

## 0.1 Picture of building/site

**depicted item:** „Perla Mării” Restaurant

**source:** Photograph from „, Arhitectura R.P..R.” Review, no. 5(60), September-October 1959

**date:** 1959



## 1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden

### 1.1 current name of building

“Perla Mării” Restaurant

### 1.2 variant or former name

“Perla Mării” Restaurant

### 1.3 number & name of street

11, Perla Mării Alley

### 1.4 town

Eforie Nord

### 1.5 province/state

Constanța

### 1.6 zip code

905350

### **1.7 country**

România

### **1.8 national grid reference**

Lat: 43°53'148"N

Long: 28°36'23 07"E

### **1.9 classification/typology**

REC - Commercial building, Restaurant-canteen

### **1.10 protection status & date**

proposed for listing, A group, at national level, 2009

## **2 History of building**

### **2.1 original brief/purpose**

The Complex of Eforie II Rest and Treatment Center, to which "Perla Mării" Restaurant belongs to was the largest one to have been achieved until 1959 on the Black Sea coast and was designed to assure the accommodation of 2,000 visitors.

### **2.2 dates: commission/completion**

1955-1959

### **2.3 architectural and other designers**

It was designed by a team led by architects Cezar Lăzărescu and Lucian Popovici, with the collaboration of architects N. Stopler, A. Solari-Grimberg, Virginia Petrea, Paul Focșa, Antonia Aioanei, Gabriela Gheorghiu, Anca Borgovan Ionescu, J. Rosenberg, Gheorghe Dorin. Architect N. Stopler is actually the real author of the project. Engineer Nicolae Laszlo led the team who dealt with the resistance of materials; engineers Gh. Stavrescu and Gh. Gheorghe led the team who dealt with the installations.

### **2.4 others associated with building**

The Complex of Eforie II Rest and Treatment Center, to which "Perla Mării" Restaurant belongs to.

### **2.5 significant alterations with dates**

By initializing the listing process, the modifications to the interior of the building and the change of carpentry were stopped. In the restaurant park, expansions of very close buildings were limited.

### **2.6 current use**

The building has maintained its function.

## **2.7 current condition**

The building is in a good state of preservation. The investments made here along the years did not modify the initial concept of the design

## **3 Description**

### **3.1 general description**

The restaurant's building, probably of Corbusian inspiration, was the most successful part of the estival complex of hotels, becoming emblematic for that period.

The formula of a compact volume of an aerial floor on a free open ground floor, supported by metallic columns of small sizes and a few masonry pillars, represents the surprise effect of the composition.

An open platform covered with a sun-blind, links the transparent ground floor to the hermetic floor. The glazed curtain-walls follow the exterior contour of the upper-floor volume. The curtain-walls are not present towards the interior gardens. The exterior walls of the canteen restaurant office were approached in the same manner as the adjacent shops, according to the well-known principle of the curtain-wall which was applied here for the first time in the country; the walls became independent from the structure, by withdrawing them towards the interior, being mounted among pre-cast concrete elements caught between the two borders of the platform. A clear or ribbed glass was mounted between these elements, in a carpentry bound in the fittings with which the concrete tabs were provided, since their prefabrication phase.

The carpentry is mostly of a fixed type, with mobile spaces only for ventilation. This curtain-wall with uniform aspect from the exterior is a completely bright wall, for the interior, the ribbed glass spreading a diffuse light in the interior, not allowing however, the view from outside. Each hall is provided with mobile anodized aluminum curtains, allowing both the adjustment of the natural light and the visual isolation of any of the halls, in case it had received another temporary destination.

The main entrances in the building correspond to the two main circulation alleys of the complex. The shops on the upper floor can be also acceded through the alley situated at the back of the building. Here, in a space limited by concrete tabs, one can walk among the glazed wall chambers of the two shops and the two barbers' and hair dressers' saloons. The incorporation of commercial spaces into the general volume of the complex and their uniform architectural approach, by interfering them with the interior gardens from the upper floor and with the canteen-restaurant space, have generated a new functional circuit, relevant for the ideological relaxation context of the policy of the political party.

### **3.2 construction**

Structurally, the construction is generated by two flooring tiles supported by a network lined up by pillars. The pillars are metallic: lead tubes recovered from oil industrial

waste, with a diameter of 168 mm. In the interior of the service parts, on the same structural grating, the pillars are made up of reinforced concrete.

The architectural, artistic and urban value is exceptional due to the coherence of the architectural complex, to the unique spatial composition, the quality of details and the use of the finishing materials. The exceptional integration of the building into the natural landscape and good layout in the site are considered to be extremely well achieved.

### **3.3 context**

The Complex of Eforie II Rest and Treatment Center, to which “Perla Mării” Restaurant belongs to was the largest one to have been achieved until 1959 on the Black Sea coast and was designed to assure the accommodation of 2,000 visitors.

## **4 Evaluation**

### **4.1 technical**

The architectural concept was based on the principle of separating the hotel functions into independent buildings aiming at creating, for the first time, in comparison with the classic style of the previous period, a simple, modern architecture, synchronized with the experiments of the post-war western modernism. The example of this ensemble was continued by others on the seaside and in the country and imposed a new orientation of the entire Romanian architectural creation.

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An open platform covered with a sun-blind, links the transparent ground floor to the hermetic floor.

### **4.2 social**

The building of the “Perla Mării” Restaurant has a very important symbolic value for the Romanian community. The restaurant has become one of the representative objectives for the estival architecture from the years 1955-60. “Perla Mării” Restaurant has become a symbol for the local and national architecture and for this reason, it has appeared on the covers of tourist guide books of the sixties.

### **4.3 cultural & aesthetic**

The project was built during the sixties and was contemporary with a series of design achievements, that announced the return of modernism. It has an exceptional architectural, artistic and urban value due to the coherence of the architectural conception and the unique structure achieved in Romania. The proportions, the modeling of the facades as well as the spatial composition makes this building an estival architectural landmark. It belongs harmoniously to the natural landscape of the park, being a symbol for the architectural culture of the post war period.

#### **4.4 historical**

Ansamblul Centrului de Odihnă și Tratament Eforie II, din care face parte restaurantul „Perla Mării”, a fost cel mai mare complex realizat până în 1959 pe litoralul Mării Negre, proiectat pentru a asigura cazarea a 2000 de vizitatori.

#### **4.5 general assessment**

The Complex of Eforie II Relaxation and Treatment Centre, to which “Perla Mării” Restaurant belongs, was the largest complex which was developed until 1959 on the Black Sea coast, designed to assure the accomodation of 2,000 visitors.

### **5 Documentation**

#### **5.1 principal references**

##### **Articles**

- LĂZĂRESCU, Cezar, “Noi ansambluri de odihnă pe litoral. Centrul de Odihnă Eforie II, “Arhitectura R.P.R.” Review, no. 5(60), September-October 1959.
- CONSTANTIN, Paul, “*Dicționar universal al arhitecților*”, Scientific and Encyclopedic Publishing House
- LĂZĂRESCU, Cezar, CRISTEA, Gabriel, LĂZĂRESCU, Elena “ *Arhitectura românească în imagini*”, Meridiane Publishing House, Bucharest, 1972.
- LĂZĂRESCU, Ileana, GABREA, Georgeta, “*Vise în piatră*”, Capitel Publising House, Bucharest, 2003.
- LUPU, Mircea, “*Școli naționale de arhitectură*”, Technical Publishing House, Bucharest, 1977
- \*\*\*Team work, Guide book of Constanța and surroundings, Scientific Publishing House, Bucharest, 1960.

#### **5.2 visual material attached**

##### **original visual records/drawings/photographs/others:**

1. Lay-out plan, overview, guide maps 1960
2. Drawings, epoch images from “Arhitectura R.P.R.” Review.
3. Drawings, period images from “Arhitectura R.P.R.” Review.
4. Period photographs

##### **Recent photographs and survey drawings:**

5. overview photographs, 2009, author Aurelian Stroe/Ruxandra Nemțeanu
6. detail photographs, 2009, author Aurelian Stroe/Ruxandra Nemțeanu
7. interior photographs, 2009, author, Aurelian Stroe/Ruxandra Nemțeanu

#### **5.3 rapporteur/date**

Nemțeanu Ruxandra  
2012.

### **6 Fiche report examination by ISC/R**

**name of examining ISC member:**

**date of examination:**

**approval:**

**working party/ref. n°:**

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