



The Mountain Lodge Téry Hut Innovations in Alpine-Zone Architecture

Téryho chata

Inovácie v architektúre podsnežného pásma

Mária Novotná

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**TÉRYHO HUT, PÄŤ SPIŠSKÝCH PLIES –
MALÁ STUDENÁ DOLINA. ORIGINAL
CONDITION (1910)**

TÉRYHO CHATA, PÄŤ SPIŠSKÝCH
PLIES – MALÁ STUDENÁ DOLINA.
PŔVODNÝ STAV (1910)

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Historické objekty. [online] [Accessed
20 Feb. 2022]. Available at: <http://www.nostalgicketatry.sk/historicke-objekty/teryho-chata>

Téryho chata bola najvyššie položenou stavbou v Uhorsku. Reprezentovala prichádzajúce 20. storočie, rozluku s eklektizmom a aplikovanie inovácií, ktoré sa naplno rozvinuli počas moderny. Chatu navrhol a postavil architekt zo Spišskej Soboty, Gedeon Majunke, ktorý bol jedným z najvýznamnejších tvorcov architektúry vysokotatranskej oblasti. Jeho tvorba bola charakteristická etapami, ktoré reagujú na atmosféru architektonického diania tatranských osád, kde sa eklektizmus voľne rozvíjal do reprezentačných objektov uhorskej aristokracie. Práve tie kontrastovali s výstavbou objektov horských chát, ktoré sa vyhýbali ako architektonickej intervencii, tak zbytočnosti ornamentu. Majunkeho architektúra sa v posledných rokoch oslobodila od fasádneho ornamentu, čo vidíme na príkladoch realizovaných kostolov v Tatranskej Lomnici, ale aj na príklade skúmaného objektu horskej chaty. Okolnosti vzniku Téryho chaty sú známe z dobových periodík Maďarského turistického spolku, z ktorých sa dozvedáme, ako sa spolok vysporiadal s nedostatkom financií na stavbu chaty, s problémom oponovania poľovníckeho združenia, alebo ako uvažoval o postavení chaty na Slavkovskom štíte. Zároveň vidíme proces, ktorý predchádzal samotnému návrhu. Chata vznikla na základe overovacieho projektu a vyzvanej súťaže v roku 1898. O procese architektonického navrhovania, prípravy realizácie a samotnej stavby chaty vieme z autorského článku architekta Majunkeho, ktorý ho publikoval v časopise turistického spolku Turisták Lapja v roku 1900. Návrh chaty bol výsledkom analýzy a hodnotenia ostatných horských stavieb, implementáciou inovatívnych materiálov a reakciou na morfológiu terénu. Priestorová koncepcia vychádzala z prieskumu lokality a znalosti poveternostných podmienok. Architektúra, ktorú architekt vytvoril bez precedensu pôvodných štruktúr v takto vysoko položených horských oblastiach, bola v kontexte jeho tvorby redukciou na minimum, ktorou reagoval na možnosť stavby v náročnom teréne a na existenciálne potreby turistov v podsnežnom pásme alpínskych lúk. Priestorová koncepcia reagovala na dispozície domácej tradície, kým



**TÉRY HUT, PÄŤ SPIŠSKÝCH PLIES –
MALÁ STUDENÁ DOLINA. CURRENT
CONDITION (2020)**

TÉRYHO CHATA, PÄŤ SPIŠSKÝCH
PLIES – MALÁ STUDENÁ DOLINA.
SÚČASNÝ STAV (2020)

Photo Foto: Mária Novotná

materiálovo konštrukčná podstata mala odpovedať výdobytkom inovácií, ktoré si našli uplatnenie v architektúre 20. storočia. Zároveň je čitateľný dialóg medzi tradičnými postupmi stavania a inovatívnymi materiálmi a stavebnými prvkami. Vidíme použitie rabcového betónu, ocelových nosníkov, extenzívnej vegetačnej strechy, recyklovanie stavebného materiálu, úvahy nad korkovou tepelnou izoláciou a xylolitovou podlahou. Reakcia architektúry na morfológiu terénu a poveternostné podmienky je výsledkom konzultácie s miestnymi horskými vodcami a expertom na konštrukcie strechy. Práve vďaka týmto expertom sa chata ocitla na okraji morény, ktorá formuje Jazernú stenu, na mieste, kde chata nie je ohrozovaná lavínami a nárazovým vetrom. Strešný konštruktér odporučil architektovi zmenu koncepcie prestrešenia schodiska a chodby na strechu segmentového oblúka, ktorá mala lepšie odolávať ako náporu vetra, tak aj váhe snehu. Z článku publikovaného architektom sa dozvedáme aj o komplikáciách dopravy materiálu do lokality a o kontroverzných spôsoboch razenia si cesty tatranskou žulou. V priebehu 20. storočia chata prešla viacerými adaptáciami a stavebnými zmenami, pod ktorými stále vidieť charakter strohej, ale výbornej architektúry Gedeona Majunkeho, avšak jeho celková koncepcia sa postupne stráca. Článok analyzuje práve tieto významné hodnoty architektúry vo výške 2015 m n.m., ktoré sú hodné ochrany.

Introduction

Until the 1930s, Téry Hut (Téryho chata) was the highest-elevation shelter in the High Tatra Mountains of Slovakia, marking the very first time that the architecture of the present-day territory of Slovakia reached the alpine zone¹. Since then, the mountain lodge has attracted the interest of architectural historians, who have researched its 20th century architecture and the way that such buildings were constructed on mountainside terrain.

The original project of Téry Hut (1899) by architect Gedeon Majunke is an example of the ideals that architects of his orientation sought in 20th century architecture.² New findings have now emerged that put Téry Hut and its contribution to the mountain environment construction in a new light: these findings and their impact on the interpretation of the mountain

lodge are the focus of this study. It explores the contribution made by József Pfinn, a Hungarian architect and engineer who was previously thought³ to have designed Téry Hut by himself. Further, the study traces the design and construction by Majunke, the subject of prior research by architectural historian Maroš Semančík, and seeks to establish a connection with the Slovakian tradition as described by Henrieta Moravčíková.

Gedeon Majunke's work

Gedeon Majunke was a major design engineer in the architecture of the High Tatras in the late 19th and early 20th century. His designs emerged in response to the architectural atmosphere and the popularity of the mountain chalet style common in Switzerland yet also present in the contemporary High Tatras.



THE ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY OF GEDEON MAJUNKE: (CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT) VILLA KLOTILDA 1885, CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR 1890, DR GHURA SANATORIUM 1902, TRINITY CATHEDRAL 1899

ARCHITEKTÚRA GEDEONA MAJUNKEHO: (ZĽAVA HORE V SMERE HOD. RUČÍČIEK) VILA KLOTILDA 1885, KOSTOL NAJSVÄTEJŠIEHO SPASITEĽA 1890, SANATÓRIUM DR. GHURA 1902, CHRÁM SV. TROJICE 1899

Source Zdroj: nostalgicketatry.sk. História. [online] [Accessed 20 Feb. 2022]. Available at: <http://www.nostalgicketatry.sk/historia/stary-smokovec/108-fotoalbum-stary-smokovec./167-fotoalbum-dolny-smokovec./139-fotoalbum-tatranska-lomnica./228-guhrove-sanatoria>

When Majunke first started creating architectural designs in the 1880s, he concentrated on constructing timber-framed buildings. In the next decade, he began testing the possibilities of log structures and their architectural morphology. At the same time, he experimented with flat sod roofs,⁴ to complement the sharply angled roofscape of the buildings. A significant moment came in the final decade of the 19th century when he built Téry Hut and two churches in Tatranská Lomnica without any facade ornamentation. Having designed and constructed a sanatorium at Tatranská Polianka, by the early 20th century he adhered firmly to the pure form of exposed brick, with ornamentation reduced exclusively to the terraces and loggias, which mirrored his previous creative periods.⁵ Majunke's talent was evident in the many contemporary periodicals that highlighted his work and also publicised the honours bestowed upon him by the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Later, he would be engaged by Gyula Andrásy to reconstruct the Betliar manor house⁶. In 1882–83, he was commissioned by the Bank of Késmárk to construct buildings in the recently developed settlement of Alsótatrafüred, now the resort town of Dolný Smokovec in the Tatra Mountains.⁷ In 1884, he joined the building commission of the Hungarian Carpathian Association (Magyarországi Kárpát Egyesület – MKE), the oldest of the Tatra mountain societies⁸ and later, as head of MKE's building commission, he supervised the construction of other huts in the High Tatras.⁹ In 1891, he was put in charge of designing another mountain lodge presently called Chata pri Zelenom plese¹⁰ and reconstructing the roof of Sliezky Dom.¹¹ Majunke's architectural designs have been evaluated as a combination of vernacular traditions and modern construction¹² and, as clearly visible at Téry Hut, they rely more on local traditions than copying models from the Alps themselves¹³.

Mountain architecture and mountain lodges

The High Tatras have been a region with international ambitions ever since the start of their development as a recreational centre and climate spa.¹⁴ While the architectural evolution in the region was mainly driven by the Hungarian nobility, a major role was played by the local Zipser German population. At the turn of the 20th century, architecture in the Tatra Mountains was the outcome of an “eclectic freedom of choice”¹⁵, inspired by Alpine architecture and especially new developments in the Swiss Alps. On the other hand, the utilitarian and rather spartan construction of the mountain huts contrasted with the ornamental facades of the spa hotels, whose noblesse displayed to visitors the affluence of Austria-Hungary's aristocracy and ruling classes. Similarly, the buildings in these mountain settlements were furnished to reflect the current architectural scene, while the equipment of the mountain huts remained rudimentary if not primitive.

Téry Hut joined the network of hiking accommodations in the High Tatras as the 20th hut to be built in the mountains, and the twelfth providing accommodation for hikers, demonstrating a commitment to developing the region into a destination for hikers and climbers seeking a challenging terrain. Moreover, it was the first ever mountain lodge built in the alpine zone, making it unprecedented at the time of construction. And it was one of the few tourist accommodations in the High Tatras to have been professionally designed and built according to specifications. Other huts previously built to accommodate hikers that have since disappeared mostly stood in the subalpine, montane, and forested zones, which offered plenty of wood for construction. Both the presence of construction material and the level of craftsmanship in the buildings found in such mountainous



MAP OF THE HIGH TATRAS INDICATING THE POSITION OF MOUNTAIN HUTS IN 1901

MAPA VYSOKÝCH TATIER S VYZNAČENOU POLOHOU HORSKÝCH CHÁT K ROKU 1901

Author Autorka: Mária Novotná

terrain meant that the huts remained as self-built shelters from the period before the tourist colonization.

When Téry Hut was completed, nine huts were already situated in the higher-altitude areas of the High Tatras region; seven of them could accommodate hikers overnight, while the remaining two were used as additional buildings. All the other mountain lodgings had burnt down or been destroyed by avalanches, or else were no longer used by hikers had simply lost interest and left to fall into disrepair.

Innovations at the turn of the century

What first made the Tatra Mountains more accessible were innovations in transport. When train service began in 1871 on the Kaschau-Oderberger Bahn,¹⁶ the High Tatras suddenly became significantly more accessible to hikers and other tourists. The path now known as the Cesta Slobody (Trail of Freedom) opened in 1885 and the next year the first cog railway started to transport tourists to what is today Štrbské Pleso. The Hungarian Carpathian Association was established in 1873.

Equally, the final decades of the 19th century were marked by innovations in civil engineering and construction. Concrete constructions were developing, steel production was increasing and in 1889, the first Portland cement factory in Hungary was established in Lédéc (now Ladce). Architects were also experimenting with flat roofs supported by previously unused materials such as timber-concrete, tarred building cardboard and asphalt.¹⁷

HUT	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL	STATE IN 1901
ALPINE ZONE	205mm Téryho chata 1899	● □
SUBALPINE ZONE	168mm Hincova koliba 1885-1895	■ ×
	1690mm Blázyho chata 1871 - 1874	● ▲
	1680mm Slezský dom 1895	● □
SUBALPINE ZONE	1670mm Humfalvyho chata 1873	■ □
FORENS ZONE	1550mm Chata pri Zelenom plese 1897	● □
	1550mm Egidova chata 1880-1883	■ III
	1510mm Majláthova chata 1899	■ □
	1510mm Majláthova chata 1892 - 1898	■ ×
	1510mm Majláthova chata 1881-1890	■ III
	1510mm Majláthova chata 1879-1880	■ III
	1400mm Vatra 1895	■ □
	1395mm Rudolfova chata 1880	■ □
	1360mm Jozefova chata 1875 - 7	■ ×
	137mm Chata Karczok 1884	■ □
	1304mm Ch. v Slavkovskej d. 1878-1882	● ▲
	1300mm Rainerova chata 1865	● □
	1300mm Kacvinského útulňa 1892	■ □
	1255mm Ruženina chata 1875-1893	■ III
	1200mm Krivánske koliby 1806 - 1890	■ ×

MOUNTAIN HUTS IN 1901 CLASSIFIED BY ELEVATION, COMPOSITION, AND CONDITION

KLASIFIKÁCIA HORSKÝCH CHÁT K ROKU 1901 PODĽA PARAMETROV NADMORSKEJ VÝŠKY, MATERIÁLOVEJ PODSTATY A PRÍČINY ZÁNIKU

Author Autorka: Mária Novotná

Circumstances behind the design of the mountain lodge at Päť Spišských plies

Construction of Téry Hut was financed by the Magyar Turista Egyesület (MTE – Hungarian Tourist Association), which had split from the Budapest chapter of the Hungarian Carpathian Association in 1891. The mountain lodge would be subsequently named after Ödön Téry, then the vice chairman of the MTE.¹⁸

In 1889, the Budapest chapter of the Hungarian Carpathian Association expressed its own desire to construct accommodations in the High Tatras, for which Téry suggested a location at the present-day Päť Spišských plies, which was later taken up by the newly established MTE. Due to funding issues, the site was eventually moved from Malá Studená dolina to Slavkovský štít, where the MTE was supposed to build an observation station for the Meteorological Institute, a location change allowing for the financing of construction of a mountain lodge. Eventually, the Hungarian Carpathian Association would be engaged to build the observation station and the MTE withdrew its intention to build accommodations at Slavkovský štít, returning the project back to Malá Studená dolina. Accordingly, the MTE had to forfeit the promised funding. Negotiations with landowners commenced in 1897, by which time the MTE was finally able to raise enough money through public fundraisers to finance the construction. The MTE committee in charge of construction was composed of Imre Lintner, Jenő Szmrecsányi and József Pfinn, together with local forester Gyula Förster, while attorney Károly

Hitsch settled the project with local officials in nearby Felsőerdőfalva (now Stará Lesná) and the land registry office.

By this point, a contractor had to be sought through the 19th century equivalent of a tender invitation, who would then be working from designs that had been drawn up by József Pfinn.¹⁹ Architects Emil Schwarz, Gusztáv Husz and Gedeon Majunke were all invited to submit tenders. Schwarz opted not to participate and Husz failed to provide supporting documents, while Majunke agreed on the condition that he would undertake the assignment with no further competition, leaving his hand free to submit his own design. These conditions were imposed without any fees charged and eventually an agreement was concluded between him and the MTE to budget the construction of the lodge at a stipulated amount to be covered by the MTE (6,000 guildens), with any additional funds to come from Majunke's own pocket. The design he had received from Pfinn was understood to be only preliminary, as it had to be adaptable to the terrain and local conditions where it would be built. Majunke's design could accommodate more people, and thus offered larger capacity, than what Pfinn had envisaged. For this reason, József Pfinn's role in contributing to the design is understandably more of a preview foreshadowing the construction than as of his co-participation as a designer along with Majunke.

In 1898, the site was surveyed, with the intended building plot staked out at the top of the moraine wall where the hut would be safe from avalanches. Opposition was voiced by the hunting association, which demanded the site be moved below the moraine so as not to scare away the chamois. The situation was resolved with the help of Károly Hitsch, János Kullmann and an agreement not to plaster the façade.

The process of architectural design

The design of the hut was preceded by Majunke's analysis of existing mountain lodges.²⁰ He analysed potential problems that would be encountered, identifying any defects that could have been caused from cutting corners to save money or by the general unprofessionalism of the craftsman that had built them. He designed a building that he expected to be free of any maintenance demands, to avoid the burden of later repairs and cost overruns.

Majunke's concept of the nature of the mountain lodge's architecture was derived from his awareness of the instability and variability of mountain conditions, unpredictable weather, and changes in terrain morphology. While he perceived the mountain environment as continually in flux, he planned the lodge, in contrast, as permanent and stable. He clearly differentiated the dialogue between the lodge and the environment through a closed and architecturally composed interior versus an open exterior left in its untouched form with no intervention or reshaping.

The architecture responded to the materials provided by the locality, the morphology of the terrain and local traditions. The local granite served for masonry, while the gravel was used as an admixture for the concrete. Differentiation in the layout was based on breaks in the terrain. Guest rooms were to be located on the upper floor, which was built atop the ground, while

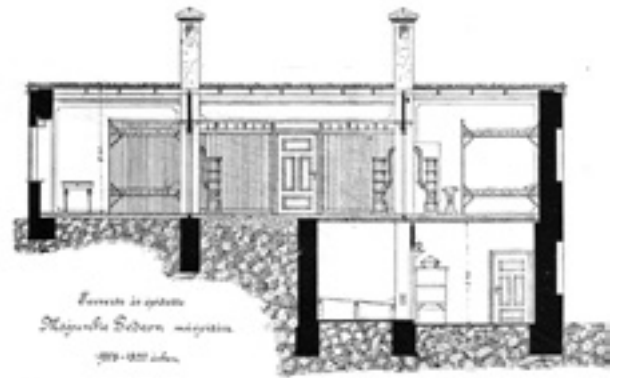
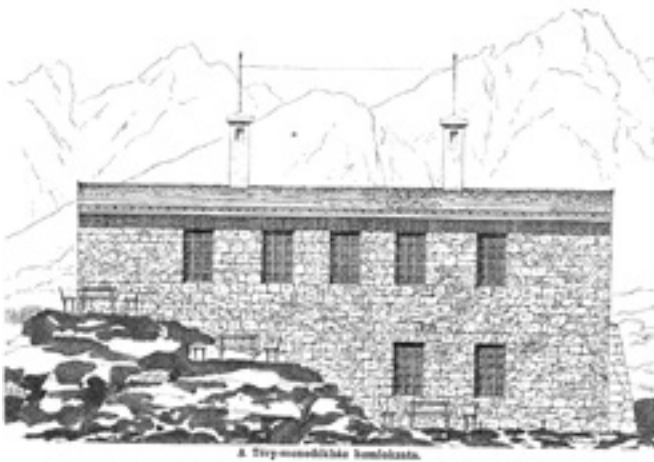
service areas, like administration and the guide rooms, would be situated on the floor level partially sunk into the ground.²¹ The flat boulders encircling the hut formed multilevel exterior terraces. Majunke rejected the common feature of semi-enclosed porch, not imagining it as justifiable in an alpine-zone environment. The entry space, possibly previously understood by the roofing as an "exterior staircase"²², was a fully enclosed linear access space. The link between local traditions in the different regions and the spatial concept like the linear access space or the *gánok*²³ of Slovak folk architecture can be traced as a diagram in the layout.

The roof and ceiling construction was Majunke's own response to weather conditions at the site. Opposed to traditional vaulted ceilings and trusses, the construction was very innovative, consisting of a steel beam ceiling and a two-segment roof. He consulted the wind direction with two mountain guides, János Kirner and János Hunsdorfer, and specifically discussed the shape of the roof with engineer Ferencz Ilgner. Instead of slab roofing for the staircase and corridor, Majunke accepted Ilgner's structural correction of the design and shaped the roof like a segmental arch. Majunke was highly aware of the lodge's purpose and the challenge of its construction. He thought about defining an "architecture of necessity" both in the volume of space and the method of its furnishing. He suggested placing an emergency indoor toilet on the second floor, though recommending its use only in exceptional circumstances, as the "proper" outdoor privy was located west of the Hut. Reduction of volumes and the search for the most minimal quantities necessary are both noticeable in how the interior of the hut was furnished and in the interior itself. Majunke furnished the lodge with "light Thonet chairs", and rectangular tables around which six chairs could be placed, while clothes could be kept on shelves or hung on hangers along the wooden panelled walls. Besides the tables and chairs, the use of beds with metal grates allowed him to take advantage of the low weight in general of all the furniture. A washbasin in each bedroom allowed guests to practise proper hygiene, while wood panelling protected them from the damp and cold stone walls and heating elements kept them comfortably warm. Inside the hut, the dining room had both a longitudinal double steel beam and an exposed segmental roof.

The option of expanding the lodge was considered in the architectural design to cover any increase in capacity, but Majunke preferred the idea of building another, separate building if the need to expand ever arose.

Transporting the material and preparing for construction

Instead of using local porters, materials were moved to the site with the help of horses, people from distant villages and former railway workers. The masons building the lodge were headed by Sam Petreas, whom Majunke had engaged to build a shelter for the site crew near Ohnisko²⁴. Petreas used traditional masonry methods applied earlier in lower subalpine and montane zones, but not matching the level of quality Majunke demanded at the higher elevation where the shelter was supposed to stand: the thin walls would rapidly become filled with moss.²⁵ In working



**GEDEON MAJUNKE – TÉRY HUT.
VIEW FROM THE SOUTHWEST –
CROSS SECTION**

GEDEON MAJUNKE – TÉRYHO
CHATA, JUHOZÁPADNÝ POHĽAD,
POZDĹŽNY REZ

Source Zdroj: Majunke, G., Turisták Lapja,
1900



**GEDEON MAJUNKE – TÉRY HUT.
FLOORPLAN**

GEDEON MAJUNKE – TÉRYHO
CHATA, PŮDORYS

Source Zdroj: Majunke, G., Turisták Lapja,
1900

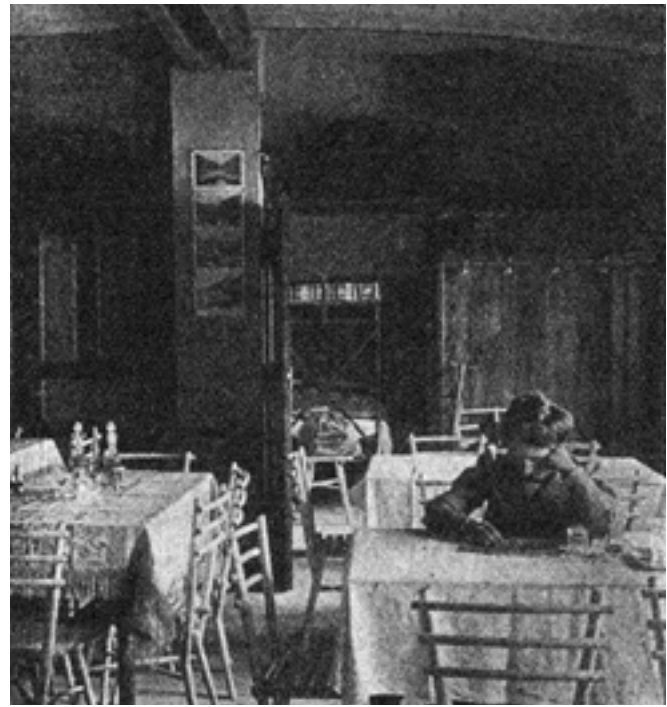
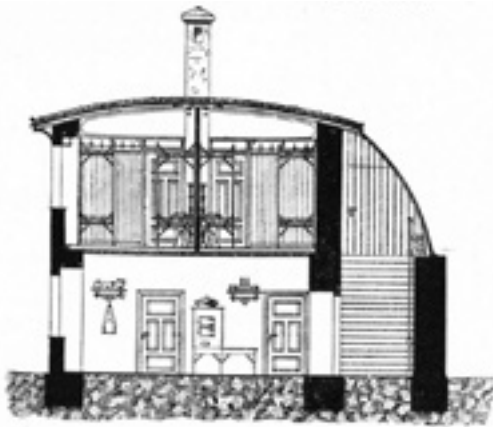
with the horses, the main obstacle Majunke had to overcome was not so much the difficult terrain, which the horses could manage quite well, but instead their fear of the noise from the roaring waterfalls. To avoid them, he blazed a new hiking trail²⁶ using explosives to cut into the rock.

The material was first stored in Hrebienok, then as now the site of a mountain resort hotel, hence it can be presumed that it was accessible by road. The material was also stored in a shelter near Ohnisko, about two to two-and-a-half hours away from the resort. Material continued to be transported to the site but not stored there until the end of the summer of 1898, once the ceiling for the first storey of the mountain lodge had been put in place. Eventually, a total of 51 tonnes of building material and almost three tonnes of construction equipment would be brought to the site.

Building the mountain lodge at Päť Spišských plies

Though a traditional stone building, the lodge was designed to match the progress achieved from the Industrial Revolution and technological discoveries, all of which had incrementally launched an upgrading of how buildings were constructed and pointed the way to the innovations that arrived in the 20th century. Like many other mountain huts and lodges in the alpine zone, Téry Hut uses stone walls, yet the construction of its roof was innovative and can even be considered experimental compared to other buildings constructed at higher elevations of the Alps and Tatras.

Explosives were used to carve out the building's foundation, Portland cement bound the stone together because of its technical advantages over Roman cement. The ceilings and the roofs were made of reinforced concrete with rabbit²⁷ netting: the netting was laid on a grid of steel beams inside the reinforced concrete for the roof and ceilings, which enabled Majunke to



TÉRY HUT – DINING ROOM

TÉRYHO CHATA – INTERIÉR
JEDÁLNE

Source Zdroj: Turisták Lapja, 1901

**GEDEON MAJUNKE – TÉRY HUT.
VIEW FROM THE SOUTHEAST,
CROSS-SECTION**

GEDEON MAJUNKE – TÉRYHO
CHATA. JUHOVÝCHODNÝ POHĽAD,
PRIEČNY REZ

Source Zdroj: Majunke, G., Turisták Lapja,
1900

design less bulky cross-sections. The roof's segmental arch was covered with a wood-cement composite to protect it against frost and moisture. In turn, this fibre cement was protected from the sun by a layer of gravel and another of sod. As a result, Majunke was able to create an extensive segmental turf roof²⁸ underlain with concrete on a grid of steel beams.

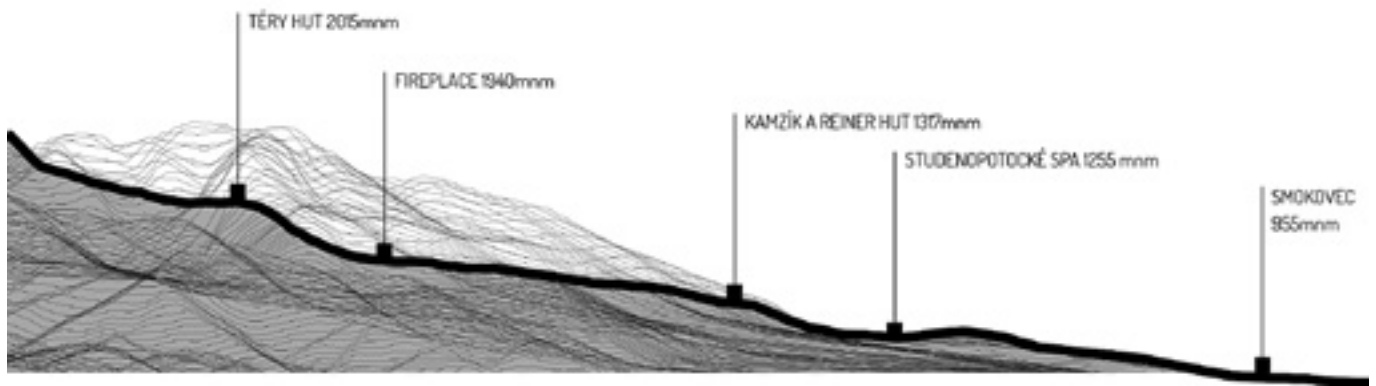
The interior of the building was architecturally designed out of necessity, with decisions were taken to consider all aspects of the physical environment. The challenging terrain and the complications of hauling materials to the site inspired Majunke to recycle the wooden planks he had used as the formwork for the concrete, reworking them as floorboards, wall panelling, or doors. As he had originally wanted to use xylonite for the flooring, the use of recycled boards turned out to be the only recorded change in the design for economic reasons. At the same time, the walls were supposed to be lined with cork boards, but they were not used because of the difficulty of installation. Another contemporary source mentions the decision against the cork boards, and a kind of guarantee Majunke: the cork boards would be installed if the lodge showed structural signs of

dampness over the next two years.²⁹ When the bill was finally settled, the cost of construction was calculated at 18,669.66 crowns. Majunke had overspent the budget by 50%.³⁰

Téry Hut operated by the Magyar Turista Egyesület

When Téry Hut was first opened, it was used by hikers only during the summer season. Contemporary records mention that József Pfinn made an inspection of the lodge and analysed whether any changes or adjustments would have to be made.³¹ Two years later, the MTE reported Téry Hut to have still been in good shape after two winters. During this time, a number of wardrobes, a coffee grinder and carpets around the beds were added. Discussions had also begun about whether a cellar should be dug outside the hut and a gutter installed at its back wall. Majunke resigned as manager two years after the lodge opened, despite efforts by the MTE's directors to persuade him to stay.

In 1902, lightning struck the chimney, damaging it. Additionally, signs of moisture were found seeping into the staircase wall. The first, partial reconstruction of the roof took place in



**CROSS-SECTION OF MALÁ
STUDENÁ DOLINA**
REZ MALOU STUDENOU DOLINOU
Author Autorka: Mária Novotná

**SHELTER FOR LABOURERS AT MALÁ
STUDENÁ DOLINA**
ROBOTNÍCKY PRÍSTREŠOK V MALEJ
STUDENEJ DOLINE
Source Zdroj: Bohuš, I., Tatranské chaty,
2011



1904 when the segmental arch's "asphalt layer" above the staircase was covered with shingles.

Further repairs and renovation were announced in 1911 in a press release, which showed that the roof needed to be reconstructed, with talk of replacing the old roof with sheet metal, though was not clear in the release which part of the segmental roof was affected. Other reports from the MTE suggested the installation of double-glazed windows to replace the original ones and the conversion of the dining room into an emergency overnight room, doubling the lodge's capacity.

Identification of the defects in 1911 developed a year later into a debate about a wooden extension to the building. The issue of the strong mountain winds seemed secondary to the problems faced with the dampness inside the lodge. Antal Plökl and Hans Klauser compared the conditions in the stone building with those in the wooden huts where, according to them, there was no trace of moisture at all. As they stated themselves in their report, a wooden hut in the Malá Fatra range,³² which they compared to Téry Hut's stone structure, was located "a few hundred metres lower in elevation".³³ Although the wooden extension to the Téry Hut was not built until the second half of the 20th century, moisture compounded the problems during the many rainy days during the summer of 1912, during which some of the plasterwork was destroyed and required restoration.

Téry Hut was hardly mentioned in the hiking magazine during World War I, with only minor repairs to it reported. The

architect who designed Téry Hut, Gedeon Majunke, died in 1921. Téry Hut would remain the property of the MTE until 1931 when it was sold by them to the Czechoslovak government.

Conclusion

Creating a metaphorical response to the site where it was constructed, Téry Hut transforms its environment into a volume of the spatial whole. The massive outer walls, composed of solid Tatra granite, contrast with the subtle horizontal construction enclosed by them. Téry Hut is an exceptional example of how new construction processes and technologies were tested in extreme mountain conditions, creating a tension between tradition and innovation as much as between the permanent and ephemeral, while expressing the permanence of safe shelter in a constantly changing mountain environment. Gedeon Majunke took advantage of the timeless construction methods the building industry would apply during the 20th century, and he fundamentally influenced the form modern architecture would take. Téry Hut is considered innovative not just because of the construction materials and processes used, but also from its architectural design. Responding to the environment, the design set off a dialogue between the inside and outside of the building. In the scale of mountain architecture, Téry Hut is seen as an architectural landmark, seeking inspiration in the past and leading to regionalist expressions of (proto)modernism. The design was innovative not just within the Tatra Mountains, but

TÉRY HUT – CONCRETING THE KITCHEN CEILING

TÉRYHO CHATA – BETÓNOVANIE STROPU KUCHYNE

Source Zdroj: Turisták Lapja, 1900



TÉRY HUT DURING THE SUMMER

TÉRYHO CHATA POČAS LETNEJ SEZÓNY

Source Zdroj: nostalgicketatry.sk. História. [online] [Accessed 20 Feb. 2022]. Available at: <http://www.nostalgicketatry.sk/historia/teryho-chata/157-teryho-chata-z-roku-1899>



throughout pre-war Hungary. Indeed, the relevance of constructing a stone building in the alpine zone was later affirmed with the construction of subsequent mountain lodges that share with Téry Hut the same essence in the material used to erect them. The problems encountered there, especially with dampness, are the consequence of several aspects such as the absence of structures in the alpine zone in the late 19th century that could have been benchmarks.

Within the context of the development of alpine architecture in the Tatra Mountains and the Alps, parallels can be traced in building methods and construction materials, as well as the evolutionary processes of the functioning of the lodge. Overnight shelters for climbers and hikers are undergoing social changes

as they turn into day-hike destinations and become more like refreshment and small restaurants than the climbers' overnight shelters they are supposed to be.³⁴ In the present day, the nature of Téry Hut's architecture is entering a volatile period when exceptional design is notably vulnerable to the mass tourism of the 20th century and further developments in the 21st century. Recent extensions neither respect the thoughtful, transparent and rational layout of the original hut, nor its character, which was derived from the environment in which it stands. The original essence of the mountain lodge's construction is significant and deserves to be protected, and at the same time can be inspiring when taking the next step for Téry Hut and other huts and lodges in the High Tatras.

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MGR. ART. MÁRIA NOVOTNÁ

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN BRATISLAVA

Námestie slobody 19
Bratislava
Slovakia

maria.novotna@stuba.sk

1 "Alpine" in this sense applies to one of the altitudinal zonations of vegetation found in mountainous regions. In the High Tatras, this zone starts at an altitude of 1,800 metres.

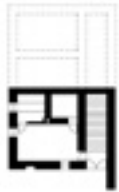
2 DULLA, Matúš and MORAVČÍKOVÁ, Henrieta, 2002. *Architektúra Slovenska v 20. storočí*. Bratislava: Slovart, p. 290.

3 KUSÝ, Martin, 1995. *Architektúra na Slovensku 1848 – 1918*. Bratislava: Bradlo, p. 37.

4 SEMANČÍK, Maroš, 2015. Živé strechy vo Vysokých Tatrách. *Tatranský dvojtýždenník*. 26(16 – 17), p. 12.

5 SEMANČÍK, Maroš, 2017. Architektúra. In: Kollárová, Z. (ed.). *Mesto Vysoké Tatry*. Vysoké Tatry: Mesto Vysoké Tatry, pp. 465 – 468.

6 BĚLA, Václav, 1887. József főherceg nyaralója. *Fővárosi Lapok*. 07, p. 201.



1899 GROUND FLOOR
1899 PRÍZEMIE



2019 GROUND FLOOR
2019 PRÍZEMIE

COMPARISON OF THE ORIGINAL AND CURRENT FLOOR PLAN OF TÉRY HUT

POROVNANIE PÔVODNÉHO A SÚČASNÉHO PÔDORYSU TÉRYHO CHATY

Author Autorka: Mária Novotná



1899 FIRST FLOOR
1899 PRVÉ PODLAŽIE



2019 FIRST FLOOR
2019 PRVÉ PODLAŽIE

7 BOHUŠ, Ivan, 2011. *Tatranské chaty*. Tatranská Lomnica: Ie-B, p. 58.

8 ZVARINYI, Sándor, 1884. Magyarországi Kárpátgyegesület. *Pesti Napló*. **35**, p. 26.

9 *Pesti Napló*, 1888. **12**, p. 223.

10 EGYESÜLETI ÜGYEK, 1891. *A Magyarországi Kárpátgyegesület évkönyve*, **18**. Author of the hut design at Zelené pleso was Emil Schwarz, an architect from Kežmarok. In: EGYESÜLETI HÍREK, 1900, *Turisták Lapja*. **12**, p. 43.

11 EGYESÜLETI ÜGYEK, 1899. *A Magyarországi Kárpátgyegesület évkönyve*, **26**.

12 Dulla, M. and Moravčíková, H., 2002, p. 26.

13 MORAVČÍKOVÁ, Henrieta, 2013. Stavět v Tatrách. In: Petrasová, T. and Plátovská, M., (eds.). *Tvary, formy, ideje*. Praha: Ústav dějin umění Akademie věd, p. 138.

14 DULLA, Matúš and STOLIČNÁ, Elena, 1999. Architektonické diela 20. storočia na Slovensku, Ružomberok, Liptovský Mikuláš, Vysoké Tatry. *Architektúra a urbanizmus*. **33**(3–4), p. 145.

15 Dulla, M. and Moravčíková, H., 2002, p. 26.

16 The section of the European international train network – the Košice-Bohumín Railway – was completed in 1872.

17 Semančík, M., 2015, p. 12.

18 All the events are described in the minutes of the 1900 annual meeting of the MTE, which was published the same year in *Turisták Lapja*, a Hungarian hiking magazine. *Turisták Lapja*, 1900. **12**, pp. 41 – 44.

19 Téry Hut should have been constructed according to Pfinn's designs, adhering to the floor area and minimum dimensions, and built as a reinforced concrete structure (in Hungarian, *vasbeton szerkezet*), yet an option was included to "change the design in consideration of local conditions".

20 MAJUNKE, Gedeon, 1900. A Téry-menedékház építése. *Turisták Lapja*. **12**, pp. 24 – 41.

21 As in traditional rural construction, where the plinth in the terrain became a cellar, partially sunk into the terrain.

22 Dulla, M. and Stoličná, E., 1999, p. 151.

23 "Gánok describes the space under the eaves of a roof along the entrance and part of the house (...), it functioned as a protected link between the living area of the house and a courtyard." *Encyklopédia ľudovej kultúry Slovenska 1* (1995). Bratislava: VEDA, 147 p.

24 Ohnisko=Fireplace, an overhanging rock that served as an emergency shelter in the mountains, named for its covering of ash from campers' fires.

25 DROŽ, Karel, 1902. Ku pěti stavům Spišským. *Časopis turistů*. **14**(3), p. 97.

26 Based on the description of the terrain, this would be today's red trail from Hrebieňok to the trail intersection above Rainer Hut, the oldest of the lodges in the High Tatras. The original trail where the horses were afraid to walk is now the green trail that connects Hrebieňok to the Studený potok waterfall and then the blue trail connecting them to Rainer Hut.

27 The term "rabitz netting" (and the Slovak equivalent of "rabitcový betón") comes from the Hungarian "Rabitz betonnal". The netting could be used to reinforce either the plastering for the segmental arch roofscape or the roof construction itself, as the MTE required in this case. The construction of Téry Hut seems to have been a true pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete and shell structures in architecture, but further research would be required to prove if it had really been as advanced as it appears.

28 This type of turf roof could also be seen at Chata pri Zelenom plese and Sliezsky dom, even though both mountain lodges lie at a lower altitude and in a different vegetation zone. Semančík, M., 2015.

29 Majunke justified his decision in a 1901 article by citing the impossibility of installing support grids on the wall, while an 1899 report had considered them unnecessary. MÁRKI, Sándor, 1899. Két régi magyar turista. *Turisták Lapja*. **11**.

30 As of 1900, two crowns equalled one gulden in Habsburg Hungary. At this rate of exchange, the previously announced budget of 6,000 guildens became 12,000 crowns. MOLNÁR, Péter, 2011. *A korona pénzrendszer bevezetése, megszilárdulása és bukása, különös tekintettel Magyarországra (1892 – 1925)*. Budapest: Svájci Egyesült Kft.

31 The popularity and conditions of Téry Hut, as well as any changes made to it, were documented in editions of *Turisták Lapja* from 1901 to 1944.

32 The article mentioned a mountain shelter with the name of Révay. It was constructed at an elevation of 1,510 metres, so at the edge of the forest and subalpine zones. The lodge burnt down in 1944.

33 FLÖKL, Antal and KLAUSER, Hans, 1912. A menedékházépítés technikája. *Turisták Lapja*. **24**, pp. 62 – 64.

34 DINI, Roberto and GIRODO, Stefano, 2018. Shelters in the Night. The Role of Architecture in the Process of Understanding High-Altitude Areas. *Journal of Alpine Research* [online]. **106**(1) [Accessed 7 May 2021]. Available at: <https://journals.openedition.org/riga/3919?lang=en>