

Pápa and Gábor Winkler

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Abstract—That Fridays when he came to Pápa meant Whitsun for us. We took a seat around a table in the city hall drinking the daily coffee and listening to lovely stories. From the moment he arrived we left behind all official things and were talking about architecture. Real city planning, building designing it was, a living architecture within a consultation day. We never thought that we lived in an intellectual manufactory led by him.

I learned this city managing science from him, not in the university. There was nobody during those occasions who left the room without satisfaction. The mentality he suggested to us and the inhabitants was unique. We had no regulations, no city norms. He was the law himself. Everyone who lived in Pápa accepted that if you were going to get license for a building you should arrange it with the city architect. After he had agreed with it you got it from the authorities. From 1972 Gábor as a young architect worked for the Ex-City Council in planning the city reconstruction plans, especially the protected areas of downtown. Pápa has a world-famous heritage based on a city structure from the middle ages, and was shaped from the baroque in the 18th century till the end of the last century. We socialist modern city rebuilding movements avoid the large number of old buildings, the street network.

I. INTRODUCTION (THE CITY PLANNER)

In the early '70s a Győr located planning company started to make the new city development plans and to survey the ground level of the city. On this base were the new city plans made. Despite of these serious measuring plans the government policy forced them to destroy the borders of the old city and subordinated the city planning to technical development (e.g. the traffic infrastructure network.) Today maybe it's unbelievable that we can find Winkler's name on these plans. Following this centralized urbanist approach he implemented the decisions, but felt and recognized that Pápa has much more valuable historic buildings and blocks of building sites to save and that it would be necessary to make a historical city research study.

During the end of '60s in the Central City Planning Institute (VÁTI) a new strategy appeared. Győr, Sopron and Kőszeg successfully started to revitalize their downtown areas. In 1975 the research study proposed by Winkler was ready and Pápa started that city's protecting process that remains until today.

They worked-out a special data collecting and researching method. Measured the medieval ruins, foundations, cellars and made detailed proposals on how to save or renew each building and site.



FIGURE 1. Downtown Reconstruction Plan, Detail (1974-1975) Master Plan

All street elevations of houses got proposals, how to complete the missing parts, and what building height's were submitted and advised. There were also recommendations of what constructed density would be necessary in the built-in areas.

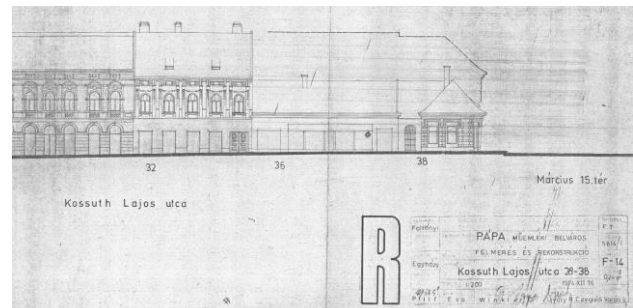


FIGURE 2. Downtown Reconstruction Plan, Detail (1974-1975) Street elevation proposal

In the City Hall a local city expert committee was founded. Within the members we found, architects, city planners, authority persons and communist party leaders too. Gábor was one of the most determinants in this group. Thanks to this city expert committee Pápa won a Hild-prize in 1989, which was the first serious accomplishment of the local city protection activity. From this time Gábor was officially asked to be city architect.

In his curriculum vitae he reported about a study visit in the USA in 1980, where he presented studies about the successful local protection methods. Using his experiences made in the local building protection catalogues in Győr and Sopron.

Under his local work city zoning plans were formed. First the Downtown zoning plan was made in 1979-81 in Pápa. It was supervised by him as the member of Hungaro Austro Planning Ltd. in 1992-93. Next was the plan of the Esterházy street and its surroundings. This block of village sites was built approximately during one period from 1920-30. In the documentation of the zoning plans in Pápa Gábor made a catalogue for each building containing not only the protected buildings. These pages in the black city book was considered the bible of all building possibilities.



PÁPA BELVÁROS MÓDOSÍTOTT BRT		házszám	helyrajzi szám	házszám	helyrajzi szám
Bástya utca		003	3671	Bástya utca	005 3670
beépítési %	legnagyobb párkánymag.	műemléki véd.		beépítési %	legnagyobb párkánymag.
jelenlegi	jelenlegi	védett műemlék		jelenlegi	jelenlegi
"L" beépítésű, zártsorú beépítést lezáró, földszintes, magastetővel ellátott, 3-4 tengelyes, kétdi, historizáló homlokzattal, jellegzetes, gazdag építészeti díszekkel (párkány, ablakkeretezés) - típusú sztalakozatokkal ellátott. Állásidő az épület műemléki jellegéből kell megítélni!			29/82	"L" beépítésű, jellegzetes, földszintes, magastetővel ellátott, 3-4 tengelyes, kétdi, historizáló homlokzattal, jellegzetes, gazdag építészeti díszekkel (párkány, ablakkeretezés) - típusú sztalakozatokkal ellátott. Állásidő az épület műemléki jellegéből kell megítélni!	
					
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FIGURE 3. Catalogue page with two buildings in Winkler Gábor's Downtown Zoning Plan (1993)

II. THE CITY ARCHITECT

He incarnates the definition of a city architect for me. The local city expert committee was the first forum where new plans were reviewed. In the beginning the central monument protection office attended these occasions, later Gábor led it alone. The local building authority provided a place to arrange these consultations once weekly or every two weeks.

During the '90s there wasn't a general practice in Hungary on how to manage and what are the tasks of a city architect. In seeing the results I can see that this is the only way to form a historical city shape. Working out of Pápa I propagated his methods but was surprised seeing that nobody likes to hear it. Being a city architect of Veszprém I could get serious achievements in renewing the protected city areas. We used the same consultation occasions in the City Hall to realize it.

The city architect consultation day combined with Gábor's personal mental ability was a key of the face of Pápa today. All designing solutions, architectural details, building colourings, street furnitures and advertisements were formed from the first sketch these consultations. He could convince each architects, customers of the main goal of our surrounding step by step.

The Hungarian building affairs officially never accepted this approach of city and building protecting principle. Although, he received many congratulations for his activity, for a long time they thought that the regulation of each lots separately doesn't fit to the European legal standards. Today the new law offers

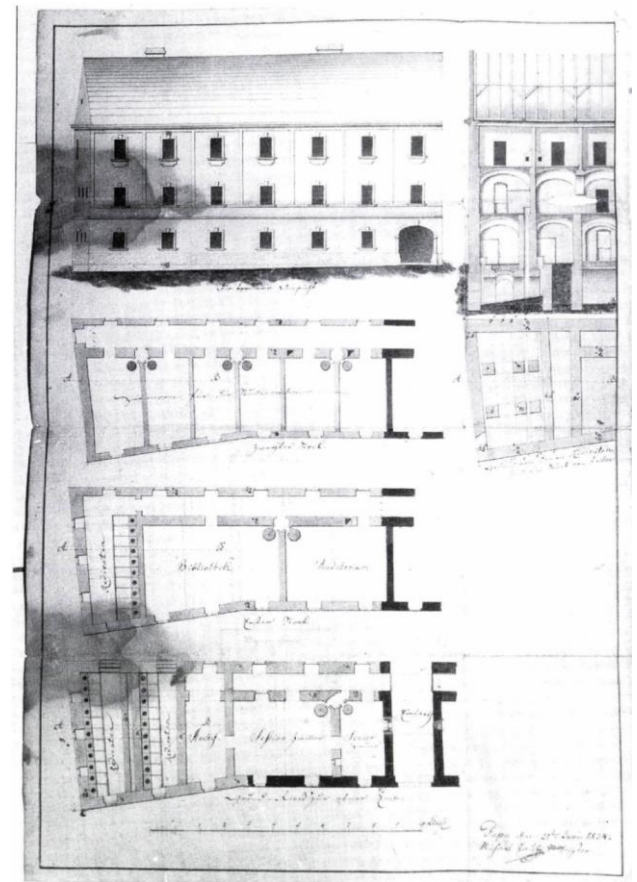
regulations for municipalities to accept local rules for architectural consultation.

III. The designer architect

As in Győr or Sopron he designed a few houses and building reconstructions in Pápa. The extensions plan of the Calvinist Old College was a big challenge for him. He always had a fear that his idea for the extension and Pauly Mihály's 1824 extension plan would not fit together.



FIGURE 4. Calvinist Old College ext. plan by G. W.



4. Pápa, református Ókollégium. Michael Pauly Maurer Meister: az épület főiskolai szárnyának bővítése, 1824. Pápai Református Gyűjtemény, ltsz. nélkül. Reprodukció: Haris Andrea

FIGURE 5. Former extension plan by Pauly Mihály (1824)

There is a small piazza in the beginning of Zimmermann Street. We were asked to plan a memorial monument for the protestant galley-slaves Mihály Sztárai and Gál Huszár. Many times we joked about its sketching and never hoped that this corner can become a popular meeting place for young loving couples.



FIGURE 6. Memorial monument for the protestant galley-slaves Mihály Sztárai and Gál Huszár

IV. The professor

„I love architecture in its continuity. From the beginning to the future it is a process for me which is really interesting when we know all elements of it.

We see this era having no evident opinion about it from the architects today. The 19th century believed that the former historical styles are not over; they have possibilities in it, can develop it and can be suitable to cover the new expectations of the 19th century. History, historicism, historical. We name this 19th century the era of historicism. Modern architects in the 20th century felt that they should finally win the historicism in order to leave modern architecture to be born and spread. They told all bad for this style. Maybe Miklós Ybl was the only one accepted by them.

Heritage protection likes cutting into pieces the buildings, placing them into different boxes: classicism, romanticism, early eclecticism, eclecticism. It is similar to the legendary Cinderella tale when the prince tries to fit the glass slipper to the girls' feet and they must cut small pieces in front or back side.

This is a coherent, significant era!”

The historicism in the 19th century was his favorite style and era. It complements the downtown's baroque face in Pápa with few buildings from the secession. He taught us and really could understand to use and live architecture maintaining respect for the built heritage. It moderates us to plan and take care of the whole city not only a separated building.

Thanks to his endeavors the City of Pápa obtain a color! Not only on the front side of the buildings but also in all corners or house gates of the downtown. We lost him, but he lives in our heart with his smile, his wisdom and his friendship.

REFERENCES (IN HUNGARIAN)

- [1] Fig. 1. Downtown Reconstruction Plan of Pápa by Győr-Sopron County Council Planning Company, Master Plan detail (1974-1975)
- [2] Fig. 2. Downtown Reconstruction Plan of Pápa by Győr-Sopron County Council Planning Company, Street elevation proposal detail (1974-1975)
- [3] Fig. 3. Catalogue page with two buildings in Winkler Gábor's Downtown Zoning Plan by Hungaro Austro Planning Ltd. (1993)
- [4] Fig 4. Calvinist O'College extension architectural plan by Gábor Winkler (1994)
- [5] Fig. 5. Calvinist O'College extension plan by Pauly Mihály (1824) Detail (Pápa Calvinist College Library)
- [6] Fig. 6. Memorial monument for the protestant galley-slaves Mihály Sztárai and Gál Huszár architectural plan by Gábor Winkler and László Mezei (1997)
- [7] Winkler Gábor: My years in Pápa (Pápai éveim) (2007) Publisher: Jókai Mór Városi Könyvtár ISBN 978-963-87002-7-8