

Информационный анализ

статей о квартирном фольклоре СССР

Период 60-80х года

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Вероника Куницкая

- ❑ Неустойчивость конструкций, в частности балконов;
- ❑ Устаревшие технологии строительства;
- ❑ "Грязное покрытие", людям казалось, что зданию 50 лет, но на самом деле оно было построено 5-8 лет назад;
- ❑ Бревенчатые дома;
- ❑ Отношение правительства к этому вопросу;
- ❑ Зарплаты работников.

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Soviet Building Program Riddled by Inefficiency

There is a revealing look into construction methods for both logs and roads. It is given by an American correspondent who spent nine months in the Soviet Union. This is the first in a series.

By TOM WHITNEY

London, Oct. 1 (UP)—I was out for a walk in Moscow one autumn a few years ago. My meditations were interrupted by a roar—a crash. Across the street a cloud of dust and plaster arose. People ran from all directions.

It was easy to see what had happened. A fine Soviet building—by Soviet standards—stood beside me. Three floors up were used to be a balcony. The balcony had simply fallen off the side of the building. The cause, I think, does not have to be an exact realization that most of the buildings are poorly constructed. I think that almost the whole construction industry is inefficient and antiquated. You can see this watching new buildings go up. You can walk up to an older building and start guessing when it was built. An American might say 50 years; the cornerstones show it was erected 8 or maybe 15 years ago. But it already looks old. The work was poor. The building is dirty.

Old Before Finished
Some buildings in Moscow are years old even before they are finished.

Most are built of brick. But the bricklayers do not have facing brick. Instead they cover over the surface with plaster. The plaster sometimes starts flaking off before the building is even finished. Even when it stays on it does not look good. It is usually painted with some sort of water paint—often in a pasted shade. This surface collects the dirt. Within a few months it looks bad.

There are many brick buildings which were intended to have a plaster facing but never got it. They look even worse. Soviet architectural design is not generally good. Architects tend to put a lot of ornate decoration on buildings—on buildings. Most of this is poorly conceived, almost all of it poorly executed.

Has Been Improvement

Nevertheless there has been considerable improvement in the quality of work in the postwar years. A good many steel frame structures are going up. Many are using reinforced concrete for walls. New ceramic facing materials have been developed which look better than anything the Russians have used heretofore. There has been emphasis on simplicity of design in the interest of economy. The extensive use of construction machinery has lowered building costs.

All these are healthy tendencies but the Russians have a long way to go. I lived in an apartment house completed in 1951 with 72 apartments for foreigners.

Space Is Wasted

Much space was wasted. In our apartment a long corridor could have been used to enlarge the three small rooms. No central hot water system was provided. The gas and water were partly exposed; so was some of the wiring. The double windows were poorly fitted, and a draft came through them.

There were no walls necessitating the purchase of expensive wardrobes. There was no laundry room. Some of the apartments were inadequate. Some of the corridors did not work.

And this was an excellent apartment house.

Elevator Didn't Work
The new American building was completed in the spring. When the embassy moved in, having put its offices on the 9th and 10th floors at the top, it discovered the single small

built in the sense that the pine logs are carefully fitted. In between the logs there is moss insulation. They are good warm homes for the Russian winter.

Wood Is Wasted

But they are small and just think of the waste of good wood in them! Each log cabin must have enough to make three fairly large homes if the wood were saved.

Why is the Soviet building industry so antiquated, inefficient and costly to boot? For one thing, the government does not give the building industry enough attention. It is not putting its best brains and executives to

work in this field. Also, construction workers are among the worst paid in the country.

If construction work on industrial enterprises as bad as that on Moscow housing? I suspect that it is not much better.

One of Russia's greatest curses always has been—and still is—lack of roads.

Highways Are Secret

The statistics on hard-surfaced highways are a state secret. But it is possible to estimate that the entire Soviet Union—one sixth of the world's land surface—has fewer macadam, concrete and even cobblestone motor roads outside cities than any averaged-sized

state of the United States. There are a few more or less modern motor highways. Such for example are the highways from Moscow west to Minsk (built before the war) which has for a considerable part of its distance from four to six lanes, and also that from Moscow south to the Crimea (built since the war).

Once off these few main arteries, one makes the acquaintance of the Russian dirt roads. Even when the weather is dry they are frequently impassable for a passenger car because of deep ruts and holes.

The first printing press was imported into this country in 1639.

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Soviet housing drab, scarce

Copley News Service

There are some housing headaches in this country — but nothing to compare with the ongoing severe housing pinch and other problems in the Soviet Union.

This becomes clear in a talk with Barry McComie, the head of a major development firm who was part of a U.S. delegation which toured Soviet housing developments recently.

McComie is president of Avco Community Developers, the firm which built the new communities of Rancho Bernardo and Laguna Niguel in Orange County, Calif.

The main target of the visit was the so-called Soviet "new towns."

"It's evident that Russia is still suffering from a severe housing shortage despite major building activity there," McComie said.

He said the Soviet housing built in its new towns isn't attractive and probably would repel most Americans.

The "standard" single-family housing that Americans are accustomed to is almost unknown in the Soviet Union.

People there mostly live in apartment houses, many of which are high-rises and maintenance is poor.

McComie described "contemporary Soviet standards for housing as the mass development of high-rise structures all similar in design and in general of poor construction quality."

The new towns there are made up of concrete constructed high-rise apartments ranging in height from five to 20 stories, he said.

"The outside of the buildings look very sterile," he said. "There's no beauty in them."

About 100 square feet is allowed for each individual living in the apartment. That means a family of three will have 300 square feet.

McComie said normally there was a small kitchen, one bathroom and a couple of other rooms.

The high-rise new towns usually are built near an industrial center to house factory workers.

"Of course, the whole thing is planned by the government," he said. "The industrial base goes in, the housing goes up and the people are assigned to live there. They pay a percentage of their earnings as rent."

There were more appealing apartment buildings in some communities, he said, but that was probably because they were occupied by high-level scientific types who got better housing because of their positions.

He said Soviet officials who visited his Rancho Bernardo and Laguna Niguel developments thought planning for the sprawling, mostly single-family residential developments reflected inefficient use of the land.

"But I think they just weren't used to seeing American-type residential development where we have to make it comfortable and attractive to the buyers," he said.

In the Soviet Union there are no private housing developers, he said.

The government does all the building.

Although McComie said he didn't like much of what he saw, he did spot one technique used by the Soviets that could be applied here — their use of computer technology to plan new towns.

"This use makes planning much more sophisticated and scientific," he said. "I think that some of that same technology could be applied here."

But he emphasized that it could only be used for legitimate new towns where a whole new community with residential, commercial and industrial areas are planned.

He said several new towns set up with the aid of the federal government here have failed because of faulty planning.

- ❑ Острая нехватка жилья, несмотря на масштабную строительную деятельность;
- ❑ «Советское жилье, построенное в новых городах, непривлекательно» ;
- ❑ Многоквартирные высотные дома с плохим техническим обслуживанием ;
- ❑ 9 кв метров пространства на человека;
- ❑ Новые дома строятся рядом с фабриками;
- ❑ Строительством занимается государство, а не частная компания.

using in Russia appears relatively drab when compared to bustling U.S. de-

steyn will
ave city

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jeff Golsteyn, a junior forward from West Allis, Wis., has left the University of Cincinnati to return to Concordia Junior College, now a

four-year institution, athletic department officials say. The 6-foot-8 Golsteyn had been a starter for the Bearcats until midseason, but lost his job to freshman David Duarte.