

Kharkiv Modernism

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EDITORIAL

Uta Pottgiesser & Wido Quist

Editors-in-Chief

KHARKIV MODERNISM

More than two years ago, on February 24, 2022, the Russian military invasion of Ukraine started, with the aggression continuing to threaten and destroy human lives, families, cities, and cultural heritage ever since. Docomomo International published the Solidarity Statement on Ukraine¹ and gave the floor to Ukrainian scientists and professionals, which resulted in the Docomomo Journal 67 special issue on Multiple Modernities in Ukraine.² We aimed to illustrate the historical context and modern architectural heritage often unknown outside of Ukraine. The permanent shifting of political systems and borders influenced architecture and the architectural discourse. Modern architecture started in the early 20th century and continued to expand in the interwar period from 1921-1939/40. Today, Ukraine, with its huge number of outstanding modern buildings, neighborhoods, and sites, is still suffering from large-scale demolitions of infrastructure, housing, cultural institutions, and artworks.

In 2022, Docomomo International launched a call for papers on Modern Movement in Ukraine together with Docomomo Ukraine. More than 20 proposals were received, most of them from authors based in Ukraine itself—despite the difficult circumstances. The Docomomo Journal 67 presented a first selection of those articles to display regional and architectural particularities and current challenges of archiving, documenting, protecting, and preserving the modern heritage. Nearly 100 examples of Ukrainian modern buildings were presented in a graphical overview. The modern Ukrainian architecture was dominated by Constructivism from the mid-1920s to the early 1930s, with Kharkiv as the epicenter of production, while Socialist Realism with the Stalin Empire emerged from 1932, lasting until 1955, with Kyiv as the capital of Ukraine. From December 1919 to January 1934, Kharkiv was the first capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the cultural, economic, and educational center of the new Ukrainian Republic. The status as new capital led to prestigious master plans and construction projects, among them the world-famous Derzhprom building at Freedom Square—as a symbol of Constructivism—or the Kharkiv Tractor Factory—as a symbol of the industrialization of agriculture. The leading role of Kharkiv as a forerunner and capital of Constructivism is often expressed by the famous State Industry House (Derzhprom) built from 1925 to 1928. Being the only modern ensemble in Ukraine nominated as UNESCO World Heritage, it became and still is the focus of identification and pride—despite the many controversial reflections and discussions about the conservation efforts and changes carried out since the original construction in the 1950s and after the year 2000. This explains the many articles dealing with Freedom Square and Dherzprom as a reaction to the call for papers in

2022 and also Docomomo International's commitment to dedicate this special issue of the Docomomo Journal to Kharkiv under the title *From Constructivism to Modernism in Kharkiv*.

A special word of thanks goes to Svitlana Smolenska, architectural historian and journalist from Kharkiv and a member of ICOMOS, who provides an overview in her article about *Kharkiv in the 1920s-1930s as the Capital of victorious Modernism*. It is followed by three articles discussing the many aspects of Freedom (Svoboda) Square. The first one by Alexander Shilo, elaborating on the concept of modern style, a second by Olena Remizova about the *Composition Methods of the Soviet architectural Avant-Garde*, and finally, the contribution of Mariia Rusanova and Oleksandr Maimeskul about the *Destruction, Restoration, Reconstruction* of Modernist monuments at Freedom Square. All of them approach the topic from different perspectives of architecture theory and praxis.

The second group of articles deals with public buildings exemplified by a revue of *Clubs for People (Worker's Clubs)* by Olha Deriabina, Maryna Pominchuk, and Olena Konoplova, a more detailed investigation of the *Palace of Culture of the Railway Workers* by Błażej Ciarkowski and Maciej Miarczyński, and the research of Svitlana Smolenska about the *International Competition for the Theatre of Mass Musical Action* planned for Kharkiv in 1930 but never built. Finally, Kateryna Didenko elaborates on the *Kharkiv Residential Architecture during the Capital Period*, and Nadiia Antonenko presents her research on the *Kharkiv Mass Housing Estates in Urban Planning of the 1960s-1980s*.

We are also thankful to Kateryna Cherkasova and Olesya Chagovets for addressing the challenging topic of *Authenticity Preservation* by analyzing different objects and sites in Kharkiv. In line with this, Edward van Hevele and Wessel De Jonge shed light on the archival challenges of the World Heritage Property's Redevelopment of the Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam (The Netherlands). Once more, the important role of archives and the systematic documentation of sources is highlighted. The essay by Oliver Schruoffeneger deals with the potential of city partnerships in preparing a future reconstruction of Ukrainian cities.

We would also like to acknowledge the commitment of many researchers in Ukraine and abroad who shared their work with us: Nadiia Antonenko presents her ongoing research on large-scale *Mass Housing Estates*, Ammar Azzouz reviews Ievgeniia Gubkina's book *Being a Ukrainian Architect During Wartime*, Alex Bykov presents *DIPROMISTO*, the last project institute in Ukraine. Oksana Chabanyuk gives insight into her research on *Foreign Specialists in the Soviet Industry in the 1920 and 1930s*. Olga Mykhaylyshyn has curated an exhibition about *Female Architects who built the City of Rivne*, similar to Liakhovych Myroslava, who presents the *Lviv Modernism Project*.

We are glad to collaborate with Robert Huber and Ben Buschfeld, the organizers of the ETOM/NEB-Lab in Berlin, for hosting the launch of this Docomomo Journal. We are also grateful to our colleagues from within and outside the Docomomo community who critically reviewed the contributions to this journal. We thank Scott Roberson for the support in proofreading and editing and Olga Psarri and Pelagia Spyridonidou for creating the graphical overviews.

We thank all academics, activists, preservation specialists, and other Ukrainian and international experts who contributed to this current issue on Kharkiv despite the terrible circumstances in which many of you are. It is with great pleasure that we present this issue of the Docomomo Journal, published both in print and online via www.docomomojournal.com.

1 <https://docomomo.com/international-solidarity-statement-on-ukraine/>, visited March 24, 2024.

2 Docomomo Journal 67, <https://doi.org/10.52200/docomomo.67>.

KHARKIV CITY GROWTH

1915 -2024



1915



1938



1978

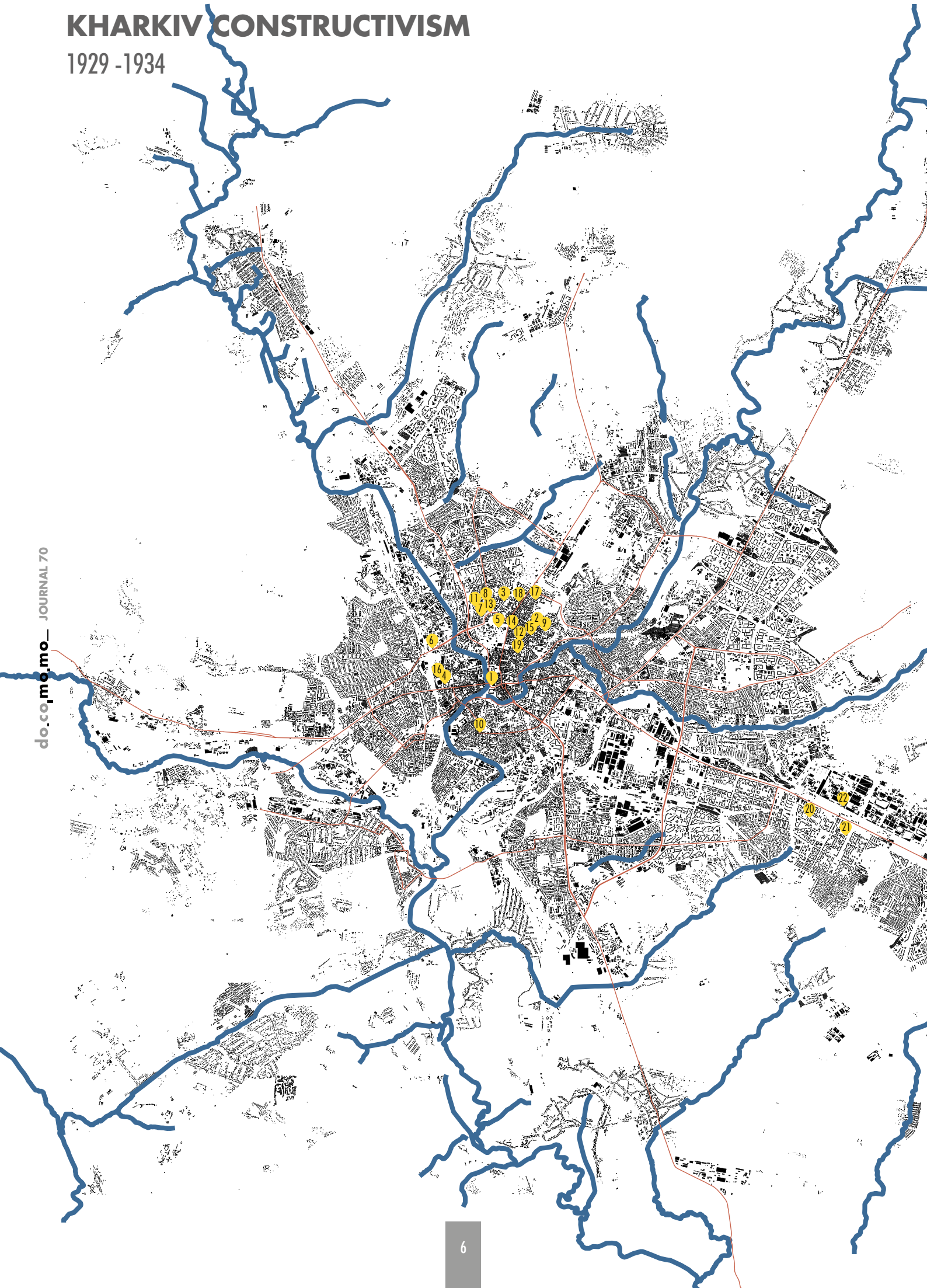


2024 ↗

KHARKIV CONSTRUCTIVISM

1929 - 1934

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1 CHEMICAL FACULTY BUILDING OF THE KHARKOV STATE UNIVERSITY

1928 • S. Kravets
61000 Universitetskaya str. 16
49° 59' 19.7802" N/36° 13' 44.6376" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/HEdHkKp59jqEubFA8>

2 S.P. GRIGORIEV INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RADIOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

1930 • V. Estrovich
61000 Pushkinskaya str. 82
50° 0' 15.4872" N/36° 14' 54.837" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/u7ukcZdX8RMokWc56>

3 HOUSE "SLOVO"

1930 • M. Dashkevich
61002 Literature str. 9
50° 0' 42.12" N/36° 14' 3.12" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/t9kWNXtDDYJbDiut7>

4 HOUSE OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

1926-1936 • A. Beketov
61182 Krasnoarmejska str. 8
49° 59' 21.12" N
36° 12' 29.16" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/Nt7b6dRZfDEsfekB7>

5 SVOBODY SQR. ENSEMBLE

1921-1936 • V. Trotsenko, Kravets, M. Felger,
M. Zundberg-Serafimova &
G. Janovitsky
Svobody Sqr.
50° 0' 19.08" N/36° 13' 50.88" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/88HENcDfx3kFRrWi7>

6 RAILWAY WORKERS' PALACE

1927-1932 • A. Dmitriev &
engineer N. Aistovy
61000 Velyka Panasivska str. 83A
49° 59' 54.7476" N/36° 12' 12.1926" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/BRH8tD89dKE3a3fT8>

7 HOUSE "TABACHNIK-KNIJNIK"

1930 • P. Frolov
61058 Nezalezhnosti Ave. 5
50° 00' 27.0" N/36° 13' 32.2" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/sRoGuSUomFsvCTGv5>

8 RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX NOVYJ BYT

1926-1930 • M. Pokorniy
61000 Nauky Avenue
Danylevskoho and Culture Street
50° 0' 41.04" N/36° 13' 35.76" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/qMBAQPk5JP7YFeV6>

9 COMPLEX OF THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS & TECHNOLOGY

1931 •
61000 Nahirnyy
50° 00' 11.3" N/ 36° 15' 07.0" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/DyTaweQXH87nbcbt5>

10 4TH UNIFIED DISPENSARY (KHARKIV CITY POLYCLINIC)

1933 • P. I. Frolov
61000 Moskalivska str. 59
49° 58' 31.148" N/ 36° 13' 25.636" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/henqD5mwopd8X1f7A>

11 "RED INDUSTRIALIST" RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

1928-1929 • S. Kravets & A. Kasyanov
61058 Nezalezhnosti Av. 5
50° 0' 31.72" N/ 36° 13' 30.22" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/5Go6NUar8gRxSx4a6>

12 HOUSE "KOMUNAR"

1932 • A. Linetskiy & V. Bogomolov
61002 Girshmana str. 17
50° 0' 2.88" N/36° 14' 27.96" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/6KT3MM1jZowi7Y9Y77>

13 HOUSE "DOM SPECIALISTOV"

1934-1936 • L. S. Lemesh
61058 Boris Cibanin st. / Romain Rollan st./
Prospekt of Thruth /
Velyka Panasivska st. 83a
50° 0' 30.96" N/36° 13' 36.84" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/p4t5fv2kPeUPmXG99>

14 AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE STATION

1930-1932 • P. Frolov
61000 Svobody str. 9
50° 0' 13.858" N/36° 14' 16.051" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/KdaaNeNhr9dPPFjd6>

15 CAMPUS GIGANT

1928-1931 • A. Molokin & G. Ikonnikov
61024 Pushkinskaya str. 79 1
50° 0' 22.68" N/36° 14' 58.56" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/UGDG6BpTfZ9FMLgQ6>

16 POST OFFICE

1927-1929 • A. Mordvinov
61052 Pryvokzalna sq. 2
49° 59' 26.169" N/36° 12' 22.820" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/SXXIZipfkFt4JbcI6>

17 HARKOMKHOZ RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

1927 • M. Movshovich
61000 Chernyshevska str. 94
50° 0' 43.16" N/ 36° 14' 50.88" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/xHqELsIT5MrNRCxb8>

18 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

1928 • V. Kostenko
61000 Sumska & Mayakovsky str. 4-6
50° 0' 38.78" N /36° 14' 27.99" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/AvKFF5P8m255JWKA>

19 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

1931 • N. Plekhov, A. Postnikov &
A. Vatsenko
61000 Pushkinska str. 40
49° 59' 50.96" N/ 36° 14' 22.5" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/uh7mc1kMywb1KwJ6>

20 CLUB CANTEEN IN "NEW KHARKIV"

1930s • team led by P. Alioshin
61000 Myru Ln. 3
49° 57' 7.8336" N/36° 21' 53.193" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/bfnHSXaXxqHmai2A7>

21 CLUB-CANTEEN IN "NEW KHARKIV"

1930s • Team led by P. Alioshin
61000 Industrialnyi Ave. 6
49° 56' 49.2066" N/36° 22' 49.767" E
<https://goo.gl/maps/5N8GNqaxqolT5k9R8>

22 NEW KHARKIV', METRO TRAKTORNYI ZAVOD

1930-1931 • Team P. Alioshin
Heroiv Kharkova Ave. 275
49° 57' 17.39" N/ 36° 22' 44.7" E
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uTr38x3Bk6Sfih69>