APPENDIX 1

SITE NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS – JOŽE PLEČNIK’S HOUSE
4-6 KARUNOVA STREET, TRNOVO, LJUBLJANA
For: Mr Bernard Davies
bdfg02948@blueyonder.co.uk

Date: 25th September 2001

Subject: VISIT TO LJUBLJANA

Dear Mr Davies,

I got your message. From two or three sentences I realised that you should be very well informed about the architectural and town planning situation in Central Europe. Of course the presentation of Plečnik's Ljubljana in AA-School in London two years ago by Mel Gooding and his book on Plečnik's National and University library is probably just the beginning of the great and very necessary discussion which should be opened as soon as possible. It is very hard to take position who was more successful: western modernists or Plečnik, Loos, and people of their kind. Plečnik and his Ljubljana town planning was discovered in a certain moment when the rigid modern patterns of designing the city were not sufficient any more. Of course this is worth to be discussed.

Please, do define your visit to Ljubljana in October and I shall find some time to talk to you.

Warmest wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Krečič

21/10/01
IVAN MESTROVIC
FEDERICO ZUCCHI

KEY ISSUES

ZALE FUNERARY COMPLEX WHERE? HOW far
FROM CENTRE

BARTOLO CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL WHERE? HOW far
FROM CENTRE. Trad forms from Slovene sources
mixed with concrete columns & modern techniques

SPECIAL MEANING for SLOVENE in J. P.'s WORK!

Catalogue J.P. Architectural Museum Ljubljana / Rizzoli
Centre Paris 1986's

AUGUST CERNIGOT  →  GNIMAR  →  LJUBLJANA

& join SLOVENE MODERNIST MOVEMENT (also) →

VLADIMIR SUSBIC Arch Dept German Tech School Prague
first Slovene SKY SCRAPER 1933 NEBOTICNIK

Tripartite division a la L. S. SULLIVAN

Functionalist/Rationalist mixed with classical & deco.
Many students → VIENNA study under Peter Behrens until Professor VURNIK applied & adopted functionalist principles after visiting L’Ecol
Arts Décoratifs in Paris 1925 → used functionalism as replacement for nationalistic trends, realized these would not meet needs of population concerned with housing problems “it’s How To Secure The Means Available Today Construction-Wise, to completely outfit a dwelling which every diligent worker could afford, that is to repay the invested capital & interest.” Vurnik pursued, these ideals WORKERS HOUSING SETTLEMENT MARIBOR 1927 (one of the first, parallel D‘as with KAREL TEICH, SIBA & WEISENFHOF) e.kh, Berlin 1931!
Also of importance are FRANE TOHARIC Pleinik’s assistant until 1931 rejecting JP’s integration of
chemical & nationalist forms. In favour of a
New Modern Arch. for a Developing Modern
Country e.g. Villa Oblak Ljubljana 1931-33
Rakovnik plan
Used reinforced concrete construction (Auguste Perret)
Combined Glass strip walling & concrete arch to
produce max sunlight & heat, dining room over
greenhouse connecting in. & ext. spaces.
Feri Horvat?
The other imp. arch. Feri Novak! (I know
nothing of him!!) was worked primarily in
Murska Sobota? Where is this!! Studied in
Vienna at Technical University at Peter Behrens
studio → Le Corbusier's atelier in 1938 (for
a few months only!!) Serbeg Family Villa in
Murska Sobota where he strictly followed LC's
five principles: pilotis, roof garden, flexible ground plan, ribbon window
& flexible facade. Never completed due to WWII & later
political changes.
Plemlj The House, 1921-29

Vamnova Street 4-6, Tmavato Suburb, S<linik

Two storey extension, columns left over from shoe makers Bridge, conservatory extension blends into original house. Most unusual arrangement, extension after extension.
Pčinka The Conservatory

Viewed East to West, left over column with vase, across Roman paved courtyard to parish Church of Thove. Fran Saleški Fitzgar Parish Priest, Great Friend. (P.K.)
Indicated of faith.

Favourite arrangement
column that supports,
or does it? Is it a
column? No it’s
re-used Roman
sewer pipes from
Emona. (P.K.)

Mamble
Brick
Terracotta

Funerary Wreath

Oh! a
angle at
almost
front.

Pleuni, Entrance Hall
Wow! What a space, an architectural
retainer on with a fine eye.
Pleinik, Small Reception Room

Tiny space same colour range, reminds of apothecaries shop, a touch of the alchemist as well. Textures in different woods throughout.
Příruč, The Studio

Like all the other main rooms - burnt umber, yellow ochre, burnt sienna. Work tables, plan chest, drawing instruments.

Austerlitz, like living in a Zurbarán, samt religiosität
To a very good fellow
Prewed David in the
compliments

24th Oct 2007

Puki Cwenn