Outstanding Hungarian Libraries

ORSZÁGOS SZÉCHÉNYI KÖNYVTÁR

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Centre for Library Science and Methodology

OUTSTANDING HUNGARIAN LIBRARIES

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1. OUTSTANDING HUNGARIAN LIBRARIES

The fate of libraries is similar to the fate of countries: they flourish during years of peace and prosperity but the first breeze of approaching critical times affects them and the fire-brands of war generally fall on them first. This is how, throughout the ravages of Hungarian history, the rich ecclesiastical and lay libraries of the Middle Ages were reduced to ashes and destroyed. This is how King Matthias' wonderful library, the Bibliotheca Corviniana was scattered, and how later almost all ecclesiastical and secular book collections of the Turkish-occupied areas were annihilated. Their holdings were later thoroughly decimated by intolerant missionary fervour of the propagators of the ideas of Reformation and Counter-Reformation. Because of these factors we can only reckon with the development and wide ranging evolution of Hungarian library culture from the more peaceful decades of the 18th century onwards, and for the lovely library buildings we inherited we are indebted to the Age of Enlightenment or Reform. That was the time of the building of those libraries wich are still the pride of Hungarian architecture, the guardians of and setting for the treasures of our science, and evidence of the continuity of our culture.

2. I. FROM THE BENEDICTINE LIBRARY AT PANNONHALMA TO THE BUILDING OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY IN THE CASTLE OF BUDA

3. The Benedictine Library at Pannonhalma

The Benedictine Abbey Library at Pannonhalma is the most ancient library in the country. It is as old as the settlement of Benedictine monks, established here in around the year 996. As early as 1080 the monastery of St Martin owned 80 books and although these were dispersed during the stormy Hungarian centuries, we can rightly trace the beginnings of the history of Hungarian libraries and library culture from the years before the turn of the first millennium. Today's library at Pannonhalma was built between 1824 and 1836 by Ferenc Engel and János Packh respectively. The beautiful marble colonnaded, galleried library hall is characterized by classical regularity, the lucidity, clarity of form, and noble, somewhat cool elegance of Classicism. It is a living library: the only great monastic library working in its original setting.

4. The historic Antal Reguly Library, Zirc

The National Széchényi Library's Antal Reguly Library, originally the Hungarian Central Library of the Cistercian Order, is at Zirc in the County of Veszprém. It is named after a great son of Zirc, the distinguished traveller and geographer, the Hungarian creator of comparative Finno-Ugric linguistics who lived between 1819–1858. The splendid great hall, completed in 1857 was designed by the Austrian architect Leopold Peisz. Its furnishings: the flooring, the shelving and the tracery of the gallery balustrades is the work of a local cabinet-marker, Mihály Wilde.

5. The historic József Bajza Library, Gyöngyös

The József Bajza Library at Gyöngyös is the only one in Hungary which was able to preserve the continuity of its accessions from its foundation in the 15th century: its holdings held together, riding out those stormy centuries. This one-time library of the mendicant Franciscan friars remained in the single-storeyed, baroque cloister built onto their church, right up to its nationalisation in 1950. Later it was entrusted to the care of the National Széchényi Library but even this did not save it from the vicissitudes, the constant moves from one place to another. It was finally returned to the monastery building only a quarter of a century later, having reorganized and restored its old, simple, baroque-style furniture made once by local cabinet-makers.

6. The Sándor Vachott Municipal Library, Gyöngyös

The historical Bajza Library soon came under the same roof and then the same direction as the Sándor Vachott Municipal Library, which was opened in the one-time monastery building on the 16th November 1984. The municipal library was obliged to adapt to the constrains presented by the environment of this ancient monument.

7. The Diocesan Library, Eger

The other famous library of Heves County is in Eger. The Diocesan Library on the first floor of the building, once a lyceum and today a teachers' training college, was originally intended by its founder, Bishop Károly Eszterházy, for a university, planned but never established. He bought a matchless collection of books and had magnificent premises built for it. The library, opened to the public in 1793, is the largest baroque one-room library in Hungary. The furnishings of its huge hall, shaped like the

nave of a church, were designed by Jakab Fellner, famous architect of Tata and Eger, and a local master, Tamás Lotter – without the use of a single iron nail. The monumental fresco on the ceiling depicts the Council of Trent.

8. The Cathedral Library, Kalocsa

From among the few library monuments left to us in the Danube-Tisza region, an outstanding example is the Cathedral Library of Kalocsa. It was established in its present form by Archbishop Ádám Patachich in the baroque palace built in 1781. His bedroom was connected to the library by a secret door to enable him to visit his favourite collection any time. The great vaulted hall of the library, the rational arrangement of the so-called Patachich-hall shown in our picture and its reading tables reveal that the collection was meant for the use of the general public as well as for its scholarly owners. Its layout and intimate atmosphere expresses humility towards science rather than the baroque love for pomp of the powerful heads of the Church.

9. The Helikon Library, Keszthely

The only library of aristocratic origin left intact in Hungary is the Helikon Library at Keszthely. It was built by one of the most eminent characters of the Hungarian Age of Enlightenment, Count György Festetich, founder of the first agricultural college in Europe, the Georgicon. Between 1799 and 1801 he had a separate wing built onto his castle to accommodate his archives and library, and, modelled on the Weimar Court Library, had the neo-classic central library hall fitted with great splendour. The furniture of the galleried hall with its enclosed staircase was made from Slavonian oak by the cabinet-maker János Kerbl, a Keszthely master.

10. The Great Library of the Calvinist Diocese of Trans-Tisza, Debrecen

The Great Library of the Debrecen Calvinist College has the largest collection of any ecclesiastical library in the country. It moved into its present premises in the main building of the college after the rebuilding that followed the devastating fire of 1802. Although the library hall with its neo-classic colonnaded galleries may be overshadowed by the gold- and coloured marble-decorated ecclesiastical collections seen so far, the vaulted hall breathing the air of history, enclosed by walls of bookshelves and surrounded by the galleries with their rows of books and the very sight of the wealth of documents displayed in their cases is well-worth all their lux-ury.

11. The Great Library of the Scientific Collections of the Cis-Tisza Calvinist Diocese, Sárospatak

The great library of the Calvinist College at Sárospatak originates from the 16th century. It has been said that this library has always been "the mind, the heart and lungs of the college". The collection was moved into the right wing of the main, baroque building in 1834. The neo-classic library hall was designed by Mihály Pollack. This hall does not excel in monumentality but is remarkable for its intimate mood due to its noble proportions.

12. The Great Library of the Scientific Collections of the Cis-Tisza Calvinist Diocese, Sárospatak. The new store-house

As the Sárospatak library is no longer able to accommodate new acquisitions, a new store was built near the old library to the design of the architect, Imre Makovecz.

13. The Central Library of the Janus Pannonius University, Pécs

The Central Library of the Janus Pannonius University at Pécs can claim for its ancestor the first public library of the country. Its founder was the Bishop György Klimó who, intending it for a future university for Pécs, opened his rich collection to the public in 1774. His successors respected his wishes: Bishop Ignác Szepesi developed the library further and raised a lovely neo-classic building according to the design of József Piacsek. This has been the home of the University Library since 1923, as, according to the wishes of György Klimó, the bishopric gave it to the University which was moved from Pozsony (now in Czechoslovakia) to Pécs after World War 1.

14. Marble tablet in the Library of the Janus Pannonius University of Pécs, with regulations of use dating from 1774

In the vestibule of the university library of Pécs the text recording the library's opening to the public and its renowned regulations dating from 1774 can be seen on tablets carved from roman marble sarcophagus. We quote the last lines of the tablet: "You need not pay anything. Leave richer and return more often."

15. The University Library, Budapest

The Budapest University Library, founded in 1635, first operated at Nagyszombat (now in Czechoslovakia). Then, with the transfer of the University, in 1774, it came to Buda, and ten years later it was moved to Pest. The largest library of the country at the time struggled under miserable conditions in the building of the old Franciscan cloister threatening with collapse. Its new home was built in the neighbourhood, between 1873 and 1876. This was the first purpose-built library building.

16. The reading room of the University Library, Budapest

Antal Skalnitzky and Henrik Koch pushed professional considerations into the background when they created one of the sights of the capital – a palace built in neo-renaissance style with a majestic vestibule and a galleried reading room over 15 meters high, covered by glass and decorated with frescoes by Károly Lotz.

17. The Central Library of the Technical University of Budapest

Having built the University Library, no other new independent library was built until 1909, when almost simultaneously with the library of the Kolozsvár University, the home of the Central Library of the Technical University of Budapest was completed. Its designer, Samu Pecz university professor created a church-like building of neo-gothic style in the garden of the University.

18. The staircase and reading room of the Central Library of the Technical University of Budapest

The vestibule and interior of the technical university library, especially the vast, vaulted reading room, emanates the atmosphere of a church.

19. The Parliament Library, Budapest

The Parliament Library moved into the new, neo-gothic palace of the Parliament, designed by Imre Steindl, on the banks of the Danube in 1912. This library is not overshadowed by the glitter and glamour of the other rooms of the house, but it was planned on the basis of conservative professional principles: it is a peculiar mixture of the galleried libraries of the aristocracy and the side-galleried choirs of Gothic cathedrals.

20. The Central Library of the Lajos Kossuth University, Debrecen

The only large library built during the period between the two world wars was that of the Debrecen University Library – although even that did not materialize in an independent building. Its designer was Flóris Korb, who earlier designed the university library at Kolozsvár.

21. Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library, Budapest

It was Ervin Szabó, who, at the beginning of the century, conceived a far reaching plan for the creation of a centre for the capital's public library network, fit to receive its scientific holdings and services. What has been achieved in the end falls far short of the dreams of the great library founder: the aldermen, instead of building, bought for a high price at the time of the economic world crisis, the palace of the Wenckheim counts, and here the Metropolitan Library Centre was opened in 1931.

22. The main reading room of the Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library, Budapest

This lovely, but for library purposes hardly suitable building has been the home of the library ever since. Still, whoever sees it as a set in Hungarian films, or visits the one-time ballroom – today's main reading room – as a reader, cannot shake off the effect of the glittering hall of mirrors.

23. The Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. The old reading room

The Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was founded by count József Teleki in 1826, but the collection was only accommodated permanently in 1865, when it was moved to the new building of the Academy on the banks of the Danube. The library's stock of two million has since outgrown its permises and as its extension had not been completed when these pictures were taken we show its fine old reading room.

24. The Oriental Collection of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest

In another photograph taken in the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences we see the room of the Oriental Collection created in 1951.

25. The National Technical Information Centre and Library, Budapest. View from the courtyard

The sudden development of large libraries a few years after 1945 meant that they soon outgrew their buildings, but there was no money available to build new ones. For a long time the only solution to their problem was the conversion of larger public- and residential-buildings or groups of buildings. This is how, for example, the National Technical Information Centre and Library won breathing space for a time.

26. Entrance hall and staircase in the building of the National Technical Information Centre and Library, Budapest

Visitors to the Reference Section in the building of the country's central technical library – opened in 1958 – can admire the artistic carvings on the ceiling and panelling on the walls, designed by Fellner and Helmer, the famous German–Austrian architects in 1881 for the entrance hall of the former Count's palace, and also its admirable carved staircase, the work of the excellent Hungarian cabinet-maker, Endre Thék.

27. The Central Library of the University of Heavy Industries, Miskolc

Sixty years had to pass from building the Technical University Library in 1909 until any other separate building was erected for a university library: the new home of the Central Library of Miskolc University of Heavy Industries was opened in 1969. The vestibule of the building is decorated with the large mosaic of Jenő Barcsay, entitled "Women".

28. The reading room and historic collection of the Central Library of the University of Heavy Industries, Miskolc

The impressive 2,700 m^2 reading room of the Library of Miskolc University can serve the students and visiting industrial and technical specialists without congestion. The university, as one of the successor-institutions to the Mining Officers' Training College, later Academy – established in 1735 –, keeps the valuable natural- and applied science material separately, as a historical collection in a specially airconditioned room.

29. Central Library of the University of Forestry and Timber Industry, Sopron

Another successor-institution to the Mining Officers' Academy at Selmecbánya, set up by Queen Maria Teresia, is the Sopron University of Forestry and Timber Industry. Professional work started in the library's new building in 1979. The 1,416 m^2 floor area of the building – which resembles a tree spreading its leafy crown to the skies – is divided on three levels, thus not providing sufficient space on each level.

30. The historic collection of the Library of the University of Forestry and Timber Industry, Sopron

The Library of the University of Forestry and Timber Industry houses the works on forestry from Selmecbánya as a special collection.

31. The Central Library of the Karl Marx University of Economics, Budapest

The Central Library of the Karl Marx University of Economics in Budapest obtained a separate new building near the central university building in the course of its reconstruction. The reading area and the stacks were located in a hall in the courtyard of the U-shaped building facing the street, and the offices in the old wing adjoining. The exterior of the building whose floor area is 6,726 m^2, may seem somewhat puritanical and characterless but its attractive interior encourages the reader to stay.

32. The National Széchényi Library, Budapest

The national library, named National Széchényi Library, was established in 1802 by the generous endowment of Count Ferenc Széchényi, father of István Széchenyi, the "greatest Hungarian". It opera-

ted for many decades within the same building as the Hungarian National Museum. It outgrew its premises by the turn of the century. In 1958 the government allocated the "F" building of Buda Castle as its new home.

33. The main entrance and staircase of the National Széchényi Library, Budapest
The National Széchényi Library opened its doors to its readers in 1985 after the completion of the rather protracted construction work lasting from 1962 to 1984. The castle was nearly totally destroyed at the end of the second World War. Only the main marble staircase seen here and the sculptures of János Fadrusz remained in comparatively good condition. The exterior of the building was completely reconstructed.

34. The Reading Room for Literature and Map Collection of the National Széchényi Library, Budapest
The restorers of the building chosen respected the functional requirements of a modern national library. The interior layout of the 44 thousand m^2 library blends with the grandeur of the building; its reading rooms are spacious and elegant – like those for the literature and map collections which are seen here.

35. The "Apponyi Collection" at the National Széchényi Library, Budapest
Visitors can inspect the Apponyi Collection of early prints relating to Hungary among the original furniture of the library of Sándor Apponyi, the famed book collector.

36. **II. FROM KAPOSVÁR TO BÉKÉSCSABA AND SALGÓTARJÁN: THE BUILDING OF NEW COUNTY, METROPOLITAN DISTRICT AND CENTRAL TRADE UNION LIBRARIES AFTER 1960**

37. The County Library, Kaposvár
The Kaposvár County Library was the first product of the library building boom at the beginning of the 60s. The first modern county library in the country designed for open access shelving, its floor area measuring 2,108 m^2, was inaugurated in 1964. Its quiet setting within a park in the town centre won admiration from both readers and professional circles, and made them forget the flaws: the weaknesses of construction, the poorness of the crude concrete façade, the unsolved problems of controlling solar penetration of this all-glass design.

38. The adults' department of the County Library, Kaposvár
The comfort and flexibility of the reference section of the Kaposvár library served as a model to larger libraries built later, irrespective of their status within their network, or their type.

39. County Library, Tatabánya
Inaugurated in 1964 the Tatabánya County Library, although designed later, became much smaller – only 1,675 m^2. The single-storeyed library standing in attractive surroundings, with its rationally designed and well arranged interior has a pleasing affect on the visitor.

40. The adults' department of the Tatabánya County Library

A later critic of this Class A, i.e. county library, remarked in 1986 not without justification that it was "our best Class B library so far".

41. The County Library, Zalaegerszeg

The "investment panic" which broke out during the building of the Kaposvár County Library, i.e. the alarm that filled some members of the controlling Ministry Department that one thousand square meter reading rooms with open access shelving cannot be furnished in a friendly way, had an unfavorable effect on later projects. For example the Zalaegerszeg County Library was allowed only 1,552, the Salgótarján library only 924 m^2 of floor space. As a result of these two shrunken libraries the children's department was squeezed out altogether at their opening in 1966 and 1967. Contemporary criticism also objected to the location of the Zalaegerszeg County Library in the old district of the town, which was developing at a slower pace.

42. The Dániel Berzsenyi County Library, Szombathely

Although the dimensions of the Dániel Berzsenyi County Library, opened at Szombathely at the end of 1970, exceeded those of Kaposvár, the first up-to-date open shelved library, the 2,400 m^2 floor area soon proved to be insufficient for the rapidly increasing reading public, and the fast growing book stock as well.

43. The adults' department of the Dániel Berzsenyi County Library, Szombathely

Fears of large inner spaces again proved groundless at Szombathely, as providing efficient services for adults and children in pocket-sized interiors proved unrealizable, not to mention the newsroom and periodicals collection, the fine local history collection, and the department of printed music and sound recordings, all visited daily by hundreds of readers, or the reception of occasional visitors to the lecture- and exhibition halls. The interior of the Szombathely library rated among the most elegant in its time and is still lovely despite becoming rather cramped.

44. Ferenc Rákóczi II. County Library, Miskolc

The "International Year of the Book" provided the background for the 1972 inauguration of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. County Library. The imposing edifice which is located near, but not too near to the main road, is set in an environment of rich vegetation. Its balconies provide natural shading and regulation of the temperature and the library was well received from the start. It is unfortunate that subsequent building on the space in front of the library – traces of which can be seen in the right-hand corner of the picture – demaged the relationship of the building to its surroundings and spoiled its aesthetic appearance.

45. The reference section of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. County Library, Miskolc

For a long time, favourable conditions were created for the activities of the institution by the $1,200 \text{ m}^2$ of floor area   provided for each of the four levels of the Miskolc county library. Its interior decor was greatly enhanced by some works of art, such as this metal relief by György Segesdi.

46. Zsigmond Móricz County Library, Nyíregyháza

The change in the scale of the Miskolc county library served as a model for later constructions, among them the Zsigmond Móricz County Library, inaugurated in 1975. Its 3,400 square meters made it far bigger than county library buildings in towns with a similar population.

47. The main library of the 10th district (Budapest) Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library

The great wave of library building from the 1960's to the mid-1970's reached the capital as well. It is revealing that the library in Budapest's 10th district with its floor area of 1,500 square meters, built as one of the wings of the István Pataky Cultural Centre, and inaugurated in 1975, is still the largest unit in the Budapest council library system.

48. The main library of the 11th district (Budapest) Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library

The main library in the 11th district of Budapest, completed in 1979, was housed upstairs in the Budapest Cultural Centre. It is an example of an establishment which cannot be expanded, or only with great difficulty. Its floor area of 1,300 m^2 is far smaller than Kőbánya library's seen previously, but even after a decade, the reader enjoys being there.

49. The main libraries of the 13th and 18th district (Budapest) Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library

Professional critics objected to the locations and the smaller scale of the two new large units of the Budapest Ervin Szabó Library – in Dagály utca in the 13th district, 1,000 m^2, and in Pestlőrinc in the 18th district, 960 m^2, compared with the main libraries of the 10th and 11th districts.

50. The main libraries of the 13th and 18th district (Budapest) Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library

In spite of criticism of their appearance and location, the Dagály utca and Pestlőrinc libraries possess practical and aesthetic values which attract a wide range of the reading public. In the upper picture we see the interior of the Dagály utca library, decorated with a tryptich by the gipsy artist Tamás Peli.

51. Central Library of the Textile Workers' Trade Union, Budapest

So far, only a single central, specialised trade union library has been built in Budapest as a separate building. Since the end of 1979, the home of the Central Library of the Textile Workers' Trade Union has been on Csillaghegy, near a textile factory, but in a leafy environment. The library with a floor area of 600 m^2, serves not only the neighbouring textile workshops but the general public, and has a children's department as well.

52. The Central Library of the Baranya County Trade Union Council, Pécs

The Central Library of the Baranya County Trade Union Council has been built in the Sziget district of Pécs. Besides supplying the needs of workplaces, it is the only county trade union library in the country to cater for the local inhabitants of the district as well.

53. The circulation desk of the Central Library of the Baranya County Trade Union Council, Pécs

The red brick library, with a floor area of 719 m^2, has attractive surroundings. It became an instant success: shortly after opening in May 1984, it had 2,400 enrolled readers – twice the number expected.

54. The Somogyi Library, Szeged

The second significant change of scale in the design of county libraries occurred at the end of the 1970s, with the planning of the Somogyi Library in Szeged and the County Library in Békéscsaba. The floor area of the Szeged library became 6,500 m^2 – over three times the size of the Kaposvár County Library, for instance. The height, colour scheme, and in parts the proportions of the facade were influenced by constraints presented by the historic buildings in Dóm tér, the square in which it stands. Its functional arrangement was hindered by a further requirement: it was obliged to provide space for the Archives of Csongrád County.

55. Károly Somogyi Memorial Room of the Somogyi Library, Szeged

Part of the 100-year-old furniture of the old library was transferred to the new Somogyi Library, and used in a memorial room named after the founder of the library, Dean Károly Somogyi of Esztergom.

56. County Library, Békéscsaba

The County Library in Békéscsaba, inaugurated in 1985, surpasses similar central libraries in other county seats not only in its floor area of 6,000 m^2, but in its central location and pleasant environment of gardens by the river Körös.

57. The County Library, Békéscsaba with the Urszinyi-house attached

By restoring the old library building – once the Urszinyi mansion – which preserves the old features and atmosphere of the city and incorporating it in the new library, the architects express nostalgia and convey the layout of the old street. The pleasant and very inviting children's department seen on the picture has also been accommodated in the old building.

58. The adults' section of the County Library, Békéscsaba

The area known as the "Promenade" in the new Békéscsaba building is an admirable architectural and professional experiment which emphasizes the simplicity and accessibility of the library. Its inner spaces, as the picture demonstrates, are on a human scale, while its great terrace and inner courtyard make a profound impression on all visitors to it.

59. The County Library, Salgótarján

As already mentioned, the floor area of the new home of the Salgótarján County Library, opened in 1966 was greatly reduced by those in charge of the investment programme. To make matters worse, the library cannot expand, as it has been squeezed into the county cultural centre. So after only two decades, a new building has had to be erected. This new library, designed by the award-winning architect József Finta, has a floor area of 5,400 m^2, which is large by comparison with libraries in other medium-sized county towns.

60. III. LIBRARIES IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND HISTORIC MONUMENTS

61. The County Library, Eger

Between 1960 and 1988 11 of the 19 county libraries were provided with new buildings and 4 obtained better accommodation through conversions, but four of them still struggle on in unsuitable, temporary buildings received in the 1950s. Some old buildings, carefully restored, are suitable for housing a not too demanding library, and since 1963 numerous historic buildings have been adapted to accommodate libraries. One of them, the County library in Eger, has found a home in the grand-provost's house, which was designed by Jakab Fellner and completed in 1772.

62. Exhibition hall of the County Library, Eger

The usable area of the county library in this beautiful mansion in Eger is only 853 m^2. So inspite of its lovely reading room and other premises, like the exhibition hall converted from the old carriage-entrance, half the collection of books has had to be transferred to stacks elsewhere, and it is too small for its county duties.

63. County Library, Pécs

The County Library in Pécs, Baranya County, was located in 1952 in a neo-classic, late baroque style, single-storeyed building with a small floor area. Later a wing was added in the courtyard, and in 1980s, a further building was attached for the reference services.

64. The new wing of the County Library, Pécs

The entire Pécs County Library was almost recreated when the new wing opened on November the 28th, 1985. It became friendlier and much more inviting for its readers. It obtained works of art and two stained glass windows, designed by Ferenc Martyn and manufactured by Erzsébet L. Szabó.

65. Home of the János Sylvester Municipal Library in the Nádasdy Castle of Sárvár

Of the restored castles used as libraries, the Nádasdy Castle in Sárvár, Vas County, has provided ample room for the János Sylvester Municipal Library since it opened in 1978. The library has a floor area of 1,379 m^2, and separate adults', children's and music departments.

66. The music department of the János Sylvester Municipal Library in the Nádasdy Castle at Sárvár

Both the environment and the interior of the library make a favourable impression on visitors entering the library. The old rooms, such as the music department seen in the picture, were fitted with rustic wooden furniture intended to create an old-world effect.

67. The Village Library, Devecser

Another former fortress, the Eszterházy Castle, accommodates the Devecser Village Library. With a floor area of 1,550 m^2 it is the largest village library in the country.

68. Staircase of the Village Library, Devecser

As a result of careful restoration inside and out the Devecser Village Library, inaugurated in 1986, has become the pride of the Hungarian library system. The picture shows the staircase, with the loan administration and periodicals' room nearby.

69. Reading room for adults in the Village Library, Devecser

The reading room for adults was established in one of the old halls of knights. Incidentally, this well equipped library presents exhibitions, organizes concerts and lectures, accommodates meetings of the local preservation society, and serves as a venue for regional and national professional conferences – all without the slightest inconvenience to readers.

70. Municipal Library, Bonyhád

Surviving castles, country seats and mansions are often suitable for the accommodation of certain types of library that don't require too much space. One example is the Bonyhád Municipal Library, which is gradually taking possession of the former residence of Mór Perczel, a general in the war of independence of 1848–49.

71. **Adults' section of the Municipal Library, Bonyhád**

The library occupies 530 m^2 of the Perczel mansion at the moment, but with the last inauguration in November, 1985, its final establishment in this building with its lovely surroundings is still not completed. Further expansion can be expected.

72. **Village Library, Solt**

The country house of another general, Count Károly Vécsey, who was executed at Arad on October the 6th, 1849, was built in 1843 in late neo-classical style. The lending of books was started by the Solt Village Library on October the 6th, 1986. The library with a floor area of 322 m^2, has a Vécsey memorial room.

73. **Municipal Library, Szigetvár**

From 1963, some of the councils responsible for the maintenance of libraries have started to convert vacant ecclesiastical buildings of great merit, as their size makes them eminently suitable for readers' service with open-access shelving. Several synagogues have been converted into libraries. The first, which may be considered highly successful, was converted in 1966 at Szigetvár. Inside, the Szigetvár Municipal Library, with a floor area of 719 m^2, radiates an elevating atmosphere and an impression of spaciousness. The gallery is an important proportioning feature, breaking up the monotony that generally threatens high library interiors. It has been usefully exploited.

74. Endre Ady Municipal Library, Baja
The peak achievement in synagogue conversions so far was the restoration of the synagogue in Baja, built in 1845 and now the home of the Endre Ady Municipal Library. The restoration repaired and preserved the surviving religious ornaments, and at the same time created a modernized library environment, uplifting the interior of the building to present a harmonious whole. There could be no better background for choral concerts, musical performances, literary programmes, exhibitions of old books and engravings, or seminars on local history.

75. The adults' department of the Endre Ady Municipal Library, Baja
But the 804 m^2 of the library are too small to satisfy the daily reading demands of large numbers of people and provide a place of work for over ten librarians. There are restrictions presented by the historic building itself, and the children's department and administrative offices were squeezed out from the start. So the building, inaugurated in 1985, is to receive a modern annex.

76. The Medical Special Library of Békés County Hospital, Gyula
The former chapel of Békés County Hospital in Gyula, built in 1900, is a comparatively small building, but its 152 m^2 of floor area have made a useful medical library.

77. Interior of the Medical Special Library of Békés County Hospital, Gyula
The interior of the building, nestling among the trees in the garden of the hospital, lends itself well to medical and research work. The library has used the building since 1962.

78. Lajos Katona Municipal Library, Vác

The 1,300 m^2 Lajos Katona Municipal Library in Vác, inaugurated in 1980, has the largest area of any municipal library converted from a public building.

79. Exhibition Hall on the ground floor of the Lajos Katona Municipal Library, Vác

When buildings of this size are being converted, the opportunity usually arises for establishing lecture rooms as an extension of library work, creating exhibition areas like the one in this picture, and accommodating departments for printed music, recordings and children's activities. But the restrictions of old buildings, for example the division into several levels, can prevent the natural, relative location of departments and the creation of well-arranged and controllable interiors.

80. Kálmán Chernel Municipal Library, Kőszeg

The Kálmán Chernel Municipal Library, with a floor area of 1,340 m^2, occupies a neo-classic building in the centre of Kőszeg originally built around 1830. It has been converted beautifully, and was opened in 1984. It is popular with adults and children alike, and the designers have ensured access for the disabled, as the entrance has no stairs and the lift is suitable for wheelchairs.

81. View from the Kálmán Chernel Municipal Library, Kőszeg

The spacious, but still friendly rooms of the Kőszeg building, its reading-courtyard, exhibition hall, music department and provision for children's activities, create opportunities for various programmes

and pleasant conditions for longer stays by whole families. The picture shows the rightangle formed by the courtyard-wing and the medieval city walls, with a nice view onto the towers and roofs of the main square from the second floor of the library.

82. The adults' section of the Kálmán Chernel Municipal Library, Kőszeg

Kőszeg municipal library has been decorated systematically with works of art: the paintings of László Bartha and Vilmos Roisz were on the walls at the time of the inauguration. Here the work of László Bartha can be seen, with part of the restored medieval city wall surrounding the reading room in the background.

83. János Mogyoróssy Municipal Library, Gyula

The historic old town hall was converted to accommodate the János Mogyoróssy Municipal Library in Gyula. The library, inaugurated in 1987, has a floor area of 1,635 m^2, four times the area of the library's previous home.

84. The reading room of the János Mogyoróssy Municipal Library, Gyula

Its interior has great splendour. The impressive, galleried reading room is reminiscent of old baroque libraries. It has a generous bookstock and provides an attractive environment for study and also for meetings and gatherings.

85. Municipal Library, Balatonfüred

The Municipal Library at Balatonfüred has now returned as sole occupant to the building that was restored for its use, after several decades on just 70 m^2 of the old cultural centre.

86. Adults' section of the Municipal Library, Balatonfüred

The Balatonfüred library has 860 m^2 on two levels. The interior is nicely designed and well adapted to the architectural features. From one side there is a lovely view over lake Balaton. The picture shows the well equipped adults' section.

87. The Nándor Várkonyi Branch Library, Pécs

Among the tower blocks of the Sziget utca housing estate in the city of Pécs, there is a historic 18th century building once owned by merchants. Now saved from demolition, it was restored and turned into a municipal branch library in 1980.

88. Reading room of the Nándor Várkonyi Branch Library, Pécs

In the old Griffaton-building, which presents a captivating sight in its new environment, the designers of the 543 m^2 Nándor Várkonyi Branch Library created an interior with a pleasant atmosphere by using furniture that conforms well to the specific characteristics of the building.

89. Village Library, Kunhegyes

The old Salt-house, built around 1730, is one of a group of historic buildings on the main square of Kunhegyes in Szolnok County. A library was established there in 1981. It is worthy of its old surroundings and of the present day.

90. Adults' section of the Village Library, Kunhegyes

In all details of the interior furnishings and decoration, such as the furniture, ceramics and curtains, the designers of the Kunhegyes Village Library endeavoured to conform to the baroque atmosphere of the building.

91. Village Library, Jászapáti

The Jászapáti Village Library, also in Szolnok County, obtained a fine home in 1983, when it moved into 354 m² of the old town hall, completed in 1847 in neo-classic style. This library has an excellent local history collection of old manuscripts and printed documents. In one room there is a permanent exhibition of the bequest of Bertalan Kőrössy, a local director of a touring theatre-company. Here costumes, manuscripts of plays, and reviews are displayed.

92. Central Library of the University of Veterinary Science, Budapest

A move from one historic building to a larger one: that's what happened to the Central Library of the University of Veterinary Science in Budapest. The 200-year-old library was housed earlier in the 100-year-old central building, planned by Imre Steindl, but its development and achievements demanded more space and better conditions.

93. Reading room of the Central Library of the University of Veterinary Science, Budapest; housing its Veterinary History Collection

In 1984 the University granted the library the whole 1,500 m^2 of this converted building, in which to perform traditional library functions, provide the most up-to-date services, and establish a collection on veterinary history.

94. IV. LIBRARIES IN NEW EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

95. Part of the Workers' Cultural Centre and Library, Dunaújváros

The 2,173 m^2 of the Central Library at Dunaújváros make it comparable to a county library. It acts as a town and a trade union library, occupying one wing of the Workers' Cultural Centre built in 1974 and seen in the previous picture. The library is located on two levels and can be expanded if necessary.

96. Gál Huszár Municipal Library, Mosonmagyaróvár

The Gál Huszár Municipal Library in Mosonmagyaróvár, which opened in 1984, constitutes one of the wings of a building complex incorporating the municipal cultural centre and the music school. Its

floor area of 2,000 m^2 is big for a municipal library, and can look forward to forthcoming decades without needing to expand. If such need did arise, expansion would not pose any difficulties. But it is a pity that the library was placed on the east and north sides of the building and the lending library on the upper level only receives natural light from one side.

97. "Friendship" Cultural Centre and Library, Százhalombatta

The multi-functional library at Százhalombatta, inaugurated in 1984, has also been accommodated in a wing of a cultural centre. It serves as a municipal- and a school library. The interior is modern and pleasing, as the photograph of the children's department shows.

98. Municipal Library, Tiszafüred

Soon after Tiszafüred, population 14,000, was incorporated as a town in 1984, a library was built worthy of its new rank. It opened in 1988 in the new school building complex, and has a floor area of 970 m^2 – almost two-and-a-half times that of the old library.

99. The Videoton Electronic Company's Trade Union Library, Székesfehérvár

The library in the educational centre of the Videoton Electronic Company in Székesfehérvár serves both the workers of the factory and local residents, including children. The floor area of 720 m^2 makes it one of the largest and also the nicest trade union libraries.

100. The Library of the General Cultural Centre at the "Újkert" housing estate, Debrecen

At the beginning of the 1980s, a new, multi-purpose type of library appeared, within a general cultural centre housing the teaching- and educational-, the cultural- and leisure-activities in one common building. For example, the 600 m^2 library of the "Újkert" housing estate in Debrecen, one of the first of the kind to be established, opened in 1980. It serves as a school library and a branch of the municipal public library, and is open to adults and children on the estate.

101. General Cultural Centre Library, Kecel

The first modern example of this type of library is in Bács–Kiskun County, at Kecel's general cultural centre, which contains a dual-function school- and public library. The floor area of 760 m^2 allows students to study and employ their leisure time in attractive surroundings that make them feel at home after the restrictions of school.

102. Sebestyén Tinódi Lantos Library, Kunszentmiklós

A more recent general cultural centre library in Bács-Kiskun County was inaugurated at Kunszentmiklós in 1986. The Sebestyén Tinódi Lantos Library is a children's paradise. Its handsomely furnished room is easily accessible for students studying at the centre, but an entrance from the street schould have been planned for adults as well.

103. The libraries of the Zsuzsanna Kossuth Secondary Medical School and the Lajos Kassák Secondary School, Budapest

The school library network was for years the weakest link in the Hungarian library system. Its development on a larger scale started only in the 1970s and was successful first of all in the capital: in the late summer of 1987 nine new school libraries opened in Budapest, each with an area of 100 to 320 m^2. Here are two of them, at the Zsuzsanna Kossuth Secondary Medical School – 150 m^2 – and the Lajos Kassák Secondary School – 160 m^2.

104. The Library of the Mihály Babits Secondary School, Budapest

The best results of the school-library building programme were achieved in secondary schools. This is shown by the library of the new secondary school on the Káposztásmegyer housing estate: its elegance matches the building, and its size, including the audio-visual collection and laboratory, is 190 m^2.

105. V. RUSTIC COUNTRY LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIES IN PEASANT-STYLE BUILDINGS

106. Village Library, Csokonyavisonta

The library system celebrated important anniversaries between 1970 and 1975 with national building campaigns. Local library building endeavours were encouraged by central financial assistance, and this is how they were able to raise or extend over 220 library buildings in villages or on the outskirts of towns during three campaigns. The Village Library of Csokonyavisonta was established this way in 1971.

107. Adults' department of the Csokonyavisonta Village Library

When Werner Mewissen, the well-known German library-building expert, called this small library in Somogy County a "typical Puszta-library", he did not mean it disparagingly at all. – The interior is decorated with a textile mural by Márta Honthy.

108. Petőfi Memorial Library, Boglárlelle

Another intestering library fitting in well with its environment is the Petőfi Memorial Library at Boglárlelle, inaugurated in 1975. This was the first holiday resort library in the country. It was built among the big trees in an old park, on gently sloping ground. The all-glass building stands on a basalt footing and its roofing with the suspension cables fixed to the reinforced concrete chimneys presents a silhouette which conjures up the picture of ships sailing on nearby Lake Balaton.

109. Village Library, Medgyesbodzás

In Békés County this library building boom grew into a movement. The greatest number of jubilee libraries in the country were erected here. One of the most pleasant of them is the Village Library at Medgyesbodzás, inaugurated in 1975.

110. Adults' department in the Village Library, Medgyesbodzás

The building stands in a park in the village centre and radiates both externally and internally the cosy rural atmosphere of traditional village cottages – thus raising, without artificiality, an ancient form of dwelling to the rank and standard of a civic building.

111. Village Library, Tótkomlós

The nationwide library building campaign – 1970–1975 – drawing to a close, Borsod County (! correctly: Békés) initiated a local library building campaign and organized it so successfully that the majority of libraries in the county were renewed within a decade. Whether it obtained a new building or was placed in another cultural institution, its rooms were planned to be large enough for efficient service. This is demonstrated by the spaciousness and high standard furnishing of the adults' and children's departments of the 560 m^2 library inaugurated at the end of 1979 on the ground floor of Tótkomlós Cultural Centre.

112. "Peoples' Friendship" Public- and School Library, Battonya

The "Peoples' Friendship" Public- and School Library at Battonya, built in 1978, also in Békés County, is a fitting monument to the common interests and cooperation between the people of different nationalities who have been living together in peace for centuries in the township of Battonya.

113. Reading room of the Battonya Public- and School Library

The spacious – 540 m^2 – interior of the Battonya library was fitted with furniture manufactured under Swedish licence, rendering the already familiar style of the Békés county library interiors more colourful.

114. Pál Szabó Memorial Library, Biharugra

The memory of the novelist Pál Szabó was immortalized by his native town, Biharugra, by the building of a library. The Pál Szabó Memorial Library was erected during the course of the Békés county library building campaign, and, although 6 years "younger" than the Medgyesbodzás Memorial Library shown before, it is in many respects akin to it, among other things in the use of traditional materials and the re-use of furnishings which help to create an intimate atmosphere such as for example glazed tile stoves.

115. "Village House" (community house) with library, Zalaszentlászló

The architectural achievements of Imre Makovecz deserve attention. In the new community buildings called village houses, he intends to revive in modern idioms the spirit and materials of traditional Hungarian vernacular architecture. One of the first works of this kind aspiring for intimacy, cosiness and a natural relationship between week- and holidays, is the Zalaszentlászló Village House, where the village library occupies 100 m^2.

116. Village Library, Berzence

Another community building gave a home to the library at Berzence in Somogy County. This building was fitted out at the end of 1987, on a 132 m^2 floor area. The drafts were again designed by the Makovecz-office.

117. Village Library, Kenderes

If a foreign visitor raised the question: is there, or is it possible to evolve a uniquely Hungarian library building style, before giving an answer, it would be necessary to review the general architectural endeavours – especially the trends in residential buildings and family cottages – and of the libraries, the smaller new buildings, such as the one at Kenderes in the Szolnok County.

118. Staircase and upper floor of the Village Library, Kenderes

The Kenderes Village Library building was completed in 1986 and its internal layout would no doubt contribute a few pros and cons to the settlement of the issue: have the architects and builders succeeded in creating, in place of what might appear to foreigners as exotic "puszta libraries", uniquely Hungarian buildings, rooted in the landscape and blending into it naturally?

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