

”Protection of Cultural Heritage and Modern Architecture in the Trenčín Region: Current State and Challenges“

Abstract:

”Cultural heritage value is the sum of significant historical, social, landscape, urban, architectural, scientific, technical, artistic, or craft-related qualities that justify an object’s individual or territorial protection.“ This definition is found in the second clause of the second paragraph of the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (1). However, being officially recognized as cultural heritage does not necessarily mean that an architectural work is maintained in a condition befitting its societal value. What does it truly mean for an architectural work to be listed in the national cultural heritage registry?

In practice, modern architecture has long been disregarded or excluded from discussions on heritage protection with primary focus placed on earlier periods. Modern architecture is not only being overlooked, but we are also letting it disappear before our eyes. Currently, there are 1,390 heritage-protected buildings in the Trenčín region, 313 of which are in the Trenčín district and 210 within the cadastral area of the city of Trenčín. Of these, 55 date from after 1920. Naturally, the highest number of protected buildings is within the cadastral area of the city of Trenčín (155 in total, including 17 built after 1920). Surprisingly, a significant number of protected buildings are found in the Hanzlíková cadastral area, due to the complex of buildings ”Detské mestečko“ (Children’s Village) from 1977, whose individual structures are listed in the national heritage register of the SR. (2)

With this publication, we aim to highlight the current state of heritage protection for modern architecture (specifically from 1920 to 1990) to both professionals and the wider public. Our primary focus is on specific examples from the Trenčín region, while also considering broader studies that examine the situation in Slovakia or compare it with international contexts, both within and beyond Europe. The outcome will be the first peer-reviewed academic publication issued by the Center for Architecture in Trenčín in 2026. As part of the publication process, we would like to connect selected topics with the Czech festival „Day of Architecture 2025“ and organise activities in different locations across the Trenčín region that will reflect subjects covered in the selected studies. We also believe that academic work should be properly compensated; therefore, we are offering an honorarium of €500 to selected authors. This financial support aims to encourage new research, in which we can assist by facilitating access to local archives and opportunities to collaborate with regional experts.

(1) Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the Protection of Cultural Heritage Fund, retrieved on January 22, 2015, available online at:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2002-49>

(2) Mlynčeková A., Ondruš P., Mlynčeková L., Badinský M., Nedomová R., "Documentation of Modern Architecture in Trenčín – Text Part," Trenčín 2021, ISBN 978–80–570–3250–2

Project Timeline:

- February – Open call
- End of March (31st of March, 12 PM) 2025 – Submission of abstracts (max. 0.5 standard pages)
- April – Evaluation and selection
- August – Final texts (8–10 standard pages)

Technical Parameters and Specifications:

- Final number of selected studies: 10
- Submissions accepted in English or Slovak
- Abstract length: max. 0.5 standard pages
- Full text length: 8–10 standard pages
- Eligible applicants: PhD students, master's degree graduates, and renowned experts
- Honorarium per study: €500
- Expert reviewers: Mgr. Alexandra Kotrusová, PhD., Mgr. Peter Buday, PhD., DI Adam Gajdoš
- Members of the study selection committee: (reviewers), Mgr. Alexandra Mutala, Mgr. Radka Nedomová, Mgr. art. Lucia M. Tóthová, Ph.D. + expert reviewers
- Citation format: According to the guidelines of the University Library of UKF: <https://www.ukf.sk/data/epca/Citacie-vzory.pdf>
- Image attachments: Authors must ensure copyright clearance for all supplementary materials. Submitted files should not exceed 10MB in total, with a minimum image size of 1500 pixels and a resolution of at least 300 dpi (specific cases may be subject to individual agreements).
- Contact persons : Mgr. Alexandra Mutala, Mgr. Radka Nedomová, Mgr. art. Lucia M. Tóthová, Ph.D.
- Contact email: cat@gmab.sk

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Center for Architecture Trenčín

The Center for Architecture Trenčín (CAT) is being established in the basement spaces of the GMAB gallery, focusing on architectural presentation with an emphasis on the Trenčín region. The project is currently in the project planning phase, led by the Gut Gut studio, winners of the architectural competition. The renovation is scheduled for completion in 2026.

CAT plans to issue open calls for curators every six months, allowing them to organize exhibitions within its spaces. These exhibitions will be complemented by a series of related events, including workshops and public screenings.

The space will serve architects, urban planners, artists, and residents of Trenčín interested in local architecture and urbanism, forgotten stories of buildings and architects, new trends, and development projects. The center will also aim to explore architecture's interdisciplinary connections (such as sound, visual pollution, ecology, etc) and exploring "local topics" through the work of international participants.

Inspired by other architectural centers worldwide, CAT will become an essential communication platform between the public and the architectural-artistic community. It will contribute to the network of European architectural centers and provide ongoing curatorial opportunities for international curators, fostering long-term collaborations.

