

ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS OF SAINT PETERSBURG. ST. ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL

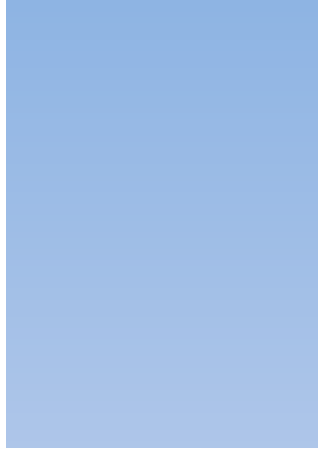


amazes a



St. Petersburg is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It was founded in 1703





The beauty of the city amazes and takes the breath away. There are a lot of architectural monuments. St. Petersburg can be called Palace City indeed.

One of the
most amazing
constructions
in
St. Petersburg
is St. Isaac's
Cathedral.



In 1816 Alexander I charged the young French architect Auguste Ricard Montferrand with designing the cathedral.



*The cathedral was being built
for 40 years.*

*Looking at it one can understand
how much effort was made in
order to carry out the architect's
plans.*

*The Cathedral was being built on
a swampy land. Nearly 11
thousand piles and 120 granite
columns were used to build it.
The heaviest columns' weight was
144 tons. It took workers only 45
minutes to set the columns in
their places.*



In plan the Cathedral is an equilateral Greek cross with four porticos. It is faced with grey Karelia marble. There are a lot of big arch windows. On the top of the Cathedral there is a great golden dome. The Cathedral is 101 m high.





The diameter of outer dome is 25 m. 100 kg of pure gold was used for building the main dome.

On the porticos there are statues of 12 apostles. In the left side Peter the apostle hands the keys to the gate of Eden.



In the right side Paul the apostle hands a sword which is the symbol of his earnest service to Christ.



On the northern relief you can see resurrection of Christ and in the centre there is Christ risen from the dead. Beautifully made sculptures wonder.

The Cathedral is wonderful in any season.



Fill in the missing words:

1. In _____ Alexander I charged the young architect with designing the cathedral.
2. It was being built for _____ years.
3. It took workers _____ minutes to set the column in its place.
4. The total height of the cathedral is _____ meters.
5. _____ kg of pure red gold was used for building the main dome.
6. On the porticos there are _____ apostles.
7. Peter the apostle hands _____
8. Paul the apostle hands _____
9. _____ supervised the building of the cathedral and was its architect

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