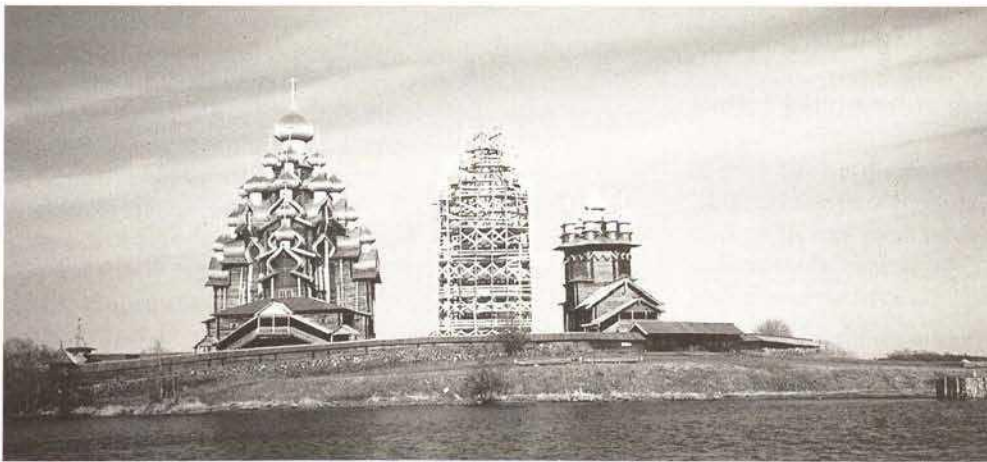


RUSSIA – HERITAGE @ RISK!

Case Study – Kizhi

The Transfiguration Church (1714) on an island in the Onega Lake near the city of Petrozavodsk (about 300 km north of St. Petersburg) is part of an open-air museum today. This huge wooden construction with a cross-shaped ground plan and numerous cupolas was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1990. Due to its danger of collapse, efforts were made to secure the wooden construction by an inner steel scaffold (recognisable by the wooden anchors on the outer walls), but the threat has only been postponed by this provisional scaffold. Under the circumstances the help by various ICOMOS national committees (preliminary documentation in order to find out the cause of the damage, advice on the restoration of the iconostasis in storage) did not succeed, so that the dangers for this unique testimony of Russian architecture have not yet been averted.



▲ Kizhi, Church of the Transfiguration, old photograph of the iconostasis dismantled for years because of the steel scaffold

◀ Kizhi, view of the church buildings from the west

▼ Detail of the wooden construction with part of the steel scaffold

