The article briefly describes the types of structures that are widely spread worldwide, and many well-known projects that remain unimplemented. Particular attention is driven to the main features of floating structures and areas of their application.

Despite the advances of the present-day technology, floating structures are only used in the travel industry and low-rise construction. The authors consider a substantial though yet unexplored potential of rivers, seas and lakes, as well as the benefits of their use. In their examples, they consider the past and present operation patterns employed by water-borne structures. The authors believe in a pressing need for a timely transition to new water spaces in the context of planned development of territories.

In this article, the authors also consider the typology of various floating structures developed by architect A. Nekrasov. They analyze “floating hotels”, as well as construction and regulatory requirements that apply to them. They also describe public “marinas” and other areas that may demonstrate typical features of a parking area. The attention is focused on the global experience of design and conceptual design of floating structures.

Today, floating structures are interesting solely from the viewpoint of entertainment and traveling. However, development of these facilities will be necessary and realistic in the near future. The demographic situation is rapidly changing worldwide, while environmental conditions are deteriorating. These are the new factors of importance to the humankind. It is necessary to remember about it today to avoid serious consequences in the future.

Key words: floating structures, boatel, marina, development of rivers, seas and lakes, new structure, typology.

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