

TIMISOARA

THE HEART OF BANAT

built 1912 - 1913 by the Löffler family and business,
after Leopold Löffler's plans

Metropolitan Cathedral

Merbl Palace

Lloyd Palace (architect L. Baumhorn,
the current Timișoara Polytechnic)

le
use

Chamber of Commerce,
Industry and Agriculture of Timișoara
was established in 1850

Dauerbach Palace

Hilt Palace



The Metropolitan Cathedral is
currently the tallest church in Romania (90,5 m)

- a little guide for little walks -
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICU DĂRĂȘTEAN
TIMISOARA
2010

Timișoara
"The Heart of Banat"
- a little guide for little walks -



Illustrations and words:

Nicu Dărăștean

Timișoara

2016

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FOREWORD

"Timișoara would not be the city it is today, if, over the centuries, it had not been under a constant process of modernisation, bringing it to the standards required for defence against various attacks, and affected by geographical conditions, industrialisation, demographic growth and urbanisation. Its architectural edifices, monuments, its streets and squares best illustrate the city's passage through time. An entire page of history unfolds in front of anyone willing to unravel it. And that's not all! The city carries with it diverse and fascinating stories, stories of love, of adventure, of war – many of them with princes and princesses, as any good story should have!

During the design process of this "little guide for little walks", the most difficult undertaking was to encapsulate the whole story of a square or a building in just 14 rows. My hope is to awaken the reader's curiosity, and, given the right atmosphere, they will search for more information about each and every place. Timișoara, beyond "Little Vienna" or "The city of roses", is the city where every stone has a story!"

Some of the following works already belong to history. The best example of this is Liberty Square, Union Square and St. George's Square – found today in the full process of restoration and reconstruction; yet, on a plus note, the process has given these places the opportunity to rewrite parts of history, by unveiling numerous historical and archaeological clues.

I wish you a pleasant walk through the squares of Timișoara, which will enthrall you with their history and make you think of things long forgotten!"

Nicu Dărăștean- artist

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Graduated from the Faculty of Design, Tibiscus University Timișoara, 1997

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For more details about the professional activities of the author please visit:

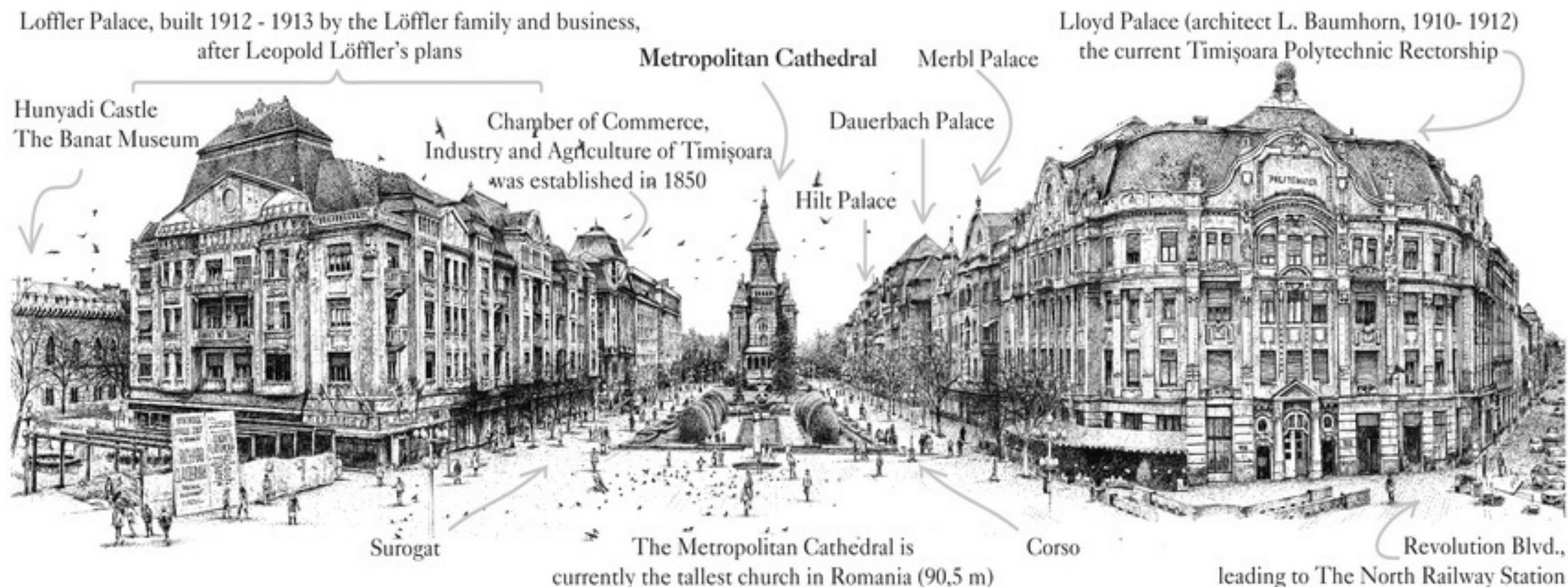
www.darastean.com and

www.TimisoaraOverTime.ro

English translation by Anca Gavra

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Victory Square- The Metropolitan Cathedral

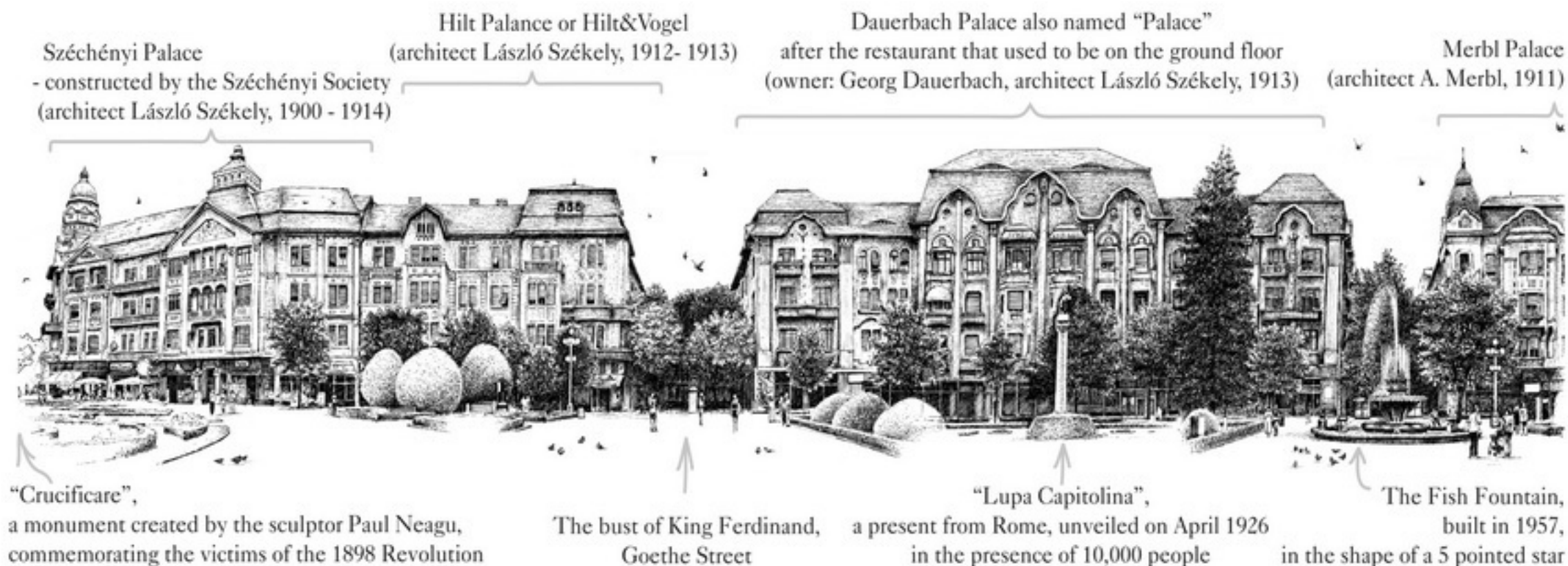
Picture if you will, like in a film, all the changes that were brought about in the last 150 years to this image. The result would be a condensed screening of a true lesson of progress and urban planning. In 1890, the walls of the Habsburg citadel were still standing on the ground where Lloyd Palace can be found today, and, closer to the centre of the square, the Petrovaradin Gate. Beyond the city walls, faraway across the Bega canal, you could see the first buildings and constructions of the Josephine and Elizabethan quarters.

The changes that occurred after 1900 created the structure of the square that we can see today. The centre of the square was designed from the very beginning as a park, even if until the 80s tramlines crossed it. The park created two paths that are used today, like then, for promenades. The right side of the square, having better street lighting, had luxury shops and restaurants ("Lloyd", "Palace") and was preferred by the richer inhabitants of the city, eventually gaining the name "Corso". On the other side, because of the late construction of the buildings, young people or those of a lower social standing would take a stroll. This part of the square was given the name "Surrogate" (meaning "copy").

The Metropolitan Cathedral, (patron: "Three Hierarchs"), is the defining element of the square. Construction took place between 1936 and 1940 after a project developed by architect Ioan Trăinescu. The building's history is closely related to the year 1919 when Banat united with Romania, the new administration resuming the 1717 path and encouraging Orthodoxy, disadvantaged during Austrian administration.

The Cathedral was inaugurated (1946) in the presence of King Michael and Prime-Minister Petru Groza.

The Metropolitan Cathedral houses in its basement a rich old religious art collection of Banat and a valuable collection of icons.



Victory Square (former known as Opera Square)

The current "Victory Square" held the title of Opera Square until 1989, named after the cultural edifice that stands on its northern edge, The Romanian National Opera and the National Theatre.

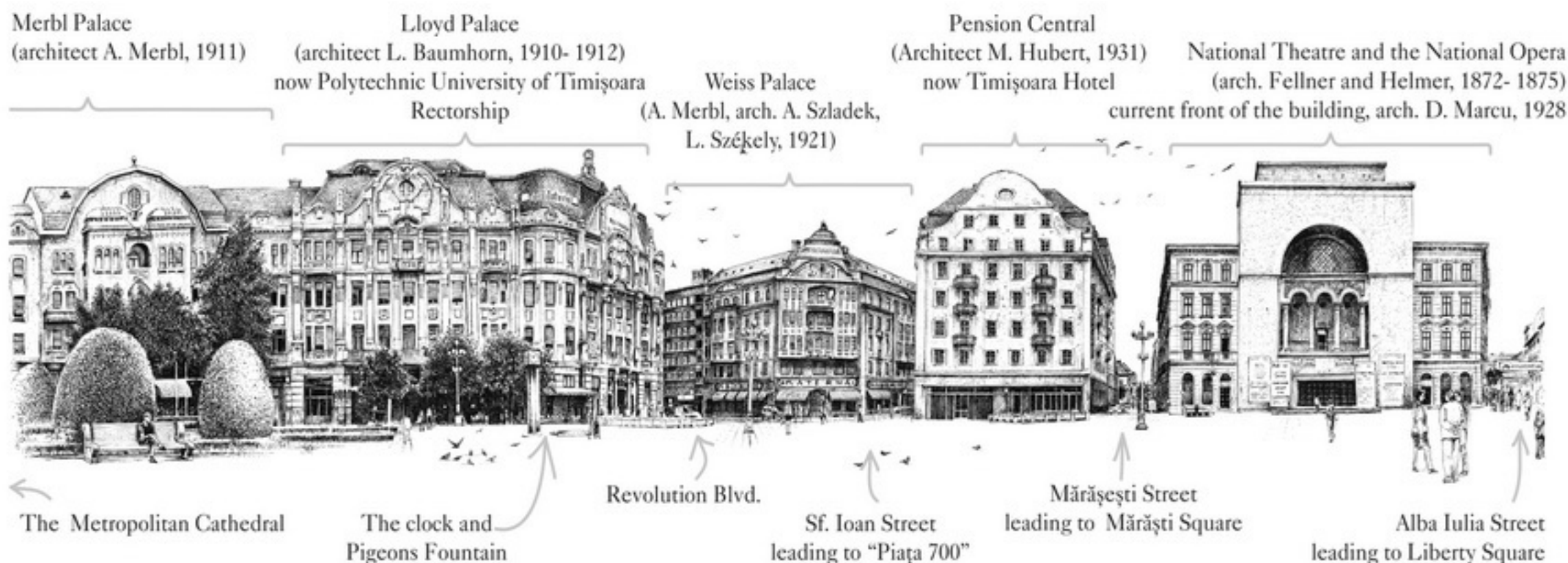
Over time it has also held the name of Lloydzeile, King Ferdinand Boulevard, 30th December Boulevard. It was only after the 20th of December 1989 when, in this place, Timișoara was decreed "the first city free of communism" in Romania by the tens of thousands of demonstrators. Afterwards, the authorities decided that the square should bear the name of Victory Square.

It is one of the central squares of the city, although until 1910 it was a simple alley outside the city walls. After 1890, when the ban on the construction of "esplanades" (an area of approximately 950 m on which you could not build anything around a Habsburg city for military reasons) was lifted, the systematization of the area began, with the city walls and the Gate of Petrovaradin torn down around the year 1900.

This part of the square, also known as the "Corso", was the first built, the majority of the buildings being designed by architect László Székely, the city chief architect, but also by architects Lipot Baumhorn and A. Merbl. All the buildings have three spacious levels, basements, ground floors intended for public use, various extensions with separate entryways and courtyards.

The predominant style of the buildings is "Secession" (style of 1900s), displaying lush decorations, reliefs depicting vegetal motifs, enamelled ceramics, typical ironware and overall being considered one of the best and most balanced original Secession urban sites in the world.

One should also note the current wonderful floral arrangements that cover the entire expanse of the square in a variety of colours.



Lloyd Palace, Weiss, Pension Central, The Romanian National Opera and National Theatre

As you go along the western side of Victory Square, you can see two more colossal buildings, Merbl Palace and Lloyd Palace. The latter was the first to be built on this side, displaying architectural features representative of the Secession style, having luxurious interiors decorated with mirrors, stained glass and chandeliers. For a couple of years the building actually lent its name to the square (Lloydzeile). It was built using funds from the Lloyd Society of Timișoara, which was founded by the Banat grain merchants in 1866. "Lloyd" restaurant, located on the ground floor, was inaugurated in 1926 and became a favourite among businessmen and well-known merchants. In the inter-war era the headquarters of the Union Club could be found in the building. After 1948 the ownership of the building goes to the West University and the restaurant was put under the administration of a state run business under the name "23rd August" and "Boulevard". In 2000 it regained its original name. Across the road, in the corner of the square, stands the Weiss Palace built in 1921 for the family bearing the same name, having 27 apartments, some even with 6 bedrooms and various shops on the ground floor. After another 10 years, in 1931, the building next door would be erected, the Banks' Palace of Banat – the city's first five-story edifice, renamed Pension Central. The gable is "inspired" by Baroque architecture, typical of Banat Swabian villages.

Regarding the National Theatre and the Romanian National Opera, please see the next illustrations.

The entire area of the square became exclusively pedestrian in 1988, when the tramlines to and from Liberty Square were moved.

This is among the favourite meeting spots of the city's children with the famous pigeons.

Pension Central
(Arch. M. Hubert, 1931)
now Timișoara Hotel

The Romanian National Theatre and Opera (1872- 1875)
Remodelled 1922- 1928.
The building behind operated as a hotel, Cultural House.
It now houses the German and the Hungarian Theatre.

Hunyadi Castle
The Banat Museum

Löffler Hall, built 1912 - 1913
by the Löffler family and firm,
following the plans of Leopold Löffler.

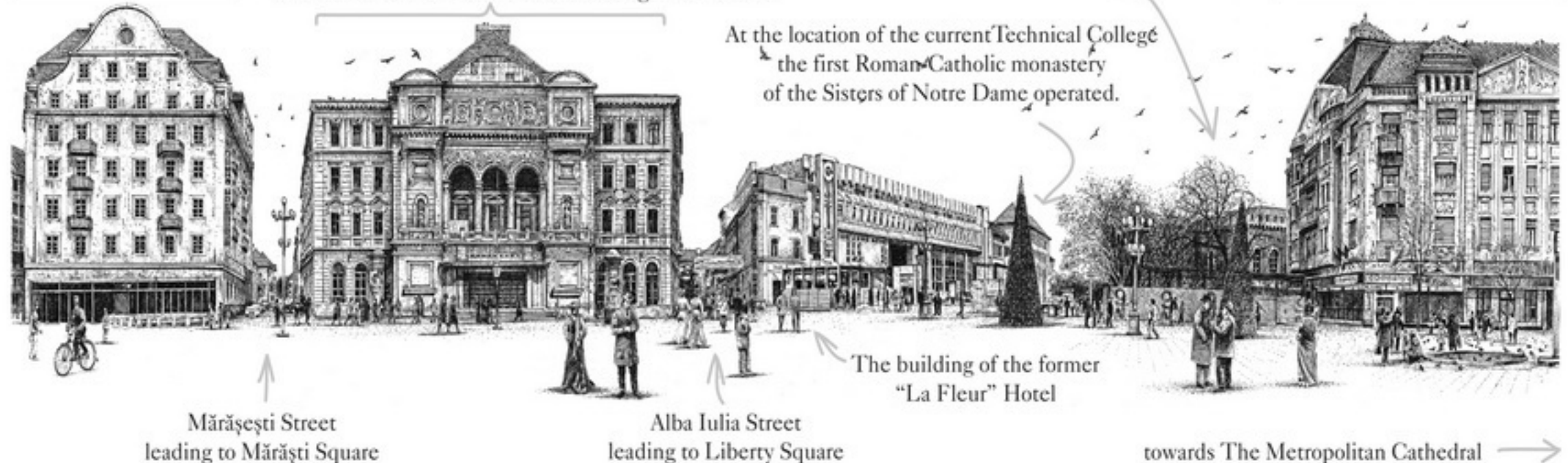
At the location of the current Technical College
the first Roman-Catholic monastery
of the Sisters of Notre Dame operated.

The building of the former
"La Fleur" Hotel

Mărășești Street
leading to Mărăști Square

Alba Iulia Street
leading to Liberty Square

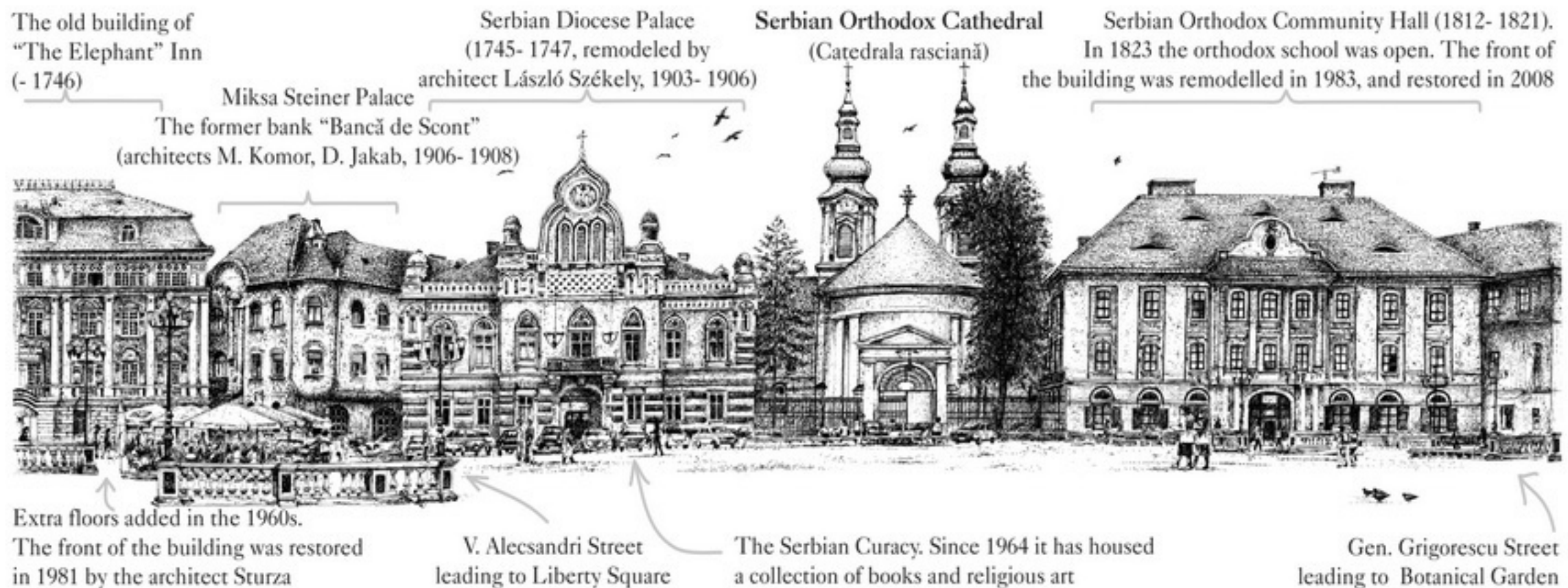
towards The Metropolitan Cathedral →



Opera Square- Between Two Ages

The initiative to build a theatre in Timișoara existed as early as 1753, as shown in a protocol of the German Town Council. In 1761 it was opened on the site where The Petrovaradin Gate Garrison (Garrison of the Grenadiers) functioned between 1744-1745, in front of which there was a place d'alarme. Five years later it was engulfed in flames. In 1795 there is mention of some finishing work, as well as a restaurant/ café, which were situated on the ground floor. The course of tragic events, which left their mark on the building, continues to unfold with the year 1848 when, during the French Revolution, the entire city was ravaged with destruction, including the theatre. This led to its renovation again in 1851. The current building was built between 1872-1875 under the official name of "The Franz Joseph Theatre", which also housed the "Kronprinz Rudolf" Hotel, the "redoute" (dance and festivities hall), a restaurant and a café. The architecture firm Fellner & Helmer from Vienna, which drew the plans for the theatre, were the biggest theatre designers of the time. They built a total of 48 theatres, including theatres from Oradea, Cluj and Iași. Outside our borders they built theatres in Szeged, Chernivtsi (Cernăuți), Odessa and Sofia. Most of these are perfect examples of the Italian Renaissance style. Shortly after construction was finished, it was again entirely destroyed by flames on April 30, 1880. Johan Brahms held a concert in 1879, in the "redoute" hall.

After this fire, it went bankrupt and it wasn't until 1920 that it reopened. After one month flames again wrecked it, which resulted in a general restoration of the façade (marked by the construction of a modern arch and of the three neo-Byzantine arcades on the first floor) and of the interior (in a neo-Romanian style). In 2003, after a restoration process the two side façades regain their original appearance.



Union Square- Serbian Orthodox Church

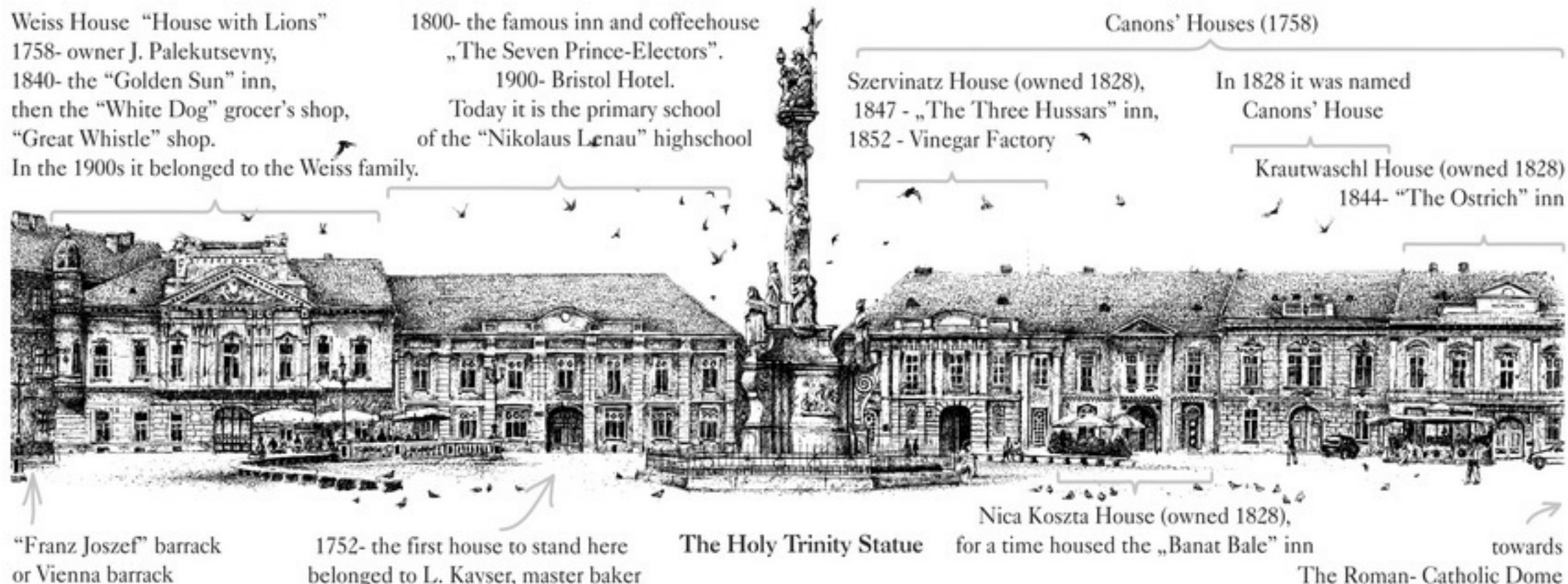
Historically, Union Square is Timișoara's first square (followed by Parade Square – now Liberty Square). Here you could find church and administration buildings alongside some private homes. Parade Square was reserved for those with military background. It was always located inside the city walls, whether this was during the Ottoman or Habsburg period.

Between 1744 and 1748, here, on the site of ancient fortifications, the Orthodox Episcopal Church is built. It would replace the patron St. George's old wooden church, which had been destroyed in 1737 by a fire and which was close to the current location, inside the former Seidi Ahmet mosque. In 1792 the two brass covered towers were raised again.

After the separation of the Romanian and Serbian churches on 1865, the edifice becomes the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, dedicated to the "Ascension of Christ". The old iconostasis, painted by Ștefan Tenețchi, was replaced between 1830 and 1836 with one sculpted by Mihailo Ianici and painted by the one called "The Tiziano of Banatului", Constantin Daniel, in 1843. Alexander Tapferer gilded the iconostas in 1839.

In the following years the Serbian community rebuilt two other adjoining edifices, the current Serbian Curacy and the Community House, which in 1847 is mentioned under the name of the New Illyrian House. It housed wine cellars and commercial spaces on the ground floor. In 1906 the architect László Székely renovated the front of the Curacy building, utilizing some Serbian and Russian architectural motifs. The Orthodox Community House was remodelled in a Classical style, with some Baroque influences.

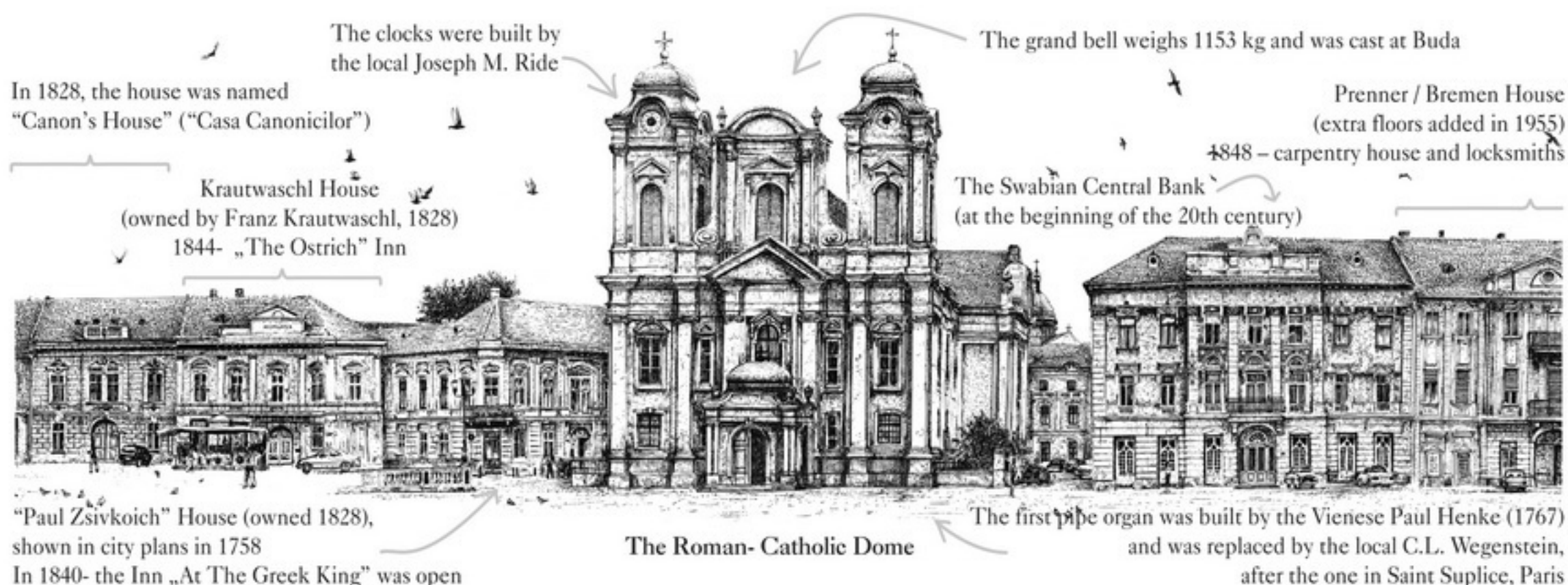
In 1983, on the roof's symmetry axis, the architect Șerban Sturdza built a façade in characteristic Baroque style.



Union Square- The Holy Trinity Statue

The city's ethnic German inhabitants have given a different name to the statue found in the centre of the square, namely, "Pestsäule" (The Monument of the Plague), a fitting name if one takes note of the circumstances of the time. It reminds us of the end of a dark period in history (1738 - 1739), when "the great plague" ravaged the city, killing a sixth of its inhabitants (it would not be the last, as a new epidemic erupted between 1762 – 1763). The same kind of monuments can be found throughout the entire East German lands, as well as in Bohemia and Hungary, commemorating the same tragic events. The undertaking to raise the statue was initiated and financed by the administration's councillor, Johann Anton Deschan von Hannsen, who set the cornerstone – following a solemn promise on the 21st November 1740 – at the current location of the floral clock, in front of Deschan House. Based on stylistic analysis, it is believed to be the creation of Viennese sculptor Georg Raphael Donner. It is also thought to have been brought here by way of water, on the Danube, Tisza and finally on the Bega canal. It is made of sandstone in the Baroque style and shows the Holy Trinity, The Virgin Mary, accompanied by St. John of Nepomuk (patron saint of Banat), King David and St. Barbara (patron saint of miners), St. Rochus, St. Sebastian and St. Charles Borromeo. However, it had to be moved in 1752 when Baroness Rosina von Metzrad bought the respective land for the construction of a house. At that time Union Square was under construction and the statue, now in pieces, was stored in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, to be reassembled in the new square at the Baroness' expense. Neglecting her promise, the statue was forgotten inside the cathedral for a couple of years.

In order to place the statue in its current location, Empress Maria Theresa had to personally intervene in 1755.



Union Square- The Roman-Catholic Dome

After 1786 the four sides of the square begin to take shape, and one could see that the area would be taken up by a large square (150x110 m). For the most part, the buildings surrounding the square have a distinct Baroque influence, but also reflect Classical elements or characteristics of the 1900s, when many of them were modified, extra floors added or facades reconstructed.

This square, over time bearing names such as "Hauptplatz", "Domplatz", "Losonczy tér" (after Count Stephen Losonczy, killed by the Turks in 1552), best reflects Timișoara's open and tolerant nature by having the two cathedrals of the two main religious denominations facing each other. It was given the name "Union Square" in 1919, when the Romanian troops that had entered the city stopped here.

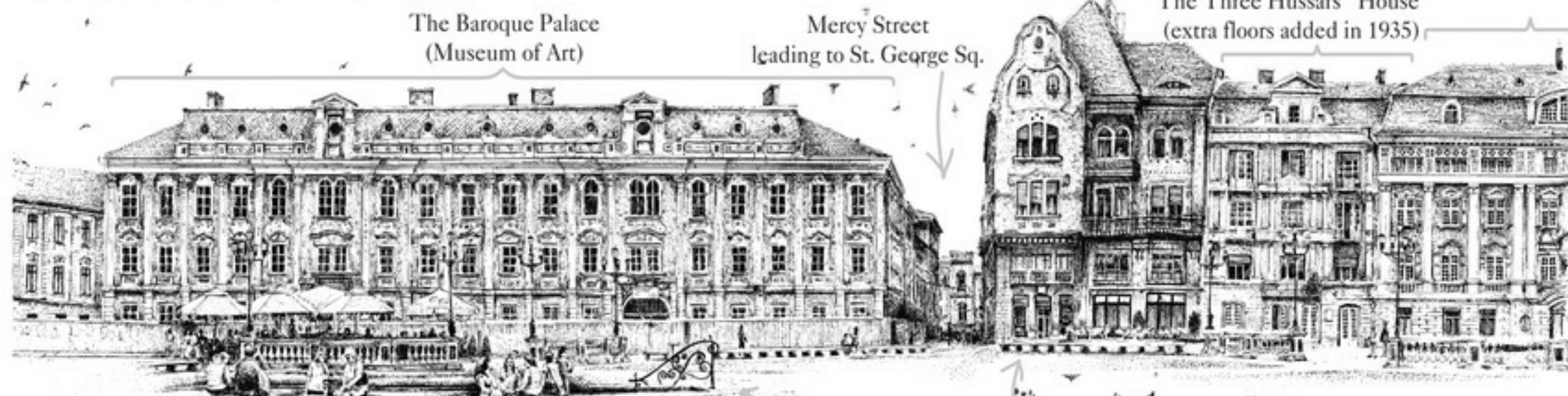
One of the buildings that did not suffer great modifications is the Roman-Catholic Dome, the most representative and unitary Baroque building in the city. Due to the relocation of the diocesan premises from Szeged, the Emperor Charles VI decides to build a new edifice. The building's cornerstone was laid down in 1736, being part of a design by J.E. Fisher von Erlach. Although the altar was the only finished part, in 1754 the first liturgy took place and the patron Saint George was named. Foreman P. Maurer, under the reign of Empress Maria Theresa, completed the construction only in 1774. This period coincided with the great wave of German colonisation, which doubled the number of Catholic believers in Banat. The sumptuous and expressive interior is dotted with Rococo elements. Michel Angelo Unterberger's painting representing Saint George (1775) marks the main altar, alongside works by the Viennese sculptor J. Rossler.

The Dome's great acoustics are perfect for organising concerts, and the liturgies are held in Hungarian, German and Romanian.

The palace's grand hall hosted festivities occasioned by visits from emperors, kings, prelates and important cultural figures (F. Liszt, J. Brahms, P. Sarasate, G. Enescu, etc.)

Brück House, built in 1910 by architect László Székely and Arnold Merbl Secession/Art Nouveau style, slightly ecclectical

The old building of the "Elephant" Inn (- 1746)



The thermal water fountain was dug in 1894 to a depth of 412 m and had a high level of magnesium- calcium at 24,5 degrees Celsius. It was remade in 1983, the current water flowing from another spring, a little mineralized and having a lower temperature.

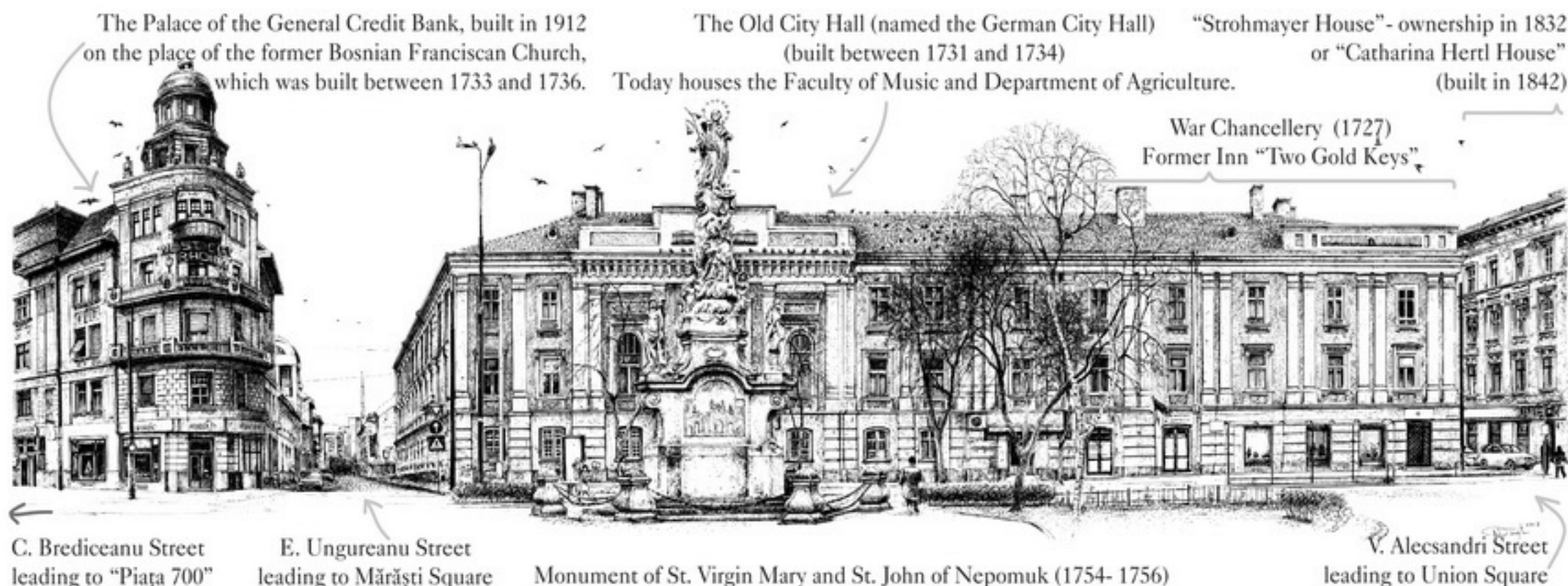
In 1828 there was a pharmacy here, "The Golden Cross", owned by the Zifkovich family. The current pharmacy still retains the original furniture, dating from 1900s

Union Square- The Baroque Palace

The majority of the buildings found in Union Square were built after Prince Eugene of Savoy liberated the city in 1716, even if over time they sustained major modifications, according to each architectural period. Until then, the square was split diagonally, from the southeast corner to the northwest one, by the city's interior defensive walls. The effort to demolish these walls began after 1740, and the city's exterior ditch was filled with earth. Afterwards, the city inside the former walls was paved. Nothing was kept of the former Ottoman buildings or fortifications, although for 164 years they were the masters of the city.

The Baroque Palace is one of the most important buildings out of the city's 14,000 historical buildings (largest number in a city in Romania). Before 1754 part of the building under construction housed the Mining Office (1733) and the Administrative House (1752). In 1754 the Baroque Palace became the official residence of the Banat administrative division's president. By 1758 only two thirds of the building was finished but completed in 1779, when it became the "County House". Over time it was used as the headquarters for "Crown Land – Serbian Vojvodin and the Timiș Banat" (1848-1860), the Prefect's Office for Timiș - Torontal (1919-1950), the Agronomical Institute.

After it was restored in 1984 it became the Museum of Art. Among contemporary, decorative and European works, it houses 90 pieces signed by Corneliu Baba. The foundation for this collection was actually laid in 1879, when Ormós Zsigmond (1813-1893), the founder of the Museum Society of Southern Hungary, collector and art historian, donates his substantial European painting collection to the new institution.

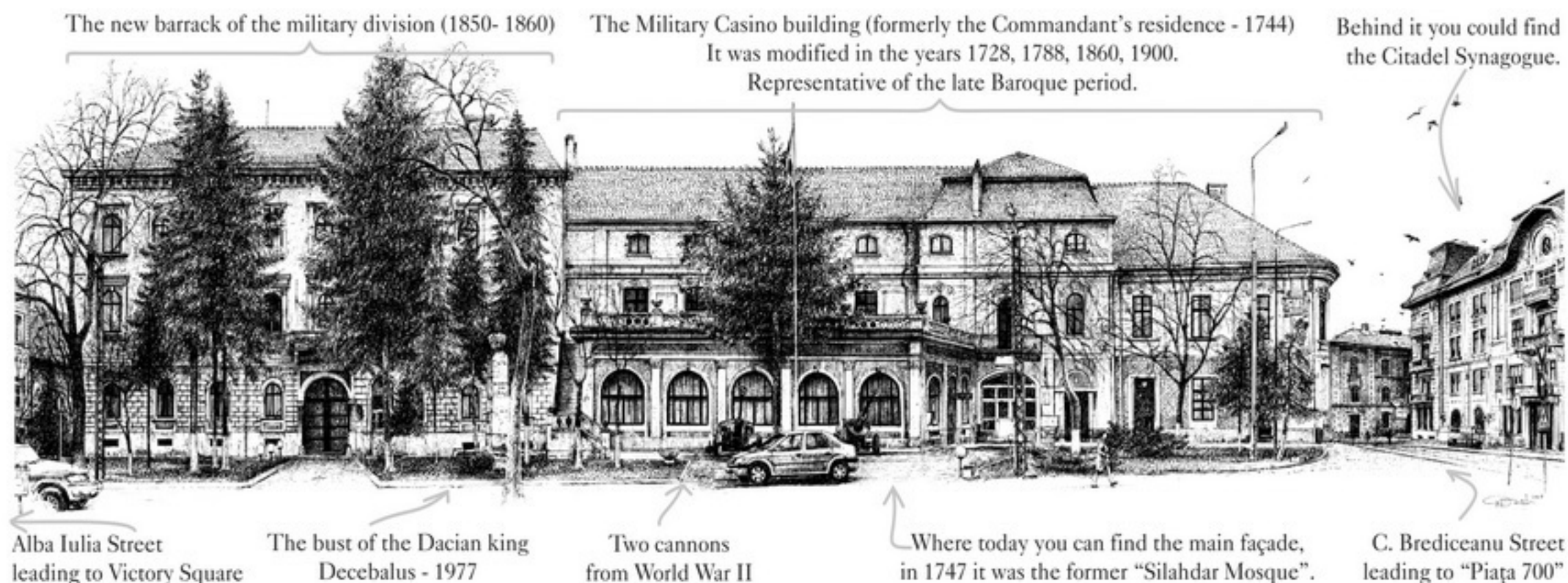


Liberty Square- The Statue of St. Mary and St. John of Nepomuk

The German Community City Hall was built between 1731 and 1734 on the northern side of the square (next to the War Chancellery) following the plans of the Italian architect Pietro del Bonzo. The grand hall on the upper floor was renowned in the 18th century, being the most famous ballroom in the city. The inscription in Arabic characters embedded in the wall, recently deciphered, indicates the presence of a tower in this place. It is the only remaining testimony of the 164 years of Ottoman rule. Dominant in height and volume and part of the square's design, the Franciscan Church of the Bosnian Franciscans could be found at the location of the later Credit Bank Palace (building on the left of the image). A legend says that in 1809 the Crown of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation was hidden in its basement, for fear that Napoleon's French troops would seize it if they entered Vienna.

The monument of St. Mary and St. Nepomuk, created in Viennese Baroque style and brought from Vienna in 1756 by way of water, dominates the centre of the square today. Raphael Donner began the sculpture, but because the artist died, E. Wasserburger and F. Blimm completed it. In 1852 the statue was moved next to the "Transylvania" barrack and in its place the Column of Fidelity, a monument of the 1848 revolution, was raised. After the demolition of the barrack in 1964 the statue was again placed at its current location in 1974.

The central figure of the statue is St. John of Nepomuk, the patron of Catholicism in Banat, above which presides St. Mary. Saints Rochus, Charles Borromeo and Sebastian are in the background. On the three sides of the pedestal one can see the ordeal of the Prague canon, which, by refusing to divulge the secret of the Bohemian Queen given in her confession, is thrown by King Wenceslav into the river Vltava.



Liberty Square- The Military Casino

Over the centuries this central square of the city has held many names: Parade Square (Parade Platz), Liberty Square (Freiheitsplatz), Prince Eugene Square (Jenő herceg tér), Arms Square or Military Square. After the Hungarian Revolution of 1848 the name of the square was changed to Liberty Square, a name that it held until the city was recaptured by the Austrian army – when the square regained its former name of Prince Eugene Square. The current Liberty Square became the place where administrative, religious and military functions of the city were focused. Military edifices were concentrated only on two sides of the square. Therefore, on the Western side, the Commandant's residence and the Military Casino were built in 1775, incorporating elements of the early Baroque style. Over the years extra floors were added, as well as a large terrace. The grand hall of festivities played an important role in the social life of the young officers, as sumptuous balls took place here.

Likewise, the building is tied to Ludwig van Beethoven's love story with Jeanette d'Honrath from his days of youth. The two met in 1787 but never made their relationship official. Jeanette became the wife of Karl von Greth, who was given military assignment in Timișoara in 1823 as Commander of the city. However, after a couple of months, she died and was buried in the Piarist Church's crypt and in 1911 her remains were moved to the Citadel cemetery. Beethoven sent his condolences to the grieving general, a sign that his love for Johanna (Jeanette) still endured in the artist's soul.

Here, in 1924, the Rose Exhibition was organised, where the black and blue rose was presented for the first time. Since 1996 it houses the Museum and Military Institute.

The Timișoara Garrison Commandment (completed in 1730),
Houses the Military Museum

"The House of Flowers", Wilhem Muhle's property in 1876,
christened Timișoara "the city of flowers"

"The House of Atlantes"
(neo-classical style, 1812),
Owner Toma Naum Makri.
Built on a former Turkish house, probably
belonging to "The Pasha of Timișoara"



Former name of "New Generalate", here living Count Mercy starting 1727.
It is considered the oldest structure in the city that has retained its original shape.

Alba Iulia Street
leading to Victory Square

Two bronze cannons
are buried within the gate's frame.

Liberty Square- Timișoara Garrison

The Southern side of the square, through Alba Iulia Street, is connected to Victory Square, creating a unique view of the Metropolitan Cathedral. The tram line coming from the Josephine quarter and the Railway Station used to run on this street until 1988 and crossed the entire square, creating a link to the "Fabric" and "Mehala" quarter. These changes were not the first made to the design of the square. The groundwork for the systematization of the city was laid down after 1716, when the pace of rebuilding was quickened. It is said that among the smoking remains left by the Austrian siege, only seven lonely buildings stood standing. After a shallow attempt at rebuilding the city by engineer A. la Casse, the imperial plans to rebuild the city's foundation from the ground up were commenced. The first requirements of the new city were of a military nature, and therefore alongside the building of fortifications, military administrative buildings were also raised.

On the basis of the new city plans (approved by Count Mercy's first town planning standing order in 1728) approximately 180 military, administrative, ecclesiastical and private buildings were built. These have endured much remodelling, the addition of extra floors and various other changes over the last three centuries.

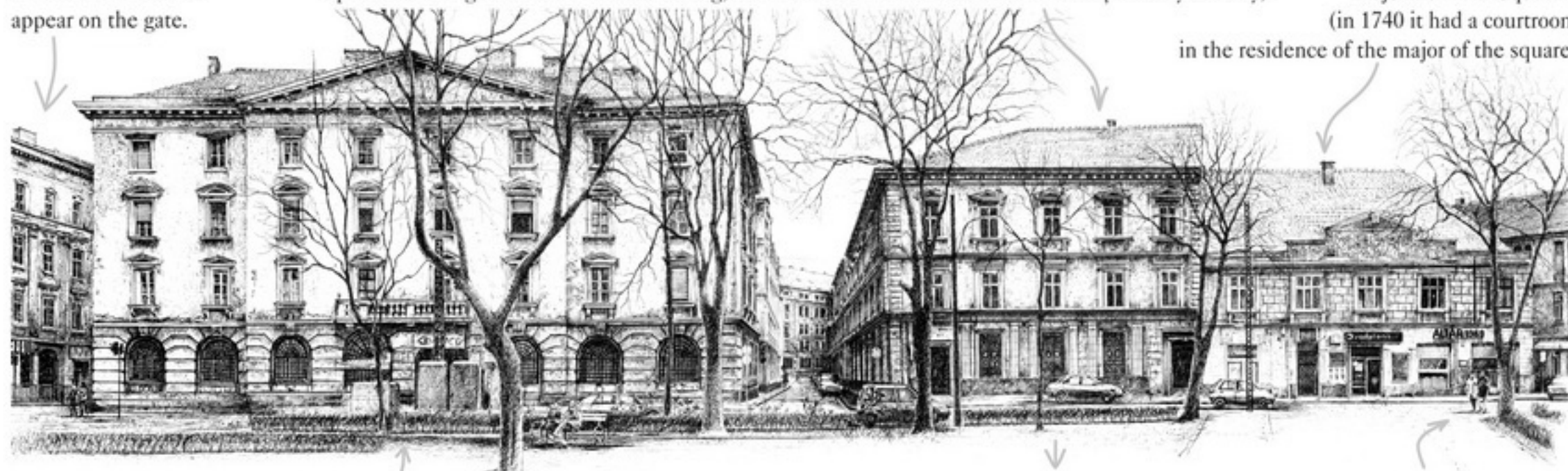
This building has been included in the city plans since 1727 under the name of "The New Generalate", detailed in these plans as having a ground floor, upper level and attic. On the ground floor there was the kitchen, stables, servants' and utility rooms and on the upper floor one could find living quarters, reception areas and the archive. The attic was limited to a few rooms, some of which were storerooms.

The entrance is guarded by two oaks planted in 1923 in the memory of King Ferdinand and Queen Mary's coronation.

Catharina Hertl House (1842); the initials CH 1842 appear on the gate.

“Spekner House” (1823) The first flower shop, run by the famous flower merchant Wilhelm Mühle, opened on the ground floor of the building; in 1904 it became the home of the Timiș County Library).

“The House of the Major from the Square”; (in 1740 it had a courtroom in the residence of the major of the square)



The Agrarian Bank Hall (arch. Karl May, 1860-1863) was over time the home of Corvin Library, the Italian Bank and the CEC (Savings Bank)

This is where the ruins of the old Turkish baths were discovered in 2013-2014

Lucian Blaga Street leading to Hunyadi Castle

Liberty Square- The County Library

Liberty Square is, without any doubt, the oldest square from Timișoara, the initial centre from which the city started evolving, because of its position on higher ground compared to the swampy terrain sprung out of the numerous waterways of the Bega River. This is probably also where the medieval square of the town used to be before the Ottoman occupation. During this period (1552-1716) the exterior was fortified with wood and dirt, while on the inside civil, religious and military buildings began to be erected. The new Ottoman conquest becomes a Vilayet capital, ruled by a vali (governor) or a beilerbei (sometimes having the rank of a pasha or a vizier). The commercial and agricultural evolution is the result of many Muslims as well as the first Sephardic Jews coming over from inside the Empire. This city, made up of mud houses covered with wooden shingles and streets paved with wood, is divided into four suburbs, subdivided into ten slums. Because of the canals surrounding almost every suburb, these were fortified separately, so that the final image was that of a polycentric city.

For 150 years the citadel would see permanent military traffic. Heads of armies, military or aristocratic entourages, foreign messengers pass or seek refuge in the citadel in search of military or political support. Among them, suitors to the Moldavian or Wallachian throne, who requested help from Ottoman Porte during the years when the Romanian princedoms were poorly organised from a political standpoint.

After Prince Eugene of Savoy's troops liberated the city in 1716, nothing is left of the Ottoman Villayet. All eight mosques are taken down, along with the bazar and the Turkish baths. During 2013-2014 archaeological digs of the remains of these baths were found right in front of the buildings in the photo; these had an important role in Ottoman society, as business and politics were discussed there.

"Stephanie Palace" or "The House with Monkeys", (architect László Székely, 1909 – 1910).
(Fabric Town Palace and Citizens Club)

The Old „Moroccan” Inn, -1850:
Luță Ioviță, Banat's tarogato
player sang here.

"Sobovici House" (after the name of the owners in the 1930s)
Renovated and enlarged by Baron Mihály Nikolics of Rudna (- 1900)
"The Golden Peacock" Hotel was here (Pfau, Arany Páva)

Millenium Cathedral

Countess Mirbach Palace
(1904- 1905)



"Nenadovici House" (named after the trader A. Nenadovits,
awarded 'best trader' by King Ferdinand, on the occasion of his visit to Timișoara.
The business was open in 1884. The family lived upstairs.

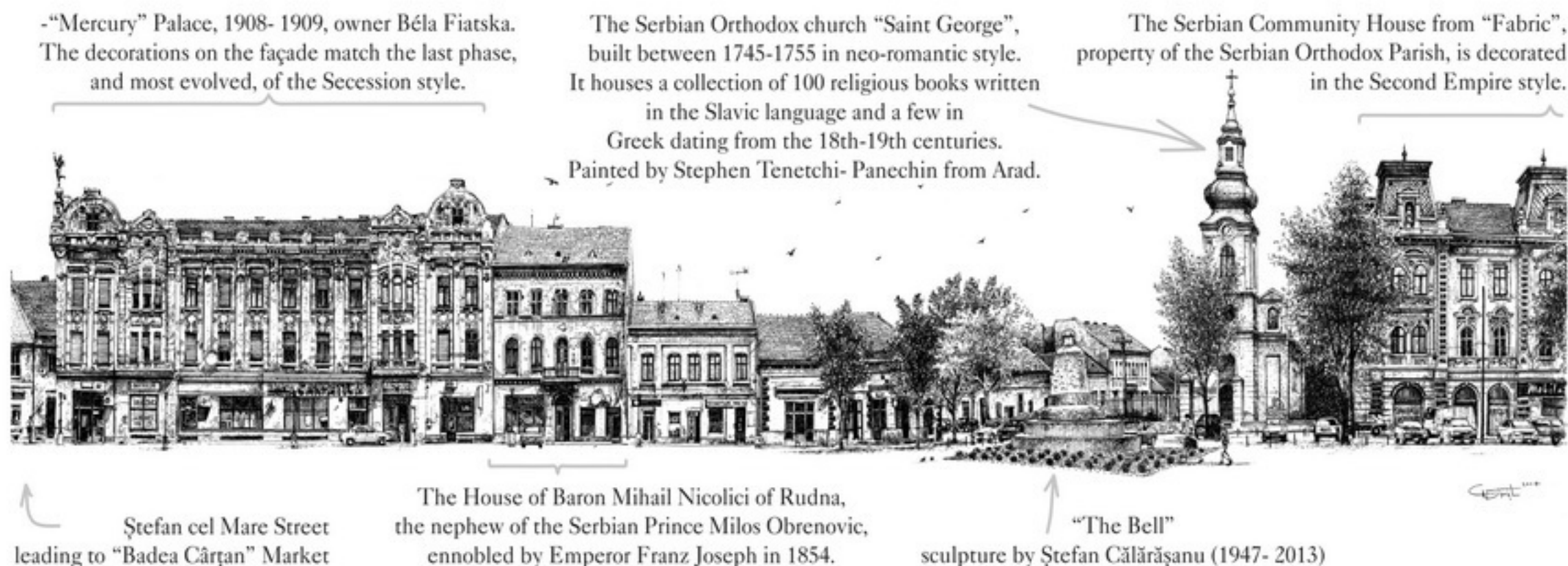
The pyramidal obelisk marks the location of the
first Greco-Oriental (Orthodox) Church – 1753.
Its sides were adorned with painted icons.

Traian Square- Stephanie Palace

Situated in the "Fabric" quarter (Factory, Fabrikstadt in German, Gyárkölváros in Hungarian), Traian Square was meant to be a smaller sized copy of Union Square (designed by military engineers in 1740) and has held many names, initially being called Hauptplatz and then Kossuth tér. Until 1716 the eastern side of the Ottoman city was not inhabited, the area being overtaken by swamps created by Bega's several tributaries. Only two water mills are mentioned as having been in function here.

Due to the numerous factories built starting 1718 (when a part of the Romanian-Serbian population from the Palanca-Mare neighbourhood was forced to move here in order for the military authorities to build the new city), the whole neighbourhood was given the generic name of "Fabric". On the numerous small navigable canals that ran through the "Fabric" quarter (some even present as early as 1907), many mills were placed (eight mills by 1880 that produced 2,500 tons annually, according to some written accounts) as well as bridges. Besides these mills and bridges, because of the access to the Bega canal, a strong and varied industry began to emerge. Small businesses started to thrive, with the "Fabric" quarter being known for its guilds of cobblers, saddlers, furriers, coopers, fishermen, bakers, butchers, wig makers and tailors.

Out of all of Timișoara's neighbourhoods, "Fabric" can be considered the most ethnically diverse. Thus, Romanians lived in Vlasca Mare, Rascians/Serbs in the "Old Fabric" quarter and Germans in "German Fabric". In 1753 the Roma arrive, also named "new Banat people", who occupied the "New World" quarter located around the Eastern Railway Station. Among them, in "Fabric", Italians, French or Spaniards worked in the rice, silk or wine business. Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Hungarians and Czechs followed.



Traian Square- The Serbian-Orthodox Church

Around the year 1900 the square began to have an urban look, with small houses replaced by new constructions; vacant lands and gardens disappeared, replaced by buildings that form the continuous façade that we see today. Unlike the city's other neighbourhoods, the streets of “Fabric” still retain the winding shapes of the swamp and of the waterways that crossed it.

The Serbian Orthodox church is one of the first buildings to be built here that is still standing strong. Initially, the church was located in the heart of the “Rascian Fabric”, a neighbourhood inhabited by Orthodox followers originating from contemporary Serbia. The term “Rascian” derives from the river Raska, after the region considered to be the “Serbian Cradle”. For a long time the Serbians held control of the orthodox church of Banat, so much so that the term “Rascian” became a synonym for “orthodox”.

“Fabric” also had many hotels, restaurants and beer houses frequented by residents from other areas of the city, especially when the Catholic Church banned the consumption of alcohol and gambling in the city. “All that is good comes from Fabric”- the saying went. It defined the neighbourhood in those years, a time when its population outnumbered that of the city. Traian Square hosted a daily market and weekly fairs for a couple of hundred years until the modernisation of the Hay Market (currently Badea Cârțan Square).

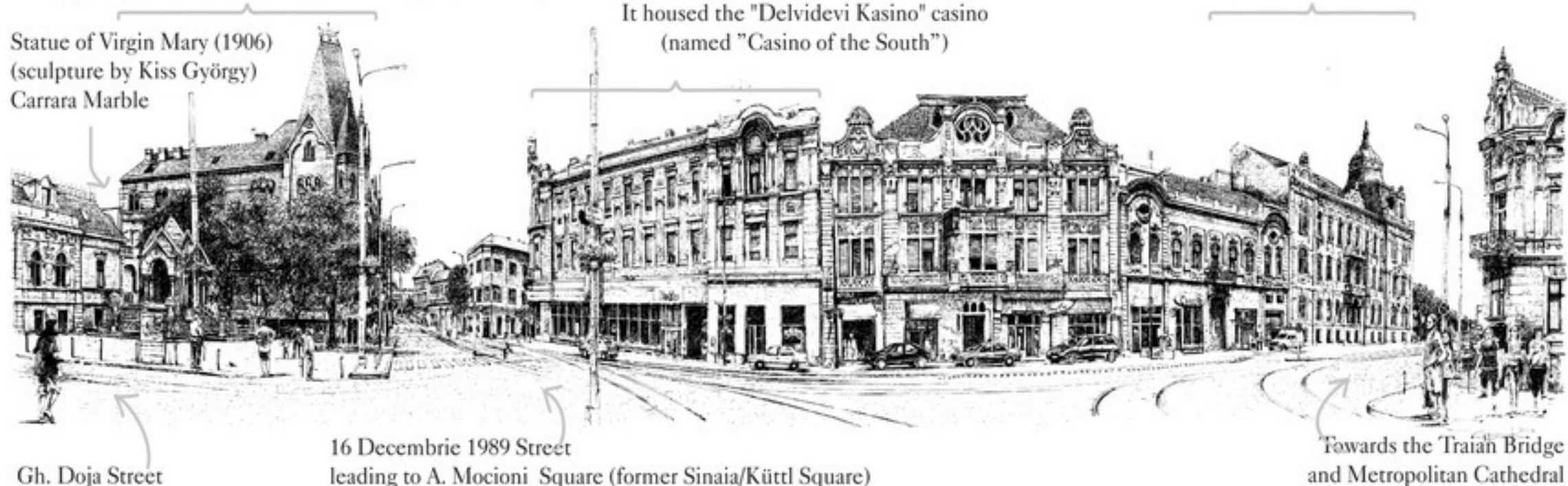
Merchants from all over the region came here, particularly producers from “Fabric” with their own products. The first factory to appear here was the Baize Factory, followed by the Brewery, the Paper Mill, numerous brickyards, the Wire Factory, the Silk Factory, but also the ‘Turul’ Boot Factory, the ‘Dura’ Battery Factory and ‘Guban’ chemical products factory at the beginning of the 20th century.

The Reformed Church, built in 1902 in English Gothic by architect N. Károly junior and J. László from Budapest. The pipe organ was made in Wegenstein Lipót's workshop

"The Water Palace" / "Timiș-Bega Community House"
(architect Baumhorn Lipót, built Karl Hart, 1901)

Statue of Virgin Mary (1906)
(sculpture by Kiss György)
Carrara Marble

The Banat Casino, architect Emil Tory, 1903.
It housed the "Delvidevi Kasino" casino
(named "Casino of the South")



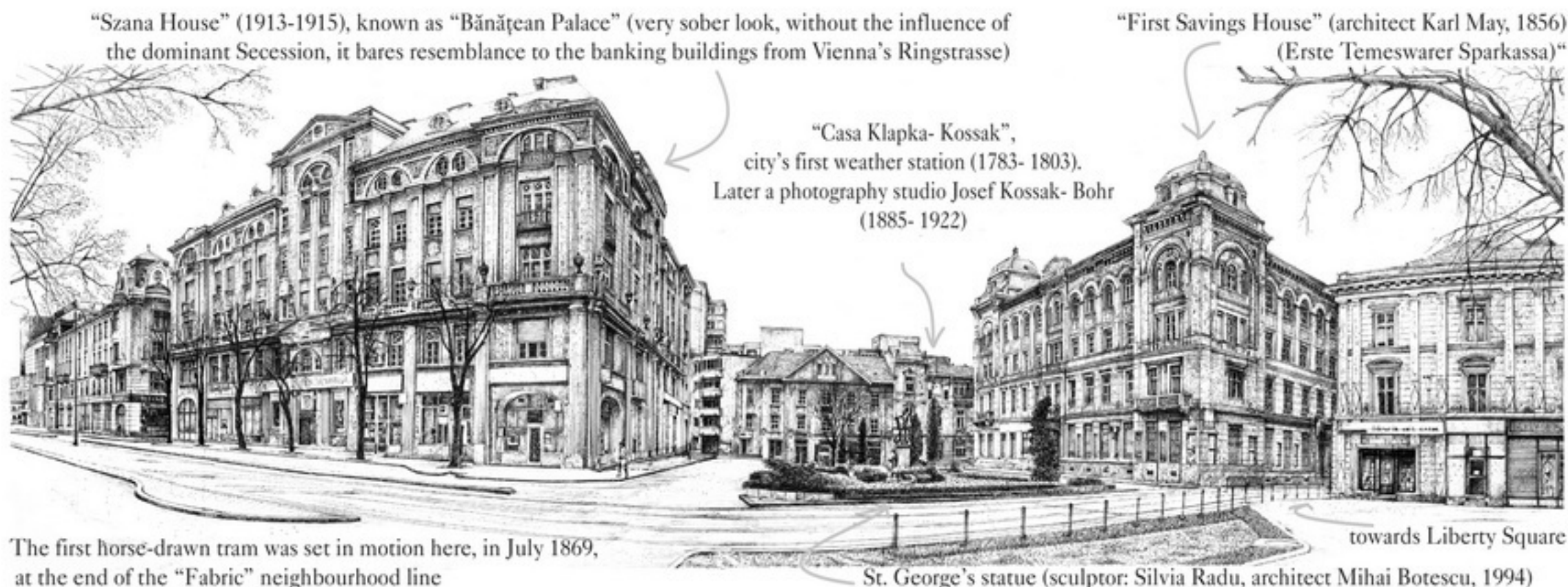
Maria Square

Although not a square in geometrical terms and not having a surface similar to that of other squares in Timișoara, Maria Square is a landmark that includes important historical and architectural elements for the city's inhabitants as well as for tourists. Located on the other side of the Bega River outside the city walls, on the area reserved for military operations at the end of the 19th century, Maria Square divides and joins two historical neighbourhoods at the same time: Josephine and Elizabethan. Hence, the buildings found in the centre of the image belong to the Elizabethan quarter and those on the side belong to the Josephine one.

The name of this small square is given by the monument of the Virgin Mary – sculpted in Carrara marble and housed under a neo-Classical canopy built after the plans of the architect László Székely. A local legend, though relatively recent, places the execution of George Doja, the leader of the 1514 peasants' revolution, on this very spot. It is said that while he was being tortured, the monks, chanting religious hymns, could see the Virgin Mary's image in the sky. A statue, an icon of the Virgin Mary, has been confirmed as an object of worship for pilgrimages that had taken place here the 18th century.

The whole ensemble is placed next to the Reformed Community Palace and to the Reformed Church, both buildings that are tied to the city's recent history. On this spot, a protest by religious followers on the 15th December 1989 against the imminent evacuation of the church's pastor turned into a popular movement on a national level that led to the fall of the communist regime.

This is the reason why today the boulevard that crosses the square is named 16th December 1989 Boulevard.



Saint George Square

If until now we have talked, based on the illustrations, about the changes that took place one hundred – two hundred years ago, the city, with its dynamics, never actually stops changing. I made this artwork of Saint George Square in 2012 but today (July 2014) it looks different due to the modernization works. What was recent yesterday, today becomes a collectable!

Saint George's Square is one of the oldest squares Timișoara has to offer. The changes suffered after the de-fortification of the city left the square without its jewel, - "the church of the seminar", with its patron, Saint George. It is presumed that the church was built before the Ottoman occupation- during the Ottoman ruling it was changed into a mosque. Later on, the building was the house of the first superior secular teaching institution, in the year 1845; it had two faculties: of philosophy and of law. The church of the seminar was positioned sideways from the square's axis, diagonally - as it is depicted in photographs and how it was discovered during the 2013-2014 restorations.

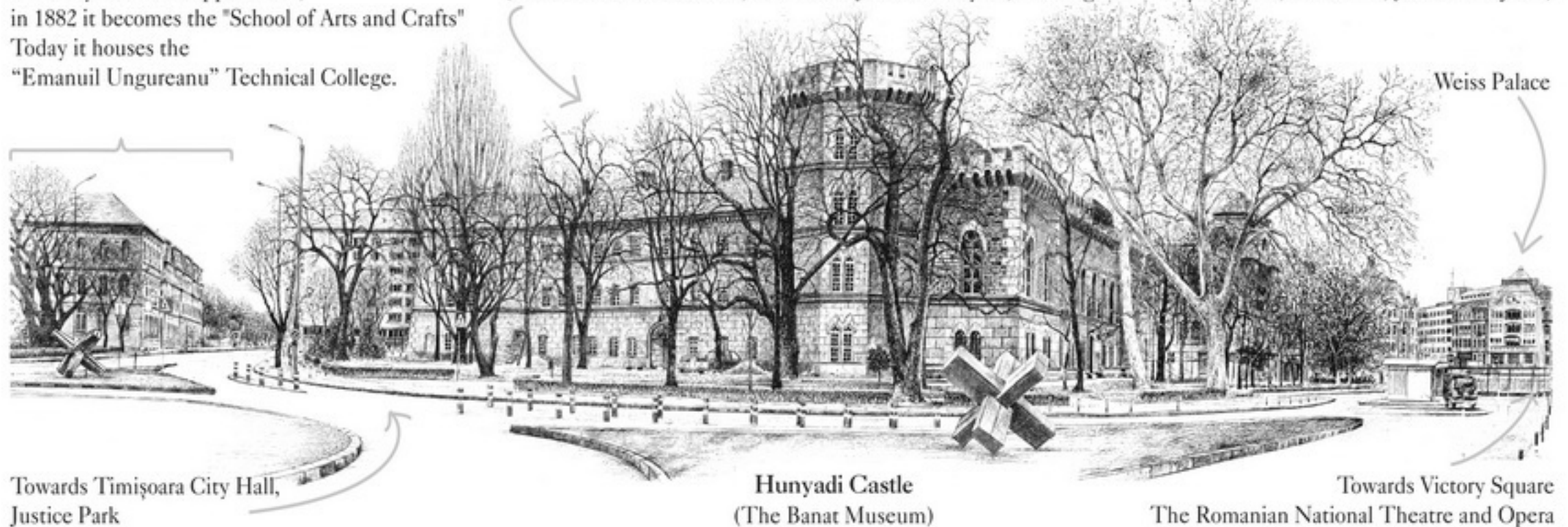
The building on the right was built to serve as "The First Savings House" in 1855. The building on the left was also a banking institution after 1914, known as "Timișoara Bank Palace".

On the southern side of the square the house in which Georg Klapka, son of the famous Josef Klapka, mayor and founder of the first public library of Timișoara (and probably the first in the empire) is seen.

Few know that the first horse-drawn tram was set in motion here, in July 1869- at the end of the "Fabric" neighbourhood line. The line was 1896 metres long and it was built after the walls of the city were destroyed and the defensive moats were covered.

"School for Apprentices" (1786)
a Sunday school for apprentices;
in 1882 it becomes the "School of Arts and Crafts"
Today it houses the
"Emanuil Ungureanu" Technical College.

Built by John of Hunedoara (Iancu of Hunedoara, or John Hunyadi or John Corvinus (1407 - 1456)
(in latin Ioannes Corvinus, in German Johann Hunyadi, in Hungarian Hunyadi János, in Serbian, Janko Sibirjanin)



Hunyadi Castle- The Banat Museum

The citadel of Timișoara became the largest star shaped fortress on Romania's current territorial expanse in 1754, designed after plans made by the French marshal Sebastien de Vauban and considered to be impenetrable. Yet between the years 1891 and 1910, it became vulnerable to the new urban demands. Therefore, from the olden city, only a few walls remain scattered around Mărăști Square, 700 Square and the Botanical Gardens. The only bastion that still exists is the Theresia Bastion and Hunyadi Castle.

Hunyadi Castle can be considered to be the oldest building in Timișoara that is found on the same emplacement and with the same name since the beginning. Its current look, what one can see today of the building, dates back from the year 1856 and holds nothing of the picturesque charm of a medieval castle. Unfortunately, very few analogies can be made with the architectural style of Corvin Castle located in Hunedoara County; whose vertical development gives it a majestic appearance. Maybe, just the fact that it is planned around a quadrangle, the existence of a Hall of Knights and the position of the main tower relative to the rest of the castle, could be used as an appropriate analogy.

John of Hunedoara, the father of King Matthias Corvinus, initially built Hunyadi Castle between 1443 and 1447, on the ruins of an old 14th century castle – built in the time of King Charles Robert of Anjou. John of Hunedoara was Governor of Severin from 1438, Voivod of Transylvania (1441-1456) and King of Hungary (1446-1452). His father, Voicu, took the name Hunyadi (of Hunedoara) in 1409 when he received Hunedoara Castle and its lands from Sigismund of Luxembourg as payment for his military actions in the battles with the Turks.

Since 1947 it has housed the History and Natural Sciences sections of the Banat Museum.

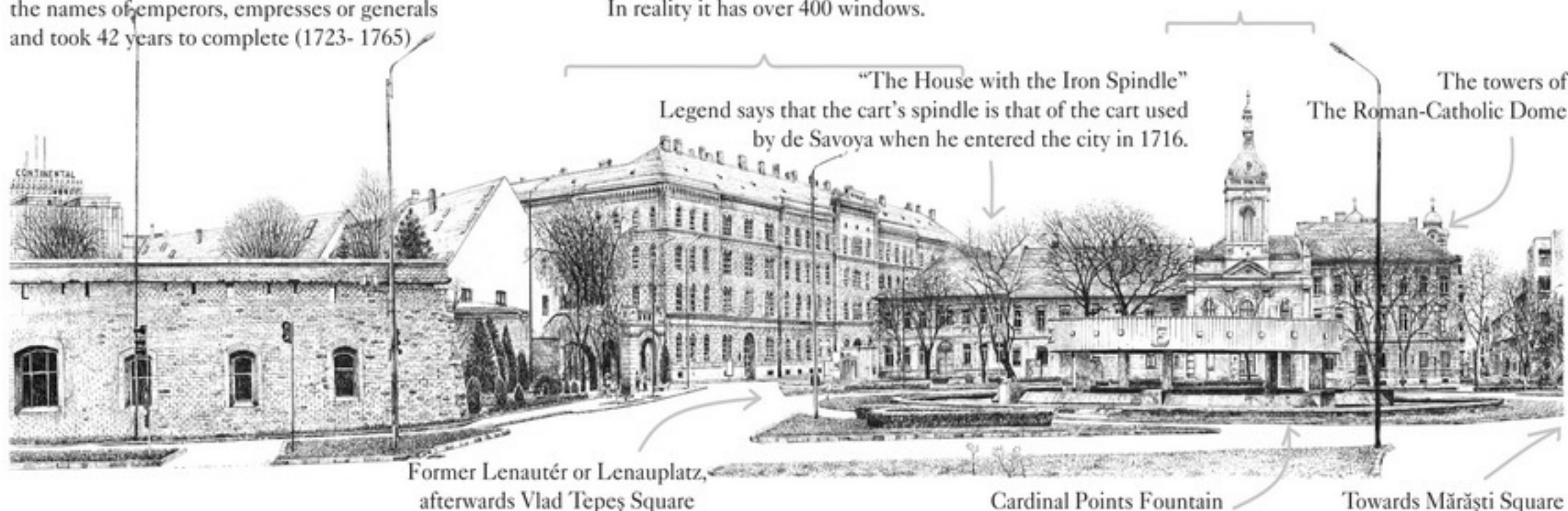
Theresia Bastion (1730 - 1735)

The city had 9 bastions bearing the names of emperors, empresses or generals and took 42 years to complete (1723- 1765)

The Dicasterial Palace (1855-1860)

It is said that "it has a window for each day of the year".
In reality it has over 400 windows.

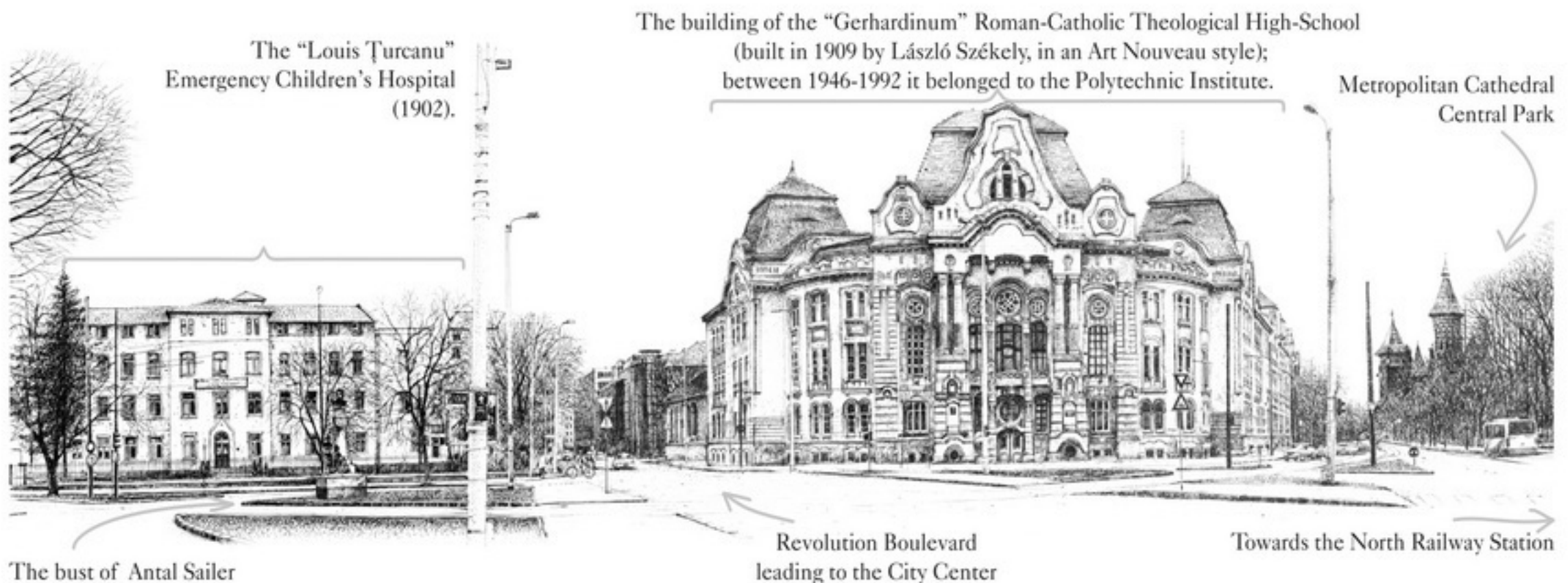
The Evangelical Lutheran Church (architect Anton Schmidt, 1837 - 1839)



Cardinal Points, Theresia Bastion, Dicasterial Palace

The Maria Theresia Bastion was built between 1730 and 1735 after the Habsburgs conquered Timișoara. Count Mercy envisioned the design of the new city, as well as the entire systematization plan. He pictured the building of houses, official halls, civilian and military homes, schools, hospitals, churches and monuments. On the whole, it was ten times larger than the old city had been (53 hectares compared to 5 hectares). Three brick covered dirt walls protected the city inside. Oak pillars, 8 metres in length, secured the 12-metre high walls. Between these three walls, the water of the Bega River could overflow (through the use of floodgates), thus creating moats 3 metres deep. Access to the city was only possible through drawbridges at the three city gates: Vienna, Transylvania and Petrovaradin. All three of these gates would close when evening fell on the city.

The Theresia Bastion is the last one standing in its original size after the systematization made in 1891 by the mayor Carol Telbisz, who was mayor for 29 years. Today, after being rehabilitated, the Bastion houses commercial spaces and 2 exhibition spaces of the Banat Museum. The Dicasterial Palace was for many years the largest constructions in Timișoara. It was raised on the spot of a military garrison and of the Administration House, using architectural elements specific to the Romantic style (Florentine Renaissance), similar to those used at the Palazzo Strozzi and Pitti in Florence. The Palace is built on three levels, having 273 offices, 34 servants' rooms, 34 kitchens and 92 various other rooms, all of which are grouped around three courtyards. It was initially designed as the Governor of Banat's residence. Now it is used to house numerous justice departments.



Queen Mary Square- Gerhardium Lyceum

The Piarist Order (in Latin Ordo Clericorum Regularium Pauperum Matris Dei Scholarum Piarum) is a Roman-catholic order of monks whose mission is to educate young people. It was founded by St. Joseph of Calasanz (1157-1648) and spread throughout Europe. The father of the Piarist Order's idea was that of a universal education, undifferentiated and strictly religious. The order was founded in Rome in 1597. The activity of the Piarist pedagogical order began in 1790, when they were moved from Sântana to the Franciscan Monastery. The Piarist School took off quite quickly; in 1870 the high school had 417 Roman-Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, Lutheran and Reformed attendees. Initially the teaching language was Latin, followed by German and Hungarian, and Romanian by 1920. Independent from this there were classes in Hungarian, German, Romanian and Serbian. In 1909 the new edifice, with its entrance from Horatio Square comes into service. The piarists' activity lasted until 1948, when the order was dissolved. Their prestige had attracted most students from Timișoara, which meant that the future elite of Banat were educated here. The ensemble is made up of the high school, the primary and middle school, a church-chapel and a boarding house.

On the left side is the "Luis Turcanu" Children's Hospital (named after Prof. Dr. Luis Turcanu, which was the head of the hospital in the 60s; he was an impressive person, through his work, patience, generosity). Founding a children's hospital in Banat would not have been possible until 1902, without the help of Antal Sailer (whose bust still stands in front of the building today). The businessman, hailing from Arad, donated 51,000 coronas to the municipality, which meant half of the sum that the Town Hall needed to build the clinic.

The church is a small-scale copy of the St. Sofia Church in Constantinople

Behind the church stand the three palaces of Béla Fiatska (Dauerbach Palace- 1910, Karl Hart House- 1901, Jakob Fisker Palace- 1910).

Former "Tenement House of the City" (1895-1897); former "Elite" afterwards "Sinaia" restaurant.

Alexandru Mocioni (1841-1909); Member of Parliament at 24, spending many mandates in the Hungarian Chamber of Parliament from Budapest, where he fought for the rights of Romanians.

16 Decembrie 1989 Street leading to Maria Square

Alexandru Mocioni Square (former Küttl Square, Asănești, Ștefan Furtună or Sinaia)

towards Șagului Road

King Carol I Boulevard leading to Josephine Quarter

Alexandru Mocioni Square- The Orthodox Church

This is where the Josephine neighbourhood had its boundaries 100 years ago. The area was "a canon's hit away" from the citadel's walls, in comparison to all the other neighbourhoods, which were "two hits of a canon away". Prior to the construction of the church in 1936, the square was much larger, and the three palaces of Béla Fiatska from the back were the architectural pride of the square.

On the 25th January 1902 the very devoted Iacob Marian and his wife Lena donated their fortune to the Diocesan Consistory of Arad for the building of a church in the Josephine neighbourhood of Timișoara and for the upkeep of a confessional school. The lawyer Emanuel Ungureanu (which left the church a considerable sum through his will) asked the municipality of Timișoara for the land needed to build a church and other religious edifices. The Town Hall donated the land to the parish in 1925. The building and provisioning of the church ended in 1936, based on the plans of architect Victor Vlad. The building marks, through its neo-Byzantine style, the break from Baroque architecture, so widely spread during the Habsburg Monarchy. The church itself was made of brick, in the shape of a ship, with a capacity of approximately 1500 people. On the inside of the church the architecture is similar to that of the famous St. Sofia Church in Constantinople, with a central dome hanging at 20 metres. The belfry, which is 33 metres tall, has the profile of a truncated pyramid, with buttresses and balconies. The "in fresco" murals were executed between 1935-1936 by painters Catul Bogdan and Ioachim Miloia. The iconostasis, the chandelier and the Lord's grave were sculpted from lime-wood by master Ștefan Gajo. Master carpenter Traian Novac of Timișoara sculpted the thrones, stalls and chairs. The floor of the church is made of white marble from Rușchița, with a pattern of crosses made of pink marble.

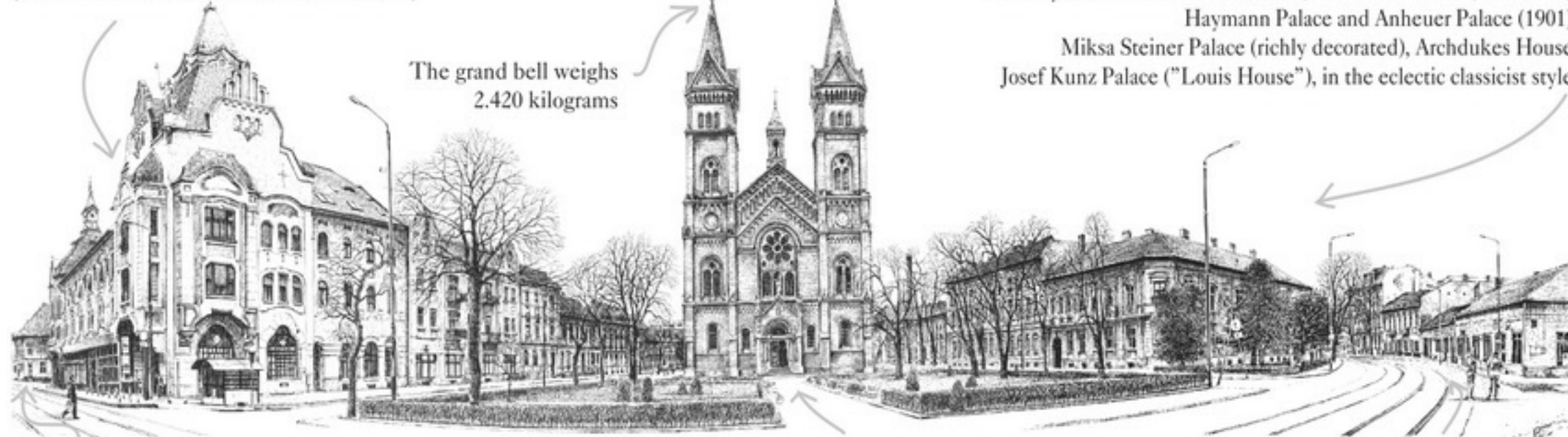
“Stephanie Palace” or “The House with Monkeys”,
(architect László Székely, 1909- 1910).
(Fabric Town Palace and the Citizens Club)

Millenium Church

Until Decebalus Bridge, this part best represents the “1900s style” in architecture.

Starting with the Neptune Baths (Hungary) -Szekely Palace,
built by the architect for his mother, Karl Kunz Palace (1902-1903),
Haymann Palace and Anheuer Palace (1901),
Miksa Steiner Palace (richly decorated), Archdukes House,
Josef Kunz Palace (“Louis House”), in the eclectic classicist style.

The grand bell weighs
2.420 kilograms



Nenadovici House
Traian Square

In 2013, the park was remodelled and the restored statue of St. John of Nepomuk,
which had been in Liberty Square until 1756, was placed in the centre of the square.

3 August 1919 Boulevard
leading to the Neptun Baths, Decebalus Bridge

Romans' Square- Millennium Church

Millennium Church is situated in the “Fabric” quarter, in the Romans' Square (former Coronini Square – after the name of the 1850 governor, Count Johann von Coronini-Cronberg).

It was designed in neo-Romantic style by architect Lajos Ybl and built by Joseph Kremer Senior for the Roman – Catholic community of “Fabric” on the occasion of the thousand year anniversary of the Hungarian settlement in the Pannonian Plain (hence the name Millennium). It was built in eclectic historicist style with neo-Gothic and neo-Romantic elements, architectonically recreating the image of a Romantic basilica in Germanic style. The cornerstone was laid in 1896 and blessed on the 13th October 1901.

The main towers are 65 metres tall and the central dome is 45 metres tall, the church having a maximum capacity of 3,000 people. Antal Novotny cast the bell, György Vastagh painted the altar and the famous craftsman Leopold Wegenstein made the pipe organ.

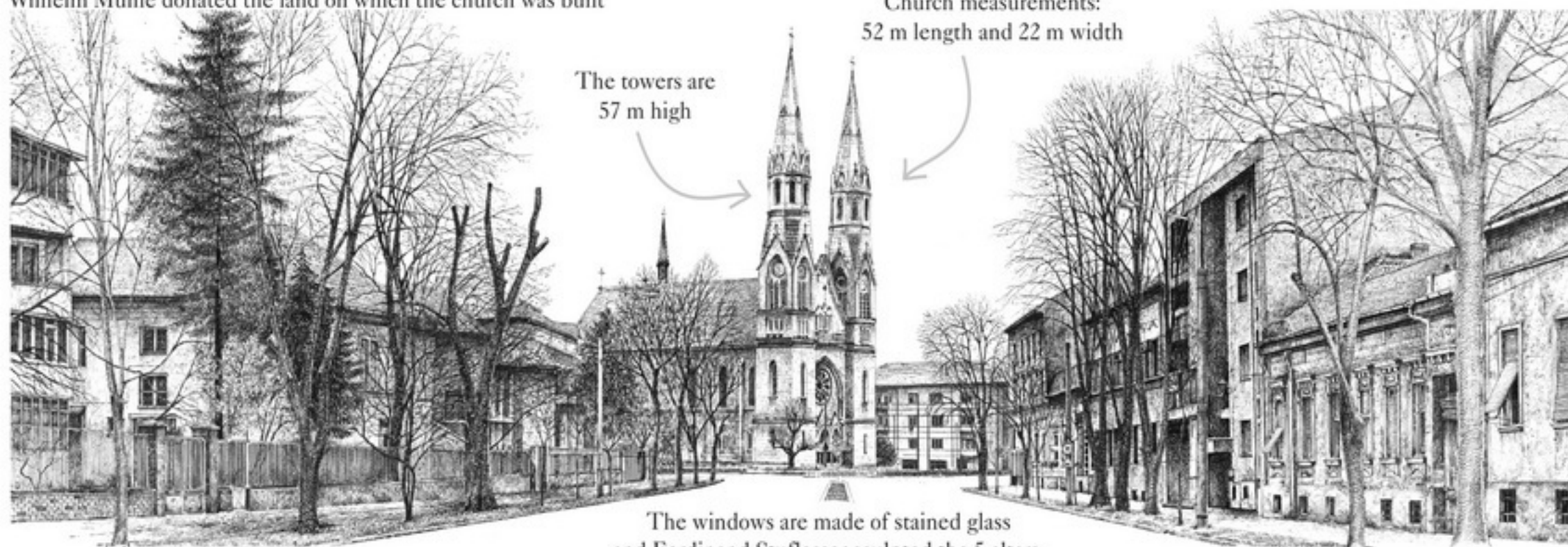
In 2013, the park in front of the church was remodelled and the restored statue of St. John of Nepomuk, the same one that had wandered through the city since 1720, was placed in the centre of the square. Considered to be the patron saint of Catholics in Banat, the sandstone statue is the oldest Baroque sculpture and the most representative of St. Nepomuk in Banat. Its author is unknown but the Viennese sculptor Mathias Rauchmiller made the archetype. It was first placed in front of the Military Casino in 1720 from where it was moved in front of the Carmen Sylva Lyceum in 1752. In 1757 it was moved again to the Decebalus Bridge, in 1908 it appears around the Michelangelo Bridge and from 1932 to 2013 it decayed in the Josephine quarter's Roman-Catholic church yard. Now restored, it is again displayed in a public space.

Wilhelm Mühle donated the land on which the church was built

Church measurements:
52 m length and 22 m width

The towers are
57 m high

The windows are made of stained glass
and Ferdinand Stuflesser sculpted the 5 altars.



Nicolae Bălcescu Square- The Roman-Catholic Church

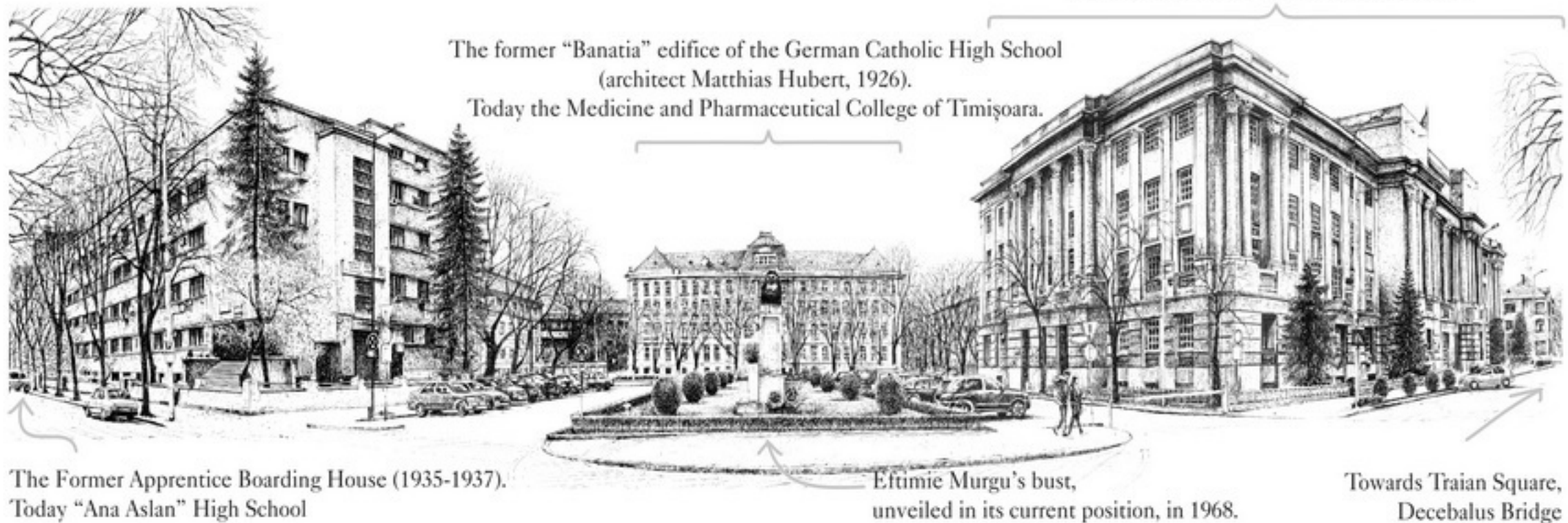
The “peripheral” areas, located beyond the city’s esplanade, were declared as “city goods” only after the departure of the Turks in 1716. Although covering a few thousand hectares of land, only 500 could be used for agriculture and it led to the settling of the first farmers of the city, in the quarter named “Maierele Vechi” (or “Maierele Românești”). For the most part, these were Romanians from Palanca Mica, forced to leave the lands near the city because of reconstruction works. In the middle of these “maiere” (leased gardens), small town like settlements developed over time. At the beginning the houses were spread among the vegetable gardens, orchards, vineyards and wheat, corn and millet fields, but shortly became urban cores that required the construction of administrative, educational and ecclesiastical institutions.

One of these cores can be found in the present-day Nicolae Bălcescu Square (former Lahovary). The Roman-Catholic Church and the Society of the Divine Saviour Monastery, a Roman-Catholic religious order, one of the many that over time have determined the city’s evolution, are found in the centre of the square. The Society teaches tolerance, clemency and trust. Father John Baptist founded the Society.

It was built between 1912 and 1919 by Albert Schmidt and Johann Bagjansky after designs by architect Karl Salkovits and imposes itself through the size of its sharp towers, a characteristic of the neo-Gothic style.

Today, it serves as the Parish Church for the Roman-Catholics of the Elizabethan quarter. The official name of the neighbourhood comes from the year 1896, named after Empress Elisabeth of Bavaria (Sissy), Empress of Austria, Queen of Hungary and Bohemia. She would be assassinated two years later in Geneva, in 1898. In the inter-war period the quarter received the name of “Princess Elisabeth”.

The Administrative Palace (built between the years 1938 and 1943);
(Timiș County Hall, Timiș County Council).



Eftimie Murgu Square

In the photos taken in 1990, which include the area between the Bastion and Decebalus Bridge, only a few houses and a lot of vegetation are visible. As with all the circular areas around the citadel, this piece of land was urbanized only after 1890, when the military applications of the esplanade were no longer justified. One of the most imposing buildings erected in 1926 was that of the German Catholic High-School, the "Banatia" edifice. The need to build a school for German speakers arose after 1918. The Hungarization policy undergone before the Union had led to its disappearance, even though the majority of the population was of German origin. At the proposal of Archbishop A. Pacha, doctor F. Kräuter and doctor H. Eschkers the new institution was created, having the support of two joint-stock companies, specially founded for this purpose, and work began on the land donated by the Roman-Catholic Diocese. After the Second World War it became known that it had also had significant financial support from Germany. The "Banatia" included a primary and middle school and a school that trained teachers for the all the German schools in the area (Preparandia). Between 1942-1944, the school loses its confessional orientation, and national-socialist begins to be predominant, while its name is changed to "Prinz Eugen". Starting with 1942 the "Banatia" building will house the German State High School. In March 1944 it becomes a German military hospital, and the school is moved to the Josephine neighbourhood.

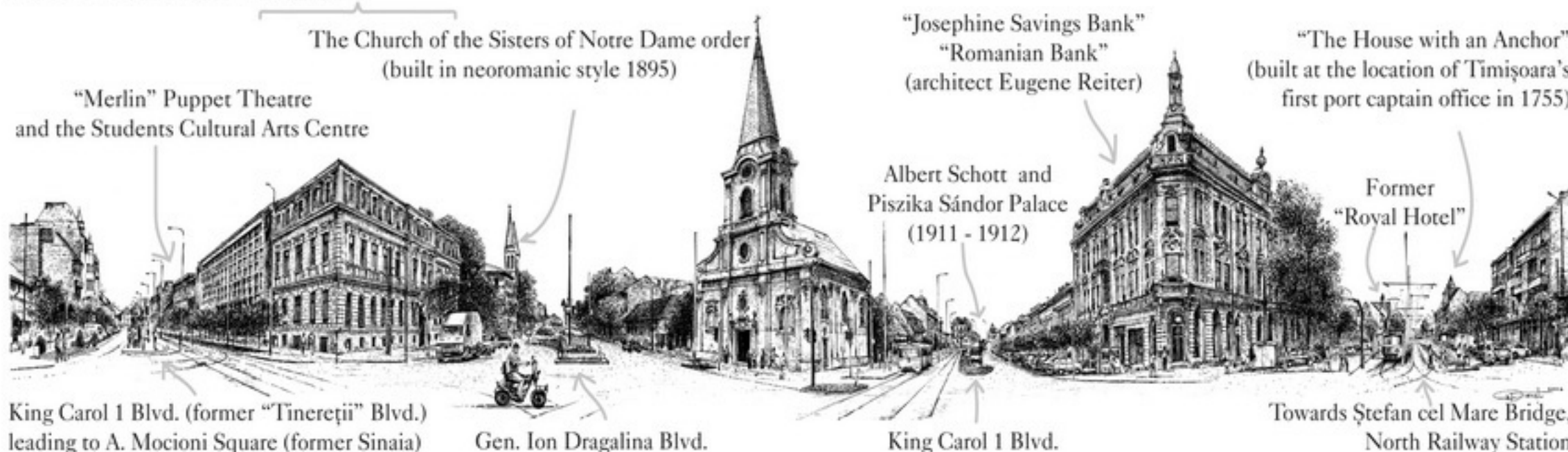
In 1946, after the occupation of the Red Army, the "Banatia" is erased from the Judicial Registry, the shares of the two companies are nationalised and confiscated. In January 1945, almost 70,000 German nationals were deported to the Soviet Union.

It is currently the home of the Medicine and Pharmaceutical College of Timișoara.

The entire building estate belonged to the Sisters of Notre Dame order of nuns (architect Eugene Reiter, 1881- 1902)
Now this building houses the School of Fine Arts and Technical College of Timișoara

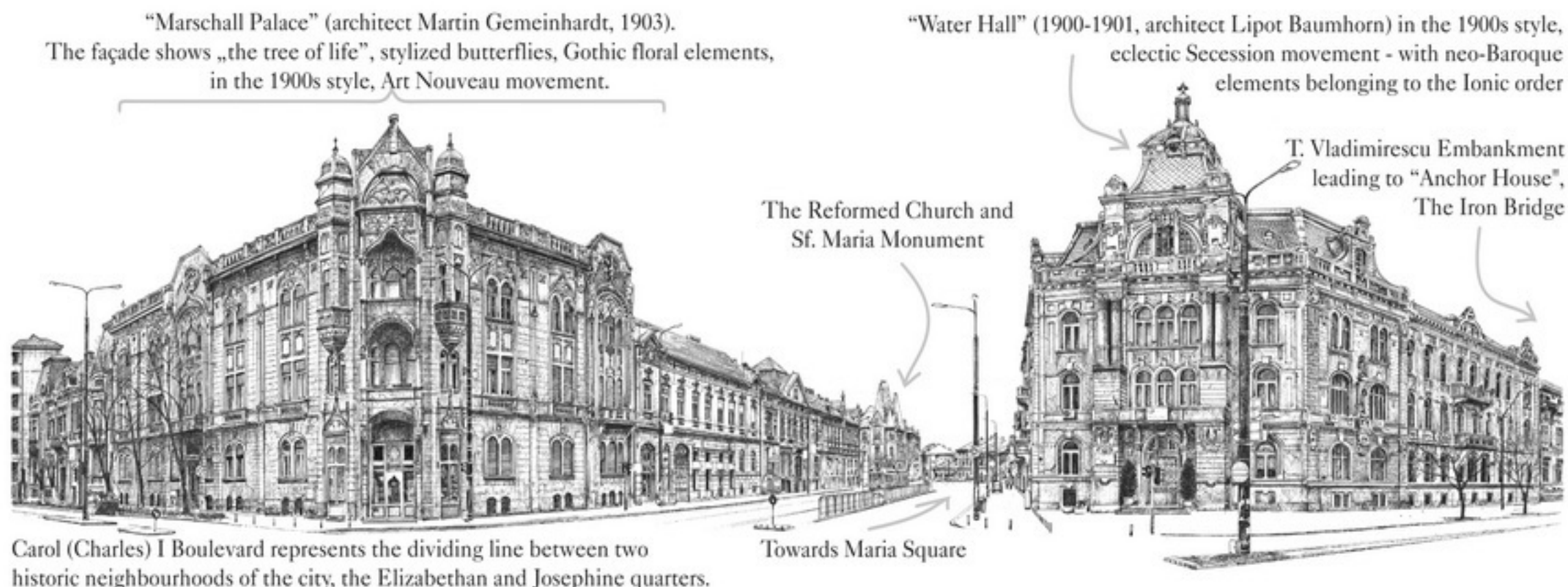
The Roman-Catholic parish church was built in 1774 in Baroque provincial style

Ion Dragalina Boulevard was named "Church Street" 200 years ago



Josephine Crossroad

Situated in the Western, South-western part of the city, the Josephine quarter (Josefstadt in German, Józsefkülváros in Hungarian) housed hundreds of historical buildings, monuments and parks of a significant historical value. Josephine was organised in the style of the German colonial villages of Banat, with rectangular street structures, stylish houses and well-kept gardens by the Germans that settled here after 1744. Initially named "Maierle Noi" ("Deutsche Vorstadt") ("maiere" – gardens for rent), planning permission was given in 1744, and in 1773 the Habsburg Emperor Joseph II accepts the proposal that this quarter bear his name. Beside the advantages of a German colonisation that brought with it rigorous town planning, the development of this neighbourhood was due to the systematization of the Bega canal, with the current course being first dug by hand between 1728-1732. This made possible the industrial and urban development of the area, so that in 1930 it grew to 13,000 residents. The Bega canal was used to transport precious cargo to the Danube and then upstream to Vienna. Mills were built on the banks of the river, as well as the port (1755), the Match Factory (1778), the Cigarette Factory (1846), the Gas Plant (1857), the Kandia Chocolate Factory (1890), the Felt Factory (1891) and the Hat Factory (1899). The quarter had another advantage that helped its transformation into an industrial area, that of direct access after 1857 to the railway through the Josephine rail station, thus linking Timișoara to Budapest and Vienna. The industrial development led to a growth in population and as a result numerous official, religious, cultural and educational establishments began to appear. Many of them were built at the beginning of the 20th century after the military ban on construction in the area was lifted, starting from the old Josephine quarter and towards the city.



King Carol I Boulevard- towards Maria Square

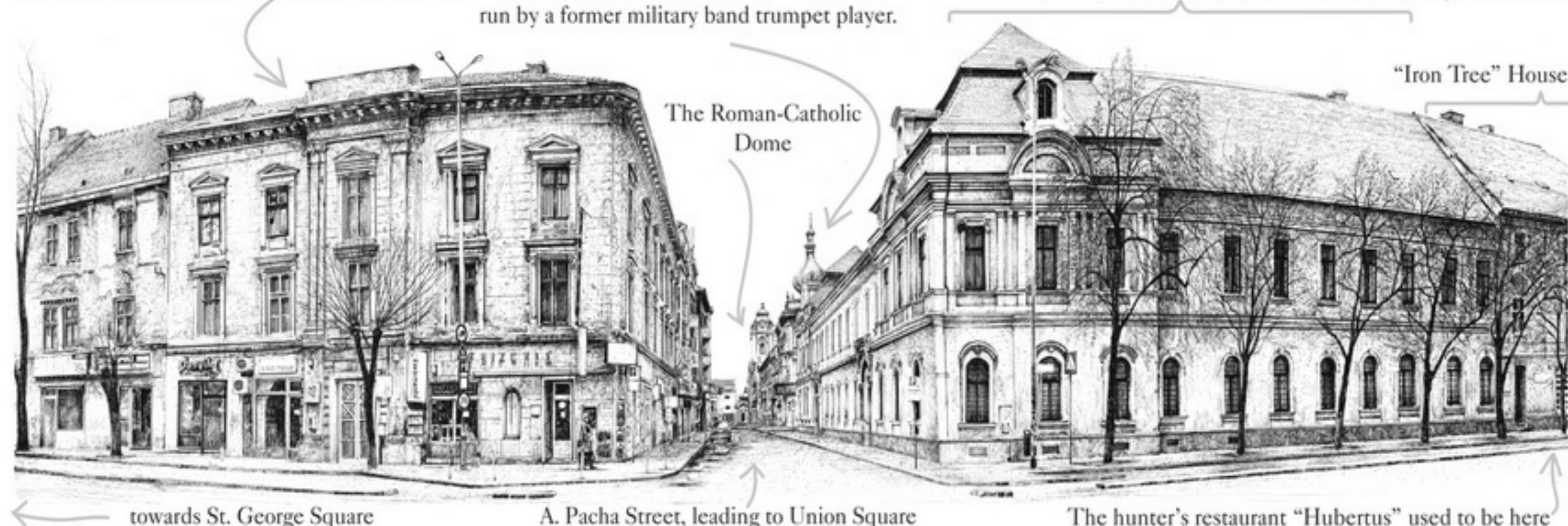
One of the most spectacular building ensembles of Timișoara has been guarding the entrances to two other historical neighbourhoods for over a century. Located immediately after Traian Bridge (also named "Hunyadi Bridge" or "bridge from Maria Square", built in 1917 to replace the old iron one), the two buildings geographically divide two areas of the city, the Elizabethan and Josephine quarters. Built around the same time, we can conclude that there was a competition to show off the most expressive elements of the 1900s style between the architects of the two buildings. Timișoara represented a true challenge for the architects of the time, because it offered new ground for them to express their talent, as well as great financial resources so that no concessions needed to be made on detailed decorations, size or finishing works.

On the right of the image one can see the Water Hall or Bega Palace, formerly "The Hydro-technical engineers Society of Timiș - Bega". Karl Hart made the construction, initially having a ground and upper floor, with extra floors being added by architect Arthur Tunner. As we can see, the artistic language is specific to the 1900s style, eclectic Secession movement with neo-Baroque elements belonging to the Ionic order. For many years the CFR Regional Office (national railways office) was housed here. On the building's facade one can still see stylized images of an aquatic nature. On the left of the image you can see Franz Marschall Palace, designed by architect Gemeinhardt, whose name is connected to at least four other constructions in the Elizabethan quarter and two in the Josephine one. The same artistic language of the 1900s and of the eclectic Art Nouveau movement can be seen here. The owners usually kept the first floor for themselves, and rented out the ground floor and other rooms. The Reformed Church (1902, architect Nagy Károly Jr. and Jánosvázi László) and Maria Square are in the background.

The restaurant and hotel "The Golden Stag" were located on the ground floor of the building

Former Hotel "Hungaria". Next door, the inn „The Trumpet Player” was open, run by a former military band trumpet player.

The Palace of the Roman-Catholic Bishopry (1743- 1748) (founded in 1030 in Cenad, transferred to Timișoara în 1738)



Augustin Pacha Street- Towards Union Square

The street that links The Proclamation of Timișoara Street to Union Square bears the name of the bishop Augustine Pacha (1870-1954), the anointed first bishop of the newly founded the Diocese of Timișoara in 1930. The bishop Dr. Augustine Pacha is named that year the diocesan bishop of Timișoara, the first ever to bear this title and decorated with the „Crown of Romania” Order. In 1939 he becomes a senator with full rights in the Romanian Senate. In 1948, in the Diocese of Timișoara there were 360,000 religious followers in 164 parishes and 236 priests, out of which 195 diocesan priests and 43 hieromonks. In 1950, the old bishop, aged 80, is arrested and absurdly accused of espionage for the Vatican together with ten other bishops, priests, medics and politicians. He is sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment, and also forced to pay a considerable fine. After 3 years, seriously ill, he is pardoned on the 1st of June 1954, but dies a few months later.

In Timișoara's history Catholicism has had a defining effect through its positive influence over all aspects, be it religious, political, educational or health related so that numerous Roman-Catholic religious orders were given authorisation to operate in the city. Here we remember the Sisters of Notre-Dame, the Franciscan Order, the Sisters of Mercy, the Piarist Order and the Jesuit Order (dissolved in 1773).

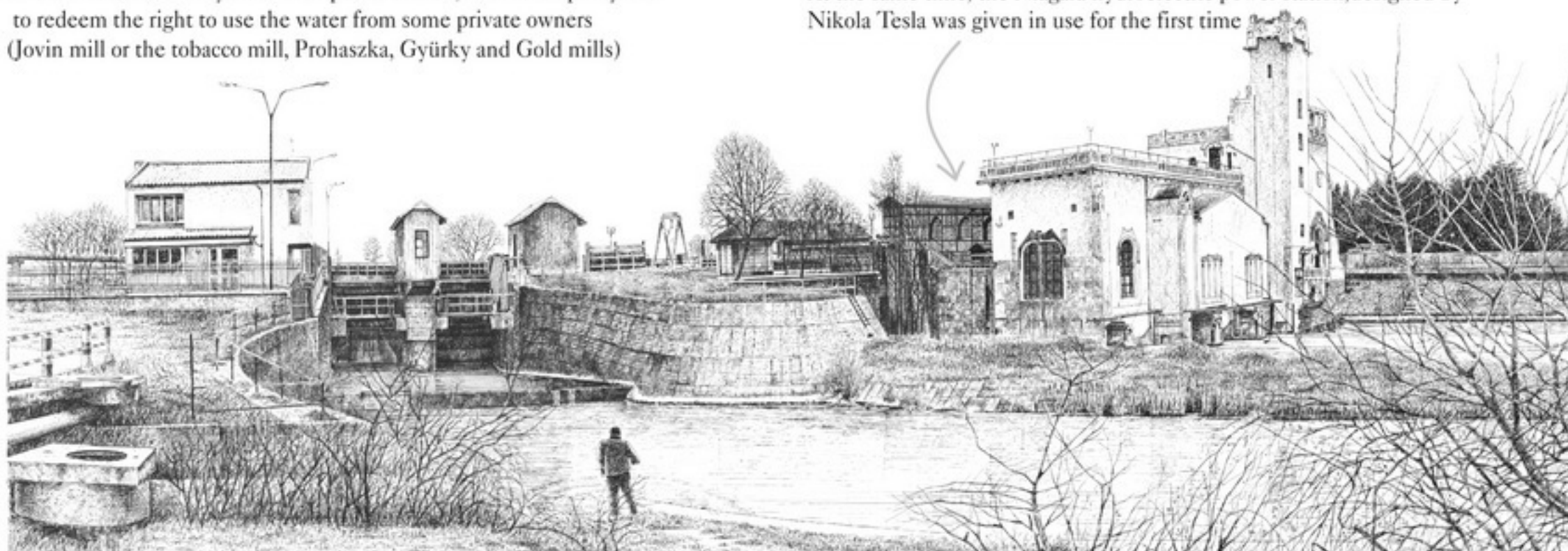
In the 1900s this street bore the name Lonovics and until recently it was Rodnei Street.

In 1866 "Hotel Hungaria", found on the right side, housed Al. I. Cuza, who being exiled, was on his way to Vienna. Emperor Franz Joseph also stayed here for three days, as well as Mihai Eminescu, on tour as a theatre prompter.

Again on the right side one can see "Arts House", housed in the building of the first public library of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In order to build the hydroelectric power station, the municipality had to redeem the right to use the water from some private owners (Jovin mill or the tobacco mill, Prohaszka, Gyürky and Gold mills)

At the same time, the Niagara hydroelectric power station, designed by Nikola Tesla was given in use for the first time



The Water Plant- (The Turbines)

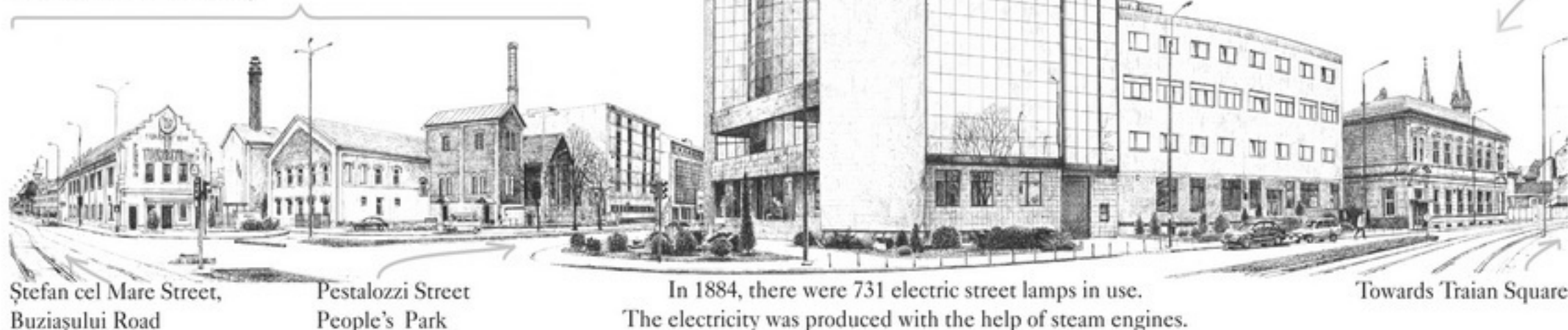
Timișoara's history has been closely linked to water from its founding days. The richness of the Banat plains, surrounding meadows and swamps probably offered favourable living conditions to the people who first settled here over 6,000 years ago, in the Neolithic era. Besides these conditions, the Bega River and its canals have, over the centuries, created some problems regarding issues such as uncontrolled flooding, damage to the foundations of buildings and helped the spread of some major epidemics. But, every time, people learned to control and use the water in the interest of urban development and according to the pace of industrialization. Therefore, Bega's waterways had even more uses than before – from fishing, agriculture, navigation, defence mechanisms, water supply, water mills and mechanical energy for manufacturing, to producing electrical energy. This electrical energy was first used to power modern tramlines, which had replaced horse-drawn trams.

In 1902 the city's chief engineer decided to dig a navigable canal between the current Michael the Brave Bridge - 'Dacians' Bridge and downstream to Decebalus Bridge. There, the new Canal would join the old waterway that flowed by Coronini Park (currently 'The People's Park'). The water would be funnelled to the entrance into the neighbourhood in order to put the turbines of the hydroelectric power station in motion. The station was built in 1909 and it was the first in the country. The designs were made by the "city architect" László Székely and represent a worthy piece of industrial architecture in the style of the 1900s, with stylized and abstract decorative elements, typical of the Wiener Secession movement. Bega's hydroelectric power station was opened on the 3rd of May 1910; having 3 Ganz Danubius turbines (made in Budapest) with 600 horse power that are still in use today.

The Brewery

Former Owners:

The Banat Imperial Administration (by lease) 1718-1778,
The Administration of Timișoara 1779-1872;
Timișoara's first Savings Bank 1874-1882 (by lease),
Ignaz Deutsch and son S.A. 1882-1929;
Csel and sons -1929 -1948;



Aurel Vlaicu Square- The Brewery

It might sound strange, but at the beginning the Brewery was actually named "The Beer Boilery" and it was located in the "Fabric" quarter (Palaca Noua) – Children's Park. At that time, the city's only drinking water fountains were there. Around the year 1750 it was moved to its current location, fact stated in a document given by the city's administration, whereby the building of a brewery and brandy distillery was begun in order to supply the Austrian troops. The acute lack of drinking water made beer quite an acceptable replacement.

The issues relating to drinking water led to the development of new projects to source water to the city through wooden pipes and the building of a water tower supplied from the Bega River with the help of hydraulic pumps. These were initially powered by the water mills and later on by electricity from the hydroelectric power station. For the first few years it was solely used by the military authorities, and then rented out or leased to a number of owners, having different names: Temeswarer Bierfabrik; Fabrikshof Bierbrauerei Altine-Gesellschaft; Gyártelep sorfozde reszvény tarsaság; Polgári sorfosgar; Riedl et Comp. Bierbrauerai Fabrikshof; Deutsch Alex. Gyártelep Sorfozde, The Brewery – steam and spirits mill S.A.; the People's Brewery S.A.; Dreher- Haggemacher Brewery; Timișoreana Brewery S.A. Presently, Timișoreana beer is found in the top two brands perceived by consumers as being "The best Romanian beer", in the top three national brands for notoriety and fifth by quantity available on the market.

SAB Miller bought the Brewery in 2001 and through URSUS Breweries investments of 5 million US dollars were made in 2000. In 2005 Timișoreana entered a partnership with City Hall named "Together We'll Make Timișoreana Beautiful".

Timișoara's Historical Highlights

- 1718 – confirmation of the oldest brewery in Romania
- 1718 – the opening of the first primary school in the citadel, first in Romania
- 1728 – the beginning of Bega's drainage system, first navigable canal in Romania
- 1744 – "Fabric" neighbourhood – the oldest industrial area on Romania's current territorial expanse
- 1732 – the building of the water supply system - „the hydraulic machine”
- 1745 – the building of the municipal hospital, first in Romania (24 years before Vienna and 34 years before Budapest)
- 1753 – Timișoara, having a permanent theatre season (third city in the Habsburg Empire, after Vienna and Budapest)
- 1760 – monarchy's first city to be illuminated by street lamps
- 1771 – publication of the first newspaper in Romania and at the same time the first German newspaper in South-East Europe "Temeswarer Nachrichten";
- 1815 – first public library in the Habsburg Empire, Kingdom of Hungary and Romania (belonging to Josef Klapka)
- 1819 – for the first time in Central Europe, the smallpox vaccine is administered in Timișoara
- 1823 – in Timișoara, Bolyai Janos announces the discovery of the first Non-Euclidean geometry in the world
- 1847 – Johann Strauss (son), has his first concert outside of Vienna in the brewery's forecourt
- 1855 – first city of the Habsburg monarchy with gas lit street lamps illuminating the city
- 1857 - Timișoara is linked to the European railway system through the building of railways
- 1881 – telephone lines are installed, as well as the first central telephone switchboard
- 1884 – first city on European continent with electric street lighting, 731 lamps
- 1886 – first rescue station in Hungary and Romania
- 1895 – first paved street in Romania
- 1899 – first electric tram in Romania
- 1910 - „The Turbines” – first hydroelectric power station on Romanian soil
- 1938 – world first, the first rail and tram line welding machine was used, invention of professor Corneliu Micloși
- 1942 – the first trolleybus in Romania is inaugurated (in Bucharest, the first trolleybus is opened 7 years later, in 1949)
- 1953 – the only European city with three state theatres: Romanian, Hungarian and German
- 1969 – prof. dr. Ghermănescu publishes the first functional encyclopaedic treatise in the world
- 1969 – the first alphanumeric computer in Romania, MECIPT1 (The Calculus Electronic Machine of the Timișoara Polytechnic Institute) (Mașina Electronică de Calcul a Institutului Politehnic Timișoara)
- 1989 – first free city of Romania
- 1993 – the first laparoscopic total hysterectomy (in collaboration with Kiel Clinic)
- 1996 – the birth of the first baby conceived in vitro and the first embryo transfer to a surrogate mother, achieved by prof. Ioan Munteanu's team
- 2001 – first laser heart surgery to take place in Romania