



Soviet Modernism

Travel Dates
May 07 — 31, 2018

Overview



Writer's Retreat
Sevan, Armenia

This course will travel to the countries of Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine to visit key sites of Soviet Modernism built between 1920 and 1991. We will explore the architectural legacy of Soviet public buildings which served the general population as sites for communal and cultural activities. In a building campaign which spanned across all Soviet Republics, these buildings were the cornerstone of the architectural image which defined a political regime. In contrast to repetitive Soviet housing, the Soviet public “palaces” were unique buildings which often utilized impressive long-span concrete construction to create expansive interiors. At the time of their construction, the palaces were categorized primarily by program—wedding palaces, sports palaces, film palaces and cultural palaces. Today the buildings are unique representations of the cultural diversity of the Soviet Union which will be highlighted by visiting three countries with distinct cultures, languages, and architectural traditions. Each of the former Soviet countries experienced profound cultural, economic, and societal changes after the collapse in 1991. Many of these buildings adapted, transformed, and survived the tumultuous shift—others did not. This course will explore how these buildings survived and how Soviet architecture is viewed today through the lens of three independent nations. In each country we will visit multiple cities, connect with local experts and engage with architectural organizations working to preserve these buildings.



Wedding Palace
Tbilisi, Georgia

Beyond Soviet Modernism, the countries of Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine were chosen for their collection of contemporary architecture and stunning landscapes. The itinerary includes the major cities of Tbilisi, Batumi, Yerevan, Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv. Excursions outside major cities will include visits to a mountaintop monastery in Georgia, Lake Sevan in Armenia, and the Soviet city of Prypiat (near Chernobyl) in Ukraine.

Course Deliverables



Crematorium
Kyiv, Ukraine

Student participation is the most important aspect of the course. Students should be engage in the experiences, ask questions, and seek out answers. Students will participate in a 3-day workshop in Ann Arbor before departure. Each student will be responsible for researching and compiling information on one of the Soviet Modernist buildings we will visit. Readings and meetings with local experts will supplement the hands-on experiences. In each country students will meet with local architects, architectural historians, and educators. Students will document their experience through sketches, photographs, and written documentation.





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Armenian Genocide Memorial
 Yerevan, Armenia



Gremi Church
 Kakheti, Georgia



Podil Theater
 Kyiv, Ukraine

Student Budget (Estimated)

International Airfare <i>(round-trip + inter-country)</i>	\$1,600.00
Intercity Transportation	\$250.00
Accommodations	\$780.00
Excursions <i>(day-trips)</i>	\$270.00
Entry Fees <i>(museums, theater tickets)</i>	\$65.00
Health Insurance	\$35.00

Total **\$3000**
-\$1,000 for Taubman College students

Total for Taubman Students **\$2000**

If awarded ELF grant, total cost would be **\$1000**

**All students must pay tuition. (Tuition costs not included on this budget).*

***Students should expect to spend +/- \$500 on food. This region is very economical and cheap options are always available.*

