13-я сессия
Международного Байкальского зимнего градостроительного университета
«Экология пригородного расселения и города Иркутска»
From February 14 to March 2, 2012 the 13th session of the International Baikal Winter University of Urban Planning Design was held at National Research Irkutsk State Technical University. Governmental and municipal authorities responsible for strategic and urban management, heads of building companies, architects, developers, ecologists, investors and members of the public took part in the session.

30 young specialists in urban planning, ecology, economy and transport systems from five countries (France, Lebanon, the USA, China, Switzerland) and four cities of Russia (Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk, Tyumen, Saint Petersburg) gathered to participate in the three-weeks’ workshop. Six international assistants helped the teams.

The topic of the 13th session of the Winter University was “Ecology of Suburban Settlements and the City”. The aim of the workshop was to elaborate the principles and parameters for urban and suburban planning of Irkutsk on a priority basis of preserving the quality of the environment.

This year there were three events during the session, which enriched the workshop program and provided new prospects for cooperation between the Winter University and the Summer Workshops of Les Ateliers of Urban Planning and Development (Cergy-Pontoise, France).

On December 2, 2011 an academic conference was held at “Irkutskgiprodornii” conference-hall. The speakers were: V. Chubuk, E. Naumova, V. Rasputin, V. Protasova, A. Melnikova, N. Smirnov, A. Bolshakov, A. Mikhailov, N. Zhukovsky, and B. Engel (Germany). The materials provided by the speakers served as the basis for the session technical assignment.

On February 15, 2012 the first stage of the imitation game STRATAGEMA was organized for the participants of the 13th session of the Winter University at the NR ISTU Technopark.

The participants had to imitate the work of the ministers of a small country aimed at making it a leading country within 50 years. They had to achieve not only one-sided
growth, but also a non-crisis smooth development, which would be comfortable for people. The game was to give a practical understanding of a country's stable development.

STRATAGEMA was supported by a special computer program that processed the players’ solutions concerning the state economy models and calculated the results. The game is based on the regularities characterizing a real economy. The aim of the game was to examine different solutions with the help of direct experiment. This experience contributes to working out a realistic view on urban issues, taking into account to a lesser degree the creativity of certain ideas, and to learning side-effects of “obvious” and “uniquely correct” solutions.

On March 1, 2012 the City Hall conference room hosted the International Scientific and Practical Symposium, where 13 experts from different countries presented their models of suburban development. When discussing different variants of suburban development, the international experts concurred in the conclusion that suburbanization is a process that is beyond the control of town-planning authorities. It is based on an individual solution. The participants of the session 2012 endeavored to seize the essence of the process of suburbanization to work out a general project for development of Irkutsk.

As a result of the three weeks’ work, the teams presented their concept projects to the jury, which consisted of 17 international experts from France, Germany, Switzerland, Lebanon, China, Japan, the USA, Poland and the cities of Russia: Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Rostov-on-Don, Tyumen, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk and Irkutsk.

This year the international jury announced two winners: Team C (Team Connection) and Team D (From Environment to Development: Follow the Red Line). The latter was also awarded a special prize of Megaphone Company, a partner of the event, for being “the greenest team”. Team D (The City Inside Out) received the 3rd prize.

April 21, 2012
Team C (Team Connection). To solve the problems of the suburbs, it is necessary, above all, to solve the problems of the city itself. The city is our main priority. It is necessary to control suburban development and provide it with needed infrastructure. Special attention is drawn to the transport and environmental aspects. So for the Pivovariha settlement, a form of eco-development was offered. To enhance the density of connections between the city and the suburbs, the team suggested directing traffic to the city center but putting bigger importance to the public transport without increase in the number of expensive private vehicles. The aspects of territory planning and housing types in the suburbs were mentioned.
Team E (From Environment to Development: Follow the Red Line). The main concept was to strengthen three main types of relationship (city-city, city-suburb and suburb-suburb) which exist inside the environment. As three well-interdependent elements, they should be present in any urbanized project related to sustainable development. The main direction of the work is large-scale planning and investigation of cities and suburbs as a part of a unique complex network. The team suggested a reflective view of the model: Irkutsk, its state, its peculiarities, making stress on the controversy of the situation in the city. The team also managed to offer a number of rational and precise measures, beginning from the macroscale (strategy) through associated with it mesoscale (territory planning and complex of measures) ending up with the microscale (planning of space and buildings) which was a rational conclusion.

Команда «Е» (От окружающей среды к развитию следуйте за красной линией). Главной концепцией стало укрепление трех основных видов взаимоотношений (город – город, город – пригород, пригород – пригород). Как три взаимосвязанных элемента они должны проявиться в любом проекте урбанизированной среды, касающейся устойчивого развития. Главные направления работы – масштабное планирование, изучение городов и их пригородов как частей одной сложной сети. Команда предложила рефлексивный взгляд на модель Иркутска, его особенности, ситуацию, выделив «противоречивость» в качестве основной ее характеристики, а также комплекс мер, начиная от макроуровня (стратегии) через связанный с ним мезоуровень (планирование территорий и комплекс мер) – к микроуровню, который логично вытекал из всего вышесказанного (проектирование пространства и зданий).
Команда «D» (Город наизнанку). Основные направления концепции – развитие субурбов как самостоятельных независимых от города пунктов (но в тоже время пригороды будут зависеть от города административно), рост пригородной территории, ориентированный на наиболее экологичные и устойчивые направления, разработка комплексной транспортной схемы для аггломерации.

Рост пригородной территории должен быть ограничен по причине разрушения естественных пространств и во избежание появления новых субурбов. Каждый пригород должен иметь свое «собственное лицо» и функцию (промышленную, сельскохозяйственную, рекреационную или жилую). Необходимо разработать генеральную схему поселений и дать рекомендации по размещению общественных функций. Команда также предложила сформулировать для каждого из выбранных пространств свой профиль и методично развивать его – в области экономики, брендинга и т. п. Команда решила опереться на методологию прототипирования, совместив ее с кейс-подходом (т. е. помещение абстрактных прототипов в конкретный контекст).
The concept of the Team A (The Ecology of Urban Development) was based on the idea of independent development of urban settlements with its connections with the city retained. The idea is worked out in three dimensions: protection of natural resources, limiting and control of the growth, and development of the transport network respectively. All the dimensions, obviously, include economic and social aspects. In the opinion of the experts, the suggested solutions for some territories are rather abstract; the project lacks profound consideration of the financial aspects and time limits for its realization. It can be related to the disadvantages of the work. The offered solutions were rational but rather standard, there was nothing extraordinary.
Team B (Urban Adventures) presented the concept called “From chaotic suburbization to a polycentric city”. The general idea of the team was a decentralized city development model. The main point was to create multifunctional centers (mixed income use territories) connecting already existing suburbs (serving like residential areas) with each other as well as with the city, providing interaction for different social classes. As a result, the strategy was interesting but lacked a number of precise solutions. There were just abstract well-known statements and measures, poorly related to the specific context.

Team B
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4. Evangelo Abboud / student / Holy Spirit University (Usek) / Beirut
5. Carole Guilloux / Post Master / French Institute of Urban Development / City Engineering Department / Marne-la-Vallée

Команда B
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