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Cover story

Lviv is a major city in western Ukraine. Lviv celebrated its 750th anniversary in September 2006. On 12th June 2009 the Ukrainian magazine Focus assessed Lviv as the best Ukrainian city to live in. The city of Lviv is regarded as one of the main cultural centres of today's Ukraine. It has a philharmonic orchestra and the Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet, seen at the cover. In 1895, the city of

Lviv announced an architectural competition for the best design of the theatre. An independent jury unhesitatingly chose the design by Zygmunt Gorgolewski graduated at the Berlin Building Academy, who surprised the jury by planning to locate the building in the centre of the city and in order to solve the space problem by proposal to enclose the Poltva River underground, and instead of using a traditional foundation, to use a solid concrete base, for the first time in Europe. The Lviv Theatre of Opera was opened on 4th October 1900 and is built in the classical tradition with using forms and details of Renaissance and Baroque architecture, also known as the Viennese neo-Renaissance style. Standing in niches on either side of the main entrance are allegorical figures representing Comedy and Tragedy and figures of muses embellish the top of the cornice. The building is crowned by large bronze statues, symbolizing Glory, Poetry and Music.

The historic centre of Lviv with its old buildings and cobblestone roads has survived the Second World War. The historic city centre is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The city has many industries and institutions of higher education such as the Lviv University and the Lviv Polytechnic.

The great main building of the Lviv Polytechnic, seen at the first small picture, was designed in 1873 by Professor Julian Zachariewicz on the model of Munich Polytechnic frontage and was built in 1874-1877, starting on 7th October 1877. The Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph the First on 13th September 1880 was donated 11 paintings ordered in Jan Matejko's atelier to the Lviv Polytechnic, illustrating allegorically the history of mankind development, situated in the Lviv Polytechnic Hall till today, and seen at the second small picture. In November 2009 Lviv Polytechnic National University will celebrate 165th anniversary of its founding, and during its ceremony the performance of one of the University artistic assembles, seen at the third small picture can be expected.

