The historic wooden city Irkutsk in Siberian Russia: the old and new architecture

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Irkutsk - the cultural capital of Eastern Siberia, with a rich history and wooden city buildings is not destroyed during the Soviet period.
The city has arisen just as the rest of the city on the eastern edge of Russia in the 17th century - as a result of colonization policy - first, as a fortified location of the military detachment of Cossacks 1652, then, as a wooden fortress with administrative and military outbuildings 1695.
And then, a stone fortress with wooden administrative and residential buildings were build. Since the 17th century settling around the fortress rapidly growing
The main massif the buildings make up 1-2-storey wooden houses
Until the early 19th century stone were used just for religious, administrative and some public buildings
The city is expanding geographically, but in 1879 a fire destroyed the entire city.
After a fire in Irkutsk very quickly being rebuilt, moreover on the spot the burning houses, a new wooden and stone buildings, stylistically not unlike preceding
Today, some fragments of wooden buildings have survived almost unchanged form of the front street
Historic landscape. Irkutsk
Are still preserved houses 18-19 cc.
The modern view of one of the surviving fragments of the historic wooden buildings in Irkutsk
Today, some fragments of wooden buildings have survived practically unchanged form and organize the front of streets.

Photo O. Sevan, 2012
M. Meerovich, 2010
It consists of six styles: Siberian Baroque, Art Nouveau, Old Russian style, Pagan style or oriental, wood classicism and another that can be called "inexplicable" because these forms of the decor—not driven up to any of the known historical styles.

Photo O. Sevan, 2012
Wooden decoration - the plat band of windows “Siberian Baroque”
«Pagan style»
Imitation form in wood - as stone architecture
Magic ornament is located at the gates

Photo M. Meerovich, 2010
BUT the unique decoration of wooden houses are not able to save them from demolition, because without water supply and canalization, they are the real slums.
Irkutsk: a set of measures to preserve and develop historic center of city
Wooden buildings in the central part of Irkutsk kept whole quarters. The historic quarter number 130- An element of "necklace" of wooden buildings around Holy Cross Church
The block was doomed to demolition. The official protected status here had only six buildings - monuments regional significance and a couple of buildings offered to setting on the state protection. They were suggested "collect" along one the street, and build up the rest of the territory of 7-8 storey residential complex.
The historic quarter number 130:
Restoration, Reconstruction, New buildings
Main Architects of this projects: Mark Meerovich&Elena Grigorieva
HISTORIC QUARTER №130 of Irkutsk today is the main pedestrian street of the city – center of living life, particularly young people, businessmen, tourists. There are different workshops, 2 museums, a lot of restaurants, some apartments; big department store (unfortunately) was built by developers despite the protests of architects in very center of this quarter, which should be (in the project) the open space for the citizens. Any way this project is very interesting and successful example of solutions historic Russian towns.
Life does not stop at night and during the day are a large number of
visitors coming to restaurants and a cozy cafe with a good local meals
The inclusion of the Historical center of Irkutsk in the World Heritage List is able to stop the destruction of historic buildings and save the wooden "Architectural gene pool" of Siberia.
Thank you