

Architecture and styles of Lake Balaton

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1920s style:

Thanks to the successful construction of the railway line between Budapest and Lake Balaton in 1909, it attracted crowds of people to one of the largest lakes in Central Europe, Lake Balaton. Not least, after the First World War, Hungarians spent less time abroad on holiday and stayed in Hungary instead. As a result, more and more people started to move there, which meant that the houses and holiday homes became very crowded, so this had to be sorted out somehow.

Kotsis Iván:

During the month of December in the year 1889, on the 15th day, he entered this world, and he lived until the 11th of January in the year 1980. He was elected honorary doctor of Budapest University of Technology. In 1961, he was awarded the Ybl Prize, first class, for "his decades of work in the education of architects. His most famous building is the Balatonboglár summer house.

The characteristics of the cottage:

The house is square in plan, with a low-pitched roof and a restrained style that approaches modernism in its proportions, the form and rhythm of its windows and its restrained decoration.

1930s style:

In the historical backdrop of the 1930s, there emerged a notable surge in the number of holidaymakers seeking respite and leisurely escapes. However, amidst this burgeoning demand for recreational travel, the accommodations available often fell short of modern standards, lacking in the conveniences and comforts that contemporary travelers expected. Recognizing this disparity, concerted efforts were undertaken to enhance the infrastructure and facilities catering to tourists. Thus, a wave of improvements swept through holiday destinations, ushering in an era of upgraded lodgings, renovated amenities, and revitalized attractions, aimed at meeting the evolving needs and preferences of a burgeoning tourism clientele. In 1931 the Hungarian Society of Engineering and Architecture held meetings. The aim of these meetings was to develop Lake Balaton, and this was the first time that the subject was seriously addressed. In 1935, the Balaton Management Committee issued the first lakeside building regulations, entitled Balaton Plot Subdivision and Building Regulations and their Explanation.

1940s style:

In the 1940s, the architectural styles of the Balaton uplands evolved in line with the economic, social and political changes in the region. Although architecture was transformed and developed during this period, the distinctive architectural heritage and characteristics of the region remained and influenced the new architecture. In the 1940s, the architectural styles of the Lake Balaton Highlands remained varied and diverse, but some general characteristics can be observed during this period.

- Traditional vernacular architecture
- Modernism

- Traditional folk architecture

1950s style:

In the 1950s, the architectural style of socialist realism spread in the countries under the influence of the Soviet Union, including Hungary. This style often meant monumentality and huge buildings. At the period of time., Hungary began to build prefabricated houses, which led to the development of large housing estates. These dwellings often had simple and functional forms and could be built quickly and cheaply. Some new buildings and infrastructures appeared, which had the hallmarks of technology and functionality. This made the buildings more modern. These buildings generally focused on practicality and comfort, and catered to the specific needs of the Lake Balaton coast. The architectural styles of the 1950s were decisive in the development and transformation of the Lake Balaton Highlands. Although this period was more marked by modernisation and industrial development, the region's distinctive architectural heritage continued to shape the architecture and landscape.

1960s style:

In the 1960s, architectural styles were varied in the Lake Balaton uplands, reflecting the social and economic processes of the period. Let's take a look at some typical styles and architectural features from the 1960s.

Socialist Modernism: characterised by the appearance of large-scale housing estates, industrial facilities and public institutions.

Brick housing: Brick housing was popular in architecture in the 1960s, often in the form of large, multi-storey buildings. These residential buildings generally had simple forms and plain facades, and were home to several families.

Preservation of tradition: In some villages and towns, traditional vernacular buildings were preserved and continued to be used by local residents.

1970s style:

In the 70s, the futuristic style became more popular in Hungary, so many buildings appeared that many people compared to UFO buildings - and this was perhaps even more important around Lake Balaton. During this period, superstitious people began to see more and more unidentified objects in the sky - hence the nickname of the buildings. Cold War spy planes, as we now know, aroused such a degree of UFO fear in people that it was reflected in the character of the buildings they constructed. The post office at the Tihany boat station is a prime example of UFO-like buildings. The building was designed by Béla Szittyá and István Bérczes in 1962. The building can still be visited today and has been renovated over the years. The post office bar has been closed, and a cafeteria is still in its original form.

1980s style:

In the 1980s, architectural styles were varied in the Lake Balaton uplands, reflecting the social and economic processes of the period. Although traces of socialist modernism were still present, there was an increasing emphasis on tourism development and environmentalism.

In the 1980s, an increasing attention was paid to aspects of landscape architecture and environmental protection. New buildings and facilities were increasingly designed to take account of natural features and the integration of buildings into the environment.

1990s style:

The 1990s marked a significant era of transformation in the architectural landscape of the Lake Balaton Highlands, coinciding with profound political, economic, and social shifts. This period witnessed the emergence of a postmodern architectural style characterized by its embrace of variety, eclectic quotations, ambiguity, and creative expression. This newfound freedom allowed architects to blend and experiment with diverse styles and motifs, leading to a rich tapestry of architectural innovation.

Throughout the region, numerous historic mansions, castles, and other heritage buildings underwent repurposing and renovation to accommodate new functions such as hotels, museums, or cultural centers. Simultaneously, the burgeoning tourism industry spurred the development of additional infrastructure to meet the growing demand. This included the construction of hotels, apartment complexes, dining establishments, and recreational facilities, all tailored to cater to evolving tourist preferences and expectations.

Furthermore, there was a growing emphasis on sustainability and environmental consciousness in architectural design. Concepts such as energy efficiency, utilization of renewable energy sources, and minimizing ecological footprints became integral considerations in the planning and construction of new buildings and facilities. This commitment to sustainable development not only aligned with global trends but also reflected a conscientious effort to preserve the natural beauty and resources of the Lake Balaton region for future generations.

2000s style:

In the 2000s, the architectural styles of the Lake Balaton Highlands continued the trends of the previous decades, while new trends and technologies were introduced.

Modern and minimalist design:

These buildings tend to have clean lines, simple shapes and uncluttered interiors, often combined with large glass surfaces or natural materials.

Sustainable architecture:

In the 2000s, there has been a growing focus on sustainable architecture in the Lake Balaton region. New buildings are increasingly designed using technologies and materials that reduce energy consumption and minimise environmental impact.

Re-use and adaptive re-use:

Several old buildings and sites have been converted into new functions such as apartments, offices or cultural centres, in order to reuse them and preserve local identity.

Development of tourist facilities:

New hotels, apartment buildings, wellness centres and other leisure facilities have been built to meet the needs of tourists and increase the attractiveness of the region.

Future plans and ideas:

The trajectory of architectural styles in the Lake Balaton uplands in the coming years will hinge upon a delicate equilibrium between the aforementioned factors and a profound reverence for the region's longstanding local identity, shaped over centuries. A concerted, sustainable approach to architectural planning and execution will prove pivotal in fostering the region's enduring growth while safeguarding its distinctive natural allure and cultural legacy.

Anticipating the future, forthcoming architectural designs will increasingly prioritize energy efficiency, the adoption of recyclable materials, and the mitigation of ecological footprints. Striking a harmonious chord between tradition and modernity, designers and developers are poised to honor the area's traditional architectural vernacular while ingeniously integrating contemporary elements and technologies.

Moreover, the dawn of innovation and technology is set to revolutionize architectural practices in the Lake Balaton region. Expectations abound for the proliferation of cutting-edge technologies such as 3D printing, smart home systems, and automated, energy-efficient construction methodologies.

Acknowledging the evolving social fabric and lifestyles, future architectural styles and functionalities are poised to adapt accordingly. Embracing flexibility and adaptability, the design of new residential, commercial, and office spaces will be tailored to meet shifting societal needs and preferences.

Furthermore, as the Lake Balaton Highlands continue to allure tourists, architectural endeavors will persist in modernizing and enhancing tourist facilities. The landscape will witness the emergence of new hotels, resorts, and cultural hubs, meticulously crafted to cater to the evolving demands and expectations of the burgeoning tourism sector.

In essence, the future of architectural evolution in the Lake Balaton uplands hinges upon a

multifaceted interplay of sustainability, innovation, social responsiveness, and hospitality, all underpinned by an unwavering commitment to preserving the region's intrinsic charm and cultural heritage.

Resources:

<https://epiteszforum.hu/kotsis-ivan-es-a-korszaru-nyaraloeptes>

<https://epiteszforum.hu/balaton-modern-identitaskereses-a-30-as-es-a-60-as-evak-epiteszeteben>

<https://welovebalaton.hu/cikk/2015/10/14/volt-egyszer-egy-atfogo-balaton-terv/>

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