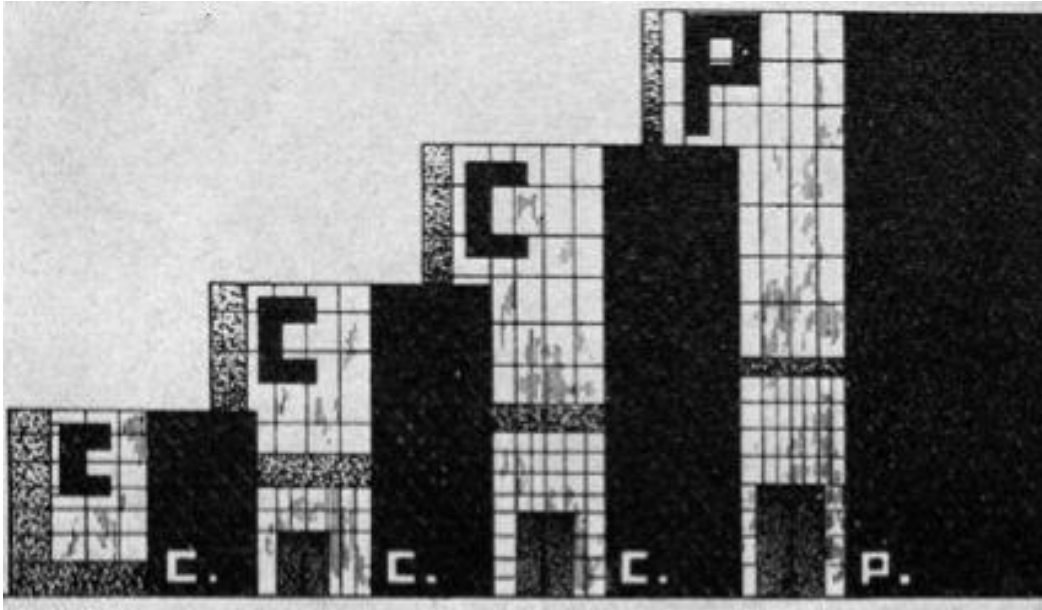


How to Preserve an Experiment? Soviet Avant-Garde Architecture 1917-1933;



Prof. Xenia Vytuleva

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Fridays, 9.00am - 11.00 am

300 SBuell Hall

Office hours by appointment only

Description

This graduate seminar considers the phenomenon of the Soviet Architectural *Avant-Garde* as part of a broader cultural history. The response of artistic 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 experimental practices, such as paper architecture, oral history, temporary projects for International Exhibitions, law, geography, material and visual culture, cultural anthropology, stage design, and the projects for National Competitions. It is a cross-disciplinary class: focused on Avant-garde artistic discourse with the emphasis on how to preserve architecture as politically and ideologically charged media. It creates a "manifesto map" of conceptual categories: negative histories and conflict zones, re-performance, propaganda and palimpsest, the politics of camouflage and concealment, reassembling identities and performing utopia. In addition to classroom lectures and discussion, students will engage with current exhibitions, archival materials, films, primary documents and objects at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMa), as well as at the Rare Book Collection, Columbia University.

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 the power of preservation as political science and rethinking the current stage of a discipline. What are the contemporary tools necessary to preserve *tangible* and *intangible* heritage of one of the most radical architectural experiments of the Twentieth century? There will be several sessions held outside of class in the archives of Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and Avery Rare Book Collection, where we will explore the Soviet Avant-Garde architectural drawings, print material, as well as the architectural experiments in 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%). 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.
- Reshaping Russian Architecture: Western Technology, Utopian Dreams*. Washington, D.C., Cambridge Woodrow Wilson Center, 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.
- 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 1997.

Jean Louis Cohen, *Architecture in Uniform*, CCA, 2011.

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.

Richard Stites, *Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Vision and Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution*, Oxford university Press, 1989.

CALENDAR

Friday September 5, 9.00-11.00

1. Introduction.

Friday September 12, 9.00 –11.00

2. Preservation of Ephemerality. Politics of Preservation. Beyond Lenin's Plan of "Monumental Propaganda."

Friday September 19, 9.00-11.00

3. Between Art and Architecture. El Lissitzky, from *PROUN* concept - to Horizontal Skyscrapers. Design of the new social order.

Friday, September 26, 9.00-11.00

4. Preserving the codes. Malevich, "Suprematism" and the establishment of the new language of architecture.

Friday, October 3, 9.00-11.00

5. East –West Migration of Ideas. Preservation vs. Education. Progressive Schools of Design: Vitebsk, Vkhutemas, Bauhaus, Black Mountain Colledge.

Friday, October 10, 9.00-11.00

6. The optical Games of the Avant-Garde. Cinematography and Architecture.

Friday, October 17, 9.00-11.00

7. Engineers of the Avant-Garde. Innovative structures; strategies of preservation.

Friday, October 24, 9.00 -11.00

8. Preserving the legend. The idiosyncratic architecture of Konstantin Melnikov.

Friday, November 2, 9.00 -11.00

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

Friday, November 7, 9.00 -11.00

10. Behind the theories of Constructivism. The Phenomenon of VKHUTEMAS/ VKHUTEIN educational system.

Friday, November 14, 9.00-11.00

11. Late Constructivism. “Flying houses” of Georgy Krutikov, “Galactic design” of Ivan Leonidov and artistic fantasies of Iakov Chernikhov.

Friday, November 21, 11.00 -1.00

12. The Legacy of Paper architecture.

The Competition “The Palace of the Soviets”, 1931-1933.

/ This lecture might be rescheduled, since the instructor might be out of the country)

Friday, November 28 – Thanksgiving weekend, No class.

Friday, December 5, 11.00-1.00

13. Blueprints and Blood. The Death of the Avant-Garde and the Establishment of Stalin’s Style in Architecture. Conclusion. */ This lecture might be rescheduled, since the instructor might be out of the country)*

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