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## COMPARISON OF STRUCTURAL CONFLICT IN CASE OF SUBOTICA AND KECSKEMET

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**Summary:** *The structural split is studied in terms of the architecture and urban morphology of Subotica and Kecskemét, as it relates to tradition and modernity and new urban and architectural forms. The advanced methodology is used to identify and analyse the value of the organically developed parts of the city, districts in which new public and residential buildings have been directly or indirectly inserted, and as a consequence cause structural conflict.*

**Keywords:** *Subotica, Kecskemet, conflict, structure, split*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The turn of the century and the second half of the last century generated new demands due to the intensifying motorized traffic and the growing population, and to solve these problems the traditional urban fabric needed to be relaxed and more rationalized. Behind these decisions about city planning stood not only the desire to rationalize, but also social, political and sociological pressures. Artificial rifts in the city structure were established which could be violent (not respecting the actual image and urban pattern), and in a way organic. Violent: not taking into account the urban landscape and the built environment Organic: improving the city's image, an environment was created where the built environment is degraded, low-grade houses, filling gaps in the urban pattern.

Subotica and Kecskemét are cities with sprawling plans, characteristic of so-called plain cities that were created in on the South-Plains. In both of the cities the irregular medieval layout of the city partially remained, in spite of major interventions. The character of the landscape defined the built environment of the both of the settlements, but nowadays the formerly uniform look of the city has become collage-like in nature. The similarities (plain towns, structures of the city) and the differences between these towns are the basis of this study.

### 2. METHODOLOGY

The structural analysis of the two cities as two case studies can be applied in two dimensions which transformed the city's visual identity and communication not only at a

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macro but also at a micro level. The scale of structural conflict between the traditional and modern urban and architectural forms will be evident from studying the town maps. Studies on the urban-scale level result in better understanding the aesthetic and spatial relations, as well as the complexity of the traditional and modern values at work. The details of construction are clear from the town-wide scale of the urban fabric and the interventions to the pre-existing forms. The internal structure of the newly built areas and the installation conditions can be identified, as well as the roads and buildings inserted into the organically grown urban fabric, and their environmental relationship to the evolving fabric can be studied. New elements of the intervening order of internal structure, the nature of the incorporation of the new fabric and their combined relationship to similar elements in the area, determine the divisions and conflicts in the urban landscape. An analysis of the structural breaks in these two dimensions raises dilemmas that summarize the conditions of the inserted elements and could be assumed to be an isolated road or new construction in the city's body. The problem relates to the newly developed organically intervening areas, such as new roads or buildings in the city centre and their impact on the formation of the built environment and the resulting relationships within a specific paradigm (transportation, morphology, sociology). The study of the relationship between stability and change can be interpreted as the dynamic equilibrium of continuity and discontinuity.

Dimensions of the study: - Dimension of the urban fabric (Subotica: Marshall Tito Avenue, Novi Bulevar. Kecskemét: Árpád-city, Rákóczi Avenue, inner ring)

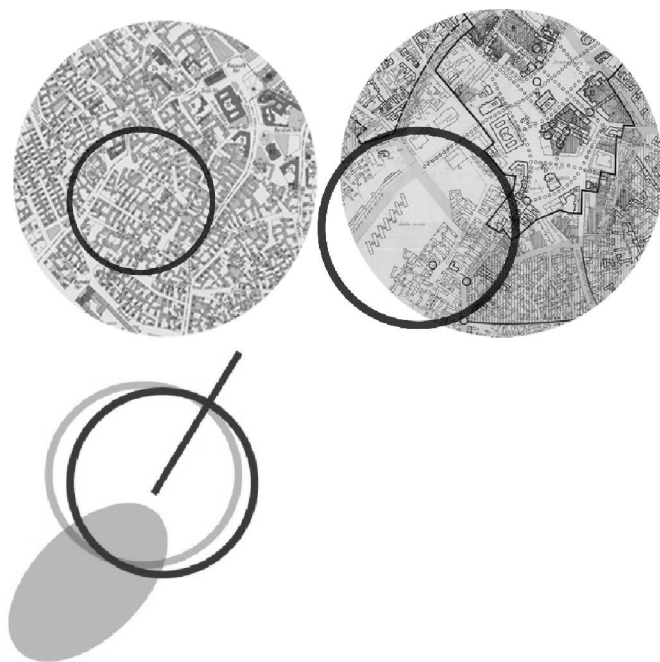
- Dimension of the building and housing unit (the multi-unit areas of the Marshall Tito Avenue, Árpád-city)

The study area of the present investigation is the radial streets of Subotica and Árpád-city in Kecskemét.

### 3. CASE STUDIES

A review of urban plans from the period after 1945 shows that Kecskemét did not have a well-developed road or utilities network and that institutional coverage was incomplete. The solution to these problems demanded a city-wide reconstruction plan was authored by the mayor of the city, Reile Géza (1961-1973). In the 1970s and 1980s the "city rehabilitation" project that was imposed required the total demolition of the earlier fabric of settlement. By the middle of the 20th century the built environment of the urban areas had reached today's extent, and from the 1960s onwards, new buildings were conducted only at the expense of demolishing existing ones. This process could be described as a city-scale structural transformation (JUHÁSZ, 1998.: 239-241.) in the case of Árpád-city and the city centre. The construction of the former Lenin-residential area (nowadays Árpád-city with block of flats) started within the framework of the second Five Year Plan in Rávagy Square in 1961. The western part of the city, including this housing area has a negative aspect in terms of the city structure. In particular, the placement of massive ten-story buildings is considered a mistake, because their dimensions ignore the scale of traditional urban environment, making them almost impossible to integrate into the urban fabric. In the former Lenin-city the area with four or five storey buildings (Árpád Boulevard and Rávagy Square) creates a more humane living environment than

could emerge in the region of Reile Géza, Bagi László and Damjanich Streets. The streets located north of the Holy Trinity Cemetery represent a different world from an architectural point of view. The residential area, created after World War I, was adequate to the needs of its citizens and has retained its unique appearance (KOROMPAY, 1981. 1992). The design of the small city ring was one of the major structural interventions undertaken, but did not create a lasting impact on the urban design. (KOROMPAY, 1981. 1992.) The changes made to the central area of the city that most shaped the city's image can be observed on the city map from 1933 (MNLBKML XV.1/a.1.0766) and on the see-through map from 1977. Nowadays the high-rise residential area is organically integrated into the surrounding historic centre. It is linked in character to the Árpád-city housing estates on the opposite side of the partly implemented inner ring. In the newly built downtown area, where the secular centre is not separated from the religious centre or other residential institutions, there is disharmony as a variety of different features are mixed, which can be experienced from seeing the new and old buildings.



*Figure 1. Changes from 1933 to 1977, sematic figure of the splits*

In Subotica the introduction of new radial roads, such as Marshal Tito Avenue on the line of the Fűzfás - spring (Vrbov) and the unrealized Novi Bulevar on the Rogina spring floodplain, was important not only in terms of urban planning. At the Marshall Tito radial street the challenges were to find a solution for the Zorka factory waste water drain system, as well as to build new homes to increase the residential density of the central part of the city. The avenues followed the natural topography, sloping with the waterways in the direction of the central part of the city. The population had decreased from the beginning of the last century due to the world wars, but by the sixties had regained its inhabitants with population about 100,000 and trends showed this

increasing. The bombing of 1944 had damaged and destroyed many residential and historic buildings, in particular next to the railways. This destruction of housing and infrastructure and the poor quality and lack of development of the city contributed significantly to the development of new residential areas such as Marshal Tito Avenue. From an urban planning point of view, the main goals of the city planners in the fifties (Baltazar Dulić and Franje De Negri) were increasing the residential density, replacing outdated building stock with modern residential buildings, developing appropriate infrastructure and public works, finding a solution to the waste water problem of the Fűzfás- spring (hygiene and health concerns played a role), not least developing new urban areas, and this was their vision and the mission when they outlined the creation of the Marshal Tito Avenue. The city's urban map from 1954 ( IAS: 003, 3.3.1.42) shows both the existing building complex and the proposed outline of the Avenue. Here new public and residential buildings began to appear in 1958 with the start of construction of the first four storey buildings (IAS, F:138, 1956) using a design type of striking characteristics and consistent materials. The splits were shown on the layered map (1. Mihaly Könyves-Toth: IAS/SzTL, F:003, 3.2.1.4.), 2. Kosta Petrović (IAS/SzTL, F:047, II-70/1927), 3. (IAS/SzTL, F:003, 3.3.1.42.) new public and private buildings 4. Detailed plan of the city centre 1967/1970 (ZZUS I/37a) with new public and private buildings).

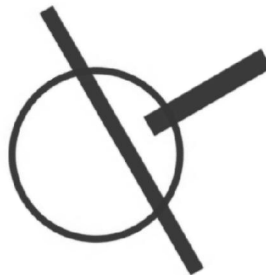


Figure 2. Layered map of Subotica with the main changes, sematic figure of the splits

#### 4. RESULTS

In case of Subotica and Kecskemét the period of construction of the new built environment lasted from the 1960s to the 1980s, and resulted in a sharp fissure in the urban form, made worse by a morphologically foreign building validation. One result was that existing structures, which were literally bound by the traditional, closed structure, where the height of the buildings respect the height of the adjacent traditional buildings, were surrounded by alien building forms. The way these fit into the existing urban pattern among the traditional structures, particularly when they affect more than one building plot, created divisions between the distinct components of the environment on the city plan, while it also responded to the changes.

Local and regional authorities of the socialist era deliberately broke with the continuity of the architectural inheritance of the past, partially causing the disappearance of historically significant architecture, including the demolition of valuable buildings along the new regulatory lines of the avenues the affected areas of the historic urban fabric. Another result of the morphologically alien pattern was that the continuity of the city's construction on urban level was interrupted.

The primary typological analysis reveals to the relationship between the city's historic centre and the wedging of new roads. Since the study of the two cities took into account a specific area of residential units, therefore the time period can be identified. The current study specifically looks at the era after the World War II, when the historical city center went through significant changes caused by the introduction of new housing units and town planning methods (apartment on the Tito Marsal Avenue, inner ring, Árpád-city).

In Kecskemét, with the exception of the area of the Árpád housing estates, the historically developed road network and urban structure has undergone only a qualitative transformation and has not suffered greater injury. These buildings, as well as the apartments in Subotica, are residential types.

Both of the case studies are specific in the phenomena that the construction date of apartment units from the second half of the last century is impossible to determine by just taking into account the physical dimensions of the living space, because soon after the Second World War economic changes and demands appeared.

The size of the flats is only one of these phenomena, which is determined by human scale and dimension, supporting the concept of residential units as physical objects.

By examination of maps of the study area in Kecskemét fundamental errors in the urban pattern can be seen, such as the functional mixture of residential and industrial zones, the lack of smooth transition of main roads into the city centre, and the quantitative and qualitative inadequacy of the housing blocks.

The only solution to the undeveloped network of public institutions would be a city-wide reconstruction. The structure of the town plan has been changed by redirecting traffic from routes (44, 52) through the city centre and 26th street, and opening and re-routing the inner ring in the city's historic urban plan (JUHÁSZ 1998: 229-238).

The inner ring raises similar problems to the construction of the Novi Bulevar. According to the thesis of the Athen's Charter and M.R.G. Conzen's theoretical approach to spatial planning and structures, the unfinished radial street in Subotica, Novi Bulevar, would follow the unspoken principle of splitting the traditional fabric of the city centre,

opening spaces and creating a looser structure. The basis of this vision can be found in the Athen's Charter, however it would have been inherent in Subotica's implementation of the plan that the city's buildings, with the exception of the city's oldest houses, along the maiden radial street, would be demolished buildings without regarding to their architectural and historical value.

The Charter, however, supports the preservation of historical heritage. One element of paradox that can be found on numerous levels is that preserving heritage is only made possible by process of rehabilitation. It can be concluded that in both cases a partial lack of complexity can be discovered, the solution of which is a task for additional theoretical case studies to search for both positive and negative solutions.

The development of complexity at different levels is a function of social determinants, as well as the historic cityscape. The urban fabric of modern structures and buildings associated with harmonious unity (ROWE, COETTER ? : 50), combined with the internal operation of the area, and a balanced state between each other often creates conflicting demands.

In spite of the modern interventions, the historic city lives on organically, with a collage-like nature combining different features, spatial effects and structural intertwining. The case of these two cities may reveal a theory of structural conflict as a solution brought to bear by a virtual collage of transparency.

The stratification of neighbourhoods, structures that build on each other and the juxtaposition of different forms may have an foreign effect on the newly built areas and roads, creating functional splits.

The negative penetrations are created in such a way as to create a system in which the importance of conflict in creating areas that belong to the city centre, and at the same time are separated by their external nature.

A collage-like system, by its very nature, seems to reveal the hidden relationships between the existing and the new, foreign forms created by the interventions into the historic form.

A foreign element within a specific period of time can be identified not necessarily a structural break, but as merely a morphological, functional and aesthetic conflict between traditional and new pattern and values.

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## КОМПАРАЦИЈА СТРУКТУРАЛНОГ КОНФЛИКТА КОД ГРАДОВА СУБОТИЦЕ И КЕЧКЕМЕТА

**Резиме:** На основу карактеристика архитектуре и урбане структуре Суботице и Кечкемета, проучава се структурални расцеп у смислу традиције и савремености са гледишта нове урбане и архитектонске форме. Идентификација и анализа вредности је приоритет развијене методологије функционалости у органски развијеним деловима градова, у којима су директно/индиректно уметнуте нове јавне и стамбене зграде, тако да за последицу имамо структурални конфликт.

**Кључне речи:** Суботица, Кечкемет, конфликт, структура, расцеп