Art Nouveau emerged in the late 19th and early 20th century as a style of architecture and design which was aimed at presenting the style of the times. At that time, Rīga was one of the most important cultural and economic centres in the Russian Empire. It sought not to fall behind other European cities in terms of public styles and traditions. Early in the 20th century, construction in Old Rīga and along Alberta, Elizabetes and Marijas streets became unprecedentedly active. Art Nouveau only dominated Rīga's architecture for a short period of time, but it left true masterpieces of architecture. Visitors to the Latvian capital city can see two typical styles of Art Nouveau – decorative Art Nouveau and the style of National Romanticism.

You can gain your first impressions about Art Nouveau architecture in Rīga in the old part of the city:

1. Audēju Street 7 (1899, A. Aschenkampf, M. Šervinskis)
   This was the first Art Nouveau building in Rīga. Look at the façade of the building, and you will see the classical elements of the style – stylised plants (irises, blooming trees, reedmace), as well as mascarons (human faces of a fantastic appearance). The mansard story of the building is encircled with ornamental metal railings.

2. Audēju Street 9 (1899, K. Pēkšēns)
   This is a building in which Historicism coincides with Art Nouveau. The solar motif on the pediment of the building was one of the key elements in Art Nouveau, depicting the flourishing of new life.

3. Kalēju Street 23 (1903, P. Mandelstam)
   The façade of this building reflects eclectic and decorative Art Nouveau. The corner portal with the gilded sun, shaped to resemble the crown of a tree.

4. Teātra Street 9 (1903, H. Scheel, F. Scheel)
   This building represents a combination of Art Nouveau with the Baroque. The building was once owned by a seller of books and antiquities, which is why the reliefs on the corner of the building depict figures from mythology – Athena and Hermes. The building is crowned by figures of Atlas, carrying a globe which is made of glass and zinc on their shoulders. At night, the globe is lit up. This was a major demonstration of the technologies of the day.

5. Kalēju Street 6
   The building is decorated with flower motifs – engraved ornaments which were typical of late Art Nouveau. Look at the metal ornamentation – the flag is held by a stylised dragon.

6. Šķūņu Street 12/10 (1900, P. Māncis)
   Another building located in an area of rental buildings and optics stores, which why you see the initials "H.D." in the façade. The building is richly ornamented with elements of the world of flora. The dogs on the pediment are clearly there to "guard" the building.

7. Tirgoņu Street 4 (1900, H. Scheel, F. Scheel, W. Hahn)
   Another building located in an area of rental buildings and shops, but with a different façade. Smilšu Street was the most important street in Rīga until the 17th century. Today it is sometimes known as the Rīga equivalent of Wall Street – banks, more banks, the Finance Ministry and luxurious office buildings at every step.

8. Smilšu Street 1/3 (1906, N. Proskurnyin)
   This building was commissioned by an insurance company called "Rossiya", and that may be why the centre of the façade features an allegorical figure of Hope.

9. Smilšu Street 2 (1902, K. Pēkšēns)
   Specialists say that this is a true jewel of Art Nouveau architecture in Rīga. This decorative building with figures of women and masks is typical of the style. The figure of the woman is a symbol of beauty and nobility of Art Nouveau. On the entrance window you see the entrance relief decorated with the figure of a woman. The façade of the house is considered to be the most beautiful Art Nouveau sculpture in a country of all Rīgas Art Nouveau (2015).
Much beloved by Art Nouveau architects. There are more.

On the façade of the building, we see a powerful accent,

(1903, K. Pēkšēns)

best examples of National Romanticism in the Art Nou

designed by E. Laube. Specialists see this as one of the

Opposite is the building at Alberta Street 11, which was

playwright Rūdolfs Blaumanis are housed here.

1909. Here we see the style of National Romanticism,

with Eižens Laube). Pēkšēns owned the building until

A bit different is the building at Alberta Street 12, which

street of students.

Of interest is the building at Alberta Street 2a, which has

an additional story used only for the placement of decor

Elements. Ceiling and wall paintings in the entrance

(1910, E. Friesendorf)

The entrance portal to this “vertical Art Nouveau” building,

The entrance portal to this “vertical Art Nouveau” building,

With its sculptural reliefs, is seen as one of the most ex

(1903, K. Pēkšēns)

This building is in the style of National Romanticism and

is of the Latvia people.

Alberta Street

Alberta Street is known for many interesting buildings

the styles of Eclecticism and Art Nouveau. One short

Of interest is the building at Alberta Street 1a, which has

building, and at the end of the halls there were kitchens

and 1908. The 14 buildings on the street are a good ex

Alberta Street was

Alberta Street is known for many interesting buildings

the 14 buildings on the street are a good ex

(1901, M. Eisenstein)

One-half of the buildings on the street were built by

University of Latvia is housed at Alberta Street 10 (P. Man

ties, the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences of the

10.  Smilšu Street 3

The grandest and most important Art Nouveau buildings

(1400) buildings, representing approximately 40% of all buildings

Alberta Street 10

(1910, E. Postu)

On the façade of the building, we see a powerful accent,

(1906, A. Lindberg, K. Vasasherna, A. Vanags)

Much beloved by photographers, this building has been

much beloved by Art Nouveau architects. There are more

Alberta Street 12

The entrance portal to this “vertical Art Nouveau” building,

Alberta Street 11

Alberta Street 10

(1901, M. Eisenstein)

The entrance portal to this “vertical Art Nouveau” building,

(1902, H. Scheel, F. Scheel)

Alberta Street is known for many interesting buildings

(1903, M. Eisenstein)

This is a typical of late, rational and applied Art Nouveau

Alberta Street 9

(1903, H. Pliks)

On the façade of the building, we see a powerful accent,

(1904, L. Šmērbergs)

One of the most significant buildings in Art Nouveau arch

(1902, A. Pumpura)

The entrance portal to this “vertical Art Nouveau” building,

(1903, M. Eisenstein)

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(1910, E. Pole)

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