CONCEPTUAL PRINCIPLES OF THE PLANNING OF MODERN LIBRARIES

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Today the character of activities and architectural solutions of traditional Lithuanian libraries does not answer the needs of modern information society.
In 2002 the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture has approved the

“Library renovation and modernization plan for 2003 – 2013”
The sociological research on main factors influencing library architecture solutions for development of conceptual principles of modern library buildings has been made by the Department of Architecture at the Kaunas University of Technology.
There have been presented four blocks of questions:

- The evaluation of the library’s surrounding,
- The evaluation of the library’s interior,
- The evaluation of the library’s technologies and functions,
- What has the modern library to be?
The analysis has been made from the total of 2500 answered questionnaires. The biggest part (2400) of the answers belongs to library users and only 100 to the staff.
Summarizing their answers to the needs, a new type of library fully equipped with the modern information technology, where the part of the library building should be designed to the cultural and social activity of the library users should be built.
Today we have to develop a new multifunctional type of library of the flexible model where one third of the library space should be assigned for the additional social and cultural activity.
The process of planning library buildings is integrated area of intersection of architecture and library sciences. Library architecture combines some factors of these spheres
Integrated factors of today’s libraries are:

- library functions,
- library technologies,
- information media.
Integrated architectural factors - planned-spatial solutions
Most bulks of modern library buildings are massive, monumental, in most cases their forms are simple rectangular prisms, facades are smooth, clear and strict, much glass.
Some principles of modern library’s activity and its architectural solutions
Modern public library has to be of multifunctional type
Storages of documents 20 – 25 %

Premises of user services 25 – 30 %

Premises for staff 5 – 10 %

Premises for traditional library’s activity 50 – 65 %

Premises for municipal department of Culture

Café

Bookstore

Art studio

Premises for social and cultural activity 20 – 35 %

Premises for language courses

Premises for sport

Premises for computer courses

Premises for business courses

Conference hall

Premises for amateur

Auxiliary premises (lobbies, lavatories, locker-rooms) 10 – 20 %
Modern public library has to be comfortable

Modern library has to exist in harmony with natural and urban environment

All architectural solutions of modern library has to express the image of library
Planning of building has to be flexible, simple in general plan.

It is advisable to design an internal garden in the middle of a building.

It is advisable to locate the storages on the underground floors.
Application of main conceptual principles in the pilot project
This pilot project - planning of modern regional public library in Pilaite residential area of Vilnius city
Total area of each floor is 1200 m², with total library’s area of 6 000 m², 4 over ground and one underground floors.