

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF TATARSTAN



ФОНД «ВОЗРОЖДЕНИЕ»

«ЯҢАРЫШ» ФОНДЫ

RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

— 2013 —



“It is pleasant to see the result.”

V.V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation





“What we have undertaken, the revival of Bolgar and Sviyazhsk, is welcomed by the multinational population of our republic... And this is the highest appreciation”.

M.S. Shaimiev, First President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Republic’s “Renaissance” Foundation





“The significance of the relics of Bolgar and Sviyazhsk is great, and their reconstruction is a noble mission”.

R.N. Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan



History of the Foundation 2010 – 2013

▪ 8 ▪



The Republic's Foundation for revival of the monuments of history and culture was established in February 2010 by Decree of Mintimer Shaimiev, the First President of the Republic of Tatarstan. Its major mission was and still is the preservation and development of the historical, cultural, and spiritual traditions of the multinational people inhabiting the territory of Tatarstan.

The key objective of the foundation's activity is the restoration of the two gems of the republic, the centres of the Muslim and Orthodox culture: the Bolgar Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve and the State Historical, Architectural, and Art Museum "Island-Town of Sviyazhsk".

The peculiarity of these ancient towns is in the spirit of time, the feeling of the revival of faith and culture, which rule there, in the magic of architecture, and the richness of nature of these places.

The high appraisal on the part of Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, who visited the town of Bolgar and the Island of Sviyazhsk in summer 2012, was not occasional.

A considerable scope of work has been fulfilled over the period of the Republic's Foundation's existence. The image of historical monuments has changed owing to the reconstruction work done. Successfully attained are the tasks set for the revival of the valuable monuments of history, culture, unique architecture, and spirituality.

The project includes the reconstruction and construction of 46 facilities in Sviyazhsk and 40 facilities in Bolgar.

Opened in 2011 – 2012 on the Island of Sviyazhsk after the repair/construction and restoration work were 14 facilities. The gas pipeline was laid to the island; the new dwelling houses, roads, and bridges were built.

In Bolgar, restored, built and put into operation were 10 facilities.

The Republic's construction potential meets all high requirements set for the building and reconstruction of the monuments of culture.



The high professionalism of specialists of GUP Tatinvestgrazhdanproyekt (Director General A.A. Khusnoutdinov) makes it possible to achieve harmony between the ancient historical sites of Bolgar and monuments of culture and spirituality of Sviyazhsk and the new projects. The work related to the preparation of the construction documents has been done by the company free of charge, on the principles of charity.

The order for the work to be done in Bolgar and Sviyazhsk was placed by GKU Chief Investment and Construction Directorate (CICD) of the Republic of Tatarstan. On the part of CICD, the work has been supervised by A.S. Usmanov, Deputy Head of the organisation.

The major portion of the restoration work in Bolgar and Sviyazhsk has been done by ZAO Tatar Special Scientific Restoration Directorate (headed by Director General Y.A. Yegorushkin). The restorers apply the latest technologies, original design concepts and the most promising developments. The use of the progressive construction and restoration technologies makes it possible to preserve the historical buildings in the ancient Bolgar and the unique monuments of the Russian architecture and religion in Sviyazhsk for the generations to come.

The unique character of the Bolgar and Sviyazhsk historical, architectural, and natural landscape complex was confirmed by inclusion on the UNESCO

World Heritage Waiting List. Preserving in Bolgar and Sviyazhsk the charm of the old times, the unique spirit of history, the builders, at the same time, create modern touristic centres that are being built in accordance with the latest trends in architecture and technology; further develop the infrastructure (quays, communications, hotels, etc.).

The projects implemented nowadays will be the heritage for future generations.

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Bolgar







Bolgar Historical Background



In the 10th and 11th centuries, the town of Bolgar was the capital of the Volga Boulgaria, one of the largest early feudal states in Eastern Europe. Later, in the 13th and 14th centuries, it was the first capital of the Golden Horde, the centre of the Boulgar Ulus (Ulus Juchi) within the Golden Horde.

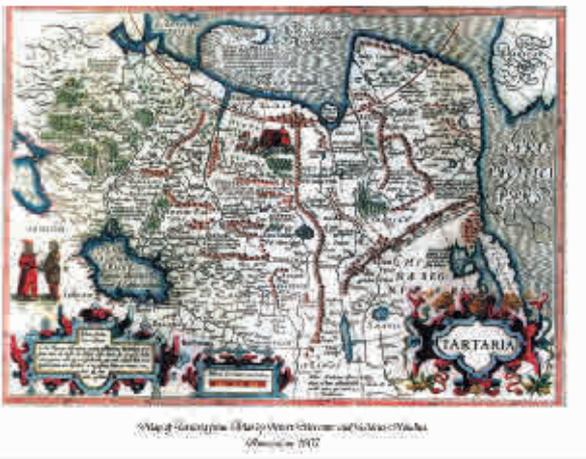
Situated in one of the most important, from strategic and trade points of view, places in Eastern Europe, at the juncture of the Kama and Volga, Bolgar had played, from the very beginning, a great role in the history of the peoples that lived in the Volga Region and a significant role in the history of the entire Eastern Europe.

In 922, the Boulgars, the ancestors of the present-day Kazan Tatars, had officially adopted Islam. In the 10th century, Bolgar minted coins, a symbol of the new state. Even at that time, the town was interesting for foreigners: Arabic and Persian chroniclers and geographers wrote about it. The town was mentioned in written sources, mostly the Oriental ones, as early as before the arrival of Ibn Fadlan to Bolgar. This information is supported by the analysis of the numismatic materials.

Bolgar held the key positions in trade between Eastern Europe and Middle Asia. The most important commodities, i.e. the products of crafts of the Northern peoples and their hunting products were transported through this town further to the east. Russian commodities were also transported through it. With time, various crafts began developing in Bolgar. In the 12th century, Bolgar ceased to be the capital, which moved to Bilyar, but retained its significance as an international marketplace. A certain role in this was played by numerous destructions of the town at the pre-Mongol period as a result of struggle for the Volga waterway.

That period was characterised by the growth of the economy, crafts, and trade ties of the town. Its area became larger; a new fortification line was created around it. By 1236, the fortified part of the town covered the area of 24 hectares. The relations between Bolgar and Rus grew stronger at that time.

In 1236, the town of Bolgar was seized and burnt down by the Mongols. The town's fortifications were dismantled. The town, together with the entire country, was included into the system of the uluses subordinated to the Juchids, i.e. became a part of the Golden Horde. Batu Khan chose Bolgar as its





first capital in 1242. Bolgar revived in the middle of the 13th century and became a most important town of the new state established by the Mongols on the western outskirts of their empire.

In the 13th century, Bolgar played the leading role in the Golden Horde. Russian, Armenian, and Bolgar princes had to come to the town in the 50s of the 13th century to ask for yarliks for reigning from Batu Khan. Later, at the time of Mengu-Timur, Berke Khan and, especially, at the time of Uzbeq, Bolgar remained to be one of the main economic, trade, cultural, and cult centres of the Golden Horde. It was here, where, in the 60s of the 13th century, at the time of Berke Khan there began the building of the Cathedral Mosque, the first construction of such type in Ulus Juchi. Bolgar was the first town in the Golden Horde to start minting coins in the 1250s on behalf of the Great Khans: Mengu and Ari-Bugi.

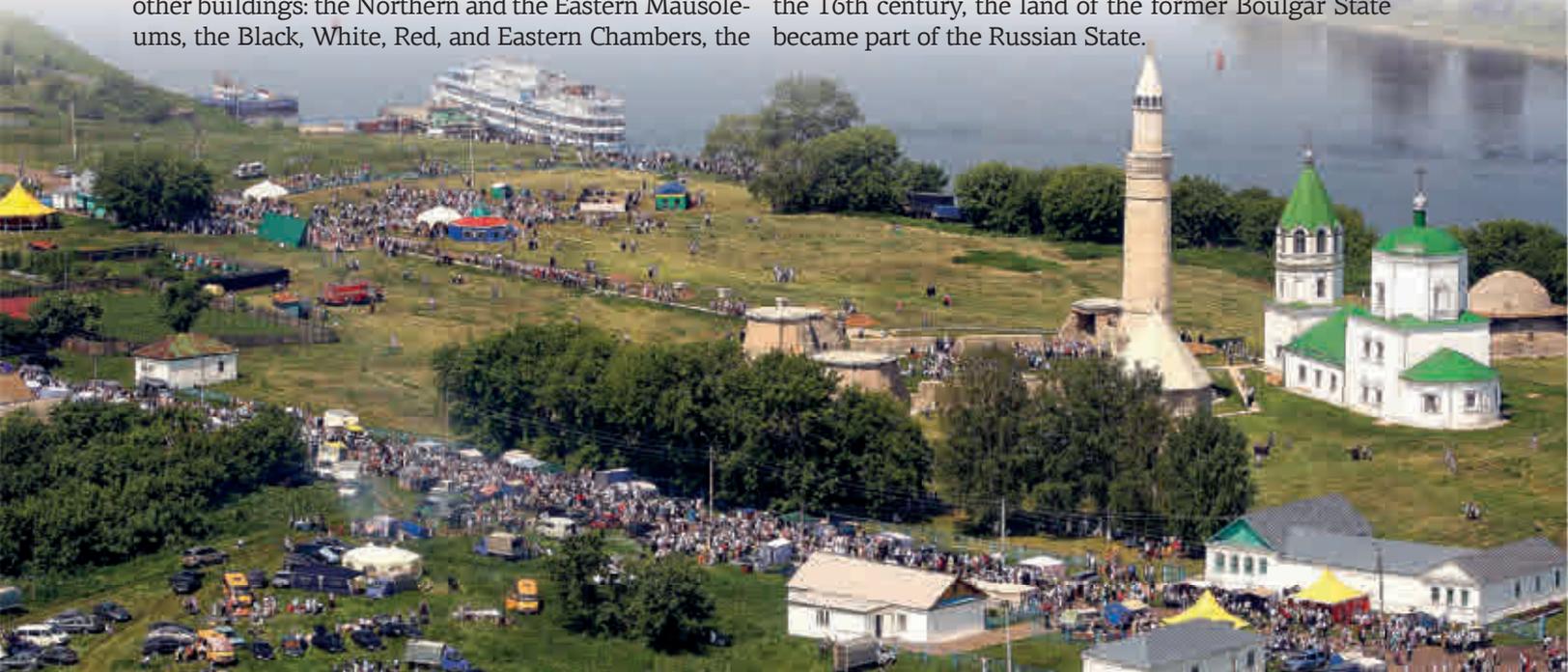
Bolgar became a huge and powerful town in the 14th century, despite the fact that the political centres of the Golden Horde shifted to the south, to Sarai. At that period, the town expanded significantly to the north, south, and west, and was encircled by fortification lines that included ramparts, moats, wooden walls and towers. The fortified part covered the area of 415 hectares.

Also expanding were the trade links between the town and the Lower Volga Region, Iran, Khorezm, the Caucasus, the Crimea, and Russian principalities. Developing was the specialised multi-branch domestic craft industry. It was in this town where, as early as in the 14th century, i.e. 2 centuries earlier than in Western Europe, they began producing cast iron. There appeared the monumental architectural constructions: palace buildings, mansion houses of the feudal nobility, caravan-serais, cathedral and quarter mosques, mektebe and madrasahs, public baths, mausoleums, and other buildings: the Northern and the Eastern Mausoleums, the Black, White, Red, and Eastern Chambers, the



Smaller Minaret, the Khans' shrines. The main Cathedral Mosque was reconstructed. The provision of amenities in the town was highly developed. The town had paved roads and waterworks, drainage and crib systems.

The endless feudal strife in the Horde, which included, among the rest, such episodes as the campaign of Bulat-Timur against Bolgar in 1361, campaigns of the ushkuiniks and Russian princes at the late 14th and early 15th centuries and, finally, the campaign of the Moscow troops headed by Prince Fyodor Pestry that were sent by the Great Prince Vasily II against Bolgar in 1431, lead to the final destruction of the town: from that time on, the town left the historical arena for ever and became just a place of pilgrimage of the Muslims to their sanctuaries. It became the place where the respectable Muslims were buried and the place where the spiritual people and dervishes lived. It is known that the Tatar poets of the 16th and 17th centuries Muhamedyar and Mevla-Koly wrote their works in Bolgar. In the 16th century, the land of the former Boulgar State became part of the Russian State.



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Cathedral Mosque





The construction of the Muslim temple, started soon after 1236, was completed at the end of the 13th century. The mosque is a preserved architectural construction of the early Golden Horde period. It is the main building of the complex that forms the ensemble of the public centre of Bolgar of the 13th – 14th centuries. Rectangular in its lay-out, its dimensions being 32x34 metres, it had inside 20 columns and was topped by wooden hipped roof. All walls of the mosque were plastered and reinforced by buttresses. On its southern side, it had the mihrab decorated with rich ornamental carving. In its shape and design, the original temple was quite close to the pre-Mongol mosque that was studied on the Bilyar site in 1973 - 1974 and belongs to the type of Oriental hall mosques with the multi-row supports, the portal entrance and one asymmetrically added minaret.

In the early 14th century, the mosque underwent the large-scale reconstruction, including the inner redesign: the prayer hall was divided into six naves by six elegant octagonal columns, two doorways and several window openings were cut through, strong towers were added in the corners. Judging by the materials of masonwork and techniques applied, the mosque resembles the constructions of Transcaucasia, the Crimea, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia. At the same time, it also contains the stylistic elements and motifs of the architecture of the Middle Asia adapted to local climatic conditions. So, from the stylistic point of view, the architecture of the Cathedral Mosque, as well as of the other monuments of the Bolgar site, represents a peculiar northern branch of Oriental architecture.

In 2011 – 2012, the Cathedral Mosque underwent a large-scale restoration, including the replacement of the artificial concrete blocks dating back to the restoration carried out in the 60s of the 20th century, restoration of the conservation masonwork, additional arrangement of the original tufaceous blocks, the arrangement of white-stone floors in the inner space of the mosque, the reconstruction of the carved columns and the restoration of the mihrab niche. The eastern corner tower was reconstructed. The eastern and western stone stairs were built.

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The Larger Minaret





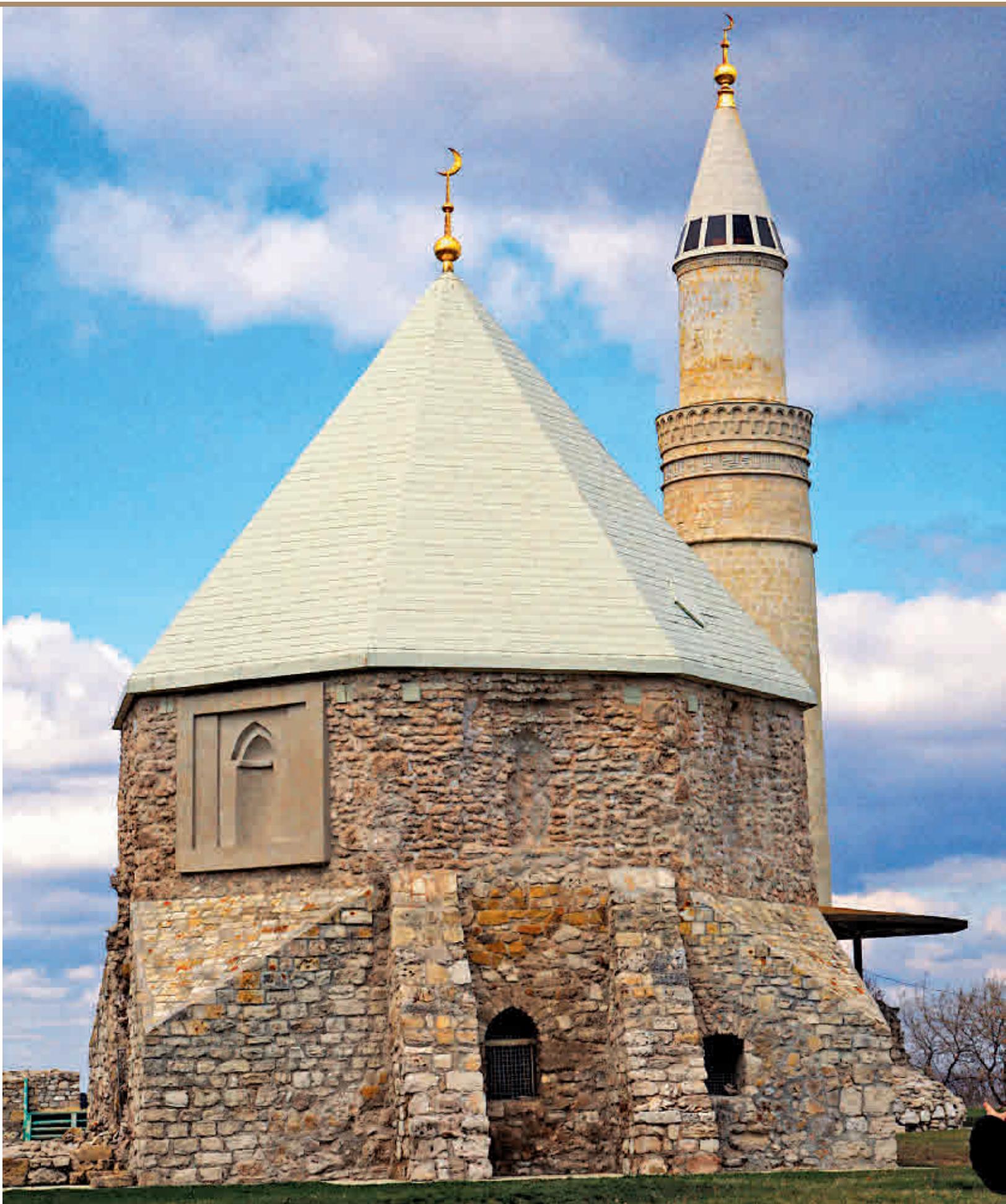
The main northern façade of the mosque was adjoined by the arched portal of the entrance and a tall tower known as the Larger Minaret. This very building is connected with the first in Russian history legal act aimed at the protection of architectural structures of the bygone ages: a Decree of Peter I on the necessity of restoration and study of the monuments of the ancient Bolgar. At the time of the Persian campaign, in 1722, the Emperor personally visited the Boulgar ruins, which aroused his keen interest. As early as being in Astrakhan, on 2 July 1722, the Emperor sent his personal decree to the Kazan Governor, A.P. Saltykov, requesting “in the Kazan Province, on the ancient Bolgar site, to repair the foundation of the stone building having two pillars that are called bell-towers in Tatar”.

The Larger Minaret was repaired, but did not preserve until our days (collapsed in 1841). Not long before its collapse, it was observed by E. Turnerelli, an English scientist. The Minaret is well known thanks to the measurement drawings of the 19th century. It represented a 24-metres-tall volume consisting of the upper small and lower large cylinders. The main body of the lower cylinder passed at the bottom through the octagonal tier into the square foundation of 5x5 m. Inside the minaret, leading to the upper cylindrical tier with the roundabout gallery, was a winding stairs that was lit through six small windows. Unlike the Smaller Minaret that also survived in Bolgar, the Larger Minaret was twice as high and had, at medium height of the façade, a carved inscription in Arabic, a sentence from the Koran. The monument was studied through archaeological excavations in 1892, 1915, 1946 and in 1964 – 1966. The Minaret in its original scope was restored in 2000 – 2002. In 2011 – 2012, the work was done to reconstruct the small cylinder of the minaret with the decoration of the arched decorative window openings, the replacement of the cover for brass plates, and the installation of a carved door.

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The Eastern Mausoleum





The Eastern Mausoleum (the St. Nicholas Church) was built of white stone after oriental mediaeval Muslim shrines with the projecting portal: the durbe mausoleums. It was erected in the 30s of the 14th century. The inner premise has a semi-spherical vault. On perimeter of the walls, in certain places, the clay resonator vessels were built in. The entrance section with the added portal niche faces the south. The rectangular shape of the building passes smoothly to the octagonal one owing to chamfers. Well-preserved is the semi-spherical cupola made of tufaceous bricks.

In its spatial structure, the Eastern Mausoleum is close to Middle-Asian mausoleums, while in the material of the masonwork, technique and shapes of its elements it is close to mausoleums of the Transcaucasia and the Crimea.

In 1712 - 1735, at the time when the Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery was located in the territory of the Bolgar site, the Eastern Mausoleum was reconstructed and transformed into an orthodox temple. The monument was studied through archaeological excavations in 1964 - 1966 and in 1991. Cleared here were the remains of seven wooden and stone burial vaults of the Golden Horde period. Some of them contained the remains of the buried people. The restoration work was done in 1967 - 1968. In 2011 - 2012, the urgent repair and rescue work was done to shore the foundation of the mausoleum with the arrangement of the roundabout gallery. Also done was the work for the treatment of the inner and outer walls with special solutions, and the impregnation of the foundation. The facility was turned into a museum: a multimedia exposition was organised.

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The Northern Mausoleum





The Northern Mausoleum (the Monastery Cellar) is situated opposite the main façade of the Cathedral Mosque. The white-stone shrine of the 14th century is well known from the historical sources from the 18th century. Identical in its lay-out, it differed from the Eastern Mausoleum with a larger size and certain elements: it is dumpier, has a long foundation of the portal, the resonators are arranged not as pipes but as three-dimensional vessels.

What remained of the original building is the foundation, the inner part of the walls with finishing, resonators, the lancet-arched shapes of the doorway and window openings, the corner chamfers of passages from the foundation to the octagonal piece and the round foundation of the cupola, and the remains of the projecting portal. The mausoleum was studied through archaeological excavations in 1964 and 1966. The main conservation and restoration work was done in the early 70s of the 20th century.

In 2011 – 2012, the repair and restoration work was done to restore the exterior of the monument. The concrete protecting plate and the metal columns were removed, and the outer masonwork of the cupola was reinforced. Also done was the work for the treatment of inner and outer walls with special solutions, and the impregnation of the foundation.

Inside the Mausoleum, there has been established a lapidarium, and the exposition dedicated to the Bolgar epigraphy was organised with the use of multimedia means: an exhibition of the Bolgar epigraphy of the 8th – 14th centuries. The epitaphs displayed here were collected from the entire territory of Bolgar, certain plates were found in the course of the reconstruction of the Assumption church. The standard elegant style of decoration of the epitaphs testifies to the high mastery of the Bolgar stone carvers. The information about the exhibits of the lapidarium is contained in the information terminal installed here. The lighting system was installed.

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The Assumption Church





The Assumption church, built in 1732 - 1734, is the only survived cult building out of the buildings of the monastery of the same name that existed here. The temple was built with the funds of Ivan Mikhlyayev, a Kazan merchant, while its bell-tower was erected with the funds of the parish. In 1841, the bell-tower was dismantled. In 1862, the currently existing one was built. When building the foundation of the church, the builders used the stones from the ruins of the Bolgar monuments. In the basement section of the church there are the Bolgar sepulchral monuments with Arabic and Armenian tomb stones that have a great scientific importance.

The church was built in the provincial baroque style and belongs to the "octagonal structure on octagonal structure" type that was popular in the 17th and 18th centuries. The main parts of the temple, its main volume with the semi-circular absis, the refectory and the bell-tower are situated along the same axis, as a nave. The Assumption church has simple proportions of a massive, close to the cube, main volume and the quadrangular frame, that resemble the Middle-Asian structures, and a modest decoration. The main elements of the architectural decoration are the cornice and the framing of the windows with half-columns and the figured fascia with stepped pattern. The builders stuck to the principle of artistic solidity with account for the compositional arrangement of the already existing structures: the building of the mosque with a minaret and mausoleums.

In 1965, 1977, 1982-1983, the restoration work was done in the church. In 2010 - 2011, the foundation was reinforced; the new stone flooring was installed, as well as the new roofing; the window frames, the heating- and power-supply systems were substituted with the new ones. The fire alarm system and video monitoring system were installed. Currently underway is the work for the creation of the exposition dedicated to the history of the village of Bolgary and the Spassky District.

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The Black Chamber





The Black Chamber is one of the best preserved buildings of the Golden Horde Bolgar (14th century). It was built of tufa and limestone. The roof of this four-tier structure is made in the form of a cupola. On the sides of the lower floor, there were small premises. Windows were made in all four walls of each tier. The fourth tier was built in the form of the octagonal structure. The artistic decoration of the premise was done in the cupola hall of the second tier with windows: the patterned carving on gypsum of the plastered walls, the framing of the stair passages, and the window grates. Only the central part has survived out of the common multi-tier architectural complex with the fragments of the interior.

From certain features of the elements (excluding the building material) it is seen that the Black Chamber is close to the Middle-Asian structures of the 14th century. Out of the preserved monuments of Oriental architecture, the closest links with its original image can be found in the Divan-khane in Baku, which was, according to sources, the khan's judicatory.

In the 18th century, it housed the monastery fumitory, which was organised by monks. Maybe this fact gave the name to this monument. In the 70s of the 19th century, owing to the preservation of the Black Chamber, the Archaeological, Historical, and Ethnographic Society under Kazan University established a museum of antiques here. It collected the tomb stones, large architectural elements of the Bolgar ruins. The archaeological research was conducted at the Black Chamber in 1957 and 1966. The restoration of the chamber was performed in 1884 - 1926, 1956, 1976, and 1987. In 2010 - 2012, the large-scale work was done here for waterproofing and hydrophobisation of the unique monument, the only civic structure preserved in Bolgar from the 14th century, and for the dismantling of the conservation masonwork of the roundabout gallery.



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The White Chamber





The exterior of this monumental building is well known from the description given by Academician P.S. Pallas in 1768. The monument ruined in the 60s of the 19th century, but there preserved the numerous images of the structure made in the second half of the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries. The best drawings are considered to be such done by F. Erdman in the 20 s of the 19th century, the drawings by P.P. Svinyin dating back to 1823, the plan and the drawings done by A. Schmidt in 1827 and the drawings by N.N. and N.G. Chernetsovs of 1838, and the paintings by A.K. Savrasov and I.I. Shishkin that were made somewhat later.

The cross-shaped and richly decorated building consisted of the central cupola hall, the cloakroom, several small washing rooms, and the heating chamber. The baths in the East, including Bolgar, had not only the sanitary role, but were also a place to have rest, hold business talks, conclude trade agreements.

The latest archaeological studies of the building were done in the 80s of the 20th century. The scientists have opened up the heating furnaces, the hot air ducts, the cold and hot water-supply systems and the used water removal system that met the standards of the civilised East.

Water for the baths was taken from the three wells located nearby that were 10 - 12 metres deep. The researchers revealed the remains of the excavations and repair work done in 1877. Found in the White Chamber at the same time were the stone fountains and water basins that are currently represented at the museum. In the 1990s, the conservation of the monument was performed. In 2012, the conservation masonwork of the walls was dismantled and recreated; the corner blocks of the under-cupola space were installed; the entire complex was treated with water-repellent and hydrophobic compounds; the foundation was made water-proof.

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The Smaller Minaret





Built in the second half of the 14th century, the Smaller Minaret is mentioned in the historical sources starting from 1712. It represents a stone volume that is 16 metres high. The arched entrance and the ornamental niche have a rich decoration made in the fine stone carving technique. The traces of the decoration are also found at the upper roundabout gallery, to which leads the stone winding stairs.

The minaret got its name of the Smaller Minaret from the fact that it is smaller than the minaret that was located in the central part of the site. This place is much respected by the Muslims. The Muslim Tatars have a tradition to visit the ancient minaret and the mosque of Bolgar to carry out the memorial service in the memory of the deceased.

In 2010, a memorandum was signed about the participation of the Zenith Bank Group in the reconstruction and proper maintenance of the monuments of history and culture of the ancient town of Bolgar and the island-town of Sviyazhsk in the Republic of Tatarstan. In 2011, the bank provided funds to restore the Smaller Minaret: the repair and restoration work was done, as well as the conservation work to clean and reinforce the walls; the cupola was covered by brass panels. The entrance section of the monument was reconstructed: the stone stairs was installed, and the fragment of the decorative framing of the entrance portal was reconstructed.



Investor:
OAO Zenith Bank
Chairman of the Board of Directors: A.A. Sokolov



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Khan's Shrine





Northward of the Smaller Minaret there preserved the ruins of three shrines, one of which is called the khan's one. The Khan's Shrine is a part of the architectural complex of buildings of the 14th – early 15th centuries that stretch from east to west and known from historical sources since the 18th century. The complex was studied through archaeological excavations in 1914 and in 1968 – 1969. A furnace and the under-floor heating ducts were found in the addition to the shrine. The mausoleum underwent the conservation and restoration in 2005 – 2006.



At the same time, in the area that lies to the south and to the east of the Smaller Minaret, there have been opened up the foundations of architectural structures dating back to the late 15th century that include not just the mausoleums of different sizes, but also the buildings having other purposes evidenced by existence of the heating systems in them. They all were conserved and opened for observation. The stone buildings of the mausoleums, the brick tomb stones and the crypts that preserved in them show that here there was a necropolis of the noble people.

In 2011 – 2012, the restorers dismantled the later concrete blocks and the conservation masonry made with the cement mortar in the western and eastern sections of the mausoleum and restored the masonry of the walls of the western Mausoleum with the use of the sawn stone, of the Eastern Mausoleum – with the use of the crushed stone; cleaned the cupolas of the Central Mausoleum; and treated the complex with water-repellent hydrophobic solutions.

Investor:
citizens of the Aktanyshsky District of the
Republic of Tatarstan



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The Eastern Chamber





The Eastern Chamber, which is sometimes called the Khan's Bath, represents the ruins of the town bath. The brick and stone building of the 13th century is known from historical sources from the 18th century. The inner layout of the premises can be traced, as well as the remains of the engineering utilities (under-floor heating system, vents, water-supply and sewage systems), which resemble, in general, the design of the Red and, especially, of the White Chambers. It is believed that they are the remains of the largest and the earliest bath in Bolgar.

The chamber was studied through archaeological excavations in 1983 – 1993. The analysis of the numismatic material obtained in the course of cleaning the premises made it possible to correct the time of its building and use. It was established that it was intensively used as early as in the early 90s of the 13th century and existed until the 30–40s of the 14th century. The conservation and restoration work was done here at the late 1990s and in 2011 - 2012. The conservation masonwork of the walls was restored with the use of sawn stone. The lost corner blocks were restored, as well as the floors made of plinthiform bricks and white stone in the under-cupola space of the building; the heating ducts were reconstructed.





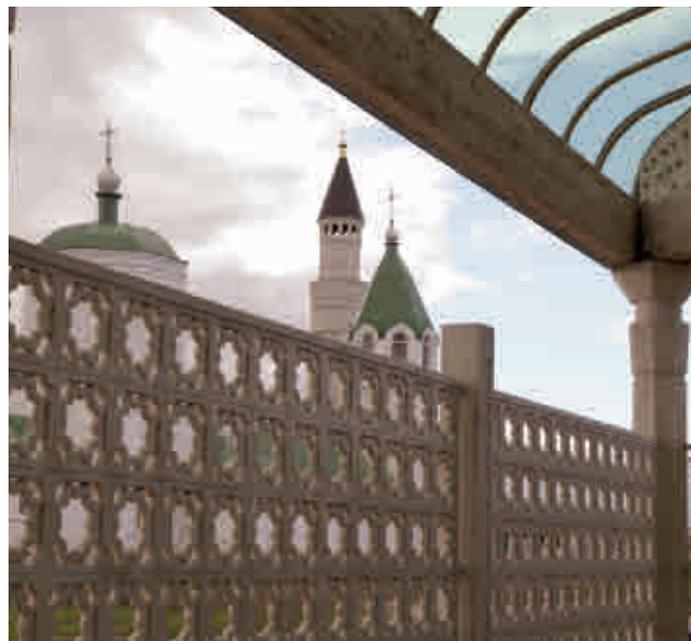
Khan's Palace



The entire central complex of architectural monuments of Bolgar had shaped completely in the first half of the 14th century. It included the (Khan's) palace, a monumental building with the corner pylon towers, rectangular in its design (inner dimensions: 24x29 m.), situated on the edge of the upper plateau of the site, 90 - 100 m. north-eastward of the cathedral Mosque, above the Red Chamber. The monument represents the remains of the brick and stone structure of rectangular shape, elongated from north to south, with round towers in its corners – a typical ensemble, usual for palace ensembles of Central Asia, Iran, and India.

The excavations showed that the building was built on the place of the earlier defensive rampart that stretched under the building along its western wall from north to south. Preserved from that period are the walls: the foundations made of little crushed stone treated with limestone mortar, the base, the outer section of the wall was made of well-matched white-stone blocks, the internal part of the walls – made of plinthiform bricks, the central part was packed with crushed bricks on limestone mortar. At the next period of the building's existence, the mihrab on the southern side was replaced by the entrance group made of bricks in the form of a large portal.

The monument was studied with intervals from 1994; opened up were over 1000 sq. m. The material accumulated through





excavations makes it possible to date the beginning of its construction as mid-13th century. The study gave the evidence that the structure belongs to the complex of the khan's court of Batu Khan (1208 - 1255), the ruler of the Golden Horde (from 1227), son of Juchi and grandson of Genghis Khan.

This is seen from the architectural peculiar features of the complex and the body of the findings. Found in it were the items that date back to mid-13th century, including the coins minted in 1240 - 1259.

In 2011 - 2012, the specialists of ZAO TSN-RU performed the work for conservation of the preserved foundations, partial reconstruction of the lost elements of the building: the outer walls and corner towers were raised to the variable height from the 1st to the 3rd white-stone blocks as a string course with the inner brick-work made of plinthiform bricks; for museification of a fragment of the archaeological excavation with the revealed structures and the inner space of the monument.

A protecting structure was installed over the complex that was designed by GUP Tatinvestgrazhdanproyekt, which represents an open tent having the area of some 2000 sq. m. The protective structure was made by contracting organisations OAO Alexeyevskdorstroy (Director General: F.V. Valiev) and OAO Stroydorservis (Director: I.I. Zaidarov) in full compliance with the UNESCO requirements for technologies used for protection of this unique monument of architecture against weather effects. The monolith polycarbonate produced by SafPlast, a Kazan plant, was used to cover the site.





Archaeological Studies of Bolgar



In the space of the global civilisation there are several main regions in which the constant and diverse interaction of peoples and cultures took place. The Volga Region is, undoubtedly, one of such regions. It is here where the pages of different peoples, like invaluable pearls, are beaded on the thread of the centuries-old historical and cultural interaction.

The study of the Volga Region is a global historical, cultural, and civilisational issue that embraces a broad range of sciences and independent trends in scientific research. Nowadays, when the influence of the destructive factors that break the unity of the world is still strong, it is extremely important to seek and find the ways to unit it. We see in this the most important sense and a deep implication.

The great interest in history and culture of our region and peoples that inhabited it in the past is quite natural. The history of the Volga Region was saturated with dramatic collisions and turns, which is explained, first of all, by the fact that from the time immemorial it was a knot of the contact zones and crossings of civilisations. This “melting pot” gave birth to numerous cultures and great states of the past, which made a huge contribution to the development of the Eurasian civilisation and are its integral part. That is why the study of historical processes, and of the Middle Ages in particular, can cast light on the sources of the present-day problematic situations.

An integrated study of the history of the Volga Region is obviously of great research and practical importance and, naturally, contributes to the closer coordination of efforts of the researchers of different fields of specialisation from many cities of Russia and the world. Today, the coordinated work of the Academy of Sciences of Tatarstan and the Russian Academy of Sciences, their institutes and divisions, of the newly established Kazan Federal University, and with support from governmental authorities, ensured the conducting of the integrated research.

No wonder that the preserved ruins, which witnessed the real events of the centuries-old past, have long attracted attention of travellers, naturalists, artists, collectors or just treasure-hunters, the latter have even established a craft industry engaged in extraction and sales of antiques, dismantling of the masonwork of the preserved buildings, thus contributing to their rapid destruction and complete loss.

The first detailed description of the Bolgar site and its monuments dates back to 1712, when scribe Mikhailov made a list in connection with the establishment here of the men’s Assumption Monastery. Ten years after that, when travelling along the Volga,



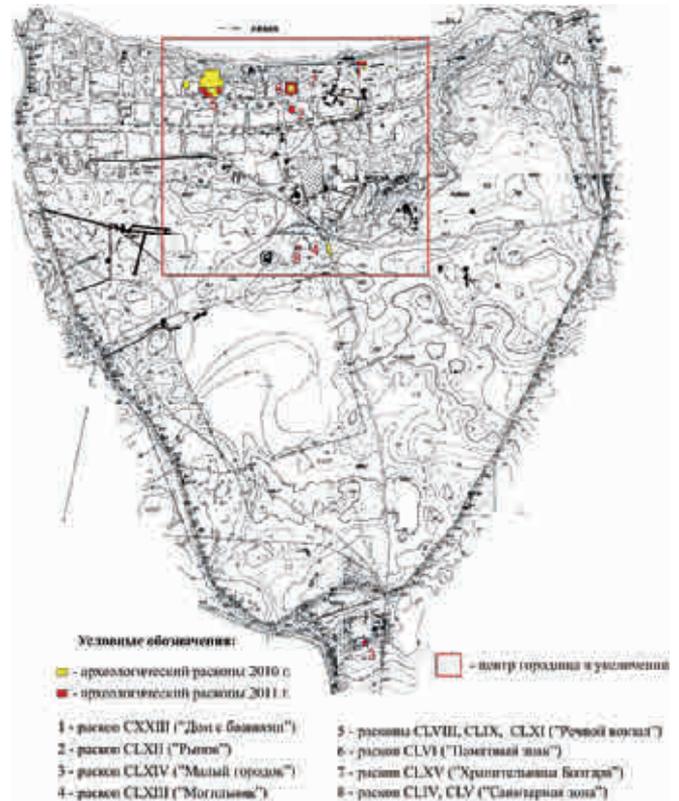
Tsar Peter I visited the site. Having seen the ruins, he ordered to take measures to preserve the stone structures.

The systematic studies of the site that were started 75 years ago, in 1938, under the guidance of A.P. Smirnov made it possible to obtain rich and diverse material on many issues of history and culture of the town of Bolgar at different periods of its life, including such related to historical and social topography, pace of development of its area, construction, crafts, trade, improvement, etc.

From 2010, which is connected with the establishment, on the initiative of M.S. Shaimiev, the First President of the Republic of Tatarstan, of the Republic's Foundation for Revival of the Monuments of History and Culture intended to contribute to the development of the Bolgar museum-reserve, the museum of the island-town of Sviyazhsk, and other monuments of history and culture located in the territory of Tatarstan, the large-scale work has been done to implement these tasks.

Within the framework of implementing the programme, the excavations of the Bolgar site were carried out in 2010 - 2011. The research was aimed at studying the destructible cultural layer in places where the work for museification and improvement of the territory of the monuments is being done.

The archaeological studies were carried out by the National Centre for Archaeological Research under the guidance of the Institute for History named after S. Marjani of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan with attraction of specialists of Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University, the Institute for Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and other educational institutions. Great support to the specialists was rendered by the students and school children of Tatarstan and the neighbouring regions.





Archaeological Studies of Bolgar



The vast archaeological excavations of the monument produced an interesting material related to the history of their formation and the development of the mediaeval material culture of Eastern Europe. The studies were carried out with the broad use of the modern methods of research. The new results were obtained with the use of non-destructive geophysical and remote aerospace methods that helped localise many monumental stone buildings hidden by thick cultural layer. The new page for study was opened by research conducted in respect of the items of material culture with the use of a complex of methods used by natural sciences and aimed at the reconstruction of the paleoecology, of the technological peculiarities of production of mediaeval products, as well as the study of the anthropogenetics of the population of the mediaeval Bolgar.

The materials obtained in 2010 - 2011 made it possible to learn many new things about what long seemed to be well known facts of history and culture of Bolgar, as well as to change the long-standing views of the development and planigraphy of a mediaeval town. It became possible owing to the large-scale, in terms of the area, archaeological study in the territory of the monument. The total volume of the study was some 20 000 sq. m. of excavations in the territory of the site. All in all nearly 150 specialists and laboratory workers took part in these excavations. Some 800 people from many organisations of the republic and other regions took part as workers in the opening up of the cultural layerings.

The last three years of archaeological studies have brought the unique information on the mediaeval history of the town of Bolgar. Found in the territory of the site in the course of excavations were the whole districts of dwelling structures in the central part of the site with the remains of mansion houses. The building of the Khan's Palace is one of the large facilities that became the object of excavations carried out over these years. The other large monumental building studied in the centre of the site includes the remains of the stone baths nearby the river boat station.

Apart from the excavations carried out in the central part, the excavations were also carried out in other locations of the huge site. The excavations in the Small Town located on the southern edge of the site revealed the remains of a white-stone building of the mid-14th century. Close to the southern gate of Bolgar there have been revealed the remains of the foundation of a large stone mausoleum of the 14th century. A special research was conducted at the burials of the mediaeval necropolises of the monument that gave an interesting material related to sepulchral traditions of that time. The systematic



work helped open up the remains of potter's furnaces that were found in the area of Lake Galankino.

The structures found in the course of the research became an object of the systematic study and restoration work. To preserve the revealed facilities, not only the conservation of the revealed structures was carried out, but also the protective structures were designed and installed over these facilities ensuring not only the preservation of the ancient structures, but also forming the new historical and cultural environment of the monument for visits of tourists.

The results of the integrated study will become the basis for the creation of a new level of historical knowledge and for increasing the importance of archaeological science in general. Considering the long-term prospects and the potential of historical areas, first of all of Bolgar, the proper conditions are being created for further work of archaeologists.

The construction of a special archaeological complex has been finished in Bolgar. It will be a scientific base that will meet all modern requirements and will become a large centre of international research collaboration.

Investor:
OAO Gazprom
Chairman of the Board: A.B. Miller

Contracting organisation:
OOO Gran
Director General: L.V. Anisimov



Cultural
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of Tatarstan
Bolgar



Memorial sign in honour of official adoption of Islam by the Volga Boulgars in 922





On 21 May 2012, a memorial sign in honour of the official adoption of Islam by the Volga Bulgars in 922 was officially opened in Bolgar at a ceremony held with the participation of Rustam Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Mintimer Shaimiev, State Counsellor of the Republic of Tatarstan, Ildar Khalikov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tatarstan, Farid Mukhametshin, Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan, Talgad Tajuddin, Chairman of the Central Spiritual Board of Muslims and Supreme Mufty of Russia.

The idea was initiated by Ildar Galyaoutdinov, Chairman of the Board of OAO Akibank. The investors in the construction of the memorial sign are OAO Tatenergo and OAO Akibank. The project was developed by GUP Tatinvestgrazhdanproyekt. The general contractor of the project is OAO Gran. The sign represents an octagonal building, 25 metres-high, with a round cupola made of titanite topped by Muslim crescent and styled as an ancient Bulgar architecture. Trim stone was brought from Italy. The classical calligraphy of sayings and surahs from the Koran that decorate the cupola hall was made by hottat (calligrapher) Ramil Nasyboullin.

In the central hall there has been installed, on a special stand, the Koran that was made by Italian masters on the initiative of Ildar Galyaoutdinov. This unique book, owing to its high level of artistic execution, was recognised by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation as a cultural valuable. The Koran installed in the memorial sign is the





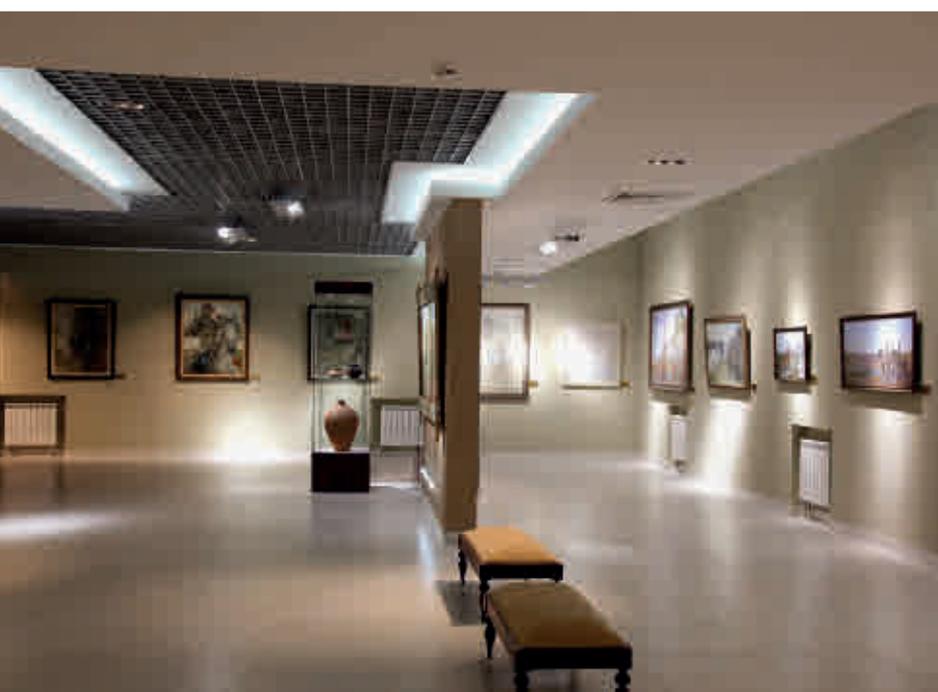
Memorial sign in honour of the official adoption of Islam by the Volga Boulgars in 922



world's largest printed edition of the Holy Scripture of Muslims, which is confirmed by the certificate of the Guinness Book of Records. It has the record-breaking dimensions: length – 2 metres, width – 1.5 metres, weight – 800 kg. It is decorated with precious and semi-precious stones. The Koran was made with the use of malachite plates, leaf gold, silver, turquoise, corals, dark-green aventurine, amethyst, zircon, lasurite, red jade, and topaz.

The hall also contains a three-dimensional map of the route of the embassy sent by Al-Muqtadir, the Abbasid caliph, which was made by architect Rustam Gabbasov from dolomite, shell stone, marble, and metal.

The basement store houses a picture gallery consisting over one hundred works made by artists from Tatarstan, and a museum and exhibition complex intended for exhibitions and conferences. Represented in the exposition of the complex are the archaeological findings, originals and copies of written sources, numismatics and jewellery articles, as well as the specimens of figurative art, including a mosaic panel designed by Farit Valiullin, who was also the head of a group of the artists who created it. The panel narrates about the day on which the Volga Boulgars adopted Islam as the official religion of the state (922) and the ceremony of the meeting between Bolgar's Almush Khan and the delegation of the Baghdad caliph.





The main and the most important historical evidence of this event is the “Note” about the trip to the Volga of Ahmed Ibn Fadlan who visited the Volga Boulgaria as a member of the embassy of Al-Muqtadir, the Abbasid caliph. The embassy left Baghdad in 921 and arrived in the Volga Boulgaria in May 922. Ibn Fadlan made a detailed report in which he gave the unique information of historical and ethnographic nature. The publications of the text of the “Note” in Arabic, Tatar, Russian, and German are also represented in the expositions of the Memorial Sign.



Investors:
OAO Tatenergo
Director General: I.S. Fardiev

OAO Akibank
Chairman of the Board: I.K. Galyautdinov

Contracting organisation:
OOO Gran Director General: L.V. Anisimov



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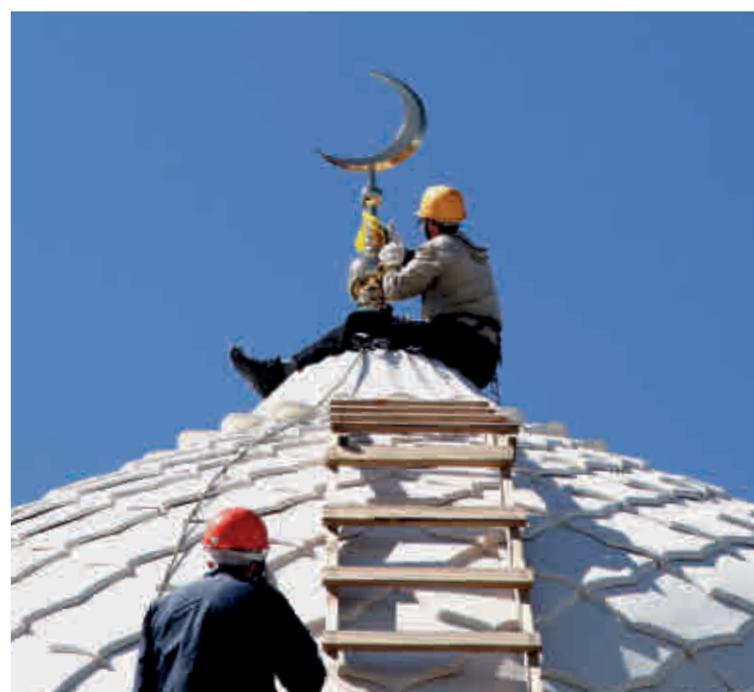
The White Mosque





The White Mosque was officially opened on 10 June 2012 with participation of a wide public within the framework of the Bolgar Forum "Izge Bolgar Jiyeny".

The ensemble of the White Mosque (Ak Mechet), which was erected by design of architect Sergey Shakurov, includes the buildings of a Muslim temple, a residence of the mufti, and a madrasah, which encircle the prayer square, musallah, with a fountain in its centre and encircled by an arcade of 88 snow-white columns. Owing to the open arcade, visitors do not lose visual contact with nature and archaeological excavations of the ancient Bolgar.



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Bolgar



The White Mosque





The mosque strikes with its geometric ornaments, carved decoration, elegance of interiors, and its overall stylistics. The area of the prayer hall is 180 sq. m. Two minarets of the mosque, 46.5 metres high, which were made, by proposal of Mintimer Shaimiev, the First President of Tatarstan, in the style of the minarets of the Mosque of the Prophet located in Medina, the famous place of pilgrimage of the Muslims of the world, enframe the main building of the sanctuary that is topped by the cupola with diameter of 10 metres, height of 17 metres in its interior measurement and decorated with traditional decorative elements. One thousand and two hundred tonnes of marble were used for its construction. The white colour of the mosque stands for peace and purity.

A lake was created on the square, reflected in which is the whole White Mosque.



Investors:

Metalloinvest Holding, founder: A.B. Usmanov,

“Development of Ukraine”

Charitable Fund, founder: R.L. Akhmetov,

ОАО Tatneft,

Director General: S.F. Takhautdinov,

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation,

Secretary General: Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

Contracting organisation:

ООО Гран Director General: L.V. Anisimov



Cultural
Heritage
of Tatarstan
Bolgar



The “Museum of Bread” Museum and Touristic Complex





The “Museum of Bread” Museum and Touristic Complex was opened in Bolgar on 21 May 2012. It represents the history of farming and bread production in the territory of Tatarstan from ancient times until present days. The museum complex re-creates the entire farming cycle, starting from grain growing to bread making with the demonstration of the ethnographic peculiarities of everyday life and husbandry of the Boulgars and Kazan Tatars with the retained colouring of a Tatar village. The total area is some 5 hectares.

The Museum includes the main exposition, a farmstead of a miller, the wind-and water-mills, a barn, a thrashing-floor, a bakery, a smithery, the rows of shopping stalls of folk craftsmen.

The main exposition of the Museum of Bread is situated in the main building occupying the area of 320 sq. m. It represents the exhibits that show the historical role of bread in lives of the peoples of Tatarstan.



Cultural
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Bolgar



The “Museum of Bread” Museum and Touristic Complex





The main exposition introduces the visitors to the history of the development of material and spiritual culture connected with farming and bread production, the national traditions, the dynasties of the well-known grain-growers of Tatarstan.

The unique exhibits dating back to the Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, and early Middle Ages show the hard way covered by the first farmers: from digging sticks and grub-hoe to field farming. The types of agricultural work are shown together with the evolution of the agronomical knowledge and skills of the farmers and through the development of their instruments and technology: from manual and harness implements to machinery. The second hall is dedicated to the history of bread production in the territory of Tatarstan from the ancient times to the early 21st century.

The expositions are also situated in the other buildings of the museum complex.

Investors:

Enterprises of the agro-industrial complex under guidance of the Ministry for Agriculture and Food Stuffs of the Republic of Tatarstan, Minister: M.G. Akhmetov





The Healer's House Craftsmen's Workshops



The Russia's only museum of Arabic-Muslim medicine, the Healer's House, was opened on 5 October 2012 in the central part of the site. The funds for construction of the museum were invested by the Russian Standard Holding (Chairman of the Board: Rustam Tariko).

The main goal of the scientific concept of the museum is to show the role of Bolgar and the Volga Boulgaria as one of the centres of development of science, and, in particular, of medicine, natural sciences and pharmacology, as well as of the developed crafts related to these fields of knowledge.

The major theme of the exposition is the works by Tajaddin al-Boulgari, a mediaeval doctor from the Volga Boulgaria, who was well-known in the Muslim world. The copies of the manuscripts by Tajaddin al-Boulgari titled "At-Tiriyak al-kabir" (The Large Tiryak), "Al-Adwiya al-mufrada" (Simple Medicines), and "Muhtasar fi ma'rifa al-adwiya" (Short Book for Knowing Medicines) were obtained from the reserves and repositories of museums and libraries of Iran and Turkey.

Investor:
Russian Standard Corporation,
President: R.V. Tariko





At the Golden Horde period, there was a city market with the rows of craftsmen's workshops in the central part of the town not far from the Cathedral Mosque. Scientists note that, along with the considerable quantity of numismatic material, recorded at the excavations, also clearly localised is the raw material, semi-finished materials, articles and instruments made of bone, glass, gypsum, and non-ferrous metal. The creation of the craftsmen's workshops is the next step in the development of the museum and touristic complex, one of the objectives of which is carrying out the work aimed at the preservation and popularisation of traditional crafts that existed from ancient times. This building, constructed with the funds of the Russian Standard Holding, has all necessary conditions for present-day masters for setting-up production and holding the interactive lessons for visitors to the museum. It has the master classes and shopping stalls of potters, craftsmen working with metal, leather, and wood, who have carefully restored Boulgar technologies.

Investor:
Russian Standard Corporation,
President: R.V. Tariko





River Boat Station



The river boat station, integrated with the museum complex, is situated in the territory that adjoins the Bolgar site, on the embankment of the River Volga.

The main purpose of the complex is to accept touristic flows arriving by river transport. The inner structure of the complex includes the premises having the functions of a station and several levels of museum expositions dedicated to history and culture of Bolgar. The architectural image of the building reflects the motifs of traditional Boulgar culture. Three towers of the river boat station symbolise the images of three large Boulgar towns: Bolgar, Suvar, and Bilyar. The latter two will accommodate the exhibition halls with the information and materials on the history of centres of the domains of the Volga Boulgaria.

The museum of the Boulgar civilisation, based on exclusive, from the point of view of their significance, collections of the Bolgar museum-reserve, the museum collections of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation, reveals the historical role of the ancient Bolgar in the establishment and development of the Boulgar civilisation and the world culture in general. The exposition consists of four sections.





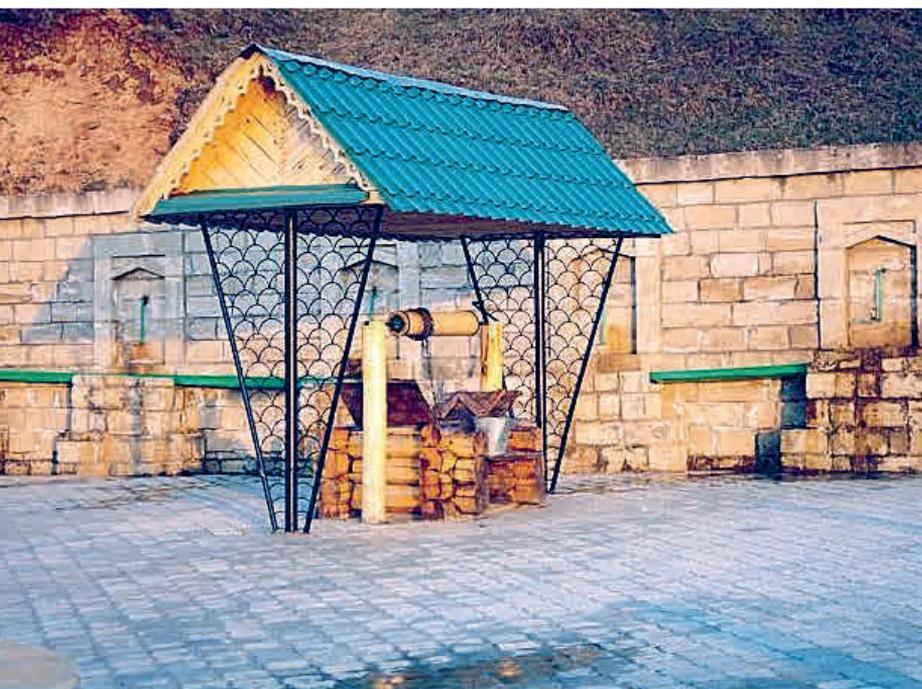
The “Discovery of Ancient Bolgar” section contains information about Bolgar from Oriental, ancient Russian, and European mediaeval works, as well as about the history of study and preservation of the cultural heritage of Bolgar in the mid-19th – early 20th centuries, at the Soviet period, and at the present time. The “Sources and Establishment of the Boulgar Civilisation” section tells about the origin of the Volga Boulgars, their position and role in a vast geographical area: from China to Western Europe. The “Ancient Bolgar” section shows Bolgar as a specimen of Islamic mediaeval city culture: its fortifications, architecture and amenities, craft industry, trade and international links, as well as the anthropology of the population. The “Nature of the Region” section will consist of information on the natural conditions of the area of the town of Bolgar.

Investor:
OAO Tatneft
Director General: S.F. Takhautdinov

Contracting organisation:
OOO PSO Kazan
Director General: R.K. Ziganshin



Captain's Well Monument to Sahabs



Located in the north-eastern part of the Bolgar site, at the estuary of the Jerusalem ravine, is the Captain's Well. The well was named in honour of N.P. Rychkov, an explorer of the region, who lived in the 18th century. The Tatar population calls the well "Gabbrakhman sakhabe koyesy" and links it to the coming of one of the followers of Prophet Mohammed to the land of Bolgar.

The legend runs that the healing water of this well, which appeared in the place where the stick of sahib Gabdrakhman touched the ground, helped the khan's daughter to recover from illness. After the miraculous recovery of the princess, the khan and his servitors adopted Islam. This legend was born on the basis of the events described in the notebook of an Arabic-speaking merchant from Grenada, Hamid al-Garnati, who visited the Volga Bulgaria in 1135 and read the book written by Yakub ibn Nougman, a Boulgar qadi (judge) and historian of the 11th - 12th centuries.

Another name of this well, the Captain's Well, is connected with the name of the Russian traveller and geographer Nikolay Rychkov (1746 - 1784), who took part in the expedition of the Petersburg Academy of sciences headed by Peter Simon Pallas. In 1769, Captain Rychkov explored the rampart and the area adjoining the well. The bog iron ore was found here, as well as saltpetre, which is required for gunpowder production.

The reconstruction and improvement of the territory of the complex were performed by design developed by GUP Tat-investgrazhdanproyekt.

Investors:
OAO Lukoil
President: V.Y. Alekperov

OAO Ritek
Chairman of the Board of Directors: V.I. Graifer



A memorial sign designed by sculptor an artist Rustam Gabbasov was installed on 18 June 2012 on the place where the sahabs were buried. The memorial sign represents an octagonal plate with an arch on it. It supports are covered by names of three associates of Prophet Mohammed written in Tatar, Russian, and Arabic, and the sign itself is decorated by the relief image of a turban, stick, and pen. The book titled “Tawarihy Boulgaria” written by Khisamoutdin ibn Sarafoutdin al-Muslimi, a Tatar historian, contains a legend that runs that Aidar Khan ascended the throne of Boulgaria in 631. According to the legend, Prophet Mohammad sent three of his associates, Abdrakhman ibn Zubair, Talha ibn Gusman, and Zubair ibn Jagda, to Bolgar under the guise of doctors. Zubair ibn Jagda, resting on the stick of the Prophet (salla Allahu alahy wa sallam), made a sermon, for the first time on this land. Twelve years later, two associates returned to Medina, while Hanzal, having married the khan’s daughter, Tuybike, remained in Bolgar. According to the legend, he was buried in the area where the Khan’s Shrine was later built.

Investor:
State Housing Fund under President
of the Republic of Tatarstan
Executive Director: T.M. Abdoullin





Tent Camp Festival and Event Complex



The tent camp is located in the central part of the Bolgar site. It represents a complex of mobile structures, the tents for individual stay, large marquees, and stationary equipped premises for common use. The investor of this project is OAO NPO Tatelectromash (Director General: Ildus Islamov). The tent camp is intended for placement of pilgrims, visitors, and tourists in summertime period.

The tent camp was put into operation in 2011. Every summer, the tent camp accommodates the participants of the “Izge Bolgar Jiyeny” forum, the students doing practical summer archaeological work. The camp accepts the participants of various festivals and forums. Thus, in 2011, the camp accommodated the participants of the First Children’s Historical Festival. In 2012, the tent camp was the place for holding the events of the youth educational forum, “Salat”.

Investor:
OAO NPO Tatelectromash
Director General: I.Z. Islamov





The festival and event complex of the Spassky District is situated near the Museum of Bread beyond the southern limit of the Bolgar site. This is a mobile assembly structure that has a conference hall for 500 seats. The complex can hold all kinds of mass events: concerts, performances, creative meetings, etc.



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Bolgar



Infrastructure





There are several kilometres of motor ways having rigid asphalt covering in the territory of the Bolgar site, which cross the site from north to south and from west to east. There have been built the footpaths between the monuments of architecture, a new pedestrian bridge cross the Jerusalem ravine, and the area near the Memorial Sign and the White Mosque was developed.

The new green spaces were created in the vicinity of the Smaller Minaret and the Khan's Shrine, the Black Chamber, the Gabdrakhman's well, the White Mosque, and the Museum of Bread.



Investors: gas:
OOO Gazprom Transgaz Kazan
Director General: R.A. Kantuykov;

power: OAO Tatenergo
Director General: I.K. Gaifoullin

The passage towers in the western, eastern, and southern passages of the Bolgar site were reconstructed.



Investors:
co-owners of OAO SMP-Neftegaz,
father and son F.F. Komarov and R.F. Komarov

Cultural
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of Tatarstan

Sviyazhsk





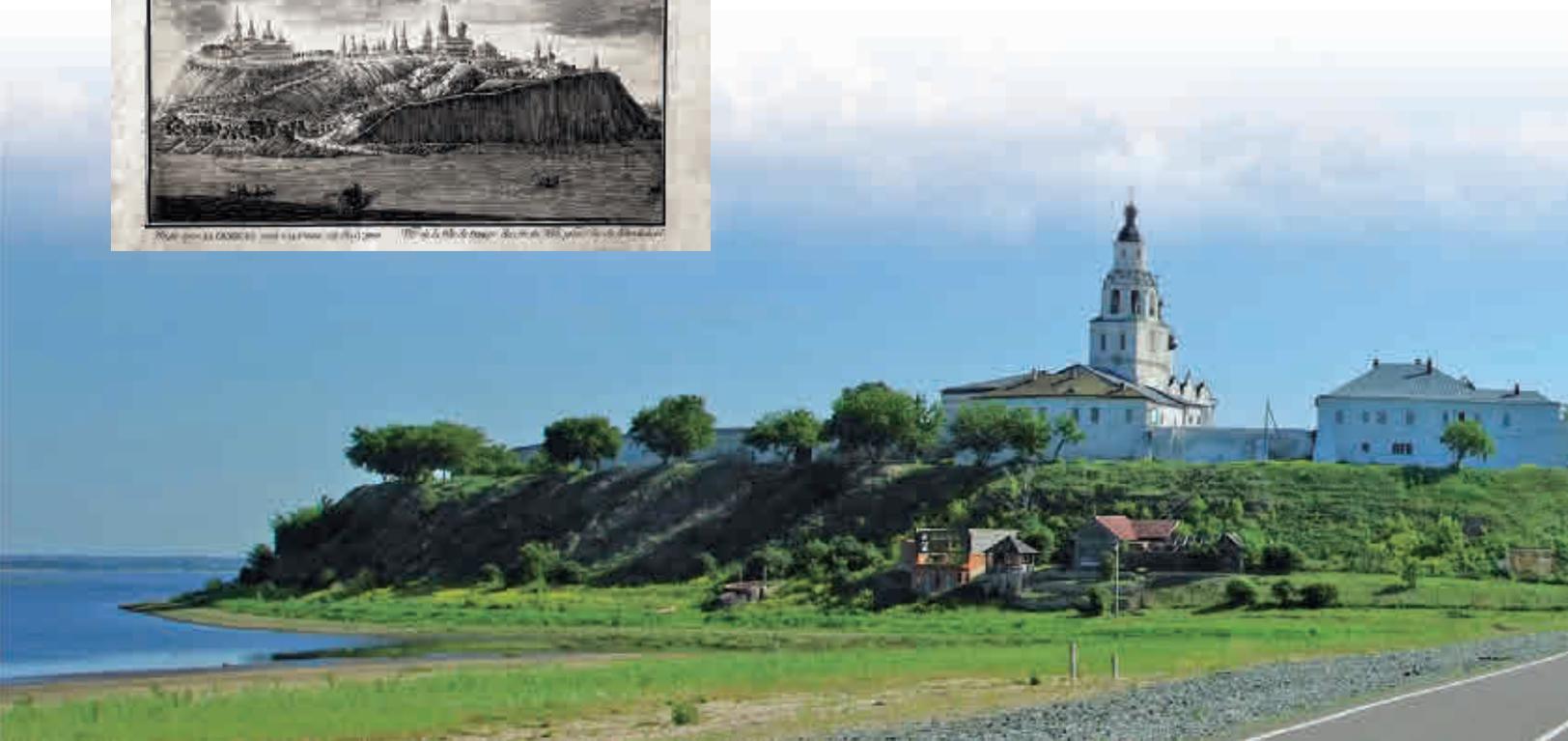


Sviyazhsk Historical Background



The place of juncture of the Sviyaga and Volga, rich with numerous lakes and backwaters full of fish, attracted attention of man from ancient times. The archaeological findings testify to the fact that people were actively colonising these lands as early as 4000 – 6000 years B.C. Later, these lands were occupied by Finno-Ugric tribes. At the period of the Volga Boulgaria and the Kazan Khanate, they were a part of the territory under control of these states. The round mountain, a geological butte on the high right bank of the Volga, was at that time covered by thick forest surrounded by flood meadows. The written sources state that there was a sacred grove of the pagan Cheremiss tribes here.

The history of construction of the town of Sviyazhsk is really amazing. In winter 1550, almost 800 kilometres from the Round Mountain, in the remote forests near Uglich, a town was made of wood, with walls, towers, churches and residential houses, which was later, in spring 1551, dismantled and transported to the estuary of the Sviyaga. Within just four weeks, a large fortress of the Moscow kingdom was erected under the guidance of scribe Ivan Vyrodkov, which exceeded in its size the fortresses of Moscow, Pskov or Novgorod of that period. After the fall of Kazan in 1552, Sviyazhsk was, for a short time, an administrative centre of the entire conquered region. Later, it controlled the annexed lands on the right bank of the Volga. It was from here that warriors went to take part in the numerous wars of the 16th - 18th centuries. It was here where they also sent state prisoners or those who simply fell from grace to the Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery. Sviyazhsk achieved the peak of its economic development in the 17th - 18th centuries, when it was crossed by major trade routes. After the reform of provinces, Sviyazhsk became the centre of a district of the rich Kazan Province.

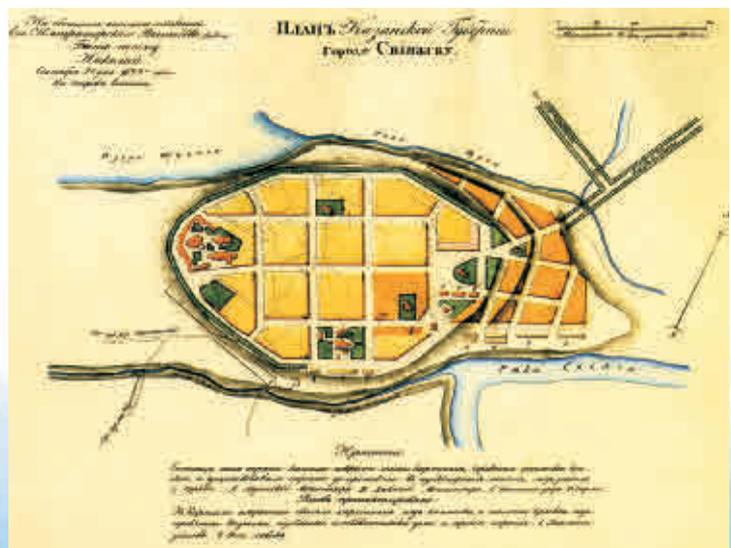




From the earliest times Sviyazhsk was famous for its temples and monasteries. Preserved until our days is the ensemble of the men's Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery founded in the 16th century, the buildings of the Troitsky (Trinity) Monastery which in the 19th century were occupied by nuns of the Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Convent, and a parish church, the Constantine and Helen Church, the only one that survived the storms of the early 20th century. The rich history of the late mediaeval town preserved in Sviyazhsk owing to the unique wet archaeological layer that formed after the creation of the Kuibyshev water reservoir in 1956.

Together with the whole country, Sviyazhsk lived through the tragic events of the 20th century: World War I, the Civil War, the period of political repressions, when a large portion of the area of Sviyazhsk was occupied by repressive institutions, the Great Patriotic War, which took away the lives of several hundreds of citizens of Sviyazhsk, the troublous years of the collapse of the USSR. Like everywhere, political turmoil reflected in broken fates, degradation of the economy, awful destructions of the beautiful monuments of history and culture.

Fortunately, the establishment of the "Renaissance" Foundation helped Sviyazhsk to see its rebirth: the monuments of architecture are being restored, services are being conducted in its temples, the development of tourism helps revive the economy of Sviyazhsk, which, together with the ancient Bolgar, is a symbol of revival of spirituality and deep moral potential of our multi-national people.



Cultural
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of Tatarstan

Sviyazhsk



The Assumption Monastery





The Sviyazhsk Bogoroditse-Uspensky (Dormition of the Theotocos) Monastery was founded virtually at the same time when Sviyazhsk itself was founded. Since it was to become a missionary centre, the mission of which was to bring the peoples of the conquered lands to Orthodox Christianity, Ivan the Terrible sent here his best masters: the Pskov architects Postnik Yakovlev and Ivan Shirayay, famous for their Pokrovsky (Intercession of the Holy Virgin) Cathedral, or St. Basil's Cathedral, as people call it more often, on the Red Square of Moscow, which became one of the symbols of Russia. The same masters erected the Nikolskaya (St. Nicholas) church and the Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral in Sviyazhsk, which had long been the only stone structures in the wooden fortress of Sviyazhsk. Later, in the 18th - 20th centuries, as the area of the monastery was growing, its ensemble got richer with the other structures. At the Soviet period, the complex of the monastery was used by the Correctional Labour Colony No. 5, which was substituted by the branch of the Republic's psychoneurologic dispensary that existed until the late 1980s, when the temples were given back to believers.





The Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral



The Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral, a gem of Sviyazhsk, was built in 1556.

It was partially reconstructed in the 18th century (refectory, drum, facades, decoration of the window openings), which made the cathedral look more baroque-styled. Inside, there preserved the unique complex of the wall paintings dating back to the late 16th century, including the extremely rare in its iconography wall painting depicting St. Christopher.

The work on the restoration of the temple includes the continuation of the years-old activity related to the fixing and preservation of the wall paintings. In 2011 – 2012, the basement was cleaned from litter, the foundation of the temple was reinforced and waterproofed, which made it possible to cut off the underground water that was damaging the temple. The brass roof was renovated; a large scope of work was performed for restoration of the temple's facades.

The funds were provided by Kazan Helicopters. Once the restoration is completed, the temple will be returned to believers with provision of access to tourists and professional restorers.





The restoration work on the facades: small repair of the white stone- and brick-work, the final arrangement and rendering of the walls, the painting of the walls with the use of special restoration compounds, the production, gilding and installation of crosses, repair of the roofs. The restoration work in the lower basements of the cathedral, on the open porches: repair and re-laying of the sections under threat, waterproofing, preservative treatment, hydrophobisation of surfaces, production and instalment of the woodwork elements, arrangement of the white-stone floors.

The restoration work in the interiors of the temple: arrangement of the white-stone floors, restoration of painting in the central part.

Development of the territory with the discreet covering of the perimeter walks, paths and sites, with the instalment of stalls.

Investor:
OAO Kazan Helicopters
Director General: V.A. Ligay





The Church In the Name of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker



The Church In the Name of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker is one of the most ancient mediaeval churches of Sviyazhsk. The church was the first stone temple-delubrum on the banks of the Volga. The foundation stone of the church was laid in July 1555. On 6 December 1556, the church was consecrated by Archimandrite German. It was built by the Pskov master architects headed by master Ivan Shiryay and under the guidance of architect Yakov Postnik Barma. The inner walls of the church were covered by wall-paintings that did not preserve, except for a fragment of St. Nicholas of Mozhaïsk on the eastern façade. Preserved in the church is the ancient cell of the holy hierarch German. The hallows of St. German were kept carefully in the Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral of Sviyazhsk until 1922. The four-tier bell-tower, 43 metres high, was added in the 17th century.

In 2010 - 2012, the following work was done in the course of restoration: reinforcement and waterproofing of the foundations, restoration of the facades, repair of the roof structure, arrangement of the brass cover of the roof and the top of





the bell-tower, arrangement of the drainage system, partial cleaning of the vaults, injecting of cracks in vaults and walls, restoration of the window assemblies, restoration of the cross, restoration of the facades, arrangement of the window and door assemblies, restoration of the stairs, restoration of the top with a drum in the northern side-altar of the temple, arrangement of the discreet perimeter walks.

In 2013 – 2014, it is planned to commence the interior restoration work and conservation of the preserved fragments of the ancient Russian wall-painting of the 16th century, the restoration of the lost iconostasis, the arrangement of the utility networks, and the completion of the development of the adjoining area.

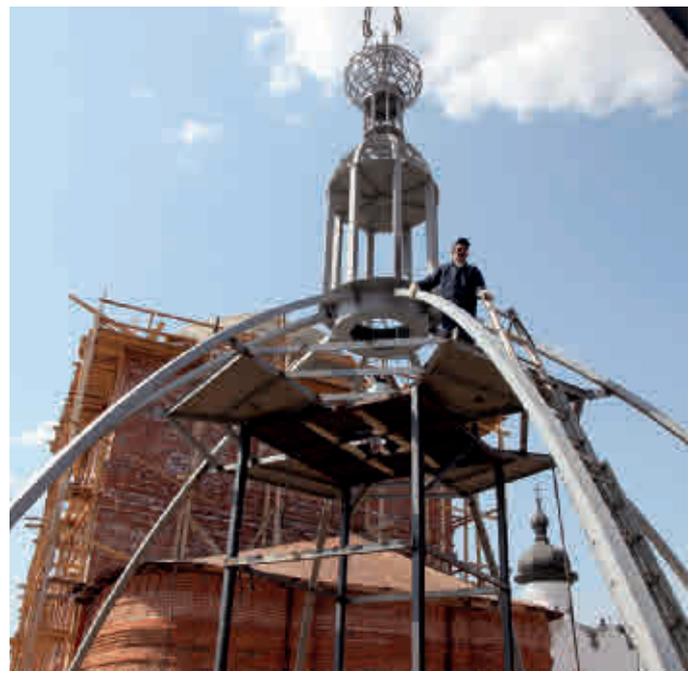
After the restoration is completed it is planned that the temple will be returned to believers.

Investor:
OAO Radio-electronic
Technologies Concern
Director General: N.A. Kolesov





Brethren's Building



The brethren's buildings, as can be seen from the name, were intended for brethren of the monastery. First wooden, they were re-built in stone in the 17th century and kept on expanding until the early 20th century. In the 19th century, a church was added to the buildings, which was dedicated to St. Guriy and Mitrofan of Voronezh. In the 1930s, the temple was partially dismantled. At the pre-war period from 1931 to 1938, it housed the GULAG (Correctional Labour Colony No. 5). From the 40s to the 90s of the 20th century, it was a mental hospital. In 1997, the activity of the Bogoroditse-Uspensky (Dormition of the Theotocos) Monastery was restored.

Among the buildings of the complex of the Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery, the Brethren's Building was the one that suffered most from time, which was caused, in particular, by the poor "restoration" that was done in the 90s of the 20th century: the building was almost completely destroyed, with only the out-



er and, partially, inner walls remaining. The investor, OAO KAMAZ performed a huge scope of work for the restoration and reconstruction of the lost structures of the buildings with the preservation of all historically valuable elements: the foundations and the survived walls were reinforced, the dangerous sections of the walls and vaults were re-laid, the floor structures were arranged, as well as such of the roofs and the porch. All utilities were created: heating, water supply, drainage, etc. The area around the building was fully developed. The temple was restored with the top and the cross in the name of the holy hierarch German.

At present, the building is used for administrative purposes and as a hotel of the monastery with the refectory, kitchen, and the functioning St. German's Church.

Investor:
OAO KAMAZ
Director General: S.A. Kogogin



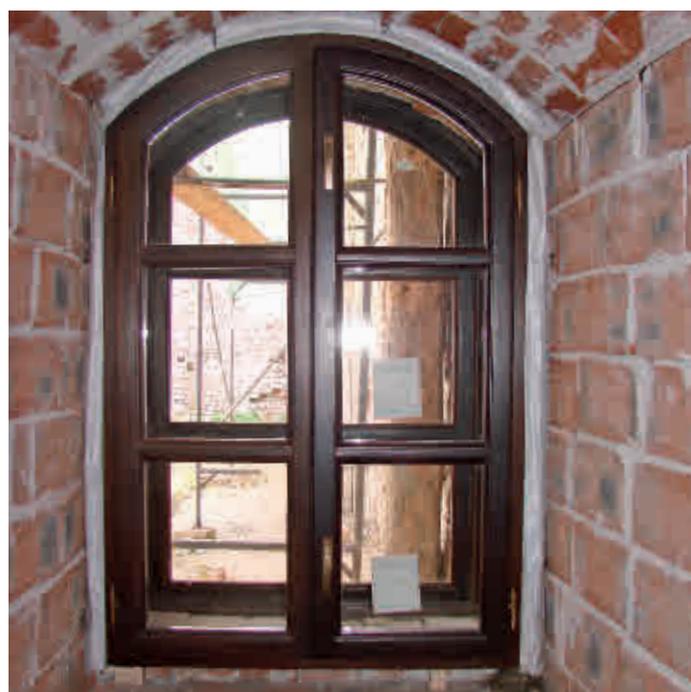


The Archimandrite's Building



The two-storeyed building that was built in the 17th century got the name of the Archimandrite's House in the second half of the 19th century, when it began to be used as the residence of the archimandrite of the Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery. Before, it was used as an educational building of the monastery's training school. At the Soviet period, the building suffered, but not too much, because it housed the administration of the institutions located in the territory of the monastery at that time. In the mid-30s of the 20th century, the premises were used for the needs of the prison administration and later - as the hospital wards of the Sviyazhsk mental hospital.

Performed in the course of the integrated repair and restoration work was the injection of the cracks in the brickwork of the walls and vaults, the restoration of the facades, the recreation of the Red Porch,





the arrangement of the planked roof, the arrangement of the chimneys, assembly of the window and door openings, interior finishing, arrangement of the wooden and white-stone floors, provision of furniture and kitchen equipment, arrangement of the discreet perimeter walks, development of the adjacent area. The building was fully provided with utilities.

The Archimandrite's Building was put into operation in 2011 and was adapted for brethren's cells and the private quarters of the father superior.

Investor:

Directorate for State Extradepartmental Expertise for Construction and Architecture of the Republic of Tatarstan
Head of the Directorate: V.S. Markelov

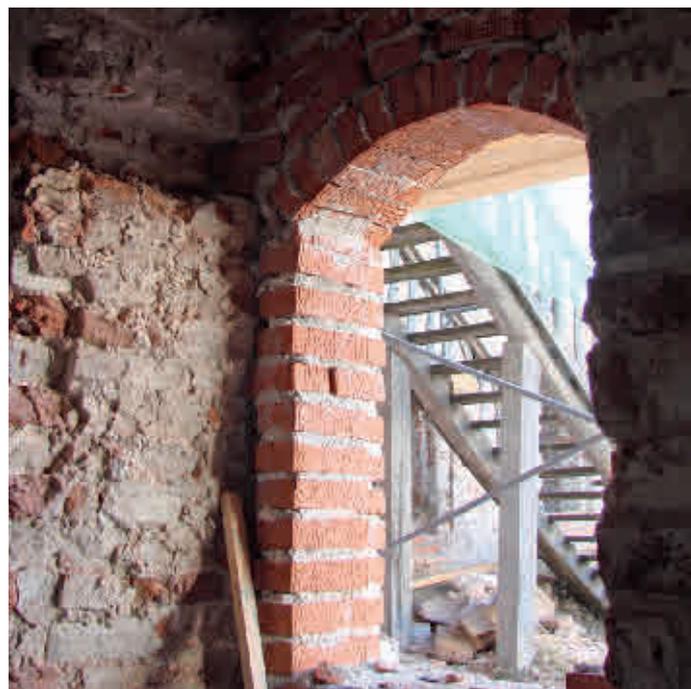


Monastery Training School



The small elegant two-storeyed building of the monastery training school (17th - 19th centuries) accommodated both the monastery training school and the school of sheet music, which studied children and teen-agers from all over the Sviyazhsk District.

The restoration performed here included the reinforcement and waterproofing of the foundation of the, reinforcement of the walls, injection of cracks, substitution of the flooring, arrangement of the wooden floors, restoration of the facades, restoration of the window openings, arrange-





ment of the wooden window and door assemblies, assembly of the planked roof, interior finishing, arrangement of the discreet perimeter walks, and the development of the adjacent area. The building was fully provided with utilities.

The monastery training school was put into operation in 2011 and was adapted for brethren's cells of the monastery.

Investor:
OAO Nefis Cosmetics
Director General: D.V. Khaiboullin





Fence and the Gate Ascension Church



The building of the Gate Ascension Church (18th – 19th centuries) was ruined down to its first floor in the 20s – 30s of the past century. Preserved in the door opening are the traces of the exterior wall painting. Fortunately, the numerous preserved historical photos and drawings make it possible to quite accurately restore it in its original appearance.

At present, the Directorate for State Extradepartmental Expertise for Construction and Architecture of the Republic of Tatarstan carries out the work for the restoration of the church as it was in the 18th century on the basis of the plan of scientific restoration. Completed by the present moment was the work related to the first tier of the temple: the foundations and the walls were reinforced, the dangerous sections of the brickwork of the walls and vaults were re-laid, and the cracks were injected. Currently underway is the work for the restoration of the brickwork of the walls and decorative elements of the facades. Also completed was the partial conservation of the wall paintings.

The stone fence of the monastery dates back to the 18th – 20th centuries. Originally, it was located right behind the Brethren's Building, going round the cemetery behind the altar of the Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral. At the end of





the 19th century, as the area of the monastery was increased significantly, it was extended.

The state of the monastery walls was in catastrophic condition. The western part of the walls was half in the ground, the destruction of the brickwork and the bio-affection were catastrophic. The restoration included the reinforcement of the foundations of some sections, the dangerous sections were re-laid, the loopholes of the lower tier chambers were reconstructed, as well as of the upper hoarding with the wooden planked cover, the monastery gate was restored along the perimeter of the walls. Also done were the small repair, coating and painting of the fence with the instalment of the white-stone perimeter walks with discreet base. Also installed was the gate situated in the Uspenskaya Street.

Investors:

ОАО Ak Bars Holding Company
Director General: I.M. Yegorov;

Directorate for State Extradepartmental
Expertise for Construction and Architec-
ture of the Republic of Tatarstan
Head of the Directorate: V.S. Markelov



Cultural
Heritage
of Tatarstan

Sviyazhsk



Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Monastery



The Sviyazhsk Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Monastery is an ancient monastery of the Kazan eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church. Before the revolution, it was a nunnery, but nowadays it is a metochion of the men's Sviyazhsk Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery.

It was established in the late 16th century (the exact date is unknown).

The monastery reached the peak of its prosperity by the early 20th century. It had up to 400 nuns and novices. It was the second largest nunnery of the eparchy after the Kazan Bogoroditsky (Theotokos) Monastery.





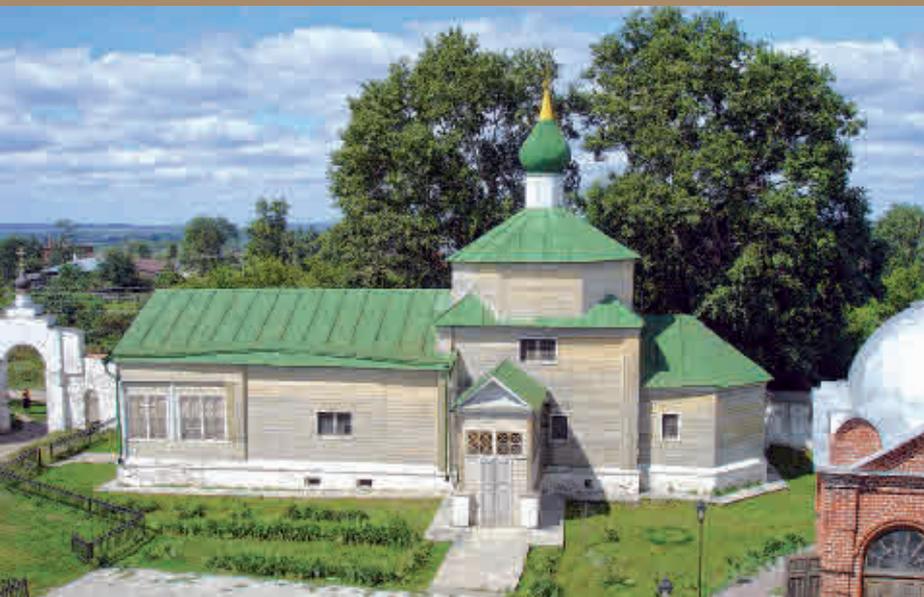
The monastery was closed in 1919. At the Soviet period, all temples belonged to the Svuyazhsk historical and architectural museum reserve. Nowadays, 2 out of 3 temples (except for the Troitskaya (Trinity) one) were transferred to the Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery:

- the Troitskaya (Trinity) church;
- the Sergiyevskaya (St. Sergius) stone church;
- the Cathedral of Joy of All Who Sorrow.





The Troitskaya (Trinity) Church



The church is the most ancient preserved wooden structure of the whole Middle Volga Region. It was erected within one day in May 1551. The Troitskaya (Trinity) church is one of the most unique buildings in the whole Sviyazhsk complex. In the early 19th century, to protect it against decaying, it was, as the legend runs, coated by wooden planks, which have significantly changed its original appearance. Right after the revolution, it was placed under the protection of the state and, starting from that time, it functioned as a museum structure. In the course of the restoration performed in 2010 – 2011 under the scientific guidance of B.D. Lurier, Chief Architect of the Project of the “Spetsproyektrestavratsiya” Institute for restoration of the Monu-





ments of History and Culture, the church was given back its exterior, typical for temples of the 16th century. Currently underway is the work for restoration of the wooden iconostasis of the 18th century.

Once the restoration is completed, the church as a unique monument that requires the permanent monitoring on the part of specialists will be used as a structure having the museum functions with services conducted during the saint's days.

Investors:
OOO Akulchev
Director: S.N. Akulchev



Cultural
Heritage
of Tatarstan
Sviyazhsk



Holy Virgin Cathedral – Joy of All Who Sorrow





The latest from the point of view of the time of construction (1896 - 1906), this cathedral became one of the symbols of Sviyazhsk owing to its favourable architectural solution executed in the neo-Byzantine style. It was built after design by architect F. Malinovsky in the name of the miracle-working icon of Holy Virgin "Joy of All Who Sorrow", which was kept in Sviyazhsk. At the years preceding the World War I, the temple was painted with oil paints in the traditions of academic painting of quite high class. Preserved miraculously until our days is the original four-tiered framed iconostasis of the handmade wooden high altar installed at the time of Mother Superior Alfa. But, unfortunately, the three-tiered iconostases of the side-altars did not preserve.

The large-scale and vast restoration work was done in the course of the restoration, which included the horizontal waterproofing of the temple's foundation, façade and roofing works with the instalment of the carved leader heads. Also installed were the newly made and restored window and door wooden assemblies. The new gas boiler house uses the preserved historical calorific system, which makes it possible to ensure comfortable year-round use of the temple for services. All necessary utilities were installed in the temple. The wrought iron doors and window and



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Sviyazhsk



Holy Virgin Cathedral – Joy of All Who Sorrow





choir loft grates were restored. The crosses were made and gilded. The adjoining area was developed with the creation of discreet perimeter walks, paths and platforms. The work on the restoration of the central iconostasis was completed. Currently underway is the work for the recreation of the three-tiered iconostases in the side-altars, the restoration of the inner decoration and the oil painting of the temple. Upon the completion of the restoration the temple is planned to be returned to believers.



Investors:

ОАО Sberbank of Russia

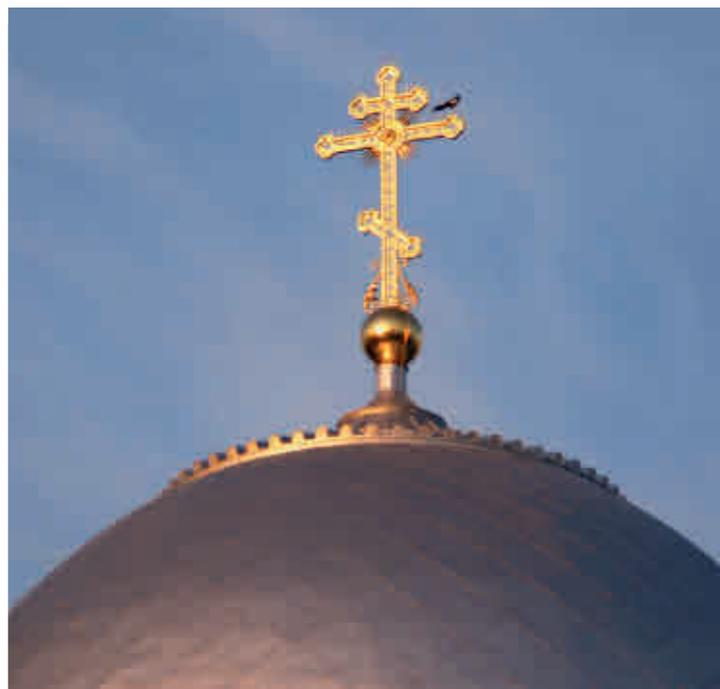
President and Chairman of the Board: G.O. Gref;

ОАО Russian Railways

President: V.I. Yakunin;

Well-known Russian businessmen

G.N. Timchenko and A.R. Bokarev





Sergiyevskaya (St. Sergius) Church



The white-stone Sergiyevskaya (St. Sergius) church (1570 - 1604) was built at the time of Boris Godunov, at the period when the Troitsky (Trinity) Monastery, the metochion of the famous Troitse-Sergiyevskaya (Trinity-Saint Sergius) Lavra, existed in this area. It is dedicated to Sergius of Radonezh who was considered to be one of the protectors of Sviyazhsk. Quite interesting is the composition of the temple, which united the temple, the refectory, and utility rooms. Preserved at the entrance to the church is the wall painting of Trinity of the Old Testament and an inscription telling about the time when the temple was consecrated.

The performed restoration included the reinforcement and waterproofing of the temple's foundation, the restoration of the walls, vaults: small repair of white stone and bricks, the injection of cracks, coating and painting.

Restored was the cover of the arched gables. Completed was the restoration of the roof of the chetverik (quadrilater-





al structure) and the refectory with the repair and covering with brass of the timbered structures, the covering of the tops and cupola with brass. Made and installed on the temple, the refectory and the side-altar were the gilded crosses. Restored were the wrought iron doors and the shutters were made.

Currently underway is the work for the restoration of the temple's interiors. The plan for 2013 includes the conservation of the preserved wall painting, vertical planning and completion of the adjoining area development. In 2014, the lost iconostases are planned to be recreated.

When the restoration is completed, the temple is planned to be returned to believers.

Investor:
OAO Zenith Bank
Chairman of the Board of Directors: A.A. Sokolov





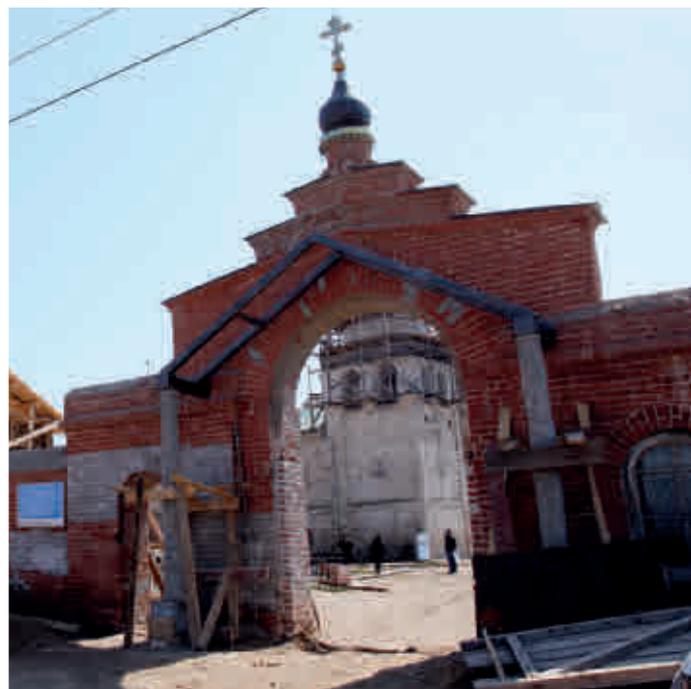
Fence of the Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Convent



The fence of the Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Convent was completed in the 19th - 20th centuries. Located in its corner section is a small chapel mortuary with a quite well preserved oil painting on its cupola and the walls.

The restoration work in the chapel included the reinforcement of the foundations and walls, the re-laying of the dangerous sections of the walls, repair of the timbered roof system, and the replacement of the roof. Currently being restored are the interiors, the floor was replaced, utilities were provided, the wrought iron cross was made and gilded. The adjacent area is being developed.

Also planned is the restoration of the painting in the interiors of the chapel.





When performing the restoration of the dangerous section of the monastery fence, an extremely difficult work was done for the levelling of its leaning sections and for the reinforcement of the foundations with the preservation of the original brickwork of the walls, with small repair, coating, and painting. Restored were the corner towers. The gate leading to the monastery complex was restored based on historical archival and bibliographic materials. Also restored was the cell of the portresses that adjoins the walls. The adjacent area was developed, and the white-stone perimeter walks with a discreet base were made.





Sisters' Buildings of the Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Convent



In the past, the sisters' buildings of the Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Convent (late 19th - early 20th centuries) were occupied by numerous nuns and novices of the Ioanno-Predtechensky (John the Forerunner) Convent. The buildings represent an interesting specimen of conventual residential buildings of that time. At the Soviet period, the buildings were used as multi-family flats, which were provided to people under the programme of obsolete housing demolition in Sviyazhsk. Currently underway is the



restoration work, following which the buildings will be transferred for the arrangement of a hotel for pilgrims.



Investor:
State Housing Fund under President of the
Republic of Tatarstan
Executive Director: T.M. Abdoullin





Sts. Constantine's and Helen's Church



The Sts. Constantine's and Helen's church is the only preserved parish, which was built in the 17th century. The author is unknown. This church was built of bricks in the 17th century on the place of the wooden one that was erected by the order of Tsar Ivan the Terrible. This is a monument of cult architecture built in the traditions of the ancient Russian stone architecture with some baroque elements.

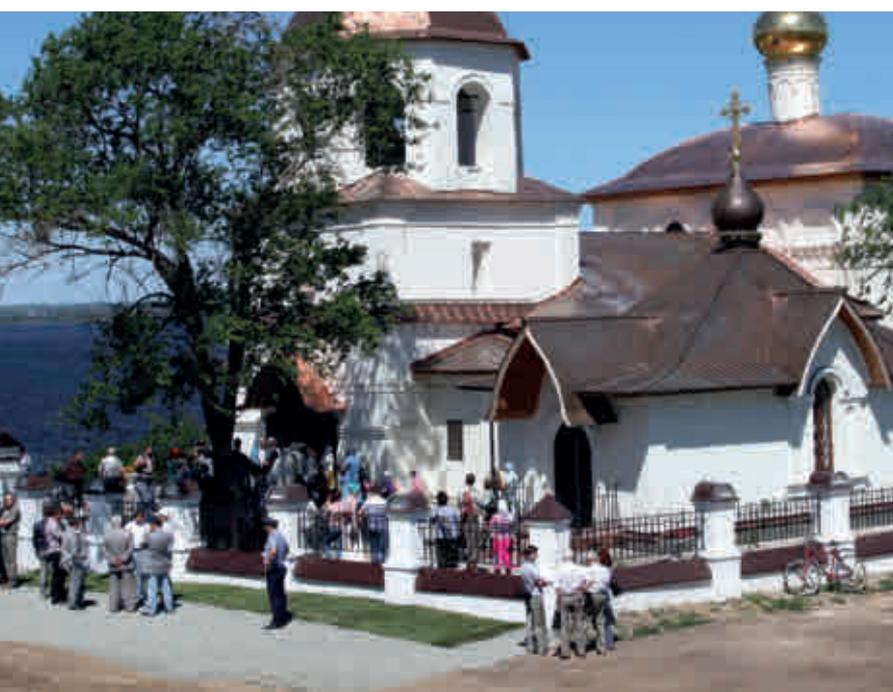
One of the versions runs that the church was named after the saints Tsar Constantine and Tsarina Helen equal to the apostles in connection with the date of landing of the troops of Ivan the terrible onto the island of Sviyazhsk, which coincided with the memorial day of Saints Constantine and Helen. Besides, Ivan the Terrible was a son of Tsarina Helen.

Father German, the founder of the Dormition of the Theotocos Monastery, became the first rector of the Sts. Constantine's and Helen's church.

In 1939, priest Anatoly Romanovsky conducted the last service in the church, after which the church was closed. In the 80s and 90s of the past century, the temple was used for museum expositions, because the building was given to the branch of the State Museum of the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (TASSR). In 1993, the temple was returned to believers. An altar for services was established in the name of Saints Constantine and Helen equal to the apostles.

In 2010, as part of an integrated project titled "Cultural Heritage of Tatarstan:





Ancient Town of Bolgar and Island Town of Sviyazhsk, the restoration work was started in the temple. The restoration included the reinforcement and water-proofing of the temple's foundation, the façade and roofing works, interior finishing. Also restored and gilded were the crosses; various woodwork articles were made and installed; the northern side-altar of the temple was reconstructed with a baptistery inside it. Restored were also the lost chapel and the fence with a gate of the parish church. All necessary utilities were installed in the temple.

From 1939, the bell-tower of the Sts. Constantine's and Helens church did not have the bells. On 16 June 2012, the bell loft for six bells was installed in the bell-tower. Almost a century has passed until the temple got new bells. The bells were made of bronze (80% of brass and 20% of tin) at LITEX, the Moscow Bell Works. The weight of the bells varies from 4 to 80 kg., and their diameter – from 200 to 478 mm. The smaller bell loft consists of three small diameter and three large diameter bells. The bells comprise a harmoniously arranged canonical sound row with a broad musical range.

Investors:
OAO Lukoil
President: V.Y. Alekperov

OAO Ritek
Chairman of the Board of Directors: V.I. Graifer



Complex of Buildings of Public Offices (Sviyazhsk Museum)

Cultural
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of Tatarstan
Sviyazhsk



The complex, built on the basis of a standard design in the early 19th century, is a specimen of an excellently preserved monument of civil architecture. After it was completed, it housed various public offices and the treasury. Three buildings in the yard formed a prison complex. At the Soviet period, all four buildings were occupied by prison of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, which saw many outstanding personalities of culture of Russia and Tataria. When the prison was closed, the buildings were used, until the early 2000s, the Republic's correctional boarding school. Considering the fact that capital repairs of the buildings were not carried out over the entire 20th century, their state at the beginning of the restoration was poor. The efforts taken by the investor helped bring their state in conformity with applicable standards. A gas boiler house was arranged; a large scope of work was done in respect



of all elements of the buildings' structures. At present, the building is used as a complex of the museum of history of Sviyazhsk "GBUK State Historical, Architectural, and Art Museum "Island Town of Sviyazhsk". Currently underway is the creation of the permanent exposition of the museum. The museum holds various exhibitions dedicated to history of Sviyazhsk. Apart from exhibitions, the museum regularly holds interesting events, festivals, performances by theatrical and musical bands, and concerts. Traditionally interesting for tourists and citizens of the town is the folk festival called "The Sviyazhsk Maslenitsa Festival" with pancakes, tea, and folk entertainments.

Investor:
OAO TAIF
Director General: A.K. Shigaboutdinov





Two-storeyed Building of the Barracks of the Corps of Engineers



The barracks of the Corps of Engineers were built on the place of one of the Sviyazhsk squares in the early 20th century, simultaneously with the beginning of the construction of the Romanovsky railway bridge cross the Volga. The two-storeyed building accommodated various administrative offices, and the one-storeyed building was used as a dwelling house. At the Soviet period, the two-storeyed building housed a village hall with a cinema projector and a library. After the fire at the late 20th century, only the walls of the building survived. The building was re-





stored and adapted for using it as a depository of the GBUK State Historical, Architectural, and Art Museum “Island Town of Sviyazhsk” and was provided with all relevant utilities.

Investor:
OAO KMPO
Director General: D.Z. Karimoullin



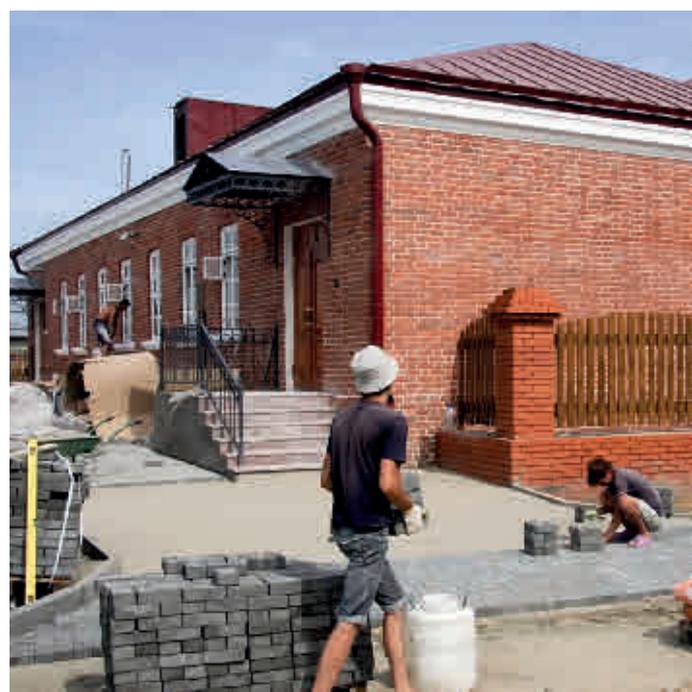


One-storeyed Building of the Barrack of the Corps of Engineers



At the Soviet period, the one-storeyed building of the barrack of the Corps of Engineers (the conference hall of the Sviyazhsk Museum, early 20th century) was used as a village hall of the boarding school that was situated opposite it.

In the course of the restoration, which included the roofing, repair, and restoration works, as well as the provision of the necessary utilities, the building was adapted for use as a conference hall of the GBUK State Historical, Architectural, and





Art Museum “Island Town of Sviyazhsk”
with two halls for 60 and 12 seats, which
are also used as a club of Sviyazhsk.

Investor:
OAO KAPO n.a. S.P. Gorbunov
Director General: V.K. Kayumov

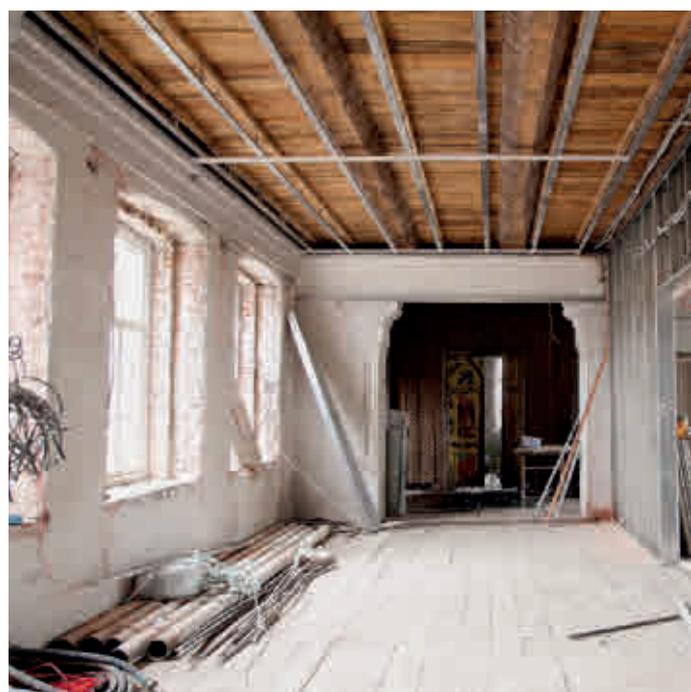




Public Building of the 20th Century (Educational Centre)



In 2011, the building of the Sviyazhsk Gymnasium celebrated its 100th anniversary. The Sviyazhsk museum keeps the copybooks and albums of schoolchildren of this institution accumulated over the long history of its existence. All these years, the building served as an educational institution. Built in the romantic pseudo-Gothic style, on the high Sviyazhsk hill, it attracts attention of all those who arrive in Sviyazhsk by water.





Following the large-scale restoration, the building was turned into an educational centre that includes the UNESCO associated school and premises for pre-school groups. Held regularly on the basis of the school are various educational conferences and workshops dedicated to preservation of cultural heritage.



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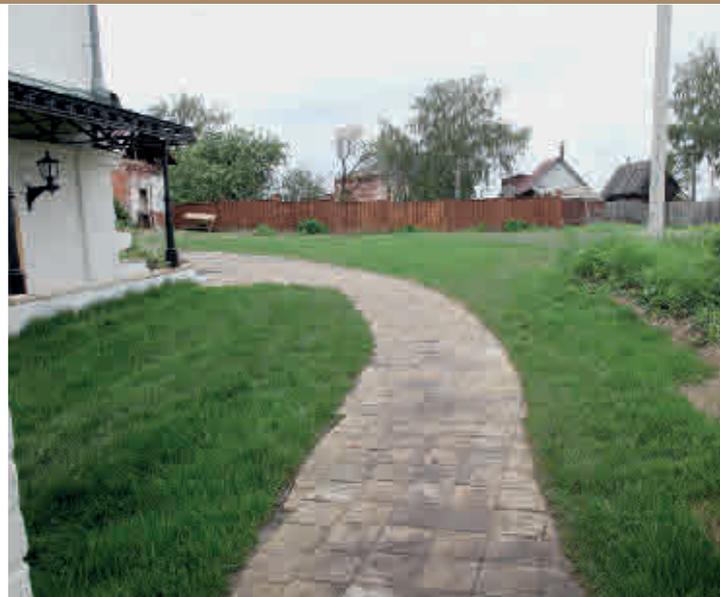
Hospice



The building of the hospice, built in the late 19th century, is situated in the best preserved street of Sviyazhsk, the Moskovskaya Street. After the revolution, when the hospice was closed, the building was for some time used as one of the buildings of the school for blind and partially sighted children. Starting from the 80s of the 20th century, the building housed the Sviyaga Hotel, which was a part of the branch of the Fine Arts Museum of Tatarstan.

In the course of restoration, the investor performed a large scope of work to make it a hotel and a café of the Sviyazhsk museum. Every room in the hotel has its





own name – "Pike", "Bream", etc. – after traditional types of the Sviyazhsk fish. The performed restoration included the reconstruction of a wooden out-house of the hospice complex, which also has rooms for guests of the museum, and some administrative structures, including the baths, community toilet, and the museum workshop for children.

Investor:
OAO Kazancompressormash
Director General: I.G. Khisamiev





The Kamenev's House



The house of the former mayor of the town and charity-provider, merchant Kamenev, built in the late 19th century, was situated on the main square of Sviyazhsk, the Rozhdestvenskaya (Christmas) Square. At the Soviet period, the building housed a bakery and a store that sold fresh bread and foodstuffs. Later, the building became a dwelling house. Unfortunately, at the late 1990s, the building was almost completely lost in view of the lack of funds for its repair and operation.





After the integrated restoration, carried out by Bakhetle Company, the Kamenev's House was converted into a hotel with comfortable de-lux rooms and a small cafe.

Investor:
OOO Bakhetle
Director General: M.K. Latypova





Complex of Buildings of the Stable Yard



The complex of the stable yard of the Uspensky (Assumption) Monastery is a unique specimen of civil architecture of this purpose. In most cases, such complexes of stable yards were completely lost. The complex was built in stone on the place of the previous wooden stable yard of the monastery in the 18th century.

In the course of the restoration, the complex regained its original appearance, which was distorted during the 20th century, when it accommodated





the outbuildings, first, of the colony and then of the hospital.

Located in its territory are now the workshops and stalls of craftsmen, the “Traktir” Cafe, a small hotel, a stable, and a riding hall. The complex of the stable yard, along with the Sviyazhsk museum, is the favourite place of all tourists and guests of Sviyazhsk.

Investor:
OAO Tatspirom
Director General: G.F. Kupriyanov





Monuments of Civil Architecture



The building of the district vocational school of the 18th – 19th centuries, the building of the parochial school of the late 19th – early 20th centuries, the house of the Court Counsellor Krylov

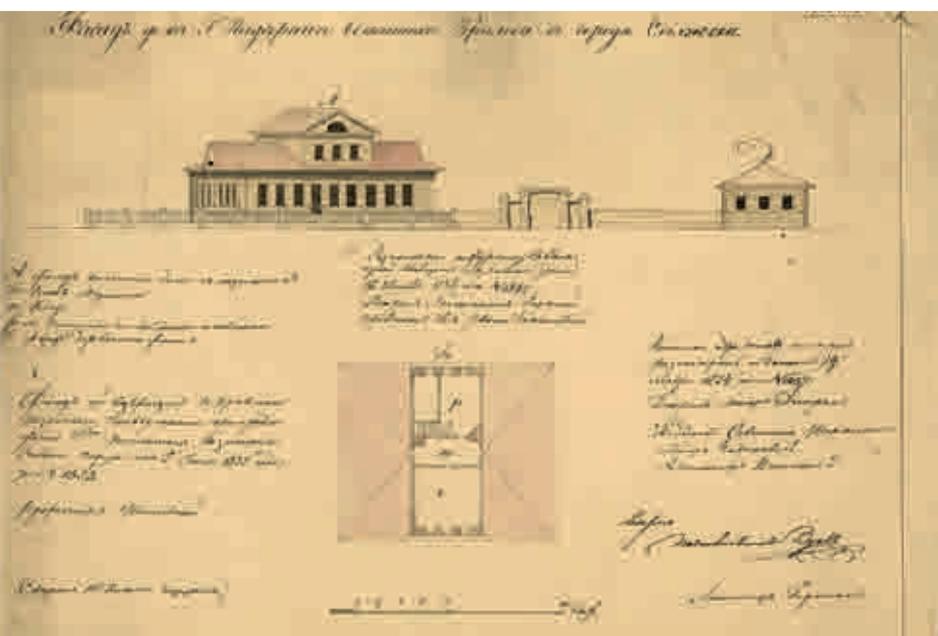
Built in the late 18th century, reconstructed in 1834 by the design developed by Gartman, an architect from St. Petersburg. A massive brick one-storeyed building, having a square in its lay-out, covered by the hip roof, with almost no decorations. The space of the mezzanine was lost. The main façade faces the Troitskaya Street. Monument of architecture built in the traditions of Classicism.

From 1818, it housed the Sviyazhsk district and parochial vocational schools. Later it housed the municipal vocational school and several levels of the gymnasium.

At the end of the 1920s, the house accommodated the exhibition of the Sviyazhsk branch of the Society for Studies of Tatarstan.

Later on, the building was a dwelling house. Nowadays, it is no longer used for residential purposes.

The repair, restoration, and reconstruction work will be performed in the house within the integrated project, following which it will accommodate the Centre for Integrated Restoration Studies.





The complex of buildings of the territorial hospital of the 70s of the 19th century

The path that lead patients of this building had never been forgotten: local doctors were famous far beyond the borders of the district. Until mid-20th century, it was used to treat patients arriving from the entire Volga Region. When a prison was established on the island, it began to be used for prisoners. In the 50s, the hospital was converted into a dwelling house.

The wards became flats. At present, the building is not used for residential purposes. Currently underway within the integrated programme is the repair and restoration work for further modern use.





Monuments of Civil Architecture



Complex of Buildings of Vocational School and Fire Service

The complex is located in the very centre of Sviyazhsk, on the Rozhdestvenskaya (Christmas) Square. It was built in two stages: in the 1870s and in the early 20th century. Its architectural style is eclectic with decorative elements of the classical trend.

In 1892, one of the two-storeyed houses of the complex housed the town's administrative board and the men's parochial vocational school and, starting from 1900, a library. The neighbouring building with a wooden watchtower was occupied officers of the fire service. It was used to store housewares and materials. By 1880, a wooden watchtower was built above the fire service. In 1900, the third building was occupied by women's parochial vocational school.

In 1903, a stone addition was built to the building of the administrative board of the town for officers of the fire service. The second floor was added to this building, which was rented to the local committee for patronage over people's abstinence for holding the public lectures and other useful events. The building of the fire service was later transformed into a stable, and a cellar was added to it to store oats and housewares.

As a result, in 1908, the complex consisted of two stone two-storeyed buildings and the building with the wooden watchtower.



In the 1910s, the complex housed the primary vocational school.

At the Soviet period, the building was used by the boarding school.

At present, the building is used by Administration of the Sviyazhsk village settlement and certain public services of the island: a stronghold of police department, rural health post, post office, village library and automatic telephone station.

Currently under consideration is their relocation from the building. On the initiative of citizens of Sviyazhsk, which was supported by First President of the Republic of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiev, the complex of buildings of the vocational school and the fire service will be used for the creation of the Russia's first recreational centre, "Ostrovok" (Little Island) for children suffering from oncological and other serious diseases. To attract sponsor aid for the repair and restoration work, a special charitable fund was established named "Ostrov" (Island).

The Board of Trustees of the Fund is headed by Vladislav Tretyak, a legendary Soviet sportsman and President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia.

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Monuments of Residential Architecture





Dwelling House with Columned Porch, 19th Century (cultural heritage building of the Republic's significance)

Built to a standard design for district towns in the mid-19th century, this house with columns represents the only well-preserved specimen of the rich wooden civil architecture of Sviyazhsk of that time.

According to some sources, it was here where the headquarters of the 5th army of the Eastern Front was located in 1918. Long-term residents say that Lev Trotsky, Chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic, stayed here, having thrust its previous owners out of the house. At present, the investor helps to move three families from the house to a new comfortable one. After that, an integrated restoration of the house will be started with the purpose to establish the Civil War Museum in it.

Investor:

OOO "Gran" Building Company

Director General: L.V. Anisimov

The House of Timofeyev - Terentyev - Brovkin – the Dyachkovs, late 19th century (cultural heritage building of the Republic's significance)

This house is a specimen of the housing architecture of the late 19th century. It represents a two-storied building made of bricks and wood. The basement floor exists under just a certain portion of the building. One can get to the basement floor through the gate on the side of the lateral façade. Preserved in this part of the house is the floor made of bricks (book-matched) and the flat-arch vault. The second floor represents a log-house covered by planks and decorated by wooden carved elements. It is situat-

ed in the central part of the building. In the course of the study of the monument it was revealed that there was a balcony on the second floor or an independent entrance from the second floor to the street. Preserved nowadays is only the southern wing of the house, while the northern one was lost completely. The work was done to open up the preserved foundations in the northern part, which helped establish the original dimensions of the building and the location of the bearing walls. This information was used to develop a design of the restoration and reconstruction of the monument.

Owing to recollections of citizens of Sviyazhsk, the researchers learned that the house belonged to a respectable merchant family of the Kamenevs. The surnames of Timofeyev, Terentyev, Brovkin, and so on proved to be the surnames of their neighbours and people who lived in it at different times after the nationalisation.

The historical archival research and field observation helped establish that there was a mill near the household.

In 2012, the work was done to reinforce and waterproof the foundations, inject the cracks, reinforce the walls, restore the brickwork and masonwork of the walls, dismantle the wooden cover of the walls on the second floor, replace the lower destructive tops of the log-house. In 2013, the work was continued for the restoration of the wooden window and door assemblies, the carved trimmers and cornices. Currently underway is the work for the reconstruction of the stone elements of the mansion house: arrangement of the foundations, erection of the brick walls.

The repair, restoration and reconstruction work is being done within the implementation of an integrated project.





Residential houses



Before the process of restoration of Sviyazhsk has started, dozens of families lived in obsolete houses without water, drainage system, and heating, which often threatened to collapse because capital repair was not performed there for many years. It was decided to build small multi-family houses in Sviyazhsk. The houses were being built on the unoccupied plots of land, which were once occupied by houses that were lost in the second half of the 20th century. This, first of all, made it possible to restore the town-planning





structure of Sviyazhsk and, secondly, to create conditions for life and work of the citizens of the town. One can only imagine the joy of people who moved, at last, to modern comfortable housing.

Investor:
State Housing Fund under President of the
Republic of Tatarstan
Executive Director: T.M. Abdoullin





Archaeological Studies of Sviyazhsk



The island of Sviyazhsk is a unique architectural heritage site, the formation of the historical and cultural landscape of which was taking place without any intervals starting from the ancient times. The rapid population of the area was explained by the unique river systems that attracted man with their bio-resources. In the flood bed that adjoins the island there are known numerous archaeological monuments, the oldest of them dating back to the Stone Age.

The initial colonization of the territory of the island of Sviyazhsk started at the period of the Ananyino archaeological culture (8th – 5th centuries B.C.). The archaeological excavations revealed in the re-deposited state the numerous artefacts related to this archaeological culture. Later on, the territory was populated many times, to which testify the archaeological findings from the excavations of the first half of the 1st millennium A.D., the articles of the first half of the second millennium A.D. These findings show that this place was attractive for people who were colonizing the estuary of the River Sviyaga at different periods.



The rapid population of these lands was connected to the Middle Age. The development of regional and international trade via river routes contributed to the establishment of the riverside settlements. The estuary of the River Sviyaga was, undoubtedly, an attractive trade point situated on the transcontinental Volga route connecting the East and the West. To this testify the Boulgar settlements of the 10th – 11th centuries, located near Sviyazhsk. From that period on, this place was actively populated by the Bulgars, which is evidenced by findings dating back to the Boulgar period (11th – 15th centuries) that were found in the territory of the town itself and its trade quarter. By the time a fortress was built here in 1551, the hill and the adjacent area have already been populated by the Boulgar-Tatars and Volga-Finns.





The subsequent development of the town became the next stage in the history of the long-term development of the estuary of the Sviyaga. Starting from the second half of the 16th – 17th centuries, the area saw the rapid growth of the town, which reflected in the vigorous formation of the archaeological heritage of the monument. The pace of development of the trade quarter lead to the formation of a unique wet cultural layer, which ensured safety of the organic articles (wooden houses, household structures and appliances, articles made of leather, fabrics, yarn, etc.). The archaeological protective and rescue work performed in recent years along the destructing river shore line made it possible to reveal the numerous structures of the 16th – 18th centuries. It also became possible to reconstruct the planigraphy of the mediaeval town with the traces of streets and mansion houses. The original historical articles found in the course of the excavations can become valuable exhibits at the newly established museum-reserve.

Also important for archaeologisation of cultural remains is the period of the 19th and 20th centuries. The structure of the town of Sviyazhsk had shaped in the 19th – early 20th centuries, with its monasteries, temples, public buildings, and the paved streets. Later on, as a result of the policy aimed at fighting the religion, many cult buildings were ruined. The construction of the Kuibyshev water reservoir became another important factor for changing the life of the town, which turned into an island. A significant portion of its trade quarter was flooded. All these events became the reasons for changes in the development of the town and its further degradation, as well as a stage in the appearance of new archaeological items.

In 2010 – 2012, the archaeological work was carried out to implement a programme adopted in the Republic of Tatarstan that was aimed at the revival of the island town of Sviyazhsk. This work contributed to the holding of the large-scale protective archaeological surveys on the places of the restoration works, construction of dwelling houses, projects of area development, and the laying of utilities. All in all, over a short period, studied were over 20 000 sq. m. of the cultural layer in the territory of the island. The large-scale work was carried out with the help of specialists from Moscow, Zelenodolsk, Kirov, Yoshkar-Ola and other cities of Russia.

Important results were obtained in the course of archaeological excavations performed on the place of construction of new dwelling and other structures in the territory of the island. For example, found on the place of the construction of a utility unit of the Ioanno-Predtechensky Convent were the cellars and the utility pits of a mansion house that were in use until this site was added to the area of the Ioanno-Predtechensky Convent in the early 19th century. Studied in this area





Archaeological Studies of Sviyazhsk



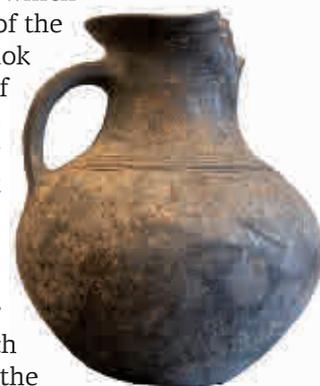
were the mansion house structures and changes in such over the period from the 17th – 19th centuries.

The excavations were started in the Rozhdestvenskaya, Uspenskaya, and Moskovskaya streets when performing the works related to the development of the town and the construction of new dwelling houses. Studied were the early structures related to the colonization of the territory of Sviyazhsk in the second half of the 16th century. An interesting material related to the history of development of Sviyazhsk was obtained in the course of excavations on the Yeleninskaya Street, which formed an estate that functioned, with certain changes, for almost three centuries.

The research conducted in the territory of Sviyazhsk helped reveal the burial grounds dating back to the late 16th – 18th centuries that were located near the Nicholas the Wonderworker church (Nikolskaya Street), the Sofia church (Troitskaya Street), and the Ioanno-Predtechensky Convent, which was situated, until 1795, in the area of the present-day Rozhdestvensky Pereulok (lane). Connected to the first third of the 20th century are two communal graves in the area of the Uspensky Monastery. Their appearance, most probably, is connected to the dramatic periods of the Civil War and the period of political repressions.

Of great importance for further study of Sviyazhsk is the research conducted in the lower section of the hill on the side of the river boat station construction site. A mighty, in archaeological aspect, wet cultural layer has formed in this area as a result of the long-term formation of cultural layers. Peculiarity of such deposits ensures the high level of preservation of organic matters. A large excavation was started on the river boat station construction site, in which, at the level of 2 m., there have been found the horizons of the wooden structures dating back to the 19th – early 18th centuries. The earlier layers were not studied in the course of this year. Selected in the course of the excavations were additional saw cuts of the logs, which made it possible to clarify the dendrochronological scale of the Kazan Volga region of the 16th – 18th centuries.

The cultural deposits were dated accurately with the help of rich numismatic material. Also available are the items dating back to the Boulgar-Tatar period extending from the 13th to 15th centuries, such as, for example, the fragments of the earthenware glazed vessels, potter's red-clay tableware made in the Boulgar traditions. Also interesting is the availability of findings that date back to even earlier periods. A num-





ber of findings show that the hill was developed at the period of the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age.

The archaeological collections that became a result of the research from the closed complexes (cellars, basements, utility pits), the time of use of which is established by the dating findings, will make it possible to create a picture of changes in the town material culture of the Middle Volga Region in general. The archaeological protective research in the area of holding the construction works in the territory of Sviyazhsk made it possible to collect new information on the pre-regular development of the late mediaeval and the district town of the second half of the 16th – 19th centuries. The excavations helped establish the vectors of the early streets and the lay-outs of mansion houses.

Over the centuries-old existence of Sviyazhsk, the thick cultural layer preserved the remains of ancient structures represented both by wooden and stone ones that had public, dwelling or utility purposes, and various utility pits. Continuation of the research provides for the resolution of issues related to the early history of the island: localisation of the fortress fortifications of Sviyazhsk of the 16th century, the initial planning of the streets, since the location of the sites are known from written sources. One of the promising areas of research is the clearance of the stone ruins of the churches, which were blasted at the Soviet period, for their further museification and inclusion on the list of tourist routes.





Infrastructure (roads, squares, planting of greenery)



Before its revival, Sviyazhsk represented a typical specimen of a degraded settlement. Except for several streets with the preserved white-stone paving, the other roads had no rigid covering. There was no public water supply and drainage system, the local drinking water exceeded the standards for maximum allowable concentration of nitrates hundreds of times. Heating in the houses was ensured by furnaces that threatened to collapse. People, especially the old ones, had regular problems with provision of wood for these furnaces. Power supply that was provided by the neighbouring district of the republic, via a span cable above the Sviyaga, was irregular. As a result of the utilities arrangement in Sviyazhsk, the town now has a main domestic gas pipeline, a water supply point was





built with a water purification system, and a drainage station. A new power supply line was laid on the dam. The streets of Sviyazhsk are now illuminated by street lamps made in historical style. The concrete covering was laid on the touristic routes. This year, it is planned to continue the large-scale planting of greenery in Sviyazhsk by planting hundreds of trees and decorating the streets of Sviyazhsk with grass-plots and flowers.

Investors:
OOO Gazprom Transgaz Kazan
Director General: R.A. Kantyukov;

ОАО Grid Company
Director General: D.K. Safiullin



Cultural
Heritage
of Tatarstan

Sviyazhsk



River Boat Station (2011)



The River Boat Station was built in the lower part of Sviyazhsk and includes a ticket office, a waiting room, a touristic information centre of the GBUK State Historical, Architectural, and Art Museum “Island Town of Sviyazhsk”, and a small café for passengers. Along with riverboats, the station will also receive tourist coaches.





Investor:
OOO PSO Kazan
Director General: R.K. Ziganshin



Conclusion



All those who visited Bolgar and Sviyazhsk a couple of years ago are unfailingly amazed with the large-scale changes taking place in these ancient towns. For many years, not only in the 20th century, but also in the previous ones, the monuments of Bolgar and Sviyazhsk stood forgotten and were ruining slowly. Specialists say that the absence of the large-scale restoration for another several tens of years would, most probably, lead to the complete loss of the major part of these structures. The revival of the ancient Bolgar and Island-town of Sviyazhsk initiated by M.S. Shaimiev, the First President of the Republic of Tatarstan, made it possible not only to preserve our cultural heritage in the form of monuments of architecture, but also to give them the new economic opportunities contributing to the development of our entire Motherland.

The most important is that the establishment of the “Renaissance” Foundation gave an opportunity to all those who are not indifferent to take part in this noble cause. The revival of the historical and cultural heritage became a republic’s-wide cause in Tatarstan. All layers of the population participate in the implementation of this large-scale project.

The Republic’s “Renaissance” Foundation is supported by people of all professions, with different financial opportunities, enterprises and organisations





of different patterns of ownership and levels of business success.

The fund is supported by students and schoolchildren, sportsmen and creative intelligentsia.

Entire families and, in some cases, entire settlements participate in the implementation of the project. It will not be exaggeration to say that the entire Tatarstan helps the “Renaissance” Foundation.

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation made a decision to immortalise the names of all charity providers in a special memorial book of charity providers of the Republic’s “Renaissance” Foundation. Three volumes of this book have already been published.

In general, included into these three volumes of the book were over 22 000 charity providers (Volume 1: over 5 000; Volume 2: over 10 000; Volume 3: over 7 000). T’s also good that some charity providers were included into two or even into all three volumes of the book. Each participant of the project has the full right to be proud of participation, in 2011 – 2012, in putting into use of 14 projects in Sviyazhsk and 10 projects in Bolgar, which are the national heritage.

By changing the image of these towns, we become different, become better, and gain spirituality. This is, probably, the most important and more valuable than the restored monuments, because we and our society revive too.





The “Renaissance” Foundation

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