

comprehensive design I-II test / 1st october 2020 – 5th october

## SOMLÓ-hill / The Moreau Tower

Somló Hill is situated at the western outskirts of Veszprém County, where Bakonyalja and the Marcal Basin of the Little Alföld meet. The butte emerging from the rough surface of the Pápa-Devecser-plain like a lonely, island-like formation catches one's eye from a distance. The plain is divided by river and stream valleys, streams and the – former – marshy, wetlands they surround. The geologically diverse soils of the area are made even more colorful by the likewise varied geographical composition of the hill. The area is a meeting point of a rich network of roads and routes, a popular place for settlements since ancient times. The hill has long played a pivotal role in this phenomenon, as due to its attributes, it provided excellent sites for viticulture, while owing to its height of 431 m above sea level, it used to have an important strategic role and defense function. Its formation is the result of the same undersea volcanic activity that created its “peers” near Somló, Little Somló and Ság Hill, as well as its more distant “relatives,” the hills of the Tapolca Basin. Like Badacsony, Szent György Hill, Csobánc, Gulács, Tóti Hill, and Haláp Hill, it is a typical butte. The volcanic rock formed in the sea was covered in deposits, which, after the withdrawal of the Pannon Sea, was eroded – leaving basalt behind. As a result of this erosion, besides the basalt core of the hill, there is also clay, sand, limy soil, gravel, and loess at the foot and sides of the hill – all this has affected the agriculture and especially the viticulture of the area. One attribute of the basalt found here is that, thanks to the air and the sun, white stains develop on its surface, it becomes “pestises” [infected with the plague] or, as the locals say, “kukoricaköves” [maize-stoned], then it starts crumbling into tiny pieces called “sörét” [buckshots]. In the local dialect, the basalt “somlik,” that is, it disintegrates – which may be the origin of the name of the hill or, at least, this is the most likely explanation. Moving up on the slope of the hill, more and more “murnya” or “serét,” i.e. tiny basaltic grains resulting from the disintegration cover and make up the soil, and this helps grapes ripen. This geologically interesting phenomenon, which is useful for viticulture, saved the hill from some potentially devastating uses. As a result of its disintegration, the rock is not suitable for building or for road construction, so, in contrast with Ság Hill, Haláp Hill, and partly Badacsony, too, there has been only a small amount of rock mined in Somló on a trial basis. This was carried out in 1927, but influential supporters and devotees of the hill managed to get the plans rejected.

### DESIGN TASK

The topic of the complex design task is to recall one of the famous towers of medieval Somló Castle. French architect Charles Moreau worked for the Erdődy family from the 1820s, and it was his designs that were used to build the new castle at the foot of Somló Hill. The castle is situated in a 90-hectare English park, which was of unique value in Hungary and exceptional even in European terms. The architect, Moreau fitted the castle into the landscape so that prominent structures in the area, such as churches, monuments, ancient roads and ruins, could be seen through the cuts in the park vegetation from certain points of view. One may

say that they were the main organising elements of the grand landscape composition. Since then parts of the hillfort, in this composition, has fallen into decay. The tower standing separate from the main mass played an important role, with many aspects being composed on it. The essence of the present task is to recall this tower in a contemporary way, and the instruments to be used may be almost anything. It is important to note that a shelter (accommodation without infrastructure) suitable for 4x6 persons must be located in it/next to it, or in the vicinity. An observation platform may also be formed on it, as although the castle looks to be in good condition, it is not possible to climb up the walls, or rather to its high points, so a highpoint near to the castle would be beneficial. This may act as a symbol on the hill to the memory of Moreau that helps one understand the grand concept of the castle and the park.

3D model of the Castle is to be download from here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JluC0TKiludXbae7LeJidnKrU9\\_7j-Me?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JluC0TKiludXbae7LeJidnKrU9_7j-Me?usp=sharing)

## **SUBMISSION**

.PPT or .PPTX format in pieces of 12 (max. 15) sheets (1-title, 2-3-4 inspirational references/descriptive parts, 5-site plan, 6-7 floor plan(s), 7-sections, 8-9 facades, 10-3D presentation/photomontage, architectural vision) with text!

Site plan(s)	
Floor plan(s)	M 1:200 scale
Section(s) – min. 2 rectangular position	M 1:200 scale
Facades	M 1:200 scale
3D images, sketches, photomontage	depends on the competitor(s) decision

## **PRESENTATION**

**NO PRINTS are necessary!**

**To be sent by 05. 10. 2020 Monday latest 08.00 PM onto the following email:**

**[komplex.ipar@gmail.com](mailto:komplex.ipar@gmail.com). Personal presentation (TEAMS) to be held (compulsory!) 05. 10. 2020 Monday between 10.00-12.00AM!**

**Groups are welcome up until max. 3 people.**

**Chances for questions in written format sent to [komplex.ipar@gmail.com](mailto:komplex.ipar@gmail.com) closed by 02. 10. 2020 Friday 09.00PM. Written answer to be made that day until 14.00AM, and an online consultation will held on Friday between 10.00-11.00 AM (TEAMS).**

## **POINTS OF REFERENCE FOR EVALUATION**

- tight and reasonable functional arrangement
- unique architectural appearance
- environmental connections with the existing Medieval Castle
- proportional suiting-in
- harmony and balance enhancing the general appearance with the existing environment
- attractive contemporary architectural aesthetics

1st October 2020

Prof. Zsolt Vasáros  
Head of Department