



visits4u case studies:

Riga Motor Museum

Riga, Latvia

Riga Motor Museum

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Title: complete reconstruction of the Riga Motor museum premises and exhibition.



Becoming inclusive:

1. Description

The Riga Motor Museum roots are in the Antique Automobile Club of Latvia traditions, member enthusiasm and passion towards antique vehicles as an aesthetic value and part of cultural heritage. Through passion and dedication for these antique vehicles Riga Motor Museum was founded in 1989.

After major reconstructions that began in 2013, the museum has gained modernized exhibition space, a comfortable and enjoyable environment, as well as accessibility for all visitors.

The museum showcases more than one hundred unique antique vehicles and the collection is enriched with several significant acquisitions.

The new exhibition tells fascinating stories about unique vehicles, renowned individuals and important milestones that helped shape world's automotive history.

The Museum is arranged over three floors of a 4000 square metre area.

It is considered the largest in the Baltic and diverse collection of ancient craft, with more than 100 unique ancient cars and motorcycles, but the Museum's inventory is added to the increasingly significant acquisitions.



The Museum not only collects, saves, explores, restores and promotes the old vehicles, the Museum is also a creative place to learn. Here everyone, but especially children and young people can learn the rules of the road, auto, Moto, bike, shipbuilding history, as well as the development of engineering knowledge.



3. Description of steps taken, changes and progress

Long time ago it was a progressive building, built with Finnish technology and with the Finnish help, but before the reconstruction, that building looked like a metal box, which was very cold in winter and very hot in the summer, according to the Museum Director

The reconstruction of the Motor Museum building was needed because:

- It was necessary to change the communications systems;
- It was necessary to improve the conditions of the building and accessibility for all, including people with disabilities;
- It was necessary to improve the exhibitions.

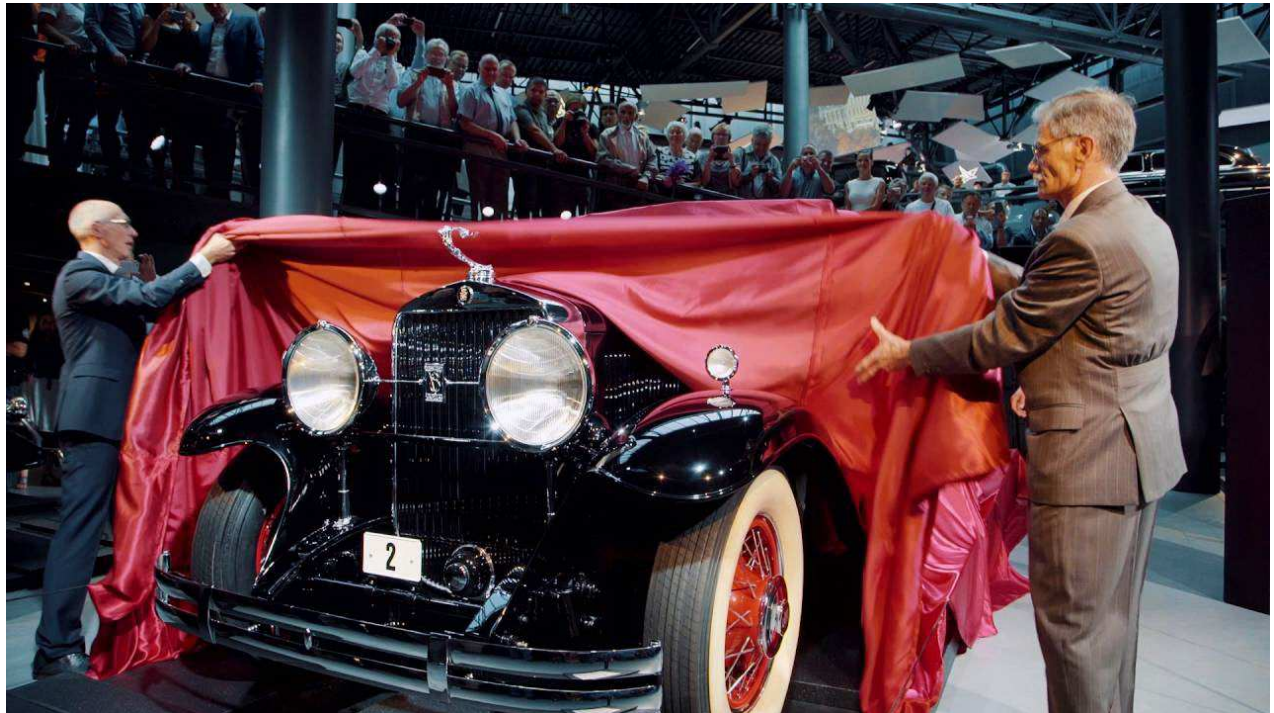
In April 2013 the reconstruction of the building of the Riga Motor Museum began. The works included:

- Rebuilding and creating a wider range of exhibition space;
- Ensuring the Museum's accessibility for people with disabilities
- Improving the energy efficiency of the buildings;
- Create a comfortable, modern entrance solution;

- Improve the flow of visitors to the Organization;

The project intended to maximize the historical form and design of the Riga Motor Museum.

It was intended that the museum could be opened after the reconstruction by the end of 2015, but it was only opened on July 2, 2016.



There were two important stages of the works:

- the phase during which the building was reconstructed;
- restoration of the museum exposition according with the project design. The restored exhibition had to become modern, interactive and competitive with European museums, in order to attract both local visitors and tourists.

After remarkable reconstruction, the museum's interior was completely rebuilt in accordance to modern requirements, becoming wider, better-quality exhibition spaces, a well-maintained and pleasant environment, as well accessibility was improved for every visitor, including people with disabilities.

Taking into account the fact that the Riga Motor Museum is the most ambitious project of this kind in Latvia, there were a lot of unknown things in the process of reconstruction. The absence of similar precedents in Latvia led to investing much more time in exploring and studying

examples of similar projects in the world, which did not always helped in museum situation, taking into account the uniqueness of the exhibition.



4. Main stakeholders / actors

Riga motor museum - the museum is under the authority of the Road Traffic Safety Directorate in Latvia.

The reconstruction project of the building was developed by SIA "Projektēšanas birojs ARHIS".

Reconstruction and construction works was carried out by SIA "Skonto būve".

The consultation on accessibility was held with the Organization of people with disabilities and their friends "Apeirons" and Liepaja Blind Society.

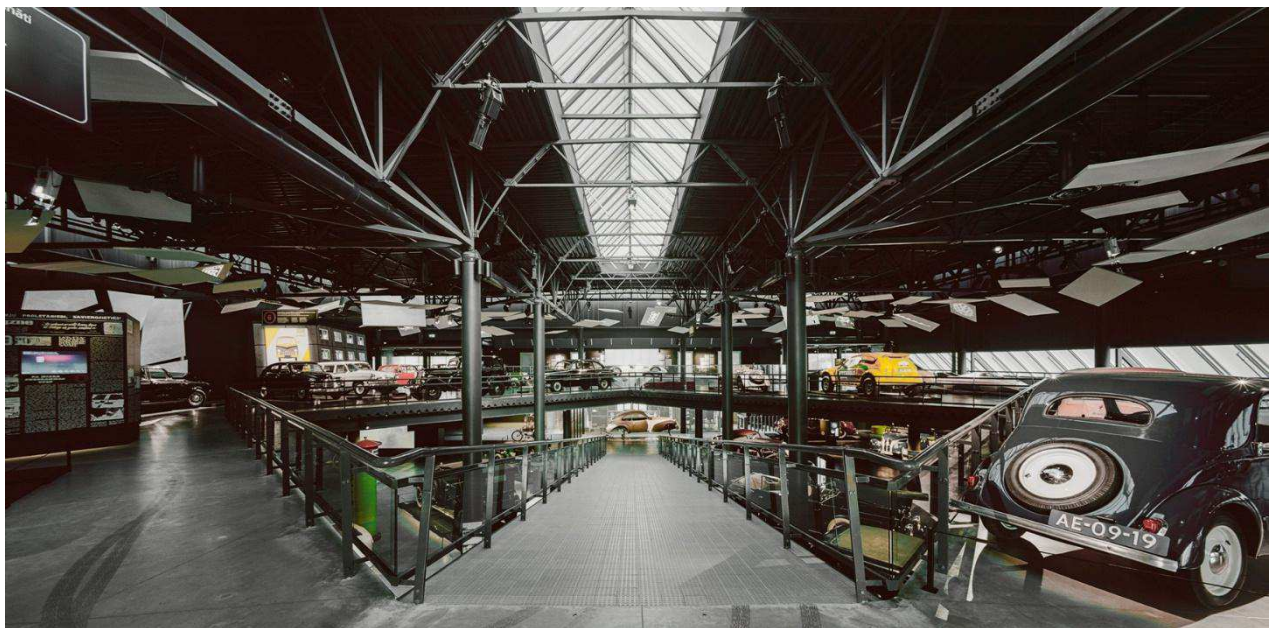
5. Costs of the changes

The initial contract for the reconstruction and construction of the new Riga Motor Museum was 9.89 million euros, but the cost of the project increased slightly - about 200 thousand euros. The total cost was 10.09 million euro.

Results and Impact

During the implementation of the museum's reconstruction project, attention was paid to the aspects of physical accessibility for visitors in the interior of the building, as well on information accessibility to everyone.

The Riga Motor Museum is accessible to people with disabilities. From the parking place to the museum entrance, wheelchair users can easily get in via the ramp. The museum has an automatically operated entrance door, and there is an elevator in the building, which provides easy access to all the floors and exhibits of the museum. Moving from the first to the second floor is possible by using a wheelchair accessible ramp but this ramp is quite steep.



The study carried out on July 1, 2016 shows that in the first five months of the museum, after the reconstruction 92,000 people have visited the museum.

Because of its interactive and accessibility and other features, the Riga Motor Museum won the award "the Golden Crutch" from the Organization of people with disabilities and their friends "Apeiron", it was recognized as the most humane building in 2016. Each year the award is given to buildings that meet all the requirements of accessibility.



Lessons learnt

By adapting the environment to people with disabilities, the environment becomes more accessible and comfortable not only for people with disabilities but for the entire society.

It is important to consult with professionals and users about accessible environment for people with disabilities, only through engagement and cooperation can good result be achieved.

Further information

Riga Motor Museum website:

www.motormuzejs.lv



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