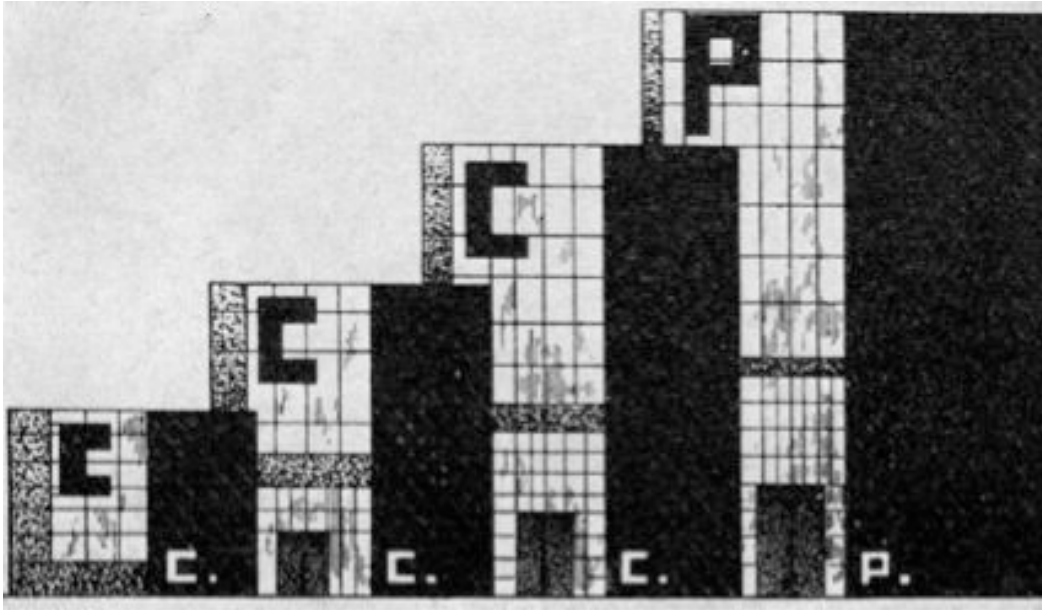


How to Preserve an Experiment? Soviet Avant-Garde Architecture 1917-1933;



Prof. Xenia Vytuleva

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Fridays, 9.00am - 11.00 am

300 Buell Hall

Office hours by appointment only

Description

This lecture course considers the phenomenon of the Soviet Architectural *Avant-Garde* as part of a broader cultural history. The response of architectural thought to the machine, as well as the intersection of political and social propaganda, literature, art and cinematography will be examined. Special attention will be paid to the legacy of the fading heritage of experimental practices, such as paper architecture, oral history, temporary projects for International Exhibitions, *Stage Design*, and the projects for National Soviet Competitions, as well as the conceptual and philosophical backgrounds of “Suprematism,” “Constructivism,” and “Rationalism,” and the ongoing dialog with the Bauhaus Dessau.

The chronological span of the course corresponds to the establishment of the radical language of the Great October Revolution and the end of the first “Five-Year Plan” of Soviet economy in 1933, a moment that marked the total supremacy of Stalin’s *neoclassicism* in Soviet Architecture and the final stage of the most ambitious competition of the Soviet Empire, “The Palace of the Soviets.”

Course Format:

Weekly lectures provide the framework of the course. The Powerpoint for each lecture will be made available on Blackboard. A portion of some class will be devoted to discussion of contemporary rethinking of the Soviet architectural heritage. What are the contemporary tools necessary to preserve the *tangible* and *intangible* heritage of one of the greatest architectural experiments of the twentieth century? There will be one session held outside of class at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), where we will explore the Soviet Avant-Garde architectural drawings as well as the architectural experiments in Soviet cinematography that relate to material in the course.

Requirements/Assignments

12-15 pages mid term paper (40%). Paper abstract and bibliography (15 %). Class attendance, participation in discussions and visit to MoMA (45%). Attendance is expected at each class. Please note that requirements, assignments and readings might change during the semester.

General Bibliography

Most of the readings will be scanned and eventually available on Coursework.

- The Great Utopia: the Russian and Soviet Avant-garde, 1915-1932*. New York: Guggenheim Museum, 1992.
- Andrews, Richard, and Milena Kalinovska. *Art into Life, Russian Constructivism 1914-1932*. New York: Rizzoli, 1990.
- Barron, Stephanie, and Maurice Tuchman, eds. *The Avant-Garde in Russia 1910-1930, New Perspectives*. Los Angeles: LACMA, 1980.
- Brumfield, William Craft. *Gold in Azure: one Thousand Years of Russian Architecture*. Boston: D.R. Godine, 1983.
- Reshaping Russian Architecture: Western Technology, Utopian Dreams*. Washington, D.C., Cambridge Woodrow Wilson Cente, Cambridge University Press, 1990.
-]Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992.
- Cracraft, James, ed. *Architectures of Russian Identity*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2003.
- Gray, Camilla. *The Great Experiment*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1962.
- Khan-Magomedov, Selim O. *Pioneers of Soviet Architecture*. New York: Rizzoli, 1987.
- Kirichenko, Evgenia. *Moscow Architectural Monuments of the 1930's to the 1910's*. Moscow: Iskusstvo, 1977.
- Kopp, Anatole. *Town and Revolution, Soviet Architecture and City Planning, 1917-1935*. New York: Braziller, 1970.
- Lodder, Christina. *Russian Constructivism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.
- Pare, Richard, and Jean-Louis Cohen. *The Lost Vanguard: Russian Modernist Architecture 1922-1932*. New York: The Monacelli Press, 2007.
- Reid, Susan E. *Russian Art and the West, a Century of Dialogue in Painting, Architecture and the Decorative Arts*. DeKalb, Ill.: Northern Illinois University Press, 2007.
- Senkevitch, Anatole Jr. *Soviet Architecture, a Bibliographical Guide to Source Material*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1974.
- Camilla Gray's *The Russian Experiment in Art: 1863-1922*
- Art Into Life. Russian Constructivism 1914-1932* [exhib. catalogue]. Henry Art Gallery. University of Washington, 1990
- Boris Groys. *The Total Art of Stalin*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.

Camilla Gray. *The Russian Experiment in Art. 1863-1922*. London, 1986.
 Peter Buerger. *Theory of the Avantgarde*. University of Minnesota Press, 1984.
 Kiaer, Christina, *Imagine No Possessions*.
 Boris Groys, "The Birth of Socialist Realism from the Spirit of the Russian Avant- Garde".
 Victor Margolin, *The Struggle for Utopia: Rodchenko, Lissitzky, Moholy-Nagy, 1917-1946*, Chicago Press, 1997.
 Vladimir Paperny, *Architecture in the Age of Stalin, Culture Two*, Cambridge.
 Maria Gough, *The Artist as Producer: Russian Constructivism in Revolution*, University of California Press, 2005.
 Jean Louis Cohen, *Architecture in Uniform*, CCA, 2011.
 Richard Stites, *Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Vision and Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution*, Oxford university Press, 1989.

CALENDAR

Friday September 6, 11.00-1.00

1. Introduction.

Friday September 13, 11.00 –1.00

2. Preservation of Ephemerality.

Lenin's Plan of "Monumental Propaganda."

Friday September 20, 11.00-1.00

3. Between Art and Architecture.

Gustav Klutsis, Alexander Rodchenko, Varvara Stepanova, Lyubov Popova.

El Lissitzky, from the *PROUNY* to the *Volkenbügel*.

Friday, September 27, 11.00-1.00

4. Malevich, "Suprematism"

and the establishment of the new language of architecture.

Friday, October 4, 11.00-1.00

5. East –West Migration of Ideas.

Progressive Schools of Design: Vitebsk, Vkhutemas, Bauhaus.

Friday, October 11, 11.00-1.00

6. The optical Games of the Avant-Garde.

Cinematography and Architecture. (Dziga Vertov, Sergei Eisenstein)

Friday, October 18, 11.00-1.00

7. 6. Engineers of the Avant-Garde. How to preserve structural innovations?

Vladimir Tatlin "Monument to the Third International", Hyperboloid Structures of Vladimir Shukhov, Spatial Experiments of Alexander Rodchenko.

Friday, October 25, 11.00 -1.00

8. Preserving the legend.

The idiosyncratic architecture of Konstantin Melnikov.

Friday, November 2, 11.00 -1.00

9. The Realization of Social Utopia: *Dom-Commune* and the typology of collective housing.

Friday, November 8, 11.00 -1.00

10. Behind the theories of Constructivism: Alexei Gan, Brothers Vesniny, and Moisei Ginzburg. The Vhutemas, OSA and Ladovsky's ASNOVA.

Friday, November 15, 11.00-1.00

11. Late Constructivism. "Flying houses" of Georgy Krutikov, "Galactic design" of Ivan Leonidov and the architectural fantasies of Iakov Chernikhov

Friday, November 22 – Thanksgiving weekend, No class.

Friday, November 29, 11.00 -1.00

**12. The Legacy of Paper architecture.
The Competition "The Palace of the Soviets", 1931-1933.**

Friday, December 6, 11.00-1.00

13. The End of the first "Five-year Plan" and the Establishment of Stalin's Style in Architecture. Conclusion.

Date and details on the visit to the MoMa will be provided as soon as possible during the semester.