

## HERMENEUTICAL TOUR IN SAINT GEORGE

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### *Abstract:*

Saint George is a small town in the south-east part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, whose current image is basically determined by the creation of architectural heritage during of dualism.

In the first part of the paper, along a short historical walk monuments from Saint George are presented, fitting in the historical perspective of architecture in the time of the Monarchy, seeking answer to the question: how could an adequate approach to the architectural monuments is established?

In the second part of the paper an answer will be outlined that results from Hans-Georg Gadamer's hermeneutical philosophy, whose starting point is the critics of historicism and the analyses of the boundaries of the aestheticizing attitude. In Gadamer's hermeneutics understanding represents the constitutive basis of word experience, with dialogic structure that applies not only to texts, but to the understanding of art and architectural heritage, it means to spell details and to read them together, to create a coherent meaning. The architectural tradition appears with the demand of truth and claims an interpretative, understanding attitude.

Gadamer says that the language is the universal medium of understanding, all understanding is linguistic experience, so the understanding of the architectural tradition means verbal interpretation of the visual perception. Gottfried Boehm's visual hermeneutics try to extricate the concept of understanding from the logocentric perspective, the propositional structure, and articulation of language is inaccessible images "iconic density".

*Keywords:* historicism, critique of aesthetic consciousness, understanding, reading buildings, visual hermeneutics

### *Outline of Article:*

What stylistic elements and map-making criteria appear in eclectic architecture of Saint George on the turn of the century?

What are the limits of historical perspective and aesthetic consciousness according to Gadamer?

What does the concept of understanding mean? What does it mean to understand the architectural heritage?

How does the understanding of the architecture become concrete? Is it verbal or visual interpretation in order to understand it?

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