



## Salaspils memori?lais ansamblis [Salaspils Memorial Ensemble]

### Latvia

Salaspils novads  
Riga (District) LV-2117 Salaspils

### Commission

1964

### Completion

1969

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### Original use

Monument/memorial

### Current use

Monument/memorial

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## Architects

Gunārs Asaris, Oļegs Zakamennijs, Oļģerts Ostenbergs and Ivars Strautmanis

## Artists

Ēvrs Bukovskis, Ya. Zanis and Oļegs Skarainis, Sculptors

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## Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

## Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete, Prestressed concrete

## Structural types

One-dimensional/ [trussed] beam

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## Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

## Description

The Salaspils concentration camp, built by the Nazi regime, was located a few kilometres outside the Latvian capital, Riga. Officially, it was only a detention camp for Latvians, but Jews who had been deported directly from Germany and the occupied countries were also sent there, and it functioned as an extermination camp where nearly 3,000 people died.

In 1967 the memorial was opened – one of the first and the largest of its kind in Europe. The allegorical monument consists of a long wall of exposed concrete and seven monumental sculptures, also made of concrete, representing: the Mother, the Unbroken, the Infamous, Protest, Red Front and Solidarity. To access the enclosure where the sculptures are located, which is also a cemetery, you cross the narrow space left open under the wall: it is slightly suspended in the air, supported only at its ends.

The wall is actually a large reinforced concrete box girder, and the interior can be accessed through a discreet opening. The dramatic interior space – which houses a small exhibition – is lit only by linear skylights that seem to leave the ceiling suspended.

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## Links

[Soviet Modernism](#)

[Sos Brutalism](#)

[Video on Youtube](#)