



Architectural Guide Kharkiv

Author Iegeniiva Gubkina's *Architectural Guide Kharkiv* is another title on Ukraine's building tradition. In this 300-pages publication, she argues passionately for the protection of the Constructivist heritage in her hometown. In Kharkiv, the war destroys buildings almost daily – making it difficult to remember Ukraine's architectural history. A prominent example is the Railway Workers' Club, which was largely destroyed after two direct attacks in March and most recently in August 2022.

This guide is more than a documentation of the significant buildings in the second largest Ukrainian city. This book is a declaration of love for a city that was exposed to direct combat several times during the Second World War and has been a frontline city since February 2022. Gubkina's description of Kharkiv is based on the layout of the Janus-faced structure *Old Town vs. New Town* and Sumska Street connecting the two parts. »But the two equal centers do not simply oppose, argue, or resist one another, but are in dialogue, in interaction, in a dialectical relationship. This is not the primitive negation of the old, but the classic *unity and struggle of opposites* of the old and the new. Or more, it is the completion of the thesis-antithesis model by synthesis.« This ambivalence takes on all the more significance against the backdrop of the Russian army's current war of aggression.

Ievgeniia Gubkina

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