

Tourist Rout

Renovated brick buildings in Riga

Development department of Riga City Council



Baltic Sea Region
Programme 2007-2013

Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund
and European Neighbourhood and
Partnership Instrument)

Co₂olBricks

Tour: Renovated brick buildings in Riga

This tour is developed under the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013 Co2ol Bricks - Climate Change, Cultural Heritage & Energy Efficient Monuments

This route is an integral part of more complete research work done – „Survey and tourist routes for Historic brick facades buildings”.

At the time of route development there were collected and selected data from nearly 50 objects, which in recent years has undergone a complete or partial reconstruction, renovation and / or restoration.

We need to note that there are no buildings where during the renovation because of existing legislation have been any energy efficiency audits, or any energy efficiency measurements. The main energy efficiency measures in these buildings are connected with implementation of sustainable heating systems, as well as a complete renovation of lighting systems. Only in few buildings there have been implemented measures of wall insulation.

Wall insulation measures is done only in buildings that do not have culturally valuable interior, but there are small number of such buildings.

This tourist route includes only public buildings, where it is possible to enter without special permits. These buildings are significant witness of history and have both the cultural and socio-economic value.

Route includes 6 buildings.

1. HOTEL BERGS, Bergs Bazaar, 83/85 Elizabete Street, Riga.
2. School "Ridze", Kr. Valdemāra Street 2, Riga.
3. University of Latvia (main building), Raina Street 19, Riga.
4. Clinical hospital of Profesor P.Stradins, Pilsonu Street 13, Riga.
5. Riga 1st Hospital, Bruninieku Street 5, Riga.
6. Elementary school of V.Zalitis, Kalpaka Boulevard 8, Riga.
7. Art Academy of Latvia.

1. HOTEL BERGS, Bergs Bazaar, 83/85 Elizabete Street, Riga.

Complete reconstruction of Hotel Bergs is realized by Zaigas Gailes architect office in collaboration with the Sydney architectural company "Peddle Thorp & Walker" where Andrew Anderson was the lead architect.

Hotel was established in 2002. – 2003. By merging two historical buildings in Bergs Bazaar. It was done in honor of Christopher Berg provocative vision of the future, allowing the cabbage field to become a modern and live trading center and the symbol of this building has become a cabbage.

Reconstruction resulted in a place where targeted preservation was taken in account and it is respecting the historical traditions of associating with a bold sense of the era and the modern technical requirements.

This is modern design building of eclectic style - allows each guest to enjoy an exclusive and at the same time a family environment.

The interior is in restrained colors and graphic solutions, natural materials, leather furniture , oak floors , doors and windows, outstanding textile.



Reconstruction:

- 1) Reconstructed lighting system – installed LEC system and energy efficient lamps;
- 2) Heating material – rock wall;
- 3) Wooden doors and windows (new)

2. University of Latvia (main building), Raina Street 19, Riga.

The main building of the University of Latvia is not only the oldest university building in Latvia, but also an architectural landmark of national value, whose image for many has come to symbolise higher education. The history of its construction is closely related to Riga Polytechnic Institute (1862-1915). In the 19th century Riga became a most modern metropolis in the Baltic province with a developed and diversified manufacturing and traffic and trade routes. The ongoing change created demand for new skills in both technical and natural sciences to make it possible not only to use the existing scientific achievements, but also to offer new areas for development. Riga Polytechnic Institute prepared a wide range of specialists and was the very first polytechnic higher education institution in the Russian Empire of which Latvia at the time was a part. Riga Polytechnic Institute launched the first study courses in rented premises, but soon afterwards in 1866 the construction of a building especially designed for the University by the architect Gustavs Hilbigis (1822-1887) was commenced in Raina (at the time - Troņmantnieka) Boulevard and the first body of the building was finished in 1869. As the educational institution developed, the building was gradually expanded –additional bodies of the building were built in three stages employing similar architectural forms. In the following forty years a joint complex of buildings was constructed with a spacious courtyard occupying a separate street block enclosed by four streets – Raina Boulevard, Merķeļa Street, Inženieru Street and Arhitektu Street.

The oldest part of the monumental University building was constructed combining features of Neo-Romanic, Renaissance and Byzantine styles, but at the same time in accordance with the construction traditions of educational institutions at that time. With the symmetry characteristic to the Romanic style the central part of the building is appended on both sides by two wings in which the lecture rooms are situated. In the central part there is the Entrance-Hall, Main Stairs and a ceremonial hall (the Small Assembly Hall). The observatory tower gives a peculiar vertical accent to the central risalita that does not have elevated vertical part. Two four-prong lanterns made of crude iron adorn the University Main Stairs – pente douce, which are enveloped in tales and legends. All in all, thanks to the precise regulations of construction that controlled the new building construction in the 19th century, the building perfectly fits in the Riga centre architecture and environment. After the liquidation of Riga Polytechnic Institute, the building passed into the hands of the University of Latvia.

The facade of the building

The construction of the facade was given much attention to and the sallow bricks were imported from England and also manufactured in Pērnavā district. They were decorated with little glazed violet slabs that brightened the massive brick walls. In the centre of the University building there are decorative crude iron casts that depict the emblems of the former Baltic provinces – Vidzeme, Kurzeme and Estonia. In the centre there is the Vidzeme emblem above which the year of the Riga Polytechnic Institute foundation (1862) can be seen. A little lower the Sāmsala emblem is situated trimmed with a German inscription Das Wort Gottes bleibt ewig (The Word of God is eternal). Above the emblems there are reliefs symbolising nine technical fields of science – physics, chemistry, mechanics, trade, engineering, architecture, agriculture, land surveying, and navigation – all of which could be studied at Riga Polytechnic Institute. These reliefs were made by Riga Polytechnic Institute Professor John Clark's (1830-1905) designs. The roof balustrades and the details of the corner turrets are made of crude iron.

At first, at the upper central facade of the University building was the emblem of City of Riga which in 1938 was moved to the part of the building facing Merķeļa Street and still can be seen there. The

aforementioned emblem was replaced by the Latvian National Coat of Arms which, during the Soviet times, was substituted by the Coat of arms of the Latvian SSR. In 1990 it was once again replaced by the independent Republic of Latvia Coat of Arms.

Reconstruction:

- 1) Heating materials: Various materials (mainly rock wool);
- 2) Energy efficient lighting
- 3) Reconstruction of façade (cleaning and Replacement of lost bricks)
- 4) Partly reconstructed wooden doors and windows (partly installed visually appropriate windows)
- 5) Ect.

Reconstruction is done in 2006th.



3. School "Ridze", Kr. Valdemāra Street 2, Riga.

Renovated the exterior of the building in accordance with the architectural - artistic inventory opinion research and recommendations.

The existing brick facade is cleaned and renovated, refurbished decorative paint strips cornices and statues.

In the case of the color treatment of existing brick is found that the brickwork is in poor condition, it is acceptable to paint the brick façade with lime distemper, leaving the possibility of a later period of time to clean the bricks according to the original building finishes.

The restoration is done using historically used materials and recipes. According to customer design task and budget options there were not intended for the replacement of PVC windows back to profile wooden windows with historic detailing and division.

The windows are made similar look as historical wooden windows.

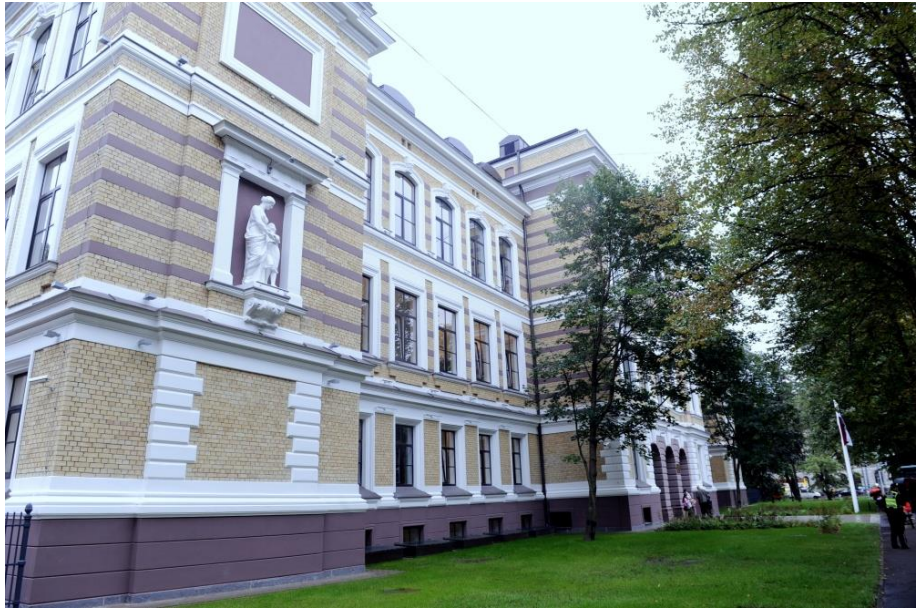
Heating and ventilation is fully redesigned and reconstructed using sustainable approach and materials.

Lighting system is made in accordance of special needs and highest energy efficiency measures.

Renovation is finished in 2013.

Architect: Arvids Likops





4. Elementary school of V.Zalitis, Kalpaka Boulevard 8, Riga.

The new city elementary school was created by combining six smaller crowded inside Riga elementary schools, and the 1885th year opened its new building at Totleben Blvd.

Eclectic Renaissance motivated design shoves that in this time education in architecture was popular as a reference to humanity ideals.

Author of the building is city's chief architect Reinhold Šmēlings.

Reinhold Šmēlings projects at that time became the most rapidly growing urban infrastructure necessary for public. It is believed that this house marks the beginning of the great architect's "brick -style" period.

The temperate stone and concrete elements are decorated to remain in the brick façade. The main focus is the sculpture made by local sculptural group building a broad front.



Reconstruction is finished 2009.

Reconstruction – identical to School “Ridze”.

5. Klinical hospital of Profesor P.Stradins, Pilsonu Street 13, Riga.

Project author R.Smelings.

Built from 1907 – 1912 (main buildings) – 16 blocks (14 remained).

Reconstructed 3 blocks in last three years:

Architect: Ltd “Buvprojektu vadiba”

- 1) Door and window reconstruction – partly replaced wooden soviet time wooden windows with new wooden windows;
- 2) Reconstructed heating system – radiators and ventilation;
- 3) Indoor wall insulation – material rock wool;
- 4) Renovation of facade with authentic materials and technique.



6. Riga 1st Hospital, Bruninieku Street 5, Riga.

The oldest civilian hospital in Latvia, set up on 3 (15) May 1803 especially for poor people on the grounds of the former Crown Pharmacy. The hospital is notable as a monument to Latvia's medical, cultural and architectural history since the structure featured the most progressive ideas of the time, and was constructed by the best Latvian architects.

In 1873, the building was reconstructed as Latvia's first pavilion-type hospital (arch. Johan Daniel Felsko). In 1907, a wing for administration of the hospital and an outpatient hospital were added according to the project by Reinhold Schmaeling; now the outpatient hospital is completely reconstructed under arch. V.Rauhvargere. A wing for patients with diseases of the central nervous system was built in 1937 (arch. Eizens Laube). In 2006, the renovation of a reception hall was completed according to the project by Olita Upaciere and funded by ERAF.



- 1) Door and window reconstruction – partly replaced wooden soviet time wooden windows with new wooden windows. Partly windows replaced with plastic windows.
- 2) Reconstructed heating system – radiators and ventilation as well as fully reconstructed the heat supply system;
- 3) Indoor wall insulation – material rock wool and other materials;
- 4) Renovation of facade with authentic materials and technique.

7. Art Academy of Latvia

The building of the Art Academy of Latvia is one of the most notable architectural and cultural monuments located in the historic centre of Riga.

The construction of the building began at the end of the 19th century when the Riga Stock Exchange Committee allotted a hefty amount of money for the construction of the Commerce School of the Riga Stock Exchange. The Commerce School opened in 1905 and occupied the building until 1915.

Later the building housed the Riga City German Gymnasium and Vilis Olavs Commerce School. On October 7, 1940 the building became home to the Art Academy of Latvia, and remains so today.

The red-brick building was designed by architect Wilhelm Ludwig Nikolai Bokcsloff (1858–1945). The facade of the building was to symbolise historic commercial ties and to serve as a reminder of Riga as a Hanseatic League city. Neo-Gothic style, popular in Europe at the turn of the century, matched the concept best.

The building's interior design is equally splendid: the most noteworthy objects include Art Nouveau stained glass artwork made in Ernst Friedrich Tode (1852–1932) workshop and sculptural decorations by August Volz (1851–1926).

The Latvian Academy of Art is an accredited school of higher learning with Bachelor, Master's and Doctor's degree programs.

Studies at the Latvian Academy of Art combine traditional higher educational principles with appropriate conditions for developing creativity in visual and plastic arts and basic principles for developing visual arts, design and art history as separate disciplines.



- 1) Only original windows reconstruction;
- 2) Indoor wall insulation – material rock wool and other materials;
- 3) Slight renovation of facades.