CONTENTS

Translator’s Acknowledgements xi
Abbreviations xiii
Preface xvii

Introduction: Archaeology of a Vanished World 1

I. Shards of Empire 7
1. Barakholka in Izmailovsky Park, Bazaar in Petrograd 9
2. The Soviet World as Museum 19
3. Return to the Scene: Petrograd 1917 40
4. The Philosophy Steamer and the Splitting of Russian Culture 58

II. Highway of Enthusiasts 75
5. USSR in Construction: The Power of Images 77
6. DniproHES: America on the Dnieper 83
7. Magnitogorsk: The Pyramids of the Twentieth Century 98
8. Black and White: The Photographer’s Eye 115
9. Excursion to the White Sea Canal 122
10. Landscape after the Battle 141

III. Soviet Sign-Worlds 157
11. The Writing on the Wall 161
12. Decorations and Medals: Chest Badges 170
13. Body Language: Tattoos 178
14. Moscow Graffiti: In the Beginning Was Futurism 184
15. Names Are Not Just Hot Air 189

IV. The Life of Things 195
16. Wrapping Paper, Packaging 197
17. The Fate of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia: The Organisation of Knowledge amid the Tumult of History 200
18. Galleries of Private Possessions: The China Elephant on the Shelf 213
19. The Piano in the Palace of Culture 219
20. Rubbish: A Phenomenology of Cleanliness 227
22. Stalin’s Cookbook: Images of the Good Life in the Soviet Age 245

V. Oases of Freedom 261
23. Geologists’ Field Work and Other Breathing Spaces 263
24. Dacha: Chekhov’s Cherry Orchard in the Twentieth Century 272
25. Health Resorts for Workers: The Sanatorium as a Historical Locus 283

VI. Interiors 301
26. Doorbells: Nameplates and Signals 303
27. Kommunalka, or Where the Soviet People Were Tempered 305
28. The Interior as a Battlefield 326
29. Hostel/Obshchezhitie: Soviet Melting Pot 338
30. Tent Cities, World of Barracks: Finding One’s Way in ‘Russia in Flux’ 343
31. Palm Trees in the Civil War 348
32. The Soviet Staircase: Towards an Analysis of Anonymous and Anomic Spaces 361
33. Ilya Kabakov’s Installation: The Toilet as a Civilising Space 366
34. The ‘Moscow Kitchen’, or the Rebirth of Civil Society 376

VII. Landscapes, Public Spaces 397
35. Gorky Park: A Garden for the New Human Being 399
36. Diorama: View of a Landscape with Heroes 413
37. ‘Zhilmassiv’, or the Sublime Vistas of the Prefab Mountains 420
38. Russkaya Glubinka—the Country beyond the Big Cities 438

VIII. Big Data 453
39. Spetskhran: Catalogue of Forbidden Books 455
40. Diagrams of Progress, Diagrams of Catastrophes 466
IX. Rituals
41. The Border at Brest—Rites of Passage 481
42. Choreographies of Power: Parades on Red Square and Elsewhere 496
43. A ‘Temple of Modernity’: The Crematorium 513
44. ZAGS, or the Rituals of Everyday Life 523
45. Queues as a Soviet Chronotope 531
46. ‘Think of the Parties We Had . . .’ 552

X. Bodies
47. Fizkultura: Soviets as Athletes 569
49. Manly Grace: Nureyev’s Gesture 608

XI. Kolyma: The Pole of Cold 619

XII. The Solovetsky Special Camp—Laboratory of Extremes: Monastery Island as Concentration Camp 649

XIII. Corridors of Power 665
50. K. in the Labyrinth of Everyday Soviet Reality 667
51. The ‘House on the Moskva’: Machine for Living, Trap for People, Gated Community 678
52. The Aura of the Telephone and the Absence of the Phone Book 691

XIV. The Noise of Time 699
53. The Bells Fall Silent 702
54. Levitan’s Voice 713
55. Back in the USSR: Sound Traces 726

XV. Alien Territory, Contact Zones, In-Between Worlds 731
56. ‘The Little Oasis of the Diplomatic Colony’ 735
57. The Journalists’ Ghetto: The View from Outside, Fixation with the Centre 741
58. Beryozka Shops: ‘Oases of Affluence’ 745
59. Genius of the Collector: George Costakis and the Rediscovery of Soviet Avant-Garde Art 752

XVI. The Railroads of Empire: Time Travel Back into the Russian Twentieth Century 769

XVII. Red Cube: The Lenin Mausoleum as Keystone 791

XVIII. The Lubyanka Project: Design for a Musée Imaginaire of Soviet Civilisation 807

Acknowledgements 821
Notes 823
Selected Reading 879
Index 881