

“ALEXANDER VESNIN AND THE CONSTRUCTIVISM”

May 23, 2008

Irina Mak

ИЗВЕСТИЯ

Moscow.: Architecture-C, the Russian Avantgarde Foundation, 2007. — 412 p. Selim Khan -Magomedov.

Alexander Vesnin is well-known as one of the Vesnin brothers, outstanding architects and masters of the Soviet constructivism in whose honour the Denezhniy Lane in Arbat was renamed in times of the Soviet power. But the power finished, the Lane was returned its original name, and many buildings built upon the designs of Leonid, Viktor, and Alexander Vesnin were either destroyed or reconstructed beyond recognition. Being a unique work by Alexander Vesnin, his paintings, graphics, including those of the Cubistic period as well as his sketches of a theatrical scenery (in 1920-30 Vesnin was one of the most sought for theatrical artists of the Soviet Russia) are still actual. One can judge his importance in the history of theatre by the fact that a significant part of the Tairov’s performances in the Chamber Theatre was decorated by Vesnin, and he made almost everything for the famous “Fedra” with Alisa Koonen including the costumes. For some period of time, he worked alone as an architect as well. Almost none of the designs referring to the student period were executed. These buildings – mostly churches that were left only on the paper- have nothing to do with Vesnin’s fame as a constructivist, but make one recall the origin and advantages of our native architecture. ■

