

VIA VILLAS - Enrichment of Architectonic

Heritage by Residential Architecture

PRESS RELEASE



Finalisation of the Great Villas project of the Visegrad countries and Slovenia

Project VIA VILLAS – Enrichment of Architectonic Heritage by Residential Architecture approved by the European Commission and realised in the framework of the program CULTURE took place in years 2011 – 2013 in the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia following experience of author-research teams in the area of theory and history of architecture between years 2004 – 2011 participating in the project Great Villas of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and Great Villas of Slovakia.

The project focuses on villa architecture that not only enriches cultural heritage of individual European regions but also discovers our historical roots and inspires contemporary culture. In the common project historians of architecture, experts from architecture museums, authors, researchers and villa submitters all took part together.

In partner V4 countries and Slovenia research and evaluation studies were done mapping cultural and aesthetic parts and technical levels of residential architecture presenting personality and style of architects and researching roles of architecture and builders and mutual connection of architectonic, cultural and social life of a particular country.

Research studies became the base of development activities on national levels; in each partner country a publication was issued and an exposition organised devoted to large and balanced selection of architectonic works of villas and residences. Travelling exposition visited many cities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia and now it will also be presented in Brussels.

Research and authors teams in individual countries were led by the following:

Czech Republic: Prof. Ing. Arch. Vladimír Šlapeta, Prague, Prof. PhDr. Pavel Zatloukal, Olomouc

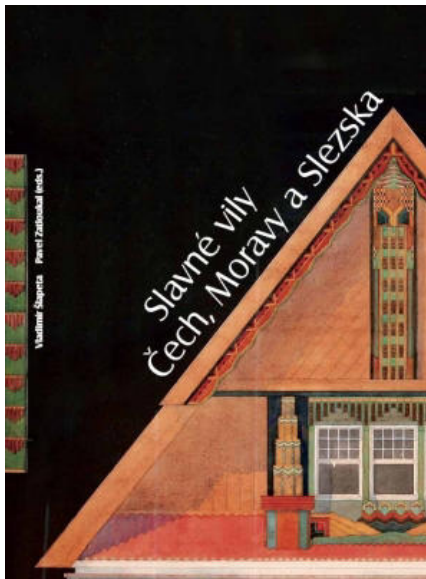
Poland: Dr. Ing. Arch. Richard Nakoneczny, Gliwice

Slovakia: Prof. Ing. Arch. Matúš Dulla, Bratislava

Hungary: Prof. Ing. Arch. Antal Puhl, Budapest, Debrecen

Slovenia: Dr. Damjan Prelovšek, Lublaň

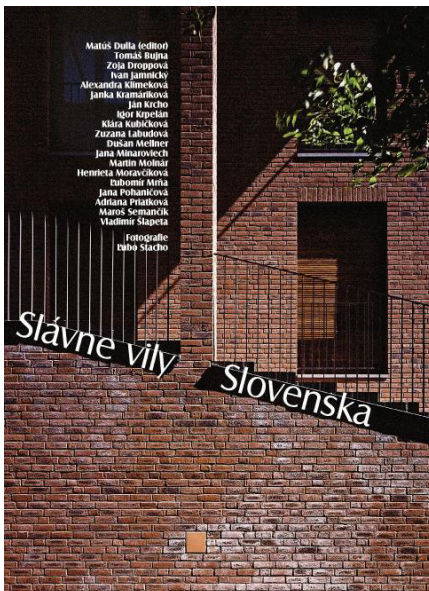
Brief content of individual projects:



Great Villas of Bohemian, Moravia and Silesia

Publication and exhibition panels represent 120 villas and family houses built in years 1816 – 2006 in 63 towns and municipalities of the Czech Republic. These villas and family houses are creations of 117 Czech and foreign architects.

Beside Villa Tugendhat, mentioned on the UNESCO World Heritage list, these are creations of outstanding European and Czech architects Adolf Loos, Leopold Bauer, Hubert Gessner, Jan Kotěra, Josef Gočár, Bohuslav Fuchs and many more.



Great Villas of Slovakia

Publication and exhibition panels represent 65 villas and family houses; starting from showing two Roman villas and in particular from 19th century up to now in all the provinces and their 28 towns and municipalities. These buildings are creations of 52 Slovak and foreign authors.

Beside Dardanel's Rococo villa in Markušovci and several palaces - summer houses - in Bratislava in style of Italian villas these are mostly villas and family houses of great architects like Dušan Jurkovič, Milan Michal Harminc, Gedeon Majdunke or contemporary Ján Bahna and others.



Great Villas of Slovenia

Publication and exhibition panels represent 57 villas and family houses built between 1843-2012 in 20 towns and municipalities of Slovenia. These villas and family houses, which are creations of nearly 50 Slovenian and foreign authors, testify rich stylistic diversity of the area including the Alps, Pannonian landscape and part of Mediterranean.

Among outstanding examples of interwar architecture we can mention buildings of architects Josip Plečnik and his pupil Franc Tomažič. Among contemporary authors i.g. twosome Bevk- Perović and architect Boris Podrecca are worth attention.



Great Villas of Poland (issued in April 2013)

Publication and exhibition panels represent 92 villas and family houses built starting from the middle of 16th century (oldest year 1535) up to the present (year 2011) in Poland as of its today's territory. Selected buildings represent three basic types: villa urbana, villa suburbana from 27 towns and villa rustica from 17 municipalities. They are creations of 105 architects (78 Polish, 20 German, 5 Italian, 2 Dutch and 1 Belgian). Among the authors we can find some world-famous names like Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Hans Poelzig, Max Berg, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Henry van de Velde, Ernst May as well as less known but talented architects like Stanisław Witkiewicz, Adolf Szyszko-Bohusz, Karol Schayer, Bohdan Pniewski, Bohdan Lachert, Stanisław Szanajca, Barbara and Stanisław Brukalscy, Lech Niemojewski, Tadeusz Michejda, Witold Lipiński, Jadwiga Grabowska-

Hawrylak, Wojciech Pietrzyk, Henryk Buszko, Aleksander Franta, Romuald Loegler, Dariusz Kozłowski, Maria Misiągiewicz, Czesław Bielecki, Robert Konieczny, Dariusz Herman, Piotr Śmierzewski and many others. All the buildings represented in the book Great Villas of Poland at the same time are parts of our European cultural heritage. Several of these buildings have been protected historic monuments.



Great Villas of Hungary (issued in April 2013)

Publication and exhibition panels represent 64 villas and family houses built between 1812-2012 and in addition showing several Roman villas and in particular villas of baroque period from each of the provinces and their 26 towns and municipalities. These buildings are creations of 53 Hungarian and foreign authors.

Beside well-known villa of Hungarian actress Lujza Blaha from 19th century in the town of Balatonfüred and several palaces in Budapest they are villas and houses of great architects such as Ignác Alpár, Ödön Lechner, Imre Makovecz, Farkas Molnár or contemporary István Janáky and others.

Contemporary House competition: through the Eyes of Young Architects

Following the project **VIA VILLAS** – Enrichment of Architectonic Heritage by Residential Architecture, a competition of young architects, the students of universities was organised and presented as The Contemporary House: Through the Eyes of Young Architects.

The subject of the competition was to create a design of 4-member family house that reflects national and local characteristics and meets the requirements of contemporary and future living. The support of local traditions defining against unified housing without any respect to environment was accentuated. A key long-term objective of the competition is to support cooperation and communication between young architects of the V4 countries. The concept reflects the contemporary problem of housing style, and aims to find architectural solutions reflecting national characteristics of historical and modern residential architecture. Furthermore, it endeavours to offer a vision of the future family housing style reflecting specific traditions and conditions in individual regions and common grounds of European culture.

In each partner country were organised travelling exhibitions, where works of competition participants on national villa concept were presented.

In international workshops in Hungarian Debrecen in 2012 and Slovakian Košice in 2013 the winners of all national competitions met and created idea projects of the European House.

Co-organiser and competitions partners:

Contemporary Czech House

Faculty of Architecture Czech Technical University, Prague
Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture
Technical University in Ostrava, Faculty of Civil Engineering
Technical University in Liberec, Faculty of Art and Architecture
Institute of Business and Technology in České Budějovice

Contemporary Polish House

Silesian Technology University in Gliwice in cooperation with Museum of Architecture in Wrocław

Contemporary Slovak House

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Architecture in cooperation with Foibos BOOKS SK
Technical University of Košice, Faculty of Arts

Contemporary Hungarian House

University of Debrecen, Faculty of Engineering in cooperation with Association of Hungarian Architects
Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering of Miklós Ybl at Szent István University
Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Architecture

Contemporary Slovenian House

Eva Prelovšek Niemelä (Slovenia), Aarne Niemelä (Finland), Ljubljana
University in Maribor, Faculty of Civil Engineering

Via Villas in Brussels

The finalisation of the overall Via Villas project is a common presentation called **The Great Villas of Visegrad Four and Slovenia** taking place in Brussels during 27 May - 30 June 2013.

A presentation will include exhibitions in the European Parliament, The Prague House, The Hungarian Institute and Faculty of Architecture. These will be accompanied by commented tours and debates.

The exposition Great Villas of V4 countries and Slovenia in the **European Parliament** presents villa architecture in these countries in works that can righteously be called a part of European architectural heritage. A part of common exhibition is an international seminar „Contemporary architecture of family housing in the Central Europe and legacy of the great villas of 19th and 20th century“.

Following exhibitions

„Contemporary Villas Architecture of V4 countries and Slovenia „at **The Prague House** presents mainly architectonic works from the half of 20th century until today.

„Secession architecture of V4 countries and Slovenia „in the **Hungarian Cultural Institute** presents an important stage in architecture history.

„Contemporary European House “ – exhibition of young architects’ works at the **Faculty of Architecture** presents projects of housing created by students of individual V4 countries and Slovenia and two joint projects of „European House “ realised at the workshop in Debrecen. Also there will be realisations of young architects up to 40 years of age of V4 countries and Slovenia.

Part of presentation represents also smaller exhibitions aiming at presentation of villa architecture of selected regions of the Czech Republic.

The Great Villas of Central Bohemian and Olomouc region at the **Representation of Central Bohemian region in Brussels**, the Great Villas of Pilsen and the Southern Bohemia region at the **Pilsen House**.

Presentation program:

Monday 27 May 2013

7:30 p.m.

Opening of the Great Villas of the Central Bohemian and Olomouc regions
Representation of Central Bohemian region in Brussels (exhibition 28 May - 27 June 2013)
Avenue d'Auderghem 84, Brussels

Tuesday 28 May 2013

3:30 p.m.

Lecture of professor Vladimír Šlapeta: Czech functionalism in years 1918 - 1938
Sint-Lucas Architectuur, Paleizenstraat 65, Brussels

5:00 p.m.

Opening of the exhibition "Contemporary family housing from the workshops of young architects of V4 countries and Slovenia"
Opening of exhibition "From works of professors and students of Central European schools in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia"
Faculty of architecture (exhibition 29 May – 18 June 2013)
Sint-Lucas Architectuur, Paleizenstraat 65, Brussels

7:30 p.m.

Opening of exhibition Great Secession Villas of V4 countries and Slovenia
Hungarian institute (exposition 29 May - 14 June 2013)
Rue Treurenberg 10, Brussels

Wednesday 29 May 2013

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Seminar "Contemporary architecture of family housing and legacy of the great villas of 19th and 20th century".
- moderated debate with editors of all publications
European Parliament

6:30 p.m.

Opening of exhibition Great Villas of V4 countries and Slovenia
European Parliament (exhibition 27 - 30 May 2013)
Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels

Thursday 30 May 2013

5:00 p.m.

Opening of exhibition Great Villas of Pilsen and South Bohemian regions
Pilsen House (exhibition 31 May – 27 June 2013)
Place Jamblinne de Meux 31, Brussels

Friday 31 May 2013

Exhibition “Modern villa architecture” (1920-1990) in V4 countries and Slovenia
Exhibition “Great Prague Villas”
Prague House (31 May – 27 June 2013)
Avenue Palmerston 16, Brussels

Organisers and partners of project VIA VILLAS

Project leader: Foibos a.s.

Co-organisers:

Foibos Bohemia o.p.s., CZ, Foibos BOOKS, CZ
Magyar Építőművészek Szövetsége, HU
Museum of Architecture in Wrocław, PL

Great Villas of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia project fell under the auspices of the Czech Republic president’s wife, Ms. Livia Klausová.

Great Villas of Slovakia project fell under the auspices of the Slovak Republic president’s wife, Ms. Silvia Gašparovičová.

Great Villas of Poland project fell under the auspices of the Polish Republic president’s wife, Ms. Anna Komorowska.

Great Villas of Hungary project fell under the auspices of the Hungarian president’s wife, Ms. Anita Herczeg.

Great Villas of Slovenia project fell under the auspices of the minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Slovenia, Žiga Turk

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Main organizer of the project:



Co-organizers:



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