

PostSocialist **MOSCOW**

CITY-MAKING:
POLITICS OF URBAN FORM

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

26-31 MARCH 2011



ORGANISERS

Cities Programme

London School of Economics and Political Science
lse.ac.uk/collections/cities/

Institute for Architecture and Civil Engineering

Moscow State University of Civil Engineering
mgsu.ru

National Research University

Higher School of Economics
hse.ru

Strelka

Institute of Media, Architecture and Design
strelkainstitute.com

POSTSOCIALIST CITY

ps-city.net

PERSPECTIVE

On 28th of September 2010 Yury Luzhkov was dismissed from his position as Mayor of Moscow – this marked the end of an eighteen-year long period of post-soviet transformation for the capital of Russia under his uninterrupted government; a period that not merely imprinted itself spatially and socially onto the city's destiny, but, perhaps, rather traced within the confines of the Moscow region an entire convergence of those socio-economic and political dramas which represent a frontispiece of the post-socialist project of Russia as a whole. In other words, the dismissal of Mr. Luzhkov drew a line under the post-socialist project for Russia, presenting, within the Moscow context, an opportunity to make a critical insight into the results of nearly twenty years of work on the transformation of Russia since the dismantling of the Soviet Union.

It took less than twenty years for Moscow to transition from a city that was once a symbol for the collective project of the socialist state, a city as a coherent socio-spatial whole, to an entity that is instead differentiated and fragmented, subject to an emerging capitalist mode of production. The socialist city, a technocratic manifestation of the Soviet state and a direct translation of its ideological complex into city-form, once exposed to the market process, had to give up its centrally planned environment to the new needs and values. Nowadays, permeating every corner of urban life and transgressing all of the city's artificial boundaries and limits this now expanding process is nearing its goal of an urban environment re-formed in line with the philosophy of global capitalism.

With this shift the city changes not only in its form, spatial logic and content, the very paradigm, a conception and problematic of city as an idea, takes quite new stance. The post-socialist project for Moscow is no longer so much a creation of centralised planning and hierarchical mode of thought; instead the conception of the city now becomes increasingly about an emergence or birth: of multitudes of power, new forms of politics and social relations as ontologically different urban spatial logic intrinsically linked to the idea of re-assembling society. From a literally designed and engineered socialist city, Moscow transitions to a phenomenon that has rather to be researched, a phenomenon that probably has the capacity to interpret the country's moments of present and real, producing totally new critical knowledge of society's possible future or suggesting alternative analytical approaches to the post-socialist city. A study of Moscow, finally, offers a quite unique perspective on investigating the relationship between theory and practice again. Beyond mere application of theory in order to explain certain phenomena or demonstrate a theory's accuracy, the problematic of contemporary Moscow rather strives to destabilise those conceptual territories defined by global debate on a city, transgress its established boundaries and ultimately foresee progress.

APPROACH

Bringing together spatial studies, political theory, sociology and economics, the workshop *Post-Socialist Moscow: City-Making and Politics of Urban Form* aims to investigate the city through the number of critical frameworks and on the basis of current and planned urban projects. As strategic site participants of the workshop will look at the city center that is limited by Sadovoe Ring Road. The detailed analysis and possible proposals will be developed for the 1, 2 or 3 sites located along Sadovoe Rong Road, including: Kurskaya and Poveletskaya Train Stations, and Triumfalnaya (Mayakovskaya) square.



Through integrating qualitative and quantitative methodologies the workshop will attempt to critically evaluate the above projects on different scales. By establishing this more explicit relationship between single intervention and the city's overall agenda and challenges, the City-Making workshop will provide a basis for the informed decision-making and the development of corresponding planning mechanisms. Overall, beyond praxis and direct application, the study will also contribute into a more complex understandings of the city as a distinct whole, thus outlining, a critical perspective on the strategic vision of post-socialist Moscow and its future.

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

As part of *City-Making: The Politics of Urban Form* course the workshop will give opportunity to students to test their knowledge in the particular context of Moscow, including:

- evaluation approaches in political economy and political theory used in the analysis of urban developments
- strategies to situate major urban development projects within development cultures and economic policies
- understanding of the practice of urban development, formal and informal implementation mechanisms and design decisions
- understanding of the relationship between urban policy and spatial outcomes
- strategies for critical evaluation of existing city design proposals
- approach for developing city design briefs for international competitions and global tenders.

The practical final outcomes of the workshop will include one of the following (depending on the information available):

- Design Brief for 1,2 or 3 sites,
- Critique of Set Design Brief,
- Request of Proposal,
- Masterplan Strategy.

ORGANISATION The workshop is organised as part of *Cities Programme* of London School of Economics (LSE) and independent research initiative *Post-socialist City*. The workshop is open to students of *MSc City Design and Social Science of LSE* (30 students), Moscow-based research students and independent urban experts. Based on *City-Making: The Politics of Urban Form* course and *Post-socialist City* interdisciplinary research initiative the workshop will be lead by associated academic and research staff.

PROGRAMME The workshop agenda includes two stages:

First stage, Site Visit: 26-31 March 2011 | Moscow, Russia

03.27 , Sunday	Introduction talk; General (bus) tour around the city/ Site visit
03.28 , Monday	Lectures and discussion
03.29 , Tuesday	Lectures and discussion;
03.30 , Wednesday	Site visit. Interim conclusions discussion/Talk; Free time

Second stage, Brief writing: April-May 2011 | London, UK

This stage will be held in London and will include critical evaluation of site visit findings and brief writing.

**INDICATIVE
CONTEXT
READING**

Suggested Reading:

Goldhoorn, B. ed, 2010. 'Capital', *Proekt Rossiya*, 57.

Golubchikov, O. and Phelps, N. A., 2011. 'The political economy of place at the post-socialist urban periphery: governing growth on the edge of Moscow', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, no. doi: 10.1111/j.1475-5661.2011.00427.x

Paginis, T. & Thornley, A., 2000. 'Urban Development Projects in Moscow: Market/State Relations in the New Russia', *European Planning Studies*, 8(6), pp.751-766.

Further Reading:

Andrusz, G., Harloe, M. & Szelenyi, I. eds., 1996. *Cities After Socialism*, Oxford UK: Blackwell.

Aureli, P. ed., 2006. *Paradigm Moscow: Redefining the Peoples Metropolitan Consciousness: the Berlage Institute Research Report No. 9*, Rotterdam: Berlage Institute.

Axenov, A., Brade, I. & Bondarchuk, E., 2006. *The transformation of urban space in post-Soviet Russia*, New York: Routledge.

Honneland, G., 2003. *Russia and the West: Environment Co-operation and Conflict*, London: Routledge.

Kostinskiy, G., 2001. 'Post-Socialist Cities in Flux' in R. Paddison, ed. *Handbook of Urban Studies*. London: SAGE Publications, pp. 451-465.

Krashenninokov, A. 2003 'The Case of Moscow, Russia' in *UN Habitat and Development Planning Unit of the University College London, Understanding Slums: Case studies for the Global Report 2003*, University College London, London.

Stanilov, K. ed., 2007. *The Post-Socialist City: Urban Form and Space Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe after Socialism*, Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer.

Therborn, G., 2006. 'Eastern Drama. Capitals of Eastern Europe, 1830-2006: An Introductory Overview', *International Review of Sociology* 16(2), pp.209-242.

LEAD PARTICIPANTS

Dr Fran Tonkiss

Fran Tonkiss is Reader in Sociology, and Director of the Cities Programme. She joined the Department at LSE in 2004, and previously has taught at Goldsmiths College, and at the City University, London. Her research and teaching is in the fields of urban and economic sociology. Her interests in urban studies include cities and social theory, urban development and gentrification, urban divisions and public space. In economic sociology, her research focuses on markets, capitalism and globalisation, trust and social capital. Publications in these fields include *Space, the City and Social Theory* (Polity, 2005), and *Contemporary Economic Sociology: Globalisation, Production, Inequality* (Routledge, 2006). She is the co-author of *Market Society: Markets and Modern Social Theory* (Polity, 2001, with Don Slater), and co-editor of *Trust and Civil Society* (Macmillan, 2000, with Andrew Passey). She is an editor of the *British Journal of Sociology*, and a member of the editorial board of *Economy and society*.

Dr Suzanne Hall

Suzanne Hall is Cities Programme Fellow, and has practiced as an architect and urban designer in South Africa. She recently completed her PhD entitled, 'A Mile of Mixed Blessings: An Ethnography of Boundaries and Belonging on a South London Street', for which she was awarded the LSE's Robert McKenzie Prize for outstanding performance in a PhD programme. She has taught in the Departments of Architecture at the University of Cambridge and the University of Cape Town. Her projects considering the role of design in the context of rapid urban transformation in poor and racially segregated areas have been published and exhibited in: the *Architectural Review* (2007, vol.221, no. 324, pp. 64-5); and 'Between Ownership and Belonging: Transitional Space in the Post-Apartheid Metropolis', as part of the 2006 Venice Architecture Biennale on 'Cities, Architecture and Society'. As an urban ethnographer her research interests include ordinary spaces and everyday practices, social and political forms of inclusion and exclusion, and ethnography and visual methods. She recently co-edited (with Melissa Fernandez and Cecilia Dinardi) *Writing Cities* (LSE, 2010); and her chapter on 'Walworth Road - World Intersections: Moving, Pausing and Stopping on a Multi-ethnic Street', is included in S. Dobson, A. Rooke and P. Halliday (eds), *Studying the City: Methodology, Experience and Politics*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Dr Aleksandr Vysokovsky

Aleksandr Vysokovsky is Professor at Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Head of the Panel for Urban Development and Planning of Russian Union of Architects, Director for Nonprofit fund "Reforms in Urban Planning" (Moscow). His area of expertise and interests include: problems of urban planning and development, legal zoning and urban built form. Aleksandr Vysokovsky participated and lead projects including: Rules for Development, Laws and Federal Statutes, General, Strategic and Development Plans for 11 Russian cities.

Oleg Bayevski

Oleg Bayevski is Deputy Director for the State Enterprise "Research and Design Institute for Strategic Plan of Moscow", Member of International Academy of Architecture, Emeritus Architect of Russia. Oleg is Principal Architect for Strategic Plan of Moscow and Group Leader for the City's Zoning System. Oleg Baevski completed his degree in Architecture at Moscow Architectural Institute in 1978 and has been working Research and Design Institute for Strategic Plan of Moscow since 1975.

Dr Pedro Ignacio Alonso

Pedro Ignacio Alonso studied architecture and holds a MSc in Architecture from the PUC in Chile (2000), and completed his Ph.D at the Architectural Association in 2007. He has taught at the AA since 2005, currently as Visiting Tutor at the 'History and Critical Thinking' MA Programme. Between 2006 and 2009 Alonso worked at Arup Urban Design in London in a number projects in Russia, Azerbaijan, and Saudi Arabia. He currently teaches theory of architecture and design at the Catholic University in Santiago. His publications include The Ghost Project, in 'AA/CC Architectural Association City Cultures Research Cluster' (London: Architectural Association, 2010); A panel's tale: KPD and the Politics of Assemblage (AA Files 59, London 2009); and Acronym (AA Files 57, London 2008). He is also guest editor of a special issue of the Chinese Magazine New Architecture (no 129) titled Critical Fabrications (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, April 2010). Together with Hugo Palmarola, he received a RIBA Research Trust Award for his ongoing study on the Soviet KPD system and the politics of Cold War prefabrication; has been awarded with a Research Grant from The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, California (2010), and with a Fellowship as Visiting Scholar at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) in Montreal (2011).

Yuriy Milevskiy

Yuriy Milevskiy is an architect and urban researcher, he holds MEng in Architecture and Buildings Design from Moscow State University of Civil Engineering (2005) and completed his MSc in Urban Studies at University College London (2009). His research interests are within urban studies and architectural theory and include questions of post-socialist city, space and power, urban development and economics, landscape urbanism and complexity science. Yuriy has previously worked as an urban designer as part of Arup Urban Design in London (2006-2009), taking part in projects in the UK, the Netherlands, China, UAE and Russia. From 2009 onwards, he has worked in collaboration with an international research project based at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile studying the application of Soviet prefabricated building technologies in Chile and Cuba. From 2010, he has worked with number of academic institutions, such as Università IUAV di Venezia, TU Delft, research bodies such as Center for Strategic Research (Saint-Petersburg) and independent urban experts as part of Post-Socialist City research initiative.

Dr Aleksey Krasheninnikov

Aleksey Krasheninnikov is Professor at Moscow Architectural Institute and Director of the Center for Urban Studies and Design. He joined the Department at MARCHI in 1977 and previously has worked at Research and Design Institute for Strategic Plan of Moscow. His research interests are within socio-spatial aspects of urban development, post-socialist urban housing and market economy.

Oleg Gusakov

Oleg Gusakov is Partner at Griffin Partners, commercial real estate development and management company. Oleg has over 16 years of real estate investment and development experience. He has established and managed the real estate group for Aton Investment Bank and Asset Management Group. Here he raised a private equity fund and invested it fully in both completed property assets and new developments. Having began his career as a construction project manager with Bovis International, during the 1990s Oleg went to co-manage the development of Moscow's most significant commercial properties including A-class mixed use development "Novinsky Passage" at Novinski Boulevard, Sadovoe Ring.

Dr Tatiana Mikhailova

Tatiana Mikhailova is Assistant Professor at New Economic School where she teaches Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization and Spatial Economics. Tatiana joined the Department at NES in 2008 and prior to that has been a visiting Lecturer and Researcher at Boston University. Tatiana Mikhailova completed her degree in Moscow State Institute of Electronic Engineering (1996), she holds MA in Economics from NES (1997) and Ph.D. in Economics from Pennsylvania State University (2004). Her research interests include: Urban and Regional Economics, Economic Geography, Economics of Transition, International Economics, Industrial Organization.

Dr Aleksandr Finogenov

Aleksandr Finogenov is District Chief Architect for North-East Administrative District of Moscow.