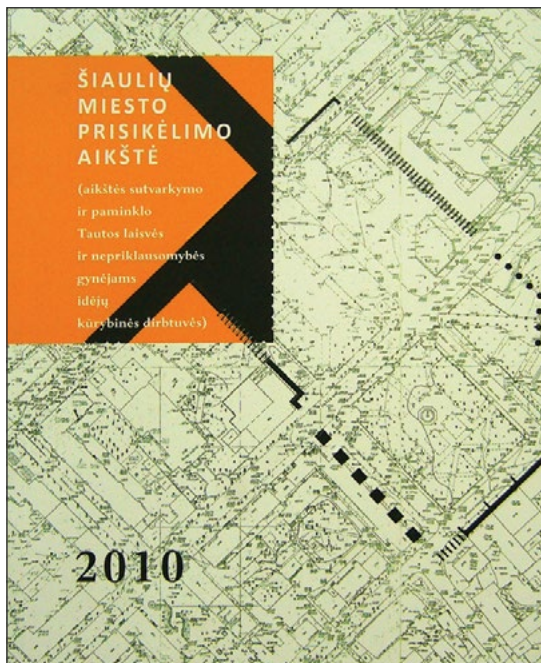


Prisikėlimo (Revival) Square Development Competition in Šiauliai

(A Workshop on Generating Ideas for Rearranging the Square and Building a Monument to the Freedom and Independence Fighters)

Kaunas: Kitos knygos, 2010.



The publication focuses on the main square rearrangement workshop that took place from March 11 to March 13, 2010 at the town of Šiauliai. The workshop involved ten collectives that generated ideas for urban planning and architecture, whose goal was to rearrange the major public space of the town. The publication presents the results of their work, including a wider context for their creative ideas.

The town of Šiauliai is quite well-known in the context of shaping the public spaces. It is Lithuania's fourth largest city that became famous as early as in 1977, when architects V. Taujanskienė and V. Purnas designed a pedestrian gallery at Vilniaus street, which was the first project of that kind in Lithuania. In 1985, A. Vyšniūnas made another considerable effort to develop a public space: he designed a project for a detailed plan of the central part of the town. In 1998, A. Černiauskas, V. Rudokas and A. Vyšniūnas made an equivalent project for a detailed plan of the Prisikėlimo (Revival) square. As the epicentre of the public space, the town square has developed quite strong visual and functional relations with other elements of the cultural framework of Šiauliai that make up a system of public spaces. From the West, the public space system connects to the Central park of the town via Dvarvietė (the Estate) and Didždvaris (the Higher Estate). From the South East, it connects to the banks of Talša lake and the Old cemetery of the town. However, most of the places next to the square are urban deformations: the largest part of developments in the neighbourhood structure date back to the after-war period, while their scale and proportions make an obvious dissonance to the historical developments. The character of the major public space in Šiauliai has suffered from the changes in the growth of the town, marked by the demolitions made in the times of World War I and II, as well as from the scale of transformations made in the period of modernism projects. Therefore, the major formants of Prisikėlimo square are St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Tilžės street (as a fragment of the former Rygos-Tilžės tract) and the group of buildings at Municipality square. In speaking about the functioning of Prisikėlimo square today, the main accent is the lack of hustle and bustle of urban life, as well as of natural variety of life forms. Finally, it is symbolical that the workshop on rearranging Prisikėlimo square coincided with celebrating the twenty years of independence of Lithuania.