



The Scientific Research Institute of Theory and History of Architecture and Urban Planning, Moscow

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IOFAN 130

The Paths of Architecture of the 1920s-1940s

International Conference, September 15-16, 2021,
Central House of the Architect, Granatnyy Pereulok, 7-1, Moscow

Scientific Committee Andrey Bokov, Claudia Conforti, Maria Grazia D'Amelio, Alessandro De Magistris, Nina Konovalova, Evgenija Konyshova, Yulia Kosenkova, Jean-Battiste Minnaert

Organising Committee Anna Vyazemtseva, Stéphane Gaessler, Lorenzo Grieco, Ksenia Malich, Ilya Pechenkin

Call for contributions

The 130th anniversary of Russian and Soviet architect Boris Iofan (1891–1976) provides an opportunity to reflect further on the architectural heritage of the interwar period. Iofan's most famous work, the Palace of Soviets in Moscow, a project that won the international competition in 1932, marked a turning point in the history of 20th century architecture while also provoking contradictory opinions. The eclectic project, which mixed classical monumentality with a utopian image of the city, reflected the multifaceted profile of its author. The biography of the architect, who had studied and worked in Odessa, St. Petersburg, Rome, and Moscow, distinguished him from his contemporaries. In fact, without joining any of the established architectural associations and trends, he succeeded in developing projects that soon prompted a fervid debate on architecture.

Iofan impersonalises many questions and dilemmas of the history of 20th century architecture: his interaction with proponents both of the classical paradigm and the avant-garde; the phenomena of 'totalitarian art' and 'difficult heritage'; the peculiarities related to architectural education and the reform of the same, and the role of architecture in international relations on the eve of the Cold War. The radical change in stylistic orientation from the avant-garde to the 'critical assimilation of heritage' in Soviet art and architecture, its reasons and background as well as Iofan's own role in this change – all these problems are being reinterpreted today. The change in views on the artistic heritage of the interwar period in the USSR and in the West and on the elaboration of norms and approaches to restoration, suggest new ways of considering the art and architecture of the 1920s and the 1940s.

We welcome contributions focusing on the following themes:

1. New research on the biography and projects of Boris Iofan
2. The professional architectural education in Russia and Europe by the time of the First World War
3. Russian and Soviet architects in Italy in the first half of the 20th century
4. Italian contemporaries of Boris Iofan: the fate of architects and architecture
5. Boris Iofan and the context of the international architecture of the interwar years
6. The role of Boris Iofan in the architecture of the USSR
7. Architects and power in the 20th century
8. Changing perceptions of traditionalist architecture of the early XX c. from the post-war years until today
9. Problems related to the reconstruction of the heritage of avant-garde architecture and 'regime architecture'

To submit a paper, please send an abstract of no more than 300-word long in English, French, Italian, or Russian, along with a short CV by **June 15, 2021**, to the e-mail address **iofan130@gmail.com**.

The conference will be held in Moscow, with attendance both in person and virtually, pending future sanitary measures. Collateral events in Rome are planned. The proceedings will be published after the conference.