

**DESIS**  
**NETWORK**  
Design for  
Social Innovation  
and Sustainability

# Fading heritage:

exploring the natural and  
cultural potential of wooden  
architecture monuments  
of the early 20th century  
in suburbs of St. Petersburg



Saint Petersburg  
State University  
[www.spbu.ru](http://www.spbu.ru)

**Saint Petersburg University**  
**Environmental Design**  
**DESIS Lab SPBU**

**Project Team: Eugenia Petrashen, Kirill Alferowski,  
Alexandra Tolstova and students of Environmental  
design Educational program at SPBU.**

**Saint-Petersburg  
union of architects.  
Council for landscape  
architecture**

**SPBU  
Memorial flat  
Of L.N. Benois**



**Aknowledgements.**

**Project Team: Eugenia Petrashen, Kirill Alferowski, Alexandra Tolstova and students of Environmental design Educational program at SPBU**

## **Context.**

**The problem of preservation and development of wooden architecture monuments of the early 20th century in suburbs of St. Petersburg is very urgent. The study aims to find out how these villas can be revitalized.**

**For this purpose, we have chosen several model objects, originally designed as suburb villas, redeveloped in soviet time and that are ruining today.**



## **The project.**

**The purpose of the project is:**

- **to restore and to revitalize the still-existing villas;**
- **to develop cultural and natural potential of the sites and preserve the cultural heritage;**
- **to design and to equip villas**
- **to be comfortable and attractive places for tourists or other social groups.**





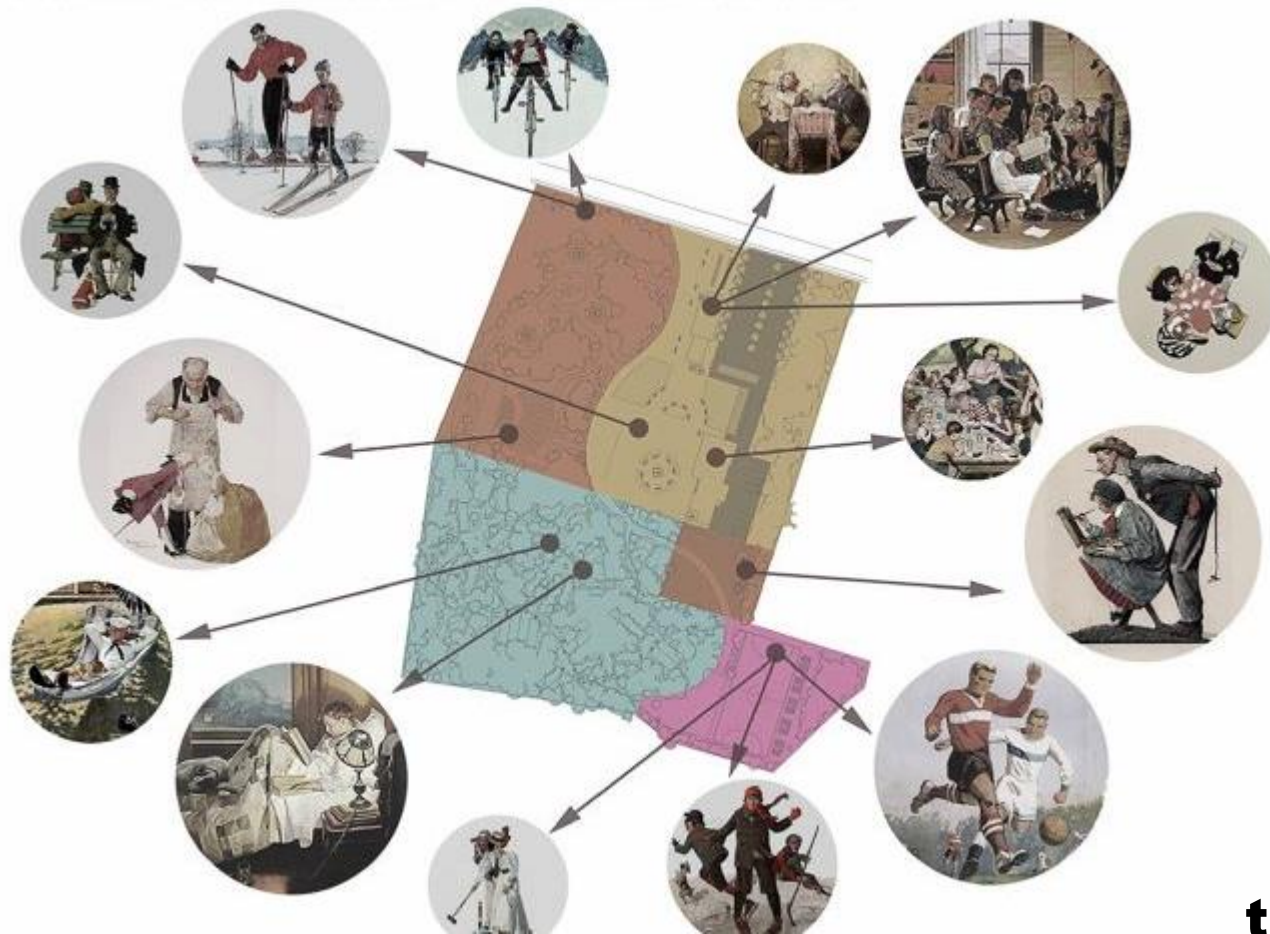
## **The design process.**

**The projects have been developed by students of the Environmental Design Department under supervision of scientific mentors and research participants as well as with the local communities.**

**Several multidisciplinary seminars have been organized for experience and information exchange on different issues. Work is in progress...**



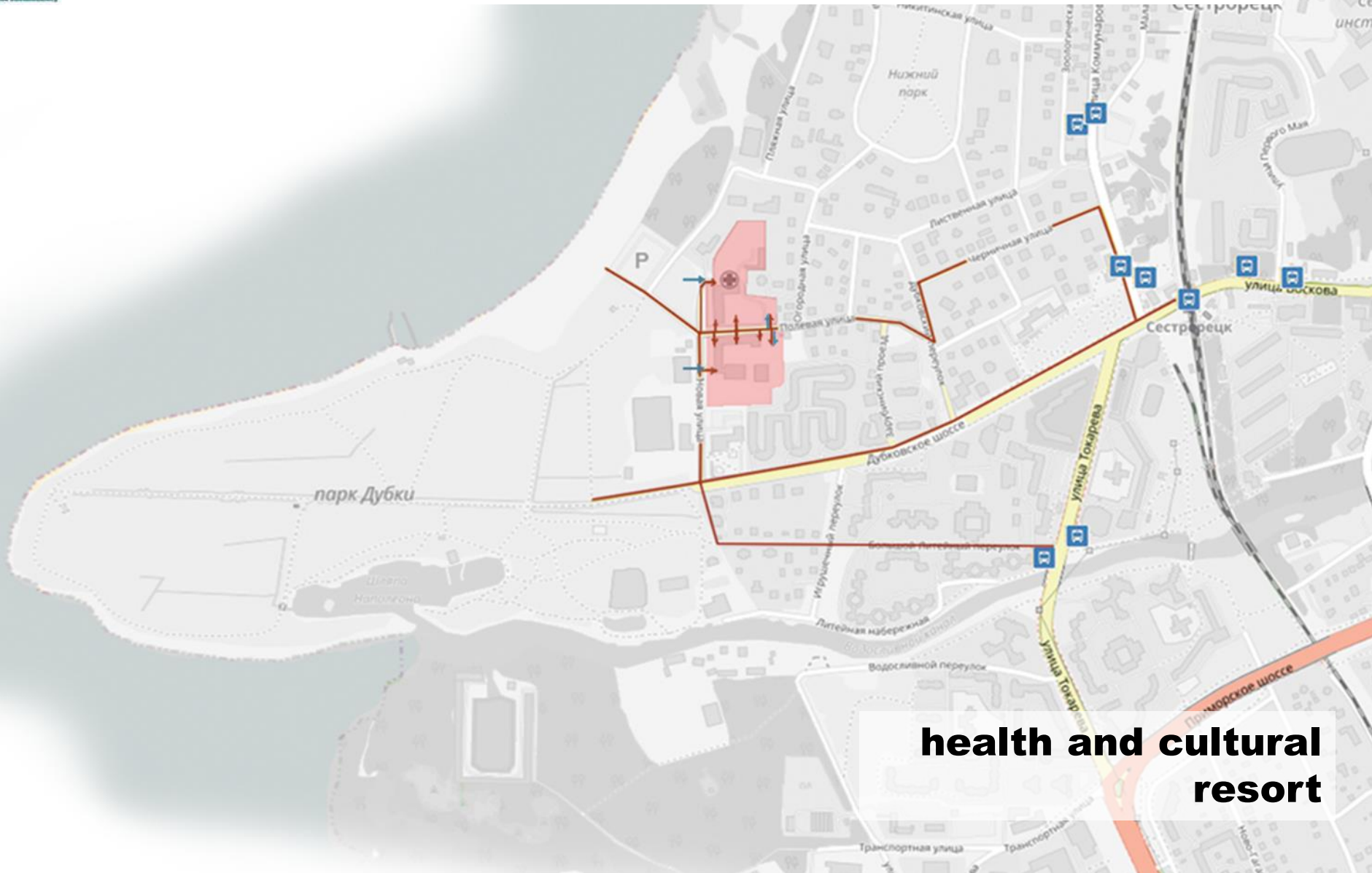
# Activism and Civic Participation



## **Co-Designing the functionality**

New functions of the villas and their territories with residential, recreational or creative spaces for different groups of visitors are being co-designed with the local communities, including local residents, local historians, specialists in architecture and urban planning and the city administration.

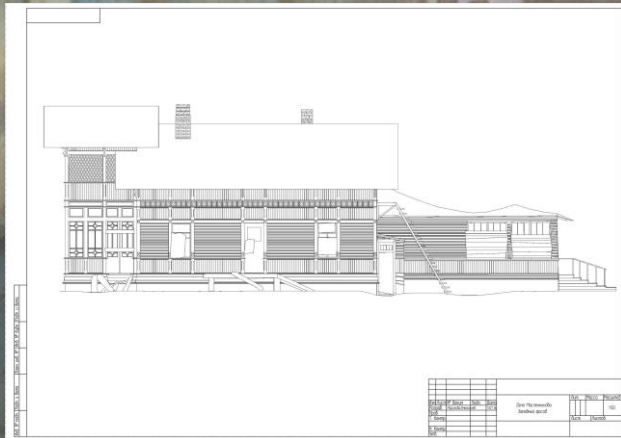
# City and Environmental Planning



**health and cultural  
resort**

Development of Complex Strategies for preservation and development of heritage villas of St.Petersburg suburbs:  
Redevelopment of towns of Sestroretsk and Zelenogorsk as Health and cultural resort For St. Petersburg

# Skill Training and Design Education



**field research**

Architectural measurements skills are trained; creativity, complex analyses and conceptual modeling capabilities are developed through field research.



# Skill Training and Design Education



**concept development with  
communities and officials**

Documentation of heritage objects and development of revitalisation concepts, followed by interaction with the communities and officials by students (together with university lecturers) as a part of their training

# Job Creation



**health tourism+**  
**cultural heritage**

The developed concepts correspond to the needs of the local community and provide job opportunities. Thanks to the new functions of the villas and their revitalization the resources of the villas can meet the needs and interest of both the locals and tourists.

# Storytelling and Visualisation



The developed concepts are presented in drawings and 3D visualizations, the stories are shared with the public during presentations to provide discussions and feedback.

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