

Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the USSR

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MONUMENTS OF THE USSR

(real estate)

Union Republic Russia

Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Tourism of the Russian Federation. Department for protection of Cultural Legacy
(name of the republic's body for monument protection)

CERTIFICATE

I. NAME OF THE MONUMENT House and workshop of the architect K.S. Melnikov

II. TYPE Monument of architecture

III. DATED (or the date of the historical event connected with the establishment
of the monument – for monuments of history)
 1927-1929

IV. ADDRESS (location) Moscow # 10 Krivoarbatsky Lane

Author: art historian G.K. Smirnov

Ordered by Moscow administration Committee on Cultural Legacy of Moscow (Moskomnasledie)
Document Archives Department
Code 244/06

Dated: November, 1993

VI. Historical data

a) The house and workshop of the architect Melnikov was erected according to his own design in 1927-1929 on the undeveloped territory. For designing a special dismantlable model was made which allowed to visualize the spatial and volumetric structure and the interior layout of the house. The construction was financed by Melnikov himself and was carried out by the Moscow utilities construction organization. All the official documents between K.S. Melnikov and Moscow utilities and house maintenance organizations considered the building an experimental construction, and the house was exempt of land rent fee.

At the same time the fence along the lane was built. The gate was connected to the house by means of “pneumatic” telephone through the underground pipe. Also lawns, alleys and flowerbeds were made, lilac, bird cherry and 2 birches were planted. There were playgrounds behind the house, and in the 1950’s fruit trees were planted there. Later on the family started to grow vegetables.

b) Reconstructions and losses which changed the original view of the house

In 1941 two screens on the first floor were dismantled: the first one separated 2 children’s work rooms from each other, the other one the bathroom from the hostess’s work room. At the same period the decoration of the walls and the ceiling in the bedroom was lost. During the repairs of 1976 the elevations of the house were painted light grey, which concealed the original white of quicklime. At the same time a new fence with a gate was constructed but with several modifications of the original design. The geological structure of the area has drastically changed recently which can damage the house. In 1988 scaffolding was built in front of the house for restoration. Deeper in the garden there is a brick shed built instead of the wooden one which had burnt in fire.

Nowadays the house is equipped with fire and security alarm.

c) Restoration and repairs (general characteristics, time, author, place of the documentation storage)

At the present time restoration of the roof structure is carried out by the architect A.V. Popov.

VII. DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The house is situated on the improperly shaped piece of land stretching deep into the residential quarter and slightly broadening to the north. The structure is retracted from the building line of the lane, thus dividing the land into 2 unequal parts. The front (smaller) part functions as a front garden, the rear part is a small garden with fruit trees. There is a transparent board fence along the building line of the lane. Along the center line of the house there is a gate of peculiar shape and construction with sector-shaped aisle, striking into the territory of the site.

The three-storey brick plastered building with a basement is made in the style of functionalism. The walls are characterized by a unique structural system. They are made on the foundation consisting of 2 crossing rings of laced brick framework. Out of 100 holes formed in the walls 63 were left for windows, one was meant for a refrigerator. The rest of the holes were filled up with broken brick and construction waste and covered from both sides with one layer of brick.

The volumetric construction of the house outstanding in its expressiveness consists of 2 vertical cylinders impressed one into the other. In the plan the structure makes figure "8", directed "north-south". The lower front cylinder with its southern part vertically cut is covered with flat roof with open platform. The upper rear cylinder has a slanting roof, getting lower from the center of the building to its northern edge.

The front elevation looking out onto the lane belongs to the flat section of the cylinder and has frontal symmetric structure. The only entrance to the house is flanked by 2 large rectangular windows. The main part of the elevation represents a large window screen covering the whole surface of the second floor. There is an inscription above it: "Architect Konstantin Melnikov". The side walls of the front cylinder are practically all blank, only on the first floor the walls are cut through to make several hex-shaped windows, and one octagonal window is fixed on the east wall on the second floor level. The rear cylinder elevations are made in a more free-form and lenient style. The walls are cut through with 57 hex-shaped vertical windows which form a common geometrized ornament with regularly repeated elements set in 5 layers. The lower layer of the windows through which the light penetrates into the first floor is separated from the 4 upper layers by a larger blank wall. The second layer of windows is on the second floor, and the three upper layers belong to the third floor. The general structure is revived by the window sash patterns: the first one of the first layer of windows, the second one of the second and fifth layers and the third one of the third and fourth layers. The brick chimneys not covered with plaster emphasize the side elevations of the house and visually separate the two cylinders from each other.

The interior layout and space structure are characterized by exceptional functional forethought meant for life of one family and contribute to the atmosphere of coziness and comfort. The first floor designed for routine life is the most difficult in its composition. Most of the space of the south cylinder on the first floor is occupied by the dining room rectangular in the plan, extended along the diagonal axis of the house. There is a kitchen and a hallway to the sides of the dining room. All the three rooms are connected by means of a hall. The interior glazy door of the hallway is unusual, as its leaf serves for 2 door openings: it can close the hallway, connecting the hall with the staircase, or close the hall thus prolonging the

hallway. The dining room is connected to the hall by means of 2 openings without doors reaching up to the ceiling. The analogous opening connects the kitchen to the hall. The window connecting the kitchen to the dining room designed in the plan was never made and was left as a niche. One of the openings of the outer wall from the side of the kitchen was used for a refrigerator (its wooden framework has been renewed and will be installed into the niche). The hall situated on the longitudinal axis of the house is the core of the composition in the rear cylinder on the first floor. To the sides of the hall there is the hostess's work room (to the east) and a dressing room and a bathroom (to the west). In the front part the hall is connected with 3 rooms sector-shaped in the plan: 2 children's work rooms and a bathroom. The hall also leads to the brick cemented staircase to the basement.

The basement is situated only under the front cylinder and includes brick constructions of old buildings which had been built there before. Most of the basement is occupied by the space heating device which distributes hot air to all the rooms of the house through pipes. All the doors in the house have to be opened for normal operation of the heating system and constant air renewal. There is a closet and a cellar for storage of food.

Unlike the fractional composition of the first floor, the upper floors are distinguished by simple layout and integrity of the spatial structure. All the three floors are connected by the wooden winding stairs set at the joint of the two cylinders from the east side. On the second floor the cylinder is occupied by the spacious living room lit by the large window screen. Moreover, on the west side there is a small octagonal window made in the process of construction (it was not designed though), which lets in the sun light in the evening and used to look out onto St. Nicolas' church in Plotniki (it was destroyed in the 1930's). The living room is connected to the bedroom situated in the rear cylinder. It is divided into 3 parts by means of 2 radial screens which are not attached to the walls. Three parts are meant for three beds built into the floor: one in the center for the parents' double bed, and 2 beds to the sides for the daughter and the son. The room is very well lit by 12 windows. There is a workshop above the bedroom of the same dimensions as the living room. The light penetrates there through 38 windows. Attached to the south wall of the workshop is the attic balcony which can be reached by a wooden straight-stair. This balcony leads to the terrace surrounded by a blank parapet and to the southern part which has a semi-circular sun breaker.

The walls and the ceilings in the house are plastered and painted. The walls in the living room are painted in lilac, the workshop – in white. One of the screens in the bedroom preserves a fragment of decoration of the walls and the ceiling with polished plaster of golden color. The ceilings of the 3 rooms on the first floor are decorated with triangles: in the son's work room - a blue one, in the daughter's work room – a yellow one, and in the bathroom - a bilberry red triangle. The floors in the house (except for the asphalted floor in the basement) are made of deal matchboard. The construction of the wooden girderless flooring (except for the flooring in the basement) is also very unique. It is made of boards set on the edge, impressed into each other and intersecting at right angle, thus making a network of square cells. The construction is sheathed with matchboard from the bottom and on the top, thus forming the ceiling and the floor correspondingly.

Melnikov's own house and workshop is one of the best pieces of the prominent architect, an outstanding monument of architecture of the XXth century which has won worldwide recognition. It is one of the most famous buildings in the style of functionalism notable for

innovative structure characteristics, unsurpassed artistic shape and exceptional functional forethought. The house for one family with a workshop in it is a unique example of the kind in the center of the Soviet Moscow. The building, despite its innovative shape, belongs to the historical vicinity of Old Arbat which emphasizes the “Moscow” character of this monument.

VIII. References. Archives. Iconographic Materials

- 1) S.O. Khan-Magomedov. Krivoarbatsky Lane, 10. M., 1984
 - 2) Konstantin Melnikov. Drawings and Projects. Catalogue of Exhibition. M., 1989, pp. 31-34.
 - 3) S.O. Khan-Magomedov. Konstantin Melnikov., M., 1990, pp.161-198
 - 4) S. Petrochuk. Melnikov House. – “Our Legacy”, 1992, pp. 109-112.
- Plans, sketches, photographs and negatives are stored in a fund for history and culture in Moscow.

IX. TECHNICAL CONDITION

The technical condition of the house is assessed as unsatisfactory

X. SECURITY SYSTEM

a) category of security - local

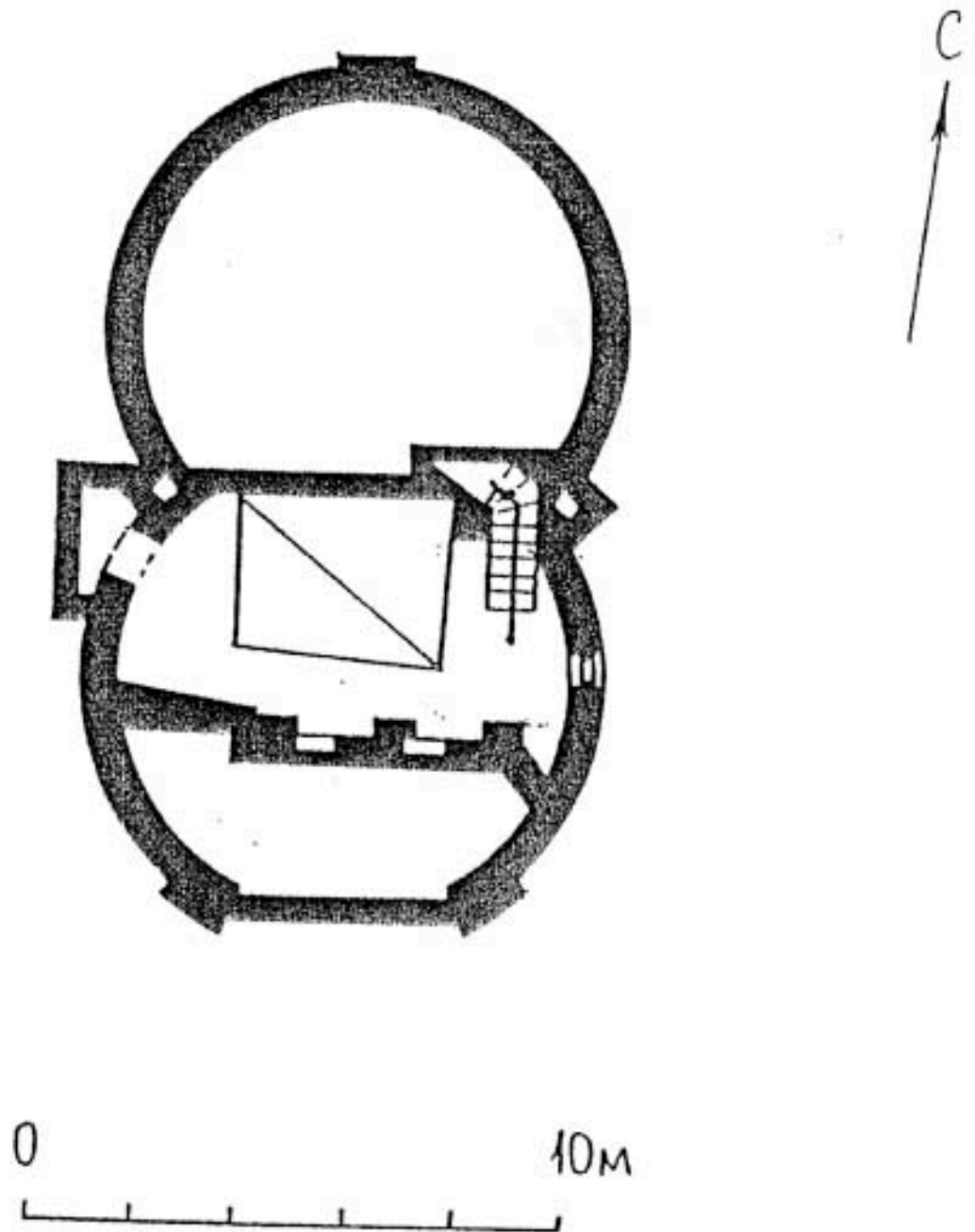
b) date and No. of the document on security provision Order of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Council dated March, 23 1987 No. 647

c) borders of protective zone and building control zone (short description with reference to the document) – Protective zone No. 17 approved by Moscow administration on December, 16, 1997.

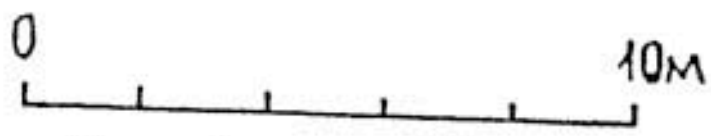
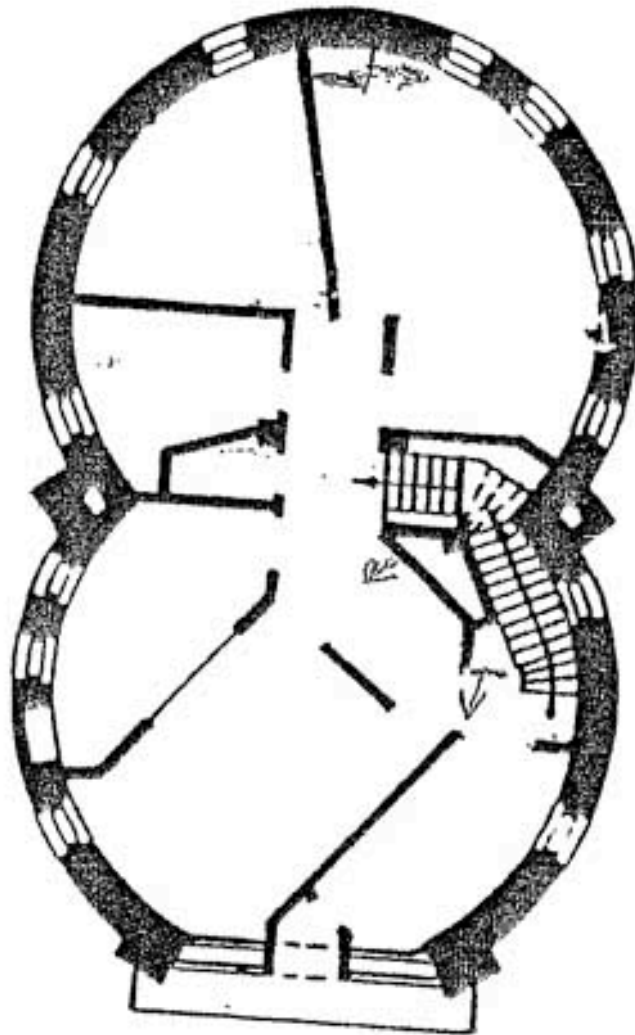
Moscow
10, Krivoarbatsky Lane
House of architect K.S. Melnikov
1927-1929
Schematic general plan of the site



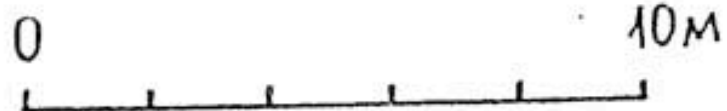
Moscow
10, Krivoarbatsky Lane
House of architect K.S. Melnikov
1927-1929
Plan of the basement



Moscow
10, Krivoarbatsky Lane
House of architect K.S. Melnikov
1927-1929
Plan of 1st floor



Moscow
10, Krivoarbatsky Lane
House of architect K.S. Melnikov
1927-1929
Plan of 2nd floor



Moscow
10, Krivoarbatsky Lane
House of architect K.S. Melnikov
1927-1929
Plan of 3rd floor

