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## **ACADEMICIAN MIKAYIL USEYNOV'S PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CAREER**

**Abstract.** Mikayil Huseynov's early works consisted of designs for civil buildings. Based on his projects, the construction of buildings was carried out in Baku, Ganja, Nakhchivan, Shaki, as well as in other cities and districts of the republic. Within a short period of time, cultural and public utility buildings were also constructed according to his designs in cities such as Dushanbe, Moscow, Ordzhonikidze, and others.

Through his creative explorations, Mikayil Huseynov contributed significantly to the development of national architecture. With his monumental residential and public building projects – including the House of Scientists in Baku (1946), the Uzeyir Hajibeyov Azerbaijan State Conservatory (1937–1939), the Nizami Literature Museum (1946), the Nizami Cinema Center (1937–1939), the Azerbaijan Polytechnic Institute (1931–1933), residential buildings for employees of the Baku Soviet (currently the building of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic, 1938–1941), and buildings of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences – he established a distinctive architectural style in Azerbaijani architecture.

M. Huseynov's scholarly activity began in 1963 with the publication of the book "The History of Architecture of Azerbaijan" (co-authored with A. Salamzade and L. Bretanitsky) and continued in 1973 with his role as scientific editor of the book "Soviet Architecture of Azerbaijan" (authors: A. Salamzade and L. Bretanitsky). For nearly 40 years (1948–1988), M. Huseynov served as the director of the Institute of Architecture and Art of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and supervised the academic research of nearly 100 postgraduate students.

**Key words:** Mikayil Huseynov, Azerbaijani architecture, national architectural traditions, public buildings, architectural heritage.

**Introduction.** Azerbaijan, located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has made significant contributions to the world architectural treasury like other areas of culture. Our outstanding masters created magnificent works combining the best traditions of world architecture with national features, Eastern and European architectural styles. This resulted in the formation of the Azerbaijani school of architecture. The 1930s–50s are mainly associated with the successful creative endeavors of two outstanding architects – Sadig Alakbar oğlu Dadashov (1905–1946) and Mikayil Alasgar oğlu Useynov (1905–1992), who made invaluable contributions to the development of Azerbaijani national architecture.

Dwelling and public buildings built in the classical architectural style occupy a special place among the works designed by M.Useynov, one of the most prominent figures of the Azerbaijani school of architecture. The architect, who turned classical architecture into his creative credo and motto, succeeded in creating architectural examples of high artistic value that are unparalleled in our national architecture.



**Fig. 1. Academician Mikayil Useynov.**

It should be noted that the architect's work coincided with a complex and difficult period – the period of the adoption of the Resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers “On the Elimination of Extremism in Architectural Design and Construction” in 1955, which had a negative impact on the artistic and architectural appearance of cities and settlements. This main factor, which undermined the development of architecture, also affected his work. This limitation can be observed in the design of a number of public buildings intended for construction in architecturally important areas. This limitation can be observed in the design of a number of public buildings intended for construction in architecturally important areas.

**The interpretation of the main material.** M. Useynov was one of the founders of the professional architectural school of Azerbaijan in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. About 200 of his projects were implemented in the country and abroad. His first works were projects of civil buildings, which were constructed in Baku, Ganja, Nakhchivan, Sheki, Mingachevir, Gazakh, and other cities and regions of the republic based on his projects. Cultural and dwelling buildings were built in Dushanbe, Moscow, Ordzhonikidze, etc. based on his projects in a short time. The fact that he brought a national color to Azerbaijani architecture without abandoning the advanced and new trends of world architecture testifies to Mikayil Useynov's high professionalism. Masterfully using the synthesis of Eastern and Western architectural schools, Mikayil Useynov, whose researches contributed to the development of our national architecture, left his mark on Azerbaijani architecture by creating designs of magnificent dwelling and public buildings (The “House of Scientists” in Baku (1946), the “Azerbaijan State Conservatory” named after U. Hajibeyov (1937–1939), the “Literary Museum named after Nizami” (1946), the “Nizami” cinema center (1937–1939), the “Azerbaijan Polytechnic Institute” (1931–1933), dwelling buildings for the employees of the “Baku Soviet” (currently the building of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic (1938–1941), the buildings of ANAS, the Kapaz Hotel in Ganja, dwelling buildings in Mingachevir, the Teachers' Seminary in Gazakh, etc.).



**Fig. 2. Azerbaijan State Conservatory” named after U.Hajibeyov.**



**Fig. 3. The “Nizami” cinema center.**



**Fig. 4. The building of ANAS.**

The use of symmetrical composition occupied a special place in the architect's work. His symmetrically designed projects include two 10-story dwelling buildings, 16-story houses (1970s) next to the Government House, the 16-story Azerbaijan Hotel (1969) on the western side of the Freedom Square and the Absheron Hotel (1985) on the eastern side; the "Nizami" cinema center, an example of the Greek and national architectural style, and its symmetrical counterpart buildings. The construction of the Freedom Square ensemble in Baku occupied a significant place in Useynov's creative career in the 60s–80s. The architect's work was highly appreciated and he was awarded the State Prize. Hotel projects occupied a special place in Academician M. Useynov's creative career. The architect was commissioned to design the Moscow Hotel in the Baku amphitheater, on H. Javid Avenue in 1970, and the master accomplished masterfully with this task. The construction of the hotel, which blends harmoniously into the landscape, began in late 1977. The architect applied the neoclassical and romantic approach he used during the construction of the "Absheron" and "Azerbaijan" hotels to the construction of the Moscow Hotel. The hotel was put into operation in 1980, with a total area of 15,233 square meters.

All 3 hotels built in Baku, being the dominants of their location, have become the key elements in the formation of the city planning structure. The

hotels “Absheron” (inventory number 3395), “Azerbaijan” (3316), “Moscow” (3374) were included in the list of the monuments of local importance in the catalog “Classification of immovable historical and cultural monuments under state protection in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by their importance”, approved by the decision No. 132 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2001. The “Azerbaijan” and “Absheron” hotels are important components of the Freedom Square, “closing” it by strengthening the entrance and exit of Neftchilar Avenue to the Freedom Square. The Absheron Hotel (1985), which frames the square on the right side of the Government House, consists of 1211 rooms and was built as a mirror image of the Azerbaijan Hotel (1969).

The architect implemented another hotel project in 1973, building the Kapaz Hotel in Ganja (architects M.Useynov, N.Akhundova). The city’s Nizami Square has formed as a city planning node by constructing the hotel. The composition of the civil building, which has become the dominant of the square, is completed by the monument of Nizami Ganjavi erected in 1947. The nine-story hotel overlooks the picturesque Ganja River and has a closed courtyard. The architect used national ornaments and local architectural motifs skillfully, combining them with modernity in the design. His work is also important in terms of preserving national architecture of the Soviet period.

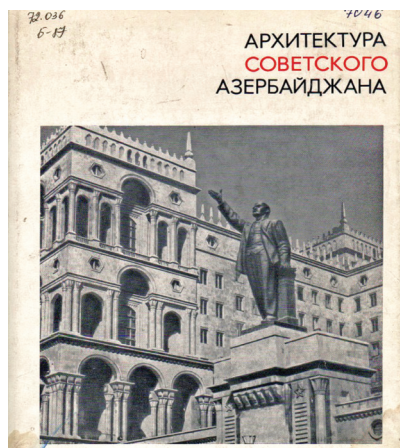
M.Useynov also conducted valuable research in the field of studying the history of Azerbaijani architecture. The scientist paid particular attention to the study and preservation of the national architectural heritage of Azerbaijan. He researched the synthesis of Eastern and Western architectural traditions and applied this synthesis to contemporary architecture.

M.Useynov, who showed great interest in architectural heritage while still a student at the Azerbaijan Polytechnic Institute, together with his student friend and colleague S.Dadashov, conducted measurements at the Palace of the Shirvanshahs in 1924, worked on its drawings and published them on A.Shusev’s advice. The architect participated in the competition for the design of the mausoleum of the outstanding Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi in 1926, and was awarded. When developing sketches for the tomb, he studied Ajami Abubakir oglu Nakhchivani’s historical mausoleum heritage, and designed the Nizami Mausoleum as a two-tiered underground crypt and an above-ground tomb, benefiting from his style.

His interest in architectural heritage led him to produce a fundamental research work, the book “Architecture History of Azerbaijan”, together with A.Salamzade and L.Bretanitsky in 1963, which marked the beginning of a national school of architectural science. The book “Architecture of Soviet Azerbaijan” by authors L.Bretanitsky and A.Salamzade was published under his scientific editorship in 1973. Conservation work in the Shirvanshahs Palace Complex and the Maiden Tower was carried out under his leadership and advice. He provided scientific and creative support for the projects of restoration of religious, memorial and civil buildings located in various regions of Azerbaijan.



**Fig. 5. The book “Architecture History of Azerbaijan”**



The distinguished architect was also engaged in scientific, pedagogical and public work. He was elected a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan several times. M.Useynov headed the Institute of Architecture and Art of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences and the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan (since 1947) for almost 40

**Fig. 6. The book “Architecture of Soviet Azerbaijan”**

years (1948-1988). The organization of the Alley of Honor is associated with his name.

**Conclusion.** Academician M.Useynov is the author of more than 100 scientific works. Dozens of dissertations were defended under his supervisor, and the personnel potential of the national architectural science was formed. The International Academy of Architecture of the Eastern Countries was established on the initiative of the scientist in 1992, and its first president was Mikayil Useynov. The synthesis of M.Useynov's scientific and practical career forms the basis of his great contributions to Azerbaijani architecture. He is known as a scientist with theoretical knowledge and an architect with extensive practical experience.

Scientific research and architectural work form a unity in his work. His practical projects and scientific works, the generations he raised and the academies he organized served to enrich Azerbaijani architectural science and its international recognition.

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#### **Rahibə Əliyeva (*Azərbaycan*)**

#### **AKADEMIK MIKAYIL HÜSEYNOVUN PRAKTİK VƏ ELMI FƏALİYYƏTİ**

İlk işləri mülki binalarının layihələri olmuş, onun layihələri əsasında Bakıda, Gəncədə, Naxçıvanda, Şəkidə respublikanın digər şəhər və rayonlarında binaların tikintisi həyata keçirilmişdir. Az vaxtda onun layihələri əsasında eləcə də Düşənbədə, Moskvada, Orconikidzedə və s. şəhərlərdə mədəni-məişət binaları tikilmişdir. Öz axtarışları ilə milli memarlığımızın inkişafına nail olmuş Mikayıl Hüseynov əzəmətli yaşayış və ictimai binaların lahiyələri ilə (Bakıdakı “Alimlər evi” (1946), Ü.Hacıbəyov adına “Azərbaycan Dövlət Konservatoriyası” (1937–1939), “Nizami adına Ədəbiyyat Muzeyi”nin (1946), “Nizami” kino mərkəzi (1937–1939), Azərb. Politexnik İnstitutu (1931–1933), “Bakı Soveti” işçiləri üçün yaşayış binaları (hazırda Respublika Nazirlər Kabineti binası (1938–1941), AMEA-nın binaları) Azərbaycan memarlığında öz dəsti-xəttini qoymuşdur. M.Useynovun elmi fəaliyyəti 1963-cü ildə “Azərbaycanın memarlıq tarixi” kitabı ilə başlamış (Ə.Salamzadə və

L.Bretanitskiylə birlikdə), 1973-cü ildə “Azərbaycanın Sovet memarlığı” kitabının elmi redaktorluğu ilə davam etdirmişdir (müəlliflər Ə.Salamzadə, L.Bretanitskiy). M.Useynov 40 ilə yaxın (1948–1988) AMEA-nın Memarlıq və İncəsənət İnstitutunun direktoru vəzifəsində çalışmış, 100-ə yaxın aspirantın elmi rəhbəri olmuşdur.

**Açar sözlər:** Mikayıl Hüseynov, Azərbaycan memarlığı, milli memarlıq ənənələri, ictimai binalar, memarlıq irsi.

**Рахиба Алиева (Азербайджан)**

### **ПРАКТИЧЕСКАЯ И НАУЧНАЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ АКАДЕМИКА МИКАИЛА УСЕЙНОВА**

Первые работы Микаила Усейнова были связаны с проектированием гражданских зданий. По его проектам осуществлялось строительство зданий в Баку, Гяндже, Нахчыване, Шеки, а также в других городах и районах республики. В короткие сроки по его проектам были возведены культурно-бытовые здания в Душанбе, Москве, Орджоникидзе и других городах.

Благодаря своим творческим поискам Микаил Усейнов внес значительный вклад в развитие национальной архитектуры. Его проекты монументальных жилых и общественных зданий – Дом ученых в Баку (1946), Азербайджанская государственная консерватория имени Узеира Гаджибейли (1937–1939), Музей литературы имени Низами (1946), киноцентр «Низами» (1937–1939), Азербайджанский политехнический институт (1931–1933), жилые дома для работников Бакинского Совета (ныне здание Кабинета Министров Республики, 1938–1941), а также здания НАНА – сформировали его индивидуальный стиль в архитектуре Азербайджана.

Научная деятельность М. Усейнова началась в 1963 году с публикации книги «История архитектуры Азербайджана» (в соавторстве с А. Саламзаде и Л. Бретаницким) и была продолжена в 1973 году научным редактированием книги «Советская архитектура Азербайджана» (авторы: А. Саламзаде, Л. Бретаницкий). Около 40 лет (1948–1988) М. Усейнов занимал должность директора Института архитектуры и искусства НАНА и был научным руководителем около 100 аспирантов.

**Ключевые слова:** Микаил Усейнов, архитектура Азербайджана, национальные архитектурные традиции, общественные здания, архитектурное наследие.