IZBORSK FOTRESS
«GREATER PSKOV» NOMINATION
HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, NATURE-AND-LANDSCAPE PRESERVE
MUSEUM «IZBORSK»

Master conservation planning of preservation of architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage. UNESCO. World Heritage Nomination

MASTER CONSERVATION PLAN

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I. Introduction

The successful long-term planning for conservation and enhanced protection of Izborsk and its reserve zone, Izborsk-Malsk Reserve require development and approval of a site management plan and intensive archaeological investigation and conservation, as well as developing scientific techniques for authentic restoration. These efforts together will help ensure the long-term conservation of the Izborsk Fortress - a unique and critically important monument in the history of Russia and in early fortification.

Apart from the above mentioned projects aimed at regulating actions on the whole area of the memorial preserve technical and economic assessment of conservation, accomplishment and museum adaptation of the Izborsk Fortress have been developed by Pskov Research Institute Spetz Restoration”, 2003) The project was approved by the Federal Scientific and Methodological Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and is the official conservation plan of the monument for the nearest future. The schedule specifying the order and allotted time for each part of the archaeological, survey and design work has been worked out. Works started in the year 2000 and continue today. The Lukovka Tower of the 14th century has been conserved and arranged for museum expositions with an observation ground. Survey of the whole ensemble has been completed and investigation and conservation works are going on in some parts of the walls beginning from the eastern side opposite the Lukovka Tower. The museum adaptation project stipulates a differential approach to each part of the fortress depending on its peculiarities, condition and possible usage.

The Izborsk Fortress (and its reserve zone, the Izborsk-Malsk Valley), is one of the most ancient fortification monuments of architecture (which has been preserved up to these days) of Novgorod, and Pskov Lands, as well as of the Old Russian State, a monument of distinctive Pskov architecture and the local art school. Izborsk, one of the oldest cities of Russia, has its origin in history beginning with the 7th century. Along with its environs, it is a unique example, in the North-West, of concentration of a large number of archaeological sites, and architectural structures dating to various periods of the 15 hundred year long history of ethnographic culture in unbreakable integrity of the historical and landscape complex which has maintained its continuous development up to these days. Of special importance is the geographical location of Izborsk in the famous basin of Pskov-Chudskoi Lake, one of the largest in Europe, historically bound with the Baltic Sea, near the north-western State border of the Russian Federation, on large international routes leading to Riga (Latvia) and Tallinn (Estonia). These connections with the Baltic States are of special importance for Izborsk, in Izborsk area and in the south-eastern part of Estonia there is the indigene Finno-Ugric people of Setu living side by side with Russians and preserving their old traditional culture. The habitat of Setu is an ethnographic territory protected by the State. Izborsk is also favourably located with regard to Pskov. It is 25 km from the main city of Pskov Region, which has an international airport, a convenient motorway and railway connection with Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Byelorussia, the Ukraine, Latvia and Estonia (via Izborsk), and also with Poland, Germany and Scandinavian countries.

The State Historical, Architectural, Nature-and-Landscape Museum Preserve «Izborsk» is traditionally one of the most frequently attended sites in Pskov Region and one of the main sites of the «Pskov-Izborsk-Pechory» tourist route (with the annual attendance of 100 thousand tourists, and in some years in the past the figure amounted up to 1 million).

The museum actively develops the range of services, forms of reception of tourists and visitors, expedient both for its own development, and for the population of the neighbourhood, involving an increasing number of valuable historical, cultural and natural sites of international significance in the sphere of tourism. The international programs aimed at supporting the culture of Setu people promote trans-Baltic cooperation and realization of cultural arrangements, both for the local population, and for north-western part of European countries. It also promotes safety measures aimed at protecting the monuments of Izborsk-Malsk Preserve. The main site of tourism and all kinds of cultural and other public arrangements is the stone fortress of Izborsk dating to the 14-17th centuries, which has seen conservation works a number of times in 19th and the second half of the 20th centuries and which urgently needs a new comprehensive modern scientifically based conservation undertaking. (there is an emergency condition in some places) as well as for modern museum arrangements and adaptations. The large scale activities which have started in this direction are impossible without public support and help from business circles, the Administration of Pskov Region and particularly from the Federal Ministry of Culture and the international association of sponsors. With a view to preserving the memorial and its environs efficiently, and developing tourism and, accordingly, increasing the standard of living of the population connected with the site, a number of projects, which were mentioned above, have been worked out, adopted on the Federal level and are under consideration at the moment which will, upon fulfilment, allow to solve the existing problems of preservation and renovation of the composite ensemble of one of the most ancient cities of Russia, its natural, historical and archaeological environment.
II. Significance and universal value of the site

The Izborsk Fortress (14-17th centuries) and its environs (the reserve zone in the State Historical, Architectural, Natural and Landscape Preserve Memorial) is a rare, well preserved example of old Russian defensive architecture, Russian town-planning and its beginnings (along with the old Izborsk gorodishe ("town"), a monument of archaeology and traditional architecture) in a historically important landscape environment. The complex includes a large number of miscellaneous archaeological monuments belonging to different periods of history, including those only typical of Izborsk. The post-glacial moraine period landscape, the rare vegetation and traditional pattern of land tenure make the site particularly distinctive and valuable. The characteristic features of the valuable town-planning system is the historical settlement, traditional and ethnographic layout and build up of the neighbourhood.

II.1. Criteria for UNESCO World Heritage List Selection

Izborsk is a unique example of an old Russian city which has maintained its continuous development since the 7th century up to these days, a town-planning complex and an ensemble of monuments of archaeology, architecture and different periods of history embodied in the unique natural, historical, architectural, archaeological and ethnographic complex. Izborsk (and its environs) is a valuable site of settlements of Slavic and local Finno-Ugric population, the formation of an old Russian city complex and its environs as a result of exchange of human values by ethnic groups living of Russian history on the north-western borders. (Kievan Rus, the Novgorod and Pskov Lands, the Old Russian Centralized State, the Russian Empire, the Estonian Republic, the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation). It is an example of the rise and development of one of the oldest Russian defensive installation complexes in combination with the distinctive post-glacial landscape which has been formed as a result of centuries long human economic activities, building and housekeeping in Izborsk-Malsk Valley. The characteristic feature of the complex is the stream of water, the original waterway used by the first settlers.

The Izborsk architectural and town-planning complex is a remarkable example of development of its own tradition of building and formation of fortification system in view of constant frontier threats, and the urban and rural build up of the 7-10th centuries which has left us examples of both traditional Russian architecture and the ethnographic architectural character of the Setu people. The site meets testing for authenticity of its architectural structure. The Izborsk-Malsk complex has maintained the traditional pattern of settlement, the unique town-planning and architectural and fortification complex in its historical development with elements and traces of different periods, the local building school and the local construction materials as well as all kinds of examples of construction art of different periods of history Izborsk is guarded by the legislation of the Russian Federation. Following the Government's decision № 43 from 16.01.1996 «On measures to preserve the historical, cultural and natural heritage of Izborsk-Malsk Valley in Pskov Region» the State Historical, Natural and Landscape Preserve Museum "Izborsk" was set up to manage the site with a total area of 7734 hectares on the territory of Pechory district.
II.2. Significance of the Izborsk Fortress and the whole ensemble of the Izborsk-Malsk Valley

The Izborsk Fortress (along with the Izborsk-Malsk Valley) is a monument relating to the initial stage of Old Russia. It is one of oldest Russian fortress cities, a militant suburb of Pskovian Land, an independent state at the beginning of the 14-16th centuries, an integral natural, landscape, town-planning, archaeological, architectural and ethnographic complex which has been formed in the course of 1,5 thousand years.

The historical significance of Izborsk is determined by its remote antiquity. Suffice it to say that it is mentioned in the very first historical record, along with Novgorod. The Izborsk-Malsk Preserve (with along the Fortress) is one of the main centres of tourism in Pskov Region and the North-West of Russia. The most important period in the history of the Izborsk Fortress is undoubtedly the initial stage of construction of the fortress-city and the formation of its rural neighbourhood, as well as the period of construction and combat history of the stone fortress in Izborsk which successfully withstood all invaders in the course of existence of Pskovian Land (1348-1510). The first planned architectural and archaeological surveys were carried out by the Historical-and-Military Society and the Royal Archaeological Society of Russia as far back the beginning of the XXth century. The regular archaeological excavation works in the old "gorodishe" (town) within the Fortress have been carried out over the past 30 years by the expedition of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Museum Preserve "Izborsk" and other participants. The surveys have brought about valuable materials for new scientific understanding not only the history of Izborsk and its historical monuments but also the origin and development of the Old Russian State, its first cities and fortifications as well as the formation and development of distinctive Pskov architecture.

The Izborsk Fortress and its environs have been well preserved for historical reasons. The loss of its defensive significance since the 16th century, the peripheral position, the absence of intensive construction works as well as the traditional rural construction works carried out in the region during the last centuries have saved the Fortress and the whole of Izborsk-Malsk Valley from purposeful destruction or large scale reconstruction. Izborsk somehow avoided military operations which took place in the 20th century. It was a long time ago, as far back as the 18th century, that the historical significance of Izborsk in the history of Old Russia was acknowledged, and early in the 20th century special works started aimed at conserving the Izborsk Fortress.

Izborsk is the centre of Izborsk area in Pechory District of Pskov Region of the Russian Federation. It is located in the north-western part of Russia, south-west of Pskov-Chudskoy Lake, 30 km from the border with the Estonian Republic and the Baltic States.

Izborsk is connected with Pskov (31 km), Riga, Tartu and Tallinn by an international highway. There is an international airport, a railway junction in Pskov, a big museum city and tourist centre in the north-west of Russia. A motorway connects the city with Moscow, St.-Petersburg, Novgorod, Byelorussia and the Ukraine. A unified tourist route connects Izborsk with Pskov and Pechory, with its Pskov-Pechory Monastery (15th century), one of the oldest monasteries of all that have been preserved in Russia.
III. Site Analysis, Research Work, Scientific, Historical and Architectural Surveys

Izborsk was founded by Slavs as a fortress-city in the old gorodishe (“township”) of Izborsk above Gorodishe Lake as early as the 7th century AD. It is first mentioned, along with Novgorod, in one of oldest Russian written sources “The Story of Bygone Years” under the year 862. It had market places, suburban settlements with indigenous inhabitants of various ethnic groups, with their burial mounds, and also suburban villages and outskirts of towns which have been mostly preserved as archaeological monuments. In 1330 the Fortress, which had been renovated many times, was transferred to a new place, 1 kilometre from gorodishe, on top of Zheravy Hill (crane hill) and was totally rebuilt in stone. The stone Fortress in Izborsk, the nucleus of the unique city ensemble, which has also gone through numerous renovation and conservation periods, has been well preserved. The Fortress is an outstanding integrated ensemble of monuments in the Izborsk-Malsk Valley (reserve zone) which has retained its 1,5 thousand-year old structure of the town layout and town-planning with a large number of archaeological sites, architectural monuments and traditional ethnographic settlements in a historical nature-and-landscape environment with a unique Izborsk colouring.

Originally, the Fortress had one tower (?), and at the end of the 14th–beginning of 15th century it was reinforced with a few towers, particularly on the side of approaches. Its entrance structures, the Nikolsk and Talav zakhab (in Pskov dialect- corridor type of entrance or “trap gate”) were renovated many times. After the siege of the Fortress in 1341 a secret underground descent by steps to the spring was built. (the remnants – photo, drawing). The construction of the stone Cathedral Church of Saint Nicholas, one of the oldest monuments of unique stonework architecture in Pskov region, dates to the time of construction of the Fortress (first half of the 14th century). Its stone walls have retained traces of sieges and reconstruction works, while its territory has preserved traces of old town-planning and archaeological remnants of streets, buildings and fortification structures.
IV. Threats and Condition Assessment

The Izborsk Fortress is an architectural and archaeological monument with seven hundred years of stormy military history. It has gone through repeated artillery assaults, reconstruction and "modernisation" periods. In the 16th century it lost its important defensive significance and consequently its combat state was no longer maintained properly. The breaches in the walls would be closed with temporary wooden buildings, and beginning with the 18th century, following the abolition of its fortress status, all repair works stopped, and it gradually started dilapidating. As a consequence, by 1840 when the first protection and conservation decisions were taken, considerable parts of fortifications had been lost or partly destroyed. Some renovated parts of the walls, wall tooting and hipped roofs had disappeared, and there appeared breaches in southern and eastern parts of the walls. The gate structures had suffered most. The breaches were in the southern wall on the place of the secret gate, in Talav and Nikolsk Zakhab (channel or corridor type of entrance) where the outer wall and the well tower had disappeared by the beginning of the 19th century. In the last quarter of the 19th century conservation and renovation works started, but they mainly affected the Nikolsk Zakhab (the southern entrance to the Fortress). It was at this time that the belfry of Saint Nicholas Cathedral on the southern fort wall was demolished. An immured skeleton was found in one of its flexures. Conservation works following the collapse of the renovated part of the wall continued at the beginning of the 20th century. In the year 2000 the Fortress was in an emergency condition again when the whole length of the wall fell into a state of ruin and disrepair, including the parts which had been renovated earlier. Overall conservation and renovation works started again.

In the reserve zone the main problems are connected with the degradation of the historic build up and construction of dissonant buildings and with the control of tourist flow and arrangement of observation grounds. In 1980 the House of the merchant Belyanin was adapted for museum use. The project of reconstruction of the neighboring House of the merchant Anisimov is under consideration at the moment. The Preserve Museum is contending against unchecked construction and erection of dissonant buildings. There are examples of uncontrolled land ploughing and encroachment upon archaeological sites. On the whole the condition of the ensemble is satisfactory but the degrading process and modern economic activities in view of poorly developed sphere of tourism cause real menace to the historical and cultural ensemble.
V. Use of site and assessment of its further development

Coming close to the fortress from the western and southern parts is the traditional settlement build up whereas from the eastern and northern parts, from the side of the Valley, have preserved a magnificent view of antiquity. Settlement buildings are peasant type homesteads, merchant’s wooden and stone houses, chapels and churches. On the southern part, with the traditional market place, the traditional build up is partly adapted for tourist services. The old part of the settling surrounding the Fortress has also preserved the traditional outlook with the old layout and the historical, architectural and archaeological monuments. In the valley the ensemble is supplemented with peasants’ settings where traditional land use has been preserved. Some violations are connected with agricultural and industrial activities. There are case of uncontrolled and dissonant construction. Souvenirs are sold in rows of stalls on the square at the Fortress wall, on tourist routes, in souvenir shops and in museums. There is a complex of cafes and snackbars built in traditional style, with traditional local cuisine, on the square. The main tourist sights of Izborsk are: the Izborsk Fortress, the Museum in the “House of Merchants”, the “Slavonic Springs”, the Old "Gorodishe" of Izborsk (old township), the historical buildings of Izborsk, the landscape and the monuments of Izborsk-Malsk Valley (with nature protection restrictions). Further development of museum facilities and site interpretation is envisaged by the conservation concepts and plans which have been worked out for the Izborsk Fortress and the other sites mentioned above. They make provision for the development of the museum complex and the infrastructure of tourism through conservation and museum adaptation of the monuments and traditional buildings in Izborsk and in the Valley. The concept envisages both the arrangement of tourist routes with observation grounds and restriction of access for visitors for safety reasons, as well as arrangement of little observation platforms on sites for which a big flow of people may be hazardous. One of the main ideas of the Concept is to split up and disperse the tourist flows directing them to as many sites as possible to reduce the potential negative impact on the site. The green belt embracing the Izborsk-Malsk Valley, the nature-and-landscape, geological and botanical memorial is not only the natural environment of cultural monuments but also part and parcel of the system. The green zone includes Izborsk and the ethnic villages around it such as Konrchkhi, Makarov, Mal, Rogovo, Sokolovo, Zakhnov, Gnilitzi, Vasti, Upper and Lower Krups and Brod. There are no large public buildings in the historical zone except for the sausage shop in the village of Konechki. The active Russian Orthodox churches such as Saint Nicholas Church in the Fortress and the Church of Nativity in Posad, as well as the small active chapels are simultaneously are tourist sights as monuments of architecture and spiritual history of the region. The spiritual centre of Setu people, the Nativity Church, with the side- chapel of the local saint Onufry Malsky, and the churchyard as well as the chapel in the village of Mal and the newly built untraditional church in the village of Zakhnov are also in the reserve zone. The whole complex is located on the territory of the Museum preserve “Izborsk”. The main part of the museum, the so called “Houses of Merchants” (historical houses of merchants Belyanin, Shvedov and Aniosimov), is in Pechory Street in the centre of Izborsk. The Preserve Museum has its own production basis and a pit for extracting the local construction materials, gypsum plates, in the outskirts of Izborsk. There are store-houses, office buildings of the agricultural cooperative and local enterprises in the southern part of the town, outside the historical area (along Rizhsky Highway).
VI. Historical, architectural and archaeological survey of Izborsk Fortress and its environs.

The regular historical and archaeological survey of Old Izborsk (the 17th-18th centuries “Truvor gorodishe”), the stone Fortress of the 14-17th centuries and the archaeological monuments started in 1971 following the foundation of the special Archaeological Expedition of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Museum Preserve “Izbork” and other participants under the general supervision of Academician V.V. Sedov. The results of the surveys were discussed at the international archaeological seminars which have been held in Pskov twice a year with the participation of a wide range of specialists from Baltic states and the north-western regions of Russia. The Pskov Research Institute “Spetz Project Restoration” and the General Directorate “Pskov Reconstruction”, acting as the customer of research and design work, have been participating at the seminars since the year 2000 when regular investigation of the stone Fortress in Izborsk started. The comprehensive surveys have given the following results:

- Scientific overview of the architectural ensemble and the early stages of development of one of the oldest Russian cities of the 7th, 9th and 11th centuries AD in the old town of Izborsk (gorodishe);
- Overview of the city’s history and the development of the stone Fortress of the 14th-17th centuries, as well as determination of construction chronology if the stone Fortress
- Overview of town planning of Izborsk and its suburbs, environs, villages and neighbouring settlements; conception of archaeological and architectural monuments of Izborsk area;
- The ethnographic and natural sights of the region were investigated by the Museum Preserve “Izborsk”, by Pskov State Pedagogical Institute (Teachers Training College) and colleagues from Estonia (the first surveys to the effect were carried out by the Paris Institute of the Human Being as far back as in 1930ies).

The inventory of the archaeological monuments was done in 1991-1992 by a group of Pskov archaeologists. The scientific passports of all monuments are kept in the scientific Centre of Monument Protection. The mapping, registration and inventory of the monuments of local significance and namely the historical build up of Izborsk and its environs found in the Preserve area were completed in 1994. But there was no comprehensive investigation of the territory, and therefore the data received cannot be regarded as complete.
7. Conservation of Izbork Fortress and its reserve area

The Izborsk Fortress is a remarkable exemplary monument of Old Russian defensive architecture. The long term research and the latest investigation show that the one tower fortress (with the Lukovka Tower) was built by Pskovites in 1330 from lime stone which was probably mined on the spot, on the northern side. The Lukovka Tower which served as a watch tower (overlooking the valley) is a replica of its predecessor, the tower in the old gorodishe ("town"). From the very beginning the entrance structures, or "zakhabs", were made in the form of corridors, defending the entrances from the south and the north-west. In the 14th century the tower was reinforced with a few additional towers near the approaches to the fortress on the western side and the Belfry Tower on the southern side. The latter protected the main entrance to the fortress through Nikolask zakhab the Saint Nicholas Church (first half of the 14th c.) and the secret descend to the Grand Nikolask spring, which was built after the siege in 1341. From the side of the field the fortress was protected by rows of ditches and big boulders. With the development of fire arms in the 15th century renovation continued when some vulnerable parts of the wall were reinforced. The inner side of the fortress was build up with local people's homesteads. In 1510, following the incorporation of Izborsk with the Russian State there was a big fire in the fortress and the dwelling houses were replaced by the governor-general's houses and the quarters of his armed force from Moscow garrison. The fortress continued to serve as a defensive bastion during the 16th-17th centuries but was no longer drastically renovated (not counting some minor repair works). After the completion of Pskov-Pechory Monastery in the second half of the 16th the fortress's defensive significance drastically diminished. In the first half of the 18th century the fortress's status was officially abolished. The question of its conservation was first raised the 1840ties. Conservation works were carried out in the 19th century, in the first and second half of the 20th century (in the seventies). All round research work, design and conservation works have been accomplished since the year 2000. The draft plan of the Izborsk fortress (by Research Institute "Spetzproject Restoration" with The General Directorate "Pskov Reconstruction" as the customer). The Lukovka Tower has been conserved and adapted for observation and some parts of the walls have been restored.

The Izborsk Fortress is the core of the Izborsk-Malsk Valley and the main museum tourist sight which at the moment is under conservation. There is an active church, Saint Nicholas Church with some houses attached to it, on the territory of the fortress. The Nikolask zakhab and the whole of the western part of the fortress need urgent and immediate conservation. This particular area is most seriously damaged including the secret descend by steps leading to the springs and the Belfry Tower which is half covered with earth. The emergency situation is near and around the Lukovka Tower and the Secret Breach Gate. The formerly renovated parts of the walls, unprotected from atmospheric precipitation are also in an emergency condition, or lost. In some places taluses constitute a menace to the visitors. The deteriorating process intensified under climatic conditions in 2004. Erosion and floods do not pose a threat to the fortress but there are cases of uncontrolled ascend by tourists onto the emergency places of the for walls and unchecked tourist flow of visitors along unadapted footpaths. The least protected parts of the Fortress are the Nikolask zakhab, the south-eastern wall and the formerly renovated portions of the walls and towers (except for the Lukovka Tower and the newly conserved parts). In some places the walls, towers and the areas around them are overgrown with wild grass, weeds, bushes and trees. The square near the Nikolask Gates, which is paved with asphalt and turned to a parking place, needs drastic reconstruction. There are cases of dissonant construction. The monument is under conservation. The parking place should be moved to the projected area further from the fortress. Visitors have access to the old structures (except for emergency places) but it is limited for the reason of repair works going on. The Lukovka Tower has been arranged for observation, and there are also observation grounds along the footpaths.
The Geographical borders of the central part of the Izborsk-Malsk Preserve Museum are made up by the natural geological landscape relief and the motorways, in accordance with the Project of Protection Zones (2003), and should not be changed. There are some enterprises in the town and a mountain-ski track with an elevator in the reserve zone of valley. There is a souvenir shop, “a Pancake –House”, a “Lunch-House”, rows of stalls, a horse ride and shops and cafes in the town.

The use of land in the reserve is controlled by the “Regulations of State Museum Preserve “Izborsk” and the rules of land tenure, with rights given to the Preserve Museum to supervise the preservation of integrity of the historical complex. The General Directorate of Construction, Architecture and Municipal Economy of the Administration of Pskov Region (Federal subordination) gives licences for construction and is responsible for town-planning. At the moment motorcars

At present there are no projects of redistribution of property and reconstruction which could be hazardous to the memorial complex but some businessmen from Moscow and saint Petersburg show interest in developing private entrepreneurship which does not always coincide with the interests of the Museum and its conservation policy. The construction of a skiing lodge in the valley has been suspended. A draft Project of zones protection which forbids such construction undertakings is under consideration now. The legal status of the territory is not to be changed in the near future.

Among the buildings that ought to be moved to a new place are the agricultural co-operative in Konechki village which is within view of the old town and the newly built Church in the village of Zakhnovo which is within the field of vision of the Malak churchyard. There are also dissonant buildings in Izborsk.
VIII. Management of cultural resources

Tourism and tourist industry facilitate the development of the State Historical, Architectural and Natural Preserve Museum “Izborsk”. Its area includes not only the Izborsk Fortress as the main tourist sight but also the whole of Reserve area within the historical part of Izborsk and the Izborsk-Malsk Valley. Tourism already contributes to the activities and development of the museum complex providing new jobs for the local population and offering opportunities for business partners owing to souvenir sales and tourist services. At present the infrastructure of the Museum includes exhibitions and expositions, places of interest along the tourist routes as well as services such as the Reception House, the Farm House in the village of Makarovo the Tourist Centre “Kilsk”, The “Pancake-House” and the Souvenir Shop. The museum is engaged in digging out lime stone in the historical quarry in the outskirts of Izborsk. It also arranges folklore and ethnographic festivals, scientific congresses and seminars. The Preserve Museum has some historical and architectural sites which are designed for development of tourism infrastructure and raising the living standards of the population. Private enterprise is developing around the memorial site which promotes conservation and protection of the historical environment. It does not violate the delicate balance between the necessity of preservation of the site’s attractiveness for tourists and building modern infrastructure and of tourism. The existing infrastructure, however, is not sufficient to develop a strong economy based on tourism and support the historical architectural and archaeological sites.

The special project developed by Moscow research Institute “INREKON” is aimed at solving this problem. It is the first working conservation and adaptation plan for a historical building in Izborsk. The preliminary estimation shows that the Preserve Museum complex in Izborsk has all potentials for building a modern economic infrastructure and for preservation of the unique natural and historical ensemble. At present the revenue gained from tourism is the main source of income of the Preserve Museum. In 2002 the income from paid services amounted to US 100000$. The luxurious 6 suit Reception House earned almost one fourth of the profit. Other earnings come from excursions, catering, the sauna, horse riding, rowboat trips, festival arrangements etc. This income grows steadily but the existing infrastructure is unable to ensure a sharp increase in profit.

Private enterprise gains the bulk of the profit from trade and excursion services. Izborsks attracts holiday makers and, for example, hang-giders. But this should be kept under Museum’s control.

Special project solutions on protection of the Preserve zone (“Spetz Project Restoration”, Moscow, 2003) and the development of the infrastructure of tourism without damaging the basic characteristics of the site (LENGIPROGOR, 1991; “Spetz Project Restoration”, 2003; “INREKON”, Moscow, 2004 – the beginning of the work) have been worked out to make the development of the Museum Preserve economically expedient, preserving the aesthetic value and unique feature of the site. The development of the infrastructure of tourist reception and services is the main strategy of the development of the Museum Preserve “Izborsk”. In future it will be the main source of income for the local people, a resource for museum’s development and realisation of protection and conservation measures and subsequent adaptation of the whole complex for museum purposes. Accordingly, these priority projects will enable to cut other economic activities which damage or hinder protection measures.
In 2003 the Research Institute “INREKON” was assigned by the Construction Ministry of RF (GOSTROI) to design the project of development of the infrastructure of tourist reception and service and set about designing some sites in the tourist and museum sphere. The project of building a “Guest-House” for receiving tourists and visitors to the museum had been accomplished earlier, along with the complex of refectories such as “Pancake-house” and “Soup-house” (local cuisine) and a souvenir shop. Among the buildings restored are “The House of merchant Belyanin”, the main building of the Museum, and the estate complex “Kilsk”, 3 km from Izborsk, where outdoor arrangements are held. It has been restored and adapted for reception of visitors.
Specific approach to its conservation.

The area of the State Preserve Museum “Izborsk” is 7734 hectares. The most highly valued territory of the historical town planning complex central monument’s reserve area is the Izborsk-Malsk Valley. The preserve zone also includes the historical part of Izborsk with the stone fortress and the old town called “gorodishe”.

The museum expositions and the tourist service centre are in “Merchant Belyanin’s House” , 39 Pechorskaya Str. In the museum zone called “Merchant’s Houses”. The core of the whole historical town-planning complex is the traditional build up of Izborsk with the 14th-17th c. stone fortress. Within the Fortress the most active components are the Towers and complex entrance structures, the Nikolsky and Talavsky zakhabs. Conservation works have been going along the eastern part of the walls since the year 2000 up to these days (there is a construction site with a concrete paved road for trucks arranged to prevent damage to the archaeological layer of the fortress. The Preserve Museum has an old homestead on the territory of the museum (an object for future museum adaptation). The restoration and conservation of the wing attached to “Merchant Anisimov’s House” (late 19th-early 20th centuries) is nearing completion in the “Merchant’s Houses”, area with adaptation for the museum and interpretive centre. There is Museum’s utility house in Izborsk and a quarry for digging lime stone in the outskirts.

On the other side of the town is the Building of the Pedagogical Institute (Teachers Training College), where students do practical work in natural sciences. The Izborsk-Malsk Valley is a protected natural zone with a distinctive post-glacial landscape and rare species of plants. The valley and the town have, in the main, preserved the historical pattern of land use. The observation grounds, both natural and specially arranged, are located along the existing excursion routs. There is one in the Lukovka Tower from which visitors can view the entire value and the town, and there some in the fortress and in town. The natural and anthropological park zone of the valley is the care of the entire protected Preserve Museum (the total area of the Preserve is 7130 hectares).
X. Conservation Priorities and Milestones

The priority sites of the Izborsk fortress are the cultural layer of the 14th–17th century town called “gorodishe”, the fort walls of the same period and the 14th century Saint Nicholas Cathedral. In the reserve zone the main archaeological sites are the Old Gorodishe of Izborsk (town) dating from the 7th-13th centuries, the neighbouring villages connected with the urban population, the old roads, the holy springs, the stones of worship and the architectural monuments of different periods of history. The main restoration and conservation sites at present are the emergency portions of the stone Fortress walls and namely the Nikolsky Zakhab (the main entrance to the Fortress) with the adjoining area, the secret descend and the half ruined Belfry Tower, the Talavsky Zakhab and the protective roofing of the entire wall.

The conservation, rehabilitation and museum adaptation of the Izborsk Fortress require further archaeological surveys, working designs, preservation and conservation works, accomplishment and museum adaptation in accordance with the draft plan approved at the federal level. Top priority tasks here are the discovery of the original forms, historical chronology, history of construction techniques, engineering assessment of buildings and foundations and methodology of their reinforcement.

The most important site of the Izborsk Fortress is the main entrance called “Nikolsky Zakhab”. It is most severely damaged and most complicated. But it is the main fortress front and the main entrance to the fortress ensemble. Planned research surveys are carried out in the Fortress annually in accordance with the conservation plan and the established priority. Research work is carried out step by step, proceeding from one part of the fortifications walls to another to ensure the elaboration of working design documentation.

The Fortress and Cathedral ensemble has been rather well preserved. But some large structures of the fort walls and most of the formerly renovated towers (renovation works carried out in 1960s and 70s) are in emergency condition again. It is vitally important to accomplish the reinforcement, conservation and museum adaptation of the Nikolsky Gate (zakhab) and the entire southern wall.

The deterioration of the said sites accelerated for climatic reasons this year. It is planned for the current year of 2004 to continue conservation works along the fort walls on the eastern side, near the Lukovka Tower, to eliminate the most serious defects posing a threat to the visitors.

Research work is carried out by qualified experts (historians, artists, architects and restorers) and certified institutions. Researches pertaining to the Izborsk Fortress are done by experts along with architects from Pskov Research Institute “Spetzrestoration”, according to tasks set out by them. The archaeological surveys are carried out under the supervision of academician V.V. Sedov of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Among the participants of comprehensive research work are the Archaeological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the State Preserve Museum “Izborsk” and experts from Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Pskov, as members of the Archaeological Expedition.
XI. Threats and Condition Assessment

In the reserve zone, due to the rapid depopulation and aging of people, the cultivated areas have diminished sharply, the old houses are not kept antiquated by the owners. Spring fires and unauthorized felling under the new economic conditions constitute a menace to woods within the Preserve area. Under-flooding of the territory during spring tides does not exceed 1.2 - 1.3 m and is not damaging. The main hazards are sporadic fires. Changes in the land tenure pattern are caused by weeds overgrowing arable lands. Hence the obliteration of ecotypes, decrease in population of rare species of plants in natural habitats and their complete disappearance within the Preserve zone.

In Izborsk there is a quarry from which the local construction material, the quarry stone, is dug out (Devonian gypsum). The pit has run short of high quality stone for restoration works and needs reclaiming. A reclamation project has been worked out. In the reserve zone there are violations of build up and landscape dissenting from production buildings of local industry and the local agricultural cooperative. There are cases of untraditional, dissonant construction. In and around Izborsk and there are examples of unauthorized construction : dissonance, intrusion into the Preserve zone and contamination of soil with garbage. The replacement of rural population with summer residents and visitors leads to the change of build up style to the detriment of tradition. There is no uncontrolled growth of population of the city. A big hazard is the aging of the rural population and their replacement in the Preserve area which consequently leads to untraditional construction and dilapidation of traditional build up in the protected zones. The most acute ecological problems are connected with unauthorized flow of motor-car tourists travelling outside the set tourist routes and their intrusion into the Preserve zone up the slopes of the Preserve Value. Within the Fortress the problem is that tourists climb the walls and the towers unadapted for that some of them being in emergency condition. The main hazard to the Izborsk Fortress is rapid dilapidation of walls and towers lack of protection from weather impact and rains and also the cessation of positive effect of previous conservation measures.

In future the Izborsk Fortress should be reliably conserved with preservation of traditional historical appearance, properly adapted for museum use and tourism. In Izborsk the infrastructure of tourist service is already developing on the basis of historical build up without violation of its appearance (photo). The Izborsk-Malsk Valley should have specially arranged tourist routes and observation grounds as well as tourist service centers which should not damage the ecology.

The outstanding cultural, natural national and international value of the Izborsk-Malsk Valley require immediate conservation of the Izborsk Fortress and emergency sites in the Preserve area and creation of the infrastructure of tourism and an economic foundation for self-sufficient function of the museum, the guardian of the Preserve area with its historical monuments. Site management should promote the preservation and restoration of landscape features, archaeological monuments, ethnography and nature in their original form. Attendance control implies the improvement of approaches and drives, arrangement of parking places and providing access to as many visitors as possible while preserving the Fortress, the build up of Izborsk and its environs, the Museum and all other remarkable sites of the Izborsk Malsk-Valley memorial.

The Izborsk-Malsk valley has natural, archaeological, historical and cultural potentials for economic development of such a large museum and tourist sight which are the preconditions of the State Preserve Museum of international significance. The conservation of the of the Izborsk -Malsk Preserve and the development of the Museum are preconditions of strict control of the preserve area and of the development of the Museum and Exposition complex with a maximal involvement of the historical, architectural and archaeological sites in the sphere of tourism and enlightenment advertising activities.

Conservation of the Izborsk Fortress, due to its Federal status and world wide significance, also
implies the preservation of its natural and historical environs as a Preserve zone, the restoration of the historical pattern of land use. High attendance should be combined with prevention of acts of vandalism, improper usage and removal of consequences of past infringements and wrongdoings, traffic management, increasing the number of tourist routes and expanding access to objects without intrusion in the natural and historical fabric of the Preserve area.

Further archaeological surveys on key spots of the Izborsk Fortress is planned with the view of expanding our knowledge of the complex and solving the problems set out by the project. It is possible to set up an international school of archaeology on the bases of the Izborsk Archaeological Expedition. Research work promoting better understanding of archaeological, historical and cultural value of the site will be encouraged and supported. The museum plans to raise the level of qualification of researchers, librarians, archivists and laboratory assistants and attract all kinds of experts providing them proper working conditions. This model of conservation planning can be used on other historical sites of the country and region.
XII. Regional conservation planning for the Izborsk Fortress and the development of Preserve Museum “Izborsk”

At present the conservation, design, and research work connected with the Izborsk Fortress is financed by the federal Ministry of Culture with allocation of 50 to 100 dollars annually. In 2003 The Ministry of Construction (GOSTROI) allotted 30 thousand dollars for the development of infrastructure of tourism in Izborsk. The Administration of Pskov Region, too, renders support. The Ministry of Culture and the regional monument protection bodies coordinates all the work. The ministry of culture has approved the draft project of conservation and museum adaptation of the Izborsk Fortress but financial resources are not sufficient for its realisation within 5-10 years (the minimal period to avoid losses). The historical build up of Izborsk and its environs make an integrated ensemble. Considering this, a plan for the development of the infrastructure of tourism in Izborsk, is being worked out the bases of the existing concepts and the Reserve Conservation Project. The ensemble is protected by federal and regional legislation on conservation of historical and cultural heritage on the bases of the Preserve Conservation Project and scientific certificates for some historical, cultural and natural monuments of the Izborsk-Malsk ensemble.

The reserve zone of the ensemble is the Izborsk-Malsk Valley, whose nature shows its face against urbanization.

The Conservation and Museum Adaptation Project stipulates for sequential conservation works along the fortress walls with partial restoration and adaptation of some ruined elements (with the existing finance support the work may last decades).

XIII. Tourism Planning and Economic Opportunities

The Izborsk Preserve Museum receives 100 thousand tourists annually while Pskov Region has 500 visitors every year. The payment profit and tax revenues are small, amounting 40 thousand US dollars (2003). Izborsk is included in one of the most popular tourist routes of the region “Pskov-Izborsk-Pechory”. (Izborsk is 31 km. from Pskov and 25 km. from Pechory). The tourists are accommodated in hotels in Pskov. There are hotels in Izborsk and Pechory but they only for single tourists and small groups. The infrastructure here is not developed. The sights of the said cities are complementary to one another.

Motorcar roads and footpaths are set out in tourist road maps. There is a sufficient number of places of interest in the Izborsk-Malsk-Valley for arranging a few sightseeing tours and which would disperse the flow of tourists by directing them to different sites and routes but there is no such feasibility at present. There is practically only one direction route. The exiting tourist route has certain facilities and conveniences for travelers (there are none for the disabled and invalids) but they are inadequate. There are no arrangements for a reasonable disperse of tourist flow. The package tours offered by home and foreign travel agencies acquaint the visitors with the history of Russia, the architecture and nature of the region. Among other thematic tours there are also Russian Orthodox pilgrimage tours. 110 thousand tourists visited Izborsk in 2002 while in the following years of 2003 the figure dropped to 83 thousand. This may be accounted for by the celebration of the 1100th anniversary of Pskov which may have drawn away part of the traditional flow of tourists.

The bulk of visitors to Izborsk are groups of tourists organised by travel agencies. The local people attend the site during traditional Museum and city festivals. The pilgrimage travelers visit Izborsk on the way to the Pskov-Pechory Monastery.

Visitors to the Museum and individual tourists are few in number. Their slight increase at present is probably due to the accommodation facilities arranged in the village of Makarovo in the Museum’s Tourist Complex “Kilsk”. The local population treat the Preserve Museum and the opportunities it offers with a feeling of pride and patriotism. Tourism brings real income from sales of souvenirs, catering and services. Some tourists and pilgrims support the activities of the church community. Izborsk is traditional place of museum, tourist and ethnographic festivals (e.g. the local Finno-Ugric people of Setu). Though attractive for tourists, the museum has inadequate tourist services. Some tourist businesses which were opened recently have improved the economic situation in the region and have both won the Museum’s authority and increased people’s income.

With the view of developing international tourism the State Preserve Museum “Izborsk” participates in international projects financed by the European Union and the Danish government such as:
- “Westline-Izborsk Destination” (Russia – Estonia)
- Development of tourism strategy of Pskov Region till the year 2010” (Russian – Danish Project).
XIV. Environment: Political, Legal, Jurisdiction.  
Local population involvement.

The Preserve Museum “Izborsk” organises and shares in profit from tourist services. The local residents take part in the process and have their share of income. The Museum enjoys its legitimate right to manage the regional economic and construction activities, maintaining friendly relations with the local people in finding mutually acceptable solutions. The main problem is lack of adequate finance for sustainable development of service infrastructure to ensure self-sufficient development of the museum and effective protection on its own.

The Preserve Museum involves new settlements in tourist services. “The Kilsk” estate, 1 km from Izborsk, has been arranged as a tourist complex but it still has to be accomplished and provided with appropriate transport approaches. A house in the village of Makarovo a traditional Russian peasant type wooden hut has been purchased and adapted for reception of visitors. A museum of the ethnic group Setu has been set up in the village of Sigovo in addition to the existing private museum of the same line. Some historical buildings requiring conservation have been purchased in Izborsk. The museum sets up contractual agreements with local specialists and firms with aim of involving them in work on the sites and in the vicinity.

The Preserve Museum owns some lands, confined to the sites, and enjoys rights to land use and economic activities on the whole territory of the reserve zone. The bulk of the land is owned by the local authorities, agricultural enterprises and private businesses. To promote education and training facilities for local population and with the view of involving them in museum protection and advocacy traditional vocational skills, preference is given to training in traditional trades and crafts including (construction trades). There also programmes pertaining to ethnic culture, both Setu and Russian. The sustainable development of tourism is connected with the development on private and cooperative enterprise under the supervision of the Museum.
XV. Information and advertising activities of the Preserve Museum “Izborsk”

Among the tourist sights of the Preserve Museum is the observation platform on the Lukovka Tower. Three are expositions in Sergey- and Nikander Church near the Fortress and in the main room of the Merchant Belyanin’s House in Pechorskaya Street. There are signs posters inviting visitors to see the sights such as The Slavonic Springs, the old Gorodishe of Izborsk and the ethnographic museum of Setu. The Museum has its own site zoning system. The main Information city is in the Museum’s core in the area of “Merchants’ Houses”. There is a project of reconstruction of the neighboring “House of the Merchant Anisimov” with an information center on the ground floor, which gives the visitor all the information about different historical periods of the reserve area. The topical coverage of each sight is determined by thematic excursions. The Museum has exhibition halls, expositions on the history, archaeology and ethnography of Izborsk area, as well as historical sites in the open air. The nature and landscape memorials include the izborsk-Malsk Valley, The 5th-13th c. town (gorodishe), with the 16th–18th c. Saint Nicholas Church, churchyards, stone crosses, the Izborsk Fortress of the 14th-17th centuries, Saint Sergey-and-Nikader Church (18th c.), the Nativity Church, old chapels, and a sample of town build up of the 19th-20th centuries. The Museum carries out regular research and collection work on the history of the region. The Izborsk Archeological Expedition has been working for over 30 years now. The museum is participating in the international program aimed at studying the ethnography and supporting the culture of Setu people. There is a project of setting up (upon completion of restoration and adaptation) a data archive in the stone “House of merchant Anisimov”. The reconstruction and of the “Houses of Merchants” carried out in the 19th–20th centuries can be now be adapted for the main museum information and exposition centre, which will inform the visitors about all historical, architectural and natural values of Izborsk and its environs and as a starting point for all kinds of excursions and tours. There are also plans for including more historical, cultural and natural sites in excursion routes as conservation and adaptation continues. The ethnographic and natural sights of the area are investigated by both experts of the Izborsk- Malsk museum Preserve Izborsk and Pskov Pedagogical Institute (Teachers Training Institute).

XVI. Government support ant foreign aid

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation has approved the Project of conservation of the Izborsk Fortress. The said Projects pertaining to protection, accomplishment and museum adaptation of the Preserve zone of the Preserve Museum “Izborsk”, which has been granted a Federal status, have been financed and considered on the Federal level. Contacts are maintained with Scandinavian and Baltic countries with an exchange of experience, arrangements and delegations. The UNESCO Committee of Global Heritage has included Izborsk, in the nomination of «Greater Pskov» (2002), in the preliminary list of objects of Global Heritage. The financial support has been offered by the Global Heritage Fund.

The partners participating in the Project are the Administration of Pskov Region and the General Directorate “Pskov Reconstruction”, as the customer of research work, design, conservation and accomplishment of objects in the museum and tourist spheres. The potential foreign partner is the “Global Heritage Fund”.

Russia is on the way to market economy, the fact that undoubtedly tells on the economic situation in the region; on the Memorial Museum “Izborsk”, as well as on the tourist activities. The stabilisation of economy leads to the growth of tourism in the region. Further intensification of this process is directly connected with the development of the tourist infrastructure. The Government has taken special Decision N 43 from 16.01.1996 “On measures to preserve the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the Izborsk-Malsk Valley in Pskov Region”, and the State Historical, Architectural, Natural and Landscape Memorial Preserve “Izborsk” was set up in the same year; research and design work is supported; conservation works going on in the Izborsk Fortress are financed. The local population are involved in museum activities and are kept informed about joint activity with the museum; people from the neighbourhood participate in public cultural arrangements.

The State Museum Preserve “Izborsk” is the major employer, and it manages in the area along with the local authorities on questions of reconstruction and accomplishment of the museum area and settles these questions in the district. The population living in the Preserve area submit the questions of construction and economic activities to the approval of the museum and take an active part in tourist service (depending on the economic situation in the region).

The Status of the Memorial Museum is determined on the federal level and is taken into consideration on all local levels. The initiator of the development of Izborsk as a perspective big tourist museum and tourist complex is the Administration of Pskov Region. The main programs are accomplished at the expense of Federal and Regional financial sources. The museum has received European grants for development of scientific and technological basis.

The conservation planning started following the government’s decision “On measures aimed at preserving the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the Izborsk-Malsk Valley in Pskov Region” and the foundation of the State Historical, Architectural, Natural and Landscape Memorial Preserve “Izborsk”. Experts from the Architectural Planning Workshop N 2 of Moscow Research Institute “Spetzrestoration” and Moscow Research Institute “INREKON” (along with the Museum employees and experts from Pskov) are involved in conservation planning of the whole area. The conservation works in Izborsk Fortress are carried out by specialists from the Research Institute “Spetz Project Restoration”. Coordination is accomplished by the General Directorate “Pskov Reconstruction”.

Financial support of conservation is rendered by the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communication of the Russian Federation and the Administration of Pskov Region. The UNESCO Commission of the Ministry Foreign Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian National Committee ICOMOS and the Russian Committee of World Heritage have provided assistance in working out the documents for including Izborsk in “Greater Pskov” nomination. In 2004 The Global heritage Fund has rendered financial and methodological support in developing the current project and financing of conservation works of the Izborsk Fortress (until the year 2007).
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

- supervision: Jeff Morgan, Executive Director, The Global Heritage Fund; A.T. Vasilyev, Director-General, General Directorate “Pskov Reconstruction”.
- researchers and archaeologists: academician V.V. Sedov, of the Russian Academy of Sciences, archaeologists: Y. V. Veronkova, and T.N. Kalashnik, Leader of scientific group of the Preserve Museum “Izborsk”.
- architects and planners: A.G. Bogodukhov, chief architect of conservation Project of Pskov Research Institute “Spetzproject Restoration”, T.A. Veinstein, leading expert of Research Institute “INRECON”, V.Y. Kesler, head of the planning architectural and design Shop N 2 of Research Institute “Spetzproject Restoration”;
- advisers: A. N. Kirpichnikov, Doctor of Sciences, History, Member of the Scientific and Methodological Council of the Russian Federation, G.B. Bessonov, architect and restorer;

- site Management Committee: Committee of Culture of Pskov Regional Administration, The Global Heritage Fund, the General Directorate “Pskov Reconstruction”, the Preserve-Museum “Izborsk”;
- management and planning: I. I. Lagunin, assistant manager the General Directorate “Pskov Reconstruction”, scientific adviser, architect and fine art specialist.

THE INTERNATIONAL TERMS ADOPTED IN THE DOCUMENT:

- COSERVATION - maintenance of object in its original form except for changes needed to prevent it from further destruction.
- REHABILITATION – addition of new spheres usage or modern requirements for current use preserving it antiquity and original form.
- RESTORATION - returning the object the form it had in a certain period of history important for the object.
- RENOVATION (recovery) - recovery, reconstruction of object, which does not exist any more.
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