Title: A New Northern Civilization: Design Vision

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While the significance of the Arctic in global policy-making and business planning is increasing from year to year, the approach to spatial development of this vast area still remains relatively unchanged. Since the “Oil & Gas Rush” started in 1950s, the main focus has been making on importing technologies that were originally developed for moderate – not extreme – environmental conditions. The clash becomes especially clear in growing amount of environmental, economic, technological, social and psychological issues related to professional activities and everyday life in extreme conditions. Indeed, the Arctic chronicles have already recorded many ambitious attempts of conquering: for instance, megaprojects developed by R&D organizations in Soviet Union. Based on superficial analysis of indigenous artefacts and/or scattered factors of the environment, they mainly failed to cope with real challenges on site. Thus, current plans to build new entire cities on the Arctic mainland to support oilrigs offshore urgently calls for sustainable and... creative vision.

This presentation is an attempt to imagine, not scientifically predict, the future of the Arctic via employing special expertise of design, which could incorporate indigenous knowledge and modern science into action and decision-making for generating a new kind of environmentally and culturally appropriate way of living in the Arctic.