

Preface

This book is addressed to those who find enchantment in discovering the past in the present, specifically, in architectural artifacts that mirror a past epoch. While it is improbable that a single work of architecture would do this, a well-preserved "historic district" could and does. I have tried to persuade the reader that despite enormous destruction of historic Moscow over the last half century there is still a significant remnant from the city of the early nineteenth century. To do so, I have proceeded as a cultural historian, not an architectural one, with a focus on the architectural artifacts and landscape rather than stylistic criticism. The organization of this book is chronological and to an extent approximates an atlas of central Moscow's principal streets, plazas, edifices, ensembles, and even unrealized plans.

This study of classical Moscow has been anything but a solo enterprise. Many scholars, colleagues, and friends have contributed to the final draft. Professor Robert Byrnes of Indiana University facilitated my first visit to the USSR more than two decades ago. In the Soviet Union the late Professors Vladimir I.

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Although these individuals and institutions have contributed significantly to the work, I take responsibility for all errors and shortcomings.

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