

# Peculiarities of Development of the Coloristics of Rural Dwellings in Halychyna (the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> c.– the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> c)

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***Abstract:** The article covers the coloristics of architectural and space surroundings of the rural dwellings in Western Ukraine (historical Halychyna) of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. – the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> c.*

***Keywords:** color, pattern, harmony*

## 1 Introduction

Now, when in modern residential architecture of the village the tradition of applying local building materials of natural origin such as woods, stone, clay, straw, shingles has been lost, we are becoming the witnesses of “chromatic intervention” of synthetic materials.[3] There arises the problem of visual “colour” disharmony in architectural and spatial surroundings as well as natural environment. If in urban localities colour is applied for the sake of space accentuation and visual diversification of artificially created surroundings, the situation is different in the country. Each ethnographic area has created its own colouristics, composition and texture in decoration of buildings, utility objects, clothing, characteristic of it only. As a rule, it was primarily connected with social and economic processes as well as natural geographical conditions: climate and landscape, which surround people. That is a colouristics, composition, texture, which have been elaborated under the influence of different conditions, constituted the response of residents, and they are optimal for the area.

## 2 Units I.

**Peculiarities of the way colouristics of rural dwelling architecture in Halychyna was shaped up starting with the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> c. till the 50ies of 20<sup>th</sup> c.** Colouristics of people's dwellings in the central Eastern zone of the ethnographic regions of Halychyna in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. – beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. was mainly dependent on building materials and traditions that shaped up on these territories. Internal and external wall were evened with clay and whitened with limestone. Even surface of a whitened wall provided opportunities for the development of painting and colouristic means of dwelling decorations. The widest variety was manifested while decorating external walls. The lower part of a wall was always accentuated by yellow colour or some other colourful types of clay. It is possible to come across white front wall while side and back walls are of brick-red colour on the territory closer to Dniester river. In the north of Western Podillia and in Ternopil part of Volyn yellow clay was mainly used for these purposes. [2]

Architectural and decorative means of organizing people's dwellings harmoniously mixed with other forms of folk art that became widely popular: pottery, weaving, embroidery, carpentry. Owing to the usage of natural colouring agents in traditional dwellings, subdued shades were achieved, creating harmonious ensemble with surrounding landscape. [2]

At the same time starting with the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. owing to the administrative program by Austro-Hungarian government, and then later by Polish, usage of bricks and limestone was encouraged during building towns and villages of Halychyna. This program was supported on the territories of Opillia and Western Podillia. At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> c. – beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> c usage of stone (limestone or sandstone) in folk architecture of residential dwellings in this region was quite a rare phenomenon despite its apparent availability: limestone was mainly used for non-residential buildings, stone fences and foundations under walls. Polish residents of some villages mainly used limestone and its texture and colouristics in folk buildings at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Colouristic solidity of light stone walls of limestone or sandstone was usually complemented with dark cherry or terracotta shade of bricks which contrasted with light colour of stone and accentuated its constructive elements: window and door reveals, ending of walls and gates, corners of buildings.

Peculiar feature of colouristic formation of people's dwelling in northern West of ethnographic regions of Halychyna is usage of building materials in natural colours and their complementation. Houses built with wooden blocks became increasingly popular on the territory of Eastern Nadsiania and Volyn in

the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. As a result, a new technique of covering wooden walls with oil wastes as an effective antiseptic became widely employed. Quite often different colouring agents were added to this solution such as burnt clay which was of reddish shade. Thus, the walls became red and brown. It was also typical for that territory to combine plastered or whitened planes with natural wooden planes. Vertical division of planes was prevailing.

Colouristic decoration of rural residential dwellings in northern West becomes widely employed starting with the end of 19<sup>th</sup> c. It was also popular to paint houses built of wooden blocks with white colour (with limestone), blue, yellow and green without a clay layer. Such dark colours as dark brown, dark cherry and also blue were used to decorate and accentuate forms of architectural details. At the same time brick and stone were becoming popular building materials as a result of direct influence of urban building traditions.

Folk building traditions of southern zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna are marked with simplicity which was manifested in the form of buildings, building materials and colouristics.

Monochromacy was a typical feature of a traditional Carpathian dwelling at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> c. Severe climate conditions, uneven surface of cut wood and the texture of timber prevented polychromacy in folk architecture. [1]

There were some rare exceptions such as villages in Turka and Staryi Sambir district in Lviv region. Here junctions of wooden cuts were covered with clay, whitened with limestone or limestone with addition of ultramarine. These stripes repeated rhythmically on the wall's plane, creating horizontal rhythm in a building. In many villages one could see windows or doors accentuated around by white stripes. Butt ends of locks were sometimes covered with white clay at the corners.

Spread of colouristics of urban culture in Halychyna's mountainous regions began much later than, for instance, in Lviv or Ternopil regions, manifesting itself mainly in small towns and their suburbs. At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> c. traditions of folk colouristic and artistically decorative ornamentation was preserved in residential dwellings.



Fig. 1 Samples of rural residential architecture in Halychyna starting with the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> c. till the 50ies of 20<sup>th</sup> c.

### 3 Units II.

**Developmental peculiarities within colouristics of rural residential architecture in Halychyna from mid 20<sup>th</sup> c. till the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> c.** A new stage in the development of rural residential building on the territory of western Ukraine is discussed, which is connected with changes in political, social and economic and cultural life of the territory in question. The meaning of new principles of planning, solidity of ensemble space composition in the architecture of rural dwellings while building a homestead - the forms and colouristics of single buildings are subordinated to the requirements of an ensemble. Territory of Western Ukraine becomes influenced by eastern culture of colouristic and artistic decorative ornamentation of residential buildings.

Development of building technologies, increase of possibilities of selection of industrial materials and constructive schemes in accordance with the requirements of rural individual builders expanded colouristic palette of rural architecture.

During 50-90ies of 20<sup>th</sup> c. new forms and techniques of colouristic and artistic decorative ornamentation of people's dwellings become increasingly popular. Artificial relief texture of a wall becomes more capital. New techniques (relief and ornamental textures, all kinds of relief decoration of single architectural and constructive elements of a building) become leading ones in ornamental organization of architecture of people's dwellings of all ethnic groups on the territory in question.

Artificial relief texture becomes widely spread in central eastern and north-western zones of ethnographic regions of Halychyna. At the same time one of the key features of central eastern zone of Halychyna, apart from artificial relief texture, is the usage of ceramic materials: differently coloured tiles are selected and pilaster and frieze are ornamented with them. The most popular element of rural dwellings of central eastern zone is the usage of all shade gradations of blue and grey, red and terracotta with the inclusion of bright colour accents. Natural colour of building materials such as stone (limestone), brick or their combination is also popular.

Green palette of colours developed in combination with different shade gradations of grey and red on the territory of northern western zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna starting with mid 20th c. Dominance of green is typical for the central part of Lviv region, where artificial relief texture is widely used. Implementation of colour palette of oily colour agents is also peculiar for northern western zone. Thus, in the north dark, red and brown colour agents are used combined with light bright accents of yellow, green and blue palette. On the territory of northern zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna yellow and brown, light red and brown palette of colours combined with white, gradation of green and grey becomes dominant in decorative ornamentation of rural dwellings. Artistic and graphic decoration of a wall's plane increases, enriched with accented palette of colours.

In the Carpathians it became popular to decorate dwellings with wooden lining boards, which were used throughout the whole perimeter of a building from foundations to roof. An increased palette of oily colouring agents as well as nitro dyes became quite affordable to people. Colouristics, which was chosen by village residents while decorating their building, changed in shade gradations. Among the mostly used are: light ochre, light yellow ochre, bright yellow and different gradations of grey which were mostly employed for a whole building with accentuated window and door frames, galleries by white colour.

Usage of light shades of yellow sand palette, i.e. light yellow, sandy grey, light yellow peach, light yellow terracotta, in modern rural architecture of the

Carpathian region can be associated with yellowish ochre shade of wood. In southern zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna bright yellow colours are actively used in facade decoration. Ochre brown, sometimes even red colouristics of wooden building is imitated by gradations of brown colours. Gradation of grey palette, which is most frequently implemented in high mountainous regions of the Carpathians, also resembles colouristics of wood which obtained steel shades.

At the turn of 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> c. there was a decrease of artistic and decorative means and their polychromatic decoration of people's dwellings on the territory of Halychyna. during 50-90ies of 20<sup>th</sup> c. colouristic ornamentation of people's dwellings, artistic and cultural ornamentation of wall planes developed due to a limited palette of dyes. It was accentuated by local (eastern) cultural tradition of colouristics development in folk architecture. Starting with the 90ies of 20<sup>th</sup> c. nuance colour palette of pigment materials has highly increased while decorating people's dwellings on the territory of Halychyna. it is connected with a new turn of industrial spread of colouring agents in Ukrainian market.

On the territory of central eastern zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna nuance colour palette of white, ochre, blue, red and terracotta gradations is increasing. Natural colour of building materials such as stone (limestone), brick or their combination is also popular. In Ternopil region while nuance colour palette has increased, the tradition of artistic and decorative ornamentation of wall planes has also been preserved.

On the territory of northern western zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna while decorating rural dwellings a palette of more complicated gradations of green, red, yellow, grey shade is increasing as well as yellow and brown, light red and brown palette combined with white.

While decorating a rural hut in the Carpathians gradations of light ochre, light yellow ochre, bright yellow colours are the most frequently used. In northern zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna owing to modern effective means of wood preservation from atmospheric influence natural building materials are actively used. Their authentic colouristics is preserved.



Fig. 2. Samples of rural residential architecture of Halychyna from mid 20th c. till the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> c.

#### 4 Units III.

Colouristics development of folk dwellings has changed the appearances of people's dwellings in Halychyna with the influx of industrially produced materials. At the beginning of temporal limits of this research polychromy of a traditional architectural and spacious environment composed a nuance colouristic harmony with the surrounding landscape. At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> c. polychromy of a rural dwelling starts its way towards contrasting relationship with the surrounding landscape owing to local pigment materials and introduction of colours building and pigment materials untypical for the region. Starting from the middle of 20th c. and till 90ies of 20<sup>th</sup> c. comes a stage when mainly a limited industrially made palette is used in colouristic organization of people's dwellings.

Pigment materials employed in people's dwellings during this period are as much as possible open and contrasting to the surrounding landscape. Starting from the middle of 90ies of 20<sup>th</sup> c. a palette of industrially produced pigment materials, that are used in rural residential architecture, is increasing. From that time on begins somewhat more harmonious correlation with the surrounding landscape.

On the territory of southern zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna some colouristic transformations of light, yellow ochre shades, red ochre (brown), dark brown, grey steel shades of wood take place. Gradations of blue (ultramarine), white and different gradations of green are much less used.

In northern western zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna white prevails as well as gradations of red and brown palette in combination with light, bright accents of yellow, green and blue palette. In the north of the region yellow and brown as well as light red and brown palette combined with white or gradation of light blue dominates in artistic and decorative ornamentation of dwellings.

Peculiarity of central eastern zone of Halychyna has provided a distinct development of people's dwellings decoration, where attention is paid to graphic and decorative ornamentation of wall planes, which makes this group similar with the neighbouring Khmelnytsk region, also proving its similarity with central eastern stylistic peculiarities of buildings. At the same time central eastern zone of ethnographic regions of Halychyna, including Western Podillia, differs from Khmelnytsk palette of colouristic formations by colouristic loading of wall planes, prevalence of warmer colour palette.

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