

# (De-)Communized by Design: The Case of the 1500th Anniversary of Kyiv

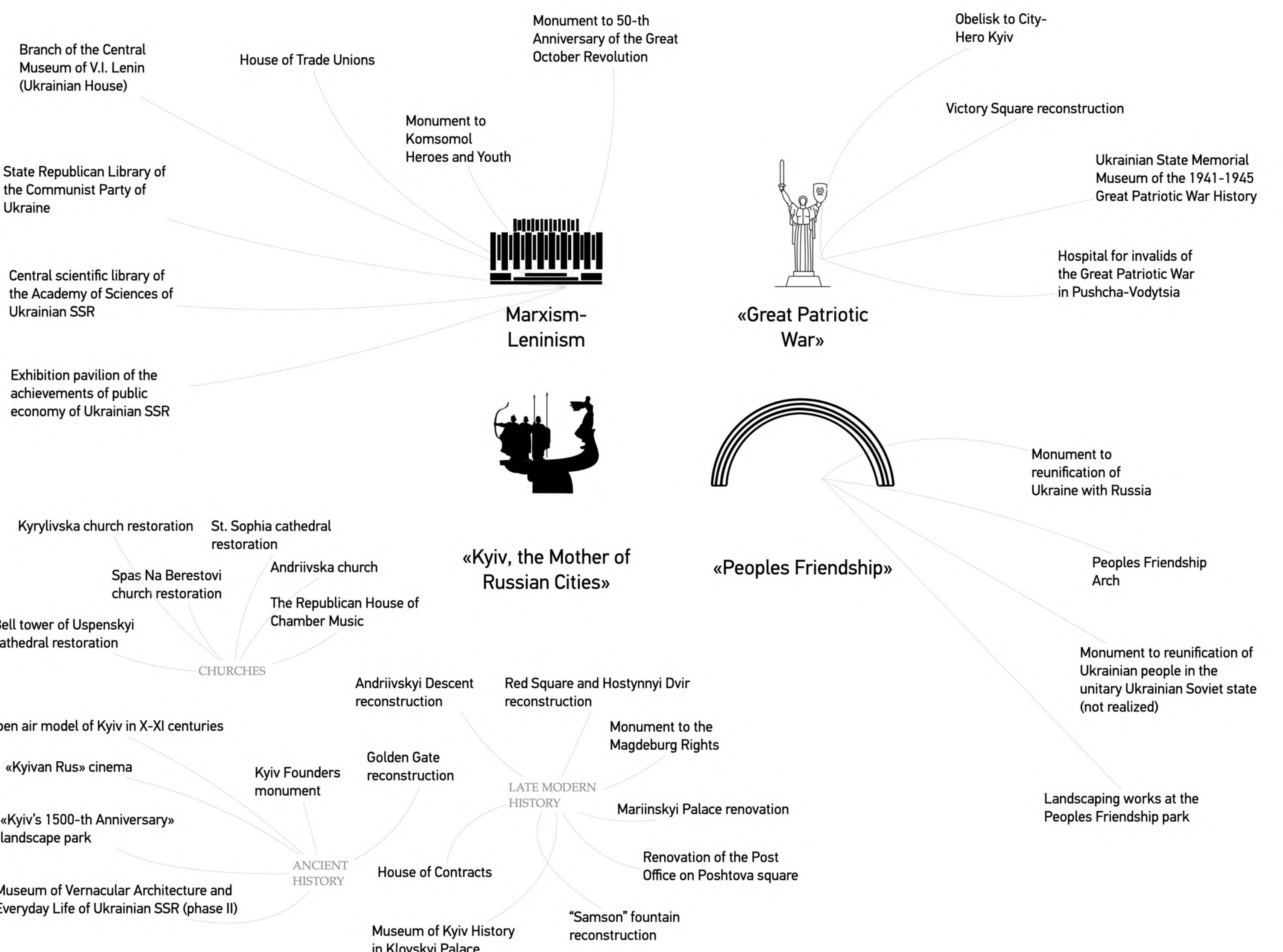
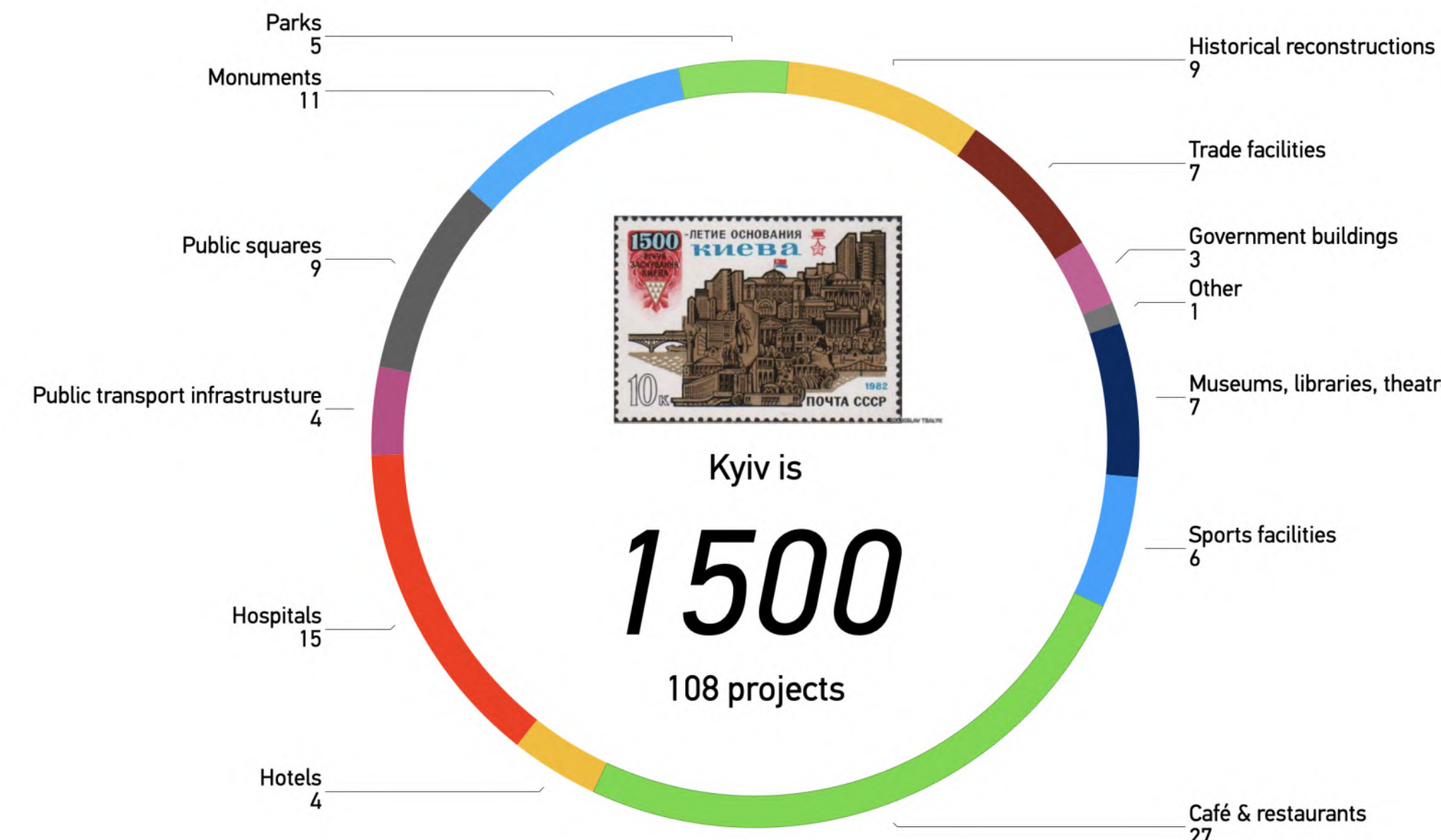
Yegor Vlasenko Fulbright Visiting Scholar, MIT Department of Urban Studies + Planning

Location: Kyiv, Ukraine  
Timeline: October 2019 – September 2020

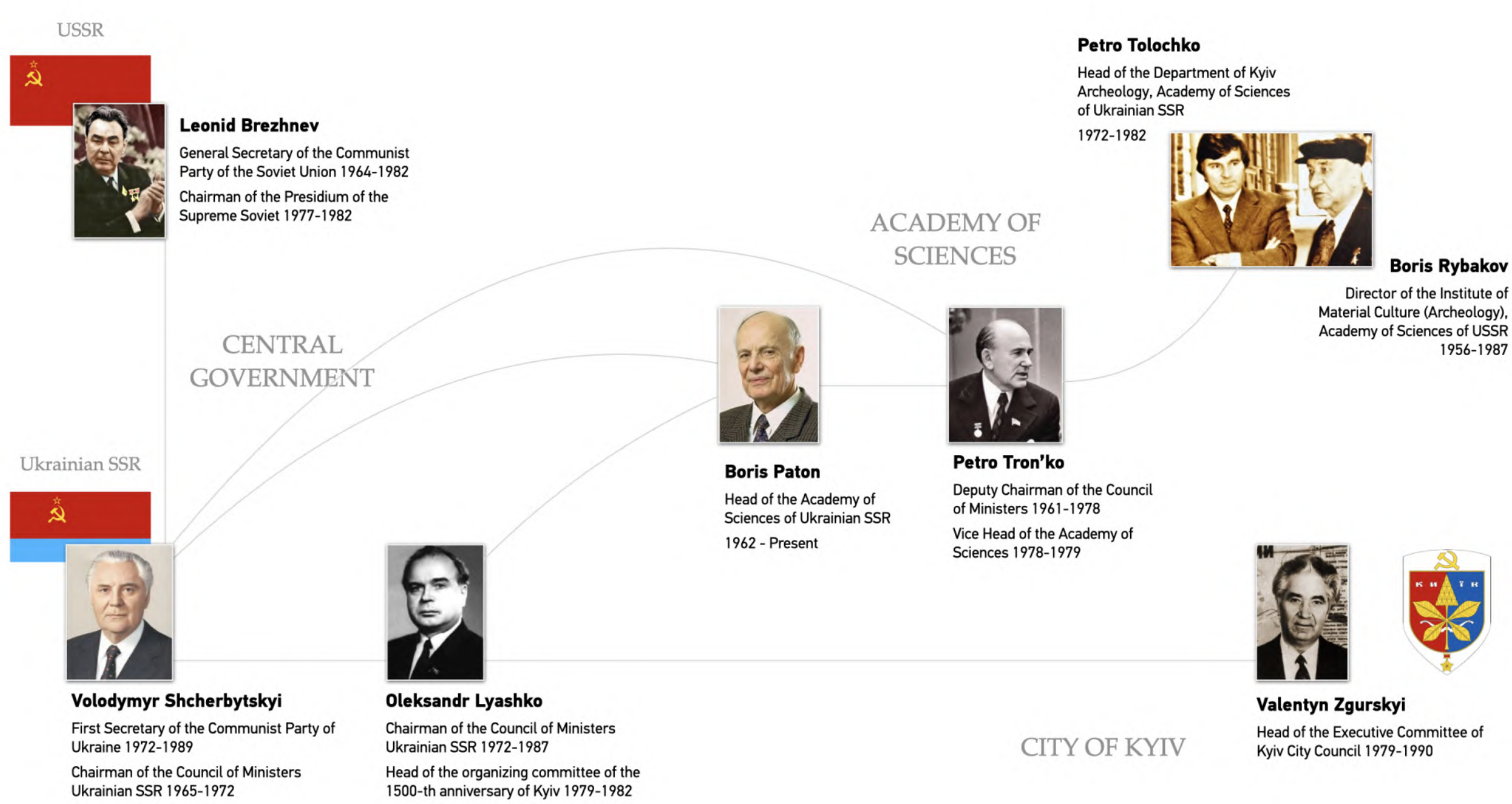
## Project Description

This project explores the recent transformations of Kyiv, Ukraine's built environment, occurring in response to the so-called "decommunization campaign" following the 2014 Euromaidan protests. The campaign aimed to establish an autonomous identity for the young nation-state of Ukraine through the stated goal of de-ideologizing urban space, constituted of removals, renamings of toponyms, transformations, and additions to the capital's urban design, architecture and monumental art. Basing on the case of the 1500th anniversary of Kyiv celebration, held by the Soviets in

1982, the project investigates how different Soviet ideological narratives were affected by decommunization in the built environment. The history of the celebration's 100+ works of architecture and monumental art was retrieved through archival study, featuring legislation, media pieces, documentaries, memoirs of key stakeholders, architecture albums, and celebration merchandise. The evidence of decommunization was collected using photographic methods and personal observations, as well as secondary sources.



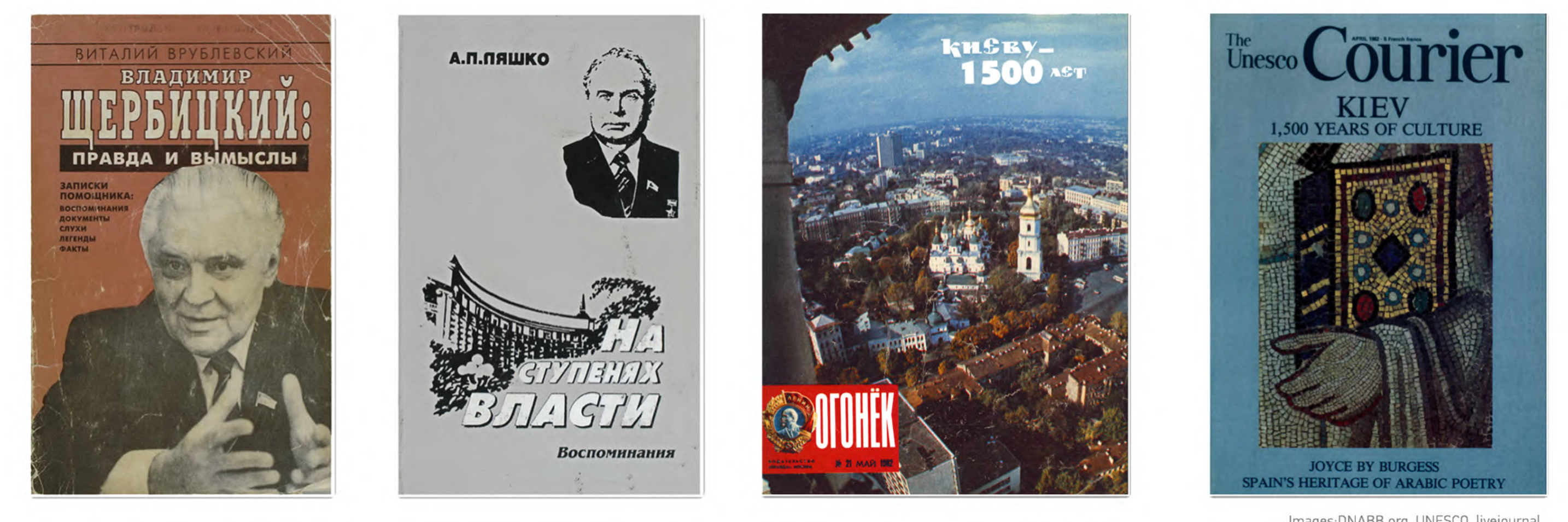
## KYIV-1500 ANNIVERSARY PROJECTS OVERVIEW



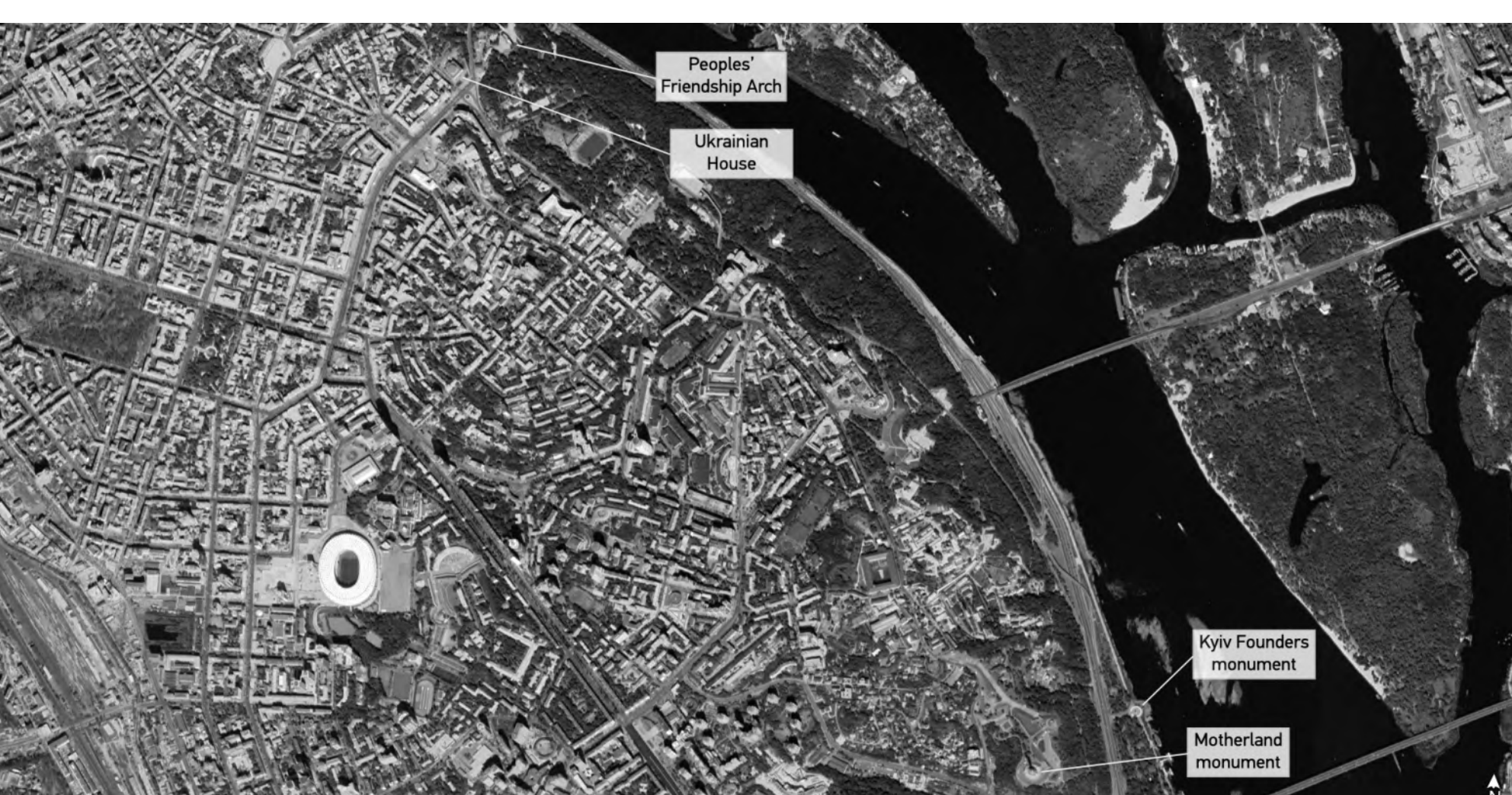
## STAKEHOLDERS ANALYSIS

The organizers of the 1500th anniversary of Kyiv held in 1982

## KYIV-1500 PROJECTS CLASSIFICATION BASED ON NARRATIVE ANALYSIS



## ARCHIVAL DATA SOURCES EXAMPLES



Location of the four key case studies



Soviet Ukraine leaders beneath Lenin monument (Traveler's Club TV show)



Proposal for repurposing of the Ukrainian House into a new President's Office (Pragmatika Media)



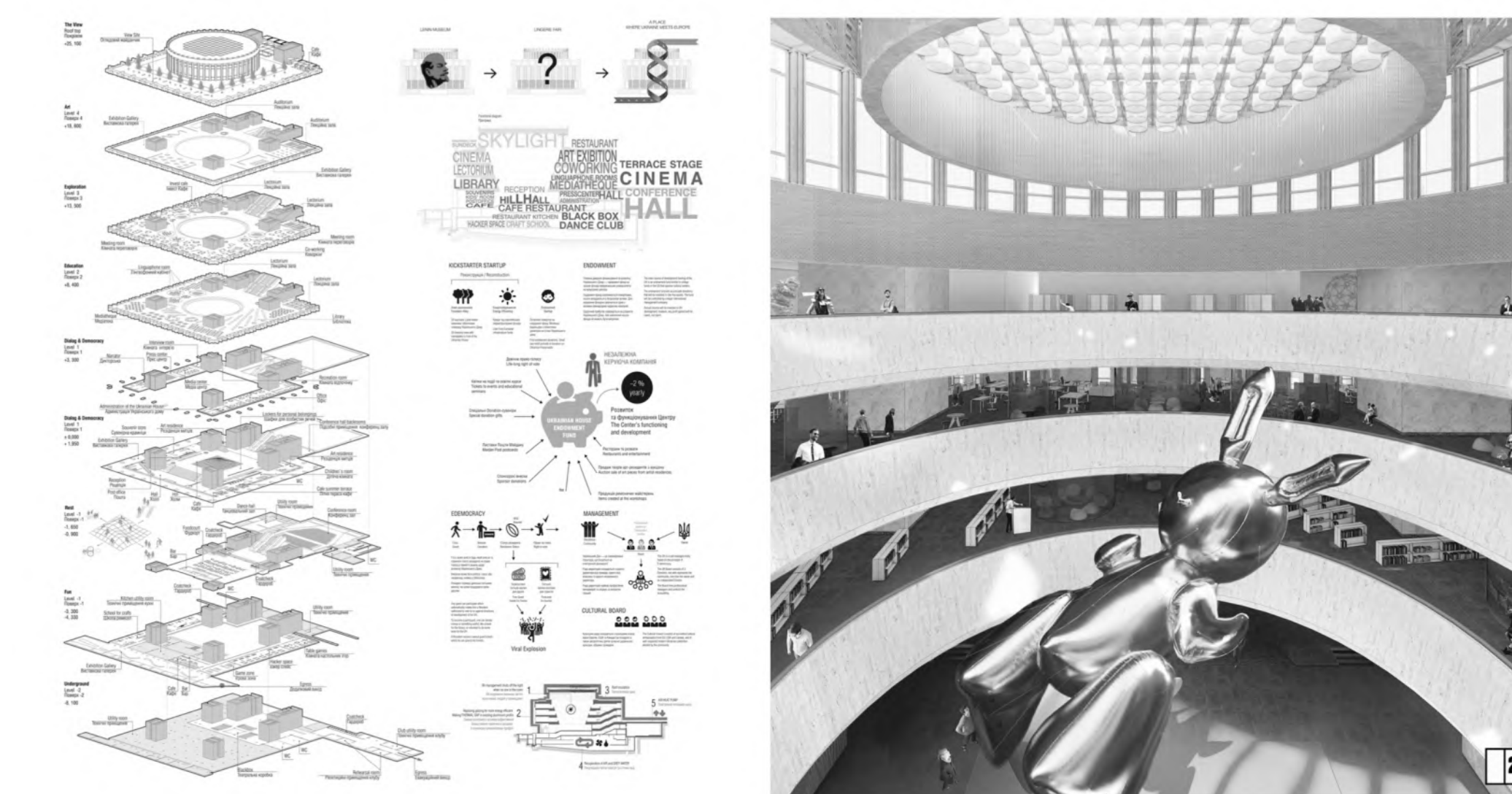
Archival Source



Motherland monument, 1980s (Kileso, Serhii)



Flag pole with the national flag of Ukraine outshining the Motherland monument (Yegor Vlasenko)

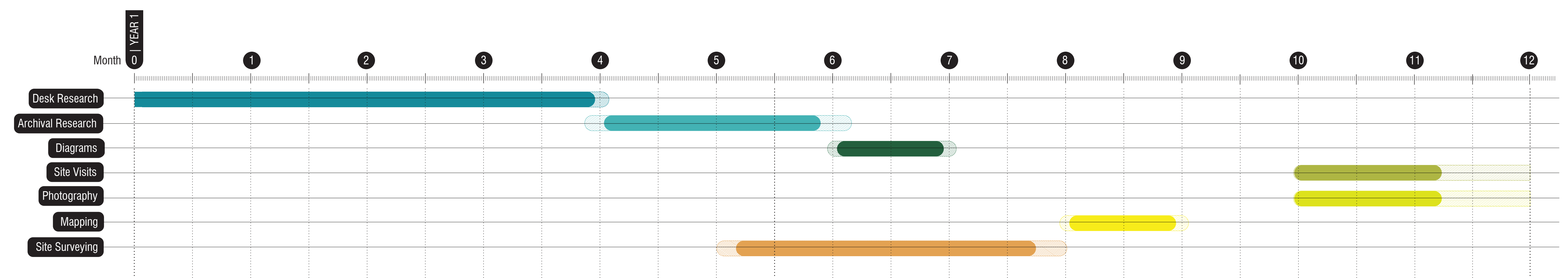


Proposal for Lenin's Museum/Ukrainian House in the aftermath of Euromaidan protests (Terra Dignitas)



Central branch of Vladimir Lenin Museum (Kileso, Serhii)

## PHOTOGRAPHY



## PROJECT TIMELINE