

Did you know that trees and humans entered the territory of Latvia almost simultaneously - 12,000 years ago, soon after the end of the last Ice Age? Since then, fundamental changes have taken place in all areas, but the coexistence of people and wood has been remarkably enduring. Thus, the history of our land and society can be read through our relationship with wood and forests.

In the five sections of the exhibition, we share the stories about the most ancient wooden objects made in Latvia, the importance of wood in medieval trade and the various uses of wood in farmers' homesteads. The insight into the rapid development of the wood industry and history of Riga's gardens and parks will introduce you to the contradictory impacts of the industrial era. Additionally, the interactive balance circle will help you discover your contribution to maintaining the delicate equilibrium between the use and conservation of wood.

Follow the news and events about the exhibition on our website and social networks!

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### National History Museum of Latvia

Brīvības bulvāris 32, Rīga  
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### Opening hours:

Tuesday-Sunday  
10:00-17:00

June, July, August:

Tuesday  
11:00-19:00

Exhibition

# Moses, Oars, and the Radio.

Wood in the History of Latvia

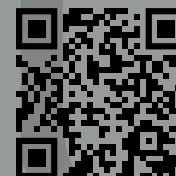
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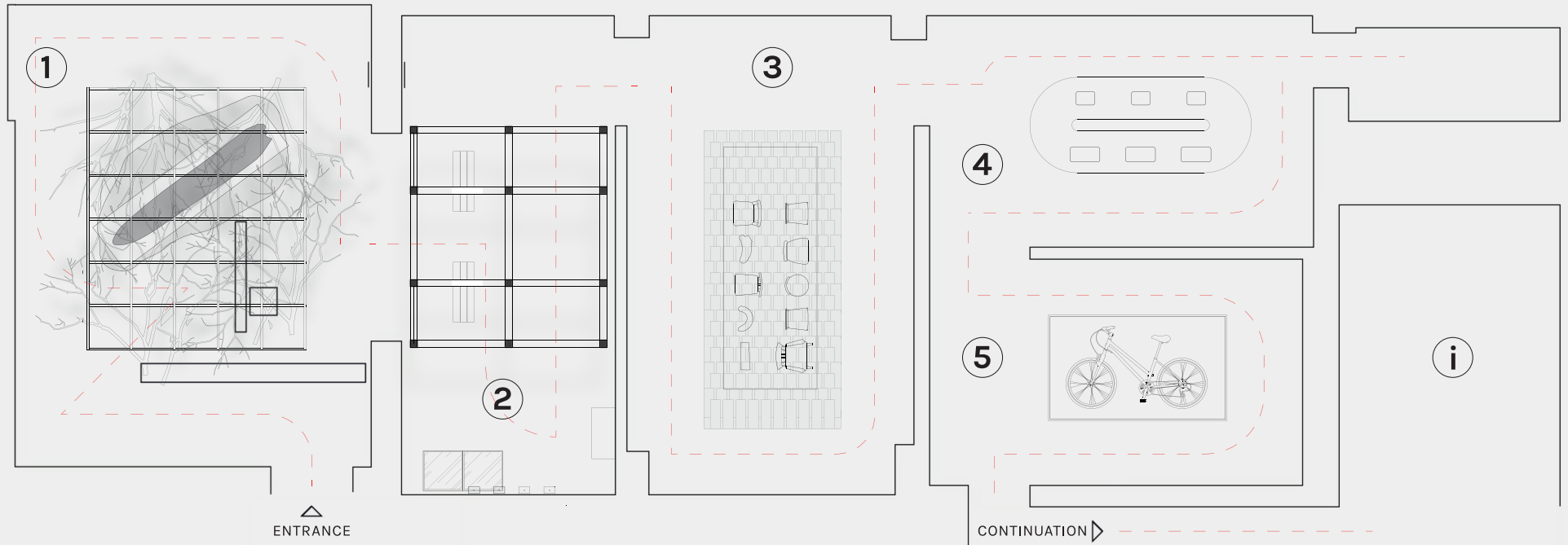
**Latvijas  
Finieris** 



**LATVIJAS VALSTS MEŽI**  
KOKSNE • STĀDI • ATPŪTA

**MATERIA  
BIKES**





## 1 Entering the Forest

The relationship between forests, trees, and humans began more than 12,000 years ago as people entered an environment in which they could survive only by adapting to it. Very gradually, over several thousands of years, the environment was changed by humans to suit their needs.

## 2 Wood Becomes Valuable

Beginning in 13th century medieval Livonia, not only did the use of wood expand, but also its importance in economy. Along with forest products – wax, honey, fur – wood and raw materials made of it became an exportable commodity for the first time.

## 3 Daily Life in the Age of Wood

Until the 20th century, wood was the most common material for everyday needs. In manors and towns, furniture or household items were made by local master craftsmen or imported; on farmsteads – homemade or created by rural artisans.

## 4 Wood on the Conveyor Belt

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the range of uses of wood expanded as much as possible to ensure comfort and technical progress, but protection of nature also became topical.

## 5 A New Beginning?

Today, humans are reassessing their relationship with trees, searching for a balance between insatiable consumption to ensure quality of life and a growing understanding of ecology.

## i Infinite Wood

Enter to discover modern and unusual uses of wood!