UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES "KING MIHAI I"
FROM TIMISOARA
"YOUNG PEOPLE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN APPLIED LIFE SCIENCES"

21-22 November 2024

"Young people and multidisciplinary research in applied life sciences"

Banat Multiculturalism Reflected in Architecture

Loredana VĂDUVA[1]*, Cornelia PETROMAN[1], Diana MARIN[1], Ioan PETROMAN[1]

[1] Banat's University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I", Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Timisoara

*Corresponding author's e-mail: loredana_heber@yahoo.com

Abstract: *Organic architecture promotes harmony between human habitation and the natural world, making buildings, furnishings, sites, and surroundings become part of an interrelate, yet unified composition. The principles of organic architecture include building and site, material, nature, shelter, space, proportion and scale, and repose. Hungarian architect Imre Makovecz left a legacy to Hungarian town of Makó (Bandstand, Calvin Square Reformed Primary School, House of Public Offices, József Attila High School and Ferenc Erdei Sports Hall, József Attila Town Library, Makó Bus Station, Makó Oniontikum Spa extension, Makó Oniontikum Spa, Onion House, Public spaces, Swimming pool, and Wheat Street Nursery) and to the Romanian towns of Cluj-Napoca (Reformed Church on Donath Street), Miercurea Ciuc (Roman Catholic Church), Sfântu Gheorghe (Funeral Chapel), and Timișoara (New Millennium Reformed Church).*

• Introduction

Organic architecture promotes harmony between human habitation and the natural world, making buildings, furnishings, sites, and surroundings become part of an interrelate, yet unified composition. The principles of organic architecture include building and site, material (stone, wood), nature, shelter, space, proportion and scale, and repose. The phrase organic architecture was coined by American architect, designer, educator, and writer Frank Lloyd Wright Sr. (1867-1959). He turned the slogan "form follows function" into "form and function are one" meaning "nature us the clearest illustration of such integration." (Makovecz, 1984; Beesley & Bonnemaison, 2008; Giustra, 2014; Zbašnik-Senegaènik & Kitek Kuzman, 2014; Pandya, Choudhari & Tinwala, 2018; Bystrova, 2019; Giustra, 2020; Önal & Karakoç, 2019; Monzillo de Oliveira & Pronin, 2024)

Hungarian architect Imre Makovecz (1935-2011) was one of the most prominent proponents of organic architecture. He is a continuator of Frank Lloyd Wright Sr. and of traditional Hungarian art (Heathcote, 2011; Giustra, 2014; Giustra, 2020).

• Material and method

The materials used in this paper consist in documents an photos related to the works of the Hungarian architect Imre Makovecz in Hungary (Makó) and Romania (Cluj-Napoca, Miercurea Ciuc, Sfântu Gheorghe, and Timișoara). The research method used here is descriptive, a method that accurately and systematically describes a situation or phenomenon, answering what, where, when and how questions, but not why questions.

• Results and discussions

Hungarian architect Imre Makovecz left a legacy to Hungarian town of Makó (Bandstand, Calvin Square Reformed Primary School, House of Public Offices, József Attila High School and Ferenc Erdei Sports Hall, József Attila Town Library, Makó Bus Station, Makó Oniontikum Spa extension, Makó Oniontikum Spa, Onion House, Public spaces, Swimming pool, and Wheat Street Nursery) and to the Romanian towns of Cluj-Napoca (Reformed church on Donath street), Miercurea Ciuc (Roman Catholic Church), Sfântu Gheorghe (Funeral Chapel), and Timișoara (New Millennium Reformed Church) (Heathcote, 2011).

Imre Makovecz (co-)designed the following buildings in Makó, presented below in chronological order (Makovecz Makója):

- The Onion House (1998) in the Marczibányi square is like the surroundings and it displays: concrete pillars forming trees to support the roof of the structure, plant-like glass elements erupting into the sky, towers symbolizing the renewal of nature, and a wooden dome depicting an anthropomorphic, human rib cage system (Figure 1a); it was Makovecz's last juvenile plan;
- József Attila High School and Ferenc Erdei Sports Hall (2001) represents harmony in both organic and eclectic architecture styles (Figure 1b) and displays wooden pillars forming trees to support the roof of the structure, as well as wooden beams;

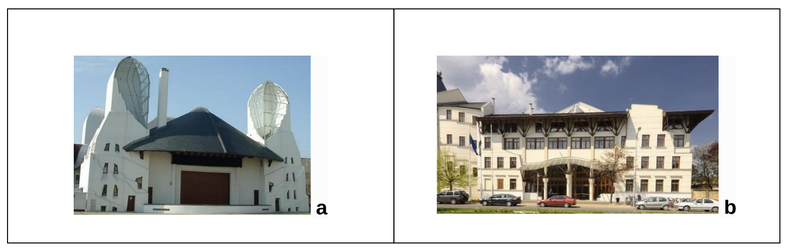
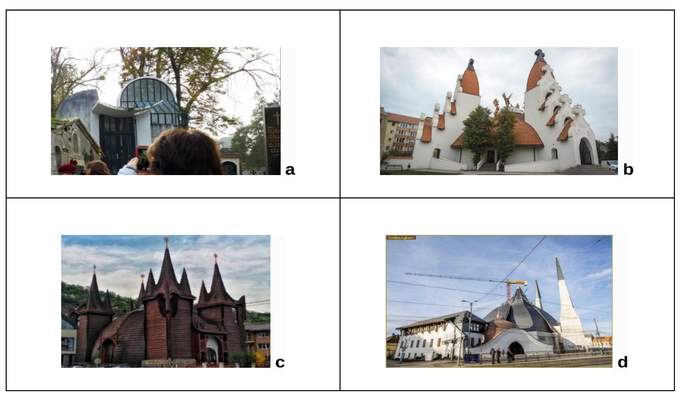


Figure 1. Makó, Hungary: a – The Onion House;
b – József Attila High School and Ferenc Erdei Sports Hall

Cluj-Napoca, Miercurea Ciuc, Sfântu Gheorghe, Timișoara (Romania)

- The Funeral Chapel (Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna County) (1998), used also for regular religious services, displays nonconformist architectural shapes (Figure 2a); The Roman Catholic Church (Miercurea Ciuc, Harghita County) (2001) displays trefoil-like crosses (Figure 2b); The Reformed Church on Donath Street (Cluj-Napoca, Cluj County) (2008) displays wooden beams symbolising the ribs of the human body (Figure 2c); The New Millennium Reformed Centre Church (Timișoara, Timiș County) (2019) displays tulip-like cupolas (Figure 2d).



• Conclusions

Two conclusions can be drawn from the presentation above:

- Tourists who usually go to Makó for shopping tourism and/or for spa tourism should also be offered a cultural tourism (organic architecture) tour, which could help the better understand the "curious" architecture of some buildings in Romania (Cluj-Napoca, Miercurea Ciuc, Sfântu Gheorghe, and Timișoara);