

Between Ideology and Reality: Stalinist Skyscraper in Tallinn

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The paper explores the process of construction of a resident complex in the city of Tallinn, situated on the intersection of Tartu maantee and Liivalaia streets. The living quarter was built for 'Dvigatel' plant workers in the 1950s and dominates the city space by the Stalinist-styled tower-topped house, sometimes nicknamed 'Kremlin' or 'Soviet skyscraper'.

Highly ideologized in its shape and style, the building currently provides a ground for debate about Soviet heritage. However, the research suggests that, despite the elitist appearance, the initial construction process went over deadlines, providing new residents with extremely poor living conditions, facing harsh criticism from the Dvigatel's Communist Party unit.

This paper is a part of on-going dissertation research, which will focus on the daily lives of Dvigatel's employees, i.e. housing, healthcare, tourism, sports, creative activities, education, etc.