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NATIONAL
HAUSZMANN
PROGRAM



NATIONAL HAUSZMANN PROGRAM

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NATIONAL HAUSZMANN PROGRAM



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Buda Castle is our shared heritage. It is our mission to preserve and revive it; to make it a place we are all delighted to return to again and again.

GERGELY FODOR
Government Commissioner
Chairman of the Board
of Várkapitányság NZrt.

Just like many other nations, we Hungarians have our own symbolic sites. These are places we have fought for and hold on to; sites that we are proud of and responsible for. Looking back on the centuries of our history, we can safely say that the Buda Castle is one of those symbolic places to Hungarians.

To us, the Castle has always meant much more than the sum of its buildings, walls and towers. For centuries, the Buda Castle has been a bastion of Hungary's public and ecclesiastical life, culture, citizenship, and freedom. It embodies the values which continue to define our national identity.

After decades of destruction and neglect, the Castle has entered another era of progress and rebirth. Our developments are aimed at returning the Castle to Hungarian people, and creating a district where it is good to live and stay for a while; a district which deserves repeated visits because it offers new experiences every time.

The fortune of the Buda Castle is of national significance to us, so it is important that it should be governed by clear, well-founded and realistic plans. Dear Reader, let me present to you the following description of the developments in the National Hauszmann Program.

I. WHO WE ARE?

Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt. has been overseeing the implementation of the government development program concerning the Castle District since 1 January 2019.

Relying on decades of experience from its legal predecessors, Várkapitányság put the management of the planned development projects in the Castle area on new foundations. We set up an effective organisation where members of staff are wholly committed to preserving the built heritage, and devote their energies to ensuring Buda Castle regains its former elegance and recognition which is worthy of its World Heritage status.

Our duties include restoring the Buda Castle Palace District and its surroundings, coordinating development projects, and managing the area in a way that preserves its values. Our work is characterised by responsibility, a commitment towards quality, dynamism, openness, and a well-planned approach.

We feel a responsibility for the built, cultural, and archaeological heritage we have been commissioned to oversee, and we protect and enhance it with due care.

In terms of quality, we always strive to attain an exceptional standard by leveraging our preparedness and knowledge, which is continuously being enriched.



As a dynamically functioning organisation, we are all driven by creativity, vigour, and proactivity while executing our duties.

We are open to new, innovative solutions and we gradually improve our services in line with the demands of the people who live, work, or visit Buda Castle.

Our work is characterised by its well-planned approach: all our decisions are integrated into our vision of the future, which serves the restoration of Buda Castle and our national heritage.



II. OUR OBJECTIVES

The Buda Castle is part of the prime built and cultural heritage of Hungary, Europe and the world. It is a symbolic site of the nation, a cornerstone of our identity, for which we share the responsibility.

We are convinced that the Castle District is destined for more than just being one in a series of touristic attractions.

The developments of the National Hauszmann Program are all aimed at returning the Castle to the realm of the everyday lives of Hungarians. Our work is based on the needs of the local residents and visitors, as the future of the Castle is our joint responsibility.

” ———
**Like Sleeping Beauty,
the Buda Castle Palace District
will awaken from its slumber
during the coming decade.**

Our endeavours are based on three objectives: the developments should improve the quality of life of the citizens living in the Castle District; they should bring about a 21st century renaissance of our national identity; and they should enrich our built heritage and natural treasures.

This focus on humans and the community constitutes the primary approach to our development plans; our objectives and actions carried out so far are summarised below based on that overarching idea.



Visitors resting at the renewed Matthias Fountain, spring 2021

III. DEVELOPING OUR BUILT HERITAGE

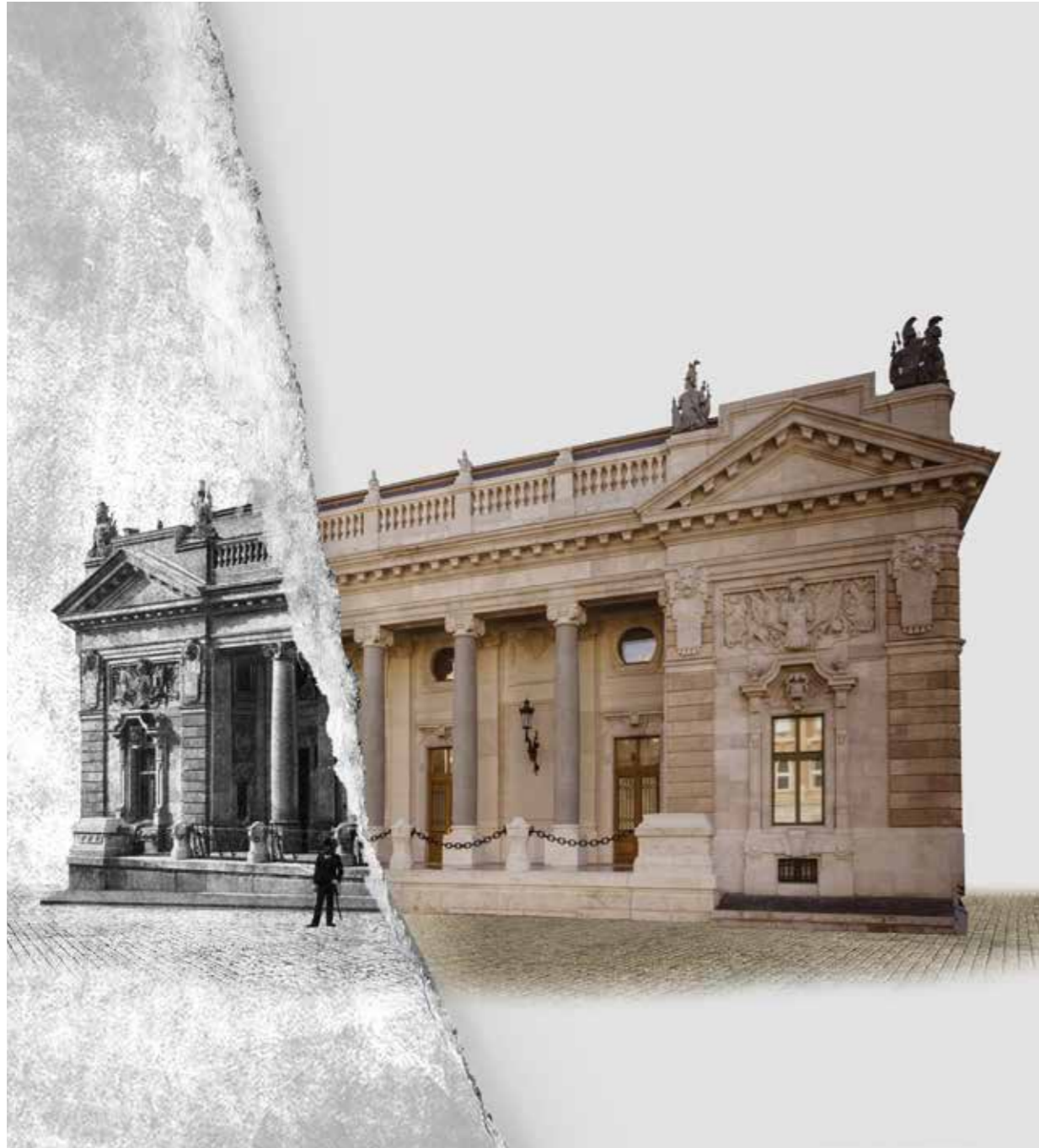
” ———
**The restored squares
and buildings of the Castle
District evoke the golden age
of this locality in the late
19th and early 20th century.**

The National Hauszmann Program was launched in February 2019 based on the government's decision. The renewal of the Buda Castle Palace District is orchestrated by the Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt. As it is now obvious to visitors, our developments have resulted in the rebirth of areas which have been returned to people after decades of ruination.



The Guardhouse and Riding Hall reborn

GUARDHOUSE



1912



The site of the Guardhouse, 2016

After nearly 50 years, the former Guardhouse once again stands proud on the west side of Hunyadi Court. The building has been reconstructed faithfully to the original plans, but meeting the challenges of 21st century technology. Completed in 2020, the Guardhouse awaits local residents and visitors with a café, a restaurant, as well as a hall for various events and exhibitions.



2021



Details of the Guardhouse



The Guardhouse rebuilt according to the original plans of Alajos Hauszmann



The café in the Guardhouse

RIDING HALL



1912

The Horseherd Court was named after the statue of a horseherd restraining his horse, which was restored and reinstalled at its original location in front of the new Riding Hall in August 2019. Originally designed by Alajos Hauszmann and built between 1899 and 1902, the grandiose Riding Hall featured works by the

finest artisans of the era. The wooden panelling was made in the workshop of Károly Neuschloss, while the glass windows were manufactured by Miksa Róth. The building could have been restored from the damage sustained in World War II, but it was demolished in 1950. Fortunately, the original designs



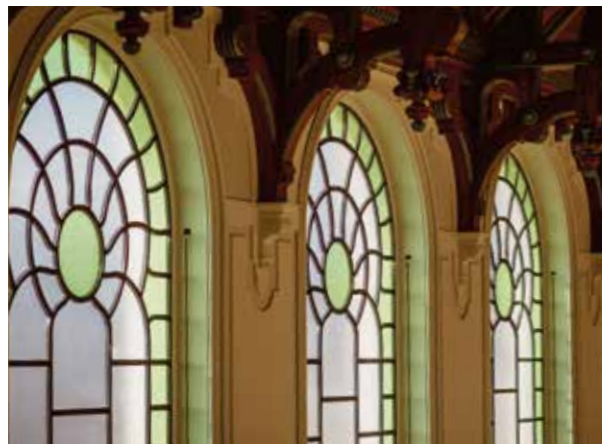
The site of the Riding Hall in 2016



The reconstructed Riding Hall, 2021



have survived – hence the faithfully rebuilt façade, as well as original interior materials, colours and motives. The open roof structure with its beams and boxes matches that of the original building, and so do the large, coloured windows. The lower wall sections have regained their wooden wall slats, and a modern kitchen, cloakroom and service rooms were installed. With a surface area close to 1,500 square metres, the Riding Hall was opened in 2021 as a multifunctional, 21st century event venue. The surrounding area is now attractive, green and accessible.



The interior of the Riding Hall is an authentic copy of the original



The Riding Hall will serve as an event venue



The wood paneling is located under the colourful windows of the Riding Hall



STÖCKL STAIRWAY

2016

2021

The Guardhouse is connected with the Riding Hall by the recreated Neo-Renaissance Stöckl Stairway, which is a remarkable sight in itself. It may well be the most unique and oldest historical stairway in the

country. As before, the Stöckl Stairway connects the reconstructed Horseherd Court with the level of the Palace of Buda Castle.

HAUSZMANN RAMP

The recreation of the Hauszmann Ramp granted access (also by wheelchair users) to Horseherd Court and its connection to Hunyadi Court. Rebuilt based on contemporary photographs and designs, the ramp was opened to the public in 2021. Its pillars harbour accessible restrooms, while the surrounding area is equipped with benches, waste baskets, and trees planted in the ground or in boxes.

The area's development was concluded by covering the entire Horseherd Court with stone slabs. Also, new lights were installed, and the so-called Turkish Garden was created as a new, cosy, wooded park.



KARAKASH PASHA TOWER



2022

Completed in 2022, the reconstructed Karakash Pasha Tower serves visitors to Buda Castle with an information point, a café, a shop and restrooms.



YBL WALL

Thanks to the renovated Ybl Wall, the Horseherd Court has regained its unified and attractive style.

MACE TOWER

The Mace Tower will also be reconstructed for a great exterior appearance and new functions.





The Royal Palace in 1935 after being redesigned by Alajos Hauszmann

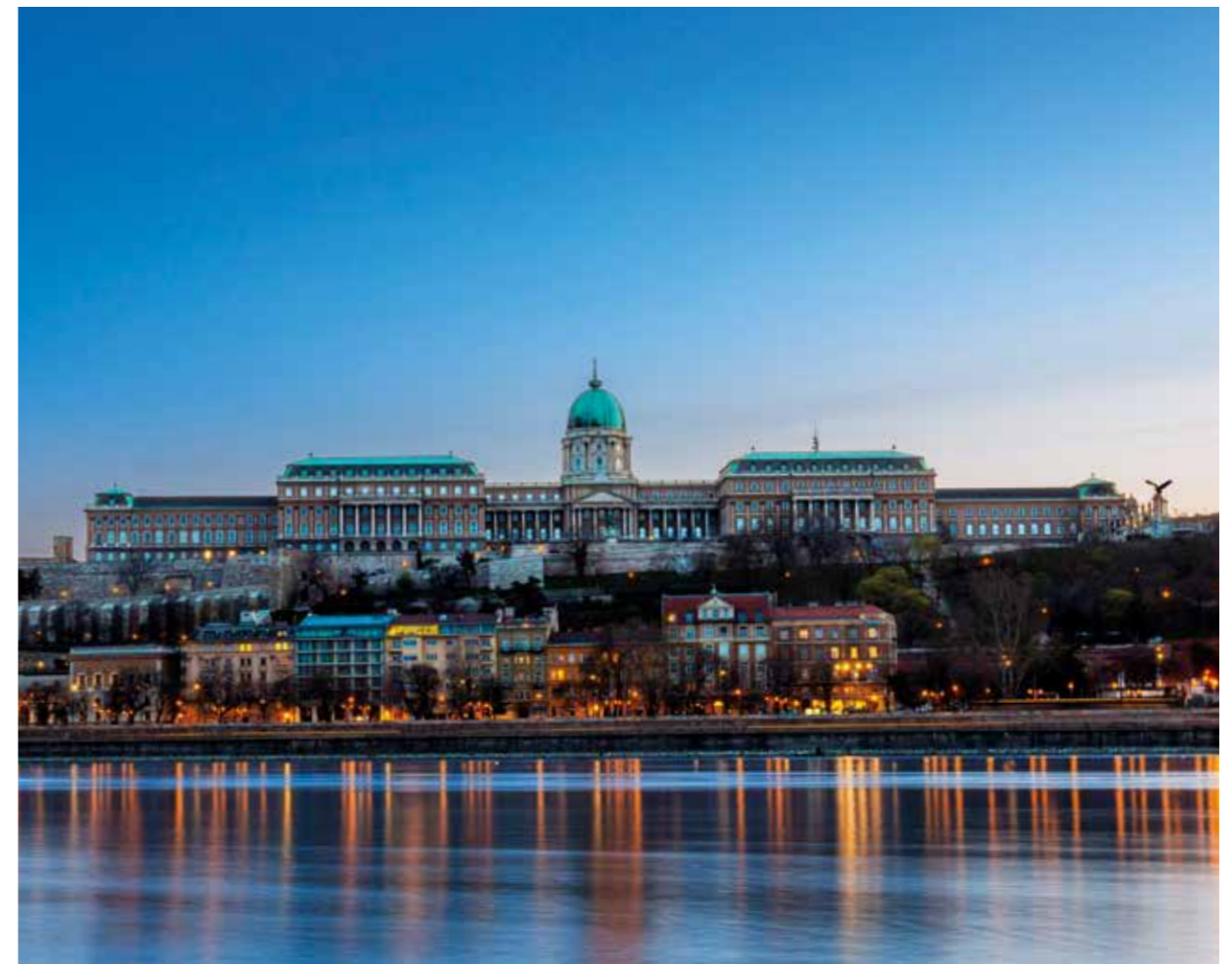


The Royal Palace sustained serious damage during the World War II, 1945

PALACE OF BUDA CASTLE

The Palace is the dominant and hugely valuable building block of the Buda Castle. Its long-overdue comprehensive renovation requires careful preparations. The reconstruction of the South Range, completed in the summer of 2021, was considered as a test of that immense task. The technological, architectural and functional issues related to the

Palace have been comprehensively assessed; we are now in the phase of defining how the building block will be utilised. Preparations for the renewal of the entire palace complex are underway, so that it can regain its splendour seen in the Hauszmann era. The long-overdue works will continue on the side of St George's Square in 2022.



The current view from Pest



1932



2021



Visual designs of the north wing of the Palace of Buda Castle



The north façade renewed, 2021



The north façade of the South Range, 1905



The South Range in 2019

SOUTH RANGE

Built to plans by Alajos Hauszmann, the South Range is a relatively narrow building section within the Palace complex. It was gravely damaged in World War II. Instead of restoring it, the authorities of the Socialist single-party state had the façade overlooking Gellért Hill rebuilt in simplistic style; for decades, only the view from the courtyard reminded of the original state. The reconstruction works started in January 2020 with the restoration of the façade and the internal structure, which can now be seen in their original form. The result is the first building section of the Palace of Buda Castle to have been faithfully recreated.

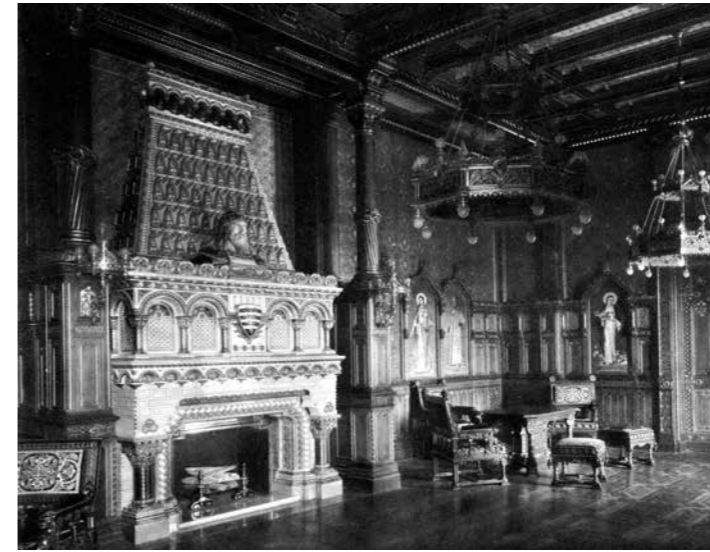


The palace wing after the reconstruction, 2021

ST STEPHEN'S HALL



The reborn St Stephen's Hall with the Zsolnay fireplace



The original St Stephen's Hall, 1912



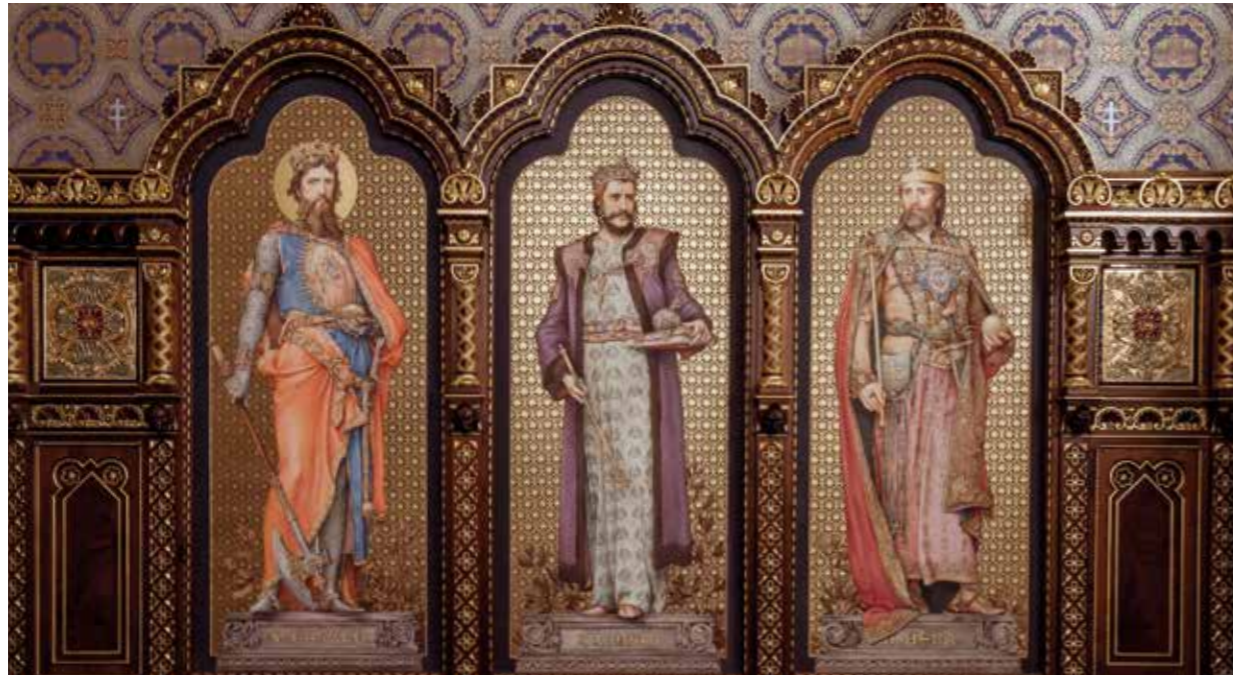
The recreated bust of St Stephen

Located in the South Range of the Palace, St Stephen's Hall represented the pinnacle of Hungary's applied art at the turn of the century. Its internal design and furnishing garnered a Grand Prix of the Paris World's Fair in 1900; they were created by the greatest masters of the time, such as Vilmos Zsolnay, Endre

Thék, Gyula Jungfer, and Alajos Strobl. The hall was furnished in a Romanesque style, but the creators injected Hungarian ornamental features in some places.



St Stephen's Hall restored



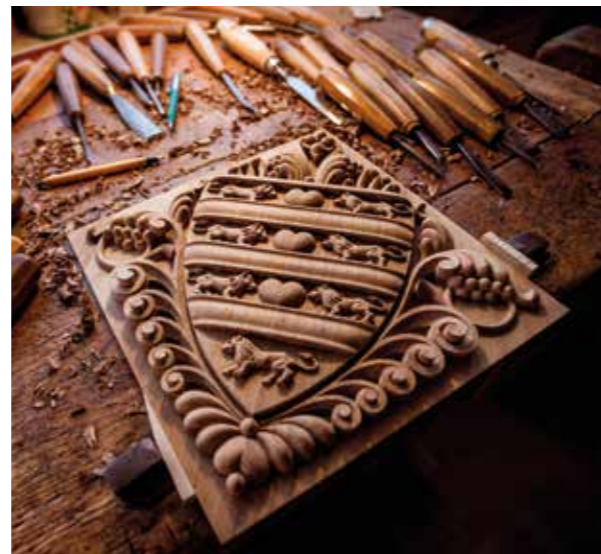
Walls adorned with images of kings of the House of Árpád and saints

The hall was annihilated in World War II, with offices and storage facilities taking its place. The experts involved in the National Hauszmann Program restored the historical hall with minute precision. It has been open to visitors since 20 August 2021.

The corridor leading to the hall houses an exhibition displaying, among other items, a painting by Vilmos Aba-Novák which depicts St Stephen offering Hungary's crown to the Virgin Mary. This is also where a contemporary art installation by world-famous Hungarian artist Sam Havadtóty is located.



Recreating the Hall took years of work

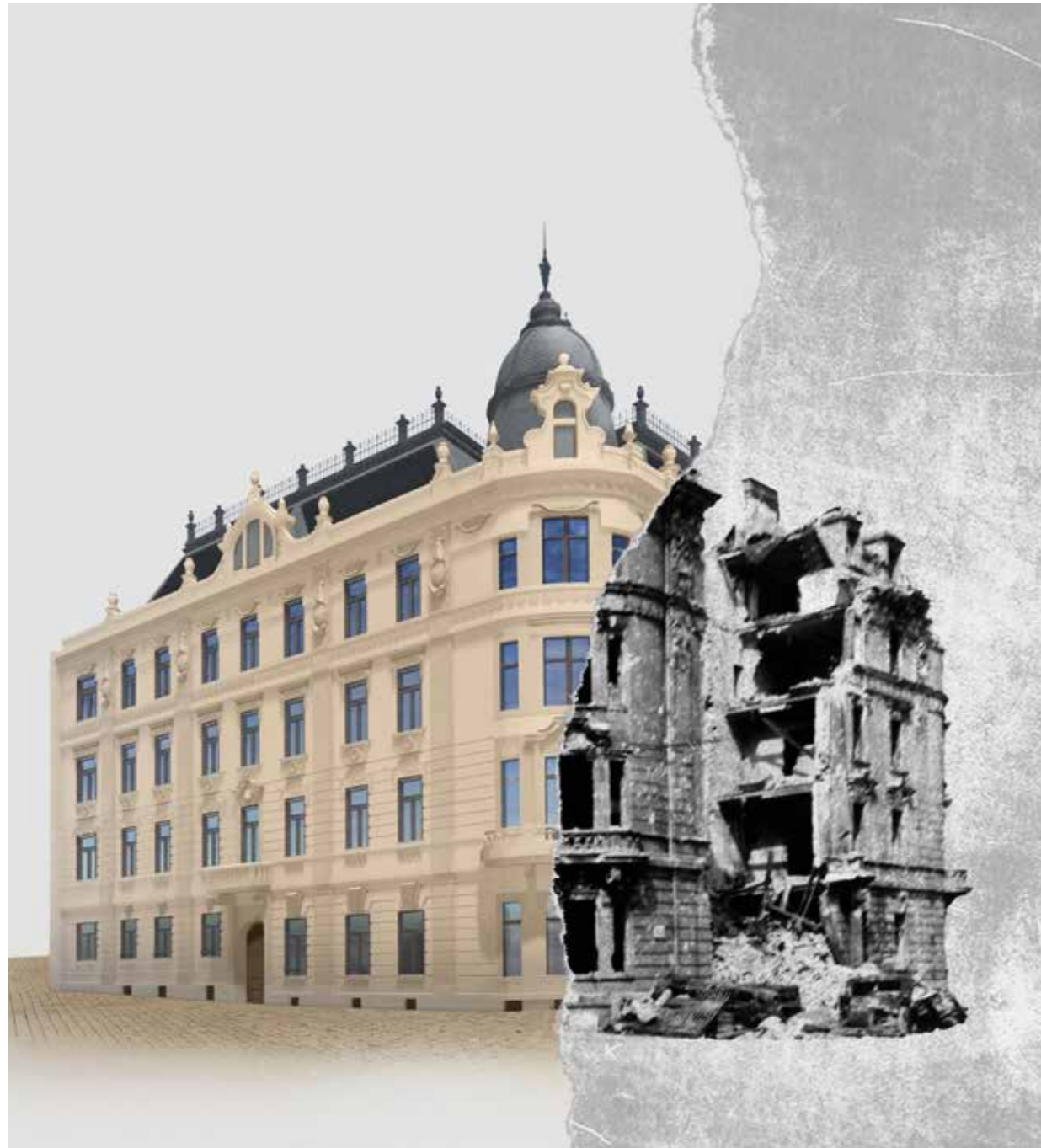


Recreated details of the legendary historical hall



Detail of the recreated drapes in St Stephen's Hall

HUNGARIAN RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS



The site of the building in 2020



Artist's rendition of the reconstructed building

The former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters on the south-eastern corner of Dísz tér had been an organic part of the Castle District until the end of World War II. Despite the damage from shelling, the building could have been saved, but it was demolished in 1946 based on a political decision. Its neglected site remained a sore wound in the cityscape for

a long time. The reconstruction of this remarkable building as part of the National Hauszmann Program has been overdue for more than 50 years. Its exterior will faithfully follow the original layout with domed corners, but the interior design will be modern, with state-of-the-art building engineering and operation methods. The reconstruction started in 2021.



The western façade of the building around 1910



Visual design of the reconstructed building

ARCHDUKE JOSEPH'S PALACE



1906

Archduke Joseph's Palace had stood on the side of St George's Square towards the Tabán area, opposite the Sándor Palace. The western façade had been hit by shells several times during the siege of Budapest in 1944, but the palace was not rebuilt. In June 1968, the dilapidated building was blown up. The area is being



The site in 2020

restored as part of the National Hauszmann Program, true to the contemporary designs by Flóris Korb and Kálmán Giergl. The former Neo-Renaissance-style stables and the palace garden will be open to visitors again. The reconstruction of the palace started in 2021.



Visual design of the reconstructed Archduke Joseph's Palace



The building was damaged during the Second World War II, 1949



Visual design of Archduke Joseph's Palace - view from Palota Road



Visual design of Archduke Joseph's Palace - view from Tabán



Visual design of the palace garden

NATIONAL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS



The façade facing Dísz Square, around 1895



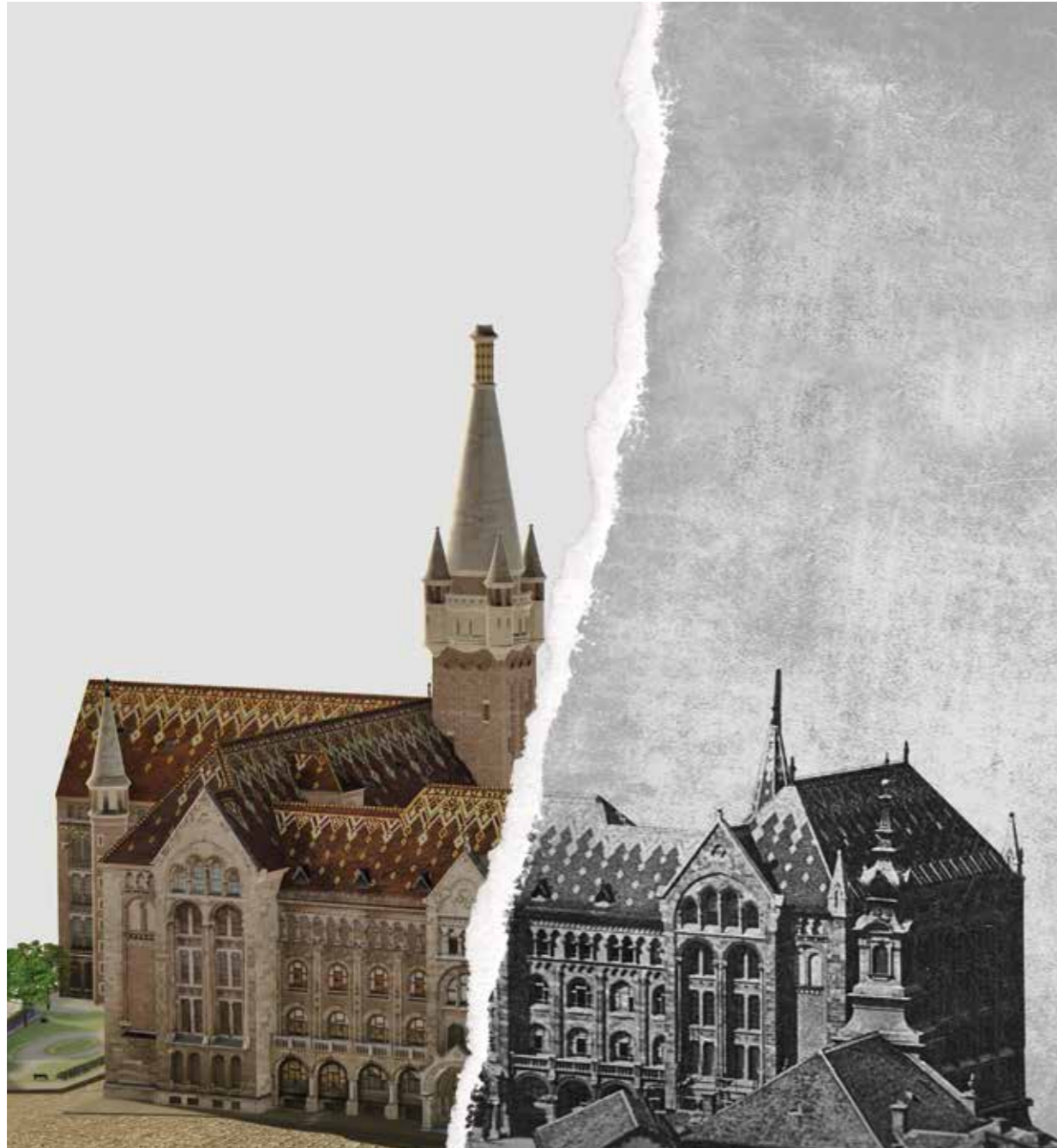
The building in 2020

The Royal Defence Headquarters building had been erected in Dísz tér in 1879, based on Mór Kallina's designs. Its roof was damaged in World War II. The building could have been saved but it was declared ruined in 1949, and its top floors were gradually demolished. The partial renovation carried out in 2012-2014 continued in 2021, aimed at recreating the building's original height. It will serve as the gateway to the Palace District of Buda Castle, and will offer a visitors' centre, community spaces, and exhibitions.



Visual design of the restored National Defence Headquarters building

THE BUILDING OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF HUNGARY IN VIENNA GATE SQUARE



The ruined Archives building, 1945

The building in Vienna Gate Square was transferred to the National Archives in 1923. The Neo-Romanesque complex had been designed by Samu Pecz; the original plans involved another wing to accommodate a projected expansion of the building and the volume of documents stored there. But that wing remained unrealised.

The Archives was gravely damaged in World War II; its back tower was blown up in September 1945 instead of being renovated. The original designs by Samu Pecz were abandoned and a brutalist-style building was erected at the site for the National Electricity Load Distribution Authority in the 1970s;

the style of that building strikingly differed from that of the neighbourhood. The electricity supply control authority (MAVIR) vacated the building in 2007, and no new function was found for the dilapidating building.

As part of the National Hauszmann Program, we plan to comprehensively renovate the Archives building in Vienna Gate Square, while the wing in place of the electricity authority's demolished building will be reconstructed as designed by Samu Pecz. The back tower will also be rebuilt. As part of the project, a new visitor centre and information point will be established, together with a nicely groomed park.

The development will allow visitors to learn about the history of the Archives, the nation's valuable written legacy, and the devoted work of the staff, all in a state-of-the-art environment that meets the needs of the 21st century. In addition, the new wing will provide more space for an institution that has outgrown its current premises.

Thanks to the project, another building that has been neglected for decades and barred from visitors will be renewed at a prime location of the Buda Castle, with an exterior style that is true to the original, and interior functions worthy of the 21st century.



Visual design of the renewed building of the National Archives

IV. STATE-OF-THE-ART HERITAGE PROTECTION

We always place emphasis on scientifically researching the historical buildings to be developed, as well as on analysing and documenting the results. The restorations and reconstructions must not endanger our built and cultural heritage. We intend to complete the archaeological exploration of the Palace of Buda Castle and its surroundings. Newly found artefacts are conserved, researched, safely deposited, and presented to the public in an authentic and modern manner. The reconstruction of the South Range of the Palace with St Stephen's Hall in it started with wall exploration, too; the archaeologists found, among other items, fragments from the Anjou age, parts of the façade of the Baroque palace, and impressions of the floor from Hauszmann's era. These artefacts have supported the faithful reconstruction of the Palace wing and the Hall.



A fragment of a stucco found in the basement of the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters

The treasures unearthed during the archaeological excavations at Táncsics Mihály street 9 have been displayed to the public at an exhibition titled "The First Bastion". They included jewels with precious stones, a scale weight from the 15th or 16th century, as well as the ornamental leaden cap of a medicine bottle from the 16th or 17th century, depicting Mary with the little Jesus. In addition, several coins were found, including



Artifacts displayed as part of the exhibition titled 'The First Bastion'



Medieval coins, with a silver denar from the era of Ferdinand II

a pfennig from Salzburg from the 16th century, and a silver denar coin from the era of Ferdinand II. Besides musket balls, pots and fireplace tiles, an inwrought medal on a silver chain was unearthed

as well. And the groundworks at Dísz Square 2 yielded further sensational artefacts. A long-blocked cellar of the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters contained more than 100-year-old original statues



Earthenware pipe from the era of the Ottoman



Ornamental leaden cap of a medicine bottle from the 16th or 17th century



Statues of Álmos and Előd by Ferenc Mikula, found in the basement of the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters

of chieftains Álmos and Előd which used to adorn the northern main tower of the Fisherman's Bastion. The same cellar also harboured pieces of the granite tables formerly installed in the corridor of the building to commemorate the Board of Directors and patrons of the Red Cross.

Furthermore, the cellar yielded a unique, sealed earthenware pipe from the Ottoman era, a Chinese porcelain cup, as well as a coin that is more than 170 years old, originally used to pay for crossing the newly built Chain Bridge in 1849. An ornamental handwashing basin made of red



Coins collected from people crossing the Chain Bridge



Chinese porcelain cup, 17th century



The artefacts found are scientifically analysed



Lion-themed relief of Queen Elisabeth's cottage

limestone was also found below the rubble, along with numerous stone carvings and building parts. These valuable items will be added to the collection of the Budapest History Museum.

Many valuable items were found during the archaeological excavations preceding the renewal of the walls surrounding the Buda Castle Palace District and the historical gardens. The area around the south great rondella yielded a relief of a lioness which used to adorn the façade of the so-called Hungarian House, a cottage built by Alajos Hauszmann upon Queen Elisabeth's request at the turn of the century. The cottage was demolished after World War II, to be replaced with the reconstructed medieval Sigismund-era gate tower. Finally, valuable artefacts were found in a well in the cellar of the National Defence Headquarters: the earliest pieces of a collection of mostly ceramic jugs and cups had been made in the late Árpád era, while numerous other items stem from the rule of Sigismund (at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, and the following decades).



Artefacts: ceramic jugs and cups

**V. CREATING A MORE LIVEABLE CASTLE:
RESTRICTING CAR TRAFFIC; ACCESSIBILITY;
DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PREMISES; RENEWAL OF
GREEN AREAS**

” **An easily accessible Castle District where well-kept green areas, exciting spaces, and varied flavours encourage visitors from Hungary and abroad to stay and return.**

We intend to make the Buda Castle conveniently accessible to both its residents and visitors. Advocating the principle of “pedestrians first”, we restrict car traffic where possible. At the same time, promenades and stairways are renewed to facilitate access to the Castle on foot. We are working on providing comfortable and environmentally friendly community transport alternatives (such as accessible elevators and escalators) in line with the official city and transport development strategy of Budapest.



The renewed Horseherd Court with the reconstructed Riding Hall, the Guardhouse, the Stöckl Stairway, and the Hauszmann Ramp



The main element of the new, accessible hub: the elevators at Tabán

The renewal of Horseherd Court involved the construction of a connection between Palace Road, Horseherd Court, and Hunyadi Court in order to create an accessible walkway between the terraces on the Tabán side of the Castle. As a result of these developments, two giant elevators can now carry more than 30 persons from Palace Road to Horseherd Court. In 2021, new elevators were installed in the building of the National Széchényi Library as well, for convenient access from Horseherd Court to the Palace. These developments reduce the traffic burden caused by tourist buses and allow visitors to reach the main sights of the area rapidly, with full accessibility.

As an important objective, visitors to the Castle should be greeted by renewed, clean and cosy public spaces. For that purpose, we have started to replace the badly worn and often incomplete street furniture in the district. Modern benches which nevertheless suit the historical environment have recently been installed in the areas managed by the Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt.;

in addition, more than one hundred uniquely designed selective waste containers were installed in the Palace District of Buda Castle.



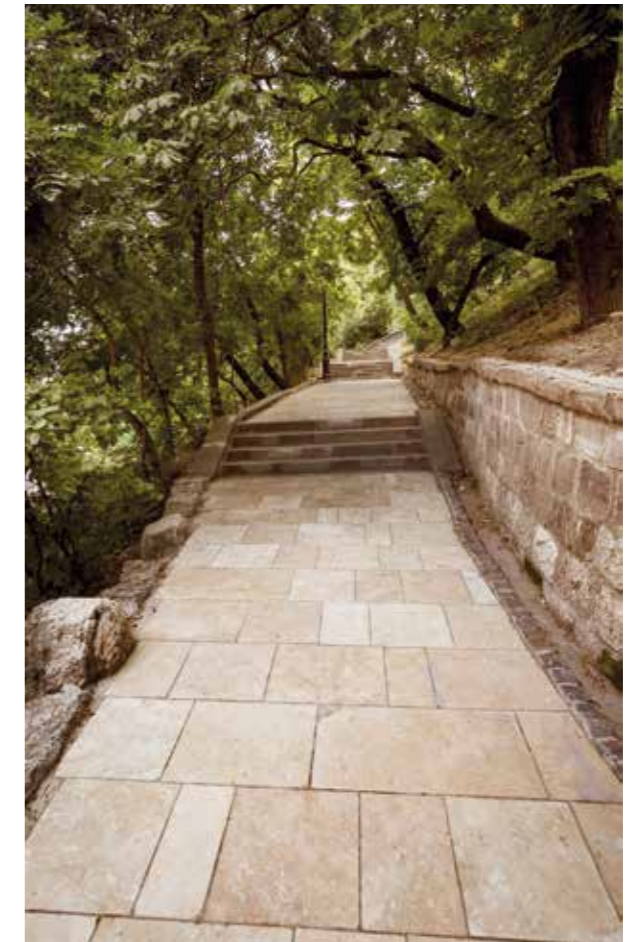
Newly installed selective waste containers

ELLYPS PROMENADE



The Ellyps Promenade before renovation

Ellyps Promenade, which offers a unique vista, became fully safe and accessible at the end of 2020. The renewal of the surrounding green surfaces followed in 2021. The renovation of the wall-walk on the south side opened a previously fenced-off area to visitors, who will later have the opportunity to walk all around the Palace of Buda Castle.



The reconstructed Ellyps Promenade



Visual design of the renewed Ellyps Promenade

RENEWAL OF GREEN AREAS

Environmental considerations remain in the focus of all our developments, and new green areas are added to the district. Our landscaping strategy is aimed at recreating the previously rich flora of the area, so that the gardens in the Castle are no longer neglected and unworthy of a World Heritage site. Through the new landscaping design and the formation of new gardens,

parks and promenades, horticultural traditions of centuries will return to the Castle.

The historical gardens on Castle Hill will be reborn. They include the New World Garden, the Rabbit Garden, as well as the Flower Garden and Fruit Orchard of Noble Ladies. (These two are located outside the castle walls.)



The southern wall-walk before renovations



The southern wall-walk after renovations



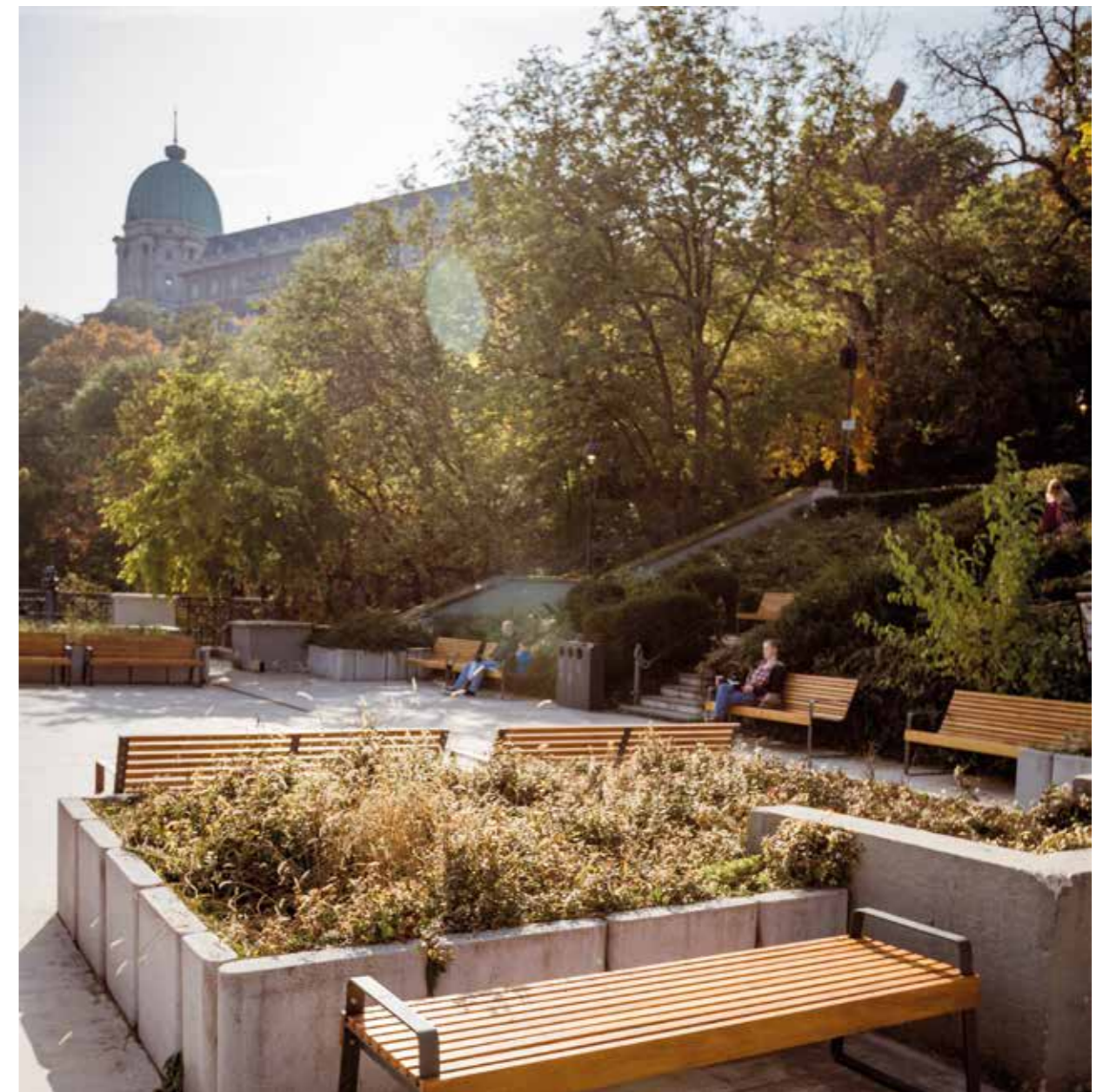
The gardeners continuously care for the plants



New pedestrian connections are created

The “greening” and landscaping of the Buda Castle Palace District continued in 2021. Tidy gardens inviting visitors for a rest and walks have always been parts of the vista of Buda Castle; they were also some of the most varied creations in the history of Hungary’s horticulture. The green surfaces on the hillside and within the Castle, the gardens and the connected reception areas, the roads and panoramic

walkways will all regain their old charm and elegance. These developments are aimed at preserving natural and cultural values and allowing the local residents to recuperate during a leisurely stroll through tidy gardens which please visitors as well. The roads leading to the Castle, as well as the squares, parks and promenades of the district, are renewed in several phases between 2020 and 2024.



New benches on the terrace above the Buda Castle Tunnel

RESTORATION OF THE CASTLE WALLS

The current form of the castle walls emerged during restoration works following World War II. After 1990, the condition of some wall sections was conserved, but no comprehensive reconstruction coordinated with other developments in the Castle has been carried out to this date. The most dilapidated wall sections will be restored first in the National Hauszmann Program, followed by several phases of comprehensive work focused on the walls, bastions, towers and rondellas around the Buda Castle Palace District. The reconstruction of the castle walls started last year. The developments eliminate occasional accident hazards and open areas to the public which have long been fenced off.



FOUNTAIN RENOVATIONS

The National Hauszmann Program includes the renewal of two characteristic fountains in the Buda Castle Palace District. The Matthias Fountain, as the best-known fountain in the district, had been comprehensively rebuilt by the summer of 2020: its statues were cleaned and renovated, and the technology of the fountain was upgraded along with the water pipes. Finally, new lamps illuminate the fountain in previously unseen colours after dusk.

Another popular ornamental fountain, called the Fountain of the Fishing Children, has also been reborn

The comprehensively renovated Matthias Fountain



after many years of inoperability. Besides the statues themselves, the surrounding area has been upgraded so that visitors once again see them in their original splendour, as designed by Alajos Hauszmann.

The beautiful, wrought-iron Habsburg Gate and the ornamental fence had been made in the workshop of Gyula Jungfer based on Alajos Hauszmann's designs, when the Palace of Buda Castle was extended at the

turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The renovation of the gate and fence was completed in 2021; the stone surfaces of the gate were restored along with the wrought-iron inlays, the missing ornaments were replaced, and the required locksmithing works were carried out. Finally, the Turul statue at the end of the fence of the Habsburg Gate was restored, and so was the stairway leading to the gate.



The renewed Terrace of the Fishing Children with the fountain, the Habsburg Gate, and the Turul statue

VI. ENRICHING THE PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES OFFERED BY BUDA CASTLE



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Visitors can discover world-class programs and experiences.

To that end, emphasis is placed on organising pedestrian tourism by installing several information points in the Palace District. Besides the new touristic attractions, we strive to only permit the operation of catering units that support the realisation of our cultural objectives. Every year from 2019, visitors have been able to meet traditional mounted Hussars in the Castle from spring to autumn. These Hussar patrols are now a unique feature of the Buda Castle Palace District; they are popular among Hungarians and foreigners alike.



The Buda Castle is a prime and popular destination to both Hungarian and foreign visitors. We are proud that our country's capital keeps gaining popularity among travellers; nevertheless, we heed the needs of the local residents, and strive to protect the Castle District from the disadvantages of mass tourism witnessed in Barcelona, Venice, Dubrovnik etc. It is a justified need that visitors should be awaited by high-quality programs and exciting experiences, and the complex development of the Buda Castle Palace District does indeed allow for widening the current range of cultural programs. By reviving the historical neighbourhood south of Dísz tér and adding new attractions in the Castle, we intend to decrease the concentration of tourists at such prime locations as the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion thus spreading the number of visitors more evenly. We are working on a well-organised, modern and efficient visitor management system in order to decrease the burden on the civilian town and reduce the concentration of visitors in space and time.



The Castle Garden Bazaar hosts numerous internally and externally organised cultural programs. For example, the Castle Garden Literature and Movie series are very popular, similarly to programs connected to national holidays and events. Some 60 thousand visitors are received at almost 200 internally organised events every year.

Since the autumn of 2020, the Castle Garden Bazaar has staged several open-air exhibitions. One of these, titled "Legends of Buda Castle", was focused on portraits and stories related to the Castle. Billboards

made by Géza Faragó at the turn of the century were also exhibited, and so were poems by János Pilinszky. The event venues will be upgraded and further programs will be announced in order to reach an ever-wider audience, and offer even more varied events.

Furthermore, previously unseen exhibitions are opening at various points of the Buda Castle Palace District. The first one, titled "The Hauszmann Story", was opened in May 2021 to present, with state-of-the-art technology, the life and work of architect Alajos Hauszmann, the history of the buildings in the district,



The latest programs can be found at:

<https://varkertbazar.hu/en/events>



Concert hall in the Carmelite Complex

and the developments in the National Hauszmann Program. The exhibition has recently been relocated to the South Range of the Palace. Historical exhibitions of local artefacts are also planned.

Completed in late 2018, the comprehensive reconstruction of the Carmelite Complex heralded the rebirth of the former church as well. The autumn of 2021 marked the launch of “Carmelite concerts” in the Beethoven Hall, where the audience is treated to thematic concerts by the finest Hungarian musicians

on notable days of our national culture. This event series has contributed to the rebirth of the capital city’s oldest event hall.

The Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt. organises standard and seasonal guided tours, called Buda Castle Walks, in Hungarian and English. Our guides present to the participants the history, secrets and interesting features of the Buda Castle. The number of thematic walks doubled in the first three years of the Buda Castle Walks, with more and more participants joining.



The Hauszmann Story exhibition



The Buda Castle Walks extend the programs offered in the area

Almost 4,000 visitors participated in 451 guided tours in 2021, familiarising themselves with the history of the Castle, the developments aimed at its renewal, the Castle Garden Bazaar, Queen Elisabeth’s favourite gardens, the Habsburg Palatine Crypt, and the dome of the Palace of Buda Castle. The range of walks was extended in 2021 with an interactive tour of the western cellar system below the Castle District.

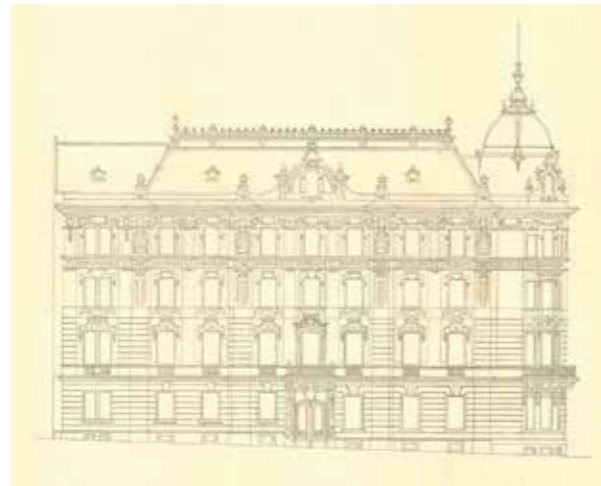


The Buda Castle Walks add to the high-quality programs offered in the Castle and the Buda Castle Palace District, as our trained experts lead visitors to the most exciting and spectacular points of the area based on a program compiled through lengthy research. Further thematic tours will be introduced in 2022.



Habsburg Palatine Crypt

ALAJOS HAUSZMANN (1847–1926)



A leading architect of many important public buildings during the Dual Monarchy, as well as the designer of numerous private houses and villas in Budapest. In his works, he succeeded in creating a harmonic balance between architecture, fine arts, and the applied arts. His style is categorised as historicism drawing inspiration from Renaissance and Baroque elements. Among his best-known works are the New York Palace, the Royal Curia (formerly the Ministry of Justice building on Kossuth Square), and the central building of the Budapest University of Technology. Designing and overseeing the implementation of the Royal Palace of Buda marked the highpoint of his career, which was an assignment he received in 1891 upon the death of Miklós Ybl – following the wishes of the master – and commissioned by Franz Joseph, King of Hungary and Emperor of Austria. He shaped

the Krisztinaváros wing in keeping with the spirit of Ybl, in the process creating one of Europe's most distinguished palace courtyards. However, when it came to the expansion of the Danube wing, he had greater freedom to develop his own ideas. By extending the building all the way to St George's Square, he gave it its current form: with its symmetrical block topped by a dome, it stands like a crown at the southern end of Castle Hill.

In addition to his work as an architect, he also lectured at the Budapest University of Technology for more than four decades, thereby exercising a significant influence on future generations of Hungarian architects. He was presented with many prizes and awards over his lifetime, one of them being the Grand Prix at the Paris World Expo of 1900.

MAIN LEGAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF VÁRKAPITÁNYSÁG

- Act XLIX of 2018 (Budapest Law)
- Government Decree 154/2018 (IX. 3.) defining properties belonging to the Buda Palace District
- Government Decree 313/2018 (XII. 27.) on nominating investments of outstanding public importance to be implemented in the area of Buda Palace District, and on the assignment of asset management tasks of the properties
- Government Decree 1377/2014 (VII. 10.) on the measures necessary for the planning of the National Hauszmann Program (2014–2024)

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The new, domed, Danube wing of the palace with the Habsburg Stairway leading to the terrace, around 1912

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Buda Castle is
our shared heritage.
It is our mission to preserve
and revive it; to make it a place
we are all delighted to
return to again and again.

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