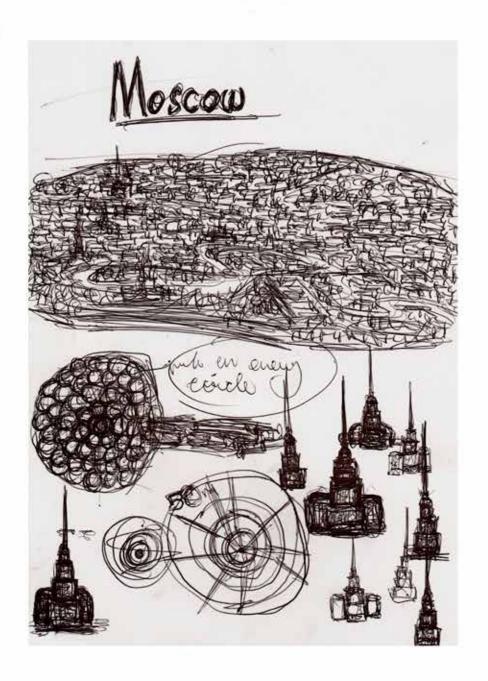
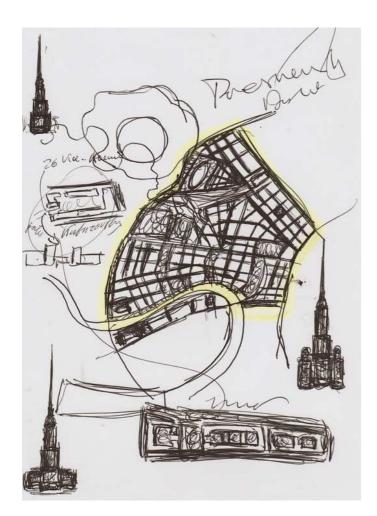
# URBAN PLANNING

#### TOPOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS



PAUL OSTRO VERHY 2021





#### Moscow

Moscow once housed the whole History of the Russian Culture. It was a city of fairy dreams, with onion-domed churches, spectacular palaces and incredible life. The Soviets had destroyed that, and with the little remaining part of pre-revolutionary architecture that had crawled out, the architecture since then had not been that great. Moscow is now an urbanistic catastrophe, with constant urban sprawl expansion as renovating in the center is considered to costly.

It is why I have come up with a plan to bring Moscow back into its lost splendour. For this, I have made studies which involved a lot of maps. My plan will involve the stop of the rapid urban sprawl, and densify the center, which will be as big as Paris. The historical center will be preserved, including the street structures, with only building architectural houses of a Russian style, may it be Classical, Folklore or any other.

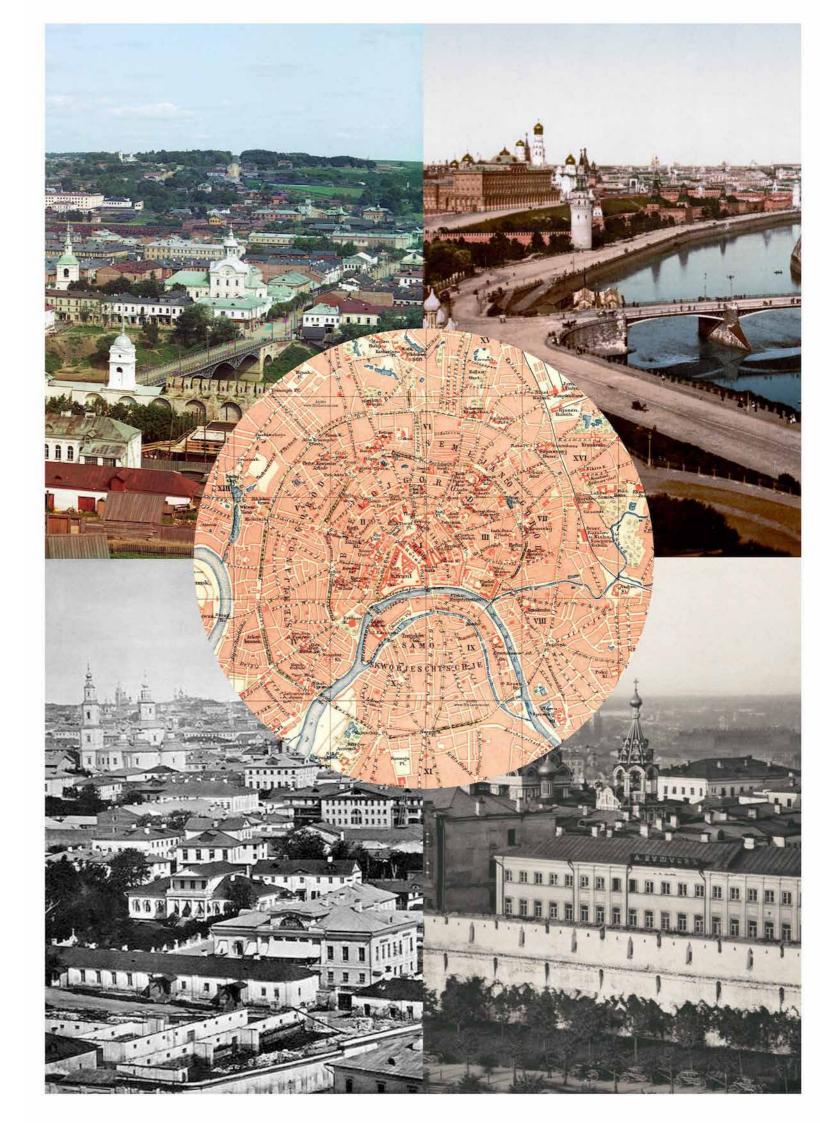
There will be renovation of old buildings, and the 300 churches that had been destroyed could be rebuild with, for the Russian church buildings are architectural wonders. The surrounding of the historical center will have a new urbanistic plan and will be situated inside the Moscow Third Ring (as big as the Parisian Peripherique). In a sense, it will resemble to the city of Vienna – the center will contain its historical labyrinth street, whilst the surrounding of the center will be already urbanly planned out and of a good architecture. By the way, the Moscow architecture will resemble to the Russian Classical architecture, St Petersburg architecture, as well as Central European late 19th century architecture.

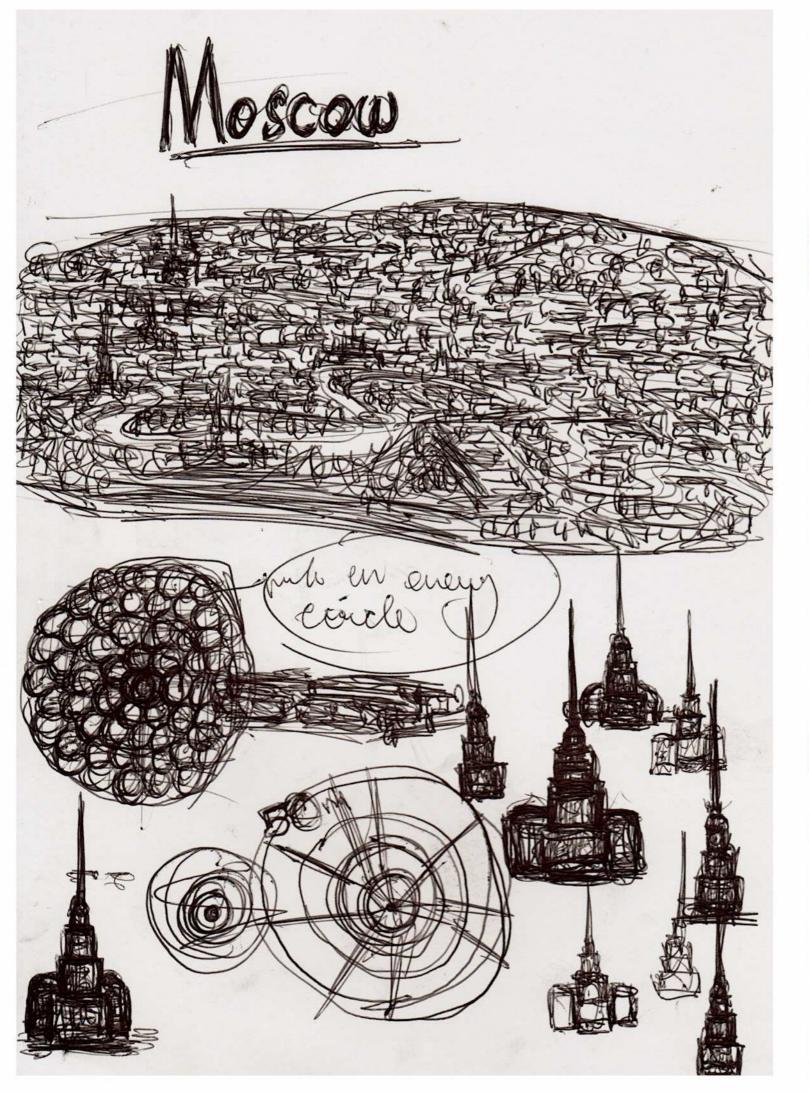
The large roads of about eight lanes made by the Soviets will be reduced to the size of boulevards, whilst Moscow will have newly built parks. And talking of roads and parks, the Moscow Garden Ring, surrounding the historical region, which is actually a large six lane street, will be transformed into two large boulevards, which in the center will house either parks or buildings, which could be University campuses, Embassies, theatre buildings or even museums – it will be rather like the Ringstrasse in Vienna, that replaced the fortified walls around the centre for 19th century buildings, parks and boulevards.

Between the Moscow Third Ring and the MKAD, which is rather like the London Highway surrounding Greater London, there will be countryside, and the forests which are there will be turned into leisure parks, like Richmond and Kew, and the Manor Estates there will also be turned into large parks for leisure.

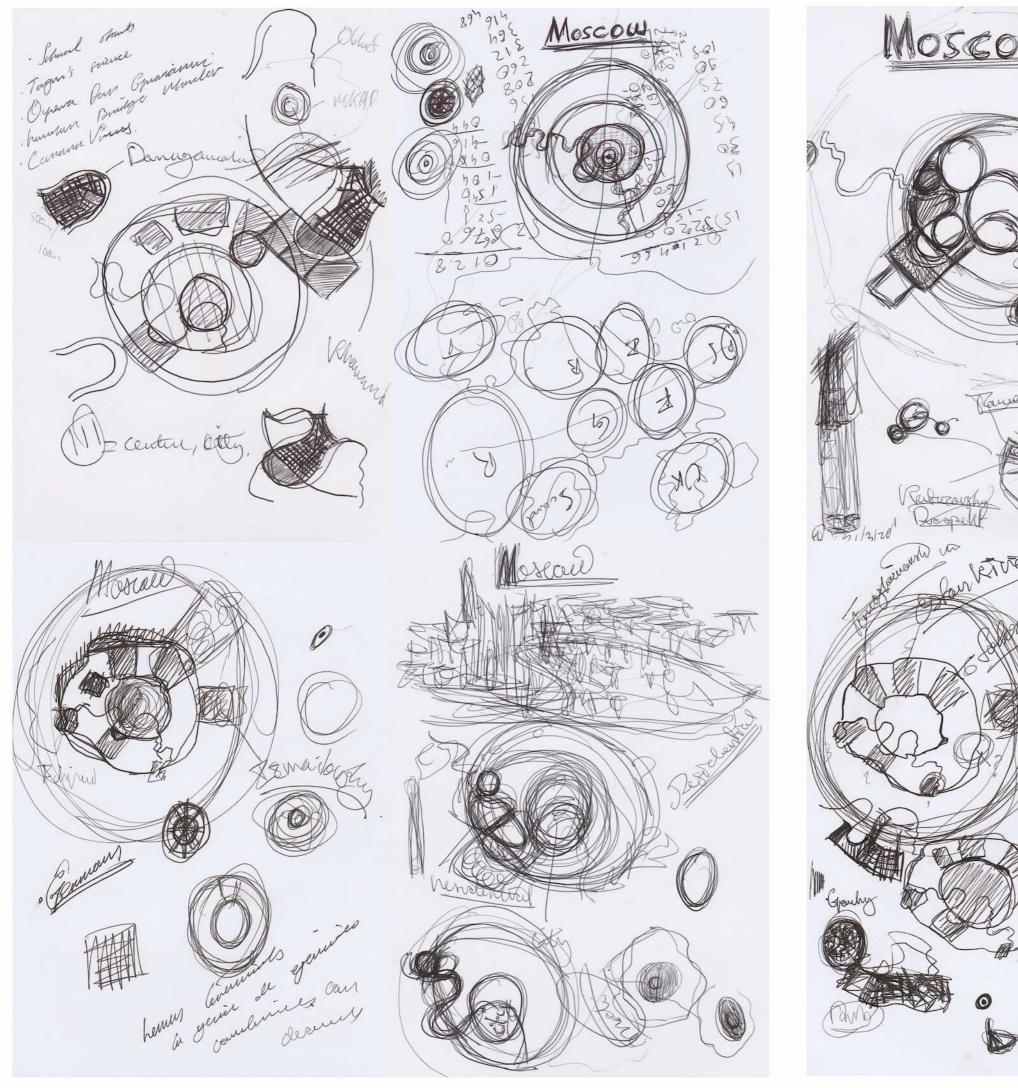
Most importantly, in the very central heart of the city, the Kitay Gorod, which is situated east of the Kremlin, historically had a fortified wall surrounding it rather like the Kremlin, though it was destroyed in the thirties. I want that wall to be rebuilt, as it is a national heritage, and finally, there is the Moscow Kremlin. A quarter of the Historical Kitay Gorod district situated by the Riverside, was destroyed in the 20th century for an ugly Soviet Hotel, which was recently destroyed. Now there is an ugly park. I want to built there some Russian Classical buildings and by Red Square – situated north of the district – the Russian Duma Building in also a Russian Empire Style, as found in St Petersburg.

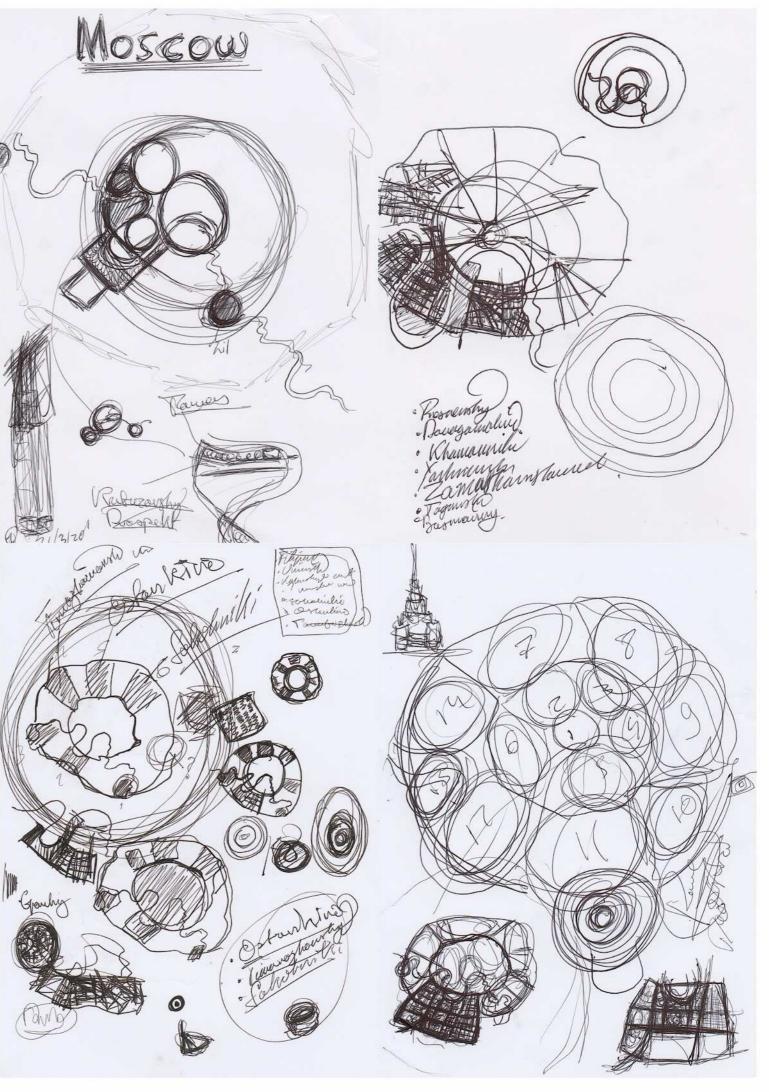
Such is my grand plan for Moscow, in which I try to restore Moscow into what it had been, with its traditional architecture.

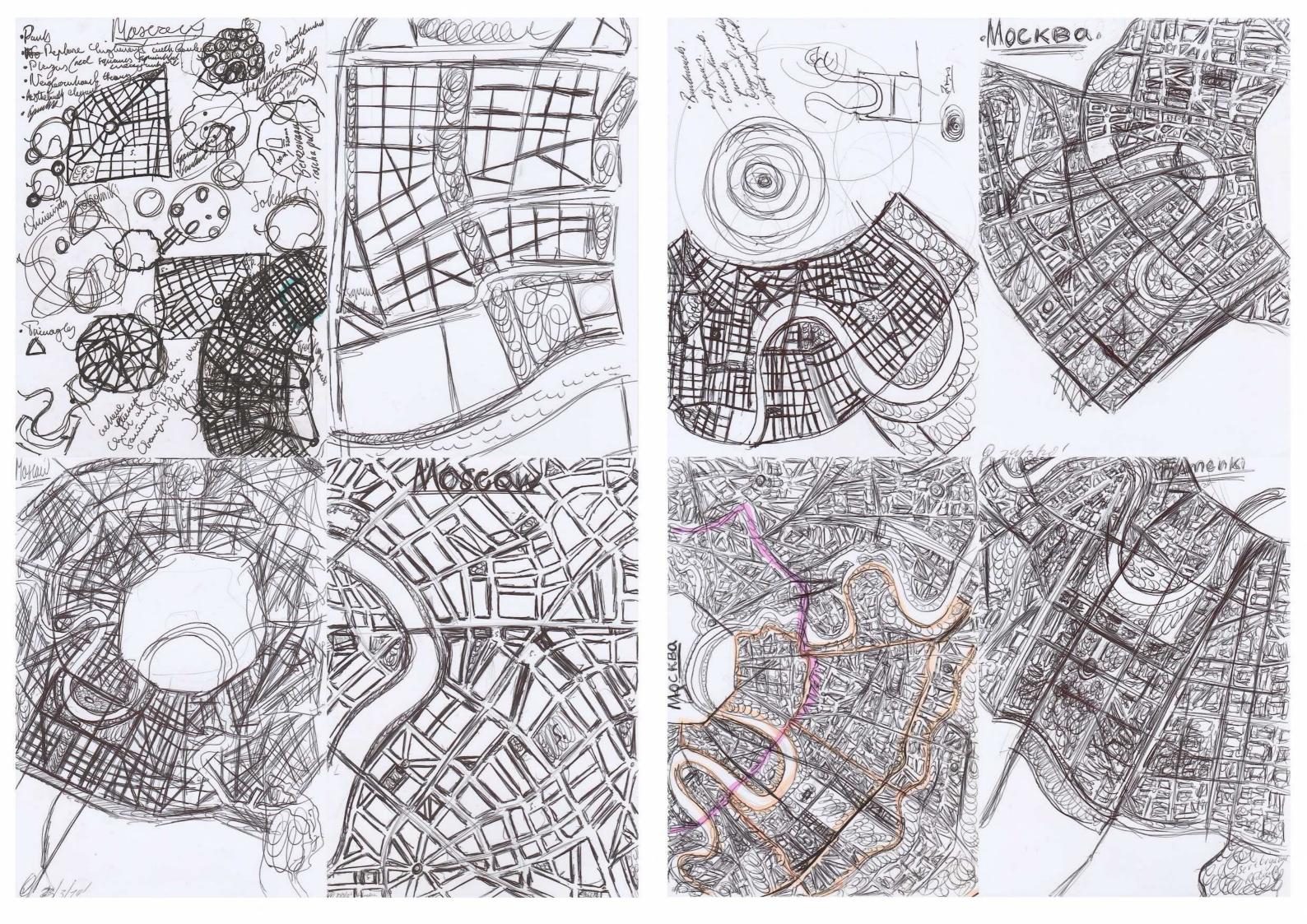


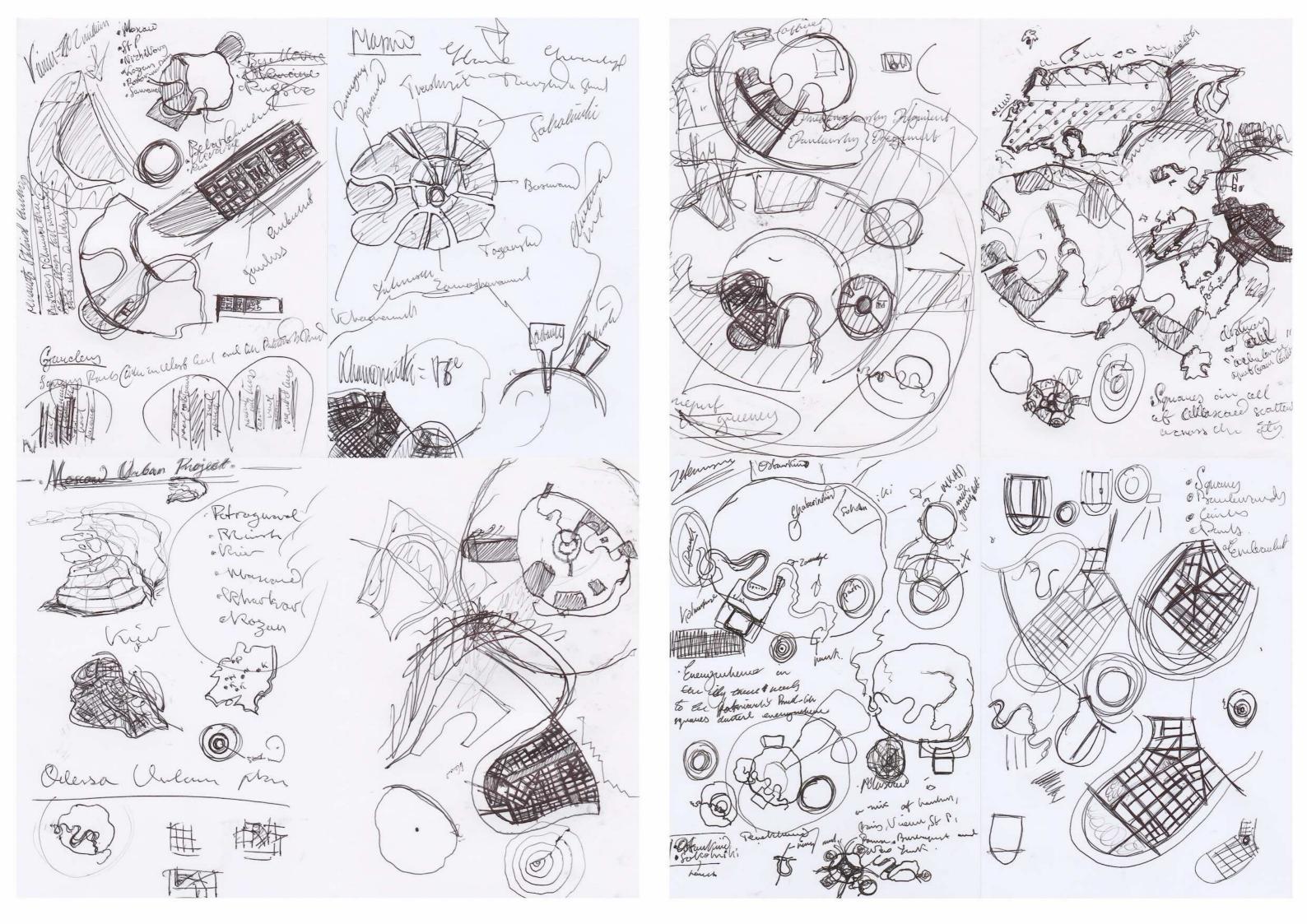


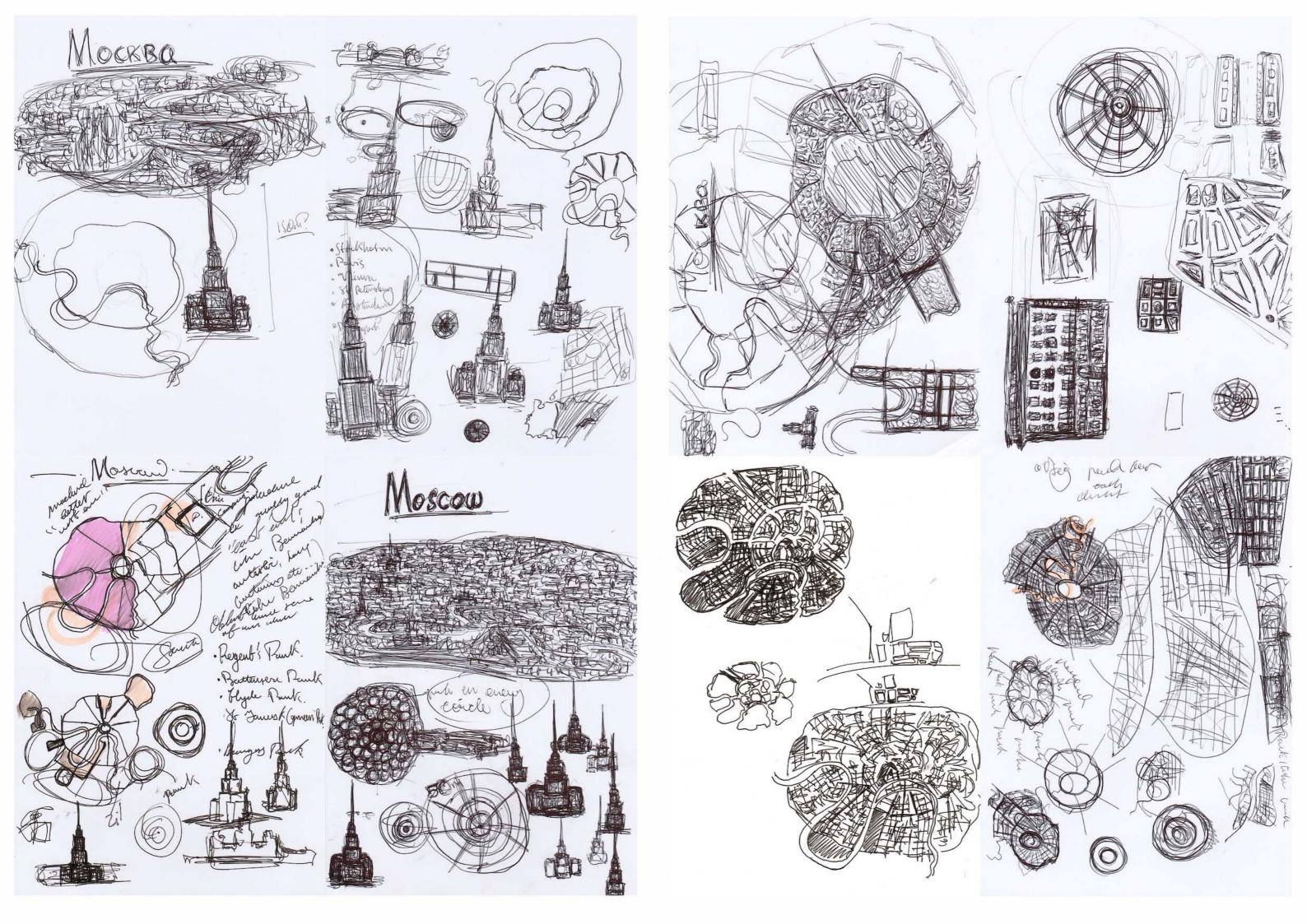


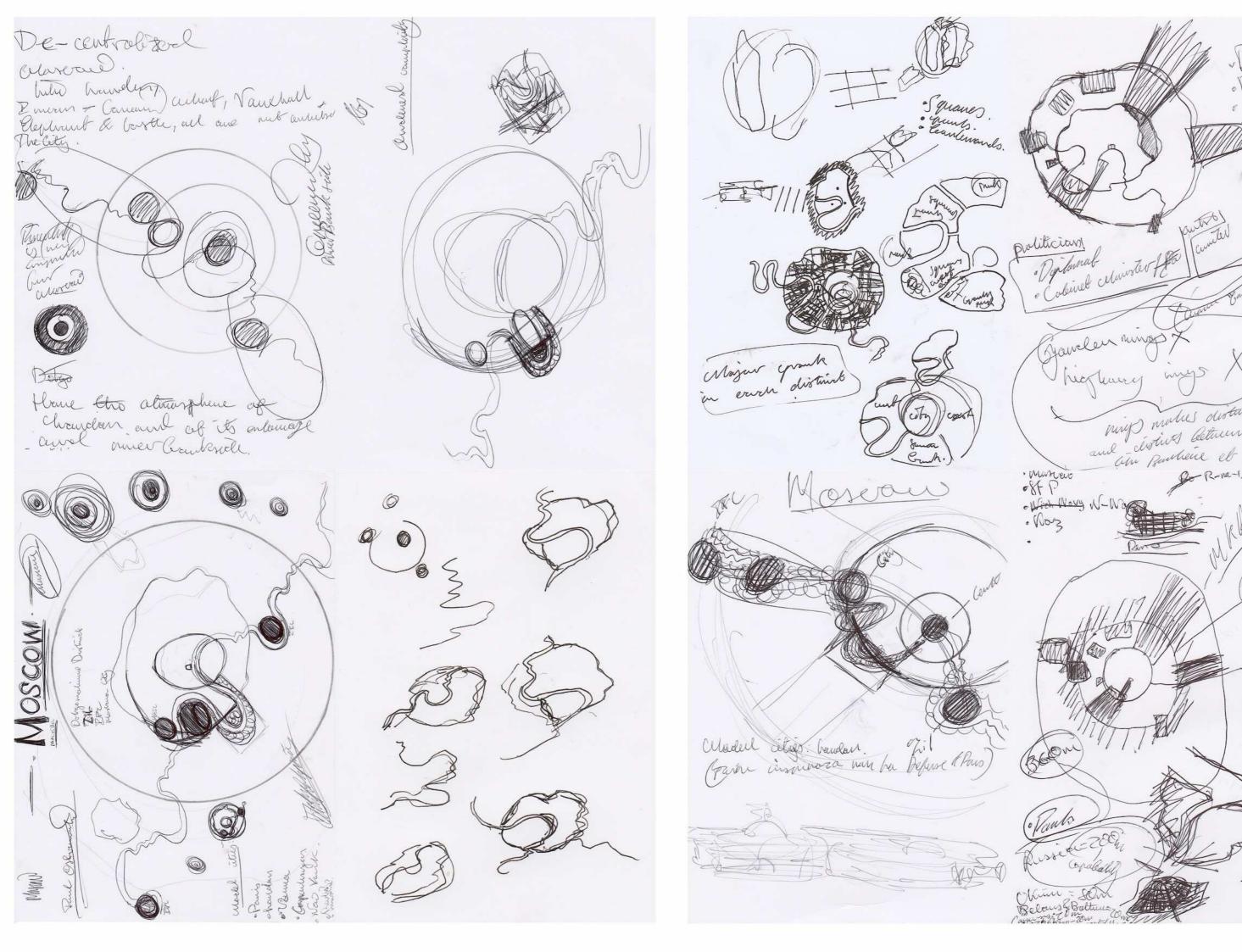


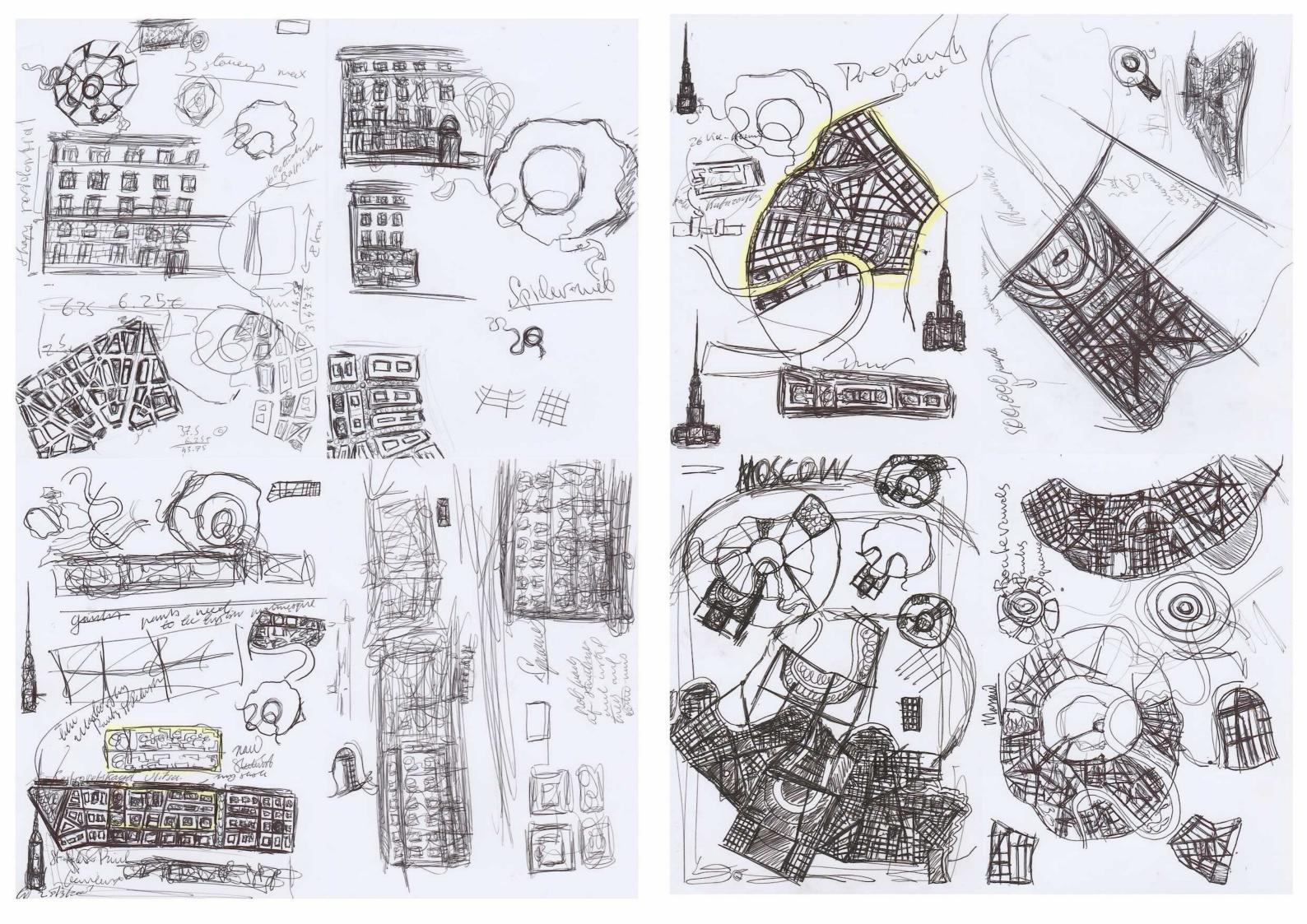


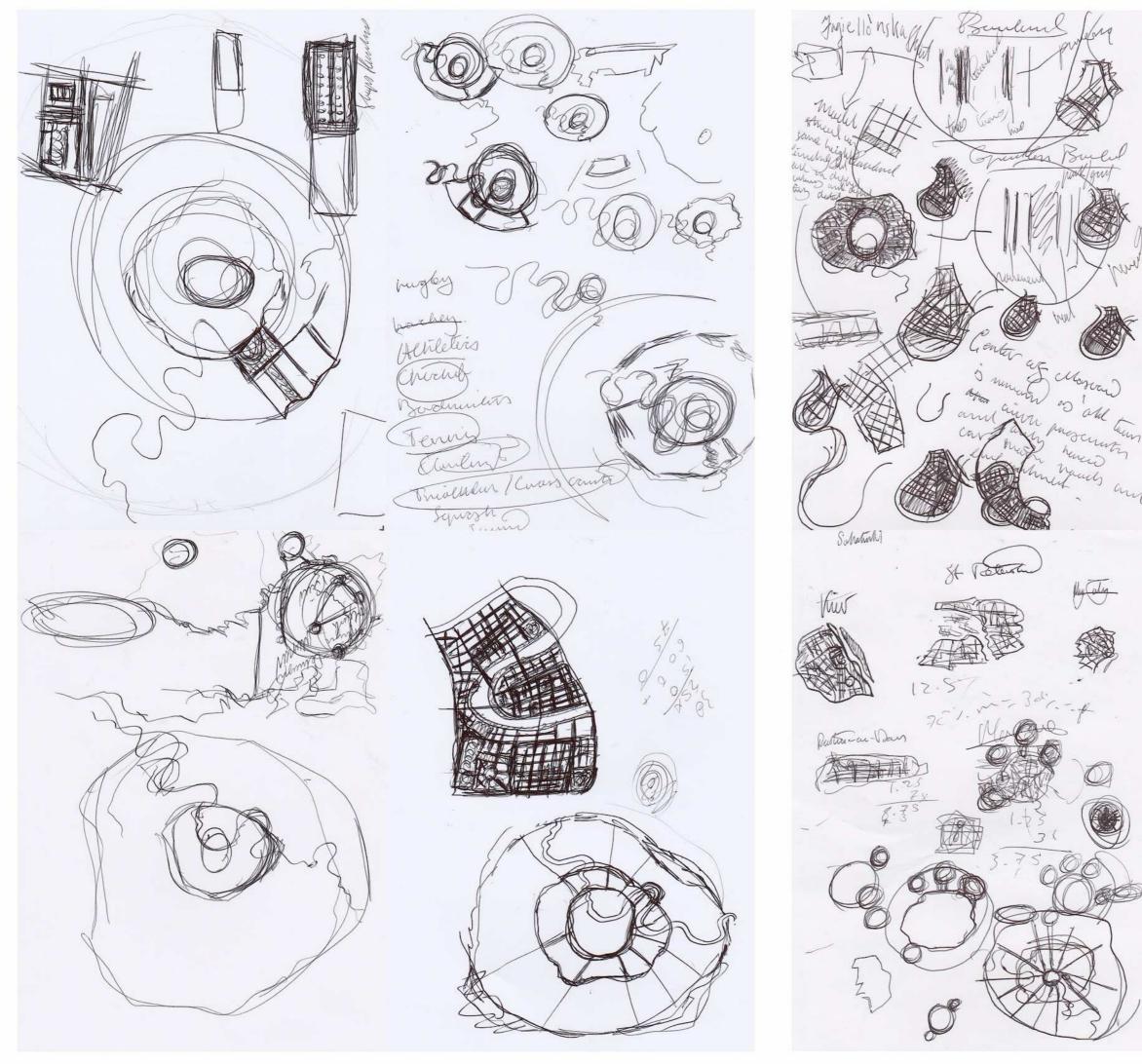


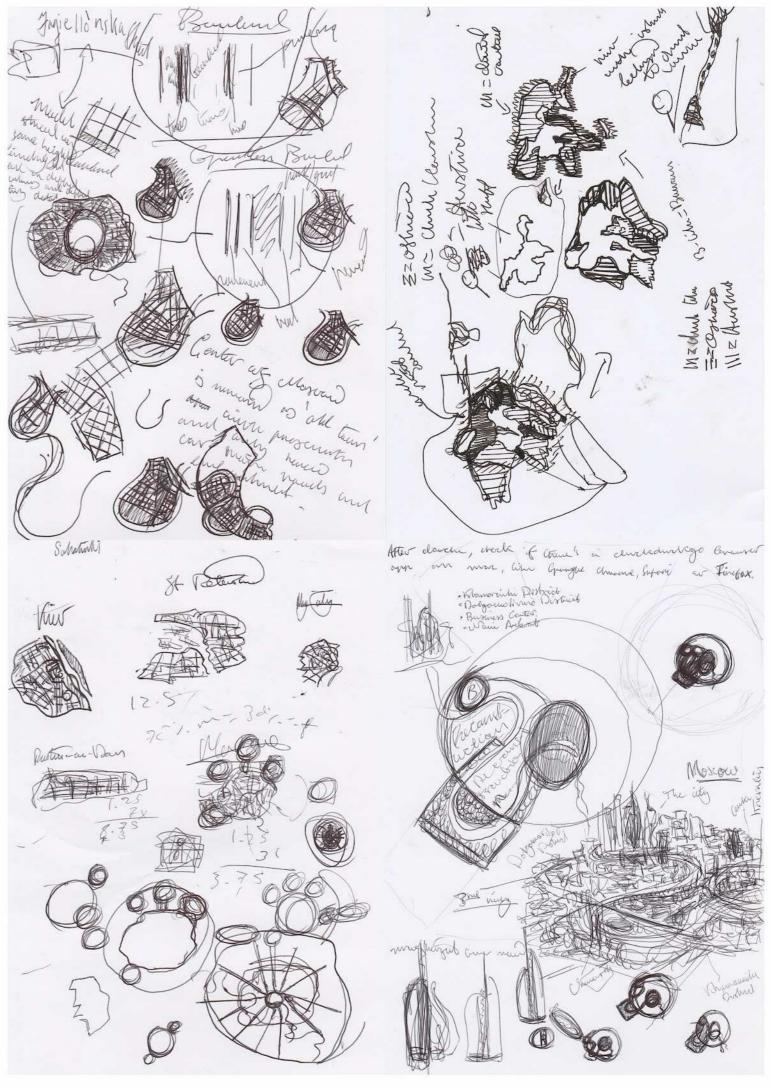


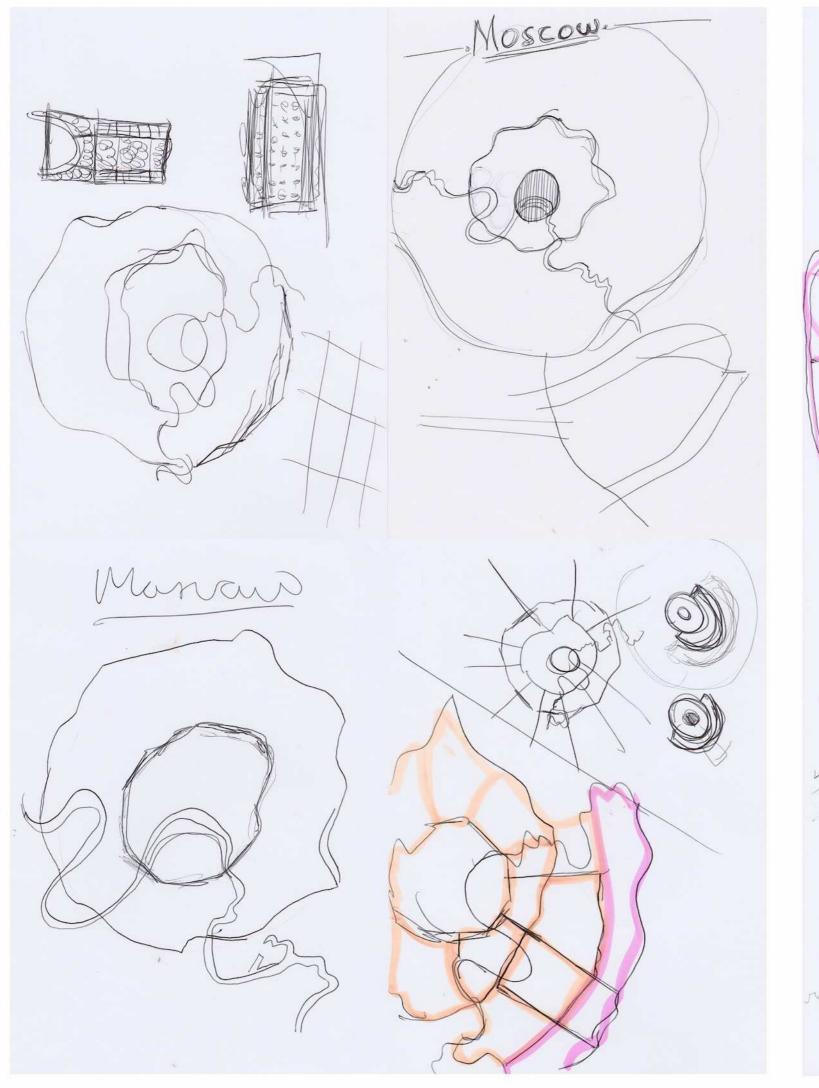




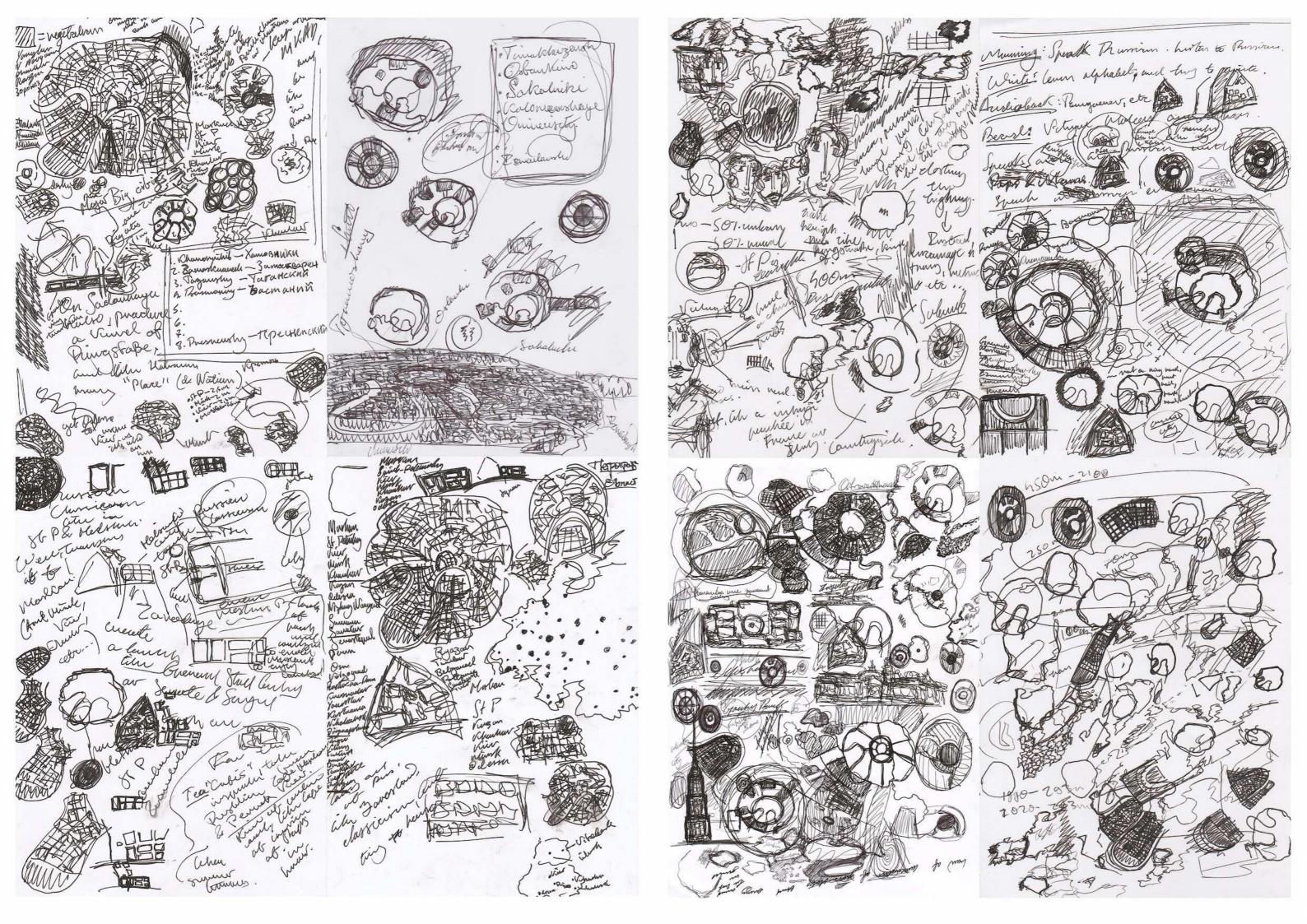


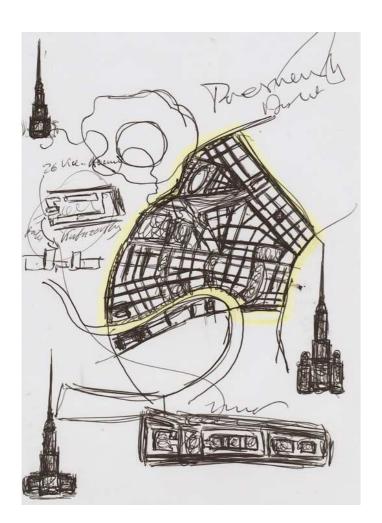














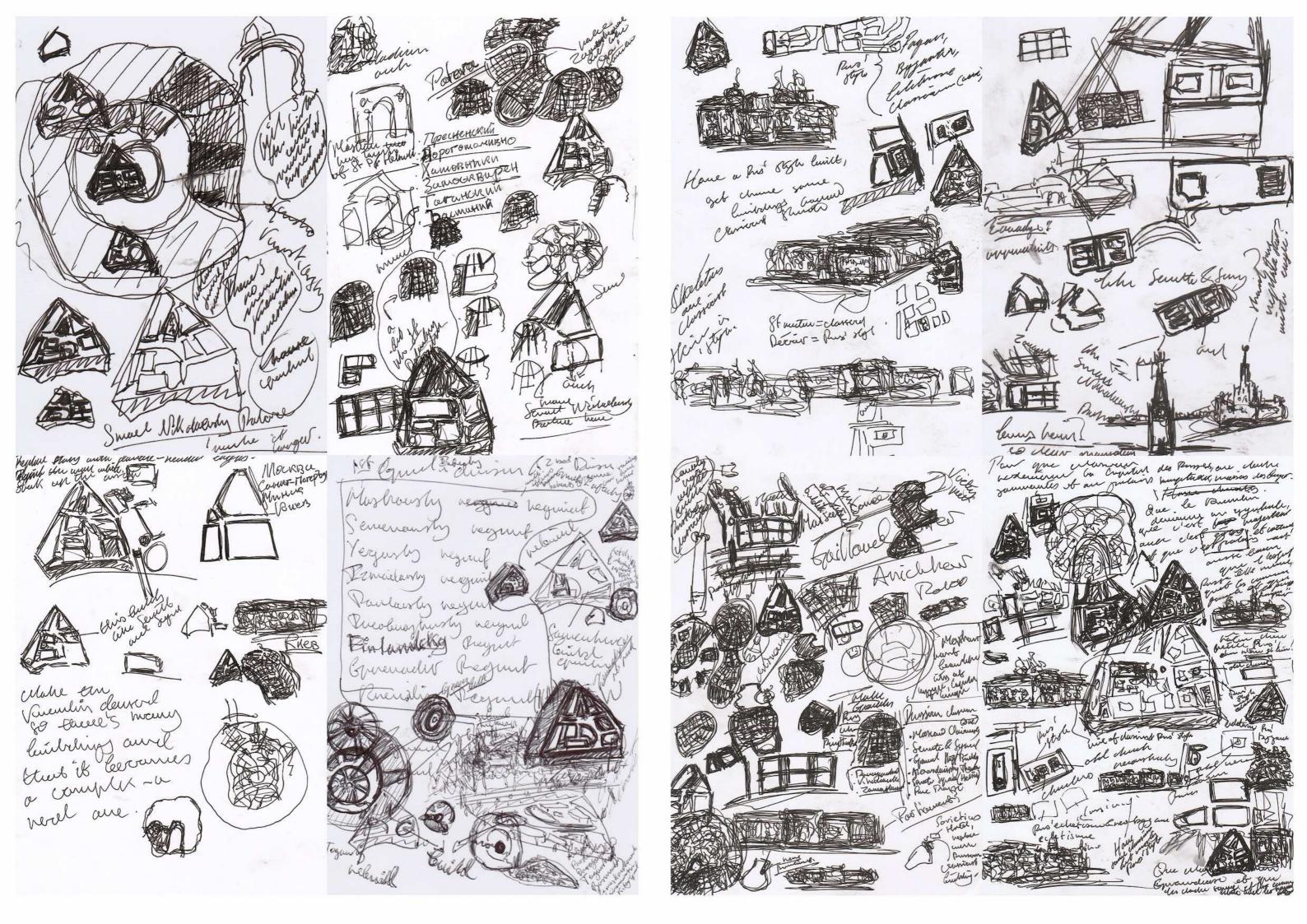
### The Moscow Kremlin

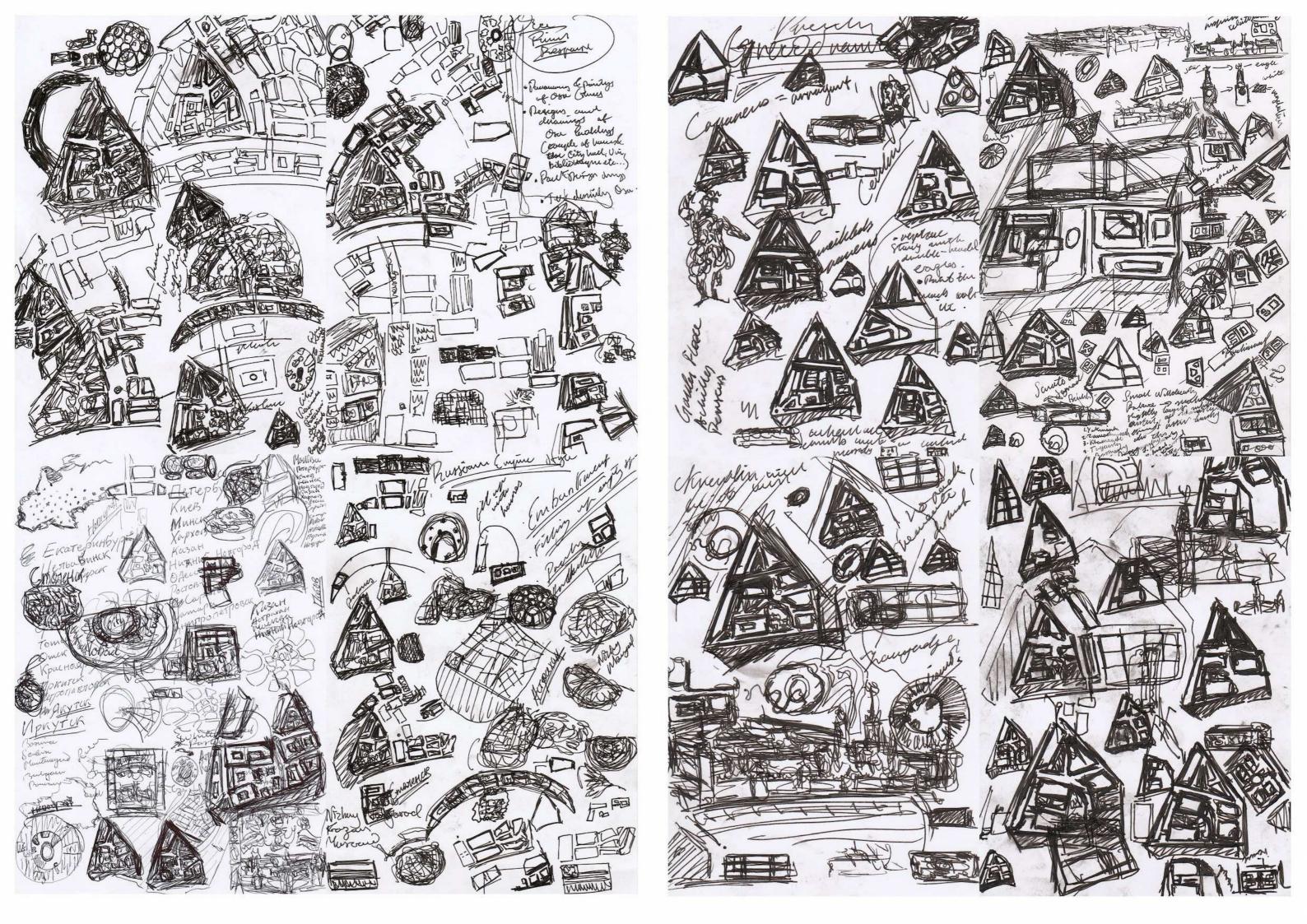
The Moscow Kremlin is a treasure, it is a building that represents the Russian Culture. There are many Kremlins in Russia, which are fortified complexes at the heart of each city, yet the Moscow Kremlin is the most famous. I would like to make some changes to it, such as paint the walls white, as it was done for hundred of years, replace the red stars installed by the Soviets with golden, double-headed eagles, as was the custom. There is a large part of the Kremlin in the east, which before the Communist Regime housed the Chudov Monastery, a small palace, many more incredible churches and oldest church building in the whole Kremlin. This part was destroyed by the Soviets in exchange of a building, which was recently dismantled, and now there is a large part of the Kremlin just blank! I want to fill that blank with traditional Russian style buildings of white colour and in a Russian Traditional Classical Architecture. There will be some palace buildings and some destroyed churches will be restored.

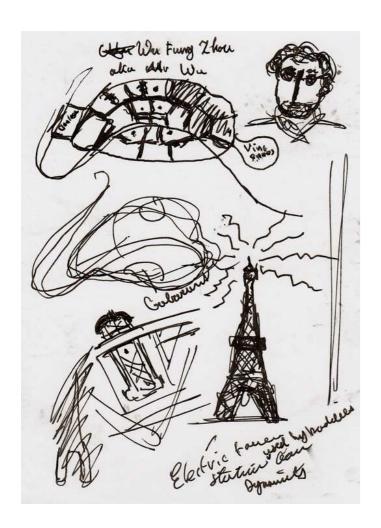
There is also now a Soviet building which destroyed a large part of the Kremlin in the west part, called the State Kremlin Palace, extremely ugly in style, which is unfortunately still standing. I would like that replaced by a Russian Style Building like before.











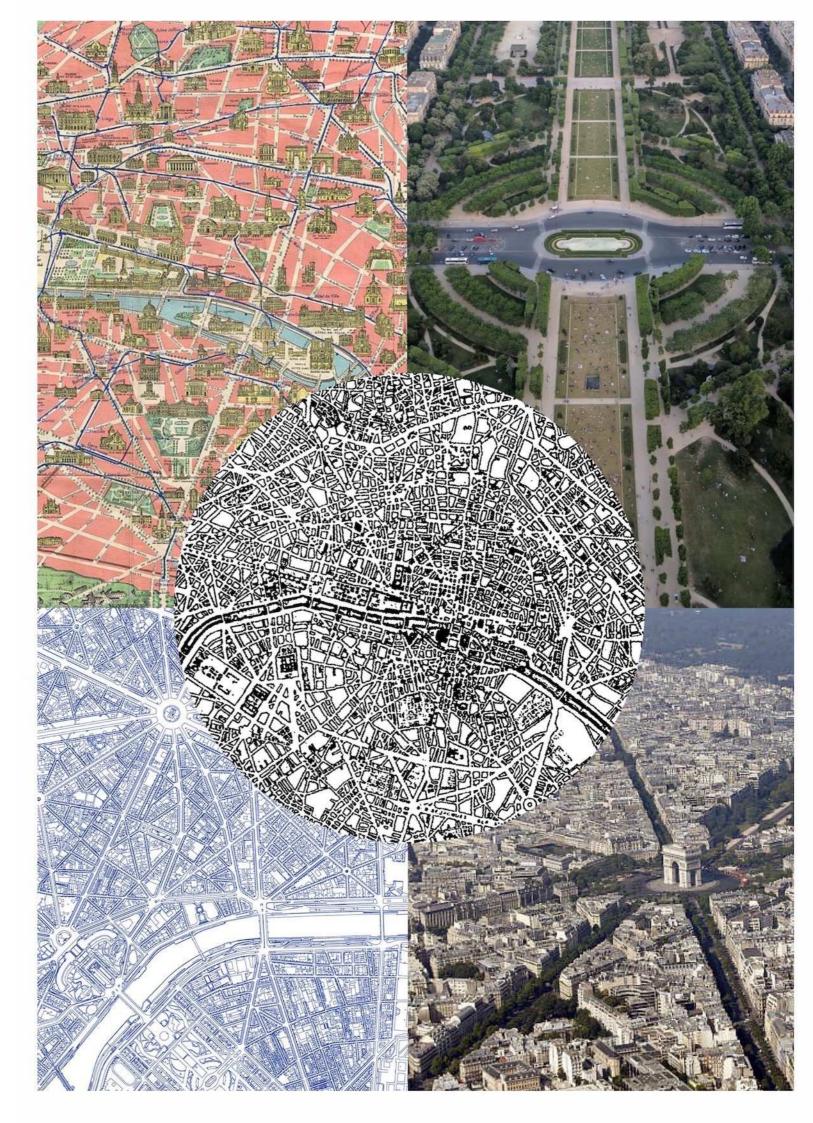


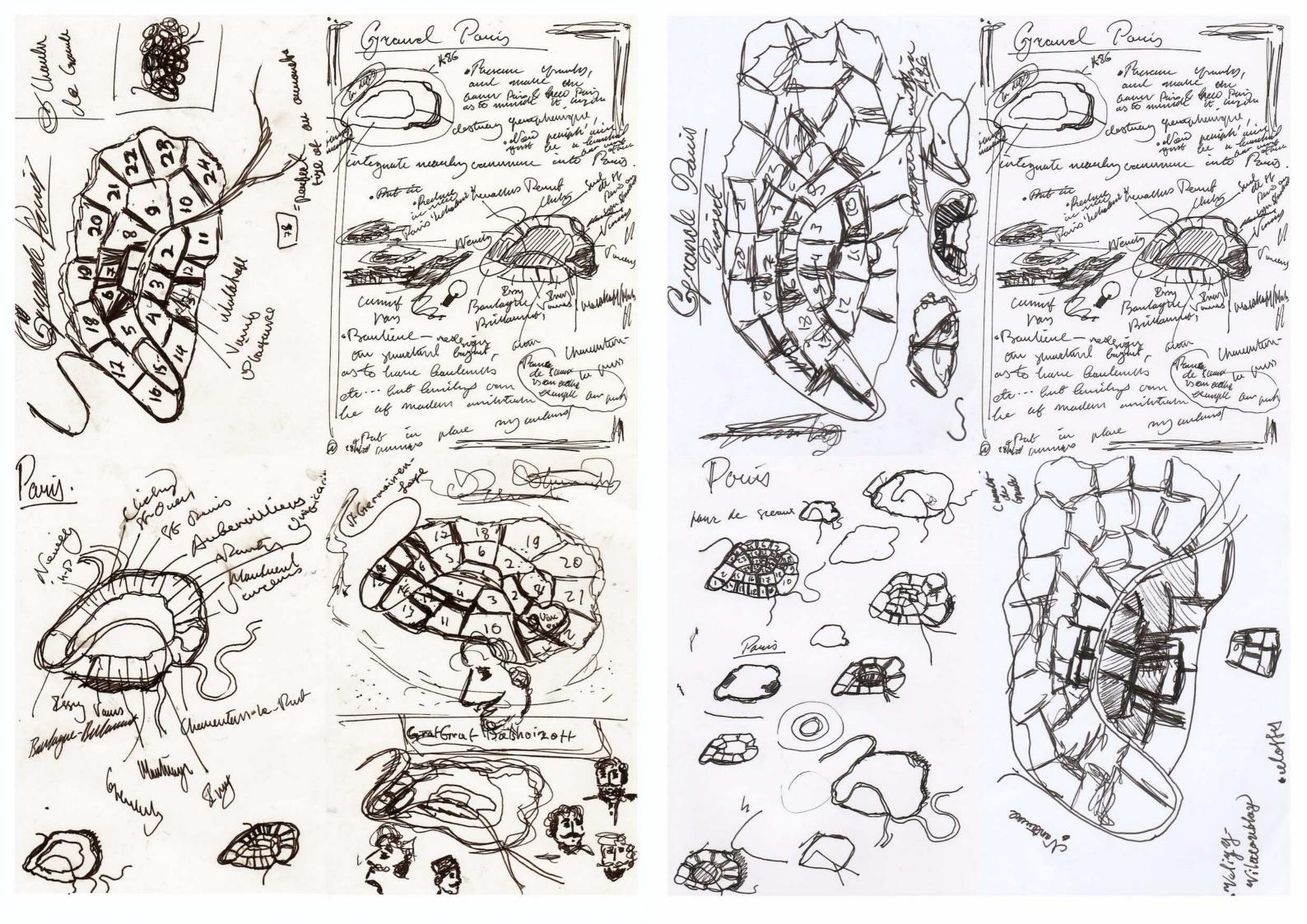
## **Grand Paris**

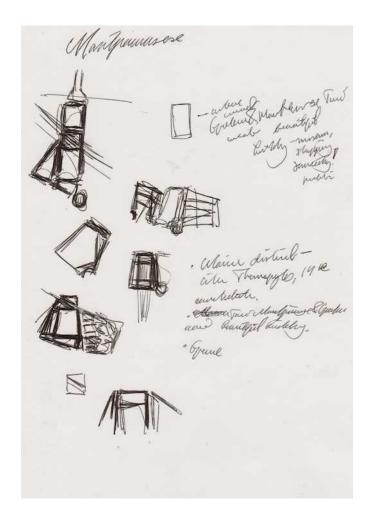
Paris has been my home of childhood. Henceforth why I have always had plans of ameliorating Paris, may it from the most tiny little detail to the largest one. One of my plans was to stop the chaotic urbanism to be found in Paris and its environs. I want to reduce the large land taken up by low-densified regions of just suburb houses and cul-de-sac. The forests that have gone smaller due to the constant expansion and laziness of people to densify the center is for me the greatest catastrophe of the 21st century, after the toleration of the Tour Montparnasse.

This is why my idea is to free up the land and give way to the forest lands, parks, and countryside, whilst the nearby villages which are quite dense and now surrounded by those suburb houses, make them free again and independent with the countryside to separate them. So, there will be Paris inside the peripherique and then a surrounding, densified, city-like region of good height limit.











#### **Tour Montparnasse**

Since a young age, I have constantly walked and lived about my neighbourhood in Paris the 14th arrondissement. I have loved everything, everything, the parks, the buildings, the architecture, the restaurants, yet amongst all of this human-loving environment there was that tour Montparnasse rising up to the Heaven like a black dagger in the heart of Paris! My district of Montparnasse was wonderful. Now there's an awful modern, ugly architecture. A hated Gallery with half of the shops closed and no one going there, and a noxious tower with no expression whatsoever! Before, there was a beautiful train station that could rival Gare du Nord and Gare St Lazare, with such architecture.

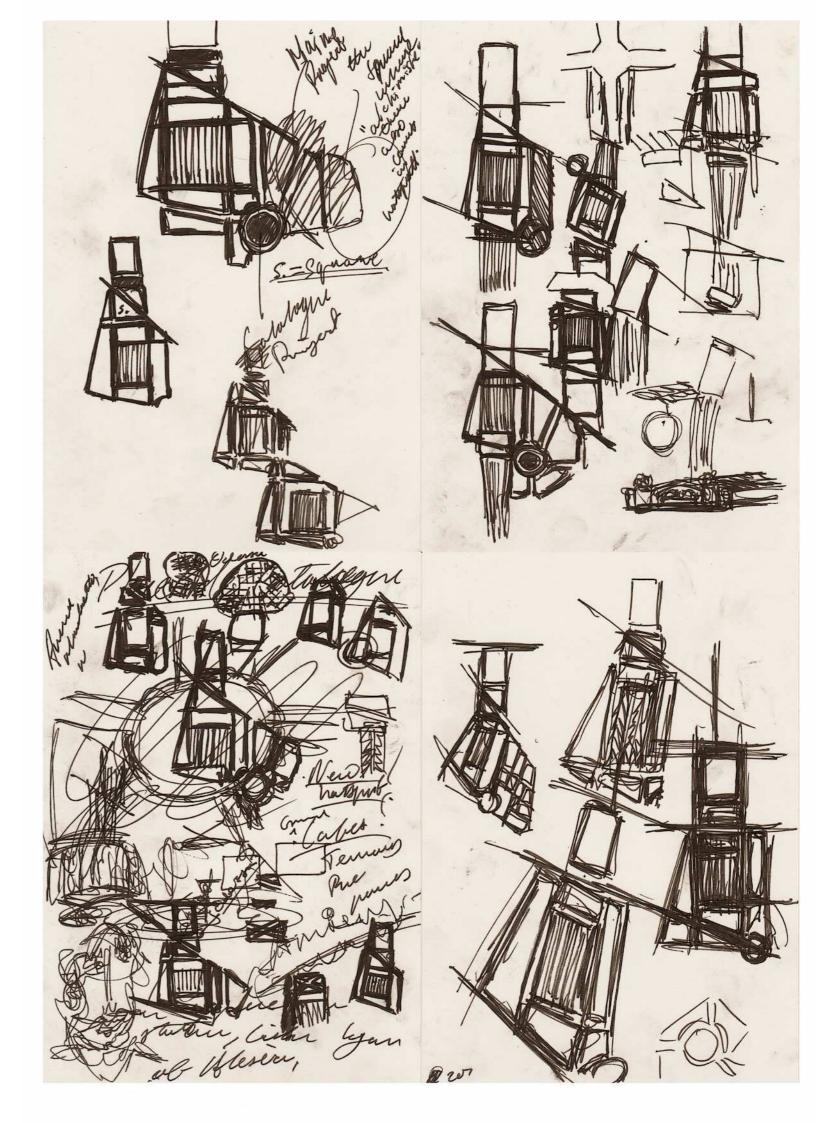
Aesthetically pleasing to the eye of an architect! They destroyed that under the pretext of modernisation, and instead built that awful looking Tower who no one likes.

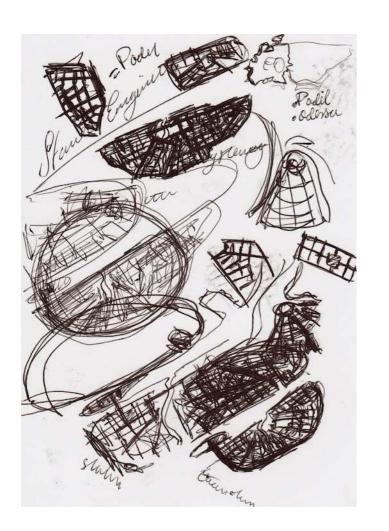
They destroyed 250 art studios to make that awful rot! I demand revenge! I want to avenge the destruction of a whole culture!

The Tour Montparnasse is everywhere. You go about your neighbourhood and it pokes its nose in someone else's business! Always there where it isn't needed! You go to central Paris, and admire the historical center, beauty and beauty and then you turn a street and here it is! Dead as ever! You go by the district full of restaurants, lively people, lights and laughter, merriment and then you step in that atrocious ghost-district! Modernising, huh!

Oh, I dream of the day when I am going to get my hammer and just run down to the Tour and start destroying it with my hands! I want there to be some dynamite! Paf! I want one of those canons to destroy the tower! Ho! How I dream of seeing the Tour Montparnasse tumble down to meet its rightful fate! To make it go back to its place in the gutters! Yes, yes! I want the whole thing to be razed down by canons and dynamites and bombings! To have that tower completely wiped out from the skyline of Paris! Soon, that will happen! Revenge will be done! The noxious thing that has always hampered your mood after a good walk amongst Paris will be destroyed! Destroyed! Bombarded! Exploded! And how one would see the explosion! When it falls down, a shout will be heard from all of France! No, all of Europe! Na! All of the world and the galaxy! It will reach Heaven's and Hell's ears! That shout will come from the people who will be liberated from the Tyrannical rule of the Tower! FREEDOM! It will cry! The greatest fireworks will be lighted, and the Bengali lights will sparkle in joy for this day of Bliss! Hoorah! Montparnasse that had its reputation for its famous artists and culture had been destroyed by the Tour, but as it will no more poke in the sky Montparnasse will become once again famous! Hallelujah! For this Day of Thanks when the Tour will be wiped out from the History of Montparnasse, Paris and the World!





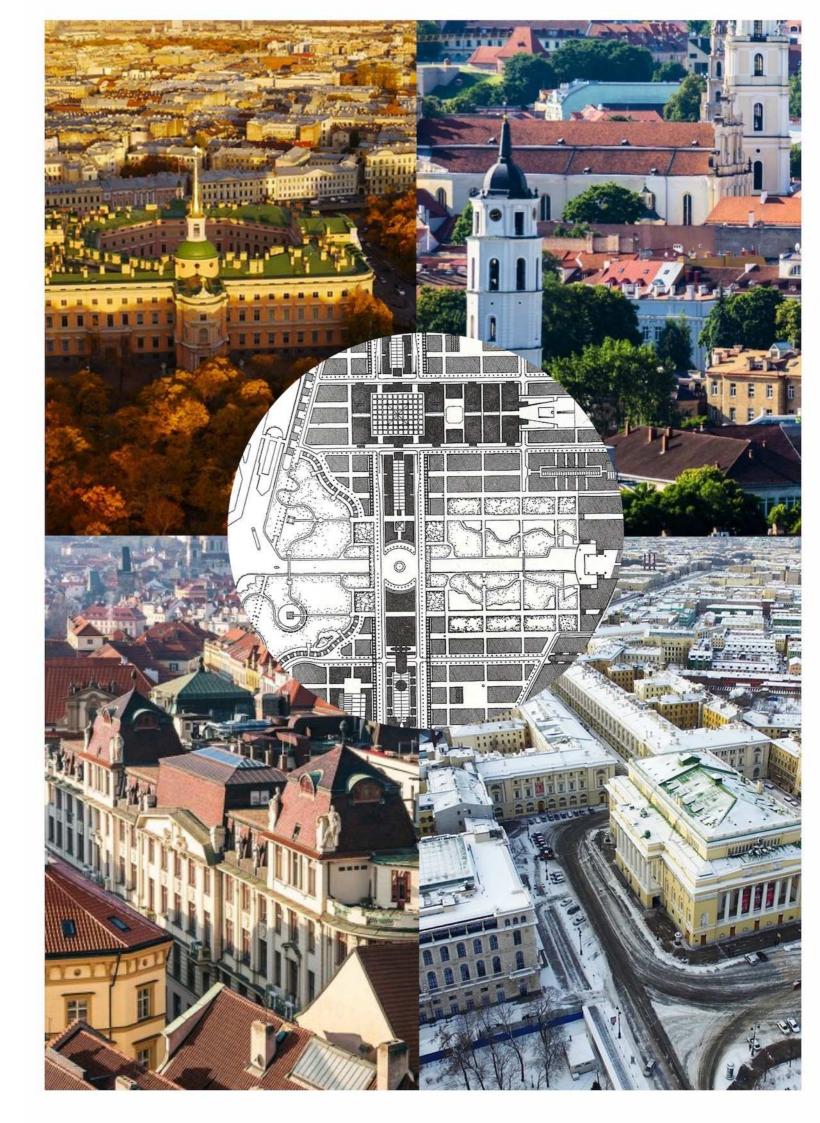


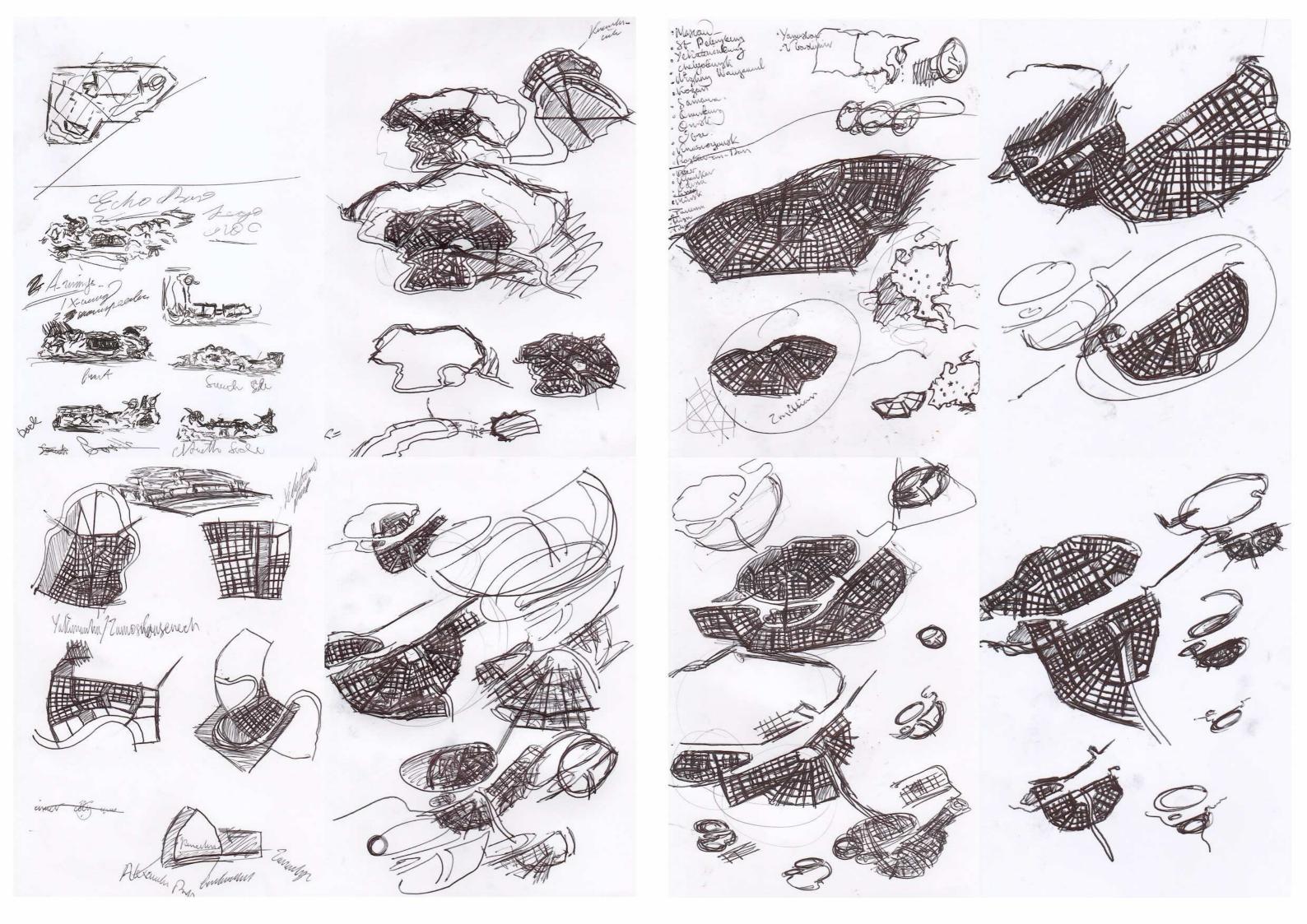


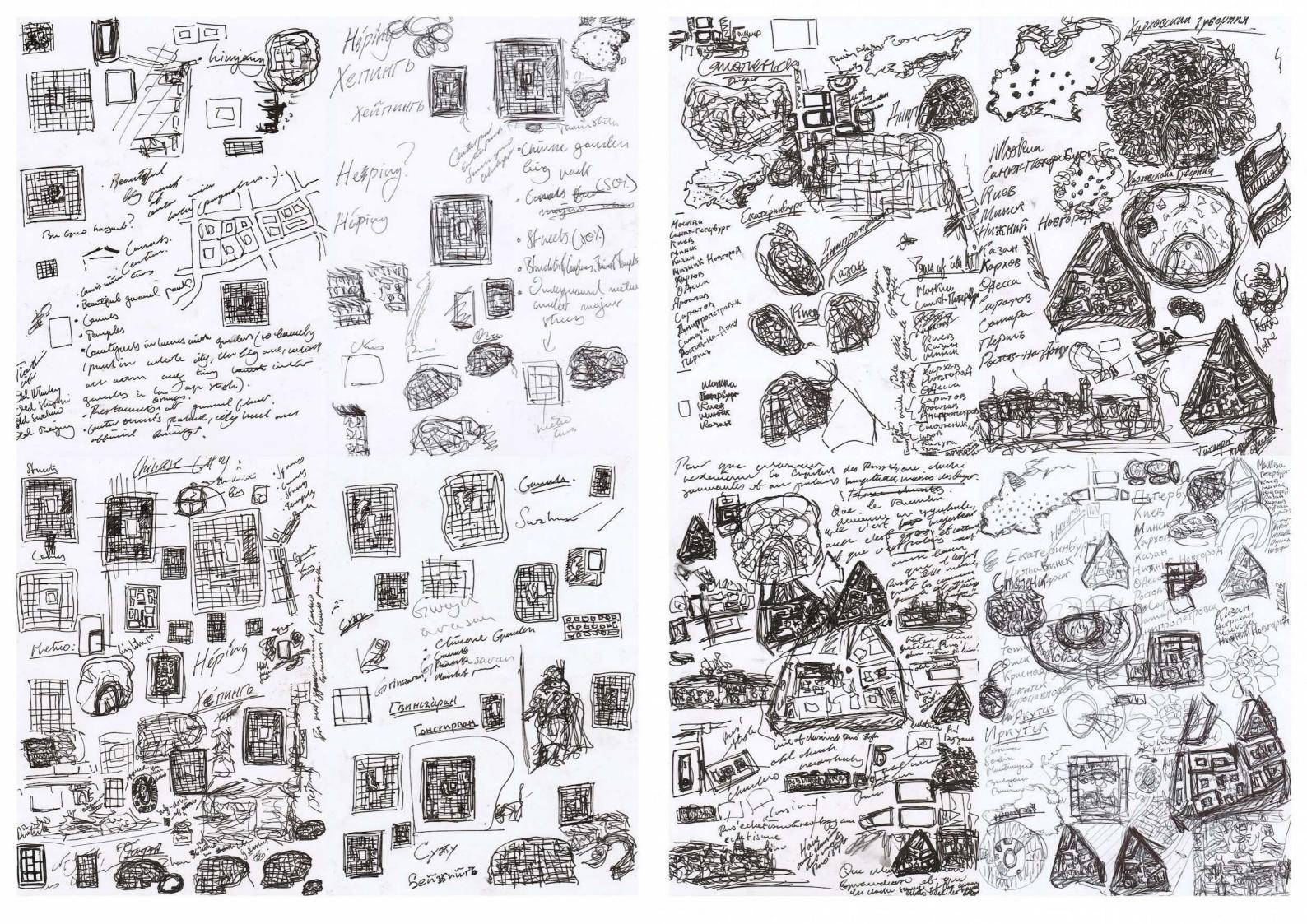
# **City Design**

The City design is a series of studies of various cities which I regard as inspirational cities who should be taken as examples to create better urbanist spaces. Such include Helsinki, built in the exact same style as St Petersburg on a rocky semi-island, whose small size, straight streets and feeling of cosiness through the urban density is one of the reasons why it is so attractive and demanded by many foreigners who wish to live there. Others include St Petersburg, Paris, Vienna, Budapest, and various Italian cities, whose architectural richness and urban planning has been a constant fascination for me. Another time was to study the Chinese traditional urbanism, in particular Suzhou, nicknamed "The Venice of the East" having various canals acting as regular streets. The city has small provincial houses and some of the most famous Chinese gardens renown worldwide.

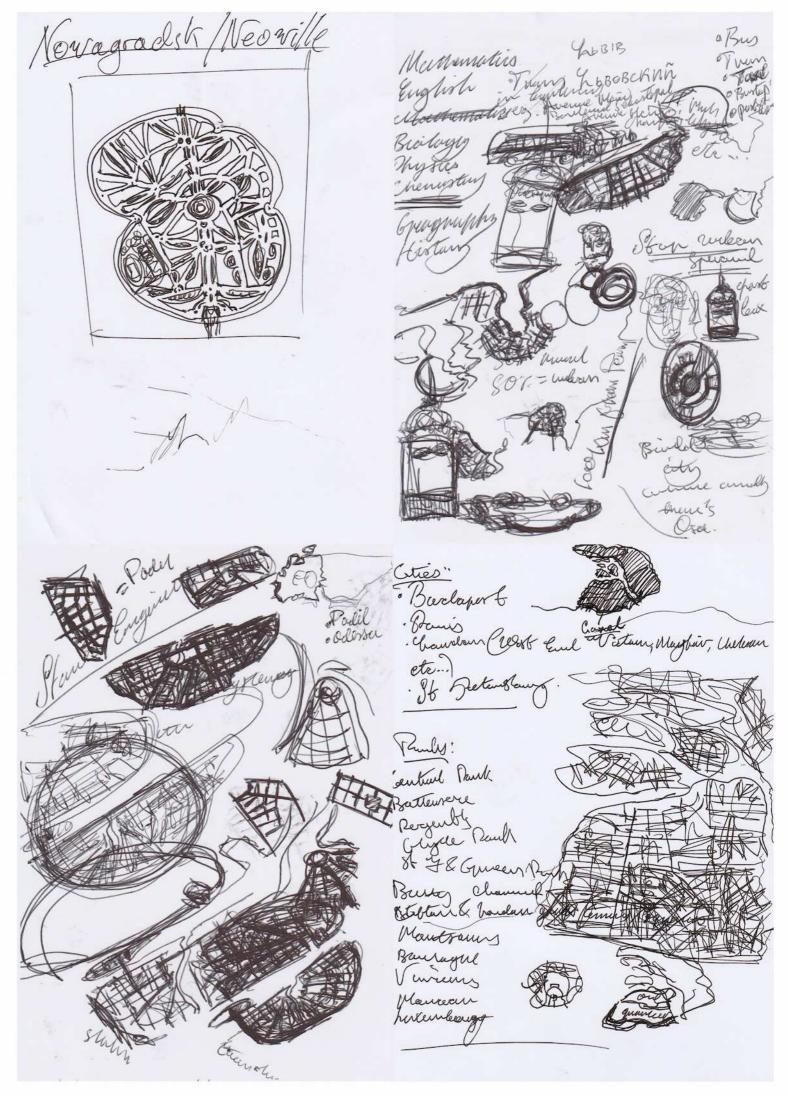




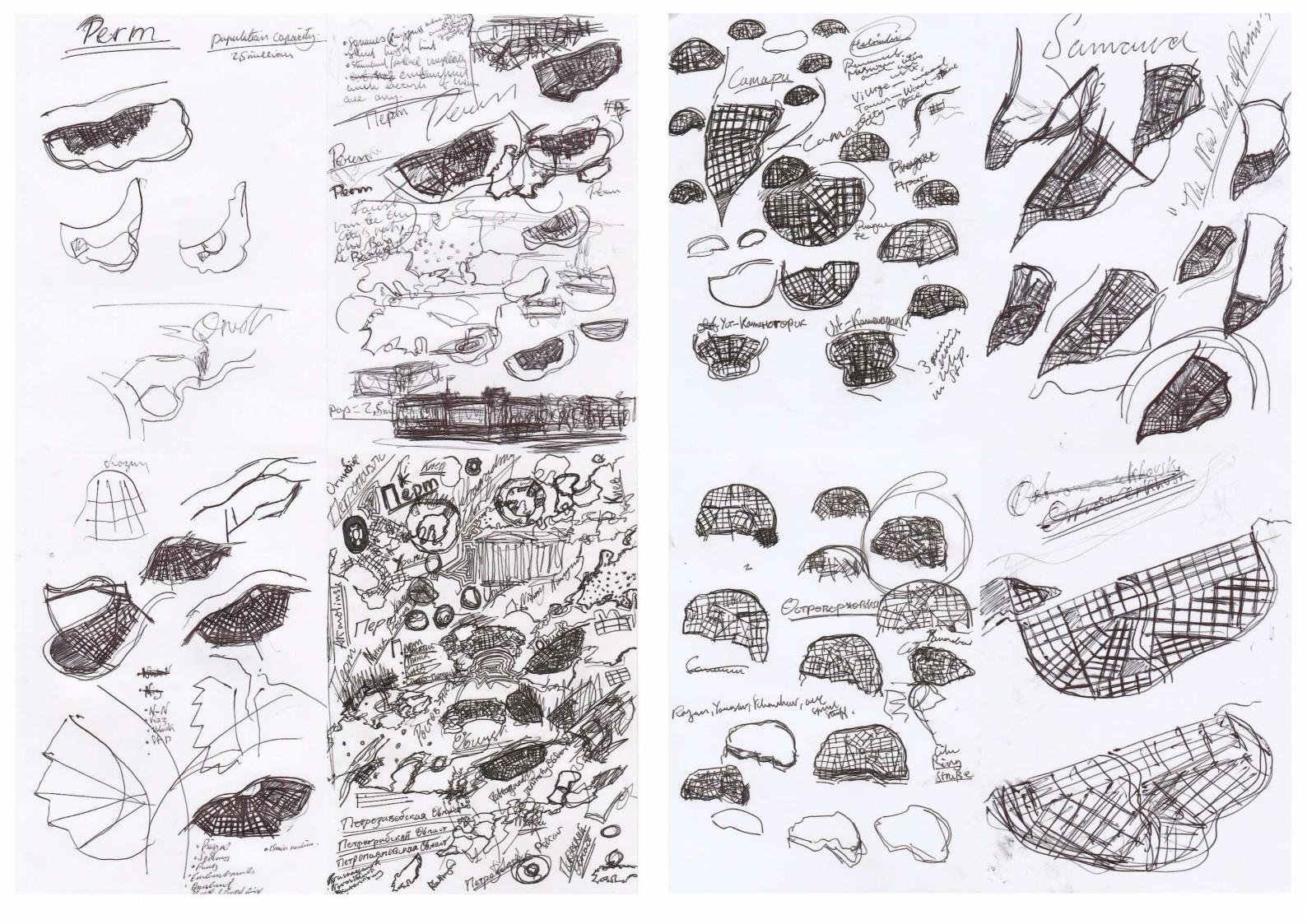


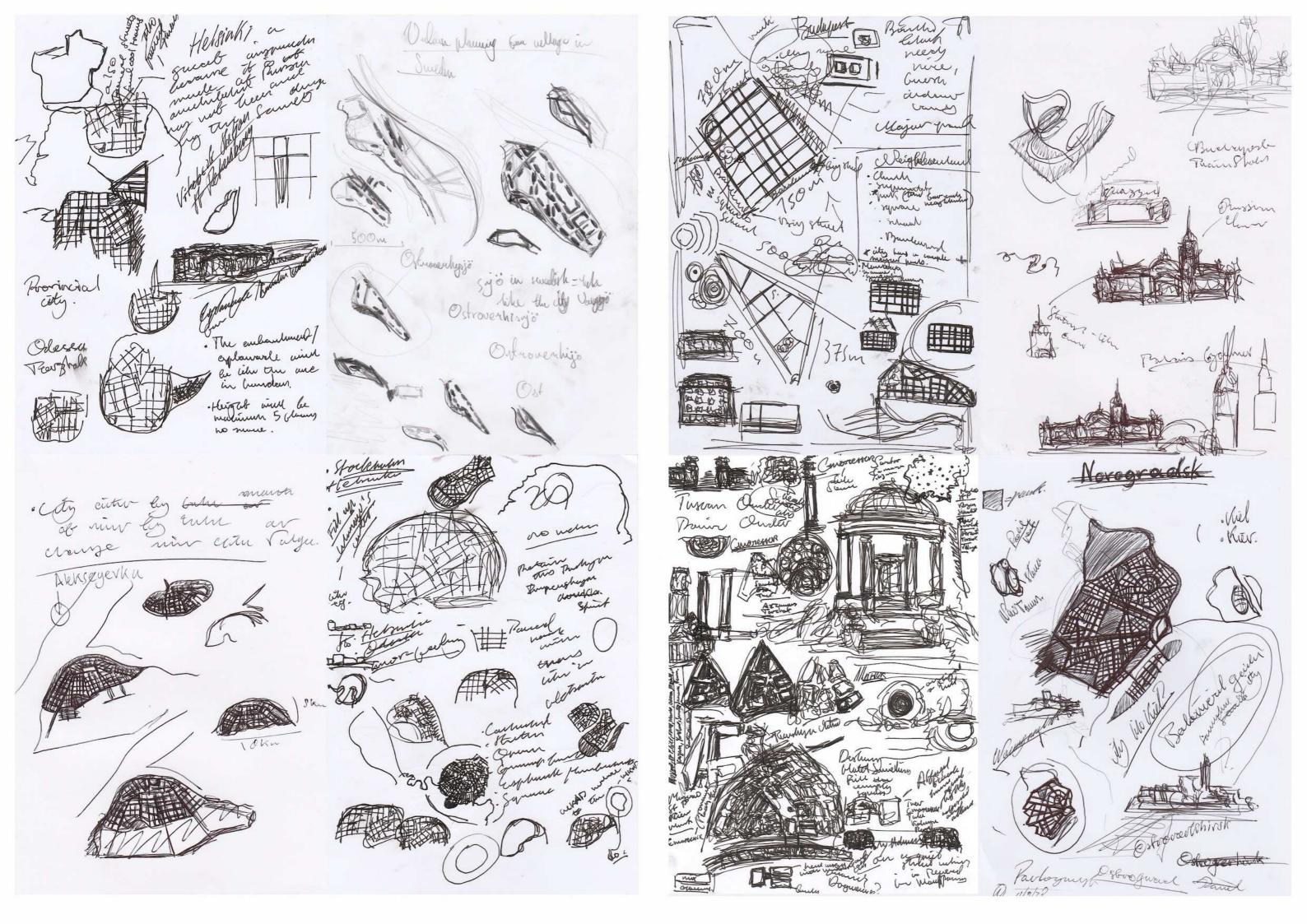


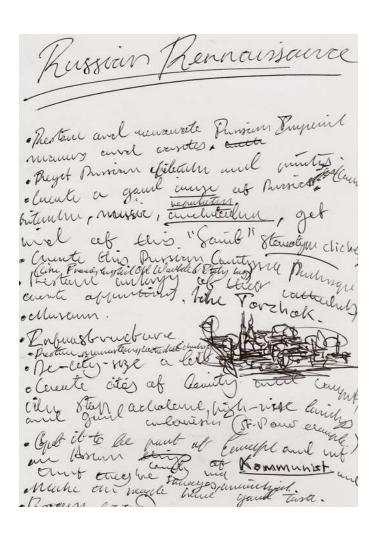














### The Russian Neo-Renaissance

For me, the Russian Neo-Renaissance is a project in which I try to gather back the traditional architecture of the Russian culture, and not the Soviet Grim, Ugly Buildings in which we now associate with Russian Architecture. This project made me research the pre-revolutionary architecture, in which I was surprised to find of how much classicism there was in the Russian Empire. In nearly every photos of cities, there was some classical buildings.

This project is to create a new architectural movement combing the Russian Empire Style that can be found in St Petersburg, Classicism and the Russian traditional wooden elements such as the Window Decoration. Mix this all up and it will create a Russian Architectural style in which the skeleton is of classical value and the decoration simple, and of a Russian Folklore touch.

St Petersburg and Helsinki is my prime example for the architecture and modern urbanism of the Russian City, though what I would like to do is that those buildings put a traditional touch to it, as I have said, so that it can be recognised as part of the New Russian Architectural style.

I also studied many Russian Churches, and in particular those which are of Russian Architecture. Yet I looked at the ones which has put Classical elements, yet twisted those classical elements round to look like Folklore style.

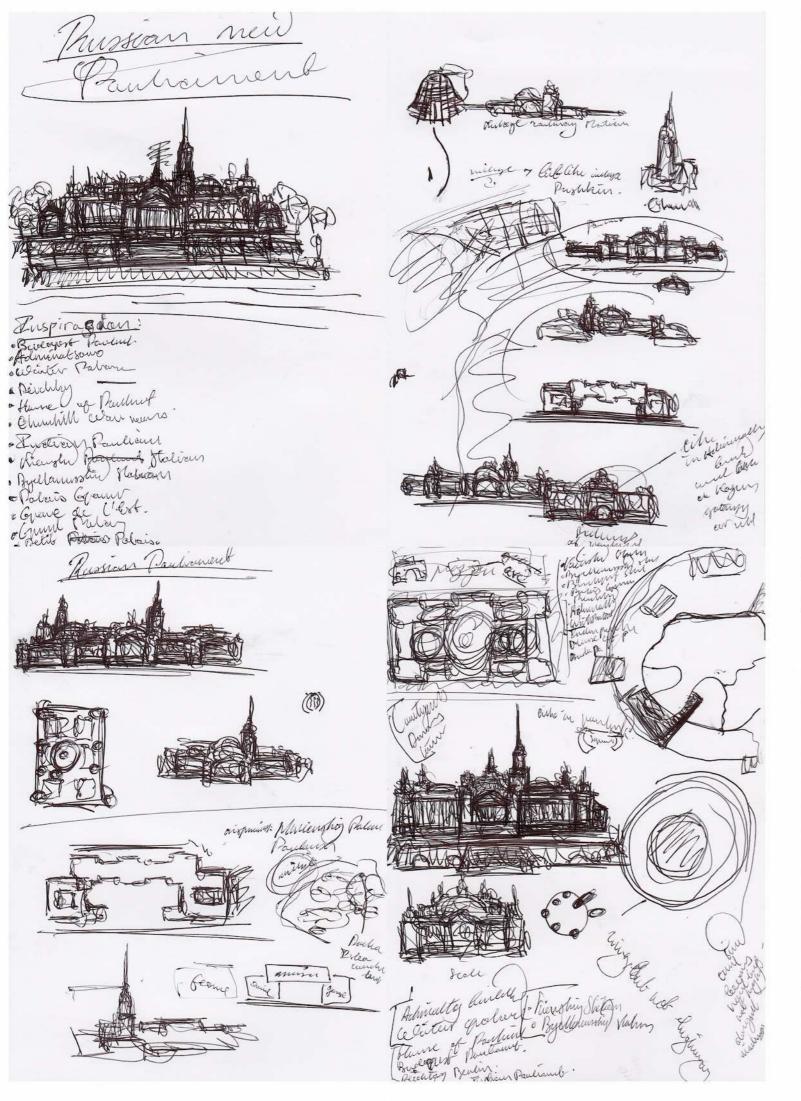
With the help of the Photos of Prokudin-Gorsky of Russian cities done in the early 20th century, I have been able to gather the architecture of Pre-Revolutionary Russia, and many of his photos of city panoramas and buildings have inspired me for the so-called Russian Renaissance.

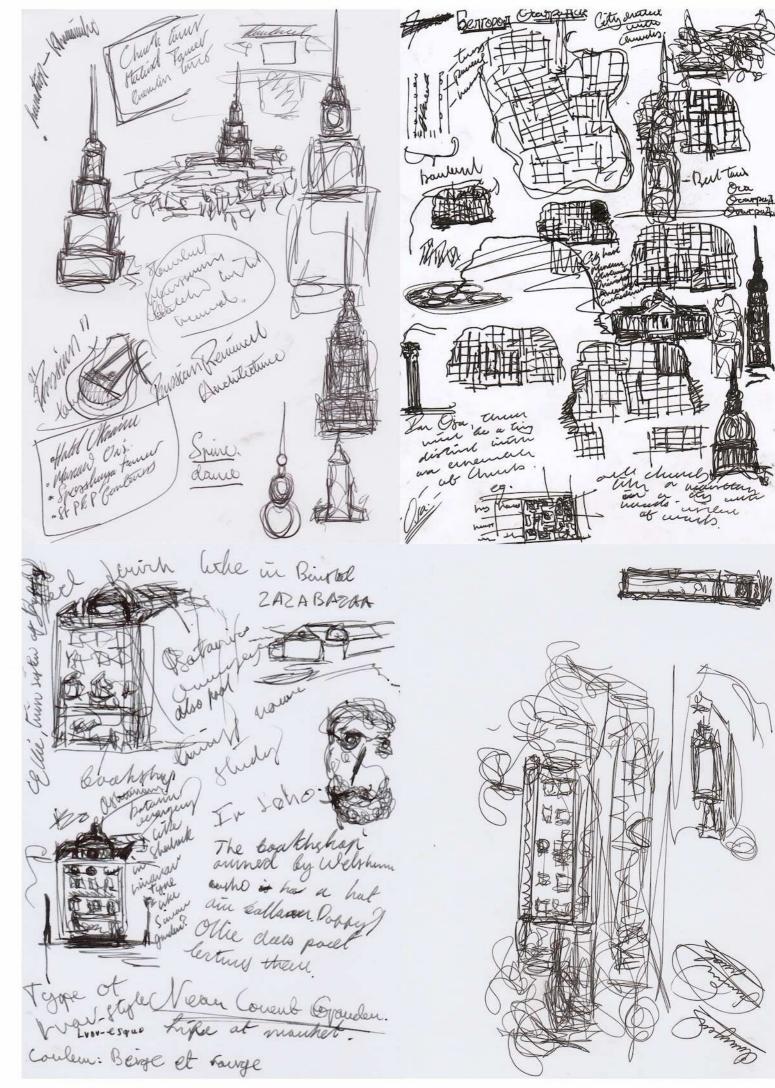


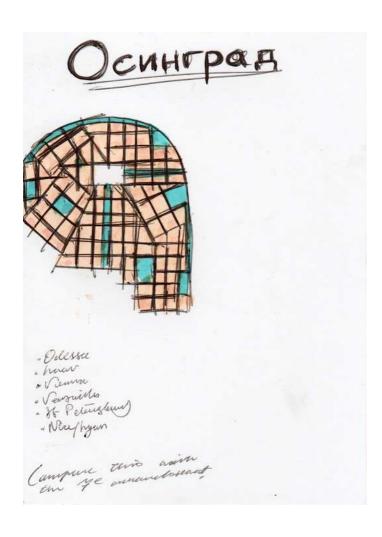












# URBAN PLANNING PROJECT

## Osaburg - Osagrad

Having studied the Architecture of St Petersburg, Odessa, Helsinki, Vienna and many other Central-Eastern cities, and having dwelled into architecture and urbanism, I have decided to design a city. That city will be situated by the Ural Mountains, on the large River Kama in a currently small town name Osa.

I plan to make that 20,000 populated town of wooden huts into a town of about 250,000 inhabitants. The town will be transformed into this architectural and urbanist project. It has been greatly inspired from Helsinki and St Petersburg in architecture, and urbanistically it is inspired from many Russian towns designed in the late 19th century during the Tsar's reign, such as Saratov and Rostov-on-Don.

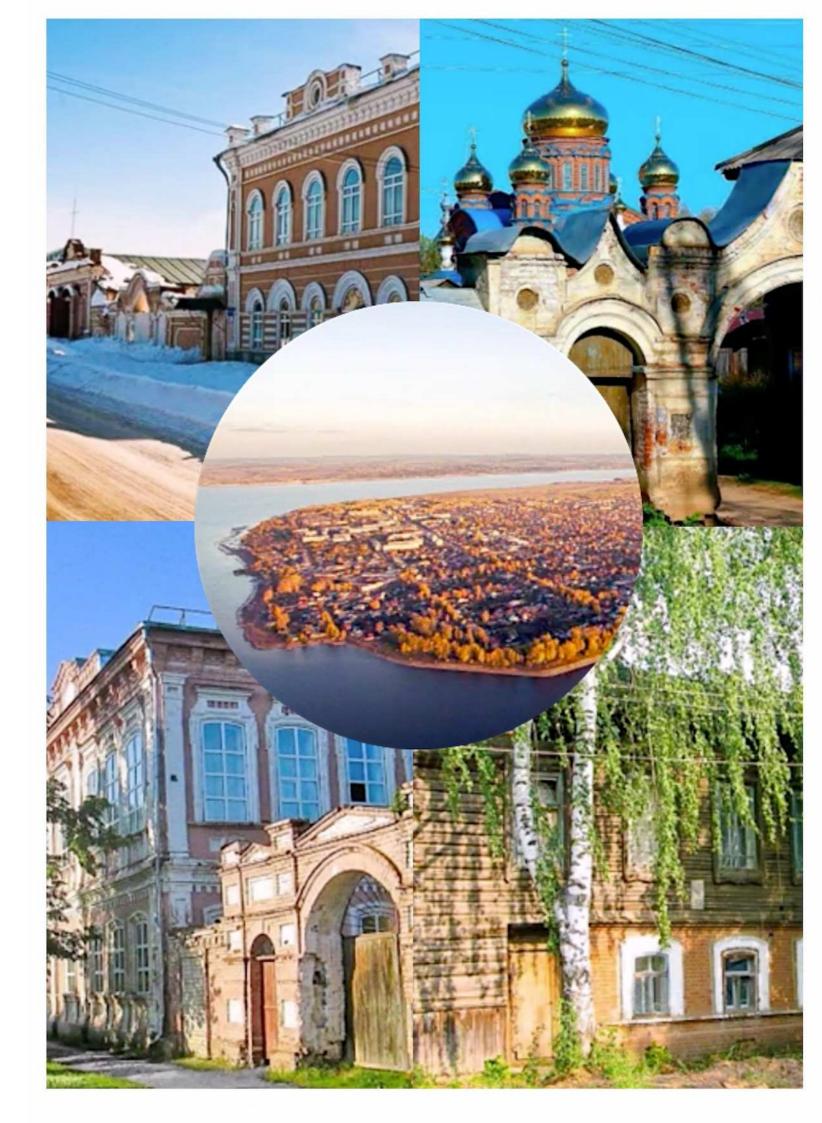
Osa will mostly have Classical Architecture, especially what I call the Russian Style Architecture, the streets will be paved, they will have trees and the city will have a beautiful embankment in which people will be able to have promenades by the Kama River. There will be parks, of an English style, such as Battersea Park and Regent's Park in London. Yet there would also be garden squares in the city like the ones you find in West London.

There will also be public squares with monuments, and talking of monuments the town will have Churches – for the region is mostly Christian – that would be architectural monuments. The Town will not have metros – the underground – and mostly the transport will be trams. Not those long, serpent-like trams, but those that have only one or two wagons like those you see Lisbon.

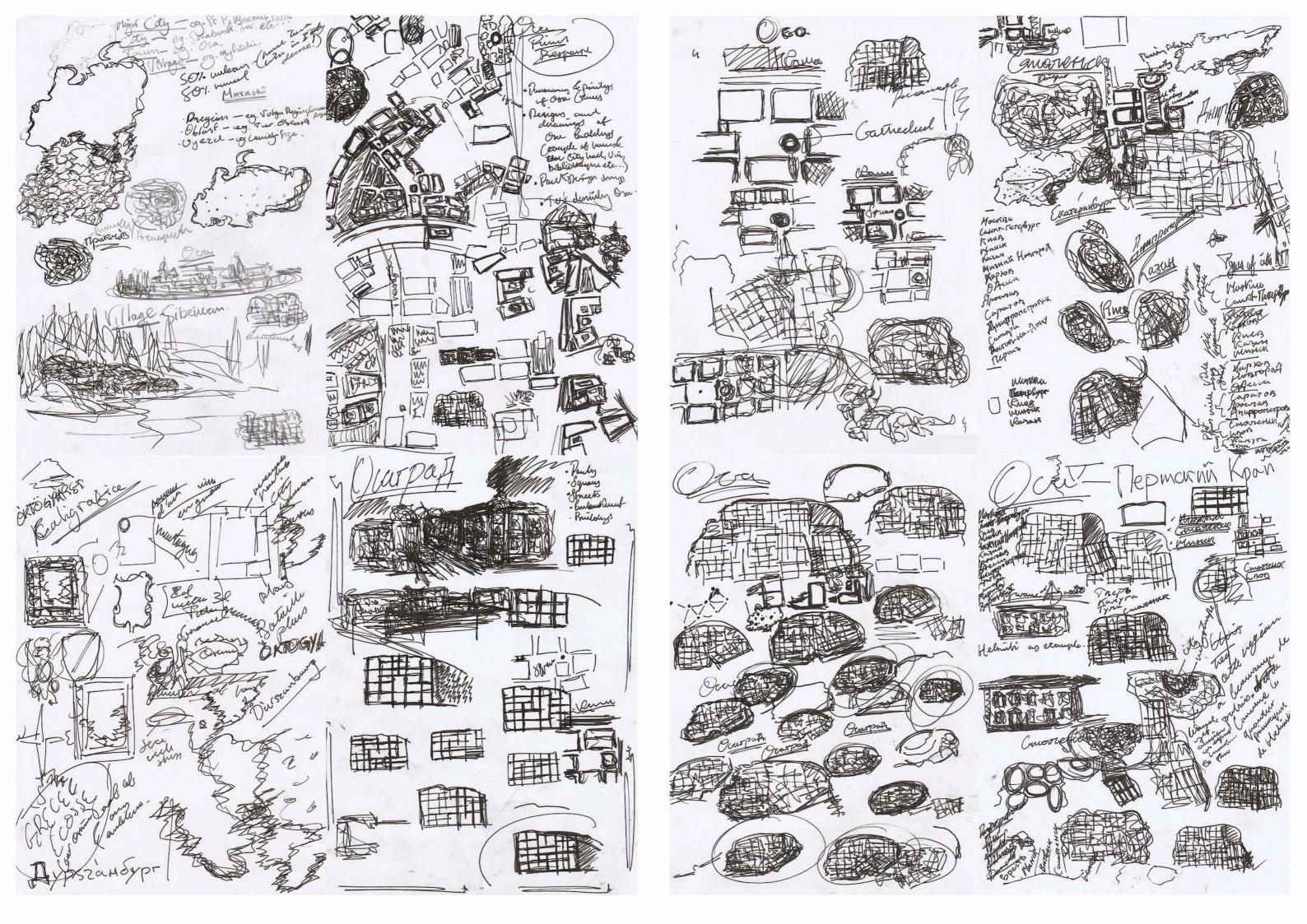
Sky-rise buildings will not be in the city, apart from the towers of the churches, which are not that high, and so there will be a strong height-limit in order to maintain the urbanist order.

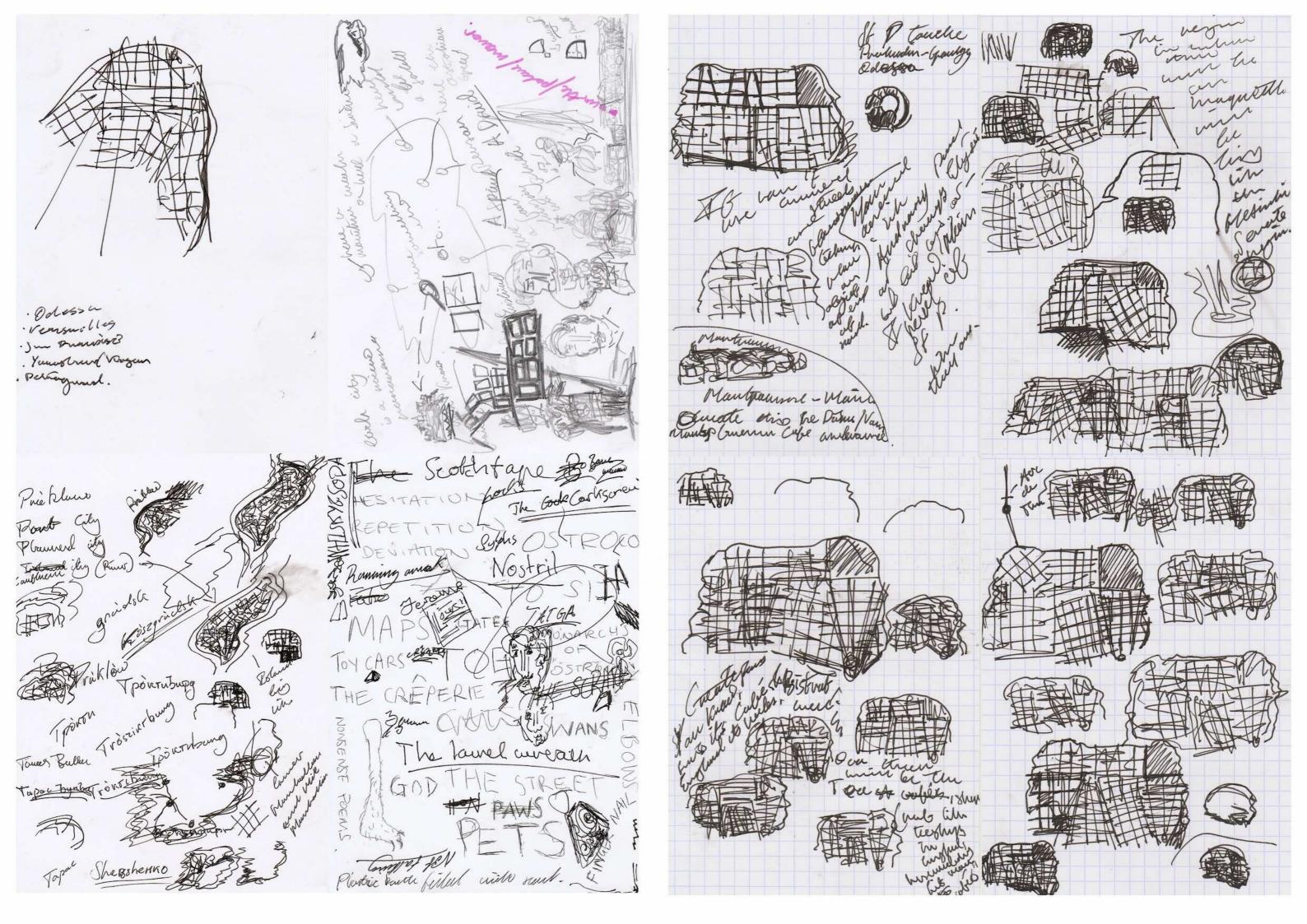
There will be architectural buildings for public building such as museums, university campuses, institutes, the Town Hall and every other possible buildings. Helsinki's public buildings and squares are one of my strongest influences over the project, and so the New Osa will have similar architecture to Helsinki.

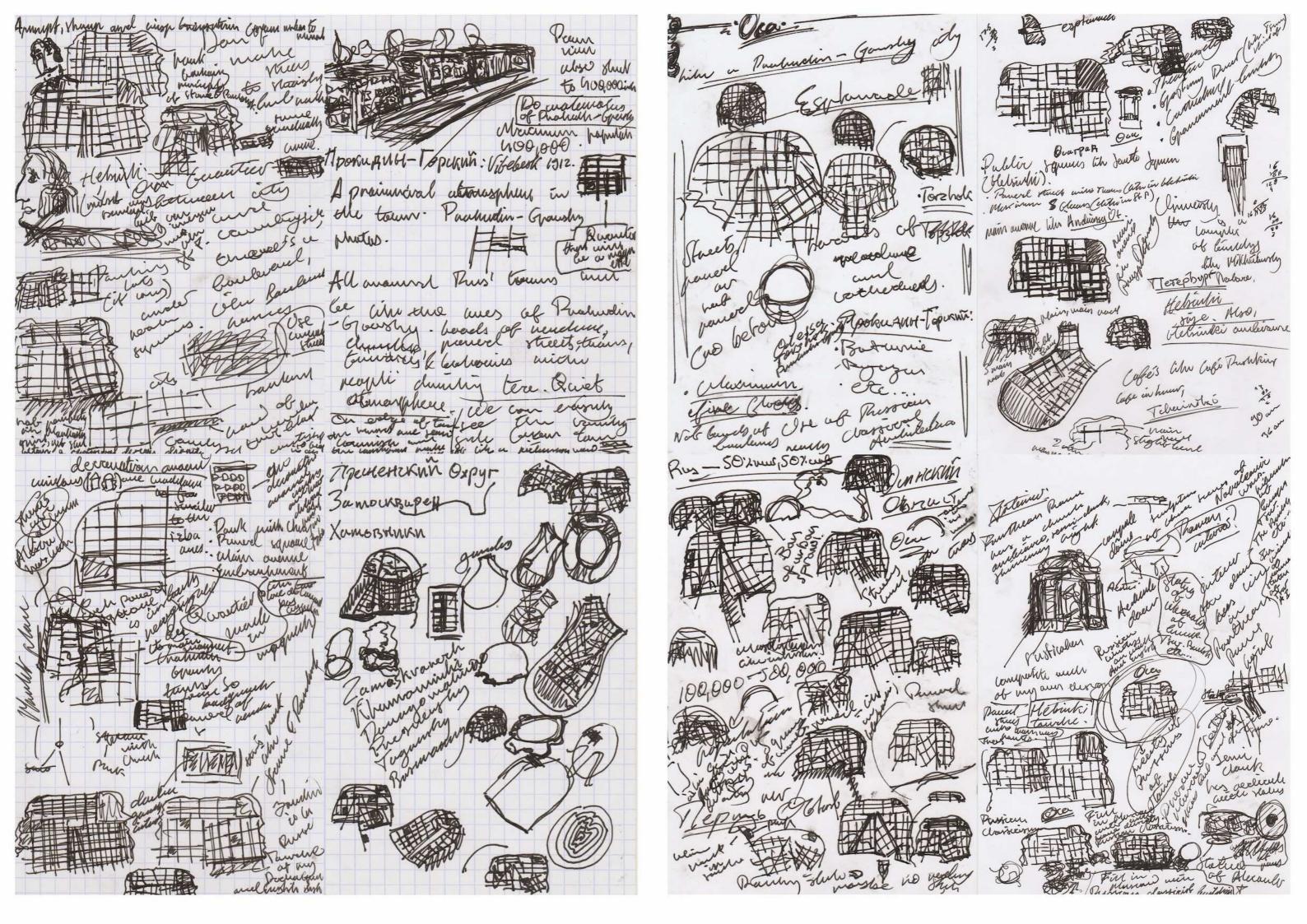




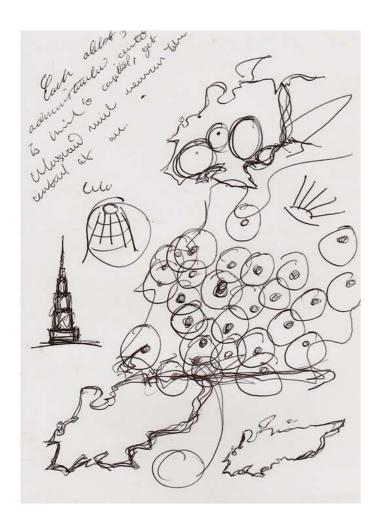












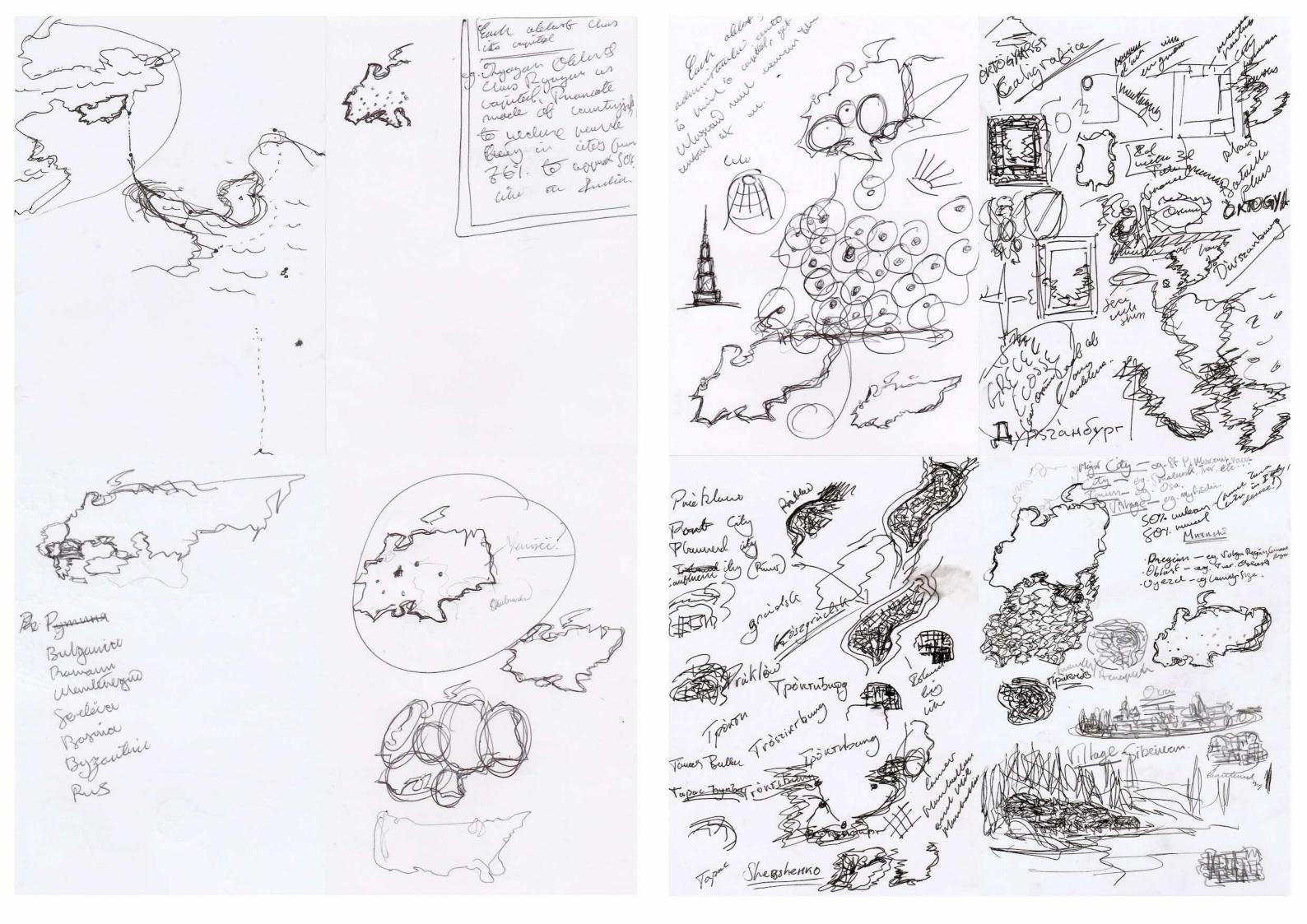


# **The Russian Regions**

I have immersed myself into the history of Russia, in particular the Russian Empire the state existing prior to the Russian Revolution. I had done extensive researches on the Czar's country, including its provincial architecture, administrative subdivisions, politics, nobility, ethnic groups, geography, city population, religion – not to forget the various architectural monuments destroyed by the Communists. One of my key factors in my research was when I discovered the works of Prokudin-Gorsky, a russian photographer who had decided to take a tour of the Russian Empire barely a few years before the outbreak of world war one, and he had made numerous photos in colour using a special technique, catching the various countryside, urban views, monasteries, forests, palaces, izbas, wooden villages, various people dressed in their traditional clothing, ranging from Kostroma peasants to Kuban cossacks and Georgians. His works has helped me visualize more clearly and enlighten in various areas during my researches on the Russian Empire.

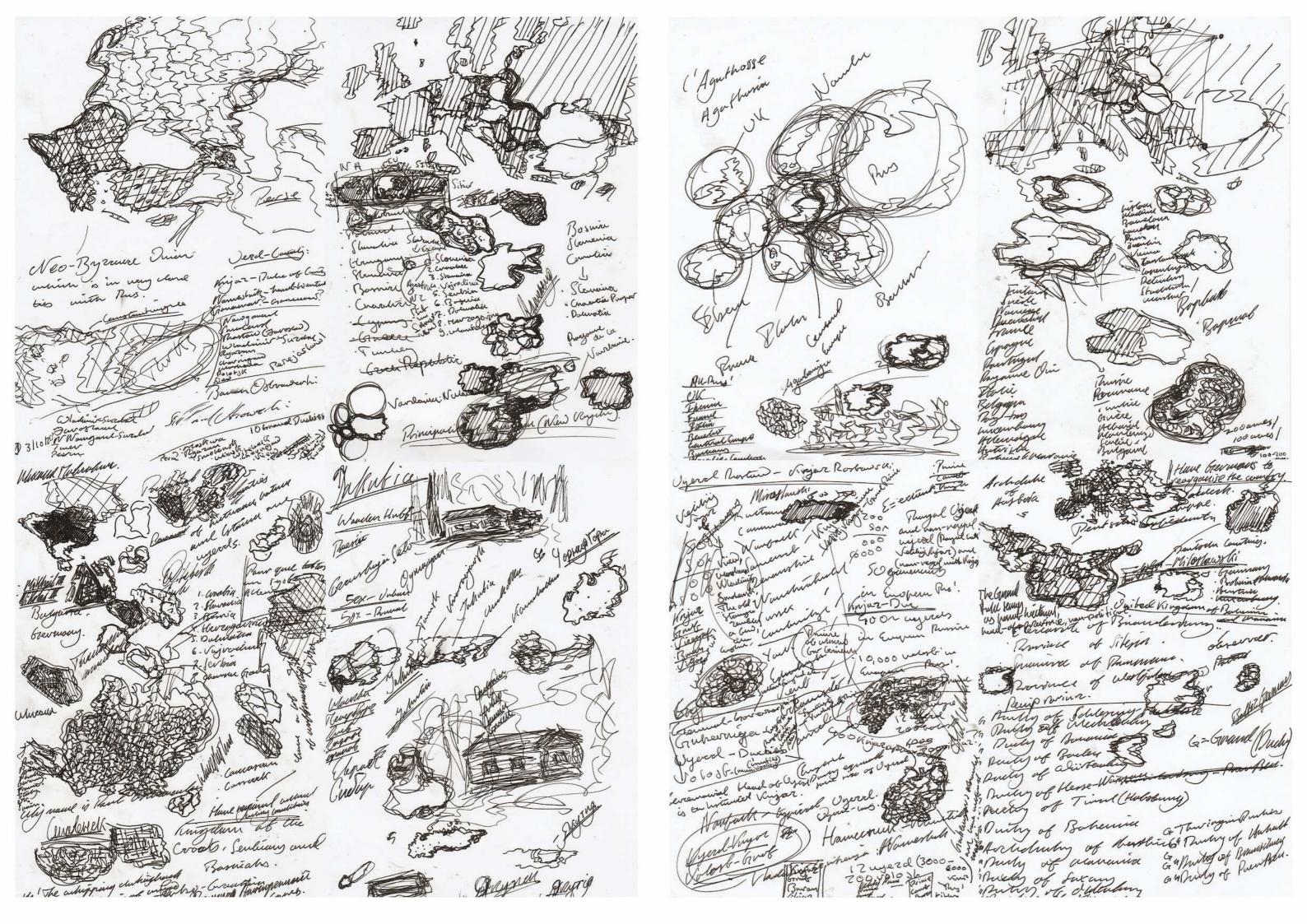


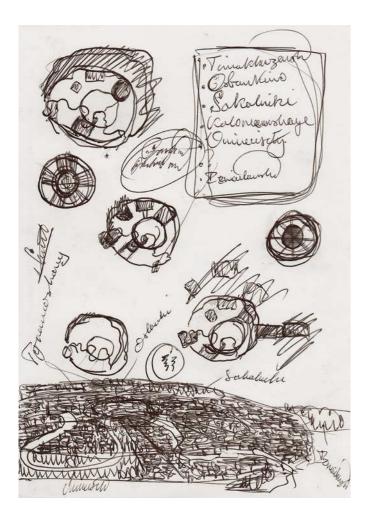
















#### **Urban planning Manifesto**

Since a young age, I have been addicted to lego for me, I just loved building whatever architectural plans came in my head, which henceforth why I have now been doing researches online regarding urban development — with topics ranging from Haussmann's Paris and his famous boulevards, parks and structure, Unesco Heritage Site St Petersburg and its incredible architecture and structural layout; Vienna and Budapest as Central Europe's city beauties and much more.

Recently, I've been dwelling into Moscow, as Europe's largest city, and of its architecture. I have a vision of making it more integrated into other European cities, and also to have a renovation and redesigning of the megacity, as it grows at an incredible pace; there needs to be an organised complexity with a good structure, with the principles that I have made myself after studying the most successful cities and urbanists' works.

Henceforth, this will be a quick review of my Urbanist Principles in making a flourishing city:

First of all, the city needs to have a strict height limit, with buildings not exceeding the limit, as otherwise it will look unorganised and just out of order. This means that buildings must be around the same height, and be compact with each other, viz. abolish the mass housing "estate" in which buildings look like there just been dotted all over the place, but instead adopt a more compact plan in which buildings are close to each other and have a a structural layout mostly grid like, like in Marylebone, but that it isn't to geometrical to become like Manhattan's Grid.

Secondly, the people must have a major park at least fifteen minutes from their home, in which they can repose during weekends and altogether to escape the city's usual hustle and bustle; with parks that inspire me and that makes me think should be in every city include Battersea Park, St James', Bois de Vincennes and Regent's Park.

Thirdly, there should be squares dotted all over the place, as I think that the Italian piazza has succeeded very finely indeed! They are a public place in which people can be in, where there are some restaurants, where they can lounge around around a fountain or a statue, and the second type of square that should be found in cities are the ones that look similar to the ones in London, viz. Bloomsbury square, Grosvenor Square Garden and the like.

Fourthly, if the city has a river, which most do, the river should be the heart of the city – the thing that makes the metropolis flourish and be able to be alive. The river should be admired by the people, so there should be nice embankments with trees and recreational spaces in which people can admire this beauty.

Last but not least, highways inside the city should be abolished, because they ruin the atmosphere, like in America, where highways had wrecked the city neighborhoods. They are fine if they are outside or around the city, but inside people must be free from those gigantic roads. Instead, if there is a large road to be inside the city, there must be boulevards with trees and every ground floor having shops; but the boulevards must only be in the main roads, otherwise normal roads with of course trees should be put in place.

These are a few of my urbanist principles, in which I believe will make a city thrive and live not around the so-called necessity, but around beauty.

