



Statue of Peter the Great (also known as The Bronze Horseman, 1782) by the French sculptor Étienne Maurice Falconet in front of the Saint Isaac's Cathedral in Saint Petersburg. Painting: Vasily Ivanovich Surikov (1870). The Bronze Horseman. Oil on Canvas. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons. Viewed 1 September 2015. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Surikov\\_horseman.jpg#/media/File:Surikov\\_horseman.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Surikov_horseman.jpg#/media/File:Surikov_horseman.jpg)

Metropol.X:  
St. Petersburg

Seminar in Winter semester 2015/16

Prof. Dr. Barbara Engel  
Dr. Markéta Březovská

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Karlsruher Institut für Technologie [KIT]

BA5/MA Seminar  
Winter semester 2015/16  
Freitags 9:45-13:00

Prof. Barbara Engel  
Markéta Březovská  
Geb. 11.40/R013

St. Petersburg is the second largest and the second most populous city in Russia, the city with triple change of name, the city in a permanent transition, once the capital of the country, the city with a complex political and cultural legacy. In this research-based seminar conducted in cooperation with the Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk we will observe, map, critically evaluate and finally visualize various layers of the city, be it infrastructure, housing, identity, culture, soviet heritage, geography, greenery, or public space. The outcome will form a reader with maps, a kind of an atlas of the contemporary city landscape.

Metropol.X: St. Petersburg

Winter semester 2015/16  
Fridays 9:45 – 13:00 / (Russian Colleagues 14:45-18:00)  
Geb. 11.40 / R 013

BA: „Stadtplanung im globalen Kontext“ - LV-Nummer: 1731157  
MA: „Internationaler Städtebau“ - LV-Nummer: 1731164  
Erasmus Students

Prüfungsnummer: 229 (BA) and 513 (MA)  
ECTS: 4

Working language: German and English

Organized by:

Karlsruher Institut für Technologie [KIT]  
Fakultät für Architektur  
Institut Entwerfen von Stadt und Landschaft [iesl]  
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Introduction

St. Petersburg (Sankt Peterburg in Russian) is the second largest and the second most populous city (5 Mio) in Russia. Founded in 1703 by the Head of Russia, Tsar Peter the Great, the city served as his main seat and thus the capital of the country until 1918, when the government moved to Moscow. Its triple change of name from Saint Petersburg to Petrograd (1914), then to Leningrad (1924) and back to Saint Petersburg (1991) refer to the complex political legacy,

characterizing the city as a one in a permanent transition. Due to its iconic cultural heritage and position on several water bodies (canals, the delta of the river Neva and the Baltic sea), the city is nicknamed Venice of the North.

The research-based seminar focuses on mapping the contemporary situation of St. Petersburg, with regards to its rich historical heritage, partly as an exemplary (though extraordinary and quite special) post-socialist (Russian) city. Initial survey of different layers of the city (housing, identity and image, culture, soviet heritage, geography or public spaces) will result into a reader with maps, a kind of atlas of the contemporary city landscape.

## 1 Task

In the seminar we will observe, map and draw different layers of the contemporary city landscapes of St. Petersburg, be it geography, demography, economy, power or politics – in respect to urban planning and architecture of the city. As a matter of interpretation these landscapes vary, depending on diverse individual or collective narratives formed by and perceived through different (inter)national media, families living there, short-time visitors or foreign observers. To gain a broader perspective, we will work parallel with our colleagues from the Siberian Federal University in the Russian city of Krasnoyarsk.

As a main outcome and in order to communicate gained knowledge, we will visualize relevant information and leading arguments of each of the discussed topics in a graphical way: in a form of an atlas. Individual chapters of this atlas will summarize your observations and findings, including personal editing of the collected data, their critical evaluation and conclusion – all in a popularly scientific form.

The graphical outcome of the atlas is subjected to your individual interpretation and can – next to the maps and within the given layout – include diagrams, pictograms, schemes, collages or comics.

The work should draw from a variety of sources. On one hand the quantitative ones (“hard data” like numbers and facts or statistics of the World Bank and Censuses) and on the other hand the qualitative ones (“soft data” like opinions and attitudes in form of movies, literature, interviews or paintings).

Nevertheless, all topics closely related to the urban planning and architecture of St. Petersburg’s should be put into a broader context of a post-socialist city and its geographical, socio-cultural, political, economic, and environmental conditions.

No prior knowledge of Russian language is necessary (though an advantage).

## 2 Thematic Blocks / Topics

All topics will be elaborated in the relation to the urban planning + architecture and include:

- (A) brief historical origin and theoretical background
- (B) up-to-date context
- (C) view towards future (prognosis or scenarios)

### KIT Students:

1. Population: demographical development in the context of Russia and World
2. Resources: energy, water, climate, nature, and crude oil
3. Mobility + infrastructures
4. Industry and post-industrial brownfields of the city
5. Top-Down - Official city planning: politics and power relations
6. Bottom-up - Activities: guerrilla urbanism, NGO Initiatives
7. Public spaces of the city (interior/exterior)
8. Image of the city: identity, selfrepresentation, tourism (outside/inside)
9. Heritage and preservation
10. Housing situation today (including inherited models)

### SFU Students:

1. Water: harbor, port and canals (sea and river)
2. Green: historical landscape and gardens
3. Urban ecology: Ecological infrastructure of the city
4. Landscape urbanism: landscape and urban planning spatial models
5. Housing: periodization of the development
6. Waterfront public space
7. Public/private organizations (local and global entrepreneurs and actors) on public space

At the end, the atlas chapters should be given individually chosen titles (headlines) based on the topics discussed, such as: *"St. Petersburg, the city of... housing reforms"* or *"St. Petersburg, the city as... a new new media hub"*.

### 3 Work Methodology, Format, Process and Performance

We will work in teams of two.

Critical research approach: The individual works should not have a judgmental nor celebrative tone, rather a descriptive one with a clear conclusion.

Hints: proper use of sources and credits of the figures.

- 1) PechaKucha = quick introduction and overview of the topic
- 2) Presentation = working state of research followed by discussion
- 3) Final presentation = topics presented pinned up in given layout
- 3) Contribution to the Atlas = final submission in given layout

#### Working Structure

Search – collect – structure – formulate – present – discuss – reflect – reformulate – draw – present – discuss – reflect – organize – layout – deliver.

#### Consultations

The consultations are an important part of the seminar. Every student is obliged to attend at least one consultation for the presentation, one for the final presentation and one for the layouting.

Always come prepared and bring along selected pictures, facts and findings, hypotheses and headlines and possible question to clear.

#### PechaKucha

In the beginning of the semester each of the topics will be introduced briefly. Finely selected pictures should explain your motivation, interest and first impression of the issue you deal with. You should define the first questions and possible direction of your research.

ThePechaKucha format, which keeps presentations concise and fast-paced, will help you via immediate guests-critiques to reflect upon and sharpen your idea.

(PechaKucha = 20 slides / 20 seconds each. The total duration of the presentation is thus 6 minutes 40 seconds. We will transform the form into 5-10 slides / 60 seconds each.)

- 1 topic = 5 pictures à 1 min = 5 minutes max
- PDF Submission: **We 28.10.2015, presentation: Fr 30.11.2015**

#### Presentations (Referate)

The presentations are intended to give the group a more elaborated overview about each of the topic, introduce the main facts and findings based on your deeper research, and allow following discussion addressing the most important questions. You should state clear argumentation and direction of your interest that you want to visualize later in the atlas.

There will be 10-15 minutes for a presentation and 5-10 minutes for discussion.

No submission prior to the class needed.

Presentation dates: **Fr, 27.11.15 and 04.12.15**

#### Final Submission: Atlas

The atlas chapter of your topic will in visual form summarize your observations and findings, including personal editing of the collected data, their critical evaluation and individual conclusion – all in a popularly scientific form. You

can work with collage, comic strip, pictograms, diagrams, and maps in the given layout.

**Final Presentation of the Atlas Layout: Fr, 22.01.2016, 10:00 am**

- Submission of PDFs (in order to share the presentation with our Russian colleagues): We, 20.01.2016
- Print out + pin up your pages
- Presentation 5 minutes, 5 minutes feedback

**Final Submission** is to be delivered: until **Fr, 5 February 2016, 11:00 am**

- laid out in given template, 6-10 A4 sites (maps, plans, text, images, all with sources)
- via email (up to 5 MB) or WeTransfer (larger than 5 MB)
- in one PDF named "Topic\_Surname\_Name.pdf"
- and one InDesign File (complete package with all links, in CS5 or .indd version) named "Topic\_Surname\_Name"

## Research hints and proper use of sources

Due to several copyrights limitations (subject of availability) should be all maps, graphics and illustrations in the Atlas drawn individually. Photographs and other images from external sources must be given an appropriate credit, including the name of the creator, a copyright notice, a license notice, a disclaimer notice, and a link to the material.

More information to scientific work in the class.

## 5.1 Time Schedule for German Students

### Semester dates KIT Karlsruhe:

19.10.2015	Semester starts (22.10.2015 Seminar work starts)
24.12.-06.01.2016	German Christmas holidays
12.02.2016	Semester ends

<b>Th, 22.10.15</b>	<b>Introduction / Topics assignment / Tasks and Layout</b> 10:00-11:00 Brief Introduction to "Scientific work"	
<b>Th, 22.10.15</b>	<b>11:00 Lecture Prof.Tschoban (GG)</b>	
<b>Fr, 30.10.15</b>	<b>Guest Lecture and discussion:</b> Ira Konyukhova: "XXX" (St.Peterburg) <b>SKYPE with SFU</b> 10:00-12:00 Consultations (Content + Presentation)	
<b>Fr, 06.11.15</b>	<b>PechaKucha FirstPicture</b> (1st motivation/1st impression) <b>SKYPE with SFU</b> 1 topic/5-10 pictures/1 picture à 1 min PDF Submission: We 04.10.2015	
<i>Do, 12.11.16</i>	<i>PINUP 1 of Master Studio</i>	
<b>Fr, 13.11.15</b>	Consultations (Content + Presentation)	
<i>Fr, 20.11.15</i>	<i>(EXKURSION St. Petersburg: 14.-24.11.2015)</i>	
<b>Fr, 27.11.15</b>	<b>Presentations + PDF Submission</b> Proof of the argumentation + Questions + Feedback	
<b>Fr, 04.12.15</b>	<b>Presentations + PDF Submission</b> (SKYPE TEACHERS)	
<b>Fr, 11.12.15</b>	Consultations (Content+ Layout)	
<i>We, 16.12.16</i>	<i>PINUP 2 of Master Studio</i>	
<b>Fr, 18.12.15</b>	<b>Inter-submission of Atlas Pages in Layout</b> (SKYPE TEACHERS) Consultations (Content + Layout)	
<b>Fr, 08.01.16</b>	Consultations (Atlas + Layout)	
<i>Do-Sa, 07.-09.01.</i>	<i>Workshop Master Studio</i>	
<b>Fr, 15.01.16</b>	Consultations / Questions (Atlas + Layout)	
<b>Fr, 22.01.16</b>	<b>Final Presentation (Printouts of Atlas Pages in Layout)</b> Submission for Russian Colleagues <b>SKYPE with SFU</b>	Final
<i>Th, 28.01.16</i>	<i>Final presentation of Master Studio</i>	
<b>Fr, 29.01.16</b>	Last Consultations / Questions (Layout)	
<b>Fr, 05.02.16</b>	<b>Final Submission:</b>	

**6-10 A4 Sites in the given layout (SKYPE TEACHERS)**

## 5.2 Time Schedule for Russian Students

**Semester dates SFU Krasnoyarsk:**

01.09.2015 Semester starts  
27.10.2015 Seminar work starts  
01.-11.01.16 Russian Christmas holidays  
24.01.2016 Semester ends

\*- the time is Russian

	Master program	Bachelor program
<b>Tu, 27.10.15</b> 11:00-12:00	<b>Introduction / Topics assignment / Task and Layout</b> Brief Introduction to “Scientific work”, Methodology of collaborative seminar work	
<b>Fr, 30.10.15</b> 15:00-16:30 16:45-18:00	<b>Guest Lecture and discussion /SKYPE with KIT/</b> - <i>Guest lecture:</i> Ira Konyukhova: “XXX” (St.Peterburg) - discussion/consultation (content + presentation)	
<b>We, 4.11.15</b> 13:00-14:55	<b>Consultations</b> (Content + Presentation)	
<b>Fr, 6.11.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>PechaKucha FirstPicture /SKYPE with KIT/</b> (1st motivation / 1st impression) 1 topic /5-10 picture/ 5-7 minutes PDF Submission	
<b>We, 11.11.15</b> 13:00-14:55	-	<b>PINUP 1</b>
<b>Fr, 13.11.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>PINUP 1</b>	-
<b>14.-24.11.2015</b>	<b>EXKURSION to St. Petersburg /remains undecided/</b> <i>photo fixation, visual analysis</i>	
<b>We, 18.11.15</b> 13:00-14:55	-	<b>Consultations</b> (Content + Atlas)
<b>Fr, 20.11.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>Consultations</b> (Content + Atlas)	-
<b>We, 25.11.15</b> 13:00-14:55	-	<b>Consultations + PDF Submission</b> (Content + Atlas)
<b>Fr, 27.11.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>Consultations + PDF Submission</b> (Content + Atlas)	-
<b>Fr, 4.12.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>PINUP 2: Presentation + PDF Submission</b>	(SKYPE TEACHERS)
<b>We, 9.12.15</b> 13:00-14:55	-	<b>Consultations</b> (Content + Atlas)
<b>Fr, 11.12.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>Consultations</b> (Content + Atlas)	
<b>We, 16.12.15</b> 13:00-14:55	-	<b>Consultations</b> (Content + PechaKucha)
<b>Fr, 18.12.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>- Inter-submission of Atlas Pages in Layout (SKYPE TEACHERS)</b> Consultations (Content + Layout)	
<b>Fr, 25.12.15</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>PechaKucha Presentation (Atlas + Layout)</b> - proof of the argumentation + Questions + Feedback	
<b>Mo, 11.01.16</b> 12:00-15:00	<b>PINUP 3: Presentation (Atlas + Layout)</b>	
<b>Fr, 15.01.16</b> 09:00-12:00	Last Consultations / Questions (Atlas + Layout)	
<b>Fr, 22.01.16</b> 14:45-18:00	<b>Final Submission for Russian Students /SKYPE with KIT/</b> 6-10 A4 Sites in the given layout	



<i>Fr,</i>	<i>05.02.16</i>	<i>Final Submission for German Colleagues</i>	(SKYPE TEACHERS)
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## 6 References

Favourite reference: maps by French journalist and geographer cartographer for Le Monde diplomatique, Philippe Rekacewicz

- Fortress Russia, May 2014, <http://mondediplo.com/maps/fortressrussia>
- The Russian kaleidoscope, January 1997, <http://mondediplo.com/maps/russiamdv1997>
- In Russia, a worrying decline, July 2011, <http://mondediplo.com/maps/russiadecline>

Official website of government of St. Petersburg. Urban planning and architecture department. General plan of St. Petersburg  
[http://kgainfo.spb.ru/genplan/plan\\_spb.html](http://kgainfo.spb.ru/genplan/plan_spb.html)

**...to be continued**