

## About the company

Būvuzņēmums Restaurators is the largest and oldest artistic renovation company in Latvia that has performed renovation of virtually all of the most significant cultural heritage and architectural objects in the country. It dates back to 1951 when first scientific workshops were established to preserve the cultural heritage of "Soviet Socialist Republics" (SSR).

The company saw its first significant expansion in 1975, becoming the "Scientific Renovation Administration" (SRA). Thanks to the large material and technical base and experienced personnel, in the future SRA was entrusted with all the major renovation and construction projects in the Republic.

The company acquired its present name in 1993, three years after the restoration of independence of Latvia, when, according to a voting by a general meeting of employees, a joint stock company Būvuzņēmums Restaurators was founded.

For over fifty years our primary task has been the preservation and renovation of nationally important cultural heritage. Also the experience gained by the artists and craftsmen in these objects and enabling the implementation of various unique projects and ideas is virtually priceless.

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## House of Blackheads

House of Blackheads, the architectural jewel of Riga city, initially also called The New House, was built in 1334. This building is famous in Latvia and worldwide and it was designed as a meeting and feast place for various public organizations in Riga. However, starting from the 17th century, it was occupied solely by Blackhead Society - a brotherhood of vigorous and enterprising foreign traders, mostly German.

Remarkable is the story of St Maurice, one of the many guardians of the Society. The bold Roman legion commander died a martyr's death - he was beheaded. Therefore, the reproduction of a black moor's head became a common sign of recognition and a symbol of Blackheads and was also portrayed in the coat of arms of the Society as well as many house ornamentation themes.

The building that was considered to be the most splendid adornment of Riga was turned into ruins during the Second World War. Rebirth of the building began only in 1992 when archaeological excavations were carried out at the historical site of the house. In 1995 the renovation of the building began. Since 1999 Riga can again be proud of the reborn building. One could say that "Būvuzņēmums Restorer" has helped to fulfill the wish that was once written in the gates of House of Blackheads: "If I shall ever crumble, thou shall build me again!"



## Riga Latvian Society House

The beautiful Riga Latvian Society House was the first building in Riga to be built in the spirit of neoclassicism. What makes this building particularly interesting is the fact that in the layout of the building the architect has placed emphasis on generalized volume, rather than the traditional subtle details or elements of order architecture in facade decoration.

The architectonic image of the house also reflects individual features of Vienna Art Nouveau. This is especially true for filigree risalit formations crowned by artistically designed domes. Typical Art Nouveau features are the decorative panels, they have been created by the famous Latvian artist Janis Rosentāls, using a complex colorful cement and mosaic insert technique.

However the most interesting part of the building is the central composition, which contains allegorical characters from ancient Latvian tales. They symbolize cultural objectives - beauty, strength and wisdom. Risalit panels represent means to achieve these goals - arts, science, agriculture and industry. "Būvuzņēmums Restaurators" can be proud that it restored not only the facade of this building so important to the national culture, but also the interior and decorative interior elements.



## Metalworking and forging

Būvuzņēmums Restaurators can manufacture practically all metal parts - handrails, door handles, chandeliers, external lighting elements, fences, gates, signboards, sculptural elements, benches, forgings, castings and many other things, thanks to company's experienced and skilled artists and craftsmen.

Since ancient times Riga has been famous for its gilded roosters at the ends of church towers. These sublime birds showing the direction of wind and symbolizing the prosperity and power of the city have become an integral symbol of the capital of Latvia. Among our best-known works are the renovated gilded roosters of largest churches in Riga - St. Peter's and Dome, which are considered the oldest and most valuable buildings of medieval monumental architecture in the Baltic states.

Būvuzņēmums Restaurators has also sculptured metalworking masterpieces such as the gates of Latvian Presidential Palace and decorative interior elements of St. Peter's Church . Wind indicators, decorative grilles, handrails, moldings and many other metal wares of various sizes and types shaped by the generations of master craftsmen of company can be found in Old City's streets.

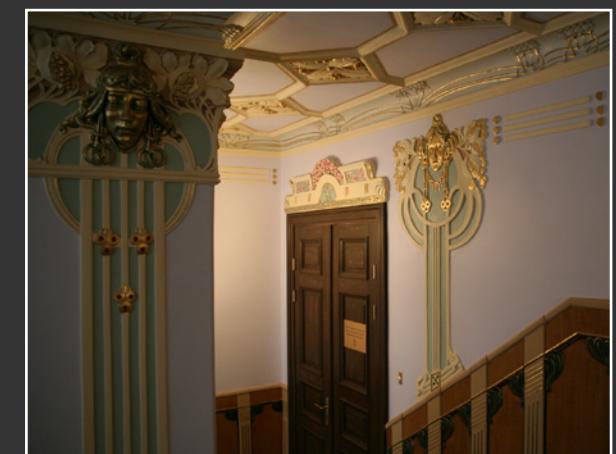
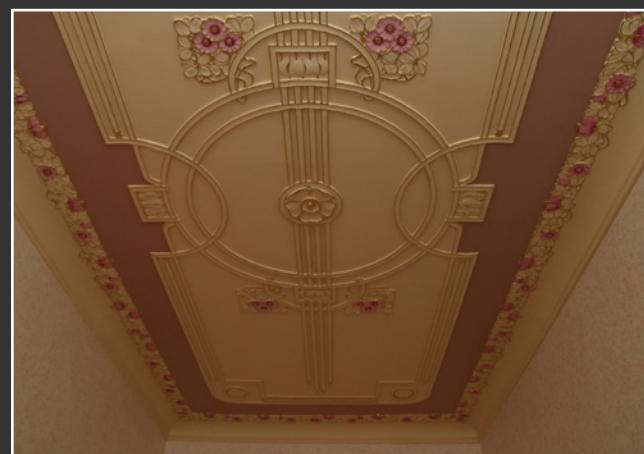
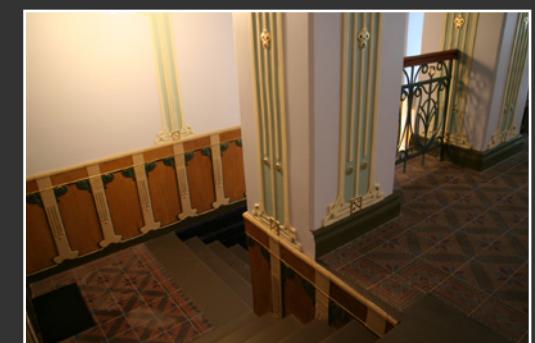
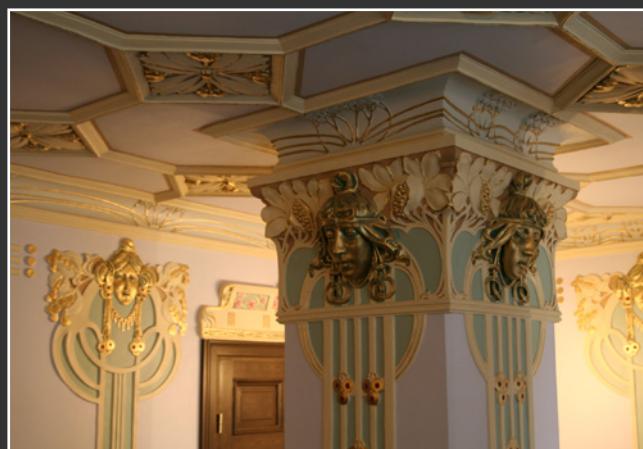


## Most magnificent Art Nouveau building in the Baltics

One of our most striking examples of renovation, the most magnificent Art Nouveau building in Riga having no analogue architectural object in the Baltics, is situated in Alberta street 4. It is significant that several splendid Art Nouveau houses are located on this street that was formed in 1900, and Büvuzņēmums Restaurators has participated in renovation of at least two of the buildings (Alberta 4 and Alberta 8). Of the two houses, Alberta Street 4 that was built in 1904 is considered to be one of most notable projects of the famous architect Mikhail Eisenstein. It is also likely one of the reasons the house as a whole is so splendid and rich in decorations.

The building is included in UNESCO world cultural heritage list - in section "The Historical Center of Riga". The house has eight exclusive apartments, which have been restored, preserving almost all of the original parts. Some of the most unique elements in this building are the pompous wall paintings in the lobby and staircase. Thanks to the well preserved fragments of these paintings, they have been restored and are identical to the original.

This object is a good example of renovation sector as a whole. The facade of the house is covered with abundant formations, which not only have been restored, but in some cases built from scratch. A real test of the professionalism of our trainers was the decorative interior formations of the building, consisting of splendid ceiling rosettes and orchels. However, in spite of difficulties after the buildings commission, we consider this house one of our most successful projects in the recent years.

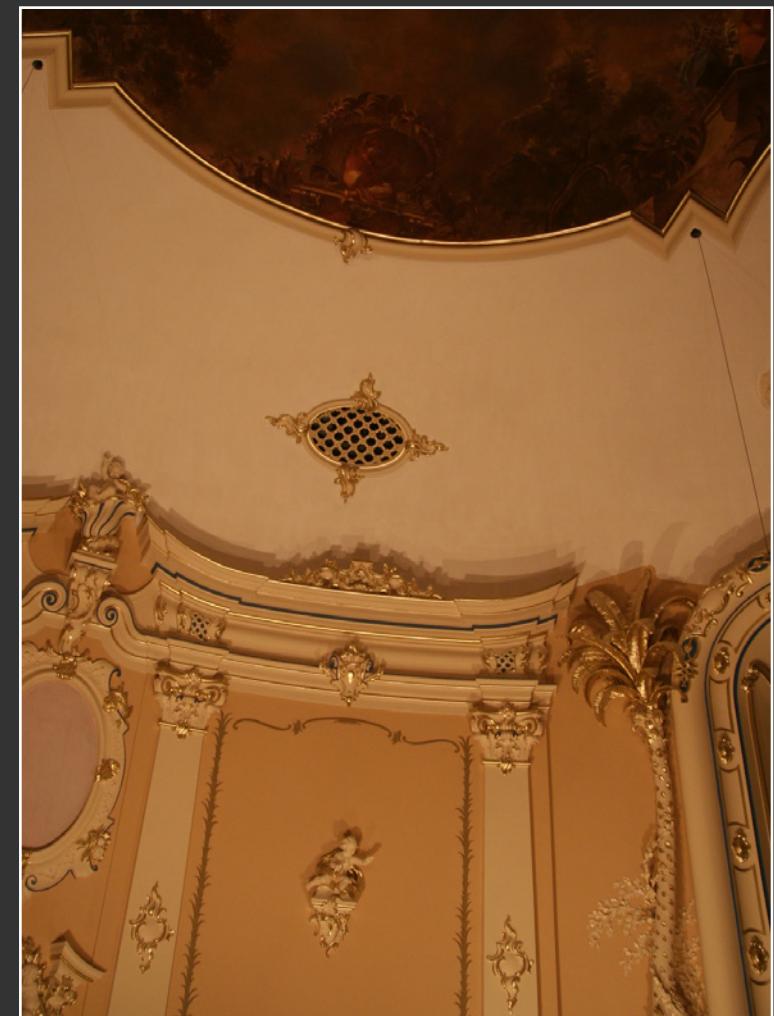


## Splendid Palace (Cinema "Riga")

The cinema "Splendid Palace", which is now more known as a Cinema "Riga", was opened in 1923 and is one of the most luxurious and beautiful buildings in Riga. Only a few buildings in the capital of Latvia can equal this house in terms of internal decorations and wall paintings. Interestingly, the "Splendid Palace", was the first cinema in the Baltics to show sound films.

The cinema building is an architectural monument of national importance. It was built according to a project by the famous architect F. Skujinš and at the time was the first reinforced concrete building in the city. The house has a rich and splendid architectonic decoration in stylized rococo forms. The interior in turn is decorated with sculptural formations by recognized sculptors - R. Maurs and J. Legzdiņš. Of particular value are the paintings by H. Grīnbergs, especially the ceiling painting in the Great Hall.

In this house interior elements and sculptural formations created by sculptors harmonize with the beautiful ceiling and wall paintings, thus creating ideal atmosphere for artistic enjoyment. Probably that is why Cinema "Riga" has become a popular place not only for movies, but also for a variety of musical and artistic events. Of course, this house, its paintings and decorations have a second life thanks to the knowledge and skills of our craftsmen.

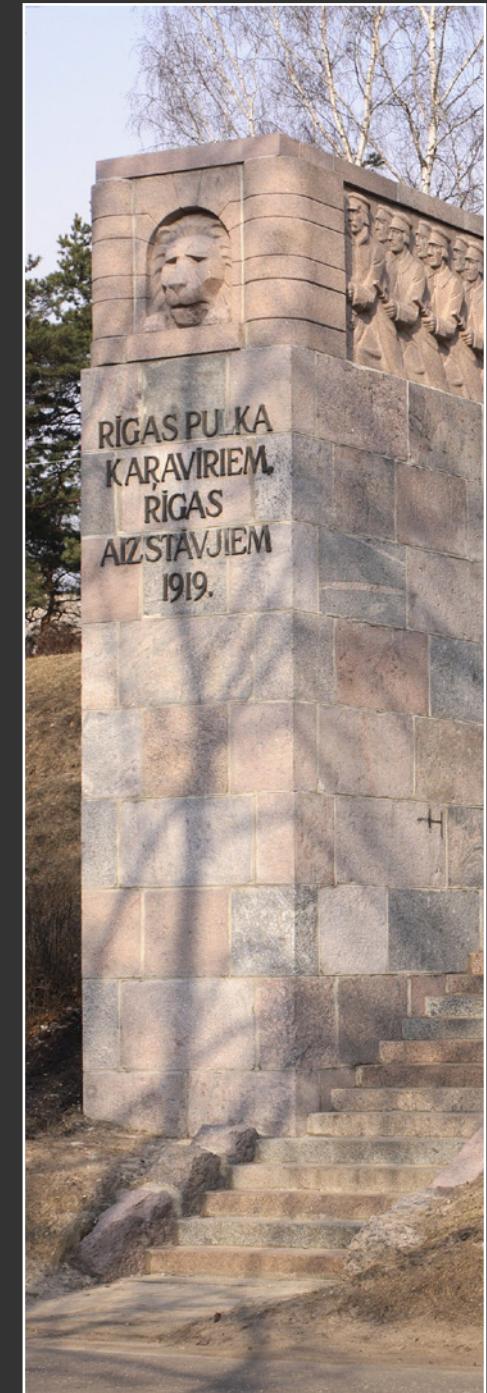


## Sculpture and monuments

Monuments and sculptural objects are an integral part of each self-respecting state and city. Also the cities of Latvia are abundant with this historical evidence and we are proud that many of them have regained their original brilliance.

Among our renovation projects, especially notable is the Riga Cemetery of the Brethren Complex. This architectural and artistic monument is known throughout the Europe. The first burials were made in October 1915, when Latvian riflemen fallen in the First World War were buried. The cemetery ensemble was created in 1924 - 1936 by architects A. Birznieks, P. Feders, sculptor K. Zāle and landscape architect A. Zeidaks. The main material used was Allaži travertine as well as Italian travertine and sandstone.

We have also renovated the most important monuments of Latvia - the pedestal of the Freedom Monument and monuments in Sudrabkalnīš (Riga) and Ikšķile dedicated to Latvian riflemen fallen in the First World War. We fully sculptured the Riflemen Monument in Riga, Riflemen Square, and the nearby Statue of Roland, which forms a single ensemble with the architectural pearl of the Old City - House of Blackheads. It is a fact that almost each of the most important and best-known statues the visitors of Riga take delight in are either made by Būvuzņēmums Restaurators or renovated by our craftsmen and artists.



## Parliament building complex

The Saeima building complex of the Republic Latvia is located at the heart of the Old City and, like the entire historical city center, belongs to UNESCO international cultural heritage list.

The central building, where the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia currently operates, was built for Vidzeme Knighthood in 1863 - 1867 according to a project by Baltic German architect Robert Pflug and the first academically educated Latvian architect Janis Baumanis.

Both the building and the premises have been formed in eclectic style: Renaissance motives have been used in forms of the building and the main representation hall, where Vidzeme Provincial Assembly meetings and celebrations took place, Louis XVI style inspired the creation of the Yellow hall interior, but the Gothic style - the dining-hall design. Those were one of the most striking public interiors in Riga.

During the Second World War the buildings suffered severe changes and barbaric damage. A huge effort was required to return the original glitter of the building. However, since 2007 the facade of Saeima building once again boasts the image of Lāčplēsis (Latvian folk epos hero). It was created by Edvīns Krūmiņš, our company's leading artist, in accordance with photos of works by the renowned sculptor Rihards Maurs, thus marking a new turning point in architectural history of the building. Būvuzņēmums Restaurators has restored not only the facade, but also the Parliament meeting rooms.

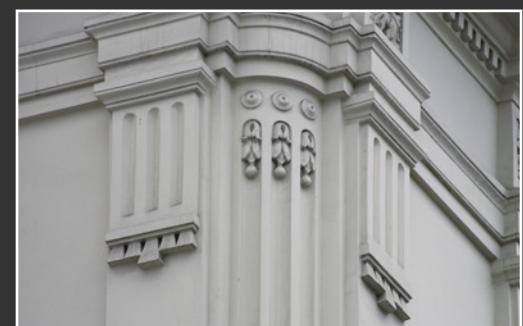


## The building where the Republic of Latvia was proclaimed

The prehistory of the National Theater of Latvia dates back to 1897 when Riga City Council decided to build a second city theater. The winner in the competition announced by the city was a project with a motto "Dum spiro, spero" ("While I breathe, I hope!" Ovid), which belonged to architect Augsts Reinbergs.

Many local as well as Russian, German and Estonian companies participated in Theater construction and artistic decoration works. On project opening day journalists particularly emphasized the bright electric lights and other impressive building infrastructure elements for that time. For example, the stage machinery, which, like for the First city theater, was ordered from Munich (Germany), and the iron curtain manufactured in "R.H.Mantels", a factory in Riga.

It should be noted that after reconstruction of the theater in 2004, the project renovated by our company won the honorable 1st place in nomination "Restoration" of contest "Best Construction 2004" by Latvian Builders Association.

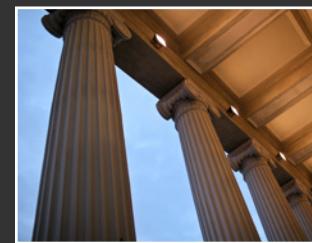


## Latvian National Opera

The Monumental City Theater or Riga City German Theater building was built in 1860 - 1863 according to a project by architect Ludvigs Bonšets (1822 - 1885). The nationwide architectural monument has been built at the place where one of elements of Riga's fortification system - Pancake bastion - was previously located. It is a building in Hellenistic classicism style, its most luxurious north-eastern facade is decorated with ionic column portico and a group of allegorical figures (Apollo, symbols of tragedy and comedy, genius of drama, etc.)

The roundish theater audience hall with 1240 seats, 150 standing-rooms and three balconies has good acoustics and pleasant proportions. Compared to many eclectic buildings built at that time, the balanced theater building with the slim six-column ionic portico is like a delayed echo of classicism renaissance of the beginning of the 19th century.

Būvuzņēmums Restaurators has carried out both entrance and interior restoration works of this building so important to Latvian culture.

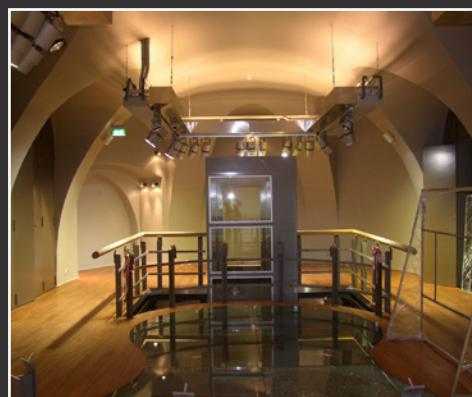


## Latvian Bank

The central bank of the Republic of Latvia embodies security, stability and constancy. It has great importance in the financial system, as the issuing bank is one of the symbols of existence of the country.

Bank of Latvia has found home in the building that was originally built as an office for Russian State Bank in Riga. Bank building project was made by architect Augsts Reinbergs (1860 - 1908). The original bank project was developed in accordance with the Russian State Bank standard building regulations. The functional layout of the premises was developed by Russian National Bank architect R.P. Goļeņiščevs. The architectonic image and decorative design of facades and interior of the building was planned by architect Augsts Reinbergs (1860 - 1908).

Today, both the external image of the bank (for which Būvuzēmums Restaurators has created individual exterior elements) and the interior, that is entirely the result of the skills and knowledge our craftsmen, is nationally important.



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