

Baroque Art and Architecture in France

Akhmedjanova Umida Bakhodirovna

Senior Lecturer, Department of Industrial Design, Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov, Tashkent

ABSTRACT: The role of art in human life can be compared with the role of science and religion: it also helps us to better understand ourselves and the world around us and develops creative abilities, forms the ability to independently evaluate works of art from different periods, develop scientifically based versions, hypotheses and assumptions. Consequently, our perception, our assessment of art cannot obey some general rules that are valid for all countries and eras; works of art must be considered exclusively in the context of the time and circumstances in which they were created.

KEYWORD: baroque, architecture, ensemble, created, art.

Second half of the 17th century - heyday of French architecture. In Paris, extensive city squares and large palace, public and religious buildings are being reconstructed and rebuilt.

Versailles was the former residence of the French kings in the city of Versailles, now a suburb of Paris. Versailles was built under the leadership of Louis XIV from 1661 and became a kind of monument to the era of the "Sun King", an artistic and architectural expression of the idea of absolutism.



Fig.1. Versailles palace and park ensemble in France.

The first work of French classicism architecture of the second half of the 17th century, in which the predominance of the artistic principles of classicism over old traditions is clearly felt.

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Fig.2. Ensemble of the palace and park Vaux-le-Vicomte (1655-1661).

The creators of this remarkable work, built for the Comptroller General of Finance Fouquet, were:

- architect Louis Leveau;
- master of gardening art Andre Le Nôtre;
- the painter Charles Lebrun, who took part in the decoration of the interiors of the palace and the painting of the plafonds. In the most ceremonial room of the palace - the oval salon, there is a rather strict order of Corinthian pilasters, and arched openings between the pilasters. Luxuriously decorated second tier of the wall. The interior space is illusoryly expanded by a favorite baroque technique - the introduction of mirrors in niches. In a figurative sense, the Lambert Hotel is the conservative top of the Polish emigration of the mid-19th century in Paris, since since 1843 the Lambert mansion has been the political headquarters and cultural center of the Polish emigrant diaspora in France, led by Adam Jerzy Czartoryski and his brother Konstantin.

The mansion was built by the architect Louis Le Vaux in 1640-1644 for the financier Jean-Baptiste Lambert; after the death of Jean-Baptiste in 1644, the building was inherited by his brother Nicolas.



Fig.3. Hotel Lambert in Paris.

Charles Lebrun, François Perrier and Eustache Lesueur worked on the interiors of the house. To this day, Lebrun's paintings of the "Gallery of Hercules" have been preserved; Lesueur's canvases from the house of Lambert were subsequently bought into the royal treasury and are kept in the Louvre.

Before his death in 1661, Cardinal Mazarin decides to transfer part of his personal fortune to the construction of a college in which sixty students could study - scholarships coming from poor noble families of four provinces that had just been annexed to France - Flanders, Alsace, Roussillon and Pinerol.



Fig.4. College of the Four Nations.

The main task of the college, called the College of the Four Nations, is to grow up an educated and loyal to the new fatherland nobility.

At the College of Mazarin, a Riding School and a Library were created, the basis of which were books from the personal collection of the cardinal. It was decided that the library would be open twice a week for everyone, ie. The Mazarin Library is the first public library in France.

The art of France during the Age of Enlightenment developed in the conditions of the decline of the feudal-absolutist system, the growth and consolidation of democratic anti-feudal forces of society on the eve of the bourgeois revolution, the decomposition of absolutism, and the strengthening of new social forces. These were processes that lasted decades.

The nobility tenaciously held on to their feudal privileges, the absolutist state guarded their church, supported the belief in their inviolability, pursuing all sorts of doubt and protest. But advanced social thought developed more and more rapidly, more and more often there were peasant and urban uprisings.

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