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## Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003

composed by national / regional working party of:



0.1 Picture of building/site  
depicted item:  
source:

**Palatul Administrativ Baia Mare**  
photo Ana Maria Hariton      date: 2009

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

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1.1 current name of building | <b>Baia Mare Administrative Palace</b>                        |
| 1.2 variant or former name   | Political and Administrative Headquarters of Maramureş County |
| 1.3 number & name of street  | no. 49, Gh. Şincai Str.                                       |
| 1.4 town                     | Baia Mare   |
| 1.5 province/state           | Maramureş   |
| 1.6 zip code                 | 430311(post code)   |
| 1.7 country                  | Romania   |
| 1.8 national grid reference  | Lat: 47°,658 N, Long: 23°,574 E                               |
| 1.9 classification/typology  | ADM   |

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1.10 protection status & date Building proposed for listing as historic monument  
(class A, national importance)

## 2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose In 1968, at the establishing of the current geographical boundaries of Maramures and Satu-Mare counties – with the capitals at Baia Mare and Satu Mare – appears the necessity to build the first post war administrative palace intended to serve as headquarters for the party and state leadership.

2.2 dates Design 1968- 1969 (a); Construction 1969-1970(e)

2.3 architectural and other designers Architecture: Mircea Alifanti, Adrian Panaitescu (authors), Alexandra Florian, Tiberiu Benedek (collaborators)

Resistance: eng. Alexandru Cişmigiu, eng. Dragoş Badea, eng. Alexandru Eliescu

Electric installations: eng. Dénes Ladislau

Heating installation: Francisc Lung

Technical and sanitary installations: Ion Burlan

2.4 others associated with building -----

2.5 significant alterations with dates -

2.6 current use Prefecture of Maramures county

2.7 current condition Good

## 3 Description

3.1 general description

The rather unfavorable emplacement, with limited possibilities of perception due to the neighborhood, determines the spatial volumetric composition underlined by the landmark elements represented by the main body – a first impact element, coming from the direction of the new centre – and the tower, a vertical counterpart and a visible signal when looking from the old center. The south oriented precinct, created by the main bodies of the ensemble allows the perception of a series of dynamic images. The dynamism of the composition, supported by the subtle use of the materials, creates a tensioned and dramatic dialogue with the exceptional natural framework - the spectacular background of the afforested hills.

The building consists of four main bodies, with the following functions: offices – two slabs with double loaded plans joining at 120 degrees; reception hall and leadership offices; a meeting hall with a capacity of 200 seats and the tower. Within the plan composition, the restrictive discipline of rectangularity is broken by the inclination between the two office slabs, by the directions of the ending elements (tower and staircase), by the orientation of the tympanons and of the glass passage hall between the main body and the slab of the administrative

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offices. The articulation of the office slabs consists of a helicoidal staircase, placed in a generous glazed hall. The joining of the main body of offices with the volume comprising the hall and leadership offices is achieved by the meeting room and a glazed hall opening towards the enclosure. The tower, a symbolic element, defines and heightens the silhouette of the building by its border position. Located in the western extremity of the offices body, the exterior staircase ends it as a well defined element through its volumetric composition and finishing.

The interior spaces are characterized by the same harmonious variety. The dominant elements of the access body are: the reception staircase, in a spectacular continuously developing flight of stairs, the skylight spreading a filtered light through a latticework with angular pyramids and the decorative wall of the meeting hall. The path is supported by different sights and secondary directions of interest: the pivoted door of the meeting hall, the perforated wall of the cloakroom, the massive wooden balustrade which surrounds the split level. The various materials and textures – the smooth marble of the floor, the roughened plaster of the vertical latticed walls, the profiled wood of the door and of the balustrade – emphasize the rich subtlety of the composition.

The meeting hall offers, in a relatively limited volume, a variety of images. The asymmetric form of the balconies is underlined by the white balustrade echoed by the color and the material of the decorative ceiling. The vibrant mass of the wooden box ends, on one side, with the rhythmic cutting of the vertical glazed panels.

The articulation with the body of offices, provided with a glazed wall opening towards the precinct, represents a luminous intermezzo. The circular staircase, developing freely on three levels in the glazed hall, marks the intersection of the office slabs.

The architectural conception of the Administrative Palace combines the logical-functional elements with the expressive ones. The resulted architectural product appears as a series of dynamic images with points of interest that anchor the silhouette to the background, as <a series of moments with a beginning and an end> supported by intermediary elements which maintain the onlooker's interest. The roofing of the volumes, carefully studied, creates perspective effects and emphasizes the dynamic character of the composition.

### 3.2 construction

The civil servants building body (comprising 45sqm offices towards the precinct and 30 sqm offices towards north and east) and the tower are built on structural diaphragm walls. The main body, comprising the hall and the management offices, has reinforced concrete columns and brick masonry.

### 3.3 context

The Administrative Palace is located on a street with a narrow prospect, connecting the old centre and the new centre of the town, with insignificant neighborhoods. At the time of building the plot had an apartment building on the western side, the Investment Bank on the eastern side and the lot across the street was unbuilt. Currently the bank has curtain walls and was heightened by the addition of a pitched roof and two dwellings were built on the eastern side. The building front across the street was filled with a piazza including a hotel and housing with shops at ground floor. The relationship of the building with the immediate built neighborhood is indifferent, the essential element being constituted by its rapport with the spectacular background of the forested hills.

## 4 Evaluation

### 4.1 technical

The structural elements valorize the quality of the composition, without being necessarily remarkable. In this respect, one can mention the structural system of the meeting hall with the

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asymmetric balcony and the vertical lines of the façade together with the two glazed halls: the hall of the circular staircase with the two free pillars and the linking hall which unites the main body with the offices body, with one supporting pillar.

The choice and laying of the finishing materials underline the details of the main volumes. The facades are finished with stone from Măgura, Bampotoc and Limpedea; the mullions and transoms of the glazed areas are metallic; the carpentry is made of oak; the large prefabricated components of the façade are made of white stone dust; the floors are marble (Ruschița, Alun, Moneasa) and Bloaja andesite; the paneling is elm, oak and maple wood. Roofing sheets are copper and bronze on the almost vertical areas of the tower and skylight.

#### 4.2 social

Although not officially included in the National Register of Historic Monuments, the citizens consider the building to be representative for their town, belonging to the national heritage. On the other hand, the function of the building – headquarters of the prefecture and other institutions of the local administration – and the restrictions regarding the access, hinder its perception as an architectural object. The central hall, frequently sheltering exhibitions, is used more accordingly to the building potential. Returning the tower (currently used as an archive) to its initially proposed function (a small museum), would contribute to a better integration of the building in the life of the local community.

#### 4.3 cultural & aesthetic

The preoccupations linked to the expressivity of the architectural object which are reflected in the building of the political and administrative headquarters in Baia Mare belong to the evolution of the Romanian architectural phenomenon. At the end of the sixties, a whole series of works, with different functions, appeared almost simultaneously, inspired by the traditional architecture. Among them, the Administrative Palace offers a subtle and particular interpretation through the equilibrium of volumes, the dynamic of perspectives, the modulation of the scale and the refined use of materials, representing undoubtedly, the most important achievement of the tendency designated by Mircea Lupu as “dramatic lyrical functionalism”.

#### 4.4 historical

Between 1919-1950, Baia Mare, with the whole surrounding region, was part of Satu Mare county, with the capital in the eponymous city. By the letter dated 17 July 1935 addressed to the minister of Justice, DR. Valeriu Pop, the intellectuals of Baia Mare demanded the changement of the county seat, motivating it with geographical, ethnical and economical reasons. The conclusion of the letter states: “The residents of Satu Mare, solemnly undertook that if the county capital will for good and all return to Baia Mare, they will redeem the administrative palace building whose corner stone will be layed these days <sup>1</sup>, the municipality of Satu Mare binding oneself to build on its expense an identical palace in Baia Mare.”<sup>2</sup>

However the county seat issue was not finally resolved until 1968, by the establishing of the current geographical boundaries of the two counties: Maramures and Satu Mare. Thus appears the necessity to build the first post war political administrative headquarters building. The project is entrusted to a team of architects led by Professor Mircea Alifanti.

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<sup>1</sup> Satu Mare Prefecture, architecture: Victor Smigelschi 1935

<sup>2</sup> Qoted from: *Baia Mare vs Satu Mare (dispută istorică pentru titlul de reședință de județ)* – autor Ionut Horoba <http://www.glasulmaramuresului.ro>

#### 4.5 general assessment

The building is remarkable by its architectural layout, spatial composition, proportions and modeling of the facades, enhanced by the quality of the details and the laying of building materials.

The expressivity of the architectural composition, developing a new type of regionalism in which the local character results not from borrowing decorative forms but from a subtle interpretation of the local architecture, underlined by the vibrant abundance of the finishing materials, make the Administrative Palace in Baia Mare one of the representative works for the architectural evolution of the 1960 – 1980 period.

### 5 Documentation

#### 5.1 principal references

##### Books

Mircea LUPU, *Școli naționale în arhitectură*, Editura Tehnică, București, 1977

Paul CONSTANTIN, *Dicționar universal al arhitecților*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1986.

##### Architectural publications

Mircea ALIFANTI, *Sediul politico-administrativ al județului Maramureș*, *Arhitectura*, nr 6/1972, pg.19-30.

#### 5.2 visual material attached

#### 5.3 rapporteur/date

Ana Maria Hariton, 2012

### 6 Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member:

date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments:

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