

Meeting:  
Ecology of the Countries of the Post-soviet Space  
January 10, 2013 at 1:30pm  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

Organizers:  
Prof. Mark Jarzombek  
Associate Dean and Professor of the History and Theory of Architecture  
Department of Architecture

Prof. Nader Tehrani  
Head of the Department of Architecture at MIT SA+P  
MIT School of Architecture + Planning

Notes to the Meeting:  
Professor Igor Klimov  
Department of Innovation Technologies in Architectural Environment Design  
Kharkiv National University of Construction and Architecture  
Kharkiv, Ukraine

Dear Fermata Arts Foundation Team,

Dear Participants of the Meeting,

Sincerely welcome you with your noble and very necessary undertaking in the sphere of ecological architecture. Joint search of the decisions is now very urgent for harmonization of the environment, for improvement of quality of life of people, for the solution of energy and economic problems. These questions became the most essential right now not only for separately taken countries and regions, but for the civilization overall, for the whole world observed and occupied by people. Therefore joint efforts in search for solutions of the common similar problems concerning social, psychological, economic and technical aspects of sustainable development strategy are very important.

Both environmental problems as a whole, and the sphere of ecological architecture has a wide range of aspects of invention, design decisions and technical realization. Most important of them are: energy problems (non-volatile buildings and constructions), bioclimatics (optimum use of resources of the environment for heating, conditioning, illumination of buildings), "green roofs", gardening of urban areas and environment rehabilitation in the conditions of the cities, a transportation problem, a recycling and waste utilization problem, a problem of use of nontoxic ecological materials in construction, a problem of reduction of energy consumption in construction processes.

It is very important that the psychological climate of urban environment, as a basis of stability and the high standard of human life is represented. The psychological climate of an urban environment is

influenced by a form, proportions, texture, color, space, etc. These aspects are least elaborated in the ecological architecture.

In the post-soviet space countries problems of ecological architecture stand most sharply. First of all, there is no accurate, coordinated legal basis for the ecology of the environment, there are no concrete standards, rules, sanctions, penalties. Those laws which exist, they are ignored or not exercised. The most essential is the problem connected to the mentality: for many years lack of traditional religious ethics (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) on territories of the former USSR, and on the other hand domination of materialistic ideology of industrial society brought up a cult of the all-powerful owner of the nature, the brutal ignorant consumer in the people. Therefore there is no responsibility in the people for themselves, for the next generations, for the nature, for the world as a whole. The mentality is the base of human relationship, relationship of the person and the world around, the base of human activity.

Recently here the tendencies for harmonization of the relations of the person and environment have been outlined; the urge to make a change for the better life has been outlined.

Joint efforts, joint creativity, mutual support are capable to change the situation which has developed here and to give a movement for transformations.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Igor Klimov  
Kharkiv National University of Construction and Architecture  
Kharkiv, Ukraine

dated January 09, 2013