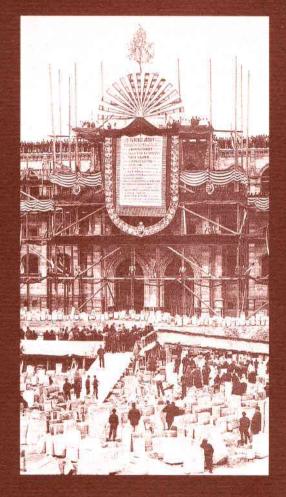
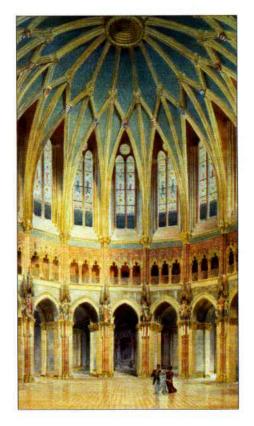
## THE ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



AN EXHIBITION OF
THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100th
ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING
OF THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE
(OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2002)

### THE ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



AN EXHIBITION
OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100<sup>th</sup>
ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING
OF THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE
(OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2002)
BUDAPEST, 2002

# Concept and collection of the material: József Sisa, art historian, Head of Department Research Institute for Art History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

### Co-ordinator:

József Lukács, architect, Head of Department

Office of the Hungarian National Assembly, Technical Management, Department of

Construction

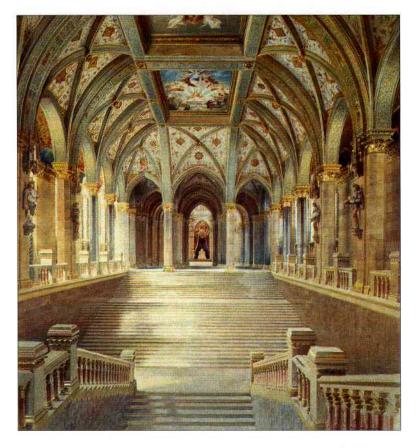
Designer:

János Gerle, architect

The provenance of the exhibited objects:
Office of the Hungarian National Assembly,
Budapest Historical Museum, Kiscelli Museum
Janus Pannonius Museum, Pécs
Hungarian Museum of Architecture
Hungarian National Archives
Hungarian National Gallery
Hungarian National Museum

ISBN 963 204 327 8

The Hungarian National Assembly commemorates the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Parliament House with a series of events. The exhibition organised on this occasion presents the history of the building, from the architectural competition (1882) to its construction, furnishing and completion (1902). The exhibition displays a selection of the original designs and the models of the exterior sculptures, and illustrates the role of the applied arts (stained glass, ceramics, metal work). It contains a small collection of the most beautiful pieces of furniture, and of the studies and sketches for the paintings in the Parliament House. It presents the public figures, architects, artists and craftsmen responsible for the realisation of the building, as well as documents and objects concerning its construction and opening, and thus also the contemporary social environment.



Lajos Rauscher: The Main Staircase, 1899 (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)

### IMRE STEINDL (1839–1902)

mre Steindl, architect of the Hungarian Parliament, began life as the son of a jeweller in Pest. Steindl's final studies were completed at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, where his teacher was Friedrich Schmidt, an eminent Austrian master of the Neo-gothic style. A surge of development following the Compromise of 1867 presented exceptional opportunities for the young Steindl, who, in a matter of decades, rose to the forefront of Hungarian architects. He initially imagined the New City Hall (Új Városháza) in Pest, his first major commission, in Neo-gothic style, although it was eventually constructed according to the dictates of the Italian Neo-renaissance, regarded by the Budapest of the 1870's as embodying the essence of bourgeois ideals. Both the Pavilions of the Veterinary Academy in Rottenbiller Street and the "old" Technical University building on the Múzeum Boulevard were designed in a similar style. Steindl also progressed in the academic field, teaching at the József Technical University in Budapest until his death. In addition, Steindl ranked as one of the most sought after restoration architects of the period. In this capacity he was responsible for restoring several significant historic monuments during a period when the country was approaching the Millennium celebrations. According to the prevailing attitudes of the time, restoration included significant additions, alterations and the re-carving of stonework. Following the sudden death of the previously engaged architect, Steindl was commissioned with the restoration of Vajdahunyad (Hunedoara) Castle. The most significant of these restoration works was that of Saint Elizabeth Cathedral in Kassa (Košice). Towards the end of his life, in

addition to the Parliament, there remained energy for one further work: he designed the Erzsébetváros (Elizabeth town, today Budapest, VII<sup>th</sup> district) Parish Church in Rózsák Square, a massive creative effort in Neo-gothic style, decorated with Zsolnay ceramics. Highly lauded and honoured, but exhausted and in poor health, this sensitive and retiring master died on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1902, just a few weeks before the official opening of the Parliament.



Portrait of Imre Steindl. Photograph, Strelisky, 1902 (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)

### THE COMPETITION

Onstruction of the Parliament was undertaken according to the XLVIII<sup>th</sup> Article of 1880 under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister, whilst the designs were commissioned on the basis of a competition. The National Committee which organised the competition was directed by the then Prime Minister, Kálmán Tisza, and Miklós Ybl was the main architectural expert. The design programme was compiled by a separate sub-



Imre Steindl's
prize-winning
competition design:
Perspective from the
Danube
(Office of the
Hungarian National
Assembly)



Alajos Hauszmann's prize-winning competition design:
The Danube facade (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)

committee, based upon the general guideline that "the design of the intended permanent Parliament House – in respect of its schedule and purpose – should not be hindered by financial considerations". The competition was announced at the beginning of April 1882 with a deadline for submissions of 1st February 1883. Four equivalent prizes were proposed by the competition guidelines. Although the competition was international, this

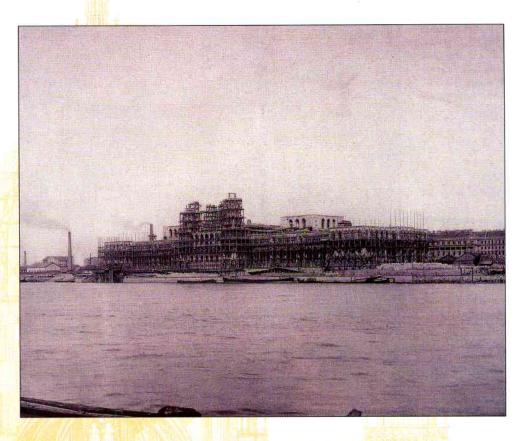
remained a formality due to pressure from the Hungarian architectural community. Consequently the event remained an in-house competition for the Hungarian and – to a lesser extent – Viennese architects. Amongst the 19 entrants awarded were Imre Steindl, Alajos Hauszmann, Albert Schickedanz and Vilmos Freund, as well as Otto Wagner and his partners from Vienna. Eventually Steindl's design was chosen for realisation, not in the least the result of ex-Prime Minister and ex-Foreign Minister Gyula Andrássy's support, who desired a building resembling the Houses of Parliament in London. The decision was the subject of debate: many were in opposition to the Neo-gothic style, which they regarded as German. The Bill for the construction was passed by the Members of Parliament only after days of torrid, often politically inspired, debate. Steindl modified the original competition designs on several occasions.

### CONSTRUCTION

In 1884 Count Lajos Tisza, formerly the Government Commissioner for the reconstruction of Szeged, was selected to head the newly formed Parliament House Construction Committee. Following Tisza's death in 1898, the post was taken over by State Secretary József Tarkovich. According to the contract concluded with Imre Steindl, the architect was

Excavation and laying
the concrete
foundation in 1887.
Period photograph
(Ország-Világ XIII,
No 41 – 12 October
1902, 817)



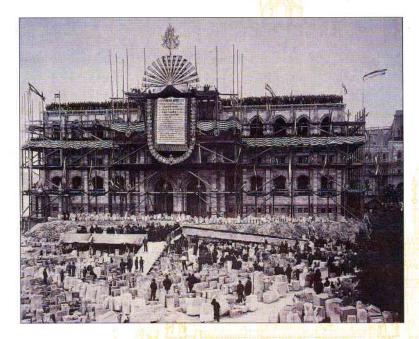


responsible for the completion of detail drawings, proposals for appropriate materials, the supervision of the building contractors' work and the certification of invoices. Steindl delegated Ottó Tandor as his second-incharge, and in addition several one-time students and other young, talented architects found employ in his office. Technical supervision of the fulfilment of the contract was directed by the Ministerial Advisor, Béla Ney.

The first clod was turned on the site on 12th October 1885, although work ceased for a year due to the relocation of water-works from the site. When building activity recommenced, hundreds of workers toiled under spotlights by night also. The proximity of the Danube required the building of thick, continuous concrete foundations. Walls were erected predominately in brick, with some use of stone. Sándor Hauszmann's company was awarded the construction contract. Carved stone was used in cladding the exterior of the brick walls. More than 40 million bricks and 30 000 cubic

The Parliament
House under
construction from
the Danube.
Period photograph
(Ország-Világ XIII,
1902, supplement 11)

Partial completion ceremony, 5 May 1895. Period photograph (Ország-Világ XIII, 1902, supplement 13)



metres of stone were used in the construction. Special technical solutions were employed for the heating and ventilation of the building. Celebrations for partial completion took place on 5th May 1894, following which the riveted, rolled iron roof structure, manufactured by the Schlick Factory and clad in natural slate, was erected. In 1896 a ceremonial session of Parliament was held in the building, 100% complete externally yet only partially complete inside. The Parliament House was only used from 1902, and the interior works continued until the end of 1904.

# STATUES AND INTERIOR DETAILS

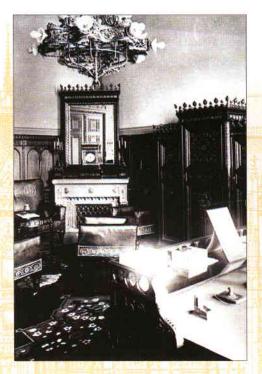
A ccording to Steindl's conception (although to a somewhat lesser extent) both the exterior and interior of this massive building were covered in statues. Great figures of Hungarian history – 90 statues in all – appeared on the external facades. In front of the main entrance stand the two lions of Béla Markup. 162 full-figure statues can be found in the building. The rotunda is lined with coloured zinc statues of kings and princes, repeating the concept of a "National Pantheon" already visible on

the facade, a thought popular in Hungary at the time. Ceramic statues representing the various professions were located in the parlours and corridors. Although several outstanding artists took park in the creation of the statues (Miklós Köllő, György Kiss, Ede Kallós), very little evidence can be found of individual artistic character. The formation of the works reflects the realism of the late 19th century and a demand for historical truth.

The interior spaces were created using the best of available materials, the greatest artistic care and the formal richness of turn-of-the-century Historicism. There was a determined intention to use Hungarian materials and the products of the best local manufacturers. Fittings for the building were designed under Steindl's direction by a young colleague, Ernő Foerk. The contract for the construction of the furniture and other joinery-work was awarded to the workshops of Endre Thék and Alajos Michl. The most demanding of the Thék manufactured furniture was decorated with coloured ceramic inserts from the Zsolnay factory. Steindl also provided opportunities for the Zsolnay factory in the internal courtyards, where the window frames, the mullions, the parapets and inserts of the cornices were

The Prime Minister's Study in 1902 (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)

The Prime Minister's Study in 2001 (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)





The Prime Minister's Study in 1902 (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)



The Prime Minister's
Study in 2001
(Office of the
Hungarian National
Assembly)







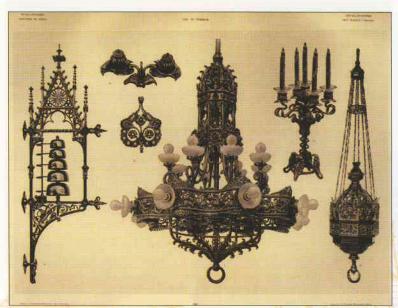
all ceramic. A majority of the stained glass-work was prepared by the workshop of Miksa Róth, decorative painting was undertaken by the company of Róbert Scholtz, whilst the wrought-iron grilles and most of the lamps were manufactured by the workshops of Gyula Jungfer.



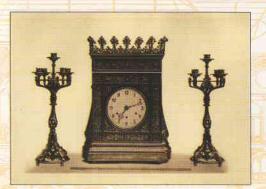








Pattern sheets of the Melocco firm for the marble mosaic floor tiles, which were also used in the Parliament House (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)





Chandeliers, clock
and two candle-sticks
for the Parliament
House. Period
photograph
(Mintalapok iparosok
és ipariskolák
számára. Budapest,
London, Vienna, Paris,
VII. 1901, issue 1)

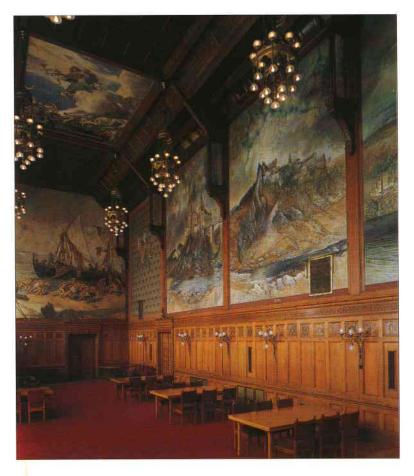
### **PAINTINGS**

Relatively little space remained for paintings in the Parliament. In total only the ceiling of the main staircase is covered in large-scale paintings, while small pairs of paintings decorate the walls of the two debating chambers, and there are no paintings at all under the main dome. A rarity of free wall-space and the division of the ceiling with ribbing and coffering left little space for large scale artworks, but there is also an indication that Steindl himself had little regard for large painted surfaces, which he regarded foreign to the Gothic world. Amongst the spaces on the long axis only the arched ceilings of the two parlours were painted. Large spaces located at the ends of the cross-axis and completed during the last phases of building works – the Hunting Hall (originally the restaurant), the Delegation Hall and the Delegation Corridor – were decorated with rows of large wall-paintings.

The Debating Chamber of the former Upper House with mural paintings. Modern photograph (Photograph by Bence Tihanyi and Ágnes Bakos)

Károly Lotz painted the ceiling of the main staircase. The celebrated master executed the task with the expected routine and high artistic quality, yet gave total disregard to the constraints of the Neo-gothic architecture:





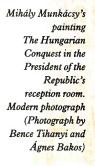
The Hunting Hall with mural paintings. Modern photograph (Photograph by Bence Tihanyi and Ágnes Bakos)

the illusionistic pictures with skywards opening perspectives reflect the world of Renaissance, or rather Baroque art. In addition to this work, Lotz received only small commissions in the Parliament House. The majority of the remaining pictures were completed by younger artists who in part followed or copied the master's direction. Zsigmond Vajda, the painter of the parlour ceilings undertook a task seemingly beyond his capabilities. In the Hunting Hall the castle depictions of Béla Spányi and the wall-paintings of Aladár Körösfői Kriesch are refreshing exceptions: their two-dimensional decorativeness stands closer to newer artistic directions and also the Neo-gothic architecture of the building.

### MUNKÁCSY'S PAINTING OF THE HUNGARIAN CONQUEST

The fate of Mihály Munkácsy's painting, "The Hungarian Conquest", the most significant artwork in the Parliament House, unfolded in a special way. Already in 1883 the novelist Mór Jókai proposed that Munkácsy, living in Paris and regarded as the prince of Hungarian painters, should complete a painting for the new Parliament. Serious consideration was only given to the idea following Munkácsy's painting of the ceiling of the main staircase of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. Following this it appeared an impossibility for Munkácsy's contemporaries that the Parliament could be completed without a work by the artist. In 1890 Count Lajos Tisza, President of the Construction Committee, commissioned Munkácsy with a representation of Árpád, to be located in the debating chamber of the Lower House.

Munkácsy set to work with great enthusiasm, requesting information from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences regarding the dress and weaponry of the period of the conquest. Travelling around the country the artist prepared photographs of various physiognomies and peoples. Many studies and sketches were made before the realisation of the final composition. His first concept, whereby Árpád received the homage of the Slav envoys in a standing position was altered according to the request of many: in the final version the leader of the Hungarian Conquest sits astride a horse. For the purpose of painting this large-scale picture Munkácsy constructed a separate studio in Neuilly.





The painting was received by a parliamentary delegation on 24th February 1894, but, as the Parliament House was still uncompleted, the work was located in the Ceremonial Hall of the National Museum, used as the Chamber for the Hungarian Upper House. Following the death of Lajos Tisza (1898), Steindl himself protested against the location of the painting in the new Parliament. He correctly argued that the painting would destroy the harmony of the Hall and diminish its usefulness. It can be supposed that jealousy also played a part in the opposition to the placing of an independently produced monumental work of art in such a central position. The painting was finally located in the Parliament in 1929 in the reception room of the Speaker of the Lower House, which was subsequently renamed the "Munkácsy Hall" and serves now as the reception room of the President of the Republic.

Protocol of the first session of the Upper House held in the new Parliament House, 22 December 1902 (Library of the Hungarian Parliament)

### THE COMPLETED WORK

1901-1906.

t was the original intention to complete the Parliament House for the Millennium celebrations in 1896 and the artistic programme was conceived with this in mind. However, on 8th June 1896, the 29th anniversary of Franz Josef's Coronation as Hungarian King, the participants of the joint celebratory session of the Upper and Lower Houses could only admire the main staircase and the rotunda. On the occasion a ceremonial company escorted the Hungarian Holy Crown and other coronation regalia to the Parliament House. The proper handover of the building occurred on 8th October 1902, when the House of Representatives held its first session here. This event passed without ceremonial appearances – any celebration would have appeared insignificant after the events of 1896.

A FÖRENDIHÁZ XVII. ÜLÉSE.

1902. décozember 22-én, hetőőn,

Cnáky Albin gróf elnőklete alatt.

Tárgyai: Elnöki magnyitó. — ås alhunyt Bereivis Endre emláke jogyaltönyvbe vétetik. — Sambaditát ürrényenikkak. — Krieghammer lemendásával Pitreich Hsurit allábornagy nevastelik ti hadngyministerré. — Elnöki előserjensztesek. — As igandó-blottásgnak a főrendek jegyakkank kügsztásáról de Oselondos Sandor gróf kérvényéről szóló jelentése. — A gazdasági blizottásgnak na sakoltkoszeről szóló jelentése. — A gazdasági blizottásgnak na sakoltkoszeről szóló jelentése. — A gazdasági blizottásgnak na sakoltkoszeről szóló szólósz réngy elősztések a márcságalkásági de közdől szólósztáságnak na szolós tervényeni előszeről szólósztáságnak na szolósztáságnak na szol



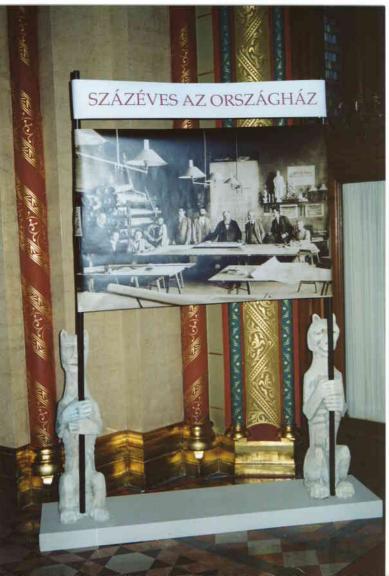
Lajos Rauscher: Perspective from the Danube, 1899 (Office of the Hungarian National Assembly)

However, it was only then that the nation could become familiar with the building through illustrated accounts, descriptions and a large album published on the occasion.

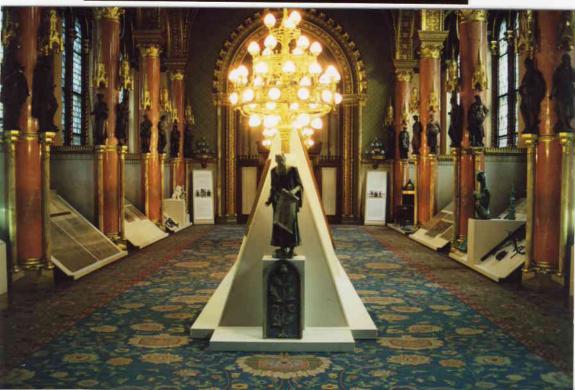
The official cost of the construction works exceeded 37 million crowns, a figure double that of the original cost estimate prepared on the basis of the detailed plans, and four times that of the original competition entry.

With the new Parliament House the contemporaries took possession of a building which logically summarised the lessons of international parliament building and was equipped with the latest technical fittings. It counted amongst the largest buildings of the world at that time. The architecture reflects a highly individual interpretation of the Neo-gothic and the overall articulation inside and out as well as the artistic creations testify to the highest demands. Both in the original bicameral system and in the present unicameral system the building has functioned well.

The Parliament House has served Hungarian legislation and the Hungarian state for a century. During these one hundred years – thanks to good fortune and to expert maintenance – the building has predominately preserved its original form both inside and out. It is the task of forthcoming generations to continue to watch over and care for this unique building.











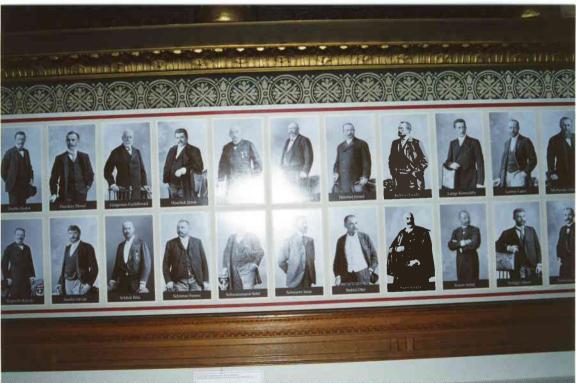






















### AZ ÉPÍTÉS

Biblisher mengdakalt ner Cresinghale Egones i ega rekstell filmering, mett test derine gibl. Hinst kam dimengdaksproment i ega rekstelle komment tilsen, der i filmering i bosen dette store i tilsen der i filmering i bosen dette store i der i komer dilimeritäks verbe at led kam der i der i komer dilimeritäks verbe at store i der i komer dilimeritäks verbe at store i der i komer dilimeritäks verbe at store i der i der

As application 1985, alchops (Lees some many art old logist trajet, and as approximate beginning to the similar application of the second state o

mak, maters han here in our al handers and printers or comes person to a behavior of the contract of the contr





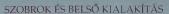


#### CONSTRUCTION

In 1986 Count Layer, Then, I remain in the Constructed Communication with the temperature for though a law in the final of the section of the temperature for the final of the section of the temperature of the final of the section of the temperature of the final of the section of the temperature of the final of the section of the temperature of the final of the section of the sec

The first chief was brown from the cost in 1200 Californ's 1901, although weak costs of the chief and cost of the chief and cost of the chief and chief was chief from the chief. Where budding an after a convenience, I, numbered out weeken is taked analog equipilities for the years. The proposition is not speak to the production of the chief analog equipilities for the years. The chief is not the chief of the chief analog of the chief and the chie

Californium by gravital completion was place on SS Max 1995, according which the created should be used on some manifestation by the Schicks factors and clot in national slows, one record in 1996, a common of a former care held in the bandard (1997) complete order and the complete of the complete order products of the complete order. The Definition of the land of 1991, and these three complete order products of the complete order or the complete order order or the complete order order or the complete order orde



A tartama e goldet koloset e to besett. Sement die epizalesensk medielik om abharmon elan mittelken sessimik bringsteil elasterthe A khirik berajak makera kentlik a mogsat fertinden megjat festalek kentlik makera fortinden megjat festalek kentlik mengan filosetielik medielik mediel

A bea have k hairbilime, a beben legade arraymické, a legrangelété mitmeded é a sa sincipital bississimmantik (mrozamingialeté) kesalité, kilipozeti százdok szült, hage magyamozegi arraymik a kesalité, kilipozeti százdok szült, hage magyamozegi arraymik nev kesalité, kilipozeti százdok szült, hage magyamozegi arraymik nev keszdok hage a kelete a keterial kilipozeti százdok szültés kilipozeti kerdeletési kilipozeti százdok százdok százdok százdok százdok százdok kilipozet százdok százdok százdok százdok százdok százdok százdok kilipozet kilipozet a kilipozeti százdok százdok százdok százdok százdok kilipozet kilipozet kilipozet kilipozet kilipozet kilipozet a piszkatejs kilipozet százdok százdok százdok kilipozet kilipozet

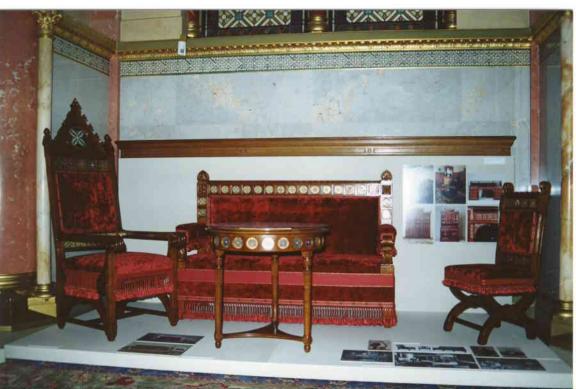


### STATUES AND INTERIOR DETAILS

Assemble to the officers years believing to a few mode of level excitors below the decrease and meature of the secure believing years covered as some to be found to the secure of the s

The new papers were consisted using the best of a relability materials, the general states, and the knowled states are distinct and declarations, the properties of a secondary should relate a large sea a distributed insertion to secondary the secondary season and the production of the post local of materials review. These section for the beatless were designed under secondary should be declarate the secondary secondary section for the constitution of the present was one of secondary for the secondary section of the present was one of the secondary section of the present section of the present section of the present section of the secondary section of the present section of the secondary section of the present section of the secondary section section of the secondary section of the section of the secondary section of the secondary section of the section of the secondary section of the section of the











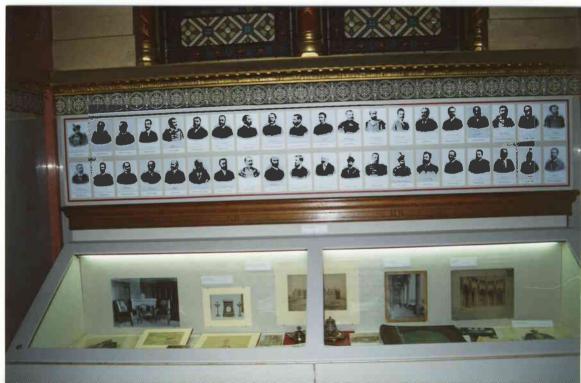






















## SZÁZÉVES AZ ORSZÁGHÁZ

Az Országgyűlés Hivatalának kirillitasz az Országház atadásának száradik événtsítéja alkalmából

Koncepcio es szakmai válogatia Sisa lozset indvoszetűírténése, a Magyar Indonássan Akalémia Milieragitantnya Kalasi Interior

Estiles litrael options, as Disalguallo Mileali Igregomega Epitoseri (Schilyavak rezeti).

Gerie János opitész

Krettelerii Ainlier Zi, Sara Errot, Tinte Linche, Somonyeare Mihally, Linche Zoltan es marikatirasidi. Egitar Kit, Benes Terene tranyataniyal

A kisiliimt kingyak kiskoondalaisit kiskoonda trunduuk az akibis gyöliminyölisik gyöliminyölisik Orsakagyallisi liivatala fluilapeiti Tortundi Malayami, Kiseilli Malasian Jania-Funsonias Malayam, Yoo Magyar Entithasit Malayami Magyar Antariak Malayami Magyar Antariak Malayami Magyar Lawihar Lawihar

## THE ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

An establishmed the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly on the occasion of the BOth anothers are of the Opening of the Parliament Hense

Jornel Stea art Interction.
Research Interface for Art History II Language Academy of Sciences
Constitutions

Condition
Direct Linkers architect.
Office of the Diagration National Assembly.
Technical Management. Hour of the Architectural Department

Design James Gorle architect

Resiliation

Atolier 21 Studio Ernő Sira, Landő Tith, Sumogeniat Mihaly, Zeltán Landó and collaboration

Eprise Lid bel by Fernet Bleuni

The exhibition was induc possible with the support of the following collections.

Office of the Hangarian National Amendaly
Budgest Habitard Misseam, Moneton Roccit
Joseph Parameters Measure, 1985.

Temparatian Measure, 1985.

Hangarian Sentencel Advisore

Hangarian Sentencel Advisore

Hangarian Sentencel Measure