

## KRESHATIK

Kreshatik is the central street of Kiev city. It goes through Starokievskiy and Pecherskiy districts and then from European square to Bessarabian square. At the end of 18th century a part of Kreshatnaya Valley from Horse square (now European square) where horse market usually was held to Proreznaya street is becoming a street with the building only on one (right) side. In 1803 the buildings on the left side also appear. It's interesting that there were only apartment houses there except the one - the first theater in Kiev built under the project of architect A. Melenskiy in 1802-1805. So in that time the street was called Teatralnaya (The Theater Street). The shape of the street as we know it today forms in 1837. Under the project the street is prolonged up to today's Bessarabskaya square.

In 1851 under the project of architect A.B. Beretti the first huge stony building for provincial assembly of nobility was built. Today on this place there is the House of trade unions. In 1838-42 the three floor building of The Noble Maidens Institute was built also under his project. In that time architect Beretti was also the owner of two floor hotel on the corner of Kreshatik and Bessarabskaya square, where the cinema "Orbita" now stands. The great poet Taras Shevtchenko has stayed there in autumn of 1846. He has also stayed on the other side of kreshatik in the house of Sukhostavskiy family, where the meetings of Kirill-Mefodiy cultural society took place.

From 1870 the trade and business life of the city gradually passes to Kreshatik. The building of the street becomes more active. In 45 years the solid wall of houses was raised. It were mostly three store houses with shops, banks and offices. In 1870-1914 on the former Kreshatinskaya square (Maidan Nezalezhnosti - The Square Of Independence now) the house of State Parliament was built under the project of architect Shilli.

The examples of the best architectural art of that time are houses: 6 (architects Zektzer and Torov), 8 - The Bank Of saint-Petersburg building (architect Benois), 12 architect A. Beretti), 16 (unknown architect), 32 - Russian International Trade Bank, one of the few buildings that has remained (architect Lidval). In 1902-1903 on the corner of Proreznaya street the house of Russian Insurance society (architect Godetskiy). In 1913-1914 under the project of architect Andreyev the Passage which consisted of two cases was built. The Passage was destroyed during the war and after the war was rebuilt and reconstructed. In the 1910 the market building on Bessarabskaya square was constructed. At the very end of Kreshatik on the place of contemporary European square there was the three floor building of Merchant Guild. Now The philarmonic hall which is famous for its acoustic is situated there. In the middle of 19 century in the beginning of Kreshatik the decorative garden Vladimirskaya Goroka was settled down. The stony 2-3 floor houses appear on the street. Building successfully emphasizes features of a landscape and is placed along street by separate houses in individual manors. In the beginning of 20th century there was canalization, the water drain, gas, electricity and tramways (first in tsarist Russia) on Kreshatik.

In the year of 1936 the rails of tram lines were removed, the street was covered with asphalt and the trolley lines began to function. The sphere-shaped trees were planted on the sides of the street and the lanterns were settled down. 1936-1939 on the corner of Grushevskaya street the Central Mall was built under the project of architect Fridman.

During the war Kreshatik was partly destroyed during the war and then renovated. During the renovation it was transformed into wide highway. The changes also took place on the main

square of the city - Maidan Nezalezhnosti. The huge building with the tower and courants was constructed there. The Trade Uninon Association office is situated there. The left side of Maidan was covered with granite and terraces filled with water which go to the 16 floor building of hotel "Ukraine". The beautiful panoramis view of Old Kiev opens from there. You can see domes of Sophia Cathedral (built in 11 century) and Andretevsckaya Church (built in 18 century There are bulding of City Parliament, The Central Mall, "Kreshatik" and "Maidan Nezalezhnosti" metro stations, a lot of administrative buildings, shops hotels and cafes are situated there. The district of contemporary Kreshatik a long time ago was the deep valley with the streaming spring covered with woods. In North-West destination the valley was coming to dnepr river and in South-West destination to Lebed river. It is calledthe Kreshataya valley. It's where the name of the street (Kreshatik) comes from. The road which was situated near the spring was important for the city in all periods of its history.

## THE INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

The Independence square ("Maidan Nezalezhnosti") is the central square of Kiev-city. Until the end of 10 century this area was covered with woods. A little bit upper there were Lyadskiye Gates which entered the way to the Upper Podol district. In 18th century on the territory of the contemporary Independence square the stony fortress gates were built. They stood there until 1833. At the end of the 18th century and at the beginning of 19th century the square itself was the waste ground called The Goat Mire. There were also defensive shaft, a dam and a water mill. Then the first small wooden and stony buildings appeared. The first big brick building was built 1851 (architect Beretti). The local Nobility assembly was housed there before the revolution.

In 1976-81 the reconstruction of the square took place. The dominating element in architectural ensemble of the square is 5000-jet fountain "The Friendship Of Then Nations".

## PODOL

Podol is a part of Kiev city near the Dnepr River; it's an ancient district of craftsmen and fishers. The contemporary arrangement of the streets is the result of the fire, which had happened in 8th June of 1811 and has destroyed all the wooden constructions. There are few descents, which lead from Upper Town to Podol. The most popular is the one called Andreyevskiy. Near on Pokrovskaya stand: Pokrovskaya church dating from the middle of 18th century in Ukrainian baroque style (architect Grigorovitch), the house of famous jeweler Strelbitskiy, belfry of the Kind Nikola church.

The center of Podol is the wide Kontraktovaya square, where very house is a historical and architectural monument. Also the monument to famous Ukrainian philosopher G. Skovoroda stands there. The recently renovated church of the Virgin Mary Pirogoshi also stands there (1136). From 1798 the all-Russian fairs usually took part on the square so the trading center with 50 shops was built there. There are a lot of sights on Podol. Among them there are Florovskiy monastery known from 15 century, Ilyinskaya church (1692), the Church Of

Nikola Pritisk (1631), Naberezhno-Nikolskaya Church (1772, architect Grigorovitch-Barskiy), the manors remained from pre-fire constructions.

To the north from Podol stands Kirillovskaya church with fragments of ancient frescoes and also with paintings and iconostasis made by famous Russian artist M. Vrubel.

## THE HOUSE WITH CHIMAERAS

The private house of architect V.V.Gorodetskiy was built in 1901-1902. It's the most famous house built during the construction boom in Kiev. Citizens also call it "the house with chimaeras". This house has been always connected with legends, though actually it was just an original form of advertising of new material - cement. Facade of the building is decorated with images of mythical animals and hunting motives also made of cement.

Fortunately, "the house with chimaeras" became one of the most recognizable places of Ukrainian capital as the Mariinskiy palace. Apartment house and home of famous architect after the revolution and before the Second World War it was a living house and hospital. After the renovation "the House with chimaeras" will become the residential place of Ukrainian president and for some time it will replace the Mariinskiy palace, that also needs some renovate work. The cost of renovation is about 40 millions grivens. The work will be finished next summer. Now some floors and chimaeras are already renovated. It is planned to renovate the building's interior fully, including renovation of parquet floor and paintings. For nowadays "the House with chimaeras" is quite unique not only for Ukraine but also for the whole former Soviet Union.

There are a lot of legends about construction of this house. Guides and folk create the most fascinating one: the architect's daughter committed suicide in Dnepr river because of unfortunate love (or maybe because of family feud). Architect went slightly mad and built this gloomy house for her memory. Another scandalous legend says that actually another architect - Nikolay Dobatchevskiy, built the house. However, Gorodetskiy signatures were under the drawings. There is another romantic version - a bet with other architects, who tried to prove that it's impossible to build a house on such breakage (there was a lake on the place where now Ivan Franko Theater stands). A strictly practical motivation of construction also seems quite real. This was the first house built with cement. So it was great promotional action for cement manufacturer Richter.

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