

"Perhaps," was the answer at "Vniigazdobykh" in Saratov. "But why do you address these questions to us? We are no longer the general designers; Yamal is not ours now."

"We would only be too glad," said V. Cherevatenko, head of the integrated designing department at "Yuzhniigiprokaz", "but we have still not even signed an official contract with the client, and we are awaiting a technical and economic substantiation from Saratov."

Our disturbing questions were greeted with composure in both ministries. We were assured that there was nothing to be alarmed about. Sure, designers are lagging behind, but there is nothing new about this. When the time comes, we'll turn up the heat, fling in all our reserves, etc.

"What is most frightening is that we have gotten used to working in this matter, and what is more, we quite often flaunt our "omnipotence", we were told by M. Sukholutskii, manager of "Urengoigazpromstroi" Trust. We arrogantly parade about declaring that our "porridge is cooked with an axe." I don't deny that there is no lack of enthusiasm and courage in the Tyumen North. But, why is the cart put before the horse at all our construction projects?"

Such a style is completely unacceptable for Yamal. Cardinal, nonstandard solutions are needed to change the situation. For the present, the matter has not gone beyond the discussion stage.

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