

Housing comfort - in its characteristically northern interpretation - is a serious problem. In the 305th micro-district, they have tried to erect houses using the principle of closed brackets to protect people from the icy winds. In some cities we are now putting up houses of the new 93rd series - with triple-glaze windows and a comfortable layout. By the end of the five-year plan, the house-building enterprise should be completing at least 280,000 square metres of such structures. But its capacity has practically been exhausted. What now? Reviving the enterprise has been hopelessly delayed by the Ministry of Construction of North-Western Regions. There is no hope that it will ever be done. There is not only a question of a lack of material but also a question of where: - 20% of the municipal area, including downtown, is occupied by warehouses and other industrial buildings.

Murmansk is loosing its architectural identity. Everywhere you see faceless, fully prefabricated houses. No matter how much you try to embellish them (and we are trying), the grayness remains. The solution resides in a harmonious combination of these houses with brick structures: brick could be used for commercial enterprises, restaurants, services... But the city's demand for brick exceeds the supply by a factor of two or three. The Ministry of Construction Materials of the RSFSR is aware that the Kildinskii brickyard must be rebuilt immediately and that another such enterprise must be put in operation. The ministry, however, tries to ignore this need.

The problem is that powerful bureaucrats at both the Republic and Union levels are still viewing the needs of the cities as none of their concern. The engineering projects - the Tulomskii water line,