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Скворцова Е.А., к. иск., ст.преподаватель

The Palaces of Saint-Petersburg and Its Suburbs

The palaces of Saint-Petersburg and its suburbs, known for their unrivalled luxury, epitomize the might of the Russian Empire in its heyday. Ruined in World War II and then magnificently restored, they embody the sense of tradition and continuity.

The course is arranged "geographically": each lecture is dedicated to a particular ensemble. This enables to underline its uniqueness, trace the history of its construction in context of Russian art, demonstrate shifts in artistic taste and enliven the story with insights into biographies of its owners. Great significance is attached to after-war restoration, as this experience contributed considerably to the science of restoration in general.