Interreg

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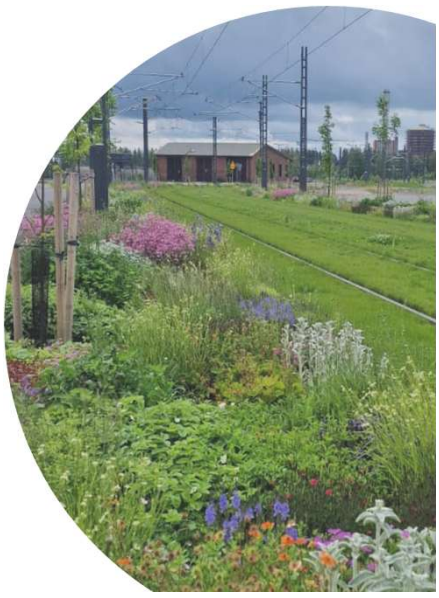
Latvia – Lithuania

Resilient and climate-adapted green spaces in VILNUS

Information on public open space sites visited during the project study trip

- Business Garden Vilnius Laisvės Ave.
- Šeškinė stormwater treatment and storage facilities Siesikų St. 19
- Neris riverside and Konstitucijos Avenue. Miyawaki woodland by the Neris River, Upės St.
- MO Museum courtyard Pylimo St. 17
- Vingriai Springs Square
- Odminiai Square



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Lietuvos inžinerijos kolegija

Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Business Garden Vilnius

Business Garden combines office buildings with gardens and outdoor recreation spaces beside a 10 ha area of city woodland. The visit explores how a workplace landscape can provide places to rest, meet and exercise while connecting buildings to the surrounding green setting.

The publicly reported investment for the first stage was more than €60 million. Separately, the developer said the investment into vegetation alone was almost €0.5 million.

The first stage included two office buildings and underground parking: about 42,000 m² of office/commercial space and 13,000 m² of underground parking.

The main designers were ARC-ML and DO ARCHITECTS; the planting designer was Rasa Laurinavičienė.

The garden is one of the largest green areas among Lithuanian business centres: around 35,000–40,000 plants were planted in almost 4,000 m² of greenery.

In the next stage, the garden is planned to grow to about 70,000 plants

The 2023 second-stage proposals combine paths and planting above underground parking with trees planted in the ground around roads, sports courts and recreation areas. Courtyards are designed with perennials, shrubs and small trees suited to a proposed soil depth of 50–100 cm. Six herbaceous planting combinations are reproduced on the following pages. They describe design intent for Stage II; they are not an inventory of all planting already established on the campus.

Implemented first-stage planting. Photos: Nijolė Karpavičienė. Reproduced from the supplied project proposals, PDF p. 27.

Business Garden landscape plan

The plan places planted courtyards between the buildings and recreation areas along the woodland edge. The orange boundary distinguishes the implemented first stage from the second-stage proposals. The drawing is reproduced as an overview; it is not to scale at this page size.

Site greenery plan A048-P2-XX-PP-SP.B-103. DO architects / ARC-ML; supplied PDF p. 48.

Business Garden planting combinations

Stage II design palette • 2023 project proposals

Botanical names and cultivar alternatives are retained from the project document.

Combination 1
Calamagrostis acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’
Persicaria amplexicaulis ‘Alba’

Combination 2
Aster divaricatus
Aster macrophyllus ‘Twilight’

Bergenia 'Eroica' ('Abendglut', 'Rosi Klose')
Brunnera macrophylla
Carex montana (C.pensylvanica, Carex 'The Beatles', Carex glauca, Carex morrowii Irish Green, Carex oshimensis J.S.Greenwell, Carex morrowii Ice Dance)
Galium odoratum (Asperula odorata)
Heuchera villosa
Hosta 'Halcyon'
Luzula nivea
Luzula sylvatica
Pulmonaria 'Blue Ensign'
Sesleria autumnalis
Waldsteinia ternata

Combination 3
Actaea (Cimicifuga) 'James Compton'
Bergenia 'Eroica' ('Abendglut', 'Rosi Klose')
Fragaria vesca
Gillenia trifoliata
Kirengeshoma palmata
Phlomis tuberosa 'Amazone'
Pulmonaria 'Blue Ensign'
Molinia caerulea 'Heidebraut'
Molinia caerulea 'Edith Dudszus'
Sesleria autumnalis

Combination 4
Actaea (Cimicifuga) 'Chocaholic' (alternative: Actaea (Cimicifuga) 'James Compton')
Aruncus 'Horatio'
Gillenia trifoliata
Kirengeshoma palmata
Athyrium filix-femina
Astrantia 'Snowstar' ('Shaggy')
Helleborus niger
Smilacina racemosa
Adiantum pedatum ,Imbricatum'
Anemone sylvestris
Aruncus 'Sommeranfang' ('Misty Lace')
Aster divaricatus
Brunnera macrophylla
Carex montana (or any of these: C.pensylvanica, Carex 'The Beatles', Carex morrowii 'Irish Green', Carex oshimensis 'J.S.Greenwell', Carex morrowii 'Ice Dance')
Dryopteris affinis (Dryopteris filix – mas)
Epimedium grandiflorum 'Niveum'
Fragaria vesca
Galium odoratum (Asperula odorata)
Geranium x cantabrigiense ,St Ola'
Geranium macrorhizum 'Spessart'
Hakonechloa macra
Heuchera villosa

Lamium maculatum 'White Nancy'
Matteucia struthiopteris
Polemonium 'Northern Lights'
Primula elatior/Primula vulgaris
Sesleria autumnalis
Tiarella 'Spring Symphony'
Waldsteinia ternata

Combination 5
Carex montana (alternatives: Carex pensylvanica, Carex 'The Beatles', Carex glauca, Carex panicea 'Pamira', Carex morrowii Irish Green, Carex oshimensis 'J.S.Greenwell')
Geranium 'Dilys'
Epimedium sulphureum 'Versicolor'
Epimedium perralchicum 'Frohnleiten'
Fragaria vesca
Molinia caerulea 'Moorhexe'
Sesleria autumnalis
Sesleria heufleriana
Waldsteinia ternata

Combination 6
Armeria maritima
Bergenia 'Eroica'
Carex montana (alternatives: Carex pensylvanica, Carex 'The Beatles', Carex glauca, Carex panicea 'Pamira', Carex morrowii Irish Green, Carex oshimensis 'J.S.Greenwell')
Fragaria vesca
Geranium cantabrigiense 'St.Ola', 'Biokovo'
Geranium 'Dilys'
Geranium macrorhizum 'Czakor'
Sesleria caerulea
Veronica spicata incana
Source: A048-II-PP-BD.AR, §§ 5.1.14–5.1.15, report pp. 14–15; supplied PDF pp. 26–27.

Planting structure
The lists combine ground-covering perennials, foliage plants, ferns, sedges and ornamental grasses. Repetition of plants such as Sesleria autumnalis, Fragaria vesca and Carex montana connects several combinations. The palette offers a useful basis for discussing planting continuity, shade and long-term maintenance during the visit.

Šeškinė stormwater facilities

Opened in 2023, this project combines stormwater treatment and storage with a public recreation landscape. Runoff from northern Vilnius is carried through new trunk drainage infrastructure, treated and temporarily stored to reduce the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall. The project was delivered for Grinda, designed by Sweco and built by Instita.

Before this project was built, heavy rain created serious pressure on the city's stormwater system. Large volumes of water from districts such as Šeškinė, Fabijoniškės, Pašilaičiai, Baltupiai, and nearby areas were directed into underground collectors. During strong storms, this could increase the risk of flooding in streets and lower parts of the city.

Here, the solution is different. Instead of sending all the rainwater away as quickly as possible, the city created a system that slows the water down. Rainwater comes into the treatment system, is

cleaned, enters the storage pond, and then released gradually. This is an important principle of sustainable urban design: water is not treated only as a technical problem, but as part of the landscape.

The plants at the edges are not random. They were selected to tolerate changing water levels. Sometimes the water is higher after rain, sometimes lower during dry periods. So the planting has to survive in wet, muddy, and occasionally drier conditions.

Around the water and on the inner slopes, around one hundred plant species were used. Some grow directly in or near the water, others on the banks and surrounding slopes.

Stormwater infrastructure and the surrounding recreation landscape. Image source: Environmental Projects Management Agency (APVA).

The public space adds paths and places to spend time outdoors and strengthens the green walking and cycling connection between Šeškinė and Žvėrynas. This makes the site a useful example of combining engineering infrastructure with everyday public use. The reported €18.75 million construction cost covers the wider drainage works, not only the landscaped basin.

Interesting facts:

The largest underground pipe is DN 2250, meaning about 2.25 metres in diameter; it was made of glass-fibre-reinforced plastic and laid by microtunnelling / closed construction method.

In total, the project installed about 3.162 km of stormwater pipelines, including about 1.8 km of DN 2250 pipes and about 1.3 km of DN 1000 pipes.

The underground treatment plant can clean up to 3,000 litres of rainwater per second, making it the largest stormwater treatment plant in Lithuania.

The open pond / storage basin holds about 20,000 cubic metres of cleaned rainwater; during an extreme rain event it can fill in about 42 minutes, and its maximum depth is about 4 metres.

Neris riverside and Konstitucijos Avenue

Miyawaki woodland near the White Bridge

A small woodland planted near the White Bridge in 2025 applies the approach developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki: a dense mixture of native woody species in a small urban space. It offers a field example of creating a young woodland within an intensively used riverside landscape.

The visit should focus on establishment: planting density, mulch and soil condition, watering, survival and protection from trampling. Cooling, habitat development and reduced maintenance are objectives to assess over time, rather than measured outcomes to assume for this young site.

Swedbank terrace

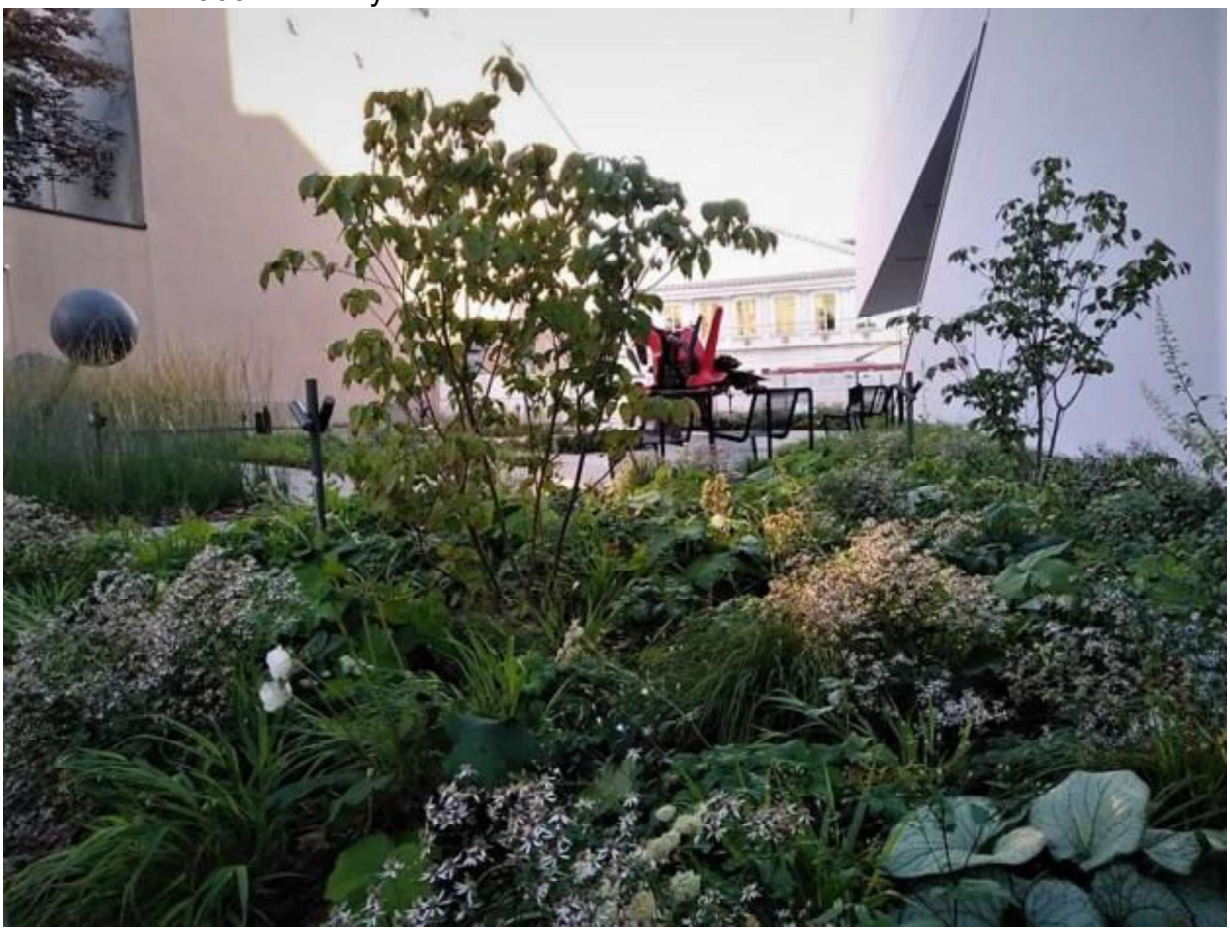
The headquarters by Audrius Ambrasas Architects was completed in 2009. Its lower river-facing volume carries a public wooden roof terrace with planters and seating. The terrace connects the building to views and activity along the Neris, showing how the roof of a commercial building can become a shared urban space.

Konstitucijos Avenue landscaping

On the connecting walk, compare the riverside, terrace and street environments. Observe the continuity of tree shade, the size of planting beds, exposure to wind and traffic, and the way planted areas guide people between the avenue and the river.

MO Museum courtyard

MO Museum is a private modern and contemporary art museum in Vilnius, founded by Lithuanian philanthropists Danguolė and Viktoras Butkus. Its collection includes around 6,000 Lithuanian artworks from the 1960s to today.



MO Museum garden in late summer. Image: Rasa Laurinavičienė, Kitokie augalai, 2019.

MO states that about 50% of its activity is supported by sponsors and patrons, so philanthropy is a key part of the museum's identity.

The building was designed by Daniel Libeskind / Studio Libeskind together with DO ARCHITECTS. The idea was to create a cultural "gateway" between Vilnius Old Town and the newer part of the city, with a public terrace and open courtyard cutting through the building.

The courtyard is officially the MO Sculpture Garden. It is not just a decorative garden, but an open-air exhibition space with sculptures by important Lithuanian artists, and it is open 24 hours a day. The garden was created by planting designer Rasa Laurinavičienė together with DO ARCHITECTS. It is maintained seasonally by gardener Nijolė Karpavičienė, and the wider MO gardening community and volunteers also helped shape the garden. The garden is small but carefully zoned — about 600 m². It is divided into three main planting conditions: a shady zone, a sunny hot zone, and a tougher asphalt / concrete / parking zone.

The main planting idea is naturalistic and green-dominated. Because the museum building creates shade, the garden uses a calm woodland-like atmosphere: many leaf textures, grasses, groundcovers, and soft green tones. The plants are meant to support the sculptures, not compete with them.

In the shady zone, the key plants include Brunnera, Pulmonaria 'Blue Ensign', Astrantia 'Superstar', Aruncus 'Horatio', Anemone 'Honorine Jobert', and Aster / Eurybia divaricata. Their function is to bring texture, shade tolerance, long seasonal interest, and soft flowering under difficult light conditions. Grasses are essential in the garden. Plants such as Hakonechloa macra, Molinia caerulea 'Heidebraut', Sporobolus heterolepis, and Carex montana create movement, softness, and a neutral background for the heavy sculptural forms. The harsher sunny and paved areas use stronger urban plants, including Himalayan birch, Acanthus mollis, Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight', Spiraea 'Grefsheim', Epimedium 'Sulphureum', and Vinca minor 'La Grave' / 'Bowles'.

Around the museum, about 24,000 bulbs — tulips, daffodils, and crocuses — were planted for spring colour, while later in the season the garden returns to calmer tones.

Vingriai Springs Square

Vingriai Springs Square opened in October 2022 and connects Vilnius Old Town with the New Town area near MO Museum. The square covers about 1.5 hectares. This place marks one of the oldest water sources of Vilnius. Natural Vingriai springs supplied drinking water to city residents through wooden pipes from 1501 to 1914.

The old Vingriai stream once flowed through the Old Town and into the Vilnia River. In the 19th century it became polluted and was later covered, disappearing under Vingrių Street. The renovation brought the hidden spring water back to the surface. Today it flows through an open channel, small cascades and a spiral-shaped basin, reminding visitors of the historic water source. The project authors were architects Lolita Vileikienė and Paulius Jonys from UAB "Vilniaus planas". The project was implemented by Vilniaus vystymo kompanija, built by UAB "Conresta", and is maintained by VšĮ "Vilniaus miesto parkai". The project cost about €1.4 million and was financed by Vilnius City Municipality, EU structural funds and Lithuanian state funds.

The square was redesigned as a pedestrian-first public space. It includes paths, stairs, viewing terraces, benches, lighting, greenery, a children's play area and renewed infrastructure. The planting strategy preserved mature existing trees and added new urban-resistant species. The plan included 12 conifers, 23 deciduous trees, over 400 shrubs and almost 3,000 herbaceous plants. Named plants include weeping willow, Himalayan birch and hawthorn.

The square also works as a free open-air sculpture gallery. MO Museum donated seven contemporary Lithuanian sculptures, all connected by the theme of water; the slope also features Severija Inčirauskaitė-Kriaunevičienė's artwork "Water Lilies".

Vingriai Springs Square. Image source: Vilnius City Municipality.

Paths, seating and a viewing platform turn the sloping site into both a pedestrian connection and a place to stay.

In 2023, Vingriai Springs Square won the National Architecture Award as the best public space. Its main value is the combination of historical memory, water, greenery, pedestrian movement and contemporary art in a small but meaningful urban landscape.