

FUTURE ON THE PAST



FROM EARLY 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION TO DATABASE:
DIGITAL HUMANITIES APPLIED TO INVESTIGATE LOCAL SEISMIC, FLOOD, FIRE CULTURE



MOBILITY SCIENTIFIC REPORT

Start and end date: 11/11/2022 to 14/11/2022

Name: Dr. Maria BOSTENARU DAN

Place: Berlin

Event: Triennale der Moderne

Organisation: Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des Lebens und Wirkens juedischer Architekten

PURPOSE:

In November 2019 in frame of the first Triennale der Moderne in Berlin, part of the 100 years anniversary of the Bauhaus, a symposium took place showcasing the work of German speaking Jewish architects in Eastern Europe. Maria Bostenaru Dan had been invited but could not take part for family reasons. She however provided materials which were presented by Alex Dill, as it was before the pandemic and zoom was not so wide spread. She later contributed an article which was finished during the project and was subsequently invited to the book launch in November 2022 in frame of the next Triennale, taking place 3 years later. The Triennale took place in the Bauhaus reuse pavilion close to the Technical University of Berlin Charlottenburg, where Rudolph Fraenkel about whom she wrote studied. The Triennale encompassed more month but on the specific weekend of the launch another country was represented, Ukraine, in some exhibitions, and also Poland. Given the focus of the project on this part of Europe for which it contains original materials, these were aimed to be attended as well, along with some relevant museums for the project in the area: the Museum of Photography, the Bauhaus Archive exhibition, and the Broehan museum of Art Deco.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT

The book launch took place on the 13th of November. Prior to this on the first day, the 11th of November, Maria Bostenaru already participated to a vernissage about Jewish architects in Poland in the Bauhaus reuse pavilion by the same Society for the Research of the Work and Life of German Speaking Jewish Architects. At the book launch she also talked about her research including the current project as included in the published article as well. After the book launch there were two vernisages about interwar architecture in Ukraine. On the 12th of November Maria Bostenaru visited first the Bauhaus archive museum. It is to be noted that a former employee of her Alma Mater, the Technical University in Karlsruhe, is its director. The Bauhaus archive was only temporarily at this location. Some historic photos were purchased, for example about the Master houses and the Bauhaus in Dessau (Dessau and Weimar are other locations of the Triennale der Moderne like Berlin) which were previously visited in 2013 and are part of the collection to be transformed in a database in the project. On the same day Maria Bostenaru visited also the Museum of Photography. Maria Bostenaru was invited to visit on holiday also the photography department in the museum of the city of Oradea, the only one in Romania, founded by Stefan Toth, whom she knows since more than 10 years and in whose photography salons she participated, including about Germans and Jews in Romania. This one has a part of exhibitions like in Berlin but also one on the history of photography, relevant for research on historic photography like the one in the Canadian Centre for Architecture the research in this latter collection being featured in the article in the book launched in Berlin. In Funchal where Maria Bostenaru will go from the project in 2023 there is another important Museum of Photography. On the 13th of November in the morning Maria Bostenaru visited the Broehan Museum of Art Nouveau and Art Deco. This museum is less known than other Art Nouveau Museums such as the one in Aveiro or in Oradea, cities in Reseau Art Nouveau Network. The exhibitions is mainly of furniture, but, on occasion of the Triennale der Moderne, it also featured a temporary exhibition of Lucia Moholy Nagy, which thus corresponds to the joint research interest of Women in architecture and of Eastern Europe given the Hungarian origin. Former publications of Maria Bostenaru were also about the Hungarian

Modernism and in the launched book there are several chapters on this. Mara Popescu, a postdoc in the project, will visit these sites. Outside the funding of the project, on holiday, Maria Bostenaru visited the Art Nouveau museums in Oradea and Aveiro and the results will be soon featured. The relevance of such museums for research was also a topic along with earthquake museums for one of the abstracts at the Geoscience conference in 2022. In 2023 some such museums will be also visited. Unfortunately the museum of the Technical University of Berlin was closed on weekends. But a street commemorating Eliza Leonida Zamfirescu, who also studied there, and the university buildings themselves were visited and are part of an upcoming article on the above named topic.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

The book was published by the publishing house of the Technical University of Berlin. Articles on the relevance of such specialist museums will follow, combined with what was presented at the Geoscience conference.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

The connection between the organisers and Maria Bostenaru was provided over Prof. Andrei Ujica from Karlsruhe, the city of her Alma Mater, who taught at the University of Arts in Karlsruhe, where she was guest student and at the doctoral school in Bucharest, where she got her scientific title from. Contact is further kept on this line, and Maria Bostenaru informs on her further research on the topic – like on Marcel Iancu, about whom there is plenty of research, and Harry Goldstein/Horia Maicu - the organisers. Also contact was taken to a further Romanian participant at the symposium in 2019, Simona Or-Munteanu from Cluj and an exchange of materials, including about Harry Stern, who worked with Richard Bordenache about whom a monograph and an online exhibition are being done in the project.