

**ARCHITECTURAL PATH**  
**FIELDWORK**  
**WALKING IN THE ART NOUVEAU OPEN AIR MUSEUM**  
**ORADEA**

We, think that the beauty of a city is reflected in its buildings. Over the centuries, architects have competed in works and projects that are more and more beautiful. Their inheritance can still be admired now. Monument buildings are the emblems of the cities in which they were built and add to their charm.

In order to know more about these remarkable Art Nouveau or Secession buildings, we – Andrada Tarce, George Seica, Sebastian Gozner and Samir Al-Mahmoud – together with our teachers Carmen Chira designed an Art Nouveau route to follow in order to admire and then describe some of the historical buildings.



Architecture leads to the creation of ‘landscapes’ that mobilize, organizes urban life, assigning it certain semantics. Architecture belongs to the street, contributing to the shaping of the outer space. Each architectural object, regardless of its dimensions and qualities, is part of public life. Every building is intended to belong to its users, to provide them with the framework of their day-to-day activities, but its macro function is to belong to all participants in the life of the place, marking the way the city flows.

Each architectural object consists of meanings, symbols, manifestations of aesthetic and technical components. From this point of view, architecture becomes a spatial rhetoric that establishes and asserts the identity of the community. The Art Nouveau buildings not only reflect the European architectural style of this period, but are the mirrors of the owner’s culture.

At the turn of the centuries, the Art Nouveau architecture begins to gain ground. As proven by the time's documents, the wealthy Jewish merchants travelled to all of the Monarchy's and Europe's big cities, and probably this is the reason why the Art Nouveau (characteristic architectural style of the period) "captivated" so fast Oradea. Commercial and residential buildings and palaces were built in the important hubs of the city center in this period.

The second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first years of the next (until the beginning of World War I) constituted a period when Oradea made spectacular progress in various fields. The development of industry, the growth of population, the intensification of artistic and cultural life, saw multiple transformations in this period. In architecture there was a replacing of the romantic style with eclecticism (especially after 1870), represented by a diversity of secular or religious monuments. Later on, towards the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new style appeared – the Secession, and the area of its distribution, covering practically the whole of Europe, had different names: Modern Style in England, Art Nouveau in France and Belgium, Jugendstil in Germany, Sezession in Austria, Stile Liberty in Italy. In the Romania it was called Art 1900, Secession or Art Nouveau.

Some its characteristics are: the arched lines, the curvilinear movements, the waveforms, which gave rise to various vegetal motifs (for example, lianas, algae etc.) as well as various forms belonging to geometric art, with rectangular shapes.

The large number of Secession-style buildings in Oradea and the importance this style has had in finalizing the image of the historical center of the city are now unanimously recognized, making the city on the banks of the Crişul Repede River one of the most important centers of the Secession in Romanian. They make Oradea an important point on the European Secession map, an aspect that honors and opens wide prospects for tourism development and capitalization of cultural heritage.

