

## 19TH VIENNA ARCHITECTURE CONGRESS

Soviet Modernism 1955–1991. Unknown stories

### PROGRAMME

#### SATURDAY 24.11.2012

#### CAPITALISM VERSUS COMMUNISM. ARCHITECTURE OF MODERNISM IN EAST AND WEST

Moderation: Katharina Ritter (Austria), Curator of the exhibition

- 10:00 Welcome: Dietmar Steiner (Austria), Director Az W  
10:15 Introduction: Katharina Ritter (Austria), Curator of the exhibition  
10:30 Lecture 'The Empire's Last Style. A View from the 21st Century'  
Vladimir Belogolovsky (USA), Curator  
11:15 Lecture 'Modernist Architecture: On Both Sides of the Iron Curtain'  
Olga Kazakova (Russia), Art Historian  
  
12:00 Lunch Break

#### THE SOVIET HERITAGE: NATIONAL OR RUSSIAN?

Moderation: Ekaterina Shapiro-Obermair (Russia/Austria), Curator of the exhibition

- 13:00 Introduction: Ekaterina Shapiro-Obermair (Russia/Austria), Curator of the exhibition  
13:15 Lecture 'The Heritage of Modernism. Save or forget?'  
Irina Chepkunova (Russia), Deputy Director of Research, Shchusev State Museum of  
Architecture, Moscow  
13:25 Lecture 'Prevailing Attitudes on Soviet Architectural Heritage in Georgia'  
Levan Asabashvili (Georgia), Architect  
14:10 Lecture 'Architectural Prototypes for the National'  
Dimitrij Zadorin (Belarus, Netherlands), Architect  
14:55 Lecture 'Save 'Moskva' Open Air Cinema or Rereading the Paradoxes of Soviet and Post  
Soviet Armenian Public Consciousness'  
Ruben Arevshatyan (Armenia), Artist, Art Critic and Independent Curator  
15:40 Discussion with Ruben Arevshatyan, Levan Asabashvili, Irina Chepkunova, Ruslan  
Muradov, Mait Väljas, Dimitrij Zadorin  
  
16:10 Break

#### THE LAST CONGRESS OF THE USSR ARCHITECTS

Moderation: Andrey Bokov (Russia), President of the Union of Architects of Russia

- 17:00 – 19:30 for further details please see 'The Last Congress of the USSR Architects'  
curated by Felix Novikov (Russia, USA), Architect

## SUNDAY 25.11.2012

### LOCAL MODERNISMS. CENTRIFUGAL FORCES IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE USSR

Moderation: Georg Schöllhammer (Austria), Chairperson of tranzit.at, founding Editor of 'springerin'

- 10:00 Introduction: Georg Schöllhammer (Austria), Chairperson of tranzit.at, founding Editor of 'springerin'
- 10:15 Lecture 'Baltic Modernisms'  
Mart Kalm (Estonia), Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Art and Culture at the Estonian Academy of Arts
- 11:00 Lecture 'Local Modernism and Global Orientalism: Building a Soviet Orient'  
Boris Chukhovich (Uzbekistan, Canada), Curator and Researcher
- 11:45 Lecture 'Artists and Architects in late Soviet Ukraine'  
Oleksandr Burlaka (Ukraine), Architect & Oleksiy Radynski (Ukraine), Editor of 'Politychna Krytyka'
- 12:30 Discussion with Oleksandr Burlaka, Boris Chukhovich, Sergej Fedorov, Mart Kalm, Oleksiy Radynski
- 13:00 Lunch Break

### BUILT IDEOLOGY

Moderation: Alexandra Wachter (Germany, Austria), Curator of the exhibition

- 14:00 Introduction: Alexandra Wachter (Germany, Austria), Curator of the exhibition
- 14:15 Lecture 'Urban Spaces of Socialist Modernity'  
Elke Beyer (Germany), Historian
- 15:00 Lecture 'Inventing a Soviet Ritual: Dramatic new Architecture'  
Marija Drėmaitė (Lithuania), Architectural Historian
- 15:45 Lecture '»Republic of Red Scarves« – the Architecture of Artek'  
Wolfgang Kil (Germany), Architectural Critic and Publicist
- 16:30 Lecture 'Two Generations of Architects in Communism'  
Vladimír Šlapeta (Czech Republic), Architect and Architectural Historian

The Congress will be held in German, Russian and English

Each talk lasts about 30 mins., followed by 15 mins. for questions from the audience.

Subject to alteration

Current information: [www.azw.at/congress](http://www.azw.at/congress)

As a documentation of the Congress the publication 'Hintergrund 54' will be available from 19.02.2012.

## **19TH VIENNA ARCHITECTURE CONGRESS**

Soviet Modernism 1955–1991. Unknown stories

Sat 24.11. – Sun 25.11.2012 at the Architekturzentrum Wien

On the occasion of the exhibition 'Soviet Modernism 1955–1991. Unknown Stories' (08.11.2012 – 25.02.2013) the 19th Vienna Architecture Congress will gather in a single place, for the first time outside Russia, the most important experts on this as yet little researched epoch of Soviet modernism. Architectural historians, urban planners, culture theorists and architects from the former Soviet republics together with other international experts will examine in four thematic panels the areas 'Capitalism versus Communism. Architecture of Modernism in East and West', 'The Soviet Heritage: National or Russian?', 'Local Modernisms. Centrifugal Forces in the Architecture of the USSR' and 'Built Ideology' from the viewpoints of architectural history, politics and economics. As a further highlight the Architekturzentrum Wien is looking forward to hosting the 'last Congress of the USSR Architects' – 25 years after the last assembly of the Union of Architects of the USSR in Moscow in 1987.

### **CAPITALISM VERSUS COMMUNISM. ARCHITECTURE OF MODERNISM IN EAST AND WEST**

The western view of the history of 20th century architecture continues to be strongly influenced by the perspective of the Cold War. Only recently have scholars started to question this approach and to open up a new view of 'World Architecture' that also includes the cultural achievements of the communist world. The first part of this congress focuses on the political, social and formal viewpoints of Soviet Modernism and relates them to parallel developments in the West. Although the conditions under which architecture was produced in the Eastern Bloc – from the way buildings were commissioned to their design and implementation – were organized in a completely different way than in the West, often the results were not so far removed from each other. After the Second World War both East and West were confronted with pressing social and urban planning questions.

### **THE SOVIET HERITAGE: NATIONAL OR RUSSIAN?**

The 15 independent states that emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union were confronted with the task of defining their identity. The way in which the Soviet period is assessed differs from country to country. Until the collapse of the Soviet Union the slogan first propagated under Stalin, 'National in Form, Socialist in Content', which imposed a return to 'ethnic' elements indicated the cultural direction to be followed. The process of sovietisation was equated with the struggle against backwardness. The aim was to overcome the 'feudal rudiments' and to employ 'progressive national forces' to establish socialism. But, as is known, the regime was not only associated with modernization; in the collective consciousness of the republics often everything that could be described as 'Soviet' was regarded as coming from outside as 'foreign' and

'Russian'. In this thematic panel a look is taken at the extent to which the architecture of this period is seen as a national or colonial heritage and the value it has in the different republics is examined.

### **LOCAL MODERNISMS. CENTRIFUGAL FORCES IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE USSR**

Contrary to the western prejudice that views the architecture of all communist states as being essentially similar in style due to the uniform conditions of production and imposed standards, here an examination will be made of the rich diversity of local strategies, forms and scales within the Soviet Union. Whereas Scandinavian architecture provided a model for the Baltic countries, architecture in Belarus and Ukraine can be described as 'proto-soviet'. In the republics of central Asia the extent to which national roots and national methods of construction should be used was an important question. In the Caucasus local architects' elites emerged with an autochthon style. Which were the models, traditions and materials that architects in the individual republics wanted and were able to use? The myths of national master architects and masterpieces, independent local styles and subversive resistance to the system are subjected to scrutiny.

### **BUILT IDEOLOGY**

'The secular Soviet state was well known for its elaborate »socialist rites« that marked important milestones in life and extended from birth to marriage, and to death', writes Marija Drémaitė in her contribution to the catalogue. On the basis of the Marxist hypothesis that 'being determines consciousness' architecture occupied a special position in the Soviet Union. The built environment should help to form the Soviet citizen as part of a communist world order. The last part of the congress follows the traces of this built ideology. From urban planning and the mass housing program to representational buildings, palaces of culture and sport to recreation facilities, the typologies of the Soviet Union are addressed and their role as 'urban representation apparatus' and 'generator for social emotions' is scrutinized.

## **19TH VIENNA ARCHITECTURE CONGRESS**

Soviet Modernism 1955–1991. Unknown stories

### **SPEAKERS**

Ruben Arevshatyan (Armenia)  
Levan Asabashvili (Georgia)  
Vladimir Belogolovsky (USA)  
Elke Beyer (Germany)  
Oleksandr Burlaka & Oleksiy Radynski (Ukraine)  
Irina Chepkunova (Russia)  
Boris Chukhovich (Uzbekistan, Canada)  
Marija Drėmaitė (Lithuania)  
Sergej Fedorov (Russia, Germany)  
Mart Kalm (Estonia)  
Olga Kazakova (Russia)  
Wolfgang Kil (Germany)  
Ruslan Muradov (Turkmenistan)  
Vladimír Šlapeta (Czech Republic)  
Mait Väljas (Estonia)  
Dimitrij Zadorin (Belarus, Netherlands)

### **MODERATION**

Katharina Ritter (Austria)  
Georg Schöllhammer (Austria)  
Ekaterina Shapiro-Obermair (Russia, Austria)  
Dietmar Steiner (Austria)  
Alexandra Wachter (Germany, Austria)

## **SPEAKERS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:**

### **RUBEN AREVSHATYAN**

Artist, Art Critic and Independent Curator (Armenia)

Lecture

Ruben Arevshatyan (born 1965 in Yerevan, Armenia) is an artist, art critic and curator. He graduated from Yerevan Fine Arts and Theatrical Institute, department of sculpture. From 1997–2004 he was the artistic director of Hay-Art cultural center Yerevan. He is the author of numerous texts concerned with Armenian contemporary art and architecture. He is member of the editorial board of [www.red-thread.org](http://www.red-thread.org) e-journal and has curated and contributed to projects such as 'Local Modernities', 'Manuals: Subjects of New Universality' (Armenian Pavilion at the 54th Venice Art Biennale) and 'Sweet 60s' international research project.

Lecture: Save 'Moskva' Open Air Cinema or Rereading the Paradoxes of Soviet and Post Soviet Armenian Public Consciousness

2010 in Yerevan began with an unprecedented burst of activism and extensive public discussion after the Government of the Republic of Armenia removed the 'Moskva' Open Air Cinema, one of the best examples of late-modernist Armenian architecture of the 1960s, from the list of the city's architectural and cultural monuments and then decided to demolish this building so as to hand over the land on which it stood for reconstruction of a church destroyed in the 1930s as part of Stalin's campaign against religion. The campaign to defend the open-air cinema brought together a number of different arguments that broadly intertwined the need to preserve modernist architecture with concern for the protection of public spaces. This was undoubtedly an interesting precedent – especially when the confrontation between the active participating parties (the Government, the Church, the architectural community, civic activists, the media, and the general public) began to produce distinct and differentiated political and cultural articulations, highlighting problems which concerned not just the neo-capitalist transformation of the urban environment, but also the rather contradictory essence of post-Soviet society. This case became a breaking point in societal processes in Armenia that besides turning the question concerning the preservation of architectural monument into a political issue had also generated an interesting discourse within the society concerning its 'past'.

### **LEVAN ASABASHVILI**

Architect (Georgia)

Lecture

Levan Asabashvili (born 1980 in Tbilisi, Georgia) studied architecture at Tbilisi Academy of Arts and at the TU Delft and has lived and worked in Tbilisi since 2009. He is one of the founders of 'Urban Reactor'.

Currently he is involved in developing a library for built environment studies, which is perceived as an open platform for research, debate and education. His interest in architecture encompasses a broad, interdisciplinary practice.

Lecture: Prevailing Attitudes on Soviet Architectural Heritage in Georgia

In the presentation I will put the dominant narratives on Soviet architectural heritage and the ways of its treatment in modern Georgia in the broader historical context. I will try to analyse how political, social and economic processes influence the perceptions of heritage and its value.

**VLADIMIR BELOGOLOVSKY**

Curator (USA)

Lecture

Vladimir Belogolovsky (born 1970 in Odessa, Ukraine) is the founder of the New York-based Intercontinental Curatorial Project. Trained as an architect at Cooper Union, he is the American correspondent for Russian journal 'TATLIN' and (co-)author of the books 'Felix Novikov', 'Green House', 'Soviet Modernism: 1955–1985' and 'Harry Seidler' (Rizzoli, 2014). He lectures widely and has curated exhibitions such as 'Colombia: Transformed' and 'A Game of Chess' for the Russian Pavilion at the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale.

Lecture: The Empire's Last Style. A View from the 21st Century

A clean break with history is the main feature of modernism. But nowhere in the world was such a break with tradition and a transition to modernism as abrupt and broad-based as in the Soviet Union. Despite the fact that the period from 1955 through 1985 did not yield new Corbusiers or Melnikovs to the world, a distinctive architecture known as Soviet Modernism emerged nonetheless. In this lecture, Vladimir Belogolovsky will reveal the fascinating story of the political, social, and aesthetic aspects of the Soviet period, generally characterised by mass production in the mode of the industrial conveyor belt. Yet, despite being limited ideologically, creatively, economically, and technically, many dozens of expressive architectural exceptions were achieved by Soviet practitioners during this time. Some of the most outstanding projects will be illustrated and parallels to works produced in other periods and in the West will be pointed out.

**ELKE BEYER**

Historian, ETH Zurich (Germany)

Lecture

Elke Beyer (born 1974 in Rheydt, Germany) studied history in Cologne, London and New York, and is presently taking her PhD at the ETH Zurich. Since 2000 she has contributed to exhibitions, lectures, and publications about urban history and urban politics. From 2002 to 2008 she was a contributor to the

project 'Shrinking Cities', Berlin. From 2006 to 2010 she taught and carried out research at the Institute for History and Theory of Architecture, ETH Zurich. From 2010 to 2011 she had a research residency at MARCHI Moscow. Current research interests include city planning in the USSR after 1955, global knowledge transfer in architecture and urban development, and tourist architecture.

#### Lecture: Urban Spaces of Socialist Modernity

This lecture discusses how modern urban spaces were conceptualized and built in the USSR from the late 1950s onwards. It explores how Soviet architects attempted to define and develop new civic centers as basic building blocks of a Socialist modern urban lifestyle, and within what kind(s) of ideological framework(s) they operated in doing so - especially how they reflected upon and adapted international modernist theory and practices in urban design, and what kind of public spaces they ultimately envisioned and created. Ultimately, the lecture thus addresses the question in what way urbanist proposals and plans were tied up with ideas and ideologies of modernising and organising society at large.

### **OLEKSANDR BURLAKA**

Architect (Ukraine)

Lecture together with Oleksiy Radynski

Oleksandr Burlaka (born 1982 in Kiev, Ukraine) studied architecture at the Kiev National University (KNUBA). He is a member of the 'Grupa predmetiv' (architectural and artistic projects and interventions) and of the group 'Hudrada' (a curatorial and activist inter-disciplinary group). Since 2012 he has been working as a research associate for the Az W project 'Soviet Modernism'. He currently works for the Visual Culture Research Center in Kiev.

#### Lecture: Artists and Architects in late Soviet Ukraine

See Oleksiy Radynski

### **IRINA CHEPKUNOVA**

Deputy Director of Research, Shchusev State Museum of Architecture, Moscow (Russia)

Lecture

Irina Chepkunova (born 1958 in Moscow, Russia) graduated from the Moscow Architectural Institute MArchI. She holds a Ph.D. in art history. Since 1981 she has worked at the Shchusev State Museum of Architecture where she presently holds the position of Deputy Director of Research. Her area of scientific interest is the history of architecture of the 20th century.

#### Lecture: The Heritage of Modernism. Save or forget?

This lecture is devoted to the research of the Shchusev State Museum of Architecture in Moscow which is collecting architectural drawings and photographs of architectural objects of Modernism. Today we are



increasingly preoccupied with the protection and the conservation of the heritage of Modernism in Moscow. Round table talks on the 'Palace of Pioneers' in Moscow took place this summer at the Museum. These talks focused on the history of the design and the future restoration and reconstruction of the monument.

### **BORIS CHUKHOVICH**

Independent curator, researcher at the Canada Research Chair in Esthetics and Poetics (UQAM)  
(Uzbekistan, Canada)  
Lecture

Boris Chukhovich (born 1962 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan) is an art historian and curator. He studied architecture at the Tashkent Polytechnic Institute and wrote his thesis in art history. In 1998 he emigrated to Canada where he collaborates with various research and art centers. His most important curatorial projects include 'New Orientalism in Quebec' (Montreal, 2004), 'Return of Metaphors' (Montreal Biennale, 2007), 'Stills' (Almaty, Bishkek, Dushanbe, 2009–2010) and 'Lingua franca' (54th Venice Art Biennale). He is the author of many texts on the art and architecture of Central Asia.

#### Lecture: Local Modernism and Global Orientalism: Building a Soviet Orient

Modernism has always aspired to create universal expressive forms, universal language. However, modernist architects who worked for the eastern periphery of the Soviet Union, were often tempted to work on specific 'Eastern' versions of Modernism. Thus, in their attempts for locality, they were dominated by another universal discourse of European culture — the Orientalist discourse — which divided the world in two parts: European and 'Other'. My lecture will be related to the analysis of various configurations and combinations of these two types of universalism in the architecture of Central Asia in 1960s–1980s.

### **MARIJA DRĖMAITĖ**

Architectural Historian (Lithuania)  
Lecture

Marija Drėmaitė (born 1971 in Vilnius, Lithuania) holds a PhD in the history of architecture (2006). Her research focuses on architectural and industrial heritage as well as the social contexts of modern architecture. She was a researcher for the Nordic- Baltic research projects 'Industry and Modernism' and 'Dream Factories?' where she investigated political planning and architecture in the Post-War Soviet Baltic States. She is a co-author of the book 'Architecture in Soviet Lithuania' (2012).

#### Lecture: Inventing a Soviet Ritual: Dramatic new Architecture

The secular Soviet state is well known for its elaborate 'socialist rites' instituted for life's milestones, from birth through marriage to death. While the mass political holidays have been celebrated without interruption since the Revolution, most of the initiation rituals date only from the 1960s. In the Soviet Union actions traditionally carried out in a sacral space were assigned to 'consumer services', and were replaced by the

civil registration of the newborn child, the secular wedding and funeral rite. Administrators of the new rituals insisted that these ceremonies neither derived from religious rites nor were they intended to replace them. The challenge, therefore, was to create secular spaces with their own dramaturgy, designed to offer appropriate settings for weddings and funerals while avoiding any kind of religious presence. These types of buildings began to spread out in many Soviet republics from the 1970s onwards. Unprecedented types of buildings for wedding palaces or funeral parlours became a new and tempting field for imagination resulting in dramatic architectural creation.

### **SERGEJ FEDOROV**

Architect and Architectural Historian (Russia, Germany)

Panelist

Sergej Fedorov (born 1955 in Molotov, Russia) studied architecture and civil engineering at the Leningrad Institute for Civil Engineers (LISI). He was a designer and research assistant at research and design institutes of the State Committee for Architecture and Urban Planning (LenZNIIEP, Leningrad branch of TsNIITIA). Since 1991 he has been working at Stuttgart University and at other German research facilities (including the Eastern European Institute Munich, Karlsruhe University). In 1997 he completed his PhD in 'History of Building' at Karlsruhe University. He has taken part in numerous exhibitions on Russian-German architecture relationships and is the author of numerous books and scientific publications on architecture and the history of construction in the 19th and 20th centuries.

### **MART KALM**

Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Art and Culture at the Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn (Estonia)

Lecture

Mart Kalm (born 1961 in Tallinn, Estonia) is Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Art and Culture at the Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn. He graduated in art history at University of Tartu in 1984. He was awarded a PhD from Moscow All-Union Research Institute of History and Theory of Architecture and Town Planning in 1991, and a PhD in history of architecture at the Estonian Academy of Arts in 1998. Mart Kalm is the author of books such as 'Architect Alar Kotli' (1994), 'Estonian 20th Century Architecture' (2001) and 'Pärnu city-architect Olev Siinmaa' (2012).

#### Lecture: Baltic Modernisms

Topics of this lecture are the ambivalent positions of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian architects during the 1960s–1970s between Moscow and the West, the Normalisation of the Soviet occupation versus the construction of the anti-Soviet identity and the Desire for the Western, especially the Northern European Modernism versus the Soviet construction policy.

## **OLGA KAZAKOVA**

Art Historian (Russia)

Lecture

Olga Kazakova (born 1983 in Moscow, Russia) graduated from Lomonosov Moscow State University, History of Arts faculty in 2005. She was awarded a PhD for 'The Image of Modern Times in the Architecture of the 1960s'. Since 2005 she has been senior research fellow at the Research Institute of Theory and History of Architecture and Town Planning, the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences (NIITIAG RAASN). She is a member of the Association of Art Critics, Russia.

### Lecture: Modernist Architecture: On Both Sides of the Iron Curtain

The transition to Modernism in the USSR happened later than in European countries and in a very concise time frame, as a result of state issued directives. The revolution in architectural style took place at the same time as changes in the political climate and people's attitudes. This presentation includes an analysis of how society was reflected in the new architectural style within the context of this period of changes.

## **WOLFGANG KIL**

Architectural Critic and Publicist (Germany)

Lecture

Wolfgang Kil (born 1948 in Berlin, Germany) studied architecture in Weimar and subsequently worked as an architect in East Berlin. From 1978 to 1982 he was editor-in-chief of the magazine 'Farbe und Raum' and later worked as a freelance critic and journalist. From 1992 to 1994 he was the editor of 'Bauwelt' (Berlin), since then he has again worked freelance, concentrating on the areas of 'post-industrialism' and 'Eastern Bloc modernism'. In 1993 and 2001 he was awarded the journalism prize of the Federal Chamber of German Architects and in 1997 the critics prize of the BDA (Federation of German Architects). He lives and works in Berlin.

### Lecture: 'Republic of Red Scarves' – the Architecture of Artek

Artek, on the south shore of the Crimean Peninsula, was the Soviet Union's largest Pioneer camp. The vacation camp complex became famous most of all on account of its well-proportioned maritime architecture. The five cube-shaped residential pavilions, positioned along the esplanade and facing straight out to the beach, quickly became icons of Soviet postwar modernism. The head architect of the 'modern Artek' (built 1957–1969) was Anatoly Polyansky. With his Artek modular building system he became a key figure in industrialised construction, but most of all he attained prominence for lending aesthetic expression to the hopeful spirit of the 'Thaw' initiated by Nikita Khrushchev. In the following years of stagnation, the rigidly organised recreational life of the Pioneers returned again more strongly to the fore. Beginning in 2004 the complex was renovated and subjected to radical formal alteration. The 'modern Artek' has passed into history, and forming a balanced judgment of it today is no simple task.

## **RUSLAN MURADOV**

Architectural Historian (Turkmenistan)

Panelist

Ruslan Muradov (born 1963 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan) is an architectural historian. He was educated at the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute (architectural branch) and Institute of History at the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan (post-graduate course). He is the author of over a hundred publications, including books on the history of the city of Ashgabat, as well as Russian and Islamic architecture. Currently Muradov is the Vice-Chairman of the Turkmen Union of Architects. He was formerly an editor of 'Central Asia Cultural Values International Annual'.

## **OLEKSIY RADYNSKI**

Editor of 'Politychna Krytyka' (Ukraine)

Lecture with Oleksandr Burlaka

Oleksiy Radynski (born 1984 in Kiev, Ukraine) is a journalist and filmmaker. He is the editor of the Ukrainian edition of the magazine 'Politychna Krytyka' (Political Critique). Since 2012 he has been working as a research associate for the Az W project 'Soviet Modernism'. Currently he is a member of the Visual Culture Research Centre in Kiev and a post-graduate student at the National University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy.

### Lecture: Artists and Architects in late Soviet Ukraine

In 1969, the Kyiv Scientific Research Institute of Theory, History and Perspective Problems of Soviet Architecture published a scientific report under the title *Creative Expressivity of Architecture: Kyiv Today*. This report turned out to be an explicit sign of an internal struggle that took place within the architectural nomenclature during the turn from a Khrushchev-inspired unification of urbanism to the new architectural policies introduced by the new government of Brezhnev. The basic questions of this struggle may be formulated as follows: What are the limits of architects' creativity in socialist society? Should an architect be a technician or an artist? How can one combine these two identities? In this lecture, I will look at the discursive conditions that defined the limits of creative freedom for architects and artists working in the city space, and then go on to analyse the case study where artistic freedom sanctioned by the late-Soviet regime clashed with the conservative tendencies within the party apparatus.

### **KATHARINA RITTER**

Curator of the exhibition (Austria)

Moderation 'Capitalism versus Communism. Architecture of Modernism in East and West'

Katharina Ritter (born 1972 in Vienna, Austria) studied law at the University of Vienna. Since 1994 she has been working as a curator for architecture and, since 2006, as the programme coordinator for the Architecture Centre Vienna (her exhibitions, amongst others, are 'Alexander Brodsky', Vienna 2011; 'Margherita Spiluttini. Atlas – Austria', Madrid 2006; 'The Austrian Phenomenon. Wien Graz 1958–1973', Vienna 2004). In 2002 and 2004 she was the project manager of the Austrian contribution for the Venice Architecture Biennale. She has collaborated on numerous publications on architecture.

### **GEORG SCHÖLLHAMMER**

Chairperson of tranzit.at, founding editor of 'springerin' (Austria)

Moderation 'Local Modernisms. Centrifugal Forces in the Architecture of the USSR'

Georg Schöllhammer (born 1958 in Linz, Austria) is the founding editor of 'springerin – Hefte für Gegenwartskunst', freelance author, curator and chairperson of tranzit.at. In 2010, in collaboration with tranzit.org, Schöllhammer was co-curator of the Manifesta 8 in Murcia and 2004–2007 editor-in-chief of the documenta 12. He is involved in numerous international research and exhibition projects including 'Sweet 60's' (Almaty, Istanbul, Yerevan, Zagreb) on urban avant-gardes in the shadow of the Cold War, 'L'International' (Antwerp, Barcelona, Eindhoven, Ljubljana); 'The Kweikulik Archives' (Warsaw) and 'Former West' (BAK Utrecht) and as chairperson of the Jùlius Koller Society in Bratislava.

### **EKATERINA SHAPIRO-OBERMAIR**

Curator of the exhibition (Russia, Austria)

Moderation 'The Soviet Heritage: National or Russian?'

Ekaterina Shapiro-Obermair (born 1980 in Moscow, Russia) is a visual artist and curator in the area of visual arts and architecture. After her studies of visual art in Nuremberg, Berlin and Vienna (1999–2009) she received several prizes and awards and participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions. In 2008 she published the volume 'The great Moscow that never was' about the architecture of the Soviet avant-garde in Moscow and its contemporary reception.

## **VLADIMÍR ŠLAPETA**

Architect and Architectural Historian, Professor at the Technical Universities in Brno and Prague (Czech Republic)

Lecture

Vladimír Šlapeta (born 1947 in Olomouc, Czech Republic) studied architecture at the TU Prague, graduating in 1972. From 1972 to 1973 he worked as an architect in Ostrava. Between 1973 and 1991 he was head of the architecture collection in the Technical National Museum Prague. Since the Velvet Revolution in 1990 he has been a professor at the TU Prague. From 1991–1997 and 2003–2006 he was also dean there. Since 2006 he has been teaching at the TU Brno, where he was dean from 2006–2010. He is a curator and author of exhibitions, books and contributions on architecture of the 20th century in Czechoslovakia and Central Europe. He is a member of the 'Akademie der Künste' in Berlin.

### Lecture: Two Generations of Architects in Communism

The everyday activity of architects in a socialist country was marked by abnormal normality. Although the idea of communism promised unlimited possibilities, life was continually oppressed by geographic, ideological, economic-technical and bureaucratic limitations. Beginning in the second half of the 1950s, there were frequent attempts to bring about a liberalisation. The sigh of relief accompanying the Prague Spring era was sufficient merely for passing the baton of hope from one generation to the next, in the 1970s and 1980s, culminating in the yearned-for end of the impossible regime in November 1989.

## **DIETMAR STEINER**

Director Az W (Austria)

Welcome

Dietmar Steiner (born 1951 in Wels, Austria) studied architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Until 1989 he held a teaching position at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. He has been director of the Architekturzentrum Wien since 1993. In 2002 he curated the Austrian contribution to the 8th Venice Architecture Biennale in his capacity as Commissioner. He is a member of the steering and the advisory committee for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, as well as President of ICAM – International Confederation of Architectural Museums. He is chairman of the board of advisors for the Social Housing Program in Vienna. He also works inter-nationally as a jury member (including the European Prize for Urban Public Space) and as an architecture journalist.

## **MAIT VÄLJAS**

Researcher at the Museum of Estonian Architecture, Tallinn (Estonia)

Panelist

Mait Väljas (born 1983 in Kärđla, Estonia) graduated 2005 from Estonian Academy of Arts in art history. He curated exhibitions, published catalogues and wrote articles about Estonian 20th century architecture of the interwar period and Soviet era. Since 2006 he has worked as a researcher at the Museum of Estonian Architecture. One of the last exhibitions he curated there was 'Frédéric Chaubin. Cosmic Communist Constructions Photographed' in spring 2012. He is a member of the Estonian Society of Art Historians.

## **ALEXANDRA WACHTER**

Curator of the exhibition (Germany, Austria)

Moderation 'Built Ideologies'

Alexandra Wachter (born 1972 in Regensburg, Germany) researches, mediates and curates in the areas of architecture and history with an emphasis on Russia. She studied history and Russian in Salzburg, Edinburgh and Moscow (M.A. 1996) and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of London / Queen Mary. Her interest lies in oral history and cultures of remembrance. From 2002 to 2006 she was project leader of the Austrian 'Architekturtage' (Days of Architecture). She has collaborated on numerous publications on architecture, art and history.

## **DIMITRIJ ZADORIN**

Architect (Belarus, Netherlands)

Lecture

Dimitrij Zadorin (born 1983 in Minsk, Belarus) graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at TU Delft with honours in 2007. Since 2008 Zadorin has worked as an architect in Moscow, at Buromoscow (2008–2011) and Wowhaus (2011 to the present). As well as practicing as an architect, he is also engaged with the theory and history of Soviet architecture. He teaches and writes on post-war urbanism and mass housing, both in Russia and Belarus.

### Lecture: Architectural Prototypes for the National

Soviet architecture relied strongly on prototypes that easily crossed the borders of republics, changing little or at all. In the lecture, an introductory explanation of theoretical premises of prototyping will be followed by a closer look at the spreading of sameness on all scales, from urbanism to public buildings to mass-housing. Belarus will be treated as an example. In the prototyped triad Russian — Soviet — National, of what national could we still speak then?

## **THE LAST CONGRESS OF THE USSR ARCHITECTS**

During the 19th Vienna Architecture Congress 2012 'Soviet Modernism 1955–1991'

The 8th congress of the Union of Architects in the USSR took place in June 1987. Like every five years the elite of Soviet architecture came together to elect a new board. Despite a tangible sense of imminent change there was nothing to suggest that this powerful and influential organization, which influenced both the professional and private lives of its members, would soon cease to exist. Now, 25 years later, architects of 'Soviet Modernism', who today live scattered across the entire world, are meeting in Vienna. They report, as contemporary witnesses, about their experiences of working in the USSR. This event was initiated by Felix Novikov. In organizational terms it has received support from the Union of Architects of Russia and the International Association of Unions of Architects.

**SATURDAY, 24.11.2012**

### **PROGRAMME**

- 17:00 Introduction: Dietmar Steiner (Austria), Director Az W
- 17:05 Lecture 'The State and the Union of Architects'  
Andrey Bokov (Russia), President of the Union of Architects of Russia
- 17:20 Lecture and Slideshow 'Architecture-Perestroika'  
Felix Novikov (Russia, USA), Architect
- 17:50 Lecture 'Soviet Modernism in Russia'  
Yury Gnedovsky (Russia), Architect
- 18:30 Lecture 'My Work in Uzbekistan'  
Andrey Kosinskiy (Russia), Architect
- 18:50 Lecture 'A »ufo« in Crimea'  
Igor Vasilevsky (Russia), Architect

Curator: Felix Novikov (Russia, USA)

Moderator: Andrey Bokov (Russia)



## **SPEAKERS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:**

### **ANDREY BOKOV**

President of the Union of Architects of Russia, (Russia)  
Moderator 'Last Congress of the USSR Architects'

Andrey Bokov (born 1943 in Moscow) graduated from Moscow Architecture Institute MArkhl in 1966 and was awarded a doctorate in architecture. He is an academician at the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Science, an academician at the International Academy of Architecture, and General Director of 'Mosproekt-4'. He has designed a number of large projects and structures, is the author of two books and more than 50 publications, has won the State Prize of Russia, and has thrice won the 'Crystal Daedalus' (a Russian national architecture prize).

### **YURY GNEDOVSKY**

Architect (Russia)  
Lecture

Yury Gnedovsky (born 1930 in Yekaterinburg, Russia) graduated from Moscow Architecture Institute MArkhl in 1954 and was awarded a doctorate in architecture. His most important buildings in Moscow are amongst others the Taganka-Theatre, the Meyerhold Centre and the Cultural Institute of Krasnye Kholmy. He is the author of several publications, amongst others 'Architecture of the Soviet Theatre'. He is a member of the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences (RAASN) and the International Academy of Architecture in Moscow (MAAM). Between 1987 and 1991 he was Executive of the Union of Architects of the USSR. Between 1992 and 2007 he was President of the Union of Architects of Russia. He was 'People's Architect of the USSR' and now is 'People's Architect of Russia'. He was awarded the State Prize of the USSR.

### **ANDREY KOSINSKIY**

Architect (Russia)  
Lecture

Andrey Kosinskiy (born 1929 in Moscow, Russia) graduated from Moscow Architecture Institute MArkhl in 1954 and was awarded a doctorate in architecture. He is a professor and has worked as an architect in Moscow, Tashkent and Khanty-Mansiysk. He is a member of the International Academy of Architecture in Moscow (MAAM) and has been awarded the Gold Medal INTERARKH-83.

**FELIX NOVIKOV**

Architect (Russia, USA)

Lecture

Felix Novikov (born 1927 in Baku, Azerbaijan) graduated from the Moscow Architecture Institute MArkhI in 1950. The buildings he designed include the Palace of Pioneers in Moscow and the central ensemble of the town of Zelenograd. He has a PhD in architecture and is a professor. Novikov has written the books 'The Formula of Architecture', 'Architects and Architecture', and 'Soviet Modernism 1955–1985'. In 2009 the monograph 'Felix Novikov' was published. He was awarded the title 'People's Artist of the USSR', the State Prize of Russia and the USSR, and the 'Crystal Daedalus' (a Russian national architecture prize).

**IGOR VASILEVSKY**

Architect (Russia)

Lecture

Igor Vasilevsky (born 1935 in Moscow, Russia) graduated from Moscow Architecture Institute MArkhI in 1959. His most important buildings are amongst others the sanatorium 'Voronovo' close to Moscow and the holiday camp 'Druzhba' in Yalta. He is 'Honoured Architect of Russia', professor at the International Academy of Architecture in Moscow (MAAM) and has received the State Award of Czechoslovakia.

## **SOVIET MODERNISM 1955–1991. UNKNOWN STORIES**

Exhibition

08.11.2012–25.02.2013 at the Architekturzentrum Wien - Old Hall

Opening hours daily 10 am –7 pm

Tickets € 7 / € 4,50 reduced

Curators: Katharina Ritter, Ekaterina Shapiro-Obermair, Alexandra Wachter

The exhibition project is based on an initiative of Georg Schöllhammer and the association 'Lokale Moderne'.

Exhibition Design: Six & Petritsch

In conjunction with the exhibition a book (German and English edition) is published with Park Books.

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