

ISBN 978-3-930092-14-7



Since its foundation few over 300 years ago, Saint Petersburg has had a tremendous influence on the political, economic and cultural development of Russia. Until today, not only Russians have an idiosyncratic relationship to the city created by force as the so-called “window to the West”. For Europeans, Saint Petersburg is the city where the European Baroque and Classicism converge with the Russian weather and proportions. It always was and it still is a city that – unlike Moscow with its red Kremlin and Stalinist skyscrapers – seemed to be accessible and comprehensible for Europeans. Also that is why the landscapes of St. Petersburg represent an exciting subject to study. The surveyed topics range from socio-economic studies of shipbuilding, to housing, to political spheres, to old and new mythologies of St. Petersburg (the city as a theatre façade and the spreading of concrete fences respectively). Students discovered and examined the various layers of the city with a critical curiosity, and by asking proper questions they sought for the ways to understand this very special mixture of classical architecture and Oriental manifold.

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Urban Planning in a Global Context

Documentation
BA + MA Seminar
WS 2015/2016

