by single-storey wooden buildings having extremely low technical and aesthetic characteristics.

Currently modern multi-storey buildings consisting of compact flats are being constructed in the outskirts. High population density in combination with undeveloped infrastructure leads to marginal underclass's concentration in such districts.

The process of the modern dormitory districts formation looks like the peripheral building estate with ordinary panel building appearance. The difference with such building estates constructed in the 1960s-70s is that there were all necessary objects of social infrastructure located within a walking distance. People were considered to be lucky to have a flat in those building estates.

In 1978 the students of architectural department surveyed Krasnoyarsk residents. There was a question among others: “Where would you like to live: in a cottage or in a block of flats?” “Almost all respondents rejected the idea of living in a cottage as they were tired to live in a house without facilities. This means that in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was no such type of a building as a cottage in provincial Russian cities.

National mentality is interconnected with legal consciousness. **Undeveloped legal consciousness** is characterised by negative attitude to law, tendency to break it, confidence of impunity. During the Soviet period it was manifested in spontaneous construction of cellars in residential yards of building estates. Illegal construction of low-rise buildings had been occurring since the 1990s.

Undeveloped legal consciousness can be expressed in deviant behaviour as well. One of its manifestations is appearance of rubbish piles in the city outskirts. They are getting so large that can be rated as autonomous territorial formation.

Solving many city problems to a certain extent refers not to professional competence of an architect, but to administrative and legal sphere (Gontar N.V., 2017). There are both regulatory acts imperfection and insufficient monitoring of their fulfillment by executive authorities in the sphere of architecture and urban development. This problem becomes the most urgent in terms of low-rise building estate formation in the city suburbs.

Acts 48, 49 and 50.1 of “The Russian Federation City Planning Code” No. 190-FZ dated December 29, 2004, stipulate the development and expertise of project papers corresponding the technical regulations requirements.

The development of architectural and planning tasks for buildings up to 3 storeys can be specified only by a client order. Architectural and building supervision is not performed in the process of low-rise structures building. Only the most important architectural and planning decisions are considered by the urban development council. The adopted by the council decisions have the role of recommendations.

This situation occurred due to the absence of exact criteria of architectural correspondence to modern requirements in law regulations. That is why suburbs area development does not correspond to modern aesthetic and, due to the absence of proper supervision, technical requirements (Fig.1).



Figure 1. Buildings that do not meet regulatory requirements

The architecture of low-rise residential houses is inhomogeneous in style (Fig.2). While constructing a new building, the opinion of citizens living nearby is not taken into account. Perhaps, the architectural decision agreement with residents would allow to create harmonic environment of a separate territorial formation.

This situation is eased by the simplified way of rights registration for unauthorised buildings construction. The Federal Law No. 93-FZ “About introduction of changes to some Russian

Federation law regulations to the question of citizen's right to have simplified registration of detached objects of real estate" dated June 30, 2006, stipulates ownership recognition for unauthorised buildings construction. It is enough to provide a document certifying the ownership of a land lot and its cadastral passport. The right to unauthorised buildings construction and ownership of a land lot, which does not belong to a person can be recognised by the court provided that this land lot would be given to this person for constructed building in established order.

The construction of buildings too close to surrounding houses at development sites free from buildings has been happening quite often since the 1990s. As a result, the outskirts development has become more inhomogeneous. In some cases the City Planning Code was formally observed. In fact, sanitary conditions of buildings were deteriorated and infrastructure suffered. It would complicate reconstructive activities and make it impossible to make many architectural and planning decisions specified by the main plan of the city development in perspective.

**Low financial literacy** in addition to undeveloped legal conscience is the typical feature of national mentality. This feature was formed in the Soviet period when the majority of citizens were not house owners. The mentality of social community representatives was formed in conditions of economic stability based on centralised planning and means of production distribution. Due to the absence of high incomes, citizens lacked economic knowledge and economic activity skills. Incorrect evaluation of financial possibilities led to the appearance of a great number of unfinished buildings during the period from the 1990s up to 2010. Both low-rise buildings in the city outskirts constructed by individuals and blocks of flats are referred to them.



Figure 2. Examples of cottages (Novomlinskaya street)

The Krasnoyarsk tube, which was decided to be constructed without taking into account economic situation, is quite a bright example.

The number of redundant buildings in the outskirts was widened due to unfinished structures, the construction of which began in the Soviet period. Large industrial enterprises were evacuated to Krasnoyarsk during World War II. After the War Krasnoyarsk became a great industrial centre. The USSR defensive organisations, research and educational institutions were located in the suburbs and it could be explained by their proximity to natural wood areas.

Many industrial enterprises and research centres stopped their work in the 1990s. As a result, the number of redundant buildings was replenished due to the structures belonging to them. Abandoned and unfinished buildings were among them (Batalova, 2014).

Mentality defines professional thinking and administrative government peculiarities. The characteristic feature of local mentality is **absence of leadership qualities and inactivity in** making strategically important decisions both in social sphere and in the sphere of urban development and architecture. Historically there was a situation when provincial architects' activity was strictly regulated. Architectural styles formation and new tendencies appearance were lagging behind in comparison with Russian central regions. In the Soviet period, large architectural objects design and solution of significant urban development tasks were performed centrally by leading capital institutes. Consequently, **compilation thinking of an architect was created.**

As it was outlined, the content of the definition "mentality" is historically mobile. Important moments are the points of bifurcation, e.g. turning historical points identifying new tendencies of basic ideological society development.

### Morphogenesis stages of Krasnoyarsk city outskirts

Figure 3 presents the process of formation and modification of urban structure elements in suburban areas depending on historical process (Fig.3). It shows the stages of morphogenesis of Krasnoyarsk city outskirts during the period of 100 years.

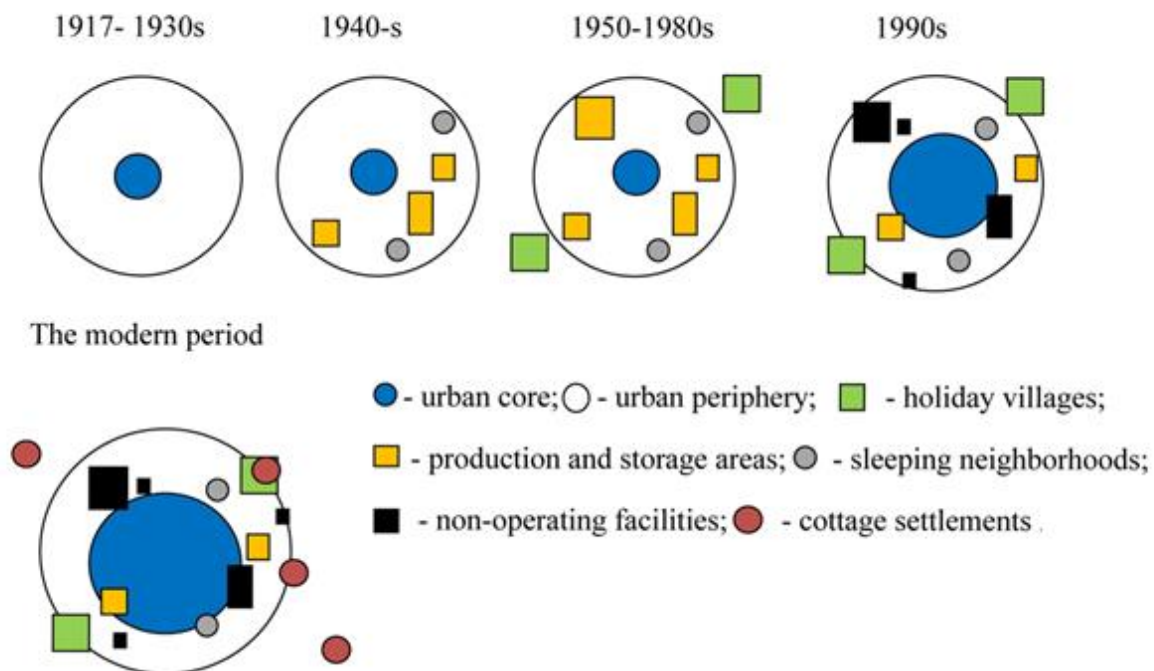


Figure 3. Morphogenesis stages of Krasnoyarsk city outskirts

The period of the 1917-30s is characterised by the destruction of old economic relations and formation of a new type of consciousness. At that time, the notion “outskirts” characterised not qualitative but geometrical features of urban space. There were no distinct boundaries between the central part of the city and outskirts because wooden buildings without facilities compiled a considerable part of the city centre development. Then some large residential and administrative objects were designed and constructed in historical city centre.

As noted above, large strategic significant enterprises were evacuated to Krasnoyarsk from central part of Russia during World War II (1941-1945). Heavy industry development was accompanying by building working residential areas and utility warehouses zones formation in the suburbs.

The 1950s were marked by great scope of residential houses construction. Central city ensembles were built. There was a sharp contrast between the central and peripheral architectural environments.

The 1960s are characterised by ordinary panel building construction. Suburban microdistricts were intended to solve the social problem of providing families with separate well-furnished flats. The structure of suburban areas was gaining heterogeneity at that period.

Residents’ mentality formed in conditions of low living standards and having subsidiary farms, which enabled formation of suburban areas. Such land lots were bought not for recreation, but with the aim to have cheap healthy food. As a result, numerous basements were built without authority permission along roads, natural hills and in the valleys.

Citizens got permission to build dovecots for carrier pigeons selection and breeding in the Soviet period. This situation was used to organize a basement under the building. There were dovecots in every yard in dormitory districts (Fig. 4).

Vast territories along railways and transmission lines were built up with box garages with basements. Meanwhile only some garage owners had cars (Fig. 5).

Krasnoyarsk growth as a large industrial centre enabled the expansion of industrial and communal warehouse areas. Consequently, the urban structure of outskirts was getting complicated and obtained its heterogeneity.

In Russia, the 1990s are characterised by radical destruction of political, economic and ideological society bases. Many people with their mentality formed during some generations’ life were not ready to new social and economic relations. There happened sharp negation of former values. Democracy was considered to be permissive.



Figure 4. Cellars and a dovecote. (2nd Khabarovskaya Street)



Figure 5. Garage arrays (Svobodny Prospekt)

Many industrial enterprises and state institutions stopped working at that period. The number of redundant buildings extremely increased (Fig.6). Sites were sold to private persons. The majority of citizens were aimed at gaining profit and enrichment. Krasnoyarsk unique natural landscape was destroyed. Multi-storey housing estate deprived of any services and transport linking to the city centre was built in the places of cut down suburban forests. Public gardens were destroyed and commercial buildings were constructed instead.



Figure 6. Redundant architectural structures (Svobodny Prospekt)

Areas with cottage estate of extremely low aesthetic quality started to appear. Microdistricts allocated for future kindergartens were developed with blocks of flats located too close to each other. City boundaries expanded because of population growth, which had gradually resulted in including garden plots into the structure of building development.

City outskirts morphology became more complicated. Building development structure was too non-uniform and mosaic.

### Conclusion

Comparing morphogenesis processes of suburban areas in Russian and foreign practice one can find out similar and specific features which analyses is not included in the tasks of this research. The presence of some general regularity acts of urban processes allows using foreign countries experience in solving discussed problems and that was outlined several times in publications (Kukina, 2013).

Any management activity of the society life is impossible if it does not correspond to the models of human thinking and social activity that is their mentality. The formation of the mentality of modern man in Russian conditions should be based on harmonic combination of freedom and choice of lifestyle and living environment with understanding their own responsibility and necessity to follow legal regulations.

The formation of the new consciousness type should be started with the creation of the regulation bases to monitor urban development process according to modern reality and perspectives of society development.

To produce urban building design in the suburban areas is more difficult than in the city core environment. Design solutions fulfilled in the outskirts can determine future model of city development.

Multisided analysis of landscape, functional, social and mental characteristics of a separate area must be taken into account in building decisions. Such area boundaries are determined by the characteristics mentioned above.

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