

Vilnius

PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE IN HISTORICAL CENTER OF RIGA 1995 - 2015

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Dr.arch.

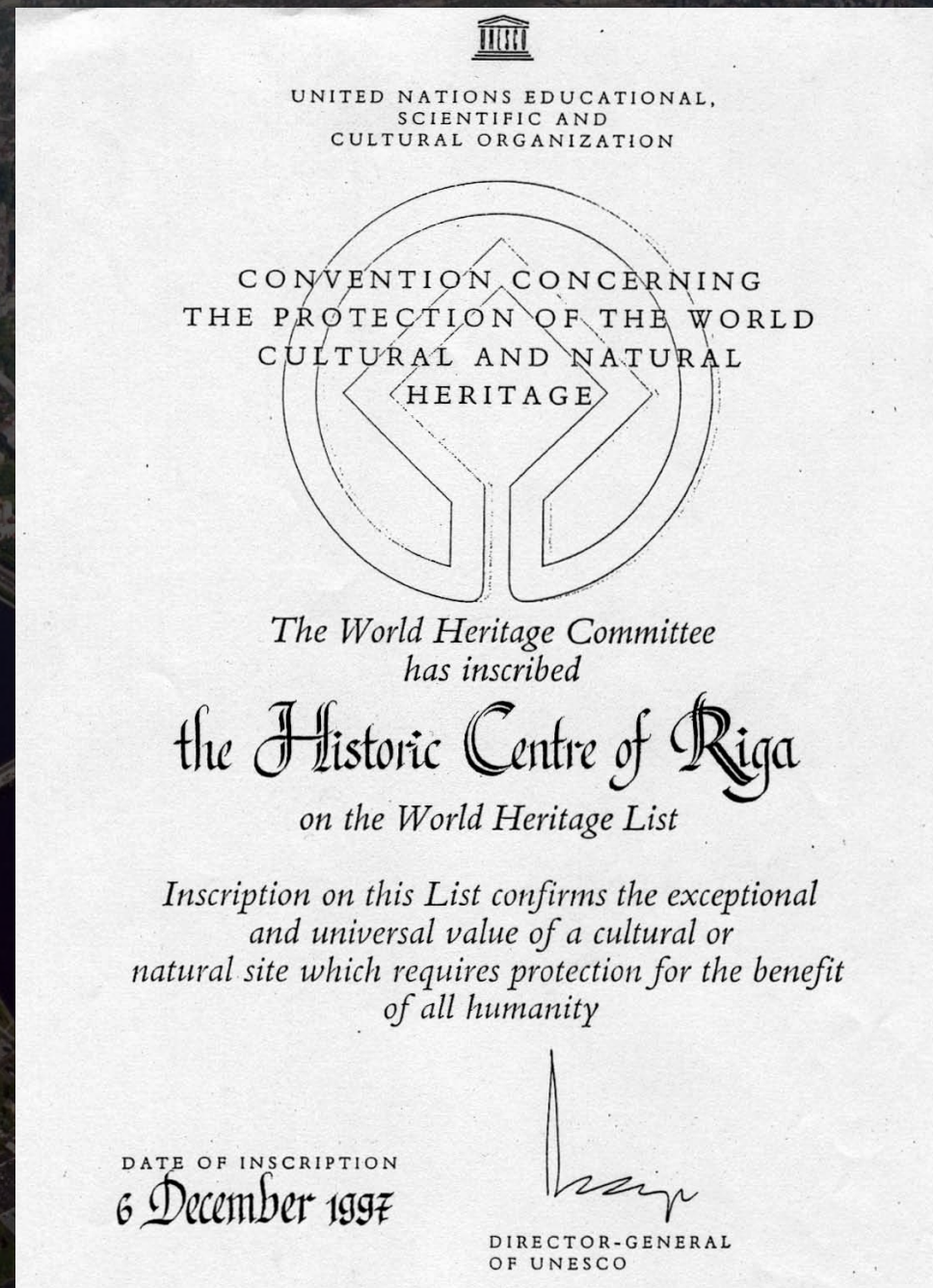
Head of the State inspection for heritage protection

04.11.2014.





The Historic centre of Riga was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list on 6 of December 1997 as a unique masterpiece, formed by medieval and later urban structure, density and quality of Art Nouveau and 19th century wooden architecture.





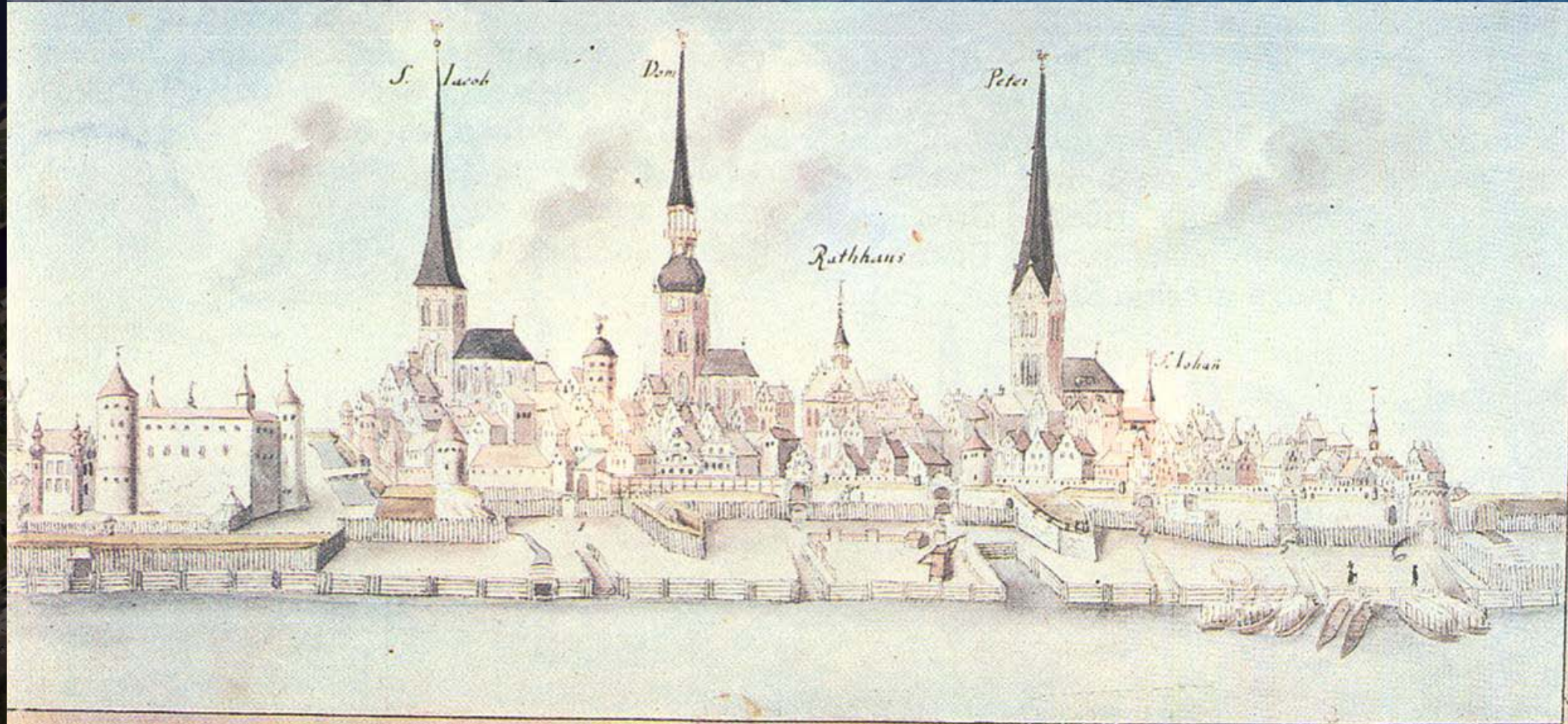
The site territory covers 438 hectares and it is 1,4% of the city area containing more than 4500 buildings. The buffer zone territory forms 6.5% of total city area and its 1574 hectares.

The values of the Historic centre of Riga are:

town planning structure, system of building principles,
city's relation with natural environment



panorama and silhouette of the Old Riga



historical buildings



medieval architecture



ART-NOUVEAU ARCHITECTURE



19TH CENTURY WOODEN ARCHITECTURE



OPEN PUBLIC SPACE - GREEN AREA, PARKS, SQUARES, GARDENS, HISTORICAL WATERCOURSES



During the inscription process for the historic centre of Riga a programme of specific measures was developed /Development plan 1995.- 2005. and programm of activities/



In 2000 and 2001 under significant economic pressure, the municipality accepted several projects that conflicted with the principles of heritage protection.



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Riga, showing a river winding through the urban landscape. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the river is a prominent feature. The image is used as a background for the text.

The main problems caused mainly by economic pressure are:

- Collocation of the transport attracted buildings in the city centre disregarding the eventual consequences.
- Demolishing of buildings with the purpose to obtain empty spaces for construction of parking places instead of new buildings.
- Demolishing historical buildings, motivating that it is easier and cheaper to build up a new one than to renovate the historical buildings.
- Construction of big supermarkets that endangers the existance of small shops in the historical buildings thus ruining essential income resource for preservation of these buildings.
- New built constructions that due to their spectrum do not correspond to the character of the Historic Center of Riga.

The main problems caused mainly by economic pressure are:

- Attempts to build up public open space, green zones as well as places where historically there has been constructions, but which have transformed into public acknowledged qualitative open space.
- Renovation of historic buildings by using inappropriate contemporary materials and wares, low-grade complements of buildings;
- Alteration of mansards and attics in the historical buildings changing their volume.
- In order to gain immediate profits, construction activities become excessive, cheap and fast, usually resulting in buildings bigger than the specific site characteristics would normally support or structures located in unsuitable places.
- Demolishing of historical industrial buildings due to lack of awareness and respect.
- Changing the original elements of the buildings to the modern ones (plastic windows, doors etc.) and losing the authenticity.

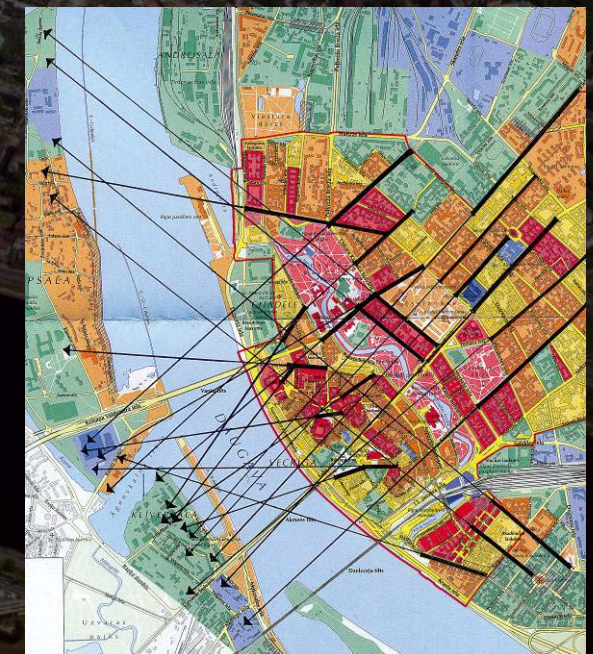
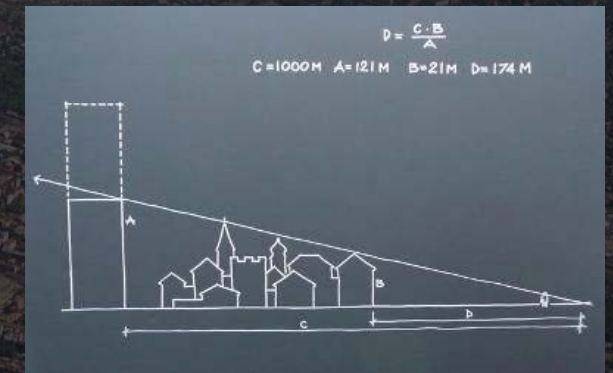
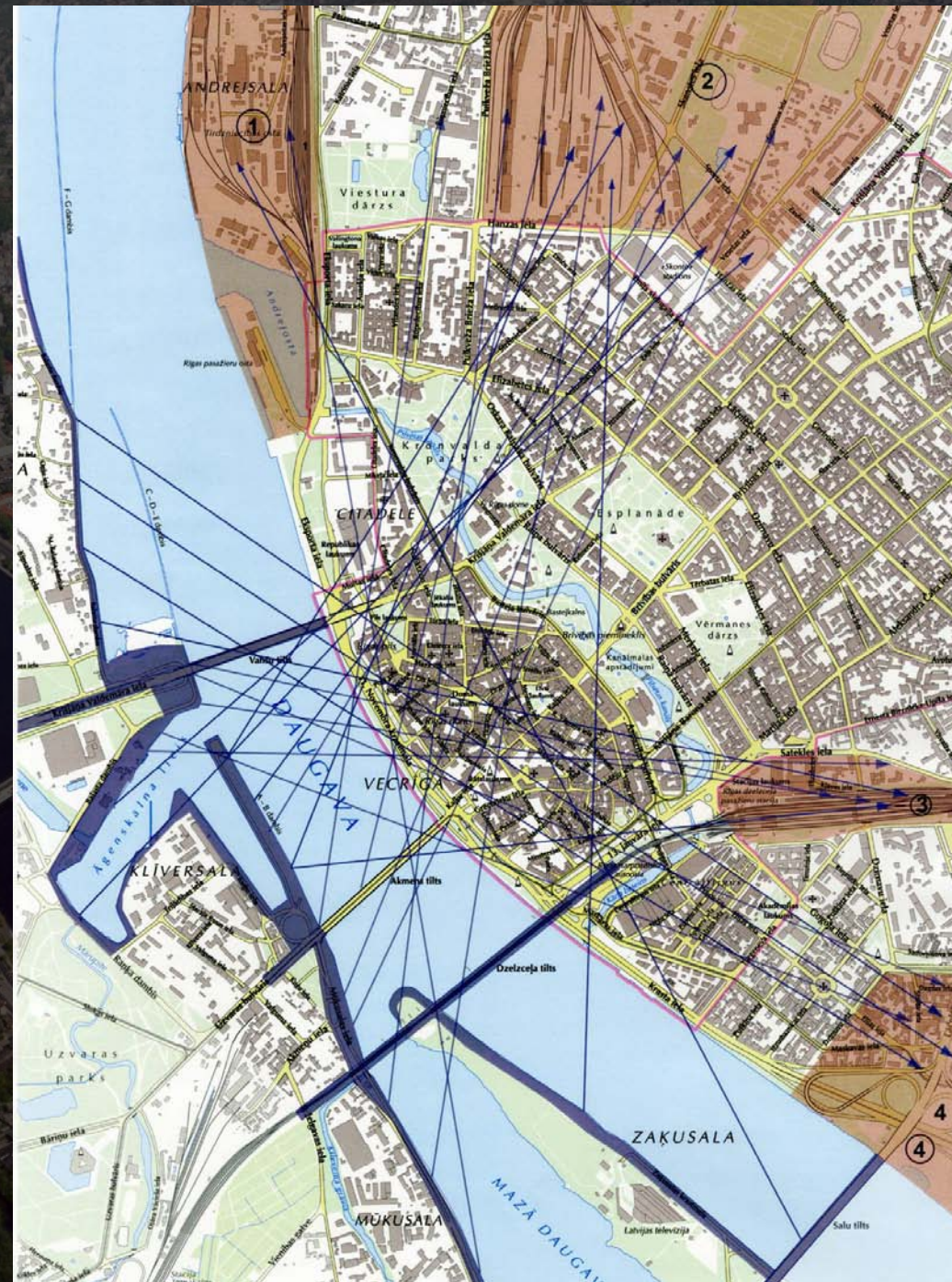
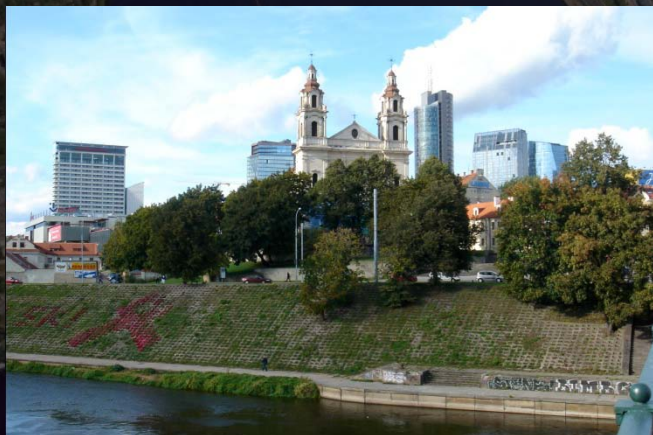
The historical center of Riga was threatened



The State Inspection for Heritage Protection together with non-governmental organizations launched a mass media campaign, asked the municipality to hasten the production of the preservation and development plan for the site

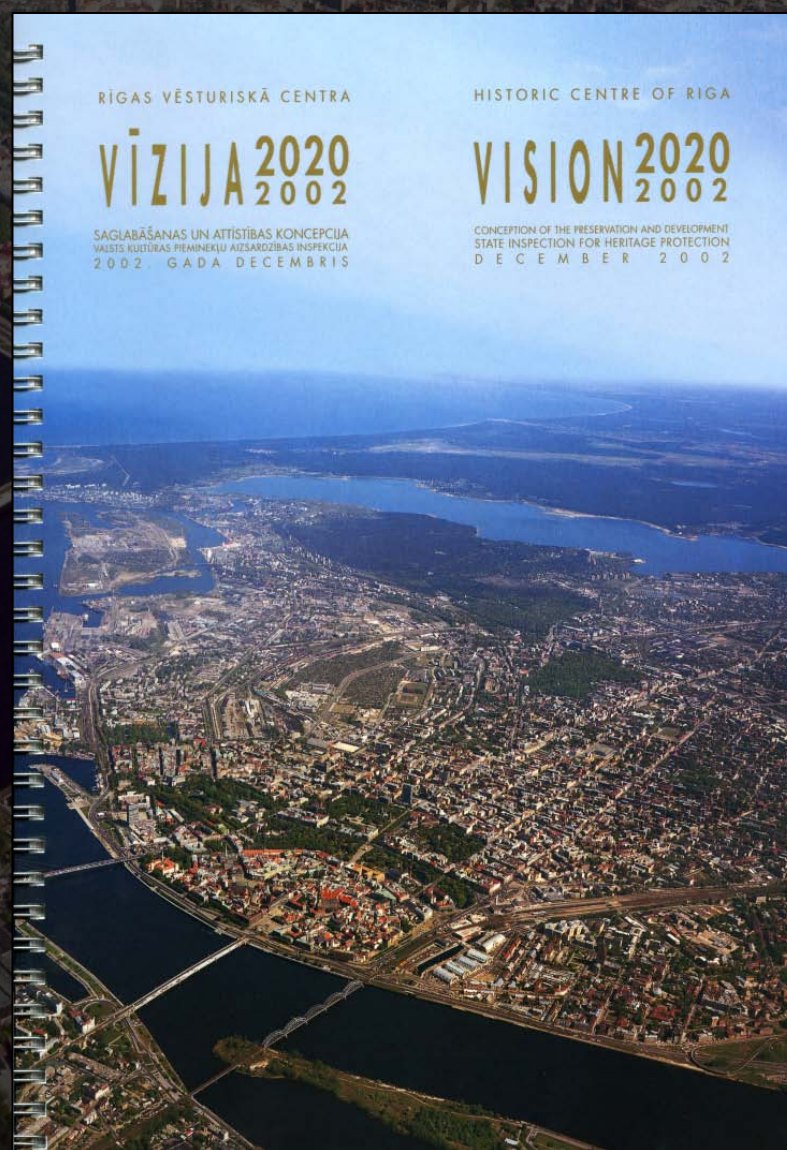


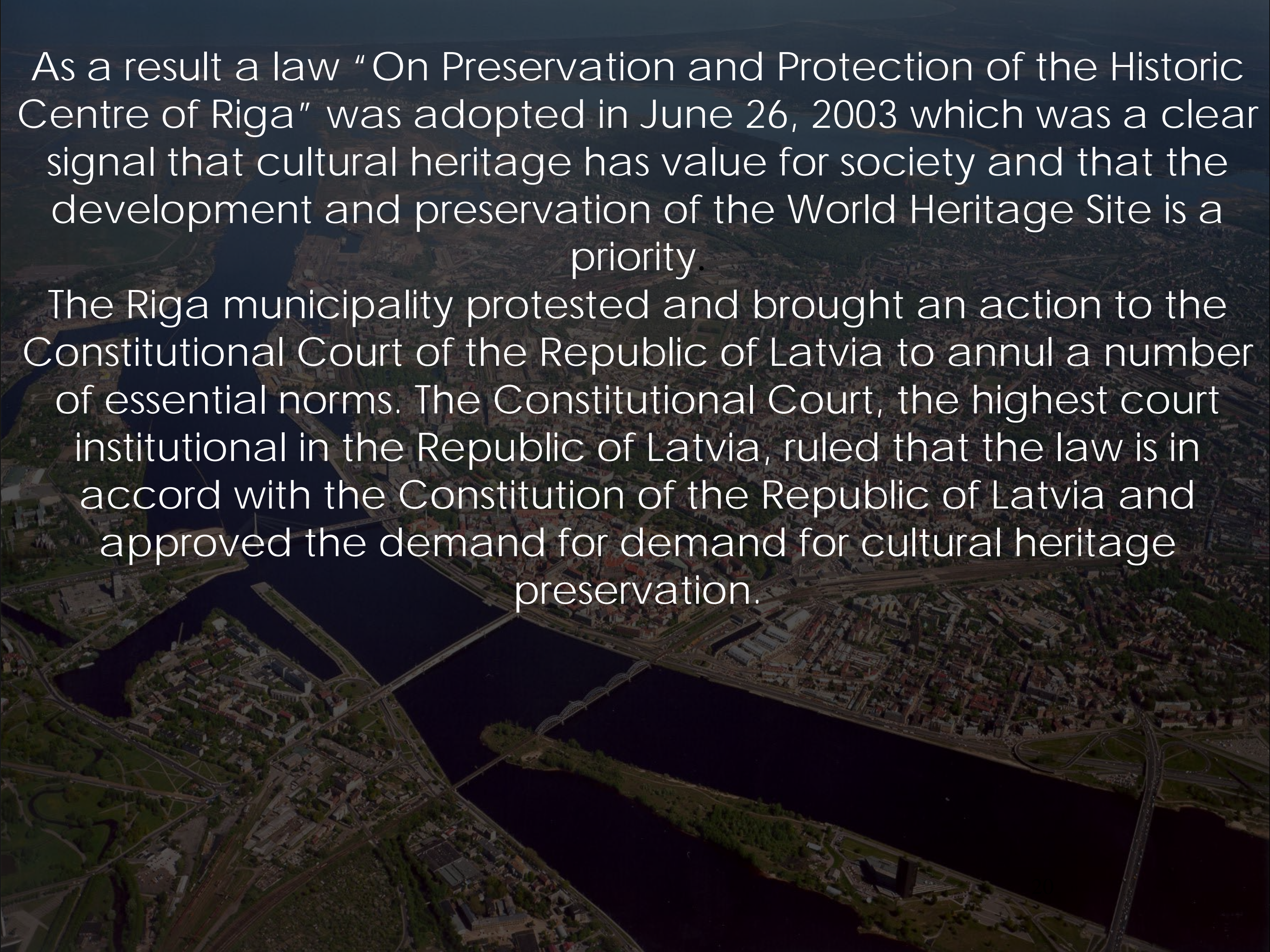
In spite of this, the municipality of Riga gave permission for construction of a tall building in Kipsala, in the buffer zone of site, without agreement from the Inspection and without consideration of existing planning guidance. Comparison with Vilnius and Tallinn.



The Inspection produced a document outlining the heritage values of the site and the development concept "Vision 2020" and its revised version "Vision 2020/2002" and asked the parliament and government to adopt a special law for the protection of the World Heritage site

A GOOD IDEA IS THE MORE IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPMENT
AS THE MONEY





As a result a law "On Preservation and Protection of the Historic Centre of Riga" was adopted in June 26, 2003 which was a clear signal that cultural heritage has value for society and that the development and preservation of the World Heritage Site is a priority.

The Riga municipality protested and brought an action to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia to annul a number of essential norms. The Constitutional Court, the highest court institutional in the Republic of Latvia, ruled that the law is in accord with the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia and approved the demand for demand for cultural heritage preservation.

THE PLANNING IN THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF RIGA AND NORMATIVE ACTS

Elaborated "Vision 2002-2020" by the State Inspection for Heritage protection.

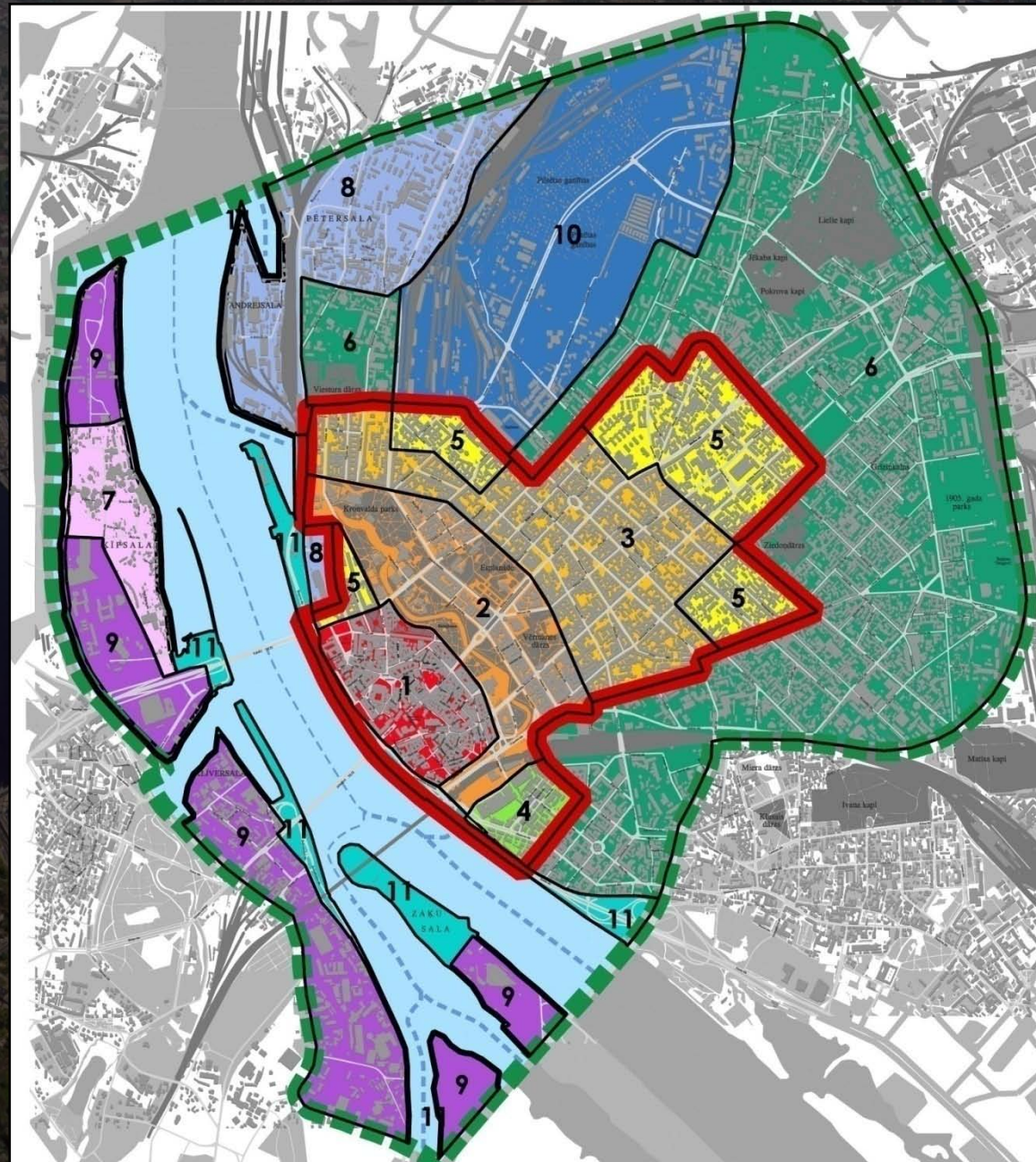
Adopted Law on Preservation and Protection of the Historic Centre of Riga in 2003.

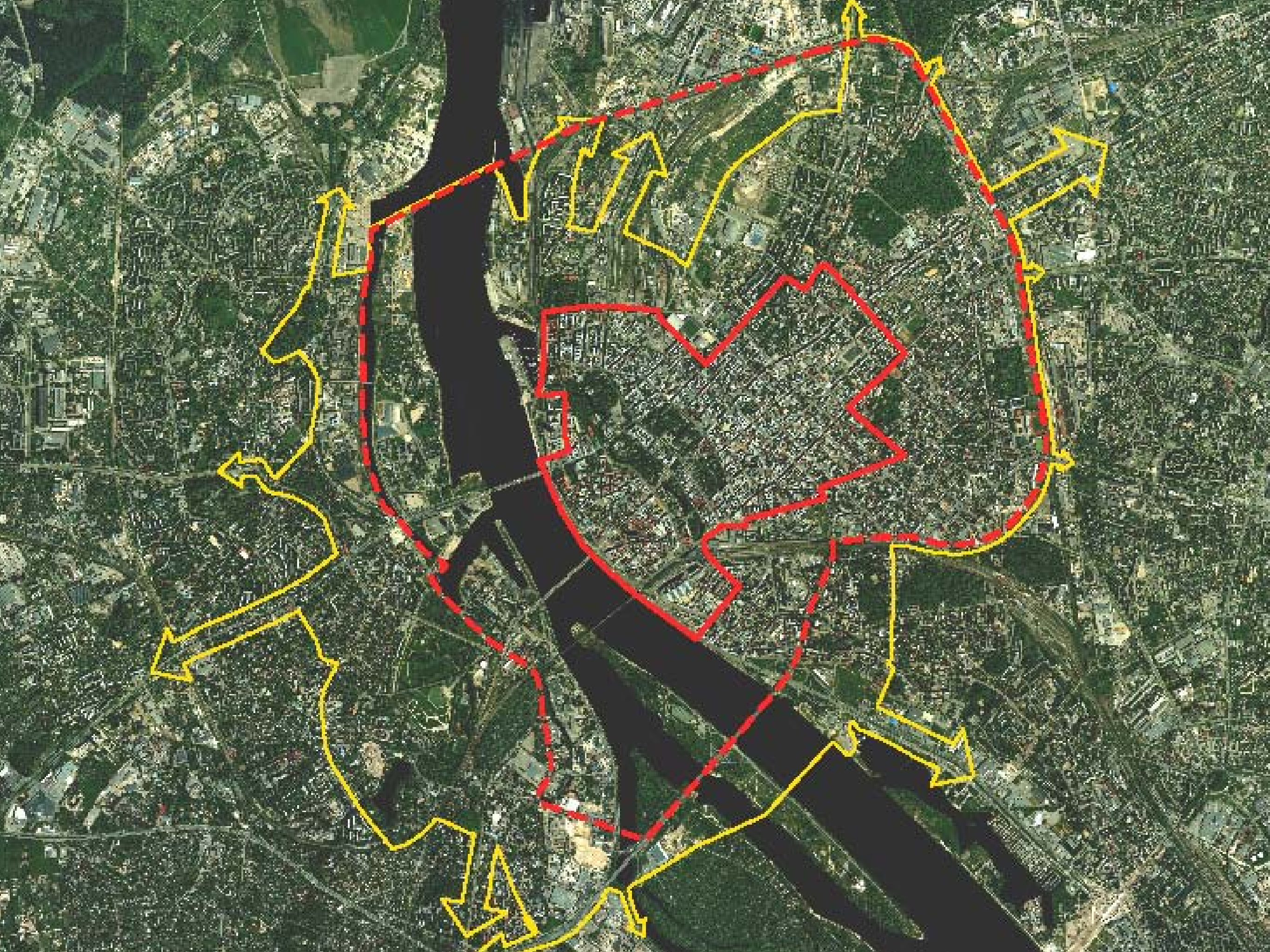
Established the Council for Preservation and development of the Historic Centre of Riga in 2003.

Adopted Regulations Nr. 127 of the Cabinet of Ministers "Preservation and protection regulations of the Historic Centre of Riga " in 2004.

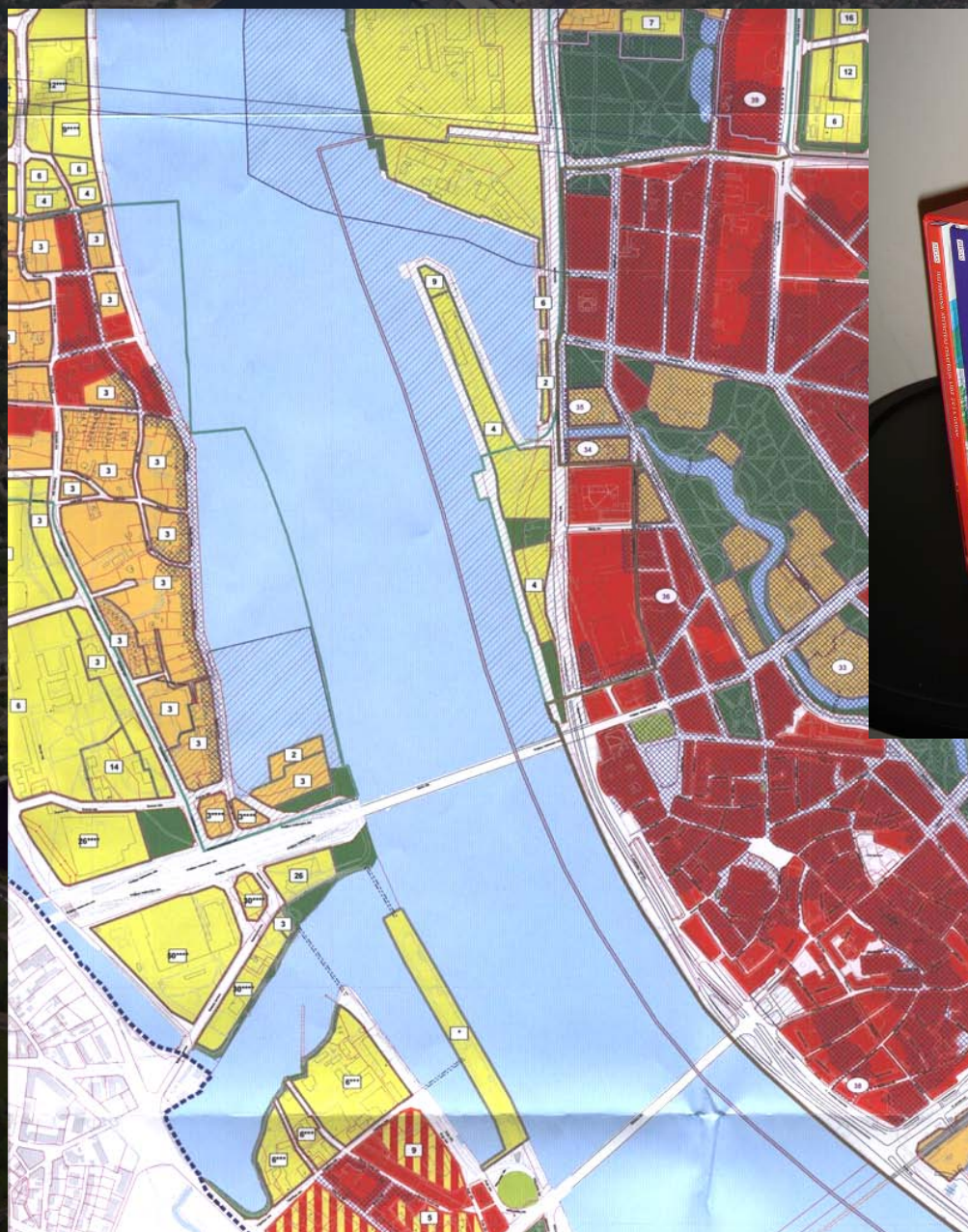
Adopted the Preservation and Development Plan of the historic centre of Riga in 2006 by the Riga City Council.

VALUE OF THE PARTS OF THE CITY CENTRE

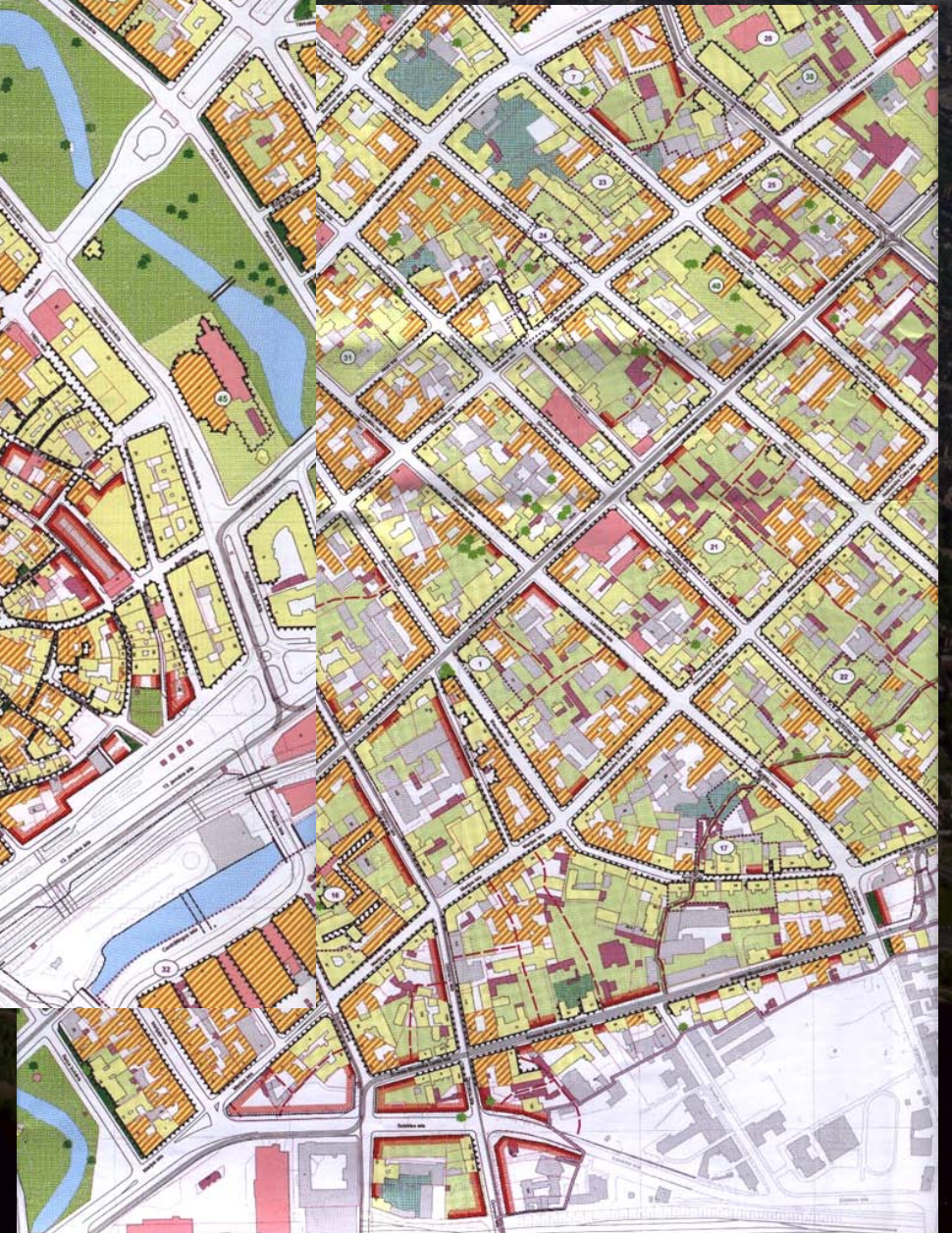
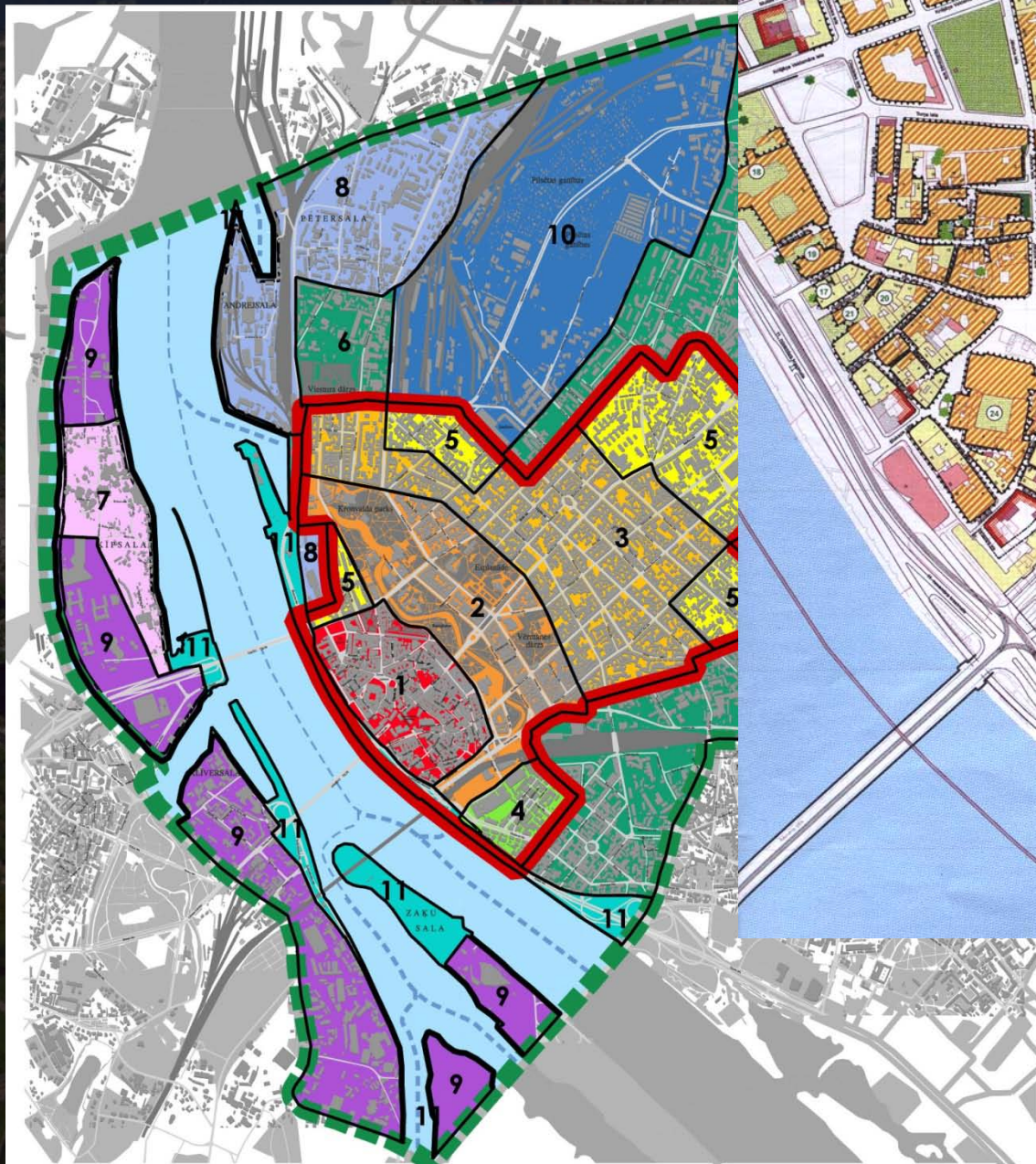




RĪGAS ATTĪSTĪBAS PLĀNS 2006.-2018. GADAM



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THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RIGA



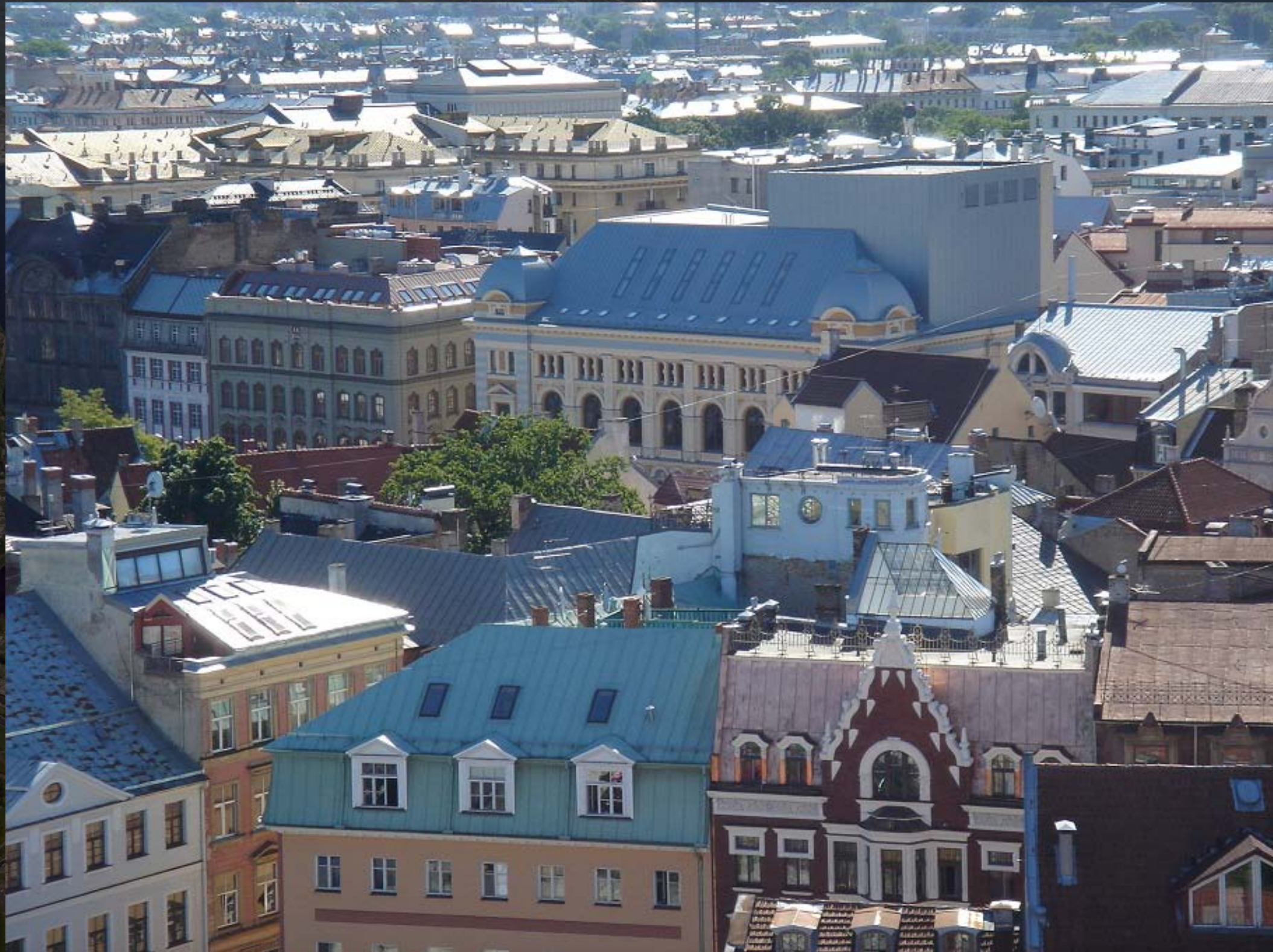
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EXPECTED CHANGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RIGA



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POSITIVE CHANGES:

Improvement of observance of the legislation.

The city environment is becoming more arranged.

Historical buildings obtain new owners and are being used.

Better materials are used in renovation and restoration of historical buildings.

Better lightening up of public space.

Planning of city development has been started.

Wider range of architects working in designing new buildings within the Historic Centre of Riga (competition principle).

More efficient decision making.

Integrated state and municipal position in issues concerning heritage preservation.

More funding ensured by owners for creating quality living space.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT



EVERY WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS THE VALUE FOR THE WHOLE SOCIETY – THEREFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE CHOICE OF THE MOST CONVIENIENT PRESERVATION SOLUTIONS



THE QUALITY OF ARCHITECTURE CAN ARISE WHERE IT IS EXPECTED!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

