

The Works of Architect Eižens Laube in Jurmala

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INTRODUCTION

This research tells about the architectural heritage of Eižens Laube in Jurmala especially exploring the current condition of the objects and tracing particular regularity in their development. Eižens Laube (1880 – 1967) was a great Latvian architect both in praxis and academic field. Up to now the significant overview on his architectural heritage in Jurmala was not made. This information could serve for some touristic and architectural issues enriching the history of Jurmala city.

RESEARCH

The research consists of three main topics – indication of works of E. Laube and their location in the city, collection of crucial historic information about the works and finally exploration of their current situation. Each of the research part has particular challenges.

The indication of works of E. Laube in Jurmala begins with the exploration of available lists of his works. There are two main lists – general list of his works published in 1940 [1] and list of his works in Jurmala published in 2000 [2]. The first list mentions 13 objects in Jurmala without giving precise addresses, the second list has 15 objects and addresses but without no references. There are also some other evidences showing that none of these lists are complete and revision is required. One of the biggest outcomes of this research is the updated list of the works of E. Laube in Jurmala with references and proved location. The scheme of objects' location in the city is elaborated. It gives the comprehensive addition to the topic.

The fundamental collection of historic evidences about the works of E. Laube was done by the Department of Cultural Heritage of Jurmala City in late nineties of 20th century. During this research the attempt of retracing the evidences was made, but some of information was not possible to prove. Now and then the biggest misfortune is a lack of historical archive of architectural project that was destroyed during the second half of 20th century. In this chapter the typological and stylistic qualities of the buildings are analyzed. The scale of buildings ranges from big resort hotel in suburb Kemerī to garage in suburb Lielupe, but the biggest part of buildings designed by E. Laube in Jurmala

was cottage houses that correspond well with the overall resort ambient of the city. From a point of stylistic, each period of creative style of E. Laube is presented in Jurmala – period before art nouveau, art nouveau and neoclassic. Due to high architectonic and conceptual qualities of buildings, the biggest part of them is listed as a cultural heritage, but it is not always a key to successful development.

The exploration of current condition of works of E. Laube in Jurmala includes field studies and examination of approved architectural projects if the buildings were reconstructed. It gives rather diverse outlook. The condition of buildings ranges from complete take-down to perfect restoration. The research traces the reasons why every building has particular condition in our days. Each building has individual story, but still some generalization is possible and it extends the borders of architecture of one architect.

CONCLUSION

The revised list of works of E. Laube in Jurmala implements certain improvements and precisions.

The architecture of E. Laube in Jurmala is diverse in styles and extreme in scales. The oldest survived building and the biggest building designed by architect E. Laube are located in Jurmala.

The current condition of the buildings designed by E. Laube has particular reasons. The primary reason is situation with property ownership in combination with the owners' ambitions and all level legislation. The role of architectural quality is secondary, but in case of E. Laube it is rather influential. This situation can be reflected to general situation of the architectural heritage in Jurmala and it illuminates the consequences of property nationalization during the Soviet Union times and denationalization after the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991, significance of architectural heritage protection framework and attitude of local municipality towards this heritage.

REFERENCES

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