A review of selected monuments in Tallinn, cultural heritage and geo-touristic context

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ABSTRACT

Tallinn is the capital of Estonia, is located in the northern part of the country on the Baltic Sea, and has an interesting geological structure of the sub-strate, which has contributed to the impact on the architectural construction of the city (the widespread use of Ordovician limestone in the construction of houses and fortifications). The city is located within a chilly temperate climate. Its history dates back to the XIII century and over the centuries it has had cancer. Originally founded by the Danes, it was also ruled by the Swedes, Germans, Russians and Estonians. This contributed to the impact of these cultures on urban planning of the city.

Keywords: Tallinn, Historic monuments, Old city, Klints, Ordovician limestone.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tallinn is the current capital of Estonia. The town is located in the north of the country on the Bay of Tallinn, which is part of the so-called Gulf of Finland. The city has more than 400 thousand inhabitants. Tallinn is situated on the Baltic Sea and has strong relationship with trade. By this is the city of the strong influence of many cultures. In addition to Estonian and Finnish can be seen in the architecture of the city cultural influences Danish, German, Russian and many others. In general, the landscape is dominated by the old town with a monumental city walls soaring towers and church Paleozoic isolated hill on which the castle is localized (Fig. 1). 2002 was held here 47th Eurovision Song Contest 2002. In 2011, the city is awarded the title of European Capital of Culture. Since 2013 for the residents of Tallinn there is no charge on buses and trams.

2. HISTORY OF THE CITY

Initially the settlement belonging to Estonians and also inhabited by Finnish merchants, it was con-
quered by the Danes, who founded the city of Lübeck in Swedish. In the Finnish and Estonian Tallinn name translates to "the Danish city" (Taani linn). Danes are building one of the largest medieval city fortifications, about 2.5 km long city walls to a height of 16 m and having 45 towers. Soon, in 1285 Reval (another name of the city) becomes a member of the Hanseatic Germans settle ushering member of this city, who with a member of Estonia is bought by the Teutonic Knights. Town with northern Estonia is ruled by the Swedes and the Russians 1710, who had hosting of the city until 1918 when Estonia regains independence and after World War II enters the Soviet Union, and in 1991 to be newly declare its independence, and 2004 to become part of Union [1-7].

3. THE GEOLOGY OF THE CITY

Due to its location in the vicinity of Tallinn Peribaltic Synclise, the city can boast of interesting geology, geomorphology, reflecting well the region. Directly on the shores of the Bay of Tallinn outcrop rocks belonging to the Cambrian period (and in the eastern part of the bay - Vendian). City and especially the upper old town is set on a small isolated hill composed of Ordovician limestones (Figs. 2, 3). It is worth mentioning that the Baltic Klint is a clear dividing line between lying north of the Baltic shield him from lying south platform covered with younger sediments. Klint is clear in the construction of Europe, stretching from the island of Öland in Sweden in the west to Lake Ladoga in Russia in the east. It consists of a steep slope with a height of up to 48 m. In the area of Tallinn Klint is composed of sandstones light cream color (hard surface crumbling) forming shoals thin interbedded clay rocks. Lying on them Ordovician limestones light creamy fine bed unveiling also create many line the coast of Estonia. There are numerous fossils in them, such as bryozoans, corals, brachiopods, arthropods (trilobites) and echinoderms (crinoids), which formed at the warm sea. This limestone due to its availability and ease of molding blocks is often used in the construction of various monuments of the city (eg. city fortifications). Light cream Ordovician carbonate rocks are well visible in the many buildings from various cities of the period [8].

Fig. 2. The natural slope of Ordovician limestone klint and a part of the fortifications.

Fig. 3. Ordovician limestone with fossils of snails.

4. CLIMATE OF TALLINN

Tallinn is situated in the cool temperate climate with dominant low temperatures, strongly mitigate by the influence of the sea. The average temperature in January is -3.4°C July while 17.2°C. Average rainfall is about 500 mm, and the growing season is about 190 days. Due to the much cooler climate than e.g. in Poland, tourist in Tallinn can observe such oddities as blooming peonies at the turn of June and July, and the strawberry
season is just beginning in this period [9].

5. SELECTED HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Tallinn as any European city has a number of numerous monuments from the time of its creation (from XIII century), after years today. These monuments testify to a variety of architectural styles prevailing at that time in the city and cultural influences settlement.

Undoubtedly, the oldest part of the city is the castle hill with preserved fortifications XII and XIV century period [10]. There is also the cathedral of the tombstone of 1585 dedicated to Pontus de la Gardie, the Swedish governor of Estonia. From this period are preserved city walls (partly restored; Fig. 5A), and numerous churches located in the center. Examples are the church of St. Mary's Cathedral, founded in the first half of XIII century, with numerous chapels and epitaphs (Fig. 5C), the Church of the Holy Spirit, St. Nicholas, St. Michael, who later was renamed the church (in 1716) with a Baroque iconostasis of 1720, and the church of St. Olaf (XV century) with a Gothic tower with a height of 159 m (Fig. 5D), probably one of the highest of those buildings in Europe and the world. The market monument from this period is the Gothic town hall from the XIV and XV century (Fig. 5B) and Great Guild House (Fig. 5E), built in the XV century, in the Gothic style (now the Historical Museum). In the city there are also many medieval houses and granaries [5-7, 11].

In a different style built in 1718 is Kadriorg Palace, designed by Italian Nicolo Michettiiego (served as the summer residence of Peter the Great, Fig. 5F) [12]. A little later the cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky in the typical style of building the church (Byzantine-Russian, Fig. 5G) [13].

From this period comes from a variety of houses in Tallinn, including a 1904 neo-Gothic bank, theater from 1910 built in the modernist style and art house from 1934, which represents the functionalist style. From the interwar period must first replace the lump referring to the Palace building Kadrigorg Presidential Palace (Fig. 5H), built in 1938, as well as many other similar buildings.
Fig 5. Examples of different architectural styles in Tallinn.
A. Fortifications from the turn of the XIII and XIV centuries, B. Hall of the XIV century, C. St. Olaf's Church believe the height of 125 m, D. The interior of the Cathedral of St. Mary of the XIII century, E. Guild Building (Historical Museum) from XV century, F. Castle from the XVIII century, G. Orthodox St. A. Nevsky Cathedral from the XIX century, H. Residence of the President of Estonia from the early XX century, I. Socialist realist house from Soviet times, J. Modern XXI century skyscrapers, K. Adaptation of the XIX century home in a modern office building.
There can be seen also numerous buildings referring to the period between the wars (functionalism) and the post-war (socialist realism, Fig. 5I) against which stand out firmly skyscrapers built at the turn of the XX and XXI century Scandinavian style (Fig. 5J, K). Some of them in a rather interesting way adopt older buildings, combining modernity earlier styles [2, 14-16].

6. CONCLUSIONS

Tallinn is the multi-cultural city and a major tourist attraction. The city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. Within the city are very interesting geological structures, which are reflected both in the orography of the city (geomorphological) and its architecture. In among the sights of Tallinn, there are many varieties and styles creating a curious marriage of Western culture to the east. Multitude of architectural styles corresponds to the multicultural city that is visible both in its history and modern times.

TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

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