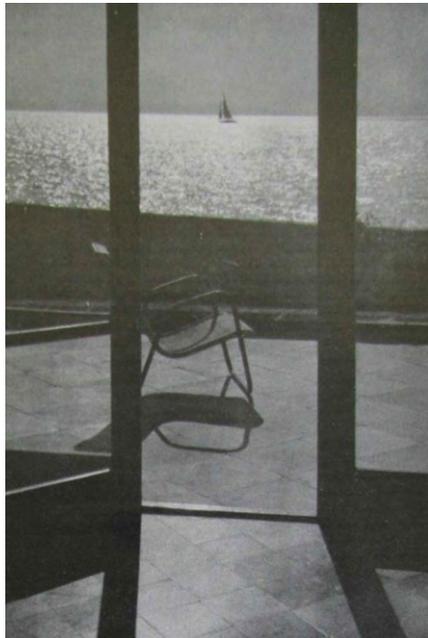


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**Regional Strategies in Recreational Architecture along Lake Balaton  
(1929-1979)**

Theses of PhD Dissertation



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## **The Purposes of the Research**

*“How to build at Lake Balaton?”* - the question became more and more common in publications issued between the two World Wars, and the problem is still current. Looking at the urbanization trends of the lakeside and the challenges of contemporary architecture, it is worth examining the genesis of the history of planning, which may inspire our responses to the crises of the present and provide additions to the rehabilitation of the lakeside’s modern heritage. Due to the urbanization problems of Lake Balaton, this region was an experimental territory of regional strategies from an early stage, giving way to dialogue between an increasingly diversifying architecture and urbanism. The dissertation examines the development of regional thinking related to the recreational architecture of Lake Balaton and the importance of its architectural history. Early regional concepts and design tools are presented at the level of intellectual history, in an international context of the history of problems and theories. The concepts of intellectual history are presented in a complex way, in the context of the realization of institutionalization and development, by depicting the background of economic and tourism history. It seeks answers to the question of how the professionals of the era tried to address the effects of resort urbanization that emerged as a result of early mass tourism in the course of architectural strategy creation, what regional scale tools were defined and realized by them and how the role of those in architectural history could be assessed. The interdisciplinary mediatory role of the concept of the region can be illustrated by the processed resources, while the architectural and urbanistic fusion and differentiation process that characterizes regional strategy creation can also be seen. Examining the modernization problems of early mass tourism, a curriculum arching from development to rehabilitation emerges, calling for a desire to rearrange professional positions and new tools. The decisive period of the present condition of the lakeside has not yet been elaborated in detail, although, in addition to the planning methodological experiences and lessons learned, it is also necessary to learn about the historical environment to rehabilitate the built heritage of the era that is in an unworthy situation. The purpose of this study was to explore and analyze of early regional architectural strategies based on detailed, archive sources, with the primary aim to reconstruct design concepts and trends in intellectual history.

The dissertation analyzes the development of concepts at regional level of recreational architecture. By focusing on the individual creations, the issue of architectural conceptualization did not only touch upon the local adaptation of modern architecture, but, because of the problem of mass construction, also the development of regional policies and patterns, the roles of regional building authorities and the regional arrangement issues of the landscape arising out of the interrelated practice of architecture and town planning. All this was enabled by the positions of architecture developed in the complex institutional systems of holiday resort development. So, by the concept of regional strategy, we do not mean strategic planning emerging in the urbanistic use of terms of recent decades, but, in a comprehensive sense, the tools of finding regional solutions for architecture from the creation of different scale concepts to the issue of realization. The focal point of the development of regional thinking, by winning the UIA Abercrombie Prize, is the elaboration and realization of the first Balaton Regional Plan, also significant in international professional history, however, it is necessary to analyze the genesis and differentiation of the regional concept in a wider timeframe concerning history and the consequences. The beginning of time limitation is concluded by the establishment of the Balaton Management Committee (1929), which provided a framework for early regional aspirations, and the backdrop of the regional level issue of recreational architecture, and the revision of the first regional plan and its annulment (1979). The analysis periods of the process of development are identified by the regional institutional frameworks and the changes of the related design tools. It follows the scope of concepts and institutions in its territorial delineation and hence focuses primarily on the architecture of recreational areas. The dissertation focuses on elaborating a process that takes place at the level of intellectual history spanning several eras, and therefore does not aim at a detailed monographic processing of individual eras. In addition to examining the links and aspects at regional level, it does not consider the historical processing of individual settlements and the complete review of the architecture of each era as its objective. From the regional changes and ongoing processes we can rely upon the data of contemporary studies, however, the essay examining the aspects of intellectual history does not aim at a detailed reconstruction of landscape transformation, also due to the lack of a historical perspective and of available data, as it does not aim at a territorial character-based study based on that either, which may later be the starting point for other research. The conceptual and content issues of former

researches and investigations, however, appear in the planning history analysis.

### **Sources and archives**

The nature and the concept of historical research were largely determined by the available source material. Unfortunately, a significant portion of the contemporary plans and documents were lost, so the primary purpose of the research was to reconstruct historical processes in light of the resources still available. The fragmentation of source material was another problem. From time to time, only data of different nature were available about the individual eras, which made the conceptual comparison difficult, or a given regional phenomenon could not be completely covered due to the lack of resources. The latter is demonstrated by the situation of settlement planning and architectural plans as examples, as in most cases archive documentation can no longer be found.

The archive documents of previously unprocessed personal legacies served as a major resource. In the framework of the research, on the basis of assignments by the heirs, it was possible to organize the personal legacy of Tibor Farkas and to prepare for the placement in the archives. In addition to the design materials, reports, personal diary notes, his correspondence with the actors of the development has fundamentally shaped the image of the history of planning. The results are complemented by interviews conducted by the author with the former head architect. The research also processed other legacies. In addition to reviewing the archives of Polónyi Károly, the conversation with his widow, Anikó Polónyi also provided important information to get acquainted with the background of the development. The legacy of Ferenc Káldy could be systemized with the permission and help of his daughter Mária Káldy. The structuring of resources was helped by interviews recorded in the form of digital audio materials, prepared with witnesses still alive, who participated in the planning process. Beside Tibor Farkas, Zoltán Csorba, working at the branch office of the chief architect, the chief architect of the North Coast, Zsolt Bajnay, and Ferenc Callmeyer, who played a significant role in the Balaton Architects' Patronage Movement, were also interviewed and the conversations with them recorded, while supplementing the research results by materials of their personal archives.

During the research the still available documents of the Balaton Management Committee on organizational history, along with the collections of national, county archives and regional museums were processed. In particular, the detailed processing of the documentation of the Balaton Museum of Keszthely and the Regional History Research Institute and Library of Lake Balaton in Siófok and the documents of the Somogy and Veszprém County Archives contributed significantly to the dissertation. During the research work in Siófok, with the help of the staff, the documents of the day-to-day business administration of the Chief Architect's Office and the BIB Branch Office were found in the attic of the institution, giving a plastic picture of the everyday life of the development project. In addition to the regional collections, the processing of archive materials also included documents by the Architectural Museum that preserved the design documentation of Kálmán Kotsis and Kálmán Tóth and the Lechner Knowledge Centre, which received the plan and photo catalogue of VÁTI. For the exploration of the international context, of foreign publications and impact mechanisms an opportunity was provided during the guest research period at the GTA Institute of ETH Zurich. It was the CIAM Archive's legacy, belonging to the Institute, ideally representing contemporary international developments in professional history, that primarily contributed to contextualization.

Further sources were provided by the architectural professional press (Magyar Építőművészet, Tér és Forma, Magyar Mérnök és Építész Egylet Közlönye, Új Építészet, Építés Építészet, Műszaki Tervezés, Magyar Építőipar, Városépítés, Településtudományi Közlemények) contemporary regional periodicals (Balaton, Balatoni Kurír, Balatoni Szemle) and national reports, but publications in the daily press are also an integral part of the material. In addition to studying specialist journals, the contemporary literature and other source materials (regulations, laws, decrees, research and development reports) were processed by the research. Publications written by urban architects and architectural historians only discussed the area as to certain details, and the relevant scientific processing also required a collision of these findings. To outline the background and the co-scientific context of the architectural history study, the results of the historical studies, social, economic and tourism history related research also appear in the dissertation. Central statistics were not yet drawn up in the examined eras, it was only in the second half of the 1960s when KSH [Central Statistical Office] started to systematically measure tourism issues also from the aspect of methodology.

Likewise, there are no comprehensive statistics available on construction issues, the volume of construction, the number of holiday homes were not consistently measured, only approximate estimates are available for posterity.

## **Research methods**

The dissertation analyzes the period of the development of Lake Balaton between 1929 and 1979 by relying on new resources and analyzing it in a broader perspective than before. The detailed historical processing of the era provides new results to the image of Hungarian history of design and architecture. The aim of the analysis is to examine the positions of architecture and the context of design tools of different scales. In the analysis, regionality is not viewed as a monolithic idea, but as a relationship between positions and visions in the historical field, where the features and meanings of the perception of regionality in the given era can be formulated in the context of architectural and urbanistic concepts. The method also provides an opportunity to answer planning methodology questions. In addition to the factors of conceptualization, the study of intellectual history also presents the phenomenon in a complex way in the transformation of the institutional, tourism, economic policy background and the results achieved during the development. Due to the limits of scope and the characteristic plotting of the process of planning history, more detailed background analyzes and illustrations are provided in Annex.

At the establishment of methodological frameworks, a link between the tools of architectural and urbanistic historiography was needed. While architectural historiography has developed in close symbiosis with art history and historiography, in urbanistic historiography, emphasis was placed on planning history, where the analysis of the concepts could be related to the trend of *intellectual history*. The work of Michel Foucault, the founder of the trend, entitled "*The Order of Discourse*", allows for the contextualisation of positions and concepts. When editing the genealogy of intellectual history outlining the interlinking and then unravelling of the concepts of different scale levels, Hayden White's narrative could be used to interpret the poesy of the process. Hayden White elaborated his thesis entitled "*Metahistory*" in close connection with the trends of *intellectual history*, in which he focused on the emplotment and poetic nature of historiography. All this could give a broader horizon for the critical design of the planning history process

embracing eras, the distortions of the design concepts and the rearrangements of the emphases on value also lead to the dramaturgy of the planning process.

The international theoretical framework assists the embeddedness of concepts and the outline of their historical references. The typically postmodernist theories, regionalism concepts that appear later in comparison to the era are not discussed in the paper, it does not convey concepts retrospectively. In describing international planning historical parallels, the special scale of the region makes it difficult to provide a contextualising analysis with other regions. It is difficult to analyze the Balaton-based concepts by comparative studies due to the scale of the region and the complex nature of the scale levels. Scales of contemporary coastal developments exceeded the development of the “Hungarian sea” by several orders of magnitude, however, there were no coherent connection systems formed between the scale levels of developments. In the case of smaller resorts, ponds and mountain regions, neither the domestic examples nor foreign parallels can be measured with the territory and complexity of the Balaton region, and thus they could not give way to comparative critical analysis. That is why in the dissertation only the direct international connection points are presented in the analysis of the eras, the wider contexts appear in the conclusion of the analysis and by the presentation of international significance.

### **Structure of the dissertation: conceptual levels and research issues**

The dissertation builds upon the balance of archival resource processing and conceptual analysis. The essay is essentially progressing along a historical line, structured according to the eras, the participants, and the factors that shaped the process. This sets the level and mode of expression - theoretical concepts and problems can be constructed economically and from the material and in relation to the material. The paper analyzes the process broken down into periods. Within the individual chapters, in accordance with the aspects of intellectual history, it first presents the position, the institutional background and the significance of external influences, and then outlines the strategies of different scales by scale levels. With its analysis line, it is possible to illustrate the development of architectural and urbanistic concepts, to outline the emphases on value appearing at each scale level as carrier layers. The presentation of the cohesion of the plan systems is made possible through an analysis of the system of relations between the levels. In

addition to the process of developing regional strategies, the paper is moved within the chapters by shifts and relationships between the scale levels. The study provides an opportunity to validate critical considerations, that is, the presentation of tensions between intentions and realization. Considering the formation of the concepts from this critical point of view, a dramaturgical process extending over the eras is unfolded in front of us, which helps in the interpretation of planning methodological experiences. Process analysis also provides opportunities to determine connections, interferences and relationships between the eras. The change of scale, the approximation to the material and the distance taken will also be reflected in the editing of the thesis. In some situations, it was necessary to outline the details in substance, and then by returning to the overall picture to have the whole process, even if marginally, but also on a broader international horizon drafted.

*Positions of architecture:* In the individual chapters, the presentation of the institutional background and the mechanisms of influence affecting concept creation serve as the starting point. In these analyzes, in spite of the multidisciplinary nature of regional planning, assuming the decisive role of architecture, we are seeking answers to the question of how to define the architectural positions in a given era in holiday resort development. Through professional history analysis, we can point out the role of architecture as an initiator, the new forms of the practice of the trade, and then, after disciplinary rearrangement, the loss of a coordinating role.

*Scale levels:* Following the analysis of the institutional positions of architecture, by structuring according to scale levels as bearing layers, the dialogue of the design tools will draw the analysis curve. In each era the issues appeared with different emphasis and character, as demonstrated by the ratios of the internal structures of the chapters. The research seeks an answer to what influencing factors, along what kind of emphases on values and how effectively the different scale-level concepts could be linked. What did the regional adaptation of modern architecture mean in the specific context of the recreation areas? Research involves the interconnection of architectural and urbanistic concepts, and regionality presupposes the interpretation of the recreational area instead of the level of the region. By comparing design ideas to realization, it is possible to provide a critical presentation of the external and internal effects mechanisms of developments.

*Periodisation:* By comparing the eras, it is possible to compare institutional structures, to create personal overlaps, and to examine the transmission of the epochs of conceptual elements and emphases on values. By looking at the antecedents and the consequences together, we can observe what elements of the design tools are taken over by and which ones are introduced into development history. By reviewing epoch-making processes, we can assume a conceptual rearrangement and a differentiation as to professional history, which also influenced the regional positions of architecture.

*International planning history framework:* By outlining the parallel trends of regional planning and modern architecture, the development of the Balaton region can be placed into an international context, assuming an early appearance without prefigurations between regional recreational area strategies as well as the planning historical significance of the relationship between architectural and urbanistic concepts.

## **New Scientific Results**

### **1. Scale changes in the strategy creation: the positions of architecture and the forms of profession**

[1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11]

*The dissertation analyzes the period of the development of Lake Balaton between 1929 and 1979 by relying on new resources and analyzing it in a broader perspective than before. It points out that the specific issues of the development of a holiday resort necessitated the establishment of a complex institutional structure and the multi-level implementation of architectural points of view. Due to the interrelated professional role concepts, the architects and architects-city planners of the age have, in the field of regional scale development, established new forms of professional practice without any preforms in domestic practice.*

The construction intentions at regional level were closely interwoven with the utilization of the lakeside for holiday resort purposes. The urban interest of tourism in the region also determined the perspective of lakeside organizations and the forms of practicing the architectural profession. Instead of the base provided by local society, construction efforts were formed based on initiatives by state organizations and by professionals and civil organizations with only seasonal ties to the area due to recreational reasons. The visions of the region did not, in spite of the intentions, typically cover the scope of problems of the background settlements, focusing in the first place on the settlement of the resort area.

Due to the problem of mass construction, the issue of architectural strategy creation did not only cover individual works and the local adaptation of modern architecture, but also included the development of regional policies and patterns, the roles of regional building authorities and the regional arrangement issues of the landscape arising out of the interrelated practice of architecture and town planning. In holiday resort development, architectural and city planning professionals played a prominent role. In order to realize the settlement and development ideas arising from the composition of the landscape, the coordinating role of architect professionals working in the different positions of the construction authority and a close cooperation established with specialist co-designers were needed in conceptualization and organization, and in project management. As a returning motive,

volunteer participation, self-organized initiatives of specialists can also be detected in the individual eras. In the free surroundings of the lakeside, recreational architecture has provided opportunities for professional experimentation both in the pre-war and in the post-war period.

## **2. Local adaptation of modern architecture: interpretation of regionality in recreational architecture**

[1, 3, 7, 8, 10]

*In the early phases of development history, we can often discover the aspiration for a local adaptation of modern architecture, but this did not appear in the context of the urbanizing regions formed by ancient communities and background settlements. In the guidelines for coordinating public construction projects and controlling private constructions, the issues of recreation and recreational area development have come to the fore.*

The construction projects for recreational purposes on Lake Balaton were already discussed on a uniform, regional level since the 1930s. In the strategies, modern architectural principles were combined with local patterns, and at regional level they tried to create a resort area quality that distances itself from both vernacular and urban patterns. In the recreational zone of Lake Balaton formed along general guidelines, regional quality could not only appear as an abstract concept taken from the local solutions, but by also integrating local patterns individually, it could be autonomously realized in the context of the modernization of the lakeside. Its general feature is demonstrated by the fact that although the development used some patterns of the landscape at both regional and local level, it was primarily related to the seasonal function. Later, on the basis of the models worked out experimentally along the shores of Lake Balaton, similar concepts emerged at other holiday spots in the country.

There were common, recurring elements in the concepts of the eras, but the guidelines published in publications and institutional documents cannot be considered a formalized theory, providing a broad framework for the autonomous interpretation of tasks by the designers. Correlations between the individual eras were also strengthened by personal overlaps and systems of relations. Through the experience transfer between eras and generations, the role of the architect personalities involved in university education and actively involved in the Balaton region can be established, many of them

identified themselves with the task also beyond institutional roles: living at the Lake during the whole holiday season and also working as volunteers on occasions. This is also reflected in architectural formation. The relaxed environment of the Balaton lakeside represented an experimental territory for the local adaptation of modern architecture, where the clean, simply structured and natural constructions of recreational architecture can also be interpreted as a reconstruction of architectural formation from basic elements.

### **3. Appearance of regional aspirations at Lake Balaton between the two World Wars - a model built on a civilian base**

[1, 2, 6, 7]

*In the recreational architecture of the Balaton lakeside, between the two World Wars, the search for a regional strategy with a civil basis approach emerged, as opposed to the centralized development perspectives of later times. Instead of historical continuity, they used topography, climate and function, and sought to create a set of tools for recreational architecture providing patterns that can be followed both autonomously and regionally. In order to solve the urbanization problems of the resort area, the architectural and urbanistic concepts were interlinked, and the solutions became models for later periods as well.*

In the regional development history of Lake Balaton there was a regional view present already before the war which comprehensively focused on the problems of the region. By reconstructing the complex system of former bodies and institutions, it became possible to analyze the positions of architecture as well, showing the toolbox of architects in organizational positions and those taking up roles as volunteers. Due to the seasonally rooted society of the resort area and the nature of the capital-centered institutional system, the specialists approached the region primarily from an external urban position. The issue of the use of vernacular forms was a controversial topic in the era, but the concepts were not designed from the interpretation of the historical continuity of the region, but they sought to formulate autonomous, typeable patterns of the toolbox of the resort area's architecture.

The arrangement of bath resorts was a common problem independent of the ancestral community background, and the designers developed a comprehensive toolbox at regional level in answer to it. In the architectural and urbanistic concepts, the same value aspects were expressed, and typeable solutions helped to provide a uniform character to the lakeside bathing establishments. The overall attempts to harmonize regional arrangement, in line with the organizational system built upon a civil base, sought to formulate a specific, bottom-up methodology that could be classified as an autonomous methodological phenomenon and an early initiative in both the history of Hungarian regional planning as well as in the history of international regional resort area planning.

#### **4. Regionality in the perspective of centralized development-- the establishment of the first Regional Plan methodology**

[4, 5, 6, 7]

*For the first Balaton Regional Plan to be developed in domestic practice without any preforms, the methodology shaped in this period in view of the Soviet model, could only provide a broad framework. In practice, the post-war, now forgotten design antecedents, and the approach of architect-city planners bringing landscape composition to the forefront served as references. Although the plan was designed for the arrangement of the region as a whole, the concept of ancestral community parts and background settlements remained unfinished in the preliminary layouts prepared under pressure of time.*

In the 1940s and 1950s, uniform settlement concepts were already developed for the Balaton lakeside, which both methodically and in substance prepared the Balaton Regional Plan. In the formation of early conceptions, due to the marginalization of tourism policy organizations, the development and institutionalization of the national methodology of regional planning played a guiding role, and the lakeside offered a pilot ground for the development of the methodology. In the development of the domestic practice of multidisciplinary regional planning and the adaptation of international methodological experiences, representatives of the architect-urbanist profession assumed decisive positions who, through their method aimed at coherent composition, could establish an effective relationship between different scale levels. The Balaton Regional Plan, which emerged as a result

of the process, formed a complex conceptual system in which elements of modernity, as well as emphases on values protecting nature and the landscape, emerged. The theory of regional planning had not developed in the era yet, the adoption of the Soviet model could only provide a broad framework for the elaboration of centralized developments. Early conceptual designs could not be based on preforms also due to the scale of the holiday resort and its multi-scale level problem, and therefore, in terms of formative theory, particular emphasis was placed on practical experiences representing confirmation or denial.

### **5. Scale connections: Regionality and early stage shift in emphasis in the cohesion of design devices (1958-1967)**

[3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10]

*The combined analysis of architectural and urbanistic concepts has shown that regionalism can be interpreted as a synonym for resort area character instead of the initial landscape level in the system of plans of the Balaton development project launched in 1958. At the same time with the structural and quantitative changes in tourism, the trends of recreational space architecture were also influenced by the internal dynamics and scale change of the development program, which had disrupted the previous coherence of the concept of design.*

The initial, more comprehensive, and as to its character more differentiated regional concept, due to the dynamics and the shift in emphasis of the development, was quickly narrowed down to the concept of recreational area. Although the unique system of plans in the era differentiated the development goals along local conditions, the development of the zone system strengthened the regional unity of the recreation area mostly detached from ancestral communities. This can also be seen as an integral continuation of the establishment of bathing establishments created before the wars, which was also due to the seasonal nature of land use. The common elements of the different-scale concepts primarily emphasized proximity to nature aimed at the regional adaptation of modernity and functionality tied to seasonality, although their interpretation cannot be considered consistent at individual stages of development. As a common denominator in the concepts forming the smaller scale facilities of the initial years, the “resort character” - drafted successively also in the documents, but not formalized at the same time -

appeared, but at the same time, within that, at locations prioritized from the aspect of tourism, abstract interpretations of the patterns of the environment in the narrower sense were also included. To adapt to topographic, vernacular and historical forms, we can primarily find examples in situations where the environment could provide thematic patterns for tourism.

Through the joint examination of urbanistic and architectural concepts, discrepancies stemming from the lack of elaboration of the regional vision linking different scale levels have been revealed, and they highlight the weaknesses of the immunity of the time-constrained system of planning to external and internal challenges. Though the program calculated with the establishment of larger-scale facilities from the beginning, architectural visions composed formulation strategies to be followed in respect of the recreational area by only focusing on smaller tasks. In the first half of the 1960s, the changes in tourism policy at national level and the planned internal dynamics of the development of the Balaton lakeside allowed the scale to be changed just at the same time. This led to tensions between the regional plan and the architectural program, which stemmed primarily from the inadequacy of the development schedule.

## **6. Model change: Shrinking scope and growing numbers after 1968**

[6, 11, 12]

*From the end of the 1960s, a multi-level transformation affecting both institutionalization, design tools and conceptual emphases on values occurred in the history of the development of the Balaton region, which can also be evaluated as a model change. With the narrowing of the regional scopes, concentrated modernization of the recreational area has come to the fore, resulting in the dissolution of the cohesion of architectural and urbanistic concepts (of settlement and spatial development). The growing demand of recreational populations resulted in an increase in the scale of public buildings and private construction projects, while institutional and conceptual changes following the new economic mechanism resulted in a significant shrinking of the scope of architectural control. The inverse processes have increasingly intensified the contradictions of the regionality of holiday resorts formerly only defined in outlines, which in the concepts led to the separation of the interpretations of modernity and locality and the disappearance of the adaptive approach.*

The first signs of this problem emerged as early as in the mid-'60s, at the time of launching the hostel construction program, but it only developed to its full potential after 1968, as a result of the change in the institutional system and the content of development. The central development program resulted in a concentrated modernization of the landscape, reflected by the late-modern architecture of investments based on industrialized technologies at the lakeside. The uniform image set as a target was further eroded by the spontaneous solutions of uncontrolled enclosed garden parcelling and private constructions. The modernization program that "lost breath" in the second half of the seventies occurred at the same time with the crisis of late-modern architecture and the emergence of postmodernist trends. The phenomenon that at the level of urbanism was interpreted as a reversal from an intensive modernization to rehabilitation, appeared at the level of architecture as an expansion of a postmodern approach gradually replacing the late modernity. Following the disappearance of the institutional background, instead of buildings with larger scale and central coordination, only local developments were effected. The inspiration for architects was primarily given by local historical patterns, instead of the abstract vision of the holiday region, and the abstract regional modern character of the resort area, distancing itself from both urban and vernacular architecture, has disappeared.

## **7. From modernization to rehabilitation - Differentiation and change of meaning in the seventies**

[6, 11, 12]

*In the second half of the seventies, a differentiation of professional history emerged, leading to the emergence of new disciplinary tools and value points, and resulting in the loss of the roles of architectural tools at regional level. Regional conceptualization has shifted from the holiday resort vision of modernization characterizing the first plan to the ecological aspects of rehabilitation.*

In the seventies, the restructuring of the regional problem scope also induced changes in the meaning of the conceptual framework in question. By the end of the decade, the process resulted in the expiry of the first regional plan and the preparation of a plan with a new concept, as in the previous framework it was no longer possible to describe the processes at regional level in a sufficiently complex manner. All of this can be interpreted primarily as a

more complex urbanist concept in which the role of co-disciplines, especially that of social science tools, has been appreciated while the unified, regional-level issues of recreational architecture have disappeared from the conceptualization process.

The marginalization of the development idea also led to the loss of the role of architectural tools. In the new regional plan, primarily designed for settlement purposes, the issues of architectural design and formation no longer appeared as a single regional instrument. At the same time, the coordinating role of architecture has disappeared from the institutional concepts of holiday resorts, while urban design professionals with a degree in architecture, working together with the representatives of the specialties of landscape design, economic geography and other specialist fields of expertise have continued to participate in the increasingly differentiated professional division of labour. The spatial and ecological changes gradually taking place at the disciplinary levels also influenced landscape-scale scientific and inter-professional thinking, opening the space of interpretation to new aspects. The new regional plan has been looking at the landscape with a new perspective following the rearrangement of the emphases on values.

## **8. The region as a mediating medium: conversion of interpretation in the regional concept creation**

[4, 5, 11, 12]

*By means of surveying the planning history outset the presentation of the conceptual transformation of regional interpretations in the regional concept creation of Balaton-side could also be presented. The disciplinary background still unfinished in the beginning resulted in the chaotic use of concepts. The part of region in the concept history in the early interdisciplinary context typical to the planning can be interpreted as a medium mediating between ideas being outlined from various standpoints. During the trade history differentiation, the aesthetic and composition contents connected primarily to architectural formulations were replaced by the complex concept interpretation of the regional arrangement discipline being under formation in the meantime.*

In the early period of the domestic regional planning history the tasks aimed at arranging the Balaton-side and other geographic units are often mentioned

as small region tasks, while these plan instruments were not in possession of complex region planning or region protection instrument in the later disciplinary sense. In the beginning, the regional interpretations in the architectural-region planning formulations appeared primarily as the synonym of wider scale composition. In parallel, the “landscape forming” also appeared as a recurring motive in the concepts, although those preparing the plans remained at fault with the accurate definition of “landscape instruments”. In the above cases the landscape appeared as an auxiliary concept for the interpretation of new planning sites due to the lack of traditional settlement contours, the morphology and the historical context where the natural area appeared for the planners primarily in visual form that was used as a mediatory medium between the different scale levels.

In the initial phase of regional planning, the landscape planning had no disciplinary background, the foundation of concept landscape in the domestic trade history can be connected to the definition of Mihály Mőcsényi made in 1968. The various disciplines used the concept of landscape with different functions and content, often just as the synonym of region. The gardner-engineer Imre Ormos participating in the preparation of plan as well used the concept of open landscape for the analysis of recreational areas to characterize the recreation purpose relationship between the nature and the built environment. The settlement vision swimming in uninterrupted green areas of Tibor Farkas remarks upon the concept open landscape of Imre Ormos; although the chief architect interpreted the Balaton-side as a “monumental plastic” and, in the spirit of modernization, was more permissive against more dominant forms of landscape forming instruments as well. In the seventies, the unexpected negative effects of the modernization in the Balaton-side, the extensive building activity in the region and the increasing ecologic problems clearly expressed the crisis in the landscape idea of modernity. New view-points in the interpretation of landscape were needed; answers were given by the discipline of landscape planning being formed in the era. In the domestic practice, the first concentrated landscape planning plans and the first closed garden planning plans are also prepared for the sites in the Balaton-side. The complex landscape view was also reflected in the new regional concept replacing the First Regional Plan. All these can be interpreted as part of trade history processes where the problems of landscape required the appearance of new view-points, interpretation frames and planning instruments.

## **9. The international context of planning history: regional planning and regional architecture**

[3, 4, 5]

*During the period under review, the regional institutional system provided regional perspectives also for architecture, which gave an opportunity to interconnect the architectural and urbanistic concepts that evoke different ways of disciplinary development at international level. The system of relations of different scale-level concepts established along the coherent emphases on values is also an early, unique phenomenon in international professional history, and has attracted attention on this level as well and was also expressed in the UIA Abercrombie Prize.*

The analysis of relations has shown that the international tendencies in architecture and spatial planning both have had an impact. These effects are not primarily related to resort area solutions, but to the general tendencies of regional planning and architecture. The reason for this is that the regional approach to resort areas was still unfolding in the era at international forums, and on the other hand, it also resulted from the unique scale of the lakeside, as neither coastal developments nor the local developments of smaller holiday resorts could provide patterns to be followed. In the field of architecture, before the war, as a result of Iván Kotsis's international orientation the Stuttgart School could be used as reference, and for the new generation emerging after the war, attempts to the adaptation of modern architecture made their effects felt, in light of Károly Polónyi's visit to and relations in Otterlo.

The international effects of regional planning emerged primarily in the form of an institutionalized design model established after the Second World War. Among the international planning history branches, domestic practice was primarily created on the basis of the Soviet projective design approach tied to the centralized development idea, while the international orientation of architects in the forties led to the urbanist concepts of the Modern Movement and American regional planning. The plan was primarily successful in architectural forums and not territorial planning forums, which also strengthened the international position of Hungarian regional planning. Following the results achieved at the foreign forums, of the countries of the Eastern bloc, Hungary was entrusted with the task of the state responsible for regional planning.

## Publications Related to the Theses

[1.] Wettstein D.: Regionális törekvések a Balaton-parti üdülőterületek építéstörténetében a két világháború között. *Építés-Építészettudomány* 45 (2017) 1-2. 139-171.

[2.] Wettstein D.: Fürdőtelepek és rekreációs célú együttesek rehabilitációja a Balaton-parton egy esettanulmány tükrében. In: Fazekas István, Szabó Valéria (szerk.): *A környezettudatos települések felé: III. Települési Környezet Konferencia*. Meridián Alapítvány, Debrecen, 2012. 228-233.

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[4.] Wettstein D.: The Balaton region as an experimental territory: Positions of architecture in the emergence of regional planning for recreation in Hungary. *Építés-Építészettudomány* 44 (2016) 1-2. 129-177.

[5.] Wettstein D.: Landscape and region. Formation of the regional concept and its landscape aspects in the history of Balaton-development. Táj és régió. A regionális eszme kialakulása és táji vonatkozásai a Balaton-térség rekreációs célú fejlesztéstörténetében. *4D Tájépítészeti és kertművészeti folyóirat* 44 (2017), 2-23.

[6.] Wettstein D.: Historical Analysis of Regional Planning of Balaton. *Pollack Periodica* 8 (2013) 1. 141-152.

[7.] Wettstein D.: Építészet, identitás, Balaton: Regionális stratégia keresés a harmincas és a hatvanas évek építészetében. *Utóirat: A Régi-Új Magyar Építőművészet Melléklete* 13 (2013) 72. 23-28.

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[9.] Wettstein D.: A Balaton-part urbánus beépítési formái és a lassú turizmus. In: Konkoly-Gyuró Éva, Tirászi Ágnes, Nagy Gabriella Mária (szerk.) *Tájtudomány - Tájtervezés. V. Magyar Tájökológiai Konferencia*. Nyugat-magyarországi Egyetem Kiadó, Sopron, 2013. 237-242.

[10.] Wettstein D.: „Áthidalás a városrendezők és az építészek közötti szakadékon” Léptékváltás és regionalitás a Balaton-part hatvanas évekbeli fejlesztésében (1958-1968). In: Kerékgyártó Béla, Szabó Levente (szerk.) *Építészet és idő. A 60-as és 70-es évek magyarországi építészetének örökségéről*. A BME Építőművészeti Doktori Iskola tanulmánykötete 2016/17. BME Építőművészeti Doktori Iskola, Budapest, 2017. 90-109.

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