

KARLOVAC: AN IDEAL FORTIFIED-RENAISSANCE CITY
THE TRANSFORMATION FROM A "PERPETUAL" MILITARY TOWN, TO
A SO CALLED "CITY IN A PARK"

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PREFACE

From the Garden of Eden until today, parks always gave an illusion of a space of tranquility and wellbeing. They have always encouraged people to think of a happier, more righteous world, and gave them hope in a better future. To dwell in a park, if even for a little while, means to relax physically and even more, mentally. A park is like an open church – you come in with respect, you dwell there searching inner peace, and you exit with new hope and trust. We seem to have forgotten about those kind of “places of worship” because in the last few decades of the 20th century, parks became “green areas” which were more often than not, considered very statistically, as a number of square meters per capita in a city or a town, and not as a creative human entity, weaved from different plants and constructive materials.

The Karlovac parks, or in other words, their arrangement, represent a kind of catharsis in an urban, architectural, and, of course, social sense. Being that, the Karlovac fort was conceived as a fortification for the defense against the vast Turkish threat, and most probably its founders never believed in the fort's further development, after, the before mentioned threat, was eliminated. Karlovac, not only, surpassed all of the expectations in the defensive and economical sense, but also, and much more important, in the social sense, where the parks surrounding of the old fort serve as an evident proof of Karlovac following modern European trends and creating a modern society, and all of that just 300 years after its foundation.

In my thesis I will attempt, by researching different archive records, books, magazines and carrying out field work, attempt to declare the aspirations and efforts of one “artificial” society, to change their military past with the total opposite, an arranged nature, traditional and at the same time modern.

What needed to happen and what still needs to happen so that the old Karlovac city core replaces its ideal fortified renaissance city epithet with, not only, the name of “City of Parks”, but a “City in a Park”.

INTRODUCTION

The fortification landscape frame of the renaissance urban city core will become a space for city parks and promenades arrangement, which there are more than 100 hectares in Karlovac. The parks in the city core, along the circular promenade and on the banks of the Korana River, belong to a park-landscape envelope of the historical city.

As an example of a carried-out ideal fortified-renaissance city, unique in Croatia's city building history and with a recognizable European significance, Karlovac is one of the rare cities which date of erection is known. It came to be as one of the first European renaissance cities, and the first carried out ideal city in the former Habsburg Monarchy. Its construction began on July 13th 1579, according the predefined plans, which followed the Italian renaissance theory patterns. This city is 13 years older than the globally known Italian renaissance city of Palmanova and older than many other similar European cities. In the last 435 years, Karlovac developed its urban and landscaping identity, especially in the case of its renaissance – baroque city core. This historical Karlovac, recognizable by its six arched "Star", managed to maintain, despite the changes and annexes over time, the depiction of its authentic renaissance city feel.

The city's diameter of 400 meters inside of a star-like city wall, with twenty city insulars and a great square in the middle, did not allow the arrangement of city parks. It was not until the 19th century¹ and the foundation of the "City Beautification Association" that the fortifications landscaping frame of the renaissance urban core will become a space for the erection of city parks and promenades.

¹ Figure 1, Page IV

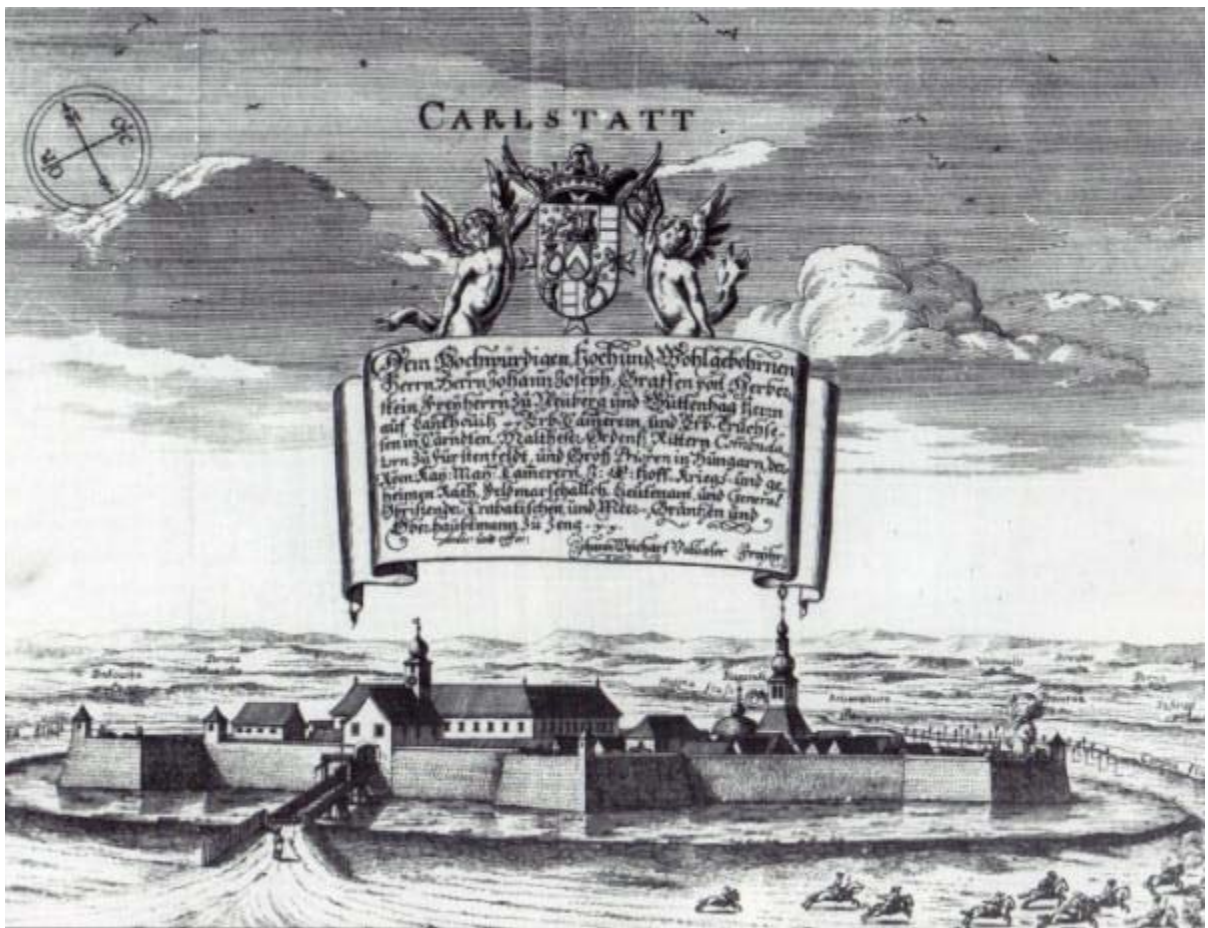


Figure 1, Karlovac fort, Johann Weikhard von Valvasor, 1689

ISSUES DEFINITION AND HYPOTHESIS

As stated in the introduction, on July the 13th, year 1579, construction of an ideal fortified-renaissance city began in the marshlands between the rivers Kupa, Korana, Dobra and Mrežnica. The city of Karlovac or Karlstadt, named after its founder Charles II, Archduke of Austria, came to be as an ideal fortified-renaissance city, in the sole heart of Croatia, for the purpose of defending the Carniola province against Turkish raids and to prevent the immanent Turkish attack on the Styria province and later the Monarchy's capital Vienna.

Being built in the marshlands between four rivers, on a land highly unsuitable for construction, the real question is:

“Was the fate of Karlovac fort to outlive its defensive function?”

Built solely for the purpose of defending the roads between Sisak and Senj in the direction of today's Slovenian Carniola, after the downfall of the Ottoman Empire, the defensive function of the Karlovac fort was a questionable one and presented a kind of “status quo” between the Bosnian (Turkish Croatia) borders and the borders of the Croatian governance. Why it was built on this “ungrateful” location was a question of intimidation and physical barrier. The area between Sisak and Senj was used by the Turkish forces solely for pillaging raids that probably weren't sponsored by the Ottoman court, but were more of the private manner. Although more of a menace than a threat, this gap presented a possible Achilles heel for the Habsburgs, and also the Croatian royalty of that time, and they weren't willing to let it go undefended. The sole fact that the Habsburg military machine started building another fortified city just on the other side of the Kupa river in the year 1730, a baroque fortified city, at least twice as big as Karlovac, named Orlica², a fortification so big that its foundations and mud bastions are still visible today, some 300 years after, and that it was abandoned only five years after the construction started because the military treasury couldn't finance such a great project, is an example that just because one can start building a city, does not mean that one must finish it.

The question that remains is, was the faith of Orlica the same faith that the city of Karlovac, which was, although a free city from its early age (built in 1579, became a free city in 1781) would have to bear after the Turkish threat was disintegrated. Although a free city, it was still first and foremost a fortification where the military magistrate carried the main word. Weren't it for the good geographical location (in the sole “heart” of Croatia), good connectivity by rivers (the most eastern Danube basin port, nearest to the Adriatic sea) and the contemporary roads of its time, which enabled the goods trade and development of manufacture, the writers opinion is that the survival of this fort was very unlikely.

² Figure 2, Page VI

The explanation for the claim of Karlovac not becoming anything more than a fortification, are: the geographical location, the forts surroundings and the Turkish campaigns that underwent in the eastern part of the monarchy, - these three factors show us that the Karlovac fort was never to be taken under siege (which it wasn't, maybe a few times and those were made probably

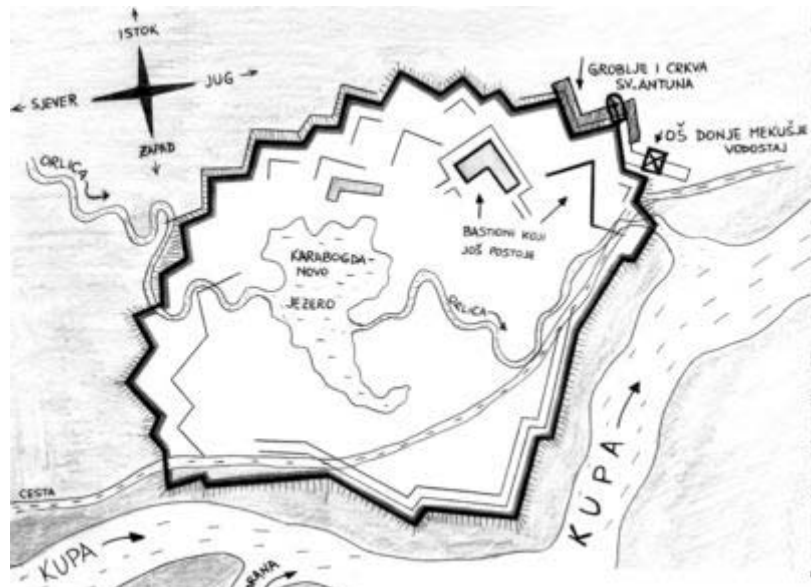


Figure 2, Plan of the never built Orlica fortress, personal drawing

by scouting parties which were sent either to determine the strength of the fort itself or by unsuccessful raiding missions), but to intimidate the enemy. Forests, marshes, hills from both sides of the fort and three rivers made for a very unsuitable fighting ground and an unforgiving place to live.

What made Karlovac interesting to the surrounding villages and cities was the ability to trade and the security given by the city's fortification, and also how it functioned as a link between the old settlements of Banija, Dubovac (14th century), Gaza and Švarča (13th century), connecting them all in a one logical cluster. Although that wasn't the forts main goal, it became a logical step in the further development of the city of Karlovac.

Other examples of European ideal fortified renaissance cities, like Palmanova in Northern Italy, or Nové Zámky in southwestern Slovakia, either weren't that attractive to its inhabitants, and were, for some time, abandoned and used as a prison (in the case of Palmanova) or they had a very turbulent history, and a very ungrateful location (on the border with Hungary), besieged by the Turks, and were the center of the Hungarian anti-Habsburg uprising (in the case of Nové Zámky).

It seems that military history was very gentle to Karlovac, as its grievances weren't of a military nature, but more of natural hazards. Floods and fires were the main problems. In the great fire of 1692, nearly the entire city was burned to the ground, but the inhabitants did not capitulate, - they found it as an opportunity to rebuild the fort and make it more contemporary. So, although the urban structure of Karlovac is a renaissance one, the buildings inside the fort, or the "Star" (as we will call it from now on), are mostly baroque, and only a few of the original houses remain.

Becoming a free city in 1781, Karlovac lived through an economic boom. Being that, it already had a very well formed economic infrastructure and the city became a sort of an economic center for Croatia of that time. At the beginning of the 19th century, when Napoleon was conquering Europe, and with it Croatia, Karlovac was the capital of the Civil and Military Croatia. In this time Karlovac receives his first alley. The Marmont Alley, planted by the French troops in 1810, and with this act, not knowingly, the path for the foundation of the “City Beautification Association” was made.

After the French occupation, Karlovac enters a period of uncertainty. The transition of the “goods trade” from the river ways and roads on to the new and modern railroad transportation system was a hard blow for the city of Karlovac. Being that the goods weren’t stocked in the city anymore but only transported through it. In other words the goods just went through Karlovac to Rijeka. Karlovac enters a period of stagnation. Once a merchant center, it became an old military fort which didn’t even had the finances to repair the old battered up walls or any other infrastructural intervention for that matter. Even more, Karlovac still didn’t belong to the Kingdom of Croatia nor Dalmatia, but it was the capital of an old and outdated concept of the Military Frontier^{3,4}, which functioned as a tampon area between Austro-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, which was crumbling in its foundations at that time, and that didn’t help it either.



Figure 3, Croatian Military Border, end of 19th century

Described as “...an abandoned fortification, where farmers bring their cattle for pasture, and where the ramparts serve as breeding grounds for millions of miasmas...”⁵, Karlovac was on its breaking point. It was time to break the shackles of its military history and enter a new era. In its financial and identity crisis, Karlovac undergoes its catharsis. Thanks to a group of a few enthusiasts backed up by the city’s administration the “City Beautification Association” is founded. The once formidable trading and military center decides to follow European trends and abandons its military past in exchange for a surrounding suitable for living. The

³ Part of the Habsburg Kingdom of Croatia on the border with the Ottoman Empire

⁴ Figure 3

⁵ “...kad se kraj njih prolazi moramo čepiti noseve. Sav se smrad ulieže u nje, pa se za vrijeme ljetne žege isparuje u u milijunima miazma...”, Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 18. Translated by Author.

walls and bastions fall, the ramparts are drained and the transformation begins. The old fortification, which was used to protect its inhabitants and its surroundings, was no more that, and Karlovac we know today was born, citing its old renaissance structure through its landscaping heritage, was now in developing.

THESIS, PURPOSE AND GOAL

Through its history, Karlovac underwent a multitude of urban planning strategies and none of them were fully conducted, and hardly any of them were taken seriously. The private interests of certain individuals and the military disinterest for the forts surrounding and their stubborn claims over its art of functioning, has left a mark on the Karlovac urban structure. The result of what we see today is a half a millennia worth of “perpetual threat”, a state of anxiety imposed by the Military Frontier, unrestrained economical growth and decline, and complete disinterest for contemporary urban strategies all together. The Karlovac fort and its closer surrounding, is simultaneously, an example of an ideal fortified-renaissance city and an example of naiveté and negligence in urban planning and thought.

This thesis is an attempt to justify the present urban matrix state, found in the Karlovac “Star” and its nearer surrounding, on the basis of the horticultural landscaping efforts done in the past 130 years. The justification for this thesis, the writer believes, is found in the ever more growing attempts and initiatives of certain conservationist, urban planners and architects to declare the present state of the Karlovac Star as a sequence of badly made urban planning and architectural interventions throughout its history, which is true, but their ultimate goal is as illogical and without sense as the architectural irregularities against they are arguing.

To bring things more into perspective, Karlovac as an example of the first carried out ideal fortified-renaissance city is of great importance to the European cultural heritage. Its urban planning structure and the Italian renaissance thought, on the basis of which it was built on, the illegitimate successor of Filarete’s Sforzinda (Filarete’s idea was one of building an ideal city for an ideal society, and not military), vindicate the need for its preservation and revitalization. But what the group suggests isn’t a logical continuation of the forts efforts to open itself to its surroundings, but to renovate the old city walls, fill up the ramparts with water and close the city gates accommodated with the destruction of the already made infrastructure and horticultural heritage surrounding it. The group, prompted by the Dutch experience with the revitalization of their star like fortification, the Bourtange Fort⁶, near Groningen, where in the span of over 30 years (1965-1990), the Dutch have succeeded in bringing the almost abandoned fort to its former state, water filled ramparts included, tend to forget a few obvious facts and differences.⁷ Karlovac was never abandoned, but still is a

⁶ Figure 4

⁷ Lončarić 2012, 13-17

living entity; Karlovac is far bigger than the Bourtange fort and the structural insertions would be much more devastating to Karlovac surroundings, where as the insertions on the Bourtange Fort were necessary not only for the Forts survival, but also for the survival of the surrounding villages.



Figure 4, The Bourtange fort, Gorningen, The Netherlands

Stating these two arguments; an ideal renaissance urban structure and being one of the first, if not the first such city built, the group argues that this is enough to bring the fortification to its original state, and by that becoming an open, living museum, incarcerating the inhabitants of the fort inside the city walls, the same walls they have been taking down for almost 150 years. This kind of argumentation and goal are all made in the efforts of getting the Karlovac “Star” on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List, and by that preserving the “Stars” original appearance, and thus becoming the fourth city in Croatia to find its place on this admired list (the first three cities being Dubrovnik, Split and Trogir)

What does one city or site require to end up on the UNESCO list? There are three factors one must take in consideration:

1. Exceptional cultural, architectural and urban value
2. Historical value
3. Exceptional specificity value

Only the cities having these three mentioned characteristics are worth preserving in their whole, which naturally implies the strictest protection of the pre-existing state, hardly any or no interventions, only in special cases where they are subjected to harshest criteria.

We can agree that protection of a city in its whole or even a part of the city, especially when it's the city's old core in an urgent need of attention and investments, under the guidance of UNESCO is a "two edged sword", and that we can recommend it only to truly exceptional accomplishments of civilization, architecture or urban planning. On the contrary, rigid protection causes only an obstacle towards active changes in efforts of true revitalization.⁸

Applying these three factors on the Karlovac "Star" example, we can say that it checks out for the first two factors, although the architectural and urban value should be revised and improved under the guidance of UNESCO, and the third factor doesn't come into consideration, only, maybe, for the fact of Karlovac being the first such city built.

The writer's opinion is that the conservationists, architects and urban planners should not strive on getting the Karlovac "Star" on the UNESCO list, not because Karlovac is not worthy of the title, but because the interventions and finances needed to achieve the requirements just to become a candidate for the UNESCO list are too complex and too expensive, financial wise, time wise and cultural wise. They should focus more on solving the realistic problems at hand; making the "Star" interesting for investments, rehabilitation of abandoned real estate, sorting out the traffic through the "Stars" inner core... With all these unsolved practical problems, one can easily say that a candidate spot on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List lacks finances, will and credibility.

This thesis will show and explain certain stages in the Karlovac "Star" development with the focus on the horticultural landscaping heritage which in combination with the "Stars" urban structure, location and contemporary trends in urban design, forms a sort of a cultural landscape, a natural expansion and development of the "Stars" urban structure, intertwined with its horticultural and natural surroundings. The main purpose of the thesis is to present and assert the Karlovac "Star", an ideal fortified renaissance city, not only as a city of parks, but as a city inside of a park.

⁸ Vaništa Lazarević 2003, 43

Main goals of the thesis are:

- Understand the development process of the Karlovac “Star” in a historical context
- Bring the Karlovac “Star” economic and urban development in connection with the foundation of the “City Beautification Association”
- Show the associations development and changes through different time periods
- Show the associations efforts for the realization of the “Karlovac: City of Parks” strategy
- List and review of parks that are surrounding the Karlovac “Star”
- Audit certain problems or problematic areas in the parks surrounding the Karlovac “Star”
- Confirm the “City in a park” thesis

METHODS OF WORK

The methods of achieving the desirable goals and conclusions are based on extraction, understanding and auditing other certain conclusions found in forms of literary sources, magazines, archive documents, spoken word, plans, photographs and reviews “in situ”. The thesis is made on the basis of theoretical scientific work.

The methods used:

- Analysis – a speculative, theoretical and practical dismantling of every complex cognition into its main factors or constituent parts, moments or perspectives
- Synthesis – linkage of the analysis acquired elements
- Description – an art of illustrating which doesn’t interpret or prescribe
- Compilation – compilation of a new thesis using other thesis

I | HISTORY OF KARLOVAC

I.I. FORT DEFINITION

The art of building defensive fortifications, their shapes, the quality and durability of the same fortifications have always depended upon the time and the surroundings of their origin.

What is a fort? In a broad comprehension, a fort is an obstacle and/or protection of any position or an inhabited location. A fort had to enable a solid, safe, permanent or temporary defense of a certain location, against any kind of enemy attack. As it was in the past, so it is today. This notion was credible especially in the olden times, when the means of destroying and pillaging weren't so numerous and devastating. So the defense was that more safe and tougher as the location of the fort was more shielded by its natural position and/or by the human intervention and the art of erection of defensive forts. In times of peace, they secured the wellbeing of the inhabited, protected location, and in times of siege, they were the main reliance of the defense, in which the defenders were to stop and repel the enemies attack. Hence, a fort, can be a well picked and used work of nature (a high stone cliff, cave, river, sea shore or an island in a lake, a swamp or a marsh surrounded by the waters of a nearby creek) or a work of a war, apropos a military engineer.

The newly arrived peoples that inhabited the old roman provinces, and even on the grounds of medieval Croatia, to protect their settlements and fortified towns, erect their castles and towns made of dry walls or clay ramparts. This traditional way of building in Croatian lands, was kept only in the Dalmatian cities, which have, through Byzantine architecture, learned the arts of antique fortified building. It was first in the developed medieval period that the towns behind this Balkan narrow cultural zone, started building defensive walls using sand and lime mixed with water, a very crude version of concrete. In these parts the defense of fortified towns is maintained through high towers and half towers, of cubical, and afterwards cylindrical layouts, in the Romanesque and Gothic period, and in times of medieval wars, all the way to the emergence and use of gunpowder in the siege skirmishes, in other words, all the way to the second half of the 14th century.

The changes needed to oppose these kinds of terms will be firstly brought to Croatian lands by the Turkish wars, because the Turkish armies bring with them a threat of a new weapon, the siege cannon.⁹

⁹ Kruhek 1995, 13-14

I.II. THE CROATIAN-TURKISH CONFLICT

The old Croatian feudal forts weren't prepared to defend themselves against the Turkish artillery.

The history of fortified defensive architecture in the lands of the Croatian kingdom, of the new era, is the history of defending against the Turkish conquest and the hundred year war for Croatian survival on the European map of the 16th century.¹⁰ All though the first attempts of creating a wide and mutual defense of Croatia and Europe in Croatian lands are introduced in times of king Sigismund, The Holy Roman Emperor, and afterward in times of king Matthias Corvinus, the development of an unified defensive system of Croatia, from Drava and Danube rivers to the Adriatic Bank, started to emerge first after the end of the war and mutual conflict between the Croatian and Slavonian aristocracy who adopted the candidate for the Hungarian-Croatian crown, the Habsburg archduke Ferdinand and the Erdély (Transylvanian) archduke John Zápolya. This turning point is determined by another harsh defeat of the Christian army forces near the town of Gorjana in Croatian Slavonija in the year 1537, a defeat which uncovered and opened all the unsettled problems of the effective anti-Turkish defense. The European Christian leaders with the papacy at their head



Figure 5, Croatian Lands at the end of the 16th century, Gerard de Jode, 1593

¹⁰ Figure 5

realized, that the European continent, after the defeats of the Christian army forces at the beginning of the 14th century, was placed in an armed conflict between two civilizations, two different army systems, two beliefs and cultures. Their attempts to stop the vast Osmanic army force with grand, crusader like campaigns, awaiting a single heroic victory, with which they would push the Osmanic force back on the continent of little Asia, unfortunately failed.^{11,12}

I.III. TURKISH MILITARY

To understand why the Turks were so successful in their European progress, we must take a closer look at the structure and the organization of their army. The size of Turkish power laid on the might of their army force. The main goal of their countries politics was to expand, which was only possible through conquering other lands. If one is willing to conquer another land, he is in need of a vast army and that army has to be created, sustained and paid in money or in prizes, spoils and booty. That was only possible by plundering and stealing, because all of the goods needed could not be manufactured in the bounding state borders.



Figure 6, A Turkish horseman, 16th century, Kruhek, 1995

How was this army force of the Turkish-empire organized? It consisted of two separate parts. The core of the Turkish army was made out of the regular Sultans army, which consisted of the janissary and their assigned detachments of cannoneers, horseman¹³ and armourers and had the force of about 30.000 men. Their recruits were mostly young men abducted or imprisoned during their skirmish campaigns. The other half of the main army force was consisted of the provincial Turkish armies, the sanjaks. The main fighting force of the sanjaks was the cavalry the sipahi. They, in contrast with the janissary, weren't paid in money but in territorial compensations, so called timars. They could round up about 90.000 men. By the middle of the 16th century, the

Turkish army could round up to about 250.000 men. A force no other European sovereign could muster up.

¹¹ Kreuhek 1995, 45-46

¹² Adamček: Ratovi s turcima i položaj zavisnih seljaka u Pokuplju u drugoj polovici XV. i XVI. stoljeća, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 81-104

¹³ Figure 6

This army was well equipped – by the end of the 15th century still with cold weapons, and after with better firearms. The elite squads of janissary, that were formerly equipped with bows and arrows, in the first half of the 16th century got equipped with firearms, muskets. Off course, the local armies weren't equipped with such form of weaponry, but they still held vastly greater numbers of cannons with the Christians armies and their "crude" fortifications couldn't hold up to.¹⁴

I.IV. THE FOUNDATION OF KARLOVAC

The construction of a new stronghold, of a new military city, defended by a renaissance fortified system, was vital for the defense of Croatia. As said before, the old medieval, feudal fortresses weren't rigid enough to stop or withstand the Turkish army force, let alone a more forceful or longer artillery attack.

In the plains between the Sava and the Drava rivers, a part suitable for constructing renaissance fortifications suitable for these types of lowlands, this problem was already solved with the construction of forts around Varaždin, Koprivnica, Križevci and Ivanić Grad. On the other border front, an area between Senj and Bihać, it was very obvious that the existing fortification system was too weak to withstand, let alone, stop the Turkish raids into the Kupa River basin and further to the borders of Carniola.

In the years 1577 and 1578, the administrative methods of governing the border defenses, and the formation of new military institutions and offices, had created a new kind of quality of the logistic support for the army forces. Determining on how the defensive costs will be financed and a resolute commitment to these same costs, by the archduke Charles the II. and his direct arbitrations in all things military in the Croatian and Slavonian Military Frontiers, have made certain conditions for the beginning of the construction of a defensive fort, such as the Karlovac fort.

Immediately after the end of the Brück an der Mur council, already in the summer months of 1578, one of the most active new councils was the council for construction, with their president Franz Freierr von Pappendorf¹⁵ and head army engineer J. Vintan.

The archduke also listed various duties and perpetrators of various jobs that have to be found and gathered at the future building site: a civil engineer, for conducting the fort construction, his assistant, a foreman, a cashier, for conducting the construction site treasury, a clerk, for taking care of the workers, tools, daily schedule, lower



Figure 7, Franz
Freierr von
Pappendorf

¹⁴ Kruhek 1995, 54-60

¹⁵ Figure 7

army officers, for security measures, various arts and crafts experts, needed for the execution of precise jobs on such a grand and well organized construction site.

Already the same month, July 1578, the engineer council was on site in the Croatian Military Frontier. In the same council were, the before mentioned, F. von Pappendor and J. Vintana. Obviously, their first task was to determine the location and position of the future fort. The council had enough information and experience to determine that the weakest point in Croats defense was on the line between Ogulin and Steničnjak (both well fortified medieval feudal castles). In these regions, the Turkish hordes, from the time of the early 16th century, were the most likely to break through to the Kupa river and over it to Carniola. And how the defense of Carniola was one of the most important tasks of the new fortress, this line was the most logical place where the fort should be built.¹⁶

“...where the Mrežnica and Korana river meet and where those two rivers flow into the Kupa river, the place that was visited by the supreme commander with his army council and commissioners, during their recent army campaign, where you can build a fort and a supreme commander headquarters and on this place build one bridge over the Kupa river and another over the Mrežnica river.”^{17,18}

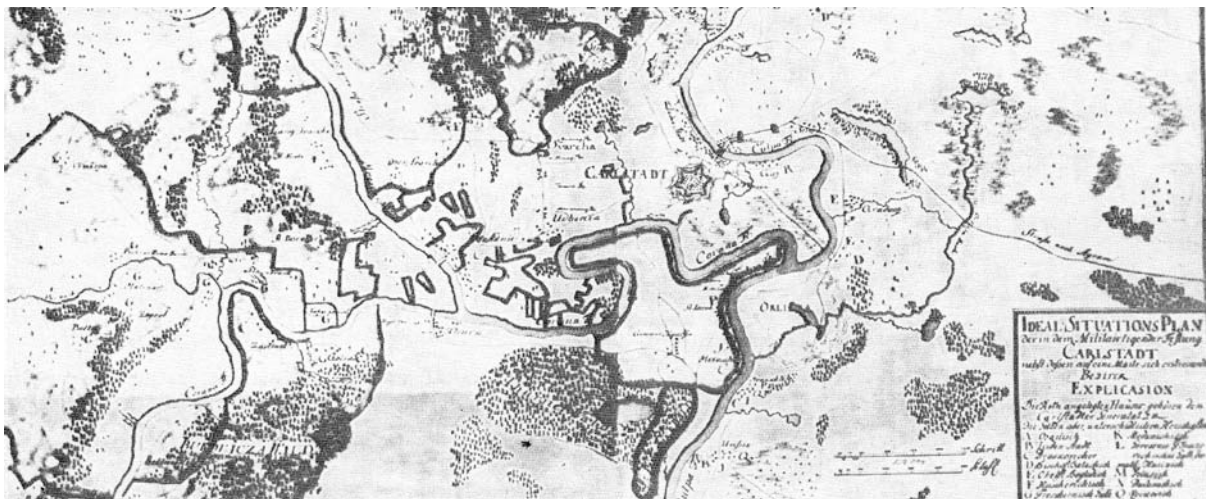


Figure 8, The location of the Karlovac fort and the silhouette of the Orlica fort in the south-east

In this citation, Ivan Ferenberg, the new Croatian Military Frontier defense commander, confirmed few new facts: The location of the future fort is decided by the engineer council at the head with “the supreme army commander”, and that can only be Archduke Charles.¹⁹

¹⁶ Kruhek 1995, 290-293

¹⁷ “...und an der ordt [!], da die Khurana und Mröschnicza zusammen und diese zway [!] wasser in die Khulp rinen, wie es dann der herr veldtobriste [!] sambt [!]den andern kriegsräthen [!] und comissarien in jungsten veldtzug [!] besichtigt, mag ein festigung zu eines obristen leytenantnds residenncz [!] erbauth [!], und daselbsten über die Khulp ein pruggen, und die ander über die Mröschnitza gemacht werden.”, Lopašić 1882, 75, Translated by Author

¹⁸ Figure 8

¹⁹ Figure 9

To the definition of the building site being between the two, that is, three rivers, a note was added that the count Zrinski, who was the owner of the Dubovac castle and his surroundings, should be contacted with the intent of buying of the Dubovac castle and his surroundings for the needs of the construction.²⁰

It is clear that with the preparations and the unsuccessful counter attack on the Bihac Pounje, the most important task in the second half of the year 1578 was making a final decision about the build, the location of the build and preparations for the beginning of the construction of the new army fort, the future Karlovac (Karlstadt).



Figure 9, Charles II, Archduke of Austria, Monogram LP, 1569

The construction began on the 13th of July 1579.²¹

Archduke Charles gave the task of building the fort to an Italian born engineer Martin Gambon, and his “palier” Zuan Baptista Bianchini. Gambon was the head engineer, and Bianchini was his assistant. These two directed the construction work on the site under the Dubovac castle.

Encouraged by Archduke Charles’s appeal, the Croatian aristocracy has made a decision on their council assembly on May 3rd 1579, of arranging a significant workforce, comprised of peasants, and workers from the neighboring manors of Ozalj, Jastrebarsko and Dubovac. The building site consisted of 1.000 workers, peasants, and prisoners. They all were protected by an army force of 100 horsemen, lead by Ahaz von Thurn.²²

By the end of November of the same year, the erection of the whole base of the fortifications rampart route was finished. The fort got its layout form of a huge star with six bastions and six connected bulwarks surrounded with the fortifications ramparts. The fortifications route, in other words its layout, was prepared much sooner, most likely in autumn of 1578. Now, only after a few months of work, the fortification, although still not finished, was beginning to come into perspective with its appearance, its broadness and size.

²⁰ Kruhek 1995, 293

²¹ Figure 10

²² Kruhek 1995, 296

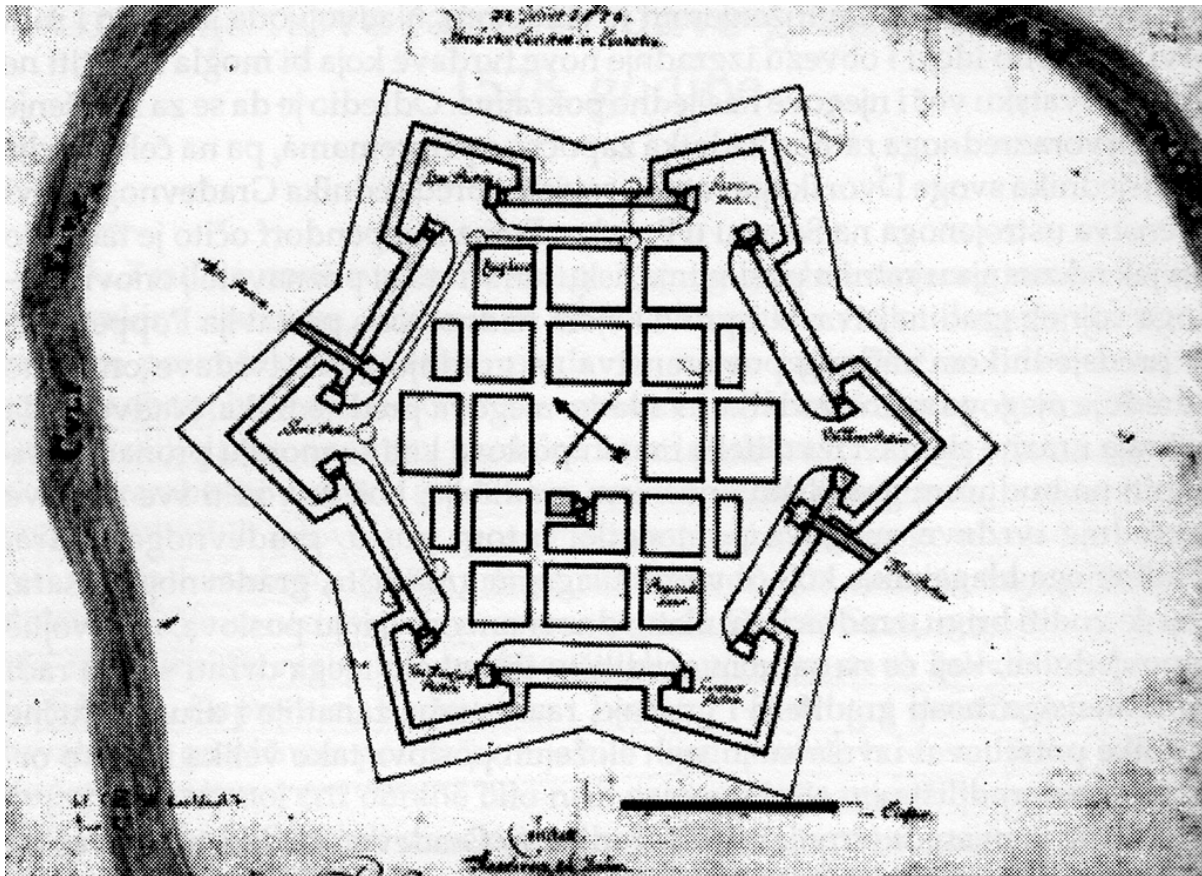


Figure 10, The original plan of the Karlovac fort, Pietro di Giacomo Cattaneo, 1554

At the end of the first year, in other words, in the first six months that the construction work began, the rampart (bastion) route of the fortification was closed. Fortification bulwarks and the ramparts were connected and raised to the level that the new fortification was able to give good protection to its defenders. The contents of the letter, sent by Archduke Charles on November 7th 1579, reveals the first mention of the fort's name, "Karlstadt". In this letter, the Archduke states and asks of his commanders, that the new fort must be a strong army encampment for movable and stationary troops. The army force should consist, at least in the beginning, of 300 Arquebus artillerymen, 400 Hussar horsemen and a 100 of Križanić artillerymen. The Archduke also named the new defense commander of the Croatian Military Frontier, Weikhard Auersperg, which was also the first commander of the Karlovac army garrison, hence, the first general of the future Karlovac "generalat".

Seeing that the new fort needed to grow as a military town, it also needed to grow as a civilian town, which needed to be in service of the army and also the defensive tasks, the winter months of 1579-1580, are used for erecting of the city's first civil houses. So, as the fortification was built, the city inside of the fortification walls was simultaneously built. These first houses were all built out of wood, as were the fortification walls, out of "mud and wood".

We can now see that the Karlovac fort isn't just a well defended army encampment as, in comparison, Ivanić Grad was, but it develops as a broad fortified, military town that still, with all of its military contents, has enough space for civic population.

The city's outer fortification system was built in a form of a broad six sided star. This form is replicated from the already well known layout of the lowland renaissance fortifications which were developed by the north Italian building schools. So the form of the Karlovac fortification was nothing new, but it was one of the first, if not the first, military fortifications of that type built in the borders of the Austrian Empire and Europe. That is what makes the Karlovac fort unique, in comparison with all of the other similar army fortifications built on the Croatian borderlands in the second half of the 16th century. On the selected construction site under the Dubovac castle, between the two rivers, on a building site pervious to flooding and in part underwater and swampy, there was enough space for constructive freedom of the army engineers. This kind of opportunity wasn't available in the case of Koprivnica and Križevci, where an old settlement or a town was already present and was needed to be framed with the renaissance fortifications defense system. In other words, one had to adapt to the state at hand. Karlovac, the fort and the town, doesn't have those kinds of problems. Its construction begins from "the green grass", as the first sources say.²³

The geometrical picture of the renaissance fortification reflected even more in the order of the inner city's living space. The city "insulas" and the city street raster are geometrically aligned along the two main streets, which cross each other in the town's center. So the inner fortified space has the same features as an old roman army camp. Within the barriers of such a division, the main emphasis is given to the most important objects of a renaissance military town: town square, place of assembly for the army and town folk, military command buildings, church and other public buildings. Around this center, in a correct geometrical manor, we get a series of "islands", city's living blocks, inside which construction of army commander houses take place, but also civilian and army men housing. Because Karlovac is a military town, civilians can build their homes only if they get a special permit called a "privilegium", from the army authorities.

As the number of the city's civil population grew rapidly, and also that its growth would be encouraged and insured, especially by immigrating craftsmen and merchants, which would come to the city with the intents of defraying the various needs of the fortifications army crew and its inhabitants, the Archduke Charles requested that the King Rudolf II gives the inhabitants of Karlovac the privileges of a military city.

These privileges were given on April 24th 1581.²⁴

²³ Kruhek: Postanak i razvoj tvrđave i grada Karlovca, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 81-104

²⁴ Lopašić 1882, 109-112

In this decree, King Rudolf II addresses its “loyal soldiers” and then “the inhabitants of the fort and/or city of Karlovac...”. The military and its needs have privileges and advantages in all of their demands before the civilian and ordinary mans needs. Privileges in house construction, in buying properties and houses and absolute advantage in building any kind of military and public facilities needed to conduct a normal life and everything needed for the functioning of army units and services. In the state governing aspect gets the position of a military municipality. It also attains the right of holding big, yearly fairs, and weekly fairs, which will encourage crafts and trade development. The Kings decree also explains and acknowledges the city’s already accepted name, Karlstadt (Carlostadium).

The newly erected Karlovac fort, although, as an engineering project, never completely finished, and with all its faults and weaknesses, which were shoving as the siege weaponry was developing simultaneously with the build, represents a historical landmark in the development and creation of an anti-Turkish defense of the Croatian Military Frontier.

The Turks will never more, as earlier, venture in their pillaging campaigns over the Kupa River into Carniola. They never directly attacked or planed sieges on the fort or the city of Karlovac.²⁵

I.VI. FREE ROYAL CITY STATUS SINCE 1778.

In Karlovac inner organization, we can differentiate more periods:

I. PERIOD

The first period begins with the end of the Karlovac fort construction in the autumn 1580. Already than the forts outer courts were being inhabited by the people from the surrounding area looking for safety and security of the fort.

The archduke Charles, the founder of Karlovac precipitated to this population. However he did subdue the new inhabitants to the complete military administration and its judicial system, but also gives them certain privileges on which a swift development and future prosperity were based upon. Namely, he allowed the colonization of the forts surroundings. The new inhabitants (“inhabitatores”), but the army personal too, could, with a grant from the military prefect, build a house and had the right to an estate on such a built house, they could live in it, sell it or leave it in a will, thus becoming its rightful owners. At the same time, the population was allowed to have two annual fairs and regular week fairs which already in the 18th century allow an outspread commerce.

²⁵ Kruhek 1995, 300-301

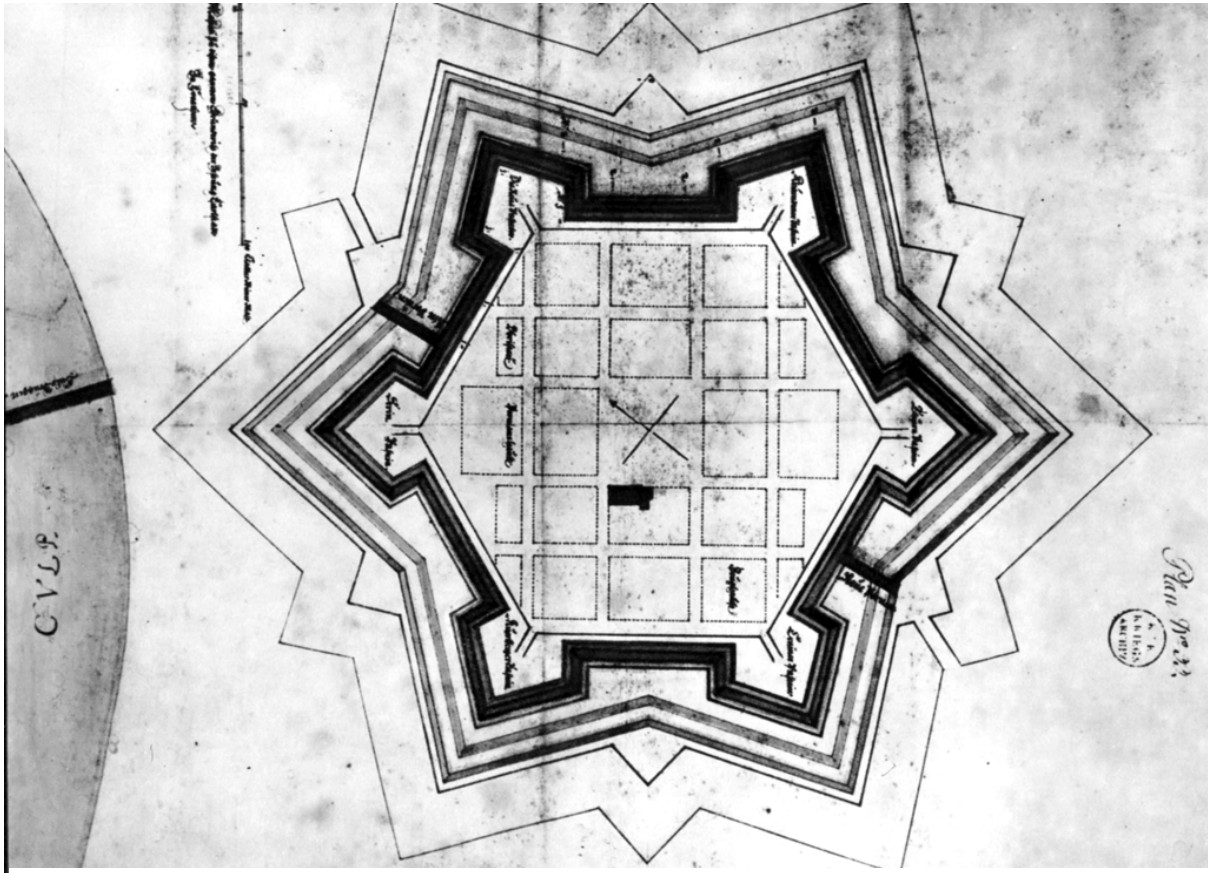


Figure 11, Plan of the Karlovac fort, National Archive Karlovac,1640

All these benefits were two times confirmed: by the king Rudolph II decree from April 24. 1581, and the king Ferdinand decree, from July 26th 1629²⁶, in which Karlovac gets the rights to hold a third annual fair which was to be held on Friday. This tradition still lives. Friday is “plac tag” (market day) in Karlovac.

In this decree it is also stated that these “free annual fairs” in Karlovac, shall be held in the same manner as in all other free and royal cities, fairs and towns. In these decrees, the city itself is named “civitas nova Carlostadiensis”, and the citizens “cives Carlostadienses” or in other words Karlovac citizens.²⁷

These citizens had the freedom of moving out, freedom of trade and handling crafts, but they had no influence on the administration. The city government and the judicial system were still in the hands of the military commander and his influence field and actions were being regulated as in all other cities on the Croatian Military Frontier.

²⁶ Figure 11

²⁷ Kukuljević 1862, 284-287

II. PERIOD

The second period begins with the year 1672, when the new judicial order for Karlovac is being declared, with which the citizens of Karlovac acquire greater security rights, although it only defines misdemeanors and crimes. It was then that it was clearly declared what differentiates a misdemeanor from a crime and how they are to be punished. The legal proceedings were also clearly defined, but the citizens still have no say in those proceedings. The legal system is still in the hands of the military.

With this legal order begins the second era of the city's governing which still underwent through significant changes. The artisans, which grew in numbers rapidly, joined into guilds from which many were approved in the 17th century.^{28,29} The guild members choose their chief and greater guilds also name their captain and notary. The guild members also comply with the guild rules and admit the guild court, which could arbitrate not only for a fine and its amount, but also arbitrate for jail sentences. With that it is understandable that guild members weren't excluded from the military administration and its authorities, but just weren't automatically forwarded to them if it was a question of private juridical nature.

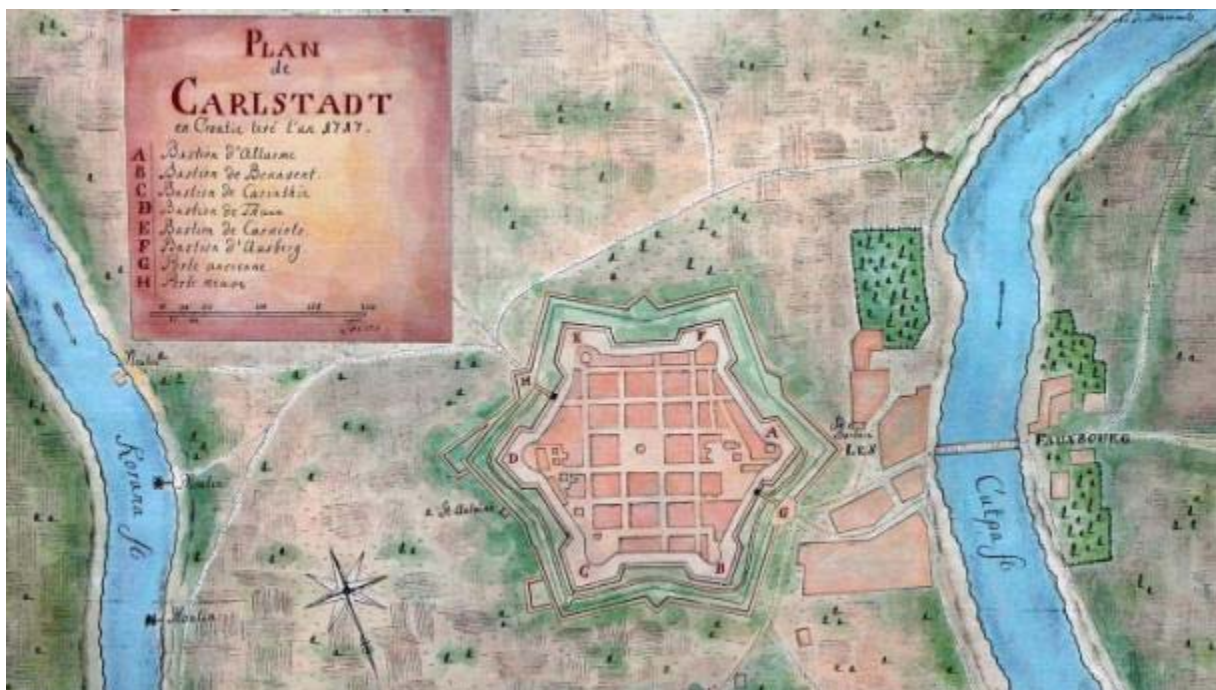


Figure 12, Plan of the city Karlovac, Katzler collection, 1717

²⁸ Lopašić 1879, 42

²⁹ Figure 12

III. PERIOD

In the year 1763,³⁰ Karlovac achieved the status of a military community with its own magistrate. In other words Karlovac is let out of the regular military domains and is subjected to a direct jurisdiction from the general command and thereby receiving a limited right for self-administration. With that begins the third period of the city's inner government development.

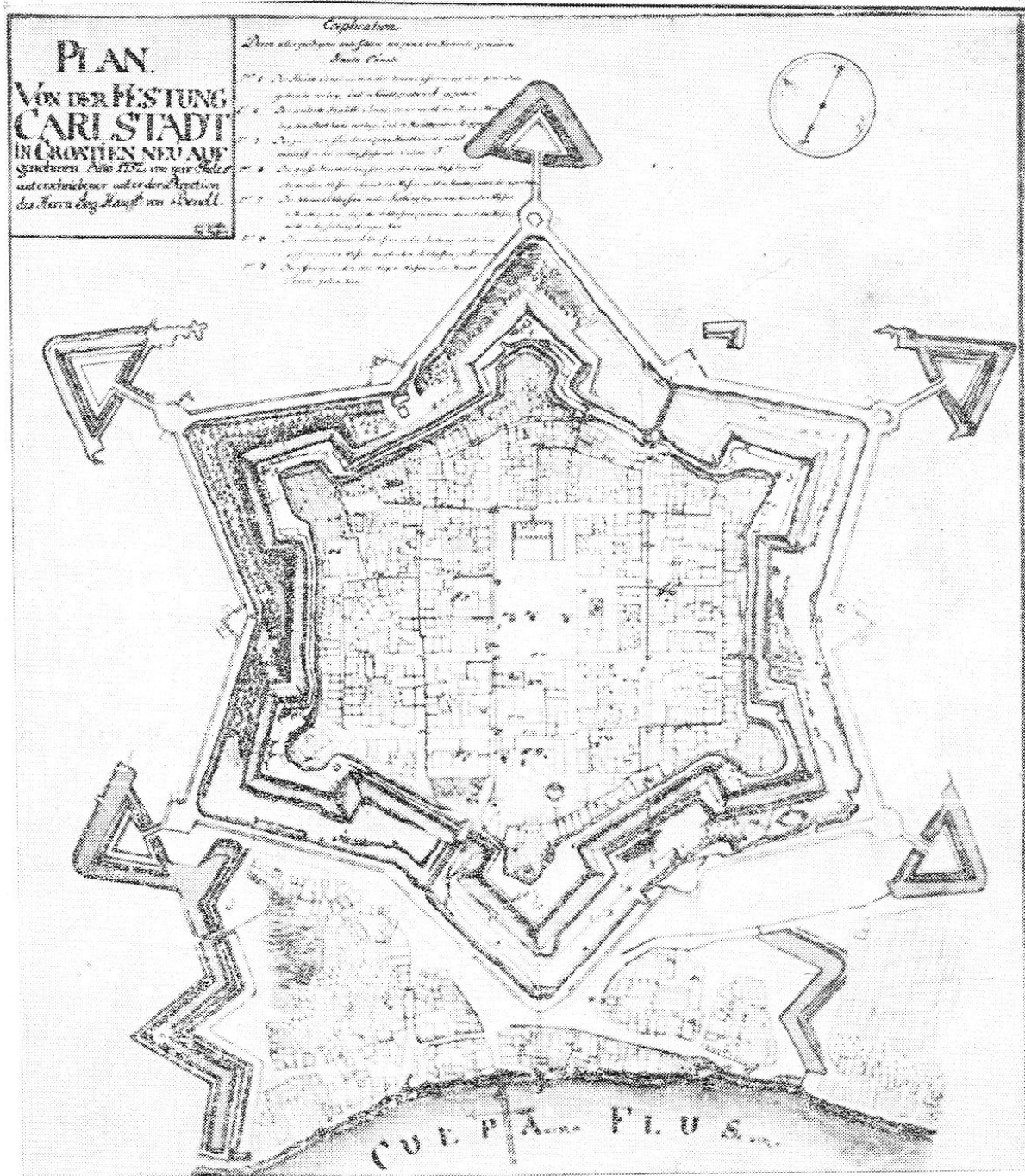


Figure 13, Plan of the city Karlovac, Anton Bendl, 1752

³⁰ Figure 13

The magistrate is introduced on December 06th 1763. In the regions of the Croatian Military Frontier, where a number of military communities were formed with the aim of advancing commerce and crafts, were not on par with other parts of Croatia, economy wise.

At that time the city council consisted of a mayor at the head and six elders. Considering the limited purview, the city magistrate met only two times a month. Soon after, it was clear that such sort of an administration was insufficient. The Karlovac citizenry was way ahead in comparison with other cities of that time, not only with its artisanship but also with its commerce. Dependence on military domain was slowing down the further development and made commerce more difficult. Already at the beginning of the 18th century, Karlovac becomes an important transit hub, which, over north Croatia, connects Austria (over Ljubljana) and Hungary (over Zemun) with the Croatian sea side, and was beginning to become a more important commerce-traffic center. This trafficking is done by rafts until Karlovac, and further by road. In Karlovac and his vicinity, not only the rafts are being built but also bigger ships.³¹

A great portion of the citizenry is employed in the commerce and crafts branches, and they ask for greater independence. This is also being asked from the migrating traders who come all the way from Austria and especially from Hungary.

With those kinds of circumstances it was only a matter of the moment that Karlovac should be excluded from the Military Frontier and was given under the Croatian civil administration. Soon after, a chance was given, just in time when the Croatian parliament, on its seating on February 25th 1770, repeated its long lasting requests getting the Croatian seaside back to mainland Croatia, and it also stated that Karlovac should become a free commerce city and that it too should be affixed to Croatia.

After long debates, Maria Theresa decides to deduct the cities of Rijeka and Bakar (the lands located on the "Karolina" roads right end) to the Kingdom of Croatia and she forms a county of "Severin" which consolidates the two with Karlovac, on August 09th 1776. But it is also decided that: "Ipsa praeterea Civitas Carolostadiensis in liberam Regiam Civitatem evehenda" in other words "additionally, Karlovac is to be given a degree of a free city".

The newly formed Severin county is organized with the royal deduct from September 05th 1777, in which the before mentioned statement was repeated. In this write-off Karlovac is called "future Libera Regiaque Civitas Carlostadiensis", hence "the future free royal city Karlovac". With that begins the last period of the contemporary era of the Karlovac administration development.³²

³¹ Lopašić 1879, 48

³² Kukuljević 1862, 456

IV. PERIOD

With the write-off, dating from September 05th 1777³³, a royal commission was assembled, which had to enforce these new decrees. From the civil authority's side, the people that were appointed into this committee were the governor of Rijeka and the newly formed county prefect Josip Majlath and the Croatian Royal Committee advisor Nikola Škrlec and from the military district side, general Bassen.³⁴

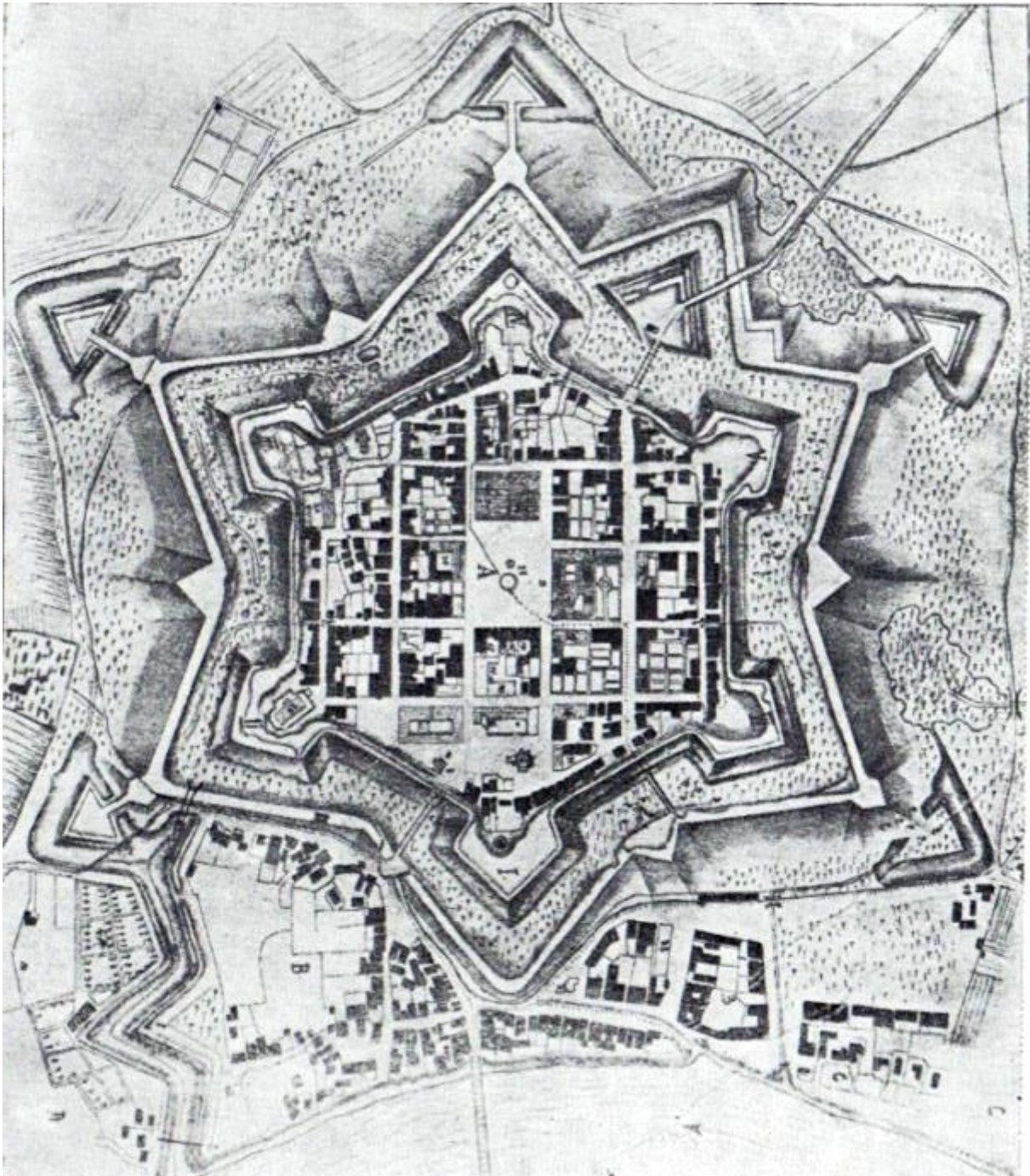


Figure 14, Plan of the city Karlovac, National Archive Karlovac, 1779

³³ Figure 14

³⁴ Kukuljević 1862, 462

The Croatian parliament did not, however, agree with the part of the royal write-off where it states that the Karlovac fort, with its walls, stays under military rule (“*arx cum pomoerio*”). In the October 27th 1777 application, where the Croatian parliament states their opinion in regards to the newly formed Severin County and its area, with special regards are given to the Karlovac decree, because the fort and its walls, being that they are left to the military administration, are preventing the civil administration formation and the further development of the city’s suburb and free access to the city square. This decree needed to be changed.

The before mentioned committee arrives in Karlovac on November 18th 1777. After a discussion with the military administration, a solemnly transmission of Karlovac to civil Croatia was made. The transmission was made on December 15th, by General Samuel Gjulaj. Already, on December 16th 1777, the committee gives out a decree in which they state that Karlovac is accepted into the civil administration and that it will be arranged according to the norms and domestic rules done under the pattern of other Croatian cities.

With that Karlovac still doesn’t become a free and royal city, but its ruling is given to the civil administration.

The free cities are based upon the royal charter according by which they acquire the right to participate in the parliament sittings, but for that it needed a parliament conclusion, in other words the Croat-Hungarian parliament had to accept the city in to the class of free royal cities, based upon the royal decree.

But this wasn’t the only disadvantage Karlovac had. Karlovac got a “promise” of becoming a free royal city, but that still didn’t come to be in the time of the committee’s transmission of Karlovac to the hands of the civil administration. Karlovac was still missing the royal charter of acquiring the benefits of the free royal city, to find its place amid the free cities.

On October 08th 1781, King Joseph II gives out the charter, but it was still long before Karlovac was a true free city. So in the year 1790, the Croatian parliament gives its vassals for the Croat-Hungarian parliament, instructions that Požega, Karlovac and Bakar should become free cities, and finally, long last, Karlovac, together with Timisoara, Subotica and Požega, becomes a free royal city.

However Karlovac, not having time to wait, and under the instructions of the committee starts illegally enjoying all of the benefits of a free royal city, after the first city council elections and its first sitting on February 18th 1778.³⁵

³⁵ Herkov: Statut grada Karlovca od godine 1778, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 111

I. VII. KARLOVAC IN THE ILLYRIAN PROVINCES

The Civil and Military Archive of Croatia was, in the times of French retreat from the Illyrian provinces, transported into Rijeka and there it perished. The Illyrian provinces chief commissary Archive, after many reversals, found its place in Trieste, from where it was transported to Vienna in 1906. In the year 1920, it was brought back to Trieste and in 1961, it found its place in the Slovenian national Archives in Ljubljana. There it was elaborated by Majda Smole in 1974, where she published a comprehensive inventory. Unfortunately, the whole fund presents just the leftovers, “*reliquae reliquiarum*”, of a once very plentiful database. In these documents we also find some data on the history of Karlovac: ration distribution, taxes, its meaning and location in the province and so on.

With the Schönbrunn Peace Treaty from October 14th 1809, Croatia, south of the Sava river, fell in to the hands of Napoleon and was included in the Illyrian provinces the same year when they were established. I think the term “occupation” is maybe not the most suitable for the time of the French rule in the Illyrian provinces in the period from 1809-1813. Most of the Illyrian provinces were already under French rule in the time of the peace treaty signing, and in Karlovac, the French troops marched in one month after the signing, on November 28th 1809.³⁶ A year and a half, the Illyrian provinces regulation was tentative, first with a decree that all competences till then should continue with their work as before, while new decisions were added later. On April 15th 1811, Napoleon signed a decree on the organization of the Illyrian provinces in the Tuileries Palace.

The downfall of the Illyrian provinces was also the time of Napoleons downfall. On October 19th 1812, the Moscow withdrawal began and in the winter of the same year, the Illyrian provinces were officially informed about his catastrophic defeat in Russia. On March 16th 1813, Prussia declared war on Napoleon and on August 12, so did Austria. The French lost Karlovac very quickly. Already on August 20th it was overtaken by the Austrian Army, while around other parts of the Illyrian provinces battles were still taking place. Ljubljana and Trieste fell in October, Dubrovnik and Boka Kotorska in January 1814. By that it is very clear that Karlovac was three months shy of four years under French rule.

As far as Karlovac goes, it had more importance and prestige in the time of the Illyrian provinces than ever before or after. Under the temporary and fixed organization of the Illyrian provinces, it was the capital of two provinces, the Civil and Military Croatia. Under the organizational decree from the year 1811, there were seven provinces: Carinthia, Carniola, Istria, Civil Croatia, Military Croatia, Dalmatia and Dubrovnik. All of the provinces (excluding the Military Croatia) were governed by commissaries. Civil Croatia got, a part of the Zagreb County right of the Sava River, the Mrkopalj district, Rijeka with the Hungarian Bank (the name of the Kvarner Gulf at the time), Austrian Istria and former Venetian islands

³⁶ Lopašić 1879, 68-69

of Cres, Lošinj, Krk and Rab. This territory was later a bit reduced: by the decree from September 18th 1811, where the former Austrian Istria was given to the province of Istria and in the next year there were some more changes.³⁷

Civil Croatia was divided in to three districts in 1811, which were ruled by sub commissioners (subdelégues). Their headquarters were in Karlovac, Rijeka and Senj; Senj was later replaced by Mali Lošinj in 1812. The Karlovac district was made out of 10 cantons, judicial units with magistrates at their head. These cantons were Samobor, Kerestinec, Želin (Velika Gorica), Sisak, Gradac (Pisarovina), Jastrebarsko, Karlovac, Vrbovsko, Mrkopalj, and Čabar. The Karlovac canton had 10 municipalities: Karlovac, Rečica, Draganići, Krašić, Vrhovac, Novigrad, Ribnik, Jurovo, Svetice and Ozalj.³⁸

The municipalities in Illyrian provinces were organized according the French system, with some distinct differences, of course. The municipality organization system meant a great novelty for our lands. Our first modern municipalities were founded. But the system was not democratic: all of the municipality officials were named, not elected. In Civil Croatia, the distribution between the municipalities was determined by the decree from November 30th 1811, and carried out in February 1812.³⁹

As far as the Karlovac municipality goes, Radoslav Lopašić and others state that it comprehended only the free royal town in its old borders. At the end of the 18th century the city had about 2.700 inhabitants and in 1808,⁴⁰ that number increased to 3.900 inhabitants. However, the decree that was announced in "Télégraphe officiel" states that the Karlovac municipality consists of Karlovac and 16 surrounding villages that together makes a number of 7.630 inhabitants. The official French text full of printing errors counts them as follows: Jlesza (Jelsa), Berdo (Brajakovo Brdo), Brodavczi (Brodarci), Stukicko (Skupica), Szello (Priselci), Zadoborje (Zadobarje), Tomassnicza (Tomašnica), Bania (Banija), Hernetich (Hrnetić), Novaky (Novaki), Pokupye (Pokupje), Szeleze (Selce), Jradeze (Jarče Polje), Huszje (Husje), Oxlicza (Orlica), Mehusje (Mekušje), Kobilcih (Kobilići). The villages that were given to the Karlovac municipality preceded the areas on the north-west between the Kupa and Dobra rivers (Tomašnica was even on the left side of Dobra), and on the north-east, parts that were on the left side of the Kupa River from Donje Pokuplje to Kobilic Pokupski. The villages around Karlovac that were in the Military Frontier, understandably, couldn't be a part of the Karlovac municipality. Because of that the municipality had an unnatural shape, with its "center" on the very edge of the municipality's border.⁴¹

³⁷ Melik: Karlovac za vrijeme Ilirskih provincija, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 123-124

³⁸ Télégraphe officiel 1812, 58

³⁹ Samardžić 1967, 375

⁴⁰ Figure 15, Page 18

⁴¹ Télégraphe officiel 1812, 15

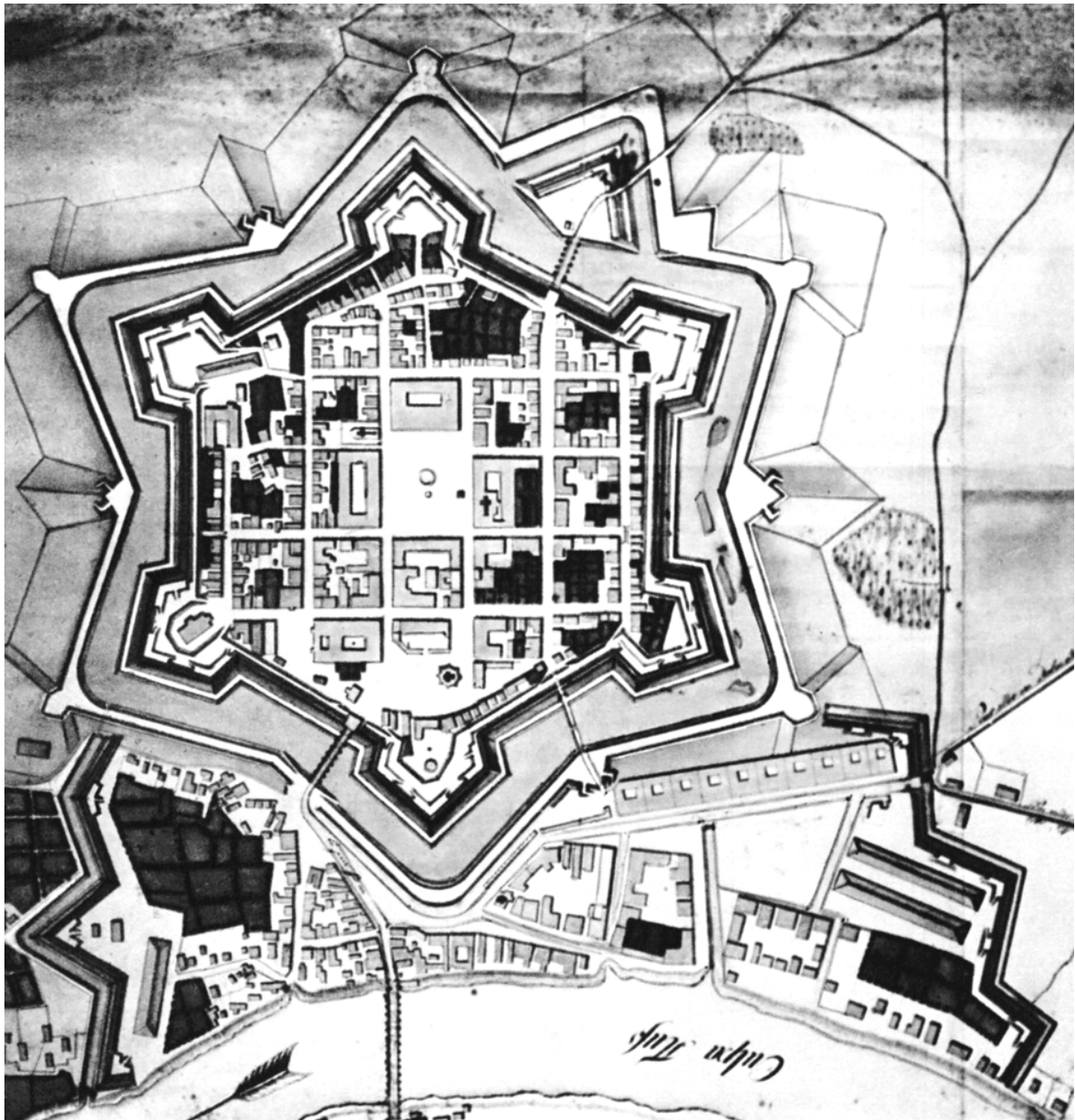


Figure 15, Plan of the city Karlovac, Katzler collection, beginning of the 19th century

By shaping the municipalities in the Illyrian provinces, the French stuck to the principal that cities weren't municipalities in the traditional city borders, as it was common in most parts of the Habsburg countries, before and also after the French rule. In all Illyrian provinces only the Zadar municipality included the "inner city" (borgo interno). All around the province, the cities were joined with the broader or narrower, further or closer surroundings into one municipality. With this kind of order, Karlovac became one of the biggest municipalities in the Illyrian provinces; it was the eight biggest municipality.

The cities that had more than 5.000 inhabitants had the mayor elected directly from the French emperor. These cities were Ljubljana, Trieste, Zadar, Dubrovnik and Karlovac. These

cities also had a right to have one or more police commissioners, but the municipalities had to finance them by themselves, and only if the governing general allowed it.⁴²

In a lingual sense, the French administration brought the new official language, French. As it was decided before, Italian and German could be used at the same time as French, in judicial, public and private acts. The importance of this decision was reduced by the fact that the persons that gave out Italian or German papers, had to also give out a French translation but at their own cost. Croatian, Slovenian or Serbian languages didn't get any formal acknowledgment, although the chances for their affirmation were more realistic than ever before. As far as the Karlovac name goes, the French used the traditional German or Italian forms (Carlstadt for instance).

But in the time of the Illyrian provinces, French legislations were introduced in great degree. These legislations, although alienated from their roots which were formed in the bourgeoisie revolution, brought a new kind of spirit and thoughtfulness to our feudal parts. In the words of Radoslav Lopašić, when in year 1812, the Karlovac justice tribunal started with its work, on the ceremonial sitting, the tribunal's president stated:

"...the joy and luck of the Croatian people, that it has become a participant of the French justice, who judges all the classes, the rich and the poor, in the same manor".⁴³

The French rule was centralistic and didn't recognize any kind of elections, it was more acceptable for the French to make compromises between the feudal owners and the peasants, but the reforms that they introduced didn't get them sympathies either on the feudal or the peasant side. This was very unfortunate, because the peasants had invested great hopes in the French rule and that it would abolish feudal rule altogether. In some villages surrounding Karlovac, the French arrival was greeted with utmost enthusiasm, where peasants have stopped paying taxes and going to work. The peasants called the French: "the free men" (Galli sumus, liberi sumus).

"These ruffles settled down, and the citizens repented", says Lopašić, "after the French overlords showed that the citizen relations weren't going to change for the better and those rulings were brought to the people through the mouths of local priests."⁴⁴

Not doing anything to abolish feudal rule, didn't get the French a broader social support. They could rely on a very small number of people. They had practically no allies amidst the

⁴² Télégraphe officiel 1811, 165-170

⁴³ "...radost i sreću hrvatskog naroda, što je poastao dionikom [!] francezke [!] pravde, koja sudi jednako svim stališem [!], i bogatim i siromakom." Lopašić 1879, 81, Translated by Author

⁴⁴ "Uzrujanost se ova utiša i podanici se opet pokore, pošto su francezki [!] vladatelji ozbiljno pokazali, da se u podaničkom odnošaji [!] neće ništa na prečac mienjati [!], a tu su odluku vlade doglasili narodu župnici." Lopašić 1897, 72, Translated by Author

clerical or aristocratic circles, and the artisans were very negative towards the French because they disbanded the artisan guilds.

The main allies the French had were clerks, officers and rich merchants, and the free mason lodges were a common meeting place of French sympathizers. But the French popularity was most certainly underrated because of their economical position, their financial and tax politics, military duties and such.

These financial politics were based upon the principals who were appointed by Napoleon, who stated that all of the administration and military in the Illyrian provinces shouldn't cause the French state treasury, any kind of financial expenses. To achieve this, according to Napoleon, all expenditures should be minimized, and parts of it should be transferred on the cities and municipalities and the indirect taxes should be raised. This resulted in the elementary schooling system almost getting bankrupt.⁴⁵

Because of the short French rule, a lot of good decisions couldn't show their practical positive results, and at the same time, the negative results were visible from the get go. And those were most visible in the economy. We know from the writings of Radovan Lopašić that Karlovac was living the "wellbeing, never seen before and never again". At the time Karlovac was also paying the highest taxes in all of Croatia. The Schönbrunn treaty changed all of that. Karlovac became a major political and administrative center but its economy suffered. But if there were any real setbacks, it's hard to tell, because although Lopašić writes about the wheat trade plumping, at the same time Karlovac houses become nicer and architecturally more interesting and solid.⁴⁶

At the end of the French rule and with the return of the Austrian forces, the disappointment of making some good traits back to the state as they were, made, at least by some people, look at the French rule with a hint of nostalgia and in all forming a more idealized picture than it really was.

⁴⁵ Melik: Karlovac za vrijeme Ilirskih provincija, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 126

⁴⁶ Lopašić 1879, 66, 91

II | THE IMPORTANCE OF KARLOVAC

II.1. CULTURE / MILITARY

The first ideal renaissance city plan came into existence in the beginning of the second half of the 15th century and although it wasn't printed all until 19th century, it circulated in numerous transcripts and made a huge influence on the city concepts and theories, as in the renaissance, so in the later periods. Filarete's radial circular plan, a city treated as a bounded, centralized whole, presents a basis which potentials are being examined in detail, and which becomes a basic form of presenting the renaissance urban ideals. However with its ideas, wholeness and detail elaboration, Filarete⁴⁷ surpasses all the later idealizations which developed in a direction of practical examinations bound with the fortification theory.

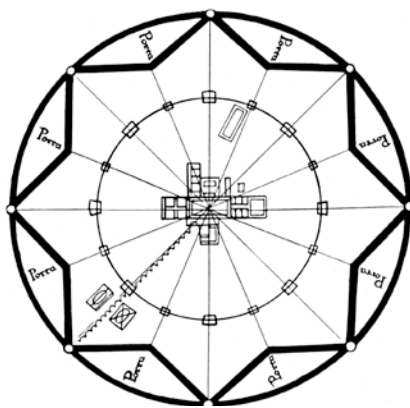


Figure 16, *Plan of an ideal city*,
Filarete, 1457

The upsurge that the ideal planning reaches in the middle of the 16th century now become a merit of one particular group of people – military architects. Although it spawns out of Filarete's and Francesco di Giorgio's ideal city views, their interest for the practical, leads to completely different solutions. The impact of the war machine, the emergence and development of siege cannons is one of the key elements for the understanding of realistic or idealistic, ideal and utopist cities of the renaissance.

The dominant preoccupation with the war problematic, a vital influence in the renaissance, makes that the city becomes firstly a fortification and loses the characteristic of the general living framework with all of its diverse functions and meanings. The architects and military engineers now examine the form and inner organization of cities solely in the task of defense from the potential attacker, leaving all of the other city functions on the side, which can explain the "blank" plans, in other words, the sole concentration on the city's form, the bulwarks shapes and the organization and scheme of the streets. One could say that the plans for ideal fortified cities are a result of cold reasoning and pure theory. With their presentation and interpretation of the new city planning spirit, these plans stand out as the humanities milestone: they disband the balance between houses and streets; it is characteristic that none of the ideal city plans contain even an indication of the house arrangement, and with it they present the end of the "harmonious" planning and city building. So, one could say that the ideal or idealistic cities had a dubious privilege to

⁴⁷ Figure 16

become inadvertent origins of the street cult which later brought blank plans of transport schemes on architectural tables.⁴⁸

In that sense, the elaboration of the city's defenses, not only the outer fortification, but the streets, their emplacement, square arrangement and connections with the bulwarks are of great importance in making unified defensive mechanisms, while the singular houses and their mutual location are unimportant. The structure and function integration which we find in these plans and which continue till the foundation of Ecole des Beaux Arts, as the basis for urban planning, in the ideal fortification plans of the 16th century, represent solely the integration of defensive functions and city structure organized under military principals.

Although all the ideal city plan authors, in their theoretical discussions, discuss questions of location, climate and so on, searching the ideal conditions for their cities, it still remains, above all, a military garrison, alongside which the presence of a non military population bares minor significance. It was not until the end of the 16th century with the detachment of the military architecture from the civil, and expert's specialization for either of the sectors, that it comes to the reemergence for the city complex problematic and its citizens, separate from the military views.

The ideal cities of this type, except in the area of fortification planning, had little influence on the urban city form. Developed in great detail, cities like Karlovac are just a reflection of one specific moment in the development of certain number of elements which influence the city form. For instance, these plans had no influence on the cities that the Europeans were raising outside of Europe, especially in North America⁴⁹, where the geometry of the orthogonal network, which was developed with the ancient Greek colonies and the English and French "bastide", which was credited to the stellar geometry of ideal cities. However, if the Indians had siege weapons, maybe the urban history would take another turn.⁵⁰

The clarification of the form and the structure of the idealized and later the ideal and utopian renaissance city require a somewhat detailed moderation of the role of the siege artillery in the wars in the 15th and 16th century.

⁴⁸ Gutkind 1962, 113-119

⁴⁹ Figure 17

⁵⁰ Morris 1974, 116

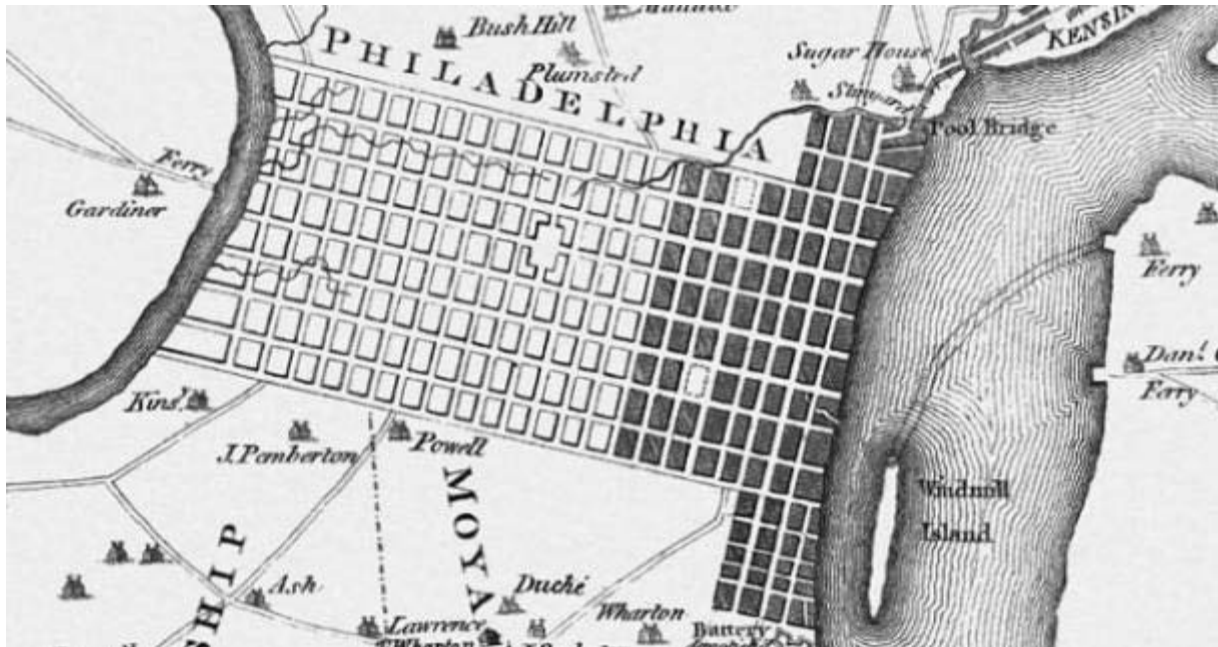


Figure 17, *The plan of Philadelphia*, Will Faden, 1777

While in the middle ages, the strength and height of the fortification walls gave the defense predominance over the attack, the end of the 15th century changes the situation completely. The introduction of artillery enables the capture of any medieval fort; no wall, no matter how high or thick it was, wasn't resistant enough to withstand the concentrated artillery fire which creates breaches through the army and can easily enter the city. That is why the high walls are abandoned and replaced with low and broad ones. The wall line becomes broken so the frontal attack could be shattered, and the attacker would then be exposed to concentrated fire.

The main problem that emerges is how to protect the breaches, cracks that the enemy artillery makes on the wall. The answer is inquired through the elaboration of the flanks, parallel with the fortified wall line. The entire military architect's attention is being focused on the development of the bastions, and the other side, the ideal distance between them. The wall face between two bastions has to be flat, so that the two neighboring bastions are always in an interconnected control and defense. Francesco di Giorgio, who is with rightly called the father of fortifications, came to a conclusion that the greater the circumference of the fortification, the more arches it will have. This is the crucial element which will define star like shapes of the fortified walls in the 16th century architects sketches. Although the majority of these drawings presented a theoretical practice, it was also a solution for specific orders.

With the development of the fortification theory, the military engineers come to one important conclusion: the defensive power of cities is not only determined by their walls, but also by their inner structure. With other accomplishments Francesco di Giorgio is also responsible for the discovery of the radial city planning from the defensive point of view. In

that sense we can name him as one of the creators of ideal cities of the 15th century, together with Filarete whose schemes have a more symbolic value and present the materialization of ideals outside of architecture and city planning.

In the 16th century, this scheme is definitely being closely developed with the armament of the bastion systems.

We could adjourn that, while in the case of the 15th century ideal city, the radial plan presents a concept connected with the interpretation of the vitruvian ideals, a means of unifying esthetic and practical demands of planning a general organism, until then the military architect attends from totally different assumptions. For him, the most important part of the city plan is the ring surrounding the city's fortification, which with its circumference fixates the city's bulk and shape and to which the whole city inside is subaltern to.

The creators of the ideal renaissance city begin from the philosophical discoveries, human apprehension, ideals, life in a city and ideal special surroundings. The forms which their city receives have a symbolic quality and represent the ability of making the ideals a reality in the frames of the existing reality. The ideal city is different than the utopian city exactly in the attitude towards this reality, through the distance it precedes towards it. However both of them have a complete presentation of the city based on its multiple functions. It is most certain that in this period the military functions are included as well, but they are not the main or sole functions. The development of the city's circumference doesn't appoint the city's inner structure and doesn't come out of the strict fortification laws, but represents an expression of the ideal form connected to the concept of better city life.

The military approach to city planning is utter practical, based completely on the most efficient defense against the enemy. The shape is connected with the size and number of sides of the multi angular shape as it starts turning into a circle as the city size grows.

The thing that contributes the most to the abstract appearance of the idealized cities is the schemes regularity which can be accomplished only on an ideally flat surface. Although every argument contains a discussion about the terrains natural attributes and the pros and cons of specific locations, mostly everyone agrees about placing the city on a flat surface which enables the city's development "to perfection" which compensates the locations disadvantages.⁵¹

The 16th century radial plan, which was developed in the scopes of military architecture, can't be equalized with the ideal city, because it had an optimal model of only one city function. It would be the same if we would take a model of a contemporary transportation

⁵¹ Lazarević 1988, 108-116

system today and call it ideal. The military planners don't give any attention on the civil life's miscellaneous needs. For the most, the inhabitants present only a number, a source of additional human strength in the case of garrison's greater defensive needs. Not only that the arrangement of individual houses is not made, but also all of the public buildings show up rarely. In the comprehensive literature, in other words, theories of military architecture of the 16th centuries Italy, the civil aspect of planning such cities is rarely mentioned.

The stellar geometry of military in its aspect isn't in any contrast with reality, on the contrary, it maintains it very steadily, and it presents a product of firm logic which came out of real situations. Drawing a scheme of the city's traffic arteries, the fortification ring defined by firm laws, the military planner created a symmetrical and decorative plan which could easily form a faulty perception that it was solely a case of symbolism based on a geometrical exercise. Many of these plans, however, in their original state are accompanied by the analysis of artillery capabilities, inside the context of thin fortification bulk lines, and which would be explained and reasoned in great detail. Naked geometry of the most decorative plans, created a completely false picture about these cities, classifying them as ideal, or even utopian, and in much contributed the formal treatment of ideal cities generally.

II.II. ECONOMY

The military fort Karlovac was built in the year 1579, in the attempt of defending the Croatian remnants as well as the Austrian lands from the never ending Turkish incursions. From its very beginnings, Karlovac was a major commerce and crafts center, mostly because in 1581, the city begins receiving its first civil population, whereas before there was only the military personal. In times of immediate Turkish threat and constant fighting on the border towards Turkey, the crafts business in Karlovac was mostly tending for the militaries needs, and for the needs of the few civilians. The main providers of goods and weapons, in Karlovac and also in whole of the Military Frontier, were the raft merchants on the river Kupa.

Although commerce and crafts were continually developed in the city and its nearer surroundings, its first true economic growth, Karlovac reached in the 18th century, after the "great war of liberation" and the Srijemski Karlovci peace treaty in 1699. The border towards Turkey was moved from the central Danube basin to the Danube and Sava River south of the Kupa River and the monarchies territory was vastly broadened. The immanent Turkish threat was thereby eliminated; the capability for commerce and crafts development in Karlovac emerged.

The 18th century in Karlovac is a time of major development of all kinds of crafts. In artisan workshops almost all of the goods, needed by the army and the commons, were being handcrafted.

“Craftsman that first emerged in the city of Karlovac were, potters, boot makers, tailors, blacksmiths, weavers, masons, butchers, gunsmiths and saber makers, locksmiths, goldsmiths, carpenters, venders, all the crafts, that could, considering the needs of the army and the Karlovac garrison, have enough work.”⁵²

Later, many other crafts were introduced and developed: hat, belt, wig, band, fur, button making and others. The artisans don't work only for the armies needs but now, they mostly work for the civilian inhabitant's needs, which were moved in to the town and on its surroundings, towards the Kupa River. It is the time of new urban development and new crafts workshops on the Kupa River banks. The most appreciated artisans were masons and carpenters (cimaermani). The most prominent craftsman of the before mentioned occupations were mason master Joseph Stiller and carpenter Michael Rauch who built the bridge on the Kupa river⁵³. The craftsman and their workers built a lot of the public and private buildings.



Figure 18, The bridge over the Kupa River, KA-Fotka, 1884

Because of the lighter provision of the raw materials and goods sales, the artisans were joining into guilds. The guilds were organized according to certain rules which were issued and approved by the city government. Everyone was to follow the rules, be it the masters or

⁵² “Obrtnici koji se najprije pojavise u Karlovcu, bijahu lončari, čizmari, krojači, kovači, tkalci, zidari, mesari, puškari i sabljari, bravari, zlatari, stolari, kramari, sve takovi zanati, koji mogahu [!] obzirom na potrebe krajiške vojske i karlovačke posade imati obilno posla i zaslužbe.” Lopašić 1879, 41, Translated by Author

⁵³ Figure 18

their helpers (kalfa) and apprentices (djetić). The artisans were mostly local people, the city's inhabitants and people from Gaza and Dubovac districts. With the rise of the civilian needs for certain artisan products, the city receives craftsman from other cities of the Monarchy. The Craftsman who could afford buying a house and pay the civil tax, which wasn't slum, had to acquire enough finances to guarantee that his offspring would not become a burden for the city treasury. Locksmiths from Metlika, in Carniola, Joseph Wagner, and a locksmith master from Lebnitz, in Styria, Michael Rauch, come to Karlovac.⁵⁴ Tailors, wigmakers and goldsmiths arrive from Vienna, Brno and other Monarchy cities. Belt makers, boot makers, and other workers, come from the city's suburbs and also from the Military Frontier, Lika, Kostajnica and other Croatian cities. The rows of Karlovac artisans are being filled with peasants from the feudal estates around Karlovac and the Croatian Governance. The peasants came to the city to learn a certain craft which would provide them a financial security which later enabled them to ask their masters permission to work in their field of work in the city. The masters would than give out a "freedom slate" on basis of which the peasant would receive the freedom of circulation and work. There were annual and weekly markets organized, which were egregiously lively, because the markets were visited not only by the people that lived in its vicinity, but also people from all over the Military Frontier. All of the information about the economic strength of the Karlovac artisans we get from the property inventories, wills, conjugal agreements, guild bills and miscellaneous files about donations for public construction.⁵⁵

At the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, Karlovac artisans get their first competition in a form of manufacturing salesman. Their products are cheaper than the expensive ones made by the guild masters, and with that the guild products are being put to the test and the guilds very existences is being threatened. Competition is born between similar guilds, the city authorities meddle more in the guilds administrative works and the moonlighting blooms. Disagreements occur between the artisan masters and their assistants, because of low salaries. This drives the assistants to form "brotherhoods" that than send letters to other artisan assistants asking for salary raises. In case that the artisan masters wouldn't recognize their demands, the assistants would leave their employer and start looking for a new one. These documents show us the first attempts of creating working unions and demanding basic worker rights.

In the same time, the most important role in the city's economy is played by the merchants. Through trade, it was possible to achieve profit with rather few investments. Thanks to the circumstances, of Kingdom of Hungary and Vojvodina being liberated and included back to the Monarchy and its extraordinary geographical position and being the last river port of the Danube, Sava and Kupa rivers, towards the Adriatic sea, Karlovac became the main transit

⁵⁴ History Archive in Karlovac, City Hall, Doc. No. 125/1779

⁵⁵ Miholović: Značenje Karlovca kao snažnog središta trgovine, obrta i prometa u 18. stoljeću, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 123-124

center and loading port for miscellaneous goods. The liberated parts of Pannonia and Slavonia join the goods exchange with their agricultural and livestock surplus. The goods being used in trade were mostly wheat, corn, tobacco leaves, wool, wax, honey, wood and miscellaneous colonial goods.

To ensure trade and export development of agricultural products from the liberated parts of Vojvodina and south Hungary, the Austrian governors helped with founding different trading companies. For Karlovac, two of such companies were of utter importance, the "Timisoara Trading Company", founded in 1759, and the "New Banat Trading Company" founded in 1768. These two companies were responsible for exporting agricultural and livestock products from the Banat to the Adriatic.⁵⁶

Being that the water ways were the most cost effective, they were being used for goods transport. The Kupa River played a big role in Karlovac development in the 18th century. It is the shortest way from Pannonia to the Adriatic and as that, unusually important for transporting the goods to the sea ports of the Adriatic.

From Sisak to Karlovac, Kupa was used by smaller rafts and only in high water by boats. It would happen that boats would go till Petrinja and than the goods had to be carried over to smaller rafts so they could be transported to Karlovac. By trans-shipping a lot of time was lost, and the goods could go foul. This was the reason which brought out the idea of making Kupa suitable for ships until Karlovac by freeing the river basin of many shoals and underwater reefs, mills and also from freeing it from taxing tolls that the people who owned the river banks, had.

As there were basically no roads from Karlovac to the sea, Karlo IV gives an order to build a road from Karlovac to Rijeka and Bakar in 1727. This road was famously called the "*Karolina*". As it was the only road that connected the mainland with the seaside, special care was given to its traffic arrangement. It was transit mostly in the summer months. In the winter days it was practically unusable, and the import of goods was on its peak because of the Kupa River water level. There were plans of making the Kupa River suitable for ships all the way to Brod na Kupa, to make the merchandise transport to the Adriatic ports more easy. There were intentions to build a canal between Stative and Ladešić Draga, to avoid the river curve around Ozalj, but the project was never carried out. Count Bathyny, the owner of Ozalj at that time, wanted to make the river bed suitable all the way to Ozalj. All of these plans were never carried out, because they were all too expensive, but also because Karlovac merchants didn't want the river trade to go around Karlovac. Karlovac would than stop being the main transit center and loading port, and the Karlovac merchants and population would than loose a substantial amount of the profit.

⁵⁶ Kostić 1959, 262

The “Karolina” road was steep and full of dangerous curves and was transit only for a minor part of the year so that the merchandise couldn’t be transported in time, and that’s why in the 1770’s another road was built from Karlovac to Senj and was called the “Jozefina” after the emperor Joseph II. This road was much shorter and more suitable for haulage than the “Karolina”, but then again the Senj port was not suitable for docking and goods transfer because of the strong Bora winds that are very common in the Senj region. At the beginning of the 19th century a third road was built, the “Lujzijana”, the most modern road in whole of the Austrian Monarchy of that time, and all of the merchandise transport was directed through it, until the construction of the railroad.

II.III. TRANSPORT

Still, from the old times, the location of medieval Karlovac was connected with the Bank by the old merchant – caravan roads from Sisak to Senj, which led from Sisak to Zagreb and then across Karlovac into Senj. Its route went from Zagreb over the Sava River with rafts and over Stupnik to Jastrebarsko and from there through the Draganić woods until Dubovac and there it divided into two parts: one in the direction of Senj over Ogulin and Lika, and the other in the direction of Rijeka. Also in ancient times there were three roads which went in the direction of Senj, Rijeka and Aquila which were used as military, merchant and caravan roads. These first road ways are first mentioned back in the 13th century as “*via regis, via public, via magna*”.

II.III.I. WATERWAYS

Because of ever greater Mercantilist⁵⁷ principal influence, which reflected itself in protecting domestic production, development of artisan workmanship, road reparation, river regulation and canal construction, at the beginning of the 18th century, first attempts of regulation and melioration of the Kupa and Sava rivers begin. At that time these rivers weren’t that economically notable and this natural river way had to be enabled for inland waterway rafting and shipping, and for the transport of Banat wheat to the Adriatic Bank, and then, using the sea routes, further to other countries. Already in 1737, a canal between Vukovar (Danube)-Šamac (Sava) was planed, as well as the channeling (deepening) of the Sava and Kupa rivers by removing shipping barriers: whirls, shallows, reefs... That all does not mean that the Kupa River wasn’t already shippable up or down stream, from one bank to the other with small boats, arks, bigger and smaller rafts. Even in the 15th century, Kupa was shippable all the way to Sisak distributing wood, wine, oil and other products. This small time artisan shipping on the Kupa River developed especially at the end of the 18th century when the rafting guild of St. Nicholas was the strongest guild with the most members and its economic

⁵⁷ An economic theory and practice common in Europe from the 16th to the 18th century that promoted governmental regulation of a nation’s economy

strength was the greatest of all the other guilds of its time. It is presumed that the guild originates from the middle of the 17th century.

The tradition of rafting on both sides of the Kupa River dates back before the forts foundation. River boating or rafting was a sure way of exporting goods to other cities. With the boating skills that improved significantly during the Turkish wars (1717-1736) with the rafters bringing goods and weapons to the fronts and cities on the Kupa and Sava river banks, the river boat fleet was so grand that in the 1760, one could walk over the Kupa river just by walking over boats that spread from one bank to the other.

So that the rafts carrying goods could dock easier, three docks were built on the right Kupa river bank (traces of the dock are still visible today). The docks were built so that the horses could get as near the rafts as possible and a direct trans-shipment of goods was possible. At its peak, there would be so many rafts on the Kupa River that one could use them as a bridge to get from one side over to the other.⁵⁸



Figure 19, A postcard of a dock on the Kupa river, Katzler collection, end of the 19th

With the ever increasing development of the producing outputs, first elements of a capitalistic ways of productions were born. With the weathering of the old guild organizations and the development of the more complex crafts and industry, the old crafts, with the rafting ones at their head, don't work for the local needs anymore, but are oriented

⁵⁸ Figure 19

more to the open market, so they acquire more characteristic of that kind. The exportation of Slavonian oak wood, through the water ways from Sisak to Karlovac, which then ended up in the French vineries, is a fine example. With further development of roads and later the railroad system, the water ways until Sisak still played a major role, but the one from Sisak to Karlovac, regardless to decisive efforts in the past, fell in to second plan.

For the needs of reparation and building boats, a shipyard was built on the Kupa River in Karlovac in Žirovica. Except reparations and building smaller boats, bigger boats were also built. For instance, the “Cariera” boat built for the count Bathynya from Ozalj. The Karlovac merchants and ship-owners had business connections not only inside the Monarchy, but also outside. Valentin Gollner travels with his boats to Turkey, over the Kupa, Sava and Danube rivers, into the Black sea.⁵⁹

II.III.II. ROADS



Figure 21, The “Jozefina” milestone in Karlovac, KA-Fotka, 2008

In the middle of the 18th century Austria started to build roads for carriage transport. These roads, in their future economical development, estimated natural and geographical advantages of Croatian landscapes and they gave a great contribution to Croatia’s economical development. Although nautically oriented and not interested for Croatia’s inland, Venice (the rulers of the Croatian Northern Adriatic of that time) did almost nothing to develop road construction, in its governing parts till 1797. The short and interrupted French occupation (1805-1813) was truly a milestone in Croatian road construction, especially in Dalmatia and by doing that, they revived this Dalmatian part of Croatia. The long term Austrian, in other words, Austro-Hungarian administration didn’t do in its 105 year ruling, as much as it should have for the road systems in Croatia. The reason was that the construction and

maintenance of roads in Croatia was until 1871, divided between central government administration and the Military Frontier, and the Military Frontier government, stationed in Karlovac, built roads only for their strategic interests.⁶⁰

The ever more intensive good traffic on the Karlovac-SeaBank stretch and vice versa, demanded the need for road construction. So, already in 1726-1734, the “first” road, in the

⁵⁹ Kos: Karlovac i njegovo prometno-ekonomsko značenje, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 133-135

⁶⁰ Černicki/Forenbaher 2012, 11-20

length of 105 km from Karlovac to Bakar and Kraljevica, was built. It was called the “Karolina” after the emperor Charles VI, father of Maria Theresa. Although the first roads were only broadened sidewalks for horses and caravans and afterward for carriages, this road was the first one that had characteristic of an actual modern road. Because of the steep climbs, sharp turns and slump falls, this road couldn’t satisfy the more and more greater transit in both ways.^{61,62,63}



Figure 20, The “Karolina” road crossing the Dobra River near Vrbovsko, Antun Matija Weiss, 1725

The Austrian regent and heir to the throne, Joseph II, in the summer of 1775, went on horseback through these parts, from Karlovac to Senj, over Josipdol, Kapela and Vratnik, and he was convinced that a construction of a new road was much needed. That’s why, soon after, the construction of a “second” road had begun. It was 115 km long and went from Karlovac, but this time to Senj. The “Senjska cesta” (Senj road) or more popular, the “Jozefina”, called after the emperor Joseph II, started in Karlovac by the “Zorin Dom” (Zora theater) where one can still find a milestone in a form of an obelisk.⁶⁴ This Karlovac milestone or the “Josephinae principium”, containing a laurel crest, emperor crown and text, describing the distance, measured in Austrian miles (1 mile = 7,585 km), between Karlovac and rivers Sava, Drava and Mur and also the cities Zagreb, Varaždin, Čakovec, Sopron, Vienna and Senj. This road which was, by its economic-traffic meaning, “prva trgovačka I poštanska cesta” (“the first merchant and postal road”), was built by builder Vinko Struppi, and it was

⁶¹ Černicki/Forenbaher 2012, 45-89

⁶² Kos: Karlovac i njegovo prometno-ekonomsko značenje, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 135-137

⁶³ Figure 20

⁶⁴ Figure 21, Page 31

reconstructed by Mayor Josip Kajetan Knežić. It should be stated that by the time the Josefina road was built, the Karolina road was mostly out of use. This Struppi, apropos Knežević road, begun with its construction in 1775, but in order to be opened as soon as possible, the road is narrower on some sections, and has great ascents alongside it side, which were the roads main setbacks. Unfortunately this road also didn't satisfy all the needs that the goods trafficking of the time was demanding and because of the greater importance of Rijeka in comparison to Senj at the time, although the connection with Senj was the shortest connection of the hinterland with the Bank. The former "potok I grad zvan Rika" ("a creek and town Rika") in the Vinodol parish, also called Rijeka "near Senj" was already then receiving a much greater economic-traffic importance on Senj's misfortune, who, economically deprived, got the mark of Senj "near Rijeka".⁶⁵

New economic tendencies demanded the construction of a third road connection which was built from 1804 – 1809, called the "Lujzijana" (the Lujzijana road, Via Ludovicca, named after Maria Ludovika, of Austria-Este, third wife of Francis I, emperor of Austria). This road, 141 km long, in comparison with the other two, was built according to all of the technical achievements in mountain road building, of its time, so it was the best road in all of Austro-Hungary, but also in Europe, "...the most beautiful in Europe."⁶⁶ The construction of the "Lujzijana" was a milestone in how mountain roads were constructed in Croatia from then on. The "Lujzijana" road opened a new era of building roads in the Croatian limestone environment, with its modern building techniques. Alongside the road milestone were placed, the road itself had supporting and parapet stone walls, curbstones, water shafts, ducts, Bora wind defenses. Its designers were general Filip Vukasović and J. K. Knežić. The road construction started in Rijeka in the year 1803, and went in the direction of Karlovac. This road acquired the character of a "social merchant road" because it was not only a great factor for the two end cities of Rijeka and Karlovac, but also for all the towns that were located on its course.^{67,68}



Figure 22, The plan of the "Lujzijana" road, Filip Vukasović, 1803

⁶⁵ Černicki/Forenbaher 2012, 20-28

⁶⁶ Kos: Karlovac i njegovo prometno-ekonomsko značenje, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 137

⁶⁷ Černicki/Forenbaher 2012, 24-32

⁶⁸ Figure 22

The construction of roads between the Kvarner gulf and its hinterland was of a great economic and traffic interest. With them and later the railroad, the antique – roman idea of connecting the maritime transport with the river waterways was achieved. The all more intensive road transport feed Karlovac and its connecting ends, Senj, Bakar and Rijeka. And also, the roads were in the interests of the Military Frontier, for they enabled specific military interests, and its administration qualifies their officers in technical engineering for road building. Roads enabled faster mobilization, recruiting and food distribution.

II.III.III. RAILROADS

In the aim of connecting the Adriatic with the hinterland and vice versa, alongside of building the water ways and roads, the construction of the first railroads was approached very decidedly. Unfortunately for Croatia, these railroads were built according to the interests of centers of the Austrian and Hungarian capital, in other words, from Vienna and Pest. Their obligated gravitation followed the administratively, economically, political course towards these empire capitals. In their basis they were built in two main booms, the Austrian Vienna-Trieste, and the Hungarian Budapest-Rijeka. Although the main Austrian idea was to build a railroad from Zemun (Serbia) to Zagreb and then to Rijeka (both in Croatia), but the Hungarian administration saw that only Austria would benefit from this route, enabling the export of industrial products into foreign countries. Being a mostly agrarian country, Hungary would fall back into second plan in this kind of transit politics. But Austria being in a hurry to get to the seaside, begun building its railroad from Vienna to Trieste in 1841.⁶⁹



Figure 23, Plan of the city of Karlovac with the location of the train station, M. A. Sanferma, 1841

⁶⁹ Figure 23

Hungary started their own traffic-economic connection of Budapest over Zagreb and Karlovac, completely detached from the Austrian railroads. This decision made by the Hungarian government was a hard blow for Karlovac, because the whole wheat trade effectively bypassed Karlovac leaving its commerce in a state of disbelief and uncertainty. The only positive thing that Karlovac got from this decision was a grand train station built according the plans of Ferenc Pfaff, built in 1903, the second biggest train station in Croatia of that time.^{70, 71}



Figure 24, The train station in Karlovac, Katzler collection, 1903

⁷⁰ Kos: Karlovac i njegovo prometno-ekonomsko značenje, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 137-140

⁷¹ Figure 24



Figure 25, Karlovac veduta, Jakov Šašel, 1863

III | PARKS IN BROADER PUBLIC CONTEXT

A park is commonly defined and perceived as a larger public garden or an area used for recreation, but it is also defined as an area devoted to a specific purpose. Both of the definitions intertwine with each other and in the context of public or urban parks, they cannot function without one another. Parks, promenades, alleys and alike, form a system of green areas which can be based on three main factors: social, ecological and morphological. With their arrangement one can influence the city's appearance, living quality and the overall city's identity.

The history of gardens and gardening, in other words, changing ones surrounding in order to benefit from it, goes back to the times when people left their hunting gathering way of life by acknowledging and accepting the agricultural benefits some 10,000 years ago. Still from the ancient times of Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, Greece, gardens were always places of tranquility, peace and Godley presence. They were also reserved for a small group of individuals which could enjoy in their lavish benefits and were admired and praised by all other people becoming the birth place of dreams, desires and even faiths. This primordial connection of human and nature, and the constant interconnection of domination and respect between the two parties, brought us to today, where gardens are respected and admired as they first were some ten millennia ago.

Parks, on the other hand, firstly appeared in medieval Europe as large enclosed pieces of land stocked with "beasts of chase" for the aristocratic elite of its time.⁷² They were bounded inside the thick hedge walls which kept the game in and other people out. These areas served as hunting grounds but also stated the owner's status and were a representation of his wealth. After the age of renaissance, following its humanist principals, these private hunting grounds, slowly but surely, became open public space for everyone to enjoy, and the parks themselves were arranged in certain defined ways, thus giving birth to landscaping and landscape architecture.

This was a vital step in achieving a certain standard in the urban society's development. People used parks to relax, find comfort and enjoyment, and most important, as communication space which prompted the park visitors to act in a certain fashion and manor. Amidst the industrial revolution in Europe and the colonization of North America, more and more private green areas were becoming public (Europe) and because of the rapid expansion of cities (North America), public park areas were demanded in every urban plan.

⁷² Tate 2001, 1

From Frederick Law Olmsted's Central Park⁷³ in New York, to Georges-Eugène Haussmann's interventions in Paris, where tree filled boulevards and parks replaced the narrow living quarters filled with poverty and diseases, crucial and extreme cuts in the urban fabric were needed in order to modernize the cities and ensure a higher standard of living for its inhabitants, and also making the green areas city governed.

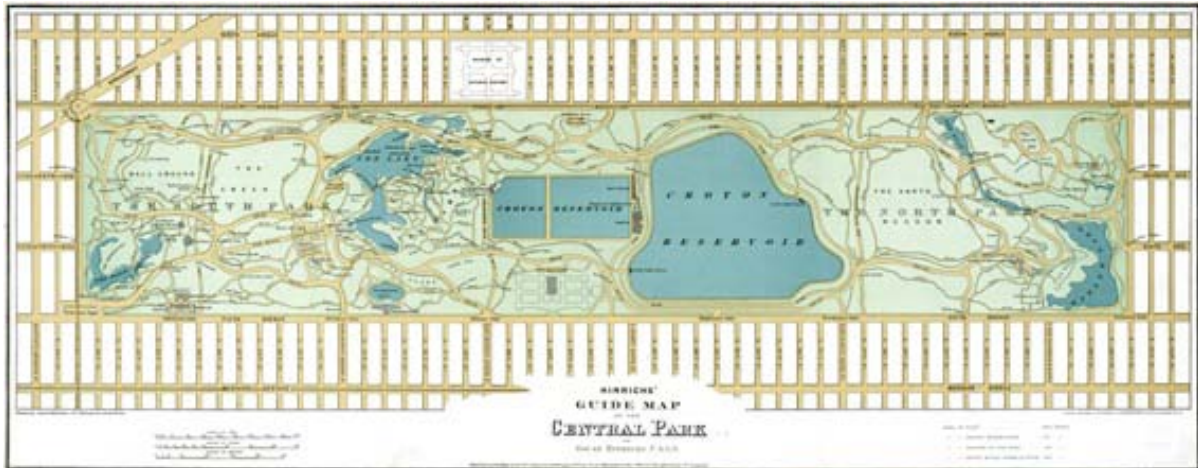


Figure 26, Central Park, New York, Oscar Hinrichs, 1875

But from the landscaping of English gardens until today, much has changed. Enter modernism and the Athens Charter of 1933. This document was produced as a result of the IV International Congress of Modern Architecture which took "The Functional City" as its theme and focused on urbanism and the importance of planning in urban development schemes. The document includes urban ensembles in the definition of the built heritage and emphasizes the spiritual, cultural and economic value of the architectural heritage. It includes a recommendation calling for the destruction of urban slums and creation of "verdant areas" in their place, denying any potential heritage value of such areas. It condemns the use of pastiche for new construction in historic areas.

In terms of parks and green areas, the charter mentions them in four different points:

30. Open spaces are generally inadequate
36. Unsanitary blocks of houses must be demolished and replaced by green areas: the adjacent housing quarters will thus become more sanitary
38. The weekly hours of free time should be passed in favorably prepared places: parks, forests, playing fields, stadiums, beaches, etc.
39. Parks, playing fields, stadiums, beaches, etc.

⁷³ Figure 26

In these four points the leading architects and urban planners point out that the green open spaces shouldn't exist only for the pleasure of a few privileged individuals (30.). In other words they are continuing the praxis started in the industrialist era, but they were making it a standard. Also, same as in the 19th century, the unsanitary blocks in old European cities should be demolished and give way to green areas in order to better the living qualities (36.). The eight hour day concept (eight hours sleep, eight hours work, eight hours free time) was completely adopted and implemented in the architectural and urban planning way of thinking, and thus giving the green areas a certain function for recreation and free time, making green areas and urban parks an indispensable statistic (38.). And the last point concentrated on certain points of planning the green areas, for instance, how the user circulation was to be conducted, how many water fountains are necessary, lodges, hotels, inns... (39.).⁷⁴

Although the modernist ideas were very well conceived, the practice of implementing those ideas into real time were conducted more in a way that parks became functional green areas, mostly found between or around building blocks, and stopped being places of beauty, tranquility and inner peace. Although the parks became a statistic more than places of relaxation, the modernist ideas and demands, brought forth the higher standards of living and a picture of cities as we see them today. Their efforts were groundbreaking but are still factors subject for auditing.

⁷⁴ Le Corbusier 1973, 66-71

IV | HISTORY OF THE KARLOVAC “CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION”

IV.I. THE FORTRESS HERITAGE

At the beginning of the 18th century, a time of peace begins between Austria and Turkey, the centuries old enemies. Not only that the big weaponry battles have ended, but after the Passarowitz treaty in 1718, trading conditions were also established.

The events that took part in the European theater at the beginning of the 18th century have reflected also on Karlovac. The Karlovac fort, erected in 1579, with the goal of being a stronghold for the defense against the Turks, lost its military function. Fifteen years before the disarmament of the Croatian Military Frontier, which was disarmed in 1873, in the engineer headquarters of the Austrian army (“Genie-Direktion”), an idea was born that on the glacis, the flat area around the fort (“no man’s land”), established for the purpose of being a part of the fortifications system, a tree alley should be planted. In that way, whole of the glacis became a circular boulevard – a kind of a green ring. This happened in the 1860’s and can be considered the date when the city’s “greening” began, and with which development, Karlovac will acquire an attribute of being a “City of parks”.

The tree alleys, established on the glacis, are the forts legacy and a memory of the Austrian well organized “Genie-Direktion”. The intent of those that decided to plant the boulevard was two-sided. On one side, they wanted to preserve the forts contours, because the fort was slowly losing its meaning as a military center, and on the other side, to ensure that the citizens of Karlovac enjoy the shade in the hot summer months. This boulevard, almost a century and half old, has been taken care of by generations of Karlovac inhabitants. This goes double for all of those employed in the park maintenance and development sectors or in the town hall.

Information that the planting of the alleys on the glacis was made in the 1860’s, is taken out of “Svjetlo”. In this local newspaper, a question was asked:

“Who planted the avenue and made a circular boulevard around the Karlovac fort?”^{75,76}

An answer was given by a Karlovac resident, engineer Sigmund Reiner, one of the three sons of a prominent Jewish merchant and the president of the Jewish community, Filip Reiner. He got the information from Baron Maximilian Catinelli in Trento, where the two were on their military training. The baron, back than the commander of Trento, told engineer Reiner that

⁷⁵ Svjetlo, 27. I. 1884

⁷⁶ Figure 27, Page 42

he was the one who planted the avenue, back when he was a young officer of the military engineer unit.

Maximilian Catinelli was born in 1840. so in the 1860's he was only 20 years old, that's why Catinellies testimony should be taken "cum grano salis", because it is highly unlikely that such an important decision, that the glacis should be planted with trees, was made by a young officer. Still, Reiners information is relevant, yet it would be a logical conclusion that the young officer was engaged in the planting of the boulevard, but only as a supervisor of the ongoing work, and not as an initial idea maker or someone that made important decisions.⁷⁷



Figure 27, The Karlovac "Star" with the circular promenade already drawn, National Archive
Karlovac, 1865

⁷⁷ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 9

IV.II. THE “CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION”

Peace time and better transportation connections between Austria, Hungary and Croatia, had an influence on the fact that Croatian cities, across the Habsburg Monarchy, also start taking charge of their cities appearances. “City Beautification” became a need and fashion, and a special care about the beauty was taken over by the higher society classes.

The first Croatian City Beautification Association was formed in Zadar in 1879. The history of Zadar logs this event with a note that the Association was formed “after a visit from a group of tourists from Vienna”. Samobor founded its Association in 1887. and Petrinja in 1900. However, the inhabitants of Karlovac didn’t take Zadar as an example, but Graz and Maribor were their ideals.⁷⁸

Before the Associations foundation, in the 1810, Karlovac got its first alley of plane (Platanus) trees, today called the Marmont Alley. It was planted by the French in the time of their occupation (1809-1813). The French have also completed the construction work on the new road from Karlovac to Rijeka (which was planned by Filip Vukasović, who was an army engineer, the construction work begun in 1804.) The gardens in Karlovac were mentioned by Mihael Kunić, a teacher in Karlovac in a text published in a magazine called “Allgemeine deutsche Gartenzeitung”. He described two private flower gardens from Karlovac of that time (end of the 1820’s and beginning of the 1830’s) These gardens were in possession of a merchant named Ernest Reddi and an officer Antun Doczy, the commander of the Karlovac fortress. These are the only mentions of the two men in whole of the Karlovac history and archives. New research show that much earlier in 1752 there was a baroque park drawn in the city plans, near the General command.

During the 1880’s, Karlovac was going through a sever identity crisis. After the construction of the Sisak-Zidani Most railroad, the lucrative wheat trade passed by Karlovac. In the last 15 years (1865-1880) the number of inhabitants in Karlovac shrunk for about 1.000 inhabitants (in the year 1880. in the Karlovac “Star”, the suburbs, Gaza and Dubovac, there were only about 5.000 people living)

The demolition of city gates and the ramparts bridging were done improperly, which reflected very adversely on the mood of the citizens and the transport between the Karlovac “Star” and its suburbs. The building activities in the city, at the time, were very modest (the construction of a steel bridge over the Kupa River, upgrade on the comprehensive gymnasium and the city hospital), and it was not enough for the needs and ambitions of one city.

⁷⁸ Svjetlo, 25. IX. 1884.

“Except the endless repair works, there were no real building projects or any kind of project for the city’s beauty benefit, for quite some years. (...) No urban plantations, no rose gardens or flowers of any kind are to be seen, on any kind of public spaces or promenades, (...) everywhere just the biggest bramble and weeds. There is no talk of any new park, and also that old promenade, which can’t be found in any old town, isn’t taken care of and cleaned, but sought after in a very step mother fashion.”⁷⁹

The Karlovac citizens, who cared about their town’s prosperity, always observed what was going on in other cities of the Monarchy. It was as a competitive spirit was governing them, and they didn’t want to lag behind others. That was also the mindset of Janko Štancer, the mayor in the period from 1881-1885 in whose mandate the “City Beautification Association” was formed. Štancer stayed in the minds and hearts of Karlovac citizens as “a well remembered man”, but with one flaw. He was a “too soft of a goodfella and didn’t rule the city’s administration with a firm enough fist”.⁸⁰

The turning point in the city’s development begins in the year 1884. From January 01st Karlovac gets its first newspaper named “*Svjetlo*” (Light) and the paper comes out two days a week. The paper are an entrepreneurs project of one Dušan Lopašić, grandson of a city judge Mirko Lopašić (1780-1838) and nephew of the famous Croatian historian Radoslav Lopašić (1835-1893) who was a professional news reporter, and Adolf Gustav Prettner the towns printer. This newspaper, thanks to Lopašić’s education, reporter talent and local patriotism, but also to the professionalism of the printer A. G. Prettner, will become a forum of citizenry and will play an important role in citizen urbanizing and with that in “beautifying” the city.

The newly started “*Svjetlo*” subdued the local circumstances to criticism. By comparing Karlovac to other Croatian cities, an anonymous writer states:

“Signs of advancement are noticeable everywhere and everything being built is getting an adequately modern and cultural marker. It’s not only the big and rich cities in which something is being built, also the small towns have understood their mission on how with less funds, to cast away their “village look” in all respects and to substitute it with a picture of a town which is soothing to any observer”.⁸¹

⁷⁹ “*Osim neprestanog popravljanja nije se već više godina ništa sagradilo i grad poljepšao. (...) Nigdje da bih vidio kakve uredne gradske nasade, nigdje da bi se gojile na javnih mjestah i šetalištih ruže i drugo cvieće [!] (...) po svuda najveći drač i korov. Od kakvog parka tu niema [!] ni govora, jer se i ono šetalište, kojeg malo koji grad imade, ne drži u redu i čistoći, već sasvim maćuhinski [!] uzdržaje [!] i nadgleda.*” *Svjetlo*, 04. IX. 1884, Translated by Author

⁸⁰ “*...premekana dobričina i nije dosta jakom rukom upravljao gradskim činovništvom.*” *Svjetlo* 1893, No. 44, Translated by Author

⁸¹ “*Svuda se opažaju znaci napredka, sve što se gradi dobiva moderni i kulturni odgovarajući biljeg. Ne gradi se samo u velikim i bogatim gradovima i mali su shvatili svoju zadaću kako bi i malim sredstvima „svoj seoski izgled“ u svakom pogledu odstranili i zamijenili ga licem jednog grada koji svačjemu [!] oku podaje ugodnu sliku*” *Svjetlo* 17. VIII. 1884, Translated by Author

First notion on doing something in regard of the city's beauty, is found in "Svjetlo" from August 17th 1884, under the title "City Beautification". An unsigned author states:

"As any of us individuals strive, that its suit is, if not new, than always intact and clean, as any father tends that its children be fresh and well dressed, so too must the city elders tend and perceiver, that the city, over which well being and benefit they overlook, must always be displayed as a clean, neat and day after day, ever more beautiful and lush."⁸²

These words were an introduction towards a certain proposition that Karlovac gets its own "City Beautification Association".

"Karlovac will develop with a "faster pace" if an association were organized, which would then, with the help of the citizens, take care of the city's beauty and its development, and which would also aspire that everything that would serve as an ornament, would be carried out, and things that would deface the city, would be removed."⁸³



Figure 28, Dušan Lopašić,
Alegro/Radovinović, 2012

It soon turned out that this appeal was not just a "cry in a desert". Two weeks later the newspaper demand: "radical measures and recourses should be undertaken to show any kind of improvement", more specific: "formation of an city beautification association, which should start with its fruitful and useful activities, next spring".⁸⁴

There was no doubt where to start with the "city's beautification". The promenade which was planted a quarter century before by the military engineer squad had to be the first step. The most persuasive argument was made by Dušan Lopašić⁸⁵:

"We lack a theater, an opera or a drama, we haven't got a gallery or a museum, we haven't got a boulevard or any squares as Zrinjevac,⁸⁶ but we do have something that is our pride and favorite past-time, our beautiful and broad

⁸² "Kao što svaki od nas pojedinaca nastoji da mu bude odijelo, ako ne baš novo, ali zato uvijek cielo [!] i čisto, kao što svaki otac brine, da mu budu djetca [!] čisto i uredno odjevena, tako isto imadu [!] i gradski otci [!] brinuti i nastojati, da onaj grad, nad čijom dobrobiti i napredku im je bditi, prikažu uvijek onako čist, uredani svaki dan sve ljepši i bogatiji." Svjetlo 17. VIII. 1884, Translated by Author

⁸³ "Karlovac će „bržim korakom“ napredovati ako bi se ustrojilo društvo [!] koje bi uz pripomoć stanovništva grada imalo skrb i brigu unaprijedjivatu [!] poljepšavanje grada i nastojati, da se sve što bi gradu služilo kao ures i ljepotu izvede, a što bi ga ružilo i nakazivalo da se odstrani." Svjetlo, 17. VIII. 1884, Translated by Author

⁸⁴ "... traže radikalne mjere i sredstva preduzeti da se poluči kakav napredak, (...)utemeljenje jednog društva za poljepšavanje grada, koje bi već na proljeće svoje plodonosno i koristno djelovanje započeti moralo." Svjetlo 04. IX. 1884, Translated by Author

⁸⁵ Figure 28

⁸⁶ The central park in Zagreb

promenade. Trees of Linden and Chestnut flutter like a halo around the old fortress, giving us shade in the summer heat, fresh air for the sick, and enough space to sprawl around and for the children to play. But almost no one took care of the promenade.”⁸⁷

About the neglect of the “Grand Promenade”, as the Karlovac citizens called the part of the Round Promenade between the Grand Café and Baron Vranyczany’s house, “Svjetlo” wrote on the March 09th 1884,

“Even the farmers don’t tolerate that their alleys get so low, that’s way we shouldn’t also. For educated citizens to lag behind farmers and to let our promenade look so grim.”⁸⁸

IV.II.I. THE ASSOCIATIONS FOUNDATION

The Association was founded on June 16th 1886, soon after the government approved the Association’s rules which were composed by the Initiative committee that was led by Alfred Kapner. In that time Karlovac didn’t have a mayor. In 1885, the government deposed Janko Štancer for being a sympathizer of Ante Starčević⁸⁹, and Antun Jordan won’t become the mayor until the second half of 1886. The meeting of the Initiative committee was organized by Viktor Uzorinac “head of the Karlovac magistrate”. On March 2nd 1886, he assembled the Initiative committee containing 18 members, all of them were advocates of the idea that Karlovac gets the “City Beautification Association”, which enabled ideas to become reality.⁹⁰



Figure 29, Statute of the “City Beautification Association”, National Archive Karlovac, 1894

The associations first president was Josip Adžija, chosen by a committee of 21 members that formed the association. He stayed on this position till his death in 1894. As a retired officer he enjoyed a great reputation in the military society, so he was able to activate a lot of officers from the two Karlovac regiments in the beautification project. Josip Adžaja’s contribution to the society was so great, that the local newspaper “Sloga” (Unity) wrote: “All you see is Adžaja’s commitment”. There are exaggerations in this formulation, because Adžaja was the president for only 8 years. But his greatest accomplishment was the organization of the “pogorelina” (site of fire), between Haulikova and Kukuljevićeva Street,

⁸⁷ “Nemamo kazalište, opere ili drame, nemamo ni galerije, ni muzej, nemamo bulevara il trgova kao što je Zrinjevac, al imamo što nam je i ponos i ugodna zabava – naše liepo [!] i prostrano šetalište. Oko ciele [!] stare tvrđje [!] viju se kao u vienac [!] redovi lipa, kestenja i drugih stablja, pružajući za ljetne sparine hlada, svieža [!] zraka bolesnikom, a dovoljno mjesta za šetati i igru nestašne djetce.[!] Nu do sad se malo tko brinuo tim šetalištem.” Lopašić, Dušan, Svjetlo 09. III. 1884, Translated by Author

⁸⁸ “Niti seljaci ne trpe da se njihova šetališta tako pogane, stoga nesmimo ni mi, izobraženi gradjani [!] za seljaci zaostajati te dozvoliti da nam se promenada tako ruži.” Svjetlo 09. III. 1884, Translated by Author

⁸⁹ Croatian politician from the 1800’s. Leader of the “Croatian Rights Party”

⁹⁰ Figure 29

today known as the “wooden square” area. After the fire in 1878, that part of the city became a mockery, and Adžaja decorated it with chestnut trees. Generations of Karlovac citizens called that square the “Adžaja square”.⁹¹

Among the propound members of the society, one should take special notice of one Antun Čop (1827-1887), back than a retired officer of the engineer profession and a builder. He was the one who made the plans for the organization of the plantations and the alleys. The role of Antun Čop in planning the Promenade still needs to be further examined. As Čop was an army engineer and born in Karlovac, there is no doubt that he was informed about the plans according to which the Promenade was formed in the 1860’s, and maybe he even had a role in its planning. In the year 1886, he could only plan the widening of the alleys and eventually the organization of the plantations.

IV.II.II. THE ASSOCIATIONS PROGRAM

At its very beginning, the associations program was only shortly formulated: organize the promenades, especially the part between the Grand Café and the old “Singing Temple” (a round square at the end of the promenade used for choir singing), to get a capable gardener in to the city and to acquire the ownership Dubovac castle on “Uzdihovac” (Sigh spot) hill and organize it as a city excursion site.

It seems as the old Karlovac citizens weren’t partial to excessive rhetoric’s, nor to the sustainability of the projects, but were keener to the rule of “step by step”.

IV.II.III. THE “GRAND PROMENADE”

The “Grand Promenade”⁹² is a promenade heading from the Grand Café to the statue of the goddess Flora (set up in 1887). The priority was to separate the space between the houses and the alleys through a series of lawns and flower gardens. For the upkeep of the lawns and flower gardens, a water cart was bought in order to water the plantations. Afterwards, with the construction of the “Zorin Dom”⁹³ (1892), the Association organized the transport of soil in order to level the terrain and to form a park around this



Figure 31, “Zorin Dom”, Katzler collection, 1892

⁹¹ Vrbetić/Szabo 1989, 120-123

⁹² Figure 30, Page 48

⁹³ Figure 31

cultural “temple”. After that a music pavilion was erected and soon after (1901) a bust statue of the famous Karlovac historian Radoslav Lopašić, the work of a known Croatian sculptor Ivan Rendić.

There was a lot of work on the Grand Promenade. The plantations were arranged and taken care of, the benches were placed and fixed (every bench had its own number), there was even a playground for children and bird houses for song-birds, while the magpies, who ate song-birds, were eliminated. According the report from the year 1892,

“...alongside all the normal activities on the promenade, 50 new trees were planted which the alley was missing”.⁹⁴



Figure 30, “Grand Promenade”, Lisander Reich, end of the 19th century

The Association became a kind of an agency of the City administration. They also engaged in businesses of removing demolished buildings and providing financial help for the impoverished members.

The appearance of the Promenade changed in a very short time, the local press states:

“Don’t you remember that ditch from the Grand Café all the way to the end; the butcher shops; stables; at least the promenade is arranged now.”⁹⁵

This is all the Associations merit, which, with low finances, managed to achieve.

⁹⁴ “...uz obične radnje na šetalištu je zasađeno preko 50 stabalja, [!] kojasu drvoredu manjkala.” Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 14, Translated by Author

⁹⁵ “Zar se ne sjećate one grabe od današnje velike kavane pa diljem do kraja; pa onih mesnica; staja na promenadi; sad je bar šetalište uređeno.” Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 15, Translated by Author

The evidence that Karlovac had a good start in its beautification is a note from April 2nd 1888, which comes from Varaždin and it states:

“The people of Varaždin ask that the Karlovac Association sends them their statute, for they would most gladly form their Association according the Karlovac model.”⁹⁶

IV.II.IV. THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST EXPERT GARDENER

The first expert gardener was Engelbert Hajek. He came to Karlovac on June 1st 1894. With this, the second point of the societies program was accomplished. When he came from Trieste, he was 46 years old, and he worked there in the renowned gardening firm of Gulio Perotti.⁹⁷

He was accepted into service in time when the City council was adjourned, so he couldn't swear immediately in front of the council as a “gardening expert and valuator”. As soon as the city council was voted for, Hajek took his oath. From one newspaper report we can conclude that the Karlovac “City Beautification Association” was the first in Croatia which was able to outcome that the City government hires a permanent Gardener.

Hajek was promised, since 1895, to be provided with good working conditions. The contractor, Dragan Vranyczany (1841-1910), the son of Nikola (1804-1876), in the year 1895, donated his garden to the city, a space between Riječka Street and Mažuranić Bank. A glasshouse was made on that location and also an apartment for the gardener. This location was named the “City Garden” later on.

Hajek got more than two acres of garden land to his disposal, a glasshouse and proper tools. And the city had very ambitious plans for the gardener. Except taking care of the city's plantations, he will also have to take care of the school garden. He will be occupied with fruit cultivation, flower cultivation and cultivating grapevines “in pots”. The surroundings had to be furnished with “American grapevines which will come in handy because phylloxera⁹⁸ completely destroyed the vineyards”. According to the contract, he was obliged to give the city government 500 apple and pear trees, 200 plum and 100 mulberry trees, to their disposal, so that the council could give them away to its citizens for free.⁹⁹

Hajek, unfortunately didn't stay long. According to Ivo Otto, he went to work to Vienna as a court gardener, and in 1896, the local newspapers brought the news about him having an accident, by falling from a tree and dying.

⁹⁶ “*Varaždinci traže da im karlovačko društvo pošalje statut, oni će najradije svoje društvo uspostaviti po karlovačkom modelu.*” Croatian-National Archive Karlovac, “*City Beautification Association*”

⁹⁷ Svjetlo 17. VI. 1894.

⁹⁸ A pest of commercial grapevines, originally native to eastern North America

⁹⁹ Croatian-National Archive Karlovac, “*Društvo za poljepšavanje grada*”

The decoration of “Uzdihovac” hill, the Dubovac castle surrounding, wasn’t carried out as planned. The city bought the “ruin Dubovac”¹⁰⁰ under the Association’s urgency in 1893. After which the Association tried to deal with its renewal, by trying to renew its defensive tower (“Branič kula”) in 1903, but because of the lack of finances they didn’t succeed. They only managed to maintain the lawns and paths.¹⁰¹

From its very beginning the society enjoyed great support of the City council, especially the mayors. For instance, the first elected mayor, after the Association’s foundation, Antun Jordan, on September 6th 1886, symbolically gave the keys of the St. Cross chapel’s gates and with that also a public support of the City administration for the Association’s operations.

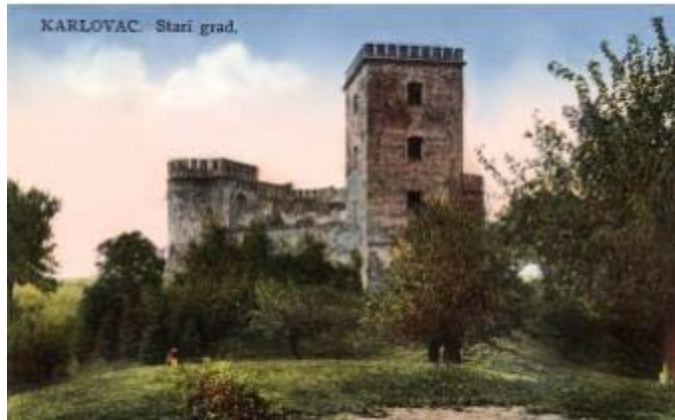


Figure 32, The Dubovac ruine, Katzler collection, end of the 19th century

Being the Mayor, Jordan mobilizes the city for the Association’s needs. He ordered the city guard to: “keep open eyes that the plantations and other decorations won’t get demolished”. “The City guardian” (guard) was at the Association’s disposal, and the principal of the “Maiden Academy”, Davorin Trstenjak, was asked to give the half of the academy’s garden to the Association, and as an “expert”, he should also give tips and favors to the society. Above all the city paid regular donations on the account of the society (in 1887, the city gave 700 forints). The donations were regularly given by the Karlovac Savings Bank also.

At the end of the 19th century, the needs for the organization of Karlovac were vast. The fort’s heritage left ramparts which, after the fort’s guard left, weren’t taken care of by anyone anymore. That’s how they became landfills, and certain local cattle breeders brought their cattle there for pasture. In the spring time they would be filled with water, and in summer, as it is recorded in the press:

“...when you walk by them, one should plug their noses. All of the smell lays into them, so in the summer heat, it evaporates into million miasmas.”¹⁰²

The improvement possibilities were very modest. Accept cleanliness upkeep, the only other thing that could be done was the planting of poplar trees, for they need a very moist soil to grow, so they function as a kind of drainers. In the rampart (the fortification ditch) in the

¹⁰⁰ Figure 32

¹⁰¹ Croatian-National Archive Karlovac, “The City Council’s Memoires”, 19860/38

¹⁰² “...kad se kraj njih prolazi moramo čepiti noseve. Sav se smrad ulieže u nje, pa se za vrijeme ljetne žege isparuje u u milijunima miazma...”, Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 18. Translated by Author.

year 1892, 50 poplar trees were planted “for repelling the stench caused by the summer evaporation.”

The Association was also qualified for performing specific actions, but it was also an initiator of development. The best example for that is that the Association was the birth place of the idea of the “*Korana River having curative properties*”, that Karlovac should benefit from them and that it should be further developed as a summer resort. This shows that the content of the Association’s activity was, considerably broadened with time.

IV.II.V. THE VRBANIĆ PARK

During the Association’s foundation, the erection of this park wasn’t included in the Association’s program. The project started first when the city councilors, with Ivan Banjavčić and Josip Vrbanić at their head, and the members of the Association got the self confidence and became aware that the possibilities of Karlovac were much greater than the ones they defined on the founding assembly in 1886.



Figure 33, The restaurant in Vrbanić park, Katzler collection, 1932

The erection of the park¹⁰³ was a part of a strategic project of making Karlovac, along with the bathing resort and spa on the Korana River, a touristic resort. The proposal emerged in “Svjetlo” on January 27th 1884. “Svjetlo” suggested that the city should:

“...spend a few forints on analyzing the Korana River, which is very therapeutic, and for which the whole of Europe can be jealous” and that “the property and the shed should be

¹⁰³ Figure 33

bought from Mr. Dejak, for a reasonable price, and a bathing resort should be built there according the contemporary spirit of our time.”¹⁰⁴

This issue was made actually ten years later because “the Korana has a priceless and unspeakable well (...) that the effort could be paid off in a matter of years (...) if it would be done in the next three years.” There was no doubt that the invested money will bring profit.¹⁰⁵

The initiative was taken over by the Association, and it suggests that the area on the left Korana bank should be bought, which was done in 1895, by the purchase of two properties from Franjo Deak and Josip Vraničar for 7.000 forints. Parallel with the park, a bathing resort and also the so called “Kneipp Spa”, was being built on the river bank. This activity gets into full swing after 1895, when the mayor Josip Vrbanić names this project as his priority. According to Josip Absac, the park was opened for use in 1896.

Without a doubt, the erection of a park on the Korana River next to the bathing resort was the greatest success in the 28 year history of the “City Beautification Association”.

IV.II.VI. ASSOCIATION’S MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONARIES

Society’s members were mostly the Karlovac elite: government officials, lawyers, doctors, teachers, merchants and artisans. Collective, supporting members were the officers of the two army regiments placed in Karlovac: 96th Ramberg regiment and the 26th Home guard regiment. The society had 183 members in the year 1892, 196 in 1902, and 202 in 1907.^{106,}
¹⁰⁷

In his fiery solicitation for the city’s beautification, Dušan Lopašić, the city’s news reporter, in one of his text was, probably, a bit too harsh. He wrote that:

“...whole associations have to do things that elsewhere are done by conscious, people loving, individuals.”¹⁰⁸

This statement should be perceived as criticism of those who were antagonizing the Association’s actions, because there were those who said: “who wants a promenade, should

¹⁰⁴ “...potroši nekoliko forinta na analizu Korane, koja je vrlo ljekovita, i za koju namsva Europa zadivjeti može, (...) uz primjerenu cijenu bašča i zemljište od g. Dejaka i da se tamo zazida i uredi kupalište po današnjem duhu vremena.” Svjetlo 27. I. 1884, Translated by Author

¹⁰⁵ “...u Korani imamo neprocjenjivo i neizrecivo vrelo (...) da se trud može isplatit već za nekoliko godina (...) da se toostvari u tri godine.” Svjetlo 22.VII.1894, Translated by Author

¹⁰⁶ Zora 1888, No. 7

¹⁰⁷ Sloga 1888, No. 8

¹⁰⁸ “...cijela društva [!] ono raditi što kod drugih čine sviestni [!], čovjekoljubivi, pojedinci.” Lopašić, Dušan, Svjetlo 19. III. 1893, Translated by Author

than make it himself”, or against those responsible individuals who weren’t solicited enough in their work. Maybe the writer’s intent was that a sentence formed in such a way, should function as a wakeup call for the citizens and their involvement in the Association’s work, and perhaps that the Association should receive more finances. How it may be, the Association’s program was so broad that it could not be practiced only by “people loving individuals”.

The society was financed by the city administration and the city Savings Bank subventions, membership fees and their own income. For instance, in the year 1907, the Association earned 211 crowns just by leasing out the musical pavilion for concerts.

The city administration keeps close attention on the Association’s spending. The register was controlled by officials of the highest authority, and the registers conduction reports were announced in the local newspaper.

We can conclude on basis of these reports, that the Association was operating rationally, which had a stimulating effect on the society.¹⁰⁹

IV.II.VII. THE CRISIS PERIOD AND ACTIVITY COMPLETION

And when everything was pointing that the Association will get a new uplift, enriched with the acquired experience, a period of crisis appeared.

There were more causes for the crisis in the Association. As the city administration was taking more and more care about the “city’s beautification”, a certain dilemma was formed. Who should the gardener listen to, the mayor or the Association’s president?

At the same time, and especially in 1908, and the years later on, the Karlovac public was, regarding the political circumstances, deeply divided.

“Politics have ruined everything for us, it detracted efficient people from the Association”.¹¹⁰

On one side you had the advocates that saw the future of Croatia inside the union of Slavs (Croatian–Serbian coalition) and on the other side people that saw the way out in a trialism inside the Hauburg monarchy (“Rights Party”, “Pure Rights Party”). Karlovac was mostly a coalition town and it confronted its rival’s with a very aggressive speech filled with hate. The peak of the conflict between the two most prominent citizens was between the mayor Ivan Banjavčić and the state representative Edo Lukinić. This conflict ended with the resignation of the 65 year old Mayor Banjavčić and also with his exclusion from public life. It is very

¹⁰⁹ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 20

¹¹⁰ “Politika nam je sve pokvarila, odbila od Društva valjane ljude.” Sloga 1908, Translated by Author

possible that this event had an influence on the Association's activities, so much that the year 1908 is considered as the year of the Association's activities cessation.

In the time of crisis (1910) the eminent Croatian biologist and geographer Dragutin Hirc made an overview of the Karlovac parks.

"Karlovac citizens like flowers, and how they wouldn't when their nature, beside the Kupa and Korana rivers, weaved such lovely rugs." ¹¹¹

Hirc further writes about the state of the Karlovac parks at the beginning of the 19th century and concludes:

"The Gardens and flower gardens in the city of Karlovac, little by little, have multiplied, and taking care of flowers moved in front of houses and city spaces, that is pleasing to every eye and attenuates a man's soul. Therefore, the Karlovac citizens noticed the natural beauty of Karlovac and its surrounding landscape, fairly early. It's exactly this natural abundance and landscape that motivate the citizens for the horticultural creation in their city." ¹¹²

With the temporary cessation of the Association's actions, the citizens of Karlovac haven't reconciled. In the year 1913, the "Narodni Glas" (Peoples Voice) states: "with utmost determination, we demand that the Association is to be resurrected from the dead." There was a temporary committee elected with Lieutenant Stjepan Prica as its president. After that, the "Narodni Glas" issues an appeal in which they call the old administration to join. The representation called out the "patriotic citizenship", to pay a fractional annual contribution for the Association's actions of 60 crowns for the founders and 2,40 for the supporting members. But the events took another turn. First happened the "run" (a flush of investors) on the Karlovac Savings Bank (May 12th 1914), the next day Josip Absac, the Association's secretary, suddenly died, and at the end of June, the Sarajevo assassination took place, which was the motive for the First World War. In 1914, the society stopped working.

¹¹¹ "Karlovčani vole cvijeće, pa kako da ga ne vole kad im je priroda uz Kupu i Koranu satkala ovako divne sagove" Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 21, Translated by Author

¹¹² "Vrtovi i cvjetnjaci u gradu Karlovcu malo pomalo su se umnožili, a gajitba [!] cvijećapreselila se iz njih i pred kuće i pred gradske prostore, koji danas ugađaju svačijem oku i razblažuju dušu čovjeka. Dakle, Karlovčani su rano uočili ljepotu karlovačke prirode i okolnih pejzaža. Upravo to bogatstvo prirode i pejzaža motiviralo je kod građana hortikulturalno stvaralaštvo u njihovu gradu." Joha, Božidar: Perivoji i parkovi Karlovca u stogodišnjem razvoju grada, Mag. 1986, 23, Translated by Author

IV.III. 1918-1945 PERIOD

After the demise of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Karlovac, thanks to the results made by the “City Beautification Association”, enters the Kingdom of Serbia-Croatia-Slovenia (Yugoslavia since 1928.) with the attribute “City of Parks”.

Already on the first meeting of the city administration held on the December 19th 1918, thirteen boards of the city municipality were established, and one of them (the 10th) was named “The board of bathing and monitoring of the city’s plantations”.¹¹³

In the period between the two wars, the most prominent Karlovac gardeners were Avsec, Katzler and Kopřiva. Friedrich Wilhelm Katzler was the first who settled in Karlovac with his family in 1903. Friedrichs eldest son Antun, together with his brother Friedrich Jr. founded a company called “Braća Katzler” (The Katzler Brothers). In the year 1911, Josip Kopřiva, a Czech by nationality, where he settled in Karlovac because he was a qualified gardener, and who worked for a period of time in the Botanical garden in Zagreb. The last of the three mentioned gardeners was Antun Avsec who settled on the former Vranyczany estate on the Možuranićeva Obala (Mažuranić Bank) 23.

Antun Katzler was hired as a city gardener in 1920. For some time, Josip Kopřiva was working as a temporary gardener. As the upkeep of the Karlovac parks was in the focus of the public, disagreements between the city administration and the gardeners occurred. Between 1924, and 1925, Karlovac was governed by a Government’s commissioner. From the “Ad hoc” committee sessions records from November 5th 1925, one can see that the commissioner made a conclusion on May 23rd 1925, that:

“...the gardener Antun Katzler, should be brought to justice because of the extradition of wood, which he, at the time he was the city’s gardener, by cleaning and thinning of plantations, acquired and kept to himself. The committee unanimously suggests that the before mentioned conclusion upholds the action.”¹¹⁴

On the list of conclusions based on the paragraph 48, city municipality organization law on June 21st 1925, under the number 1559/25 states that “Josip Kopřiva is fired from his position.” But three years later, in December 1928, in the time of Mayor Josip Butorac, Josip

¹¹³ Croatian-National Archive Karlovac, 3 “Poglavarstvo grada Karlovca”-“Gradski odbori, Zapisnik sjednice kandidacionog odbora 1918”

¹¹⁴ [“...zaključak da se protiv Antuna Katzlera, vrtlara u Karlovcu podigne kod redovitog suda parnica za izručenje drva, koja je on za vrijeme namještanja kao gradski vrtlar čišćenjem i proređivanjem gradskih nasada dobio i bez ičije privole sebi prisvojio. Odbor jednoglasno predlaže da se gornjim zaključkom određeni postupak zavrigne.” Croatian-National Archive Karlovac, 3 “Poglavarstvo grada Karlovca”-“Zapisnik Ad hoc odbora 05. IX. 1925”, Translated by Author

Kopřiva was admitted as the permanent city gardener, with revenues that are secured for city officials of the III. category, and also with the mention that his working span (internship) is being calculated from April 1st 1911. He is given the right to practice gardening as a side job (“nuzzaslužba”). It was also appointed, that he gets the right to use an apartment in the “gardeners house”. And in the end, he acquires the city garden, under the condition that he cultivate its.



Figure 33, The Modrušan Park, Katzler collection, 1931

Under the contract, Kopřiva was obliged to:

“...in the ways of ideal gardening, takes care of all the present and future city plantations, promenades, parks including the one by the bathing resort on the Korana river, further on, gardens, flower gardens and alleys should be organized, taken care of and decorated so they produce enough reserves of alley and decorating trees, shrubs, decorating plants and flowers, roses and other similar plants, in other words, everything that’s necessary from a gardeners point of view that the before mentioned plantations are ideally taken care of.” The city administration took the part of securing workers for “...editing, reorganizing and up keeping the promenades, plantations, parks, gardens etc.”¹¹⁵

¹¹⁵ “...na način uzornog vrtljarstva [!] skrbi da svi sadanji i budući nasadi, šetališta, perivoji u koje se ubraja i onaj kupališta na Korani, nadalje rasadnjaci, cvjetnjaci i drvoredi prema propisima uzornog vrtljarstva [!] uređivani, održavani i ukrašivani budu, da goji i prigaja dostatnu zalihu drvorednog i ukrasnog drveća, grmovlja, ukrasnog bilja i cvijeća, ruža i tome slično t.j. [!] u lijepom i uzornom stanju održavaju. (...) uređivanja, preinačivanja, te održavanje šetališta, nasada, parkova, vrtova itd.” Croatian-National Archive

Kopřiva was dedicated to his work and with his skills he could compete with the gardeners from other bigger cities, so he presented his flower gardens on expos in Prague and Graz. His biggest achievement was the Modrušan Park¹¹⁶ in 1931, located between the Edison cinema and the “Sokolski Dom” (Hawk Gymnasium), in the background of the former St. Cyril and Methodius church. Before that this location was unorganized and even a landfill site. When in 1930, the long term mayor of Karlovac Gustav Modrušan, died, the council decided to form another park in his name. This park was carried out in “French style” manner and stands still today as a representative example of the Karlovac parks.¹¹⁷

IV.III.I. ENDANGERED HISTORICAL MASONRY HERITAGE

As in the “City Beautification Association” period, except the care for the circular promenade, the 1930’s¹¹⁸ didn’t see the value of the succeeded historical heritage and it wasn’t recognized. Back then, an idea emerged in the urban planning community, of one arch of the ramparts, between the Ivan Goran Kovačić Street and “Bundeshaus”, to be buried and then to be subdivided and sold for housing buildings.¹¹⁹ The first interests shown were made by the “Napretkova zadruga” (Prosperity cooperative).

Such a proposition was handed to the Masonry committee by the so called “Parcel committee”, and it was accepted on October 04th 1938, by a unanimous decision under the explanation:

“By the subject land subdivision, apropos the construction on the rampart between the Stepanović street and the city promenade next to the “Bundeshaus”, none of the private-legal interests are being touched”, only the public ones, “and being that none of the public spaces, estimated by the regulatory city base, aren’t being revoked. The same public interest would be in that in a form of a public park, a row of houses should be erected, with which the city of Karlovac and the questioned location would lose a part of the public space. However, taken in to account that all the public spaces, provided by the regulatory base in the inner part of the city of Karlovac in comparison to the city’s built surface, take up a disproportionately big city surface ‘which is bigger than the built surface` shows”, that also after the construction of the mentioned rampart, “an, more than needed, adequate surface for parks and transport is still left alone. “Being that the Karlovac city needs for park and road surfaces are bigger than actually needed, the consequences are that the areas dedicated for certain urban needs aren’t organized, but present a certain kind of wasteland in the midst of the City. The city of Karlovac wasn’t until now, nor is it now, nor will it be in

Karlovac, 3 “Poglavarstvo grada Karlovca”-“Gradski odbori, Zapisnik sjednice Pravnog odbora od 04. XII. 1928, čl. 5”, Translated by Author

¹¹⁶ Figure 33

¹¹⁷ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 24

¹¹⁸ Figure 34, Page 59

¹¹⁹ Figure 35, Page 58

due time financially strong enough to turn all the abandoned areas into parks, so they will still deprave the inner parts of the city and also the deep ramparts of the former fortress. By the construction of the mentioned building blocks in the rampart between the Stepanović street and the existing promenade, only a minor part of the unorganized rampart will be removed, and by that none of the public spaces and roads will be noticeably reduced.”¹²⁰



Figure 35, One of the Karlovac bastions before their demolishment, KA-Fotka, end of the 19th

This conclusion shows a certain state of mind. The commercial interests are the main agenda. Only the procedure was disputable, the sale was to be direct, no public auction. Even the Mayor Graho wasn't against the backfilling of the ramparts. His standpoint was not to get into this subject until the Zrinski square wasn't finished.

¹²⁰ "Predmetnom parcelacijom odnosno izgradnjom šanca između Stepanovićeve ulice i gradskog šetališta uz zadružnu kuću ne tangiraju se stvarno ničiji privatno-pravni interesi, (...), budući da se ne dokida ni jedna od postojećih javnih površina predviđenih regulatornom osnovom grada. Isti javni interes bio bi u tome, što namjesto javnog parka dolazi blok kuća, čime bi se u gradu Karlovcu, a napose na upitnom mjestu smanjila površina javnih nasada. Međutim, kada se uzme u obzir, da sve javne površine predviđene regulatornom osnovom u unutarnjem dijelu grada Karlovca u odnosu prema izgrađenoj površini grada zauzimaju nesrazmjerno veliku površinu grada, koja je veća od izgrađene površine, pokazuje se da (...) Uslijed toga, što su u gradu Karlovcu površine za parkove i prometne potrebe daleko veće nego što su potrebne, ima se za posljedicu, da te predviđene površine nisu uređene, već usred grada predstavljaju pustoš. Grad Karlovac nije bio do sada, niti sada, niti će biti u dogledno vrijeme dovoljno financijski jak, da te puste površine preuredi u parkove, pa će stoga i dalje kao do sada u gradu nagrđivati unutarnji dio grada i duboki šančevi bivše tvrđave. Izgradnjom predmetnih građevnih čestica u šancu između Stepanovićeve ulice i postojećeg gradskog šetališta nestati će samo jednog neuređenog šanca, a da time neće ni u koliko biti osjetljivo smanjena površina javnih nasada i saobraćajnih linija." Croatian-National Archive Karlovac, "Poglavarstvo grada Karlovca" - "Građevinski odbori, Parcelizacija zemljišta gradske općine na šancu kod zadružne kuće od 04. X. 1938, article 2, No. 14493", Translated by Author

The feeling for the value of historical heritage emerges again thanks to the citizens. A group of citizens protests against the decrease of green spaces.

“Today green spaces are being conserved for future generations, and in our city, they want to build on historical heritage” ¹²¹

It was the first protest of Karlovac citizens for the conservation of the historical heritage. However the National government declined to issue a construction permit to the “Napretkova zadruga” in 1940.

At the same time, in the ramparts of the Corinthian (Fifth) bastion, unfortunately, a school is being built, a merchant academy. This building will be an example of environment devastation by building.



Figure 34, Aerial view of the Karlovac “Star”,KA-Fotka, 1930

¹²¹ “Danas se čuvaju zelene površine za potomstvo, a kod nas se želi u povijesnom nasljeđu graditi.” Karlovački Glasnik 1/1940, Translated by Author

IV.III.II. THE SECOND WORLD WAR

As everywhere else, war brought other priorities. On the communal plan, those were erections of shelters, reconstruction of old wells in case of water system disruptions and above all, supply. Green surfaces outside the city center are turned into gardens, and some citizens cultivated animals, especially pigs, for nourishment.

But even in time of war the city took care of its parks. Franjo Deak, the mayor in the period from 1941-1944, gave an interview in the Zagreb journal "Hrvatski narod" (Croatian people) in 1943. When asked what he does in Karlovac, he answered beside all other:

"...I issued to organize parks and plantations, and to organize a new playground on the rampart."¹²²

In the harshest of times the conscience about the value of the parks and alleys was kept.

But during the war the Karlovac promenade was damaged in one of its segments. In August and September of 1944, the allied planes bombarded the roads controlled and used by the Germans, and few times Karlovac was also bombed. Aiming the traffic bridge the bombs hit the Gundulić street and the Promenade next to the "Bundeshaus". In the later reconstruction that part of the promenade was completely removed.

IV.IV. 1945-1961 PERIOD

IV.IV.I. "GRADSKA VRTLARIJA" (CITY GARDENING) 1945-1956

After the Second World War the new City government kept the organization of the park administration and most of the expert's unchanged.

The Gardening and Cemetery administrations were detached and were aligned in a cluster of companies of "local importance". The Gardening had its head office on the Mažuranić Bank 23, on the location of the former Vranyczany garden. At the end of 1948, the city Gardening had 35 employees and the city Undertaking company 9.¹²³

¹²² "...*dao (sam) urediti gradske perivoje i nasade, te urediti novo dječje igralište na Šancu.*" Deak, Franjo, Hrvatski narod 1943, Translated by Author

¹²³ Horvatić: Razvoj privrede Karlovca od 1945. do danas, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 689-690

IV.IV.II. THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE GUNDULIĆ STREET AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE PARKS IN THE FIRST AND SIXTH BASTION RAMPARTS

The first bigger postwar communal investment, which reflected on the green areas of the city, was the reconstruction of the Gundulićeva Street. The original access, from the Zrinski square, through the Gundulićeva and Preradovićeva Street into the Gajeva Street was a sort of a “narrow gorge”, because the transition from the Preradovićeva Street into the Gajeva Street should be done over a 290° angle. This was not only a local problem, but a state problem as well, because of the Zagreb-Rijeka road that led through Karlovac.

The backfilling of the ramparts, which was made because of the reconstruction of the Gundulićeva Street, agitated the conservationist’s society, and because of that the Conservationists Institute from Zagreb imposed the “Gradski Narodni Odbor” (City Peoples Council) the rule book of conservation of the masonry heritage in Karlovac. The rule book was made on March 12th 1948, and with it, it was declared that the rampart and hundreds of historical buildings have to be preserved so that one could not constructively intervene without the agreement of the Conservationists institute. With that, the feud between the city and the conservationists was over, even if for a short while. A part of the rampart was sacrificed for the modern era needs, and the conservationists managed to make up a rule book with which (they hoped) one could organize the government’s relationship with the masonry heritage.



Figure 36, Filling of the ramparts along the Gundulićeva Street, Ivan Pucak, 1947

The Gundulićeva Street reconstruction was made from 1947-1948 and with that two “deep parks” emerged, one along the Ivan Goran Kovačić Street, and the other along the Matica Hrvatska Street. For the filling of the ramparts, soil was driven from the slopes of the Dubovac hill to the Post office building, using a 2 km long narrow railway. According the data

from the local press, for the “bridging” of the rampart and the arrangement of the park (1947), there had to be 12.000 cubic meters of soil filled in and 700 cubic meters of stone had to be implanted.^{124,}

These parks, because of the humble financial assets, were mostly built thanks to voluntary work of the Karlovac citizens. There was work on the weekend or during the work days two to three hours in the afternoon. The “Nacionalna fronta” (National front) took care of the organization over the building process, and the peoples’ response was very satisfying. Being that, this voluntary work was a form of showing loyalty to the new communist regime.¹²⁵

The horticultural solutions were, in the material and design point of view, humble but in accordance with the contemporary circumstances.

IV.IV.III. THE PARK AND THE MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN FIGHTERS ON THE BAN (SIXTH) BASTION

Six years after the decision of preserving the ramparts was made, it was decided that on the former Ban (sixth) bastion, on the place of the children’s playground, a so called “Centralni Spomenik Palim Borcima I Žrtvama Fašizma” (Central Monument to the Fallen Fighters and Victims of Fascism)¹²⁶ should be erected. The development and design of the monument was given to the academic sculptor Vanja Radauš.^{127,128}

Together with the monument, it was declared that the rampart in front of the monument should be turned into a park in the similar way as the one in front of the Gundulićeva street. The mayor Josip Benić got the acceptance of the city council with the explanation that the “deep parks” in the ramparts do not distort the contours of the former fort, because

“...except the six-axis contour, nothing else is left of the old fort.”¹²⁹

The Mayor’s persuasion that with the arrangement of the park, with “filling the rampart to the height of the shafts” (filling to the height of 1.80m under the level of the surrounding terrain), the historical heritage wouldn’t be brought into question, was accepted without the procedure regulated by the rule book from 1948. So the fast filling started.

¹²⁴ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 29

¹²⁵ Figure 36, Page 61

¹²⁶ Figure 37

¹²⁷ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 31

¹²⁸ Kiš 1998.

¹²⁹ “...osim šesterokrake konture, od bivše tvrđave drugo nije ostalo.” Karlovački tjednik 25. VI. 1954, Translated by Author

This filling of the rampart was supported by the hygiene institute representative *“because the retention of water in the ramparts was the cause of typhus outbreaks”*. We aren’t sure on how much typhus outbreaks caused by the unhygienic state of the ramparts there were, but the Karlovac government which was in conflict with the conservationists and urban planners because of the ramparts filling, overtook the arguments from the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, that the ramparts were marshes and hotbeds for all possible diseases, and that in a case of a partial filament of the ramparts, it’s a question of environment protection and public health.¹³⁰

The idea of partial filament of the ramparts was not accepted in the expert society. The Zagreb urban planners and conservationists got alerted and on August 6th 1954. A meeting was held in Karlovac between the city’s government and *“the responsible urban and conservationists experts from Zagreb.”* The conservationists objected the;

“...partial resolution, for it governs the end result and the appearance of this part of the ramparts...”, and the urban planners demanded the *“...discontinuation of the started construction work until an idea project isn’t finished and his adequacy isn’t confirmed.”*¹³¹

The expert claims weren’t taken into effect, because the city officials claimed, that, because of extraordinary circumstances (the erection of the CFF monument that had to be opened by “drug Tito” himself, and that meant that there was no more discussion about it).



Figure 37, The Central Monument to the Fallen Fighters and Victims of Fascism, KA-Fotka, 1955

¹³⁰ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 32

¹³¹ *“...parcijalnom rješavanju jer ono prejudicira konačno rješenje i izgled ovog pojasa šančeva, (...) obustavljanje dosada započetih radova dok se ne izradi idejni projekt i ne potvrdi njegova opravdanost.”* Karlovački tjednik, 13. VIII. 1954, Translated by Author

“The peoples committee of Karlovac takes the risk of the further partial filling of the ramparts, but will soon acquire the basis for the resolution, for the details and for the whole resolution of the ramparts organization.”¹³²

In comparison with the filling of the ramparts at the end of 1947, (the Gundulićeva street reconstruction) which were done by the citizen’s volunteer work, the filling of this rampart was done with the help of army mechanization. The rampart was filled with 31.000 cubic meters of “white sand” brought from Dubovac. There would be 20 trucks daily arriving on the site.

For the “City Gardening”, the horticultural decoration of the park in the “Stars” sixth boom (the so called deep park) was too much to handle. These businesses weren’t done by the City Gardening but by a setting group made out of communal officer’s administrators. According to Rudolf Beinrauch, the gardener who designed the park and monitored its restructuring was Ivo Goršić, an employee of the “City Gardening” and later a gardener in the Kordun factory.

IV.IV.IV. THE “RUSKI PUT” (THE RUSSIAN PATH) STREET

When, at the beginning of the 1950’s, the remains of the bulwark in the background of the Kukuljevićeva Street, the former Bedemska Street (Bulwark street), behind the present retirement home, was cleared (demolished, flattened with the ground) because of the need for city’s beautification. An area of about 11.000 m² was flattened and on this area a modest park was formed with a circular plantation in the middle.



Figure 38, The reconstruction of the “Ruski Put” Street, KA-Fotka, 1951

¹³² “Narodni odbor grada preuzima na sebe riziko [!] za daljni rad na djelomičnom zatrpavanju šančeva, ali da će ubrzo dobiti podloge za rješenje, kako detalja tako i cjelokupnog rješenja uređenja šančeva.” Karlovački tjednik, 13. VIII. 1954, Translated by Author

The readjustment of the ramparts into parks, and the organization of the Ruski Put Park, affirmed Karlovac as the “City of Parks” in a greater manner. In the middle of 1955, Karlovac had 28 ha of green spaces or 12 square meters per capita and with that it approached the professional standard for touristic centers and health centers of 15 square meters.^{133,134,135}

IV.IV.V. “UPRAVA PARKOVA” (PARK ADMINISTRATION) 1956-1961

The period from 1945-1955 was a time in which the number of Karlovac parks really grew, so the city administration made a decision on July 2nd 1956, that the care for the parks should be given to the “Park Administration”. The new generation had to secure a more successful development and more care for the Karlovac green spaces including the graveyards.

The decision of subscribing the “Park Administration” into the judicial register was made on May 21st 1957, and with that the “field of work and the assignments” of the agency was classified. The park and graveyard organization in the Karlovac municipality tasks were cultivation of the plantations, upkeep and organization of the bathing resort, undertaking, casket sales and corpse transport, flower and ornaments production and sales and other garden and flower decorating needs. Ivan Bajnrauh was made the manager, and the board of the directors was made out of Rudolf Bajnrauh, Ivan Goršić, Nikola Jerinić, Prof. Bogdan Lasić, Eng. Ana Mrzljak, Eng. Zlatko Satler, Dragica Španović and Rade Tarabić.

In the very beginning, the new organization was busy with the arrangement of the Banija Street (then called the Ivo Lola Ribar Street) in the length of 500m. The street was broadened from 6 to 9 m and lawns were planted on both sides of the street, between the road and the sidewalk, with the intent of planting hornbeams, which will later make a so called “špalir” (gauntlet) hedge.¹³⁶ Somehow, at the same time, an alley was planted on Rakovac, in the length of 600m.

The year 1957, was very interesting for the Karlovac park history, because of one event that wasn’t directly connected to the “Park Administration”. That was the year when the reconstruction of the Dubovac castle took place. The forestry school was in charge of the environments arrangement. The horticultural project arrangement was made by the young Mira Halambek Wenzler, B. Arch. Sc. From then on, all the way to the end of the 1980’s, she will work on the arrangement of parks in Karlovac as an “Urbanis” architectural bureau associate.¹³⁷

¹³³ Karlovački tjednik, 05. VIII. 1955.

¹³⁴ Halambek Wenzler, Mira, Hortikultura 1961, 3-4

¹³⁵ Figure 38

¹³⁶ Karlovački tjednik, 10. VII. 1956; 08. VI. 1957.

¹³⁷ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 34

IV.IV.VI. THE CARINTHIAN (FIFTH) BASTION RAMPARTS PARK

Six years after a Basketball court (1957) was built inside this rampart, a further, whole organization of the rampart was approached. Not as a park, but, because of public pressure, as a children's playground.¹³⁸

More intensive construction of children playgrounds began shortly after the end of the Second World War. Their construction was encouraged by the "Društvo Naša Djeca" (Our Children Association) and frequently by the so called "Rajonska Frontovska Organizacija" (Regional Front Organization). One of the first playgrounds in Karlovac was built on the Ban Bastion, where in 1954, the CFF monument destroyed it. The other children playgrounds were located; behind the "Zorin Dom", on the location of the former St. Cyril and Methodius church (1966), in a residential block across the Luxor cinema, in Rakovac (Tuškanova Street), on Banija (Vrazova Street) and in the Gaza city district. With the development of residential buildings, playgrounds were built also inside the new settlements' inner courtyards, and also next to the baby care centers and nursery schools in Lopašićeva Street and Rakovac, Gaza, Dubovac, Švarča and Turanj city districts.



Figure 39, A basketball court and "Autodrome" built in the rampart, KA-Fotka, 1957

At the beginning of November of 1957, the rampart playground was finished, with swings and all other contraptions needed, but it won't be there for long. In the meantime, before the park was not yet made, the playground was rearranged into a children's traffic safety polygon. This polygon also wasn't there for long. The rampart will be arranged into a park

¹³⁸ Figure 39, Page 66

according to the plans of Mira Halambek Wenzler, B. Arch. Sc.¹³⁹

Maintaining the 28 hectares area demands certain mechanization. The first tractor with all additional add-ons for cutting hedges around parks was bought in the middle of 1960.

IV.V. THE 1962-1970 PERIOD

IV.V.I. THE "ZELENILO" (GREENERY)

The upkeep and development organization of Karlovac parks, established in 1956, held on for just five years. The end of 1961 was the year for a new organization. The city administration decided that the Karlovac "Park Administration" and the "Forest Protection Agency" should be merged in one company under the name of "Zelenilo".

Under the new organization the new company was comprised of four organizational units: "Parks and Plantations" (head Ante Ivanišević, B. Sc.), "Gardening" (head Marija Prebeg B. Sc.), "Forest Protection" (head Ivan Hrsan) and "Undertaking" (head Marko Sanković). At that time the whole company had about fifty employees.

For a city with an attribute of "City of Parks" and the intention of further development in that direction, the old company headquarters on the Mažuranić Bank 23 wasn't suitable anymore. That is why the construction of a new headquarters became priority, for it will ensure further development of the company.

This was also a time of reforms. The centralistic way of administrating the enterprises was abandoned, and in the period from 1961-1970

"...the worker collectives, deciding for them self about their prosperity, invested considerable assets into the expansion of the businesses financial backbone, making this the period of new grand projects."¹⁴⁰

The decision of acquiring a new business space was made on the sitting of the "Workers Council" on December 30th 1964. The preposition was elaborated by Vlado Mažuran, the head of accounting. He reports that the project and the building permit for the garden, glasshouse and administrative building have been made for the location in the Korana area in the Davorin Trstenjak Street (3 hectare 25 acres and 38 m²).

¹³⁹ Karlovački tjednik, 25. IV. 1957.

¹⁴⁰ "...radni su kolektivi, odlučujući sami o svojem prosperitetu, značajna sredstva ulagali u proširenje materijalne osnovice poslovanja, tako da su u tom razdoblju niknuli veliki novi objekti." Horvatić: Razvoj privrede Karlovca od 1945. do danas, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 698, Translated by Author

The organization of voluntary work was given to the workers syndicate, and work was done in the free time, on Sundays and holidays. As a reward for the invested work, the syndicate would organize collective lunches (“gblec”) and trips, from time to time. There was no compulsion, just the opposite, the workers were proud that their sweat and tears went into building their new headquarters.

The architect of the new headquarters was Milan Bijelić B. Arch. Sc. and he states in the construction approval, which was signed by the chief of the Municipal Services, Branko Keser, that the “...operative objects are appropriated according the detailed gardening foundations: glasshouses, boiler room with appropriate central heating system, breeding house, entrance gate, fences, and all the other smaller accompanying objects and the arrangement of the machinery access and paths and should be carried out according the detailed plans of gardening basics, and constructive vise, according the detailed plans made by the Flora Zagreb company...”^{141,142}

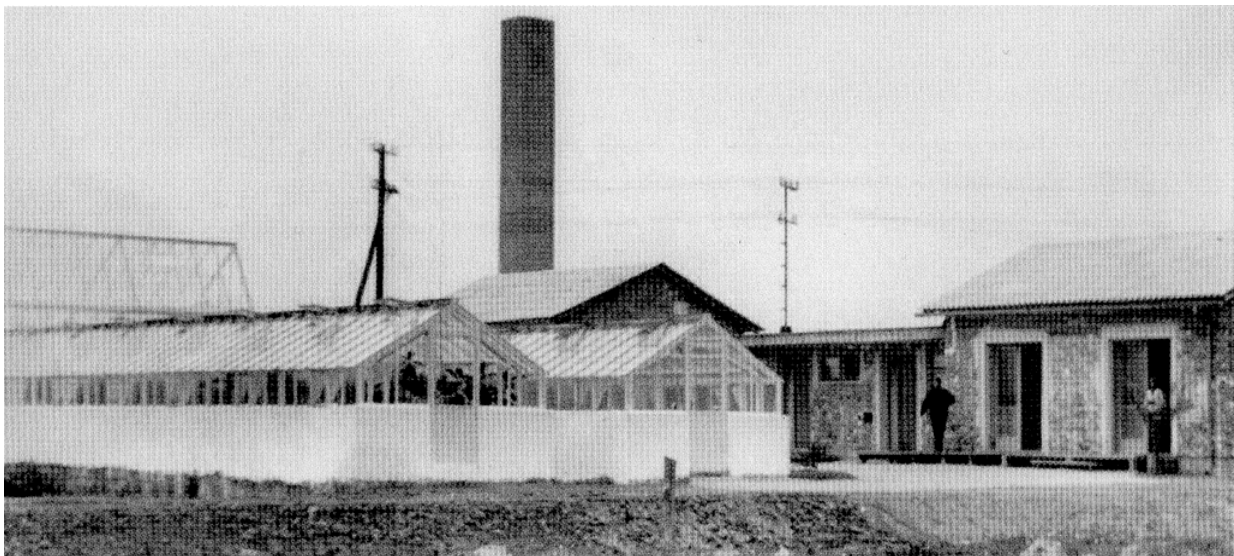


Figure 40, The greenhouses on the Korana river, KA-Fotka, 1966

The construction by the Korana River began in 1965 and the grand opening was held on April 29th 1966.

The gardens had an area of 30.000 m², with a capacity of 60.000 seedlings. On this occasion the magazine “Hortikultura” (Horticulture) from Zagreb, issued an article written by Vladimir Peršin in which he states that besides the grand opening: “...the first postwar flower

¹⁴¹ “...da se pogonski objekti predviđeni detaljnom vrtnom osnovom i to: staklenici, kotlovnica s uređenjem centralnog grijanja, množionice, portirnica, ograda, te ostali manji prateći objekti kao i uređenje prilaznih i pogonskih putova [!] izvedu situaciono prema detaljnom nacrtu vrtne osnove, a u konstruktivnom pogledu prema detaljnim nacrtima izrađenim po poduzeću Flora Zagreb...” [Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 38, Translated by Author

¹⁴² Figure 40

*exhibition in Karlovac, the most beautiful International Workers Day present. There was also a presentation of history of gardening in Karlovac from 1886, the year when the "City Beautification Association" was formed.*¹⁴³

Parallel to the construction of the new headquarters, the old battered up cubicles in the bathing resort were being demolished. The "Greenery" continues taking care of the bathing resort with great concern, because Korana was (and still is) a clean river that attracted a lot of swimmers and the so called "City Bathing Area" is the biggest and most beautiful in continental Croatia. At the weekends the City bathing resort looked like any beach on the Adriatic Bank. With the construction of the Sports hall, the management of the bathing resort was given to the "Sports Administration".

IV.VI. THE 1970-1990 PERIOD

After the shift of Josip Lebar, the head of the company is taken over by Ivan Hrsan, a forest technician. He became director in 1970, and fitted in very well with the surrounding and solicits himself for the company's improvement. The fact that he inherited very good working conditions; new headquarters, but also a few experts in the field: head of Parks Ante Ivanišević B. Sc., head of Gardening Marija Prebeg B. Agr. Sc., head of Forest Protection Ivica Turk, and head coroner Maks Vaupot, was a great starting point.

The main goal was still to take care of the parks and their development, offering undertaking services and forest protection, with the idea of forming forests around Karlovac, like the Zagreb Maksimir Park and the Medvednica slope.

Through the gardening businesses the "Greenery" made business with a lot of flower, plants and planting material manufacturers, like "Žitnjak" and "Zrinjevac" from Zagreb, Forestry University in Zagreb, Forestry Institute from Jastrebarsko, "Railroad Plantations" from Zagreb, "Parkovi I nasadi" (Parks and Plantations) from Varaždin, "Jadro" from Split, "Semenara" from Ljubljana, and plantations from Murska Sobota and Sombor, and if in need, with many other companies from Karlovac and its wider surroundings. The "Greenery" costumers, except the citizens and companies from Karlovac, were also the "Plitvice Lakes Hotels".

In 1965, the head of "Forest Protection", Ivica Turk began the land registry of Karlovac public green areas. All of the tree and shrub species, including the grasslands, were written down and engraved according to the geodetic principals. He worked on the land registry for five

¹⁴³ *"...prva poslijeratna izložba cvijeća u Karlovcu, najljepši je poklon gradu za Prvomajske praznike. Izložen je i historijat vrtlarstva u Karlovcu od 1886. godine kada je osnovano Društvo za poljepšavanje grada."* Hortikultura 1966, Issue 2, Translated by Author

years, and after its conclusion it was given to the appropriate services. Unfortunately this document was lost during the Croatian War for Independence.¹⁴⁴

IV.VI.I. THE "GREENERY" AND THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AFTER 1970

When the three railroad overpasses were built in 1963, over the old Riječka, Senjska and Smičklasova streets, the Zagreb-Rijeka railroad, stopped being a restrictive factor in the city's further development. This was a start of a new era for the development of Karlovac; on the old Švarča field the so called "Novi Centar"^{145,146} (New Center) rises. Although the first buildings west of the railroad were already built in 1967 (Auto Hrvatska), and then after the Market (1972), the football stadium on the right Korana bank (1975), City library and Painting gallery (1976), the justice hall (1978) and the historical archive (1980), the landscape arrangement was at a standstill.

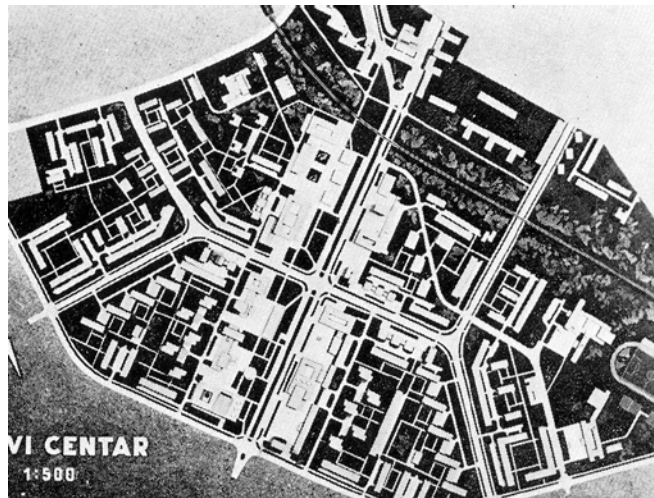


Figure 41, "Novi Centar", private collection, 1966

The "Greenery" was active, in great measure, only by the construction of the football stadium which began in 1972, and it got the mission of arranging the football field, an area of 7.208 m². This was a very demanding job, and it was conducted under unfavorable conditions for the vegetation, but yet successfully finished.



Figure 42, "Novi Centar", Frano Vodopivec, 1972

¹⁴⁴ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 39-40

¹⁴⁵ Figure 41

¹⁴⁶ Figure 42

Erecting a city on the other side of the railroad, the city administration and the urban planners (Architectural bureau "Urbanis") ordered the project for landscaping (horticultural) arrangement of the "New Center" from Mira Halambek Wenzler B. Arch. Sc. the most prominent Croatian landscape architect and the accomplice of the "Urban Planning Institute of Croatia" in Zagreb. Her project for the "New Center" dates to 1972, and was presented on the Karlovac parks exhibition held in the City museum in 1985, but, unfortunately, was never carried out.

The landscaping arrangement of the city west of the railroad, as said before, proceeded very slowly. The exception was the new hospital on the Švarča hill. After the end of the second building faze (1974), the arrangement of the hospital surroundings (20.000 m²) was made by "Greenery" workers according the plans of Brankica Petrović, B. Arch. Sc. (AGI-46, Karlovac) and Božidar Joha ("Greenery").

One of the Greeneries memos from March 1972, which was addressed to the "Institute for Municipal and Urban planning", testifies about the "Greeneries" reputation being brought into question. That could have been due to changes in the administration, but also by the citizens' disappointment for none of the other parts of the city being taken care of, except the old parks and the promenades. That is why the administration points out to the "neuralgic points" and demands they be taken care of. Those points are: the Banija Street, where the green belt demands a thorough reconstruction on both sides of the street, than the City Center, the environment around the bus station at the beginning of Radićeva Street which was devastated;

"...there is a circus group that dwells in the "Ruski Put" Park for some time now, so it's needless to comment on how pathetic this part of the city's greenery looks like".¹⁴⁷

The Greenery further indicates the situation on the "Vunsko Polje" (Wool Field), that it;

"...should not be the location for the "circus group", because every time they leave the field turns into a dump and not a recreational and sports zone for our children."¹⁴⁸

There is special concern given to the state of the hill slope under the Dubovac castle because the annual motocross competitions were held there. It is emphasized that;

"...the erosion will act quickly and cause ravines as on the nearby Strmac hill."¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷ "...na Ruskome putu boravi već duže vrijeme cirkuska družina, pa nije potrebno govoriti nego vidjeti kako jedno izgleda tog zelenila i parka." Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 43, Translated by Author

¹⁴⁸ "...ne bi smjelo biti lokacija „cirkuske grupe“, jer poslije njihova odlaska to je smetlište, ne rekreaciona i sportska zona naših mališana." Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 43, Translated by Author

¹⁴⁹ "...erozija brzo djelovati i stvoriti popuzine kao na okolnom Strmcu." Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 43, Translated by Author

Attention is also given to the pontoon bridge near the city bathing resort on the Korana River, because it demands reparation and assurance. Its construction is old and battered so “we fear that after every higher water level” we don’t know what will happen to it.

The year 1979, was one of the most important years for the evolution of the Karlovac parks. On the 400th anniversary of the city’s foundation, together with the new Forestry School, Karlovac acquires an Arboretum of an area of 16 hectares, on the location of an old abandoned agricultural plot. This was a project of the Forestry School, and its erection was a condition for the schools formation, so it also contributed to the reputation of Karlovac being the “City of Parks”. It was planned by Tomislav Lasić B. Arch. Sc., and the dendrology was made by Prof. Josip Karvala from the Forestry University in Zagreb.

In a document named “A stroll through the Karlovac greenery” from December 13th 1984, Božidar Joha states: “The city’s development is not followed by adequate landscaping” This claim is illustrated by data: “In the last 10 years 2 to 5 hectares of land were landscaped annually, in 1983 only 0,5 hectares, and this year not even 1 m²” In 1984, the citizens of Karlovac had 14 m² of arranged green spaces per capita, not taking the wider city area into consideration.

Testimony about the condition of the plantations in 1987, is given in a statement made by Ivan Hrsan, the “Greenery” director at the time: “The existing alleys aren’t in the best condition because nobody invested in them for years, nor were they taken care of to prolong their life span.”¹⁵⁰

IV.VI.II. THE RAMPART WASTE WATER COLLECTOR

The year 1985 has a special meaning for the green areas in Karlovac. This was the year when the waste water execution project began, which greatly devastated the eastern parts of the Karlovac ramparts and from the viewpoint of the Karlovac horticulture, it stays unfinished until today. The old Karlovac canalization built in the 1930’s didn’t have the capacity to collect the rainfall, that is why the construction of the new collector becomes a municipal priority. Because of the investment rationalization (these are the years when shortage of finances is felt throughout), the collector was partially, built into the eastern parts of the ramparts in the length of 520m.¹⁵¹ The conservationists accepted the installation of the collector into the rampart as;

“...a necessity of sacrificing the authenticity of one part of the rampart system, which should be compensated by a historical reconstruction of other parts.”

¹⁵⁰ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 42-46

¹⁵¹ Figure 43

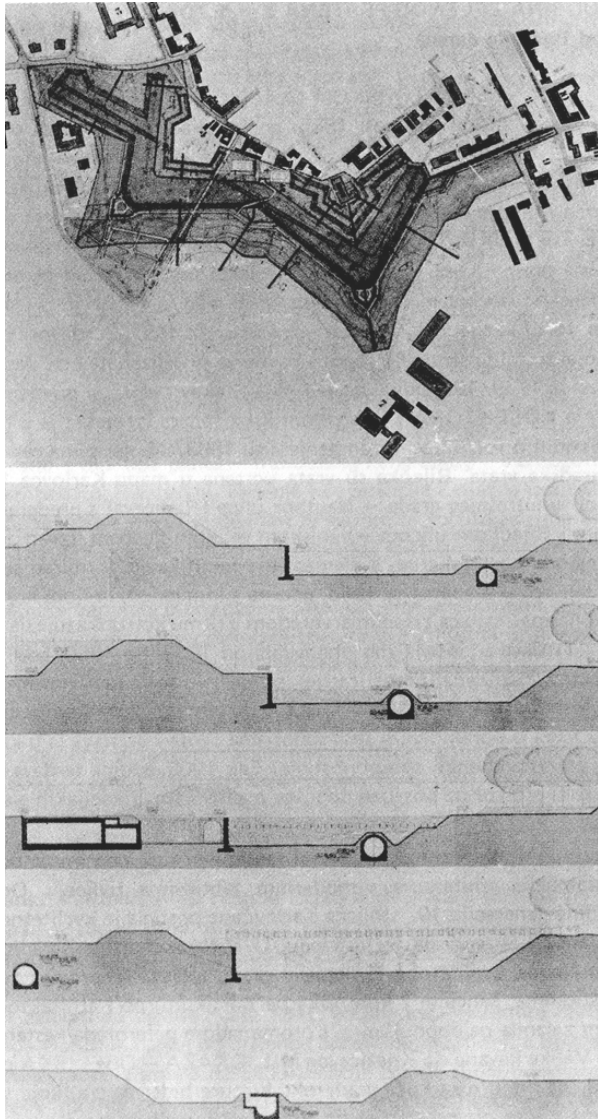


Figure 43, Waste water collector, Želimir Žagar and Stjepan Lipšinić, 1985

The approval was issued under the condition that;

“...the fortifications route should be partly restored by the reconstruction of fortifications slopes, curbstone placements, reconstruction of the original width of the outer fortified bulwark, rehabilitation of the green horticultural belt, partial reconstruction of the basic and now collapsed fortified bulwark and bastion lines, removal of the causeways across the fortifications ditch which is now the “Ruski Put” Street and instead of that to establish a pedestrian communication with a minor wooden bridge, and making the fortifications ditch presentable and usable in a suitable manor.”¹⁵²

Of course all of the interventions should be supervised by expert authorities, with special emphasis on the archeological crews, because archeological finds are to be expected.

An urban plan was made for the realization of such a project and its authors were Želimir Žagar B. Arch. Sc. and Stjepan Lipšinić B. Arch. Sc. from the Architectural bureau “Urbanis”. This plan was presented as an exhibit in the “Zilik” gallery with the intent of acquiring citizen support, but due to insufficient funds, this project was, most likely and unfortunately, forgotten to this day.

¹⁵² [“...neminovnost žrtvovanja izvornosti jednog dijela koju će trebati nadoknaditi povijesnom rekonstrukcijom drugih dijelova. (...) da bi djelomično trebalo restaurirati tvrđavsku trasu obnovom tvrđavskih kosina, postavljanjem rubnog kamena, rekonstrukcijom širine vanjskog tvrđavskog bedema, obnovom zelenog pojasa hortikulture, djelomičnom rekonstrukcijom osnovnih a sada urušenih tvrđavskih linija bedema i bastiona, uklanjanjem nasipa preko tvrđavske grabe kojom sada vodi Ruski put i umjesto toga uspostaviti pješačku komunikaciju manjim drvenim mostom, te prezentacijom i korištenjem tvrđavske grabe i bedema na prihvatljiv način.”] Kruhek: Trasa gradskog kolektora u bastionskom sistemu stare karlovačke tvrđave, in: Čučković/Žuvela, 1985, 8-9, Translated by Author

IV.VII. THE 1990-2012 PERIOD

A short while after the first democratic elections, for the Croatian parliament, Ante Ivanišević B. Sc. has become the head of the "Greenery".

The Croatian War for Independence or as its more often called, the Croatian Homeland War struck Karlovac on Friday October 4th 1991. The Serbian rebels and the Chetnik oriented members of the Yugoslavian army shot and fired from their enemy containments (Kamensko, Slunj hills, Škrtići and Cerovac), an amount of around 3.000 grenades and other projectiles.¹⁵³ There were 28 civilian casualties in the city alone, 174 wounded and the military bases were taken over by rebel generals. There were eleven army bases in a city of 60.000 inhabitants, the greatest concentration of army forces than in any other city in Croatia or former Yugoslavia, for that matter. Of these eleven bases, four were located in the Karlovac "Star". The former Ivo Lola Ribar army base (the former cadet school, today's Polytechnic building) fell into the rebel hands exactly on October 04th. Karlovac schools stopped working for some time, and provisions were scarce.¹⁵⁴

Since October 4th, the shelling became everyday life in Karlovac, and a month later, on October 13th general mobilization was issued. Twenty of the Greenery workers were mobilized into the army forces. The general businesses, not only in the offices but also in production, found their place on the first line of the battlefield on the Korana river bank, 50 m from the so called infamous Serbian Frontier, and with that, became the target of the rebel forces, and which made any kind of work there no longer possible. Because of that the businesses were moved to Dubovac where a shipping container was transformed into an office space. The "Greenery" gardens stopped working; the flower shops were closed and sold to former employees. A portion of the workers went to work in the Municipal Company building in the Gaza district. Out of all the parks and alleys in the city the one that was most damaged was the Vrbanic park, being on the Korana bank, on the frontline, and used for target practice by rebel forces.¹⁵⁵

The period after the Homeland War for Independence was marked with returning to the original office spaces and their renewal. The machinery was renovated as well. The mechanical lawnmowers go into history. Večernji list writes about it on April 25th 1996;

¹⁵³ Figure 44

¹⁵⁴ Pulez 1997

¹⁵⁵ Obad Šćitaroci/Bojanić Obad Šćitaroci 2003, 12-13

“It is time that we clean in front of our doorstep. “Beta” is helping with their mechanization to flatten the terrain, and “Čistoća” secured the containers for the refuse transport. Deep ploughing and preparations for the arrangement of the new seminary follow.”¹⁵⁶

Production was also retrieved and a kind of “horticultural service” was open to public.

Other, more important activities that took place were the planting of an alley in Bencetićeve Street, as well as in the Gambonova Street, and the alleys on the Promenade and Mažuranić Bank were renewed and refilled. A huge action was made in the Marmont Alley where the filling of 25 plane trees was executed. In November of 1997, the surroundings around a building in Matoševa Street Nr. 8 was arranged by planting 18 trees and 60 shrubs, and soilworks were made on the surroundings arrangement around three buildings in the Grabrik district.



Figure 44, *Bombing of the Zrinski Square, Dinko Neskusil, 1991*

In the year 2004, Mladen Obad Šćitaroci from the “Urban and Space planning Institute” of the Architectural University in Zagreb, made an implementation plan of the new Karlovac park in the area of the “Novi Centar”, bordered by the Ivan Meštrović, Ljudevit Šestić, Luščić and Marin Držić streets. There was a detailed arrangement plan made for the new Karlovac park. After the parks in the ramparts from the 1950s, this would be the first planned park on an area of 2,78 hectares. The plan was a very eventful one, and because of that very expensive in realization. It was imagined as an active public space, where the “historical matrix of the Kalrovac star reflects in it through an array of metaphors – as a “developed” section through horizontal layers of the “Star.” Eight years have passed from the plans adoption and now a question emerges:

¹⁵⁶ “Vrijeme je da sredimo i svoj prag. Beta sa svojom mehanizacijom pomaže nam ravnati teren, a Čistoća je osigurala kontejnere za odvoz otpada. Slijedi duboko oranje i priprema za oblikovanje novog rasadnika.”
Večernji list 25. IV. 1996, Translated by Author

“What is its future: a forward execution plan or revision?”

In the case of a revision, it would be essential to find a project which was made by Mira Halambek Wenzler B. Arch. Sc. in 1972. Except this project there were projects made by architects Marijan Hržić and Velimir Neidhart in 1979. Unfortunately, this project is impossible to come by.¹⁵⁷

IV.VIII.I. CITIZENS OF KARLOVAC FOR THE “CITY OF PARKS”

With the emergence of a civil society in a democratic ambiance, in the year 2000, a Croatian branch of PCAP (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Plants) starts working in Karlovac. In the year 2003, PCAP starts the program “Karlovčani za Grad Parkova” (Citizens of Karlovac for the City of Parks), whose goal is to make new parts of the city greener, especially next to the high rise buildings which were without any or with very few arranged green spaces and plant life. With that the association becomes a partner of the Karlovac “Greenery”.

The participants of the program were city districts, sport organizations, tenant councils, citizen groups and others. The program “CKCP” enjoyed the support of the mayors Miro Škrgetić and Damir Jelić and since 2007, it has grown into a local community fund for environmental arrangement, which was, beside the PCAP’s support, also supported by local firms and individuals, and it was conducted by the Regional fund for local development “Zamah” (Swing) from Zagreb. The goal of this program was the formation of a fund for erection of new parks and alleys, children playgrounds, new benches and overall environment arrangement. In the administration of the program the users count on teachers and pupils of elementary and high schools and other volunteers.

For the realization of this program, the “Greenery” received an annual prize of the American agency for the international development (USAID) for extraordinary contribution in stimulating local community’s development and cooperation between the business sectors and local communities in the frames of the CKCP program, in the year 2003.¹⁵⁸

IV.VIII.II. SPOMENIK PALIH BRANITELJA DOMOVINSKOG RATA (THE FALLEN GUARDIANS OF THE HOMELAND WAR MONUMENT)

The decision about the erection of the monument was brought in year 2002. After that, a competition was announced and with it a location was decided, in front of the justice hall on the today’s “Trg Hrvatskih Branitelja” (Croatian Guardians Square). Alem Korkut and Damir and Judita Ljutić won the first prize in 2005, and the monument was constructed two years later in 2007. The space idea resolution (tree alleys from the eastern and southern side and

¹⁵⁷ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 51

¹⁵⁸ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 51-52

shrubs from the north side) was decided by the monument authors and the selection of trees and shrubs was made by the “Greenery”.¹⁵⁹



Figure 45, The Fallen Guardians of the Homeland War Monument, Alem Korkut, Damir Ljutić, Judita Ljutić, 2005

IV.VIII.III. PROJECTS PREPARED FOR REALIZATION

With the companies development, the office spaces built in 1968, became to compact. Thanks to the good business results in the period between 2006-2011 (annual growth of 3,58%), the increased income was directed into solving the office space problem, by the companies administration. During 2010, with the amount of 1.850.000 HRK (253.425 €), a parterre house and the surrounding space were bought in the Primorska Street 39, so a new administrative building could be constructed on its location. All of the project documentation was compiled and in 2012, a location permit was issued.

On the promenade, conservation plans from the year 2008-2009 were made and specialist's documentation was issued for the future reconstruction of the promenade near the Drašković Street and the Grand Promenade, and also for the Ruski Put Street and the park around the Vjekoslav Karas monument. The contemporary generation of experts is faced with the fact that a lot of “vegetation expiration dates” are at an end, so the rules of the profession demand that they be replaced. The best example of deteriorated trees being replaced can be found in the Marmont Alley.

¹⁵⁹ Figure 45

The third project which awaits realization is the project of the musical pavilion at the end of the Grand Promenade. In esthetical and functional sense this pavilion will significantly contribute to the attractiveness of the most beautiful part of the Circular Promenade. The project will be carried out when the finances are assured.

IV.VIII.IV. THE STATISTICAL INDICATORS, OF THE UPKEEP OF GREEN SPACES IN THE YEAR 2012

The greenery takes care of 1.333.186 m² of green areas (in 2005. / 1.212.717 m²). According to their structure, green spaces are sorted in eight categories: 25 km of alleys (two sided included); hedges 19.573 m²; rose gardens 285 m²; flower plantations 1 571 m²; decorative flowers 3.353 pieces (arranged and planted in 387 groups and on 45 locations); 9 792 m² sand paths, 46 pieces of hanging baskets on locations on Matija Gubec Square, Petar Zrinski Street, Radićeva Street and Ivan Goran Kovačić Street (2005. / 34 pieces); and 22 children playgrounds.

In the year 2011, the total income of the company was 17.110.395 HRK (2.343.890 €), with a total expenditure of 16.927.554 HRK (2.318.843 €). From the total income, 43% come from the Karlovac city budget, 16% from the refunds and the rest 41% is income from businesses.

And at the end, a sum figure: Karlovac with 48.306 inhabitants (information from the 2011. Census) living in 17 city districts (Banija, Borlin, Drežnik, Dubovac, Ilovac, Gaza, Grabrik, Logorište, Luščić, Jamadol, Mostanje, Novi Centar, Orlovac, Rakovac, Švarča, Turanj, Zvijezda) are covered with 1.33.186 m² of green areas. One citizen of the broader city area acquires 27,60 m² of green space. Because of that, Karlovac can still rightfully carry the name of *“City of Parks”*, an attribute which is a vital and indelible component of Karlovac everyday life.¹⁶⁰

¹⁶⁰ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 53-59



Figure 46, Karlovac veduta, Katzler collection, 1920's



Figure 47, Area comprehended by Thesis

V | LIST OF THE KARLOVAC “STAR” PARKS, ALLEYS AND PROMENADES

Karlovac got its name the “City of Parks” more than half a century ago. For that kind of an attribute it has to thank three specific localities. The first one is the “green ring” around the former Karlovac fort, the circular promenade, the second is the park on the Korana river banks called the Vrbanić Park, and the third is, a locality which was, chronologically, the first one to be planted, an alley of plane trees called the Marmont Alley.

Throughout time, the green spaces in Karlovac were broadened, the Kupa River banks was made greener (an avenue of chestnuts trees was planted from the right river bank, of the Dubovac district all the way to the old river port on the Mažuranić Bank), and the forts ramparts were turned into parks.

As stated before, Karlovac came into existence as a result of planned constructing at the end of the 16th century, as a fort against the Turkish invasion, built as a six armed star, encircled with ramparts, which were over time mostly turned into parks, playgrounds and sports grounds (basketball court). The north-east part remains intact to this day.

Since its origin until today, Karlovac went through a couple of phases of development. It got out of its fort core and conquered new grounds, gradually developing. The expansion of the city’s tissue was tightly connected with its inhabitants way of life, and because of their economic desires and needs, the expansion was carried out spontaneously, almost elementally, frequently according to the wishes of individuals, who formed and beamed the shape of the city’s organism, chasing their personal needs and aims.

Karlovac broadened itself over its ramparts, along the main roads in directions of Rijeka, Zagreb, Gospić, and if we take a sprawl through the city, we can see the phases of its development very clearly.

The inhabitants of Karlovac, realizing its city’s values and attempting to contribute to its outer appearance and beauty, in 1886, established the “City Beautification Association”, which was actively in function until 1907. The rules of the before mentioned Association were constructed by the city’s engineer Alfred Kapner. The Association arranged parks, promenades, alleys and squares and also the Kupa River bank, so the Association’s existence, as well as the efforts of mayors Josip Vrbanić and Gustav Modrušan, is the perpetrator for the fact that Karlovac today is a green city or in other words “City of Parks”. The Association’s first president was Josip Adžija, and its secretary Josip Paulić. In time of their administration the alleys of wild chestnut and linden trees were planted around the Karlovac “Star”, in other words, the trees were planted on the forts ramparts edges. Alleys of trees

were planted on the former cattle fair called the “Žitni Trg” (Grain Square, Zrinski Square today), a chestnut plantation on the “Drveni Trg” (Wooden Square, also called the Pogorelina Square), which got the official name of Josip Adžija square which it bears today. Till this day, there are still 25 original trees on that location.

The most prominent and beautiful promenade that the association planted and arranged is surely the “Marija Valerija Promenade” (later called the Navor Promenade, and today the dr. Franjo Tuđman promenade), but the name that stayed in the hearts and minds of Karlovac citizens is the “Grand Promenade”. The “Grand promenade” is consisted of five rows of chestnut and linden trees on the southwestern part of the promenade, near the “Sokolski dom” (Hawk Gymnasium). Crossing the road, further following the rampart we find rows of chestnuts, linden, pagoda and black locust trees. Again crossing the road, following the ramparts we see chestnut tree rows, and we find a few linden trees. At the end we come to the so called “Ruski Put” (Russian Path) and the “Švarcpromenada” (Black Promenade) with “Cvijetni Trg” (Flower Square) on the left and Arboretum on the right. Following the “Švarcpromenada” we then enter the town center. In the mentioned alleys of the promenade, we find a fund of about 600 trees of chestnut, linden, Japanese maple, mulberry and ash.

There were plans of building a music pavilion at the end of the “Grand Promenade”, because, traditionally, that part of the park becomes a stage for open summer “Promenade Concerts”. There were also plans for a fountain plateau, but those plans were never achieved. On the same location, a statue of Karlovac most famous and renowned historian, Radoslav Lopašić, was placed, which was erected by the “City Beautification Association”. Today we find this statue on a very ungrateful location between the former “Edison” cinema and the “Zorin Dom” (Zora Theater). There was a rose garden on this location called “Laubica” (an extraction of a German word for the word “Pergola”) with a statue of the goddess Flora which was placed there in 1888. The rose garden stayed there until 1945. In the same year the plantation around “Zorin Dom” was arranged and 435 seedlings of chestnut and linden trees were provided for the needs of the “Grand Promenade” reparation. The Association planted a chestnut alley on the Kupa River bank heading from the former river port on The Mažuranić Bank to Dubovac. Around the Dubovac castle, 250 spruce and fir trees were planted, but unfortunately, they have disappeared with time. It could be that these trees weren’t planted for beautification of the location, but more because of their wood. Later during the Dubovac castle reconstruction a new pine forest was planted.

In the time of Mayor Josip Vrbanić (September 25th 1895-March 1st 1903.), the successful construction of a botanical garden, near the Korana River bank, was finished, and opened by Vrbanić himself in 1896. This park was a beautiful and the most valuable botanical garden of its time, in which plants from the Zagreb Archbishop Gardens, Vranyczany plantation on

Dubovac, and plants from Trieste and Viena found their place. The seedlings were acquired by prof. Franjo Šmid (professor of Biology and Geology in the Rakovac Comprehensive Gymnasium). The park was divided into a coniferous grove, French and English parks in which an artificial hill called "Olimp" (Olympia) was built. In 1897, the park got a new add on in its repertoire, a treatment center called "Kneipp Spa".¹⁶¹

V.I. THE CIRCULAR PROMENADE WITH ITS SURROUNDING PARKS



Figure 48, The "Circular Promenade"

The alleys of the Circular promenade follow the rims of the six armed city fortress¹⁶², and they were planted in the 1860's on the initiative of the engineer headquarters of the Austrian army. They were erected on a flattened area which gridded the fortress, so called glacis, which has in the meantime, lost its military, defensive importance. The military regime gives the alleys into the hands of the Karlovac city council in 1873, but the council

¹⁶¹ Peršin: Prilog istraživanjima živog svijeta i zaštite prirode u karlovačkoj regiji, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 29-30

¹⁶² Figure 48

didn't take special care of them. That is why one of the first concerns of the "City Beautification Association" of the city of Karlovac established in 1886, was the renewal and the arrangement of this promenade and the part nostalgically called the "Grand Promenade" will soon become its most painstakingly furnished part.

Today there are about 600 trees on the circular promenade, and the most represented are the wild chestnut trees which make about 40% of the vegetation, then there are the linden trees, acacia trees, maple, black locust, red wild chestnut, larch, mulberry and other individual trees.¹⁶³

V.II. THE RAMPART PARKS



Figure 49, The "Rampart Parks", arranged and unarranged

The ramparts which enclose the former fortress (their purpose was to be filled with water because of easier fortresses defenses), were conserved nearly in the full span of the Karlovac

¹⁶³ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 65

“Stars”, but are only partially landscape arranged. The Parks¹⁶⁴ were arranged from the north, west and part of the south side from the Pavle Miškin, Matica hrvatska and Ivan Goran Kovačić Streets, along the “Grand Promenade”, all the way to the Technical School. The part along the Krulečeva Street and the “Švarcpromenada” is unfortunately derelict, inaccessible and additionally deformed by the waste water collector built in the 1980’s. The ramparts today, of course, don’t make a continual ring around the star because it was necessary to partially fill them, so the town center would become connected with road transportation. That’s why the parks located in the ramparts make a few disconnected islands.

Although today the rampart parks make an interconnected horticultural whole with the circular promenade, they are a lot younger than the promenade. Namely, they were made after the Second World War in the period from 1946-1948; they were filled with soil and sand to decrease their depth. Until then they have mostly been unused, and from time to time water would get accumulated and in summer a bad smell would spread, mosquitoes would breed, and they would be partially used by the citizens for planting corn and having vegetable gardens. Their arrangement was definitely one of the most important horticultural attempts after the Second World War which also added to the value and importance of the existing parks and created a recognizable green town center, a “City in a Park”.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁴ Figure 49

¹⁶⁵ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 65

V.III. THE ARCH OF THE SIXTH (BAN) BASTION



Figure 50, The Arch of the Ban Bastion

V.III.I. THE "GRAND PROMENADE"



Figure 51, The "Grand Promenade"

The “Grand Promenade”¹⁶⁶ follows the rampart counters from the Radićeva Street to the “Zorin Dom” and then to the King Tomislav Street. Traditionally, it is made out of five row alleys on the promenade from the Grand Café to the “Zorin Dom”, and in the earlier times the part which continues to the King Tomislav Street is also considered as her continuing part.



Figure 52, The statue of the Goddess Flora, Katzler collection, end of the 19th century

This promenade is the most representative part of the circular promenade around the star, and since its beginnings it is one of the most prominent centers of the Karlovac social life. The constant name changes testify about her social importance in a very interesting way. The name changing was brought up with every change on the political arena or world views. After the first reconstruction of the promenade in 1886-1888, it gets the name after Maria Valeria, the youngest daughter

of Emperor Francis Joseph I. Between the two world wars it was the King Petar Karađorđević Promenade, during the Second World War the “Poglavnik” Promenade (Führers Promenade). It was then superseded by the poet Vladimir Nazor in 1945, and after that the Marshal Tito Promenade, but in 1963, because of one local law, which stated that no street can bare a living man’s name, it became the Freedom Promenade and finally in 2001, Dr. Franjo Tuđman promenade. But regardless of the official name plates, for the citizens of Karlovac this was and will continue to be the “Grand Promenade”. A short sprawl through its alleys can remind us of the five countries which rushed through it, in an incomplete century and half, and their symbolic.

The tree alley on the “Grand Promenade” came into existence as a part of an alley on the glacis, but the city administration left them to squalor soon after. That is why soon after its foundation in 1886; the “City Beautification Association” broadens them according to the plans of Antun Čop, a construction engineer and a respected meritorious citizen. On the stretch from the Grand Café to the later built “Zorin Dom” (1982) the trees are planted in five rows, which still make this tree alley unique. Benches were situated, and on the eastern part of the promenade a children’s playground was arranged with a small carousel where the “governesses, nurses and nannies would take their children so they would not bother their parents in their quiet time on the benches under the shady trees.”¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁶ Figure 51

¹⁶⁷ Svjetlo 1881, No. 31

Across the Grand Café, there was a wooden shack in which a knife polisher lived and worked and it disturbed the beauty of this newly planted alley. On the Association's demand, the city government removed the old shack and the knife polisher continued working on a cart. The Association wanted to enrich the promenade with a statuette, so they casually picked out a statue of the goddess Flora¹⁶⁸, which was delivered by the Viennese company Wienerberger for the price of 70 forints in July 1887. The statue was put on in the place of the today's park in front of the "Zorin Dom".

After that a musical pavilion was erected on the location of today's flower plateau, a meteorology column (1901) and a statue of Radoslav Lopašić (1901)¹⁶⁹ made by Ivan Rendić, which was moved to the park near the "Zorin Dom" in 1954, on the location where the Flora statue used to be. The erection of the musical pavilion arouse public discussions and fights about whether it was an unnecessary luxury, and that there



Figure 53, The Radoslav Lopašić statue, Katzler collection 1913

are more important things than a pavilion, which was only used thirty times per year. Such a worryingly arranged promenade attracted citizens from the old promenade on the Jelačić Square and with that the Grand Promenade was born as the center of public life.

"It was filled with walkers every evening, and especially on Sundays before noon. In that time, alongside music playing, like on a model runway, dresses, fur scarf's and hats of the latest fashion would be presented by the graceful Karlovac ladies who would compete in elegancy. They would prance with their cavaliers through the first alley next to the flower plantations in front of the houses, which were also planted by the Association. The last alley next to the rampart was reserved for the children and the city's "plebs".¹⁷⁰

After the construction of the "Zorin Dom" in 1892, a park was being arranged around the theater, and raffle parties, public ceremonies, dances and other manifestations which

¹⁶⁸ Figure 52, Page 87

¹⁶⁹ Figure 53

¹⁷⁰ "Ona je bila prepuna šetača svako več, a osobito nedjeljom prije podne. Tada su se, uz svirku glazbe, kao na modnoj reviji pokazivale toalete, krznene boe i šeširi po zadnjoj modi otmjenih građanki, koje su se natjecale u eleganciji. One su s kavalirima šetale u prvoj aleji uz cvjetne nasade pred kućama, koje je također zasadilo Društvo za poljepšavanje grada Karlovca. Zadnja aleja do šanca bila je prepuštena mladeži i gradskom „plebsu“." Vrbetić/Szabo 1989, 98

earnings would go into the Associations register would be held there. Today on the grassy cassette in front of the “Zorin Dom” stands a statue of a “Mother”, a work of the famous Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović. The statue was installed in 1967, on the 75th birthday of the “Zorin Dom” establishment. On the other end of the “Grand Promenade”, we find the Katzler Pavilion. Namely, according to the “Royal and Military Administration Decree” from 1897, a location for installing a pavilion “on the land which is located south of the road and near the former Rijeka gates”, was appointed. The building license from 1898, which was signed by the mayor Josip Vrbanić, states that “a pavilion should be built according to the plans and the wall thickness should be adequate, and the spaces on the left and right side of the pavilion should be fenced right next to it.” The pavilion stayed on this location until 1955, when it was relocated next to the Karlovac bank so it would not cover the view on the Vanja Radauš monument. There it stayed under the supervision of Slavica Katzler until the 1980’s when it was closed and slightly forgotten, waiting that its family brings it back to life on its original location, where it was opened again on July 13th 2005, and automatically became a sort of cultural and social center of the promenade.¹⁷¹



Figure 54, The “Grand Promenade”, the Katzler pavilion and the two columns, Katzler collection, 1928

At the very beginning of the Promenade, in front of the Grand Café, stood two columns, the shorter and broader, the so called Šantić column, displayed with the photographs from his photo atelier (today gallery “ULAK” behind the “Zorin Dom”), and a taller and slimmer

¹⁷¹ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 67-69

advertisement column. Today, we can't find the columns anymore, but a bronze sculpture of a frog made by Stjepan Gračan was installed on the same location in 2008.^{172,173}

The Grand Promenade kept its basic structure to this day. It spans in 446 m in length and its made out of 220 trees which ages span from 80 to 110 years, and some old trees were replaced with young ones. The trees from the Grand Café to the "Zorin Dom" were planted in five rows, and from the "Zorin Dom" to the King Tomislav Street in three rows. The span between the rows is 5 m, same as the gap between the trees in a row. Between the center tree rows there are two parallel, asphalt walkways.



Figure 55, The banana trees on the "Grand Promenade", Rudolf Pišmaht, 1934

The waist between the houses and the first tree row, which is 10m wide, the Association planted with carefully planted flower gardens. The later care of the gardens was taken over by the city gardener Josip Kopřiva. On the postcards from the beginning of the 20th century we can clearly see that these gardens were treated with great care and that an abundance of vegetation was present, and on the documentary valuable postcards from the 1930 (L. Reich Edition, Karlovac) and 1934 (R. Pišmaht Edition, Karlovac),¹⁷⁴ we can see that banana trees are present, which is a very rear case in Karlovac horticulture. We also see bananas also on the postcards from 1912, which represent Vrbanić Park and also on the postcard which shows the St. Cyril and Methodius church from 1910. (both postcards were made by Stevo

¹⁷² Jurković/Mlinarić 2002, 80-81

¹⁷³ Figure 54, Page 89

¹⁷⁴ Figure 55

Jelača, Karlovac). There was a tree alley made out of small trees with spherical tree crowns, they were probably cultivated with black locust trees. This area today is, unfortunately, reduced to a, not so much taken care of, lawn. The most present tree species on the promenade is the wild chestnut, and it is accompanied by linden trees especially in the part from the “Zorin Dom” to the King Tomislav Street. The tree alley begins by the Katzler pavilion with a great maple leafed plane tree, and from there it continues in five rows with about 20 to 25 wild chestnuts per row, accompanied by a few linden trees. On the other end of the promenade, on the location where one end orients to the King Tomislav Street there is a circular plateau with a small flower garden that came to be with the filling of the former fountain, which was on more than one occasion repaired and then neglected, and the last time it was in function from 1995, to the first years of the new millennium. In the plateaus level, near the houses, there are tree knotty maple trees, hanging away from the houses, forming a broken chain all the way to the Grand Café. In front of the “Zorin Dom”, this promenades arm ends with a group of 20 chestnut trees which span all the way to the “Karolina”, “Jozefina” and “Lujzijana” roads Milestone. The arm from the “Zorin Dom” to the King Tomislav Street is made out of three rows with 20 trees each. The middle row is equally made out of linden and chestnut trees, and on the side rows chestnut trees are the dominant species. Except the trees there are also a few bushes and shrubs found in the middle row, mostly meadowsweet, forsythia and weigela. The tree rows were filled with 38 wild chestnut trees and 11 linden trees in 1997.



Figure 56, The “Grand Promenade” and the Katzler pavilion, Zvonko Gerber, 2005



Figure 57, The Rampart Park along the "Grand Promenade"

As the "Grand Promenade" is the central and most representative part of the circular promenade, so is the park in the rampart alongside it, the most organized and with park plants filled, rampart park. This part of the rampart is almost 20.000 m² big and it spreads from the Radićeva Street all the way to the King Tomislav Street, and with the "Grand Promenade", Reiner Park, the park by the "Zorin Dom" and Modrušan Park, not only does it make the biggest park complex in the city, but also encompasses all of the periods of park creation, from the 19th century over the period between the two world wars and the postwar period. In 1955, on the parks rim, on the top of the former bastion, on the corner of the Augustin Cesarec and Đuro Bencetić streets, a memorial monument to the victims of fascism designed by Vanja Radauš was built. The monument was unfortunately devastated in the 1990's, but reparations started in 2013.^{175,176}



Figure 57, The Vanja Radauš monument

¹⁷⁵ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 74-75

¹⁷⁶ Figure 57

The parks bed, which was made by filling the rampart to the height of 1,80 m under the level of the surrounding area is accessible by more pebble paths.¹⁷⁷ They descend into the park over a gentle slope from the “Grand Promenade” and make in the ramparts bed an irregular rove which leads through a lawn between plantations of ornamental plants. The park is dominated by large lawns which leave a feeling of openness and width, and the plantations in the park become more expressed. The most recognizable park motives are a cluster of cryptomeria trees which, with their dark and dense greenery, stand behind a batch of three meager and serene tamarix trees, that are most interesting in the springtime with their densely covered, petite pink flowers, and thus making a contrast between the two. Another batch of cryptomeria or Sugi trees, are located near the parks edge by the King Tomislav Street accompanied with a few birch trees. Birches grow also on the other side of the park by the Radićeva Street. Accept the cryptomeria and birch trees, there are no other tall plants, and this makes this park the richest in ornamental bushes.



Figure 58, The Rampart Park and cryptomeria trees, Igor Čepurkovski, 2006

¹⁷⁷ Karlovački tjednik, 25. VI. 1954.

V.III.III. THE "ZORIN DOM" PARK



Figure 59, The "Zorin Dom" Park

The park around the "Zorin Dom" is actually an extension of the "Grand Promenade". It spans over an area of 5.500 m², and it is bounded with the Edison cinema building and the Domobranska Street. It was arranged thanks to the efforts of the "City Beautification Association" after the opening of the "Zorin Dom" in 1892. The central part is made of a statue to Radoslav Lopašić which was moved there in 1955, from the "Grand Promenade".¹⁷⁸ The paths leading to the statue are made out of sand pebbles and the statue is surrounded by a rotund of yearly plants which are annually changed. In the middle of the park we find a few tamarix trees. The park is also bounded with wild chestnut trees and towards the promenade we find probably the biggest honey locust tree in the city, followed by the only cherry tree on the promenade.¹⁷⁹



Figure 60, The "Zorin Dom" Park and the Radoslav Lopašić statue, Zvonko Gerber, 2005

Next to the "Zorin Dom", on the side towards Domobranska Street we find a small formal park which is only 650 m² small. It is made out of small rectangular beds, bounded with a boxwood hedge with emphasized corners. There are flower rotundas located in the middle

¹⁷⁸ Figure 60

¹⁷⁹ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 78

of the smaller rectangles, two on every side of the bigger central rectangular park. The boxwood contour of the larger rectangle is broken in two places with clusters of dwarf juniper trees. This part of the park is the youngest, arranged in the time of the last “Zorin Dom” reconstruction from the early 2000’s.

V.III.IV. THE MODRUŠAN PARK



Figure 61, The Modrušan Park

This is another of the parks connected to the “Grand Promenade”. Although today it looks like the park arose as a part of the promenade, it is actually half a century younger. It was planned and arranged in 1931, by the city’s gardener Josip Kopřiva on an abandoned area and a former landfill behind the former St. Cyril and Methodius church, between the Edison cinema and the King Tomislav Street. As the deserving mayor Gustav Modrušan died a year before, the city council erected this park in his honor, and named it after him.

A contemporary review of the park is acquired from Marko Sablić in 1933, who states:

“Immediately after the Flora statue in the continuation of the park, in front of the cinema, on the location where an underwater plot, used for a dump, stood, behind the St. Cyril and Methodius church, we find the Modrušan Park. Not while ago this was a place of city’s disgrace. Today, with the efforts and the taste, of the city’s gardener Josip Kopřiva and his helper Ludvig Modvić, this place was transformed into a nice park with good space utilization, full of scented flowers. The harmonic whole is given by the plantations in the park, together with the alley of the modern and broad street of King Aleksandar (present Domobranska Street) with beautiful and old plane trees.”¹⁸⁰

¹⁸⁰ “Odmah u nastavku parka od kipa božice cvijeća „Flore“ ispred kina, na prostoru gdje je donedavna bilo podvodno zemljište koje je služilo za gradsko smetlište iza crkve Sv. Ćirila i Metoda prostire se Modrušanov park. Donedavno pred godinu-dvije bilo je to mjesto na sramotu grada. Danas marljivošću i ukusom gradskog vrtlara Josipa Kopřive i njegovog pomoćnika Modić Ludviga pretvoren je u lijepi park sa dobrim iskorišćenjem prostora, pun mirisnog cvijeća. Harmoničnu cijelinu daju nasadi glavnog parka sa alejom moderne i široke ulice Kralja Aleksandra sa krasnim starim platanama.” Sablić 1933, 73, Translated by Author



Figure 62, The Modrušan Park, KA-Fotka, 1930's

The park was arranged in the fashion of a formal French park with a lot of flower decorations and pergolas with climber flowers and roses, but unfortunately today we see a more depleted version. During history it went through a series of changes. So after the demolition of the St. Cyril and Methodius church in 1948, it was broadened on the newly acquired space towards Domobranska Street. This area is still a bit higher in comparison with the original Modrušan Park, and there is a nicely implemented children's playground in it. As it was renamed the National Heroes Park, 18 busts on national heroes were placed there in the 1970's but were roughly removed during the Homeland War in the 1990's. Today there stands only one statue between two Magnolias, a Većeslav Holjevac bust, a renowned Karlovac antifascist and one of the most prominent mayors of Zagreb after the Second World War.

The Modrušan Park today is spread over an area of 6000m² (the original size was 3000m²), it bears a rectangular form and stands on two levels, and there are fifteen trees growing there. The lower level is lowered 80 cm and one can enter it from the Grand Promenade using the indiscernible wooden steps filled with sand. Its appearance suits the original Modrušan Park as it held its authentic, formal, geometrical structure. Paths follow the park rims, filled with sand where they counter the center lawn which is framed with flower-beds and boxwood hedges on the corners.

The upper level contains before mentioned playground and seven catalpa trees planted on each side of the playground. They were planted by the Association in 1910, and they follow the contours of the former church.

It would be nice to arrange the original part according to the original plans and with that becoming an example of park architecture in the period between the two world wars, especially because in that time very few new plantations were made.



Figure 63, The Modrušan Park, Zvonko Gerber, 2006

V.IV. THE ARCH OF THE FIFTH (CARINTHIA) BASTION



Figure 64, The Arch of the Carinthian Bastion

V.IV.I. THE LOPAŠIĆ-JONKE (BENCETIĆ) STREETS



Figure 65, The Lopašić-Jonke (Bencetić) Streets

The arch of the promenade, which in the length of 200 m spreads from the King Tomislav Street between the rampart basketball court and the court of the “Sokolski Dom” to the Ljudevit Jonke Street, is planted with a two row tree alley of about sixty trees, which frame an asphalt paved promenade.

According to the trees age structure, we can differentiate two parts: older part by King Tomislav Street with hundred year old trees, and a younger part in the direction of Jonkeova Street with 19 trees planted in 1997. This younger part is made of linden trees which are, unfortunately, objects of vandal behavior. The same year two tree alleys were planted in the Đuka Bencetić Street with 13 linden trees, and Matija Gambon Street with 27 maple trees,

which counter the rampart from the other side. As the older city plantations lack linden trees, it is a welcome acquisition of the Karlovac park flora. The older part is made out of 15 wild chestnut trees, and a same number of linden trees.

The arch around the Technical School in the Jonkeova Street is also paved with asphalt and countered with two rows of trees. About 115m long and planted after the Second World War, when the ramparts were arranged and the school built (1940-1946). This tree alley is unique because of the thirty pagoda trees with low branched out, wide, lush tree tops which long into winter, still have the recognizable follicles that remind of pearls in rows.



Figure 66, A part of the promenade along the Lopašić Street, Zvonimir Gerber, 2006

V.IV.II. THE RAMPART PARK BETWEEN THE KING TOMISLAV AND JONKEOVA STREET



Figure 67, The Rampart Park between the King Tomislav and Jonkeova Street

This part of the park is bound by a basketball court along the King Tomislav Street and the Technical School in Jonkeova Street, and its area is about 10.000 m². Along the King Tomislav Street, which divides the grand promenade park from this one, we find a nice two sided maple tree alley. The park is 3,5 to 4 m deeper by the basketball court than by the Technical School where its only 2 to 3 m deep. The descending gravel paths and the paths in the park are made in the same way as in the park by the “Grand Promenade”. In the park by the Technical School we find the remains of the former “Children’s Autodrom” where the children would learn the basics of the traffic rules. Today we only find an old bridge that was built for the needs of the polygon.



Figure 68, View from the Jonkeova Street on the Rampart Park, Zvonko Gerber, 2010

V.V. THE ARCH OF THE FOURTH (ST. ELIZABETH) BASTION



Figure 69, The Arch of the St. Elizabeth Bastion

After the Radičeva Street comes a more remote part of the circular promenade which follows the horticultural unarranged ramparts. Most of the by passers and walkers going towards the “Ruski Put” Street will take the Kurelačeva Street, leaving the alley of the circular promenade for those wanting peace under the dense tree tops of the high trees.

V.V.I. THE VJEKOSLAV KARAS STATUE PARK



Figure 70, The Vjekoslav Karas Park

The fourth and fifth bastions are divided by the Radićeva Street. On her east side, against the Technical School, we find a park with the Vjekoslav Karas (work of Kosta Angeli Radovani, 1916-2002, installed in 1974)¹⁸¹ located in its center part, and bounded with the Radićeva and Kurelčeva Street and a rampart. The park has an area of 3000 m². Along the Radićeva Street the park is closed with a row of linden, maple and wild chestnut trees.



Figure 71, The Vjekoslav Karas Park, Zvonko Gerber, 2008

On the parks location, in other words, at the city forts entrance, in front of the Turkish, later Rakovac Gates stood a chapel of the Saint Cross. It was constructed in 1756, thanks to the interceding and financial support of general Francis de Preiss, so he could keep an old and miraculous crucifix there, today stored in the Holy Trinity church located in the center of

¹⁸¹ Figure 71

the Karlovac “Star”. Its surroundings were arranged right before the “City Beautification Association” was formed. On the day of the parks opening, the Mayor Antun Jordan gave the chapels keys to the Association. The chapel was unfortunately demolished in the winter of 1948. Alongside the crucifix, the doors and the bell were also saved and transported to the Holy Trinity church in the “Stars” center.

V.V.II. THE PROMENADE ALONG THE KURELČEVA STREET



Figure 72, The promenade along the Kurelčeva Street

The Radićeva Street is connected with the Kurelčeva Street through a paved promenade where in 2005, a tree row of young red flowered wild chestnut trees were planted. In front of the houses in the Kurelčeva Street, we find a valuable alley of six old plane trees and other indigenous tree species. From the “Hrvatski Dom” (Croatian Hall) to the “Ruski Put” Street, the alley continues with chestnut trees on both sides.



Figure 73, The Kurelčeva Street during winter with the “Hrvatski Dom” in the background, Zvonko Gerber, 2003

The promenade stretches behind the Kurelčeva Street, alongside the edge of, unfortunately, horticultural unordered ramparts with a narrow path of stone pebbles through a two row alley of linden and chestnut trees, all the way to the "Ruski Put" Street.

V.V.III. THE "RUSKI PUT" PARK



Figure 74, The "Ruski Put" Park

An essential part of the south side of the circular promenade is a park bounded by the Kurelčeva Street, the rampart, the "Ruski Put" Street and the lawns next to the houses in the Kurelčeva Street. It was arranged during the work actions after the Second World War. It is arranged in a proper rectangular shape and has an area of 10.000 m². In comparison to the surrounding height levels, this park is 60 cm lower and its rectangular shape is followed by the paths made of pebble stones and it also has a flower rotunda in the middle.

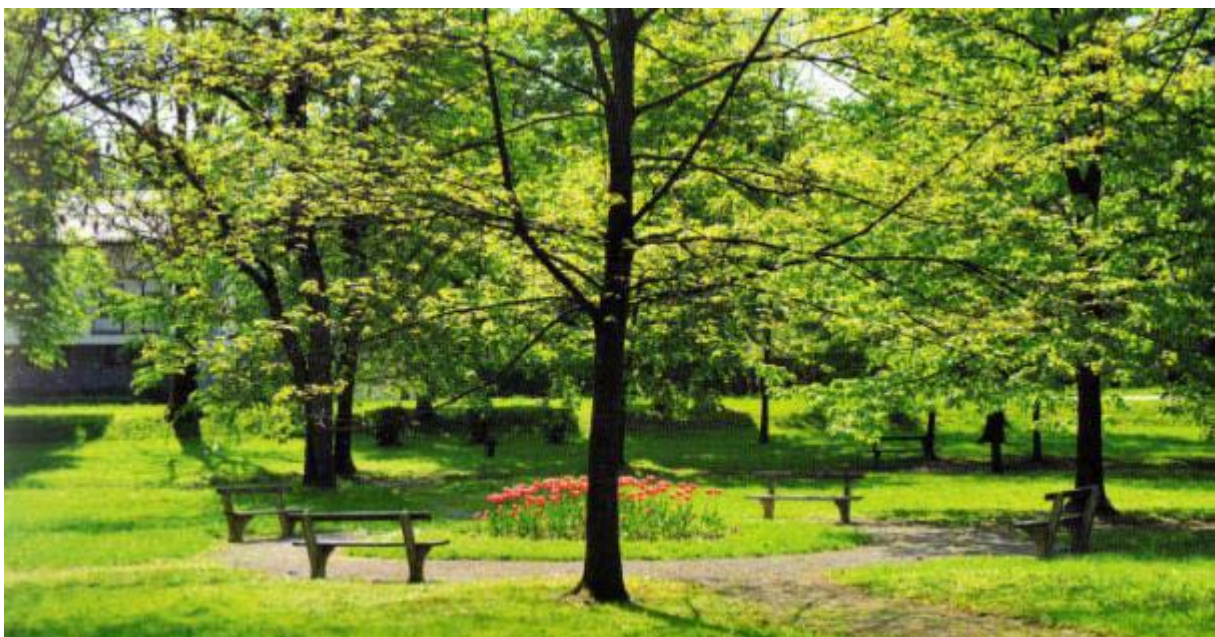


Figure 75, The "Ruski Put" Park, Zvonko Gerber, 2005

V.V.IV. THE "RUSKI PUT" STREET



Figure 76, The "Ruski Put" Street

Between the fourth and third rampart arch, the circular promenade is being cut through by the "Ruski Put" Street which connects the "Star" with the Vrbanić Park. It got its name after the Russian POW (Prisoner of War) from the First World War who were used as a free labor force in the time of mayors Gustav Modrušan administration. The prisoners had to demolish the bulwarks and then overpass the rampart using the materials gathered from the bulwark. The intention was to ease the connection between the "Star", apropos the market on the Jelačić Square in the town center, and Mekušje and Kamensko districts on the other side of the Korana River, from where the agricultural products steadily came to the towns market and to open a way to the bathing resort on the Korana River.

Today "Ruski Put" is a 150 m long, one way street, bounded with about thirty maple trees.



Figure 77, The "Ruski Put" Street during winter, Dinko Neskusil, 2001

V.VI. THE ARCH OF THE THIRD (ST. JOSEPH) BASTION



Figure 78, The Arch of the St. Joseph Bastion

V.VI.I. THE "ŠVARCPROMENADA" OR THE "BLACK PROMENADE"



Figure 79, The "Švarcpromenada"

We can look at the “Švarcpromenada” as an opposite of the “Grand Promenade”. The “Grand Promenade” being a double, broad promenade with five rows of trees, and one of the most important centers of city life, the “Švarcpromenada” is a narrow, unarranged, stone pebbled path used only by a few lonely walkers.

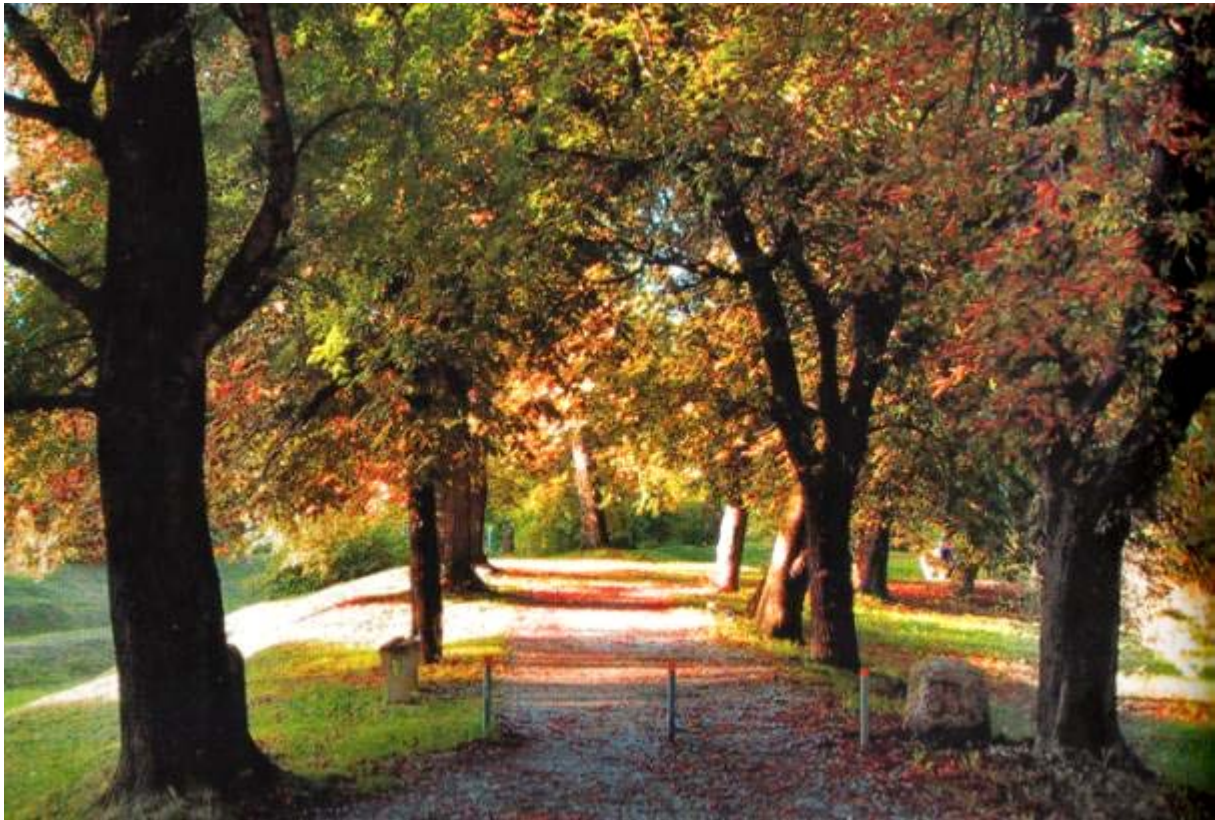


Figure 80, The “Švarcpromenada”, Zvonko Gerber, 2006

After the “Ruski Put” Street, the promenade continues into the so called “Švarcpromenada” or the “Black Promenade”, which ends next to the Karlovac Fire Stations entrance, the former “Florian” cemetery (former Jewish cemetery which was relocated to the Dubovac district in 1869), at the end of the Draškovićeve Street. Its “black” name comes from the lack of public lighting, which made it “dark” and “dangerous” on one side, and ideal place for secret love meetings on the other. This part of the circular promenade is not that well taken care of, so it looks more like a forest and seeing walkers on its paths is very rare. Many of the trees are in poor condition, and are in dire need of cutting, recovery or to be replaced with new trees. This was partially made by planting seven new linden trees. On the other hand, this part of the promenade has some of the oldest and most impressive trees, definitely being the biggest of all other trees in any other Karlovac park. This part of the promenade was also originally planted with chestnut and linden trees, and other species were planted later. In the Fire Stations direction, the promenade is broadened into a park which is planted with the same tree species as in the alleys. This park also receives minimal care, which has its positive side: we find some typical woodland vegetation on the ground.

V.VII. THE ARCH OF THE SECOND (CHARLES) BASTION



Figure 81, The Arch of the Charles Bastion

V.VII.I. THE DRAŠKOVIČEVA STREET-FIRE STATION



Figure 82, The promenade along the Draškovičeva Street

The two row alley in the Draškovičeva Street spreads on the rim of the horticulturally unarranged rampart, and there is an asphalt paved path going through it, accompanied with a few benches. The alley is about 215 m long.

It consists of about 50 linden and wild chestnut trees. In the row beside the rampart the linden and chestnut trees are equally represented, and the row alongside the street is made only out of linden trees, so this part of the promenade gives away a feeling of chestnut trees being mixed in with linden trees.

Although this part of the promenade is in better condition than the “Švarcpromenada”, of which it extends, it too could be enriched with benches, illumination and a hedge on the ramparts rim. The promenade gives a nice view on the Polytechnic Park and the only left bulwarks left of the original fort, and with a special arrangement of the rampart the whole

area would receive a greater value. The organization of this rampart will depend on the faith of the pumping station located on the ramparts corner.



Figure 83, The promenade along the Draškovičeva Street, Zvonko Gerber, 2006

V.VIII. THE ARCH OF THE FIRST (CARNIOLA) BASTION



Figure 84, The Arch of the Carniola Bastion

This arch is the only arch along which the rampart was partially filled and where a “Stars” tip is “cut off”. Namely, to be able to come from the Zrinski Square to the Banija Street, one had to turn on to Gundulićeve Street, then Preradovićeve Street, and then by turning an angle of 290° into Gajeve Street and then on to the bridge across the Kupa River. This was so because the road/streets followed the rampart edges which were on this location, very near the Kupa River, making it very difficult for establishing a normal traffic circulation. As the state road Zagreb-Rijeka went through the city center, before the highway was built, so this problematic part presented a sort of a “narrow gorge”. Because of that, during 1947-1948 this part of the rampart was filled during the reconstruction of the Gundulićeve Street.

As a result of that, today we find few disconnected park areas along the first arch: the promenade behind the “Bundeshaus”, the triangle park along the Preradovićeve, Gundulićeve and Gajeve streets, and the rampart parks along Ivan Goran Kovačić and Matica Hrvatska streets.

V.VIII.I.THE PROMENADE BEHIND THE “BUNDESHAUS” AND GAJEVA STREET



Figure 85, The promenade behind the “Bundeshaus” and Gajeva Street

The promenade along the Gunduličeva Street, behind the “Bundeshaus”, is a continuation of the “Grand Promenade”. It is made out of three tree rows with gaps of 5 m between each row. Looking from the direction of the Radičeva Street, the promenade starts with an admirable maple leaf plane tree. On the right side of the promenade, next to the ramparts edge, we can find mostly linden trees and a few wild chestnut and maple trees. On the left side near the “Bundeshaus”, there aren’t that many trees. This kind of arrangement is a consequence of subsequent planting after the removal of old and demolished trees.



Figure 86, The promenade behind the “Bundeshaus”, Zvonko Gerber, 2006

The promenade is then broken by the Gundulićeva Street to be continued in Gajeva Street with a row of five young wild chestnuts. These trees were planted in 2008. On the crossing of the Gajeva and Gundulićeva streets there is a rotunda where seasonal flowers are changed during the year.

V.VIII.II. THE TRIANGLE PARK BETWEEN THE PRERADOVIĆEVA, GUNDULIĆEVA AND GAJEVA STREETS



Figure 87, The triangle park between the Preradovićeve, Gundulićeve and Gajeva streets

The park is located in front of the today's "Privredna banka" (the first Croatian Savings Bank palace, later the Ljubljanska Bank). It spans over an area of 2.400 m². It is bound with a hedge and it contains three old linden trees and three young linden trees.



Figure 88, The "Butterfly" sculpture in the triangle park, Igor Čepurkovski, 2006

Since September 2006, the park is enriched with a "Butterfly"¹⁸² sculpture, done by a Karlovac contemporary sculptor and painter, Daniel Butala. This monument was erected by the "Rotary Club Dubovac", in gratitude towards the donators who helped in demining the city of Karlovac after the Homeland War.

In comparison with the plants list done by Božidar Joha in 1991, it comes to attention that the parks vegetation has unfortunately, dwindled.

¹⁸² Figure 88

V.VIII.III. THE PARK ALONG THE IVAN GORAN KOVAČIĆ STREET



Figure 89, The park along the Ivan Goran Kovačić Street

This park, with its area of 4.000 m², is much smaller than the other two rampart parks located along the “Grand Promenade”. With its depth of 2 m, it is also shallower than the other parks are. Bound with a conifer hedge on two sides, a sand pebbles path that guide through the park, it is accessible through wooden steps on every side of the rampart. The only trees we find here are a few birch trees and some bushes. In 2005, a parking lot was arranged on one side of the park, which was then secluded with a few catalpa trees, planted on the ramparts edge.



Figure 90, The park along the Ivan Goran Kovačić Street, Zvonko Gerber, 2008

V.VIII.IV. THE "MATICA HRVATSKA" STREET PARK



Figure 91, The "Matica Hrvatska" Street park

This is the smallest and the shallowest park of all the rampart parks. His area is a bit smaller than 3.000 m², and the depth is about 1,5 m. It has a correct rectangular shape, bound with a conifer hedge, and is accessible by wooden steps from all sides.



Figure 92, The "Matica Hrvatska" Street park, looking from Gajeva Street

V.IX. THE PARKS INSIDE THE KARLOVAC "STAR"



Figure 93, The parks inside the Karlovac "Star"

V.IX.I. THE JELAČIĆ SQUARE



Figure 94, The Jelačić Square

This is the central square in the Karlovac "Star" and an open space which was originally designed as a festival and parades square ("Paraden Platz").

Originally, there were no trees on this square. After the First World War an alley of linden and black locust trees was planted. The square was used as the city's main square at that time. All of the more important festivities were held there. It was used as a market until the 1970's, ergo; the more popular name "Stari Plac" (Old Square). We find a row of wild chestnut trees near the old barracks in good health condition. In the past the trees were surrounded by a lawn, which was then bounded by short bushes and flowers. This part is used as parking space today, and is in very poor condition. The old barracks building itself is in grave condition and is in need of immediate reconstruction. On the opposite side of the square we find a plantation of pagodas and black locust trees. There are about 25 trees. This location is called "Mali Plac" (The Small Market) and it was organized in the years following the Second World War, with the idea of being a market for the inhabitants of the Karlovac "Star". The whole Karlovac "Star" was heavily damaged in the bombardments during the Homeland War and is left with locations and real estate in dire conditions.¹⁸³



Figure 95, The Jelačić Square, Zvonko Gerber, 2006

¹⁸³ Peršin: Prilog istraživanjima živog svijeta i zaštite prirode u karlovačkoj regiji, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 30-31

V.IX.II. THE STROSSMAYER SQUARE PARK



Figure 96, *The Strossmayer Square Park*

This square has been mostly paved. The east side of the square is made into a park that belongs to the old “Kadeten Schulle” (Military School), or today’s Polytechnic University. This park is also the oldest park in Karlovac and was planned as a French park.¹⁸⁴ It lays on the only old wall fortifications that are still left in an original state, and it must be preserved as soon as possible. During the Homeland War the park was neglected as well as the whole of Karlovac “Star”. The park was reintroduced to the public again in 2007.



Figure 97, *Plan of the oldest park in Karlovac, National Archive Karlovac, 1752*

The park is located on the north side of the Polytechnic Universities building, against the rampart along the Draškovićeve Street and it has an area of 8.500 m². It is believed to be the oldest park in Karlovac, although it didn’t keep any of the original park elements. After the collapse of the Zrinski-Frankopan Conspiracy,¹⁸⁵ General Joseph Herbertstein destroys the Zrinski castle on Švarča hill in 1671, and from the acquired materials, renovates the building of the today’s Polytechnic University. This renovation, which looked more like a new build altogether, was finished in 1686. Being that, it was described as a relatively modest building with barely any kind of decorations, so it is hard to think that the decorative park was arranged already than. However, the city plans from 1752, show a baroque park on its location. After the second renovation

¹⁸⁴ Figure 97

¹⁸⁵ The Magnate conspiracy, also known as the Zrinski–Frankopan Conspiracy in Croatia, and Wesselényi conspiracy in Hungary, was a 17th-century attempt to throw off Habsburg and other foreign influences over Hungary and Croatia.

in 1770, we can clearly see, from the 1862, plans, that the park changed its structure and acquired a more modern, classicistic structure. The next intervention was made in 1901, parallel to the demolition of the bulwarks, where the park receives a wrought iron fence.

Regarding that the park is located right next to the Polytechnic University, which teaches also in Natural Sciences, it has a great potential of developing into an educative park or a small botanical garden, which would greatly enhance and enrich the city park contents. Alongside that, with the reintroduction of classical and baroque park arrangement elements, it could also follow its historical heritage.¹⁸⁶



Figure 98, A fountain in Strossmayer Square Park, Igor Čepurkovski, 2008

¹⁸⁶ Peršin: Prilog istraživanjima živog svijeta i zaštite prirode u karlovačkoj regiji, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 30

V.IX.III. THE JOSIP ADŽIJA SQUARE PARK



Figure 99, The Josip Adžija Square Park

The square got its name in 1894, after the “City Beautification Associations” first president’s name. He arranged this square on a place where the old wooden houses, that got burned down in the big fire of 1692, used to stand (in the minds of old Karlovac folk, this square still bears the name “Pogorelina” (Fire Site) and “Drveni Plac” (“wooden square”), because till the 1960, there was a wood market organized, where one could buy fire wood. On this lovely little square, 25 chestnut trees which surround the rectangle lawn were planted. There is a transformer station in the middle, which makes the park seem much smaller than it really is. Also the buildings on the square’s north-west side, built and used by the military in the days after the Second World War, are of modern age and their planning is questionable. They also should be made more “eye” appealing. The military clinic on the northeast side of the park is not in use anymore, and its greenery is left unarranged. The city’s hands are tied in this case, because the green spaces in front of the clinic are state property. This lawn is surrounded by a modern iron black fence which is not that visible anymore, because of the guilder rose hedge that has overgrown it. On the lawn itself, we can find a number of different tree sorts.¹⁸⁷



Figure 100, The Josip Adžija Square Park, Antun Alegro, 2008

¹⁸⁷ Peršin: Prilog istraživanjima živog svijeta i zaštite prirode u karlovačkoj regiji, in: Majetić/Miholović/Zatezalo: Karlovac 1579-1979, 30-31



Figure 101, The park in front of the "Karlovačka" Bank and the Catalpa Alley

The park is located on the other side of the Radićeva Street, opposite the Reiner Park, in front of the "Karlovačka" Bank, on the location of the former bulwarks. It was also erected by the "City Beautification Association". Today the park area is a bit confined, and in the biggest part paved, turned into a parking lot, but because of the broad tree top magnolias, which are filled with hundreds of flowers during spring time, it is probably one of the most famous city motives. There are only two magnolia trees in the park, and both of them were planted by the city gardener Josip Kopřiva during the mid war period.



Figure 102, The Small "Gloriette", Katzler collection, 1937

The plantations which were planted by the Association can still be found today. There are some catalpa trees, which made a two sided alley from the beginning of the Radićeva Street, from the Zrinski Square to the entrance into the “Star”. The trees on the left side of the street, looking in the “Stars” direction, are in much dire condition than the ones on the right side.

This park is also recognizable for its “Matanić Pavilion”, (The Small “Gloriette”) erected on August 16th 1916, on the initiative of the Mayor Rudolf Matanić. The sculpture that was originally placed here was made of linden wood and it presented an Austrian eagle holding a Croatian coat of arms, it was later covered with a concrete pavilion. The eagle column is the work of Stjepan Marjanović. The pavilion was planned by the engineer Nikola Polić. The purpose of the column was to collect donations for the casualties of war. Namely, the citizens would buy nails (“gold”, “silver” and “bronze”) which would then be nailed into the column, and the ones donating the biggest amount would get a plate with their name on it. After the First World War the column was removed, and today we find a bronze cast fitted into the reconstructed pavilion, while the wooden original is stored in the city museum, after it was damaged in the shelling of the city council in 1991.¹⁸⁸



Figure 103, The Small “Gloriete” with the bronze Hawk cast, Dinko Neskusil, 2008

¹⁸⁸ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 105

VI.IX.V. THE REINER PARK



Figure 104, The Reiner Park

Today, the Reiner Park is a plantation found along the August Cesarec Street, in front of the Karlovac Music School (founded on October 10th 1804), the former Vatroslav Reiner's family palace and the Berger family house nearby, which today is a shoe and fancy goods store. It is located on the former fort entrance, on the inner side of the rampart. The plantation was arranged by the "City Beatification Association" which received much help from Terezija Reiner, who lived in the before mentioned palace.



Figure 105, The Reiner Park with a banana tree, Katzler collection, end of the 19th century

Today this park is a very balanced, informal park of beautiful appearance, which with the rampart park and the grand promenade makes the nicest promenade complex in the city.

The benches in it offer deep shade and a view of the ramparts greenery and the promenade. It spans on only 800 m², but its impressiveness is acquired through the vertical lines of two groups of old, dark, high pine trees. There is also a willow tree, the only of that sort in the whole town.¹⁸⁹



Figure 106, The Reiner Park during winter, Dinko Neskusil, 2010

V.X. THE VRBANIĆ PARK



Figure 107, The Vrbanjić Park

¹⁸⁹ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 107

In a city that bears the name “City of Parks”, the Vrbanić Park is, in a landscape shaping sense, the most valuable horticultural landscaping accomplishment. It is located in the south-east part of town, between the Korana River and the “Star”. As a public city park and a promenade, it is a part of the renowned and always gladly visited Karlovac recreational and bathing resort on the Korana River left bank. Protected as a “Monument of Park Architecture” in 1970, it was developed at the end of the 19th century by the proposal and initiative of Mayor Josip Vrbanić, thus Vrbanić Park. The gardens were developed with the strong support of the “City Beautification Association”. It is assumed that the plans for the gardens were made by Engelbert Hajek, first professional gardener in Karlovac, whom the Association brought from Holešov in Moravia. It was ceremonially opened in the summer of 1896, on the Associations tenth anniversary, and until the 1960’s, used as a bathing resort, and during most of the year, the city’s open theater.



Figure 108, The three Graces, KA-Fotka, 1896

The park was formed in a “landscape-romanticist” art and it consists of three formable units: conifer groves, the English landscaped part and a part with the historicist floristic details, but in its totality it forms an undividable landscape-urban planning-architectonic unit.

In the first years of its existence it functioned as a small botanical garden. All the plants had a name plate, written down in Latin and Croatian. The inventory was made out of miscellaneous species of coniferous and deciduous trees, bushes and some exotic plants, as is the species ginkgo biloba, which remained preserved until this day. During autumn, a lot of the trees protrude themselves by the change of their leaf color, and the forms of hanging branches and are interesting in any time of the year. Ornamental shrubbery, especially the original ones or the ones planted at the beginning of the 20th century, are no longer present. It has perished during time, because shrubberies lifespan is much shorter than the lifespan

of trees, and as the tree tops developed, shady conditions were also developed, which are unsuitable for many flowering species.



Figure 109, The Vrbanić Promenade, Igor Čepurkovski, 2009

Because of the perennial insufficient maintenance, damages and heavy war impairments, during the Homeland War (1991-1995), the parks floral fund was sufficiently harmed so at the end of 2003, a decision was made to make a study for the preservation and renewal of the park. The “Preservation and Renewal” project was done the next year in 2004. The project was made by Prof. Dr. Sc. Mladen Obad Šćitaroci and Dr. Sc. Bojana Bojanić Obad Šćitaroci from the Architecture University, Institute for Urban Development and Special Planning in Zagreb. ^{190 191}



Figure 110, Vrbanić Park during winter, Igor Čepurkovski, 2009

¹⁹⁰ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 113-118

¹⁹¹ Obad Šćitaroci/Bojanić Obad Šćitaroci 2003, 16-36

V.XII. THE KARLOVAC ARBORETUM



Figure 111, The Arboretum

The arboretum is situated east of the “Ruski Put” Street, on the Gaza field and it is the youngest park in Karlovac. The area itself has a very variegated history.

Firstly, there was a chapel of St. Antun with its own graveyard here until 1740. On the bulwarks glacis, it was demolished during the recovery of the city walls, because there was a belief that the bulwarks are no place for any kind of buildings. The location was then acquired by the Franciscans, where they planted a garden and an orchard and gave the location the name “Fratarski Vrt” (Franciscan Garden). After this, the area becomes the location of the Karlovac first dog pound (“šinteraj”). One other interesting fact is that this was the location of the first official football match played in Karlovac, before the First World War. After the war, in 1925, the football club Olimpija, with the help of the army, erects a football stadium with the capacity of 1.000 viewers accompanied by a running (athletic) track. Just after one year, the city government decides to close the stadium, because it believed that it defaced this part of the city. Namely, the first big flood, that modern Karlovac faced, brought great damages to the stadium, and it was realized that the location was unsuitable and that the stadium shouldn’t be repaired. After that, this location is again used as agricultural land, principally used for corn cultivation, and in such a state welcomed the arrangement of the arboretum. In winter, it was used as a skating ring, horse riding exercises were also held here and in the Second World War it was even used as a military training ground where army mechanization was used.

Simultaneously with the construction of the new Forestry School, in 1978/79, an idea project for an arboretum surrounding the school was also made by a Karlovac architect Tomislav Lasić, B. Arch. Sc. The arrangement of the arboretum was an obligation of the Forestry School in order to receive the building permit for constructing the school itself. Josip Kravala made the first foundation for the arrangement of the park surfaces, but the plans were partially abandoned, so that the arboretum was finished by the schools principle Stanko Šibenik (1962-1980) in cooperation with the experts of the Forestry University in Zagreb. His work of the arboretum's arrangement is than continued by his successor principle Martin Šimunić (1981-2000).



Figure 112, The Arboretum, Igor Čepurkovski, 2010

But even before the schools erection, in the period from 1958-1963, Radovan Anzić, a forestry engineer and Vladimir Teodorović, one of the schools teachers, plant the first plantations of which we only find a batch of marsh cypresses today. Taking into account that the location of the arboretum was used for dirt digging which was then used for the construction of the flood dikes on the Kupa and Korana rivers, the ground itself was submerged and marshy and had to be filled with hundreds of cubic meters of soil to make ready for the tree planting. By doing this, his area was broadened and today it spans over an area of 16 hectares. To this day there are about 1.000 plants planted, of that about a dozen more conifer trees than the deciduous. With that around 30 plant families with 64 species

and 140 breeds of plants are comprised. Parallel with the planting, promenades were arranged, together with illumination and meteorological station (because the forestry school also educates meteorological technicians), and because of that, the school is very active in the international “GLOBE” (The Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment) program.

The arboretum is, by its size and number of plant species, the largest Park in Karlovac. With the arrangement of its plantations, landscaping harmony and the abundance of plant species, the arboretum is the ideal space for taking walks and getting to know all of the different tree and shrub life. The learning process would be greatly eased by the placement of tables with basic information about the tree species, but unfortunately those kinds of tables are regular victims of vandalism.¹⁹²

V.XI. THE MARMONT ALLEY

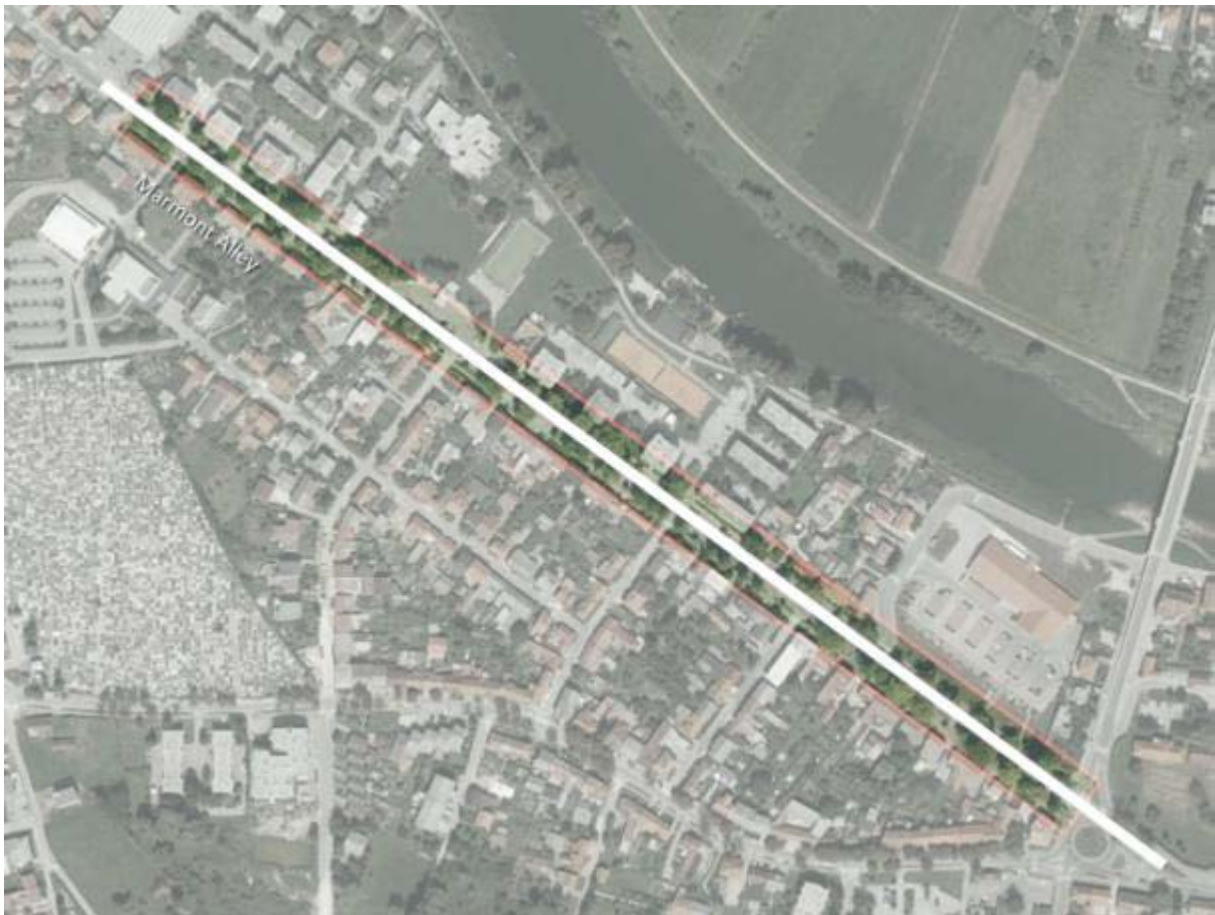


Figure 113, The Marmont Alley

¹⁹² Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 121-122

The Marmont Alley is the oldest horticultural object in Karlovac which kept its original appearance, although the original number of trees decreased with time. The only other older horticultural object in Karlovac is the park near the Strossmayer square, charted in 1752, but there are no original elements left in it, so we cannot talk of its authenticity. That is why we can rightfully consider, the Marmont Alley, planted after the establishment of the French government in 1809, the oldest horticultural object in Karlovac. The year 1809, is most commonly mentioned as the year of its planting, but having in mind that the French troops entered Karlovac on November 28th 1809, it is clear that it was far too late for tree planting. Taking in consideration that the Illyrian provinces stopped existing in 1813, the alley was most certainly planted in the span of these three years of French rule.¹⁹³



Figure 114, The Marmont Alley, Katzler collection, 1896

Marshall Auguste Frédéric Louis Viesse de Marmont (1774-1852), was one of the most famous Napoleon generals and the Illyrian provinces administrator, and the alley bears his name.

The alley is a double tree alley of maple leaf plane trees, planted at the beginning of the “Lujzijana” road, which connects Karlovac to Rijeka. The roads construction began in 1804, in Rijeka and the last section from Netretić to Karlovac finished by the French in 1811. This year is probably also the year of the alleys planting. An alley of plane trees was also planted on

¹⁹³ Alegro/Radovinović 2012, 131-132

the other end of the road in Rijeka, next to the today's railroad station, so both alleys were planted in the French road marking tradition.¹⁹⁴

The alley is 850m long, and originally there were 112 trees planted. As a "Monument of Park Architecture", it is protected since 1968, under the environment protection law and is inscribed into the register of specifically protected nature bodies.

Considering the age and health of the plane trees (danger of trees de-rooting or falling by which the pedestrians, traffic and housing could be directly affected) a study was made in 2006, on the "Health Condition Grade". A further detailed visual opinion about 23 of 96 most critical trees in the Marmont Alley was made, using the most sophisticated aperture, special instruments, resistographs, sonar hammers and sonar tomography. There was also a comprehensive photo documentation made. After the data analysis, the given results made a basis for the further versions and scale of upkeep, rehabilitation or disposal interventions.

On the basis of the given study, in the autumn of 2006, a procedure of subversion of the 9 most critical trees was made, and in the year 2007, finances were ensured for the partial clipping of the dangerous tree branches, and for the further care and planting of new trees on the places where the old ones were subverted.



Figure 115, The Marmont Alley today, Zvonko Gerber, 2011

¹⁹⁴ Černicki/Forenbaher 2012, 127

VI | PARTICULAR PARK PROBLEMS IN KARLOVAC

“Reconstruction is a generally accepted term which, in everyday use, acknowledges different methods, used in the preservation process. Other terms used are “Urban renewal” or “Urban rehabilitation”. In a constructive sense, it defines a revised construction, or in other words, an upgraded construction of the devastated object and the arrangement of the state at hand.”¹⁹⁵

An urban reconstruction is a rarely complex subject which cannot be performed without making notice of the present socio-economic and political processes. Its architectural and urban planning as well as its conservationist character, depend a lot on the political-socio-economic situation, which today is in a very unfavorable position, not only in Karlovac, but across all Europe.

Exactly because of this adverse socioeconomic situation, the urban renewal today (and with that the city park and the Karlovac “Star” renewal) is connected also to social programs. Social factors which, we used to affirm as ongoing disadvantages in the reconstruction process are now becoming a serious threat and the backbone of problems which have to be slowed.

“Exempli gratia”. Long term population unemployment has a consequence of lower purchasing power and with that economic decline is eminent. The always endangered population structures such as the elderly and the unemployed are now extended into all age categories. Families struggle to survive, young, and unemployed, under the age of 30, as well as the middle aged, 45 year olds, which have a truly difficult time of finding a new job.

Drugs and alcohol follow poverty. The young, found inside distraught family relations and poverty, or bad company, easily fall into such traps. This kind of environment and socioeconomic situation, leads to eminent acts of vandalism and public disorder.

The writers opinion is that public city spaces like parks, were always places of public culture, they present a “window” through which we acquire the view on the city’s social life, and receive an impression about the people living there, and the interactions between themselves. Exactly because of that, acts of vandalism occur during night time on locations with no or very little illumination.

¹⁹⁵ *“Rekonstrukcija je generalno uvažen termin koji kod nas, u svakodnevnoj primjeni, podrazumeva zajedno različite metode sprovedene u procesu zaštite. Na engleskom jeziku se upotrebljava termin „Urban renewal“ ili „Urban rehabilitation“. U građevinskom smislu označava ponovno građenje odnosno dogradnju devastiranog objekta i uređenje postojećeg zatečenog stanja.” Vaništa Lazarević 2003, 58, Translated by Author*

The problem of Karlovac parks is the redistribution of care and investments. The parks and promenades on the south-east side of the “Star”, receive no or hardly any investments thus making them look uncared for, and making them the ideal victims of vandalism.

On the basis of annalistic research, this thesis has tried to present the Karlovac “Star” as a “City in a Park”. But the writer’s opinion is that, although that statement is true from an idealized point of view, the Karlovac ideal fortified-renaissance city still has some great obstacles to cross, before it can truly call itself a “City” inside a “Park”.

Concentrating on the “Park” part of the statement, the writer truly believes that with the reconstruction of the “neglected” parks on the south-east part of the circular promenade, the “City” core, would also benefit from it from in an architectural, urban planning, infrastructural and social context. Through the reconstruction of certain “dark” areas following the promenade, an easier execution of the “Stars” rehabilitation would be possible.

This chapter is a list of prepositions for the reconstruction of the certain problematic locations in the south-east part of the circular promenade.

VI.I. THE WASTE WATER COLLECTOR

The whole waste water collector project built in the 80’s should be reviewed and revised. The built in collector spreads across the ramparts surrounding of the fourth and third bastion, making an artificial scar. The collector itself wasn’t dug in the rampart but stayed slightly above the surface of the rampart because of the gravitational waste water collection system, which was the financially cheapest and most executable solution, making it visible to its surroundings.



Figure 115, The waste water collector, Zvonko Gerber, 2006

There are two solutions of resolving this problem. The first solution is to lower the collector system underneath the ground level by introducing new infrastructural methods of waste water collecting. This method would probably be the more expensive solution and being that, the actual system runs under one fully developed bastion (the fourth bastion) it would also be more complicated to carry out.

This solution would resolve the collector problem but would not enable the arrangement of a park because the rampart levels are so low that in autumn and spring, the groundwater, accumulated from the surrounding rivers, floods them.

The second solution, after acquiring the conservationists consent, motivated by the filled rampart parks, would be to fill the rampart to the height of the collector and by that making the area suitable for another rampart park arrangement and bastion edges refinement. This method would be cheap, easy to execute, would not accumulate groundwater and would not endanger the “Star’s” contours.



Figure 116, The waste water collector

VI.II. THE “ŠVARCPROMENADA”

The tree fund on the “Švarcpromenada” should be examined and preserved. The oldest and most valuable tree specimens should be tagged with vandalism “immune” panels, which contain information about the tree (species, native country, age...) or maybe even true life stories that people experienced there (love stories, dates, awkward situations, mishaps...) and with that confirming the status of a more private part of the circular promenade.

Infrastructural wise, benches would be needed together with gentle illumination. The paths should stay pawed with stone pebbles, and in that way conserving the “forest” feel, which logically correlates with the city’s arboretum located along the promenade.



Figure 117, The “Švarcpromenada”

VI.III. THE “RUSKI PUT” PARK

Although rich with different tree species, the park is, as the rest of the surroundings, very poorly taken care of, with no illumination, very few benches and people rarely stay there. A rose garden was supposed to be arranged here, but this plan was never executed. Unfortunately, Karlovac hasn't got a rose garden, the achievement of this idea would be of great benefit for the horticulture of the city.



Figure 118, The “Ruski Put” Park

VI.IV. THE “RUSKI PUT” STREET



Figure 119, The “Ruski put” Street

The “Ruski Put” Street should be rearranged in a way that the pedestrian path is disconnected by a patch of lawn, from the road used for transportation, so this situation today forces the pedestrians to share the road with the transportation. The filled overpass across the rampart should be demolished and a wooden bridge should be constructed in its place, making it possible, for the rampart underneath, of becoming the biggest park of all the rampart parks around the “Star”.



Figure 120, The “Ruski Put” Street

VII.V. THE JOSIP ADŽIJA SQUARE



Figure 121, The Adžija Square

The transformer station located in the middle of the park should be dug in, or certain plant species should be planted around the station to conceal it. The military clinic on the northeast part of the park should be, in an ideal situation, donated to the city, or bought by the city and repurposed. The fenced wall around the park, surrounding the clinic, should be demolished and parking spaces in front of the clinic, should be arranged in another way.



Figure 122, The Adžija Square

VI.VI. THE JOSIP JELAČIĆ SQUARE



Figure 123, The illegal parking lot

The illegal parking spaces in front of the old barracks building should be dealt with and the location should be arranged the same way as it was before the 90's. The trees on the both sides of the square should be examined and preserved.



Figure 124, The Jelačić Square

VI.VII. THE STROSSMAYER SQUARE AND THE SECOND BASTION RAMPART

The rampart surrounding the fifth bastion and the Strossmayer Square should be arranged in the same manner as the rampart parks along the “Grand Promenade”. This bastion is the only one in the “Star” that still has the fortified wall intact, so these bulwarks should be renovated and preserved. The rampart along the walls should be turned in to an symbolic artificial lake, to quote the former original function of the bulwark. This park should also function as a connection between the two rampart sides. Being that, the Draškovićeve Street has the potential of becoming a promenade filled with active content, just like the “Grand Promenade”.

The old military complex located in the east side of the rampart is being renovated for the use of the Polytechnic University as student homes. These student homes should be relocated into some other real estate, somewhere else in the Karlovac “Star”. The use of this particular building, although maybe the cheapest solution, is not the only solution. The writer believes that student homes should be scattered throughout the Karlovac “Star” and with that, bring much needed human fund into the city center. The old military building should be demolished.

Knowing that this scenario is highly unlikely, the least one can do is to arrange the buildings surroundings and make it correspond with the rest of the park.



Figure 125, The bulwark and the student home inside the rampart

VI.IX. THE ARCH OF THE FIFTH BASTION

This is the only park already arranged and not located on the south-east side of the circular promenade, but none the less it is in need of one great urban project.

Although already arranged and being one of the more prominent parks around the Karlovac “Star”, this park has one great flaw and that is the Technical School building which was built there, without any conservationist consent, in the 1940’s.

The writer believes that this building should be demolished and the school relocated, probably to the Gaza district, near the Forestry School, where a technical park could be constructed, making the Technical School more modernized.



Figure 126, The Technical School inside the rampart

VII | CONCLUSION

Parks, alleys and promenades have always influenced people's way of living, for better or for worst, but mostly better. They have, through time, become an essential part of urban life, places of cultural, political and social reflection. Once common citizens have recognized the importance of parks and green areas, they have jealously protected them from devastation and disappearance. Even today we are witnesses of how the destruction of a city park can lead to public unrest, setting a blaze for far greater protests, even reaching out of the city boundaries, and also the boundaries of the original agenda.

The writer believes that parks and all other green areas are an essential part of all urban areas, cities, towns and in that sense Karlovac. The tradition of horticultural landscaping that came out of necessity and the citizen's will of creating a modern European city, is a tradition and city culture that shouldn't be taken lightly and left out of future discussions. These efforts of horticultural Karlovac development, unknowingly, saved the fortified city center from losing its original form and intertwining the elements of urban planning and the surrounding landscape into one entity of a cultural landscape.

Surely, there were some crucial elements and periods in park development in Karlovac, which were incorrect. No specific development strategies or reorganizational implementations were made, and some of the projects were just enthusiastic endeavors of certain individuals, but at the end, through the impacts and realization of what is at hand from the surrounding population, these problems were swiftly and rationally corrected, and the ones that still remain should be dealt with, and if the Karlovac City Administration will follow their "City of Parks" strategy and tradition, they will be resolved.

The writer claims that this "City of Parks" legacy should be further developed and that the city administration should start focusing on the revitalization of the Karlovac "Star" with the circular promenade and the surrounding parks, together with the Polytechnic University, as a backbone of this strategy. The writer also claims that this thesis is a concrete insight into the problem of the matter, a guideline for future steps and an argument against other strategies that wish to reconstruct the "Star" to its former state.

The administration of the city of Karlovac should recognize the abundant history of its landscaping beginnings and the present state, and acknowledge the potential of the Karlovac "Star" becoming a "City in a Park".

VIII | SUMMARY

This thesis acknowledges and defends the parks inside and surrounding the Karlovac former fortified city center as a crucial element of the Karlovac urban matrix, historical legacy and city's identity. With certain park reparations and implementations, the overall benefit for the "Star" and the inhabitants still living there, the economic benefit for the real estate and the cultural benefit for the whole city, is highly likely.

The first part describes the foundation and development of Karlovac through history, and its importance in cultural, economic and transportation views. The first part of the thesis also engages with the importance of parks and green areas through human history, their development and our relations with them today. This is all described to make the reader understand the delicate details which brought Karlovac to the state of a city needing to found the "City Beautification Association".

The second part engages with the history of the "City Beautification Association", their ideals, their efforts and the transformation of the Association through history, regimes and cultural periods. This part of the thesis enables the reader to understand and to get an insight on how the city of Karlovac got the attribute of being the "City of Parks".

The third part of the thesis is a short review of the Karlovac city center parks, promenades and alleys, their arrangement and description. It also shows some crucial points that should be addressed and proposes on how to address them.

The conclusion is a short argument on how the present state should be preserved and enhanced in the effort of discrediting the attempts of certain groups to reconstruct the Karlovac "Star" to its former state, and how the city administration should start presenting the "Star" as a "City in a Park".

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