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Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003

composed by national/regional working party of:
Architects' Chamber of Romania (OAR)

0.1 Picture of building/site



depicted item: Housing project with cinema hall "Înfrățirea între popoare" ("Fraternity among peoples")

source: the photo archives of the Architects' Union of Romania

date: ≈1960

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 current name of building | Housing project with Cinema Hall "Fraternity among peoples" |
| 1.2 variant or former name | for the whole housing project: "Grivița Roșie" district, "Bucureștii Noi" district, for the Cinema Hall: "Masca" Theatre |
| 1.3 number & name of street | no. 60-70, Bucureștii Noi Bd. |
| 1.4 town | Bucharest |
| 1.5 province/state | Bucharest, Sector 1 |
| 1.6 zip code | 012365 |
| 1.7 country | Romania |

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1.8 national grid reference
1.9 classification/typology

1.10 protection status & date

RES - Urban housing design and Cinema Hall – club/cultural house for youth/theatre hall (at present, non-functional)
proposed for B class of protection, at national level, in 2010

2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose

The official pretext for the construction of the cinema hall, together with some other similar cultural and sportive buildings, was the Youth World Festival which took place in Bucharest in 1953. The official decision to build this apartment district was a decision of the Ministers' Council which dates back to 1954.

2.2 dates: commission/completion

The apartment buildings: 1954 – 1955, the Cinema Hall: 1953; completion 1955.

2.3 architectural and other designers

The cinema hall: Arch. Dan Bacalu, Nicolae Porumbescu, Traian Stănescu (co author)
The apartment buildings: architects Alexandru Iotzu, Teodor Victor Aslan and engineers T. Bombinger, N. Stroescu

2.4 others associated with building

2.5 significant alterations with dates

The thermal insulation of some of the dwelling ensemble.

date(s):

2010-2011.

2.6 current use

The apartment buildings with ground floor shops have kept their functionality until now. At present, the cinema hall, which was used for theatre performances, is closed.

2.7 current condition

The cinema hall is in an advanced state of physical decay.

3 Description

3.1 general description

The apartment buildings, constructed according to the town planning principles of that period, had a key element of the composition, namely the cinema-club, being rather withdrawn in comparison with Bucureștii Noi Boulevard. The two sides of apartment buildings complete the composition, creating a big square in front of the cinema hall.

The construction of the whole residential district (the fragment of 1953 – 1955) marks the year when “The World Youth Festival” took place in Bucharest, being among the first representative/official buildings of the political power of that period.

The architecture, the whole composition, the location in the town represents a willing taking over of a similar copy in Moscow.

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- 3.2 construction
- 3.3 context

The apartment district coincides partially with a previous urban development (Bucureștii Noi village, set up in 1898), which however, was not totally finalized. During 1929 – 1950, Bucureștii Noi village was outside Bucharest administrative limits, as part of Grivița suburban village. Starting with 1950, the apartment districts joined the administrative limits of the town, changing its name into Grivița Rosie.

4 Evaluation

- 4.1 technical
- 4.2 social
- 4.3 cultural & aesthetic

The cinema-club and the apartment buildings are conceived according to the Socialist *Realist* architecture which dominated the Eastern Europe in the fifties. It relied on the use of the classicizing elements of architectural detail. The architectural image of the cinema-club is much richer, using rather excessively decorative elements which were inspired from Romanian traditional architectural sources: the churches from Fundenii Doamnei, Potlogi and others. The whole traditional decorative register is combined with symbolic representative elements of the political regime (the Soviet star).

The architecture of the apartment blocks does not abound in very rich decorative elements, however, a specific feature of the architectural expression of that period was to mark the ground floor and the upper level by a different approach of the facades, emphasizing them through powerfully underlined profiles, applied to the cornice, to the access ways of the construction (both those from the main road and those from the secondary roads), using decorative elements spread according to a vertical axis of composition, linking the buildings through portal and porch-type elements.

In spite of using excessively decorative rich elements as a whole, giving the whole ensemble an excessively monumental character in comparison with its function and character, this kind of buildings is a proof of real professional skills. One can conclude that, although conceived in a contested architectural 'style', the whole ensemble

illustrates rather well the characteristics of that evolutionary moment in the Romanian architecture (as regards the architectural expression, the composition, the organization on the ground and the technical constructive means). Although the ensemble of buildings is not finalized as compared to the initial design, it is however, a valuable coherent architectural and urban assembly.

4.4 historical

The Cinema hall was built in 1953 while the apartments buildings, in 1954. In spite of this, the construction of the whole assembly of buildings marks a significant symbolic moment in our recent national history.

4.5 general assessment

After the special circumstances which followed after the Second World War in Bucharest, in comparison with other European capitals, the *Socialist Realist* architecture is rather scarcely represented. This applies particularly for the capital and for the industrial towns which represented the only settlements where Realist Socialist housing ensemble was built. Although the cinema is not unique (the same design was used in Hunedoara), however, the exceptional character is a result of the coherence of the buildings system, as many similar ones which were built in the fifties remained incomplete.

5 Documentation

5.1 principal references

- Images from the Photo Archives of the Architecture Review, at the Architects' Union in Romania.
- Documents and plans in the Archives of the Town Hall of Bucharest Municipality
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- FALCAN Dan, 'Ctitori de București – Familia Bazilescu în București, Materiale de istorie și muzeografie', Vol. 16, Museum of Bucharest Municipality Publishing.House, București, 2002.
- FARB, D – 'Realizări și perspective în proiectarea de locuințe pentru orașul București', in *Arhitectura Review* no. 10-11/1958
- GHEORGHIU B., 'Noi construcții culturale și sportive pentru oamenii muncii', in *Arhitectura Review*, no. 10 -11/1958

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- IONESCU Grigore, the series of articles regarding the history of architecture of 19th – 20th centuries, in *Arhitectura Review*, no. 3 – 4/1991
- LĂZĂRESCU Cezar, 'Din experiența proiectării și construcției cartierelor de locuințe', in *Arhitectura RPR Review*, no. 1/1953
- LOCAR Marcel, 'Pe drumul unei noi arhitecturi în RPR', in *Arhitectura și Urbanism Review*, no. 1 -2/1952, p. 3
- MAICU Horia, 'Despre unele construcții social-culturale realizate în București în anul 1953', in *Arhitectura Review*, no. 3/1954
- SILVAN, 'În legătură cu proiectarea secțiunilor tip de locuințe', in *Arhitectura RPR Review*, no. 1-1954/1954.
- *** The decision of the Central Committee of the Romanian Workers' Party and of the Central Committee of the Romanian Workers' party on the construction and reconstruction of towns and the organization of activity in the field of architecture in *Arhitectura și Urbanism Review*, no. 11/1952, p. 1.
- *** House project in Bucureștii Noi Boulevard, in *Arhitectura Review*, no. 10 – 11/1958.
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- DERER Peter, 'Locuirea urbană', Technical Publishing House, Bucharest, 1985
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- PARUSI, Gheorghe, 'Cronologia Bucureștilor' (20 septembrie 1459 – 31

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decembrie 1989), Zilele, faptele, oamenii capitalei de-a lungul a 530 de ani', Compania Publishing House, Bucharest, 2008

*** The Book of the Designing Architect, Vo. II, Technical Publishing House, 1957

*** The Book of the Designing Architect, Vol. III, Technical Publishing House, 1958

5.2 visual material attached

1. Lay-out plan, overview

- The plan of Bucharest town, according to the latest official data, elaborated in Socec & Co Workshops, Publishing House of Socec & Co Library, Anonymous Society, 1914, in LUCIA STOICA, Neculai IONESCU-GHINEA, etc., Atlas Guide,

- 'Istoria și arhitectura lăcașurilor de cult din București', Ergorom Publishing House 79, Bucharest, 1999, Volume 1

- București între 23 August 1944 și 1966, in Constantin C. GIURESCU, 'Istoria Bucureștilor din cele mai vechi timpuri până în zilele noastre', Publishing House for Literature, Bucharest, 1966

- 'Împărțirea administrativă a Bucureștilor în 1966', in Constantin C. GIURESCU, 'Istoria Bucureștilor din cele mai vechi timpuri până în zilele noastre', Publishing House for Literature, Bucharest, 1966

2. Architectural drawings, epoch images in *Arhitectura RPR Review*

3. Photographs published in guide books of the period

recent photographs and survey drawings:

4. ground survey, plans and survey drawings for the stage rearrangement design, 2001

5. detail photographs, 2006, 2011, authors Irina Tulbure, Miruna Stroe

6. Interior photographs, 2010, author Aurelian Stroe

Irina Tulbure, 2012.

5.3 rapporteur/date

6 Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member:

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