

The New and the Timeless in Budapest

A 3-day sightseeing tour of the city
Fri 26 - Sun 28 April 2024

Accompanying experts: János Klaniczay, Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (KÉK); Maria Welzig, Architekturzentrum Wien; FBIS architecture; Tamás König, architect; Bánáti + Hartvig architecture; Monika Kertész, architect (invited), and others.

János Klaniczay from the Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre KÉK accompanies us and is our tour guide on this excursion to Budapest. Since its foundation in 2006, KÉK has played a productive and a critical role in the architectural and urban development of Budapest, and provides a space for local and international exchange. János speaks English, as do most of the other experts we meet.

Our hotel, the Ensana Thermal Hotel on Margaret Island, planned by Kéri Gyula and built in 1979 to replace the historicist baths by Miklós Ybl, and subsequently renovated in 2000, is an architectural example of Hungarian 'Eastern Modernism'. The hotel has its own thermal health facilities, fed by the springs on Margaret Island.

FRIDAY, 26 April

Departure from Wien Hbf (Vienna Central Station)	08:42
Arrival at Budapest Keleti station	11:19

Luggage is taken directly to the hotel

THE JEWISH QUARTER, 7th District

The Jewish community in Budapest, the largest in Central and Eastern Europe to re-emerge after the Shoah, has contributed to the lively development of the neighbourhood – the former ghetto – over the last decade. We learn about the history of the quarter and the transformation of the structurally outdated district into a lively urban centre while retaining its own particular "raw" architectural atmosphere.

On the way: the Klauzal Market Hall, one of five large market halls built in Budapest in 1897 as modern iron structures; Parisiana Theatre by Béla Lajta (1907–1909); the minimalist sculptural substation by Ernő Lestyán (1965–1969); a community garden run by the KÉK Architecture Centre.

Unlike in Austria and Germany, there are still historic synagogues in Budapest. On the way: the Great Synagogue in Dohány Street (1854–1859, Ludwig Förster) and the Jewish Museum (1930).

RUMBACH SYNAGOGUE

In 1869 Otto Wagner won the architecture competition for the synagogue in Rumbach Sebestyén Street. The building, completed in 1872, is one of Wagner's early works, while with its lightweight iron frame construction it is one of his most modern. The synagogue was left to

fall to ruin for decades. It was reopened in 2021 following renovation and partial reconstruction by König + Wagner Architekten. Tamás König explains the renovation project, which was preceded by intense historical research.

The **KAZINCZY SYNAGOGE** (1912/13, Sándor and Béla Löffler) is an architectural exponent of Budapest Art Nouveau.

LUNCH AT MAZEL TOV. In addition to its food, the restaurant is known for its special atmosphere; a prime example of an urban use of the inner courtyards typical for the quarter while retaining their "ramschackle charm".

METRO LINES 1, 3, 4

A ride on metro Lines 1, 3 and 4 to our next destination, the 11th district on the other side of the Danube: The architectural significance of transport structures in Budapest.

Metro Line 1 was built for the Hungarian millennium celebrations in 1896 and was the first underground railway on the continent. Iron and reinforced concrete, the ceramic station signs from the Zsolnay Porcelain Manufactory characterise its appearance. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2002.

The stations on the new metro Line 4, which crosses the Danube, were nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Award 2015, the most prestigious European architecture prize (sporaarchitects, Palatium etc.). The stations on metro Line 3 were recently renovated with a high degree of attention paid to the design (2023).

BARTÓK BÉLA BOULEVARD AND SURROUNDINGS, 11th District

The 11th District of Budapest, south of Gellért Hill, developed from 1900 onwards, and around Bartók Béla Boulevard are magnificent examples of turn-of-the-century housing, early uses of reinforced concrete, villas and artists' houses. Recently, the neighbourhood has become one of Budapest's most culturally vibrant locations with its cafés, art galleries and numerous cultural programmes; many of the initiatives to revitalise the neighbourhood can be traced back to the local Újbuda Municipality. The KÉK is also located on Bartók Boulevard.

The **FEHÉRVÁRI ÚTI VÁSÁRCSARNOK**, an impressive market hall from the 1970s, continues the great tradition of Budapest's market halls as supply centres and meeting places.

An example of the high quality of 1950s to 1970s modernism in Budapest is the housing development by Zoltan Gulyas, opposite the market hall, 1959.

The circular 'GOMBA' PAVILLON, a futuristic bus and tram stop from 1942(!). The modernist building was renovated in 2014 and given a contemporary interpretation by the Budapest-based Hetedik Múterem office. The refurbishment and partial reconstruction of modernist buildings is an important topic in contemporary architecture in Budapest.

The renowned **ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE BÁNÁTI & HARTVIG** transformed a detached supermarket from the 1960s into their new office in 2021. We visit the architects, who will explain the building, one of the most interesting contemporary architecture projects in Budapest, and their design strategies.

Then follows a **VISIT TO THE KÉK** on Bartók Béla Boulevard, with a presentation of the work done by the Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre. General urban and architectural

developments in Budapest are discussed, as well as the international competition and urban development projects of recent years by Snøhetta, Diller+Scofidio and Renfro, Sanaa, Adept and others.

DINNER AT KEG SÖRMŰVHÁZ

SATURDAY, 27 April

MARGARET ISLAND

Margaret Island is the city's central natural space, with the Danube flowing through its centre; it is also an important cultural, social and architectural location. The natural island has been inhabited at least since the 13th century. In the course of the regulation of the Danube at the end of the 19th century, it was connected with two other islands to give its present-day shape. In 1909, the city acquired Margaret Island and made it accessible to the general public; it is still Budapest's most important green and recreational space today. Early leisure facilities were built for the city's residents:

The **PALATINUS BAD** (1919) was the first public summer baths. The iconic new building by István Janáky (1937) was renovated and extended in 2018 in exemplary fashion by the Budapest architecture firm Archikon (we meet them again on Sunday).

Another prominent modern building on Margaret Island is the

ALFRED HAJOS SWIMMING STADIUM (1924–1930). Alfred Hajos became the first (Austro-Hungarian) champion Olympic swimmer in 1896, and 20 years later he designed Budapest's swimming stadium as an architect. The four-storey concrete structure for the diving platforms is particularly impressive. It was designed by Eszter Pécsi (Pollák), Hungary's first female architect and engineer. On the way: Art Nouveau water and observation tower (1911) by architect & designer Rezső Vilmos Ray; open-air theatre from the 1930s.

VÍZIVÁROS, 1st District

We cross Margaret Bridge (1876, Ernest Guin) from the island to the Buda side, to the Víziváros (Water Town) district. On the way: On the significance of the Danube bridges for the city's architectural identity.

Víziváros offers a dense mixture of former industrial facilities from the 19th century, modern buildings from the 1930s, sophisticated residential buildings from the 1970s and examples from the present.

The Abraham Ganz iron foundry, one of the most important companies of the Habsburg monarchy, has its oldest headquarters in Víziváros.

PISTON HOUSE (1938), by Béla Hofstätter and Ferenc Domány, with a grandiose oval staircase. Geometria Business Centre (2016, Csillag Katalin, Gunther Zsolt)

Office building (2009, Tamás Tomay, Zoltán Galina, Zoltán Szabó)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING BY FBIS ARCHITECTS (2015–2019) with Imre Szücs of FBIS architects, who are currently working with KÉK on a study of the 1970s fabric of the city.

LUNCH AT MANDRAGORA

MILLENÁRIS AND SZÉLLKAPU PARK, 2nd District

Budapest has an impressive number of former industrial sites from the 19th century. Millenáris Park in Buda is one of the pioneering conversion projects. The former factory complex of the Abraham Ganz iron foundry and electrical engineering company, built in 1897, was converted into an industrial park with a theatre, exhibition halls and green space in 2000. Even if, from today's perspective, one would argue in favour of fewer new buildings and more conserved industrial substance, Millenáris Park has had a significant and lasting impact on the quality of life in the neighbourhood. In 2021, Millenáris was expanded to include Széllkapu Park with a pond and hanging gardens, landscape design by 4D Tájépítész.

SZÉLL KÁLMÁN SQUARE, 2nd District

Széll Kálmán Square is the most important public transport hub on the "mountainous" Buda side of the city. In 1972, on the opening of metro Line 2, the emblematic station building was completed by István Czeglédi in the style of Soviet modernism, was known at the time as the Moskva Metro Station. (The square itself was also named after Moscow until 2011.) In 2016, the square was redesigned with new tram stops by Építész Stúdió and Lépték-Terv landscape architects. The station building from 1972 was renovated and given a contemporary counterpart on the other side of the square. The "chaotic" triangular and sloping square with its typical Budapest architectural heterogeneity is one of Buda's most popular meeting spots despite the heavy traffic.

Return to the hotel and an opportunity to enjoy the **HOTEL'S OWN THERMAL BATHS**.

DINNER AT THE HOTEL

SUNDAY, 28 April

Our luggage is taken to Kéléti Station

VIZAFAGÓ ÖKO PARK, 13th District

A prefabricated housing development from the 1970s, further developed in the 2000s with large office complexes; in-between, disused post-industrial areas. The park and pavilion interventions (2022, Archikon and Objekt Landscape Architecture) are intended to improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood by providing ecologically effective elements.

NYUGATI PÁLYAUDVAR (Budapest Nyugati, west station), 13th District (1874–77, main hall by Gustave Eiffel). With the winning Paris competition project and its realisation, by August des Serres and Gustave Eiffel, among others, the Hungarian capital surpassed all of Vienna's railway stations in terms of modernity. The iron construction with Polonceau trusses allowed for a trainshed with impressive spans and transparent glass walls. The London office of Nicolas Grimshaw won the competition for the extension of Nyugati Pályaudvar and the development of the entire surrounding neighbourhood in 2022 with equally open, transparent spatial concepts.

VÁROSLIGET (City Park), 14th District

City Park, including Heroes' Square and its museums, has been the representative cultural centre of Budapest and Hungary since the Millennium Exhibition in 1896. The Hungarian government, in office since 2010, is planning the further development of City Park into a museum quarter as a tourist magnet and national showcase project, at great financial expense. The new buildings of the Museum of Ethnography and the House of Music Hungary are steps in this direction. As controversial as the large-scale project and its intentions are within the city, the House of Music Hungary by Sou Fujimoto is an architectural windfall for Budapest.

Guided tour of the **HOUSE OF MUSIC HUNGARY** (2022, Sou Fujimoto)

Expansion of the **MUSEUM OF ETHNOGRAPHY** (2022, Napur Architects)

In the foyer: info centre with a model of Budapest. Inspection of the roof, which was designed as a green space (Garten Studio Ltd.). From the roof, an explanation of the building and the MMOSZ trade union building opposite (1949), an icon of Hungarian modernism, and the ING Head Office.

LUNCH AT SZALETLY**ART NOUVEAU IN ZUGLÓ, 14th District**

Ödön Lechner, Béla Lajta & Friends

Public transport to Kéléti Station and luggage collection.

Departure from Budapest Keleti station
Arrival at Wien Hbf (Vienna Central Station)

18:40
21:20

Excursion**The New and the Timeless in Budapest**

Fri 26.04. – Sun 28.04.2024

Departure: Fri 26.04., 08:42, Vienna Central Station

Arrival: Sun 28.04., 21:20, Vienna Central Station

Price: Double room: 1080 €, Single room: 1220 €

(incl. transportation, admission, guided tours, meals & use of the hotel spa)

Reservations by 01.03.2024: anmeldung@azw.at

General cancellation conditions:

Costs for cancellation 60 days before departure: 15%, 30 days before departure: 50%, 14 days before departure: 100% of the total price

Programme subject to change!