

THE KOLLEKTIV

The official news letter with the latest news and updates



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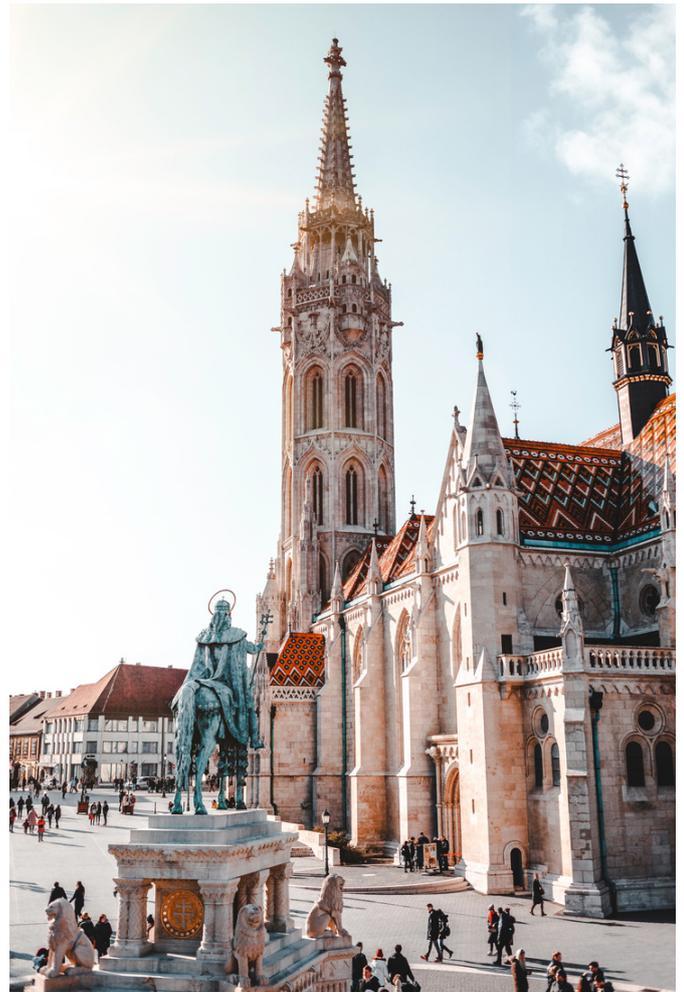
HUNGARIAN DISHES

When we launched our Kollektiv in February 2021, we could not possibly imagine that the Covid crisis that has kept us busy for more than two years would be followed by a political and military crisis that touches upon some of its fundamental qualities. We are a Kollektiv because we are in all this together: all the activities we plan are joint ventures of our students, ex-students, guests, and the staff members of architectural and urban history. We are also a Kollektiv because we have a common goal: enjoying the beauty of cities and buildings, and learning from the experience. Of course, our name also refers to the socialist practice of creating collective design groups that should serve the common wealth, well-being and happiness of all people. Architects could still be super stars, but instead of working solely for their own self-glorification, their work was framed as collectively beneficial. Some of the most brilliant works of architecture and urbanism were designed by a Kollektiv. Faced with the tragedy in Ukraine, one might be tempted to opt for a new name. We decided to stick to what we have. The characteristics of our group remain the same, and our name perfectly reflects them. More importantly,

we are very much against the type of political correctness that profiles itself by opposing everything, past and present, now associated with Russia. There is no historical, factual justification for the elimination of some of the best cultural achievements ever. Moreover, whatever happens, we want to keep the lines of cultural exchange open. And so, no matter what, we will always operate under the name 'Kollektiv'.

Metropolital cities: Harbringers of hope

If there is one quality that sets metropolitan cities apart from all other places, it is that they inspire hope. Hope is probably what we need most in today's strange, hazardous world. Metropolitan cities are showcases of the best people can do. They have the highest concentration of outstanding cultural achievements, technical know, scientific progress. They stimulated architects, artists, authors, dancers, entrepreneurs, politicians, musicians, urban planners, and scholars to redefine and reshape our condition humaine, the human condition. They unleash creative powers that designate them as the spatial containers of hyper concentrated human experiences. They offer the best opportunities for fulfilling people's personal desires and ambitions. They urge people to expand their mental horizon and invite them to experiment with their life and lifestyles in every possible way. They are power packs of positive energy. That is how they incite hope, and the more so because they are survivors. Even if their histories are often marked by unhappy interludes: natural disasters, wars, revolutions, revolts, ideologically motivated vandalism, they never give in. They have outlasted the most terrible battles and the worst political regimes, and they will continue to do so. They are products of history, but no matter how fragile and vulnerable they are, they are stronger than history. And so, our trip to Budapest should be a journey of hope – hope for our societies and social conditions, and maybe even more so hope for our private life...



Budapest, the making of a capital city

The history of the city we now know as Budapest goes back thousands of years, but the first substantial architectural and urban remains date from the time it was the capital city of the Roman province of Pannonia. Aquincum, as it was called back then, was a large and wealthy city – actually two cities: a civilian one, and its military counterpart. It was situated on the western shore of the Danube, which marked the border of the Roman Empire. On the narrowest point of the river, the Romans established a trading post on the opposite side, appropriately called Contra-Aquincum. Located in the very center of today's Pest, Contra-Aquincum represents the first layer, to which history added many more in the following two thousand years. All layers left behind architectural and urban gems. They saturate the townscape, and during our visit we will see many outstanding examples. Our main focus, however, will be on the 'Kakanian' city that



emerged between 1867 and 1918. In these decades, Budapest re-invented itself and became the dual capital of the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy (where all civil servants were either called 'Kaiserlich-Königlich – imperial-royal – or 'Kaiserlich und Königlich: KK; hence the empires' nickname Kakania...). Budapest developed into the wealthiest, fastest growing and ultimately largest city in the Empire. No other metropolis spent so much intellectual energy and seemingly infinite amounts of money on what politicians and planners saw as their most important mission: to use architecture and urbanism as the tools to transform into the most beautiful capital city of the world. They borrowed best practices from Paris (the creation of spacious boulevards by demolishing part of the existing building stock), Vienna (notably the ring boulevard: Budapest created two semi-circular boulevards and started work on a third one), Berlin (the famous building code that, in Budapest, defined the typology of the 'palatial' tenement blocks with their characteristic galleries), New York (Central Park – which in Budapest is located on an island in the Danube). Urban beauty as a catalyst of national identity – it's a strategy that goes back many centuries, and probably originates in antique Rome. Now, however, this ambition needed to be reinvented for an industrial city with factories and a rapidly expanding working class, which – another typical quality of Budapest, and one it shared with Vienna and Berlin – was accommodated in tenement blocks that also housed the middle and

upper middle classes. The ambitions of the elites framed what is probably the most striking quality of the reconstructed metropolis: 'Kakanian' Budapest evolved as a characteristically bourgeois city. Its bourgeois culture is rooted in numerous museums, galleries, concert halls, opera buildings, coffee houses, thermal baths and swimming pools. One of the missions of our Budapest trip is to re-enact this bourgeois lifestyle – in other words: to live this culture.

Preliminary Program

Our tour to Budapest combines leisure and pleasure with a high-pressure confrontation with the city's architectural and urban heritage and its contemporary architectural, urban and artistic ambitions. This confrontation is one of the most pleasant and gratifying experiences architectural and urban historians one can imagine – so, this tour is actually 100 % leisure, pleasure and intellectual satisfaction. The first full-blown Kollektiv event, this trip is a total experience organized around a program. When we're on tour, approximately half the time is planned – for the other half we will provide lots of suggestions, but you yourself can decide what you want to do. Some of the planned events are in the evenings (leaving enough time for the party tigers among you to visit the bars afterwards). A more elaborate program can be found in the mail with this Newsletter.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19 - WELCOME & BASICS

- Arrival in Budapest
- Fisher's Bastion (Buda)
- Pest; drinks in the ruin bar
- Collective dinner

MONDAY, JUNE 20 - HOUSING

- Walk from Örs Vezér tér to the city center
- Experiencing the raw material of urban planning and different housing models, the station, the Great Synagogue and many more
- Bar

TUESDAY, JUNE 21 - BUILDING CULTURE

- Walk in the Városliget
- Museum of Fine Arts
- Labor Union Building
- State Opera
- Guided tour

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 - RE-ENACTING A GLORIOUS ('KAKANIAN') PAST

- Eiffel station
- Houses of Parliament
- Gresham Palace
- Market Hall
- Müpe, National Theater

THURSDAY, JUNE 23 - HISTORY... A BURDEN OR A BLESSING

- Millenáris Park
- Buda
- Royal Palace
- 19.30: Zeneakademia, Mendelsohn, Elias

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

- Collective grand final dinner

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

- Return to the kingdom

Sign-up

In order to determine whether there is enough animus for this actual trip to make it happen, we would like to inquire how many of you are interested in joining the excursion. If you sign up for the excursion, you are also allowed and encouraged to join the events prior to the Budapest excursion. Therefore, please let us know whether you would be interested in going on this trip during the next Kollektiv event on **April 12th**. If you already want to make it clear beforehand that you are interested, you can also simply send me an email via j.van.calsbeek@student.rug.nl.



Following Event: Budapest Layers Explained

Budapest is a multi-layered city: after the Roman period, a sequence of historical periods left architectural and urban traces in the urban tissue. This lecture provides the participants in our tour with a concise overview. Followed by drinks (we will bring the bottle of vodka as, for the time being, the latest echo of our plans for visiting Russia...). **This event will take place on the 12th of April at 19.30.** The location has yet to be determined and announced.

Budapest, the City of Spas

Budapest has several nicknames, like the Paris of the East or the Pearl of the Danube, and also the City of Spas. Indeed, there are so many natural warm spring waters under the city (imagine a cauldron topped with some layers) that Budapest has had several great thermal baths for many centuries. The Turkish baths along the river Danube are still functional and much favoured. But more than a thousand years before the Turks, the Romans and even before them, the Celts have been enjoying the warm spring waters as baths, healing waters and drinks.

No wonder that by the 21st century, Budapest has reinvented itself as the city of medicinal waters and amazing thermal spas. The bathing culture of the Hungarians is very lively and health-conscious: not only are water sports held in great respect, but the young and the old all enjoy the spa waters and the fun bath complexes. Aqua therapy is part of the regular medical practice, and doctors often prescribe water treatments in the healing spa waters for Hungarian patients. In the last few years, the bathing culture has been ingeniously fused with trance spa parties (Sparties), so you can even be part of once in a lifetime cool bath parties.

Many of the thermal baths in Budapest are century-old, most importantly the Turkish baths, like the Kiraly Bath, Rudas Bath or Veli Bej Bath (the former Kaiser Bath or Császárfürdő). Interestingly enough, the most popular bath complex in Budapest, Szechenyi Baths and Pool, was only opened at the end of the 19th century (in a makeshift house, later on, transformed into a beautiful palace). Another Budapest bath, which is architecturally equally stunning, or maybe more, is the Art Nouveau spa baths complex, the Gellert Baths at the foot of the Gellert Hill. Needless to say, the Turkish baths are unique with their original octagonal Turkish pools covered with mysterious domes with colourful glasses.



*Budapest,
thermal Bath &
Spa Guide.*

The Museum of Fine Arts is in Budapest

What the Prado is in Madrid, the Louvre in Paris, the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the National Gallery in London, the Museum of Fine Arts is in Budapest. Masterpieces from antiquity to contemporary art. The periodic and permanent exhibitions of the museum are both world famous. Its building neighbours Budapest's largest park, the zoo and SZÉCHENYI THERMAL BATH, and borders HEROES' SQUARE which is a world heritage site. There, you can stimulate your spirits, invigorate your soul and energize your body in one tour.



The source of Collection and brief story of Museum

In contrast to the above listed large galleries, the private collection of the wealthy Hungarian noble family Esterházy provides the basis for the fine art collection at the Museum of Fine Arts and not imperial or royal estates. The paintings, drawings and engravings in this collection were purchased by the Hungarian state in 1870. The exhibition material has been significantly expanded since and is now considered the largest collection in Central Europe. The exhibited artists include Leonardo, Raffaello, Titian, Dürer, El Greco, Velázquez, Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Tiepolo, Goya, Manet, Monet, Toulouse-Lautrec, Renoir and Cézanne.

In the initial years, the Academy housed the collection but it soon became too small. The current building was inaugurated in 1906 by Franz Joseph himself, Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, within the framework of the large millennial investments. One hundred years had to pass for the first major expansion and conversion. Reconstruction was completed in 2018 so the modernized museum is now again open to visitors.

European fine arts in focus

Like all major museums, the Museum of Fine Arts also has permanent and periodic exhibitions. The permanent exhibition can be basically divided into three larger units one of which is displayed in the HUNGARIAN NATIONAL GALLERY located in the BUDA CASTLE. This is attributable to historical reasons as the Hungarian works were selected from the original collection in 1957 and shown as a separate exhibition. For this reason, the building of the Museum of Fine Arts exhibits European fine arts created from the 13th until the end of the 18th century, showcasing the development of European painting and sculpture, and the changes in styles over time. In addition to the classic gallery portfolio, the third large unit is composed of antique Greek and Roman sculptures, and Egyptian artefacts dating back to antiquity.

Involved in the international circulation

This enormous collection also represents the basis for the periodic exhibitions. These collected artefacts comprise the basis of exchange for exhibitions organized from time to time by the Museum of Fine Arts. The paintings stored here are sought by museums around the world, including the British Museum, the Louvre, the Uffizi and the



Serge By: 2013

Washington National Gallery of Art.

As a result of such international exchanges, in recent years the Museum held a number of successful exhibitions, including the one showcasing the life-work of Van Gogh, the “Monet and Friends” impressionist exhibition, the “From Botticelli to Titian” exhibition, the “From Degas to Picasso” exhibition, the Michelangelo exhibition, and the recent “Golden Age of Flemish Art” and Rubens exhibitions. These periodic exhibitions are organized for only three and a half months but attract an average of 200,000 visitors.

Visit Hungary

Mini-Putin Sculpture in Budapest: Hungarian Guerrilla Sculptor Kolodko Responds to Ukraine War

The tiny mini-sculptures of the guerrilla sculptor from Transcarpathia who has been living in Budapest since 2016, have long been appearing here and there in Budapest. Now, Mihály Kolodko has created a guerrilla sculpture in response to the situation in Ukraine, 444 reports. The artist put up his latest work in the Hungarian capital from Sunday until Monday morning 13-14th of March.



His latest sculpture stands on the Moscow (Moszkva) Promenade in Budapest, and unlike his previous mini-sculptures, this statue is actually rather big. He carved a large base for it: a giant stone middle finger with a signet ring showing the Ukrainian coat of arms on it. On this can be found the actual mini sculpture which represents Putin on a warship.

Kolodko posted a video on his YouTube channel depicting his latest work. The video confirms that his new mini-sculpture illustrates the Russian warship which approached Snake Island on the

first day of the Russian-Ukrainian war demanding Ukrainian border guards to surrender. Instead of surrendering, the soldiers retaliated the aggression and told the warship to “f**k off,”

As a Hungarian from Transcarpathia, the artist has a personal connection to the war, and his parents and several relatives still live in Ukraine.

His works can be seen, in addition to Budapest, in Ushhorod (Ungvár), Munich, Fiume, Princeton, and also in the Swedish capital.

Hungary Today



Top 3 Hungarian Dishes You Must Try in Budapest

1. Lángos

For classic comfort food on the go, pick up a Lángos, a deep fried doughy flatbread that's eaten warm and slathered with sour cream and grated cheese or with garlicky butter (or all of the above). These hearty snacks are served all year round and make for an affordable savory treat. The perfect Lángos should be crisp on the outside and soft and plump in the middle. Sometimes they're made with potato (krumplis lángos) and are occasionally served with sausage (kolbász) on top.

Where to eat Lángos in Budapest: Retro Bufe has outposts throughout the city, with some locations opening as early 6 a.m. for early risers.



2. Kürtőskalács (Chimney Cake)

These sweet treats are made from long strips of sugary dough wrapped around cone-shaped spits that are brushed with butter and roasted over charcoal. The sugar caramelizes to form a crispy coating and when the dough is removed from the spit, steam is released from the center like a chimney (the English translation of kürtőskalács is 'chimney cake'.) Before serving they're usually dusted with toppings like cinnamon or ground walnuts and are designed to be shared, with each person tearing off a strip of the hot, sweet, crunchy dough. They're especially popular during the festive season and are sold at Christmas markets throughout the city.

Where to eat kürtőskalács in Budapest: There are tons of stalls that sell these sweet treats all over town. The quality is pretty consistent but be sure to order a kürtőskalács that's been freshly cooked rather than one that's been sitting on display for a while. The stall at the corner of Andrassy Avenue and Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Street is popular with locals.



3. Gulyás (Goulash)

Hungary's national dish tends to be served as a stew in most parts of the world but an authentic gulyás is actually a thin broth made from chunks of beef cooked with onions, paprika, tomatoes, and pepper. It's usually served with fresh white bread and chopped hot paprika on the side. It's traditionally a peasant dish and was originally cooked by

the herdsmen in cast iron bogrács cauldrons over open fires. You'll still find the dish being cooked up in this way in rustic restaurants across Hungary as it's considered the best way to make this tasty stewy soup.

Where to eat goulash in Budapest: Baltazar Budapest is a hip hidden gem in the city's Castle District that serves classic Hungarian dishes in a contemporary setting. The goulash here is very highly rated.

Tripsavvy.com



The Kollektiv is...

..an initiative of the staff of the History and Theory of Architecture and Urbanism section. As we speak, more than 20 students – masters, premasters, bachelors – have joined the Kollektiv, all of them lovers of iconic cities, beautiful buildings and intriguing histories. We are quite confident that, finally, a trip can take place in the second half of June 2022 – we are absolutely sure that the program of social gatherings and literary entertainment leading up to this seminal event will be launched in February – with movies, lectures, fine food and vodka.

Only members of the Kollektiv can participate in its events. Membership is open for architecturally minded students of the Department of History of Art, Architecture and Landscape (bachelors as well as masters, including exchange students and visiting students), PhD-candidates, staff members and invitees. Membership is free of charge. The costs for participation in the Kollektiv's events need to be paid by the members themselves. Interested in joining? Send a mail the Kollektiv's Secretary-General, Jenny van Calsbeek: j.van.calsbeek@student.rug.nl