

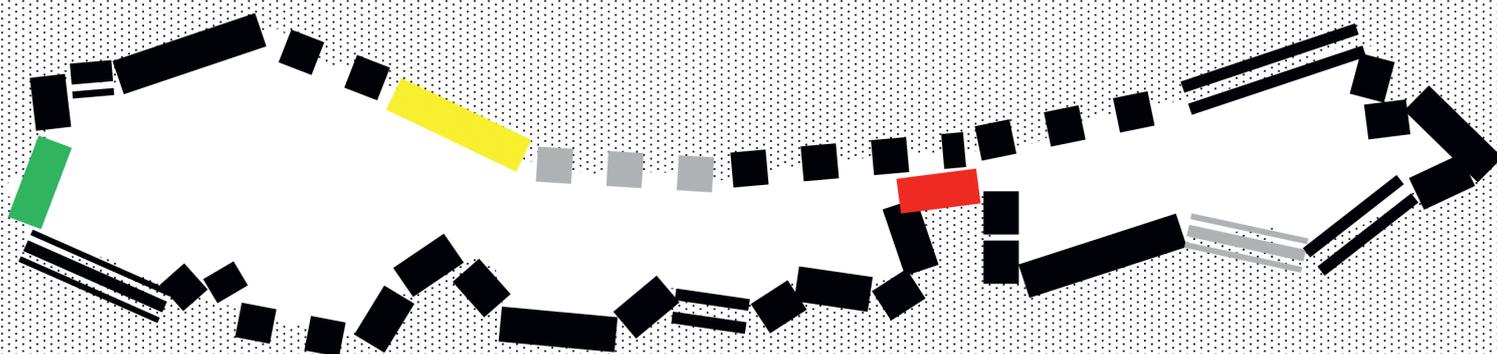


RIGA TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY

Baiba Vērpe

EVOLUTION OF THE RESORT ARCHITECTURE IN JŪRMALA

Summary of the Doctoral Thesis



RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Architecture

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**EVOLUTION OF THE RESORT
ARCHITECTURE IN JŪRMALA**

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Scientific supervisor

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DOCTORAL THESIS PROPOSED TO RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR THE PROMOTION TO THE SCIENTIFIC DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

To be granted the scientific degree of Doctor of Science (Ph. D.), the present Doctoral Thesis has been submitted for the defence at the open meeting of RTU Promotion Council on 15th November 2023 10.00 at the Faculty of Architecture of Riga Technical University, Ķīpsalas Street 6, Room 306.

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DECLARATION OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I hereby declare that the Doctoral Thesis submitted for review to Riga Technical University for promotion to the scientific degree of Doctor of Science (Ph. D.) is my own. I confirm that this Doctoral Thesis has not been submitted to any other university for promotion to a scientific degree.

Name SurnameBaiba Vērpe..... (signature)

Date:

The Doctoral Thesis has been written in Latvian. It consists of an Introduction, 3 chapters, Conclusions, 271 figures, 1 table, 3 appendices; the total number of pages is 276, including appendices. The Bibliography contains 521 titles.

Annotation

The study analyses the genesis and transformation of Jūrmala's built environment and architecture from the early 19th century to the present. It focuses on the city as the largest resort in Latvia. The Thesis consists of three chapters.

Chapter 1, "Development and planning of Jūrmala resorts", analyses the terminology related to the topic of resorts, the planning documentation of the various periods of the development of the Jūrmala territory, and the development of resort buildings, organising the content according to the chronological principle. It identifies the built-up areas that were used as resorts in one of the periods.

Chapter 2, "The genesis and transformation of resort architecture in the context of building typology", identifies the typological diversity and development of resort facilities and the functional and structural transformation of resort facilities over time. The architecture of healing and recreational facilities is analysed. The healing facilities include seaside bathhouses, sanatoriums and others. Recreational facilities are guest accommodation and entertainment facilities, beach and urban recreational facilities.

Chapter 3, "Architectural styles in Jūrmala", identifies the distribution of particular styles or stylistic trends in the built environment. The subject is analysed according to the historical periods of development of architectural styles.

The main regularities of the development of the resort architecture in Jūrmala are formulated. The study of the development of Jūrmala resort architecture introduces new factual and graphological material into the scientific literature.

The work contains 276 pages, including appendices, 271 figures and 521 references. Annex 1 comprises 40 different city plans, Annex 2 identifies 64 different types of resort facilities, and Annex 3 is an analytical database of 277 resort facilities in Jūrmala, collecting 437 images of them.

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Introduction

Topic Relevance. Certain areas of Jūrmala have been known as health resorts since the beginning of the 19th century. In 2013, almost the entire administrative territory of Jūrmala was granted the status of a resort under the provisions of the Tourism Law. Today, Jūrmala is the largest of the two resorts in Latvia. The architecture intended to provide the resort function, or resort architecture, occupies an important place in Jūrmala's overall built environment, as well as in the context of the cultural heritage of Latvia as a whole, as Jūrmala has 11 % of all architectural monuments in Latvia. Almost all of them are resort buildings.

Jūrmala has had a great variety of resort facilities over the past 200 years. Each successive historical period has brought changes in the resort culture and the understanding of what a resort is. The best known in architectural research is the resort architecture of the period before the First World War and the interwar period, often referred to as historical architecture. However, the Soviet and post-1991 periods have also seen and are having significant changes in this field.

The traditional element of the image of Jūrmala is the summer house in the so-called Swiss style. The scale and artistic image of the environment has changed significantly in recent decades. These changes often arouse negative emotions in the general public. The use of historical buildings has also clearly changed. Relatively large guesthouses and apartment buildings are being built on the sites of the historical cottages. The actual use of the guest houses is often not in line with their intended function. The cottages have undergone a major transformation. They are being transformed from seasonal buildings into permanent dwellings. This seemingly minor functional transformation has a major impact on the function of the resort, both in theory and in practice, as it transforms chalets from facilities used by the general public into facilities for private use. This, in turn, significantly reduces the number of traditional resort facilities in Jūrmala. The role of summer cottages in resort development is still not well defined. The situation is similar for other types of buildings.

The term "resort" is frequently mentioned in the contemporary press and the normative acts of the Jūrmala municipality. Jūrmala is referred to as a resort town. Nowadays, a resort is a place where there is at least one resort medical facility, but the criteria for such facilities are not clearly defined. In 2022, due to the geopolitical situation, two of the four largest resort medical facilities, the *Yantarnij Bereg* and *Belorusija* sanatoriums, ceased to operate. This significantly reduces the possibilities for resort treatment in Jūrmala. At present, there are only a few neighbourhoods in Jūrmala where resort medical facilities are located. Still, a much larger area, including forests and marshes, is recognised as a resort, but some areas that were historically spas are not included. These and many other inconsistencies are due to a disregard for, or ignorance of, the objective patterns of historical development. Values considered traditional have been lost. Understanding the genesis and transformation of Jūrmala resort architecture is critical to ensuring the historical continuity of the resort development.

The state of research on the topic. Theoretical studies on the development of Jūrmala and the area as a resort are almost non-existent. In the **period before World War I**, attempts were made mainly to identify Jūrmala's healing resources. The 1903 publication "Ķēmeri Sulphur

Springs and Mud Bath" [1] contains information on the chemical composition of the mineral water, as well as plans of the bathing establishment and detailed descriptions of the activities of the institutions. Postcards of the period are a rich source of information on the buildings and landscaping of Jūrmala.

In the **interwar period**, the book "Riga Jūrmala, Sloka and Ķēmeri towns with their surroundings" [2] by the politician and local historian Peter Belte was published. It contains a wealth of information on the development of culture, education, town administration and the resort. The development of buildings is partly analysed, for example, the genesis of a building from a fisherman's house to a summer cottage. This publication has been widely referred to by contemporary researchers in architecture, history, medicine and other fields. The publication provides few data sources, but the level of reliability of the information seems to be quite high. Jūrmala has been described in several publications on the history of Latvian towns [3], [4]. Several publications were devoted to health resorts in Latvia, including "Latvian health resorts and health care" in 1933 [5].

During the **Soviet period**, the Jūrmala Development Plan 1970 was drawn up [6], [7]. This material can be regarded not only as a spatial planning document but also as a study of the development of Jūrmala. In 1985, Ludmila Kartunova wrote her Thesis for the degree of a Candidate of Architecture at the Riga Polytechnic Institute entitled "Reconstruction of seaside resort areas adjacent to larger towns. An example of the resorts of the Gulf of Riga" [8]. The study also covers the resort of Jūrmala. During this period, the issues of cultural heritage protection were raised as well. Since the end of the 1970s, the survey of the historical architecture of Jūrmala was started, which was provided by the State Committee of Culture of the Latvian SSR. In 1989, the Restoration Institute of the Culture Committee prepared a preliminary design study of the historical centre of Jūrmala. It contains several volumes: "Photo-fixation of archive materials of Riga Jūrmala" (by R. Zandbergs) [9], "Determination of historical building protection zones for the town of Jūrmala. Text, images, drawings" (by I. Mence) [10], [11], and "Designs of buildings in Jūrmala, 1914–1939" (by I. Mence) [12]. In 1983, a study was also carried out, "Kēmeri Resort Park. Conclusion on the architectural objects of the park and photo-fixation" (authors I. Janele and J. Rādiņš) [13]. The studies provide an overview of the development of the built-up environment, cartographic material and several construction projects. The Department of Cultural Heritage of Jūrmala City has made an inventory of historical buildings, creating a database in the form of a card file. This was carried out by historians Ausma Pētersone and Rihards Pētersons, architects Anita Maija Naudiša and others. The content of the database is incomplete, sometimes using secondary sources – periodical publications and others.

After 1991, several publications devoted to Jūrmala architecture appeared. In 1996, the Cultural Heritage Department of Jūrmala City Council published the book "Cultural Monuments in Jūrmala" [14], which provides an insight into the development of the area, building typology and stylistics. The classification of styles in this publication differs from those generally accepted in architecture, and the classification of architectural stylistic concepts is at least debatable. In 1998, the book "Historical Architecture of Jūrmala" [15] was published, which promotes historical architecture. In 1998, the book "House in Jūrmala" [16] was also

published, which compiled information on the newest buildings of the time. In 2000, within the framework of an international PHARE project on architectural research in Jūrmala, historical buildings were surveyed and a questionnaire was filled in for each building. The main results of the project were as follows: "Jūrmala municipality has acquired an advanced analytical system that will enable the further development of a comprehensive concept of built-up areas. Methodically collected data and a systematised data system ensure further qualitative analysis of the municipality's territory and the implementation of new projects. The register, including the entered data and analysis, ensures its integration with the digital city map" [17]. The digital created database has not been maintained for technical reasons. Around 2000, an analytical material, "Evaluation of Jūrmala built environment", was developed, where the architectural values of the built environment were graphically marked [18]. In 2004, a comprehensive book, "Jūrmala. Nature and Cultural Heritage", was published [19]. It is a collective monograph with some journalistic content. The richly illustrated publication gives an insight into the historical building types and stylistics. In the book, the authors mostly use the terminology and systematisation of architectural styles adopted by art historians. Soviet and post-Soviet architecture is sketched superficially. In 2016, Baiba Tračuma's (now Baiba Vērpe) Master's Thesis, "Jūrmala Beach Environment from the Early 19th Century to the Present" [20], was defended at Riga Technical University, in which the typological development of Jūrmala beach objects was determined, revealing a great variety of objects.

Reviews of contemporary architecture have been published in various periodicals, most frequently in the Latvian Architecture and Deko magazines. In 2011, the monograph, "Latvian Architecture 1991–2011" [21] by architect J. Dripe was published, in which Jūrmala architecture is reflected in the descriptions of 17 objects. There are some factual inaccuracies in the publication; for example, the building "Avenue" at 34 *Dzintaru Prospekts* is called an apartment building, although it is a guest house. The 2013 edition of "Contemporary Architecture in Latvia" [22] analyses, among other objects, seven objects in Jūrmala.

Jūrmala as a resort has also attracted the attention of historians. The Jūrmala Museum has a permanent exhibition about the Jūrmala resort and thematic exhibitions. In 2017, the proceedings of the international conference "Resorts – Cultural-Historical Landscape and Cultural Space", held in Jūrmala, included the article "Resort in Time. The Jūrmala Case" by historian Inga Sarma [23]. An article dedicated to Jūrmala can be found in the 2011 publication "Resorts and Ports: European Seaside Towns since 1700" [24]. In 2019, the study "History of Dubulti" [25] was published. It contains relatively extensive information on the architecture of this area of Jūrmala. Most of the Jūrmala tourism publications, which saturate the internet environment, cover the period up to 1940.

Information on urban projects of the interwar period can be found in the 1992 monograph by Jānis Krastiņš, "Building Art of the Republic of Latvia" [26]. In Jānis Krastiņš's monograph "Art Nouveau Architecture in Latvia" [27], one of the chapters is devoted to Art Nouveau in Jūrmala. In the book by Jānis Krastiņš and Juris Dambis, "Architecture of Modern Movement. Roots and Currents in the World and in Latvia", several Jūrmala sites are mentioned [28]. The 2018 monograph "Sanatorium Architecture in Latvia 1918–1940" [29] by Karīna Horsta

comprises information on sanatorium buildings of the relevant period, including those in Jūrmala.

However, previous studies lack broader theoretical generalisation about the regularities of the urban development of the Jūrmala resort. So far, the types of buildings in Jūrmala have been studied fragmentarily, not covering all historical periods. There are no theoretical works that systematically describe the types of resort buildings in detail, neither in Jūrmala nor elsewhere in Europe. In the field of cultural heritage, buildings dating back to 1940 and preserved have been identified. The architectural heritage of the Soviet period is insufficiently identified and analysed, as is contemporary architecture. The use of terms in the names of buildings in the research environment and in everyday life is not consistent. There is no precise systematisation and terminology of historical architectural styles and stylistic currents. Contemporary stylistic manifestations in Jūrmala have so far been little discussed and analysed.

The subject of the study is the evolution of the architecture of Jūrmala resorts since the beginning of the resorts in the typological and architectural styles context.

The aim of the study is to obtain an overall picture of the development of Jūrmala resort architecture, detailing the regularities of the development of urban genesis, systematising the typological diversity of buildings, and identifying architectural stylistic peculiarities.

The research methods used in the study are mainly inductive analysis and comparative analysis. In order to obtain visually easily perceptible generalisations by analysing the historical development phases of buildings and the transformation of the built environment in individual historical periods, the graph-analytical method has been used. Primary sources (from archives and museums, as well as private collections and individual institutions), existing publications and various normative acts were studied. The research is severely limited by the fact that there is no archive of historical architectural projects in Jūrmala, which is why alternative sources of information were sought during the research. The State Historical Archives and the Jūrmala City Museum have a number of historical building projects. There are quite a lot of photographs in the collection of the Jūrmala City Museum, in the collection of the Latvian National Library and elsewhere. Extensive use has been made of field surveys.

The architectural style of the Jūrmala resort is analysed in the context of the architectural style of the city as a whole and covers the period up to about 2020. The methodology used for the classification and characterisation of architectural styles is the methodology used in the monograph "Rīga Architectural Styles" [30].

The chapters of the study are structured according to the chronological principle. A well-known division of historical periods is adopted:

- 1) **period until the First World War** (early 19th century – 1914),
- 2) **the interwar period** (1918–1940),
- 3) **the Soviet period** (1945–1990),
- 4) **the post-1991 period.**

The chronological boundaries of the historical periods take into account that there was almost no construction during the World Wars. The processes leading up to the Second World

War are also often referred to as "historical" in the research. Processes that have taken place in the last 10 years are often referred to as "modern".

Images for which no source is given are taken by the author. The visual material used in the study is summarised in the annexes in tabular format. References to the annexes are indicated in brackets, the annex being indicated by "piel.", the line number in the annex table by "r.", thus identifying the place of reference. In the research, the author uses contemporary place names, street names and other designations that may have had different names in the past.

Scientific novelty. The study of the development of the architecture of Jūrmala resorts introduces new factual and graphological material in the scientific literature. Resort architecture as a specific typological group of public buildings with its characteristic architectural stylistics is identified in the context of general phenomena of Latvian architecture. The terminological issues of resort architecture are clarified. The typological systematisation of resort objects is developed. A comprehensive database of Jūrmala resort objects has been created. For the first time, detailed data on resort objects has been created since the Soviet period and has been introduced into the scientific literature.

Practical significance of the work. Theoretical knowledge can be used for clarification of normative acts in the field of construction, spatial planning, cultural heritage, tourism and process supervision. The materials of the research can be included in various general and educational materials, tourist guides and other publications about Jūrmala.

Approbation of the results. The results of the Thesis research have been published in scientific publications. Papers on the Thesis topic have been presented at scientific conferences.

Publications

1. **Tračuma, B.** Jūrmalas Dzintaru prospekta apbūve. *Latvijas Arhitektūra*, 2016, Nr. 127, 84.–92. lpp. ISSN 1407-4923.
2. **Vērpe, B.** Rotas ielas rota. *Latvijas Arhitektūra*, 2017, Nr. 129, 54.–57. lpp. ISSN 1691-4058.
3. **Vērpe, B.** Retracing the Architectural Heritage. The Works of Architect Eižens Laube in Jūrmala City, Latvia. *Architecture and Urban Planning*, 2018, Vol. 14, pp. 141–150. e-ISSN 2255-8764. Available: doi:10.2478/aup-2018-0019.
4. **Vērpe, B.** Jūrmalas pludmales sezonas kafejnīcas. *Latvijas Arhitektūra*, 2019, Nr. 143, 74.–77. lpp. ISSN 1691-4058.
5. **Jankauskaitē, A., Vērpe, B., Grecevičius, P.** Evaluation of the Recreational Landscape Potential of the South-Eastern Baltic Sea Seaside Resorts. *Journal of International Scientific Publications: Ecology & Safety*, 2019, Vol. 13, pp. 45–57. Available: <https://www.scientific-publications.net/en/article/1001858/>.
6. **Vērpe, B.** Dubultu kultūras kvartāls. *Latvijas arhitektūra*, 2020, Nr. 147, 52.–57. lpp. ISSN 1407-4923.
7. **Vērpe, B.** Teniss Jūrmalā. *Latvijas arhitektūra*, 2021, Nr. 156, 50.–53. lpp. ISSN 1407-4923.

8. **Vērpe, B.** Large-Scale Buildings of the Resort Establishments of the Soviet Period and their Present State in Jūrmala City, Latvia. *Architecture and Urban*, 2021, Vol. 17, pp. 29–45. e-ISSN 2255-8764. Available: doi:10.2478/aup-2021-0003.
9. **Vērpe, B.** The Evolution of the Summer Houses of the Sea Resort Areas of Jūrmala, Latvia. *Architecture and Urban Planning*, 2023 (in press).

Papers at conferences

1. 13 October 2016, Riga, Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, RTU 57th International Scientific Conference, paper "Beachscape of Jūrmala City Since Beginning of 19th Century".
2. 11 October 2018, Riga, Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, RTU 59th International Scientific Conference, poster presentation "The Works of Architect Eižens Laube in Jūrmala City, Latvia".
3. 20 September 2018, Kaunas Technical University, Lithuania, at the 6th International Conference "Advanced construction", paper "The Contemporary Resort Architecture in Jūrmala, Latvia. Case of Dzintaru Prospect".
4. 17 October 2019, Riga, Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, RTU 60th International Scientific Conference, poster presentation "Stylistics of Contemporary Residential Buildings Architecture in Jūrmala", co-author I. Lazdiņš.
5. 17 October 2019, Riga, Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, RTU 60th International Scientific Conference, paper "The Soviet Modernism in Jūrmala City, Latvia. Lost and Found Treasures".
6. 16 October 2020, Riga, online at the RTU 61st International Scientific Conference, a poster presentation "The Planning, Typology and Design of the Resort Buildings of Soviet Period in Jūrmala City, Latvia".
7. 14 October 2021, Riga, Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, 62nd RTU International Scientific Conference, paper presentation "The Typology of Resort Buildings in Jūrmala City, Latvia".
8. 14 October 2022, Riga, Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, RTU 63rd International Scientific Conference, paper presentation "The Typology of Resort Buildings in Jūrmala City, Latvia".

Exhibitions

Exhibition "Attraction. Castle. Daile. Architect Edgars Šēnbergs 100" (author of the exhibition). Bulduri Exhibition House, 1 March – 31 April 2023.

Public presentations

18 March 2023, public presentation of the exhibition "Attraction. Castle. Daile. Architect Edgars Šēnbergs 100".

Activities on social networks

Facebook page "Jūrmala Architecture Research", since 2018:
<https://www.facebook.com/baiba.verpe/>

Facebook page "Eižens Laube – Architect and Thinker" since 2020:
<https://www.facebook.com/parEizenuLaubi/>

1. Development and planning of Jūrmala resorts

The word "kurort" (resort) is a German compound of the two words "kuren" – to heal, and "Ort" – the place. The word has entered Latvian and Russian and has a synonym in Latvian, "kūrvieta". In English, the term "resort" is used. Different definitions of "resort" are available in publications from different historical periods. In the interwar period, it was written that a resort is a place which, by natural or artificial means, is useful for healing and recreation [31, 18999]. The draft regulations for resorts of the Soviet period stated that a resort could be recognised as an area with natural healing resources, climatic and other factors, and the necessary social and economic conditions favorable to the organization of treatment, disease prevention and recreation of the population [32]. The medical literature also emphasises that a resort is well equipped, with water and mud healing establishments, climatotherapy pavilions, housing blocks and cultural institutions [33]. After 1991, in the context of the tourism industry, a resort is understood as a place of scenic beauty, where a resort complex is located, and opportunities are created for a wide range of leisure, recreational, healing and entertainment activities [34]. The Law on Tourism of the Republic of Latvia states that a resort is an administrative territory of a local municipality or a part thereof which has been granted the status of a resort in accordance with the procedure laid down in regulatory enactments [35, Article 1, Paragraph 8] and which meets several conditions, including the availability of natural healing resources, at least one resort medical institution and the establishment of appropriate tourism infrastructure [35, Article 6.1]. Definitions of a health resort varied slightly in each historical period.

The resorts in Jūrmala have developed within the boundaries of settlements, while the current administrative area of Jūrmala has developed gradually over a wider area. It acquired its current administrative boundary in 1959 when the three towns of the interwar period – Rīgas Jūrmala, Sloka, and Ķemeri – were merged (Fig. 1.1).

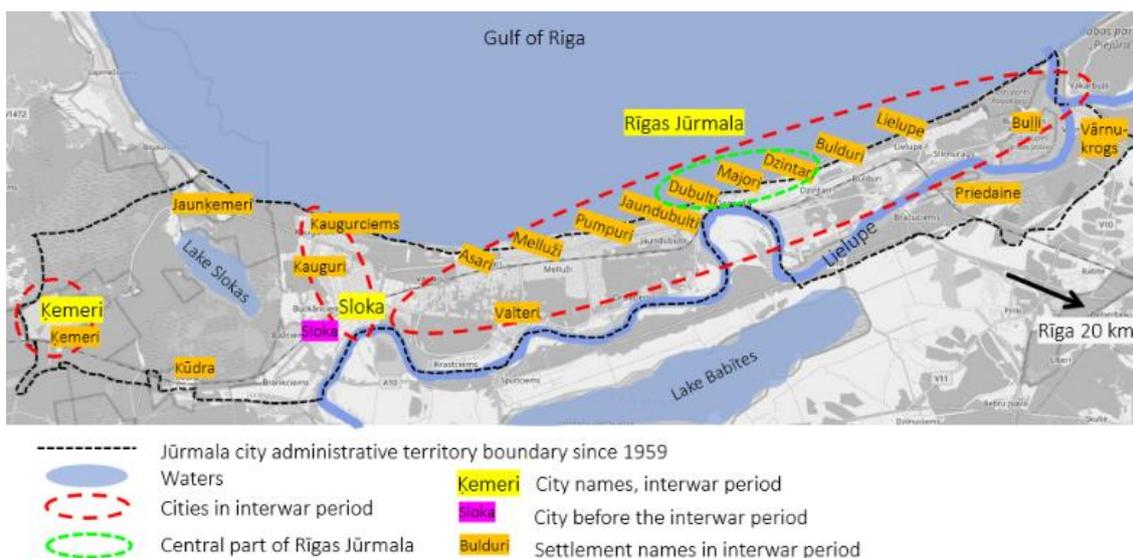


Fig. 1.1. Settlements in Jūrmala.

1.1. Jūrmala before the First World War

Before the First World War, the development of resorts in Jūrmala began. The It started in Sloka – the first initiatives to meet the needs of holidaymakers in Ķemeri, Kaugurciems and Rīgas Jūrmala were taken, therefore Sloka is considered to be the place from where the impetus for the development of Jūrmala resorts came (Fig. 1.2).

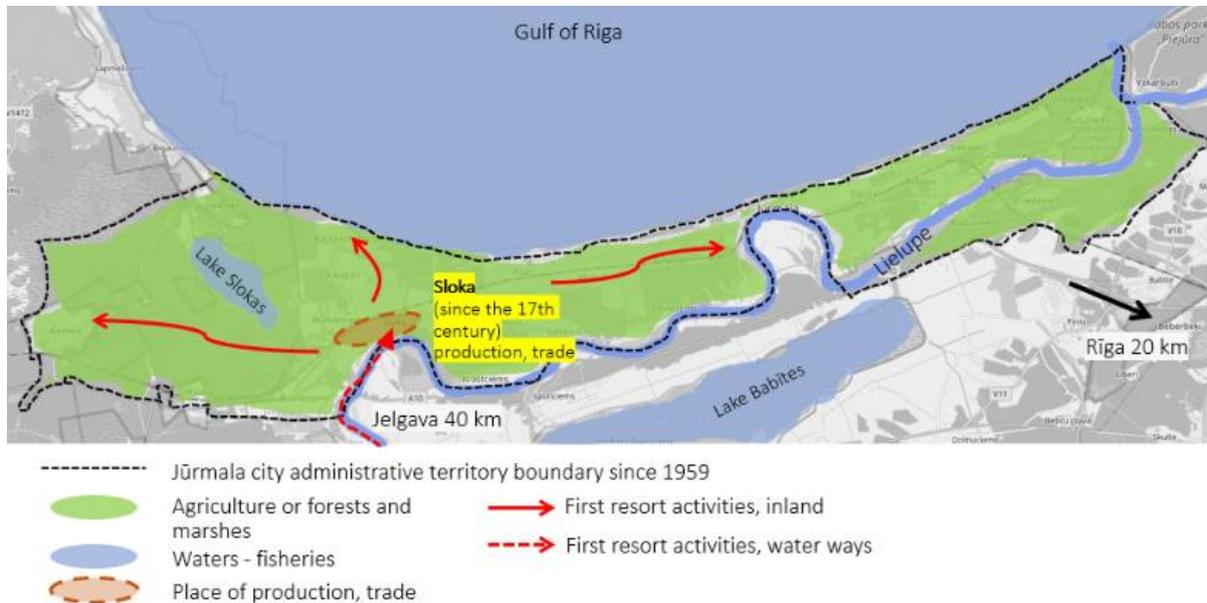


Fig. 1.2. Land use in Jūrmala till the beginning of the 19th century, the first impulses of the resort.

Background of the scheme [38].

The most common assumption in the information sources is that the Ķemeri resort started with the opening of a bathing establishment in 1838, while in the case of Rīgas Jūrmala, the first holidaymakers arrived around 1812. However, these are different years, one referring to the construction of the building and the other to the arrival of bathers. If the origins of a health resort are judged by the time when any of nature's healing resources began to be exploited, then it was in Ķemeri that this began to happen most quickly. The beginning of the use of healing resources can also be seen as the time when existing buildings, such as the forest guards' houses in Ķemeri and fishermen's houses in Kauguri, began to be adapted for their use. The first known resort facility built specifically for resort purposes was the bathing hut in Kaugurciems, while the first medical institution was in Ķemeri in 1825, and it was built by Jelgava's residents and local foresters. Therefore, Ķemeri can be considered the oldest resort in Jūrmala according to the use of natural resources and the first medical institution. The distance from Lielupe to the sea was a decisive factor in the early development of seaside resorts. Initially, bathers went to Kaugurciems because of the greater influence from Jelgava, but Dubulti started to develop when holidaymakers from Riga became more active (Fig. 1.3).

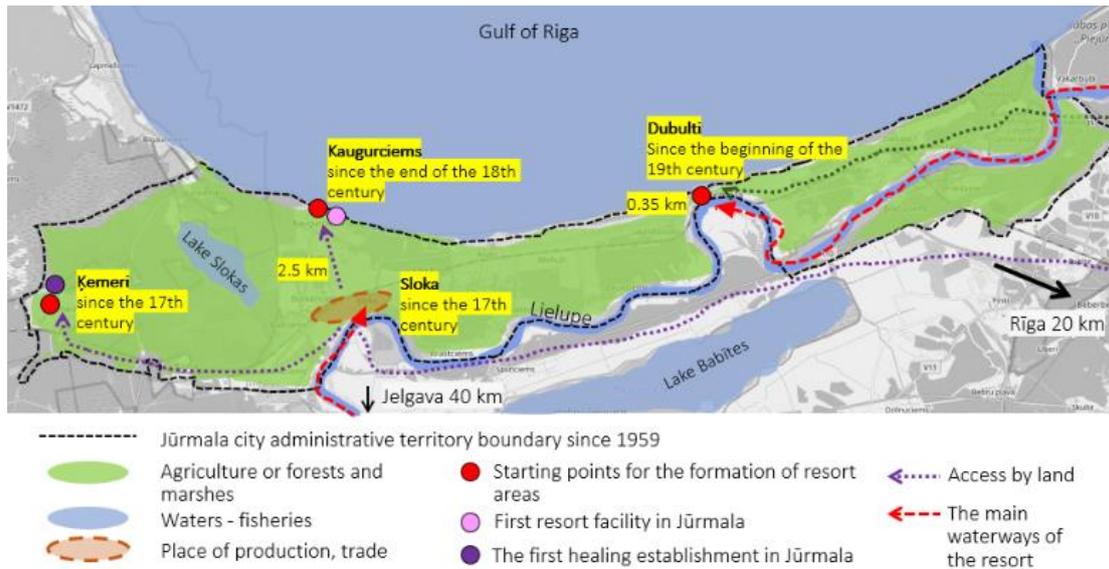


Fig. 1.3. Characteristics for resort development.
Background of the scheme [38].

The Rīgas Jūrmala and Kēmeri resorts developed independently and differently. They were two different types of resorts because they used different natural resources. It was only the coincidence of natural conditions that determined their close proximity to each other. It is very rare for balneological resorts to be so close to the sea. Kēmeri established its own representation by the sea – Jaunkēmeri. Priedaine, on the right bank of the Lielupe River, is an extension of Rīgas Jūrmala, a resort with garden town features, as it is not located in the immediate vicinity of the sea (Fig. 1.4).

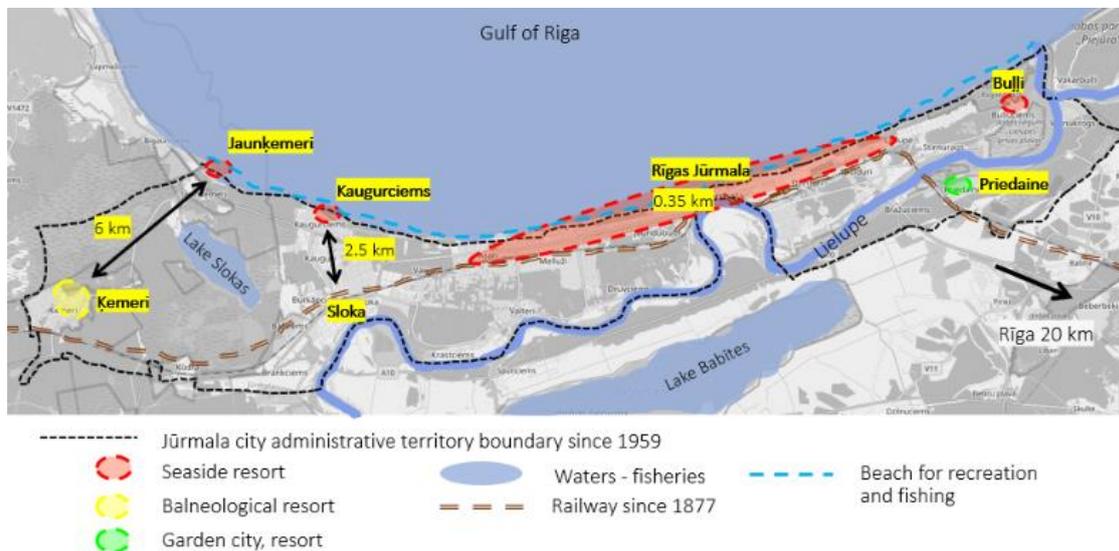


Fig. 1.4. Types of resorts in Jūrmala before the First World War.
Background of the scheme [38].

The economic town-building factors differed between the seaside and balneological resorts in Jūrmala. Ķēmeri was state supported, as since 1838, the Russian Empire provided funding for the development of Ķēmeri, and a water spa was built. Rīgas Jūrmala, on the other hand, developed according to the principles of the free market economy, developing services and business, while Kaugurciems did not continue to develop as a resort (Fig. 1.5).

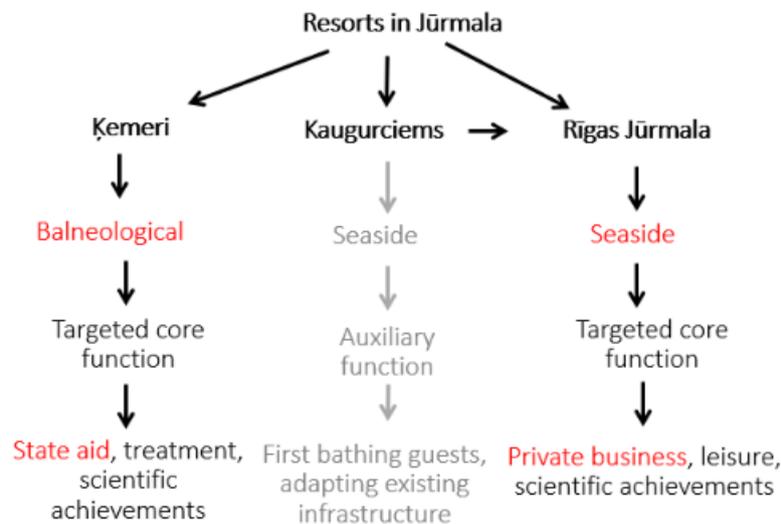


Fig. 1.5. Resorts in Jūrmala and the driving forces behind their development before the First World War.

1.2. The Interwar period

During interwar period, the resort traditions continued both in Ķēmeri and in the Jūrmala part of Riga, developing the features of the previous period, and purposefully creating the necessary buildings for a resort; however, the number of plots that were inhabited all year round increased, indicating a decrease in seasonal use and a tendency to use the Jūrmala territory as a permanent place of residence.

The most notable architectural developments were the construction of the Ķēmeri Hotel and the Dzintari Concert Hall and the adaptation of the Dubulti *Kurhaus* to the needs of an educational institution. All towns developed successfully, and the built environment expanded. In Rīgas Jūrmala, this allowed for a more respectful attitude towards the architecture of the previous period. At the same time, there were signs of the unity of the three cities, as evidenced by the 1933 publication of the local historian Peter Belte entitled "Rīgas Jūrmala, Sloka and the Ķēmeri area" [2]. These forebodings were realised in the following historical period.

1.3. The Soviet period

The political and economic regime that Latvia experienced during the Soviet period had a significant impact on the development of the Jūrmala area but did not change the resort tradition established in previous periods. In Jūrmala, there were targeted plans to increase the resort capacity. The former towns of Sloka, Ķēmeri and Rīgas Jūrmala were merged for the sake of

resort development. The Jūrmala Development Plan stipulated that Ķemeri was the all-Union resort, the Jūrmala part of Riga was the republic-level resort, and the main housing stock was in Kauguri (Fig. 1.6). The large-scale development of Kauguri housing estate prevented the widespread development of high-rise apartment buildings in other parts of the city.

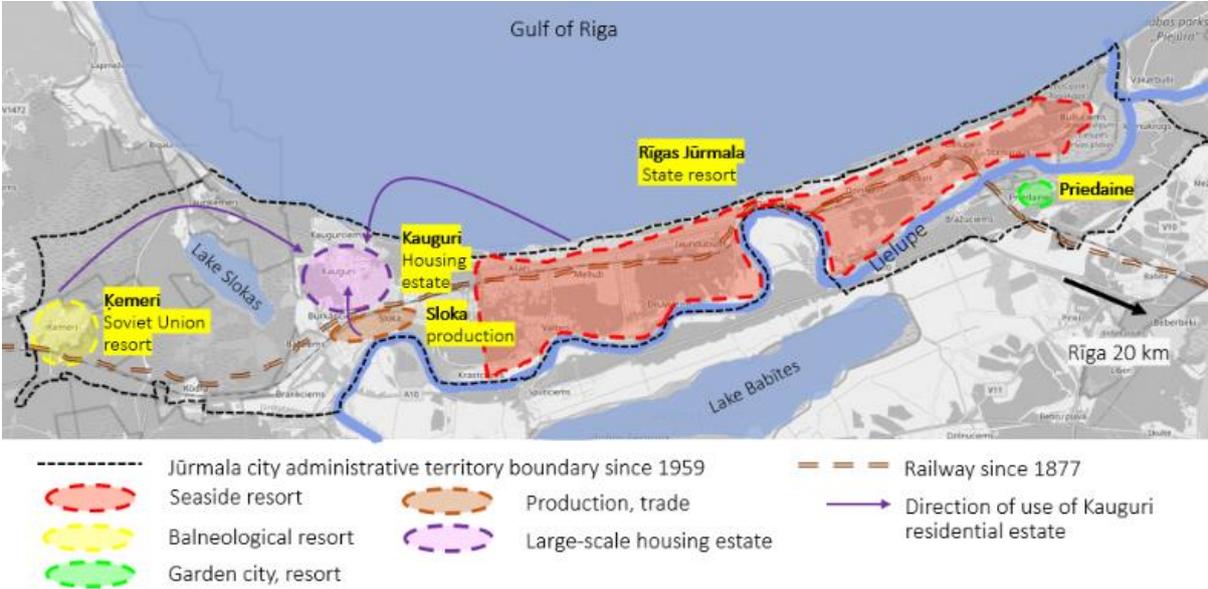


Fig. 1.6. The main use of the most important areas of Jūrmala in the Soviet period. Background of the scheme [38].

During the Soviet period, large-scale architectural and urban development projects were carried out without regard for established plot boundaries and building scales, and a gradual process of replacement of historic buildings took place. No less important was the construction of transport and engineering infrastructure.

1.4. The post-1991 period

During the post-1991 period, completely new laws and regulations have been drafted. In the existing Jūrmala Building Regulations, the resort’s functional zone was no longer marked out in the Jūrmala Spatial Plan. Instead, areas with special regulations – resort areas, mixed resort areas, Ķemeri resort park – have been defined. These are additional to some of the public building areas, covering relatively small areas (Fig. 1.7).

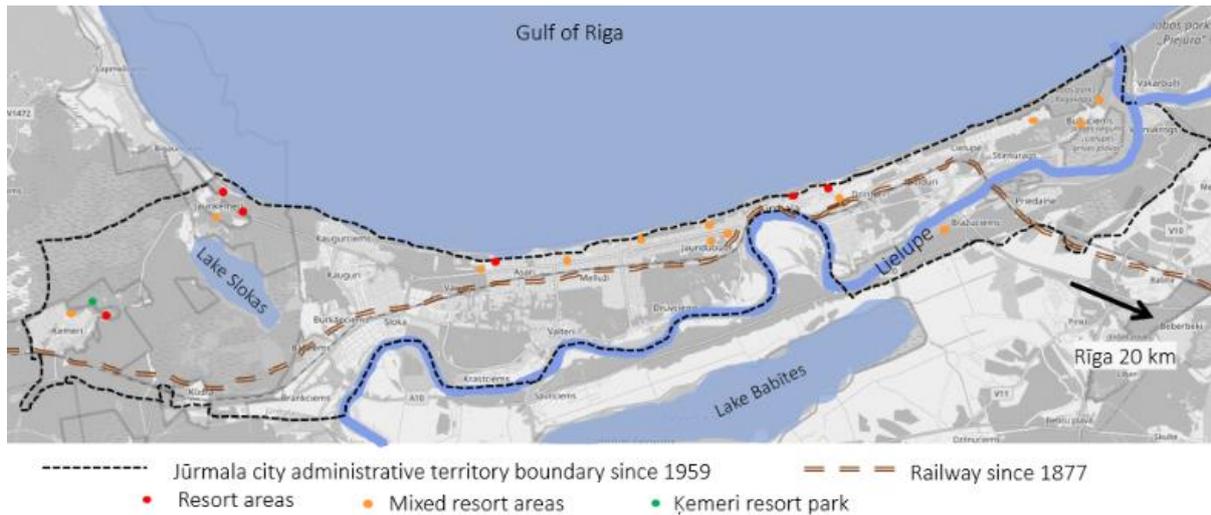


Fig. 1.7. Resort areas in Jūrmala according to the 2016 regulations on the use and development of the territory [18].
 Background of the scheme [38].

Based on the provisions of the Tourism Law on granting the status of a resort [35, Article 6.1], in 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers Order "On granting the status of a resort to the Jūrmala part of the city" (Cabinet Order) was adopted [36], with the annex to the Order containing a boundary diagram and 151 coordinates of the boundary points. Initially, the entire administrative territory of Jūrmala was given the resort status, but the part of Jūrmala on the right bank of the Lielupe River was not included due to the deficiencies of the water supply system (Fig. 1.8).

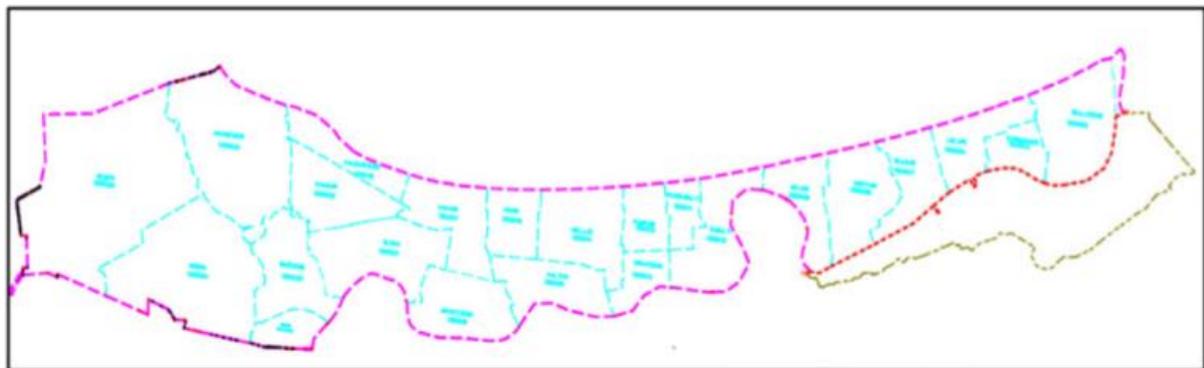


Fig. 1.8. Jūrmala resort boundary diagram, 2013 [36].

The following symbols are used in the diagram: purple dashed line – Jūrmala resort boundary, which coincides with the administrative boundary of the city; red dashed line – Jūrmala resort boundary; green dashed line – administrative boundary of the city; blue dashed line – boundaries of the city parts.

The first two criteria for a spa resort in the Tourism Law state that the resort "has access to natural healing resources and has at least one resort medical institution" [35, Article 6.1(1)]. The term "resort medical institution", which is the basis for the designation of a resort area, is vaguely defined. For the purposes of the Tourism Act, it is a medical institution for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation using natural healing resources [35, Art. 1, para. 28]. There are no more detailed criteria for these institutions, and there is no separate list of such institutions.

There is also no definition of the extent of the resort area around a resort medical institution, which for the time being, the existence of one or a few facilities entitles almost the entire city of 100 km² to be called a resort. In November 2022, there were 118 registered medical institutions in Jūrmala [37], 7 of which could qualify for the status of a resort medical institution. Assuming that a resort area today is a neighbourhood where a resort medical institution is located, only Majori, Jaundubulti, Melluži, Vaivari, and Jaunķemeri would be resort areas (Fig. 1.9).

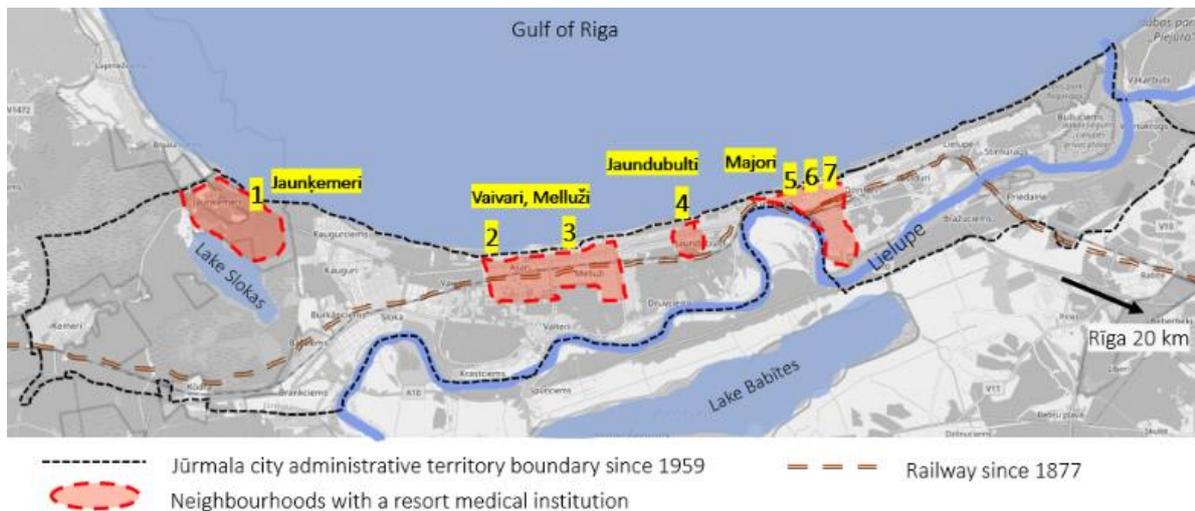


Fig. 1.9. Jūrmala's neighbourhoods where potential spa treatment facilities are located.

Base of the scheme [38]. Possible health resorts: No. 1 – "Sanare-KRC Jaunķemeri" Ltd; 2 – National Rehabilitation Centre "Vaivari"; 3 – "Klīnika Dzintari" Ltd; 4 – State Agency for Social Integration; 5 – "BBH Investments" Ltd; 6 – Hotel "Jūrmala SPA" Ltd; 7 – "Arbat Rīga" Ltd.

Visual survey data and photographs of the buildings taken in the 1990s for the purpose of heritage identification show the poor technical condition of the historical buildings. During the Soviet period, the intensive use of the cottages without proper maintenance led to a high deterioration of the buildings, which made it necessary to improve their technical condition without delay. Since the beginning of the 21st century, construction activity in Jūrmala has been high. According to the Construction Information System 2020, construction activity in Jūrmala up to Dubulti is almost as high as in the centre of Riga (Fig. 1.10). In contrast, the construction activity in Ķemeri and Sloka is significantly lower.



Fig. 1.10. Number of constructions in progress in June 2020 [39].

A visual survey of the urban environment of Jūrmala shows that today, there is an unbalanced development, based on the scale of construction in different neighbourhoods. The most activity is taking place in the Jūrmala part of Riga, where the transformation of the built environment is the fastest. The area with the highest number of simultaneous construction processes is also the oldest part of Rīgas Jūrmala and the largest urban monument in Jūrmala. It is also the area that was the most heavily developed with large-scale resort facilities during the Soviet period. Thus, urban monument No. 6083 "Dubulti–Majori–Dzintari–Bulduri–Lielupe summer house districts" is today the most valuable and the most endangered part of the city.

The analysis of all historical periods gives an overview of where there has been the resort function in Jūrmala at any given time (Fig. 1.11). The two largest and most historically significant areas are Ķemeri and Rīgas Jūrmala. Other sites are territorially smaller.

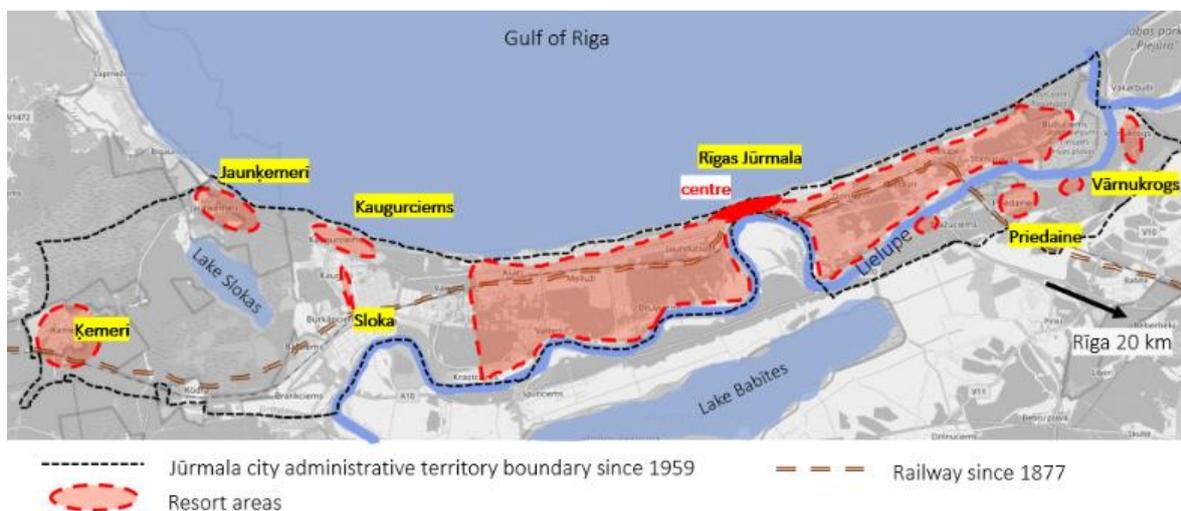


Fig. 1.11. Areas in Jūrmala that have had a resort function over the different periods of time.

Background of the scheme [38].

2. The genesis and transformation of resort architecture in the context of building typology

The definitions of "resort", whatever their wording, are mainly based on compliance with two criteria. The first criterion is the availability of natural resources for medical treatment, the second is the provision of healing and recreation. Since the beginning of the 19th century, Jūrmala has had various facilities for healing and recreation, but no detailed identification has been made.

2.1. Healing facilities

Healing facilities are buildings or civil engineering structures intended to improve human health. Various sources of information define facilities that indicate a healing function:

- **In the period before the First World War:-** sulphur and mud bath house, sanatorium, bath house, healing house, mineral water pavilion, *купальня* (kupalnya – Russian), *водолечебница* (vodolechebnitsa – Russian), *Badeanstalt* (German), *Wasserheil-anstalt* (German).
- **In the interwar period:** warm sea bath establishment, healing house, bathing house, water healing institution, sulphur and mud bathing house, sanatorium.
- **During the Soviet period:** sanatorium, climate therapy pavilion, spa clinic, mineral water pavilions.
- **Post-1991 period:** sanatorium, spa hotel, spa treatment facility.

The development of different types of healing facilities in Jūrmala has been rather uneven and varied in different periods. In the first half of the 19th century, the development of healing facilities started with a simple oak bath (Fig. 2.1, No. 1), which was incorporated into various buildings: warm seawater houses began to be built on the beach (Fig. 2.1, Nos. 2–4), and balneological bath houses in Ķemeri, where mineral water and mud were used for healing (Fig. 2.1, No. 16). At the end of the 19th century, the first classical sanatorium was established in Jūrmala (Fig. 2.1, No. 13). Combining the traditions of local seaside bathhouses and international healing experience, the first resort sanatoriums were established (Fig. 2.1, No. 9). They were a collection of different types of buildings located in one area. The interwar period continued the healing traditions of the previous period. In the Soviet period, sanatoriums were introduced as an integrated building type (Fig. 2.1, No. 11). This building type combined almost all previous types of healing facilities into a single complex (Fig. 2.1, No. 5) and moved from healing baths to healing pools. After 1991, no new healing facilities were built. Buildings from previous periods were used.

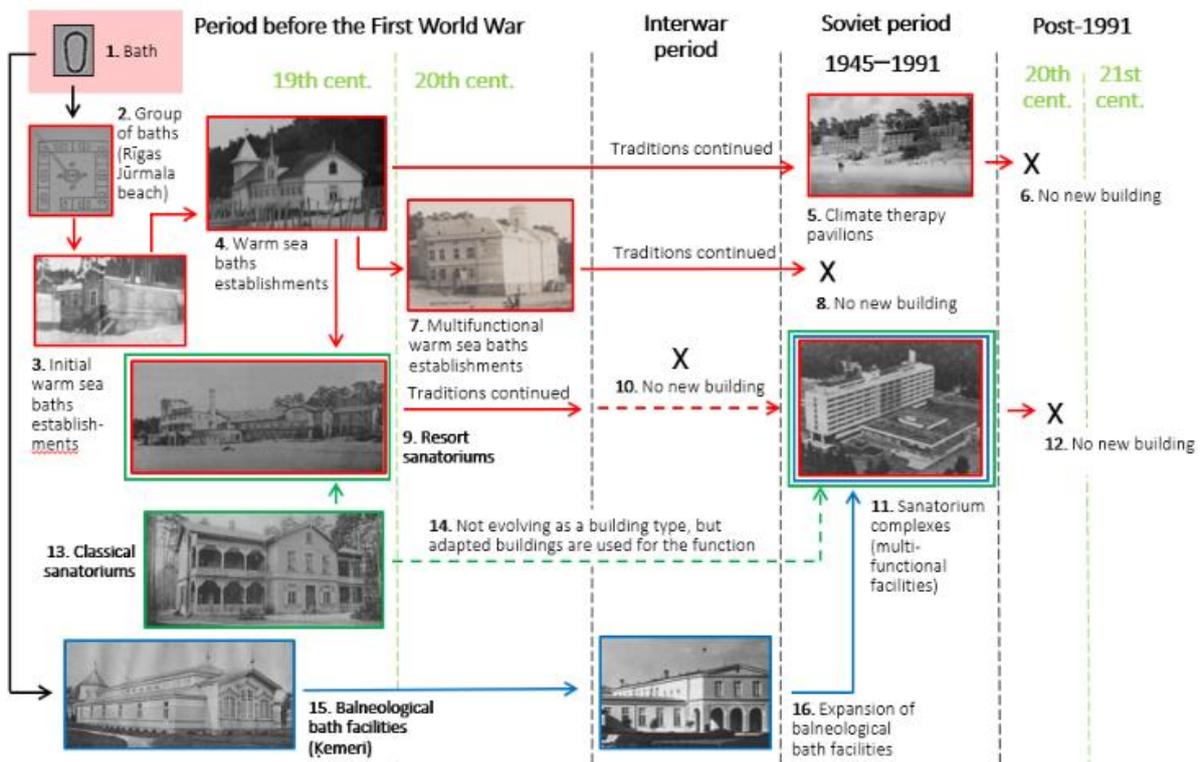


Fig. 2.1. Typological development of healing facilities in Jūrmala.

The greatest number and typological diversity of healing facilities was in the period leading up to the First World War. In the interwar period, healing traditions were continued, building on the developments of the previous period. The Soviet period saw a significant technological evolution in healing, but in the post-1991 period, the sector did not develop, and there were no new facilities.

2.2. Recreational facilities

The majority of buildings in Jūrmala as a resort town are those that serve the general recreational needs of people but are not specifically designed for healing. Various sources of information contain objects with names indicating a recreational function:

- **In the period before the First World War:** summer house, pension, hotel, heating house, inn, sea pavilion, restaurant, casino, concert garden, concert park, concert stage, tea pavilion, coffee pavilion, hermitage, swimming stilt, swimming cart, swimming hut, attraction, resort festival facility, etc. [2].
- **In the interwar period:** summer house, hotel, pension, rest house, sea pavilion, restaurant, beach café, concert garden, concert stage, concert hall, pavilion, attraction, facility for beach recreation, facility for active recreation, event, etc. [2], [40].
- **In the Soviet period:** summer house, cottage hotels, pension rest houses, creative house, restaurant, amusement palace, attraction, facility for beach recreation; facility for active recreation, event, etc. [41], [6], [7].
- **Post-1991 period:** hotel, guesthouse, café, restaurant, water park, leisure facility, event, etc. [19].

These facilities, according to their specific functions, can be divided into four groups of facilities: visitor accommodation facilities, entertainment facilities, leisure facilities, and active recreation facilities.

2.2.1. Visitor accommodation facilities

Guest accommodation in Jūrmala has been diverse, and its typology and functionality has changed over time. The most significant and, in terms of numbers, the most common type of guest accommodation has been the summer house. It has evolved and transformed considerably since the beginning of the resort. In terms of building typology, summer houses can be seen as two different types of buildings – rental and private (Fig. 2.2). Private holiday homes have evolved from uninsulated buildings for private seasonal living to insulated buildings for permanent living. Nowadays, they are single-family dwellings which are not specific to a resort. In contrast, the rental chalets have undergone several typological transformations, especially during the Soviet period, and have now become guest houses. Newly built guest houses in Jūrmala are mainly used as residential buildings and do not contribute to the development of Jūrmala as a resort. Nowadays, in Jūrmala, the term "summer house" is most often applied to buildings that do not correspond to the historical essence of the concept.

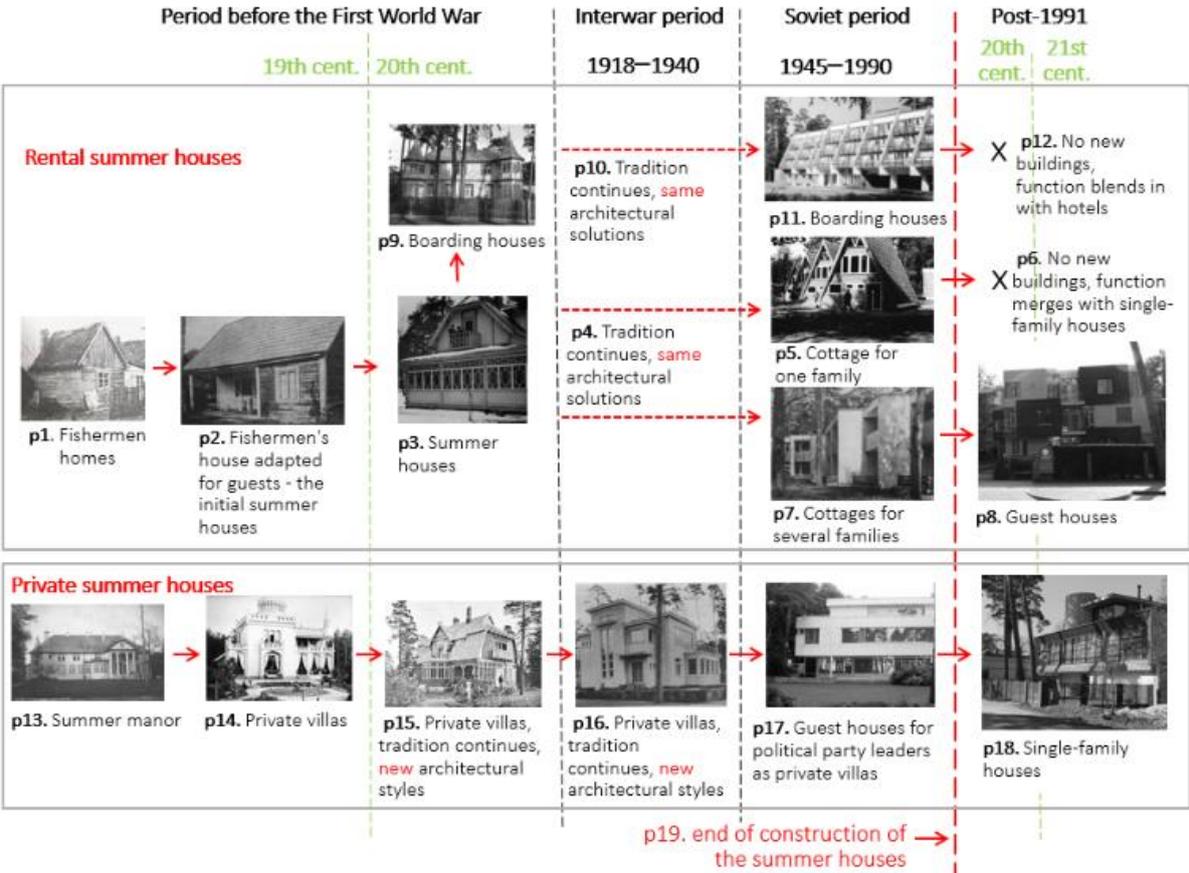


Fig. 2.2. Typological development of summer houses in Jūrmala.

The genesis of guest accommodation has been based on rental summer houses (Fig. 2.3). Hotels and *kurhauses* also played an important role. During the Soviet period, the function of guest accommodation was also implemented in other large-scale resort facilities. Today, few

new hotels are built in Jūrmala, and buildings from earlier periods are used for guest accommodation. The greatest variety of guest accommodation facilities was in the Soviet period.

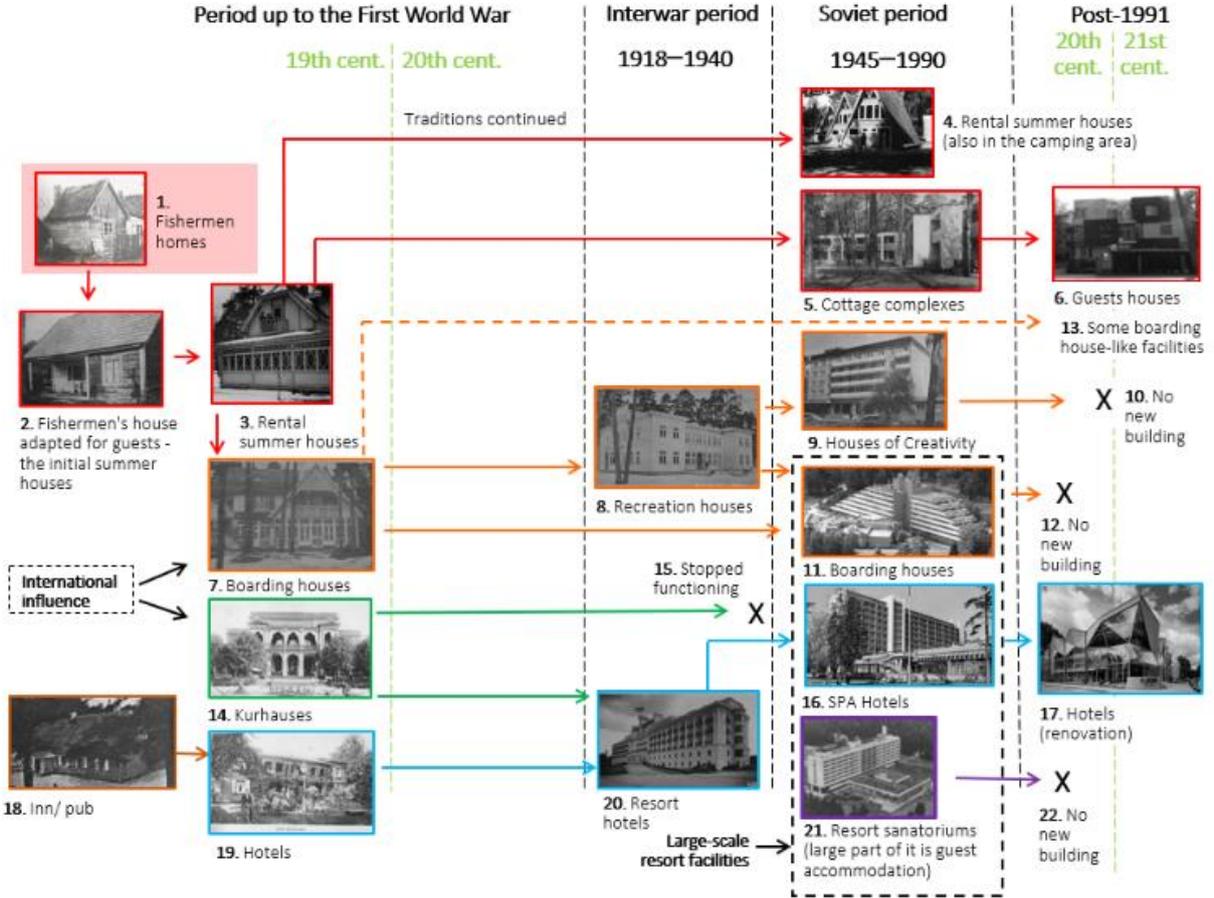


Fig. 2.3. Typological development of guest accommodation in Jūrmala.

2.2.2. Entertainment facilities

In the context of Jūrmala as a resort town, traditional entertainment facilities include public catering establishments, concert venues and some other facilities for entertainment activities. These are both as stand-alone buildings and structures and are incorporated into buildings for other functions.

Entertainment facilities in Jūrmala are complementary to the resort’s treatment function and define the main mood of resort life. The genesis of entertainment facilities in resorts is mainly in the form of the *kurhaus*, which were originally the scene of an active social life. Restaurants have developed in different ways, depending on whether they have been housed in buildings with other functions or in separate restaurant buildings. Concert venues have also evolved indoors or outdoors. The Dzintari Concert Hall is the facility whose development was most directly influenced by the Jūrmala context (Fig. 2.4).

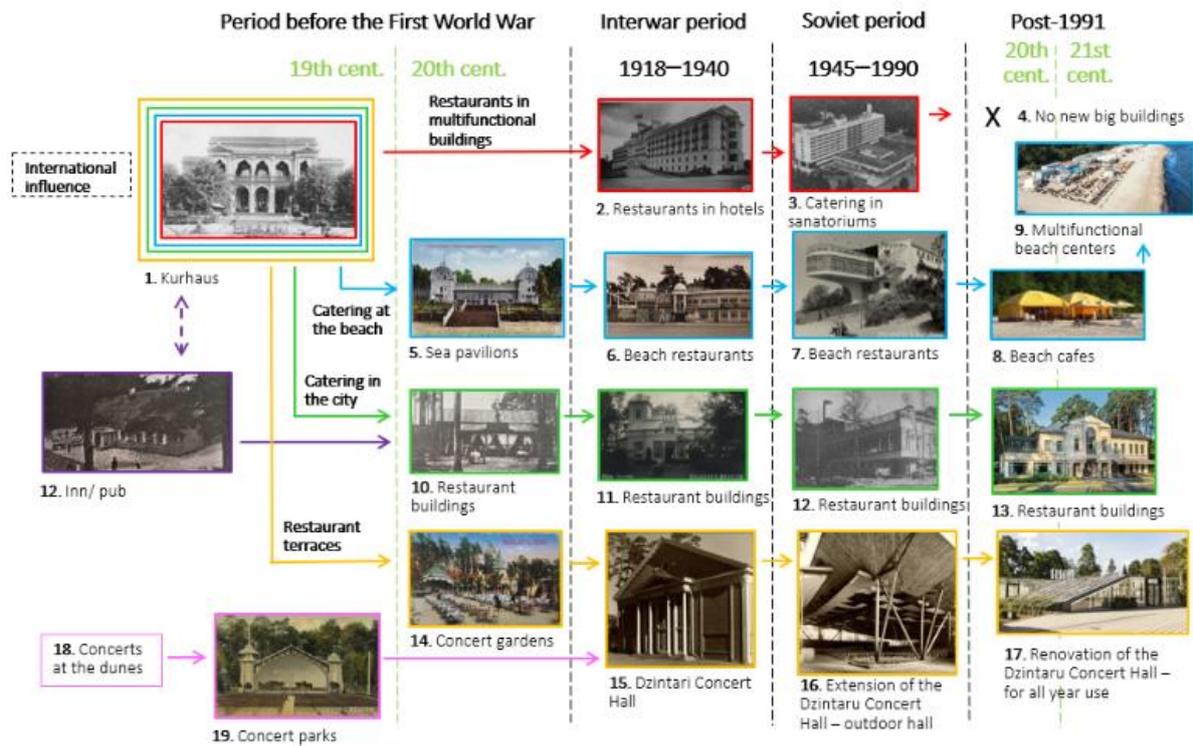


Fig. 2.4. Development of entertainment facilities in Jūrmala.

2.2.3. Leisure and active recreation facilities

The leisure and active recreation in Jūrmala is very varied. The variety of facilities for bathing has decreased significantly over time. Nowadays, short-term beach activities and active recreation on the beach and in forest parks are becoming increasingly popular (Fig. 2.5). In total, there are around 64 different types of resort facilities in Jūrmala (Fig. 2.6).

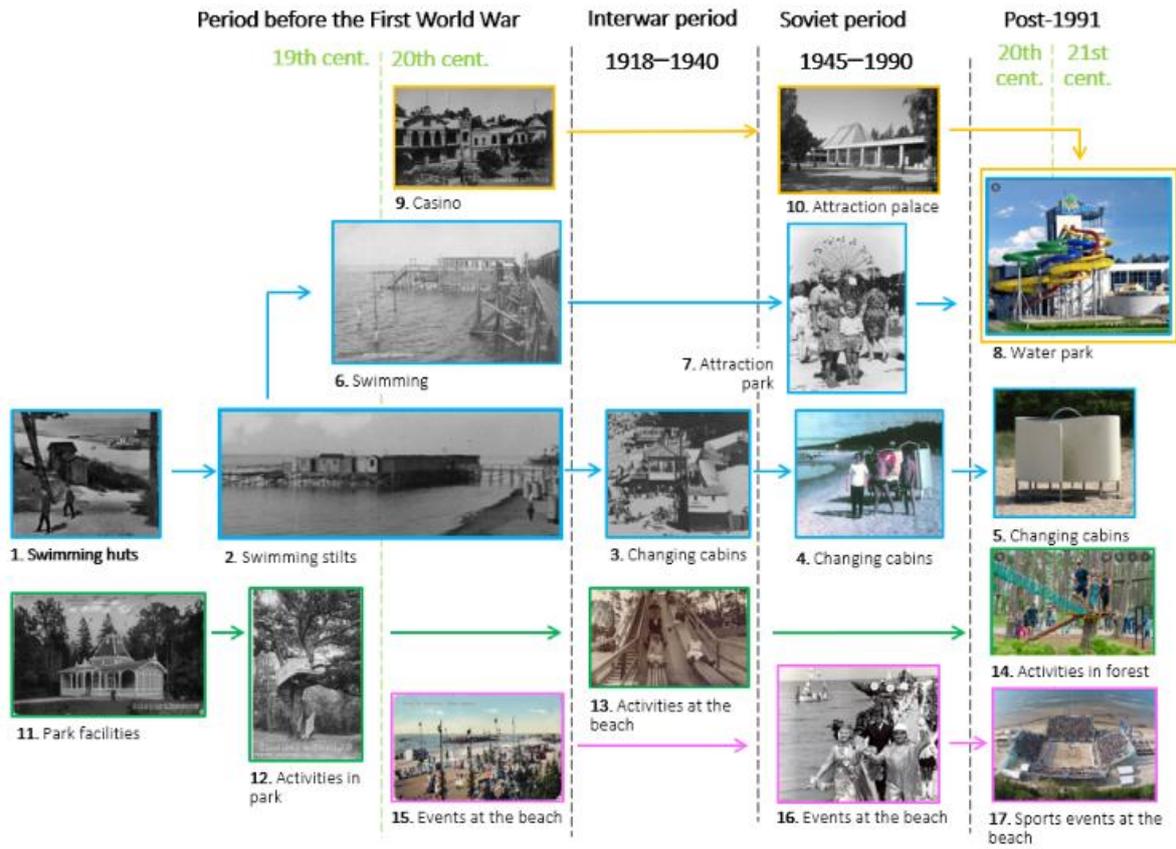


Fig. 2.5. Development of peaceful and active recreation facilities in Jūrmala.

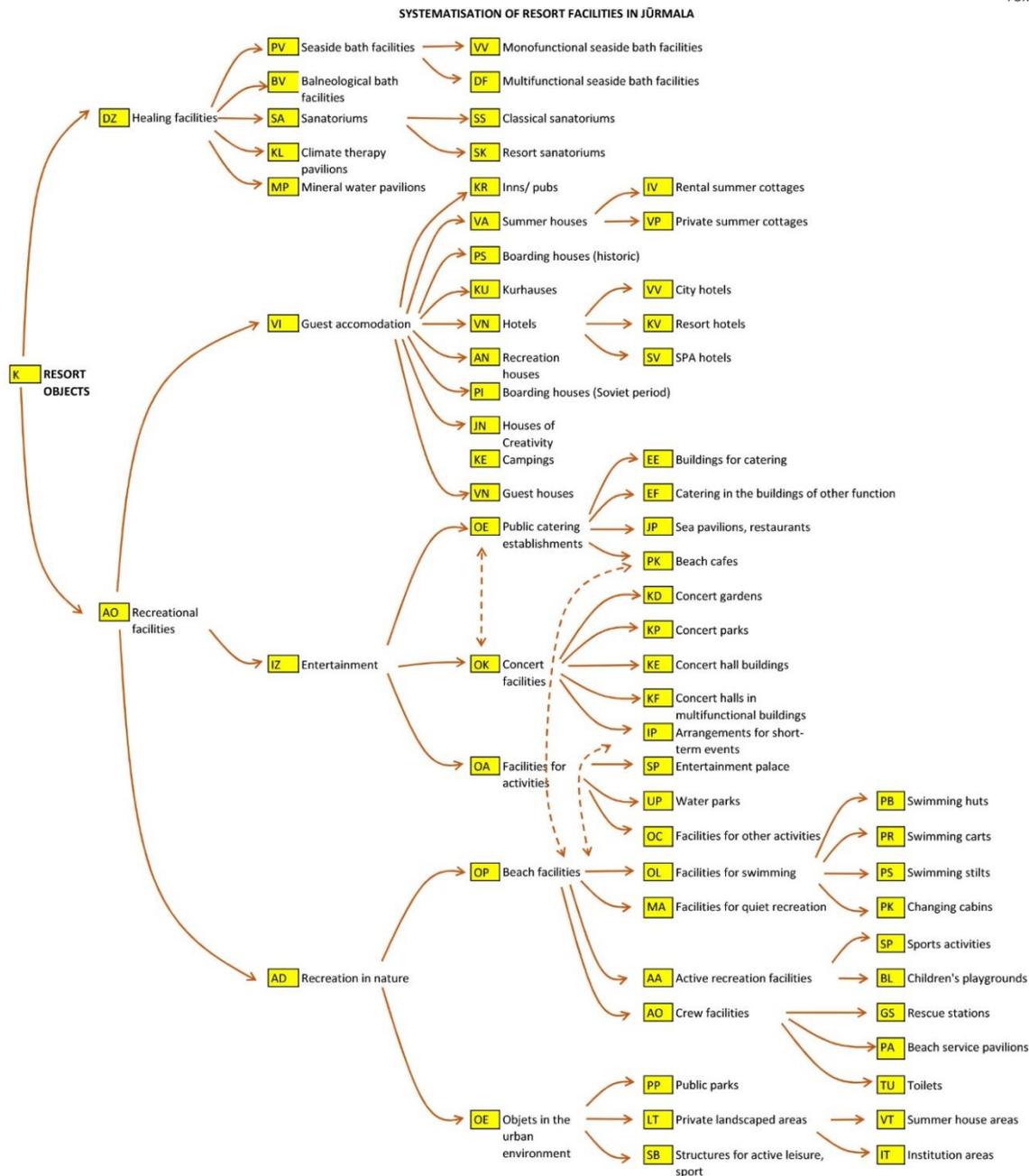


Fig. 2.6. Resort facilities in Jūrmala.

3. Architectural styles in Jūrmala

Jūrmala's built environment represents all the familiar architectural styles that have evolved since construction began in Jūrmala. The evolution of architectural styles is reflected not only in the architecture of the resorts but also in the architecture of buildings with other functions. In each of the historical periods of the development of buildings in Jūrmala, the architectural stylistic features reflect the development of generally characteristic styles, while in Jūrmala there are some local peculiarities.

In the period before the First World War, Jūrmala was characterised by Classicism, Eclecticism and Art Nouveau architecture. The architecture of the interwar period included Historicism, Art Deco, Functionalism, and Neo-Eclecticism. In the Soviet period, there was Socialist Realism, the Modern Movement after the Second World War, and Postmodernism. In the post-1991 period, the development of architectural stylistics is analysed by decades: 1991–2000, 2001–2010, 2011–2020. In Jūrmala, architectural stylistics during the Soviet period and after 1991 have been the least analysed so far.

Summarising the various stylistic trends in Jūrmala since 1991, two main stylistic trends emerge – retrospective and contemporary (Fig. 3.1). The retrospective trend mainly interprets the language, details and elements of pre-World War I architectural forms. Contemporary architecture, on the other hand, features the functionalist influences of the interwar period and postmodernism alongside distinctly modern solutions.

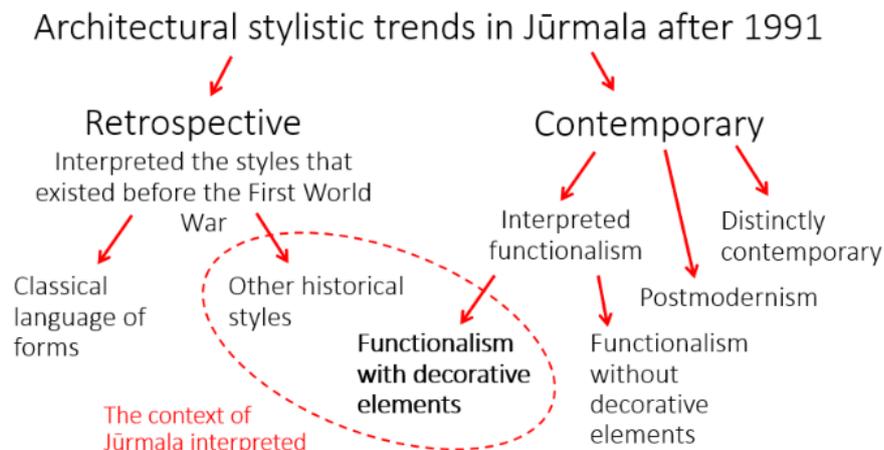


Fig. 3.1. Diagram. Architectural stylistic trends in Jūrmala after 1991.

The stylistics of Jūrmala's buildings quite clearly mark the distribution of buildings in a particular historical period (Fig. 3.2). Throughout the central part of Jūrmala, in the area between the railway and the sea from Bulduri to Asari, the architectural dominance of the pre-World War I period is clearly visible. The architectural style of the interwar period can be found mainly in Lielupe and Ķemeri. The architectural style of the Soviet period is present in Kauguri, as well as in various insertions in the historic buildings. Modern architecture is similarly incorporated into the built environment.

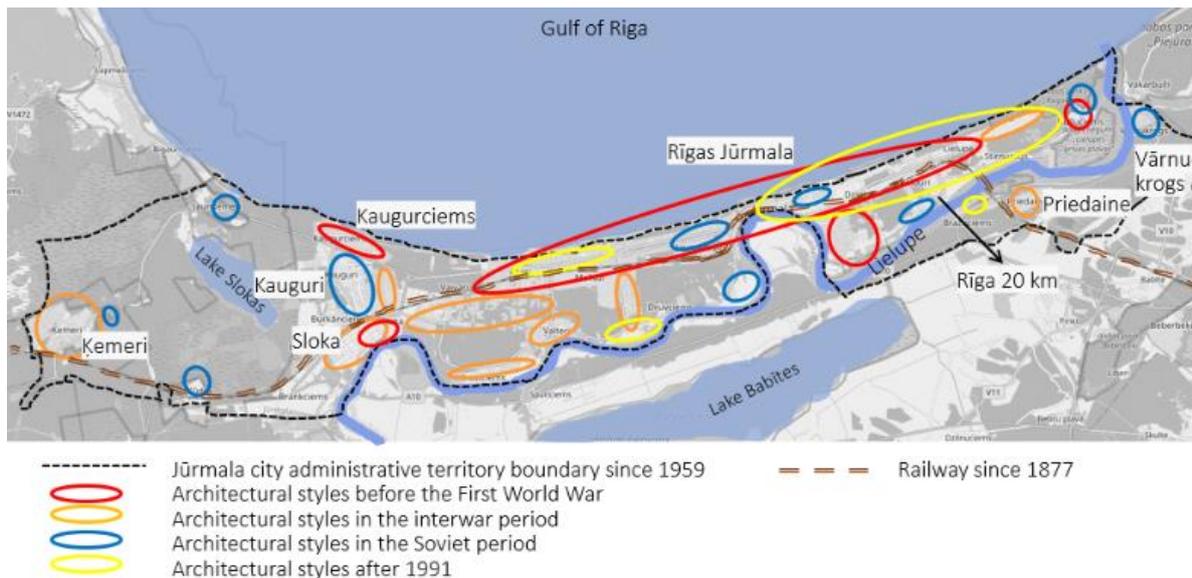


Fig. 3.2. Distribution of different architectural styles in Jūrmala.

The term "resort architecture", which has become established in the scientific community, is associated with an architectural environment and artistic image of buildings specific to resorts. In Germany, the term *Bäderarchitektur* (*Bäderstil*) [42] or resort architecture is well known. It is a signature for the whole range of different architectural styles characteristic of resorts. This image is also reflected quite directly in the historical architecture of Jūrmala. The so-called Swiss style is one of the most characteristic features, which has historically been considered the most appropriate for resort architecture. However, given that resort architecture has its own specific regional characteristics in each location, and that Jūrmala is a resort, the term "Jūrmala architectural style" can only be accepted in a broadly colloquial sense.

The term "Jūrmala style" is also often used colloquially. In general terms, "Jūrmala style" is a certain synergy between a building and its surroundings. In this combination, the single-family dwelling should ideally be built in the Swiss style and the surrounding environment should be a fenced-off area comprising pine trees and a shrub garden. Even a direct transposition of a Jūrmala summer house, for example in a rural meadow area, is unlikely to create an association with the "Jūrmala style". The "Jūrmala style" also includes the play of light created by the pine forest, the proximity of the sea, the fresh, perfume-laden air, and other elements characteristic of a resort. The "Jūrmala style" describes the overall image of the cottages. An example of this is the summer house of Rainis and Aspazija at 61 *Poruka Prospekts*, built in 1905. The summer house can be perceived in close visual connection with the vegetation of the plot. The environment contains all the idealised elements of a summer house, so appreciated by the public (Fig. 3.3).



Fig. 3.3. Elements of the overall image of the historical cottage.

The summer house as an image, an association, a means, a motif, and even a goal plays a decisive role in the architectural style of Jūrmala even today. The cottage is interpreted in all architectural styles, consciously or unconsciously, in myriad ways and techniques, from the use of wooden finishes on the facade, to the construction of extended outdoor spaces and other techniques, to the cottage as a sense of elite lifestyle, helped by the fine proportions of the building. The summer house archetype is a key element of contemporary architectural stylistics in Jūrmala.

Conclusions

1. The main resort areas of Jūrmala were established before the First World War in four parts of the city – Ķemeri, Kaugurciems, Rīgas Jūrmala, and Priedaine. In the interwar period, the resort remained mainly there. During the Soviet period, resorts developed in Ķemeri, Jaunķemeri, and Rīgas Jūrmala in areas closer to the sea. In 2013, almost the entire territory of Jūrmala was granted the status of a resort.
2. The main building structures of the Jūrmala territory were formed in the period before the First World War, expanded in the interwar period, but not significantly expanded in the Soviet period and after 1991; in many places the new buildings replaced the buildings of the previous periods. The urban monument No. 6083 "Dubulti–Majori–Dzintari–Bulduri–Lielupe summer house districts" is today both the most valuable and the most endangered part of the city.
3. The oldest part of the city is where the resort development began is Ķemeri. This part of the town functioned as a health resort until the end of the Soviet period, when the health resorts ceased to operate.
4. Nowadays, the existence of spa treatment establishments in the area is an essential criterion for a spa; but the criteria for spa treatment establishments and the geographical coverage of these establishments have not been defined. This makes the definition of a spa area inherently unclear.
5. The resort status granted to almost the entire territory of Jūrmala does not correspond to the actual contemporary situation, nor to the historical continuity: today, only some areas of Jūrmala have resort treatment facilities (Majori, Jaundubulti, Melluži, Vaivari, and Jaunķemeri), while the resort status has been granted to places that were never resorts (Sloka and Kūdra) and some historical resort sites have not been granted this status today (Priedaine).
6. The resort function in Jūrmala has been provided by a variety of resort facilities – healing and recreational facilities in all historical periods. Originally, healing facilities were the basic condition for the establishment of resorts, while the recreational function, as well as the entire resort development, is based on summer houses.
7. The greatest typological diversity of resort facilities was before the First World War. In each subsequent period, the typological diversity decreased. Today, the most typical new buildings in the resort sector are guesthouses and beach cafés. The buildings of earlier periods are also used for the resort function.
8. The most important elements of the resort buildings – the summer houses – were of two types until the Second World War: rented and private. Rental summer houses accommodated the majority of the resort's guests. Over the last 150 years, almost all of the summer houses in Jūrmala have changed use at least twice, making the summer houses in Jūrmala significantly different from those in other parts of Latvia.

10. Historical summer houses are nowadays mostly converted into single-family dwellings or apartment blocks. Compared to previous historical periods, the number of other resort facilities has also significantly decreased, and Jūrmala is, in fact, changing from a resort into a town with resort elements.
11. All historical architectural styles are represented in Jūrmala's built environment, starting with the 19th century eclecticism, as well as modern architecture.
12. The artistic form of Jūrmala's urban environment has been defined by the summer house archetype up to the present day.
13. Jūrmala's contemporary architecture is characterised by two artistic stylistic trends: contemporary and retrospective. The resort character of Jūrmala's built environment today is determined primarily by the architectural stylistics of individual buildings rather than their actual function.
14. The architectural stylistic spread in Jūrmala in each historical period and today is closely related to the development of new areas or pronounced alterations of buildings in several streets (*Dzintari* and *Bulduri Avenues*, *Ernesta Birznieka-Upīša*, *Kāpu*, *Piekrastes* and other streets).

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