



DOCTORAL DISSERTATION THESIS BOOKLET

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**The Tendencies of Art Nouveau Architecture In The Transverse  
Section of Albert Kálmán Kőrössi's Œuvre**

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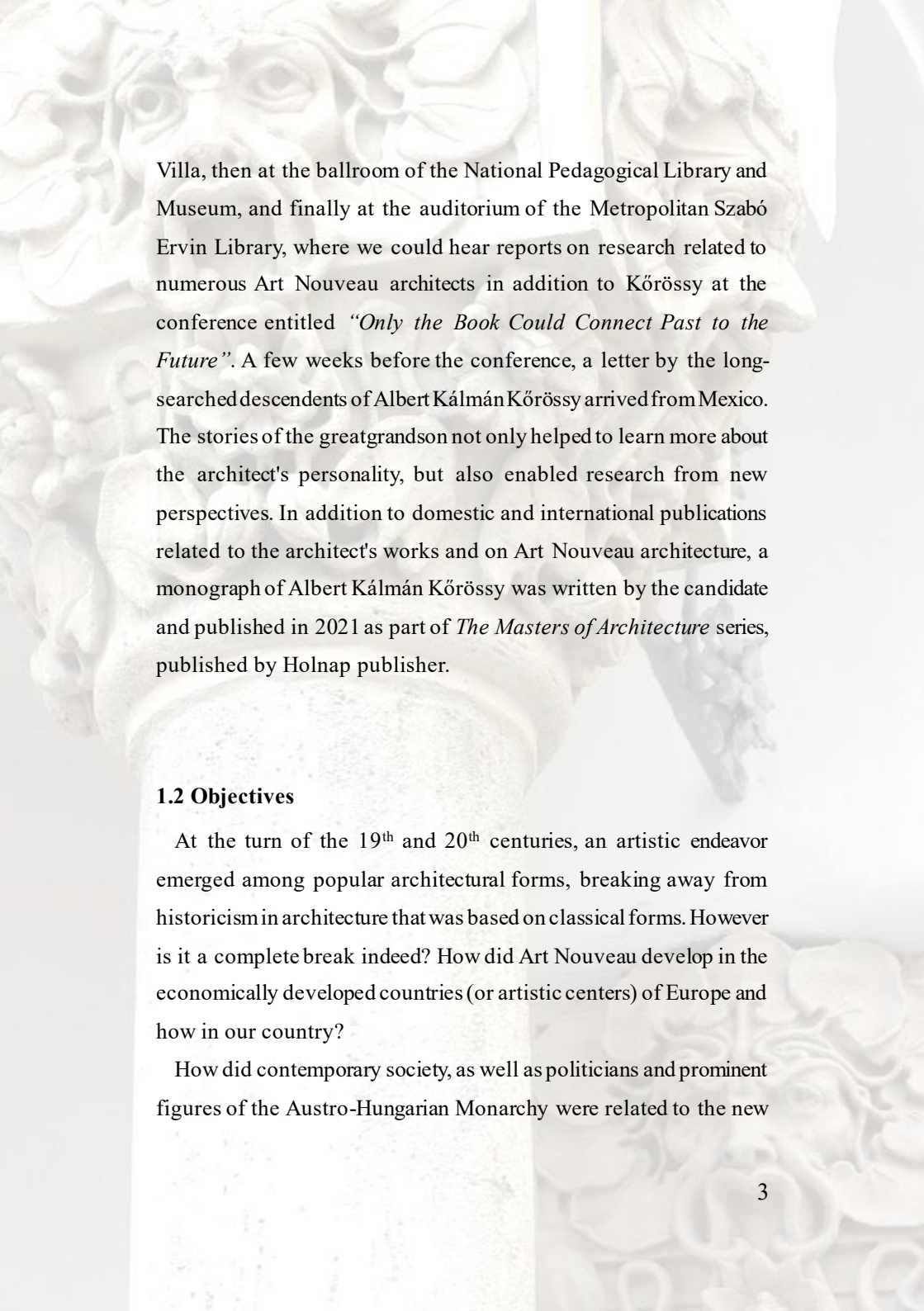
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## 1.1 Background of The Research

Within the framework of the research that started in 2010 (BA thesis), the doctoral candidate presented the works of Albert Kálmán Kőrössi in Budapest, as a result, new buildings and documents helped to get to know the architect. In 2013, firstly a manuscript about Kőrössi's work was prepared by the grant of the National Cultural Fund, followed by the master's thesis, which sought to present the architect's entire œuvre. In order to get to know international Art Nouveau architecture, the researcher got to know the local architectural characteristics during research trips supported by the National Cultural Fund and the Hungarian Art Academy between 2013 and 2020, in chronological order: in Germany, Belgium, Finland, England and Scotland, France, and finally in Spain. Exterior and interior photos were taken of 385 buildings in fifteen visited cities during the research trips supported the analytical work. In addition to the nearly four hundred explored buildings, the candidate also managed to visit the public collections of the most important cities, and the experiences on site were processed in the form of manuscripts submitted to forementioned institutions.

In 2018, as the curator of the Hungarian Museum of Architecture, the doctoral candidate had the opportunity to organize an exhibition representing the architecture of Albert Kálmán Kőrössi as a curator within the collaboration with the Museum of Applied Arts. The exhibition entitled „*Knowledge infused with a decorative sensibility*” *The Architecture of Albert Kálmán Kőrössi* was represented at three locations in Budapest between 2018 and 2019: at the György Ráth



Villa, then at the ballroom of the National Pedagogical Library and Museum, and finally at the auditorium of the Metropolitan Szabó Ervin Library, where we could hear reports on research related to numerous Art Nouveau architects in addition to Kőrössy at the conference entitled “*Only the Book Could Connect Past to the Future*”. A few weeks before the conference, a letter by the long-searched descendants of Albert Kálmán Kőrössy arrived from Mexico. The stories of the great-grandson not only helped to learn more about the architect's personality, but also enabled research from new perspectives. In addition to domestic and international publications related to the architect's works and on Art Nouveau architecture, a monograph of Albert Kálmán Kőrössy was written by the candidate and published in 2021 as part of *The Masters of Architecture* series, published by Holnap publisher.

## 1.2 Objectives

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, an artistic endeavor emerged among popular architectural forms, breaking away from historicism in architecture that was based on classical forms. However is it a complete break indeed? How did Art Nouveau develop in the economically developed countries (or artistic centers) of Europe and how in our country?

How did contemporary society, as well as politicians and prominent figures of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy were related to the new

endeavor from an aesthetic point of view? What critical voices appeared in political life regarding the new artistic direction? Can Art Nouveau be interpreted as a movement or is it rather a style, and is there an overlap between the two interpretations? The introductory part of the thesis seeks answers to these questions summarizing the contemporary sources and the latest research.

What kind of artistic world Albert Kálmán Kőrössi discovered at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and how did these “competing visions” shape his architecture at the turn of the century? What personal and professional relationships and interests were built around his works that are still known today? The thesis aims to introduce and represent the architect's life and works in details by the help of domestic and international sources and research. In addition, it attempts to place the architect's work in both the Hungarian and the international Art Nouveau.

## **2. Applied Methods**

The primary role in the research of the past fifteen years has been the processing of archival sources related to Albert Kálmán Kőrössi's life. In addition to domestic public collections, materials from Transylvanian archives, photographs and documents received from descendants living in Mexicocity, and the plan of the Miksa Róth collection at the Wolfsonian University in Florida have enriched our knowledge. In addition to source processing, style history and style criticism studies among the art historical analysis methods helped to

answer questions related to architectural history. In the style criticism analysis, the dissertation not only examined the relationship between the works created within Kőrössi's œuvre, but also compared them with other works of Hungarian Art Nouveau, and even with architectural works of international Art Nouveau tendencies. After comparing international examples by country, this paper attempts to compare some foreign works with the forms found in Kőrössi's œuvre, highlighting common and unique stylistic features.

In addition to art historical methods, the paper, in addition to the monographic processing, uses historical methods and knowledge flow and cultural transfer to shed light on the architect's personal and professional relationships and connections. The research also relied on historical geographical, ecological and etymological analyses.

### **3. Results**

#### *3.1 Biographical Data And New Buildings*

Despite there were only limited source material, the research managed to identify ten new buildings designed by Albert Kálmán Kőrösi. In addition to the construction documents, understanding of the artist's biography was facilitated by the first object related to him: a book that he received as a gift from his uncle, the wellknown statistician József Kőrösi of Szántó. As a result of finding descendants living in Mexico City today, several portrait photos of the architect and his family are available, as well as historical additions, some of which have also developed the research.

### *3.2 New Sources And Issues*

Over the past some years, two groups of documents were discovered by chance have enriched the sources of the doctoral dissertation: the plans and documents found in the Zielinski Szilárd legacy, preserved in the database of the Hungarian Museum of Science, Technology and Transport, related to the history of the bridge in Timișoara, and the documentation related to school constructions found in the materials of the former Ministry of Religion and Public Education (National Archives of Hungary – State archive in Budapest), which were believed to be destroyed, have not only supported the construction history of the two educational buildings involved. By the help of a construction site diary found in the boxes, it was possible to demonstrate the operation of Kőrössi's design studio – even if only for a certain period.

### *3.3 New Conceptual Frameworks*

While presenting the architect's œuvre, not only domestic but also international Art Nouveau research issues arose, during the dissertation examines whether Art Nouveau should be interpreted as a style or a movement. Finding the answers the candidate involved wellknown international architects and art historians in the research to see where and how the issue is being addressed. In addition, she examined the terminological aspects of the related literature, during which she formulated the conclusion that the separation of Art Nouveau of Belgium and France would be necessary in Hungarian

literature, since the *Zeitgeist* of the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was formed along different economic, historical and aesthetic influences in the two different countries, which can also be traced in architecture and decorative arts.

In order to understand the architecture of Albert Kálmán Kőrössi and to place it in Hungarian architecture, the dissertation proposed the introduction of the term early Jugendstil into Hungarian literature, which would make the formal characteristics easier to interpret. This statement, as well as the need to clarify the stylistic aspirations, was reinforced by the dissertation's Art Nouveau research in the Carpathian Basin in 2024 and 2025, during which he had the opportunity to visit about 167 settlements in present-day Hungary, in the areas beyond the border, and, in the surrounding countries, where he documented about 360 buildings. As one of the leaders of the international project, he incorporated the experiences gained on the approximately 10,000 km “Art Nouveau tour” into this dissertation.

### *3.4 Cultural Transfer And Knowledge Flow*

The dissertation also outlined the experiences gained during the architect's studies and the artistic aspects related to his later interests. After the years in Munich and the experiences in Alajos Hauszmann's design studio, the career path of Hungarian form language and later return to historicism is outlined before us, in which various locations and professional relationships, as well as the circle of clients outside

the circle of commissioners, such as the social network of Kőrössy and his family, plays an important role.

### *3.5 Materialized Results*

In the past years of the research, beyond numerous conference presentations and publications in Hungarian and English, one of the significant milestones was the presentation of the first exhibition about Kőrössy's œuvre between 2018 and 2019, as well as the publication of the architect's monograph written by the author of these lines and educational lectures and city walks that made the architect Albert Kálmán Kőrössy a better known architect to the general public as well.

## **4. Related Publications**

### *About The Architecture Of Albert Kálmán Kőrössy*

- Building Community for a House in Budapest, *Coup de Fouet* 2023/39, 19-27.
- *Miracles and Professional Results of the Research on Albert Kálmán Kőrössy's Architecture*, IV coupDefouet International Congress, Barcelona, 2023
- Lechner Ödön „irodái”: történeti rekonstrukció egy pénztárnapló alapján, *Régi-Új Magyar Építőművészet*, 2022/3, 63-67.

- Albert Kálmán Kőrössy's Architecture in Hungary. An Oeuvre Influenced by The Early Jugendstil in Munich and Hungarian National Endeavours, *RIHA*, megjelenés alatt
- „Friss fuvallat leng felénk” Hazánk természeti formái Kőrössy Albert Kálmán építőművészetében, *Régi-Új Magyar Művészet*, 2021/2, 62-72.
- „Itt nyújt az élet örömet...” A Sonnenberg-ház civil kezdeményezésű műemléki rekonstrukciója, *Régi-Új Magyar Építőművészet*, 2021/3, 72-74.
- *Kőrössy Albert Kálmán*. Az építészet mesterei, monográfia, HOLNAP kiadó, 2021
- „Díszítőérzékkel átszőtt tudás” 150 éve született Kőrössy Albert Kálmán (1869-1955) építész, *Magyar Iparművészet*, 2019/2., 47-51.
- Lechner Ödön építészeti formáinak hatása Kőrössy Albert Kálmán építőművészetére honfoglalás kori tárgyak és a népművészet keresztmetszetében, *Ybl és Lechner vonzásában* (szerk.: Rozsnyai József), Budapest, 2018, 160-175.
- „The Etymological problem of Szecesszió in Hungary via Albert Kálmán Kőrössy's oeuvre”, coupDefouet Congress, Barcelona, 2018
- Art Nouveau és kansallisromantiikka, avagy Belgium és Finnország hazánk építőművészetének tükrében. *Képváltás. Tanulmányok a Fiatal Művészettörténészek V. konferenciájának előadásaiból* (szerk.: P. Kovács Klára, Pál Emese), Kolozsvár, 2017, 181-198.
- Kőrössy Albert Kálmán, a szecessziók mestere. *Építőművészek Ybl és Lechner korában*, Szerk. Rozsnyai József, Budapest, 2015, 318-351.
- A német korai Jugendstil hatása Kőrössy Albert Kálmán építőművészetére. *Kóstolni a szép- tudományba: Tanulmányok a*

*Fiatal Művészettörténészek IV. konferenciájának előadásaiból, szerk. Székely Miklós et al. Budapest: CentrArt, 2014, 173-186.*

*About The Endeavours of Art Nouveau Architecture*

- A századforduló táji és természeti mintáinak vizsgálata a szecesszió építészetében, TÉRformák TÁRsadalomformák, Szerkesztők: Tamáska Máté és Kardeván-Lapis Gergely, 47-76.
- „...Mindazoknak, akik [...] a szépet is magyarul szeretik”. Hatások, amelyek formálták Kós Károly nemzeti törekvéseit építészetében és építészettörténeti írásaiban, Országépítő 2023/4, 42-47.
- A művészet mindenkié. Az utópista szocializmus törekvései és megvalósulásának kérdései a szecesszióban, Magyar Művészet, 2023/5. 47-54.
- Egy szecessziós vígadó öröksége. Tóth József Színház, Szentes, Magyar Építőművészet, 2021/4, 20-25.
- A zseni és a tehetség. Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868–1928) születésének 150. évfordulójára emlékezünk, Magyar Iparművészet 2018/6., 173-186.
- Milyen volt Afrika? Kongó természeti formáinak megjelenése a belga Art Nouveau-ban, Örökségfigyelő blog, 2016. február
- „Egyszerű vonalakban tiszta színezés” – Róth Miksa üvegművészetének tervanyagát mutatja be a Magyar Építészeti Múzeum, Örökségfigyelő blog, 2016. január