

DLA Theses

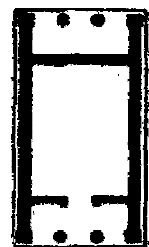
**CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTEMPORARY LUTHERAN
ARCHITECTURE IN HUNGARY**

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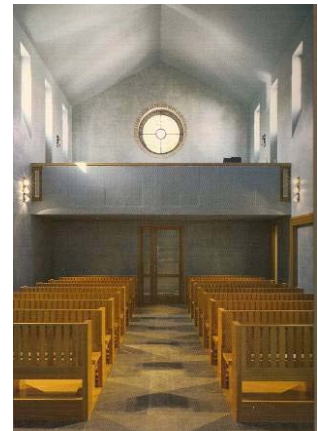


The democratic change of 1989 has given a new momentum to church building in Hungary. Altogether 32 were built between 1990 and 2008. the cycle for contemporary church building has come to an end, and this makes it possible to judge this period from such a short distance of time. A characteristics of the period's Lutheran architecture are, that there are neither international, nor national ecclesiastical principles that would direct or bind the hands of the designers, and, the 45 year break in churchbuilding after the 2nd World War has cut the continuity of Lutheran church architecture. Contemporary church architects design their buildings express their artistic approach freely, individually in every single case. My study analyses the architect's visions of the Lutheran church based on specifically Lutheran architectural issues, and outlines the characteristics of the contemporary Lutheran churches in Hungary.

1. Liturgy manifested in the internal layout

The typical internal arrangement of the period's Lutheran churches shows a strong correlation with the spatial approach of the early 18th century derived from Leonard Sturm's principles: the geometrical and liturgical centres are detached, and attention is drawn into a single direction, the centre.

Rows of benches are placed perpendicular to the axis, parallel to each other (in cases along an arc), behind one another, all looking in the same direction, to the liturgical centre.



2. Connection between liturgy and spatial form

For the first time in Hungarian Lutheran architecture, the spatial forms in this period are not necessarily defined by historical styles nor ecclesiastical guidelines. The lack of liturgical and architectural governing principles, as well as the momentum in church-building, which evolved into the years of the democratic conversion, has given architects the opportunity to express their artistic approach freely.

László Benczúr's architecture looks for spaces directed towards a single liturgical centre, which has resulted in versatile spatial forms. The churches of Tamás Nagy use a unique language of form, that also uses



symbols from outside the Christian culture. His architecture evolves from creating spatial unity, and is therefore characteristically Lutheran.

3. The heritage of the „ratification” period

A large number of contemporary architects reach back to the „ratification” period (1681-1781, „artikuláris” in Hungarian) to find characteristically Hungarian architectural roots in Lutheran church-building. The connection is not made by simply copying a style, but by recalling the formal restrictions imposed upon Protestant churches in that period. As a result of these restrictions, churches could not be built in the traditional image of a church: no towers and street entrances were allowed, the buildings had to look like barns, could not be called „church”, and often the meeting houses were converted from dwellings. Many contemporary churches have one or more of these features as their defining concept.



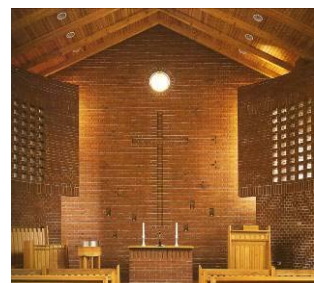
4. The use of materials as ornaments

When considering ornaments, contemporary Lutheran architecture does not make use of paintings or sculptures, as in the periods before. Rather, decoration is created by the materiality of the surrounding surfaces itself. The patterns, textures and detailing give the impression of individually handcrafted ornamentation. Walls treated the same way on both faces establish a calm, elegant feeling, that corresponds to the Lutheran traditions.



5. A call for mysticism in the Lutheran church

As opposed to earlier Hungarian examples, the transcendent effect appears as a design intent in the interiors of contemporary Lutheran churches. The vertical emphasis of the Gothic style (reaching toward heaven) can be seen in some cases, but more typically the mysticism of light is used to create this impression.



SIMON Viktória

Born: 09 May, 1972. Zirc, Hungary

Education

- 1997. MA in Architecture, BMGE Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- 1999. MA in Industrial design, BMGE Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- 2004. Masterschool, Association of Hungarian Architects („MÉSZ”)
- 2004- Design DLA (Doctor Liberalium Artium) doctoral training, Moholy-Nagy University of Art and
- 2006. The Green Register course on sustainability I., London

Professional development

- 1992. 3 months traineeship, Tokyu Corporation, Tokio, Japan
- 1993. 3 months traineeship, Augusti Mateos (Trespol), Barcelona, Spain
- 1997-1999 Benczúr & Partner Kft, (architect)
- 1997- Car showrooms in several places in the country
- 2000. Budapest –Budahegyvidék Lutheran church, Budapest, XII.
- 2000. Riel workshop and offices, Budapest, XIII.

- 1999-2002. ATLANT Kft, (architect)
- 2000. 12 apartment private housing, Budapest, II.
- 2000- Budapest Institute of Sports Science , Alkotás utca
- 2005. National Institute of Neurosciences, reconstruction, Budapest, XIV.

- 2002. LINT Kft (architectural assistant)
- 2003. Hungarocontrol Headquarters, Budapest, Ferihegy airport
- 2004. Budapest METRO 4 surface works, Pedestrian underpass at Bocskai út, Budapest, XI.

- 2002- Peity és Simon Kft, (founding member, project architect)
- 2005. Lutheran church, Encs
- 2002-2004. Medical Institute and Central Hospital for the Hungarian Armed Forces, reconstruction, Budapest, XIII.
- 2004. PTE OEC Regional Rehabilitation and Diagnostic Centre, Pécs (with Attila Peity)
- 2004. OITI PET Centre, Budapest, XIV. (with Zoltán Csikós)

- 2005-2007. FeildenCleggBradley Architects LLP, UK, (project architect)
- 2005-2007. Bath Western Riverside Housing, 2000 dwelling brownfield development in a world heritage city, Bath, UK.
- 2007. University of Bristol NUCLEUS rehabilitation program, masterplanning and feasibility studies, Bristol, UK.
- 2007. Lambeth council, Clapham Leisure Centre and 52 dwelling housing development, Clapham, London, UK.
- 2007. St George’s Boarding Home, landscaping and open air stage (with bamboo artist Jack Everette) Chennai, India

- 2007-2008. BMGE Department of Urbanism, (visiting tutor)

Competitions

- 2002-2004 several prize-winning competitions at the Masterschool, Association of Hungarian Architects
(with Ákos Juhász, Tamás Getto, László Pethő, Tamás Nagy, Ferenc Lázár, Tamás Czigány)
- 2004 Swimming Pool, on two locations, Budapest, XVI. I. and II. Prize
(with László Benczúr, completed in 2007)
2004. Medical Institute and Central Hospital for the Hungarian Armed Forces, reconstruction, I. Prize
(with Attila Peity, István Pál)
2005. Korányi Institute, Budapest, XII. reconstruction, II. prize
(with Attila Peity, Ferenc Sebestény, Ferenc Répás)

Foreign Language Knowledge

English, German, French, Spanish

Publications, exhibitions, presentations

- Lutheran church, Encs www.epiteszforum.hu. 2005.
Yearbook of the Chamber of Hungarian Architects, 2007.
Új Evangélikus templomok („New Lutheran Churches”), Luther Kiadó,
2008. FeildenCleggBradley Architects LLP, Professional Development Program, presentation
MTV1, 2005. november 27. TV report
The model of the Universe, Debrecen, MODEM, 2009., exhibition
- House in Mallorca
Jørn Utzon: FeildenCleggBradley Architects LLP, Professional Development Program, presentation