Russian Rennaissance

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The Russian Neo-Renaissance

For me, the Russian Neo-Renaissance is a project in which I try to grasp the essence and splendour of the traditional architecture of Russian culture, now buried under the grim and ugly Soviet-style buildings which we now associate with Russian Architecture. For this project I researched the pre-revolutionary architecture, and was surprised to find of how much classicism there was in the Russian Empire. In nearly every photo of the cities, classical buildings featured prominently.

This project is to create a new architectural movement combining the Russian Empire Style that can be found in St Petersburg, Classicism with traditional Russian elements such as wooden window decorations. This blend will create a Russian Architectural style in which the base of construction is of classical value and the decoration simple, and of a Russian Folklore touch.

St Petersburg and Helsinki are my primary examples for the architecture and modern urbanism of the Russian city, though what I would like to do is add a traditional touch to these buildings, as I have said, so that it can be recognised as part of a new Russian Architectural style.

I also studied many Russian churches, and in particular those which are of a classical Russian Architecture. I especially focused on the ones that were built in a classical style, yet with a twist, incorporating elements more closely associated with folklore.

My studies were accomplished with the help of the photos of Russian cities taken by Prokudin-Gorsky at the beginning of the 20th century. I have been able to get a sense of the architecture of Pre-Revolutionary Russia, and many of his photos of city panoramas and buildings have inspired me for the conception of my so-called Russian Renaissance.











