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Editorial
Architecture in the structure of the social entity – coming reload

The current generation remembers well a couple of critical points on the history map that crucially changed the look of the contemporary national architecture. The first point happened in the late 1980s – early 1990s when the architecture-construction branch nearly perished having been reduced to interior design. This stupor lasted till the mid 1990w. The second crucial moment appeared less painful – following the wide process of replacing import the profession resurrected. If we apply our multi-cycle model of Russian architecture development we see that the first crisis was caused by the change of the modernist cycle by the post-modernist cycle that is it happened in the inter-cycle period while the second turning point coincided with the initial extremum of the post-modernist cycle in which we still exist.*
The late 2000s witnessed another historic crisis that coincided with the second extremum within the above-mentioned theoretical model. And again it is followed by the indefinite or even helpless condition of the design and construction complex. However the stalemate situation is typical of the country's socio-political and economic life. The well-known economist O. Grigoriev has coined a name "surplus" for the social figure - when track cyclists stand still in tense expectation of any activity of the opposite party. In dense atmospheric layers no one takes risks to make a first step either towards the tied-up-in-knots liberal-monetarism, say, towards refusal of the policy of money stock compression or "anti-popular" devaluation of the Ruble that in the opinion of Keynes' followers who support government management of the economy could revitalize business environment, put new steam in it as happened a decade ago.
Developers are in waiting – their data say that investments in construction were reduced by 90%. Municipal budgets in construction branches were cut down several times as happens in Moscow – and this is not the worst result. New construction is not launched only projects in the final stage reach completion (housing commissioning hits records in 2009!). Private design bureaus have shrunk to minimum – staff is sent on unpaid leave, most bureaus have had neither contracts nor money for at least six months so the next stage is business phasing down. Big design companies including institutes having passed the first round of spreading remaining balance have stopped in tracks in expectation of crucial staff reduction. Developers who had used to have credit lines usually of western origin, and suffered big financial losses had to settle accounts with their own assets that is with real property items. As for bankers they are not interested in enormous quantities of such "non-specialized" assets.
The banks were expected to unload those assets (primarily housing) to the market and due to the absence of property demand prices would have collapsed. The possible lower limit of $1200-1500 per sq.m. was announced (by M. Khazin) to become an impetus to dramatic restructuring of the construction market. However if the deputies vote in favor of the project featuring the banks refinancing using real property items on their balance by the Central Bank of Russia, the banks will have no need to hurriedly selling the above. Correspondingly prices for real estate property will remain on approximately same level thus reformatting of the real estate market followed by the design and construction complex is put on hold for an indefinite term. The construction branch is doomed to quiet decay or stagnation. M. Delyagin thinks that interests of a group of oligarchs in collaboration with the officialdom will gain the upper hand again.
Nevertheless reloading of the branch is sooner or later destined to take place; what is more important is that this should not happen too late. Otherwise personnel, creative and financial economic losses are inevitable. It is important not to let the worst variant happen which as researchers observe have long before become the law of evolution for Russia (V. Pantin).
Anyway it is time to try to identify emerging historic challenges that the national architecture and urban planning are facing now and to look for possible counteractions. A new professional reality wouldn't rise from nothing – without definite actions of historic process subjects that is us.

First of all we must draw outlines of conditions, at least of primary ones, that the Russian architecture and urban planning will have to exist in quite soon.
1. Instability and unsteadiness of the international politic and economic system pregnant with intergovernmental, social and ethnic surges and cataclysms at the late 2000s -2010s (V. Pantin-V. Lapkin, A. Fursov, S. Malkov, V. Krivorotov-L. Badalyan, M. Muraviev and other).
2. Aggravation of social-environmental crisis (E. Kulpin, O. Yanitsky, V. Pantin and other).
3. Realization of the deadlock character of the world-winning consumerist-hedonistic philosophy (A. Panarin, S. Kara-Murza, V. Ilyin and other).
4. Strengthening role of the state in social life, bureaucratization and growth of protectionism (I. Vallerstein, V. Pantin, M. Delyagin, N. Rozov and other).
5. Drop in the living standards, salary curbs and growth of unemployment (M. Khazin, A.Kobyakov, M. Leontiev and other).
6. Deterioration of communal services and infrastructure, growth of technogenic catastrophe risks as a consequence of a 20-year down time in the branch (G. Malinetsky, S. Kara-Murza, M. Khazin and other).
7. Demand to overcome monopolism in the economy and a related continuous price growth, undivided dominance of the raw materials economic sector, suppression of domestic producers in favor of the comprador capital, shortage of state administration leverages of economy management (S. Gubanov, A. Sherbakov, D. Chernavsky, A. Kobyakov, M. Delyagin, M. Leontiev and other).
8. Arrival in the depressive stage of Kondrariev's fifth wave transiting from the information-communicative cycle to the nano-biotechnological cycle (G. Malinetsky, A. Akaev, S. Glaziev).
9. Maximum social polarization, unfinished formation of the middle class and civil society (O. Shkaratan, T. Zaslavskaya, N. Tikhonova and other).
10. Negative growth of the country's population, its progressive ageing since the second half of the noughties and absolute loss of labor resources as a consequence of specific sociodemographic tendency including the so-called demographic transition (S. Kapitsa).
11. Incessant demographic pressing from the East (V. Shuper, V. Perevedentsev, A. Vishnevsky and other).
12. Commercialization and technocratic evolution of culture, degradation of science and education, moral deterioration (V. Pantin, G. Malinetsky, A. Yurevich and other).
13. Making mass media an instrument of mass conscience manipulation, a means of holding information wars (V. Pantin, V. Soloviev, S. Kara-Murza and other).
14. Demand to overcome the "bellum omnium contra omnes" - the central government against regional ones, intelligentsia against the authorities, bureaucracy against own people not to mention interethnic conflicts (V. Pantin).
15. Unbelievably high level of corruption in economic and social life of the country with actually non-existent responsibility institution either personal of collective (M. Musin and other).

To facilitate research the architecture-construction branch can be presented as a collectivity of the following main aspects: 1) population settlement, territorial planning and urban; 2) housing construction, commercial real estate, cultural, sports and recreation, communal services facilities, industrial architecture, infrastructure objects; 3) construction technologies; 4) architectural profession, architecture life, architecture legislation; 5) architectural education, science and critical analysis. It should be mentioned that in our opinion the proposed classification contains "nuclear" taxons – several inter-professional specializations like landscape architecture, restoration, interior design which in the case we decided not to include.

1. Settlement, territorial planning and urban planning.
Settlement. Availability of two vectors related to formation of the settlement belt along the southern border of the country and super-concentration of population in certain mega cities and biggest cities in the western part due to outflow of population from big, middle and small towns and settlements. Demand of increasing connectivity of settlement systems, assistance in restructuring and internal reorganization of urban agglomerations, focus on developing node-centers of modernization, facilitation of aftereffects of deindustrialization in unisectoral towns, improvement and development of enveloping infrastructure and other. The urgent task is to develop the Complex plan of the country's population settlement as a strategic tool of the socio-economic development.
Territorial planning and urban planning. An urban planner shall become a key profession in architecture (to be followed by a landscape architect). Immediate development of urban planning documentation which is unavailable for 70% settlements. Coordination of compatibility of urban planning documentation between adja-

* See, for example: D. Fesenko. Facade/ Section. Russian architecture of the 1990s-2000s. Moscow, 2008, pp. 395-397, 420-423.

cent subjects of the RF. Ecologization, sociologization and democratization of urban planning methods and urban planning documentation. Studies of experience and improvement of the public hearings institute. Promotion of the trend connected with transition from the extensive to the intensive model of space development envisaging a shift of focus from new construction to reconstruction of historic areas. Disciplining of suburbanized vector of development. Debureaucratization of the procedure of project documentation passing. Earnings dilution in construction. Improvement of quality of mass architectural produce. Restoration should stop using the philosophy of historic traces simulation. Special focus on development of transport and energy infrastructure, heritage protection of nature landscapes, development of affordable housing market and increase of urban public space.

2. Housing construction, commercial real estate, cultural, sports and recreation and communal services facilities, industrial architecture, infrastructure facilities.

Housing construction. Urban construction - primarily housing - should be based on the concept of social responsibility. Diversification of housing types, development of low-rise construction based on late- and post-industrial technologies, development of different types of rented housing, mixing of housing targeted at adjacent social strata and other. Replacement or at least reduction of pre-cast large-panel house-building by alternative technologies that is possible (and that must be emphasized) only in the exceptional situation like the current one and only with interested authorities capable of harnessing this unnatural monopoly. It is necessary to fix the lower limit of social housing commission as a key step towards expanding its availability in Federal and regional legislation.

Commercial real estate. The recent decade witnessed elimination of the utmost shortage of trade and office space inherited from the Soviet period. The current situation puts forward new challenges – offices and mega shopping space must be removed from the historic centers; development of administration buildings construction targeted at specifically middle and small businesses (classes B and C), development of typologies, in particular business parks, private shops combined with housing and the like.

Cultural, sports and recreation and communal services facilities. Unprofitable from the commercial point of view the above-mentioned objects are and were built in the Soviet period on the basis of the residual principle and quite frequently are voluntarily replaced by commercial architecture. It is important to develop charging mechanisms for private investors that include corresponding punitive sanctions for default on commitments and to specify minimum volumes of budget construction of non-commercial objects for every region.

Industrial architecture. In many towns industrial areas turn out a last key territorial resource that requires creation of complex development programs envisaging conversion as well as preservation of a production function, as a rule, under the condition of its modification and development. It is necessary to develop long-term programs for redevelopment of industrial areas for regions. With regard to a perspective of conversion of the raw-material intensive economy a special focus should be on development of science-absorbing industries, technopolises, science towns, business incubators and the like.

Infrastructure facilities. Permanent under–funding of this sector, also due to a shortage of order and mechanisms for investment integration from various (federal, municipal, private) sources. This sector of capital construction infers utmost risks especially in the situation of predation and neglect of the post-Soviet period and forecasted growth of technogenic catastrophes probability. At the same time in the situation of the credit crunch this becomes a priority area of development and long-term investments capable of providing employment and job placement of population (another prerequisite is cost reduction of material and labor resources). During recent years several geo-strategic mega projects targeted at reintegration of the country's space from St. Petersburg to Primorie were developed (high technology transport system project by E. Grinev, New linear town project by I. Lezhava, M. Khazanov, M. Shubenkov and other).

3. Construction technologies.

Despite dynamic import and development of the technological sector since the mid 1990s Russia has been visibly lagging behind the advanced countries. Among most backward is the green or resources saving and energy effective construction that falls under the category of the new natural resources use which is a component of the sixth nano-biotechnological order of N. Kondratiev (G. Malinetsky).

At the same time there are numerous examples of development of own technologies and appropriations of available western technologies and materials such as fabric concrete, light and cellular concrete, wood panels, framed technologies of house-construction, nano-materials randing from nano-concrete and nano-asphalt to nano-ceramics and nano-coatings and other.

It is necessary to intensify development of this branch taking into account that within the sixth Kondratiev wave construction materials are to become the so-called carrying materials that is those that play the leading role in dissemination of the emerging technological order and not development (S. Glaziev).

4. Architectural profession, architectural life, architectural legislation.

Architectural profession. The growing redistribution of spheres of influence between project organizations and design bureaus, reconfiguration of the design services market. Demand to develop the Architects Union functions as a public organization, namely communicative, juridical, club and other functions. SRO (Self-regulating organizations) as a tool of self-organization of the profession and insurance of financial risks in capital construction when a respective developed institute is not available. Russian academy of architecture and construction sciences and Moscow branch of International academy of architecture as instruments of integration and professional provision of the profession, its blending in the integral instituational context. It is essential to take care of historically developed interprofessional institutes, to preserve and develop the existing ones.

Architectural life. In the post-Soviet period architectural competitions as a tool of achieving good architectural quality were only partially effective and more often this institute pursued beyond-architecture targets like transfer of orders, legitimating a certain design decision and even money laundering. However the above in no way justifies the recently introduced system of tenders which resulted in actual liquidation of the institute of architectural competitions and architectural quality as is. It is essential to revitalize and to develop competitions which are an important part of the professional activity.

Festivals, shows and young architects open-air events as focuses of professional activity. Despite a recent visible expansion of their quantity the well-developed and diversified nature of the architectural life in the west remains an unachievable ideal. It is determined by the number of architects per a thousand citizens in Russia and in western countries (the difference is 10 and more times in their favor). At the same time the credit crunch demonstrates a controversial character of a popular opinion about a necessity to liquidate or to reduce the gap.

Architectural legislation. Topical nature of improvement and development of fundamental legal documents – The law on architecture, Urban planning Code and other that were mainly developed on the basis of available foreign counterparts that used local specificities that are often very disserent from ours. It is important to overcome the archaic nature of currently valid normative documents, to develop technical regulations, antidumping laws and other. Another problem is copyright whose violation has become quite habitual.

5. Architectural education, science and critical analysis.

Architectural education. Urbanism and landscape architecture as new disciplines. If the latter has received an impulse to develop, the first one is treading water which results in attempts to institutionalize this discipline in adjacent branches. It is essential to preserve and expand (introducing sociological and ecological disciplines) the humanitarian trend of architectural education with simultaneous focus on practice-oriented subjects: Architectural practice, Project management, Constructions and other. The functional-typological model of architectural education that envisages expansion of volume and not complication of design tasks with dominating artistic basis shall be replaced.

Science and critical analysis. It is essential to correct the current outrageous disproportion between the architectural science in its current pitiable state and the prospering architectural critical analysis as a component of the increasingly putting on fat media sphere; to eliminate detachment of these types of professional activity, to revitalize and to reorganize the architectural science and to improve the status of a scientist and a scientific worker and other.

The program is not designed for immediate future and a miraculous escape from the crisis but rather for getting prepared

for the looming collapse in the mid-second half 2010s which in accordance with our model coincides with the singularity point of the rhythm-cycle sequence discovered on the basis of the materials of the 17th-21st Russian architecture. It has a forcedly dotted nature and requires further specification and development, being submerged in a wider context of perspectives of geopolitical, socio-economic and cultural development; and primarily, it is in need of obtaining a subjectivity in person of the interested authorities who are aware of the current life-changing historic period and inevitable arrival of the "end of the rope".

The main objective of the program is easing-off and cushioning of the probable unprecedented transit awaiting the profession towards the post-singular or post-historic stage (by S. Kapitsa and G. Malinetsky) when as researchers expect the very algorithm of the humankind existence, its mentality, mode of life, perception of the world and the role of man in it will be fundamentally changed. The earlier any progress in this field is achieved the less traumatic the consequences of the future transit for the profession and the society as a whole will be.

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Polyhedron of responsibility Participation a la russe

Journalist and historian of architecture Nikolay Lukianov devotes his article to key landmarks of urban planning participation development in post-Soviet Russia. He focuses on theoretical and practical activities of MArkhI professor and prominent public figure Vyacheslav Glazychev. The best well-known example of a participation mechanisms use realized on his initiative is transformation of small Volga town Myshkin in Yaroslavl region into an economically efficient tourist center. The near-Moscow Dmitrov where the Academy of urban environment led by V. Glazychev worked in the early 1990s can now be considered a sample of efficient creative cooperation between the local administration, business circles, the local community, architects and scientists. The complex reorganization of Dmitrov's historic center was based on the results of the studies implemented by the Russian institute of culturology team. V. Glazychev believes that the main figure in the organization of this kind of cooperation is "a culture manager" whose task is "to create a crystal around which expectation of necessary self-realization will align in a horizontal grid that unites people belonging to most different formal groups". The author of the concept says that "self-consciousness of the urban community is essentially unrealizable without those who write, paint, make stories, take pictures; when the authorities start to realize this they begin to take those people as their partners".

Of interest is an example of Kalinigrad where during public debates on the city development problems three non-formal communities – the retired military, the intelligentsia and new settlers - started a discussion. Those who wanted to see the former Konigsberg and its environs as "the most European part of Russia" gained the upper hand; the regional administration and "the passive majority" agreed with the idea of returning the former eastern Prussian identity to the enclave and its center.

Another city – Izhevsk has recently undergone miraculous transformations. Before the city did not have a clearly defined central. As a result of the multistage public discussion improvement and beautification of the centrally-located big pond's embankments designed as a compositional basis for the local urban landscape have become the main link of the urban planning reconstruction of the Udmurtia's capital. In 2008 Izhevsk was awarded the status of the only Russian participant in the European Council's "intercultural cities" project.

Along with V. Glazychev's, similar projects have been implemented by Russian architects in several regional centers; in this regard the article names Boris Krasnov (Krasnoyarsk), Elena Eshina (Penza), Yuri Koryakin, Elena Akhmedova and Tatiana Rebain (Samara). Of real interest is the project of integrated development of historic-cultural territory Bolshoe Peredelkino in the near-Moscow region launched by internet journalists Lev Lobov and Kira Golovko. Their concept envisages that a single non-commercial organizational structure formed by all interested legal and physical persons should become an integral customer of all design and construction works in this area. The prototype of such organization is the National center of heritage custody established in 2004 and headed by Alexander Kudryavtsev, President of the Russian academy of architecture and construction sciences.

The general conclusion reads: participation a la russe has grand prospects.

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Oleg Yanitsky: "There is a demand for a new concept of social environment conforming with the imformation society..."

AV editor-in chief Dmiry Fesenko's interview with prominent Russian sociologist Oleg Yanitsky is devoted to socio-ecological problems in their relation to the profession's prospects. Mr. Yanitsky thinks that the key issue of modern Russia is qualitative restructuring of the socially-developed space. It is under way in three spheres: biosphere, socio-technical and virtual.

Typologically the basis of the first "space" is a territorially fixed landscape built in the Earth's biosphere. The landscape has a defined configuration, measurements and a carrying capacity or a limit of intensive use which turns from a source of well-being into a source of risks if overrun.

The basis of the second socio-technical space is human settlements that are practically devoid of either territorial constraints or intensity limits of its usage. To modernize Russian regions the technogenic landscape is absolutely obligatory however it creates risks for culture and methods of local human communities' economy especially for native minorities and their supportive ecosystems.

The third space is a world web of information and production of knowledge as a resource of the present and the future. It is a world leader in production that determines development of the other two. It is well-structured, has own nodes and networks, density of life but in contrast to the other two it is fixed territorially only in a few points which are easily "torn away" from the Earth.

Speaking about prospects of the architectural profession Mr. Yanitsky says that our urban planning and ecological legislation does not stimulate an architect to have a "socially responsible" professional behavior. He means the civil responsibility, work for the common good and not for a corporation or an individual business.

"I hope that the current credit crunch will simply make us look for more ecological solutions both immediate and strategic. For environment to be "socially responsible" it has to possess respective rights on the one hand and on the other to be responsible for own deeds. "We need a new concept of social environment corresponding to the "information society" realities", the author says in conclusion. "We are in the society and there is no escaping it".

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NODE/HUB as a dialectic pair Mixed-use complexes by ABD company

Moscow architect and researcher Konstantin Savkin presents two mixed-use realizations designed by Moscow-based ABD architects and their foreign partners RTKL and APA Wojciechowski Sp.zo.o. The article also features comments by ABD architects director Boris Levyant.

Mr. Savkin says that an increased intensity of Moscow city life is accompanied by urban planners' dynamic efforts to optimize transit locations and to try to "release them". At the same time functional hubs at communication crossing grow. This process is not spontaneous as it may seem at a first glance. Ideal models of mixed-use complexes (MUC) based on thorough analysis of case studies (including foreign ones) now turn into an algorithm of developing public centers.

In Mr. Savkin's opinion MUC is "a city in the city" with own residential zones (hotels and apartments), work zones (offices), public services (recreation, shopping and catering facilities), communal zones (parking). The complexes share the same structure and conceptually have more similarities than differences.

MUCs designed by ABD architects are built 7,5 km apart from one another. One MUC is situated in the middle part of the city without historic development (however MUC provides a unique environment of the place). The other is located in the historic development of Belorussky railway station square. Despite those differences both MUCs' conditions of development and structure are very similar.

Our contributor describes the complexes in succession. The Metropolis is "a city in the city", a quintessence of functions and a bunch of structures that house many-colored offices, shops, recreation facilities and parkings. The White square project is a stage in developing the current city center, a component of the Tverskaya Zastava historic complex. Its status is more a metropolis – "a big city and environs" than a one-time Shopping and business center Metropolis.

The Metropolis' architectural diversity that follows the big game rules is visible from a nearest metro station. Detached office buildings are built in a business checkered pattern. Their all-glass perforated facades create a hasteless, even philosophical mood. Dynamic bursts of

glassing above the shopping and recreation center are a call for festive perception of urban reality.
"Old" side streets of the White square became office passages and penetrate presentable exteriors-interiors. Marble polished frames of the rounded layout buildings are full of luxurious Art-deco dignity - very strict, almost black and at the same time soft and sandy the complex cliffs grow close to the pseudo-Russian St. Nicolas church with elegant relief details.
In conclusion Mr. Savkin states that the environmental importance of the self-sufficient (The Metropolis) and the complementing (The White square) MUCs is provided by a structured concentration of different elements: tightly woven communications and recreations; diversity of functions; contrasting colors, shapes, rhythms; an active dialogue between the historical and the modern.

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On rehabilitation of standard prefabricated large-block school buildings Based on design experience

MArkhI professor Boris Gandelsman uses the building of Moscow secondary school № 1514 for discussing rehabilitation prospects of a most popular type of school buildings of the Soviet period.
Pre-fabricated large-block schools of the 1950s-1960s share major layout features with the preceding 4-story brick schools of the 1930s: a rectangular building with small wings and stair enclosures on gable facades and classrooms along recreation-halls. In general 385 large-block schools of MU standard were built in Moscow.
In the 1980s-1990s new norms and regulations for design of school buildings with increased "per unit" indicator were developed.
Majority of prefabricated large-block schools are situated in densely populated residential areas developed in the 1950s-1960s; as a case study of rehabilitation methods Mr. Gandelsman chooses a school building in the South-west administrative district. The project – secondary school №1514 - is located in municipal area Lomonosovsky.
The project envisages construction of three new buildings that with the existing school will form a rectangle with a patio. The sports area will feature basketball, volleyball and tennis grounds (with a possibility to arrange a football field). An orchard in the north-east and a beautified area in the southeast will be kept intact.
A new four-story building will be placed along Krupskaya street. The first floor will house a 182 sq.m. 220-seat canteen, a kitchen and a stairwell. The second and third floors accommodate a complex of laboratory premises and four classrooms, the fourth floor will host a library and an information science room.
A second building along with the existing one will feature a two-light space with a swimming pool. A 310 sq.m. two-light multi-purpose gymnasium with changing rooms, shower rooms and a sports equipment room is placed above the swimming pool.
A third building will be built above a north-eastern one-story addition to the old school. It will bend above the drive-in arch leading to the patio and the pool. The building hosts the other gymnasium with changing rooms, shower rooms and sports equipment rooms in the intermediate facility adjoining to the existing school. The third floor above the gymnasium accommodates a 261 sq.m and 354 seat assembly hall with a stage, an amphitheater, a gallery and a foyer.
Attic space of the existing building will house a winter garden with a glass roof.
The construction is planned in stages so as not to interrupt the process of training.
Our contributor says in conclusion that Moscow and Russia can benefit from the results of the experiment.

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Headquarters should not necessarily be a skyscraper The office complex of "Aeroflot – Russian airlines" on Mezhdunarodnoye highway

The Aeroflot administration complex is situated in Molzhaninovo region along Mezhdunarodnoye highway within 2 kilometers from Sheremetievo-2 airport. Two side-by side buildings resemble a couple of ships breaking the waves or plane wings.
The noses of the complex point opposite sides. Because the elongated buildings are drawn close the complex looks longer thus providing natural illumination and good visibility from the office windows. Aerodynamic associations are also caused by powerful granite-coated pylons that support the buildings. The land relief lowering towards the highway as if playing into the hands of the designers also strengthens the soaring effect.
The 18-meter deep blocks slightly tapered towards gable walls stand 24 meters away from each other and are connected centrally by a multi-light atrium. Water pools and fountains placed between the buildings penetrate in the atrium zone.
A console protrusion of the almost blind dazzlingly white conference hall block overlooking Mezhdunarodnoye highway that accentuates the entrance group, is echoed by a single "rise" of a hanging office block from the opposite western facade.
A major part of the internal space visible through a glass net of facades is based on the open space principle. The upper floors of the complex accommodate the company's administration. The gable facades host top managers' offices. The flight control room, a core of the complex, is situated on the 2nd floor. The first floor hosts a reception zone and conference rooms grouped around the main lobby with a communication core. The third floor hosts 250-seat multi-purpose two-light hall. A part of the roof is paved and beautified. Beside several ground car parks most of which are located on the western side of the lot there is a one-level underground parking.

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Chaos aesthetics as interpreted by ZA-BOR bureau

Guests of our start-up feature are Peter Zaitsev and Arseniy Borisenko from the "za-bor" bureau. Their professional life started quite early when they were MArkhI students. "The name of our bureau is coined from the last names of its leaders, says P. Zaitsev. As for the clients' response - hardly a "normal" client will place an order with a bureau with such a name. In the long run the name became a kind of an aesthetic protection for us".
The bureau has accumulated an impressive portfolio of realizations during five years of its existence and this fact is treated by the young architects as the main difference from the 1980s generation. A. Borisenko says that the advances rely primarily on development of construction technologies, a permanently changing architectural vogue and influence of western culture.
A. Borisenko focuses on disadvantages of modern architectural education which is very distant from practical work. P. Zaitsev gives a complex description of relations with clients: he thinks that the client is similar to a sponsor who implements their creative concepts. It is difficult to correct an integral project in accordance with the client's requirements. However till now the architects managed to persuade their clients.
The architects call their works the architecture of chaos. They feel akin to the accidental enumeration technique and self-organization form. As a rule every project displays the main concept.
A. Borisenko and P. Zaitsev work as a duo and use outsourcers which is a flexible and viable method especially during the crisis crunch.

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Jumping on the spot or an attempt to fly away

"The Arkhstoyanie 2009 summer edition demonstrated five new projects but somehow failed expectations related to the declared theme of the session", writes Maria Fadeeva. "Beyond the earth" is the theme formulated by the show's curators Yu. Bychkova and A. Kochurkin who meant that new media projects and new participants from the art guild had joined the Nikola-Lenivets collection.
The five new projects include:
- a park located on a new lot designed by French bureau Atelier 710 whose realization will take three years. The master plan is based on a regular grid of various-size squares a part of which is divided by remaining trees. One square hosts a forum with a stage, another a tent camp site and the biggest one is laid down with buckwheat;
- A. Brodsky's pavilion "Rotunda" which is an elliptical two-story structure with a viewing pad on the roof and 21 doors;
- a heart-beat sound broadcasted by loudspeakers over the field – a project of the show's curators;
- the Mechanical forest and the Air port. The Forest consists of a few Burch trees swung by a gigantic hydraulic piston. The Port is a lamp display with flight numbers and a girl's voice resembling an airport operator announcing a flight arrival coming from the backwoods;
- and finally the Hyperboloid cooler by N. Polissky; the object had a very long construction period as it was woven of vines; at some moment the structure sagged; it was given supports also wickered with vine; its upper part was tapered resulting in the look that resembled a cross between Breugel's Tower of Babel and Gaudi's works.

Translated by Natalia Chekanova