

Civil representation and mentality in Budapest on the example of the Takáts house in the Inner Town

This study, displaying the building history of the Takáts house standing at 39 Váci street and at 3 Duna street in the Inner Town of Pest, contains useable information regarding History of Society, Mentality and Art. The study is based on archival sources (BFL; BFL Tervtár; MNL, Ba ML), contemporary learned journals (e. g. *Vállalkozók Lapja*, *Építő Ipar*, *Architectonische Rundschau*), periodicals (e. g. *Pesti Napló*, *Vasárnapi Újság*, *Evangélikus Egyház és Iskola*), archive photos and other sources (e. g. *Budapesti Czim-és Lakásjegyzék*). It also highlights the life of the people connected to the building. Its aim is to faithfully demonstrate the contemporary material and human environment of the building in detail. A separate chapter deals with Lajos Takáts (1846–1918, originated from Zilah), the developer of the building, who was a merchant of spices and colonial products, and whose shop, dedicated to the "*Fekete Elefánt*" (black elephant), operated at 19 Hatvani (Lajos Kossuth from 1894) street. Lajos Takáts, using the profit of his enterprise, built his elephant stuccoed apartment house on the corner of Váci street and Duna street in 1899–1900. The building is still there. He bought the building plot for 78,941 austro-hungarian forints from the Fővárosi Közmunkák Tanácsa (Metropolitan Board of Works) on 23 January 1899. The plans are unknown, only the papers of authorisation are accessible. The process of authorisation took place from 18 May 1899 to the end of July 1900. The study also commemorates the history of the previous building before the expropriation on 24 February 1898. It was the property of count nagykárolyi Melinda Károlyi, the wife of count Gyula Károlyi (1871–1947), from 23 February 1894 at 13 Duna street in that time. The study brings new results by naming the architect, Gyula Schweiger, and by presenting his accessible life-work. The statement regarding the architect is based on the article published in *Vállalkozók Lapja* by Marcell Komor on 9 January 1901. In addition the study compares the Takáts house, on style critical basis, with other buildings designed by Gyula Schweiger at the same time (1896: apartment house designed for Lajos Gebhardt at 8 Lajos Kossuth street, 1898: the building of "*Folies Caprice*" at 18 Révay street). New results of the study are also the most complete processing of the authorisation documents and presenting the history of the building site and the *Telekkönyv* (land-register) fully. The history of the Zsolnay depot-warehouse, inseparable from the studied building, is covered in detail as well by publishing all the reachable sources and data. Finally the study outlines the critics concerning the town-planning of the Inner Town on the basis of contemporary articles and opinions, where the judgement of the Takáts house is also covered.