

## **International Research-to-Practice Conference:**

### **‘Zaporizhia modernism and Bauhaus school: universality of phenomena. Problems of preserving modernist heritage.’**

We would like to invite you to apply for participation in the ‘Zaporizhia modernism and Bauhaus school: universality of phenomena. Problems of preserving modernist heritage’ – the international research-to-practice conference, which will be held on 19–20 November, 2017, as a part of ‘German Weeks in Zaporizhia’ series of events.

**Venue:** Palace of Culture of Metallurgists, #7 Dobrolyubova St., Zaporizhia

**Dates of conference:** 19–20 November, 2017

**Application deadline:** until 15 October, 2017

**Working languages:** Ukrainian, English, German, Russian

On 10 October 1932, 85 years ago, the gala launch of Dnipro GES, the hydroelectric power plant (one of the largest in Europe at that time) took place. The construction of the plant on the Dnipro river along with the construction of a large industrial hub have become powerful factors in the development of modern Zaporizhia. Its architecture and planning in the 1920s - early 1930s reflected progressive trends of international modernism, which were close to the ideas of the Bauhaus school in Germany. In Ukraine, this trend was known under the titles of ‘architectural avant-garde’ or ‘constructivism’.

In the interwar period, many industrial centers of eastern Ukraine emerged, such as Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih, Dnipro, Mariupol, etc., with the newly emerged cities developed actively just in the period of the first wave of modernism. In particular, it is due to the ideas of socialist settlement around large steel mills, namely in the Sixth Settlement (Sotsgorod or the Socialist City), that the archetypal buildings of Ukrainian modernism appeared in Zaporizhia, with famous domestic and foreign male and female architects partaking in their development. Most residential, industrial and civil constructions exist till now but they are in poor (almost derelict) condition and are literary threatened with destruction.

Unfortunately, Zaporizhia Constructivism has not received due artistic evaluation and attention from the municipal urban planning bodies. At the national level, the unique legacy of the 1920s-1930s is not systematized, with no proper assessment mechanism available. Until now, the Ukrainian list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites has not any single object of modernism, therefore, the problem of preserving this architecture is high on the agenda at the moment. All of this weights on the historical appearance of the city, and eventually can lead to the loss of its identity.

**The conference goal** is to draw attention of the public, Ukrainian and international experts and authorities to the problem of preserving objects of the interwar modernism in Ukraine, to prove the universality of the phenomenon of the German and Ukrainian modernism of the 1920s-1930s (with the Sixth Settlement in Zaporizhia being the case in point) and to promote the exchange of experience in the preservation and legal protection of the legacy of this period with German partners from Berlin, Germany’s federal state of Saxony-Anhalt (Dessau), and experts from other EU countries.

**Participation:**

The following participants are invited to take part in the research-to-practice conference: experts in the field of architecture, history and theory of architecture, restoration, technology of restoration, history of art, legal disciplines, economics and taxation, cultural studies, history, regional history; social activists and heritage defenders; representatives of state and local authorities working in spheres of architecture, urban studies, urban planning and heritage protection.

**Conference structure:**

The conference foresees three panels as follows: 'Theory and history of housing construction in period of interwar modernism', 'Procedures and mechanisms of protecting architectural and urban objects of international modernism', 'Features and technologies of restoring architectural monuments of interwar modernism'. Each panel will be followed by a public discussion with speakers of the conference joined by a moderator and participants and with the discussion analyzing main threats, opportunities, and ways of applying international experience by using the Sixth Settlement in Zaporizhia as the case in point.

**Panel 1: Theory and history of housing construction in the interwar modernist period**

The conference organizers believe that the Ukrainian modernism is a legacy of the world architecture, which has international significance and, therefore, requires preservation for the benefit of present and future generations. The first panel of the conference will analyze historical examples of housing construction and typology of architectural and urban objects, which were applied in the process of development and construction of working settlements; identify its features, common features in Germany, Ukraine, other countries of Europe and the former USSR; study approaches to workers settlement in different countries according to the historical, political and socio-economic context. The panel plans to touch the issue of interrelation and universality of modernism phenomenon; the conditions and reasons for its emergence in the period of a rapid industrial development, in the wake of modernization and the emergence of new national and supranational states. Theoretical developments, methods, and approaches to housing construction applied by representatives of the Bauhaus school will enjoy a special attention. The first conference panel task is to liberate the concept of 'Ukrainian constructivism' from isolation and to include objects associated with constructivism in Ukraine in the broader and more universal concept of 'modernism' by motivating common stylistic and ideological characteristics, historical prerequisites for its emergence, approaches and methods of implementation.

**Panel 2: Procedures and mechanisms of protecting architectural and urban objects of interwar modernism**

Given the current unsatisfactory condition of numerous objects of interwar modernism in Ukraine, the multiple facts of their destruction, restructuring, the degree and variety of threats they face, and the passiveness of the state system regarding the protection of cultural heritage, there is an urgent need to take measures to improve the existing system of protecting the material cultural heritage. The second conference panel will examine the system of heritage protection agencies in Germany and other European countries, the history of their origin as well as the basic principles and mechanisms of their functioning. The conference participants will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the best world

practices, experience, and methods employed to preserve objects of the interwar modernism. Participants will talk about the leverages of control, monitoring and influence the society and experts possess to protect the cultural heritage. The panel will address specific features of European and international legislation that regulates the protection of material heritage. The presentation of the experience of adapting objects of the interwar modernism to modern use will be of a particular relevance. The panel will consider the principle of balancing interests of various stakeholder groups in matters related to heritage objects; the panel will also analyze the way private investors, society, and experts are involved; what economic and tax incentives exist for owners and tenants of tangible heritage sites and what their responsibility is. The social culture of protecting material heritage and ways of its enhancement will enjoy a special attention. The second panel task is to define the problems of the functioning of the system of protecting material heritage in Ukraine by providing examples of Germany and other European countries. The second panel task also includes the analysis of problems of ratification, execution and due implementation of the requirements of international legislation and treaties ratified by Ukraine in this field.

### **Panel 3: Features and technologies of restoring architectural monuments of interwar modernism**

The international studies and the global practice show that restoration is a long-term economic and cultural investment. Unfortunately, nowadays Ukraine lacks a school for the restoration of objects of the interwar modernism, and there is an information vacuum in this sphere, which leads to a decrease in practical competence. At the moment, Ukrainian experts need improving in the field of examining and assessing the state of objects of the interwar modernism; using the latest restoration techniques capable of preserving both separate buildings, groups of buildings and urban ensembles that are the legacy of the interwar modernism. In the course of the third conference panel, the experts from Germany and other European countries will share their own experience, skills and approaches to the restoration of objects of the interwar modernism. Participants will talk about the specifics of restoration technologies, particularly of the modernist architecture. Please note that the modernism of the 1920s-1930s is definitely a relatively new construction period in the history of architecture where inbrand-new technologies (new ones as of that time) were actively used – the use of monolithic reinforced concrete and new types of metal structures. That is why it is very important to develop appropriate technologies and approaches to the restoration of objects of this period, which will correspond to the original plan of architects and engineers. The panel will pay attention to methods of selecting the authentic composition of building materials and their equivalent substitutes. In addition, the panel will touch the issues of preserving objects of the interwar modernism, namely the basic principles of this approach to preserving objects and the way it is implemented in Germany and other European countries. The task of the third conference panel is to review the best international practices of restoration, the main issues of technological restoration and preservation of objects of the interwar modernism, as well as issues of conformity of restoration approaches used in Ukraine to the international legislation.

### **Terms of participation:**

Participation in the conference is free of charge, with meals foreseen for all the participants. For those participants selected on the basis of documents submitted to be the speakers, organizers provide accommodation and return money for travelling if the expenses above are not covered by the organizations who the participants represent. Should there be a need in compensating accommodation and travel expenses by conference organizers, please inform us about it when submitting documents.

To join one of the panels, please send your abstract of research (the abstract shall not exceed 500 words) and a short CV. The above materials should be sent to the email [connect.ufc@gmail.com](mailto:connect.ufc@gmail.com) until 15 October, 2017.

**Conference organizers:**

Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Donetsk (office in Dniprpo) in partnership with the NGO Urban Forms Center, Barannik contemporary art gallery and Professor Thomas Flierl (Germany).

The entire project is arranged also due to the support by Zaporizhia City Council, the Berlin Office for the Preservation of Monuments, the State Chancellery and the Ministry of Culture of Saxony-Anhalt, Bauhaus-University Weimar and Kharkiv National University of Construction and Architecture.