

# Auguliena Manor over the centuries

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**Abstract.** Auguliena Manor (*Roseneck*) [3] which in German is also called *Augul* and in Latvian translated as Ozolmuiža or Auguļi [2] is located in the Beļava Parish of the District of Gulbene, approximately 15 km away from Gulbene on the bank of Lake Auguliena. The building of Auguliena Manor, along with other individual buildings, is included in the national list of protected cultural monuments. The Manor building consists of the manor house, two servants' houses, a house for servants with a household building, the feedlot wing, a threshing barn and a few other buildings. The history of the Manor is associated with the family of von Transehe–Rosenecks. Over the years the building has changed a little but the planning structure has survived. Renovations in the Manor take place, so its study is topical.

**Keywords:** architectural heritage, manor architecture and history, monument protection.

## Previous study of the Manor

Auguliena Manor has so far not been studied, namely, not any significant study is devoted to it. It is mentioned only passing by in a few works, it has not been important even to the 19<sup>th</sup> century essayists on the manor history such as H. von Hagemeister [4] and L. Stryk [10]. In comparison with other manors, a very limited information about Auguliena is also on the Internet.

## Manor owners over the centuries

Auguliena Manor is largely associated with the family of von Transehe. This family tree can be traced back through the centuries. The first representative of this family is Matthias who moved to Vidzeme in the midst of the 16<sup>th</sup> century from the southern provinces of the Netherlands which is now in Belgium. His son Gerhard worked in Gramsden (Courland) as a pastor. In October 1641, Queen Kristina of Sweden granted Gerhard's son Joachim and his descendants the title of a knight, adding the predicate von to the surname and his wife's Magdalene surname Roseneck. In 1663 Joachim's half-brother Valerius is admitted in the Swedish chivalry whose descendants are associated with the Vidzeme knighthood-in the beginning as von Transehe but later re-registered as–von Transehe-Rosenecks [8]. The wealth of this family grew at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when new purchases in Vidzeme, in the present territory of Estonia, and even in the Russian borderland were added to the manors received as a heritage. With the family's name there are associated the following properties- Jaungulbene (*Neu-Schwanenburg*) Krape (*Kroppenhof*), Annenieki (*Annenhof*), Mārciena (*Martzen*), Taurupe (*Taurup*) and other manors.

The history of Auguliena Manor, in comparison with other surrounding manors, is relatively recent and originally it was not as a separate manor but rather a part of Vecgulbene Manor. In 1763, Empress Catherine II gave Vecgulbene together with

Litene as a gift to Count Ernst Münnich as compensation for the property taken away in the year 1742-Rencēni (*Ranzen*) Manor [11]. In 1788, the Manor was inherited by his son Chamberlain Count Burkhard Christoph Münnich. In 1789, the Manor was bought by Secret Councillor Otto Hermann von Vietinghoff. Around this time, from Vecgulbene was separated Jaungulbene as a separate manor and together with it- Auguliena.

As a heritage of Landrat Karl Otto von Transehe, in 1838 the Manor became his son's–a lieutenant's and later the county deputy's Paul Wilhelm Georg von Transehe property [11]. Since 1888, the Manor belonged to Major-General Georg von Transehe-Roseneck who lived in St. Petersburg but from 1899 the Manor was managed by its manager Leon Hellmuth [9]. From 1907, the landlord of the Manor was Paul Otto von Transehe-Roseneck who lived in Jaungulbene Manor. Auguliena was managed by Erhard von Transehe who also undertook a forester's duty but the manager was Rūdolfs Mucenieks [9]. At the time of the Latvian agrarian reform, the property was alienated. During the Soviet period, the Manor buildings were used for a variety of purposes–people changed and the function of the building as well. The manor house was a club. Since 1990, the center of the Manor had been privately owned but nothing was done to save the historical buildings and they were not used. The hopeless situation only changed in 2005 when the owner of the Manor became LTD. *Augulienas muiža /Auguliena Manor/*.

## The manor house

In the Soviet time, there was a club in the manor house and in 1983 the building was no longer used. It was exposed to danger long before. As shown in the photos of 1978, the windows are still in place, the main entrance door as well, the roof is in a good condition and the ironwork over the ridge as well. The terrace railings are partially collapsed at the main

entrance and in front of the facade once grew shrubs and the trees give evidence of leaving everything to the mercy of fate. In 1994, the building was still relatively in a good technical condition but threats to the further existence is already felt [12]. Today, the building is in a very poor technical condition. The cover of the intermediate floors is falling in, the windows and doors are partly lost, the exterior stucco crumbles, in the state of the collapse there is the terrace at the main entrance.

*Simple and at the same time modernistic paraphrase of non-baroque is the manor house of Auguliena Manor built for the family of von Transehe-Rosenecks where the roof of the mansard was the sole stylistic motif that threw a bridge to the 18<sup>th</sup> century samples [1].* So the manor house was described by the art historian Dainis Brūģis. In fact, the building's stylistics, like the building history, is a big enigma. Undoubtedly, the roof form of the building built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century shows a willingness to look in the direction of the 18<sup>th</sup> century samples. But the totally ascetic facades, the only adornment of which is granite rusts around the main entrance opening and perfectly mortared broken rubble masonry socle floor show rationalism orientations. The ironwork of the roof ridge is rooted in different stylistic nuances. In essence, this building is stylistically unique but provincial and non-uniform which cannot be attributed to one particular formal stylistic direction. The creation and modifications of of the building are also important.

The current site of the building does not coincide with its location in the land plan of 1873-1874. In the historic material, the building is presented in parallel to the bank of the lake with a small waterfront construction (terrace) against it. Is the present building built in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and rebuilt in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by afterwards pulling down the adjacent manor house? The following questions could be answered by probing. It is likely that the manor house was built in two stages. The oldest part is of one storey, the latest-two-storey part is built later, creating an unusual volume solution which is basically clumsy and architecturally not particularly impressive. The architectural solution of both parts of the building is partially coordinated, creating by the means of rubbles a nice socle floor but it's all-the roof connection looks heavy, the roof eaves are different-the one-storey part-with decorated rafter ends, the two-storied one-a box built of boards.

It is impossible to judge about the original design of the building as a whole as there have not survived any historical materials. Today, the technical inventory file largely shows the result of modifications of the Soviet period. But some rooms have retained their original solution. It could be the entrance to the hall which housed the staircase to the second floor and the room to the left in which there was the later mentioned interior with decorative finish on the walls, ceiling.



Fig. 1. The manor house of the Auguliena estate (photo 1978)  
[Source: State Inspection for Heritage Protection,  
Monument Documentation Center]



Fig. 2. The manor house of the Auguliena estate  
[Source: photo by the author, 2009]



Fig. 3. The manor house (1978) [Source: State Inspection for  
Heritage Protection, Monument Documentation Center]

From this room there were reachable the rooms in the one-storey space the design of which is completely changed. On the second floor of the two-storey part, there are two rooms-the stars bring us in one of them and through it you may come in the second room.

Until our days, there has not survived the interior with the artistic finish. However, historically such one has had at least in one room. This is evidenced by the photo fixation of the 1970s. The decorative interior finish of the hall on the first floor of the two-story part dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The walls and ceilings were adorned by molded decors made from papier-mache material. In the rest of the rooms, according to the information provided in 1983 [12], no significant interiors have been found but already at this time the fireplace-type stove was broken. It was made of monochrome glazed tiles. Above the fireplace and stove, in the top there were molded cornices. The photos of 1978 are the only evidence of this lost value in Auguliena. This room with the artistic interior finishes was square. At the top of the walls there were landscape paintings in small

### The Manor building

The oldest information available so far about the Manor building is drawn from the land plan of 1873-1874 which was copied in 1907 [6]. It appears that the center of the Manor consisted of eleven larger or smaller buildings and structures. The largest of them is the feedlot of which is left only one wing, the manor house, two servants' houses, the servants' and household buildings behind the manor house and more away, a building standing on the other side of the road-a threshing barn.

In the center of Auguliena Manor, there are two servants' houses built almost parallel to each other. Entering the Manor, a view opens to one of them-a one-storey-building which is covered by a gabled ridged roof with partly sloped ends. The building, in the end pediments of which there is used a timber frame and infill structure, is built of red bricks. Already in 1994, this building was in a poor technical condition but when the author of this article surveyed the Manor building in the 1980s, it was still partly inhabited. In the course of time, due to the critical technical condition the building had to be dismantled and in 2000-2003 it was rebuilt maintaining the original shape. This building, in comparison with the second one parallel to the servant's house, was newer. This is evidenced by many clumsy volume spatial structure peculiarities, mysterious earthiness of the roof forms and other particularities. The second servants' house was a little different from the first one. It was built as a corner-jointed building, then lined with red bricks, which, in turn, were plastered. This building was heavier, with a gabled ridged roof with sloped ends-the



Fig. 4. The manor house (1978) [Source: State Inspection for Heritage Protection, Monument Documentation Center]

rectangular frames. The dominant was the southern landscape with mountains and tree groups, and other scenes. For example, in one of the landscapes, there was seen a castle on an island with large mountain ranges in the background. In another scene, there was a small building covered with a gabled ridged roof with a landscape characteristic of Latvia in the background. In another scene, it was possible to see quite strange buildings in a wide, swamp-like place.

highest, namely, the volume form was more classic and antique for the Manours' building. After the end facade, the pediments were also made in the timber frame and infill structure. In 1994, this building still had six pane windows, tile roofs but in the 1980s it was still inhabited. Just as the first servants' house, this building, not repaired, gradually went to rack and ruin and in the 2000s-2007s there was no choice but to dismantle the building and build a new one similar to its original appearance. Now both servants' houses are connected by a one-storey walkway and serve as guest accommodation places. The technical inventory plan of 1992 shows that the design has changed over times, the building has three entrances, it is believed-communal flats [12]. Both servants' houses can be seen in the above mentioned land plan of 1873-1874.



Fig. 5. The land plan of Auguliena Manor. A copy of 1907 from the plan of 1873-1874 [Source: Latvian State Historical Archives]



Fig. 6. The servants' houses (photo 1975)  
[Source: State Inspection for Heritage Protection.  
Monument Documentation Center]



Fig. 7. The servants' houses  
[Source: photo by the author, 2009]



Fig. 8. The threshing barn with the drying-kiln  
[Source: photo by the author, 2009]



Fig. 9. The household building (forge) (photo 1975)  
[Source: State Inspection for Heritage Protection.  
Monument Documentation Center]

Quite an interesting building is the threshing barn with the drying-kiln which consists of two parts– the part built from the rubble, covered by a gabled ridged roof partly sloped at both ends of the ridge forming a small triangular window and later a red brick extension with an imposing chimney was added. This building has largely retained its authenticity. As shown in the photos of 1994, the building was covered with a temporary bituminous cover and waited for its further fate [12]. It turned out to be favorable and today the building pleases with its tidiness and renewal of the original appearance. The entire volume of the building is rather strange—a combination of the oldest and newest parts. It resembles the manor house's volume where to the rectangular building, covered with the gabled ridged roof, there was illogically additionally built a two-storey volume with a complex roof connection. The threshing barn with the drying-kiln is the same kind of building– the traditional, supposedly, the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century volume is adjacent to the 19<sup>th</sup> century final part in the place where it fits the least, forming a complex roof connection where, according to our climate, there will always be problems. Anyway, this unusual building is an important part of the Manor building and is a testimony of a peculiar reconstruction technique of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The household building (forge) is located further away from other buildings of the Manor, nearer to the lake. It was a rubble stone masonry building with small granite chip dents in mortar, covered by a steep gabled ridged roof with partially sloped ends. In 1994, the building was still in a satisfactory technical condition. The building, built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, was not spared by time and in 2006, only the rubble stone masonry walls were left. These unstable structures were dismantled and from the remaining building materials, the building was reconstructed in 2007-2008, forming a different volume which generally fits into the historic building of the Manor.

Until our days, in the form of ruins there has remained the cattle-shed which, supposedly, is one part of the feedlot seen in the plan of 1873-1874. The building consists of two parts—the cattle-shed and the threshing barn. In 1994, as shown in photo fixation [12], a part of the threshing barn was still under the roof but from the rest parts was left only rubble stone masonry walls and the chimney. Today, the walls of the cattle-shed part have still fragmentary remained but both ends of the threshing barn with the pediments built from red bricks still exist, though the middle part is almost collapsed. There have also remained windows of the threshing barn part— typical for a cattle-shed—small, with a segment-type lintel. The same ones were also in the



Fig. 10. The cattle-shed (photo 2009)  
[Source: State Inspection for Heritage Protection.  
Monument Documentation Center]



Fig. 11. The distillery (photo 1975)  
[Source: State Inspection for Heritage Protection.  
Monument Documentation Center]



Fig. 12. The cattle-shed near the servants' house  
[Source: photo by the author, 2009]

Another servants' house is a small building built from rubble stones in lime mortar squeezing in small granite chips. Supposedly, the building was built in the midst of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as it is a characteristic testimony of this time's manor building. It is covered by a steep gabled ridged roof, around the openings in the facades there are made the characteristic white tinted plaster borders. The building is located close to the lake and it's also seen in the plan of 1873-1874.

It is likely that the building, which could have been a distillery, is seen in the photos of 1975 -it is long, with a steep gabled ridged roof cover [12]. For the walls, as for the nearby servants' house, there are used rubble stones and squeezed in mortar granite chips. cattle-shed part. During this time the building had, to a large extent, still retained its authenticity which is now entirely lost.

Near the servants' house there is located the cattle-shed, built of red bricks and covered by a steep gabled ridged roof (the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century). The building next to the servants' house creates a kind of a household ensemble which also includes the already mentioned cattle-shed, the possible feedlot part. Over time, the initial amount was supplemented by extensions-on both longitudinal facades which don't decorate the original appearance of the building at all.

It is interesting to see various documents relating to the history of the Manor. In the cash book of the Head of Gulbene Vicarage [7], we can find the people who lived in this place and have been associated with Auguliena. They are: *Roseneck Jurre Sautz-* (1871), *Roseneck Jurre and Jahn Krautz* (supposedly, the surname is the same, just written down otherwise), *Peter Grün* (1872). In turn, in the register of documents sent by the parish of Gulbene Vicarage or as we say today in the register of the the outgoing letters it is mentioned: *to the highly regarded landlord G. von Transehe in Auguliene. According to the circular, on 21 September a protocol is sent to the venerable landlord G. von Transehe ... from the aforementioned. ... on the increase of payment to the rector of the parish.* The document is dated by 1871. In the land books of Valka District in 1882, in the context of the Manor there are mentioned the following farmsteads and half manors: *hoflage Katrin, buschwachter Mitzpop, Targup, buschwachter Schkapper, Schkapper I, Schkapper II, hoflage Rimstau, Gemeindehaus und schule.* In the same year, there are mentioned the following peasant farmsteads: *Meesiht, Slisser*-four houses with the same name, *Jaunolleksch* -two houses with the same name, *Mikkit*-two houses with the same name, etc. Just there it is possible to get to know about other peasant farmsteads, for each of which there is also mentioned the landlord's surname: *Kreewing (Karl Puschis), Kreewing (Jahn Gaggan), Kreewing (Andrei Schwirstin), Jaunkreewing (Otto Rakofsky), Weesen (Otto Wessmann), Ambenek (Jacob Otlan), Siehle (Thom Otlan), Siehle (Otto Dseggus), Siehle (Otto Meiss), Siehle (Adam Turk), Siehle (Jacob Dseggus).* The same names for the houses have arisen because the buildings are located in the village or cluster of buildings and in the land plan each of them has also its own number, not just the landlord's surname. In 1900, it is mentioned that the mail from Vecgulfene was delivered on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 1894 the head forester was *Sellenthin* and he lived in Gaujiena. The half manors were rented by: *Katrin* half manor-A. *Kalning*, *Meesit* half manor-E. *Knoch*. During the same period, in the Manor worked the blacksmith *J. Kupz*, carpenter *R. Neuberg*, the innkeeper Ernst Knoch in the manor pub but in *Preedelkrug*-the innkeeper *R. Leelpeter* [5].

## The park



Fig. 13. The park part with the view to the lake [Source: photo by the author, 2009]

The area of the park of Auguliena Manor consists of 1.3 ha and it is laid out during the time of the family of von Transehe-Rosenecks. The park's original layout has unfortunately been lost. There are preserved plantations in the east from the manor house along the lake bank where there is a stone staircase and the European larch groups. The park's relief is flat and its expressiveness, to a large extent, is enhanced by closeness to the lake. Over the past few years the park is under care. It is home to a local tree species—the usual spruce, maple, black alder, white alder, birch, ash, bird-cherry, aspen, etc. There are also the introduced species—the European larch, plain philadelph, wrinkled rose, white willow, brittle willow, etc. The path system of the park is presented in the plan of 1873-1874 [6]. It is suspected that the park is a landscape type park, only a small part of the feedlot and the manor house are planned on a regular basis—with paths crossing each other.

It appears that Auguliena Manor does not rank among the oldest and culturally historically most important Vidzeme manors but attention worth are the ordinary objects of the time—with their own peculiarities and evolution of the spatial structure of the building history of individual buildings and planning of the whole ensemble. The research of Auguliena Manor allows discovering its architectural historical evidences that as a result of the changes and modifications over the course of time, as well as due to neglect and misery have survived and continue to be taken care of. It is the structure of planning on building of the Manor's center, still existing park elements and the original historical substance of separate buildings as the manor house and the barn with a drying-kiln. Auguliena Manor, as revealed by its lengthy study on the site, is a characteristic example of how nowadays problematically changes the environment, giving a new function to it. But would it be better that such manor center, not used and abandoned, goes to rack and ruin as it happens not just in one place in Latvia?

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Lieta: *Augulienas muiža.*

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In 1979, **Jānis Zilgalvis** graduated from the Riga Technical University, the Faculty of Architecture. In 1990, he defended the doctoral thesis on the theme: the architecture of the Latvian Manors in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century-the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since 1995, Head of Department of Architecture of the State Inspection for Heritage Protection and since 2001—an associate professor of the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning of the Riga Technical University. Since 2007-a corresponding member of the Latvian Academy of Science, since 2012 full member. Over 170 scientific and popular science publications and the author of 17 books (some co-authored). The main research trends-manor architecture and cultural history, sacral architecture and art, protection and use of the cultural heritage.

**Kopsavilkums.** Augulienas muiža (Roseneck), kas vācu valodā saukta arī Augul un latviski tulkota kā Ozolmuiža vai Auguļi atrodas Gulbenes rajonā Beļavas pagastā, aptuveni 15 km no Gulbenes Augulienas ezera krastā. Augulienas muižas apbūve, kopā ar citām atsevišķām ēkām ir iekļauta Valsts aizsargājamo kultūras pieminekļu sarakstā. Muižas apbūvi veido kungu māja, divas kalpu mājas, kalpu māja ar saimniecības ēku, laidara spārns, rija un dažas citas ēkas. Muižas vēsture saistīta ar fon Tranzē – Rozeneku dzimtu. Laika gaitā tās apbūve nedaudz mainījies, taču plānojuma struktūra saglabājusies. Muižā norisinās atjaunošanas darbi, tāpēc tās izpēte ir aktuāla.