

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

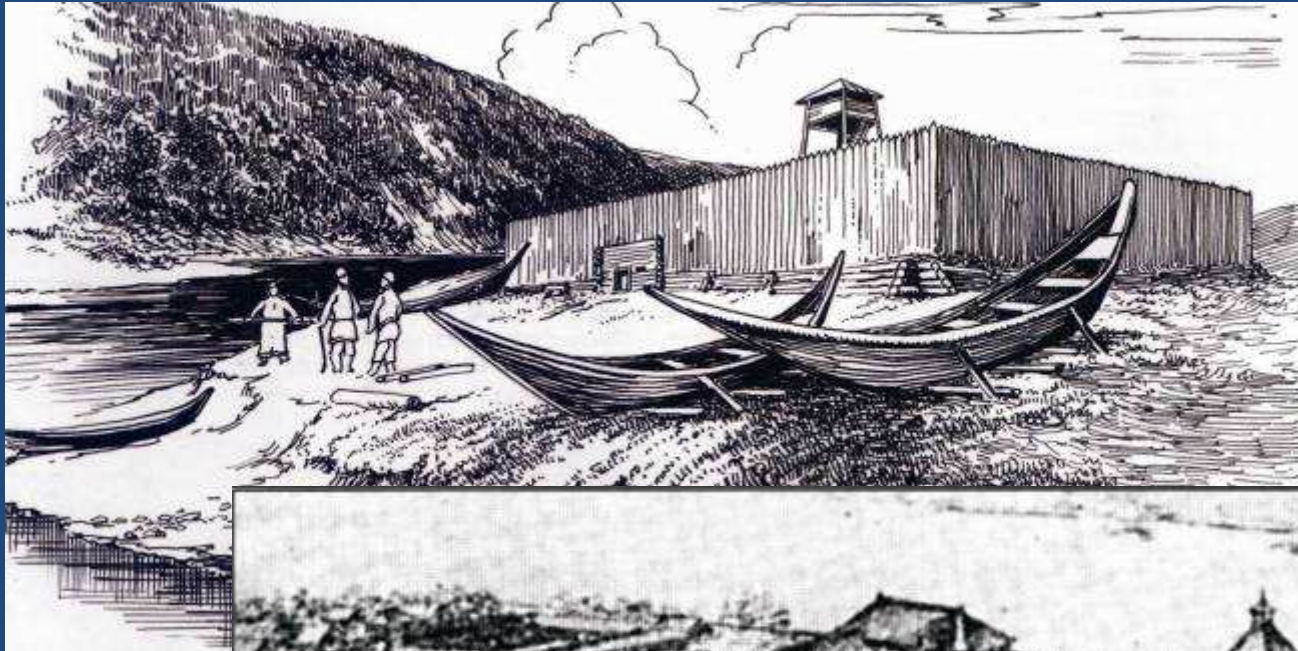


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with architects  
Mark Meerovich & Elena Grigorieva



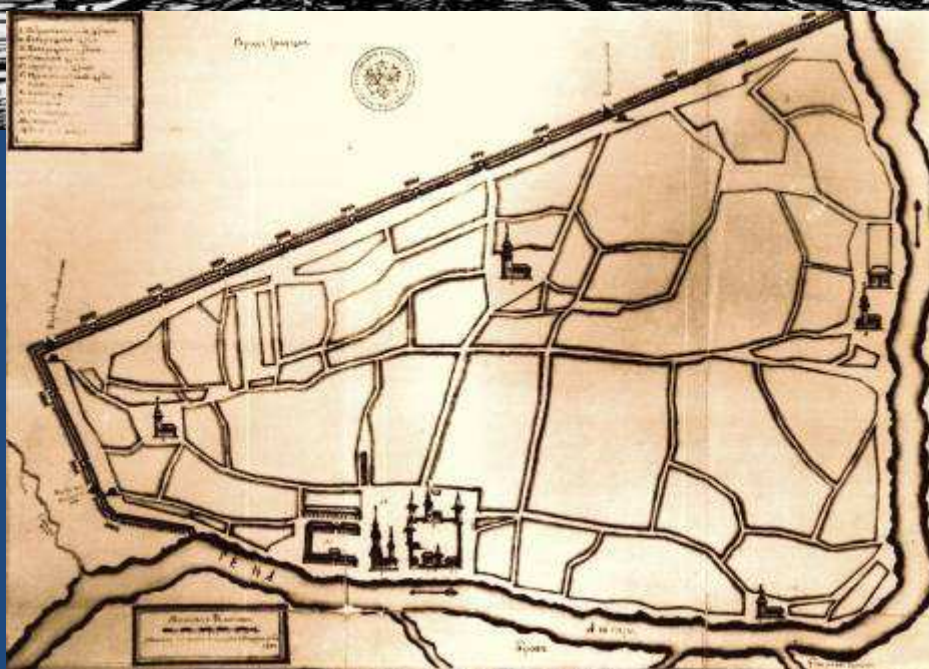
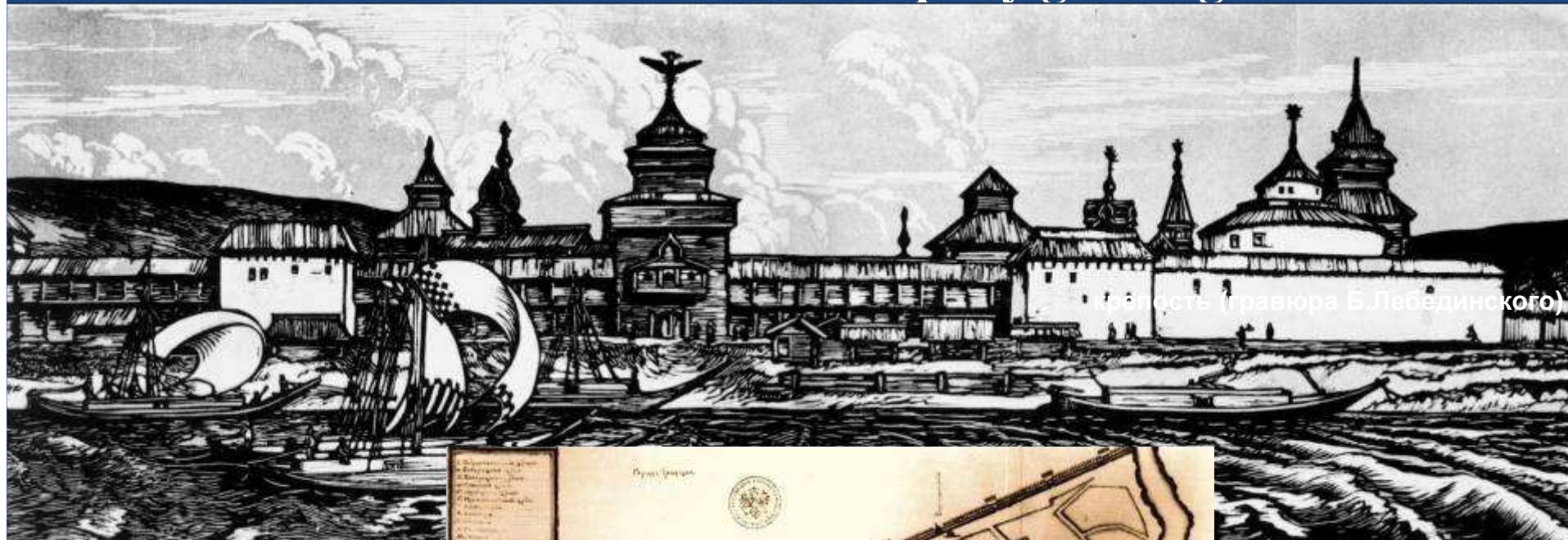


**The city has arisen just as the rest of the city on the eastern edge of Russia in the 17th century - as a result of colonization policy - first, as a fortified location of the military detachment of Cossacks 1652 , then, as a wooden fortress with administrative and military outbuildings 1695**





And then, a stone fortress with wooden administrative and residential buildings were build. Since the 17th century settling around the fortress rapidly growing



Plan 1729



The main mass of 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





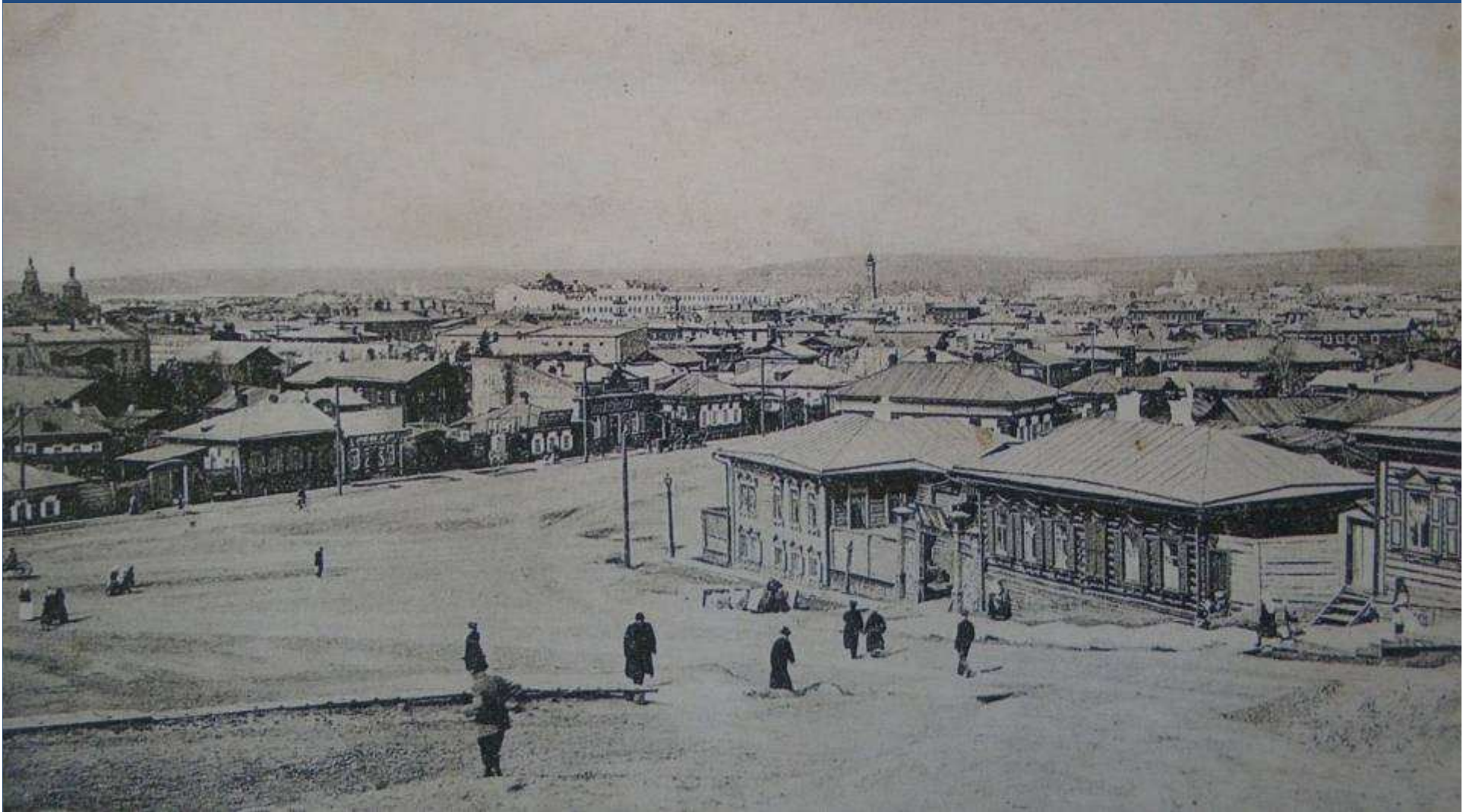
**The city is expanding geographically, but in 1879 a fire destroyed the entire city.**





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

1914



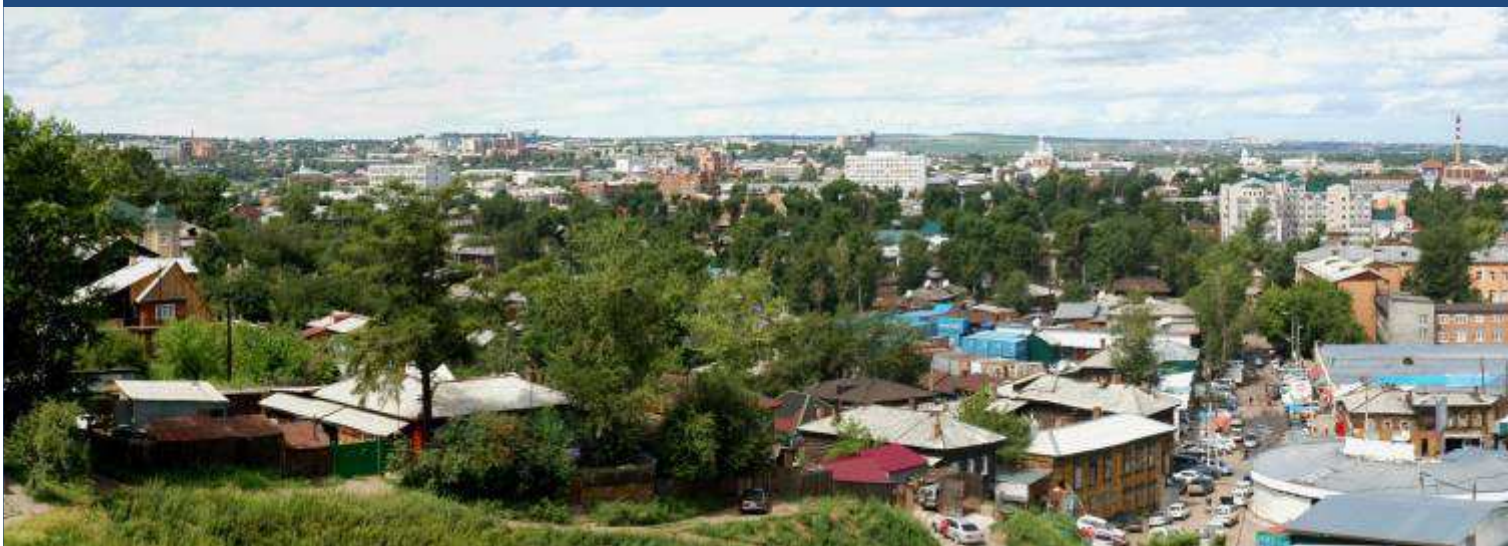


**Today, some fragments of wooden buildings have survived almost unchanged form of the front street**

**1910**



**2010 .**





## Historic landscape. Irkutsk

1911









Are still preserved houses 18-19 cc.





2010



Photo M.  
Meerovich,  
2010





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







Photo  
M. Meerovich,  
2010



## Wooden decoration - the plat band of windows “Siberian Baroque”







Photo O. Sevan, 2012



## Old Russian style





«Pagan style»

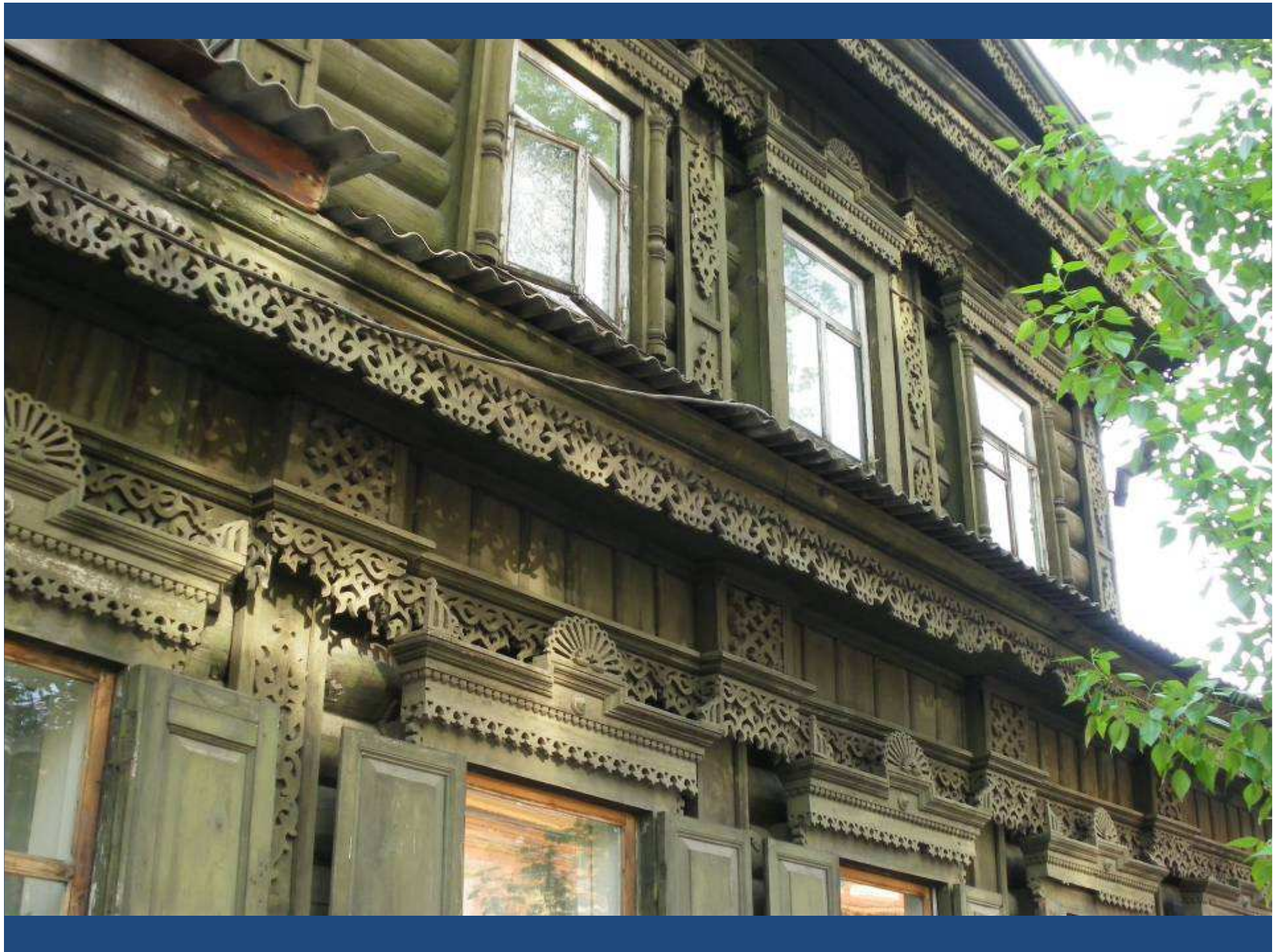




## Imitation form in wood - as stone architecture









## Magic ornament is located at the gates



Photo M. Meerovich, 2010





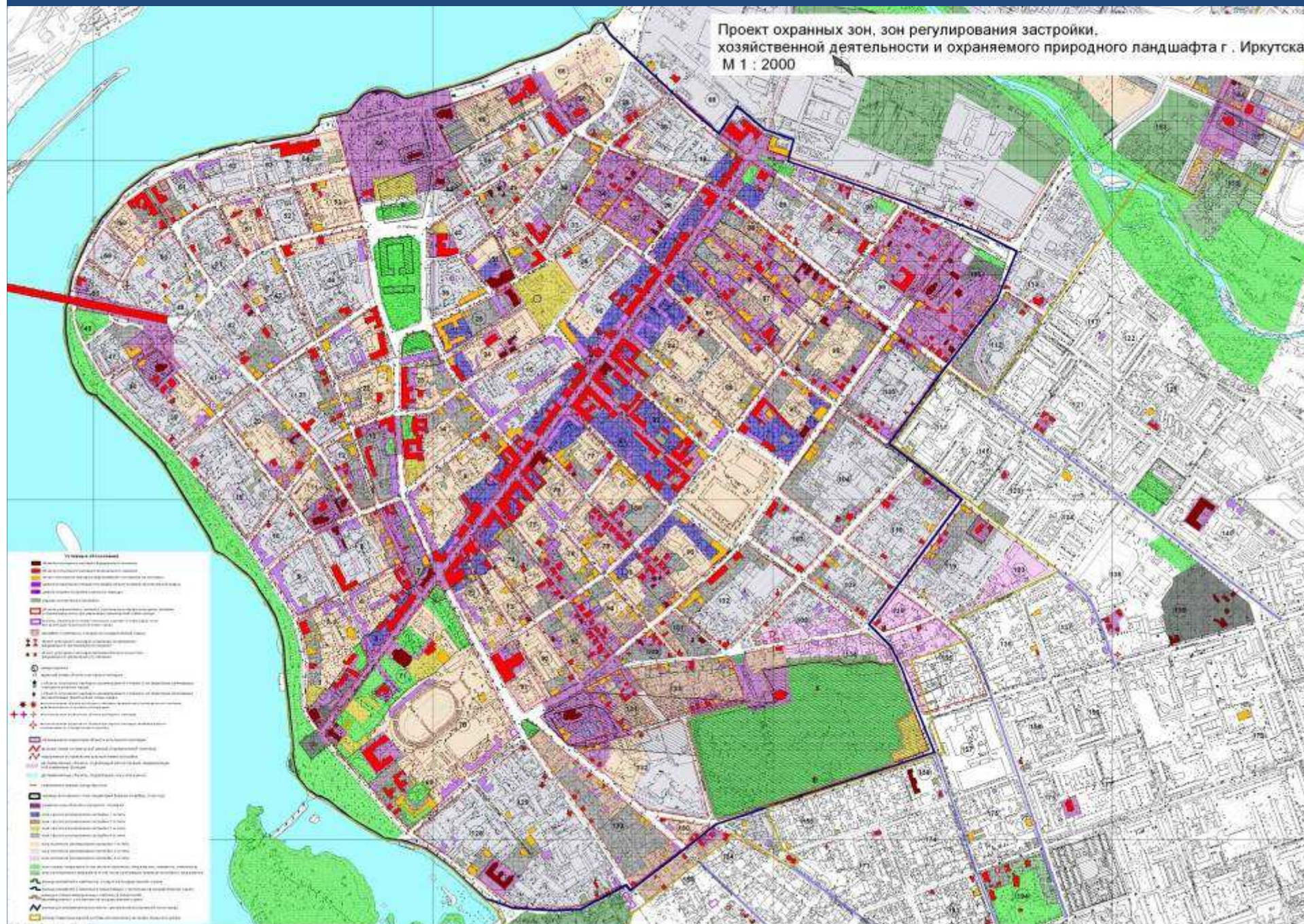
**BUT the unique  
decoration of wooden  
houses are not able to  
save them from  
demolition, because  
without water supply  
and canalization, they  
are the real slums**



Photo A. Ivanov, 2007

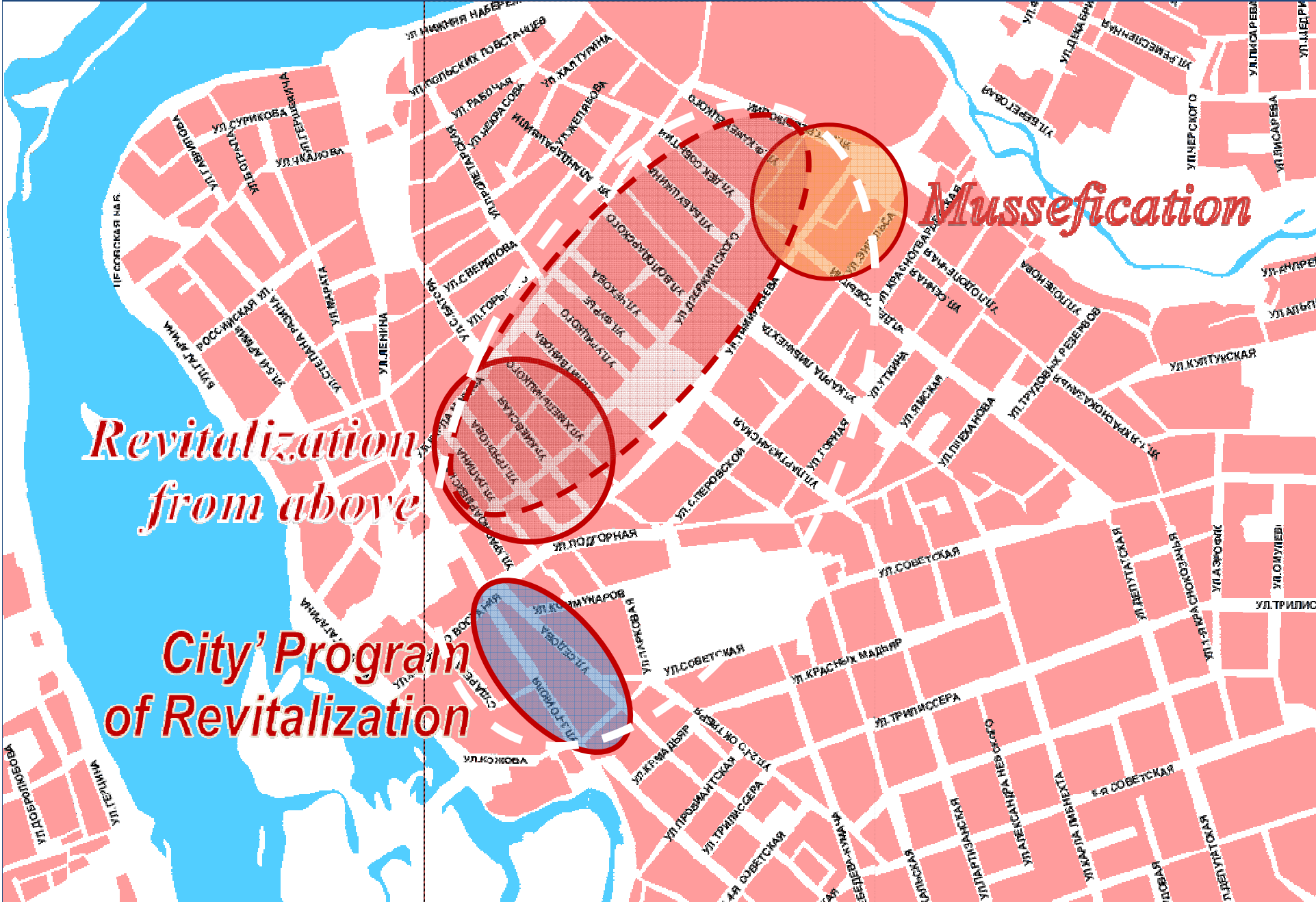


Проект охранных зон, зон регулирования застройки,  
хозяйственной деятельности и охраняемого природного ландшафта г. Иркутска  
М 1 : 2000





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









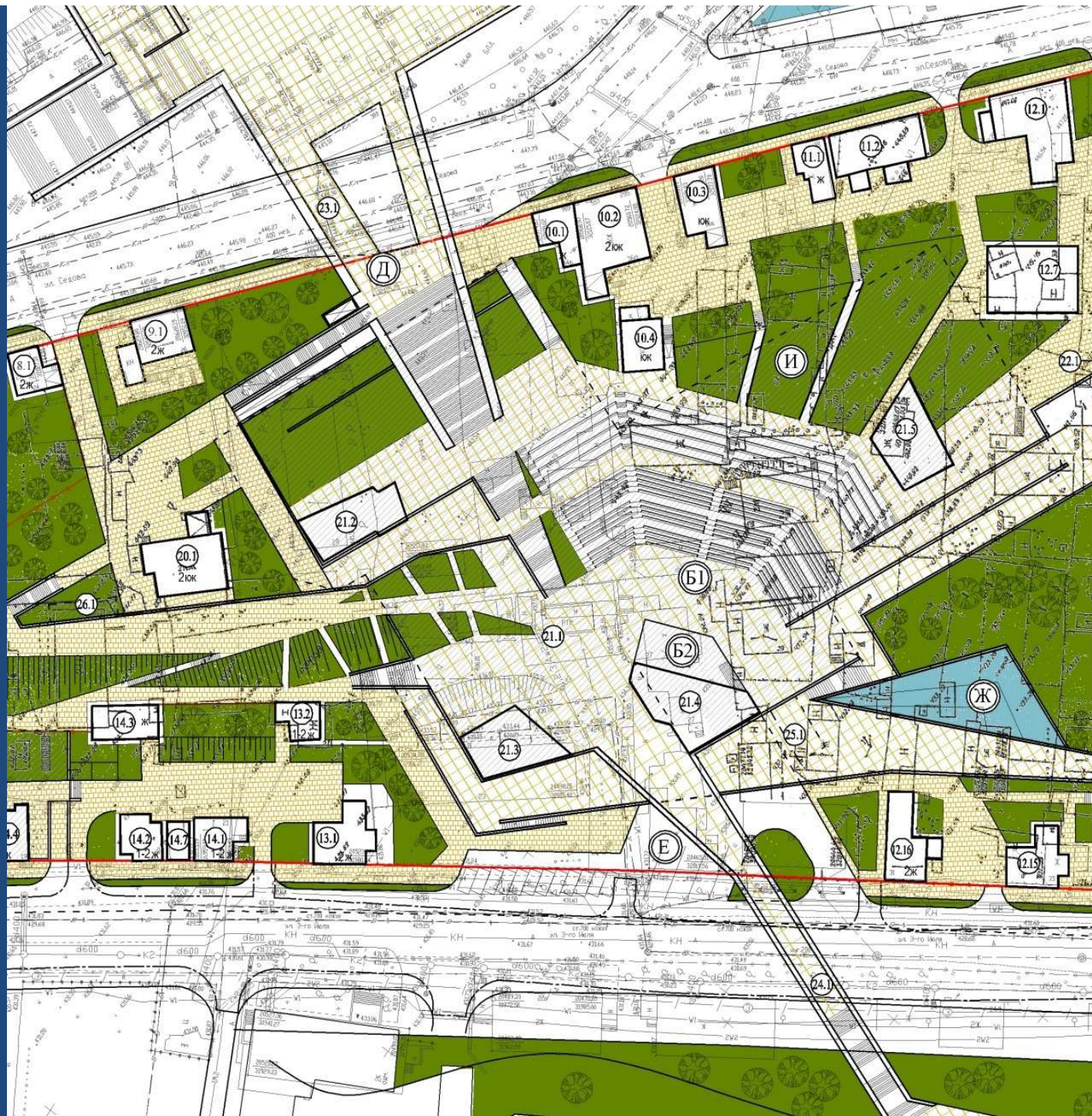






Photo O. Sevan, 2012



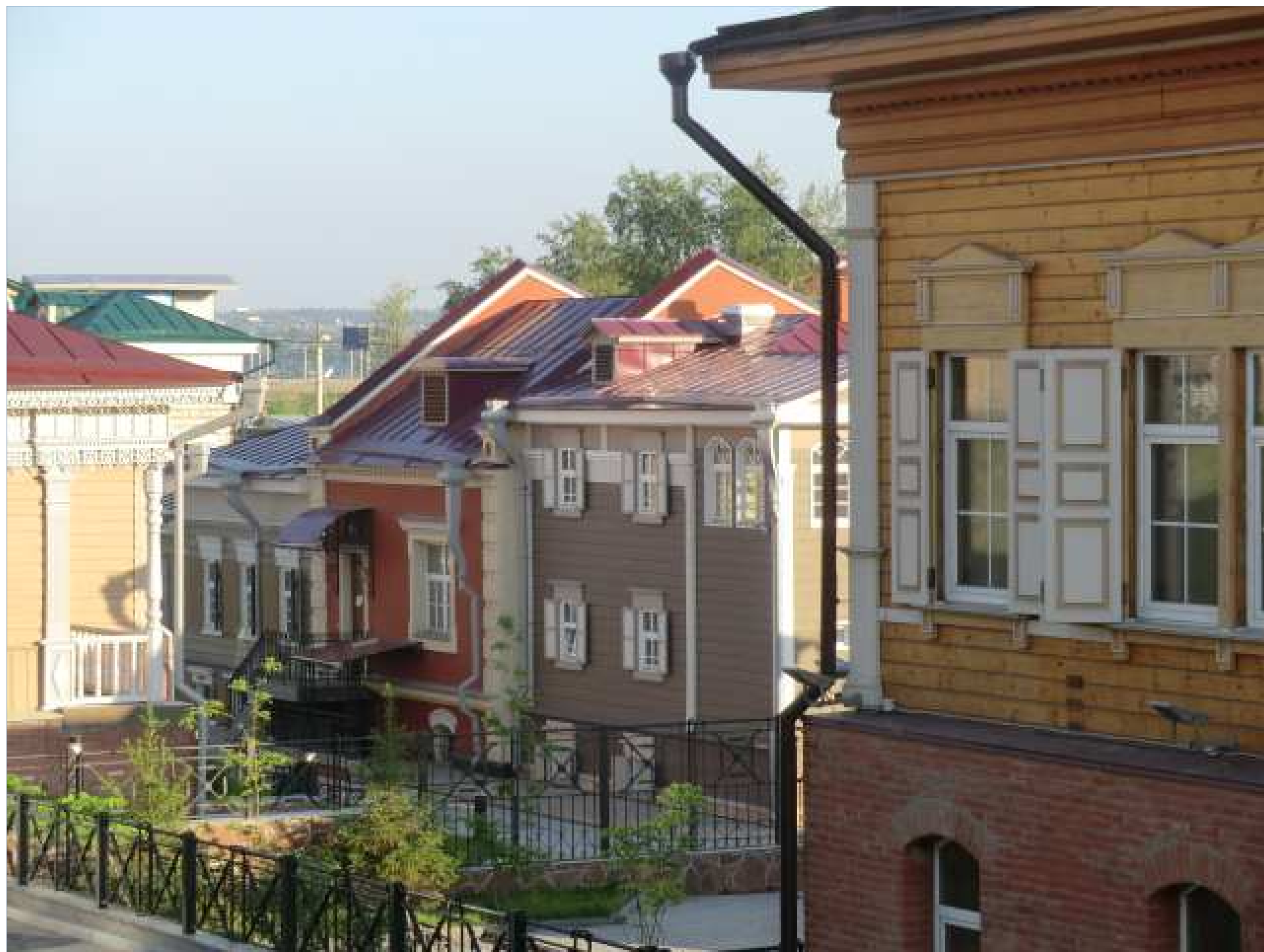
HISTORIC QUARTER №130 of Irkutsk today is the main pedestrian street of the city – center of living life, particularly young people, businessmen, tourists. There are different workshops, 2 museums, a lot of restaurants, some apartments; big department store (unfortunately) was built by developers despite 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





REGENERATION OF HISTORIC QUARTER №130  
of Irkutsk – are capable of becoming a new example of  
urban policy to solving problems for common to many  
historical cities in Russia, save unique national treasure  
and identity - humanity, live, historical RUSSIAN  
WOOD in the urban environment

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

