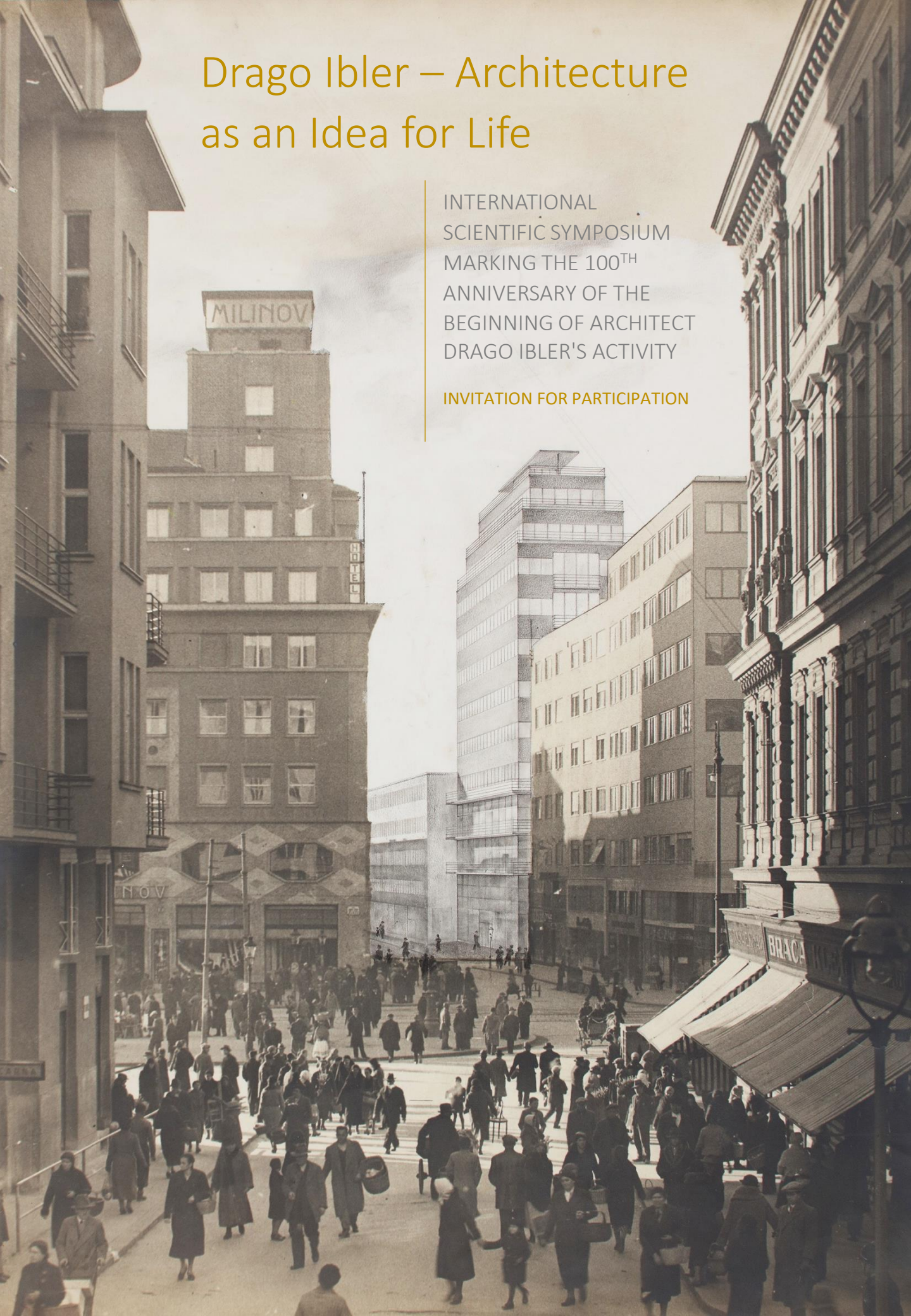


# Drago Ibler – Architecture as an Idea for Life

INTERNATIONAL  
SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM  
MARKING THE 100<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BEGINNING OF ARCHITECT  
DRAGO IBLER'S ACTIVITY

INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION







CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS  
 Croatian Museum of Architecture  
 Ivana Gorana Kovačića 37, 10000 Zagreb

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Architect Drago Ibler belongs to the generation of Croatian architects who – in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century – brought to the conclusion the negation of the classicist architecture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, commenced the study of the tenets of the modern functionalist architecture, and created the landmarks of the future architecture. Educated in Dresden and Berlin, trained at Poelzig's studio, and a member of CIAM, he was highly familiar with the top architectural tendencies, and in his projects and realisations, he suggested their implementation. As professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb, the Faculty of Architecture in Geneva, and the State Architecture Workshop in Zagreb, he educated new generations of the leading Croatian architects. As designer, he planned and accomplished the key monuments of Croatian architecture. As founder and leader of *Zemlja* – association of visual artists, he united visual artists with the aim of affirming and communicating progressive artistic and social tendencies. As chair of the then Yugoslav Association of Architects, he fought for the dignity of the profession and the quality of architecture. Drago Ibler was a dominant protagonist who introduced international architectonics in Croatian architecture in order to introduce Croatian architecture in international architectonics.

A summarised survey of architect Drago Ibler's versatile activity calls for detailed scientific elaboration of the following: life, career, influences, teaching, comparison, collaboration, regularity, synthesis, innovation, architectonics.



By organising a scientific symposium on architect Drago Ibler (1894 –1964), creator of a sequence of anthological works and one of the founders of the Zagreb Circle of Architects, Croatian Museum of Architecture celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the author's activity. As early as in his university years, starting in 1920, Ibler took part in a number of architectural competitions in support of social and artistic challenges of the period. In his oeuvre and during his multifaceted career, he had for decades insisted on promoting the progressive principles of architectural shaping, ranging from the creativity of expressionism and the new reality of the 1920s to the modernity of the international style of the 1930s and the poetic functionalism of the 1950s. Special merits for gaining a finer scholarly insight into architect Drago Ibler's creative personality go to Željka Čorak, Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, who presented Ibler's oeuvre *in the function of a mark* – as a paradigm of the era in which modern architecture was created.

The leading idea of this scientific symposium is to review Ibler's creative, teaching and professional stands; define their importance and influences on the later trends in Croatian architecture, up to the current reflections; and place his life and career in the international context. In the attempt to achieve this, we followed Ibler's idea of *architecture as an idea for life*, which he formulated in his introductory speech at the opening of the First Congress of Yugoslav Architects, as well as in the syntagm of the programmatic declaration of the Association *Zemlja* of 1929 – *because art and life are one*.

Topical units that may be of use in choosing the contentual framework of presentations:

1. **IN SUPPORT OF ARCHITECTURAL EXPRESSIONISM** – training at Hans Poelzig's Architectural Master Studio in Berlin and orientation towards expressionism.
2. **KRLEŽA ON IBLER** – *Slučaj arhitekta Iblera / Case of Architect Ibler* (1924) in the context of the earliest competition entries in Zagreb: characteristic features of expressionism and social monumentalism.
3. **PARIS EXHIBITION OF 1925** – Ibler's triple role: designer of the interior of the theatre section of the pavilion of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes at the *Grand Palais*; exhibitor; member of international jury voting for Le Corbusier.
4. **CHANGE OF TREND IN THE 1930s** – architecture of international functionalism; influence of milestones such as the CIAM declaration (1928) and exhibitions of the Werkbund (*Weißenhof*) on the development of his oeuvre.
5. **TEACHING ACTIVITY** – importance of Ibler's Department of Architecture at the Academy of Arts (1926–1942), and the afterwar Department of Artistic Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb (1959–1960).
6. **IBLER AND ZEMLJA (1929–1935)** – co-founder and leader of the association; oeuvre ranging from new housing typology to social institutions such as insurance offices and hospitals.
7. **COLLABORATION WITH DRAGO GALIĆ** – review of masterworks such as the study of the housing block in Novakova Street or the wooden villa Filipčić as models of economic and healthy housing construction.
8. **ARCHITECTURAL MASTER WORKSHOP** – formative importance of professional and artistic postgraduate training under the mentorship of master-architect Drago Ibler (1952–1964).
9. **IN SUPPORT OF POETIC FUNCTIONALISM** – achievements of the afterwar oeuvre; importance of the *Wooden or Ibler's Skyscraper* in Martićeva Street as an inarguable symbol of the Zagreb modernity.



Speakers are kindly asked to send their draft presentation including title and summary, and stating their name, surname and affiliation (up to 800 characters with spaces) by **30 June 2020** to DSc Iva Ceraj, symposium coordinator, to the following e-mail address: iceraj@hazu.hr; cc: hmamuzej@hazu.hr. Participants will be informed about the acceptance of their presentation by **15 July 2020**.

The symposium is planned to be held on **9 December 2020** at the Library of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts or in the format of digital conference, depending on the possibilities and COVID-19 protective measures actual at the time. Envisaged duration of a presentation is 15 minutes.

Participants are kindly asked to prepare their presentation by **15 March 2021** in order to be included in the Proceedings of the Symposium, respecting thereby the guidelines they will be informed about following the acceptance of their presentation.

#### Scientific Committee:

- Željka Čorak, FCA, Department of Literature of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Mladen Obad Šćitaroci, FCA, Secretary of the Department of Fine Arts of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Andrija Mutnjaković, FCA, Honorary Director of the Croatian Museum of Architecture of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Prof. Emer. DSc Hildegard Auf-Franić, Faculty of Architecture of the University of Zagreb
- Prof. DSc Rudolf Klein, Architecture and Civil Engineering Szent István University, Budapest
- Prof. MSc Tadej Glažar, Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana
- DSc Katarina Horvat-Levaj, Institute of the History of Art, Zagreb
- Ass. Prof. DSc Borka Bobovec, Croatian Museum of Architecture of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

#### Organisation Committee:

- Ass. Prof. DSc Borka Bobovec
- DSc Iva Ceraj
- Ana-Marija Zubović
- Andrijana Pozojević

Croatian Museum of Architecture of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts



CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS  
Croatian Museum of Architecture  
Ivana Gorana Kovačića 37  
10000 Zagreb  
hmamuzej@hazu.hr