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VSEBINA / INDICE GENERALE / CONTENTS

- Andrejka Žejn:** Znani in neznani dialektolog Karel Štrekelj 171
Il dialettologo conosciuto e sconosciuto Karel Štrekelj
The (Un)known Dialectologist Karel Štrekelj
- Januška Gostenčnik:** Morphological Alternations in the Local Dialect of Ravnice (SLA T411) from Slavic Comparative Perspective 187
Alternazioni morfonologiche della parlata del luogo di Ravnice (SLA T411) dalla prospettiva comparativa slava
Oblikoglasne premene v krajevnem govoru Ravnic (SLA T411) s primerjalnega slovanskega vidika
- Jožica Škofic:** Ziljsko narečje v Ratečah na Gorenjskem (SLA T008) 203
Il dialetto Zegliano a Rateče nella regione della Gorenjska (SLA T008)
Ziljsko (Gailtal) Dialect at Rateče, Upper Carniola (SLA T008)
- Tjaša Jakop:** Slovenski kraški govor Sovodnj ob Soči 215
La parlata carsica Slovena di Savogna d'Isonzo
The Local Dialect of Sovodnje ob Soči Savogna D'Isonzo) in the Westernmost of the Karst Dialect
- Klara Šumenjak:** 1. in 2. sklanjatev samostalnikov ženskega spola v koprivskem govoru: uporabnost korpusne obdelave podatkov pri oblikoslovni analizi narečnega govora 225
Prima e seconda declinazione dei sostantivi femmine nella parlata di Kopriva sul Carso: l'utilità dell'elaborazione dei dati dai corpora nell'analisi morfologica della parlata dialettale
First and Second Declension of Feminine Nouns in the Dialect of Kopriva na Krasu: Usefulness of the Corpus Approach for Morphological Analysis of Dialects
- Metka Furlan:** Iz Primorske leksike IV 237
Dal lessico del Litorale IV
From Primorska lexis IV
- Anja Zorman & Nives Zudič Antonič:** Intercultural Sensitivity of Teachers 247
Sensibilità interculturale tra gli insegnanti
Medkulturna občutljivost učiteljev
- Nada Poropat Jeletić:** Dijatopijska rasprostranjenost recepcije kodnoga preključivanja u Istri 259
Stratificazione diatopica della ricezione della commutazione di codice in Istria
Diatopic Stratification of the Code-Switching Reception in Istria

Pavel Jamnik & Bruno Blažina: Po več kot sto letih odkrita prava Ločka jama (nad vasjo Podpeč na Kraškem robu) 273 <i>Dopo oltre cent'anni scoperta la vera Ločka jama (sopra il villaggio Popecchio sul ciglione carsico)</i> <i>The Real Ločka Cave Discovered After More Than Hundred Years (Above the Village Podpeč on the Karst Rim)</i>	Danijel Baturina: The Struggles of Shaping Social Innovation Environment in Croatia 323 <i>La lotta della formazione dell'ambiente di innovazione sociale in Croazia</i> <i>Prizadevanja za oblikovanje družbeno inovacijskega okolja na Hrvaškem</i>
Marija V. Kocić & Nikola R. Samardžić: Dve strane jednog napada: otmica britanskog trgovačkog broda Adventure 1718. godine 293 <i>Due lati di un attacco: il rapimento della nave mercantile britannica Adventure nell'anno 1718</i> <i>Dve plati enega napada: ugrabitev britanske trgovske ladje Adventure leta 1718</i>	Kazalo k slikam na ovitku 335 <i>Indice delle foto di copertina</i> 335 <i>Index to images on the cover</i> 335
Cezar Morar, Gyula Nagy, Mircea Dulca, Lajos Boros & Kateryna Sehida: Aspects Regarding the Military Cultural-Historical Heritage in the City Of Oradea (Romania) 303 <i>Aspetti relativi al patrimonio militare culturale-storico nella città di Oradea (Romania)</i> <i>Vidiki vojaške kulturno-zgodovinske dediščine v mestu Oradea (Romunija)</i>	Navodila avtorjem 337 <i>Istruzioni per gli autori</i> 339 <i>Instructions to Authors</i> 341

ASPECTS REGARDING THE MILITARY CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE IN THE CITY OF ORADEA (ROMANIA)

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ABSTRACT

The changing geo-political world of the 19th century had many socio-economic consequences in Central-Eastern Europe that resulted in alternative militarization and demilitarization processes. In the city of Oradea, Romania, most of the built historic environment successfully survived over the last several centuries, its existence and reuse maintaining the historical identity of Oradea, being in the same time integrated in the local urban planning mechanism. The article is analysing the military cultural – historical heritage, quite extensive in Oradea, Romania. This heritage is part of the local history, and currently the city is showing promise in the successful reuse and redevelopment of former military structures, as Oradea is designing new and innovative uses of these former sites for present and future use. The objective of the research is to demonstrate that through revitalization, the former military areas can become sustainable assets that preserve history, culture, and architecture, and that, in the same time, the reuse of military sites and areas are powerful tools for the sustainable urban (re)development process. The research methodology considers the multidisciplinary redevelopment aspects of the (Military) Brownfields and integrates a literature review and field trip observations on the evolution, historical and current function and other characteristics of the (former) military sites. The synthesis uses in a unique manner the information analysis, finally the research paper ends with well-constructed conclusions, thoughts and ideas on this particular investigation.

Keywords: Oradea, urban heritage, military structures, architecture, culture, history, conservation, revitalization, sustainable development

ASPETTI RELATIVI AL PATRIMONIO MILITARE CULTURALE-STORICO NELLA CITTÀ DI ORADEA, ROMANIA

SINTESI

I cambiamenti geopolitici del XIX secolo hanno avuto molteplici ricadute socioeconomiche nell'Europa centro-orientale, che hanno determinato l'alternarsi di processi di militarizzazione e de-militarizzazione. Nella città di Oradea, in Romania, la maggior parte dell'ambiente costruito storico si è conservato nel corso degli ultimi secoli ed è stato integrato nei processi di pianificazione urbanistica. Questo ambiente e il suo recupero sono fondamentali per preservare l'identità storica della città. L'articolo prende in esame il vasto patrimonio storico-militare di Oradea, che

è parte integrante della storia locale ed è attualmente oggetto di promettenti iniziative di riutilizzo e riqualificazione delle strutture dismesse, basate sulla progettazione di nuove funzioni in vista di un uso presente e futuro. L'obiettivo della ricerca è dimostrare, da un lato, che la rivitalizzazione delle ex aree militari può trasformarle in beni sostenibili che preservano la storia, la cultura e l'architettura e dall'altro che il recupero di questi siti è un potente strumento di sviluppo e (ri)qualificazione urbana all'insegna della sostenibilità. Dal punto di vista metodologico la ricerca prende in considerazione gli aspetti multidisciplinari legati allo studio delle aree militari dismesse e integra una revisione della letteratura esistente con i risultati di indagini sul campo per comprendere l'evoluzione, le funzioni attuali, quelle storiche e altre caratteristiche di queste aree. Le informazioni raccolte nella fase di analisi sono poi utilizzate in modo originale nella fase di sintesi della ricerca e l'articolo si chiude con le conclusioni, le riflessioni e le idee derivanti dall'indagine svolta.

Parole chiave: Oradea, patrimonio urbano, strutture militari, architettura, cultura, storia, conservazione, rivitalizzazione, sviluppo sostenibile

INTRODUCTION

The Austrian-Hungarian Empire disintegration (Roháč, 2009), the unification of Transylvania with Romania (1918), the collapse of the USSR (1991), Romania's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (2004) and to the European Union (2007), were important historical and socio-economic-political changes that led to major restructuring processes in Romanian cities (Ilieș & Wendt, 2003). These changes and resulting restructuring processes coincided with changes in military activities that resulted in alternating militarization and de-militarization phases, in which militarization is a phase of military expansion, while demilitarization is caused by the withdrawal of the military presence. Both are major socio-economic adjusting processes that influence the urban structure and offer challenges and opportunities for urban development.

Various factors contributed to the military cultural-historical heritage of Oradea, Romania: the diverse cultural background of the city, the military significance of Oradea, the cultural importance of the city during the Dualist Monarchy period, and the economic prosperity of the region. The diverse ethnical and cultural composition of Partium and Transylvania offered numerous cultural heritages and historical structures for contemporary Romania. The cultural climate, intertwined with military facilities, made the region even more colourful and complex, offering unique possibilities for the expansion of various forms of cultural heritage. The former military areas, as part of the urban texture, currently provide a unique landscape and architecture and contribute to local and regional identity and diversity. In addition to religious or historical buildings, the former military edifices, military architectural complexes and monuments, also represent historic cultural heritage (Zborowski & Chaberko, 2014). Urban heritage plays an important role in the urban structure, local identity, and local culture (Božić *et al.*, 2018). As part of the city's history, image and personality, the architectural heritage, which includes monuments (buildings and structures); (homogenous) groups of buildings; and sites (areas) of historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest (Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, 1985) are valuable assets for the local communities. This past legacy creates favourable conditions for cultural visits and tourism, as history and culture have always been an engine for travel (Niemets *et al.*, 2018a). Reuse of military sites can benefit the present and the future through new and innovative urban (re)development approaches. On one hand, the value and potential of former military sites is connected to the memories and feelings associated with them, while on the other hand, the unique mix of architectural styles and the architectural quality of buildings make them prominent elements of the city's built environment. Throughout its history, the city of Oradea has

always been an important military city; therefore, the city is rich in cultural heritage of the former military areas, which includes complexes of buildings, alternating with open spaces. This architectural landscape works together within the setting where heritage is represented not only by physical space but also by the local culture, arts, architecture, education, traditions, and customs (Vujičić *et al.*, 2018). The economic and social context (XI'AN Declaration, 2005) is strongly influenced by the military legacy in connection to different phases of the society and historical evolution (The Venice Charter, 1964). The settings of Oradea's urban area include the historic and cultural environments based on the traditional and specific urban local culture and assets, as the military area is an expression of the continuous historical urbanization and militarization process, thus emphasizing their historical experiences and the cultural, historical, social, architectural values, generating specific place situations of particular cultural significance (The Burra Charter, 2013) based on their values, both tangible and intangible.

In this perspective, the urban heritage of Oradea's former military areas is based on complex elements of architecture and design adapted to the society and community values. The contemporary socio-economic needs are forcing severe changes in the built environment, while the cultural and architectural heritage requires conservation, protection, planning, and management integration into the urban texture for local cultural and socio-economic benefits. This leads to a mismatch in objectives, which should be agreed upon and accepted by consensus and on the balance of economic development and preservation. The conservation process is not limited just to preservation but considers architecture as part of the urban local culture within the overall socio-economic landscape, requiring the development of planning and management tools, instruments and practices to integrate the settings in the contemporary overall urban planning process (XI'AN Declaration, 2005). Cultural heritage planning incorporates the functionality of the built environment within the larger urban strategic development processes (Ashworth, 1991; 1994), considering the fact that cultural heritage has to be part of the public mechanism and under conservation and protection measures. At the same time, the question becomes to what extension reconstruction should be done in order to maintain authenticity (Faracik, 2014). The spatial organization, together with the historic and present-day built environments or open spaces, generates complex visual connections of mental, socio-economic and cultural perceptions and dimensions of the heritage (UNESCO Recommendation, 2011), part of the attractive, diverse morphologically and functionally structural integration in the unique urban landscape (Faracik, 2014; Stankov *et al.*, 2016; Chuev, 2017). This is a result of an on-going dynamic evolution process and change mechanism, which at the



Figure 1: Franz Josef Hussar Barrack (Source: <http://mek.oszk.hu/09500/09536/html/0005/7.html>).

same time preserves the built environment and unique cultural heritage (De Naeyer et al., 2000). Therefore, the former military areas “*should be seen as a whole made up of spaces and structures that are the result of human activity; which is in a continuous process of evolution and change*” (Charter of Cracow, 2000; Roman, 2002).

Military brownfield heritage can act as a valuable asset supporting the local sustainable development mechanism, based on the complex relationship between urban planning and development and the cultural heritage protection and management. To achieve success, the integration of multidisciplinary fields is needed, including those represented by policymakers, private sector, academics, various professionals and practitioners, and the public. These stakeholders from multiple fields are involved in the complex mechanism of development, conservation, planning and management of valuable cultural and architectural heritage (Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas, 1987), with a goal to evaluate, prioritize, conserve, restore, rehabilitate, (re)develop and integrate architectural and historic heritage through specific practices and policies, in the urban planning and development mechanism and process (UNESCO Recommendation, 2011). This multidisciplinary approach can lead to specific place-making opportunities (Projects for public spaces, 2009).

Following the withdrawal of the military administration, some of the military facilities were transferred from the central authorities to the local public authorities, or from the military for public use for education, culture or public administration, while other facilities were simply abandoned, and are now in an advanced state of decay, having significant negative environmental and social issues, with no contribution to the local economy or society. As a whole, the (re)development and reuse of these valuable lands would bring a large array of environmental, social, public health, and economic benefits (Russ, 2000; Berman et al., 2009; Sarni, 2009; De Sousa & Ghosal, 2012). For example, the



Figure 2: William Artillery Barrack and its ornamented main entrance gate (Source: http://nagyhaboru.blog.hu/2011/03/30/nagyvarad_a_katonavaros_a_haboru_eloestejen).

Italian military heritage offers an impressive variety of architectural typologies such as coastal towers, bastions and fortresses, strongholds, citadels, garrison stations, barracks, former prisons, and World War II sites. Most of these sites have been transferred to the municipalities for public use. In Sardinia, some of the former military areas are still abandoned and only some of them have been restored to cultural, administrative or educational functions, such as museums, town halls, and schools. A great restoration example is the project of Villasalto (CA) station (2007), where the original facilities have been converted into a public library and offices for volunteers. Among other examples, the municipality of Dolianova (close to Cagliari) which supported a reconversion project titled “The Social Courtyard”, an initiative with profound social character offering housing opportunities (Fiorion, 2015).

In the years following 1990, several factors (the socio-economic transition to the free market economy, the military restructuring, the withdrawal of the Soviet troops) impacted the military areas in Hungary and Romania, and similar to other post-communist countries (Husieva, 2017; Mezentsev & Mezentseva, 2017; Soczowka & Mazurova, 2017), these areas became underused, or became “brownfields” - potentially contaminated, vacant or underused properties (Niemets et al., 2018b). In Hungary, the presence of the Soviet military force was intensive, especially in Central Transdanubia and Central Hungary. An exception is represented by the city of old Debrecen (Eastern Hungary), which experienced high concentrations of military areas (Kádár, 2014). Following complex urban redevelopment strategies which supported a large scale local development project (2001), the municipality of Debrecen converted the abandoned Russian military area into a successful commercial airport.¹ The sustainable (re)use of this military heritage and especially the cultural heritage architecture

¹ <http://bteaminitiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Airport-Debrecen.pdf> (last access: 24. 7. 2019).

is increasing the local attractiveness and identity of the area, promoting the region, and enhancing the environmental and socio-economic features, part of the overall sustainable development process in the European spirit of “Lisbon” (Lisbon Strategy, 2000) and “Gothenburg” (Gothenburg Strategy, 2001) strategies (Niemets et al., 2018c).

The aim of this paper is to present the evolution of the military cultural-historical heritage in Oradea: what are its most important elements, which architectural styles are represented, and how the development of this rich heritage took place since the second half of the 19th century. We also highlight the opportunities related to the (re)development of former military sites which can create favourable conditions for enhancement of local cultural tourism on one hand and can be a significant base of local identity on the other.

METHODOLOGY

The paper describes how the complex historical evolutions under the socio-economic-political changes post-1990 generated specific areas with a former military function. In some cases, these areas are abandoned. In other cases, the facilities are used for various functions. In both cases, these military areas are part of the urban heritage and are a valuable resource in terms of land available for alternative economic opportunities, buildings that can be used for alternative activities, and for attracting visitors based on their architecture and cultural-historical features. In addition to functional reuse, specific cultural-tourist attractions need to be created. All these reuse strategies require special redevelopment and conservation measures, both for economic reuse and heritage management. The paper includes a complex research methodology that considers the multidisciplinary redevelopment aspects, including History, Geography, Urban Planning, Architecture, Economy, and Local and Regional Development and integrates a literature review (on relevant works on the (Military) Brownfields), field trip observations (on evolution, historical and current function and other characteristics of the (former) military sites) and information analysis and synthesis (Cocean, 2005; Filip, 2009).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The context: the history, architecture and culture of Oradea

The military establishments are of particular interest in Oradea, Romania, which was the main gateway to Transylvania and was fortified by an Italian system, the local medieval fortress. Oradea's fortress was a great architecture work of the 16th century. It was surrounded by a structure formed by five bastions displaced on the corner of a pentagon (Avram, Godea, 1975). This milita-

Table 1: Military employees in the Hungarian Kingdom and Transylvania in 1910 (Beluszky, 2014).

No.	City	Military employees
1	Budapest	16,636
2	Bratislava	4764
3	Zagreb	4335
4	Timisoara	4084
5	Sibiu	3890
6	Kosice	3735
7	Komárom	3474
8	Oradea	3135
9	Szeged	3022
10	Osijek	2883
11	Cluj-Napoca	2327
12	Miskolc	2277
13	Arad	2197
14	Brasov	2057
15	Pécs	1978
16	Székesfehérvár	1797
17	Targu Mures	1789
18	Alba Iulia	1759
19	Debrecen	2567
20	Sopron	2335

ry structure dominated the urban space of Oradea until the second part of the 18th century, when the city began to dominate the fortress. Beginning with the second part of the 18th century, the city of Oradea was under (re) construction. The built monumental edifices from that time dominate the city even today, as the art of Baroque flourished in age of the Lights Époque in Oradea (Dudaş, 1996; Chifor, 2011). At the end of the 19th century, the city of Oradea was, as it is today, undergoing great construction.



Figure 3: Former Military Facilities on Aradului Street (Source: the authors).



Figure 4: Former Military Facilities on Aradului Street (Source: the authors).

The conjuncture of the European economy and the Austrian-Hungarian-Croatian compromise (1867–1868) created great potential for growth for the dualist Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy, and therefore for Transylvania as well. At this time, the financial wealth and political stability of the Dual Monarchy created co-existing architectural styles, which had a requirement of innovation in both engineering and material use. The territorial location of military services highly correlated with the importance of a settlement of the city hierarchy into the Dualist State, especially in the Hungarian section (Beluszky, 2014). During this period, the regional centres had the most significant roles in military facilities, as they were the centres of the military districts. Around 1910, Oradea, based on its military functions – regiment commands, infantry regiment and battalions – seemed to be an advanced centre (Beluszky, 2014). According to the number of earners from military activity, Oradea was inevitably a garrison city, since more than three thousand people were employed in the military sector at that time. Apart from Sibiu and Timișoara (the Southern centre of the defence line of Transylvania), Oradea had the third most employees in the military sector in Transylvania, approximately 5% of the total population and more than 15% of the labour force, which shows the city's military importance (Table 1).

The highlighted military role and the above-mentioned political and economic stability solidified a prosperous era for the city and its region, resulting in large-scale real-estate developments, which are currently considered as cultural, historical and built heritage. The role of these architectural heritages is important not only because of their style, but because each building and/or landmark in Oradea has significance for the city's multicultural and multi-religious identity as well. The edifices have meaning in their architectural language which cannot be defined in Romanian, Hungarian, German or in Hebrew (Kémenes, 2015) but instead are de-

fined in historical memory, emotions, feelings and latent content. Julean (2012) noted that the city was affected by many cultural influences, reflected in its architecture and built heritage. The entire architectural language in form, decoration and function is an interpretation of the contemporary socio-cultural status of the area. Therefore, the buildings are highly connected to the evolution of the city and its population as well. Architecture in this sense is the representation of the community and can be a form of self-expression or cultural oppression and the homogenisation of the majority (Eröss, 2014). The symbolic appropriation of space through architecture aims to make local inhabitants and the external world know about who is the owner of the territory (Eröss & Tátrai, 2010). Oradea and its cultural values were heavily influenced by the political changes in the last one and one-half centuries, resulting in a common, but diverse ethnical, religious and truly Central European, multicultural identity (Țoca & Pocola, 2015).

As Oradea developed, the architecture trends were concurrently changing, so new elements of façades, such as enamelled tiles, flat ornaments, plaster decoration, stone plates and steel or enamelled nails (Bostenaru, 2011) appeared on buildings. Moravánszky described at least seven parallel styles at this time, the precursor modernism, architecture of engineers, Viennese secession, national secessionism, national folklore organic style, romanticism, and the pre-modern rationalism (Bostenaru, 2011). The architectural complexity of the era left strong marks, not only on Oradea, but on several other cities, between Cluj to Prague, within the Dualist State.

According to the literature of the architecture directions of the Dualist Monarchy in the 19th century three stages are clearly defined in the frame of the collectively-named historicism (Moravánszky, 1988; Szentkirályi & Détsy, 1986; Sármany, 1990; Szentkirályi, 1980). The first phase is Classicism, which



Figure 5: Eva Heyman Memorial in Oradea (Source: the authors).

is the reminiscence of ancient Roman and Greek architecture. Simple enfilade and axial arrangement is the feature for building layouts and the façade is geometric, symmetric and usually defined by central colonnade and risalite. During the political changes, the horizontal cornice belts decorated the windows and the façade. Both the ancient and medieval gothic and oriental styles appeared soon. The romantic direction in architecture can be defined as a cross-current of Classicism by using lighter materials such as cast iron, steel, glass, and ethereal forms. The romantic inclination in the architecture of the monarchy brought to life the eclectic style. Eclecticism uses the historical architectural elements and forms without any strict regulation. Eclecticism is a debate of engineering and architecture as art (Szentkirályi, 1980; Moravánszky, 1988).

Oradea had many powerful and influential wealthy families who started to rebuild and recreate the city centre in the fashion of the new architectural movements of the Vienna Secession and Art Deco. State-led property investments also appeared in the city in great numbers, mainly connected to public services and military functions. The architecture of Oradea is mainly defined by the parallel architectural styles of Budapest and Vienna, rather than the new Romanian national style of the 19th century. Therefore, the evolved military brownfields architectural heritage is mainly featured by the “neo-movements” and modern architectural arrays with Transylvanian features. This era was also important to the Romanian national architecture, since this was the time when as an answer to the Austrian-Hungarian historical and modern architectural movements, the so-called Wallachian Renaissance or Brâncovenesc style appeared. The new Romanian national style was defined by the democratic nationalistic ideology, using byzantine and modern façade elements (Spânu, 2014). However, the Romanian national architecture also included some aspects of Hungarian architecture, which implemented both medieval and popular architecture elements as well. This architectural language bonded together the revival ideology of historicism and the modern movements. The purist functionalist buildings were completed by Transylvanian details inspired by peasants’ architecture and the unique and picturesque natural resources of the Transylvanian landscape (Novicov, 2011). The purist urban buildings brought back the traditional and multicultural Transylvania. The façade typically revived columnar elements adapting slit pinnions, and the streamlined architectural forms of flat and simple curtain-like surfaces also appeared, combined with wooden inserts.

The late historicism, mainly eclectic design and the modern directions of architecture, gave Oradea a unique and valuable heritage, which has over 121 archaeological monuments and sites (6), architectural monuments and ensembles, technical monuments (91), memorial buildings (6) and plastic art monuments and ensembles (19). In the flow of contemporary development, Oradea can and does base priorities on its one hundred-year old cultural and architectural heritage according to EU strategies and County and State defined priorities. The 2007–2013 financial period in Romania supported regional development and especially tourism by the Regional Operational Programme Priority Axe 1 (Support to sustainable development of cities – urban growth poles) and Priority Axe 5 (Sustainable development and promotion of tourism). To continue development in the next financial period, the Oradea Master Plan for Urban Development 2030 focuses on the natural and the man-made heritage as well. Borma (2012) highlighted key activities for reviving the tourism of Oradea and mentioned cultural, religious and urban tourism as main priorities. In the framework of these



Figure 6: Armatei Române Street (Source: the authors).

concepts, the rehabilitation of the downtown area and reconstruction of heritage buildings can increase the tourism attractiveness of the city and use local tourist attractions to their fullest potential, creating new tourist attractions (Borma, 2012; Skril, 2017; Vasiljević et al., 2018).

The Historic Evolution of the Military Areas in the City of Oradea

Between 1896 and 1912, the Oradea City Hall and the City Council borrowed and invested large amounts of money for the construction of buildings designed as barracks and military schools, which were to be rented for to the Austro-Hungarian Army. Thus, the following barracks were built (Borcea & Gorun, 2007): in the Calea Aradului area, the Cavalry Barracks Franz Jozef (Figure 1) (with a total cost of 1,118,283 crowns), the Cavalry Barracks Archduke Wilhelm (Fig. 2) (total cost 1,040,731 crowns), the Hussar Barracks (507,649 crowns), and on the current street of the University of Oradea, between 1912–1914 the artillery barracks (215,000 crowns) and the gendarmerie school (2,000,000 crowns) were built.

Arad and Decebal street military unit

On the corner of Arad Street (Calea Aradului) and Decebal Boulevard (Bulevardul Decebal), an important military area developed during the late 19th century. Arad Street was the road that led out from the city, providing a fast and easy exit from the city. This was of great military importance for defending the city. The 6-hectare large territory lies opposite to the Rhédey Garden. The plan to build a military unit in the area originated in 1885, when the first tender was announced, yet construction did not start until 1891. Only a year later, in 1892 the first Hussar barracks named after Josef Franz (Fig. 1) opened, which were quickly followed by the William Archduke Artillery Barrack in 1897 (Fig. 2), which had four major buildings and a nicely decorated main en-



Figure 7: The front of the former the Royal Cadet School, the current location of the Bihor County Museum (Source: the authors).

trance gate with a columnar arrangement and wrought iron gates hinged to the columns. In the spring of 1902, the William Barracks had to be expanded, and Vilmos Rendes, an Oradea-based architect, was commissioned to accomplish the task. The unit had two single-storey residential building and four two-floor buildings as officers', vice-officers' and soldiers' residences. A fence, a stable, equipment storage, animal cages and a cantina were also built. The buildings had an eclectic style and one- to two-floor height (Fig. 3–4). The design and the plans were created by Sándor Hauszmann, but the construction was based on the plans of Alajos Hauszmann. The building arrangement was similar to the Rulikowsky military unit. In the Calea Aradului barracks, there were cavalry units for the Austro-Hungarian army (Borovski, 1901). Next to the Artillery Barrack, the Baron Fejérváry Cavalry Barracks were opened in 1898. These were designed by Ferenc Sztarill, a local architect. By the second decade of the 21st century, an entire block was demolished and the plots were built up as a residential area and for Police, County Archive, and other public services.

Between the two areas with military functions (Calea Aradului and those on the Romanian Army Street or the University Street) Rhédey Park was located, which was developed by Oradea City Hall on land donated by Count Rhédey Lajos at the beginning of the 19th century. The Peța stream flowed through the middle of the park. At the end of the 19th century, Rhédey Park was extended into the area where the Oradea Zoological Garden and the Sport High School are situated today. The area where the Nicolae Bălcescu Park was situated on an undeveloped plot was also within the park extension. Rhédey Park was a very popular place among the city's inhabitants (Borcea & Gorun, 2007).

Local transport connections had a significant role in the integration of military sites into the Oradea's structure. One of Oradea's internal railways was inaugurated



Figure 8: The side of the former the Royal Cadet School, the current location of the Bihor County Museum (Source: the authors).

on August 28th, 1882. It started from the Velența railway station (from where it connected with the Oradea-Cluj external railroad) and the route followed Calea Clujului Street, passing the Velența Church Square, the Târgului Square, and today's Sucevei Street. The ending point of the internal train was Rhédey Park. Later this train line played an important role during the Second World War: in the spring of 1944, this line was used to evacuate and transport to Auschwitz the Jews from the Oradea ghetto. The city of Oradea at that time (30. 8. 1940–12. 10. 1944) was incorporated with Hungary as part of north Transylvania, following the Vienna Dictate. The deportation resulted in the almost total disappearance of the Jewish population in the city of Oradea. The Jewish population previously had an important economic and cultural role in the city's life. The tragedy of the Jews from Oradea is also reflected in the journal notes of Eva Heyman, a teenager born in Oradea in 1931, who was deported to Auschwitz where she lost her life. Her memory and the memory of other deported Jews is still alive, through the Eva Heyman memorial statue (Figure 5) inaugurated in 2015 in Bălcescu Park (Borcea & Gorun, 2007).

The evolution of the military function of the above named territory is connected to historical political decisions. During the 19th century, the Csillag (Star) estate was built in the framework of garden city developments. Also during this century, a planned estate evolved around the Castle district of Oradea. This led to a rise in interest in the city's southern areas. North of the Rulikowsky Municipal Cemetery and west of the Csillag estate, land called Commendans-meadow was designed as a development area during the 19th century, as to accommodate new expansion and sprawl of Oradea. Military developments soon began in this area.

The start of the former Rulikowsky street (Calea Armatei Române (Figure 6), merged into University Street, where the main building of the Royal Cadet School was



Figure 9: Backside of the Josef Archduke solider barracks on the Rulikowski Street (Armatei Române) around the 1900's (Source: http://nagyaboru.blog.hu/2012/10/08/a_vilagaboru_ahogy_egy_paraszt-gazda_latta_65_resz).

situated. Construction of the school began in 1897 under the plans of Ignác Alpár and upon the request of Géza Fejérvári, the minister of defence. Ignác Alpár was one of the main architects of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. His works represented strict historicism and eclectic style (Elek, 1928). The building, with its four-story arrangement provided residence for 50 cadets. With its 135meter length, it was the longest building in Bihor County. Next to the main building, a total of eight other separate buildings with various facilities, like sports for example, were built for the officers and commanders. A hospital was built on the 26-hectare area north of the spillway canal of Peta Brook. The building complex was opened in 1896. The building is in a traditional eclectic style, with U-shape. The middle of the façade is decorated with a triangular shaped tympanum. The left and the right sides of the building, along with the middle section is a so called risalit, also named as avant-corp, which means a salient part of the corp de logis (Christensen, 2005). This feature is common in façades in the Baroque period. The building is a perfect example of eclecticism, which is also referred in the contemporary Hungarian architecture as Historicism. This architectural direction revived historical architectural elements from ancient Greek or romantic architecture (Moravánszky, 1988). By the 1890's eclecticism started to implement renaissance and baroque elements on the building, which created a type of temporal subdivision of eclectic architecture. The building itself was an interesting travel in time using specific architectural features particularly in the middle composition of the building. The ground floor had simple arched windows, while the first floor had baroque-like rectangular windows bordered by simple stucco edges. The third and fourth floor windows had impressive baroque-rococo and renaissance façade elements, whilst they are bordered with simple stucco



Figure 10: The luxurious villas, opposite the former Royal Cadet School complex (Source: the authors).

that lines the lacing of the top of the windows, creating a dynamic, wave-like ornament (Herendi, 2003; Szentkirályi, 1988). The building can be considered as neo-baroque, but such a euphemism would clearly conceal the classicist line of the column-decorated front doors. Today, the building has become home for the Crișuri County Museum (Muzeul “Țării Crișurilor”), and according to the local legislation, the building is under legal protection (Figure 7 and 8) (The List of the Historical Monuments from Bihor County).

Opposite the Royal Cadet School complex, the modern and luxurious villa district evolved for the officers and their families (Figure 10). The villas were uniquely composed and designed to the latest architectural trends of the time. There were several secessionist and early art deco buildings along the boulevard which stand to this day and shape the character of the area. It is an important architectural heritage and a kind of footprint of the early 1910 years in Oradea. There were several rental houses accompanying the villas, showing the wealth and prosperity of the city. Buildings were designed and planned by Monarchy-wide famous architects, like György Tarr (No. 12, 22 Armatei Române Street), Ferenc Sztarill (No. 16, 18 Armatei Române Street), Ignác Grünfeld and József Lánoczy (No. 3 and 7, respectively, on MIMOZEI Street) (Borovski, 1901). The newly-built residential area was abutted by the Gas Factory (Borovski, 1901).

Beginning prior to World War One and continuing on during and after the war, a building complex was situated along Rulikowski Street and opposite the spillway canal of the Peta. The complex included the barrack of the 4th Infantry Regiment. It was a 6000 m² land designed according to the plans of Rimanóczy Kálmán. A new barrack complex was built in the complex in 1902 and named after Josef Archduke (Figure 9). The new buildings were designed to elicit the style of old infantry barrack properties at the corner of Republicii

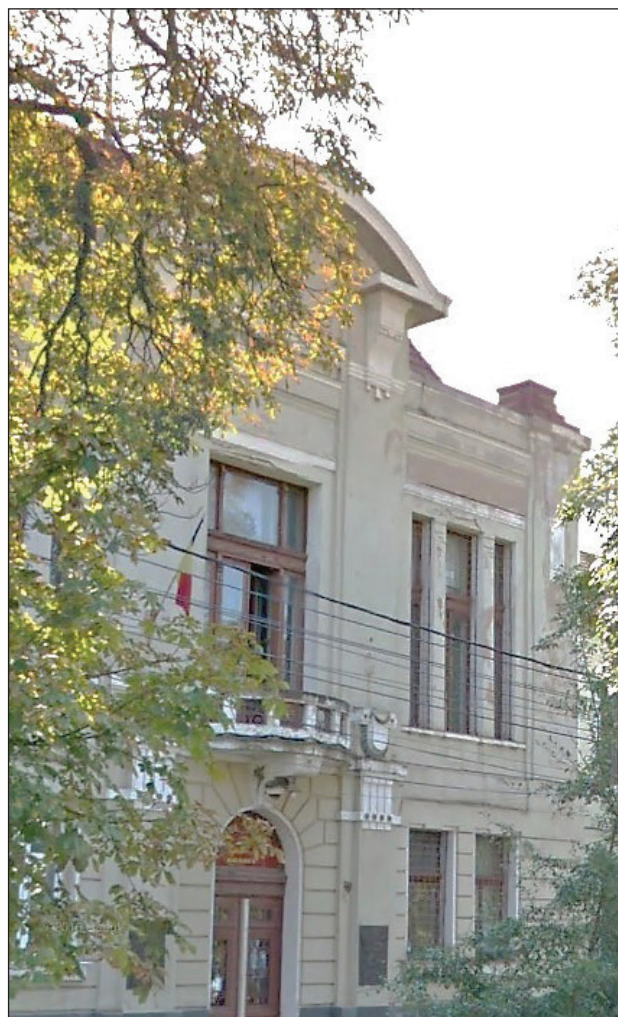


Figure 11: Late-eclectic and early modernist Solider Barrack main building on Armatei Române street, now the Military Museum (Source: the authors).

and Dunărea (former Fő and Sal Ferenc) Streets. The buildings were pavilion-like eclectic style structures. These were renovated recently giving rise to the NATO Excellence Centre and the Military Museum (Figure 11). The façade of the main building is late-eclectic, which was modified during renovation. The middle element features a semi-circular tympanum and a semi-circular balcony bolstered by one middle console bracket. On both sides of the balcony, the windows are in 1-2-1 alignment, which gives the building a tall, elegant and airy look. The main entrance is flanked by stylistic pillars ending in simplified ornaments. Another support building to the right of the main building and facing the street still has the original facade. The apex of the corners of the building have cubic-shaped finials. Perpendicular to the building's clean and simple façade without decoration, the round-shaped windows can be seen, giving a hint of modernist trends, which have appeared several times



Figure 12: Folk-ornaments on the front of an ex-military building, currently abandoned, located just opposite to the university taxi station (Source: the authors).

on Bauhaus buildings. The simpler facade indicates a shift in direction towards the simplified secession and the latter evolved Hungarian art deco style. The building complex is reasonably important and valuable, however it is not under architectural or cultural protection.

Following the opening of the Infantry Regiment barracks in 1902, the Gendarmerie complex opened in 1913. The Gendarmerie complex is one of the greatest works of József Vágó, and the buildings surround a round-shaped park (Pașca, 2010a and 2010b). Vágó created an outrageous plan for the Gendarmerie, broken up with traditional barrack designs and built with a great central hall, which is the staircase itself (Lambrichs, 2003). A contemporary newspaper of the time wrote about the fresh and new design of the building, which was undoubtedly functionalist and used the methods of a puritan secession. On the opposite side of the street, the Artillery School was built in a very simple and functionalist style. The building complex is under legal protection due to its important architectural heritage (The List of the Historical Monuments from Bihor County).

Opposite the Gendarmerie building, the recently-established University of Oradea Taxi Station (Fig. 12) has an impressive background: one of the most valuable buildings of the Artillery School, modified several times, still stands abandoned. It has a two-tow-

ered, bordered arched façade edifice. Unfortunately, due to its several modifications, the building's symmetric façade is now fragmented by different sizes and styles of windows, yet we do not know much about the origin about the building. The building is modernist but still exhibits the folk-wave of secession which adopted several rural Transylvanian elements. This school is also referred to as the "Hungarian secession" or the "Lechnerian" style, commemorating the founder of these architectural styles, Ödön Lechner (Pașca, 2010). The disciples of Lechner (Károly Kós, Lajos Kozma, Béla Lajta etc.) made pilgrimages to Transylvania to discover the forgotten folk art of the area. They did not copy the features but adopted and evolved them in a 20th century form (Vadas, 2005). This influence had a strong imprint on the Hungarian and Transylvanian buildings in the early 20th century. The secession-borne, but folk art influenced style can be referred as Transylvanistic architecture, with a unique feature of the Carpathian-basin. It is not Hungarian, nor Romanian, nor German, just pure Transylvanian and as such, represents a unique aspect of architecture. This style is functional, purified and simplified, less than secession and more than modernism. This kind of premodern rationalism and folk-orientation have always had greater room to appear in architecture in this area due to the open-minded, progressive urban



Figure 13: The former Artillery-Warehouse Shell Barracks, currently under the administration of the Gendarmerie Units (Source: the authors).



Figure 14: The Statue of General Traian Moşoiu, in the Bălcescu Park (Oradea) (Source: the authors).

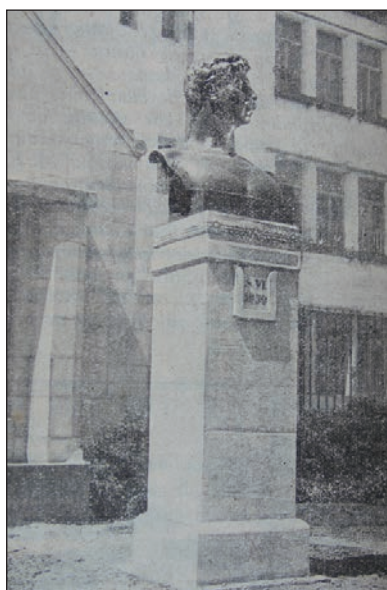


Figure 15: The Monument of Prince Carol II, in front of the former Gendarmerie School (Dejeu, 1938).

population of Oradea (Morar et al., 2016). The other barrack buildings opposite the Vágó-planned complex were built after the first world war, around the 1920's, without any specific architectural style.

After the great Union of Transylvania with Romania (1918), the city of Oradea was integrated into the Romanian State, which took over the barracks as a successor state of Austro-Hungary, maintaining their military purposes. Thus, the former Royal Cadets School, during the interwar period, had its name changed to the King Ferdinand Barrack, where it was operating as the command for the 17th Infantry Division and a School of Infantry for sub officers. The buildings that today host the Military Museum and the NATO Center of Excellence were renamed and known as the Ion Dragolina Barracks. These barracks hosted the Romanian 85th Infantry Regiment during the interwar period. In the interwar period, the current streets of the Romanian Army and University Street were called the Dorobanților Way, which before the First World War was called Rulikovszky Street.

The buildings that hosted the Gendarmerie units before 1918 maintained their function, as a Gendarmerie School continued to function during the interwar period. Across the street was the Artillery-Warehouse Shell Barracks (Figure 13).

The barracks from Calea Aradului preserved their previous function and hosted the following military units: the 5th Roșiori Army Regiment, the Artillery Regiment and the 2nd Mountain Regiment. All the barracks listed above had modern facilities for that time (Firu, 1924).



Figure 16: The former Gendarmerie building, the current headquarter of the University of Oradea (Source: <http://erdelyikepek.blogspot.ro/2013/03/csendoriskola-nagyvaradon-fotogaleria.html>).

In the courtyard of the Calea Aradului barracks (the Ferdinand Regiment), King Ferdinand's bust was erected due to the efforts of General Traian Moșoiu (his own statue is located at the entrance of the Bălcescu Park) (Figure 14). General Moșoiu was the commander of the Hunting Corps, which was based in Oradea in the early 1920's. The bust was erected in front of the Gendarmerie School (the current University of Oradea), and the bust of Prince Carol II (Figure 15), the future king (Dejeu, 1938), was also placed there. These two monuments (the bust of Ferdinand and Prince Carol) were moved to Beiuș with the passage of Oradea under the Hungarian administration following the Vienna Dictate. Also, other Romanian monuments in Oradea were displaced, finally ending up at Beiuș, and with the establishment of Communism, they were destroyed (possibly melted under unclear conditions).

During the time of King Carol II, the Gendarmerie School, which was operating in the buildings of the current location of the University of Oradea (historical monument; The List of the Historical Monuments from Bihor County) (Figure 16 and -17), was named the Carol II School of Gendarmes. It was the most monumental school of gendarmes in Romania, with a capacity of 1500 gendarmerie students. In 1937 there were 800 gendarmerie students enrolled (Dejeu, 1937). With the Vienna Dictate, the city of Oradea came under Hungarian administration, with the new border immediately set in the south of the city. The new Hungarian authorities turned the city of Oradea into a powerful military area, starting with a project to build new barracks in the area south of the Rulikovskyy Cemetery. During the Vienna Dictate, the Hungarian administration re-established the Cadets School, replacing the King Ferdinand Barracks. The Gendarmerie School continued its existence under the Hungarian administration, and the military complex from the Calea Aradului retained its military



Figure 17: The former Gendarmerie building, the current headquarter of the University of Oradea (Source: the authors).

function during this period (Dejeu, 1926; 1937). The so called “Red Barracks” military complex was finalized following the arrival of Romanian and Soviet troops in the city on October 12, 1944, completing the military assembly which had begun in the end of the 19th century (Dejeu, 1937).

CONCLUSIONS

Heritage, Conservation and Planning

Once, military was important for the local society and economy of the city of Oradea, Romania. The military legacy is still alive in the region with great cultural – historical values. This former military area is part of a historical heritage. Some parts of it are abandoned, and some parts are protected as cultural and historical monuments because of their architectural, cultural, historical, and esthetical values. The military heritage needs a careful approach for its integration in the urban planning mechanism.

The enhancement, reuse and (re)development of dismissed military areas is an important issue. The changing historical conditions throughout the 20th century resulted in the abandonment of some structures (Figure 18), while others were transferred from military to public use, being renovated and transformed (Figure 19). (Re) integration of the military heritage in the planning and (re)development process of the city of Oradea and in the

overall sustainable development process is a significant challenge. The former military sites within Oradea have witnessed recent de-militarisation processes as well. They are a mixture of various military facilities from various periods from medieval to modern built heritage. The disused, decaying, abandoned military brownfield sites presents opportunities for reuse, for economy, commercial and residential purposes. As one example, the Oradea City Hall built a Eurobusiness Park on the former “Red Barracks” military complex.

Urban tourism is considered as one of the main components for local economic development and as a tool for urban regeneration (Ashworth & Page, 2011). The increasing value and growing importance of the urban landscape should be expected in the next decades, as it has growing importance in the Visegrad Four (V4) countries (Pap, 2014). Some authors say local economic development may be due to the great variety of tourism involving the environment (Carlisle et al., 2016; Edwards et al., 2008). The implementation of the above-mentioned priorities in the architectural built environment will result in a larger focus on urban cultural heritage in Oradea. Nevertheless, the aspect of complex and touristic-based development of urban landscapes and built environments are still underestimated.

The urban heritage and military heritage assists the local urban economy as an important development tool. The redevelopment and reintegration of these military



Figure 18: Former military buildings, currently in decay (Source: the authors).



Figure 19: Renovation and transformation of the former military facilities (Source: the authors).

urban areas should be carried out strategically, because such reuse can be an important challenge for decision-makers. Reuse reflecting urban and military heritage also presents specific opportunities for various stakeholders as (re)integration of the historic patrimony can result in competitive tourist products and in the overall urban planning and redevelopment process. Heritage-based tourism is very important and can successfully complement other urban attractions like arts, cultural events, festivals, and spiritual-cultural aspects. These are all valuable elements for replacing traditional activities with educational or cultural developments (Süli-Zakar & Kecskés, 2014). At the same time, these attractions can not only support the local economy but also can increase public awareness of the past, supporting the local cultural identity in the overall global mainstream (Herman *et al.*, 2016).

The former military area is very close to the Oradea historical centre, which represents another challenge in terms of use of space; transformation; reuse; or how to adapt to cultural, commercial, residential, public reuse, while maintaining the cultural value of space and architectural features for contemporary urban needs.

Another challenge is building preservation itself. Due to the abandonment and only partly-evaluated revitalisation of former military buildings, structures such as former storage and stable buildings are constantly degrading. Since they have significant architectural value but are not under legal protection, a building complex can lose its integrity by losing important buildings. The historical presentation of buildings in this manuscript show the degradation can reach a critical level and buildings can become close to collapse. The former military areas in Oradea along the Strada Universităţii and Calea Armatei Române have several architectural values that are registered in local protection, but some are not included. The question is whether these historical urban treasures will remain or vanish.

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VIDIKI VOJAŠKE KULTURNO-ZGODOVINSKE DEDIŠČINE V MESTU ORADEA (ROMUNIJA)

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POVZETEK

Spreminjajoči se geopolitični svet 19. stoletja je imel v Srednje-vzhodni Evropi številne družbeno-gospodarske učinke in ustvaril alternativne procese militarizacije in demilitarizacije. V mestu Oradea (Romunija) je večina grajenega zgodovinskega prostora uspešno preživela skozi nekaj zadnjih stoletjih. Njegov obstoj in ponovna uporaba sta pomembna za vzdrževanje zgodovinske identitete Oradee, hkrati pa je ta grajeni prostor vključen v lokalne mehanizme urbanističnega načrtovanja. Članek analizira vojaško kulturno-zgodovinsko dediščino, ki je v mestu Oradea zelo razširjena. Ta dediščina je pomemben del lokalne zgodovine, kateri obnovi in ponovni uporabi je naklonjeno tudi mesto z oblikovanjem novih inovativnih načinov za sedanje in bodoče rabe teh nekdanjih vojaških območij. Cilj raziskave je pokazati, da lahko z oživljanjem (revitalizacijo), nekdanja vojaška območja postanejo trajnostni resursi, s katerimi se ohranjajo zgodovinska, kulturna in arhitekturna dediščina. Istočasno je njihova ponovna uporaba močno orodje obstoječega razvoja in ponovnega razvoja trajnostno urbanih območij. Metodologija raziskovanja upošteva multidisciplinarnе vidike prenove (vojaških) degradiranih območij. Vključuje študij literature in terensko raziskovanje razvoja mesta, zgodovinske in sedanje funkcije ter druge ostalih značilnosti (nekdanjih) vojaških območij. Sinteza na edinstven način uporablja informacijsko analizo, ki podaja dobro izdelane sklepe, razmišljanja in ideje na to konkretno raziskovalno temo.

Ključne besede: Oradea, urbana dediščina, vojaške strukture, arhitektura, kultura, zgodovina, ohranjanje, revitalizacija, trajnostni razvoj

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