

ИЗВЕСТИЯ

Moscow.: Architecture-C, 2007, 520 p. Selim Khan-Magomedov
“Rationalism – “formalism”

The Space, not the stone is the material of architecture,” – said Nikolay Ladovsky, an outstanding architect of an early Soviet epoch, who founded the New Architect Association and Architects-Urbanists Association, a professor of Higher Art and Technical Studios and a leader of rationalism – an avantgarde stream that appeared in the Russian architecture in 1920s. It is he as well as his elder colleagues, Ivan Zhukovsky in particular, a number of his colleagues and students, including many bright and different architects, that the album published with the assistance of the Russian Avantgarde Foundation is dedicated to.

Unlike constructivism that for some time was the determining style of the soviet new buildings and substituted the rationalism, the latter is less famous and much worse realized. The works of its heroes are marked by strictness, accented functionality and laconism of forms. The tendency to reach the ideal form - this was what defined the style and that was the reason for its secondary name “formalism”. At first, it did not have a negative meaning, but in 1930s it turned into a seal that did not let the architects execute their ideas in stone. But sometimes even on paper, they produce a shocking impression. 

