

## REGNUM MARIANUM CHURCH

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### Abstract

The community of Regnum Marianum was formed at the beginning of the twentieth century as a result of the clergy's attempts at modernisation. The new vocation of priests consisted in the education and tuition of youth.

The construction of the original parish-church began in 1925 on the border of Városliget (City Park) in Budapest and it was finished in 1931, but the building was destroyed after World War II, in 1951. The Regnum Marianum community was brought to a new life in 1989 with the approval of the Archbishopric of Esztergom-Budapest. The establishment of its new spiritual and religious centre was begun at Zoborhegy Square in Outer Zugló with the construction of the community wing of the building.

Later a church was built joined to the community building with a connective wing. The basement of the church houses an auditorium holding 260 people, and a stage.

The construction of the church was carried out with the application of traditional building structures, the load-bearing structure of the cover was constructed of steel frames and transverse ribs.

Construction began in the summer of 1995 and the church was consecrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 1996.

*Keywords:* Regnum Marianum, church construction, church.

Regnum Marianum Church

Zoborhegy Square, Zugló

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
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| Structural Engineering: | Szlávik Tibor     |
|                         | Keszthelyi József |
| Sanitary Engineering:   | Kovács László     |
| Electric system:        | Kelemen Ferenc    |
| Geodesy:                | Dr. Dede Károly   |
| Builder:                | Gilt Kft.         |

### 1. Chronicle

Prohászka Ottokár, the spiritual director of the Seminary of Esztergom in the 1890s considered it his vocation to educate a new generation of a modern type of priests, the primary calling of whom would be dedication to the youth. Priests educated by him bought a house in Damjanich Street (District VII, Budapest), where they lived

together. They were occupied as religious instructors and the leaders of associations. Their community was named Regnum Marianum.



*Fig. 1.* Regnum Marianum church, completed in 1931

Regnum Marianum later established a boarding-school for accommodation, clothing, provision and education of extremely poor children. They were organised in troops of scouts and Mary congregations, personal relationships were formed.

It was in the wake of a decision by Csernoch János, archbishop of Esztergom, that the Regnum Marianum parish was called to life in the district, in May, 1919, to create a home for the association with the same name, which had modern views and applied a modern methodology. The church functioned as a religious and cultural centre and organised programmes for the association and young people.

The building site was designated not far from Damjanich Street, on the border of Városliget (City Park). The building was designed by Kotsis Iván, professor of the University of Technology. Construction began in 1925 and was completed in 1931 *Figs. 1-2.*

The church was of imposing proportions as befitted a cathedral (circa 1800 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space), in the style of the Southern France, with long flights of stairs and a dome. The official name of the church was Magna Domina Hungarorum.

During and following World War II almost all values were shaken. The suppression of the Regnum movement ultimately led to its dissolution and the destruction of the church. The building was blown up in September, 1951.

The basement of the church houses an auditorium of a holding capacity of 260 people, a stage and supplementary rooms for the service of the community.



*Fig. 2.* Regnum Marianum church, completed in 1931

## 2. Implementation

Cardinal Paskai approved the revitalisation of a new Regnum community. Father Hajnal György set to the building of the new Regnum Marianum with strong faith at Zoborhegy Square in Outer Zugló.

Construction began with the community building. The Crypt was consecrated in 1992, where room was reserved for pious tribute and the placement of urns. Instructors are constantly employed in the organisation of creative sessions of craftsmanship, a choir, language courses and computer training with the guidance of experts. A library and an exhibition of local history have also been later installed. Accommodation has been provided for the resident training. Regular cultural and sports programmes are organised for healthy and disabled children and there is a continuous charity work for solitary old people.

In 1994 time was ripe for the further expansion of the spiritual and mental centres of the community, the building of a new church instead of the earlier destroyed one. Financial conditions were secured by supporters in an expansive collaboration in Hungary and abroad.

Preliminary implementation plans (*Fig. 3*) were devised upon request from the Regnum Marianum priesthood in November, 1994, for the church connected to the community building. Both buildings were required to function as a conjoined architectural unit.

The floor plan of the church building was designed on the basis of accessible data and according to functional requirements and it was joined to the already existing community building with a connective wing. (*Fig. 4*).

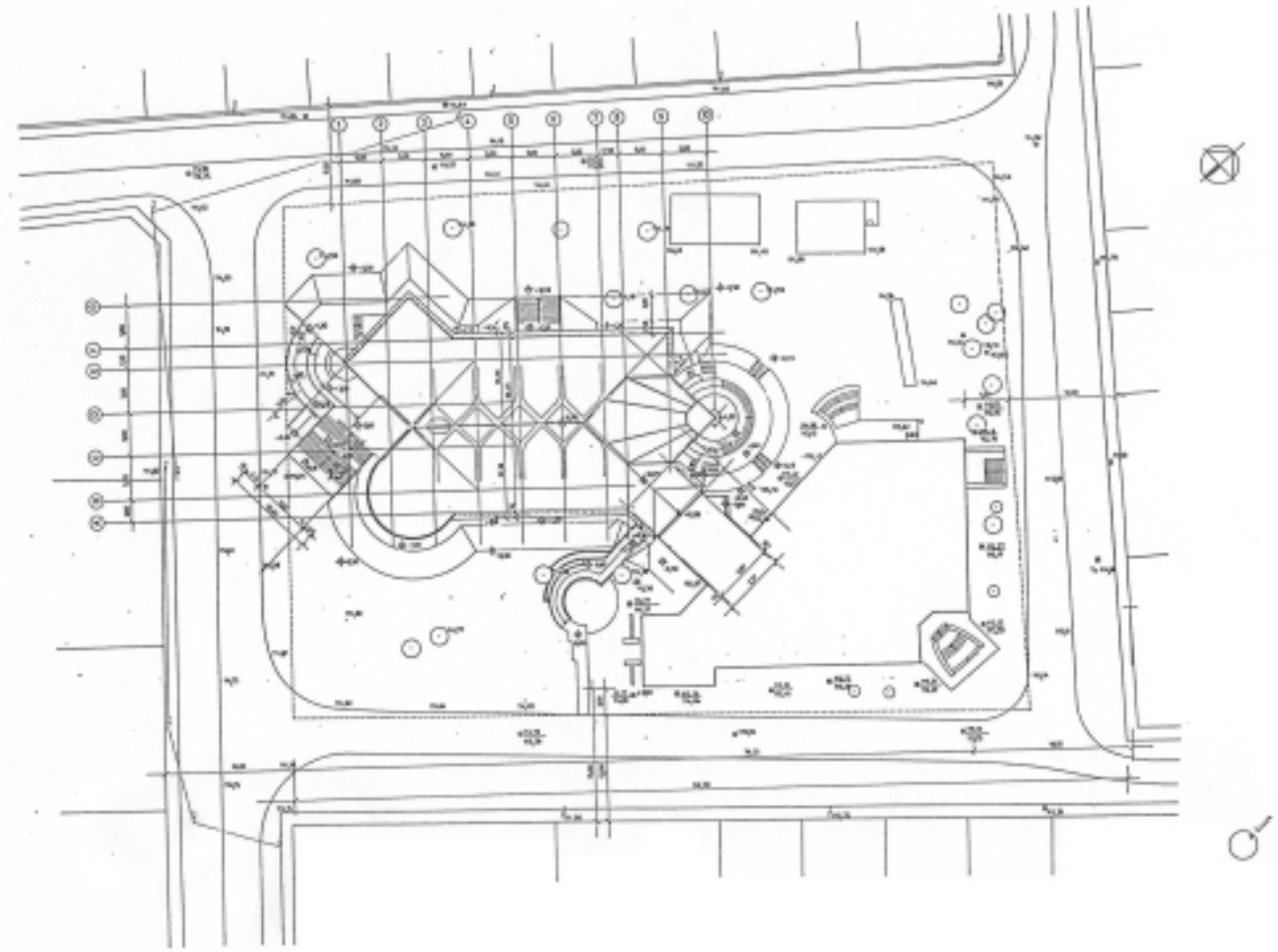


Fig. 3. Plan E-0: Key plan

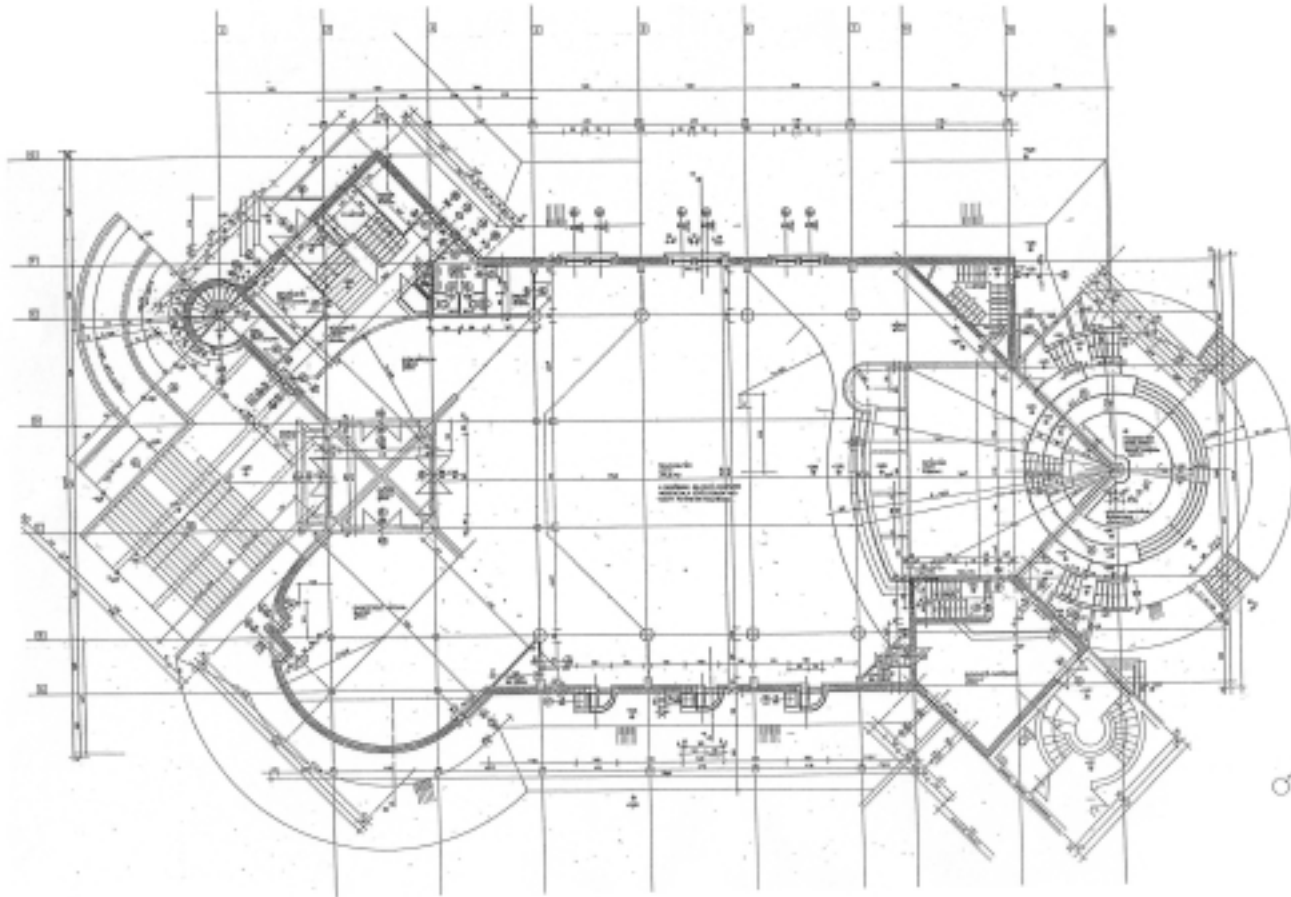


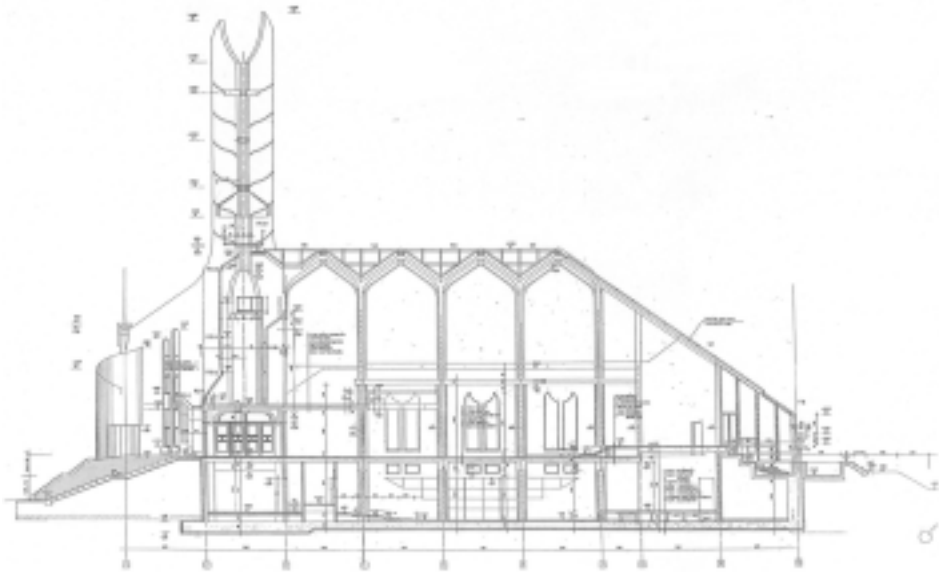
Fig. 4. Plan E-2: Plan of the ground floor

The church above (holding 300 people) houses a baptismal font behind the altar area and chapels situated close to the entrance. The supplementary functional requirements of the church (parish office, sacristy and the dressing-room of the ministrants) had already been provided in the community building. The gallery above the chapels incorporates the structure of the tower and it can hold 140 people.

A tender documentation was devised in January, 1995, which was accepted by the Regnum Marianum parish, and the Archbishopric of Esztergom-Budapest approved the conclusion of the contract for designing. All previous documents were regarded as binding information in the preparation of the working drawings.

### 3. Structures

The plane of foundation was chosen above the design level of the ground-water. The foundation consists of a reinforced concrete base slab, series of piles were built based on a deposit of gravel in the area under the bell-tower to carry the additional load. Bituminized board was applied for insulation against soil moisture.



*Fig. 5.* Plan E-7: Longitudinal section

The 30-cm thick perimeter walls of the basement were built of monolithic reinforced concrete. The internal load-bearing structure consists of reinforced concrete pillars holding transverse beams. The floor slabs are made of reinforced concrete (*Fig. 5*).

The perimeter walls of the building on the church floor were built of Porotherm



*Fig. 6.* Plan E-9: Entrance elevation

38 building bricks reinforced by wall pillars spaced in harmony with the internal pillars and ring beams. The top of the pillars and the internal columns (with a diameter of 60 cm) was connected by beams sized 30 cm by 50 cm to carry the horizontal load of the roof structure.

The internal carcass holds double-body steel frames functioning as main rafters carrying a system of transverse ribs and defining the plane of the roof (*Fig.7*). The load-bearing structure of the glass roof above the altar area and the baptismal font was formed out of hot-rolled hollow sections (produced by British Steel). The dividing floor (gallery) is a 20 cm thick slab of reinforced concrete, which is basically a mushroom construction without its head.

The bell-tower consists of 33 cm thick blade walls of reinforced concrete and the necessary cross binding made of reinforced concrete and steel. It was built with creeping formworks. The bells were installed on the outside which required the construction of a foot-path under and a protective canopy above them. The tower was built under continuous geodetic supervision (*Fig.6*).

### 3.1. *The Roof of the Building*

- The rafters hold steel purlins, which carry the load of the wooden rafting (and the internal heat insulation). TEGOLA bituminized slate was applied for covering the roof on the closed board sheeting. The supplementary metalwork was made of 0.6 mm thick copper sheet plate. Builders used ‘THERMAX M’ cover plates attached to CD steel ribs to form the internal crust of the plane of the roof (*Fig. 8*).
- The SCHÜCO SK60 system has been applied to create the structure of the skylight windows and the glass roofs. The glazing had to be chosen with regard to the varying shading and safety requirements depending on the function and the place of instalment.

### 3.2. *Doors and Windows*

- The wooden doors and windows in the perimeter walls were built of heat-insulating glazing and/or lead glazing.
- The SCHÜCO FW50 system was applied in the glass walls (baptistery area).
- Plank-lined doors with specially ordered leaves of decorative frames were installed in functionally highlighted areas.

### 3.3. *Floor Structure*

- Generally, paved floating floors were built.
- Expansion gaps were left between the floor panels in the rooms with floor heating allowing thermal expansion of the heating concrete.
- The stage was built of strip floor laid on a timber structure.

### 3.4. *Surface Finish*

- The surface of internal walls was plastered and painted with a dispersed dyestuff.
- The surface of external walls was covered with a thin TERRASIL facing crust. The corona is formed by AUSTROTHERM decorations glued to the facing crust.
- The stairs have a slip-proof granite-porcelain covering.
- The wooden doors and windows were dyed in TIKKURILA transparent stain and painted with body colour, metal structures have a coat of paint.





*Fig. 7.* The frame-structure of the cover



*Fig. 8.* The structure of the roof



*Fig. 9.* Entrance side

Construction began in the summer of 1995 and the building was consecrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1996 (*Fig. 9*). Financial resources ran dry in the course of the construction, consequently internal covering, heating and ventilation were not finished by the time of the consecration. External doors and windows and glazed roofs were substituted by temporary solutions. Ecclesiastical objects and parts of the destroyed previous church have been left unharmed and these have been exhibited in distinguished locations inside and outside the new church.