

ARCHITECTURAL PATH

ART NOUVEAU BUILDINGS IN ORADEA

Art Nouveau is an international style of art, architecture and applied art, especially the decorative arts that was most popular between 1890 and 1910. A reaction to the academic art of the 19th century, it was inspired by natural forms and structures, particularly the curved lines of plants and flowers. Art Nouveau art is also called *Secession Art*.



In February 2012 Oradea was included in the European Art Nouveau Network, alongside of cities such as: Barcelona, Brussels, Nancy, Vienna or Budapest. Oradea is the only city in Romania which is included in this Art Nouveau network. The first secession building in Oradea was ***The Sonnefeld House***, designed by Spiegel Frigyes in 1899.

In 1903 and 1904-1905 lawyer ***Adorján Emil's houses*** were built and designed by Komor Marcel and Jacab Dezső and executed by the entrepreneur Sztarill Ferenc. During the same period (1902-1903), ***The Füchsl Palace*** was built by engineer Rendes Vilmos. Both buildings have curvilinear cornice facades, and here are found windows in cement, along with a richly decorated plaster.



The "Deutsch Glass Shop" was also richly decorated.

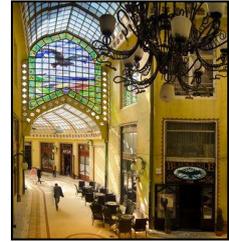


Another representative secession building is ***the Ullman Palace*** built in 1913 following the plans of the architect Lóbl Ferenc. Built in the style of the Viennese secession, the construction comprises three floors raised on a high ground floor and an attic. In the exterior facade's decoration elements characteristic of the sacred Jewish art can be deciphered:



menorah (seven-arm candlestick) guarded by two lions as well as by many floral and geometric motifs. The ground floor was plated with green-blue tile.

Komor Marcell and Jakab Dezső achieved the most representative Art Nouveau building in Oradea, *the Black Eagle Palace*. This was a multifunctional building: hotel, restaurant, café, brewery, showrooms as well as shops. The Y-passage and the three entrances, the dazzling “avalanche” of curved lines, the alternation of stucco-bas-reliefs with floral and figurative motifs, stained glass and immense chandeliers are organized symmetrically. The distinction of the edifice cannot be disputed.



Poynar House was built in 1907 using the same style. This masterpiece was designed by Sztarill Ferencz and is dominated by curvilinear and ornamental constructive elements. On its facades, perfectly symmetrical, at the window frames and at the cornice can be seen polychrome ceramic ornamental elements. The decoration of the frontispiece is given by the floral plaster, with a special aesthetic visual impact.



Moskovits Miksa Palace was built to the plans of the same architect, between 1904 and 1905. In its construction, for the first time in Oradea, “prefabricated” materials were used, namely concrete slabs with metal structure. It is highly ornamented with vegetal-symbolic motifs, with perfect mastery of curves and with remarkably well-crafted Secession hardware. Plant motifs are predominant, flowers with long, curved stems.

The Darvas – La Roche House, where the first secession museum in Romania is organised, belonged to a Jewish trader and was built in 1910 following the plans of the Vago brothers, famous architects of the time. It is famous for the large number of original items kept intact like a brightly colored stained glass or stone fountain decorated with geometric motifs. Some of the decorations were created especially for this house which makes it unique and it is also considered a part of the cultural heritage.

