

Strand 1: Art Nouveau Cities: between cosmopolitanism and local tradition

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

Insights into the architectural routes Secession in the city of Timișoara and their symbolism

The city of Timișoara is located to the Southwest of Romania, in the Banat region. Secession architecture of Timișoara can be followed through the history of its urban development in the late 19th century until the 1930s. Its Secession architecture concerns industrial, commercial or public objectives as well as residential palaces or cultural, educational and religious buildings.

In the architecture of Banat zone two Secession trends have emerged. Under the functionalist influence of Vienna, many buildings have applied a more sober geometric decoration. Other buildings have used a more luxurious and curvilinear elements with symbolic or purely decorative values. Some buildings have mixed elements taken from the Romanian and Hungarian traditional arts, creating an original Secession architecture, also encountered in other cities from Central and Western Romania. The symbols used in the Secession architecture of Timișoara were drawn from the European repertoire: floral, zoomorphic, anthropomorphic and mythological motifs, plants, the anchor, the peacock, the nave of a ship, antique feminine characters, caryatids, the cornucopia, the tree of life etc.

Key words:

symbolism, expressionism, Art nouveau, Secession, architecture, semiotics, urban planning

Aperçus sur les itinéraires architecturaux Sécession dans la ville de Timișoara et leur symbolisme

La ville de Timișoara est située au sud-ouest de la Roumanie, dans la région du Banat. L'architecture Sécession de Timișoara peut être suivie à travers l'histoire de son développement urbain à la fin du XIX^e siècle jusqu'en 1930. Son architecture Sécession comprend des objectifs industriels, commerciaux et d'utilité publique aussi bien que des palais résidentiels et des édifices culturels, éducationnels ou religieux. L'architecture Sécession de la zone de Banat s'est développée dans deux directions. Sous l'influence fonctionnaliste de Vienne, de nombreux immeubles ont abordé une

décoration géométrique plus sobre. D'autres édifices ont utilisé des éléments plus luxurieux et curvilignes aux valeurs symboliques ou purement décoratives. Quelques bâtiments ont mélangé dans leur architecture des éléments repris dans l'art traditionnel de Banat et de Hongrie, donnant naissance à un style Sécession original, qui se retrouve dans d'autres villes de la partie centrale et d'ouest de Roumanie. Les symboles utilisés dans l'architecture Sécession de Timișoara ont été puisés dans le répertoire européen du courant : des motifs floraux, zoomorphiques, anthropomorphiques et mythologiques, plantes, ancre, paons, la nef d'un bateau, personnages féminins antiques, caryatides, la corne d'abondance, l'arbre de vie, etc.

Mots clé :

symbolisme, expressionnisme, Art nouveau, Sécession, architecture, sémiotique, urbanisme

Curriculum Vitae

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Sorina ȘERBĂNESCU has a PhD and A Master of Arts (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies - DEA) in Comparative Literature at the University of Sorbonne Paris IV, in France and a PhD in Philology (Semiotics) from the University of the West in Timisoara (Romania), where she is teaching as a Senior lecturer.

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She is also interested in cultural management projects, civic and ecological education and in advocacy methods and techniques aiming the social dialogue and involvement in decision-making of leaders and staff of civil society organizations and social partners.