A photograph of a stone archway with an ornate wrought-iron gate. The gate is set within a stone wall. In the background, a manor house with a red roof is visible. A street lamp stands to the right of the gate. The scene is set in a park-like area with trees and a clear sky.

Cultural heritage aspects in Pakruojis manor house area development

Simona Lipskytė, Assistant of the Mayor of Pakruojis District
Municipality

The most attractive tourism place in Lithuania, 2017

- **Pakruojis Manor has been announced the Destination of Excellence of Lithuanian Cultural Tourism 2017**
- Lithuania has participated in the project initiated by the European Commission EDEN (European Destinations of Excellence) since 2008 and has submitted applications for partial funding. Each time the European Commission announces a different topic for choosing the most attractive tourism destination. 2017 the subject was cultural tourism and among the project participants there were such European countries like Malta, Croatia, Spain, France, Ireland, Finland, Belgium, etc.
- "Pakruojis Manor is not only a pearl of local tourism but also has real potential to attract the interest of Europe. Symbolically, Lithuania has 7 UNESCO objects, and from now on it will have 7 EDEN destinations. It would be desirable to have them as baits for tourists who want to know about Lithuania as about an attractive country for travelling more.," Indrė Trakimaitė-Šeškuvienė, head of the Tourism Department.

Pakruojis Manor



It is the largest remaining complex of manor buildings in the country.

History of the Manor

- Pakruojis Manor has been first mentioned in written sources in 1531. The establisher and the first owner of the manor was the steward of Rietavas M. Vakavicius. Later, the manor was ruled by V. Martinavicius, A. Koleckis, S. Juskevicius, the noblemen Zabielos, the Munsters. When Wilhelm von der Ropp married the countess Alexandra Munster in 1786, the manor as a dowry became the property of von der Ropp family.
- Pakruojis Manor has been owned and ruled by several Ropp generations: Theodor (1783-1852), Hermann (1810-1890), Leon (1860-1940), Julius (1910-1944).

The first manor buildings were wooden. Masonry ensemble of the manor palace was built in 1817-1840 from local building materials. Manor was developed until 1890. Wilhelm von der Ropp started the construction of the manor, later premises have been designed and constructed by T. von der Ropp. Large manor park of the English style has been planted in 1835 – 1840.



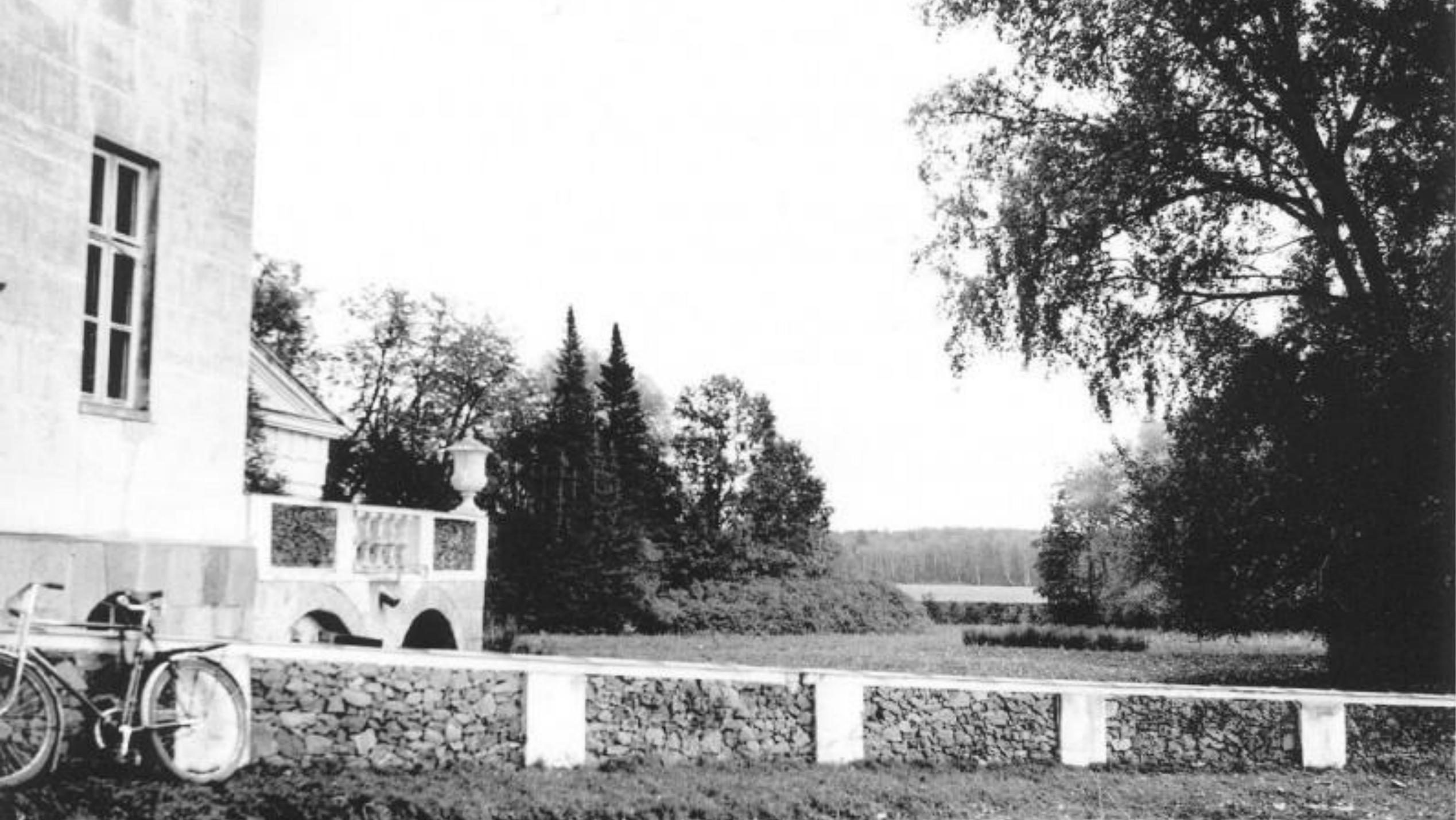
- The main accent of the ensemble – an ornate two-storeyed palace with a portico and dorenic columns, pilasters, capitals, arches and vases at the balcony corners. Roofs were tiled, premises had furnace and fireplace heating.
- There were lots of art treasures at the manor. The fine art collection of painting, graphics and sculpture was exceptionally interesting and rare. The initiator of this collection was Theodor von der Ropp, who travelled across France, Italy, Spain and brought back many works of art of the Italian, Dutch, French artists. The collection expanded constantly, has been traded and travelled around Ropp manors in Lithuania and Latvia. There are only several works known that have been sold and came to public collections in Germany and Italy. After the nationalization in 1940, 19 paintings of the collection entered M. K. Čiurlionis National museum of art, 1 painting and 2 sculptures – Šiauliai „Aušros“ museum.



- There were small warehouse, stables and ice-cellar by the manor palace. The western complex consisted of brewery, dairy and piggery premises, eastern – a barn and residential blocks, southern – two garner. Manor outbuildings were located behind the pond. There were smithy, inn and windmill, separated from the central manor palace by a large park, as well as the Arch bridge, that has become the symbol of Pakruojis, dam of the river Kruoja and water mill, built of stone and dolomite.











- Manor owners managed about 6500 dessiatines of land. The commodity economy, which gave a lot of income, has been developing ever since the time of Baron Wilhelm von der Ropp. Manor pharmacy was established in 1866, which served 3956 residents. There was also a hospital having twelve beds. The exemplary credit association was managed by Baron L. von der Ropp in 1897 in Pakruojis. There were also a manor brewery and steam mill in 1909. After the First World War Pakruojis estate was the exemplary economy, known for its industrial cattle breeding.
- After the land reform in 1922, Ropp's economy has decreased: they had the centre of the estate and 300 ha of land. The estate had land reclamation. Animal husbandry, as well as gardening and beekeeping has been developing further. Julius von der Ropp inherited the estate under a will in 1940. The German repatriation headquarters had been founded at the estate. In 1944 J. von der Ropp together with war refugees departed to the West and, supposedly, was killed, because nothing is known about his destiny.
- After the war, the Soviet economy was founded in Pakruojis estate. The manor palace was renovated in 1959. There was an agricultural technical school until 1979, later- an agricultural personnel training school.

Rental agreement was sign in 2009. Pakruojis District municipality rent Pakruojis manor for private company which committed take care of manor, all area and all tourism in manor.

After 2009 we have project cooperation between municipality and private company.

Pakruojis manor house is used by locals, communities and non-governmental organizations, but it is also used for business and tourism.

Currently Pakruojis manor homestead is mostly visited as a museum under open sky. Visitors can admire manor interior, examine buildings, and listen to the concerts given there.

Restoration of Pakruojis Manor

Pakruojis Manor is the biggest Manor in all Lithuania with 43 buildings, territory is almost 50 hectares.

Number of projects – 6 (5 implemented, 1 – not finished)

Total projects' value	9,04 mln. Euro
EU and Norwegian funds	4,4 mln. Euro
State budget funds	1,54 mln. Euro
Municipality budget funds	3,1 mln. Euro





















- Pakruojis manor house is included in Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Register and till these days are the biggest in our country. Because of manor size and uniqueness restorers done amazing work. All renovation was doing take account style, old photos and documents.
- Old buildings were renovated or rebuild comply with heritage conservation requirements, but in manor we have all communications and new technologies also.
- Wonderful events and festivals which take place in Pakruojis Manor these days are unique in all Europe. Pakruojis district municipality and private company projects and ideas giving new chances for Pakruojis Manor. Come and see!

