

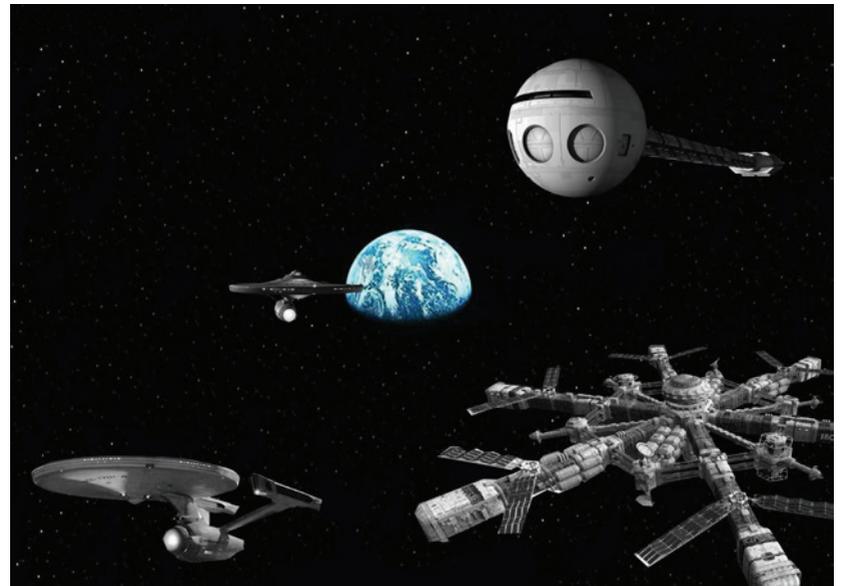
**I Used to Think I Cannot Orient Myself,
But Now I Am Lost**

Markéta Mráčková, Barbora Šimonová

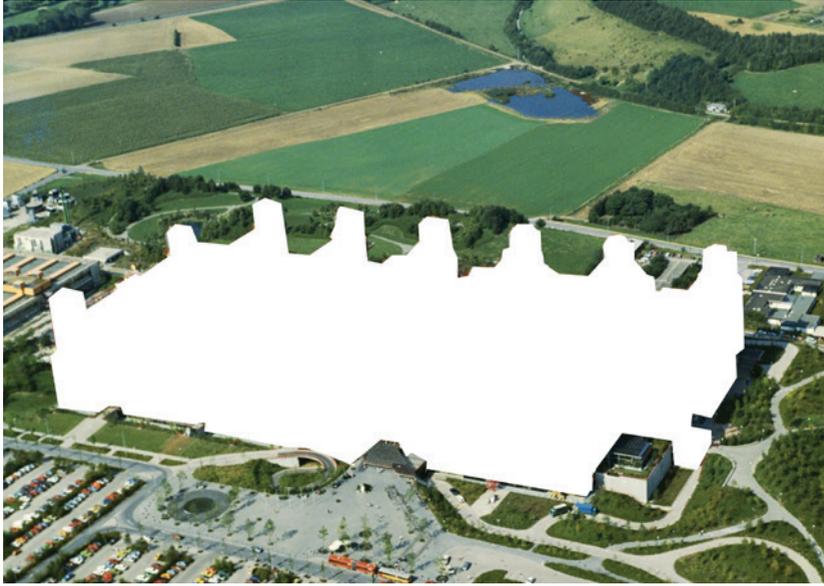
Post-Futuristic Congress



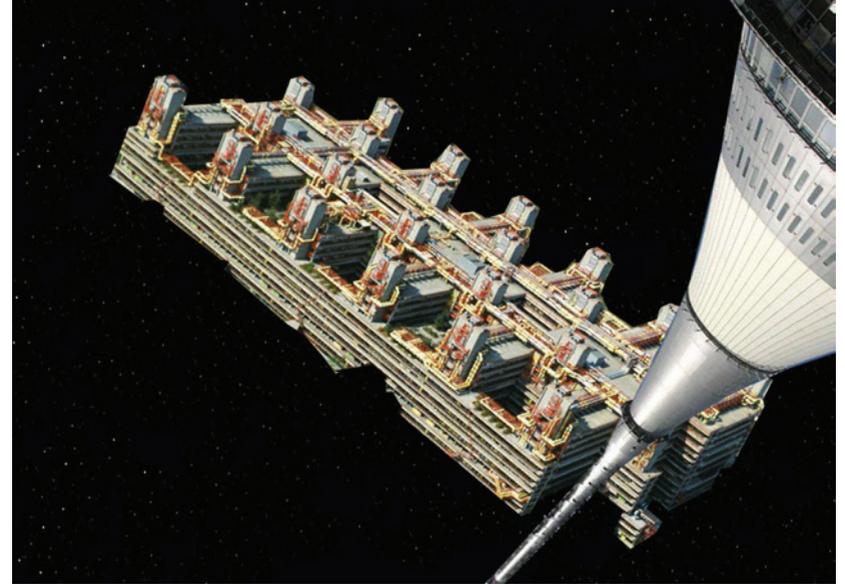
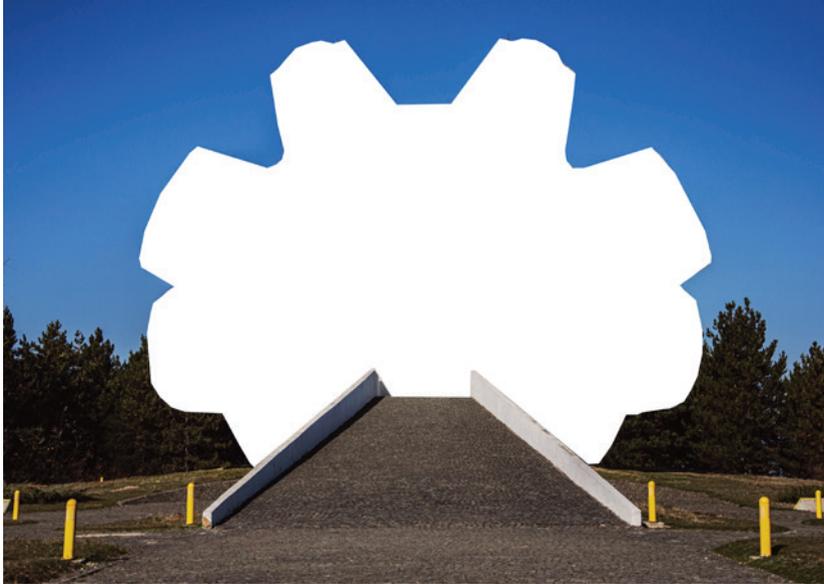
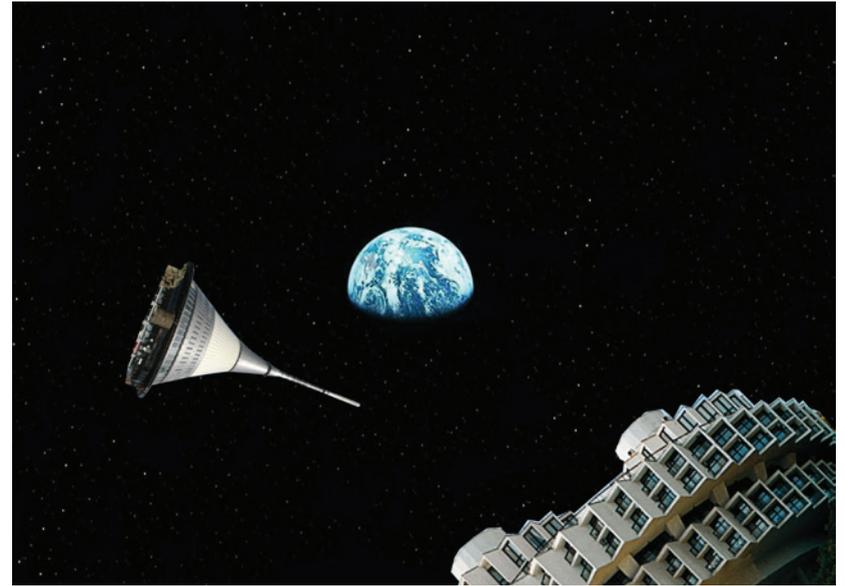
Our intergalactic spaceships went haywire.



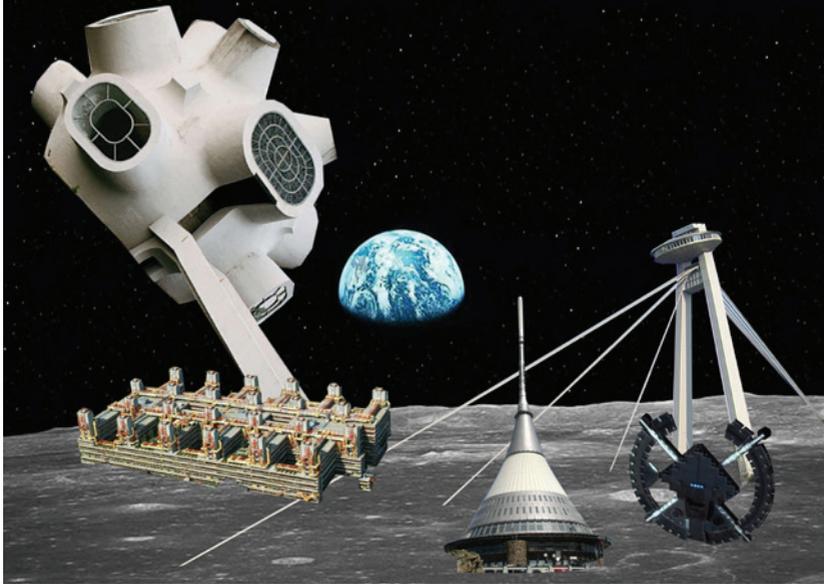
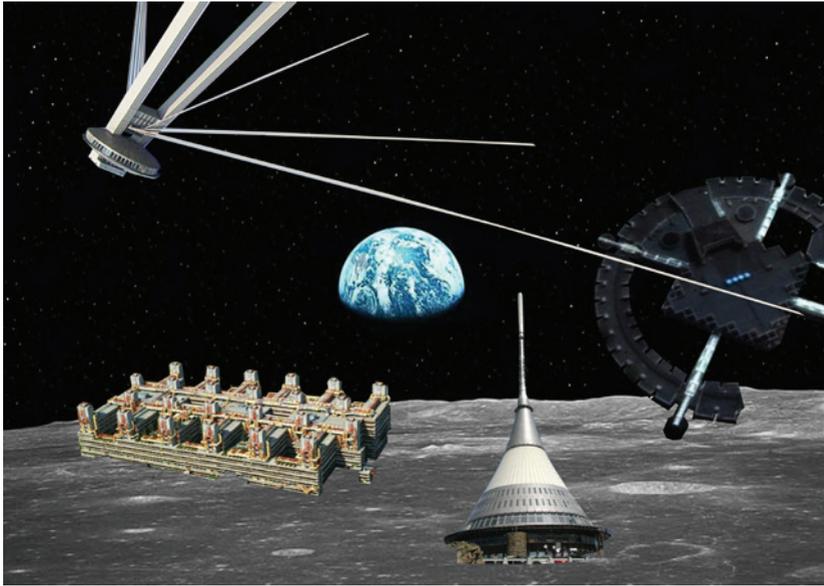
Without proper legislation it is impossible to know where our ships are heading to.



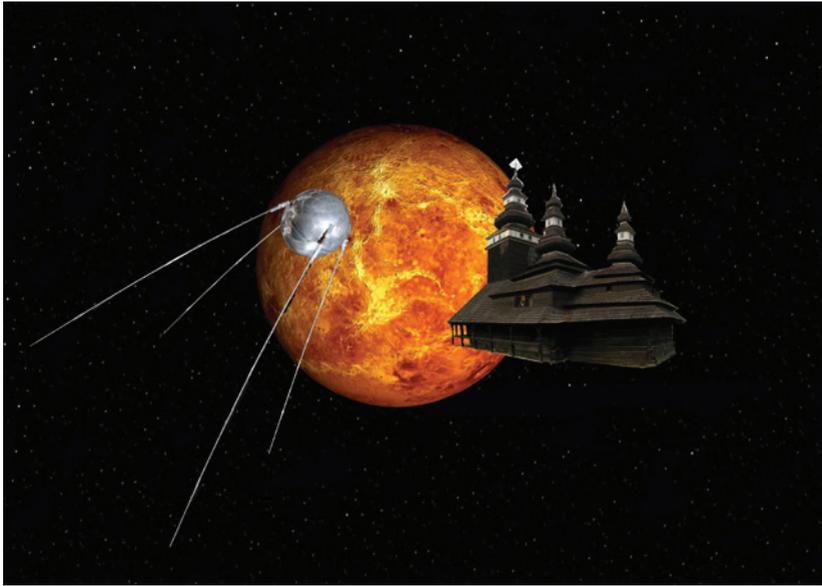
Last week, many important buildings were missing - they simply left.



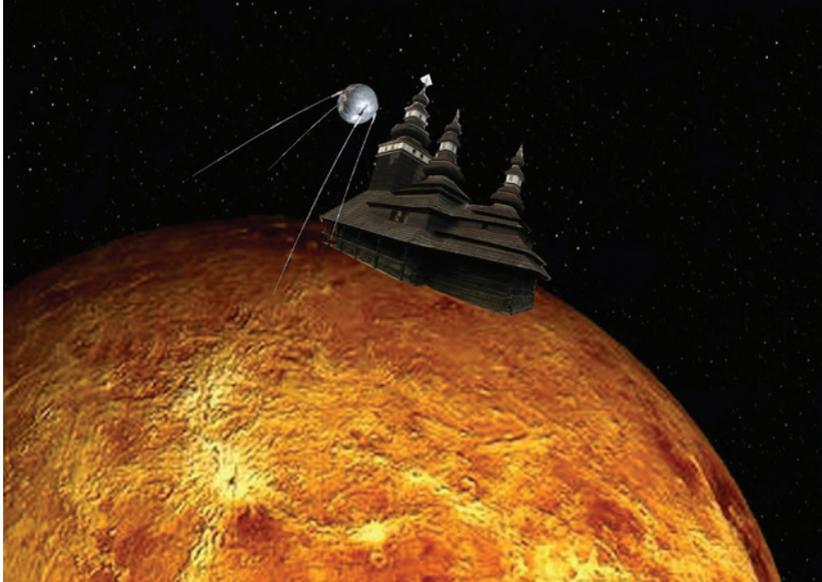
Finally, it was found out they had flown away to the First Post-Futuristic Congress on Saturn.



For instance, a small wooden sputnik got lost.



After 50 chaotic hours, it was discovered that the sputnik had answered a distant call from a distant land...

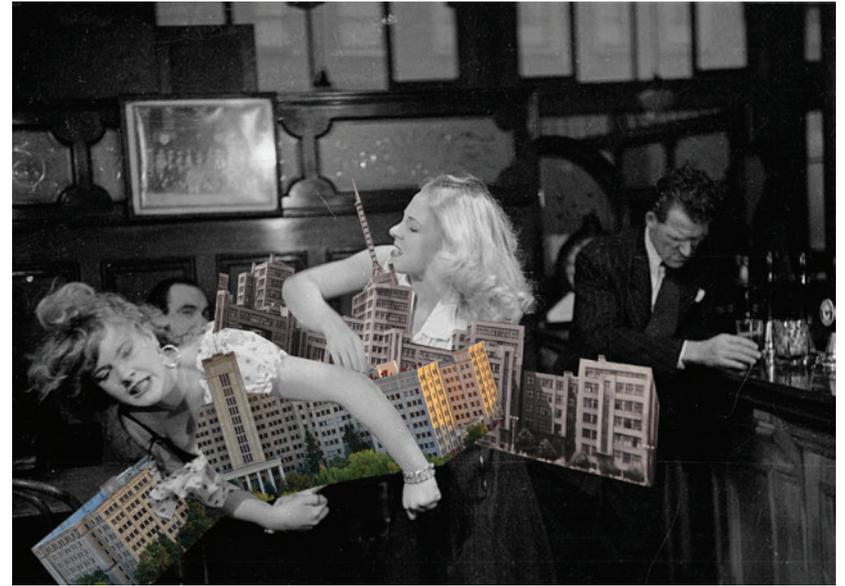


...to join another sputnik on a romantic date on Venus.

Travesty-Arch Show



A fancy dress ball ended in a disaster.



A young lady dressed as a modern constructivist Gosprom Building envied her sister, who was dressed as Kharkiv University: her ledges, columns, capitals, column base, bossage and floral decorations were gradually torn off her costume until she ended in underwear.



On the other hand, a dancing couple dressed in the former and contemporary facade of the Committee of the Communist Party made a completely positive impression when dancing the disco. In the end, they even won the audience award.

Blacklisted Colours



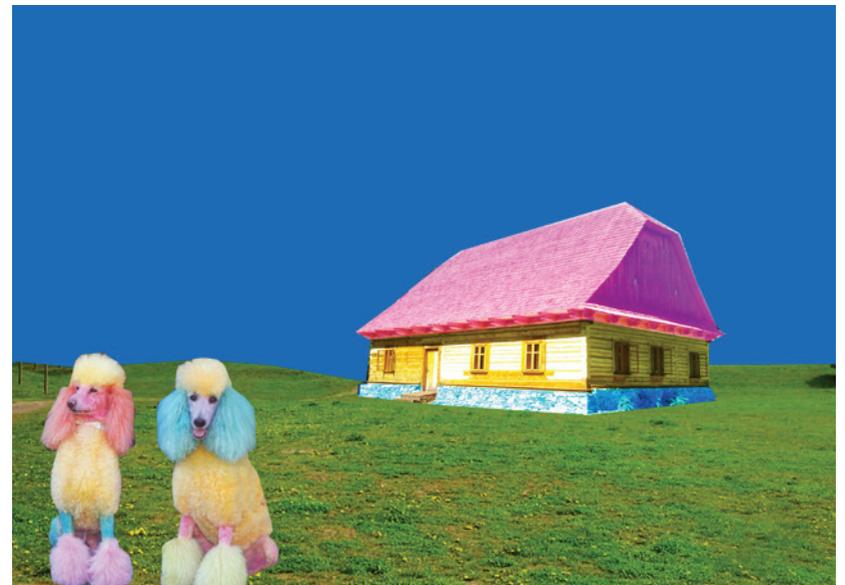
The latest trends in architecture and building restoration inspired people to change their attitude towards fashion and colours. After grey years in grey housing estates, ...



...the inhabitants decided to end with their grey lives. Almost everyone do repaint their house in marshmallow bright colours.



And it spread as a fever.



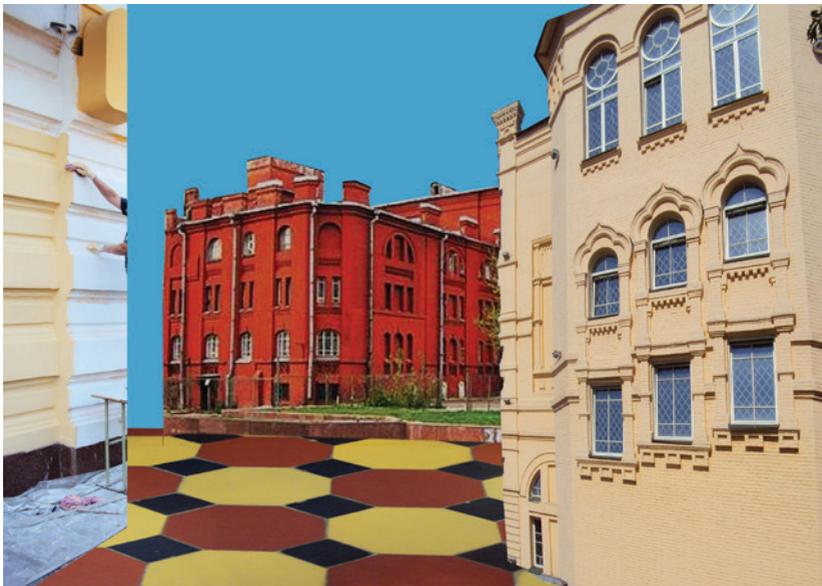
People repainted their huts, cars and dogs in shinig vibrant pastel colours.



Furthermore, the architecture in another city started to change from red to white and yellow.



Bleaching fever started.



Its inhabitants decided to end with their red lives.



Brick parts of buildings were repainted white or at most yellow.



Epidemic of Huts



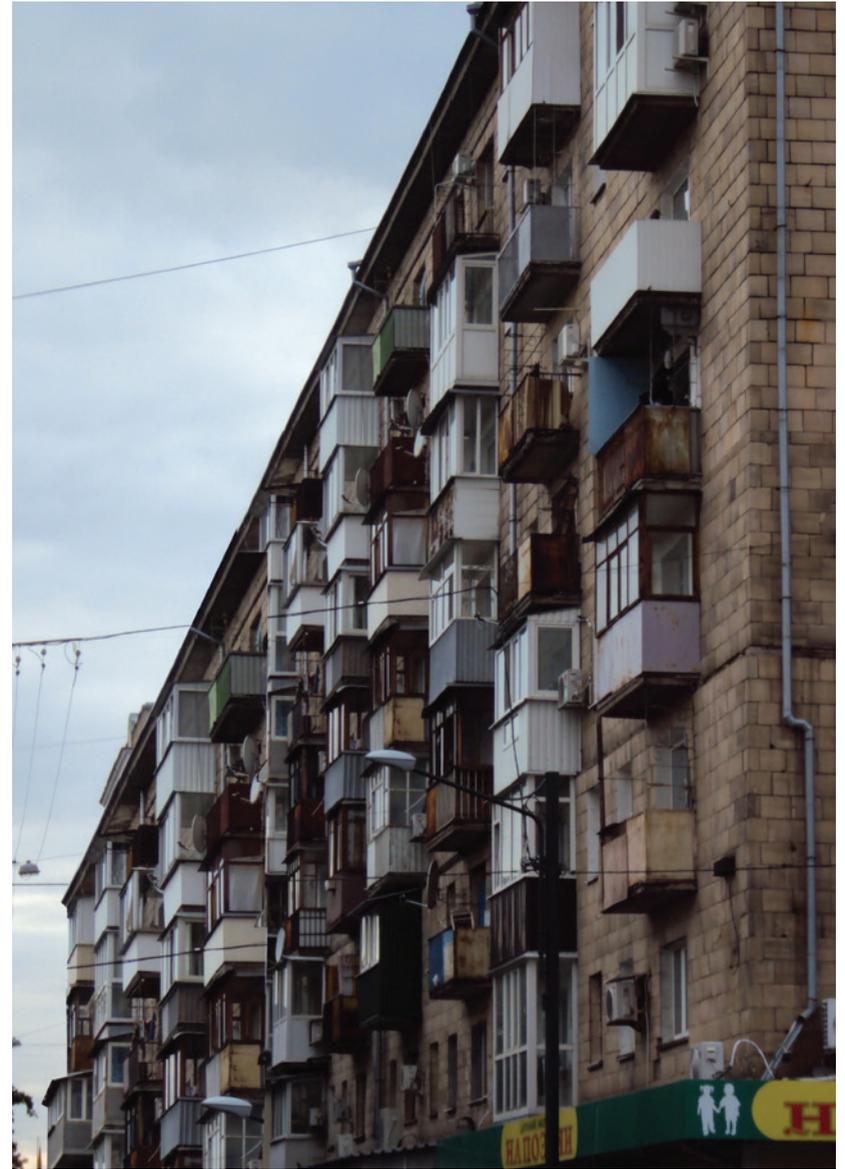
All white houses were immediately full of white ladies and white men or at most yellow ones.



A new epidemic of huts is spreading through the city. City mayor knows nothing about it.



Small huts mainly made of former balconies are recklessly attacking the city and the result is breathtaking.



On Friday the city architect registered 30 new cases. Only a day earlier it had been ten less. The mayor of the city is angry that she should have known about the epidemic earlier.



“Although cultural institutions are socially stronger with high aesthetic standards, the State Scientific Library has succumbed...

Useful Lenin



... as it is located in the polluted area of DIY zone” said the spokeswoman of the chief architect. Do you think balcony-huts will attack the new shopping mall? What building will be the next?



After the Leninfall, at the beginning of the 21th century, all Lenins where widely spread around the country.



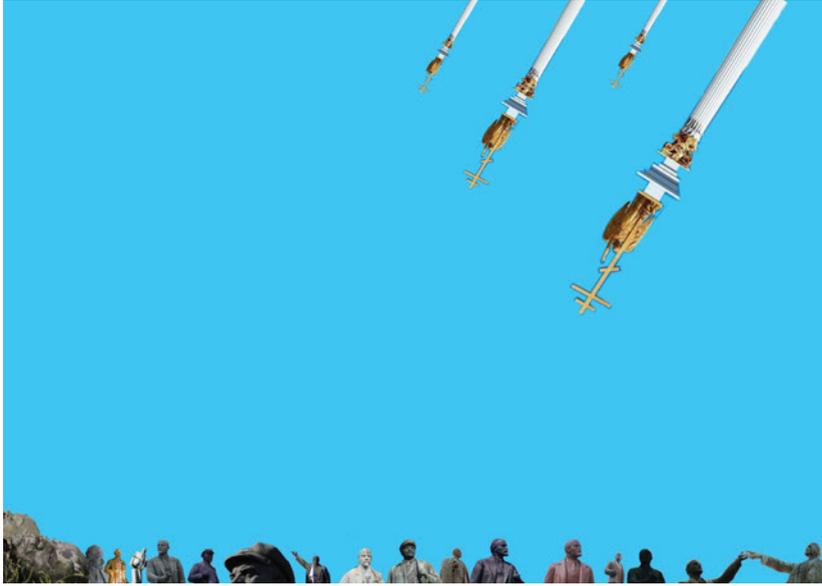
Some of them tried to get inside museums...



People buried them away from the public in deserted places, gardens and wardrobes. Lenins had been useless even before but then they evacuated the places completely.



... and some travelled to China to earn money by selling their own body.



Angels and Darth Vaders arrived to replace them. Fallen Lenins expected some positive news from the Institute for National Remembrance.



After some time, they organized themselves to perform a water show at dry water cascade every Sunday.

Character Changes



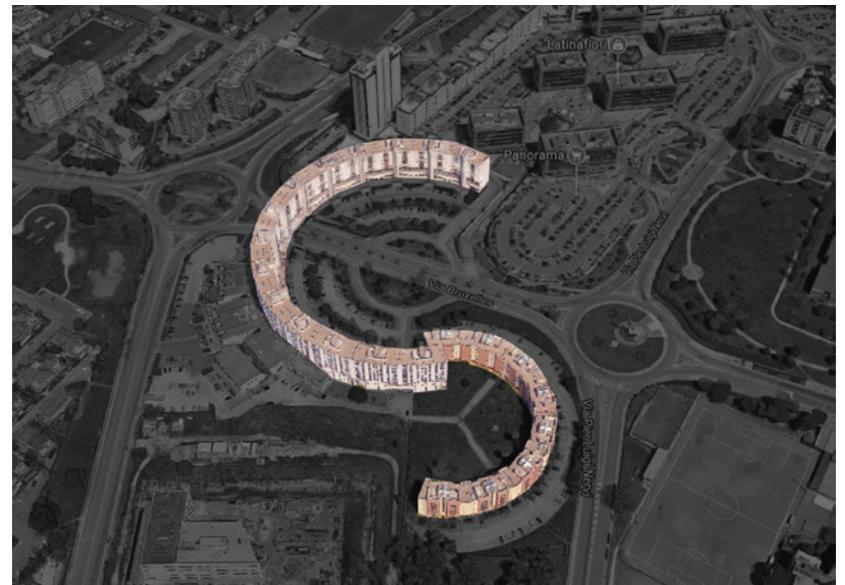
In the 20th century, the European regimes used to build buildings of really amazing shapes.



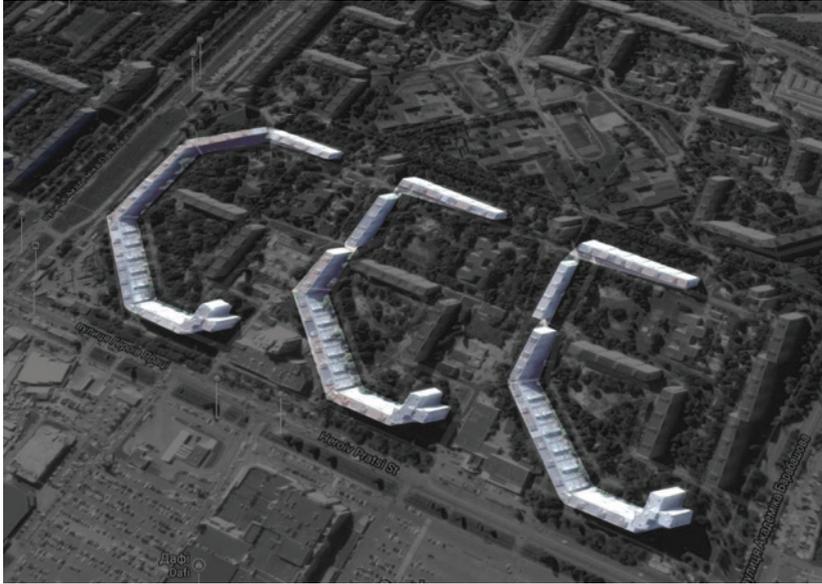
To enable any space-visitors to orient themselves in different parts of the Earth...



...they used very simple symbols, as the sickle and hammer, moon crescent...



...or big letters "M", "F" or "H".



An accident happened when the aliens flew around the Earth for tens of years in hope to find letters SSSR where only CCCP appeared, ...



... they finally gave up and landed near a small charming star.

Decapitalization



A new wave of decapitalization came to Ukrainian cities.



A group of emotional people destroyed the statue of Apple company. They justified their behavior as an act of justice against the commercialization of Adam and Eve's original sin.



Another group were collecting signatures for replacing the Darth Vader statue with a new Google monument.





The decorative capitals were outdated...



Even the most famous Capitol...



... therefore many capital cities decided to decapitalize their columns.



... was decapitalized.

Notes

Post-Futuristic Congress is a tribute to the buildings, which look as spacecrafts. For illustrations we used images of **the Uniklinikum** in Aachen (Germany), **the Ještěd Tower** (Czech Republic), **Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising** in Bratislava (Slovakia), **the Druzhba Sanatorium** in Yalta (Crimea), **Palace of Children and Youths** (former Dom Pionerov) in Dnipro (Ukraine), and **Ilinden Memorial** in Kruševica (Macedonia).

For the so-called sputnik we used the wooden **Carpathian Church of Saint Archangel Michael** in Kinský Garden, Prague. The church was built in the second half of the 17th century in the village of Velké Loučky near Mukačevo in Ukraine combining a native Bojkov style with elements of rustic baroque.

Saint Archangel Michael Church has been dismantled twice and reconstructed. The first deconstruction occurred in 1793, when villagers of Velké Loučky sold the church to the wealthier village of Medvedovce. The second in 1929, when Ruthenians offered the church to the city of Prague, their capital at that time, as a symbol of typical popular architecture in Ruthenia. After being carefully dismantled, the church was transported in four train cars, specially customized to transport the church. All expenditures were covered by the National Museum with the support of the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Culture. The ceremony of handing the church to citizens of Prague was held on 10th September 1929 in the presence of Ruthenians and villagers of Medvedovce, who were dressed in the traditional costumes.

Travesty-Arch Show deals with the theme of changing facades of houses from a constructivist style to a Stalinist neoclassical style in Kharkiv. In the story, we used examples of buildings which form the constructivist Freedom Square – **the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Soviet Ukraine** (nowadays Kharkiv Regional State Administration), **the House of Cooperation** (nowadays Derzhprom or Gosprom in Russian) and **the House of Project Organisations** (nowadays Vasyl Kharazin Kharkov National University). Between 1949 and 1954, everything in Freedom Square except Derzhprom was decorated in a Stalinist neoclassical style.

<https://www.calvertjournal.com/articles/show/8568/modernist-kharkiv-battle-protect-avant-garde-architecture-maidan-ukraine>

To illustrate we used a photo by Doug Griffin/Toronto Star via Getty Images and a photo “Cat Fight” by Bert Hardy.

Blacklisted Colours The chief architect of Kharkiv Sergej Chechelnytsky was a figure of a crime court case connected with giving land to developers. He wasn't in prison because he hid in a hospital. Chechelnytsky began, with the excuse that Kharkiv is an empire-style city, to paint many of the red brick houses yellow and white.

Similarly, facades of houses in the Czech Republic make the impression that grey was forbidden. It gave rapidly way to other colours. So as Czech concrete is not grey anymore, Ukraine bricks are no longer red.

Useful Lenin On 15 May 2015 president of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed a set of decommunization laws that started a period of communist monuments removal (excluding World War II monuments) and renaming of public places whose names were connected with communism.

The chief architect of Kharkiv Sergej Chechelnytsky is also responsible for the idea of replacing the statue of Lenin in Freedom Square in Kharkiv by a column with orthodox-cross-wielding angel (2017). However, after a wave of protests and debates, the idea was rejected.

In Odessa, the statue of Lenin was transformed into a statue of Darth Vader.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/oct/23/darth-vader-statue-erected-ukraine>

Why not save yourself some trouble while renaming streets and use Lennon instead of Lenin.

Epidemic of Huts is the phenomena we saw on facades of Ukrainian buildings. What used to be exterior balconies or loggias is transformed into interiors. Buildings are thus slowly mutating into slum-like houses (which is not always ugly).

Character Changes plays with the political symbolism of buildings seen from a bird's eye view. symbolism. As photos we used the

entrance gate **"Arc"** in Ostrava-Poruba (Czech Republic), **Palazzo Emme** (M, nowadays the Headquarters of the Provincial Guardia di Finanza in Latina, Italy) in form of Mussolini's "M" letter, **CCCP (USSR) shaped housing estates buildings** in Saltivka quarter in the suburb of Kharkiv (it's a local myth that Saltivka was planned in form of letters of the USSR, it was just form of three half-circled buildings) or the **Star Villa** (Ietohrádek Hvězda) in the form of a star in Prague (Czech Republic).

A Decapitalization law could be a successor of the decommunization law from 2015. Here, we are predicting a period of removal of all reminders of the capitalist era.

Series of seven fiction futuristic stories inspired by cultural life and architecture in Kharkiv compiled in **Post-Futuristic Congress, Travesty-Arch Show, Blacklisted Colours, Useful Lenin, Epidemic of Huts, Character Changes, Decapitalization.**

The above stories were written during a 14-day artist residence in Kharkiv and were presented on Thursday 28 September 2017 at 7 p. m. in YermilovCentre in Kharkiv.

Special thanks in alphabetical order to Nataliya Andryeyeva, Ievgeniia Gubkina, Olena Kasperovich, Andrey Palash.

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