

RESTORATION OF THE MUSEUM OF JĀNIS AKURATERS

Project description: The aim of the Project is to reconstruct the memorial house of the museum J.Akuraters located on O.Vācieša Street 6a, Riga, in order to accommodate it for performance of entrusted functions and make its cultural content compliant with the modern requirements.

Jānis Akuraters Museum is located in a building that was built in 1933 to the design of Verners Vitands and in 1991 was opened as a branch-museum of the Rainis Museum of Literature and Art History. As of 1 October 2009 Jānis Akuraters Museum is part of the Association of Memorial Museums and at present it is possible to visit five rooms in it that were inhabited by J.Akuraters and his family in the 1930's and by the poet's family after his death.

The mission of the museum is to preserve the authenticity of the house built in the 30's of the past century, as well as its interior, create and maintain the society's interest for the winner of the Fatherland Award, poet that was not spoken of during the occupation years, writer and social worker Jānis Akuraters (1876-1937).

Today the writer's house is one of the cultural centres of the left bank of the River Daugava where, just as during the time of Jānis Akuraters, writers and artists, musicians and actors, as well as students in theatre groups gather.

Project activities:

1. Renewal of the building of Jānis Akuraters memorial museum upgrading the condition of existing exposition by construction of entrance unit in the semi-basement for museum visitors and new exposition spaces, improving the territory, reconstructing the building

itself and training the employees of State Real Estate (VNĪ) in execution of restoration work;

2. Exchange of experience with Lillehammer Museum Association of the Kingdom of the Norway and its special museums: museum-house of the writer Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson – Aulestad in Follebu and museum-house of the writer Sigrid Undset - Bjerkebæk in Lillehammer;

3. Development of new cultural services creating new museum programmes;

4. Project publicity, including creation of the booklet on the results of the Project and organizing of the workshop on the execution of reconstruction work in the buildings of memorial museums;

5. Project management.