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Ornament and common past

With its distinct spatial configurations, each city is a unique urban entity, distinguished by individual formal and spatial characteristics, the result of a particular process of urban and architectural evolution. In terms of architectural detail, the vocabulary used has remained constant over time, based on the Greco-Roman repertoire. From the 1900s onwards, however, there was a formal liberation due to both the philosophical changes of the time and technological developments. This gave rise to truly unique buildings that became important landmarks in urban landscapes. Timisoara is no exception, with many of its architectural details recognized and considered unique. The lack of comparative or archival research exercises, caused by the geopolitical context of the 20th century in the historic Banat region, has led to a stagnation in the exploration of this heritage.

In recent years, however, new research highlights the common character of the region's cities by identifying buildings signed by renowned architects who worked in the region. For example, the architect Lipót Baumhorn, whose works can be found in Timișoara (Romania), Lugoj (Romania), Szeged (Hungary), Subotica (Serbia) and Novi Sad (Serbia), often shows a similar decorative repertoire, with his buildings often featuring identical decorations. An important direction of research is the study of the methods of transfer of information and trends at the beginning of the 20th century, with an emphasis on the relations of mutual influence between the main creative centers. Ornamentation catalogues circulating throughout Europe, featuring plaster ornaments, have had a significant impact, and the local adaptations made by plaster craftsmen in each city are also a subject of major interest, resulting in details adapted to the local specificity of each city.

Researching the common decorative repertoire of the cities of the Euroregion not only makes a valuable memorial contribution, bringing together common narratives that were brutally fragmented in the last century, but also has professional relevance. The comparative study may become a useful tool for further research and further investigation, filling gaps in the current literature. Finally, the common ornaments identified in the cities of the Euroregion can become ambassadors of a

unitary discourse, contributing to the conclusion and development of collaborations and joint projects.

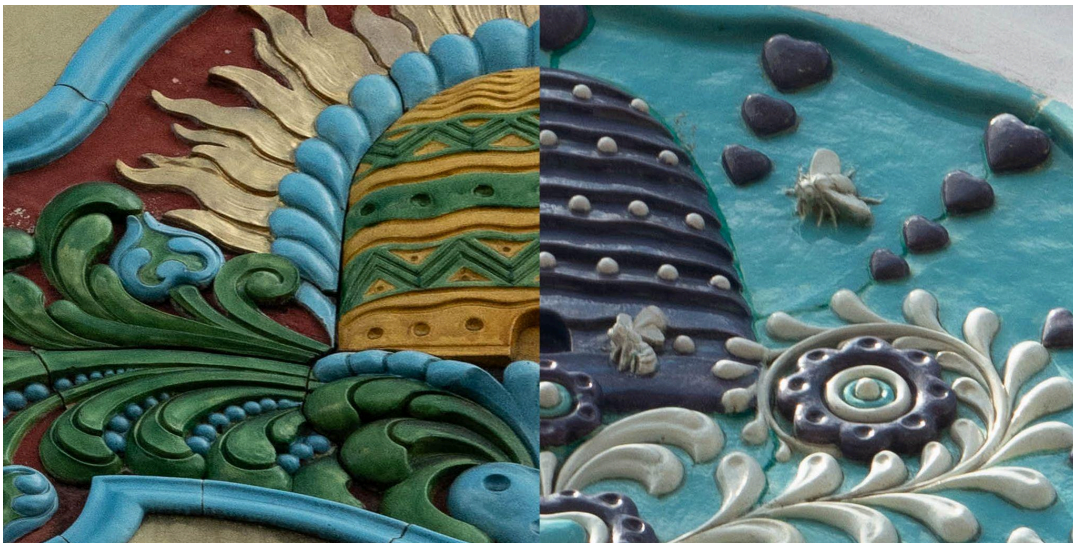


Figure 1 - detail Subotica (Serbia) / Timișoara (Romania), author Răzvan Iliescu