

BAIKONUR

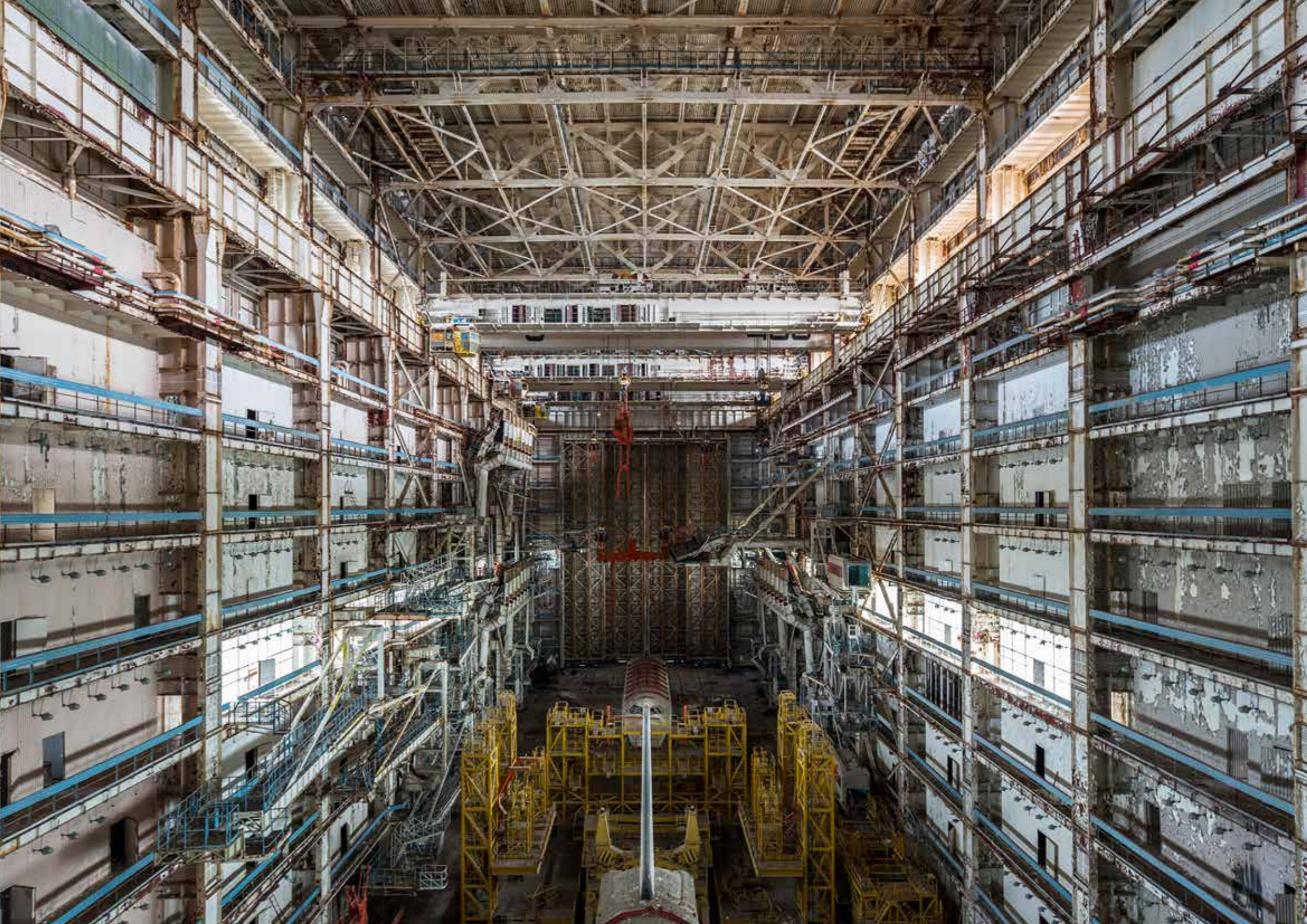
VESTIGES OF THE SOVIET SPACE PROGRAMME

JONK

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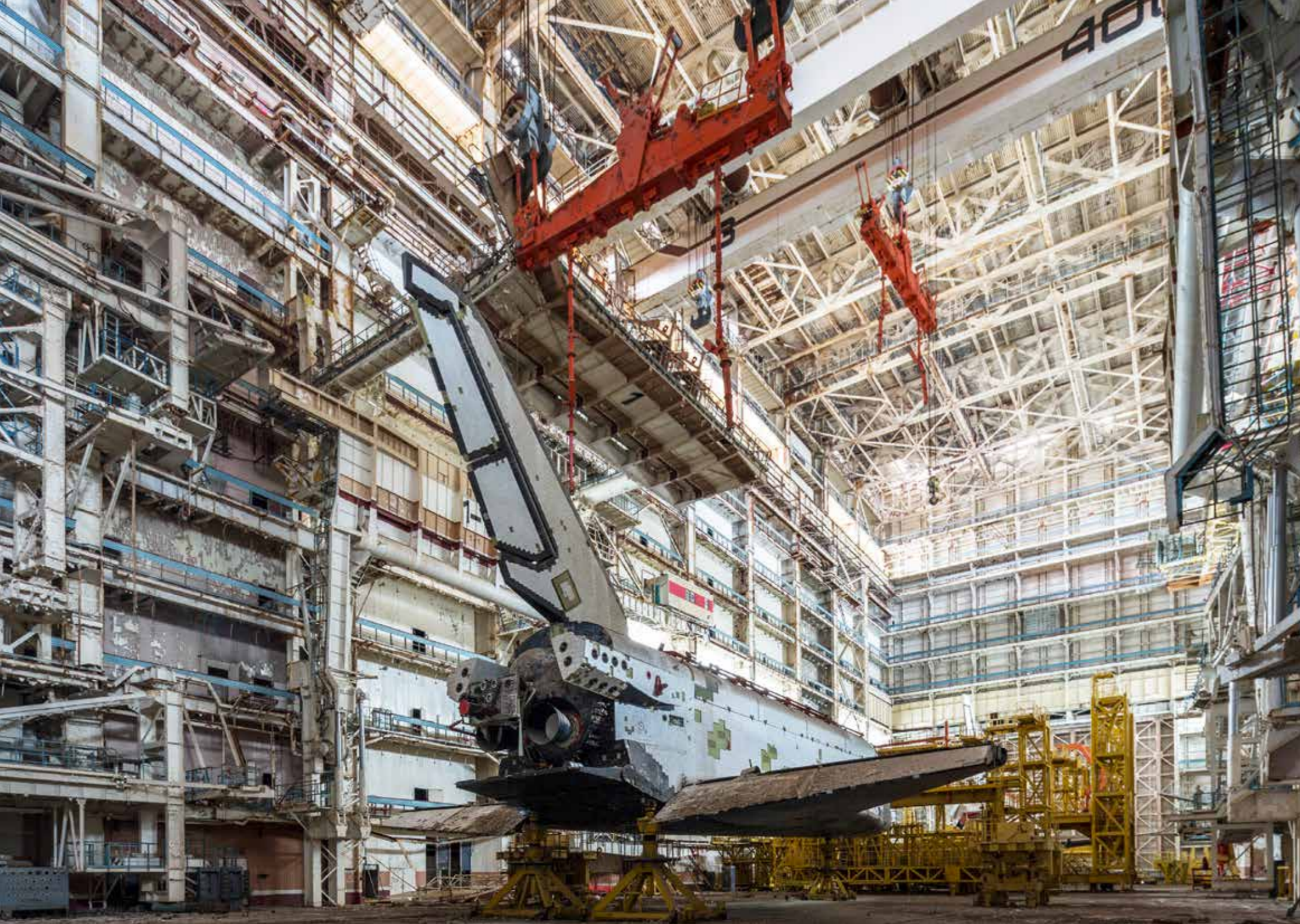


First photo of the first day. I looked for a frame that would convey the size of the hangar.
Rear of the Orbiter OK-4M in the foreground and the Orbiter K2-Ptichka in the background from a mid-level walkway



Orbiter OK-4M from level 1





Orbiter K2-Pichka from ground level

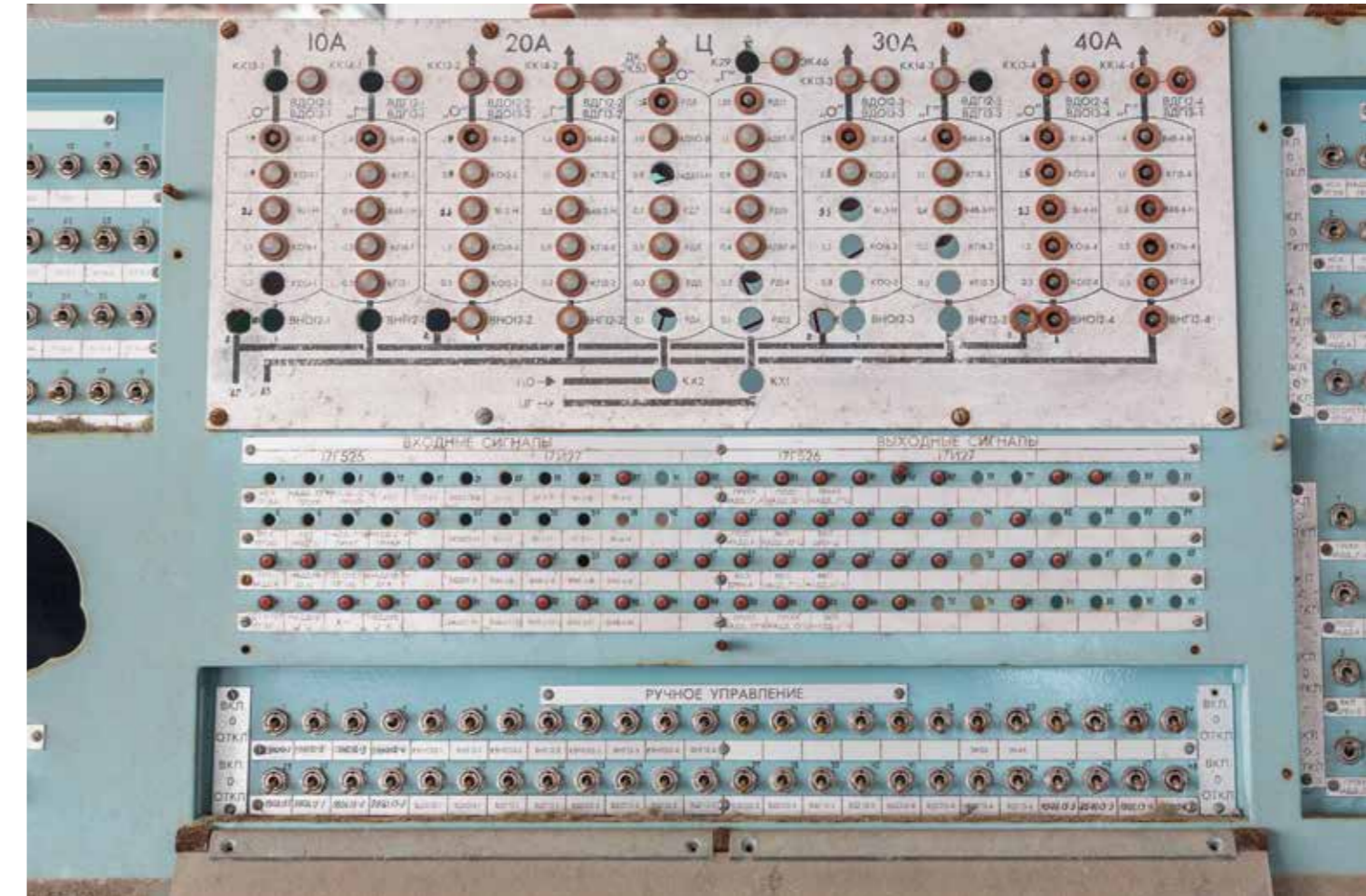
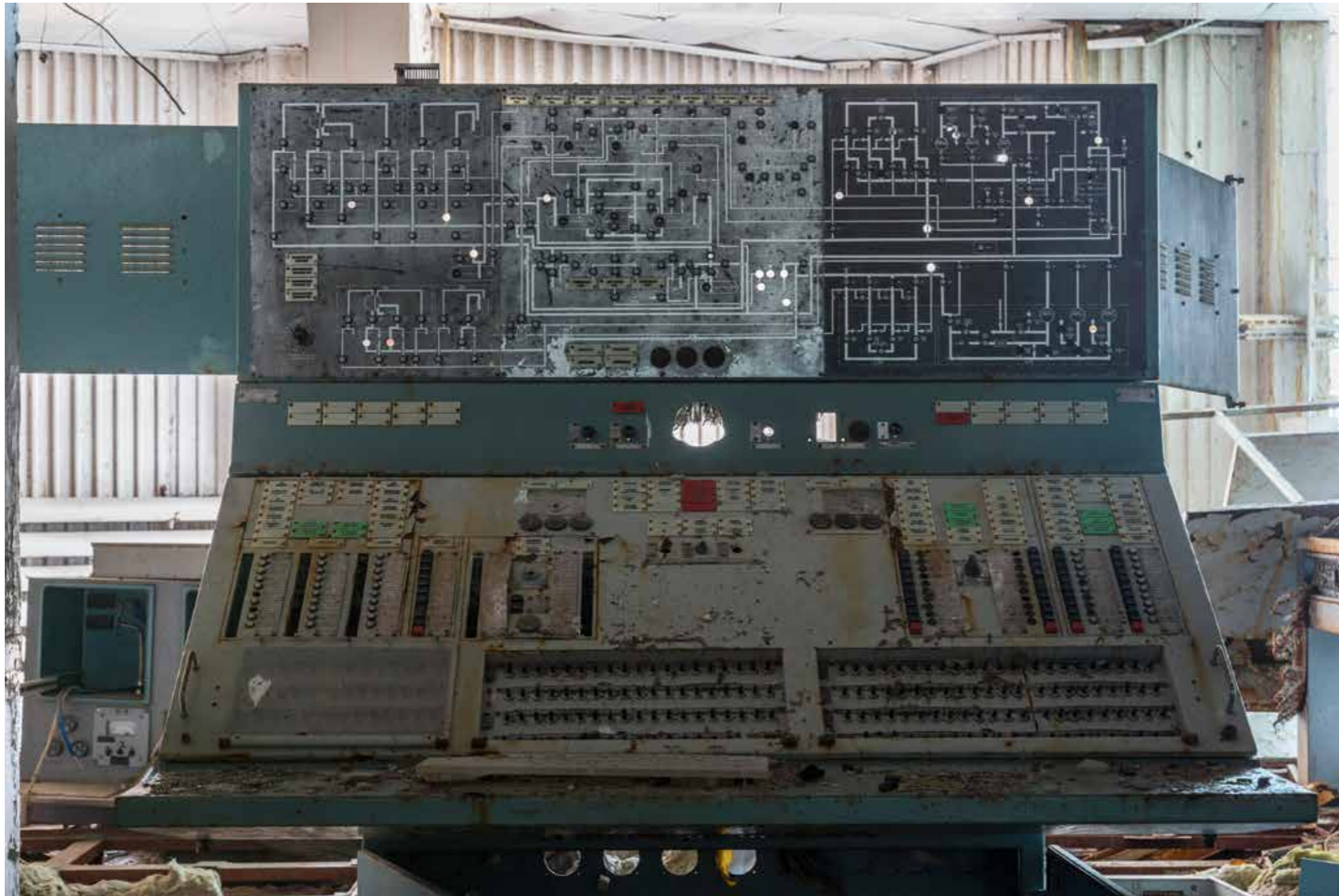


Design/technical drawing room





Upper part of the Energia launcher



Machinery room

View of the shuttles from the centre of the lower level of the overhead crane



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“The Earth is the cradle of humanity, but who wants to spend his life in a cradle?” - Konstantin Tsiolkovsky

The Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan was created by the Soviets in the 1950s. It was from Baikonur in 1988 that the first Soviet spaceplane, Buran, was launched in response to the United States Space Shuttle.

The Buran programme officially ended in 1993 during the presidency of Boris Yeltsin, with only that initial launch to its name. Thereafter, much of the Baikonur Cosmodrome fell into disuse, notably the sites connected with the launch of these Soviet craft. Two completed shuttles remain abandoned there, laid to rest in this atmospheric place.

This is the first time that photographs of these spectacular locations have been published in a book.

Under cover of night, Jonk travelled 20 kilometres through the Kazakh desert, crept into the hangars, and spent three nights hiding from military security, to produce a truly incredible reportage of what is considered today the world's most important urban exploration site.

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