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Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003

composed by national / regional working party of:



0.1 Picture of building/site
depicted item:
source:

Pavilion „H”, Herăstrău Park, Bucharest
photo Aurelian Stroe date: 2008

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 current name of building | Pavilion „H”, Herăstrău Park |
| 1.2 variant or former name | “Pavilion of Soviet Heavy Industry” |
| 1.3 number & name of street | 32, Șoseaua Kiseleff (Kiseleff Road) |
| 1.4 town | Bucharest, sector 1 |
| 1.5 province/state | Municipality of Bucharest |
| 1.6 zip code | 011343 (post code) |
| 1.7 country | Romania |
| 1.8 national grid reference | 44°28'33" N 26°04'33" E |
| 1.9 classification/typology | REC + COM |
| 1.10 protection status & date | Part of the “Herăstrău Park” historic ensemble,
registered in the List of Historic Monuments, code
B-II-a-A-18802 (A – national importance) since
2004
Building proposed for listing as historic |

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monument (class A – national importance)

2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose

Exhibition space for industrial equipments and heavy industry products (originally Pavilion for the achievements of heavy industry in the USSR, subsequently integrated with the circuit of the Exhibition for national achievements)

2.2 dates

Completion 1953; refurbishments 1963, 1964

2.3 architectural and other designers

Gustav Gusti, Harry Stern, Ascanio Damian (architectural design)

2.4 others associated with building

E. Țițariu (structural design)

Arhitecți Mircea Enescu, Constantin Dobre, Bogdan Gheorghiu, Adriana Țiulescu (exhibition arrangement 1964)

Graphic designers Eugen Mihăescu, Sergiu Georgescu (fresco authors)

2.5 significant alterations with dates

Post 1990 - for reasons of economic efficiency, transformed into a commercial space, partitioned and rented to various retailers

2.6 current use

Commercial space

2.7 current condition

Generally good

3 Description

3.1 general description

The oblong horizontally-developed building, roofed over with an undulating surface, is located in a park area, on a lake shore, and north-south oriented, in parallel with the contour lines of the land.

The interior, originally intended for exhibiting large size objects (industrial equipments) is conceived as an ample hall covered by a flat vault, which is supported by segmental arches. Speculating the slope of the land, the inner space of the pavilion is organized on two levels: a general ground floor covering the whole built-up area, and an a “U”-shaped partial floor that runs along three sides of the exhibition hall, leaving open the long side oriented towards the lake.

The characteristic note of the building is given by the undulating roof surface and the prominent longitudinal eaves. The facades have different treatments: to the west, on the side of the park access, a saw-teethed succession of latticework panels, composed of interweaving pre-cast concrete cases; to the east, towards the lake, a large brickwork wall contrasting with the “portico” of the exhibition space – a suite of vertical brick-coated bar-piers with recessed window-panes; to the south, an ample *verrière* punctuated with a quick rhythm of vertical concrete profiles and intersected by a plastered wall-surface; to the north, an opaque brick façade perforated by a unique square opening, which receives the same vertical ribbing.

3.2 construction

The constructive system consists of reinforced concrete pillars and flat arches made up of curved and stuck lamellar wood. Since the arches are interconnected by means of stiffening metal strips, the resulting vault behaves like a spatial load-bearing structure belonging to the category of cylindrical thin surfaces. The roofing is of sheetmetal on close boarding, while the walls and the pillars are either plastered or brick-coated.

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3.3 context

The building is situated in Herăstrău Park, on the sloping lake shore, in an area that was intended for organizing exhibitions ever since the interwar period (the 1936, 1937 and 1940 editions of the exhibition “Luna Bucureștilor” / “Bucharest Month”).

4 Evaluation

4.1 technical

The roof with lamellar wood arches stiffened by metal strips resulted in a light structure with a spectacular span, whose exceptional value lies both in its technical conception and the rarity of the solution.

4.2 social

Although originally commissioned with propagandistic purposes, the pavilion - subsequently used for organizing various exhibitions and, after 1990, for retailing - has become a familiar presence and enjoyed a good reception from the public, also thanks to the quality architecture and the favourable location in a most frequented recreation area.

4.3 cultural & aesthetic

The building is remarkable for the close correlation between the expressiveness of structural form and spatial composition, the proportions and treatment of the facades, the aesthetic quality of the decorative components and the overall conception meant to integrate the building into the natural landscape of the park.

4.4 historical

Pavilion “H” is an outstanding exemplar of the architectural culture of the postwar period – illustrating a generalised trend towards the valorisation of the tectonic expression, as a reaction against the abstract geometry of the International Style – and at the same time a rare specimen for Romania in the Stalinist epoch, criticised in the period press, together with several other works, for the “cosmopolitan” and “formalist” approach.

4.5 general assessment

Pavilion “H” belongs to a major direction of post-war modernism which looks for a new architectural expressiveness by exalting the tectonic reality of structure, material and constructive detail. The building stands at the level of similar achievements of world architecture, while sounding a discordant note in the context of the current architectural production in Romania and the whole Eastern block, dominated by the established style of socialist realism.

5 Documentation

5.1 principal references

Publications:

- LOCAR, Marcel, 'Pe drumul unei noi arhitecturi în R.P.R.', Arhitectură și urbanism (Romania), no. 1-2, 1952, pp. 3-17
- CONSTANTINESCU, Al., 'Pavilion pentru prezentarea mostrelor de mărfuri', Arhitectura R.P.R. (Romania), no. 2, 1960, pp. 16-17
- PAVLU, Gheorghe, SEBESTYEN, Victor, 'Proiectarea ansamblului Expoziției Realizărilor Economiei Naționale', Arhitectura (Romania), no. 5, 1964, pp. 2-21

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5.2 visual material attached
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5.3 rapporteur/date

Mihaela Criticos 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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