



Architectural Design in Historical Context – Design studio



Erasmus+

**New architecture in
Vilnius historic city and
reconstruction phenomenon**

**Existing
buildings**

**Buildings
destroyed
after WW 2**





**Stalinist architecture
out of scale of the 1950s**

**The retrospective neo-
classical architecture
had not been intended to
relate to locality**



Highway space (boulevard) in the old city of Vilnius



Plan before 2 WW



Plan in late 20th century

The space for highway and “stalinistic” architecture in the place of destroyed Jewish quarter



Alien “boulevard” space in historic environment





**Primitive
architecture of
autonomous relation
to its context of the
1960s**

**Economy and standardised
design was turned into
state priorities**



- The first Vilnius Old Town Regeneration Project (1959)
- The status of architectural monument (1961)



**Primitive non-contextual
architecture of the 1960s**

**Neutral architecture
failed to fit the
context**





**Primitive non-contextual
architecture of the 1960s**

**Architecture of
compositional contrast**



Primitive non-contextual architecture of the 1960s

Non-expressive, imitative architecture of infill buildings



Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s



- **The second Vilnius Old Town Regeneration Project (1974)**
- **Creativity, artistic expression and architectural value**





**Harmonisation of the
architecture of the
1970s and the 1980s**



Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s

- Published articles concerning the problem
- The relationship to the context, contemporary approach, and architectural quality



Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s

The rise of
Post-Modern architecture



Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s

Stereotype of “historical form”



Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s



Architecture of compositional contrast predominates over the context



Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s

Visual opposition to its surroundings



Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s



Low-expressive character of stylised architecture based on local traditions

Harmonisation of the architecture of the 1970s and the 1980s

summary ...

- **solutions respecting local traditional character**
- **more contextual approach**
- **the quality, artistic expression and creative solutions for infill architecture**

Attempts to carry on the local tradition since 1990



Carrying on the local tradition since 1990

- **The third Vilnius Old Town Regeneration Project (1992)**
- **UNESCO World Heritage (1994)**
- **The regulations of protection of Vilnius Old Town (1998)**

Carrying on the local tradition since 1990



Tolerant and careful interpretations



**The stylised
architecture
does not suppress
historical
surroundings**

CARRYING ON THE LOCAL TRADITION AFTER 1990

Reconstructing the urban structure of demolished quarters



Carrying on the local tradition since 1990



**Compositional contrast
outstand the settings**

**Ignoring and passing
round the heritage
regulations**



**Carrying on the local
tradition since 1990**



**The most
harmonious
relationship to
the surroundings**

Generalisations on new architecture in Vilnius historic city:

The priority to the continuity of local traditions or to modern cosmopolite approach in architectural design at historic settings was determined by:

- architectural tendencies;**
- legal regulations;**
- attention towards protection of historic environment and infill design**

Reconstruction phenomenon in historic environment (Vilnius case) (1950-2010)



Regulations on the preservation of the old city of Vilnius – 1998:

“prevent the intensive renewal of historic nucleus of Vilnius”

This decision was inspired by a number of reasons:

- **Heritage protection became the form of resistance to occupation**
- **Too many heritage was already lost**
- **The distrust in modern architecture in historic environment**
- **Recording in UNESCO World Heritage List**

The Recreated Buildings in Vilnius Historic Town



WHY WE ARE TO RECONSTRUCT ??

ethical (justice)

desire to restore, what was brutally lost

educational

visual things let better to feel history

aesthetic

partly damaged object perceived as disharmony

WHEN WE ARE TO RECONSTRUCT ??

- necessary to save original thing
- looking for the educational aims (tourism)
- enough data and information
- reconstruction do no harm to later formed values

WHAT WE ARE TO RECONSTRUCT ??

- lost values
- objects of exceptional social importance
- recently lost values (witnesses still alive)

HOW WE ARE TO RECONSTRUCT? ?

- seeking for historic truth and truthfulness
- according to precise archaeological and architectural facts

WHY WE ARE NOT TO RECONSTRUCT ??

aesthetic

copy can not repeat creative process

ethical (truth)

copy is untrue an non-valuable thing

pragmatic

reconstruction ir very expensive; result is often questionable

hermeneutic

reconstruction is some kind of interpretation

ethical (justice)

authentic heritage have stronger effect than artificial one

WHEN WE ARE NOT TO RECONSTRUCT ??

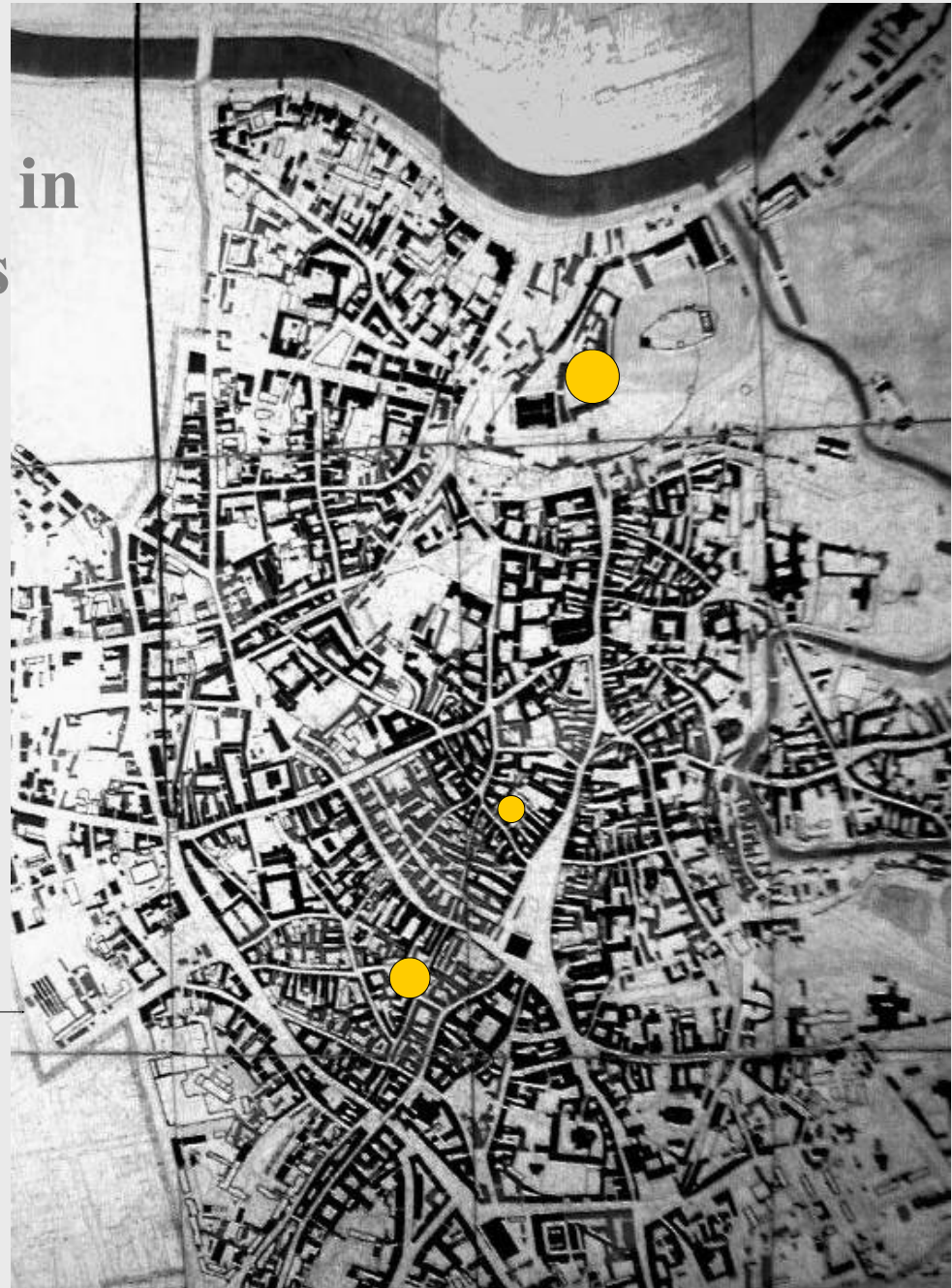
- don't know what we want and why
- don't know what there was
- have real thing
- it is no necessary
- no enough capital

3 reconstruction areas in the old town of Vilnius

Duke palace
in the lower castle

The building in Stikliu street

Block (“triangle”) in Asmenos,
Dysnos,
Mesiniu streets





1944



1972

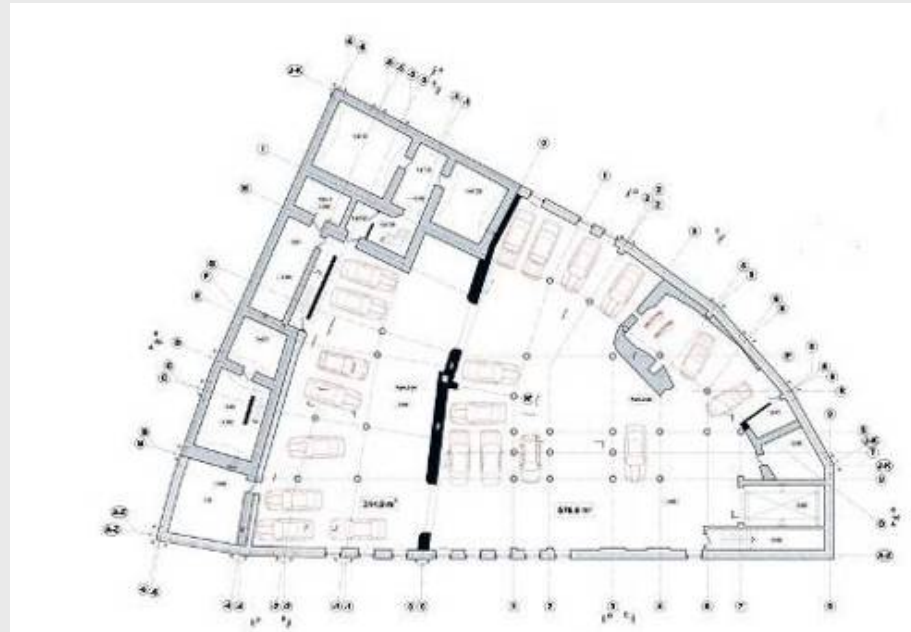


2006



2004

Evolution of the “Triangle” block



**The “triangle” block,
Archaeological excavation,
2004**



2004



2005



2007

Stikliai street 7



2000



2004



2004

Evolution of Stikliai street buildings



2004



2005



2007



1939



2007



**Lithuanian Duke Palace in the lower castle in Vilnius,
2005**



2005

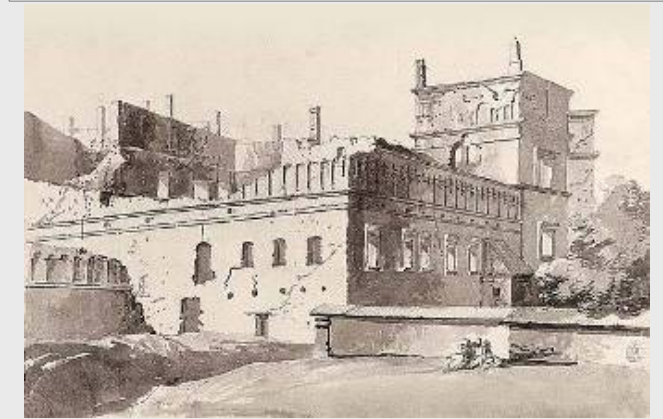


2008



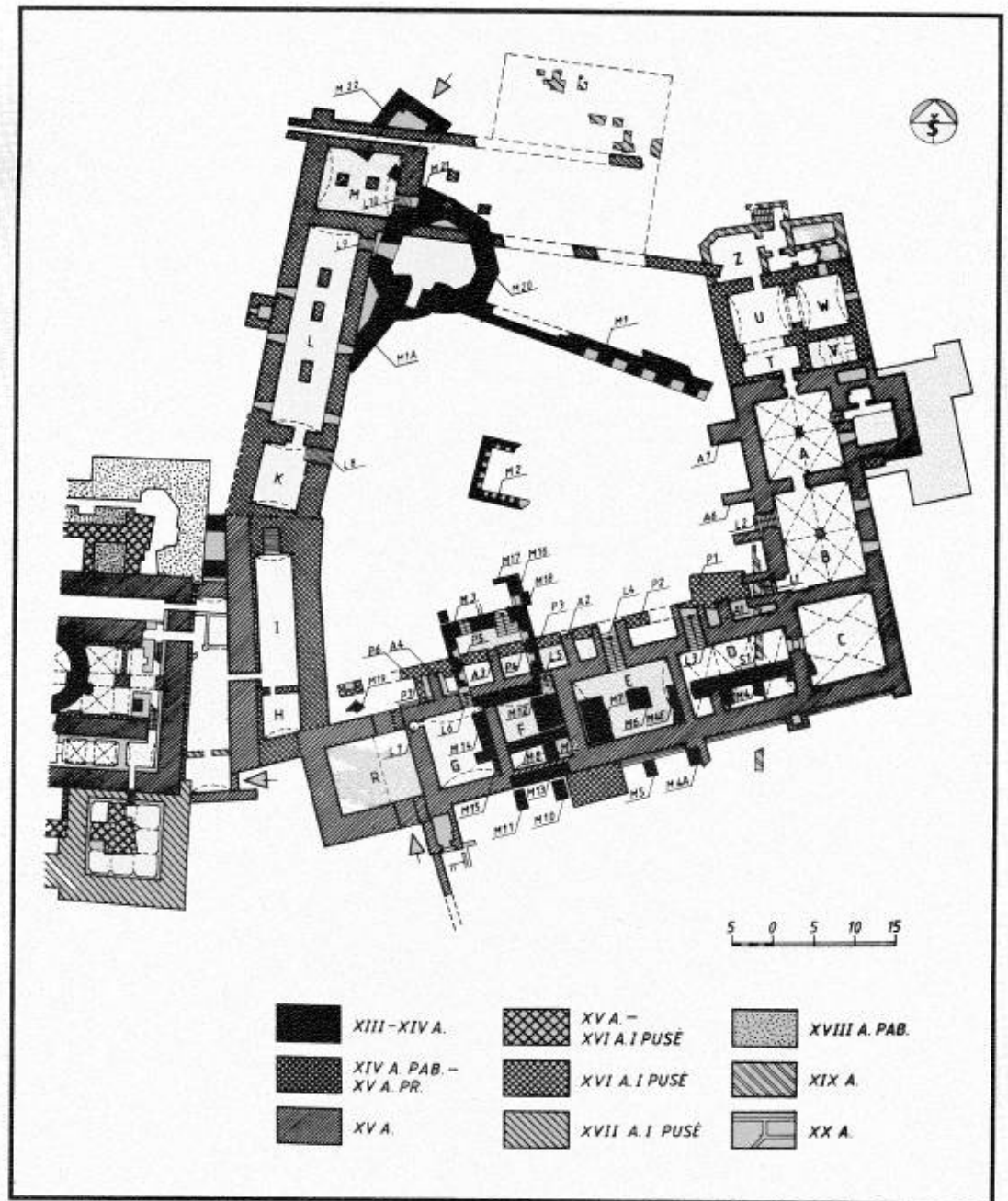
Unknown authors drawings, 18 century

P. Smuglevicius drawings, 1785

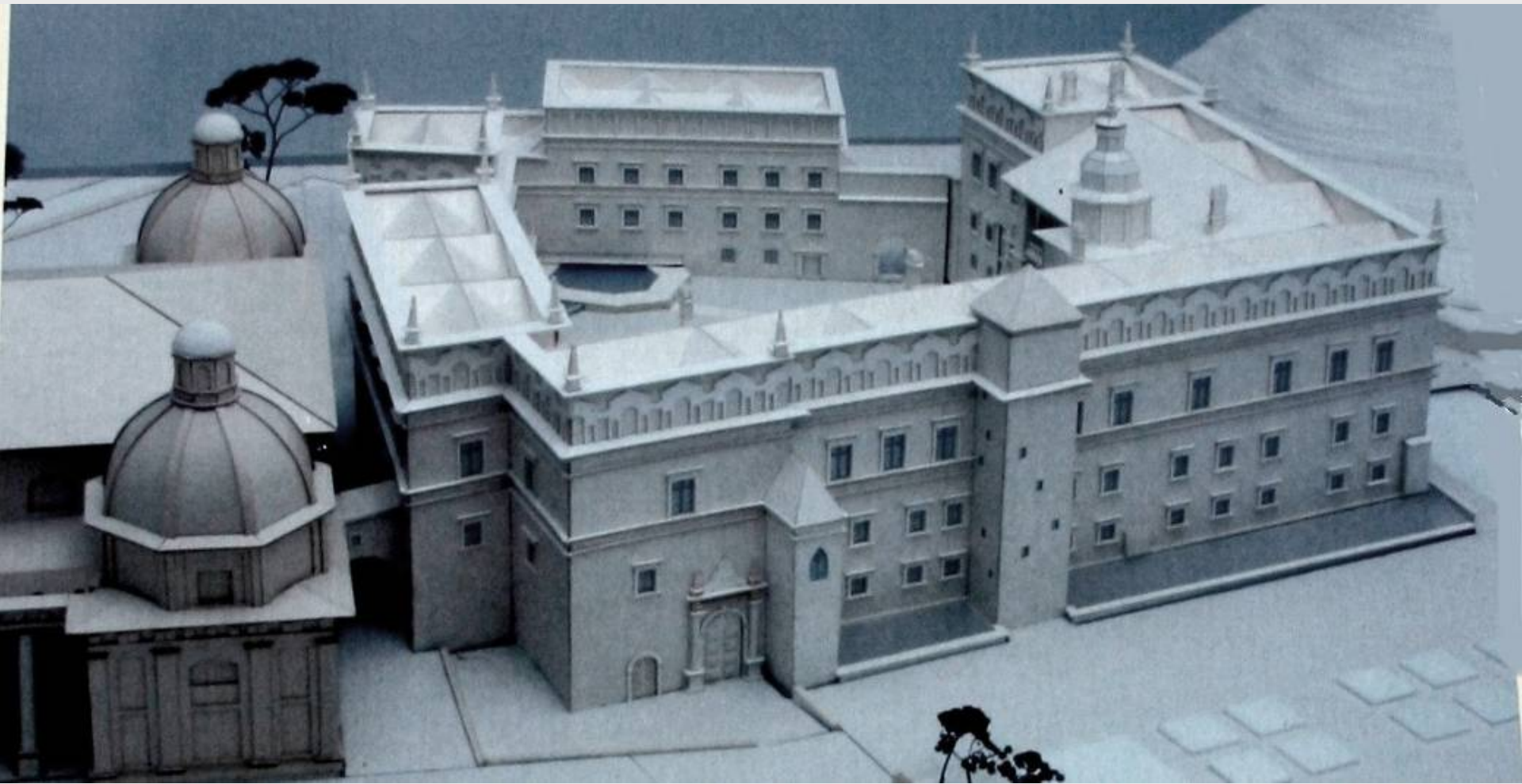


The historic-stylistic cartogram of the palace foundation

Excavation works and research made in 1987-1995



Vilniaus Žemutinės pilies Valdovų rūmų 1987-1995 m. atkastų pamatų istorinė kartograma



Retrospective model of the Duke Palace







<https://v2.valdovurumai.lt/en/palace-history>



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