

Interior of 1930s and *Art Deco* in Latvia

The 1920s-1930s in Europe and the USA are closely linked with *Art Deco* style. Origins of the style and term are to be found in France. International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts, held in Paris in 1925, gave the term, which from the mid 1960s was started to be used as the attribute of the style of art. *Art Deco* – abbreviation from *Les Arts Décoratifs* (in French – decorative art) became a vivid artistic form of expression in architecture and other arts – especially, in applied decorative art. *Art Deco* style influenced the creation of public and private interiors, industrial design, fashion trends of costumes and accessories, types of forms of daily household items. Often this style was called the style of the way of life.

Constructive and rational forms, stylization and refined decorativeness, contrastingly vivid colourfulness characterises *Art Deco* style in arts and design. Characteristic was the use of industrial motifs, such as the curved chrome-plated metal bars in the lighting design. Geometric shapes, exotic and expensive timber materials for veneering, new synthetic materials used as furniture decors, were common trends of the furniture design.

During the interwar period the *Art Deco* undeniably influenced design in Latvia. For the first time the museum displays a reconstruction of a modern city flat living room of the 1930s. Seating set – sofa and two armchairs – is made, presumably, in Rīga in 1930s. By form they are typical examples of *Art Deco* design of that time and simultaneously show the high quality of the local furniture. Also the servant has been produced in one of the local furniture workshops which could offer the excellent walnut veneer. Porcelain figurines, decorative glass vases, fruit tray, produced in Iļģuciems glass factory in Rīga, and other objects of applied arts, typical for Latvia in 1930s, give an insight of the taste of that time.