

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

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Ministry of Culture
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Russian Federation

Mr S. V. Lavrov
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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May 25, 2021

“Red Banner” Factory in St Petersburg

Dear Madam Minister Lyubimova,
Dear Minister Lavrov,

The German and Israeli ICOMOS are currently developing the program titled «Initiative circle for a multinational network on outstanding works of Erich Mendelsohn». The ultimate goal is to select properties worthy of nomination for inclusion on the World Heritage List. In our opinion, objects in the territory of the Russian Federation, in St. Petersburg (the "Red Banner" factory) and Sovetsk (Tilsit, "Lodge of Three Patriarchs"), can have an important place in this nomination. Invitations to participate in the discussion of this issue were submitted to the National Committee of ICOMOS Russia.

At the same time, as it turned out, the state historical and cultural expertise on the "Red Banner" factory was posted on the KGIOP website¹, according to which one of the currently protected factory buildings (Hosiery and Dyeing) and part of the other (Main Knitted), both of which constitute the second stage of construction (1938-1950s), were not included in the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Objects. Moreover, as the design materials of the project of the new owner of the factory, the AAG holding and Komendantsky 9 LLC, testify, they are threatened with demolition, while buildings that have nothing to do with the concept of E. Mendelsohn are intended to replace them.²

The implementation of these plans will mean the loss of important elements belonging to the second stage of the construction of the factory, elements which fully represent E. Mendelsohn's concepts. This will cause further damage to the ensemble qualities of an object of cultural heritage of international importance. The loss of objects, which, in accordance with the conclusions of the examination, will lead to the loss of their protected status, threatens the compositional integrity of the monument. This is convincingly substantiated by the St. Petersburg expert Sergey Gorbatenko, who had previously, actively and professionally, participated in protecting the "Red Banner" factory in the face of

¹ <http://heritage-expert.ru/component/content/article/32-joint-heritage/322-novyy-udar-po-kontseptsii-erikha-mendel-sona>

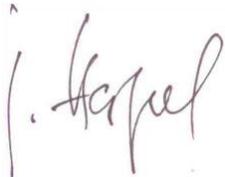
² <https://aag.company/projects/pionerskaya-53>; http://heritage-expert.ru/component/joomdoc/Red%20Banner%20Factory%202021_en.pdf/download

construction of a residential complex (2015-2017) – a venture which was jointly opposed by ICOMOS Russia and Germany.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that, although in the 1930s Erich Mendelsohn no longer supervised the factory's construction, the Soviet architects entrusted with implementing its second stage followed Mendelsohn's concepts to the best of their ability. The architectural ensemble that we inherited is therefore a rare example of collaboration between German and Soviet architects.

The factory "Red Banner" is renowned among experts of the architecture of the 20th century worldwide. We ask that the Ministry headed by you take immediate measures for its protection.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Jörg Haspel
President of ICOMOS Germany



Eran Mordohovich
President of ICOMOS Israel

For information only also sent to:

L. V. Kondrashev, President of the National Committee of ICOMOS Russia