



# **LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS ARCHITEKTŪROS POLITIKOS KRYPTYS**

## **ARCHITECTURAL POLICY TRENDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**



Lietuvos Respublikos  
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the whole building, a complex of structures and theirs' surroundings, adjusting all this for the needs of people. Architecture covers street, town, city and landscape. By its nature, it is simple or luxurious, of large-scale or small forms, traditional or modern, better or worse related to the surrounding natural environment. High-quality surrounding is not a luxury, but rather an essential feature of a civilized society.

10. Modern architecture is a natural continuation of its heritage. In the future, it will be an integral part of the cultural heritage. Therefore, the entire world takes exceptional care of architectural education, professional training and improvement of the society, quality of designing and construction work.

11. Urban development is city planning – design and construction of cities and towns. This is a field of science exploring city and town construction and their history, determining further perspectives of their development. The concept of urban development includes both small towns and big cities. It is an architectural whole comprised both of various purpose buildings and structures of related installations: streets, squares, parks, formed natural environment, tunnels, and bridges.

### III. DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND ITS RELATION WITH THE SOCIETY

12. Along with rapid globalization, efforts to protect and cherish national cultural self-consciousness, identity and architectural heritage are intensifying. Retained past and modern architecture directly reflects condition of the state, its cultural, scientific and technical progress and influences cultural self-consciousness and social psychology of the society.

13. Progress of architecture these days in great extent depends on the attention and incentive of the state to educate the quality of architecture. Architectural heritage and good modern architecture encourages development of infrastructure of tourism and related services. Architecture directly influences economy and majority of market branches, quality of landscape design. Architectural policy of the state influences cultural, social and economical development of states, which determines their stability and competitiveness. Architecture is one of the most effective devices of long lasting influence on both home and foreign policy.

14. Good living environment is the fundamental right of every citizen. Architecture and its spatial spread encompasses more and more surrounding environment, therefore protection of architectural heritage and quality of modern creation are strategically important social interests.

15. More and more active dialog of individual citizen, high-level government representatives and institutions is a perfect instrument to strengthen civil relations and solve issues of improving living, working and leisure environment.

16. Increasing consideration of the society for environment protection consistently changes the attitude towards nature and alongside towards architecture. People pay more and more attention to the quality of environment, rational use of its resources and stability, reducing pollution, and to architecture related to changing environment. Requirements increase for the quality of architecture: using recent scientific and technical achievements, it must cause as little damage as possible to the natural environment.

17. Architecture must be functional, comfortable, inexpensive in use and optimally stable. It should harmoniously unite artistic, aesthetic and rational economic needs of people.

18. By its nature, architecture is a mixture of knowledge, practical skills and time-wise changing creativity of the humankind accumulated throughout the ages, thus it may be considered the most important driving force of the social progress and alongside – a characteristic of its status.

19. With the development of a democratic society and civil self-consciousness, requirements for quality of activities of the state and local government institutions grow. Policy of the state and local government institutions is more and more based on the public opinion and multiple interests thereof that are specified and defined by professional communities.

20. Cultural distinction of the Lithuanian and other states is perhaps best of all seen, understood and appreciated through architecture. Protection of architectural heritage and modern creation of architecture reflect civil and cultural self-consciousness of the society.

21. Well-protected and properly used architectural monuments and values have a great economical and social significance. Abundance of such values determines strength of a national identity, thus political will to protect and pass them to the future generations determine the ability of the state to resist the miscellaneous negative influence of globalization. Architectural heritage is a part of social and cultural environment of the society and saving it for the future generations is a duty of all citizens, architects and, first of all, state and local government institutions.

22. State and local government institutions responsible for cultural heritage and architects' associations must ensure the architectural heritage is widely known, understood and appreciated, used in accordance with the purpose corresponding to the needs of these days and causing no damage to this heritage and its environment.

23. Lithuanian urban development and architectural heritage is not ultimately defined and final. Its scope is constantly increasing along with expanding perception of its value. Continuity and viability of this heritage must be ensured by new modern solutions that take over and cherish the distinction of local heritage and can enrich the existing and create new heritage value.

24. Accounting of architectural heritage values and its whole content must be regularly revised in accordance with the appropriate research development and monitoring programs. Society and owners, managers and users of

valuables should be familiarized with such accounting data via public disclosure thereof and propagation of heritage values, purport and ways of their preservation.

25. Creation and work results of architects encompass a rather wide portion of public relations: starting with economical, ecological, landscape design to aesthetic artistic, social and psychological. Hence, it is expedient for the state and local government institutions to establish most appropriate conditions for training, improvement, work and result enhancement of architects.

26. Since architecture encompasses notably wide social interests, it is expedient and useful for the state to implant a better understanding of architecture in all levels of public education, people of various ages, especially children and youth.

27. Quality of architecture and landscape design condition image of the state, therefore it is necessary to pay more attention to improvement of activities of the state institutions and architects' associations.

28. Concerned about the public interests, modern democratic state must pursue its architectural policy and aimed results are pointed towards the greatest achievements in this field in both Europe and the entire world.

#### IV. ANALYSIS OF THE CONDITION OF CURRENT ARCHITECTURE

##### 29. Strengths:

29.1. Lithuanian architecture was developed by a number of local and foreign architects forming traditions of Lithuanian architecture, which is advanced, open and closely related to the culture of European states.

29.2. Care for the Lithuanian cultural and architectural heritage on a state level started already in the XIX century. Society and the state are more and more concerned over protection of the heritage. The Republic of Lithuania Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage (State News, 1995, No. 3-37; 2004, No. 153-5571) regulates the policy of cultural heritage protection.

29.3. Comprehensive plan of the Republic of Lithuania territory, approved by Resolution No. IX-1154 of Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania at 29 October 2002 (State News, 2002, No. 110-4852), defines a long-term strategy and priorities of use and management of the country territory.

29.4. Architects' Association of Lithuania – the main goal of which is cherishing architectural culture and taking care of professional excellence of architects – operates actively.

29.5. Construction is one of the most significant fields of economy in the country, creates about 7 per cent of the gross domestic product and directly or indirectly encompasses about 19 per cent of the labor market. Construction is prognosticated to remain one of the most perspective fields of economics in the following 10 years; therefore, the need for architectural design and its quality will grow in the future.

##### 30. Weaknesses:

30.1. During the transition period considerable investments were made in construction, which is rapidly growing thus having negative impact on architectural and urban development projects: stability of buildings, physical and aesthetic quality, relation to natural or urban environment as well as on long-term relations with architectural heritage and cultural social environment.

30.2. Architectural design of strategically important and culturally meaningful structures is often performed without due preparation: in a hurry, having performed no necessary researches and surveys on public opinion; tenders are of a limited scope, thus not all Lithuanian and foreign architects wishing to participate in them can do so. Such tenders follow no high artistic, cultural, ecological, social or heritage protection assessment criteria. Their completion is determined by a limited effectiveness and short-term economical factors.

30.3. Under current conditions, architects rather successfully fill private, local and state government orders; though acknowledge that development is spontaneous and inconsistent. No normative documents of new generation territory planning have been prepared. There is an insufficient number of construction quality standards. General territory planning documents that would properly consider multiple long-term impact of the development on public interests, natural, urban, economical, social and historical environment are not prepared in time.

30.4. Quality of architectural heritage protection and modern creation deteriorate due to insufficient coordination of activities of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment and cooperation with the Architects' Association and lack of local government attention to control and improvement of architectural heritage protection and modern architecture improvement.

30.5. Too little attention is paid to activities of architects' associations, translation and publishing of special literature, continuous involvement in the European Council of Architects and development of international relations, off-service training of the best Lithuanian architects, participation in international competitions and organization of such competitions in Lithuania.

30.6. Experience of Lithuania in territorial planning, architecture and urban development is insufficiently used in practice of architecture and urban development, especially in preparation of general plans of local government territories.

30.7. No analysis and monitoring of the last decade architectural development are carried out. There is a lack of published information on existing professional analysis and criticism of architecture.

##### 31. Opportunities:

31.1. Aiming for consistent improvement of the quality of urban environment, continuous improvement of the



system of architectural design and construction organization is necessary to ensure a full-rate cooperation of architects, investors and constructors and able to meet long-terms demands of the society.

31.2. Following the best experience of the European states, a system of professional criticism and monitoring of architecture development should be established to assist analysis, improve quality of architecture and educate society on these issues.

31.3. It is necessary to improve activities of the state and local government institutions and cooperation thereof, gradually strengthen architects' associations and scientific institutions, provide continuous financial support for their activities.

31.4. As a member of the European Union, Lithuania may expect more financial support and sources of information through development of international cooperation of architects and participation in activities of professional organization thereof.

31.5. With new possibilities of financial support and international cooperation, the potential of urban development and science of architecture should be revived and strengthened.

31.6. Aiming to cherish uniqueness of the Lithuanian architecture, improve its quality and enhance competitiveness of architects in the European Union and world market, it is strategically essential to continue support of architect associations and scientific institutions at the state level.

#### 32. Threats:

32.1. During the transition period development of architecture experiences radical changes: new possibilities of design, construction technologies and materials change the attitude of architects towards architectural values. Studies of architecture and labor relations change accordingly.

32.2. Quality of architecture is strongly influenced by a limited understanding of the society and clients of natural, architectural, urban and historical cultural environment.

32.3. Inactive position of the society with respect to the quality of architecture and landscape design, lack of professional and public criticism and financial means saved for the account of the quality contravene long-term interests of harmonious development of Lithuania.

32.4. Along with rapid globalization (merging of the world markets) and society becoming more and more consumer-oriented, cosmopolitan ideas spread in Lithuania. Society becomes more and more concerned with a threat of superficial and speculative forms that reflect primitive aesthetic cultural needs of most consumers to settle over the architecture.

32.5. Current investments in construction are necessary and important to the economic development of the state, yet desire of investors for profit and immediate buy off impair architectural urban planning. Premature decisions corresponding to the interests of investors deteriorate the quality of environment, architecture and construction works. Too little attention is paid to the long-term public needs.

32.6. Insufficiently supported Lithuanian architects rarely participate in activities of international architect associations. This may result in weaker rights and possibilities to work and compete abroad and in fewer possibilities of the whole sector of national construction to compete in the international market.

### V. TRENDS OF ARCHITECTURAL POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

33. The following basic trends of architectural policy of the Republic of Lithuania are planned:

33.1. State and local government institutions responsible for architecture, urban development and territorial planning and project implementation must ensure current urban natural environment is taken into consideration in designing new structures and landscape design and reliable conditions for preservation of architecture and natural heritage are established.

33.2. Using information, legal, financial and other promotion instruments, specific state and local government institutions must ensure effective and acceptable to the society resolution of issues on architecture, urban development and territorial planning. Architect associations, investors and society must participate in this process.

33.3. It is necessary to maintain ethic and harmonious relation of modern architecture with architectural heritage and natural environment formed by it, i.e. heritage values should not be shaded or devalued, but rather their uniqueness and significance revealed.

33.4. Modern architecture must cherish, develop and enrich traditions and peculiarities of local or regional architectural creation and construction.

33.5. Favorable conditions must be established for creation of good architecture that ensures sustainable, full-rated and healthy environment for a person to live and work in.

### VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRENDS OF ARCHITECTURAL POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

34. Government control:

34.1. Good architecture and smoothly implemented solutions on territorial planning documents are important instruments of reasonable use of resources and stable development and must ensure social and economic stability.

34.2. National control of architecture must be consistently improved and financially supported to be beneficial for the architects aiming to do better job, improve and compete in the world market.



34.3. Quality of architectural design (service rendered to the society) must be based on recommendations of the Architects' Council of Europe.

34.4. Relations of the quality of architectural design, suppliers and consumers must be regulated by specific legislation and comply with the provisions binding in the European Union. Information on rendered architectural design services (suppliers, quality and prices) must be public.

34.5. Satisfaction of the client interests must not harm public interests in the fields of architecture and urban development, heritage protection, landscape, ecology, etc.

34.6. State and local government administrative divisions in charge for architecture and territorial planning, including architects, must ensure all construction clients or investors are well familiarized with construction requirements set out in current territorial planning documents and normative technical construction documents.

34.7. Long-term consequences of implementation of projects must have proper consideration in preparation of territorial planning documents and architecture projects. These are resource and power consumption, functional, cultural heritage protection, protection of landscape, economic and social consequences.

34.8. Integrated scientific studies on opportunities and impact on environment must be prepared for large scope or significant impact development projects. Preparation of such studies in cooperation with famous local and international experts in this field is encouraged.

34.9. Complying with the fundamental requirements for structure architecture and construction maintenance set out in the Republic of Lithuania Law on Construction (State News, 1996, No. 32-788; 2001, No. 101-3597), an architect must realize his responsibility for the physical and aesthetic impact of the construction on environment.

34.10. A successful long-term operation of constructions must depend on their professional design and construction and on proper use thereof according to its supposed purpose.

34.11. Due to high economic value of structures, their stability and continuous long-term impact on environment, the role of a consumer becomes especially important, therefore quality of architecture must depend on the quality of activities and responsibility of individuals taking part in the process of territorial planning and construction.

34.12. Consistent control of the construction process from preparation of the design conditions to the very end of constructions is necessary to ensure effectiveness of the responsibility system. National construction control system must ensure completeness of this process, since public well-being and long-term perspectives of its development depend on it.

34.13. Economic growth and quality of architecture, spatial development and life depend on the success of constructions in aesthetic, artistic, technical, environmental, economical, social and other terms.

34.14. Concentrated investments may deteriorate the quality of construction development. Therefore, control and legislative measures ensuring consistent and stable development and corresponding to the long-term public interests, should be continuously improved.

34.15. Legal and normative technical construction documents, related to territorial planning, architecture and construction, are continuously improved along with increasing improvement in design and construction technologies. Requirements for training, qualification improvement and issuing professional qualification certificates of architects increase accordingly. Consequently, architects are caused to receive continuous training, improve their work quality, professional ethics and interrelations.

34.16. The final quality of the structure architecture must be conditioned by the quality of project implementation complying with the author's idea: motivation of constructors, work culture, quality of construction materials, and success of creating planned portions of the project.

34.17. Chief architects of local governments should be given more decision-making rights and a greater responsibility. Publicity of their work and continuous relation with local communities must be ensured.

34.18. Lithuanian architects must constantly and successfully participate in activities of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) and other international professional associations.

34.19. Measures for improvement of quality of work organization and activity results of architects must be continuously established and enhanced.

34.20. National control of architecture and territorial planning quality must be reinforced following experience of the European Union states. The state must encourage publicity of this process and participation of the society in every possible way for the sake of creation of a full-rate control system.

34.21. The state must ensure sufficient representation of interests of the Lithuanian landscape and heritage protection, architectural and urban development and improvement of living environment – public interests – in preparation of new documents of the European Union.

34.22. Aiming for better satisfaction of the Lithuanian and foreign consumer needs related to architecture and urban development, it is necessary to improve possibilities of architectural creation and work organization, improvement and competitiveness in the European Union and entire world.

35. Education and science and social education field:

35.1. Promotion of high aesthetic quality architecture understanding, creation, ways of project implementation and supervision is considered one of the basic instruments of education of an advanced society.

35.2. State institutions should work harder to ensure secondary school children and students have better knowledge of architectural heritage and modern architecture.

35.3. Understanding of architecture in the society must be enhanced the same as the news on the most impor-

tant environment conditions and perspectives thereof, i.e. safety, wellness, artistry and aesthetics, influence on human psychology and social relations, are spread.

35.4. A natural need of an individual for a safe and comfortable accommodation and living environment serves as a basis of studies and science of architecture. Basics of environment studies, architecture, creation and their assessment must be included in various levels of training programs of educational institutions.

35.5. Understanding of the beauty, artistic value and meaning of architecture must be cultured in every generation and first in children and youth. Various programs of museums and educational institutions, special classes and other measures should be prepared. This is the question of state and local government educational institutions.

35.6. Training programs of secondary schools must make children more familiar with architecture (knowledge of architecture could be related to the education in the area of art, landscape, social and economic sciences).

35.7. Children and students familiar with issues of architectural and construction environment will have a better understanding of a direct and inevitable impact of urban development and architecture on our everyday life.

35.8. Informal education of adults must be organized aiming for more active participation of society in the processes of decision-making. Its activities related to architecture and landscape design would be more consistent and productive accordingly.

35.9. Programs of studies of higher educational institutions training architects should include the current features of advancement of science and public relations: environment protection regulations and technologies, spatial planning, construction materials and technologies, construction control and public relations, standards, public communication, drawing graphics, etc. Fundamental sciences, such as mathematics, physics and chemistry, must remain an integral part of architecture studies.

35.10. Programs of studies of higher educational institutions training architects should include studies of European and world heritage, construction traditions and modern creation and construction technologies.

35.11. Architecture studies must include consistent studies of principles of architecture, design, construction and restoration technologies, construction process control, landscape, heritage protection, architecture criticism and related social studies.

35.12. In accordance with the possibilities of an educational institution, some architecture studies may be prepared in cooperation with foreign partners.

35.13. There must be practical training on implementation of architectural and construction ideas in the last years of architectural studies for the students to acquire necessary experience and scientific research skills. It is important to encourage students to participate in architectural competitions starting from the first years of studies.

35.14. Considering issues of modern architecture and territorial planning and following strategic priorities of the country's development, scientific researches on architecture and territorial planning should be financially supported and developed. Scientific research is to be performed by the most competent scientific institutions in close cooperation with the state and local government institutions, private architects and investment companies.

35.15. International cooperation in the field of architecture studies and territorial planning must be sustained and developed.

35.16. The state should encourage interaction between the science of architecture and practice by legal and financial means. Continuously updated training programs should reflect recent scientific achievements.

35.17. Programs of architecture studies should be continuously revised to comply with the updated guidelines of architecture studies of the European Union. This would ensure fluent international recognition of architect diplomas issued in Lithuania.

35.18. Improvement of professional qualification of architects should become a continuous process lasting entire professional career.

#### 36. Architecture practice field:

36.1. An architect profession should be regulated by the state to the extent it is related to the state and public interests. Architecture includes many areas of public life and many fields of science. Therefore requirements for the quality for the architect creative work are so high.

36.2. All activities related to the architect practice should be improved both by the state and local government institutions and by professional associations, taking into consideration current regulations of the European Union and general requirements in this field.

36.3. Issuing and registration of architect qualification certificates and organization of architect practice in Lithuania must comply with the general procedures established by the Architects' Council of Europe and applicable in the European Union and should protect interests of the Lithuanian architects.

36.4. Supported by the state institutions and local governments and following good practice recommendations prepared by the Architects' Council of Europe, architects' organizations and architects personally should continuously and consistently improve the quality of their work and convince clients and investors that architecture is first of all assessed according to its quality, which encompasses forms of a structure, materials, construction technologies, environment and good infrastructure.

36.5. European level rapport between the client and consumer and architect and service provider should be established, quality of public relations of architects improved, and culture of architecture and construction management enhanced.

36.6. A professional Ethics Code of the Lithuanian architects must be prepared following the guidelines of the

Architects' Council of Europe.

36.7. Public data on all architects practicing in Lithuania, their qualification and specialization, best products, design competitions organized and violations of creative and professional ethics should be prepared.

36.8. Professional analysis and criticism of architecture development should be developed and widely published, where possible.

36.9. Architects must very carefully evaluate environment peculiarities, consider them, fit projects to the environment as much as possible and improve its functions and aesthetic features.

36.10. The best result may be achieved only when the concept of a project is created considering local or regional architectural traditions, most important architectural heritage values and unique features, combining them with modern architecture, economic use of material and energy resources and needs of the owner or user.

36.11. Aiming for the best and exemplary architectural quality of public buildings, design competitions should be open. International competitions for designs of big public value and large scope public object should be published.

36.12. To improve the quality of architectural design, it is necessary to ensure a proper publicity of this activity: presentation of building designs to the public, including conclusions of professional analysis and criticism of architecture. For this purpose, public media and specific field international experts, where necessary, should be involved.

36.13. The best architecture and territorial planning results may be achieved only by matching interests of parties involved, aiming for most rational proportion between high design quality and their implementation, use and operational costs.

36.14. Ensuring the quality and progress of architecture is one of the fundamental conditions of national prosperity development and one of the most important means of educating a civilized, cultural and civil society.









