

Protecting Modernism (?)

Issues and ideas from Central Europe

KOVÁCS Dániel

Danube School 2022

Ulm

24 October 2022





Oskó Judit in 2017, and a book based on her TV program, 'Our grandchildren will see it too', published in 1979.

Portrait photo: NÉMETH Gabriella



Cameraman RÁDAY Mihály in
1973.

Photo: Fortepan / RÁDAY
Mihály



RÁDAY at the shooting of 'Our grandchildren won't see it either', around 1980.

Photo: Fortepan / Rádió és
Televízió Újság

Sokan — és nemcsak itt, de világszerte — nehezen azonosulnak a mai építészettel, amely formájában, igényességében leegyszerűsödött, elszegényedett. Ha már ilyen a modern építészet, legalább a kivitelezés magas színvonalával kellene ezt ellensúlyozni. Az összefüggő raszterhomlokzatokon ha betörik egy üveg, ha rozsdásodik a fém, nincs semmilyen apró, mívés részlet, ami elterelje a figyelmet. Míg öreg házaink természetesen öregszenek, addig a maiak lepusztulnak.

Új Tükör, 1985. május 5. 30. o.

Many people—and not only here, but worldwide—find it difficult to identify with today's architecture, which has become simplified and impoverished in its form and sophistication. If modern architecture is like this, it should at least be counterbalanced by a high standard of execution. On a grid facade, if a glass breaks or the metal rusts, there are no small, artistic details to distract attention. While our old houses naturally age, today's ones fall into disrepair.

Új Tükör (New Mirror), 5 May 1985.
pp. 30.

Is it really the grid facade?



Facade architecture ...
pinterest.com



EUMiesAward
miesarch.com



GRID – Manifest Architecture
manifestarchitecture.com



layered grids – dlight by daign
dlightbydesign.com



Metallic grid facade Stock Photo by ...
depositphotos.com



dusk. International Criminal Co...
alamy.com



Grids | Dezeen
dezeen.com



The Grid, Limassol | draftworks*
draftworks.eu



parsed example facade...
researchgate.net



Vantage Point / Grid Ar...
archdaily.com



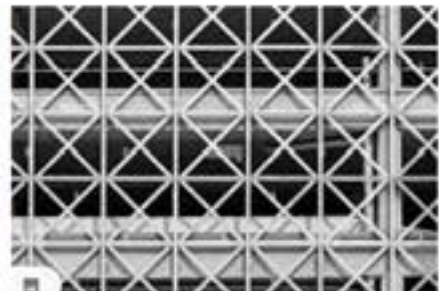
OBSESSED BY THE GRID
obsessedbythegrid.tumblr.com



light gray, stringent in-situ concrete ...
facebook.com



office building with a timber grid in Tokyo
worldarchitecture.org



Related searches

- grid architecture
- grid form buildings



Problems post-war architecture is facing:

- Aging of materials
- Changes in use
- Changes in taste and public appreciation



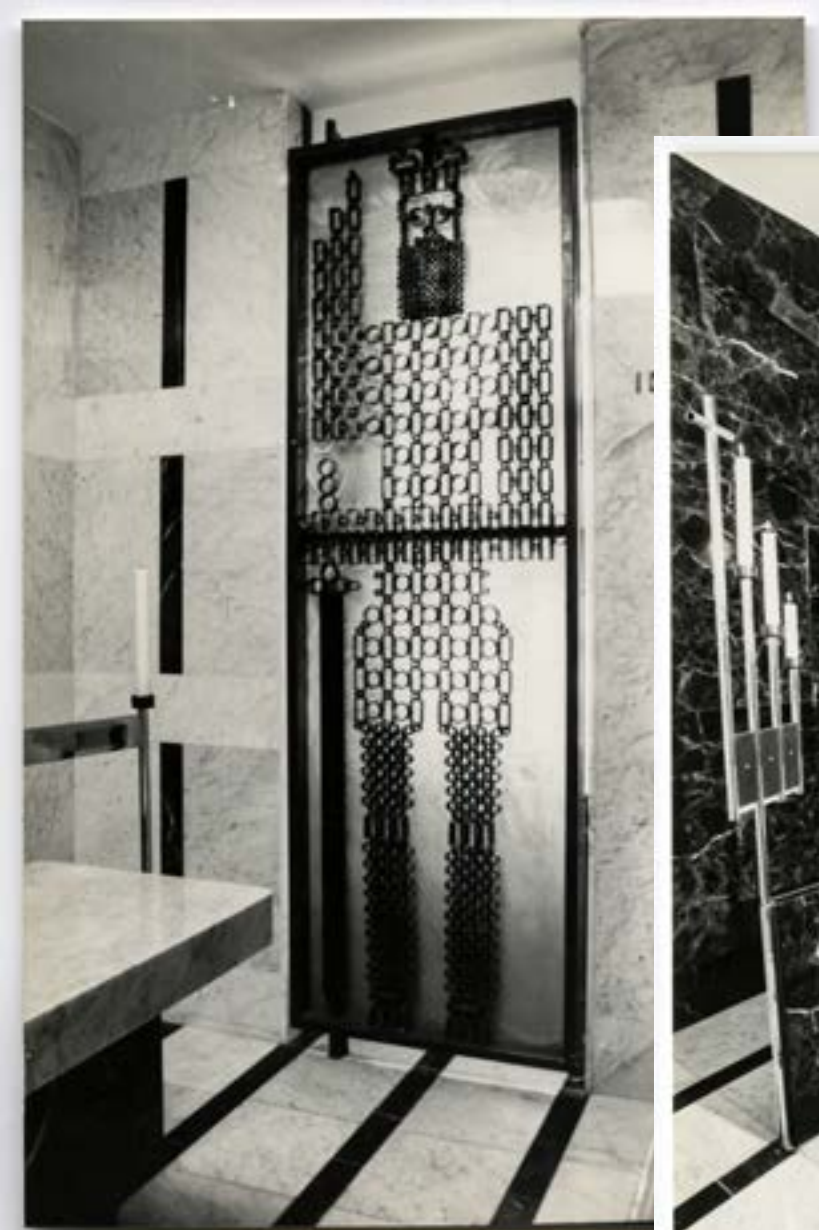
All Saints Roman Catholic church in Budapest. 1972-1975. Architect: Szabó István

Photo: Archives of Szabó István, HMA MPDC Museum Department



Interior after installing the copy of a Baroque organ

Photo: Kovács Dániel

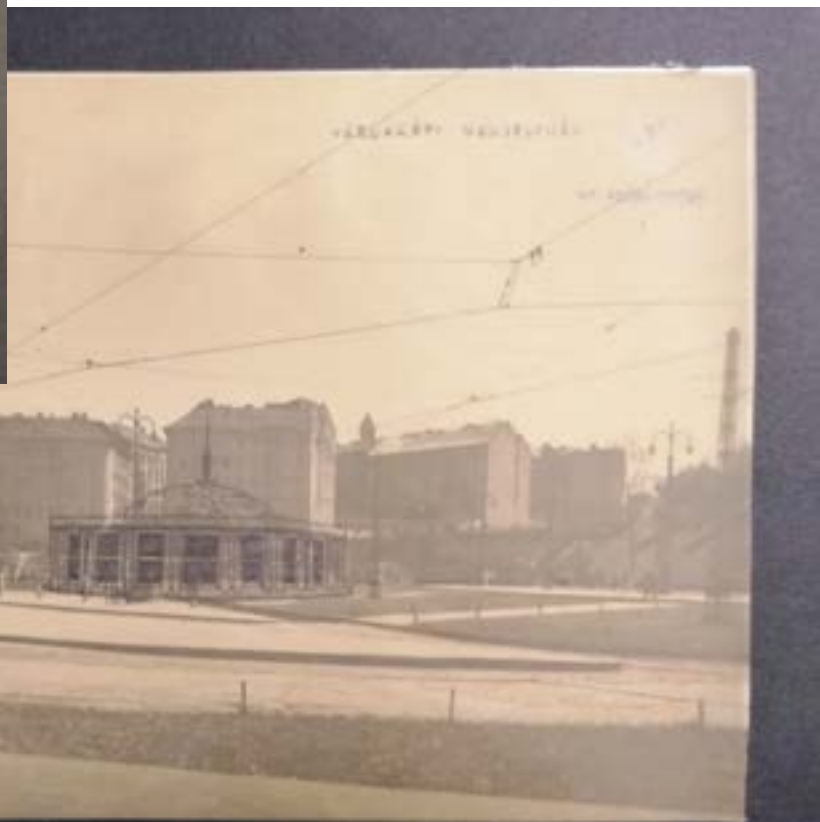


Chapel for the Archbishop,
Buda Castle, late 1970s.
Architect: SZABÓ István

Photos: Archives of SZABÓ
István, HMA MPDC



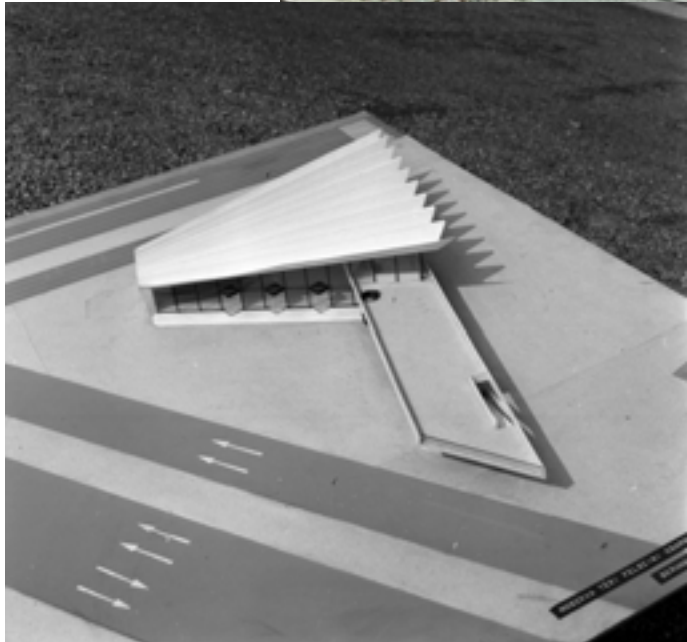
Földalatti Vasút Moszkva-téri állomásán felszíni csarnokának tanulmányterve.
KÖHLÖCSAT.



Földalatti Vasút Moszkva-téri állomásán felszíni csarnokának tanulmányterve.
VÁROSKÉPI MEGJELÉSKÉS ÉSZAK-NYUGAT FELŐL NÉZVE.

Visuals for the metro station's street-level pavilion on Moszkva Square, Budapest. Around 1952.

Photo: HMA MPDC, Museum Department



Model and the finished pavilion in 1972, according to the plans of CZEGLÉDI István

Photo: Fortepan / UVATERV



Reconstruction works and the result around 2015

Photo: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



1 May Parade on the
marching square, next to
Városliget (City Park) in 1974

Photo: Fortepan / SZALAY
Zoltán



The marching square in an average day

Photo: Fortepan / FŐMTERV



The marching square around
1960

Photo: Archives of WEICHINGER
Károly, MDA MPDC, Museum
Department



The former marching square today, with the new building of the Museum Ethnography by FERENCZ Marcell

Photo: PALKÓ György, Liget Budapest

Problems post-war architecture is facing:

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- Changes in taste and public appreciation
- Changing expectations of building performance



Táltos Street Roman Catholic Church by SZABÓ István, early 1980s.

Photo: SZABÓ István Archives, HMA MPDC



The current state of the Táltos Street Church, after the renovations in 2000-2001 by POTYONDI Péter

Photo: Kovács Dániel



LÁNG Cultural Center,
Budapest, designed in 1968
and after the current
renovation by NAGY Csaba
(ARCHIKON)



LÁNG Cultural Center,
Budapest, after the current
renovation by NAGY Csaba
(ARCHIKON)

Problems post-war architecture is facing:

- Aging of materials
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The 25-story-highrise of Pécs. Constructed in 1984-1986, abandoned in 1989, demolished in 2016. Photo from 2009

Photo: Kovács Dániel

Problems post-war architecture is facing:

- Aging of materials
- Changes in use
- Changes in taste and public appreciation
- Changing expectations of building performance
- Construction problems, insufficient building materials
- Changes in society



Pioneers' Home in Veszprém,
1982. Architect: ZALAVÁRY
Lajos. Demolished in 2008.

Photo: Archives of ZALAVÁRY
Lajos



PINTÉR Béla's 1952 Cultural Center in Tolna and how it looks today

Problems post-war architecture is facing:

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- Changes in society
- Property development



Istropolis House of Trade
Unions, Bratislava. 1956-1981,
architects: Ferdinand KONČEK,
Il'ja SKOČEK, and Ľubomír TITL

Photo: Saving Istropolis
Instagram



Render of the new building,
designed by KCAP and
CITYFÖRSTER

Photo: Saving Istropolis
Instagram



saving_istropolis • Követem



Historia PKO sa opakuje!
Developer môže získať povolenie na zbúranie Istropolisu a starosta mestskej časti si už robí alibi pred podpísaním búracieho rozhodnutia.
<https://bratislava.sme.sk/c/22731626/i-stopolis-nesmie-skoncit-ako-pko-nove-mesto-ziada-zaruky.html>

Zbúrajú najväčšiu spoločenskú sálu na Slovensku a pamätihodnosť mesta a mestskej časti, bez toho aby Pamiatkový úrad SR jednoznačne rozhodol o tom či má byť pamiatkou?



385 kedvelés

SZEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Ha szeretnéd kedvelni vagy hozzászólni, [lépj be](#).

Istropolis House of Trade Unions, Bratislava. 1956-1981, architects: Ferdinand KONČEK, Ilja SKOČEK, and Ľubomír TITL

Photo: Saving Istropolis Instagram



Demolition of Istropolis,
currently ongoing

Photo: sme.sk



PKO Rotunda, Warsaw. 1960–1969, architect: Jerzy JAKUBOWICZ

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



The Rotunda during reconstruction and its current state

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Kielce Bus Station, 1975-1984.
Architect: Edward
MODRZEJEWSKI

Photo Wikimedia Commons



Kielce Bus Station during the renovation work in 2019 and 2020.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Okrąglak Department Store,
Poznań. Architect: Marek
LEYKAM, 1948-1954.



Okrağlak after the recent redevelopment

Problems post-war architecture is facing:

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- Changes in taste and public appreciation
- Changing expectations of building performance
- Construction problems, insufficient building materials
- Changes in society
- Property development
- Change in architectural / monument protection thinking and practice



Reconstruction of the Roman-era Iseum in Szombathely by HAJNÓCZY Gyula, 1960.

Photo: Fortepan / NAGY Gyula



The Iseum after the recent renovations by MEZŐS Tamás

Photo: szombathely.hu



The preserved ruins of the 15-16th Century Royal Castle in Miskolc-Diósgyőr

Photo: Fortepan / BALÁZS Lajos



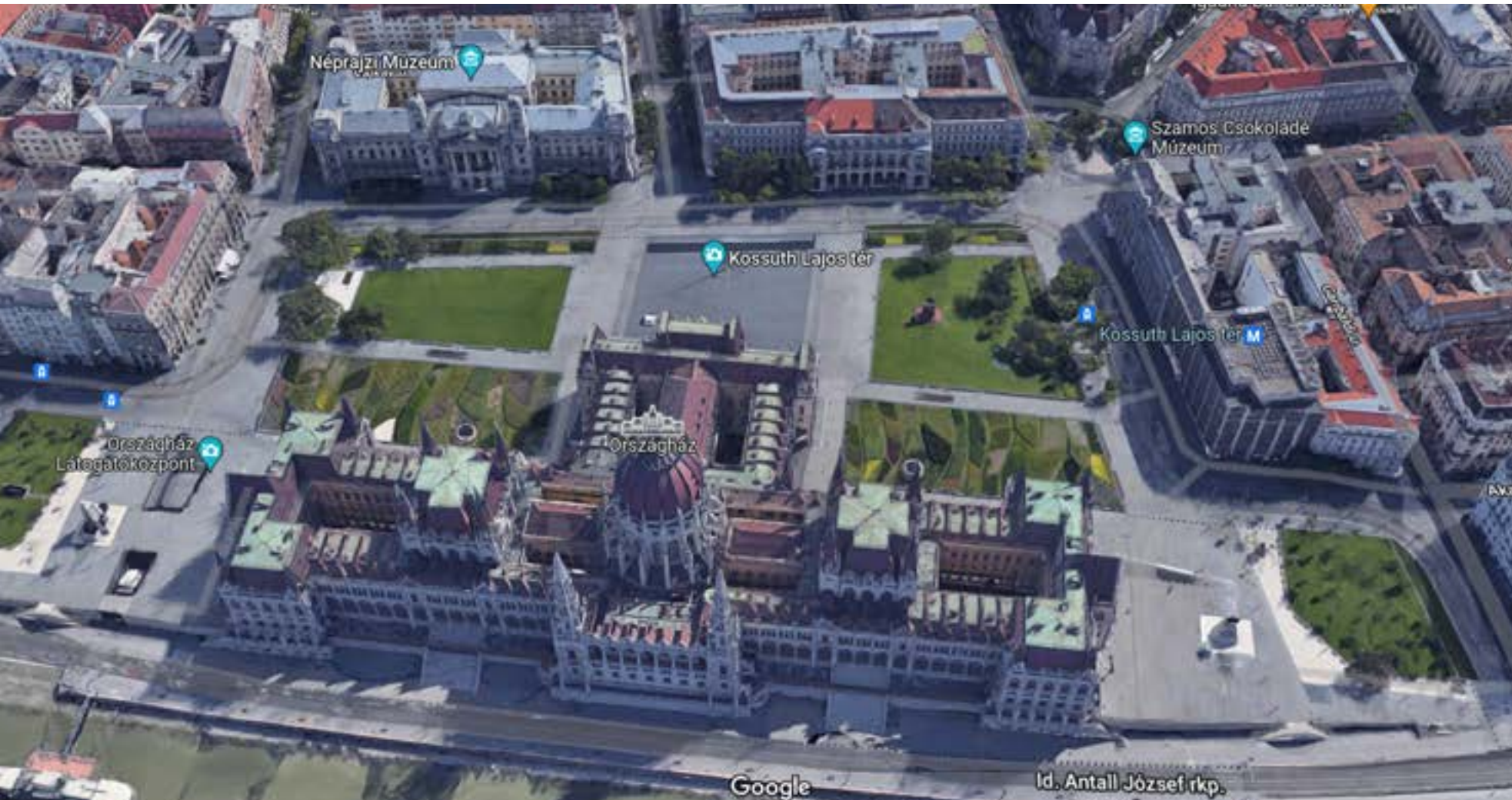
The Miskolc-Diósgyőr Castle ruins after the first phase recent preservation works, and a render of the future look

Problems post-war architecture is facing:

- Aging of materials
- Changes in use
- Changes in taste and public appreciation
- Changing expectations of building performance
- Construction problems, insufficient building materials
- Changes in society
- Property development
- Change in architectural / monument protection thinking and practice
- Political discontent

Kossuth tér office building

1920s: HÜTL Dezső creates an overall facade plan for the square, which remains partially realized





Kossuth tér office building

1920s: HÜTL Dezső creates an overall facade plan for the square, which remains partially realized





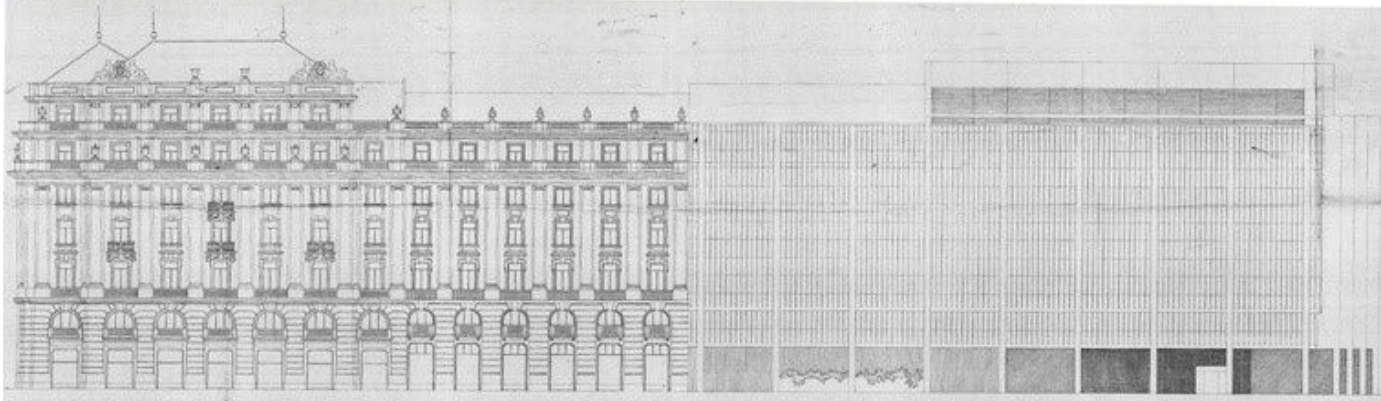
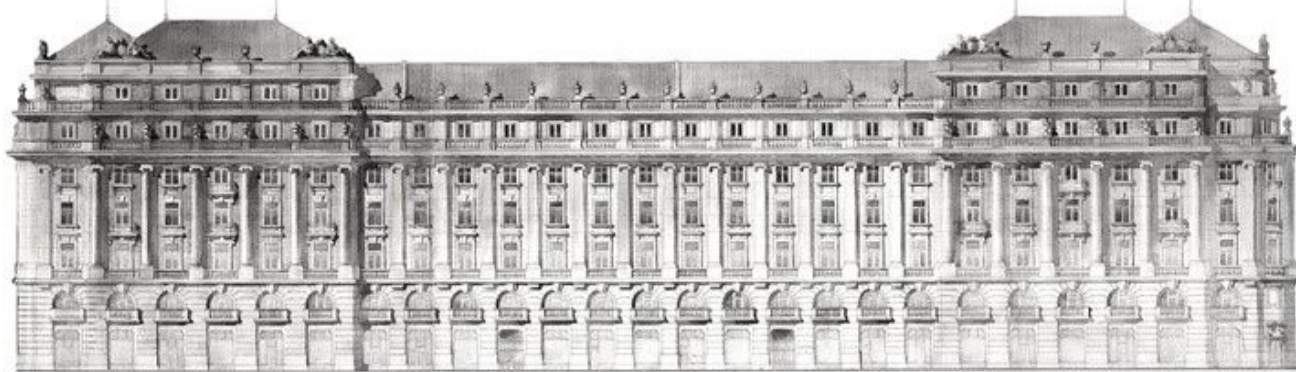
Kossuth tér office building

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1972: on the last plot, a Modernist office building is realized by PINTÉR Béla

2010: general reconstruction of the Kossuth Square around the Parliament

2015: (unsuccessful) competition for the redesign of the office building





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2016-2017: demolition of the office building

2017-2019: new building based on the Hüttl-facade design and contemporary interiors by VADÁSZ Bence



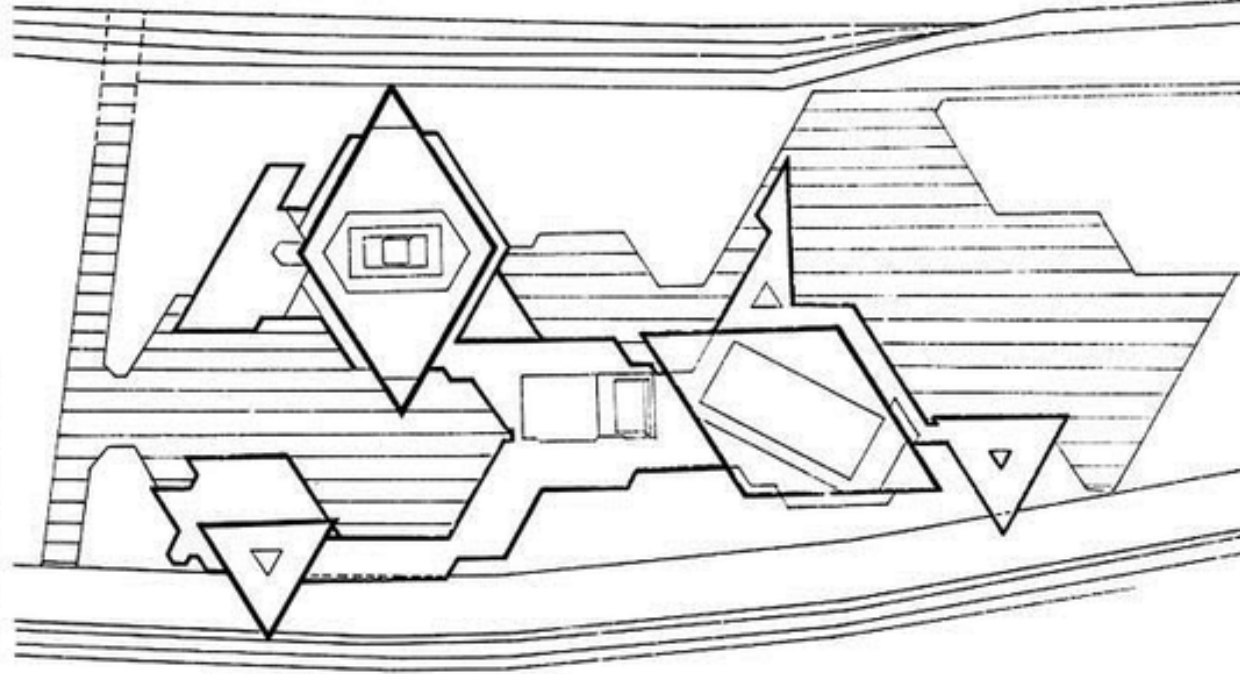
Avala Tower in Belgrade
before the NATO bombings
and after the 2006
reconstruction

Postcard and photo: Miomir
MAGDEVSKI, Wikimedia
Commons

Main tool until now: activist urbanism

- Public protests
- Using national and international media
- Putting pressure on local politicians

The result: a (partially preserved)
old monument



25th May Sports Centre,
Belgrade. 1970-1975.
Architect: Ivan ANTIĆ



After the reconstruction by
studio 4of7 (Đorđe
STOJANOVIĆ and Vladimir
PAVLOVIĆ)



Hotel Cracovia, Krakow.
1960–1965, architect: Witold
CĘCKIEWICZ



Hotel Cracovia, the current state



Alexey SHCHUSEV: Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute, Tbilisi. 1938



Alexey SHCHUSEV: Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute, Tbilisi. 1938



The former Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute with the added tower of the luxury hotel



Flowers of Ukraine building,
Kyiv, mid 1980s. Architect:
Mykola LEVCHUK



save.kvity.ukrainy • Követem



Зберегти Квіти України

save.kvity.ukrainy 🧡 РЕВІТАЛІЗАЦІЯ:
Квіти України здорової людини!

Показали сьогодні на пресконференції візію, як можна зберегти Квіти України і провести ревіталізацію. Рухаємося до того, щоб будівля повернулася на культурну мапу Києва в якості визначної пам'ятки українського модернізму та зберегла при цьому важливу для місцевої спільноти бізнес-функцію.

! Важливе уточнення. Це не альтернативний проект, це лише візія, яка потрібна для того, аби продемонструвати, що собою представляє ця будівля, та яким би міг бути результат ревіталізації.



1,262 kedvelés

JULIUS 22, 2021

Ha szeretnéd kedvelni vagy hozzászólni, lépj be.

A reusal proposal, Save Kvity
Ukrainy Instagram

But how can we create a

NEW MONUMENT?

But how can we create a

NEW MONUMENT?

Architectural reuse and reinterpretation



Fehérvári Street Market Hall
in the 1980s. Designer:
HALMOS György

Photo: Fortepan / Magyar
Rendőr



Detail of the market hall today, partially covered and extended

Photo: Kovács Dániel



Interior of the market hall today, partially covered and extended

Photo: Kovács Dániel



The 13th District St Martin's Church by SZABÓ István (1980s) and its state after the recent renovation by BERCZ Tamás

Photos: KOVÁCS Dániel

But how can we create a

NEW MONUMENT?

Architectural reuse and reinterpretation

Ruin value?



Ministry of Defence
Yugoslavia Building,
Belgrade. 1957-1965,
architect: Nikola DOBROVIĆ

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Facade model of the National Scientific Library (former Technical Library) Tbilisi, Georgia. 1985. Architect: G. BICHIASHVILI

Photo: Kovács Dániel

But how can we create a

NEW MONUMENT?

Architectural reuse and reinterpretation

Ruin value?

Understanding a different set of values



An average single family home in Tbilisi, 2022

Photo: Kovács Dániel



Homemade fence in
Balatonudvari, around 1980.

Photo: Formákon túl, 2022

But how can we create a
NEW MONUMENT?

Architectural reuse and reinterpretation
Ruin value?
Understanding a different set of values
...and collecting and telling stories!



OTHERNITY

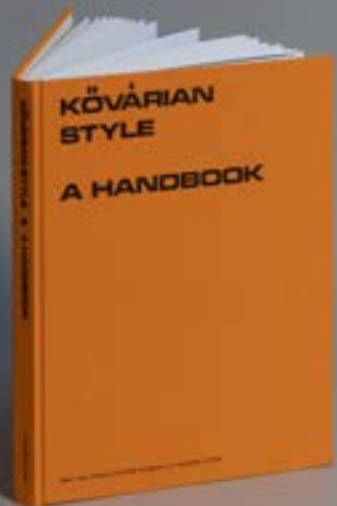
Reconditioning Our
Modern Heritage





Déli Railway Station in
Budapest, 1970s. Architect:
KÓVÁRI György

Photos: DÖMÖLKY Dániel,
Othernity



Kövárian Style. A design book based on the works of KÖVÁRI György, by Paradigma Ariadné

Photos: DÖMÖLKY Dániel, Othernity



Domus Furniture Department
Store by LÁZÁR Antal and
REIMHOLZ Péter, Budapest

Photos: DÖMÖLKY Dániel,
Othernity



Domus Baths by BUDCUD

Photos: DÖMÖLKY Dániel,
Othernity



Budapest Planetarium by Lux László, in its current (empty) state

Photo: DÖMÖLKY Dániel,
Othernity



A **Cs. Juhász Sára** tervezte
esztergomi szerszámgépgyár
fényképei

Photo: DÖMÖLKY Dániel,
Othernity



Installation photos of
Otherness in the Hungarian
pavilion at the Biennale

Photo: DÖMÖLKY Dániel,
Otherness

"Some of the outstanding examples both in terms of content and display include shows such as Otherness in the Hungarian pavilion—a carefully and beautifully composed exhibition on alternative narratives of Eastern European modernity displayed through a mixture of contemporary practices involved with urban space, from photography to art to design.,,"

Strelka Mag

"Perhaps the most exciting (definitely the most imaginative) take on communist architecture after Communism comes from Hungary, where a curatorial team led by Dániel Kovács has crafted a show of rare visual and intellectual concision... The floorplan of the show is especially elegant, maintaining a precise symmetry between the two sections and inviting visitors to bounce back and forth between endangered past and speculative future.,,"

Artforum

Thank you for your attention

KOVÁCS Dániel

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