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**Architectural Heritage of Soviet Era in Industrial Cities of Ukraine**

Researching History of Architecture of Soviet Period and Problems of its Protection in  
Ukrainian Industrial Cities

Ukrainian industrial cities are not a popular tourist destination and there is a stereotype that no valuable heritage can be found there. As these cities have mostly grown in the Soviet period, most of their architecture comes from then. While Soviet heritage remains stigmatized by the public and ignored by official institutions, many valuable and unique buildings from that era are not protected by law, are being destroyed or suffer from careless repairs and reconstructions. Their value is not understood by both owners and local governments.

The architecture of industrial cities includes buildings and settlements that are unique in the scale of the whole country. But it is not widely known and its value is even less known. Heritage of industrial cities remains underrated and unknown. Despite the fact it was created by mostly local architects and engineers it keeps being extracted from local memory together with its creators.

For many years there was no public activity to popularize and protect the architecture of industrial cities. There weren't any noticeable cultural studies of this heritage either. It was considered only as utility or property, but now it needs to be rethought as part of local identity. The goal of my research is systematizing information about the most valuable objects, settlements and their authors to show and prove its value.

Besides degradation of industrial cities as a reason for many buildings' poor condition, the main threat now is Russia's full-scale military invasion. The city of Mariupol is almost completely destroyed. In many other cities valuable buildings have been destroyed or heavily damaged. Without proper understanding of their value most of them will not be rebuilt after the war or lost during the future reconstruction of the cities.

To preserve the architectural heritage of industrial cities we need to introduce it as an essential part of Ukrainian cultural heritage and gather the best practices of local heritage protection initiatives.