

## REMARKS ABOUT MARGIT B. SZÜCS

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I came to know GITTA SZÜCS, Mrs. BÁNÁT, as a thoroughly dedicated scholar and teacher of architectural history, who lives with all her heart and soul for the profession.

Her two activities, of scholar and teacher, have been inseparably interlaced and interwoven in all aspects of her existence, so that not only her interests and private life, but also her travels have been focused on the two pursuits of research and teaching.

It is hard to single out one area of her studies as being her most important or her favorite topic; but perhaps it is not exaggerated to say that first of all it is the study of the Italian Renaissance, and the work of Leon Battista Alberti, into which she has delved most profoundly. The result of this is the splendid monograph that has been published, and also the collection of studies about the cupola of the Duomo (Cathedral) in Florence, which she pursued over the years, and which we hope will soon be published.

In addition to her profound knowledge, she has been also an enthusiastic teacher — thanks to her ability to write about the historical development in architecture, comprehensively, including French and English historic architecture, with equal accomplishment and on a high scholarly level.

These books are particularly valuable for their up-to-date drawings, diagrams, and photographic illustrations, that reflect the author's individual viewpoint, from an architectural aspect. It is a shame that this series too — specifically the manuscript about English architecture, that was withdrawn from the presses, has fallen victim to the present setbacks.

It was evident from these profound summaries that she was perfectly capable of producing the monograph on Renaissance architecture, which was reprinted several times, and became a successful textbook.

GITTA SZÜCS is among those few who from the very beginning connected the history of architecture with the study of the theory of architecture. She gathered sources from all linguistic areas, and kept up with the critical literature and provided for the gathering of documentation. Thus information and teaching materials regarding contemporary architecture, art, and associated arts were always available to her.

Her books are characterized by a beautiful and high style of Hungarian linguistic expression, as well as a high level of illustrative material. Her collection of slides was also characterized by the rich variety, and discerning selection with which she worked; she lovingly gathered these together to use in her teaching, which she considered to be the most important part of her work.

Although the Department of Architectural Engineering by necessity has a large enrollment, and the tasks are divided among instructors, GITTA SZÜCS was among the most favored, and one who actively cultivated personal contacts with her students.

She kept up with the life of promising students; attentively, they all, and at all times, had access to her helpful advice, encouragement, and direction.

She established this positive student-teacher relationship not only with the students at the University here in Budapest, but with students from all over the country, from other institutions, and from other branches of the profession, ready to help those who turned to her for help. This same tireless enthusiasm characterized the summer practicum courses she directed, surveying historical monuments, and the architectural remains in the field, where she always worked together with her students, mindless of the often severe physical conditions.

All this would seem that on this occasion, I would take the opportunity to overpraise GITTA SZÜCS. I will then hasten to add that, based on the fact that I knew and observed her for many years, my statements here are rather more restrained than exaggerated. I wish, in the name of all of us gathered here, that she may be able to continue both her scholarly activity and research, as well as teaching, which is so close to her heart, in good health, and for many years to come.