

CALL FOR PAPERS

Introduction

The **Réseau Art Nouveau Network**, as a network of cities aiming to preserve, study and promote Art Nouveau at a European scale, organises a one-day symposium on September 5th 2014 on **“Consistency of inner and outer spaces in European Art Nouveau architecture”**.

In the framework of the project **Art Nouveau & Ecology** supported by the programme Culture 2007-2013 of the European Commission, a series of five labs and an international symposium are planned and organised by 14 European cities and regions: Ålesund (NO), Aveiro (PT), Bad Nauheim (DE), Barcelona (ES), Bruxelles-Brussel (BE), Glasgow (UK), Helsinki (FI), La Chaux-de-Fonds (CH), La Habana (CU), Ljubljana (SL), Nancy (FR), Regione Lombardia (IT), Rīga (LV) and Terrassa (ES).

The four first labs as well as the symposium have already studied the following topics:

The Art Nouveau Herbarium, June 2010 at the Museu Nacional de la Ciència i la Tècnica de Catalunya in Terrassa

The Perception of Art Nouveau, December 2010 at the Royal Museums of Art and History in Brussels

Tourism and the Preservation of Art Nouveau heritage: a source for funding... A Source of Problems?, June 2011 at the CX La Pedrera in Barcelona

Nature, Creativity and Production at the time of Art Nouveau, November 2011 at the Palazzo Lombardia in Milan

Raw materials and Art Nouveau, January 2013 at the Capitanía Building in Aveiro

Find all information about these lectures on the website www.artnouveau-net.eu, section 'network-colloquia'

Historical Lab 5

The fifth lab is organised by the Réseau Art Nouveau Network and the City of Rīga in the framework of the project Art Nouveau & Ecology

Date: **Friday 5 September 2014**

Venue: Rīga, Latvia

Topic

Title: **Consistency of inner and outer spaces in European Art Nouveau architecture**

Subject: This historical lab will deal with the innovative and creative methods used by the architects of the Art Nouveau movement to highlight the relation between the inside and outside parts of the buildings, where the facades act as an interface, functioning as a visual, structural and functional connection. This new approach is reflected in the fenestration of facades, the shaping of buildings, and arrangements of spaces between them, as well as the new approaches in creating built-up urban areas.

This inventiveness, combined with the will to offer better sanitary conditions in housing, results in the opening of the interiors to the gardens. Many projects of garden city type – a popular concept in Europe in the early 20th century, were achieved. The first garden cities Letchworth near London (1903) and Hellerau in Dresden (1906) provided a living space closely integrated into the surrounding greenery. From 1901, the garden city (or Willenkolonie) Mežaparks in Riga offered the possibility to live amidst nature – the buildings were directly built in a pine tree forest. In city centres, courtyards of apartment buildings became larger to improve insulation of inner spaces and started to be used as large inner gardens often visually connected to the street through wide openings. Around the same time, winter gardens also allowed this precious visual interaction with

the outside, first on the street side, and then at the back of the houses, on the garden sides. Thus inner and outer spaces became inseparable units.

Also in 1904 the essence of Art nouveau was formulated by the Latvian publicist and art critic Jānis Asars as follows: "...building is not to be constructed from outward to inward, as was done previously, when the only concern was a pompous façade, so that the arrangement of interior space is left to mere chance, but from inward to outward. The interiors must be entirely convenient and beautiful, and the exterior of the building must be adapted to them. From a viewpoint of genuine art, the interior, not the façade, must be the starting point for the construction of a building," (Asars, J. *Mākslas amatniecība* (Art Craftsmanship). *Kopoti raksti* (Collected Works). Rīga, 1910, Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 3).

The proposals may evoke these various aspects and take in account resulting architectural innovations, especially in the conception of building plans.

Practicalities

Your proposals for contribution, in French or English, should be written in the form of an abstract, of a maximum length of 20 lines per proposal, with a title and 5 images maximum, your full contact details (surname, name, institution and email address), as well as some biographic and bibliographic elements. The deadline for the call for papers is set on **10 March 2014** and the papers should be sent to the coordination office by email at info@artnouveau-net.eu.

N.B: all the lectures can deal with local heritage or open at a greater scale. The selection committee will select one key-note speaker, who will add a European point of view to the topic by mentioning various examples all over Europe.

On 18 March 2014, the selection committee composed with partners from Rīga, Ljubljana and Brussels will select the 10 lectures that will be given. The participants will receive a notification of their participation to the lab on May 1st 2014 at the latest. Each lecture will last between 20 and 30 minutes. The exact duration of each lecture will be announced by May 1st 2014, as well as the instructions for the proceedings publication, both on the network website and in a future printed publication.

N.B: only linguistically correct texts will be published. The texts must be necessarily re-read by an expert in the language chosen (French or English). The full text of the lecture should be submitted by **31 July 2014** and the Powerpoint presentations by **15 August 2014**.

The selected lecturers will be invited with all the partners of the network to take part in the Art Nouveau visit day organised by the City of Rīga on Saturday 6 September 2014 (still to be determined).

The lectures will be given in French, English or Latvian.
A simultaneous translation (French, English and Latvian) will be available.

For any additional information on this call, on Historical Lab 5 and the network actions: info@artnouveau-net.eu or www.artnouveau-net.eu.



Culture

