



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF PUBLICATIONS ON ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION PRACTICE IN LATVIA, 1859–2013

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**Abstract.** The competition practice has been rather extensively published, as publications on architectural competitions are inseparable from the competition process itself. They are a significant part of representation that explicitly promotes understanding of the design, realization and implementation process, and are a way to communicate the project to the client, jury, community and authorities. Yet, there have always been insufficient consistent critical discussions on the architecture and planning discourse in Latvia, neither on competitions, nor on the related publications. The purpose of the paper is to distinguish features that characterize publications on architectural competitions in Latvia.

Methodological principles and systematization of the materials have been carried out according to the historical and logical approach method based on studies of the collected examples and sources of over 1,000 publications on 960 competitions of the past 160 years. The paper systematizes publications on competition practice over the several time periods in Latvia (Russian Empire 1859–1918, Independence 1918–34, Authoritarian Regime 1934–40, Soviet Period 1940–90 and the Second Independence 1991–2013) according to their topics, the author's professional profiles, type and content and, eventually their characteristic style. Insights into the development of local competition practice through related publications help to explain the formation of a significant part of the local architectural and urban discourse, as its understanding is partially determined by the plurality of representations and interpretations.

**Keywords:** architectural research, history, architectural competitions, Latvia, publications on architectural competitions.

### Introduction

Architectural competitions are traditionally described as methods for conducting research and bringing about novelty, resulting in generation of new, alternative ideas and different perspectives to problems. Competitions provide aesthetic and technical solutions, define social values and expose the subject of architectural practice to critique. This is done by conducting debates about the market demand and artistic quality, individuality and collective work, creative solutions and legislature. Professor and author of numerous publications on architecture competition practice Helene Lipstadt (1989: 11) argues that “competitions are events that serve as “thresholds”, when they facilitate the emergence of new styles, or as “barriers”, when they reject epochal designs, was put aside”.

Salomon Frausto, the Head of Education at the Berlage Center for Advanced Studies in Architecture and Design, (2010: 6) states that “in today's age of global communication, publicity has a major claim on the extended field of architecture, in how it is shared and disseminated, whether through mass media, civic dialogue, or other platforms of exchange”. Publications that follow architectural competi-

tions (in newspapers, journals, books and the internet) are presentations and means to spread information regarding new ideas and new discourses. These mediums are an inseparable part of architecture theory, its history and the history of architectural competitions. Such publications are part of representation that promotes the understanding of design, realization and implementation process and makes the projects accessible to a client, jury, community and authorities.

In the city planning context, the architectural competition is an “urban scenario planning tool which implies that, based on the analysis of potentials of the existing situation, multiple alternatives can be developed” (Havik 2014: 170). Lipstad (2009: 15) states: “for Georges Adameczyk [professor at the School of architecture, Université de Montréal] and colleagues, the competition's value lies in the “intellectual heritage” of the “potential architecture” it creates”.

The concept of “urban literacy” will be used to discuss the relevance of interpretations of spaces put forward by publications. This concept is based on the statement by architect Klaske Havik (2014: 223) regarding architectural competitions as a mode of “urban literacy [which] provides

a way to include the lived experience, the user's perspective and the imagination of alternative futures in current tasks of urban regeneration, by means of literary techniques in spatial research and design. Descriptions of places and the analysis of existing narratives are used to investigate the creative potential of such locations, while scriptive techniques, such as evocative description, narrative and scenario offer tools for design".

In architectural and city planning discourse, architectural competition publications serve several purposes:

1. To enforce the law, which deems it necessary to inform the public if an architectural competition will take place.
2. To inform and involve the society, as well as professionals in the competition process.
3. To analyze the process of architectural competition (including the entries, jury decisions, the professional and ethical practice of the professionals, legislative and normative acts).
4. To put forward future goals by way of redefining programs, that is, by analyzing the current urban planning situation and defining possible scenarios for urban development, using the competitions as a formal yet flexible planning instrument.
5. To gain recognition and acknowledgment from the public, balancing out the invested time and financial resources.

There have not been yet gathered consistent materials, database and in-depth analysis over architecture competition practice in Latvia. The purpose of the paper is to distinguish features that characterize publications on architectural competitions in Latvia (1859–2013) and outline the challenges for such large-scale data processing.

A number of quantitative and qualitative research methods have been used in the analysis of publications on architectural competitions. Choices of methodological principles have been based on analytical view on Latvian publications of architectural competitions. Systematization of the materials has been carried out according to the historical and logical approach method based on the studies of published sources. Formally comparative analysis has been used for determination of the type of publications.

Based on the collected examples of over 1,000 publications spanning 160 years, the following sections provide a systematized data on publications of competition practice over the several time periods in Latvia, according to their topics, the author's professional profiles, their type and content and eventually their characteristic style. Graphic material is presented to show the results of the collected publication material and data processing.

## The content and authors of the publications

In architecture and city planning, architectural space is largely documented in orthographic projection forms (plans, cross-sections, facades, perspective views, three-dimensional models, etc.). Jonas Andersson (Andersson *et al.* 2013: 14), the Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture, Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, states that: "architectural competitions are based on three fundamental presuppositions: that drawings and visualizations may transmit credible knowledge and that quality in architecture is something that may be seen and transmitted via images. And in a principal view, that architectural projects are a practicable method for investigating the future and testing ideas". According to this statement, publications of architectural competitions offer the documentation and representation of yet unrealized ideas.

Publication authors determine the content of the article and educate the reader about the imagined cityscape and built environment. In Latvia, architectural competition publications are created by different participants of the competition process:

1. Representatives of competition organizers (executive secretaries of the competitions, client representatives);
2. Members of the jury, experts and responsible officials (state or local government, board, representatives of the Association of Architects and others);
3. Participants of the competitions (architects, group project representatives);
4. Architecture critics; and
5. Media, journalists.

The participants of competitions and representatives of organizers offer formal, factual information regarding the project (for example, time schedule, type of competition – open or invited, jury members, description of functional programme, results etc). The competition participants are not able to criticize their work because they don't have an objective distance as far as their project described in the publication is concerned. Individuals who have not taken part in the competition process can analyse the publication project and the competition process. Architecture critics can interpret, articulate and value the significance of the competition. Architecture academic and writer Naomi Stead (2003) notes that: "in order to be truly critically autonomous, so the logic goes, such a forum must be independent of any implicit or explicit obligation – to audience, architects, advertisers, patrons, or whomever – because any such relationship will result in self-censorship".

The content of publications on Latvian architecture competition is mostly comprised of the text, but it can also contain visual materials influenced by the historical and technological development and its changes.

1. Publications of legislature and normative acts are informative notifications of relevant changes in legislature.

2. Announcement [notice] on calling a competition.

An informative statement is the most widespread publication on architecture competitions. The content of the announcement is comprised of the text mostly without visual material. It features information regarding the intention to hold an architectural competition, such competition rules, process and results of the competition. At the end of the 19th century, newspapers published the competition regulation in full, including all graphic materials (for example, one of the first competitions held in Latvia – the Stock company's "*Rīgas minerālūdens iestāde*" procured new building in Vērmanes park, Tērbatas street 2, Riga in 1859 (Die Direction der Rigaer Mineralwasser-Anstalt 1859: 599)). The details regarding the winners of the competition included factual information about the organizers of the competition and distribution of the places and prizes.

Section 8, clause 7 of the Law on Public Procurement (Saeima 2006) states that: "Prior to performance of the procurement, the commissioning party shall publish a notice regarding the procurement to be presented on the Internet home page thereof, indicating the deadline for the submission of tenders and ensuring free and direct electronic access to the procurement documents". Currently, as of 2010, Section 5.2.7. of the "Regulation of Good Competition Practices. Recommendations" of the Latvian Association of Architects (Latvijas Arhitektu savienība 2010) states the responsibilities of the jury secretary regarding competitions held publicly or privately: "to prepare announcements [notices] and publications in the press concerning the progress and results of the competition." In both of the aforementioned cases, the type of publication is not clearly specified (be it only written factual information, or the necessity to include visual material etc.).

1. Extensive publication regarding a competition

This type of publication includes a text about the competition process, organizers, jury, description of the winner's project. The publication also includes visual materials depicting the winning projects, sometimes the projects of other participants as well. The visual material may be an iconic representational image of the project or multiple images describing the project (visualization, model photos, facades, plans, sections, info graphs and schemes).

2. Critical publications on architectural competitions

Stead (2003) notes that: "criticism is also a translation – it relocates and reconstructs the architectural object through language, and in so doing it re-creates that object anew. Critics read the work as an exemplar of larger issues and discourses, identifying and locating them in the architectural object, while also placing it within a broader framework of analysis and a larger context".

The types of critical publications regarding the practice of architectural competitions are as follows:

- critique regarding a specific competition (its process, jury decisions, participating projects);
- critique regarding the professional process of Latvian competitions, architect's ethics and professional responsibility, relevant legislature.

Critical publications have changed the discourse, which is also subject to change by the political and economic turn – the authoritarian regime, for example, as well as the censorship of the soviet period, which set the possible range of topics for any publication. Throughout the years, such publications have contained jury and expert conclusion analysis, as well as the analysis of competition procedure, its division into stages, financial aspects and impact on the environment and city space. Such criticism has influenced and created the Latvian Association of Architects "Good Virtues in the Latvian Architectural Competitions" (Labi tikumi... 1934) and the currently enforced "Regulation of Good Competition Practices. Recommendations" (Latvijas Arhitektu savienība 2010). In the discourse of architectural criticism, architectural competitions in Latvia are positioned as a formal phenomenon in the context of the planning legislation.

### Publication types

Architectural competitions became a common event in Latvia, as well as other European countries with the rapid industrialization of cities, social changes and the construction growth rates in the middle of the 19th century.

Although data on competition practices is available in the archives, for the full overview it is necessary to analyze the publications in newspapers, journals, books and internet. The research indicates that (Fig. 1) about 1/3 of the total data is available in archives (State archive, previously unpublished architecture offices archives etc.). Archived information complements the already known data with the previously unpublished materials. Approximately 1/2 of the Soviet period (1940–1990) competition data are available only in archives. This is due to the fact that many competitions during this period were organized in planning and design institutes as

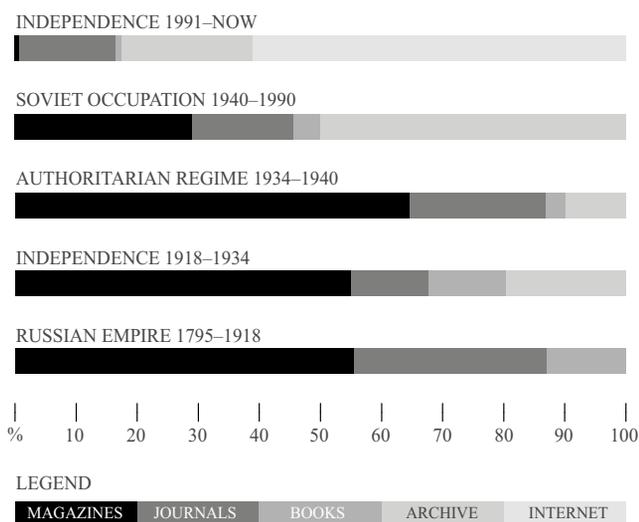


Fig. 1. Types of publication on architectural competitions in Latvia 1859–2013 (Diagram by the article author)

closed internal competitions. This information has been collected in archives by institutes' staff, architects and also archives staff. More than ½ of information about competitions during the Second Independence period (1991–2013) are publications presented on the internet.

The following section reveals the content and types of publication changes along with the development of technologies and the increase in speed of the circulation of information.

### 1. Periodicals – newspapers

Newspapers responding to topical events allow for the widest range of readers to obtain updated information on architecture competition practice. Information about architectural competitions was available in the local newspapers in the German language already in the beginning of the 19th century, for example: “Rigasche Zeitung” (1802–1919), “Rigasche Rundschau” (1895–1939), “Düna Zeitung” (1887–1917) and others; “Dzimtenes Vēstnesis” (1907–1927) in Latvian; the official daily gazette of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia “Valdības Vēstnesis” (renamed “Latvijas Vēstnesis” from 1919) and others. In international media – “Deutsche Bauzeitung” (1867–today). These periodicals published competition rules, the results and short summaries of jury decisions, with seldom in-depth analysis, critique and illustrative material. At the time of the first independence of Latvia the largest daily newspapers published information regarding competitions “Rīts” (1907–1940), “Latvijas kareivis” (1920–1940) and others.

While Latvia was a member of the USSR, in-depth, analytical publications on architectural competitions for objects of architecture, new villages and urban centers could

be found in the weekly newspapers, such as “Literatūra un Māksla” (1959–92) and “Padomju Jaunatne” (1921–90). The newspaper “Cīņa” (with breaks in operation from 1904–40, 1940–90, since 1991 called “Neatkarīgā”) was the largest media for the Communist Party of the Soviet Latvia. Publications regarding architectural competitions in this newspaper were short and almost without visual material.

Nowadays, in-depth publications only regarding competitions for important or controversial cultural, administrative objects, Riga's old city district and urban planning projects are published by the largest daily newspapers – “Diena” (since 1990) and “Dienas bizness” (since 1992), in a separate section intended for the real estate and construction business. Daily newspapers no longer have their architecture critics to analyze the architectural processes in Latvia. This function is currently carried out by journalists or invited authors.

### 2. Periodicals – journals

Foreign architecture journals were available in Latvia in the 19th century, under the administration of the Tsarist Russia, however, they did not highlight Latvian architectural achievements, not to mention the analysis. Discussion about the need for a periodic and professional Latvian issue began in the mid-19th century.

The first monthly issue of the “Latvijas Arhitektūra” was published in July of 1938. The journal published articles on new buildings, chronicles, government orders, information on construction and architectural competitions. Lejnieks (2008) states that: “the journal's position was relatively objective and evaluative, given the authoritarian regime's specified limits on cultural policies. The main articles were mostly concluded with summaries in English”. Latvia was occupied by the USSR in 1940 and the journal “Latvijas Arhitektūra” ceased to be published until 1989, when a single issue was printed. Since 1995, the journal “Latvijas Arhitektūra” is being issued once in every two months. The issue publishes competition results, more recently focusing on articles on the architectural competition practices, history and urban development analysis.

In the Soviet period, several journals were printed publishing articles on architecture and architectural competitions – the journal “Māksla” (1959–96) and “Zvaigzne” (1929–94), which was the main media of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee publisher. From 1978–81 the Latvian Technical Institute for Scientific Research issued a journal called “Arhitektūra, Celtniecība, Dizains”.

In 2008, the National Library of Latvia started a project *periodika.lv* which digitizes periodicals – newspapers

and journals. Taking into account that many buildings have been lost during the World War I and II – such digitalized periodicals are an important source for documentation and research of the history of architecture and competition practice in Latvia.

### 3. Books

Books serve as documentation – “either reproducing a record of experience and information or serving as the document themselves. The book, due to its repository quality, is a natural vehicle for the post factum documentation of architecture” (Drucker 2004: 335).

Books on Latvian architecture devoted to a single object, style of architecture or city planning development topic do mention specific projects, which are the result of architectural competitions. However, they present insufficient data concerning other participants and the jury decisions.

The main data sources on the practice of competitions in Latvia can be found in the beginning of the 20th century. In 1913–15, the German orientated Architect’s Association of Riga published a handbook – calendar for builders titled “Rigasches Bau-Taschenbuch” and in 1907–13 an illustrated yearbook named “Jahrbuch für bildende Kunst in den Ostseeprovinzen” (last issue in 1926), which covered the present Latvian and Estonian territory. The yearbook published the results of competitions with detailed illustrative material (plans, sections, facades and perspective views), however, focusing only on the winning projects.

Latvian scholar of architecture and editor of the journal “Latvijas arhitektūra” Dr. arch. Jānis Lejnīeks’ book *The Never-built Riga* (1998) is currently the only book in Latvia that offers a wide compilation and presentation of the major “paper architecture” projects in Riga’s history, including design competition projects, as well as procured, but unrealized projects. The author also turns to the theoretical and creative evolution of Latvian architects’ ideas, taking note of the socio-economic aspects and transformation of the political system. The book also features a list of about 60 most noteworthy architectural competitions in Riga over the past 150 years.

Another important source of research on competitions are monographs (for example, the ones on Latvian architects, such as *Krampis: arhitekts Andris Kronbergs* (Lejnīeks, Kronbergs 2010), *Marta Staņa. Vienkārši ar vārienu* (Lejnīeks 2012), and others), which include the architects’ biographies and competitions they have taken part in, the analysis and illustrative material. A full list of works, however, is hard to come by, leaving only a general overview of an author’s creative work.

### 4. Brochures

On some occasions, in order to illuminate the competition events, brochures were published. In the 1930’s they featured competition requirements, such as in a competition project for ideas to construct a new Ministry of Finance building (Sacesība idejas projektu iegūšanai Finanšu ministrijas nama jaunbūvei 1936). As a means of representation, the brochures featured information on the competition process, illustrative material and short summaries of jury decisions. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, publishing of brochures isn’t common in Latvia. Only on rare occasions this is the only source and way of documenting a competition.

### The Internet

Today the objects of architecture are found not only in construction sites, but also in a relatively volatile environment – architecture publications (newspapers, journals, the internet etc.). Beatriz Colomina (1994: 15), the historian of architecture notes that: “paradoxically those are supposedly much more ephemeral media than the building and yet in many ways are much more permanent: they secure a place for architecture in history, a historical space designed not just by the historians and critics but also by the architects themselves who deployed these media”.

For the past 20 years, information circulating on the internet has increasingly replaced printed media. In Latvia, in recent 15 years the resources of the internet have been used to conduct a faster and more qualitative competition. The published material on the internet is easier and faster to review and access. Still there is a chance that occasionally webpages are not maintained in the long term, their content is changed, not renewed or even lost. In carrying out a research, there is always a risk of losing these databases and references that cannot be verified anymore.

#### 1. A special website created for a competition

For example, the website *metsautoosta.lv* for the competition of the Coach Station of Riga in 2014 has several sections, where different material relevant to the competition can be downloaded in digital format, including specified answers to frequently asked questions submitted by the participants; the results of the competition; jury decisions (on some occasions – full text with a point score); entry projects; press releases. Such multi-lingual websites are mostly created for internationally organized competitions. The website data analysis can give an overview of foreign architectural office participation in the competition.

2. Architects' homepages are created to offer representative and informative material. They usually are:

- individual web pages containing visual material, short technical data, description of ideas, on few occasions – co-authors names, oftentimes without the option to comment or voice an opinion on the homepage;
- pages in social networks (*Facebook, Twitter, etc.*) where certain news and highlights are made public. The user can comment on the published competition results and attached projects.

Currently, there is no common source established which would provide information on certified architects, architectural offices and their websites. So far, the article author has identified about 50 architect's websites. Some of them are multi-lingual, enabling foreign stakeholders or researchers to use the data. Content analysis has indicated that architects do not maintain systematic updated portfolio and are selected on the given data (regardless of the open or closed competition results).

3. Pages and blogs devoted to architecture and architectural competitions

As of 2003, a webpage for the popularization of architecture exists in Latvia – *a4d.lv*. The site's editor since 2005 is practicing architect and architecture critic Artis Zvirzdiņš. "The idea of the site is to disseminate information and exchange of ideas and experience, as well as the promotion of dialogue and discussion in both, the society and professional area. The number of the site's visitors range from 600 to 1,000 per day" (Kempes 2009). The site regularly publishes competition projects, jury opinions and articles on the competition process. These publications contribute to visitor discussion (in the form of open or anonymous comments) concerning competition practice in Latvia. A different section is devoted to architect's blogs, where authors often offer their thoughts on the problems of competitions in Latvia. The website is in Latvian, which makes it difficult for the international experience exchange.

4. Research of architectural competition history

*Arhkonkursi.lv* is the first attempt, in a form of a web page, to offer compiled data in Latvian and English, on competitions that have been held in Latvia for the past 160 years, as well as information on participants, organizers and types of competitions. The data is mostly presented in the form of texts with some visual material – info graphs and interactive maps.

5. Webpage of the state and local authorities, as well as institutions subject to their control publish notices of

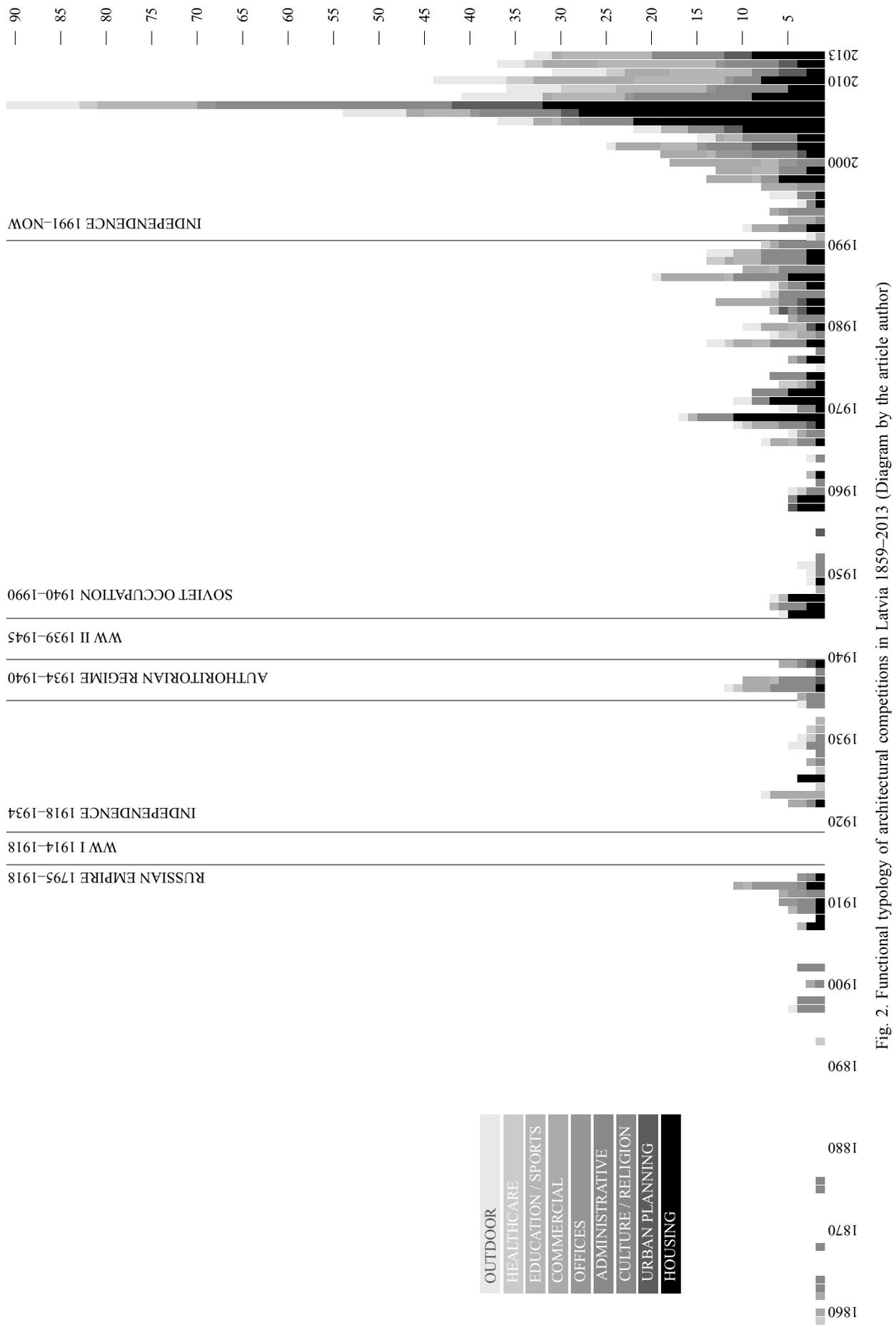
procured competitions and their results, mostly without visual material (for example, The Procurement Monitoring Bureau – *iub.gov.lv*)

The analysis of the data available on these web pages has shown that statistically procured competition projects for administrative, educational, healthcare, etc. buildings made up more than 2/3 of all competitions in the past decade. However, the insufficient visual and descriptive information and analytic criticism regarding procured competition projects has been a significant loss in the research of practical history of architecture and design and development of urban planning. Only public procurement procedure for administrative, cultural or other notable buildings gains attention in a form of publications in newspapers and journals before and after the competition.

6. E-books

The publication of e-books is not a popular means of publishing in Latvia. Sometimes a single entry project is available for digital download (.pdf, .jpg and similar formats) or in the social networks (*issuu.com, scribd.com*). This means of publication replacing printed media saves representational costs and allows the project to reach wider audience, but does not give an in-depth overview of the competition process or participants.

Systematic data analyses of publication types have resulted in a graphical diagram (Fig. 2) which shows the total of 960 architecture competitions functional typology during five political – economic periods. The diagram indicates that there have been 50 competitions in the time of the Russian empire (1859–1918), 70 during Latvia's first independence (1918–40), 290 in the Soviet period (1945–90), and 550 during the second independence (1991–2013). Functional typology is based on 9 positions: housing (from single family houses to city blocks), urban planning, cultural and religious buildings (churches, museums, theatres, exhibition halls etc.), administrative buildings, offices and commercial function buildings (shops, hotels), educational buildings (schools, universities, libraries etc.) and sports facilities (stadiums, sport halls), healthcare buildings (hospitals and other rehabilitation facilities), and outdoor structures (squares, parks, cemeteries etc.). The already obtained data allow for drawing conclusions about the number of competitions, selecting the most intense period in the sense of competition practice strongly affected by both, political and economical situation. For example, before the global economic crisis in 2008 there were about 95 competitions, whereas after that until 2013 the number in average was about 40 competitions per year. The diagram also indicates that housing predominate (about 1/3 of the total number of competitions) over other typologies.



It can be expected that competitions in Latvia will persistently gain more importance as a formal and flexible planning instrument. Therefore after further processing of publication data, it could be possible to obtain more specific, expanded and detailed functional typology and find a correlation between the prevalence of separate functions according to their location in regions, cities or even urban blocks. It would also be necessary to analyze private competition and public procurement ratio proportions and numbers of built vs. competition proposals.

The outcome of analysis of data on publications about architectural competitions has resulted in a schematic diagram (Fig. 3) based on *Google Maps*. The diagram shows 960 competition locations and indicates that about 1/3 of all the competitions took place in Riga, as well as in two other major cities – Liepāja and Ventspils. During the further research and data processing, it would be possible to create maps for each 5 political-economic periods. Such data and maps would provide not only locations of previous competitions, but also allow for determining urban scenario developments and serve as a tool for urban planners, public institutions, stakeholders and researchers.

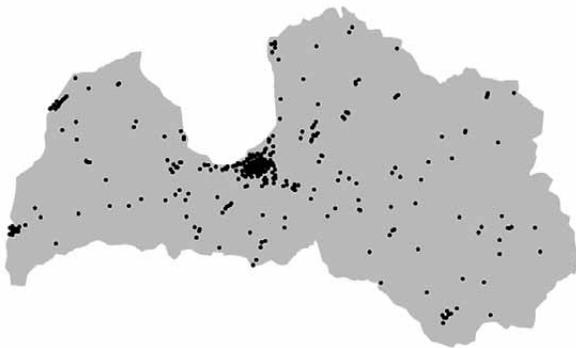


Fig. 3. Location of architectural competitions in Latvia 1859–2013 (Diagram by the article author)

## Conclusions

A theoretical basis for further research has been formed by analysing and classifying information of over 1,000 publications on 960 architectural competitions held from 1859 to 2013. The knowledge and understanding of a very important aspect of Latvian architecture has been enriched by the way of identifying the practice of publications, sources, types and authors. Graphic diagrams of competition publication types, competition functional typology and locations are an outcome of the large amount of data processing. During the further data processing it could be possible to obtain more specific, expanded and detailed information on competition practice in Latvia.

Publications dedicated to Latvian architectural competitions are fragmented, informative and benefit advertisement in character – they are mostly factual news. Most publications are available only in Latvian, German or Russian, which makes it difficult for foreign researchers to gain information on architectural competition practices in Latvia. There is a lack of systematic database of the jury members, organizers and participants, therefore it is difficult to compare the architects' previous work and review their architecture practice development progress. Also architects and state institutions do not maintain systematic portfolio and database, therefore the information is available only for competitions that have been published. Competitions organized as closed competition are rarely represented.

The history of architectural competition in Latvia is lacking a general overview in the discourse of urban planning and development. The means and content of former publications on Latvian architectural competitions have aged with time. The analysis of objects therein touches upon the spatial qualities of an object in the discourse of modernity. The criticism of architectural competitions is superficial. It lacks a method that would allow for original and comprehensible interpretation of competition objects that modern urban planning theory has to offer – evocative description, narrative and scenario tools. The publications of the past two decades do not offer any analytic account on the relevance of architectural competitions and their necessity in the development of urban planning scenarios. The competition practice and objects must be subjected to criticism in publications, taking social aspects in regard. The present trend renders society, as well as professionals unaware and uninformed about the cityscape that is being planned.

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## PUBLIKACIJŪ APIE ARCHITEKTŪRINIŪ KONKURSU PRAKTIKŪ LATVIJOJE BRUOŽAI, 1859–2013

L. Leitāne-Šmīdberga

Santrauka

Apie konkursu praktiku gana plačiai rašyta kaip neatskiriama architektūrinu konkursu proceso dalj. Tai reikšminga sritis, padedanti aiškiai suprasti projekto, realizacijos ir įgyvendinimo momentus ir palaikanti kliento, vertinimo komisijos (žiuri), bendruomenės ir valdžios atstovu saitus. Tačiau Latvijoje nepakanka nuosekliu kritiniu diskusiju architekturos ir planavimo diskurse nei apie konkursus, nei apie susijusias publikacijas. Straipsnio tikslas – pateikti būdingus publikaciju apie Latvijos architekturos konkursus bruožus.

Sisteminant medžiaga vadovautasi istoriniu ir loginio požiurio metodu, grindžiant surinkta medžiaga ir šaltiniais iš daugiau kaip tūkstančio publikaciju apie 960 architekturos konkursu, įvykusių Latvijoje per pastaruosius 160 metu. Straipsnyje publikacijos apie konkursu praktiku įvairiais Latvijos istorijos laikotarpiais (Rusijos imperija, 1859–1918; nepriklausoma Latvija, 1918–1934; autoritarinis režimas, 1934–1940; sovietinis laikotarpis, 1940–1990

ir atkurta nepriklausoma Latvija, 1991–2013) sisteminamos atsižvelgiant į jų tematika, pobūdį ir turinį ir, žinoma, jiems būdingus stilius, taip pat autoriu profesine sritj. Vietiniu konkursu praktikos įžvalgos iš publikaciju labai padeda paaiškinti, kaip formavosi vietos architekturos ir urbanistinis diskursas. Jo suvokimā iš dalies lemia pristatymu ir interpretaciju įvairovė.

**Reikšminiai žodžiai:** architektūriniai tyrimai, istorija, architekturos konkursas, Latvija, publikacijos apie architekturos konkursus.