

RECAPITULATION BY PROF. GÁBOR

Honoured Conference, dear Friends,

Just let me drop a few words at my heart's desire and some thoughts on my office.

At my heart's desire:

My first word is *thank you* — thanks for being honoured, for the valuation of my work, for the warm, humane words, for the much appreciated friendly gestures;

my second word is that of gratefulness to my profession, to that wonderful profession or rather the admirable calling including all three chief domains: *creation, science* and *teaching* which were granted me — to my great luck — without which my life, my career would have been neither complete, nor successful, nor gratifying.

On my office:

My first thought goes to architecture for which — at least as I believe it — the capacity of dreaming, the brightness of thinking, the wisdom of ponderation, and the humility to serve man and society are all necessary; this profession is unimaginable without the sensitiveness to problems, the capacity of analysis and composition, the versatility of sight, the knowledge of the industrial background, to learn constantly and persist obstinately, addressed truly and beautifully by the poet *András Fodor* as “material given salvation as an edifice”;

my second thought goes to the science of architecture and building, the most complex among technical sciences, its cultivation being always based on the well-meant curiosity of search for the truth, its means the expedient, persistent and open thinking; its chief concern the difficulty of sensibly balancing the threefold — often controversial — condition system of *art, science* and *technique*: and its result the possibility of more beautiful, better building;

my third thought goes to the matter of qualification, education of architects, the formation of specialists, the work involving both architecture and its science and to which I pledged my life, to this magnificent but difficult

work, where one must have not only the knowledge but also the ability to convey it to others, where one does not only love the profession but has to make it to be loved by others, not only make them receptive to ideas but able to independent thinking, and even to creation, and this can only be achieved by understanding and loving youth.

Now let me ask the question whether these three domains can or cannot be cultivated with the same devotion — even if not with the same success. I am convinced this is possible because I believe that the part must serve the entirety. This is why I tried it and profess it.

I am concluding with a confession:

Despite the enormous mass and depressively menacing presence of devastating weapons and means for destruction —

I believe without reservation that architecture and building are going to face more and more increasing, important and grandiose tasks in a world counting on clear intelligence, relying on rational comprehension, wanting true social justice and man's progress, in a world of reasonable and efficient though humane and beautiful establishment; and

I also believe unconditionally that our present architecture is able to these achievements in spite of suffering from sharp contradictions and many worries, being disturbed by uncertainties inherent to seeking new ways, often threatened by mistakes of unripeness, by risks of unproven theories and untested materials; and

I don't falter believing that — by unfolding and fast developing nearly the entire spectrum of its domain — today's science of architecture is also theoretically completely prepared to shoulder its immense tasks scaled up from house to town; finally

I believe also without doubt that in this world of ours, the building industry of today — concentrating a wealth of financial and technical assets — is practically able to achieve immense tasks, special by dimensions, features or circumstances, often extremely concentrated in space and time.

Thank you once more.

László GÁBOR