

## **Architecture: a testimony to artistic and cultural evolution.**



**The relationships between art, culture, and scientific advancement; architecture's evolution over the span of human time; its central role as a medium and expression of art; the role of scientific advance in facilitating the creation of what was previously confined to an idea; the role of the state and/or patronage in terms of support for architecture as a statement of culture; the degree of complementary or conflict between different artistic architectural styles.**

The evolution of the architecture in our Colombian society has been determined by different facts which have contributed to create our historical memory.

Undoubtedly the religious architecture created in Latin America after the Conquest between 1510 to 1810, brought not only majestic buildings created with little touched of European Gothic styles, but a series of cultural traditions which have remained active during centuries through artistic and cultural legacies specially those related to Catholic manifestations.

The churches were built as a sacred place to profess people's devotions and faith, however, they were the starting point for a countless of cultural evidences based on beliefs.

The celebration of the holy week is perhaps the most highlighted cultural and artistic manifestation in our society. Taking the church like the main point to congregate its loyal devout community.

To understand how the artistic and cultural evolution in the Colombian society has been developed through years, it is extremely necessary to mention how the Spanish architecture brought a change in the way to see the world.

Just like the Renaissance marked an evolution in the world society, The America continent conquest marked a dramatic change in the evolution of our traditional customs which were basically indigenous manifestations.

The Spanish architecture through its churches, squares, palaces changed radically the normal course of the Pre-Hispanic culture.

Gradually it was introduced the new style of life coming from Spain, which brought a testimony and historical process from the old European continent aspects.

The religious art collection paintings and sculptures full of expensive ornaments and sorrow faces ,modified culturally the traditional manifestation of faith which passed from gods rituals to the adoration to deities manifested in images and sacred places like churches and monasteries. A testimony of the cultural evolution evidenced through ceremonies, the conservation of the architectural patrimony which remember us our memory in history.

Most of those colonial buildings were declared architectural heritage of the country due to its important meaning to our society talking about historical memory. They still on have been used to expand the culture.

What it was the residence of the inquisitors nowadays is a cultural center that promotes art, science or literature.

In the last few years, the Colombian government has invested a considerable budget to promote and fortify the cultural activities in different cities along the country.

The creation of the Ministry of Culture changed considerable the population thoughts toward the needs of creation of cultural manifestation spaces to optimize it.

The architecture supports to fortify those spaces that promote the artistic development; the transformation of uses of old buildings to cultural places have got to inspire and motivate the community to use them for different artistic performances like concerts, literature conventions, art galleries ,for projection of documentaries made by local students and photography showrooms.

The art in Colombia has become a very important aspect in our society; it has been the platform to change the Colombian image in the world through the different artistic manifestations which help us to forget about the intern army conflict. But the main cultural evolution testimony inherited from architectures is undoubtedly the use of the brick as the main construction system brought by Spanish to America during the submission period.

Nowadays the brick is used to create since small monuments to big constructions; it has become the main building element in the Colombian culture and it is also known as the brick country, everywhere you see there is a brick to remember you it.

The use of the brick not only gave solution to a construction system but it started to generate a little industry which started in small towns with people who lived in the countryside. Little by little, this activity became an industrialized movement which is nowadays an economic activity that involved different type of population.

Another important heritage from the old continent, is the one related to the market building, not only it is a place to commercialize products but the intercultural space where many cultural Colombian manifestation take place.

Colombia is naturally a multicultural country and all those demonstration of diversity are evident in those spaces like markets, flea markets and improvised little market in public squares.

The diversity of our country has been the result of the mixture of our society influenced by the European and African heritage which have come together with the architecture and the different religious contributions, that have marked the most important and relevant facts which determined what the Colombian society is nowadays.