

Under pressure:

**teaching architectural history in higher architectural education in
the USSR in 1930s**

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Study rationale

I describe the Soviet architectural education organisation during this period and the place that history of architecture occupied in the professional training of architects:

- When describing the professional training of architects in the 1930s, it is important to consider how the educational system was changing at that time.
- In the early 1930s, dramatic changes in the system of state control over culture and art and education led to the emergence of a completely new system of training architects.
- History of architecture was always an essential subject for the architects, however, its place in the curricula vary.

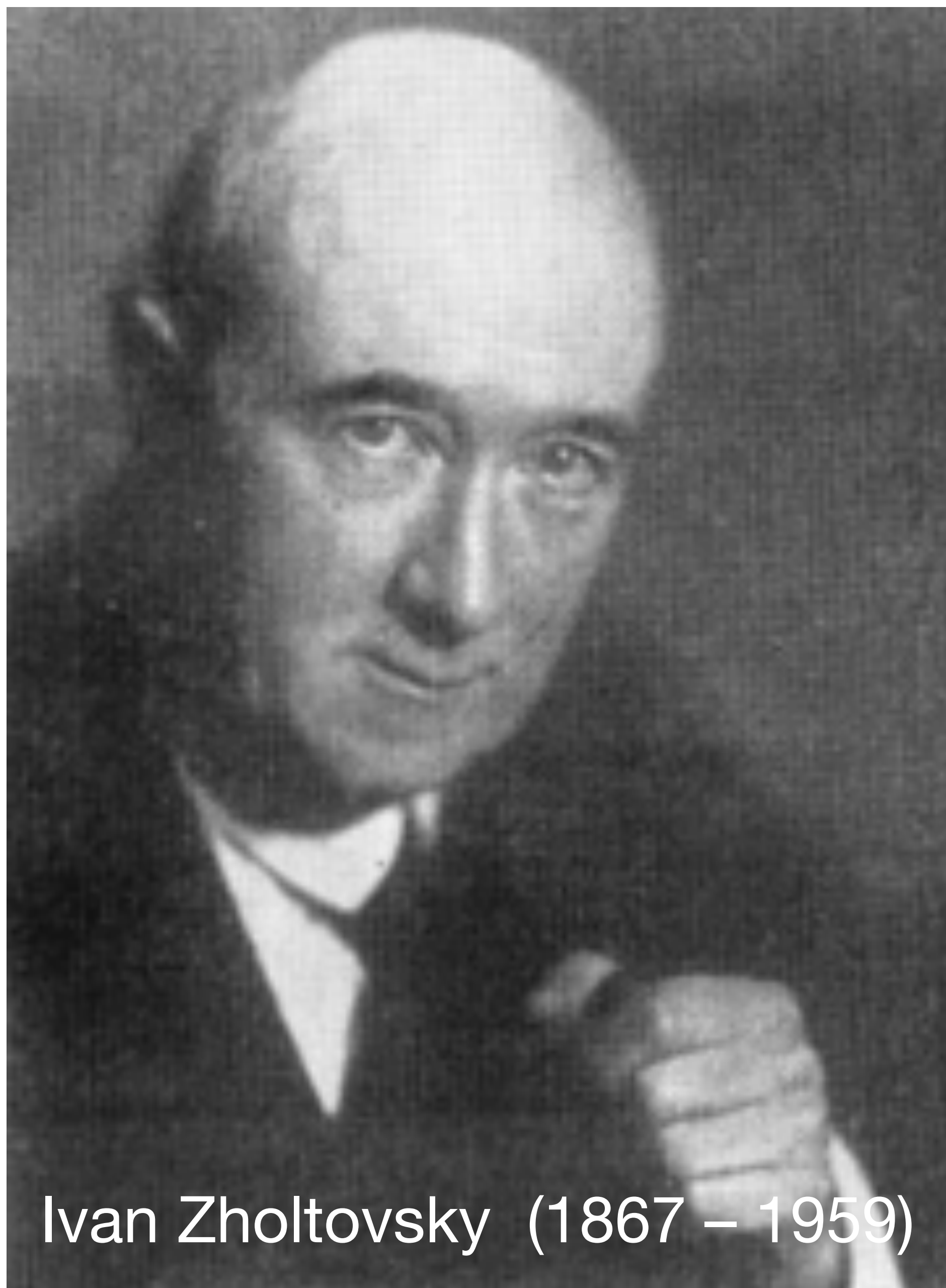
Research questions

1. How was architectural education organised in the USSR in the 1930s, and what factors led to this arrangement?
2. What role did the history of architecture play in the professional training of architects in the 1930s?

Soviet educational system in 1930s

The background image shows a large, classical-style building with a portico supported by columns. In the foreground, there is a statue of a man sitting on a pedestal. The building has a pediment with inscriptions in Cyrillic. The scene is set in a park-like area with bare trees.

- Universality (the same set of knowledge and skills for all graduates in the country).
- Top-down administration (a rigid administrative hierarchy and the need to coordinate any initiatives with the management).
- One-man management (sole responsibility of the leader).

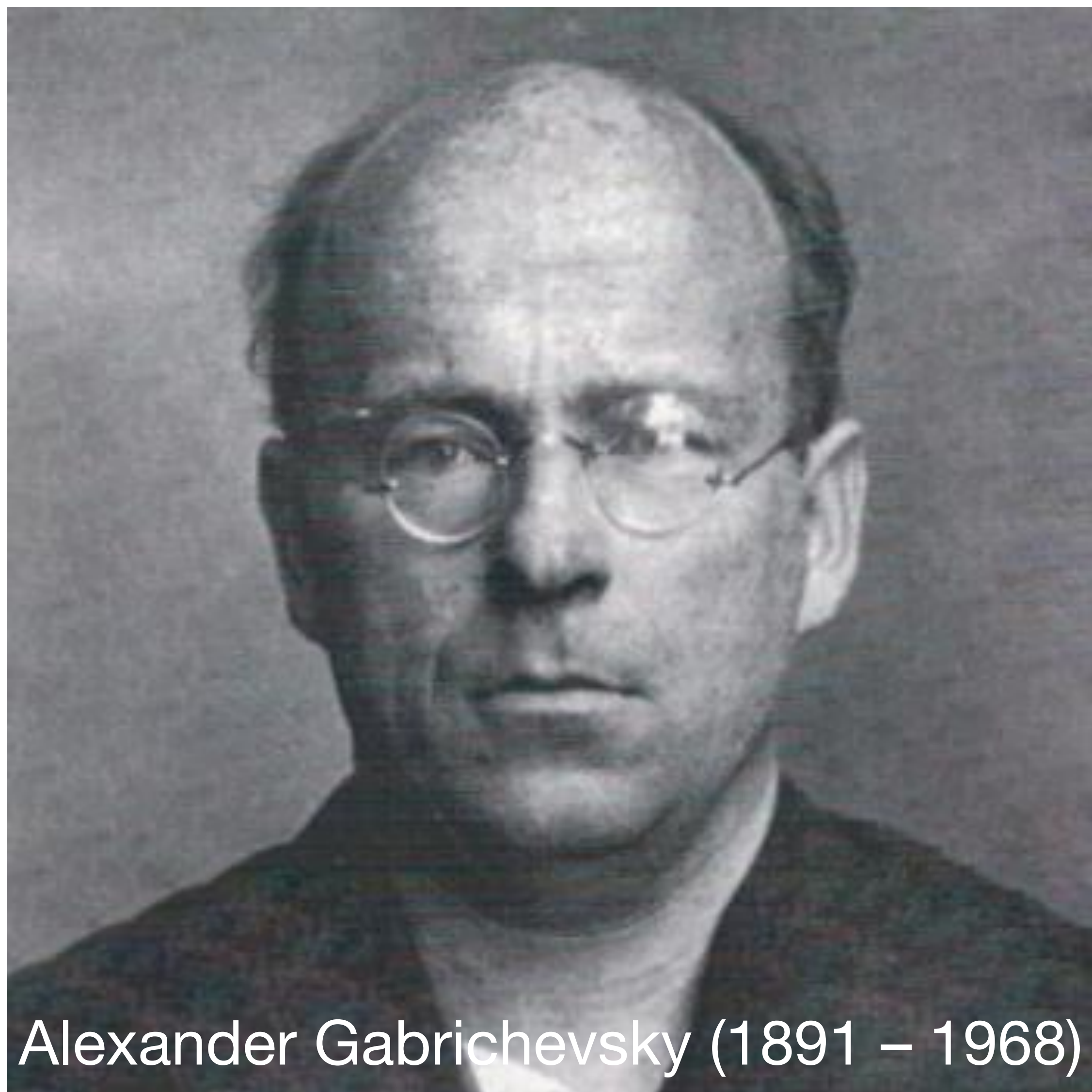


Ivan Zholtovsky (1867 – 1959)



Mikhail Kryukov (1884 – 1944)





Alexander Gabrichevsky (1891 – 1968)



Vasily Zubov (1900 – 1963)

Debates on architectural education (1932 – 1937)

Stage 1: the All-Soviet Academy of Architecture

- 1932: the establishment of the Union of the Soviet Architects
- 1932 – 1933: the work of the commission on architectural education
- 1933: a decree “On architectural education”
- 1933: the establishment of the All-Soviet Academy of Architecture
- 1934: first admission to the Academy

Debates on architectural education (1932 – 1937)

Stage 2: the creative meeting of the Union, 1935

- The current state of the architectural education is still insufficient.
- State needs unity in curricula and quick and effective training, so vocational education in architecture could meet the needs of mass construction
- Architects desire “one-to one” teaching to pass the mastery.

Debates on architectural education (1932 – 1937)

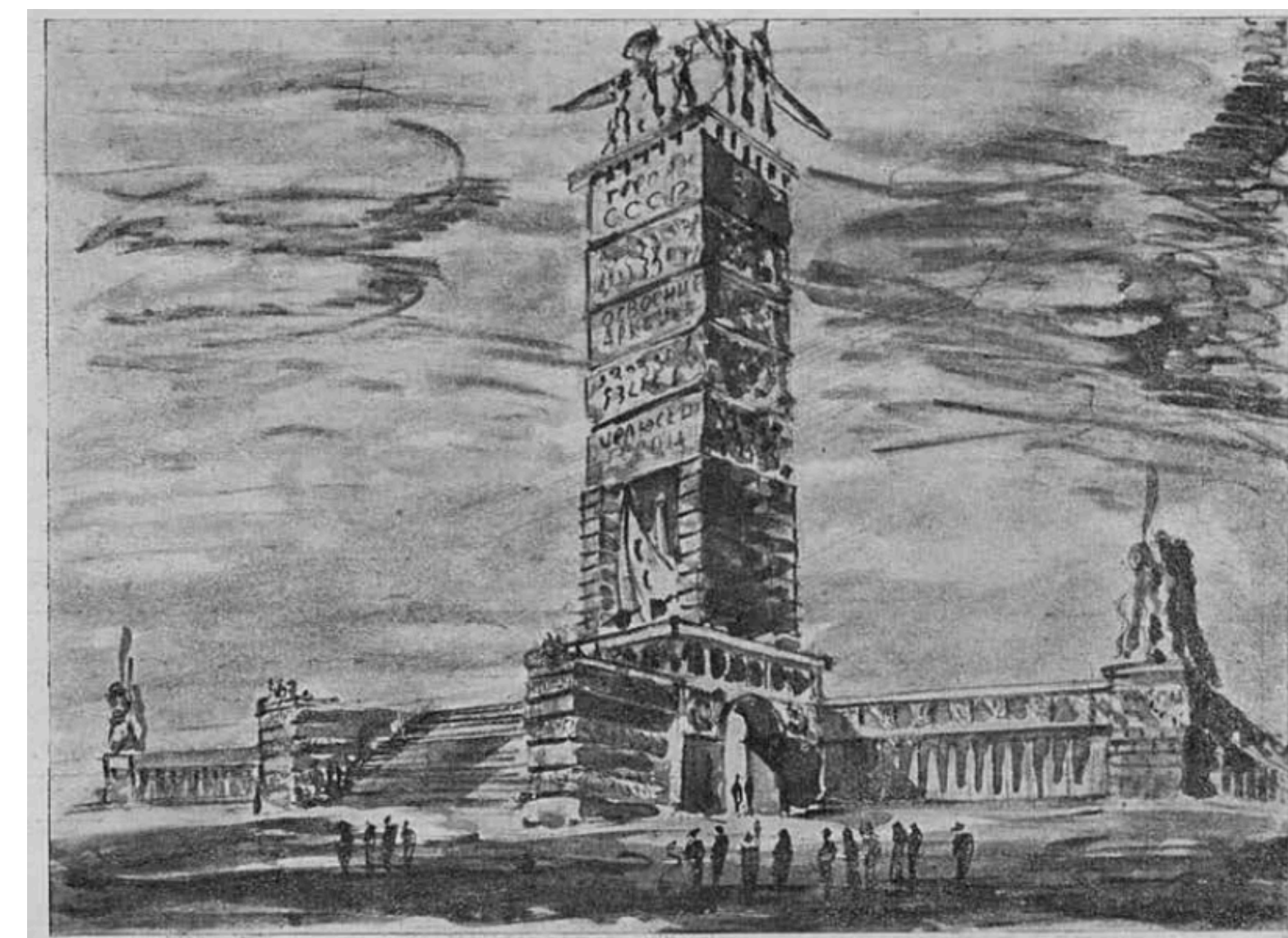
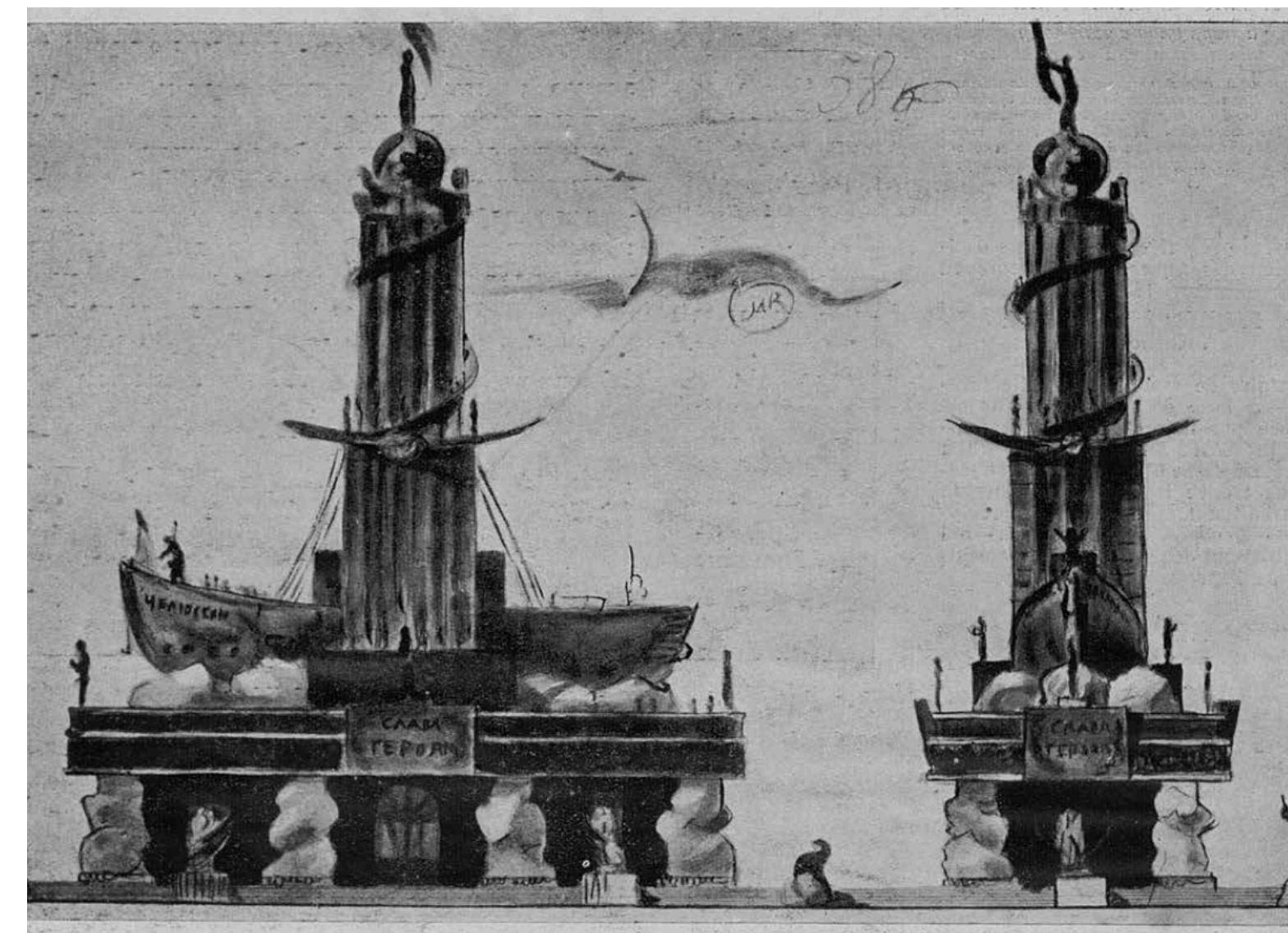
Stage 3: The 1st Congress of the Union, 1937

- ***Kryukov:*** neither artistic, nor engineering parts of educational process are not satisfactory in a vast majority of architectural schools all over the country.
- ***Kryukov:*** lack of highly qualified teaching staff, lack of textbooks and relevant literature, lack of supplies.
- ***Kryukov:*** the architectural community must help in educational issues.
- ***Zholtovsky:*** individual work with a student is the best teaching method.
- ***Zholtovsky:*** no time or institutional limits.

The best architect in the world

A professional profile of the Soviet architect

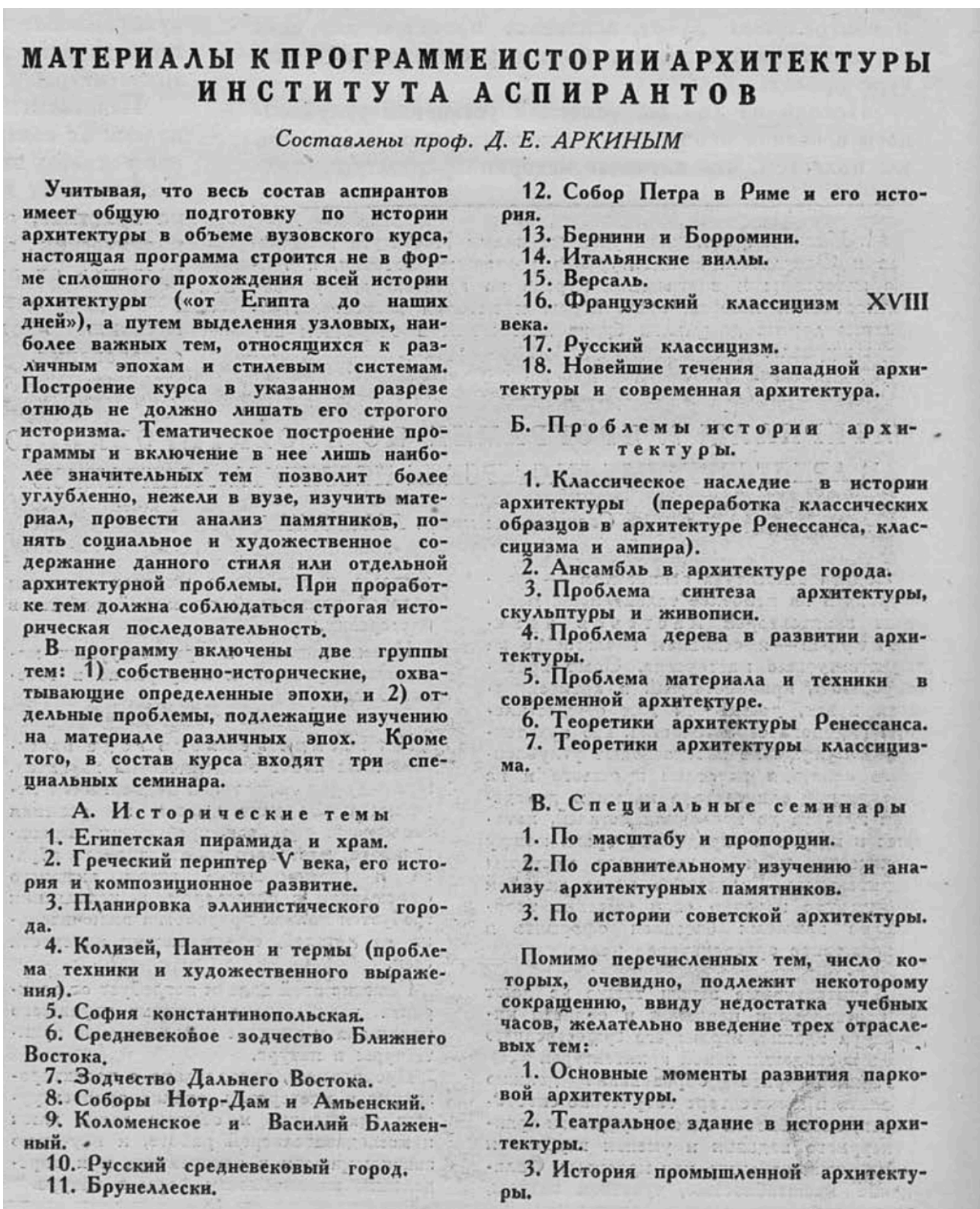
- “Socialistic architecture can be created only on the basis of the social realism”.
- “A fully-featured architect cannot exist without a deep knowledge of all history of architecture, without a mastery of all richness of the culture of the past”.
- “Architect is not only an artist, but also a constructor, he does not only create the image of the future monument, but he also must develop all artistic and technical bases of it”.
- “An architect must resolve the most complex practical and utilitarian, as well as functional and constructive tasks in the deeply elaborated artistic forms”.
- “Socialistic architecture needs an architect, who is fully armed with both the artistic mastery and technical culture”.



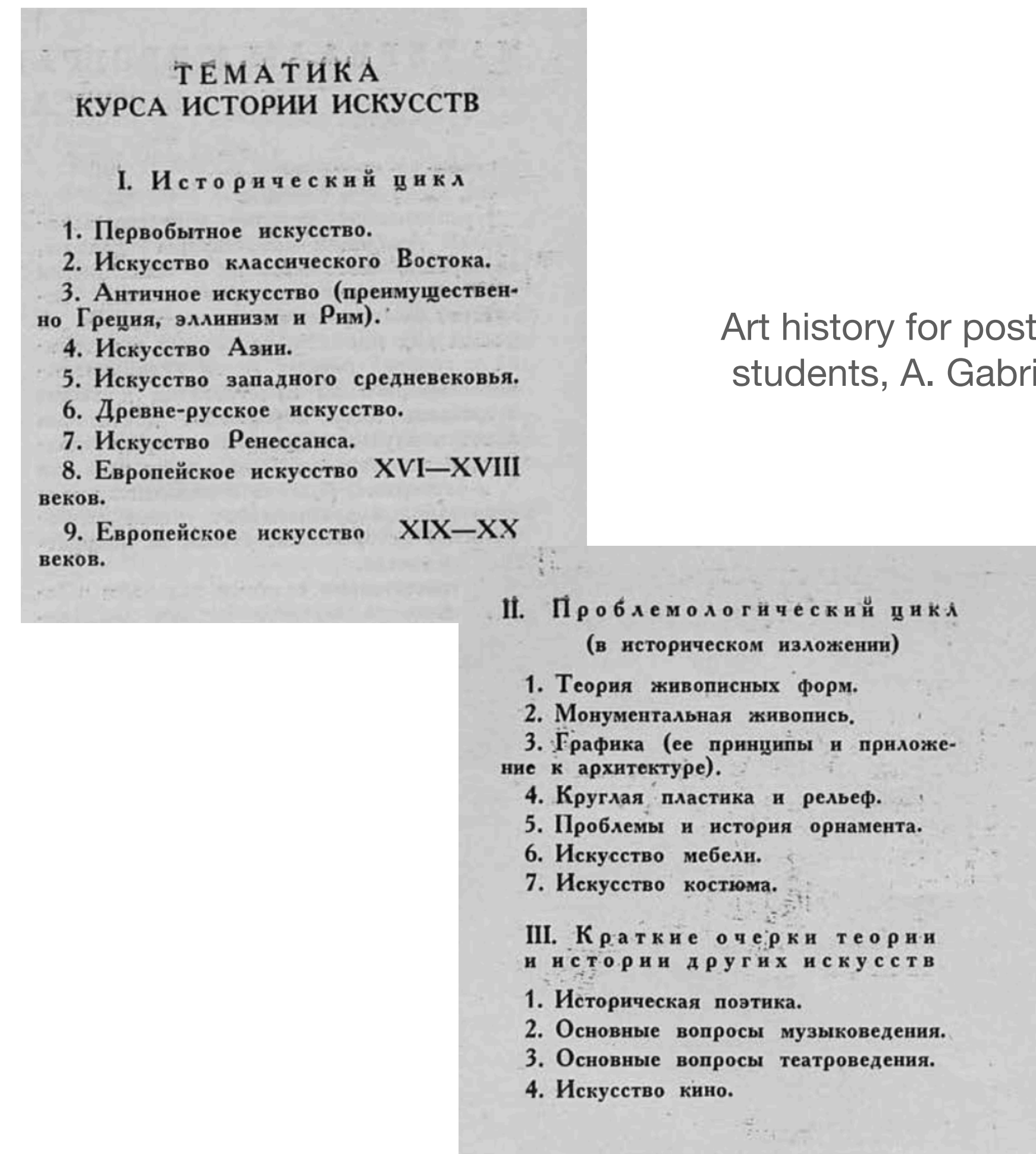


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Art history for postgraduate students, A. Gabrichevsky

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Academy's of Architecture publishing program

