

MODERNISM AND THE MAKING
OF THE SOVIET NEW MAN



Tijana Vujošević

Modernism and the making of the Soviet New Man

By Tijana Vujošević

DESCRIPTION

The creation of Soviet culture in the 1920s and the 1930s was the most radical of modernist projects, both in aesthetic and in political terms. *Modernism and the Making of the New Man* explores the architecture of this period as the nexus between aesthetics and politics. The design of the material environment, according to the author, was the social effort that most clearly articulated the dynamic of the socialist project as a negotiation between utopia and reality, the will for progress and the will for tyranny. It was a comprehensive effort that brought together professional architects and statisticians, theatre directors, managers, housewives, pilots, construction workers. What they had in common was the enthusiasm for defining the "new man", the ideal citizen of the radiant future, and the settings in which he or she lives.

ENDORSEMENT

'Vujošević's *Modernism and the Making of the Soviet New Man* [...] argues for a history that transcends the opposition of the utopian and the real (or of noble dreaming and dismal totalitarianism) and exposes the complexity of the relationship between utopia and reality, idealism and pragmatism. [...] Engaging, witty, and captivating, Vujošević's book rivals fiction without losing the conceptual rigor of an academic work. [...] Excellent, and long needed, pedagogical resources and important scholarly contributions that mark a new step in writing the conflicted history of Russian architecture.'

Alla Vronskaya, Illinois Institute of Technology, *Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 62, No. 2 (Summer 2018)

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