

Transformation of Large Housing Settlements in Russia and Ukraine

Mass housing districts in Russia and Ukraine are facing diverse challenges. Re-furbishment of the building stock, incorporation of new housing typologies, creation of a sustainable mobility system, enhancement of open spaces, and more have to be addressed in order to transform these districts into appreciated neighborhoods. This chapter presents five examples from cities in Russia and Ukraine that offer analysis of the transformation processes occurring in large housing estates.

In their article about the development of the Akademgorodok district in Irkutsk, Russia, Lyudmila Kozlova, Anastasia Malko, and Valery Kozlov highlight the importance of open spaces that, at present, do not contribute to the quality of life, whether for leisure and sport activities, as meeting places, or as additional living space. In the second contribution about Irkutsk, which looks at the Novomelniko district, Maria Tumureeva, Ekaterina Gladkova, and Valery Kozlov examine the impact that federal and regional programs have on the development of public spaces. Russian initiatives are discussed and the extent to which they contribute to creating a comfortable urban environment is examined. Klavdiia Kamalova and Ekaterina Kirichenko likewise identify the disorganized living environment and condition of open spaces as a major problem in Cheryomushki in the Russian city of Krasnoyarsk. Because they still remain a powerful resource, the authors contend that the improvement of open spaces should not be viewed solely from the open spaces themselves, but in dialogue with the typology of the buildings. Transforming the ground floor—such as by integrating public facilities—could foster public life in the adjacent open areas. Lastly, Olga Savyt'ska and Nadiia Dmytryk report in their article about the importance of studying and rethinking the history of the development and transformation of mass industrial housing districts. Their contribution emphasizes the chronology of the development of industrial housing construction in the Cheryomushki and Tairovo districts in Odessa, Ukraine, since only by understanding their characteristics can sustainable transformation be possible.

