



2020

BULGARIAN
MODERNIST
ARCHITECTURE
foundation

6-

20.000

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12

Patreon,

2021

2020

2020



OUR MESSAGE

For the last six years, we have showed that the architecture of Modern Movement from the period between the First and Second World Wars excites more and more people. The followers of the Facebook page exceed 20,000 people, and a significant part, about a quarter of them, are foreigners. The tendency many people to send us photos and information about different buildings indicates that the interest is not only lasting, but also attracts more and more people.

For me personally, as an art historian, this strong and ever-increasing interest is an indication that our promotional approach, namely - with a focus on the pure history of this architecture, without any involvement in current and topical issues, without any entertainment initiatives, etc. - is the right way for this architecture to find its supporters.

Despite the difficult year and the focus of public interest, which was seriously diverted from cultural issues, within the past 12 months we took initiatives that we had not yet implemented. We think that all those initiatives are successful, but the most important thing is that we believe that expanding the content through our new Patreon account, including articles in the calendar for 2021 and a series of video lectures have brought us experience in the field of cultural communication.

Vassil Makarinov

2020 was difficult for everyone - working in different sectors, businesses, managers, ordinary people. Apart from the obvious victims of the virus and those on the "front line", we all felt mostly the lack of social contacts. Out of focus - perhaps, quite understandably, given the scale of the health problem - remained the problems of people in the cultural sphere, including our activities. Scientific historical research was difficult, as were educational events - lectures, tours, etc.

We tried to transfer some of these actions to the virtual space, which we have done so far on the Facebook page - but by expanding the posts, by improving and publishing more articles on our site, by creating online lectures, even by enriching our new 2021 calendar, which this year has articles included in it.

We hope that these attempts have been successful and that any mistakes or inaccuracies we have made in 2020 will be gradually cleared up over time so that our cause - the promotion of interwar art and architecture - can become more accessible and interesting for the largest possible circle of people.

And, of course, we wish we had a chance to see each other live at events soon, because we believe this is the best way to share and discuss knowledge - and especially when it comes to architecture, live meeting with the buildings in the exterior and interior can not be replaced by anything virtual.

Teodor Karakolev



| WHO ARE WE

2013 .

2017

2018 . 2018

Since 2013 we have been researching and promoting the architecture of the interwar period, starting with the Facebook page "Bulgarian Modernist Architecture". We have held a number of events such as the exhibition, followed by lectures and tours in late 2017 and early 2018. Since 2018 our activity has been officiated as Foundation bearing the name "Bulgarian Modernist Architecture".

The main objectives of the Foundation are research, documentation, promotion and work for preservation of interwar modern architecture and its manifestations within the boundaries of Bulgaria or the objects created by Bulgarian architects abroad.

The members of the Foundation carry out field studies all over the country, also by exploring any archive materials. The educational activity is also carried out through exhibitions, lectures, presentations, walking tours and discussions among a wide audience.

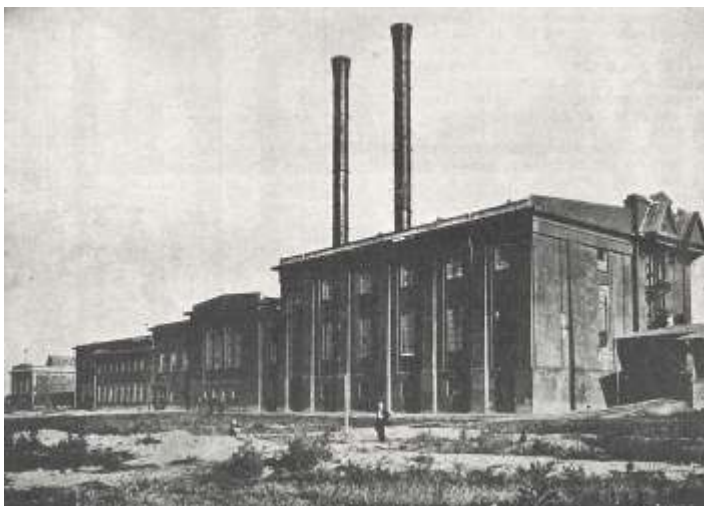


2020

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WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN 2020

2020 started normally, with no indication that cultural and research activities would be affected by measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus. In the first two months of the year we managed to start the thematic year "CONCRETE. GLASS. METAL. Industrial Architecture and the First Steps of the Modernism" with lectures to introduce the theme. The first, on which we presented our calendar to the public, was in the National Polytechnic Museum in Sofia, and the next - in the main hall of the Bulgarian National Radio in Plovdiv. Both events took place with increased interest, which for us was an indication that the topic of industrial architecture - although often forgotten - was of interest, and it was the right moment to focus in 2020 on industrial sites from the interwar period in our country as a natural continuation of the "year of the Bauhaus" - 2019. The other live event in which we participated was organized by arch. Kristiana Branzalova from the Daskal Branzalov Foundation, second part of the series "Architecture of Bulgarian Memory". There we told about some of the most interesting school buildings from the interwar period - fine examples of the Modern Movement architecture.

After the lockdown in March, we focused our efforts on online activities. You can find more about this on the following pages.

lectures about the industrial architecture
in Sofia and in Plovdiv



2020

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2018

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WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN 2020

Although these events often receive more publicity, the practical research is the major part of our activity. During the year we obtained valuable information about a number of industrial sites and as a result we presented their history - we told you about the water union "Vucha" in Plovdiv and the 2 power plants connected with it, we presented with additional information the briquettes factory in Pernik, we focused on electricity of Sofia, as well as on the many valuable covered markets and slaughterhouses throughout our country.

We managed to carry out the next - already the 4th - stage of our research in the archives of German technical universities - an initiative that we took since the end of 2018. After we were in Munich, Dresden and Berlin, in September/October we visited Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Darmstadt and Mannheim, from where we obtained valuable information about the student years of a number of prominent modern Bulgarian architects, but also about some almost completely unknown to the general public names such as Stancho Stanchev and Ahmed Sabriev.

research in the archives
of 3 German universities



ONLINE ACTIVITIES

15-20

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The spread of the coronavirus did not allow us to hold events in the same way as last year's thematic lectures in different parts of the country. Instead, during the most serious lockdown in the spring, we organized online events. Due to the missing live lectures, during the spring lockdown we recorded 8 short video lectures at home, each lasting about 15-20 minutes. The topics were the following:

- Bulgarian students of architecture during the Balkan Wars and the First World War
- The design and floor cement mosaics
- Foreigners in the Bulgarian architectural life between the two world wars
- Projects of Bulgarian architects outside Bulgaria
- National identity and interwar architecture
- The architecture of Orthodox churches between the two world wars
- Apartment buildings between the two world wars
- Mountain huts in Bulgaria from the interwar period.

At the invitation of various organizations, we participated in other online events - podcast "60 minutes of freedom" of EKIP (Expert Club for Economics and Politics) on "Architecture, modernism and how to preserve our heritage" and in " " on "Bulgarian cultural modernism and preservation of the architectural heritage ". We also - invited by Victor Topalov - took part in two virtual tours of "Bohemian Sofia", in which we presented some of the most emblematic modern buildings in the Bulgarian capital.



video lectures and online events



ACTIVE FRIENDS OF THE MODERNISM

20.000

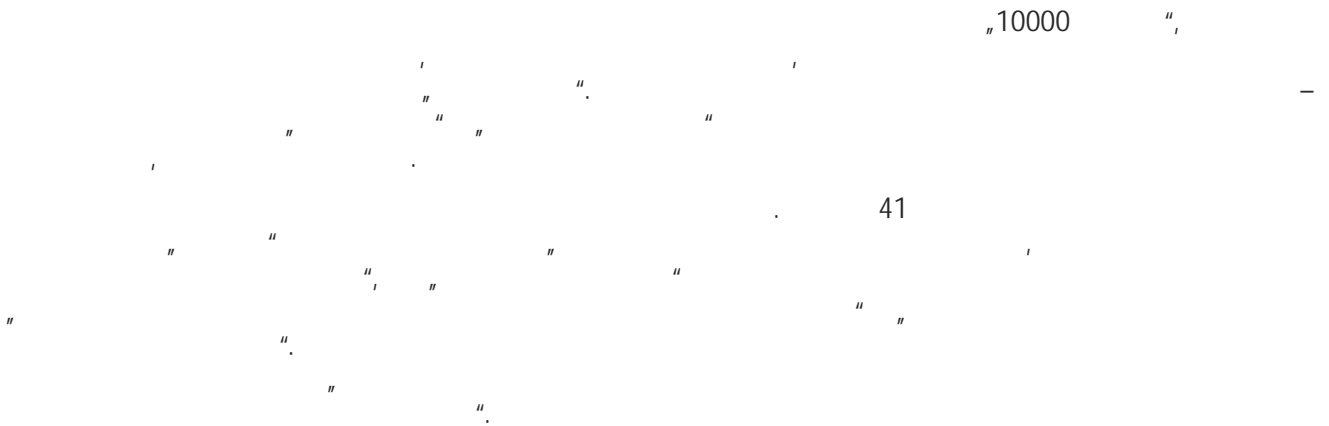
1930-

Patreon



In November, our Facebook page reached 20,000 likes. In our mail there it often happens that we receive invaluable documentary information from our supporters. Here we would like to especially thank Margarita Alexandrova, Velizar Emanuilov (who even opened his home for us), Momchil Skordev and Zornitsa Angelova for the documentary identification of several valuable residential buildings in Sofia from the 1930s. We also thank Eng. Fani Arnaudova and Dimitar Anev, who - provoked by our research in the archives of German technical universities - shared with us data about their relatives who studied engineering at various technical universities abroad. We also want to thank Deya Valcheva, Dr. Angela Daneva, Arch. Lyubinka Stoilova and the Semovi family for the inalienable assistance they have provided throughout the existence of our foundation; Special thanks to Konstantin Varbenov, Arch. Kristiana Branzalova, Stoyan Panchev, Viktor Topalov, Iskra Kirova, the employees of the University Archives in Karlsruhe, Darmstadt and Stuttgart and all others who took the time to acquaint us with the interesting stories of various buildings or send us photos of objects of modernism from all over Bulgaria. We also express our deep gratitude to all those who have support us with our calendars, through our Patreon account or donations. Without their help, probably our research trips and many other of our initiatives would be much more difficult or even impossible to happen!

IN THE MEDIA



We also took part in two TV shows from the Bulgarian National Television series "10000 Steps", where we presented the houses of Kaishev, Staynov and Tsankov in Plovdiv, as well as the building of the first passengers terminal of Sofia's Vrajdebna Airport. However, our media appearances were not limited to this - in the March issue of "Vij Sofia" in "March on the Street" there was a short interview with us about the walking tours we are organizing.

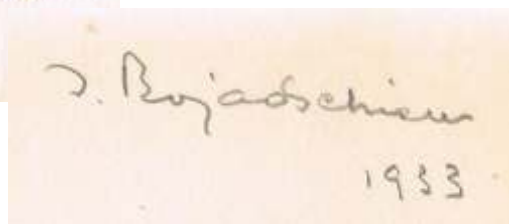
We also made several publications in various media. Issue 41 of the magazine of the New Bulgarian University "Sledva" printed our text "Bulgarian Modernist Architecture, German Influences and the Industrial Architecture", and in "Bulgarian history" our articles "Electricity Supply of Bulgaria and the Architecture of Modernism" and "Bulgarian Architects Between the Two World Wars" were published. The papers from the article by Vassil Makarinov at the Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on the topic "Terrazzo Floor Mosaics in Apartment Buildings in Sofia from the Interwar Period as an Element of Interior Design" was also published.



COLLECTION OF OBJECTS

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Our collection of objects related to architecture, design and construction practice from the interwar period has also continued to be enriched. We got several new postcards - important evidence of the authentic appearance of buildings, most of them in the town of Burgas. But perhaps the most valuable donation came from Kostantin Varbenov - grandson of the artist and architect Ivan Boyadjiev, who provided us 2 books from his grandfather's personal library - one with a signature and the other - with the seal of his architectural office.



IN DANGER

Due to media reports we was informed that the passengers terminal at Vrazhdebna Airport is to be demolished during the planned expansion of Sofia Airport. As a response we expressed our opinion to the responsible factors, in which we explained why the valuable and rare for Europe building (although it has survived gross inappropriate interventions) is important to be preserved.



2021 :

2021 THEMATIC FOCUS: LIVELY SPIRIT - HEALTHY BODY - MODERNISM

The purity of forms in architecture and art after the First World War has its analogue in public life. As groups of architects begin to design in clear white volumes and artists paint with clean lines, other groups in society are paying attention to lifestyle hygiene associated with a healthier lifestyle. Many public and mineral baths appear, which for our latitudes have been a continuous heritage for centuries, but also other sites are being built, a direct consequence of the same ideas - hospitals, sanatoriums and others.



There are also interesting multifunctional buildings or complexes, combining residential parts with medical clinics. These processes are also influenced by tuberculosis, which is spreading all over the world at the same time, and private individuals and the state pay great attention to the fight against it with the construction of new appropriate buildings. In the spirit of these movements, mass tourism is receiving a huge boom, which is associated with improving health. In the most inaccessible parts of the mountains, chalets were erected to provoke the people to play sports in the fresh air and in the inspiring nature.

Realized in the heyday of modernism, many of these buildings intertwine their exterior aesthetics with its impressive function, as their occupants seek to improve both their body and their spirit. The ideas of a cleaner and healthier life find excellent expression in buildings from the period between the two world wars. All these baths, sanatoriums, hospitals, chalets have a different fate over the years, but they deserve to be known and appreciated as worthy representatives of Bulgarian architecture and art.

DONATIONS AND CALENDAR

2019- 2020- ,

2021 .

The thematic calendars we published for 2019 and 2020 were met with a great interest. With the funds raised by them, we were able to carry out our research trips to several German cities, but we have future plans for the survey.

That is why this year we published a thematic and educational calendar with examples of baths, hospitals, sanatoriums and chalets - buildings built in the name of health and disease prevention. With the funds raised by him, we plan to continue our research, some of which will again be abroad. If the circumstances allow, in 2021 we will again organize free lectures, tours and other events, which we organize free of charge throughout the country.



CONTACTS

: +359898904896

: +359893635037

Bulgarian Modernist Architecture
Foundation

Chairmen:

Teodor Karakolev and Vassil Makarinov

telephones:

V. Makarinov: +359898904896

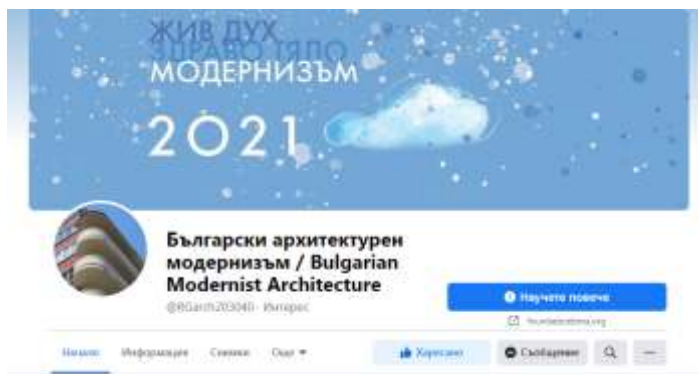
T. Karakolev: +359893635037

bgmodernistarchitecture@gmail.com

foundationbma.org

facebook.com/BGarch203040

www.patreon.com/foundationbma



FOR DONATIONS

BG46UNCR70001523376191 ()

If you would like to make a donation to help our future research and popularization work, you can do it by bank transfer to the following account:

Bank account for donations: BG46UNCR70001523376191 (UniCredit Bulbank)



Български архитектурен модернизъм | Bulgarian Modernist Architecture
are creating art history researches, lectures, tours, educational initiatives

2020 .,

PATREON

Patreon –

An important thing that we launched in the past 2020 was the creation of a profile in the Patreon platform - a channel for donations, with which we will continue with our research both in Bulgaria and abroad, as the archives still have a lot of information, to be revealed to us. As a small present from us for your help, patrons there receive a number of things, but perhaps the most valuable are the regular publications with expanded content.