

International Public Organization
“The International Centre of the Roerichs”
(Centre-Museum named after N.K.Roerich)



Past, Present and Future of the
Lopukhin Estate
Object of Cultural and Historical Heritage
of the 17th–19th Centuries
Moscow, Maly Znamenski lane, 3/5





The Lopukhin Estate, object of historical and cultural heritage of the 17th–19th centuries, is one of the most interesting city estate monuments left in Moscow. Situated in close proximity to the Moscow Kremlin, in the so called “Bely gorod” (the White Town) area within the “Golden Ring of Moscow”, it is surrounded by the estate ensembles that once belonged to the Golitsyn, Dolgorukov and Vyazemski families.

This monument is unique both architecturally and historically, its 300-year-long history connected with such eminent Russian state figures as Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, the Lopukhins, the famous architect M. Kazakov, the Protasov earls, the Bakhmetyev princes, and other people who played an important part in Russian history.

The Lopukhin Estate consists of the main building, the wing with a coach house, the fencing with front gate pillars, and utility structures. By the Decision of the USSR Council of Ministers № 950 dated 04.11.1989, Decision of Mosgorispolkom (Moscow City Executive Committee) № 2248 dated 28.11.1989, and the Decree of the Moscow Government № 812 dated 03.10.1995, the Lopukhin Estate was handed over to the International public organization “The International Centre of the Roerichs” (Centre-Museum named after N.K.Roerich) founded by the initiative of Svetoslav N. Roerich in order to preserve, study and popularize the unique heritage of the Roerich

family. It is from that moment on that the full-scale scientific restoration of the entire Estate complex began, financed solely by the Centre-Museum’s own sources.

The Lopukhin Estate restoration is implemented according to the project developed by the Central Scientific and Restoration Project Workshop of the Russian Federation Ministry of Cultural Affairs (project authors: I.V.Ilyenko, I.D.Lyubimova).

The project is based on the idea of the maximum exposure and synthetic combination of the most precious architectural and constructional elements from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

The first stage of the works has already been completed. It featured the restoration of the main building with the Red (main) porch and the wing, the reconstruction of the original fencing, the utility building behind the wing, and all the external and internal pipelines and networks, as well as partial improvement of the territory.

The Centre-Museum has recently embarked on the second stage of the restoration works according to the project by I.D.Lyubimova that includes the reconstruction of a part of the wing and the coach house that were both lost in the 1920s. The project proposals have been approved by the Russian Federation Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Moscow City Development Plan Scientific, Research and Project Institute (NIIPI), the Moscow Cultural Heritage Department, and several other organizations. It is planned to reconstruct the utility structure in the inner yard of the main building and implement the full improvement of the Estate territory. These works will help to restore the original layout of the Estate and finalize the entire architectural complex of the most ancient Estate in this area of Moscow.

All the restoration works are supervised by the Moscow City Cultural Heritage Department and the Central Scientific and Restoration Project Workshop of the Russian Federation Ministry of Cultural Affairs.





Front gate pillars, 1996



The original fencing was restored in 1997



Central stalls, 1991



Central stalls, 2009



Central part of the front facade, fragment, 1980s



Right wing of the main facade, fragment, 1994



Restoration of the main facade was completed in 1996



Right wing of the main facade, fragment



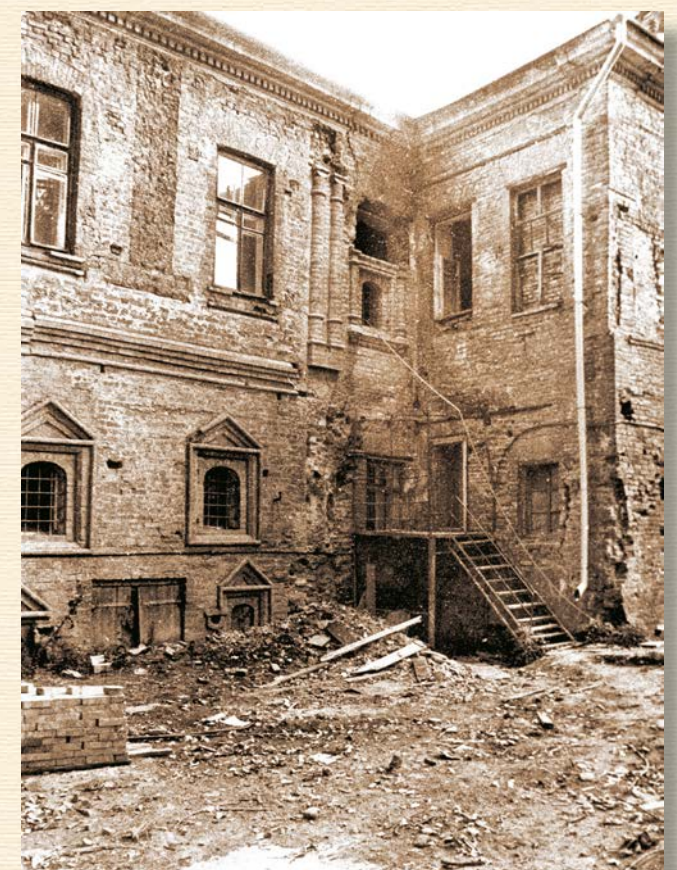
Left wing of the yard facade, fragment, 1980s



Central part of the yard facade, fragment, 1995



Yard facade panorama with the reconstructed 17th century's Red porch upon the full completion of the restoration works, August 2006



Right wing of the yard facade during the restoration works, fragment, 1996



Front staircase, 1995



First floor east enfilade hall during restoration, 1995



The front staircase was restored in 1995–1997



The first floor enfilade hall was restored in 1995–1997

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The first floor west enfilade hall was restored in 1998–1999

Left: hall with a mirror, fragment, 1995



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First floor west enfilade hall with the reconstructed pillars

Right: hall with the lost pillars, fragment, 1994



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The first floor east enfilade hall was restored in 1998–1999

Right: fragment of the wall with the fire recess that belonged to the lost fireplace, 1995



13

The first floor west enfilade hall was restored in 1995–1997

Left: corner of the hall with the lost fireplace, 1995



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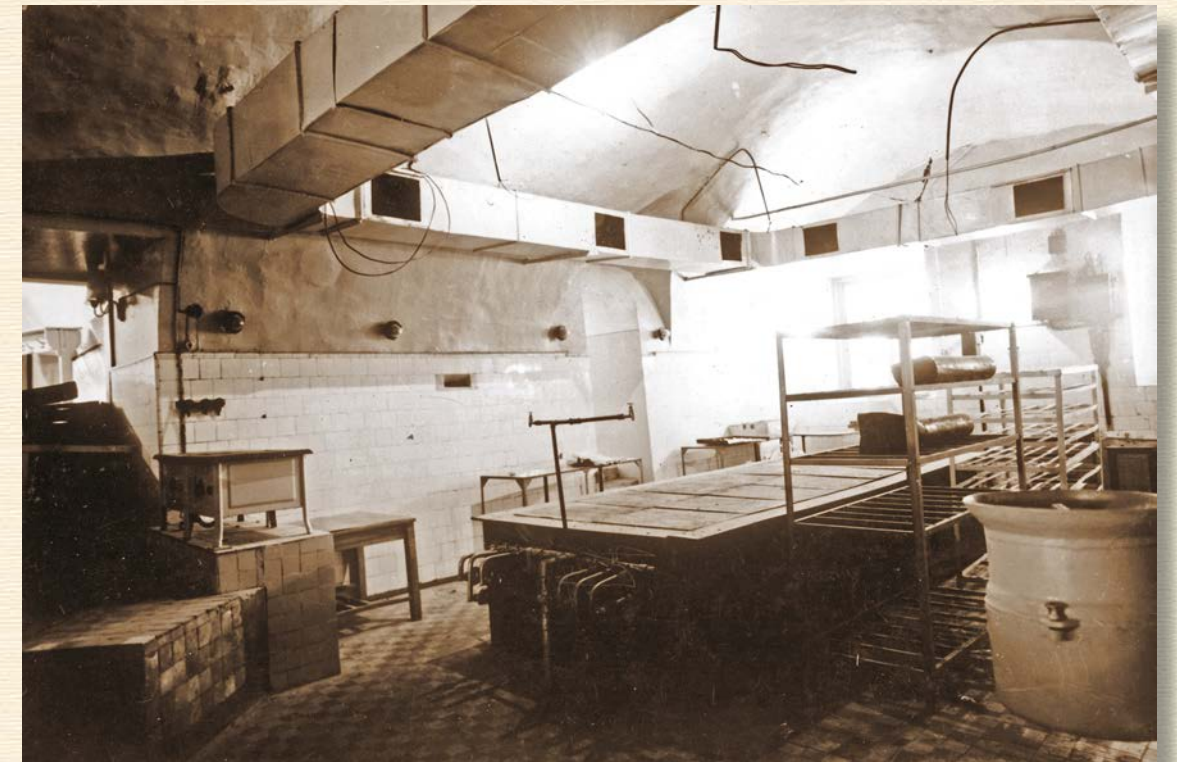


First floor west enfilade hall, 1995



First floor west enfilade hall was restored in 1995–1997

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Chamber of the 17th century on the ground floor
(before 1989 it served as a kitchen of the USSR Mintyazmash Ministry canteen)



Chamber of the 17th century on the ground floor was restored in 2001

16



White-stone basement of the north risalit



The white-stone basement of the north risalit was restored in 1996–1997

17



Central white-stone basement, 1980s



The central white-stone basement was restored in 2000–2001

Interiors of the halls of the Museum named after
N.K.Roerich in the Lopukhin Estate main building

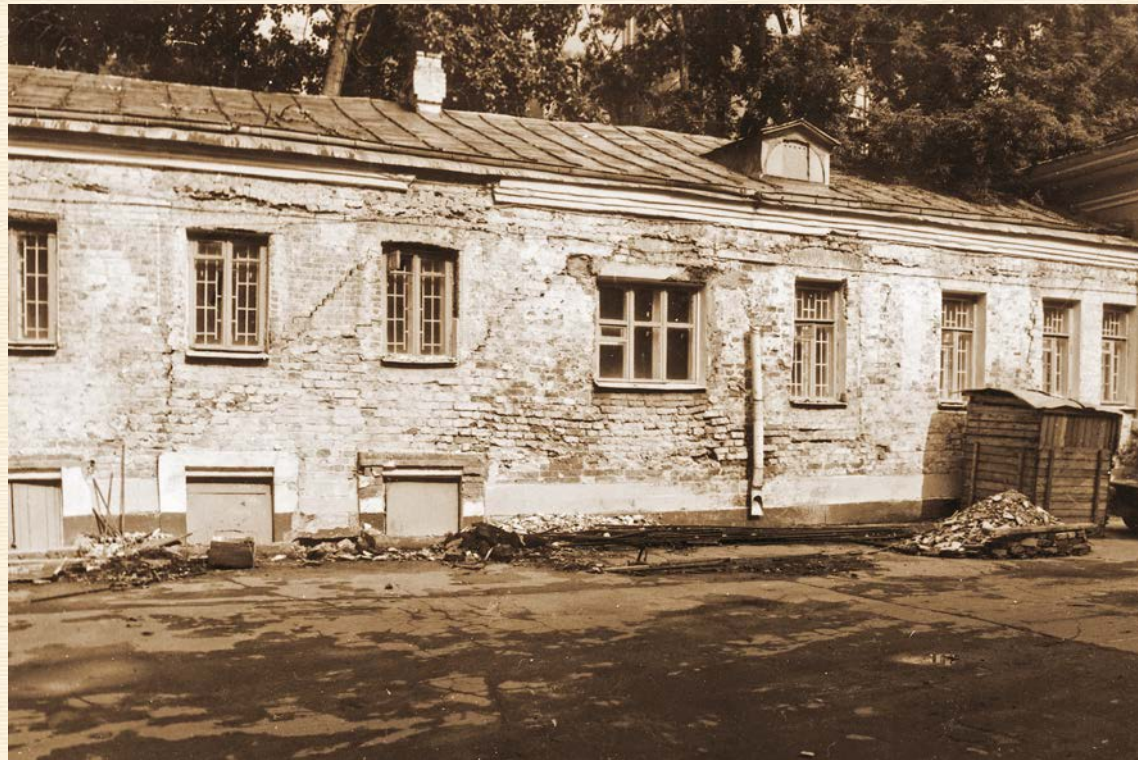
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19

The Museum named after N.K.Roerich, situated in the restored halls of the Lopukhin Estate main building, has enriched the interiors of the old building.





Main facade, fragment, 2001



Yard facade during restoration, fragment, 2003



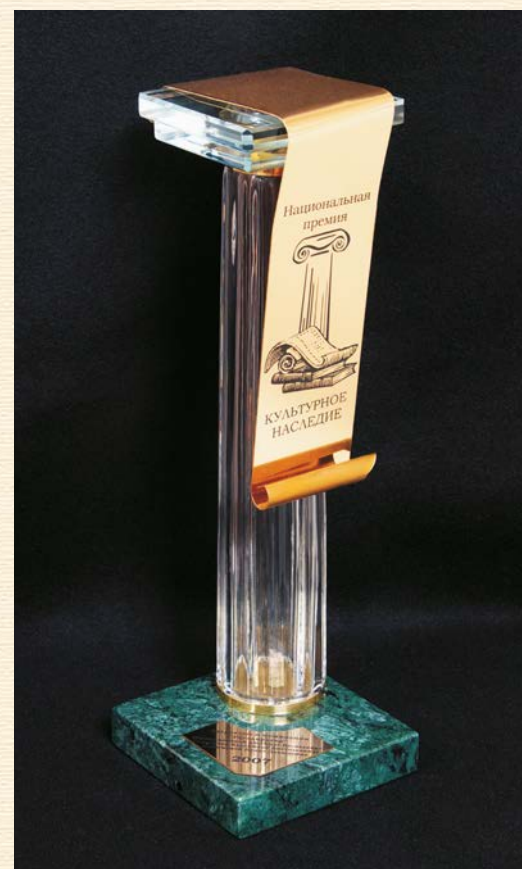
Main facade. The wing was restored in 2002–2004



Yard facade, fragment, 2004



Diploma of the National Cultural Heritage Award 2007



"The Crystal Pillar", Prize of the National Cultural Heritage Award 2007



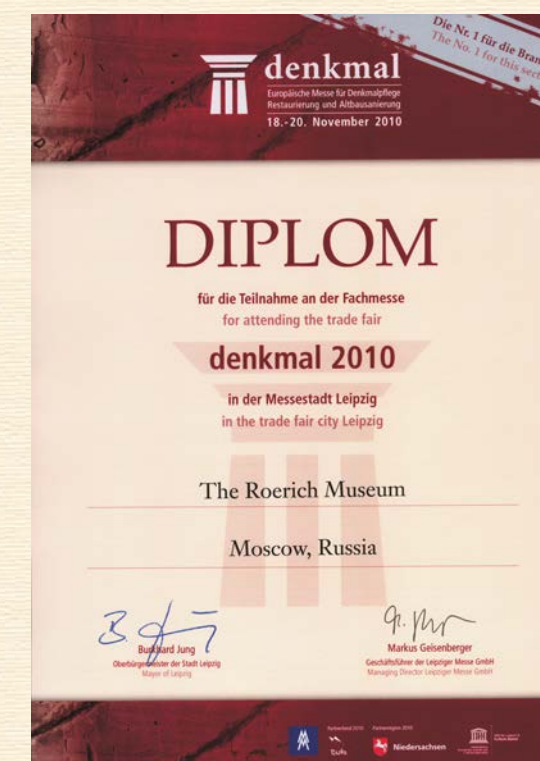
European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards "EUROPA NOSTRA 2010"



Diploma of the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards "EUROPA NOSTRA 2010"



Commendation from the Russian Federation Minister of Cultural Affairs and Mass Communications



The International DENKMAL-2010 Exhibition (Leipzig, Germany) participant diploma

The high quality of the restoration and the historical and cultural significance of the Lopukhin Estate have been acknowledged several times. In 2007, the project was marked with the National Cultural Heritage Award of Russia in the category "Restorer", and the project creative team — L.V.Shaposhnikova*, I.D.Lyubimova**, V.A.Rodionov*** — received personal commendations from the Russian Federation Minister of Cultural Affairs and Mass Communications.

In 2010, L.V.Shaposhnikova received the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / EUROPA NOSTRA Awards which marks the most outstanding achievements in the preservation of the rich architectural, natural, archaeological and artistic heritage of Europe. The jury members unanimously acknowledged L.V.Shaposhnikova the best in the category "Dedicated Service", having chosen her among the nominees from 26 countries.

The Moscow City Cultural Heritage Department has also highly appreciated the Lopukhin Estate restoration. The project was presented among the eleven best Moscow restoration projects at the International DENKMAL-2010 exhibition (Leipzig, Germany) dedicated to the achievements in the field of cultural and architectural heritage preservation.

* First Vice-President of the ICR, Director General of the Museum named after N.K.Roerich, Honored Art Worker of the Russian Federation.

** Chief Architect of the Central Scientific and Restoration Project Workshop of the Russian Federation Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

*** Director of the Restoration and Construction Enterprise "RIK Ltd.".

Reconstruction of the Lopukhin Estate coach house and a part of the wing that were both lost in the 1920s



The Lopukhin Estate front yard, 2006



The Lopukhin Estate front yard with the reconstructed coach house and a part of the wing (project)

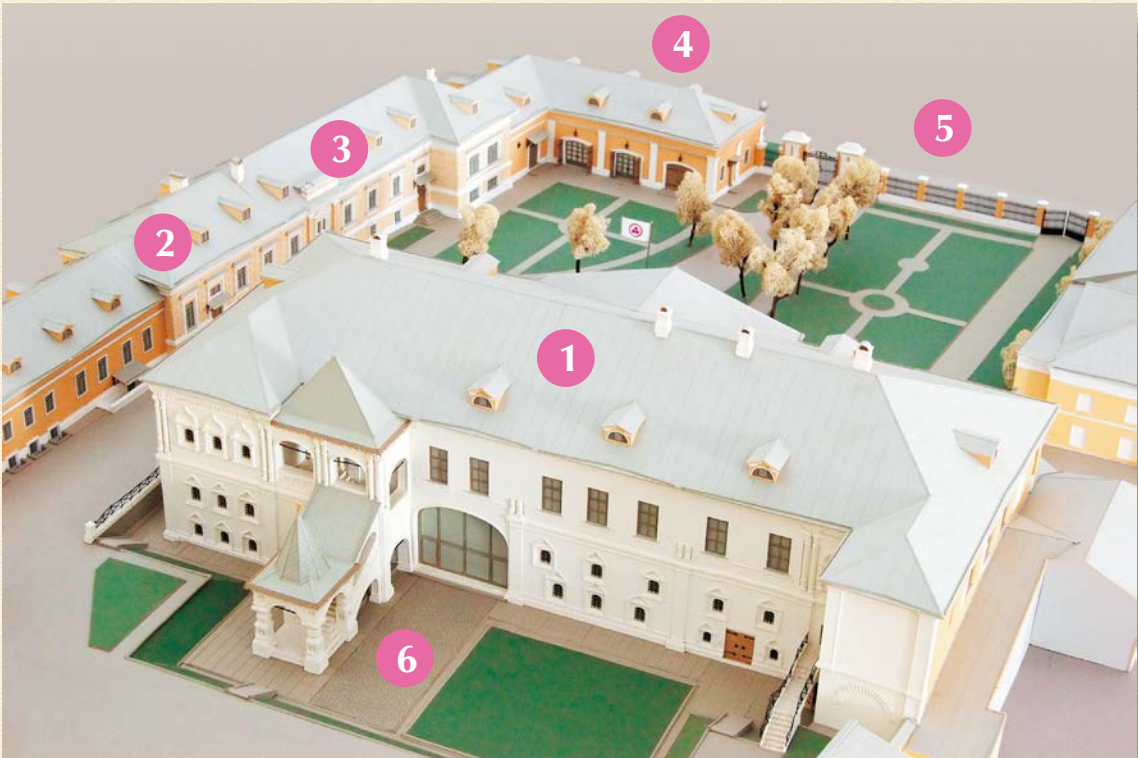
Reconstruction of the Lopukhin Estate coach house and a part of the wing that were both lost in the 1920s



The main facade of the coach house after reconstruction of the cartwright and the eastern wing (drawing by I.D. Lyubimova)



The Lopukhins Estate (view from the Maly Znamensky lane). The eastern facade of the cartwright is in the center (drawing by I.D. Lyubimova)



View from the side of the Lopukhin Estate inner yard



The Red (main) porch of the main building (bld. 4)



View from the Maly Znamenski lane

- 1. Main building (bld. 4).
- 2. Wing (bld. 7).
- 3. Part of the wing under reconstruction.
- 4. Coach house under reconstruction.
- 5. Original fencing.
- 6. The reconstructed Red porch.

On the part of the IPO “The International Centre of the Roerichs”
the restoration works are controlled by:

V.A.Rodionov, Chief Construction and Restoration Specialist;
I.R.Krasavtseva-Baida, Chief Architect, member of the Moscow Union of Architects.

In 2012, in accordance with the project approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Moscow Monument Protection Directorate, on the basis of all necessary permits and warrants, the International Centre of the Roerichs (ICR) began its work on reconstruction of the coach house and a part of the wing of the Lopukhin Estate. The first stage of this work involved the preparation of the edifice foundation and the installation of an underground fencing called “the wall in the ground,” which is a mandatory part of construction and restoration works in a densely built-up area of Moscow historical center. This fencing is made of cross-cast reinforced concrete and extends to a maximum depth of 14 meters. In 2014, “the wall in the ground” was registered under the Act of Moscow City Trust for Geologic, Geodetic and Cartographic Works as corresponding to the agreed layout and location plan.

However, in 2015, on the initiative of Vladimir Medinsky, Russian Minister of Culture, the Lopukhin Estate was transferred to the operational management of the State Museum of Oriental Art, which in 2017 expelled the ICR from the Lopukhin Estate and filed lawsuits against its former tenant with compensation claims for damages allegedly inflicted on the Estate’s buildings, and also with a claim to recognize “the wall in the ground” set up during the reconstruction work as an unauthorized construction. Unfortunately, as of today the courts have recognized the “wall in the ground” as an unauthorized construction and obliged the ICR to demolish it.

The danger of this situation is that according to experts, it is impossible to demolish “the wall in the ground” without causing harm (including collapse) not only to the buildings of the Lopukhin Estate, but also to the neighboring historical buildings, including the Petrovo-Solovovo tenement house, the main building of the Golitsyn-Vyazemsky-Dolgoruky Manor, the main building of the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, as well as the local electrical substation and numerous underground utilities. All attempts by the ICR to change through the courts the way of enforcing the judgment to a safe one (i.e. dismantling only the ground part of the wall with subsequent landscaping) were unsuccessful.