

THE SOVIET MODERNISM IN JŪRMALA CITY, LATVIA. LOST AND FOUND TREASURES

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Abstract - The research focusses on the soviet modernism structures in Jurmala city, Latvia. Jurmala was one of the most popular sea resorts in Soviet Union. In 1971, the new masterplan of the city was approved and expansive large-scale resort and residential architecture was erected in different locations. The majority of significant soviet modernism buildings is sanatorium complexes and cultural buildings. This research is a first attempt to illuminate in a structured way the soviet modernism architecture in Jūrmala showing the quality of modernism concepts, tracing the preserved authentical structures and recognizing the current condition of the soviet modernism heritage. The condition of buildings is diverse – from complete take-down or hovel status to authentic preservation and general renovation. The most considerable lost is the demolition of the restaurant “Jūras pērle”, attraction complex “Daile” and hotel “Līva”, but some discoveries show the object that have limited access - presidents villa and Breznev`s summer cottage. The rapid and often destructive ongoing processes regarding the soviet modernism architecture urge to reconsider and reevaluate it. As a result of this evaluation could be the elaboration of list of objects that could be officially recognized as the architectural heritage.

Keywords - Jurmala, soviet modernism, architecture, sea resort architecture.