



The Urban Transformation of Soviet Towns in the First Decade after the Second World War

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Already during the Second World War soviet architects and town planners developed plans for the rebuilding of war-damaged towns and villages. Furthermore, the evacuation of industries and population during the war caused the necessity of urban restructuring also of the towns at the rear of the USSR. Wartime conditions forced soviet town planners to base their solutions on pragmatism and adaptation of suitable western models. After the victory political ideology regained its important role. The Communist Party dictated that the new master plans reflect the heroic pathos of the Great Victory and the successes of Socialism. In architecture the concept of Socialist Realism was embodied in Neo-Classical forms. In this period Stalinist town planning achieved its zenith. A universal urban model was invented and applied all around the country. The intensive construction in accordance with the post-war master plans continued till Khrushchev's revolution of 1954 in Soviet architecture and town planning. The most vital element of the late Stalinist urban transformations was the creation of the new city centre. The connection between the main railway station and the main city square formed the compositional axis of the whole city. The cities were constructed as integral architectural ensembles of squares, streets, embankments and parks. This urban framework is still actively present in most of the modern Russian cities.

In my paper I would like to analyze the theoretical discussions on urban transformation, the first realization of the new type of the Post-war Soviet Town, and evaluate the urban heritage of the immediate post-war period and its place in the contemporary urban transformations.

KEY WORDS: Post-War, Soviet.