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**Thesis of  
Changes and Choices  
DLA dissertation**

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Masterwork: three level family house in Budapest.

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Discipline: architecture.

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## Thesis of Changes and Choices DLA Dissertation

The masterwork is a three level, flat roof family house with 500 m<sup>2</sup> of floor area at the street Csalán in Budapest district II. Besides fulfilling the functional requirements, the following creative ideas have driven the design.

(1) Compared to the architectural structure, the architectural (artistic) intention is less violent; the function is sufficiently elastic for the architectural intention to be arranged. Therefore the bulk of the family house is a plain, long and slender box. The simplicity is conspicuous but genuine as it is proportional in details and the materials of the surfaces are diverse. The facade surfaces defining the appearance are limestone, cedar, colored glass, stainless steel, and aluminum. The gap where the different surfaces meet is a design element. The gap emphasizes the beauty of the surfaces (materials) by their being wedged between two materials, which on this building would be the stone or cedar and the aluminum.

(2) The house is turned lengthwise towards the street. It may look bigger than it really is, but this allows the simplicity to be explicated. The simplicity is closeness and severity, hiding complexity, contradiction and contingency. The opening of the flower balcony is deliberately unexpected, at odds with the closeness of the space. The cantilevered screening stretched out from the depth of the opening, and the alternating windows and cedar panels behind the irregular plant outline, allows one to see into the closeness. If the plant curtain falling off the flower balcony grows, it will reduce the severity.

(3) The slender, narrow house conceals the functions from the outside, making them visible inside. The slender end wall is always mysterious. From within the narrow volume the building becomes lucid, because the spaces (rooms) are enclosed by several, even opposite exterior walls. The slenderness, narrowness are visually enhanced by the screening

construction at the front, and the hanged terrace at the back, because they look like constructions being by necessity crowded out from the building, so they complements the inner functions from outside.

(4) The building should be connected to its environment; therefore the buttresses continue the building in two directions. The rectangular geometry taking shape is fortunately relieved by the arched curvature of the street buttress. The same limestone covers are laid onto the facades of the building and buttresses lying in the garden and along the street, but the tile sizes decrease gradually. (Originally the limestone plates would have been laid onto the street buttress with broken edges facing outward.)

(5) Nowadays in family houses windbreaks are planned as a vestibule, although the vestibule is an important part of a family house: it defines the succession of interiors, and it gives the opportunity to perceive the order of the inner space. The house is divided into a larger and smaller part by the asymmetric position of the two-storey vestibule, while connecting the separated parts on the second floor with a bridge.

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