

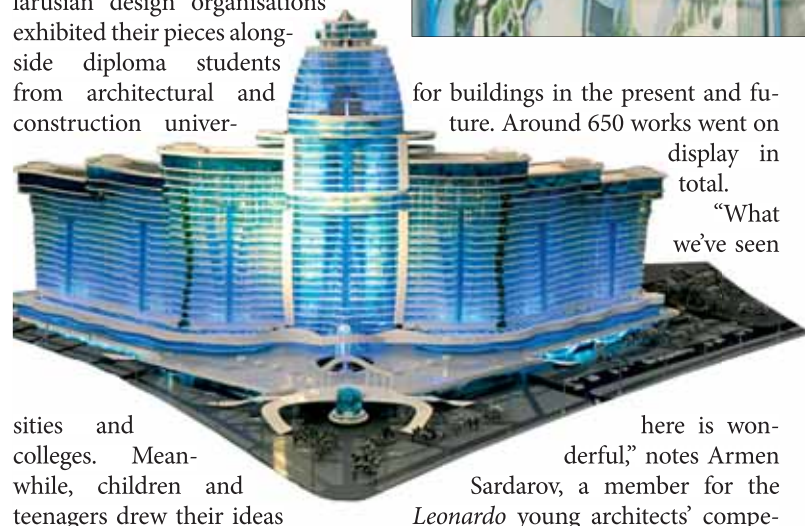
Enchanting music of unique architecture fully revealed

Minsk's Festival of Architecture opens to those from all over the globe

By Vladimir Bibikov

Minsk has enjoyed huge amounts of construction over the past few decades, with landmark sites being erected every year: congress halls, high-rise office buildings, hotel complexes and residential housing. Each is designed to be unique. The grand silver dome of Minsk-Arena (for cultural and sporting events) recently appeared in Pobediteley Avenue. It is one of the largest in Europe in terms of seating and, being full of light, attracts top international stars of sport and stage. In 2014, it will host the major matches of the IIHF World Championships.

Minsk-Arena has been praised by specialists and architects, leading to Minsk's Belgosproekt Design Institute winning the 9th national contest for best construction in Belarus for 2010-2011. The national competition is part of the International Festival of Architecture, whose range is impressive. Around 100 works from 12 states were entered this year in the CIS category, while about 300 works were seen in the young architects' nomination. Professionals from Belarusian design organisations exhibited their pieces alongside diploma students from architectural and construction univer-



National Festival of Architecture becomes venue for meeting of architects from various states

sities and colleges. Meanwhile, children and teenagers drew their ideas

for buildings in the present and future. Around 650 works went on display in total.

"What we've seen

here is wonderful," notes Armen Sardarov, a member for the Leonardo young architects' compe-

dition and Dean of the Belarusian National Technical University's Architecture Department, sharing his impressions. "The forum brings together a wide range of talents, ages and experience. Our BNTU students presented 40 works, taking part in their fourth competition this year; they've won recognition in Yerevan and in Prague for their New York skyscraper design."

As ever, the event witnessed lively professional discussion; architects from Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Serbia, Germany and, even, Mauritius

attended. Prominent architects held master classes for colleagues and students and a session of the International Council of Architects was organised.

"Minsk's festival allows architects from various countries to liaise closely," notes one foreign guest. "It's a wonderful opportunity to share experience and compare your ideas about architecture with world trends. Many business contacts originate here. The Belarusian architectural school has long since gained recognition and has now become even

more professional."

The truth of this is evident in its forward-looking architectural projects. A hotel and residential complex — being built in one of Minsk's most prestigious districts, poetically named Lebyazhiy — was recognised as the best in its nomination. Belarusian Alexander Korbut and his team from Vilnius Architekturos JSC took an honorary diploma for the design and the first symbolic stone has already been laid. Minsk is set to gain in beauty and majesty while architects continue to be so inspired.

Focusing on standards

National Academy of Sciences' Institute for Bioorganic Chemistry develops pharmaceutical exports

Pharmaceutical sections are being created within the Institute. Academpharm has now opened — a super-modern manufacturing plant producing tablets. Powerful Belarusian innovative medicines

able to cure infectious diseases and oncological diseases relating to blood are already available. A new pharmaceutical section is soon to be launched, producing medicines for injection. "Our task is to produce pharmaceutical goods meeting European standards, enabling us to export to the EU," notes Sergey Usanov, the Institute's Director.

Time for interim results

First Venezuela-Belarus: Achievements and Prospects of Bilateral Relations forum to be held in Minsk

The event is being organised by the Venezuelan Embassy to Belarus with assistance from the Belarusian Foreign Ministry. The forum will sum up the results of our bilateral relationship over the past years, while discussing prospects for co-op-

eration — based on the results of the fifth session of the Belarusian-Venezuelan Joint High Level Commission, held in Caracas. Belarusian-Venezuelan trade turnover could reach \$2bn later this year — against around \$5m in 2006. Dozens of Belarusian-Venezuelan ventures are now operational, bringing employment, while Belarusian specialists are also helping build housing in Venezuela.

New BelAZ heavy duty dump trucks to appear soon at open-pit coal mines

Belarusian Automobile Works signs contract with Russian Kuzbassrazrezugol JSC to supply 86 quarry machines next year

The contract is BelAZ's largest to date, although it has already delivered 82 machine units to Kuzbassrazrezugol JSC this year, with one more heavy duty dump truck to be supplied by the end of 2011. The Belarusian Automobile Works and the Russian coal company are long-term partners, having been working together since the early 1960s, when the first Belarusian heavy duty dump trucks appeared at Kuzbass' open-pit coal mines. Since then, BelAZ has supplied quarry machinery boasting the latest innovative devel-



Conveyor belt doesn't stand still at Automobile Works in Zhodino

opments and has launched its first regional maintenance service centre at the Kedrovsky open-pit coal mine. Naturally, this has promoted mutually beneficial co-op-

eration.

Kuzbassrazrezugol JSC is Russia's largest open-pit coal mining operation, using over 500 BelAZ heavy duty dump trucks. According to spe-

cialists, it owns about 2.3m tonnes of deposits — enough to last at least 50 years. BelAZ will always be ready to supply the necessary machinery to ensure efficient extraction.