

Gunnar Birkerts, National Library of Latvia



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Reviews

Simply no words to spell out. It can be rally fascinating throgh studying period of time. You will not really feel monotony at at any moment of your own time (that's what catalogues are for concerning if you ask me).

(Dr. Isabella Turner)

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Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: Edition Axel Menges | The building of the National Library of Latvia is a landmark of the capital city of Riga, a spatial symbol and architectural icon, created by one of the 20th-century-renowned modernists the Latvian-born American architect Gunnar Birkerts. His metaphorically saturated and expressionist architecture has established its permanent place in the history of contemporary architecture. The unique creative style of Birkerts stems from his deep cultural roots in Latvia, his architectural studies in Germany after World War II and the first years of architectural practice in the USA learning from the Finnish architect Eero Saarinen and the Japanese architect Minoru Yamasaki. Birkerts was invited to Latvia to design the National Library as early as in 1988. Three years later, Latvia restored its independence and the formation of a new state delayed accomplishment of Birkerts ambitious idea for 25 years. The idea, the design and technology changed as changed the times becoming a symbol of a new and free state. Thanks to its content and concurrent processes for reestablishment of the national state the building acquired a symbolic and meaningful name: the "Castle of Light". In 1999, the idea for construction of the National Library of Latvia received the official UNESCO patronage and support, the design and construction of the building have been evaluated by a panel of prominent UNESCO experts. The pyramidal structure, which rises 68 meters high, is a place of cognition equipped with state-of-the-art technology where up to 8 million units of national printed materials can be stored. It has been the most significant investment in cultural infrastructure since the establishment of the Latvian state and is one of the largest cultural buildings in Northern Europe in the 21st century. The library can serve simultaneously 1,000 visitors. A 400-seat concert hall /auditorium and transformable meeting...



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