

# PALACE OF JUSTICE PROJECT

In 1936-1938, the Palace of Justice was built in Riga. The building's central part housed the highest judicial authority - the Senate of Latvia.

On 26 November 1940, the Senate of Latvia was liquidated by the Soviet regime and the Palace of Justice was taken over by the Council of Ministers of the LSSR and other Soviet institutions. The regional courts were also abolished, and the Riga Regional Court building housed the Supreme Court of the Latvian SSR during the Soviet years.

After the restoration of Latvia's independence, when the Senate and regional courts were established, the question of where to locate the courts was a pressing issue. It was decided that the former Riga Regional Court building at 34 Brīvības Boulevard should house the Regional Court. But the Supreme Court should look for other premises. The Supreme Court, together with the institute "Pilsētprojekts" ("City Project"), launched a call for project proposals for a new building. The architects, participating in the competition, created three sketches of the proposals that were considered the best. However, there were no funds in the state budget for this, and the courts had to be housed in existing buildings. The Supreme Court had to fight for the return to the Palace of Justice.

On 15 March 1993, at the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court a decision "On the Palace of Justice" was adopted, stating that the right of the Supreme Court to return to the Palace of Justice was legally, morally and historically justified. 23 April 1996 was an important day for the Supreme Court - it returned to the Palace of Justice at 36 Brīvības Boulevard, though not in the central part of the building, but only in its part facing Elizabetes Street. Nevertheless, that did not diminish the joy - the Supreme Court had returned home.

**The return of the Supreme Court to the Palace of Justice on 23 April 1996. Senators Rolands Krauze and Georgijs Kuzņecovs unveiling the entrance plaque of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Latvia**



MUZEJA  
LIETU  
STĀSTI

When the Supreme Court returned to the Palace of Justice, the father of the then President of the Supreme Court, Andris Gulāns, revealed that during the Soviet years he had unknowingly bought and used a pocket wallet with a picture of the Palace of Justice (yet with "Council of Ministers of the LSSR" written on it). As if he had felt that his son would one day work in the building as the President of the Supreme Court. This wallet is now kept in the Supreme Court Museum.



## DESIGN SKETCHES OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING

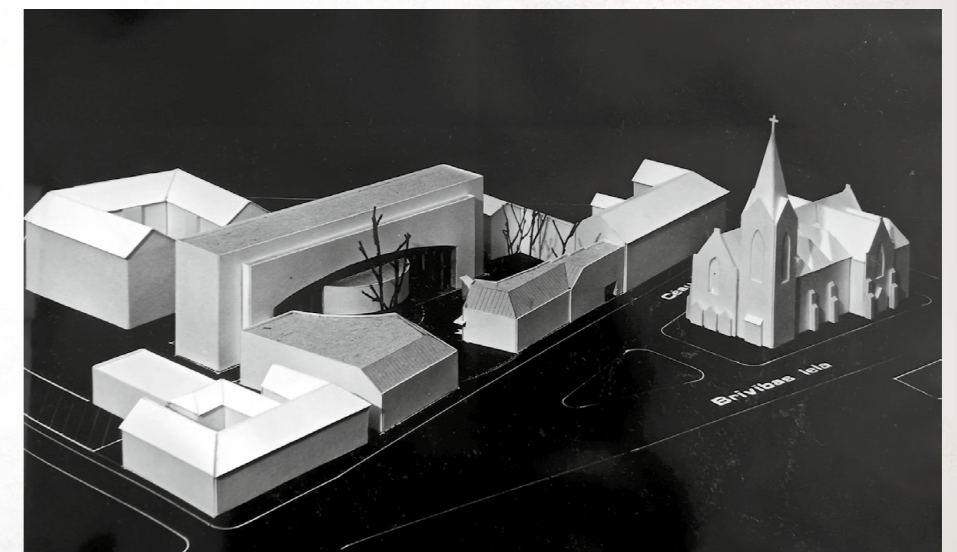
The Supreme Court Museum holds design sketches for a new court building, which were commissioned by the Supreme Court in 1991 and designed by "Arhitekta J. Gertmaņa birojs" SIA. The authors were architects J. Gertmanis and M. Dakteris, the general designer - institute "Pilsētprojekts".



**Version 1 (considered the best): a district amid Slokas, Bezdelīgu, Daugavgrīvas and Mārtiņa Streets**



**Version 2: the Republic Square near V. Lāča, Citadeles and Miķeļa Streets**



**Version 3: the corner of Cēsu and Tallinas Streets opposite the St. Gertrude New Church**