



THE EMANCIPATION OF THE BLOCK

In a society like the Russian one, where (extravagant) individualism grew as a reaction to (an often forced) collectivism, one answer to the fragmented and excessive subjectivity is re-scaling and redefining the political and spatial parameters of the block. We therefore propose to re-scale the block into spaces and communities on different levels. As a result the block emancipates into two directions: up to the urban scale of the city and down to the singular room of the apartment.

A CLEAR BORDER OPENS UP

Instead of rejecting the fragmentation in the name of some idealistic intention, we base communitarian life on a clear spatial separation as opposed to a continuous universality. Against the taboo that a border abdicates from (a socio-political vision of) the city, we therefore incorporate borders within the project. Together with the spatial setting of the buildings this opens up and enriches both social relations inside the block, as well as the urban life around it.

REFINING THE A101 STANDARD

In our project we imply and refine the A101 idea of creating a standard, based on the logic of continuous zooming in and passing between the various scales. The result is a succession of masterplans, each with a specific character and basic rules. Following a clear hierarchy and a modular logic the transition between the different scales is made possible.

A HIERARCHY OF ROOMS

The plot is regulated by a check-board like grid, within which the buildings rise. The spatial setting of the buildings configures both urban life around the block, as well as the social relations inside it. The logic goes on into the formation of the buildings' interiors and their facades, allowing a transition from the public, to the common and then to the private. Within

the rooms of the apartments, the facade provides a framework that intensifies the different scales of the plan.

STANDARD EVOLUTION

The modularity and distinctive hierarchy of scales makes the plan controllable on different levels. The buildings, the apartments, the rooms and the facade all apply the same modular system of 900 mm. Each scale is thus treated as a framework with a variety of possibilities on each scale, which allows spatial, economical and social evolution in time.

FACTS

location:	Moscow, Russia
status:	competition entry
site:	plot 9.375m ² , total built-up area 28.000m ²
programme:	housing and commercial
client:	Masshtab, Moscow
budget:	-
in cooperation with:	Simon de Jong (de+ge), David Smidt va Gelder (buro ruim), Freek Waltmann (buro ruim), Melina Mezari, Kenya Sato
when:	December 2010