**PROGRAM**

of

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE

PRESERVATION OF AZERBAIJAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

**RENEWAL, DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE HERITAGE OF** **GARABAKH AND EASTERN ZANGESUR**

April 2022

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**Azerbaycan University of Architecture and Construction**

**PREAMBULE**

Since ancient times, Garabag has been a center of civilization and culture. In the 4th century BC. the state of Caucasian Albania arose on the territory of Northern Azerbaijan. Albanian architecture developed in accordance with the laws common to Eastern Christian architecture. It has features of similarity with the architecture of neighboring Christian nations. At the same time, Albanian architecture, and in particular the Christian architecture of Garabag, has striking features of originality in the art of construction, the defining features of which are the variety of building materials. One can also name the decorative solution characterized by the interweaving of motifs of Christian iconography, Muslim decor and pagan symbols as one of the main features of the Caucasian Albania’s architecture. This features can be traced in the architecture of the monuments of Garabag, both Christian and Muslim.

The war imposed by Armenia against Azerbaijan and the subsequent occupation of 20% of the territory of our country, including most of Garabag territory, became a real disaster for the cultural heritage in general and for architectural monuments as well. During the occupation, Azerbaijani scientists did not have complete information about the state of architectural monuments in the occupied territories. But even fragmentary information leaked to the press and the Internet, as well as the testimonies of foreign visitors to Garabag, spoke of hundreds of destroyed monuments and unprecedented falsifications. According to materials published in the Armenian media at various times, satellite footage, reports of OSCE missions on the situation in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, as well as according to data from other sources, hundreds of historical monuments have been completely destroyed in these territories during the conflict. In violation of international conventions, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention "On the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict" and the Protocols thereto, as well as the UNESCO Convention "On the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage", the Armenian side destroyed or falsified architectural monuments as Armenian, took away the monuments of applied art, which were then presented as their own.

International organizations responsible for the preservation of the architectural heritage showed astonishing indifference in the current situation, not paying attention to the numerous calls of the Azerbaijani side to stop the destruction of the Azerbaijani heritage in the Azerbaijani territories.

Today, when Azerbaijan, having restored justice, returned the territories that rightfully belonged to it, the whole terrible picture of the deliberate destruction of the architectural heritage and, in general, the entire urban development infrastructure in the lands of Garabag and Eastern Zangezur has been revealed. Invaders owned these territories for almost 30 years, had been destroying monuments, erasing cities from the face of the earth.

The scientific conference is devoted to a wide range of problems of preservation and reuse of architectural heritage, protection of the Azerbaijani architectural heritage, preserved in the territory of Garabag and East Zangezur of ancient times and badly damaged as a result of almost 30 years of occupation, as well as urban planning, legal and other issues of renewal and development of the region.

**THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE** is to determine the main tasks for the preservation of the architectural heritage in Garabag and eastern Zangezur, develop recommendations for the restoration of architectural monuments, substantiate proposals for improving the system of protecting the architectural and urban planning heritage; on the restoration, construction and development of cities and settlements, taking into account modern requirements and preserving their historical and architectural heritage, including historical centers, minimizing negative factors affecting the historical cultural heritage in the context of urbanization; attraction of organizational and financial resources necessary to address key issues of preservation and use of cultural heritage sites in traditional villages and historical cities.

In connection with the task at hand, the conference implies consideration of the following topics:

• issues of restoration, protection and use of individual monuments and complexes that suffered as a result of hostilities and during the occupation;

• issues of urban development of cities and settlements destroyed in the study area;

• creation of an optimal mechanism for managing new construction.

The conference is supposed to consider a wide range of issues related to the architectural and urban planning restoration of the liberated territories, develop recommendations for the rehabilitation of the architectural heritage, analyze the practice of the existing management system in historical cities and create an optimal mechanism for a new system for the protection of historical heritage, taking into account the collected positive and negative experience ... Particular attention should be paid to the involvement of various stakeholders in this process (population, local governments, public organizations, business, etc.). In this regard, the conference program involves the participation of not only scientists, but also representatives of the above-named structures.

**Topic 1- "Preservation and use of the architectural heritage of Garabag and East Zangezur**

This topic implies the disclosure of the main issues related to the protection of certain architectural monuments and complexes, falsified or destroyed during the occupation, including:

• Practice of restoration and conservation of architectural monuments and town-planning complexes

• Issues of adaptation and use of architectural monuments

• New technologies and methods of preserving historical heritage monuments

**Topic 2- “Management of cultural heritage”.**

This topic implies the disclosure of the main issues related to the creation of a management mechanism for the protection of monuments and complexes, including:

• Problems of heritage management in the context of intensive development

• Creation of a legal mechanism and issues of subordination (ownership) of monuments

• Social aspects of heritage management

**Topic 3- "Issues of urban development of the liberated territories, the creation of smart cities"**

This topic implies the disclosure of the main issues related to the restoration of the destroyed infrastructure of the cities of Garabag, including:

• Creation of modern cities

• Preservation and restoration of historical territories. The role of heritage in sustainable development of the region

• Transport problems and engineering communications

**Time and place of the conference** April 18-20, 2022, Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction

**Conference participants.** A wide range of specialists involved in the protection of architectural heritage, government agencies responsible for the protection of heritage, as well as specialists in modern technologies used in the construction of cities, architects, urban planners, sociologists, culturologists and art historians are invited to participate in the conference.

**Form of participation**: hybrid (personally or online)

**Requirements to participants.** To participate in the conference, it is necessary to send to the conference organizing committee an application for participation and abstracts for the conference of no more than 2-3 pages (or 300 words). The organizing committee preserves the right to reject abstracts that do not correspond to the topic of the conference.

The full text of the speeches will be published in a separate collection after the end of the conference.

**The working languages** of the conference are Azerbaijani, Russian, English

**Expenses** - if the participant wishes to participate personally, all expenses in the territory of Azerbaijan will be covered by the host. All transport and other expenses are at the expense of the participant.

**Application form for participation in the conference**

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| Surname, name, patronymic of the authors (s) |   |
| Organization |   |
| Mailing address |   |
| Position |   |
| Academic degree and title |   |
| Contact number |   |
| Email |   |
| Form of participation - full-time, part-time |   |
| Topic |   |

**Key dates**

The deadline to send an application for participation and abstracts is 01/30/2022

The deadline for submitting the final report is 03/15/22

**Organizing committee address:**

e-mail: Sabina.hajiyeva@azmiu.edu.az