

# *Urbanism At Play in Provincial Russia*

*Planning and Shaping  
Catherine the Great's Imperial Space*

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Presentation designed and produced by Nicholas Smith



**This paper treats Russia's provincial towns, focusing on their anchoring the empire created by Peter the Great and Catherine the Great. At the same time, these cities bedded with neoclassical Europe's and even a global building culture.**

**In detailing these miniature St Petersburgs and the roles of their makers, we strive to understand how some became wondrous urban centers as well as strategic cogs in an imperial colossus.**

*18<sup>th</sup> Century Russian  
Expansion and Imperial  
Urbanism*



## Russian Empire in 1700



**Russian Empire in 1825**

**RUSSIAN EXPANSION UNDER  
CATHERINE THE GREAT  
1762-1796**

--- The Provinces of Russia  
in 1750  
■ Territory annexed by  
Russia 1762-1796, giving  
Russia an outlet on the  
Black Sea, and a common  
frontier with Prussia  
and Austria



# Russian Expansion under Catherine the Great, 1762-1796

(Martin Gilbert, Atlas)

Territory Annexed by  
Russia  
1762 - 1796

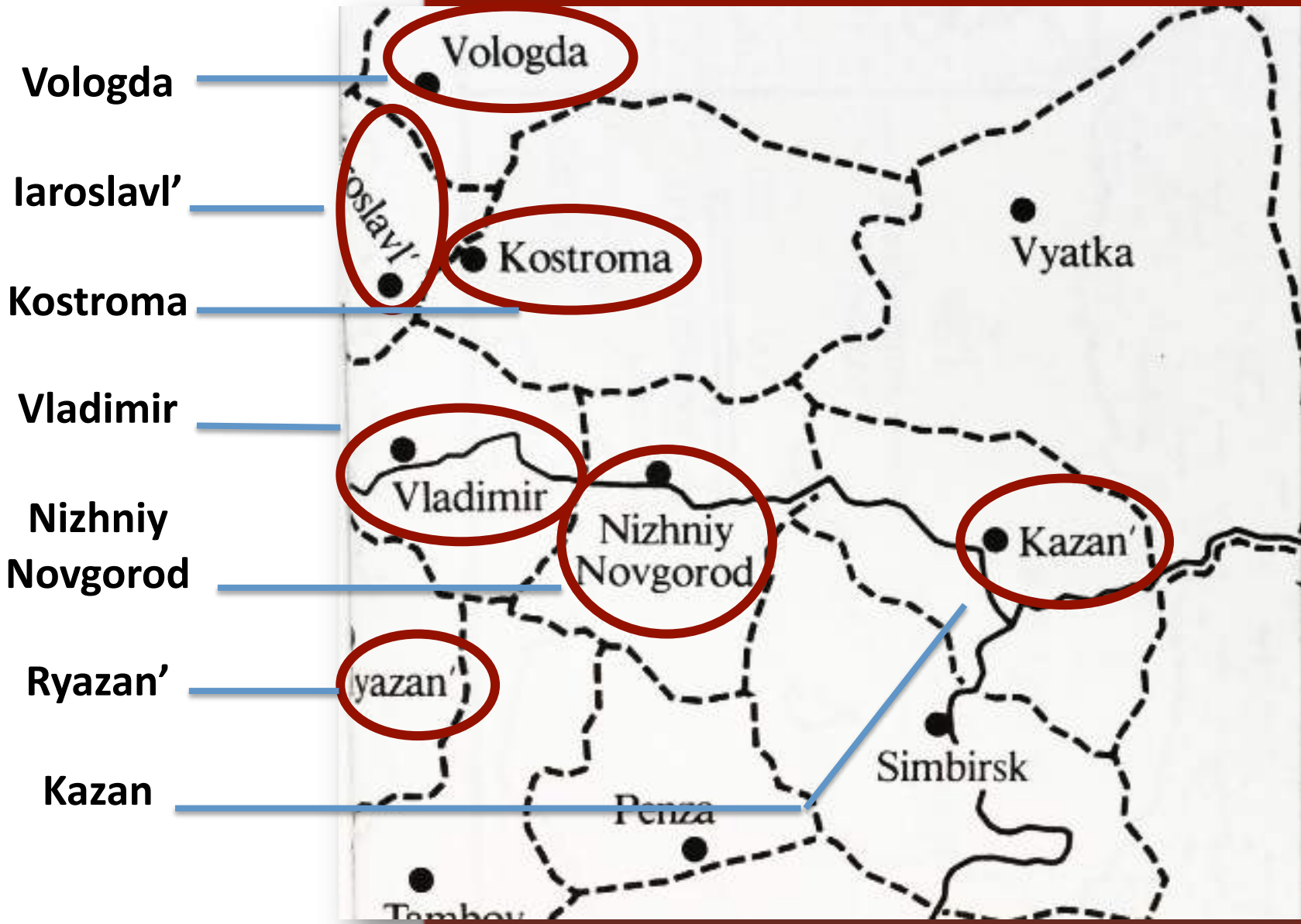






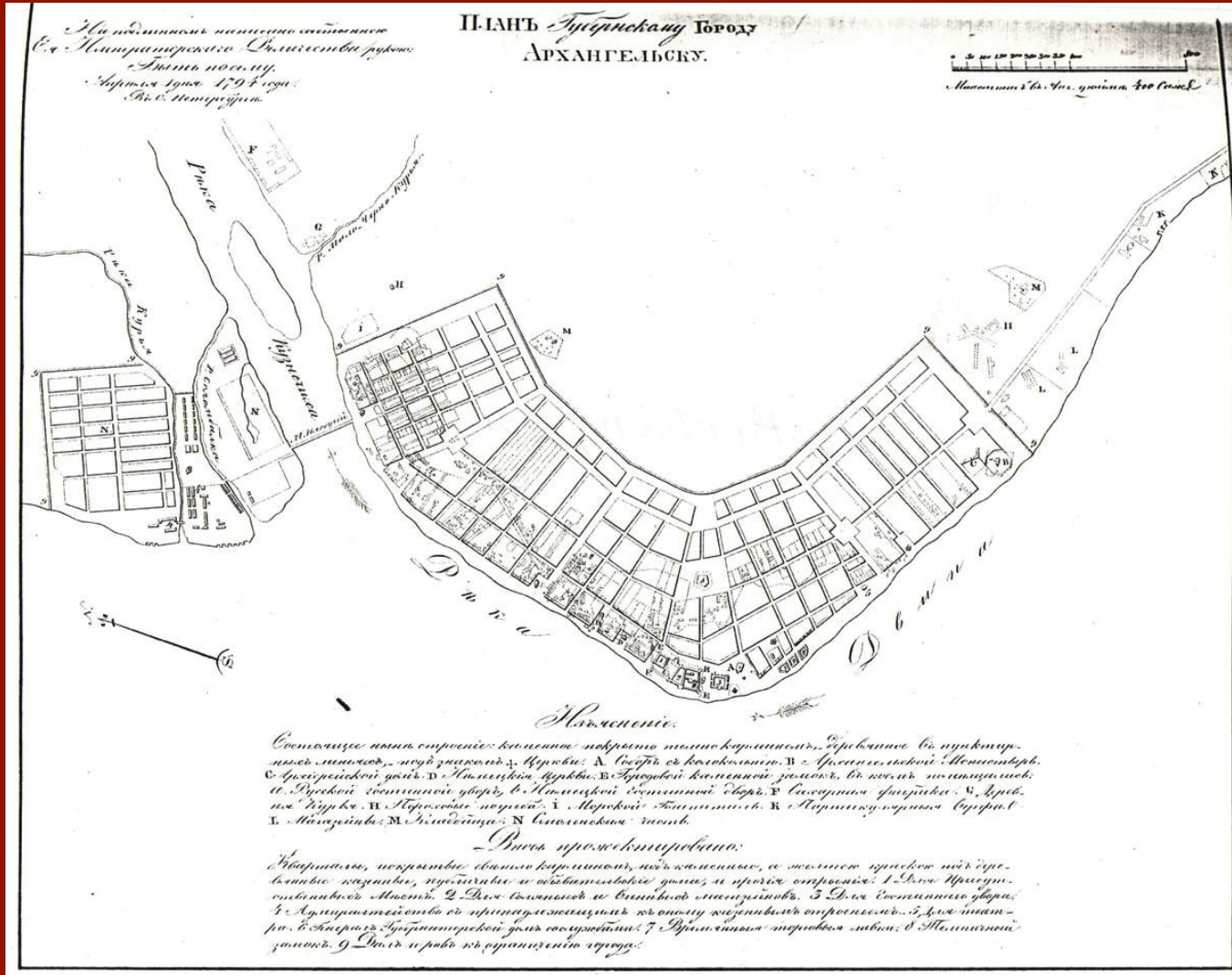
**Tver'**

**Kaluga**



*Eight Planning Successes of  
Catherine II*

# Arkhangel'sk, 1839

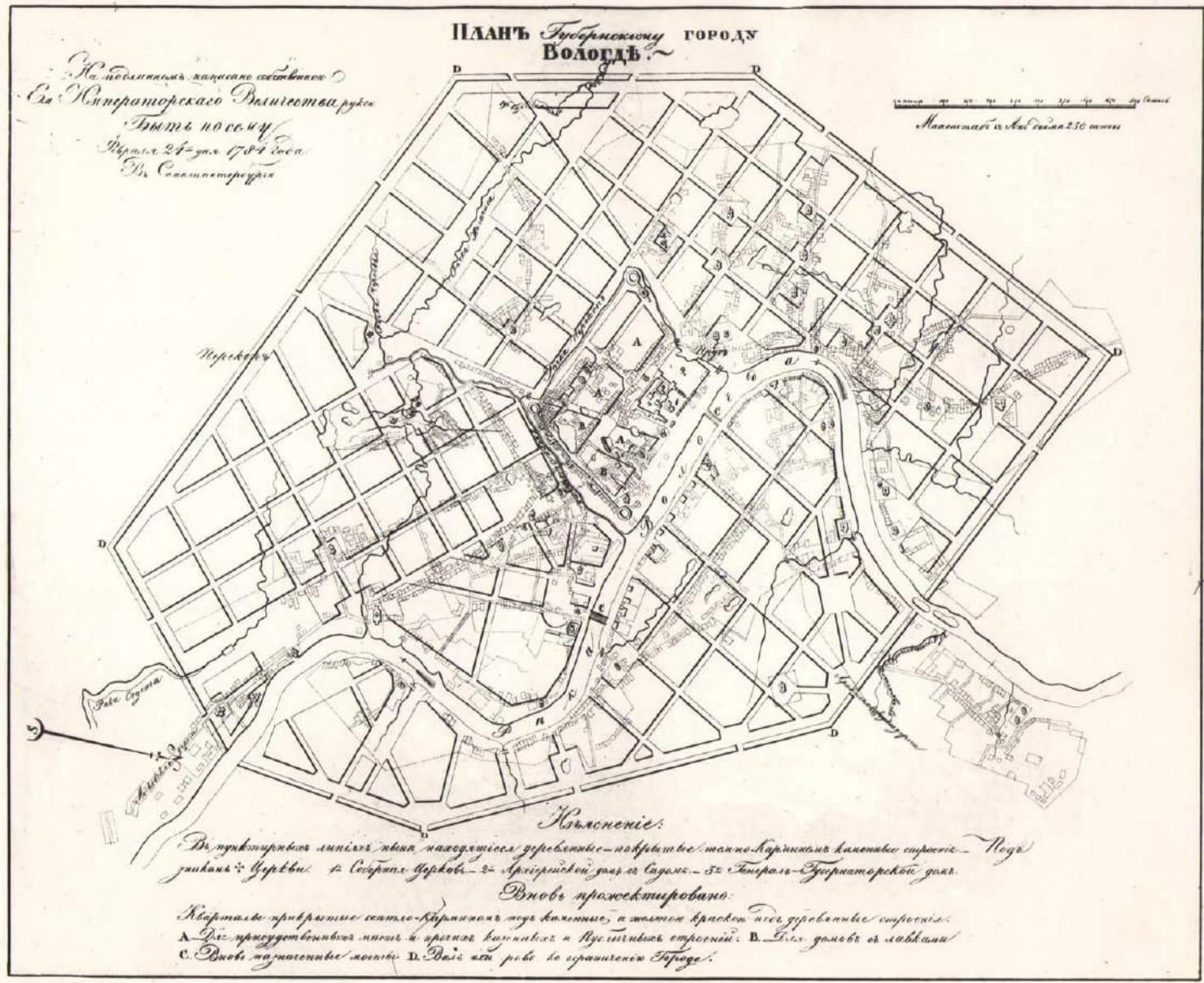


(Polnoe sobranie zakonov rossiikoi imperii, or PSZRI)

# Vologda, Archbishop's Courtyard, Ancient Center

(Schmidt)

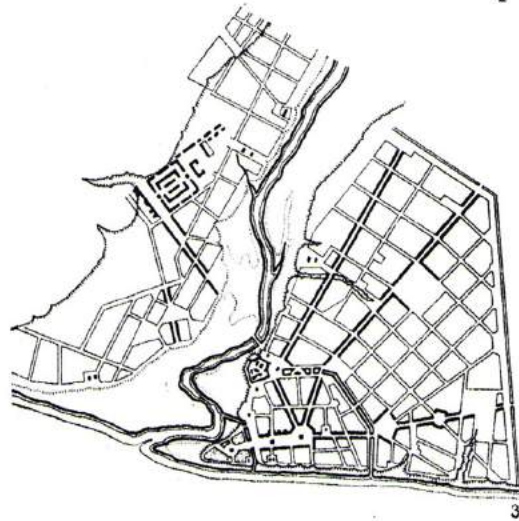
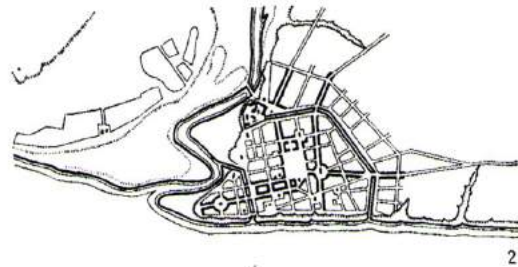
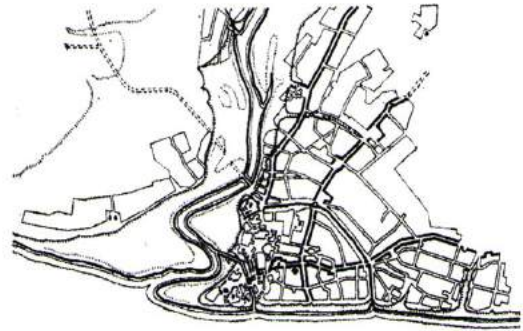




**Classical Vologda, 1784**

Рис. 50. Развитие регулярного плана Ярославля

1 — план XVII в.; 2 — план 1763 г.; 3 — план 1778 г.



## Development of a Regular or Classical Plan of Yaroslavl', 17<sup>th</sup> century, 1763, 1778

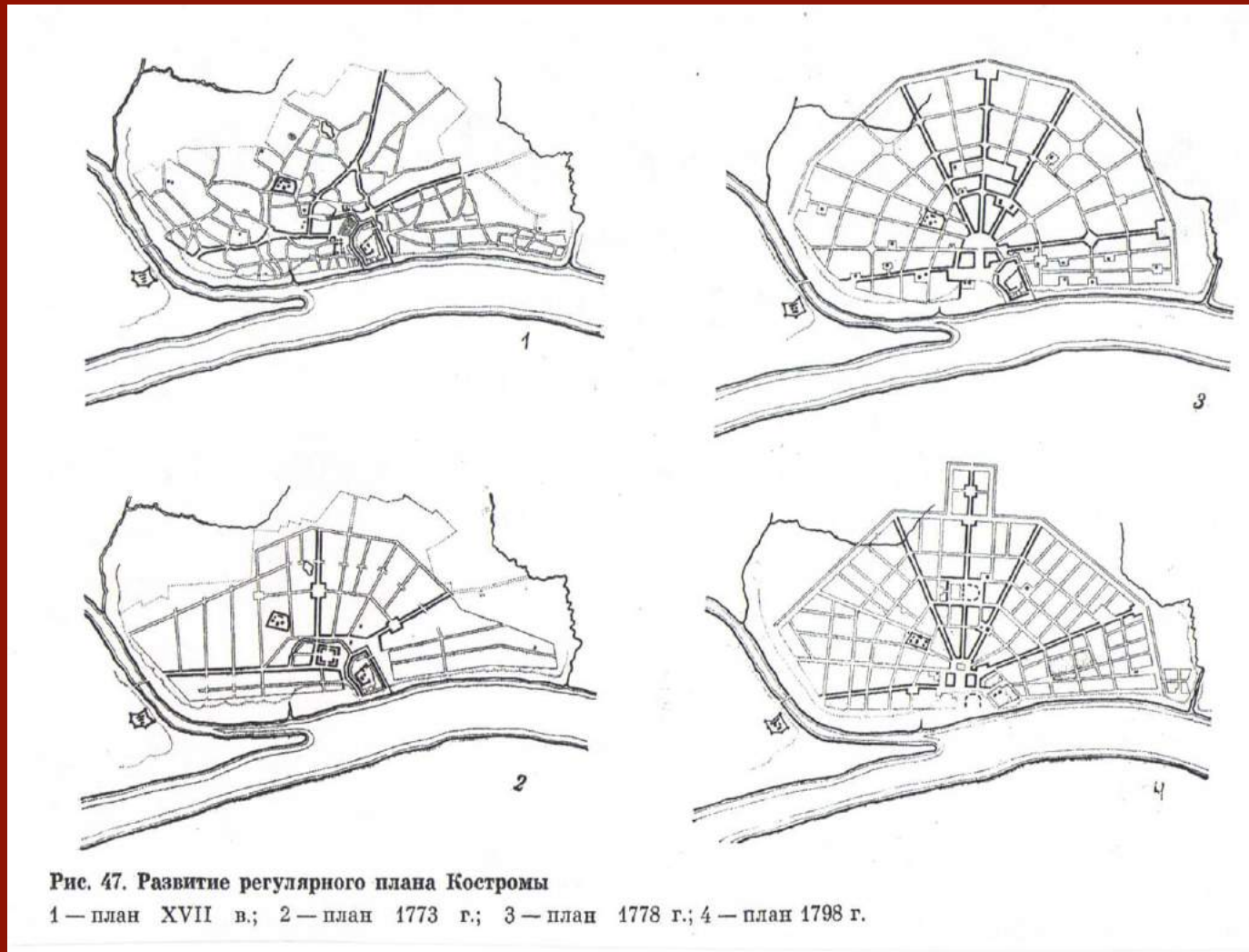
(Vitali Lavrov,  
Razvitie planirovochnoi  
struktury istoricheski  
sloshivshikhsia gorodov  
[1977])





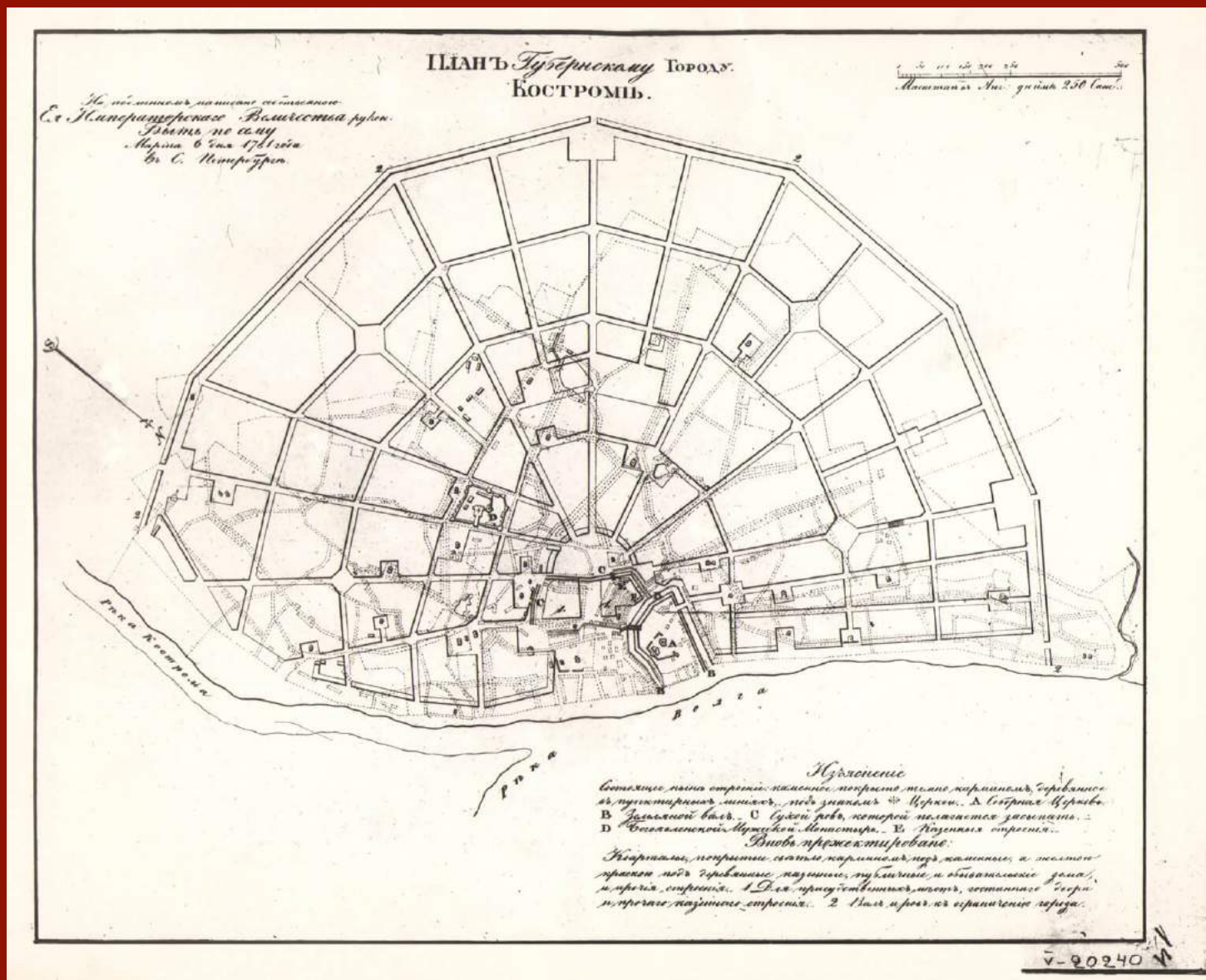
# Development of a Regular Plan of Kostroma-- 17<sup>th</sup> c., 1773, 1778, 1798

(Lavrov)



# Classical Kostroma, 1781

(SMA)



# Kostroma Fire Tower, 1823-26, architect P. Fursov (Schmidt)



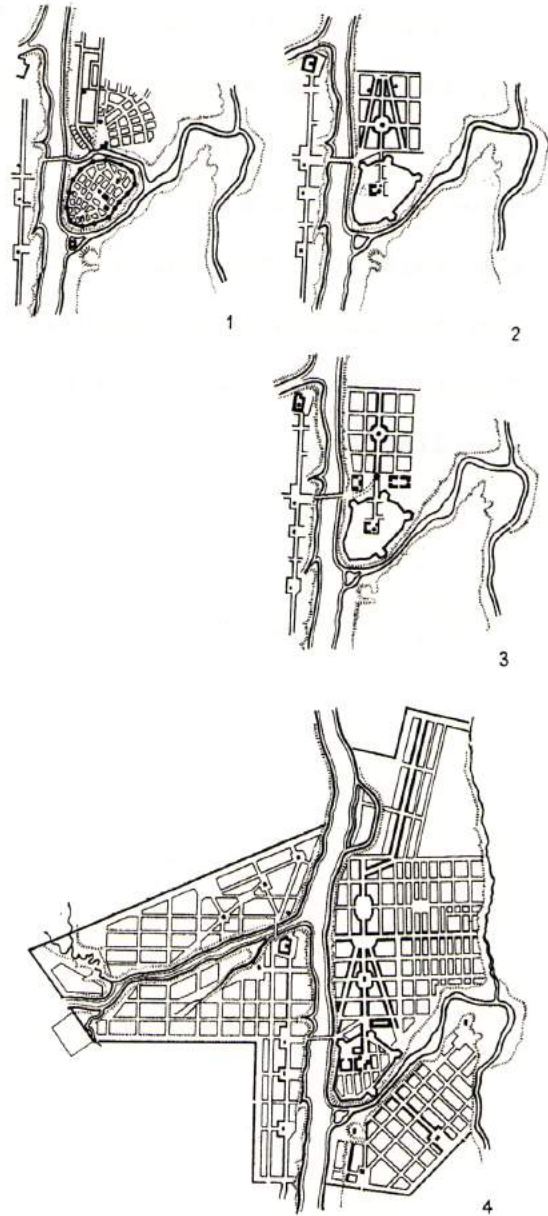
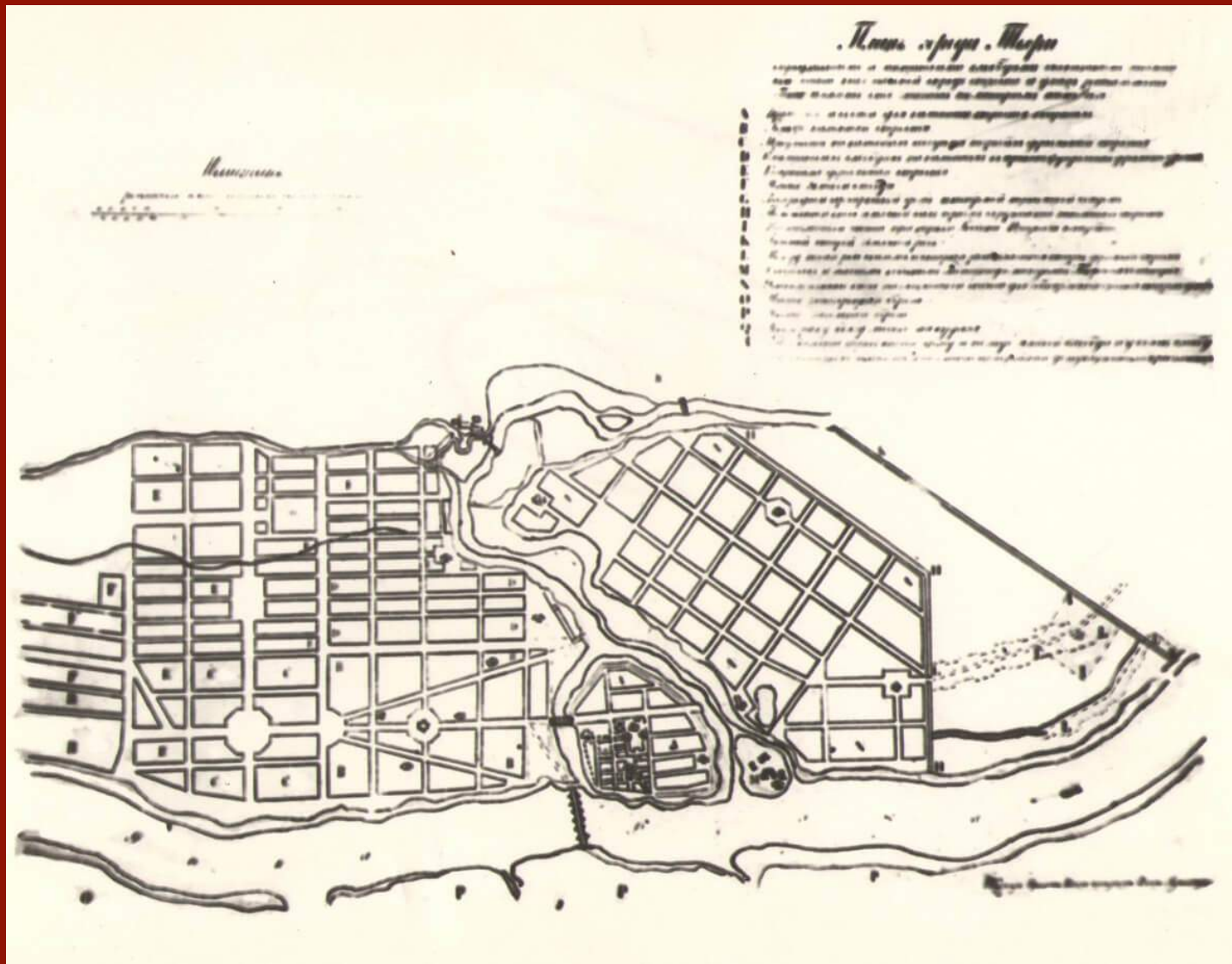


Рис. 43. Развитие регулярного плана Твери  
 1 — план XVIII в.; 2, 3 — варианты планов 1763 г.;  
 4 — план 1768 г.

## Development of a Regular Plan of Tver'

18th c. pre-1763; 1763 & variant; 1768

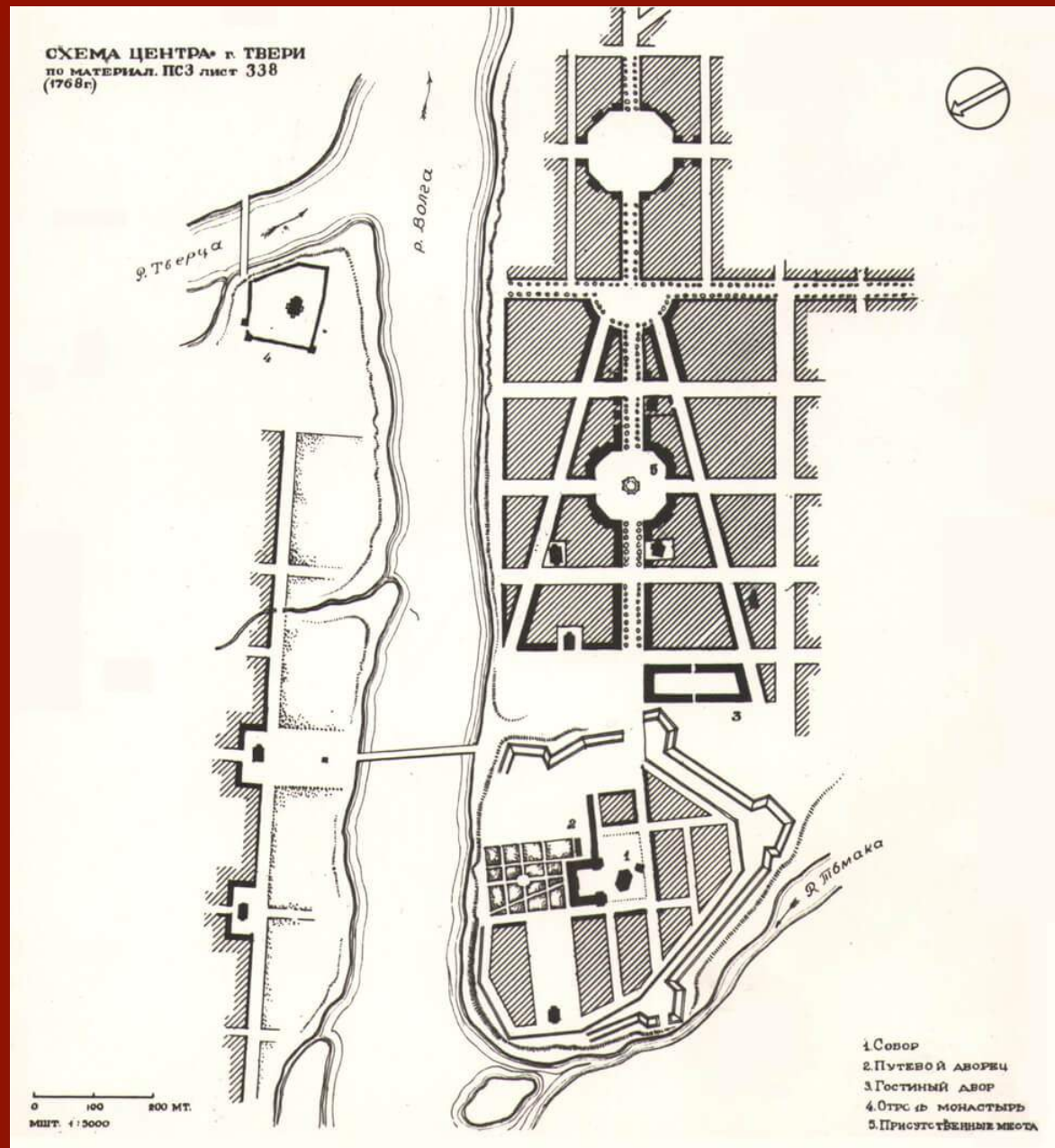
(Lavrov)

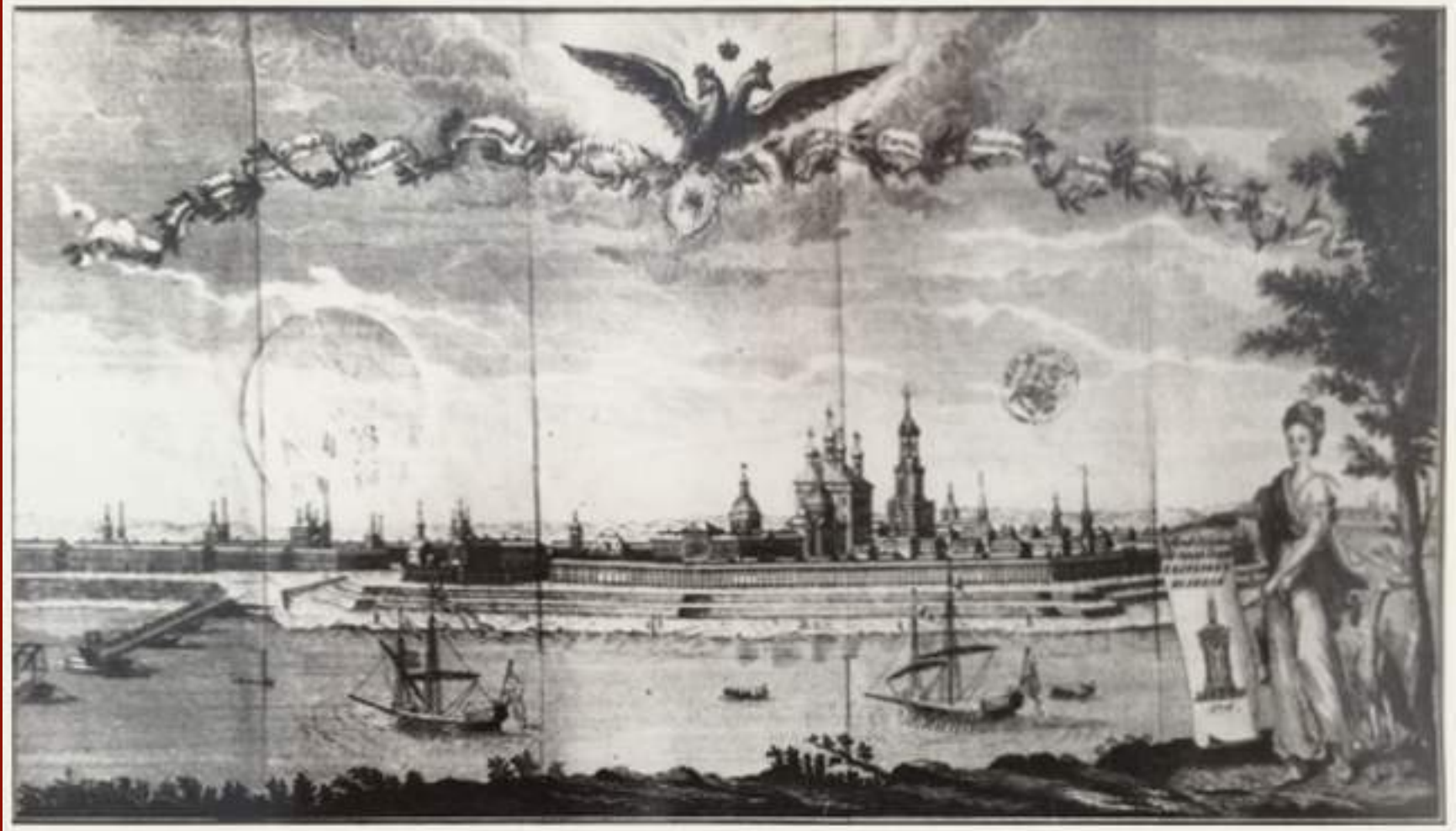


# Tver', 1763-65

(SMA)

# Tver' Center, 1768 (SMA)





**Tver' City View, 1776**

(SMA)

# Development of a Regular Plan of Kaluga 17<sup>th</sup> c. 1775, 1798

(Lavrov)

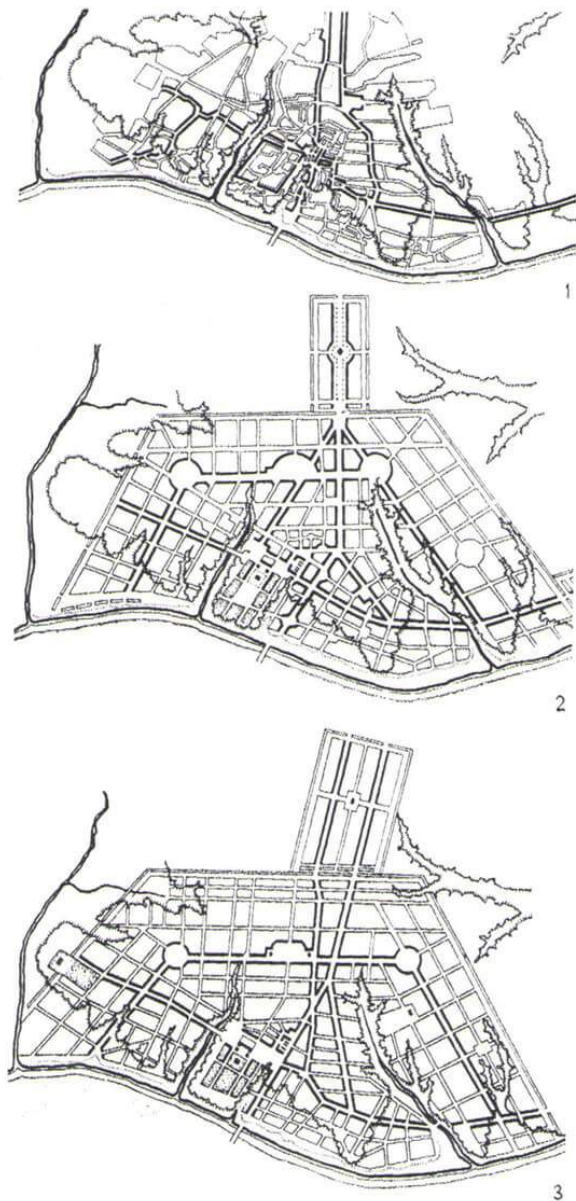
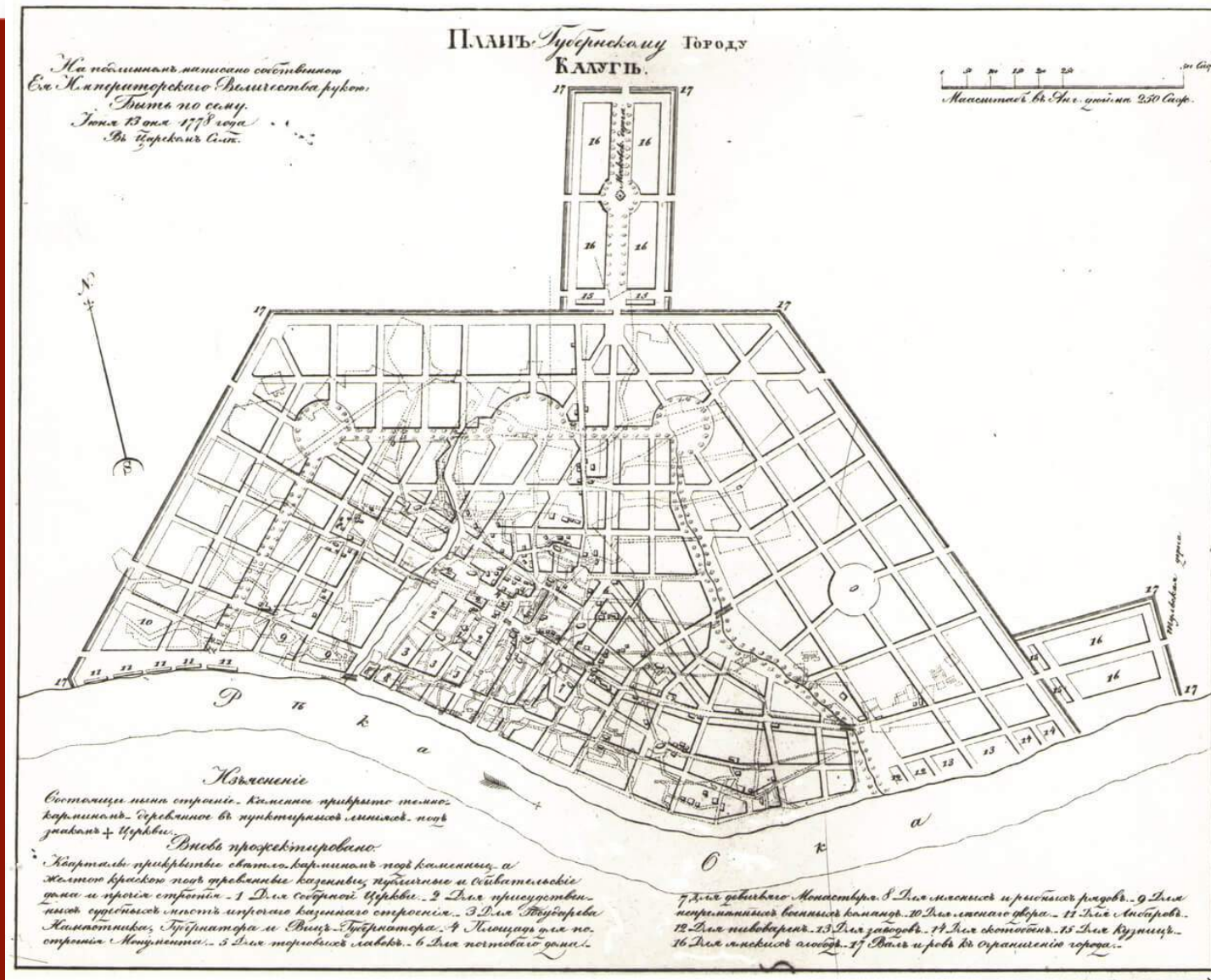


Рис. 53. Развитие регулярного плана Калуги  
1 — план XVII в.; 2 — план 1775 г.; 3 — план 1798 г.



# Classical Kaluga, 1778

(SMA)



# Classical Kaluga Center

*variants of plan*

(Lavrov)

расходятся три луча в направлении к кре-

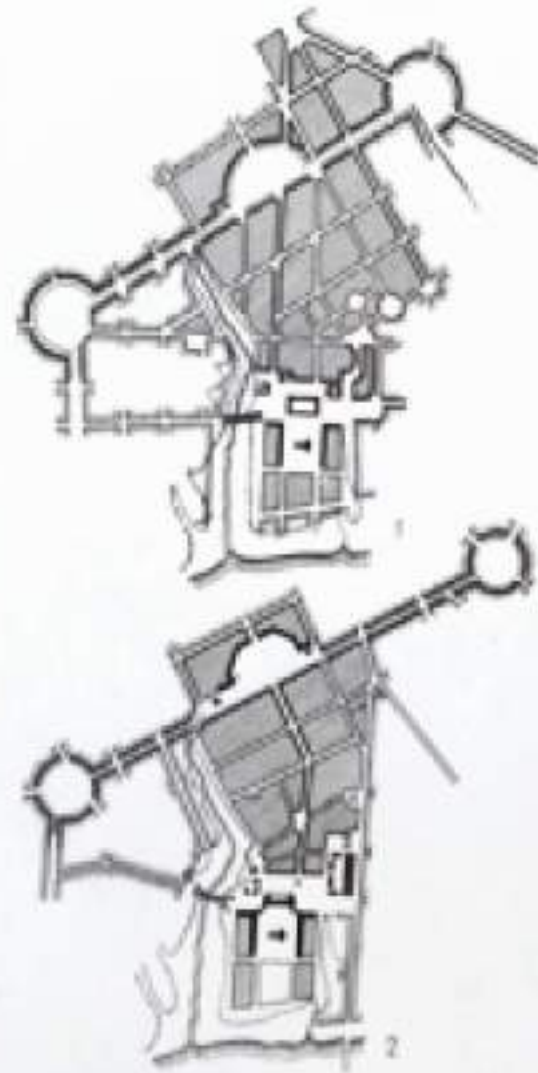


Рис. 136. Варианты регулярной планировки центра Калуги (1, 2)

148



**Kaluga City View, 1827**  
(SMA)

# Classical Kolomna, 1839

(PSZRI)



# Development of a Regular Plan for Tula

17<sup>th</sup> c., 1778, 1798

(Lavrov)

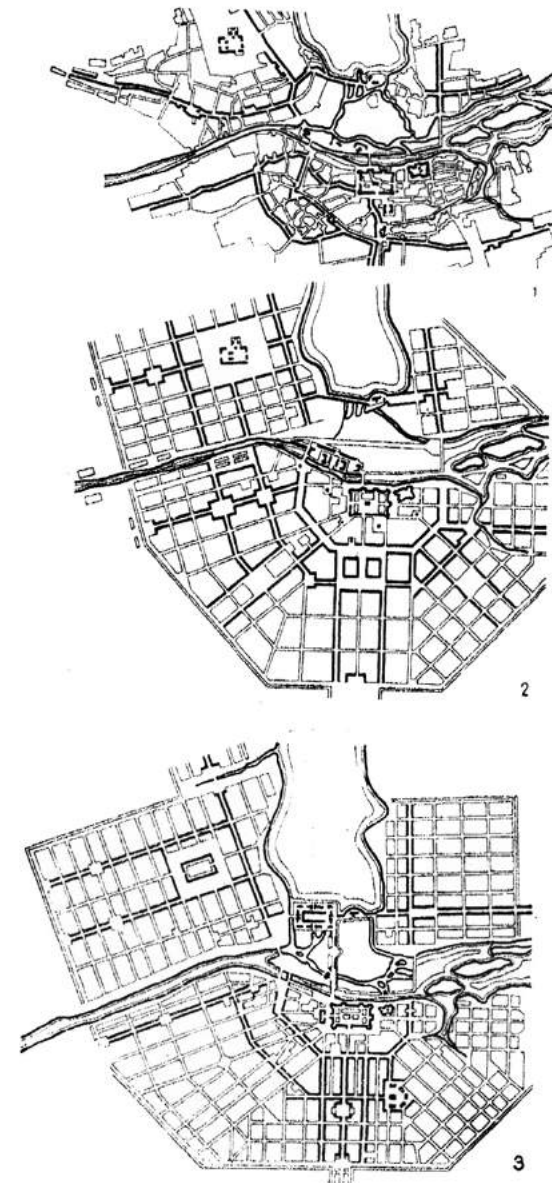
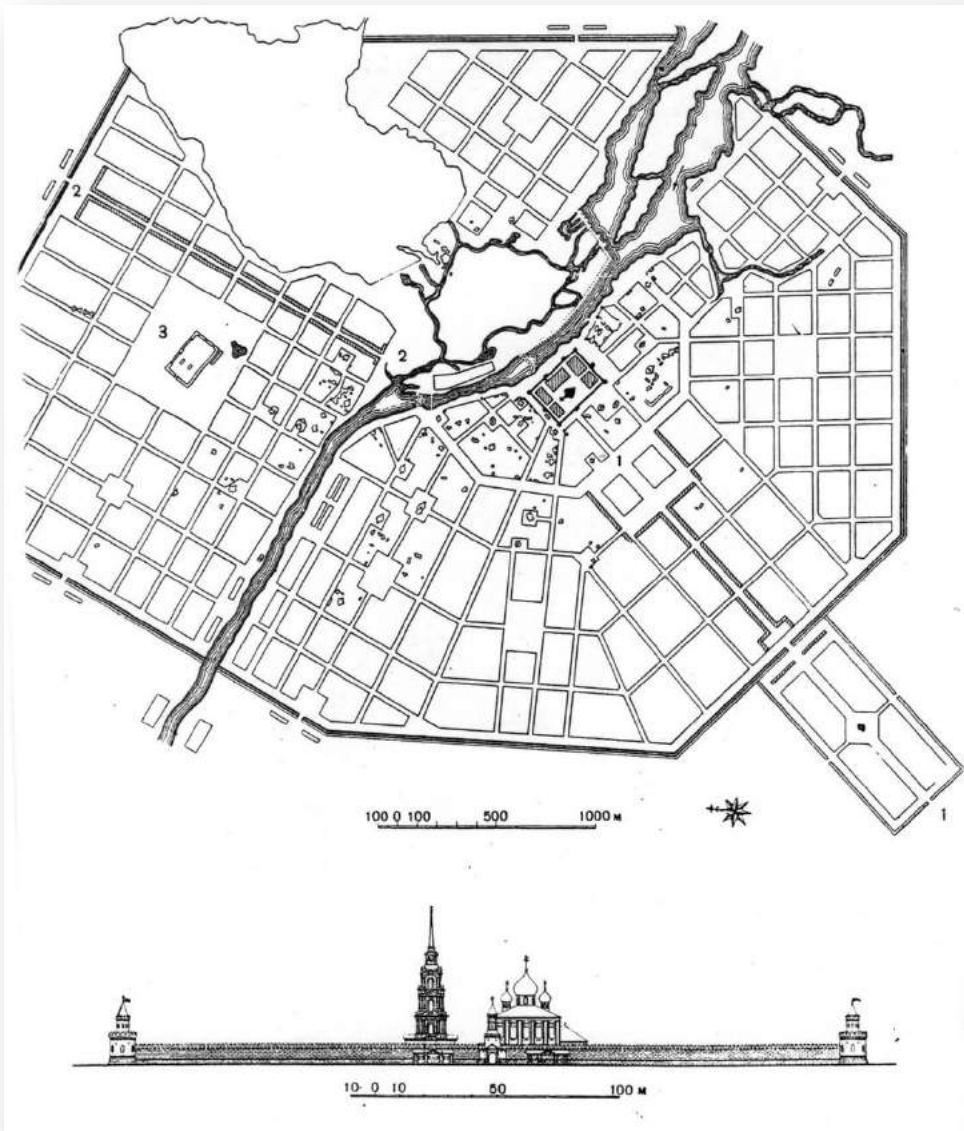


Рис. 57. Развитие регулярного плана Тулы  
1 — план XVII в.; 2 — план 1778 г.; 3 — план 1798 г.

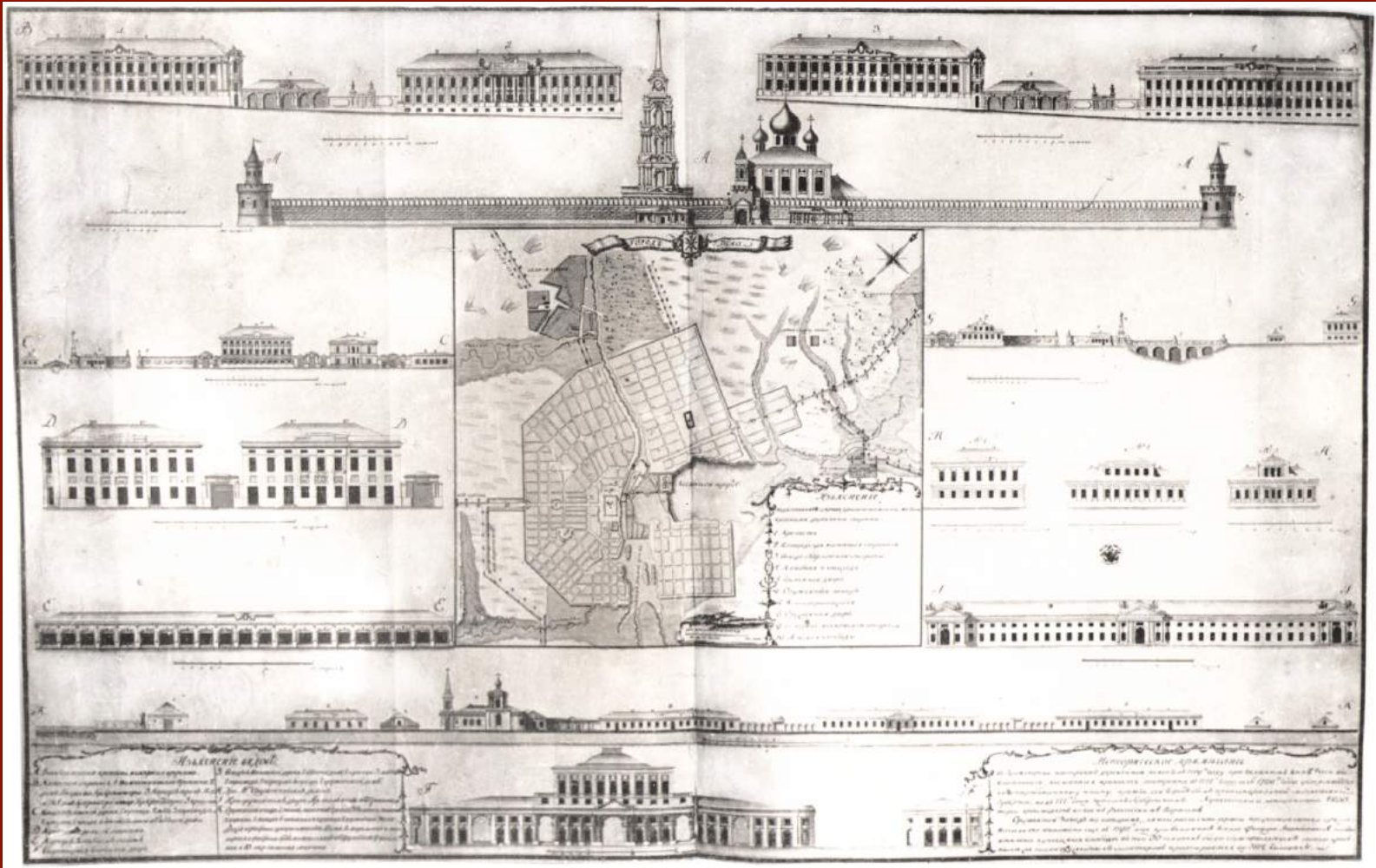


# Classical Tula, 1779

(A. V. Bunin, *Istoriia gradostroitel'nogo iskusstva*, I, Moscow, 1953). 24. Tula, end of 18<sup>th</sup> century (SMA)



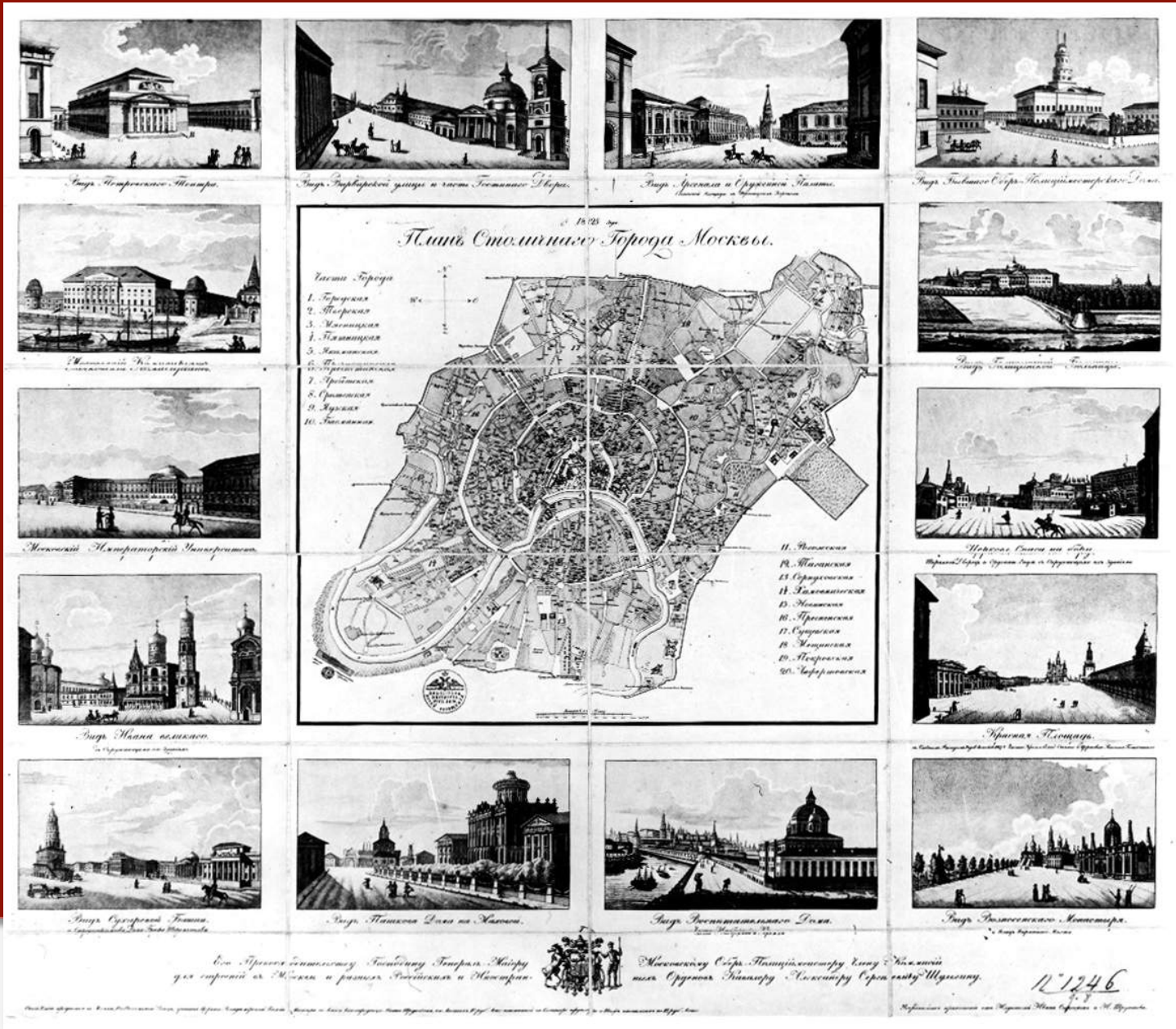
**Tula view: Kievskaja Street, 1856**  
(SMA)



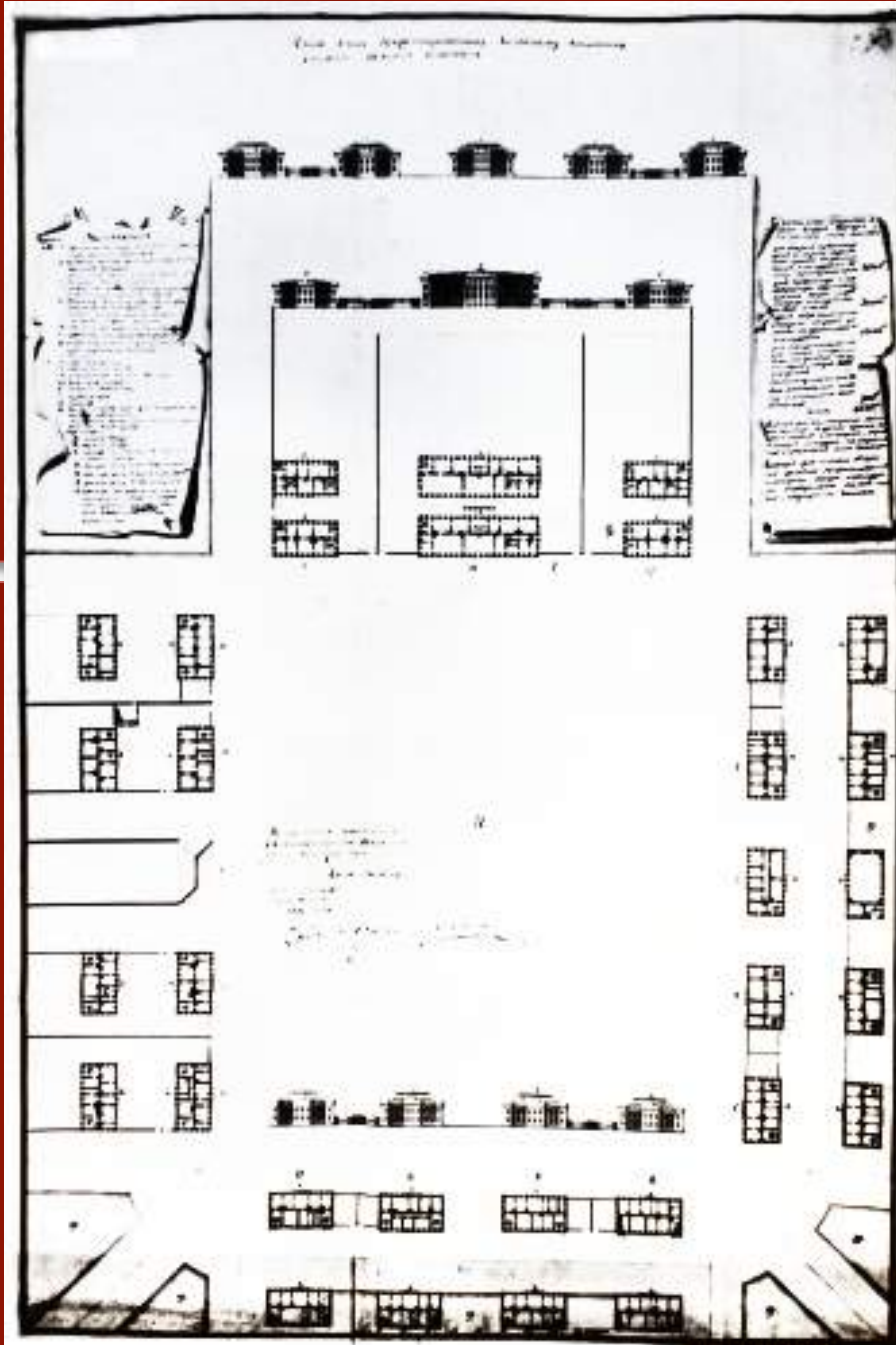
**Tula at end of 18<sup>th</sup> century, Plan and architecture**  
(SMA)



*Catherine's Urbanism:  
Imagery and Planning*



**Decorative Marginalia. Plan of Moscow, 1825**



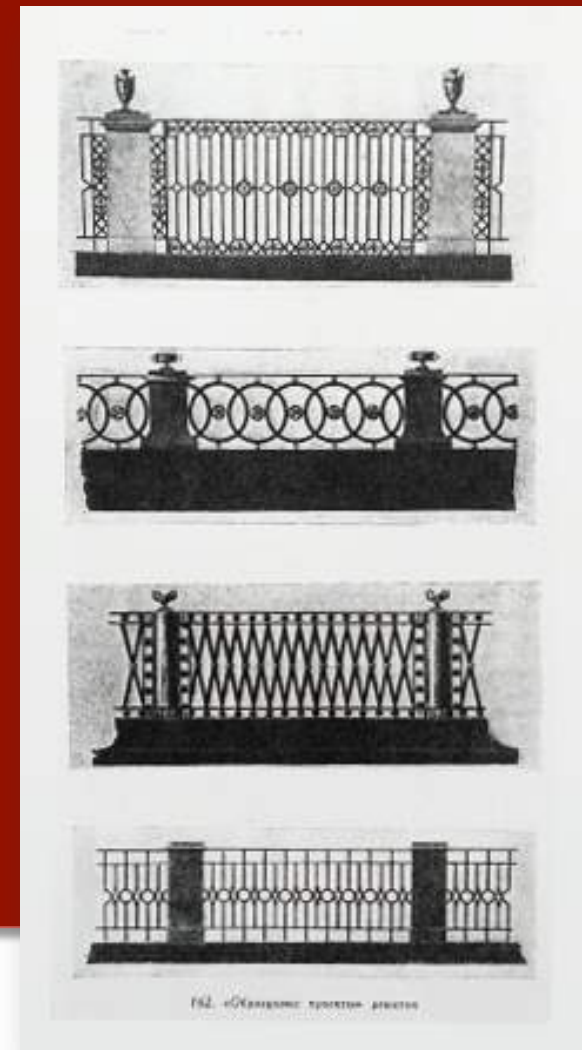
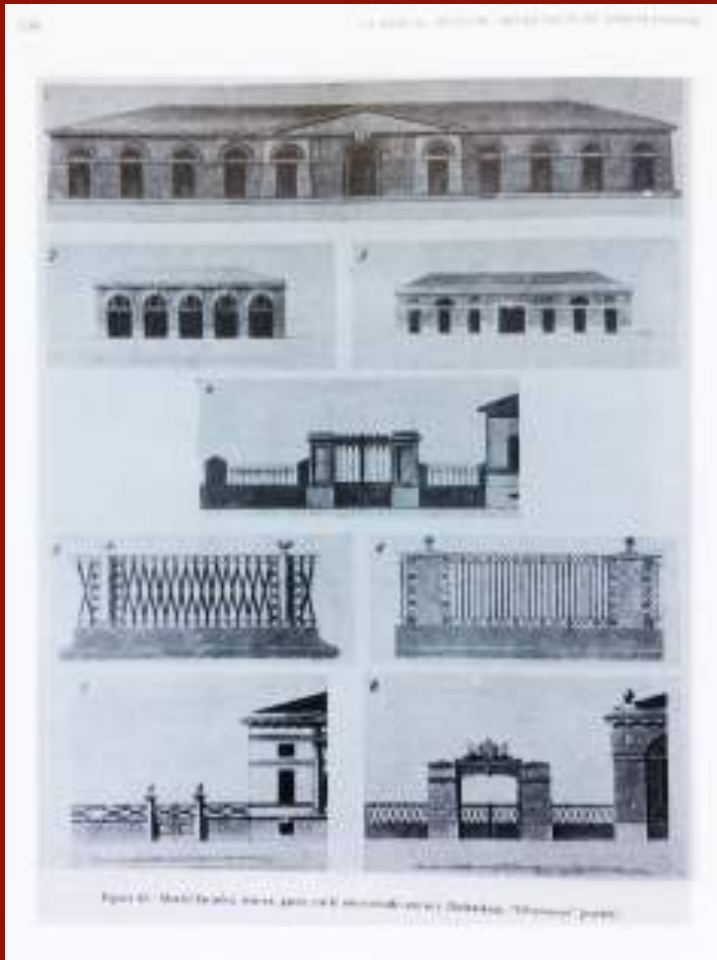
# Classical Smolensk

*Facades and Plans*

n.d.

(SMA)

# Model Facades, Fence, and Gates, Early 19thc.



Beletskaja, Elena, et al., "Obraztsovye"  
proekty v zhiloi zastroiike russkikh gorodov  
XVIII-XIX vv Moscow, 1961

# Senate Square in Moscow Kremlin



Painting by Fedor Alekseev  
(SMA)

## Urban View: Poltava's main square (Aleksandrovskaja?), 1830

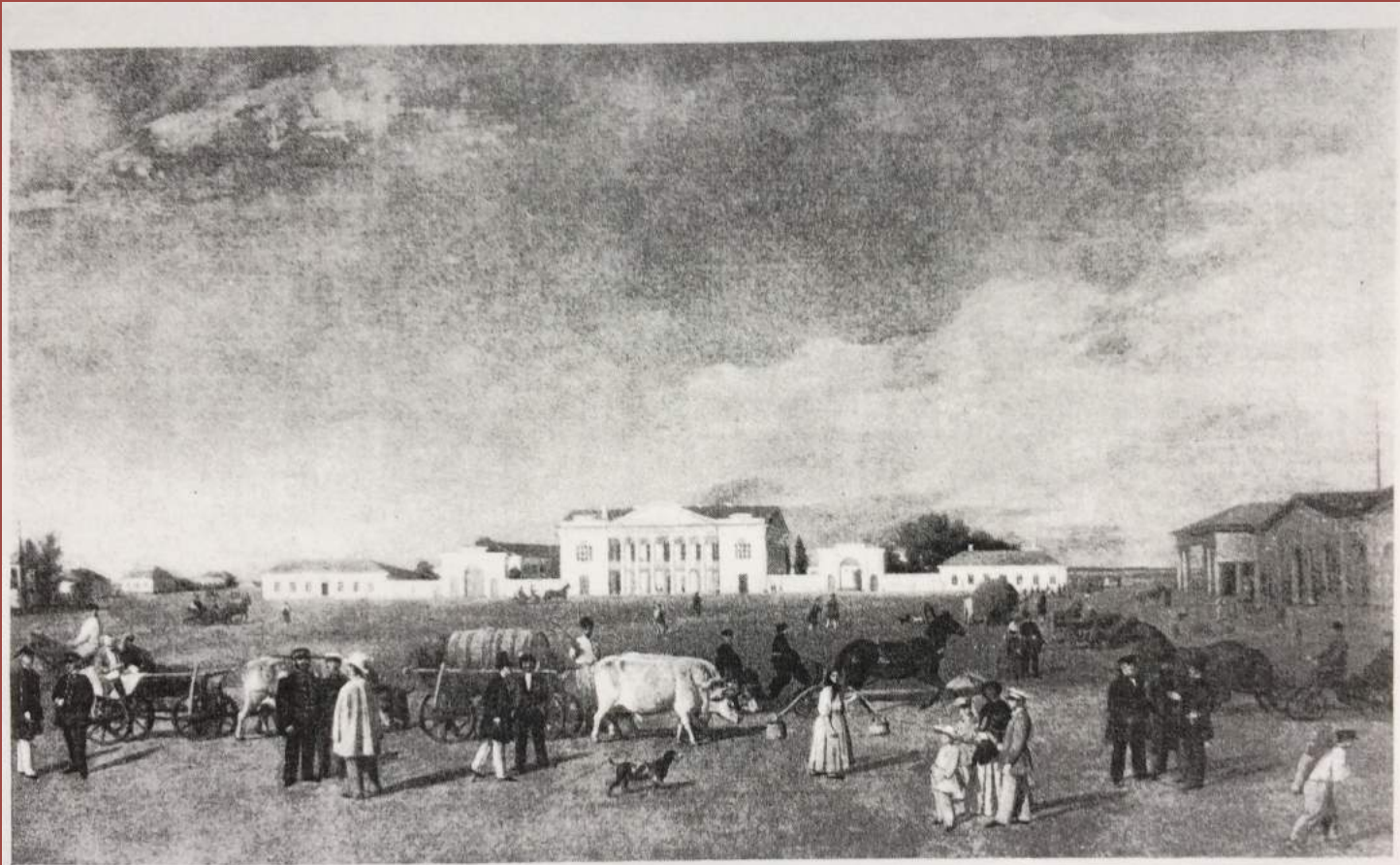
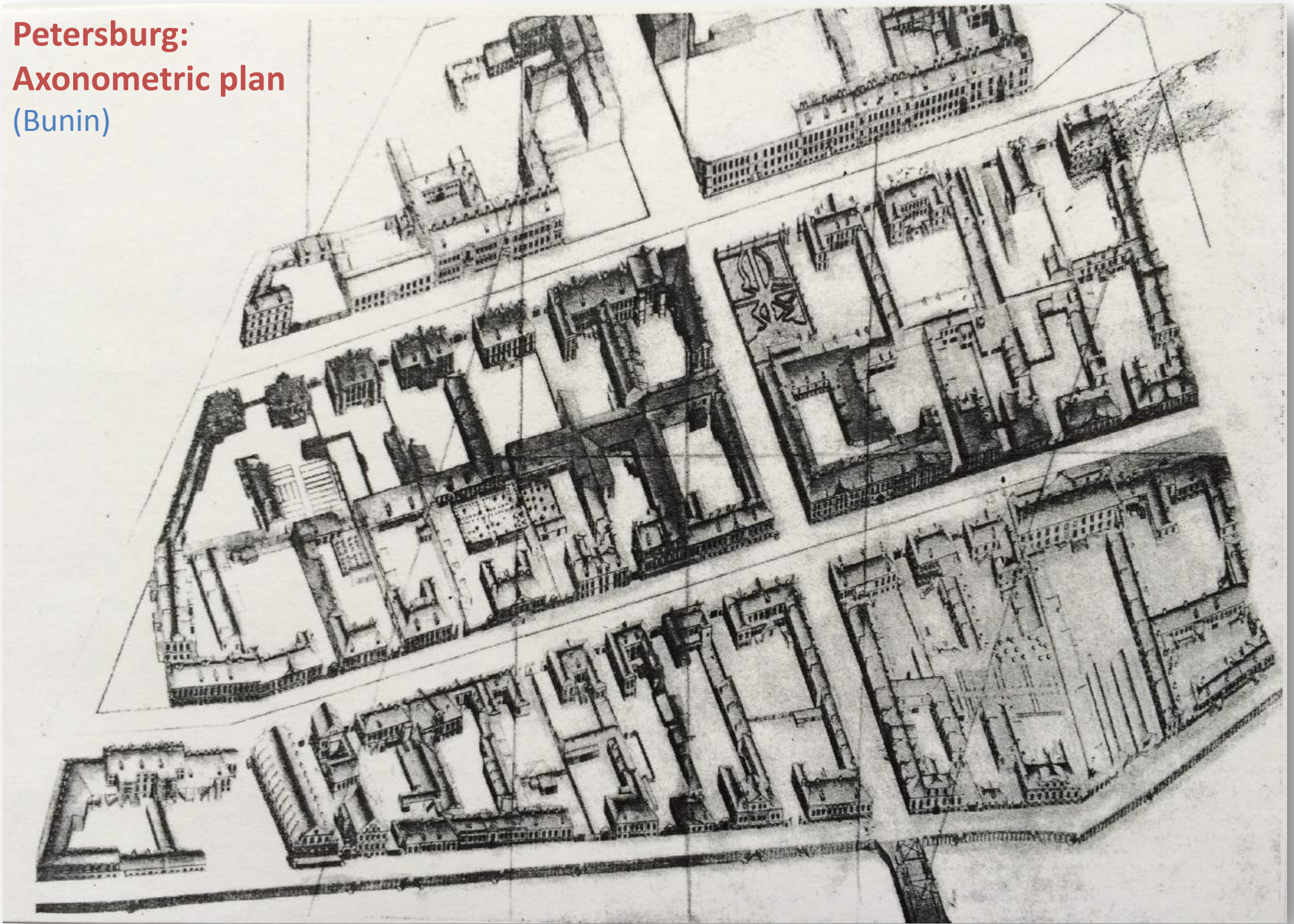


Fig. 1

by Evgraf Fedorovich Krendovskii

1. E. Grabar' *Isoriia russkogo iskusstva*, VIII, 2, 238

**Petersburg:**  
**Axonometric plan**  
(Bunin)



*The End*