

MUNICIPAL PROTECTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF BUDAPEST

The Municipality of Budapest City provides for the protection of the World Heritage area of Budapest by different activities of the office work with the effective involvement of the inhabitants. The preservation of the architectural heritage is of great importance from various aspects with special regard of the panorama of the river Danube protected as World Heritage as well as the different requirements of Andrassy avenue and its buffer zone.

THE TOOLS OF PROTECTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IN BUDAPEST

1. REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE PROTECTED BUILDINGS

National heritage protection and municipal protection supplement each other in Budapest. There are about 2000 national monuments in the capital and about 2500 buildings (individual buildings and architectural ensembles together) under municipal protection. The Architectural Heritage Protection Section of the City Planning Department in the Municipality of Budapest is in charge of the latter category of listed buildings and for their documentation.

2. GIVING EXPERT'S OPINIONS IN TOWNSCAPE MATTERS, CONSULTATIONS WITH DESIGNERS, INVESTORS AND OTHER CITIZENS

An important tool of heritage protection is giving expert's opinions when protected buildings are restored, altered or extended. Designers, investors, owners of listed buildings regularly contact the colleagues of the Architectural Heritage Protection Section in preliminary consultations before applying for building permission from the authorities. The aim of heritage protection is that any alteration of these old buildings can be done only if their architectural values are kept. A good example for such consultations is the revitalization of the Eiffel Palace.

3. MUNICIPAL FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF PROTECTED BUILDINGS

The Architectural Heritage Protection Assistance and the Monument Fund effectively help the renewal of protected buildings and the architectural values of the World Heritage area as displayed on the poster below.

4. EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATIONS TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC AWARENESS IN THE FIELD OF BUILT HERITAGE

The City Planning Department often uses these possibilities to inform the population about city development or heritage protection issues. The Architectural Heritage Protection Section is presently preparing a leaflet urging the preservation and upgrading of original wooden windows instead of the present-day trend to replace them with plastic ones.

EIFFEL PALACE

– A SUCCESSFUL REVITALIZATION OF THE FORMER PUBLISHING HOUSE AND PRINTING PRESS

Eiffel Palace is a large corner building close to the Nyugati (Western) Railway Station. Like the steel structured hall of the station, the imposing cast iron structured inner courtyard of the Eiffel Palace was also designed by the studio of Gustav Eiffel, the famous French engineer. The eclectic building built in 1894 contained a newspaper publishing house, a printing press and elegant flats. During the II. World War the roof with the corner dome perished and later it was renovated in a simplified manner. After decades of slow deterioration the Eiffel Palace was successfully regenerated in 2013. The Eiffel Palace which is under municipal protection has revived as a high quality office building which meets the demands of the XXI. century. Consulting with the Architectural Heritage Protection Section of the City Planning Department of the Municipality the designers of the refurbishment preserved not only the facades of the building but also reconstructed the precious courtyard with the original cast iron elements. The one-time richly decorated roof with the corner dome and towers were not reconstructed but a modern shaped roof has been created containing a roof terrace.



Eiffel Palace is the first office development in Central and Eastern Europe that was awarded with a double environmental certificate, having met the strict criteria of both the BREEAM and the LEED international green building rating systems due to several factors like:

- easy accessibility by public transportation
- the neighboring bicycle lanes offering alternative ways of commuting to work
- energy efficiency program in the building
- solar collectors contributing to domestic hot water production
- photovoltaic panels powering the electric and hybrid car chargers with electricity
- use of harvested rainwater for watering the award-winning bio diverse green wall and for flushing toilets
- built-in low-flow aerators to minimize water consumption
- use of certified regional materials
- energy-efficient HVAC system
- individual metering on leased premises
- occupancy and motion sensors
- energy-saving LED light fixtures
- pre-programmable elevators
- recycling (during both the construction and operative phases)
- sustainable waste management
- high-quality building management system
- vegetation on multiple roof terraces
- bicycle storages with lockers and showers
- electric and hybrid car chargers
- low-water-consumption carwash



MUNICIPAL FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF PROTECTED BUILDINGS – CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE URBAN RENEWAL



The Municipality of Budapest considers the renovation and maintenance of the architectural heritage greatly important therefore offers financial assistance and expertise to the owners or users of protected buildings. Each year since the early 1990's two competitions, the Architectural Heritage Protection Assistance and the Monument Fund are announced and so far almost a thousand buildings have been restored by their help. In 2015 200 Million Forints (660.000 Euros) will be allocated for the Architectural Heritage Protection Assistance and 300 Million Forints (1 Million Euros) for the Monument Fund. The non-refundable grant given by the Municipality can cover only part of the costs of renovation completing the owner's own resources. It means that the allocated amount is multiplied (2-3 times approximately) and as a result much more money is spent for the renewal of the capital's built heritage. The applications for the competitions are evaluated and the restoration works are assisted by the Architectural Heritage Protection Section of the City Planning Department.

