

THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOOTPRINT IN SUBCARPATHIAN RUTHENIA

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Abstrakt:

Not long after the end of World War I, the then young Czechoslovakia was joined by Subcarpathian Ruthenia and a period of about twenty years began, during which many important buildings were constructed in this new part of the republic, whole new districts were created, as well as a number of industrial and transport buildings. Leading Czechoslovak experts worked on the projects, among them Adolf Liebscher, an architect, urban planner and teacher. Adolf Liebscher was not the only Czechoslovak architect to work in Subcarpathian Ruthenia.

However, this promising development was forcibly interrupted in 1938 and this short historical phase fell into oblivion. Today, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the inhabitants of the former Subcarpathian Ruthenia are again becoming interested in the time when they were part of Czechoslovakia, and a number of associations are working, which commemorates the Czechoslovak trace, especially in Uzhhorod. Unfortunately, this process is currently being violently interrupted by the war unleashed by an aggressive Russia.

Introduction (aim and research methods)

After complicated and long negotiations, the Peace Treaty was concluded in Saint-Germain-en-Laye on 10 September 1919, according to which Subcarpathian Ruthenia became part of Czechoslovakia. A period of about twenty years began, during which a number of important projects, architectural works and technical constructions were carried out on the territory of Subcarpathian Ruthenia. A large number of Czechoslovak experts, companies, engineers and architects worked on them. Subcarpathian Ruthenia was developing promisingly, the standard of living was rising, employment opportunities were increasing and the literacy of the population was improving.

The aim of this article is to recall this period, which is not often mentioned in the literature, and to highlight at least some of the names of Czechoslovak architects who worked in Subcarpathian Ruthenia. They left behind a timeless work that was often published in the professional literature of the time and often appreciated beyond the borders of the Czechoslovak Republic. The article is based on the author's ongoing research, who uses a qualitative method to examine the available literature, conducts research in contemporary newspapers and magazines, and is in contact with experts working on the Czechoslovak interwar trace in Ukraine. The state of knowledge is conditioned by the current geopolitical situation, which does not allow for in situ research.

Chapter 1

Adolf Liebscher – architect and pedagogue

Adolf Liebscher was one of the outstanding architects who significantly linked his professional career with Subcarpathian Ruthenia.

The focus of his creative and professional life was at the beginning of the 20th century and especially in the interwar period. At that time, efforts to create a new modern culture were at their peak, aiming to transform lifestyles, emphasizing the social, functional, organizational and rationalizing aspects of the new modern world. France manifested a mature program of purism presented by Le Corbusier and the painter Amédée Ozenfant. In Germany, the most prominent proponents of modern art from all over Europe lectured at the Bauhaus school of modern art. Russia creates under the sign of constructivism, suprematism and rationalism. The young Czechoslovak Republic presents the ideas of freedom and democracy through architecture, and architecture that is thoroughly modern, i.e., charged with purism, then functionalism.

Adolf Liebscher came from the family of the renowned and sought-after painter Adolf Liebscher Sr., who belonged to the generation of artists of the National Theatre and worked for a long time as a teacher of drawing at the Czech Technical School, later the Czech Technical University. From his father Adolf Liebscher inherited a strong artistic talent, which he perfected through lessons with the architect, draughtsman and watercolourist Jan Koula, and which manifested itself in his work throughout his life. Thanks to his talent, he was easily admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, but soon transferred to the Czech Technical University in Prague, majoring in architecture and civil engineering. He finished his studies there in 1911. After a year's work experience with a construction firm, he left for a study abroad. He stayed mainly in Italy, where he returned again in 1914, and not only there, but also in France he studied architecture and urban formations. On his return, he publishes a book on the development of the Italian square and habilitates in the field of architecture and urban construction.

Towards the end of the First World War he worked as an assistant in civil engineering at the Czech Technical University in Prague, but had to enlist and served mainly in Poland and Ukraine. After the war, he returned to his post as an assistant at the Czech Technical University in Prague, while also establishing his own design office. In the early 1920s Bohumil Babánek, later a successful architect, theatre designer, urban planner and teacher, worked there as an intern.

On November 5, 1919, the Czech Technical University in Brno (later for a short time called the Dr. Edvard Beneš Technical University) was founded as a branch of architecture and civil engineering and Adolf Liebscher was invited to lecture on the history of architecture and the science of urban composition and construction. He elevates his teaching subjects, especially town and city planning, to a high level and becomes, in effect, a pioneer of the systematic study of urban planning, which was only slowly finding its place at that time in Czechoslovakia.

„Urbanism has become the pressing issue of the day: the danger lies in the overcrowding of cities, in increased frequency, especially of vehicles, in congestion – concentration - in old cores, in the clustering of diverse building elements in one area (residential, administrative and public buildings, commercial and industrial), in the poorly oriented and unplanned controlled growth of the city. The decisive factor is the balance in built-up and vacant areas and in the frequency of long-distance and internal, pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Tasks: I. the establishment of new settlements (a relatively rare task) [...] II. The adaptation of old quarters to new needs and the preservation of monuments. III. planned expansion of existing overcrowded settlements." Here Liebscher emphasizes the creation of convenient and safe roads, the development of hitherto vacant areas, the allocation of suitable building sites for public buildings and for public green spaces and public activities, and the provision of sanitary measures (street cleaning, functional sewers, waste disposal etc.).“(Liebscher, 1927)

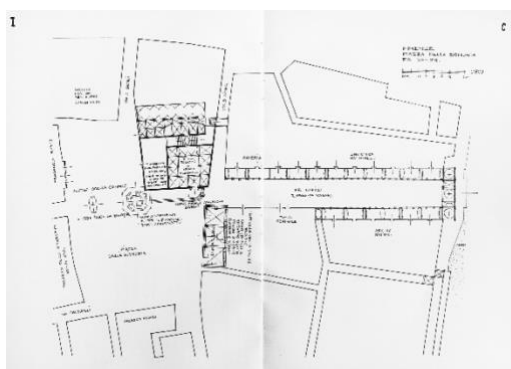
He travelled extensively with his students, with frequent study stays in Italy, but also in France, England, Austria and Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Lebanon or Egypt. In 1929 he was appointed full professor at the Institute of Architecture in Brno. In 1928-1929 and 1936-1937 he served as Dean of the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering. At the beginning of his professional career, there was a complete lack of scripts for his discipline. Adolf Liebscher therefore published the first professional urban planning scripts, which were entitled Urban Construction. The basis for these scripts is the study Building Cities of the Present and the Past, which collects floor plans and lavier drawings of a total of 30 Italian town squares, arranged from antiquity through the Renaissance to the modern period, which Liebscher drew during his study stays in Italy. The architect describes the piazza as an important representative public space of unquestionable importance to the life of the city. He depicts squares in Pompeii, Florence, Rome, Venice, Padua, Vicenza and Brescia. The scripts on the construction of cities contain a theoretical part and appendices – plan sketches, in which he explains to students the rules of composition of space, and lavished drawings, where he explains the impressiveness of the design and its effect on the observer.

Figure 1,2: *Florence, Piazza della Signoria*



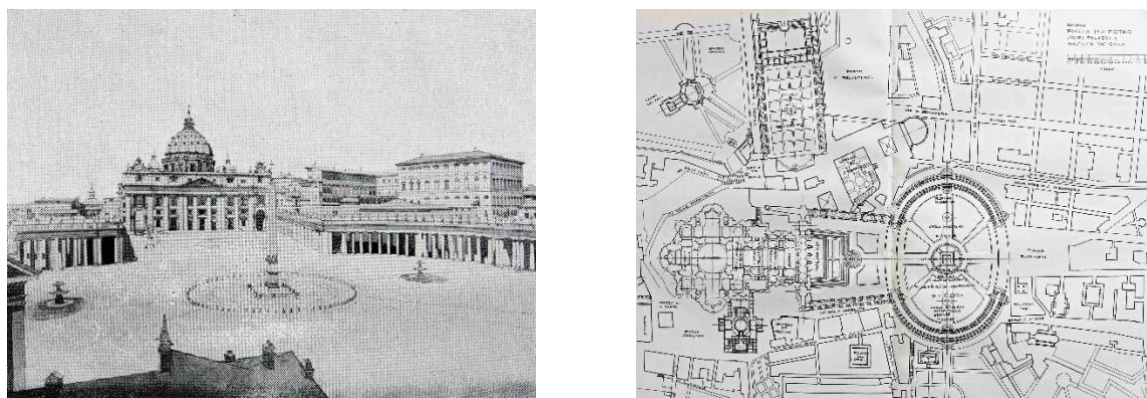
Source: Liebscher, 1938

Figure 3: *Florence, Piazza della Signoria – floor plan*



Source: Liebscher, 1938

Figure 4, 5: Rome, *Piazza di S. Pietro*



Source: Liebscher, 1938

During the Second World War the Czech Technical University in Brno was closed like other Czech universities and Adolf Liebscher took a forced leave of absence. At the end of the war, he was briefly assigned to the planning department of the Provincial Office in Brno, but this caused him to be accused of collaboration with the Germans. After a long investigation, he was acquitted of the charge and continued to work at the technical department. However, the communist coup in Czechoslovakia in February 1948 proved fatal for him. Because of his political views that were inconvenient to the incoming communist regime, he was forced to leave his position as a university lecturer and on 31 May 1949, by decision of the Minister of Education, Sciences and Arts, he was transferred to involuntary permanent retirement on 31 March 1949, without the possibility of dismissal and without the possibility of engaging in work activities.

Only in 1969 was he rehabilitated by the Rehabilitation Committee of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Brno University of Technology. However, he did not live to see it.

The personality of Adolf Liebscher is somewhat neglected nowadays and his work and contribution are relegated to the background behind his peers, often his pupils. This is probably due to the fact that in the early years of his work he was more inclined towards the already fading neoclassicism, often taking inspiration from the Tuscan Renaissance and using details in the Art Deco and rondo-cubist style.

In 1923, the Architects' Club in Prague came up with the idea of organising a series of lectures on modern architecture in Prague and Brno, inviting Le Corbusier among others. The idea was realised in 1925. On 22 January 1925, a lecture by Le Corbusier took place in the lecture hall of the Brno Museum of Decorative Arts. Its theme was Purism and Architecture. Le Corbusier illuminated his principles of purist architecture, stressing the machine-like nature of the new age, which must permeate the art of architecture. He highlighted the program of geometry, defining clarity, the straight line, right angles, the horizontal and the vertical as the basic elements of the new aesthetic. In this sense, he defined the house as a machine for living, projected examples of his completed buildings, and concluded with a discussion of the urban redevelopment of large cities. (Šlapeta, 1987)

Influenced by this lecture, Adolf Liebscher then inclined towards purism and constructivism in his further work and abandoned his distinctive decorative detail. This work is overshadowed by his fully-fledged functionalism.

However, Adolf Liebscher is undoubtedly one of the pioneers of urbanism in the former Czechoslovakia and became its founder at Brno University of Technology. He trained a number of outstanding architects, among them Zdeněk Alexa, Hugo Foltýn, František Kalivoda, Josef Kranz, Mojmír Kyselka Sr., Petr Levický, Otakar Oplátek, Miroslav Putna, Václav Roštlapil, Bedřich Rozehnal, Evžen Škarda, Bohumil Tureček and others.

Adolf Liebscher was extremely hardworking. In order to get an idea of the scope of his work, let us specify that the architect drew up about 25 regulatory and guideline zoning plans for various Czechoslovak cities, designed almost 90 residential houses, almost 80 public buildings and 15 industrial buildings, for example, the proposal for the competition for the architectural design of the Supreme Court building in Brno, which won the second prize in competition with architects such as Alois Dryák, Jan Víšek or Ernst Wiesner (the first prize was not awarded) (Liebscher, 1930), a number of family houses and villas, and especially regulatory plans (e.g. the first of these was for the towns of Mělník, Znojmo, Opava, Havlíčkův Brod, Humpolec, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Adamov, Vizovice, Vamberk) and guideline zoning plans (Plumlov, Litovel, Šumperk, Přerov etc.). He also took part in the competition for a regulatory plan for Brno, the necessity and context of which he describes in detail in his article *The Regulation of Greater Brno*. (Liebscher, 1927)

He reproaches the organisers of the competition for not announcing it as an international competition and thus failing to reflect the experience of similar foreign projects already implemented, and further writes:

„Economic hardship hinders generous ideas. A million crowns is a considerable expense by our current standards, and all more expensive solutions are mostly considered paper projects. The consequence of this is that our business lacks generous perspectives for the future and is always limited to a short period of time, without the responsibility of the relevant officials. Let us not be afraid to invest where the far-reaching future development of Greater Brno is concerned. An uncompromising solution of the railroad problem without scrupulous regard for freight will bear fruit in all regulatory matters of the city. Technical priority will be given to a solution which will economically enable the development of a city of eminent commerce and industry, situated in the centre of the country and the state. The Directorate of the Czechoslovak State Railways in Brno itself emphasises the complete inseparability of the railway and regulatory issues in its accompaniment to the competition. Personal and unilateral economic interests must give way to the importance of general and fundamental issues.“ (Liebscher, 1927)

The article is certainly inspiring also in the context of the recent stormy discussions about the location of the Brno railway station and clearly documents the high professional level and technical and social insight of the writer.

Chapter 2

The work of Adolf Liebscher in Uzhhorod

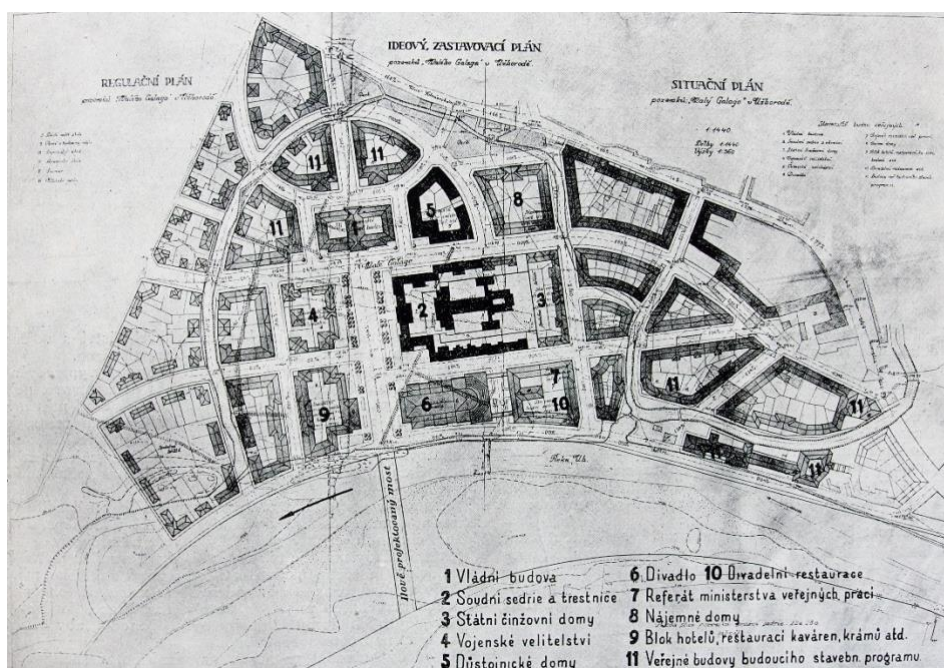
It is therefore not surprising that such an expert is involved in the project of building and regulating the city of Uzhhorod, which became the capital of Subcarpathian Ruthenia between 1919 and 1938. He writes about it in great detail in his article "Regulation of Maly Galagov in Uzhhorod". (Liebscher, 1927)

„The direct impulse for the regulation of Maly Galagov in Uzhhorod was given by the unstoppable need for building sites for public buildings for the location of state offices, as well as buildings for urban and residential purposes, which had to be taken into account in the

expected development of the city after the end of the World War. To this end, as early as 17 October 1921, the Uzhhorod City Council convened an inquiry, which was attended, in addition to the members of the Administrative Committee, by representatives of the Public Works Department, in order to agree together on the needs of the city and on the future building programme.“ (Liebscher, 1927)

Uzhhorod did not have an overall regulatory plan at that time. But since the need for public and residential housing was urgent, a part of it, the Maly Galagov district, began to be developed separately. This was made possible by its favourable location, separated from the old town by the river Uzh and conveniently suited to a separate solution in terms of terrain. However, Liebscher was careful in his design to ensure that the solution would not be a problem for the overall regulatory plan of the city in the future. He first drew up a detailed plan for the roads and the connection to the old town by a new bridge linking the main street of the old town with the proposed main street of the new district of Maly Galagov. On this axis he located the central square with its representative public buildings, the court sedry and prison, the military headquarters and the officers' houses. The dominant feature of the square was the government building in a central position. Other government buildings envisaged in the city's building programme were the gendarmerie headquarters with a military school, the public works department and the state printing house. The specification for these buildings was drawn up by the Public Works Department, and the buildings were intended to be two storeys high, with at most a loft extension. In both the Maly and Velyky Galagov districts, it was envisaged to build large residential districts, which Liebscher describes as cottage districts, i.e. villa districts. The city's plan also kept amenities in mind and planned for a Russian National House, a trade academy, a public gymnasium, a reading room, a bathhouse, a poorhouse, a modern slaughterhouse, and public toilets. In keeping with the city's intentions, Liebscher also placed restaurants, cafes, and shops in the conceptual development plan to enliven the neighborhood. The new district was to be completely self-contained, independent of the old district.

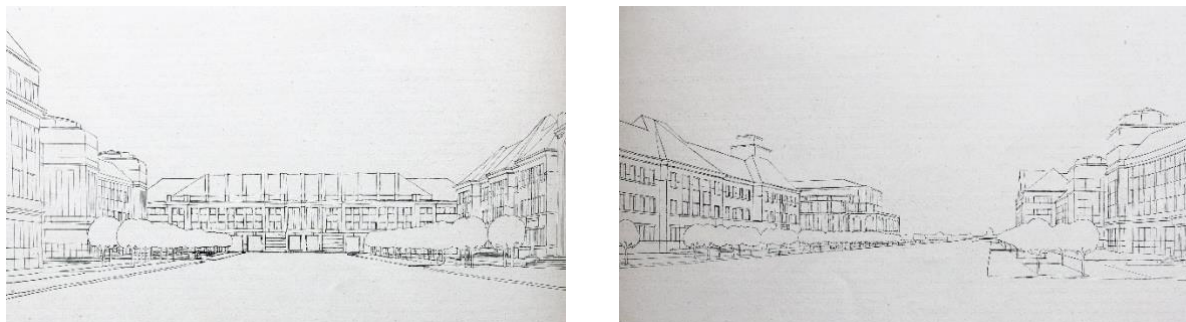
Figure 6: Conceptual building plan of Maly Galagov



Source: Liebscher, 1927

This building program was reviewed at a local inquiry on April 5, 1922, attended by representatives of the Department of Public Works, the Department of Justice and representatives of the city, and Liebscher received it as a binding basis for the regulatory and development plan of Maly Galagov.

Figure 7, 8: *View of and from the government building*

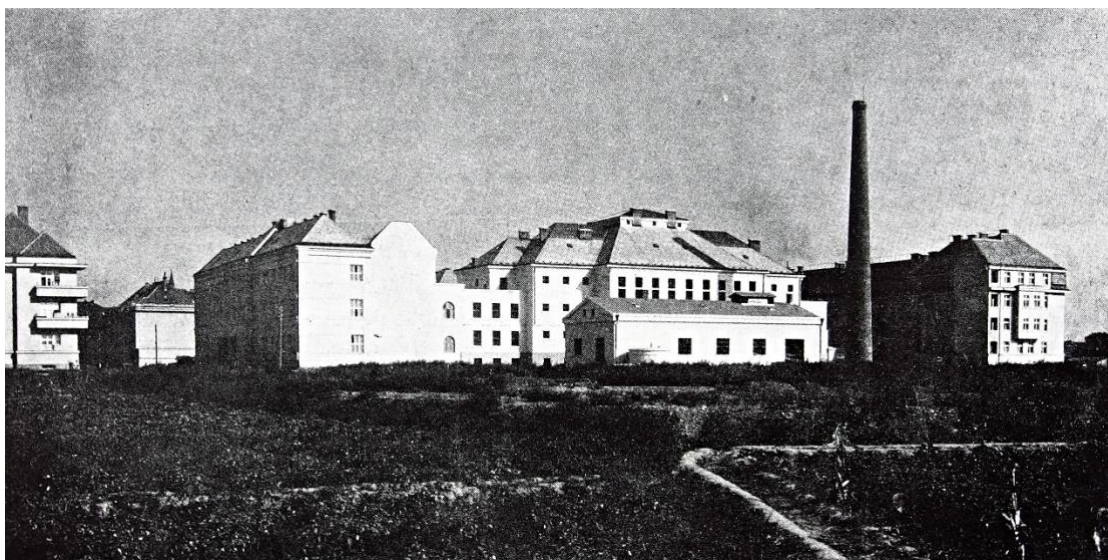


Source: Liebscher, 1927

Subsequently, Adolf Liebscher designed a courthouse (*sedria*), a penitentiary and state residential buildings for the city of Uzhhorod. (Liebscher, 1927)

The main court building is three-storeyed and contains, besides the necessary accessories such as the administrator's flat, filing room, writing room, etc., also rooms for land registers, civil and criminal courtroom, offices, the president's office with waiting room, offices for the presiding judges, investigating judges and clerks.

Figure 9: *Courthouse – sedria and penitentiary – overall view*



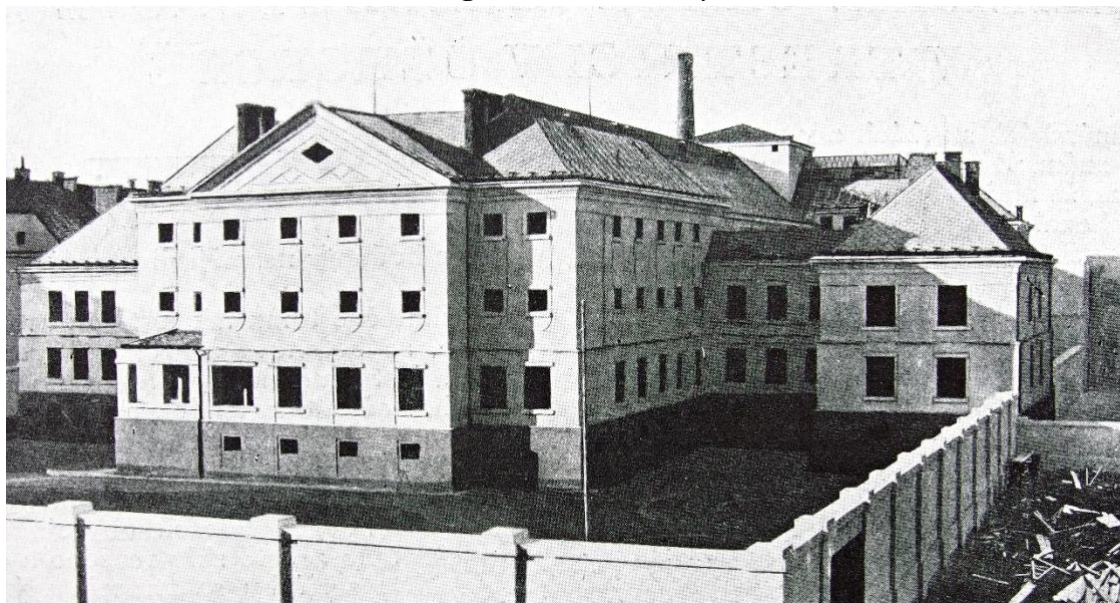
Source: Liebscher, 1927

The penitentiary is four-storeyed, with the basement housing the facilities (storerooms, baths, showers, laundry disinfection, etc.), while the floors contain wards for men and women and two chapels. Adjoining the prison is the hospital section, with general wards and infectious and tuberculosis wards, and a residential building with two flats for the warden.

The complex of the courthouse and the penitentiary is equipped with all amenities. It has electric lighting, central heating, cold and hot water distribution, individual floors are connected by lifts. The Penitentiary has a total of 87 individual and 46 shared cells and can accommodate a maximum of 420 inmates. The built-up area of the complex is 2900 m², the construction cost is 10 000 000 Czechoslovak crowns.

The construction of the prison is timeless, using the then less common glass-reinforced concrete structures to lighten the central part of the building and the galleries. The glass-reinforced concrete structures were made by Duplex-prismat, s.r.o. from Prague. (Schmeiser, 1927)

Figure 10: *Penitentiary*



Source: Liebscher, 1927

Figure 11: *View of the interior of the penitentiary*



Source: Liebscher, 1927

The state residential houses for Czechoslovak officers form a separate block of 11 houses, with a common garden and playground in the courtyard. On each floor there are 10 one-room flats, 8 two-room flats and 4 three-room flats, a total of 66 flats. The total area of the plot is 3 583 m², the total built-up area is 2 525 m², the construction cost is 6 500 000 Czechoslovak crowns.

Figure 12: *State residential houses for Czechoslovak officers*



Source: Liebscher, 1927

The residential houses for postal employees form a block with the state houses for employees of the tax administration and the court sedry. The total area of the plot is 1 228 m², the total built-up area is 699 m², the construction cost is 1 800 000 Czechoslovak crowns. On each floor there are 4 one-room flats and 2 two-room flats, a total of 18 flats.

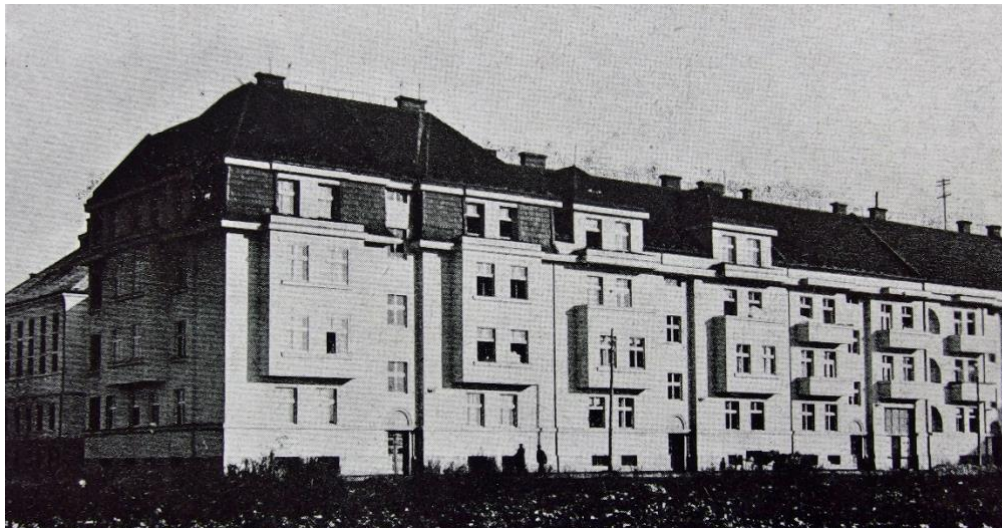
Figure 13: *State residential houses for postal employees*



Source: Liebscher, 1927

The state-owned residential buildings for employees of the tax administration contain a total of 20 apartments. The total area of the plot is 977 m², the total built-up area is 710 m², the construction cost is 2 000 000 Czechoslovak crowns.

Figure 14: *State residential houses for employees of the financial administration*



Source: Liebscher, 1927

Individual residential blocks are designed uniformly and economically. Nevertheless, Liebscher distinguishes them by simple architectural details – the military apartment blocks are austere with strict covered balconies and bay windows, the apartment blocks for the employees of the financial administration have bay windows with a mass of spaced out, gradually turning into balconies with brick railings, the houses for the postal employees have interesting loggias situated in the corners and broken by a quarter circle distantly referring to the arcade.

Adolf Liebscher describes in detail the materials used: foundations of rubble stone, brick or concrete, brickwork of burnt bricks, asphalt insulation, terrazzo tiles, smooth stucco plasters, artificial facade plasters, chimney heads of concrete or stone, granite stairs, beamed or concrete ceilings, decked or tile floors, tile roofing, drainage of cast iron and stoneware pipes, electric lighting, water supply, possibly gas supply. All craftsmanship is required in solid workmanship. Adolf Liebscher's articles about the construction in Uzhhorod were published in the magazine *Horizont* in November 1927. In one of these articles the architect writes:

„According to the rapid development of construction so far, it can be expected that this new district of Uzhhorod, for the construction of which the state administration has the greatest merit, will be completely built within 5 to 8 years“.

But the reality was different. The further development of Uzhhorod was not nearly as turbulent. Although there was good quality planning documentation drawn up by leading Czechoslovak architects, as evidenced, for example, by archival materials in the DAZO (Derzhavnyj archiv Zakarpatskoj oblasti – Державний архів Закарпатської області – the State Archive of the Transcarpathian Region in Beregov), very little of these projects was implemented. Partly due to the economic situation, but mainly due to the political situation. In 1938 Uzhhorod was ceded to Hungary and construction development was completely halted. (Degtyaryova and Olashyn, 2022)

However, Liebscher's urban concept is still clearly legible today and his street network layout has remained essentially unchanged. Only the intended bridge has been moved to a different position.

In June 1945, Subcarpathian Ruthenia was finally incorporated into the Soviet Union, and this entire historical phase was forced into oblivion.

Chapter 2

Examples of some other buildings

In general, it can be said that the construction in Uzhhorod and the whole of Subcarpathian Ruthenia was fully comparable to the construction in other parts of Czechoslovakia. A lot of attention was paid to the construction, tenders were announced, either by the Ministry of Public Works or in professional magazines, especially in the magazine of Czechoslovak architects Architekt SIA, where, for example, a competition for an office building in Uzhhorod was announced, the jury members included Z. Ptáčník, K. Ponec, chief professional councillors of Prague, J. Millautz, government councillor of Uzhhorod, J. Mihalko, chief city engineer of Uzhhorod, architects Ernst Wiesner, Jiří Grossmann.

Figure 15: *Josef Gočár: the building of the Main Post Office in Uzhhorod*



Source: T.G.Masaryk Club in Uzhhorod, 1931

Quality building materials were chosen, Czechoslovak workers and companies were initially invited to work to maintain quality, as there was a shortage of professional labour in Subcarpathian Ruthenia, and later local experts were brought in. The projects were prepared by the best Czechoslovak architects.

Figure 16: *Josef Gočár: Bata Palace in Uzhhorod*



Source: T.G.Masaryk Club in Uzhhorod. 1931

For example, Josef Gočár, the top architect of Czech modern architecture, whose design was used to build the Main Post Office on the border of the Maly Galagov district and the historic city centre of Uzhhorod in 1930 and the Bata Palace on the main square, or the architect František Krupka, who designed the building of the Provincial Office for Uzhhorod with its beautiful marble halls in the style of modern classicism.

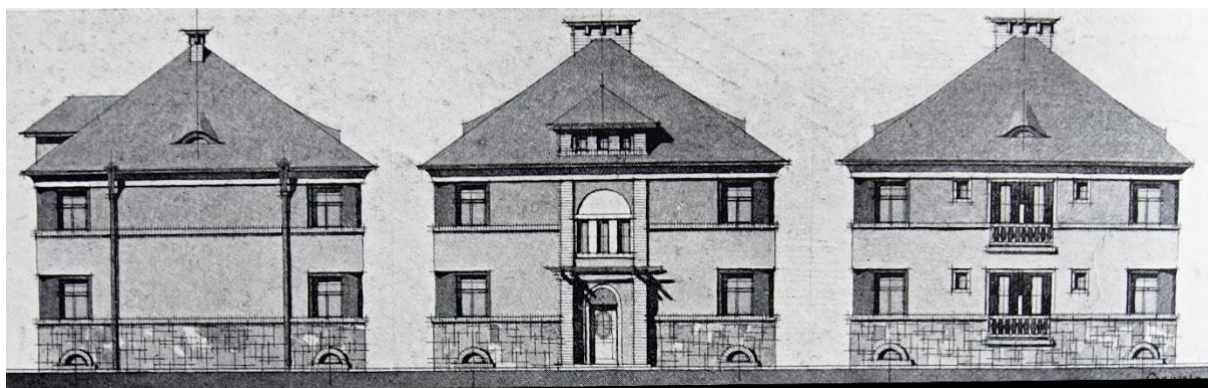
Figure 17: *Frantisek Krupka: building of the Provincial Office in Uzhhorod*



Source: T.G.Masaryk Club in Uzhhorod, 1931

The villa quarters were designed mainly for civil servants and consisted of smaller houses surrounded by greenery. The architect Jiri Freiwald, among others, was commissioned to design such houses, and he enriched his design with elements of folk architecture. His buildings were erected in Uzhhorod, Chust and Solotvina.

Figure 18: *Jindřich Freiwald: side, front and rear facade of the house with*

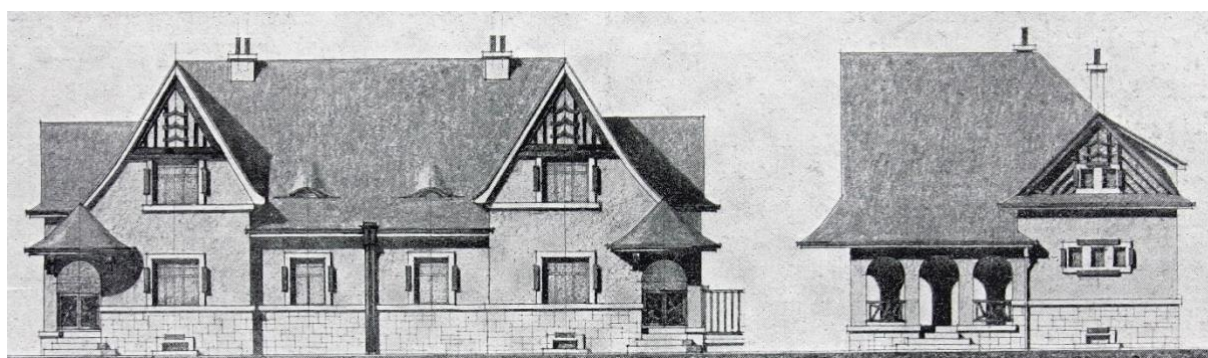


Source: Jindřich Freiwald, 1924

He wrote the following about his work for the city of Uzhhorod in his book *Our Buildings*: „The dismal conditions in terms of the organisation of the present-day capital of Subcarpathian Ruthenia are a legacy of the Hungarian regime. For Uzhhorod, the present time marks a correction of old mistakes, a resurrection in terms of art. The result of the activity of many Czech workers is particularly marked in the building aspect and thus in the correction of the aesthetic and hygienic conditions. The new office buildings and a number of state-owned residential buildings in the newly established modern district of the town "on Maly Galagov" marks a radical break with the existing local building tradition.

Following the example of the state, the town is also trying to build apartments for its officials that meet modern requirements, and so I have been given the task of designing houses for municipal employees on the land in question.

Figure 19: *Jindřich Freiwald: office semi-detached house – front and side facade*

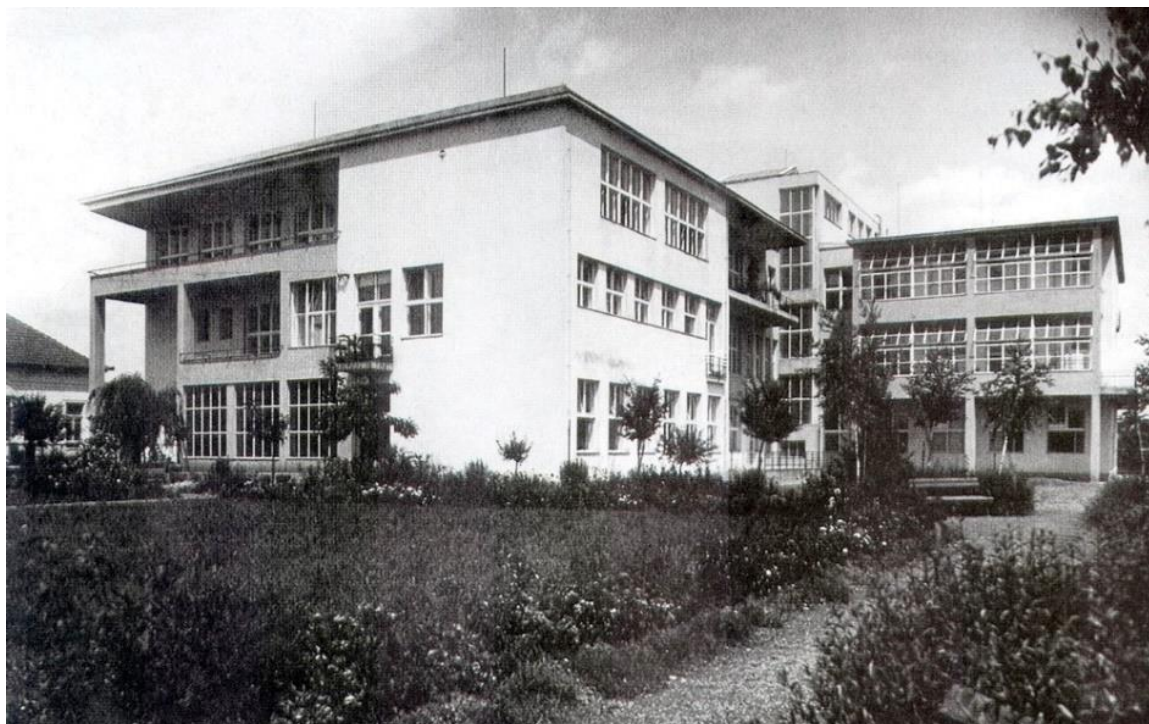


Source: Jindřich Freiwald, 1924

The parcel was already laid out on a completely erroneous basis: streets in a semicircle, with houses and plots converging inwards. I have turned the matter "inside out": I am leading the street through the centre, connecting it to the surrounding area by communication, and arranging the houses symmetrically.“ (Freiwald, 1924)

A unique building, whose acclaim went beyond the borders of the Czechoslovak Republic, was the former infant pavilion at the Czechoslovak state orphanage in Mukachevo designed by Jaroslav Fragner.

Figure 20: Jaroslav Fragner: infant pavilion in the children's home, Mukachevo



Source: Štěpánek, 2008

Chapter 3

The situation after the colaps of the Soviet union

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, people's perceptions began to slowly change. The inhabitants of Ukrainian cities became interested in their past, and mostly non-profit organisations were formed, whose members were enthusiasts and experts who recalled the period of post-war modernism and constructivism, as well as the Czechoslovak footprint in Ukraine.

Nowadays, the Uzhhorod Modernism Association is a fully respected association, which is especially responsible for the fact that the inhabitants of Uzhhorod learn about the architecture of their city built in the interwar period. Its founders – Lina Degtyaryova and Oleg Olashyn – organize a series of lectures, write for professional journals, publish educational and promotional materials, and work to ensure that interwar architecture does not disappear from Uzhhorod. Lina Degtyaryová cooperates with the Czech Centre in Kiev, where she helps to organize the Czech Traces in Uzhhorod project. Together with Oleg Olashin, she has created an architectural manual in Ukrainian and English, which provides information about individual buildings and their creators. A major goal of the Uzhhorod Modernism Association is the inscription of Uzhhorod's Maly Galagov district on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Today, of course, all these activities are suppressed by the war.

Other researchers who have studied the interwar period in Subcarpathian Ruthenia include Adriana Priatková, a professor at the Technical University in Košice, Romana Fialová Klasová, a graduate of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, and others.

Chapter 4

The annexation of Subcarpathian Ruthenia to Czechoslovakia and the intervention of Czechoslovak architects – positive or negative?

The annexation of Subcarpathian Ruthenia to Czechoslovakia raised and still raises many questions. There have even been suggestions that the annexation of the Sub-Carpathian region to Czechoslovakia reflects the utopian idea of Czechoslovakia's colonial policy, which emerged soon after the end of the First World War with the specific proposal to take Togo, a territory on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea in West Equatorial Africa, from the defeated powers. The question of whether or not the annexation of Subcarpathian Ruthenia to Czechoslovakia was mutually beneficial is not, and probably never will be, clearly answered.

At the time it became part of the Czechoslovak Republic, Subcarpathian Ruthenia was a territory with a low standard of living, with an essentially medieval level of agriculture and production, with a large illiterate population, and with an unresolved national question of many different minorities. Masaryk's government had to consistently explain its intention to provide all-round financial support to Subcarpathian Ruthenia to the Czechoslovak population, which was highly sceptical about extending the state borders by annexing an economically and culturally backward region. Full autonomy, which the representatives of Subcarpathian Ruthenia had demanded and hoped for in the union with Czechoslovakia, was not enforced until the autumn of 1938 and immediately afterwards drowned out by the arbitration proceedings in Vienna on 2 November 1938 at the level of the foreign ministers of Germany, Italy, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The arbitration resulted in territorial concessions to Hungary, which essentially halted the development of Subcarpathian Ruthenia. Also, the work of Czechoslovak architects in Subcarpathian Ruthenia might have been perceived as an unwanted interference in the development of the area, had it not been for the sincere interest of the Czechoslovak government in the development of the area. The intervention of "foreign" architects and experts might have been perceived unpleasantly by the local intelligentsia, quite in accordance with the natural principles of competition, but it must be remembered that local architects cooperated with their Czechoslovak colleagues. An example is Eugen Valcz, who collaborated with the Košice architect L'udovít Oelschläger.

However, the undisputed fact remains that the Czechoslovak government invested considerable financial resources in the region, built not only quality architecture, but also technical buildings, engineering and transport infrastructure, invested in improving the level of health care, education, state administration, security and other areas, and clearly significantly raised the standard of living of the inhabitants of Subcarpathian Ruthenia.

Conclusion

In February 2022, the largest conflict in Europe since the end of the Second World War erupted on the territory of Ukraine. Human lives, cities, infrastructure and the cultural history of the state are being destroyed. Ukraine's Ministry of Culture is mapping the damage and, in particular, the world organisation UNESCO is conducting a preliminary assessment of the damage to cultural property and publishing credible and verified data on the destroyed monuments. As of November 2024, UNESCO records damage to 468 Ukrainian monuments, religious, historical and archaeological.

Peace activities are subdued, interest in the Czechoslovak footprint in Subcarpathian Ruthenia is pushed into the background. Efforts to inscribe the Maly Galagov district of Uzhhorod among the UNESCO monuments, which were promising, have been put on hold. It is all the more important to commemorate this cultural heritage, to highlight its cultural and historical value, and not to let the historical stage in which Subcarpathian Ruthenia and Czechoslovakia walked together fall into oblivion again.

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