

Comfortable living

Multi-functional residential modules to soon replace districts — in their traditional understanding — in Belarusian cities, including in the capital

By Vladimir Khmelevsky

Town general development plans are elaborated for the coming thirty years. However, every 8-10 years, they are usually updated to reflect changing needs and fashions.

How should a contemporary city look? Naturally, we want to feel safe and comfortable, with convenient access to amenities. Following these principles, the State Scientific-Research Institute of Town Construction is developing a new model for urban micro-districts. In fact, the idea is to put aside old ideas of housing, kindergartens, schools and shops being centred on a particular territory. Rather, multi-functional residential modules are planned, offering not just accommodation and services but

employment at small enterprises housed inside high-rise buildings, neighbored by offices and departments.

Such modules are to be built in satellite towns. "We're drawing on European development plans," notes Dmitry Semenkevich, Belarus' Deputy Minister for Architecture and Construction. "To reduce the need for daily commuting, we should endeavour to create self-contained structures. Of course, you can travel elsewhere to work if you wish to but we expect most residents to find employment within this compact 'organism'."

Not only the

Belarusian capital but regional centres are to gain satellite towns. Zhabinka, near Brest, alongside Skidel, which neighbours Grodno, are prime examples. "Our idea is not to build new towns around regional centres but to develop existing settlements situated nearby," explains Mr. Semenkevich.

Smolevichi is to be the first to become a satellite town, while special attention is being paid to Minsk (being the country's largest city, with its own set of challenges). Alexander Akentin, who heads the general plan development group, tells us that the potential of the capital is greater than previously

supposed. "The city can become home to 2.5m people within the limits of the created compact structure, when you can reach the centre in 45-60 minutes. It's a real possibility which we shouldn't ignore. Regarding restriction of expansion due to farming lands on city outskirts, we expect the situation to change in future. The EU boasts about 2,000 square metres of agricultural land per capita. Germany has 1,200 while we have around 6,000; more efficient agricultural methods would allow us to reduce space dedicated to agriculture."

The new plans are to take into account space dedicated to housing, as well as shops and parking. "We've become too involved in the construction of 'pure' housing, to the detriment of the provision of adequate amenities. We use square metres in statistical data, but need a new index showing the integrated nature of our living environment," explains Mr. Semenkevich.

Step towards European market

By Marina Veselova

Dzerzhinsk Agro-Combine gains international quality certificate

This award has been handed over by the Swiss Institute for Quality Standards, as advised by the European Business Assembly. The specialists of the organisation have spent two years studying all stages of production — from hatching to meat treatment. The poultry meat produced in the factory has been certified as meeting the standards set for European manufacturers. Dzerzhinsk Poultry Factory is the first factory among such CIS enterprises to receive the international quality certificate.

It produces about 20 percent of the country's poultry products, with capacity rising annually; more than 300 semi-processed and processed products are produced. The international certificate is another step towards the European market.

Being ranked second now

Turkish business interest rising in construction of sports and industrial sites in Belarus

According to Mikhail Myasnikov, Belarus' Prime Minister, several interesting proposals from Turkey are being studied. Businessmen are showing enhanced interest towards the construction of a whole range of facilities in Belarus: hotel services and social, sports and industrial sites. Total investments from Turkey into the Belarusian economy currently exceed \$1bn, with Turkey ranked second after Russia in this respect.



New multi-functional house under construction at Svisloch River quay in Minsk

Scientists earning currency

National Academy of Sciences of Belarus significantly expands international geography of its export supplies

By Olga Belova

The foreign economic activity of the Academy's organisations includes work on export contracts. "Last year alone, the NAS was fulfilling contracts with organisations from 42 countries, with sci-tech agreements on co-operation signed with 80 states," explained Piotr Vityaz, the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences, at the Belarusian Industrial Forum.

Most contracts are with organisations from Russia, the USA, Saudi Arabia, India, China, Switzerland and France. \$32.5m worth of goods, works and services, as well as grant payments, were exported.

The scientific institutes of the NAS' Department for Physical-Engineering Sciences were especially active in international collaboration, ensuring 70 percent of the Academy's total exports. In 2011, the Tsentri Scientific-Production Association signed 47 export contracts with organisations in Russia, Italy, France and Vietnam. Meanwhile, the Scientific and



Scientific employee Yekaterina Gleb and engineer Yelizaveta Drozd

Production Association of Powder Metallurgy fulfilled over 53 contracts for the supply of produce to Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, China, India, Korea, Turkey and elsewhere.

The establishment of a joint centre has been discussed with Indian partners to organise research in the sphere of new materials and technologies. In addition, the Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer is working with Saudi

Arabia, France, the Russian Federation and China. Moreover, the United Institute of Informatics Problems has been co-operating with organisations from the USA, Russia, France, Poland, Ukraine, Armenia and China. Last year, an agreement on sci-tech co-operation in the sphere of super-computer technologies was signed between the Institute and Chinese INSPUR Company.

Producing results

Belarusians not lost at German fair

By Piotr Timofeyenko

Belarus has seen around two dozens of agreements relating to scientific-technical co-operation, with contracts for the delivery of high-tech products. In addition, protocols of intention have been signed regarding partnerships from the Hannover International Industrial Fair: *Hannover Messe 2012*. The rich harvest from Germany should soon be multiplied, with agreements on co-operation signed after the end of the fair, as is usual.

This year, the State Committee for Science and Technology worked alongside the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support for Science and Technologies to arrange a national display covering over 60 square metres. In all, 150 high-tech products were presented.

Among those on show were electrolytic-plasma treatment machines, lasers for various purposes, endoscopes, equipment for the manufacture of polyurethane foams and high-performance absorbents for spilled oil (and mobile means of production). Water purification sys-



At Hannover Messe 2012

tems using new membranous tissues and carbon sorbent, bio materials to stimulate plant growth and protection, as well as technology for growing synthetic emeralds were also of great interest.

The fair's *Co-operation with Eastern Europe in the Sphere of Green Technologies* seminar involved representatives from the Belarusian State University. Their report was marked as one of the best, presenting new green technologies of water purification.