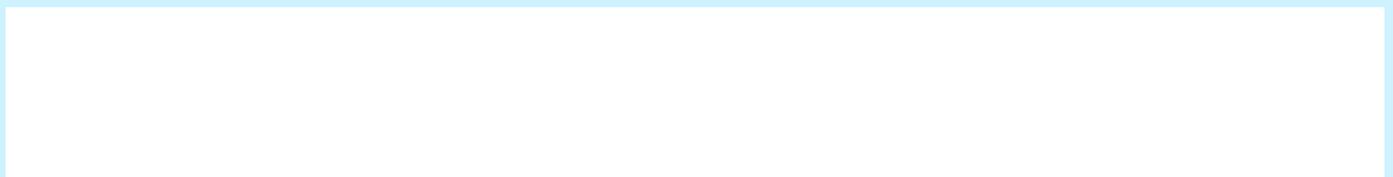


# GRÖSSLING



# CONTENTS

## 1. AIM OF THE RENOVATION 3

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCALITY, BROADER RELATIONS 4

Location 4

Locality 5

Broader context to the surrounding location 5

## 3. BATH TRADITION IN SLOVAKIA 6

City bath as a social meeting place 6

Change of the city bath typology 6

## 4. GRÖSSLING CITY BATH 8

History of Grössling City Bath 8

From Bad Pozsony to Grössling 10

War era 12

Grössling Bath's shift

to other forms of use 13

Current state of the Grössling

City Bath 13

Future of the Grössling City Bath 13

Target groups of the Grössling

City Bath 14

Categorization of visitors 14

## 5. CITY LIBRARY IN GRÖSSLING 15

History of the City Library 15

Current state of the City Library 15

Future of the City Library

in Grössling 16

Principal functions of the City Library within the Grössling context 16

Socialisation — a place for spending the free time 16

Education — a place where knowledge is gathered 16

Cultural and social aspect — a place for events 17

Target groups of the City Library in Grössling 17

Categorization of visitors 17

Café in Grössling 18

Residential zone in Grössling 18

## 6. GRÖSSLING PROGRAMME 19

A1. City Bath — interactive zone 20

Entrance hall 20

Changing rooms and sanitary facilities 20

Part with pools 21

Refreshments area 21

Massages and other therapeutic procedures 21

Administrative premises and facilities 21

A2. City Bath — resting zone 22

Changing rooms and sanitary

facilities 22

Part with saunas 22

Part with pools = saltwater pool (at the discretion of the Entrants) 22

B1. Library 23

Entrance 23

Selfcheck 23

Self-service machines 24

Open access shelves 24

Study facilities — workshop room 24

Administrative premises and facilities 24

B2. Café 25

Premises of the café 25

Open space 25

B3. Residency zone 26

Residential accommodation 26

## 7. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS 27

Calculation and design of capacities 27

Public spaces requirements 27

Technological facilities requirements 27

Static transport requirements 28

Implementation in stages

requirements 28

Expected investment costs 28

# 1. AIM OF THE RENOVATION

Grössling City Bath is an iconic building in Bratislava. It reached its prime in 1914 when the original object was extended by a swimming pool, three sitting pools and saunas. This period is considered as the most significant and we would like to restore its value also to the Grössling City Bath. During the hundred years of its existence, the Bath went through many construction modifications. The corner building at Kúpeľná and Medená street was used for administrative purposes until 2007, but the Bath last served its original purpose in 1994. Since then, the building complex is falling into disrepair and it's unused.

On the one hand, this long-term unresolved state creates a construction and technical problem with the maintenance of the monument, on the other the perception of the bath function and its irreplaceable social and cultural position for the creation of quality life in the municipal environment vanishes over time. The non-functional object does not communicate with its surroundings and does not offer the residents the possibility to participate in the public space. The city of Bratislava has come up with an intention to restore the original recreational function of the former Grössling Bath.

In line with today's trend to create spaces that provide a combination of different features to its users, the restoration plan envisages a combination of both city bath and library function by moving one of the City library department to these premises. By adding the educational and cultural function, the building becomes a fully-fledged public institution open to public.

The main concept of linking these two functions is „the immersion“. On the one hand, it represents the immersion into the bath atmosphere, a place for relaxation and rest, and on the other hand, it represents the immersion into books and the calm space of the library. Both functions offer the visitors the possibility to relax and gain new impulses. The two separated spaces shall be interconnected by a café which, together with the park at Medená street, is a part most open to the public. The park should become the meeting point both of the local inhabitants and the Grössling visitors. The connection of various activities and spaces of public institutions is a proven operating model which contributes to their sustainability and adaptation to the new forms and methods of free time activities.

During the design, it is necessary to maintain diversity and sensitivity with regard to the residents with various financial and social possibilities in order to avoid the withdrawal of the most vulnerable ones, such as seniors, people with lower income or health limitations.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCALITY, BROADER RELATIONS

### LOCATION

The object has a perfect location on the riverbank of the river Danube, at a walking distance from the historic city centre, bus station, and shopping centre Eurovea. Within the radius of about 700 m there are significant historical buildings, cultural and educational institutions (Slovak National Theatre, Slovak National Gallery, Slovak National Museum, two faculties of Comenius University, University Library, sacral monuments...). The area has a good connection to the public transport and road network, with public transport stops at a walking distance (Šafárikovo námestie (sq/finare), Štúrovo námestie (square)), as well as public parking lots.



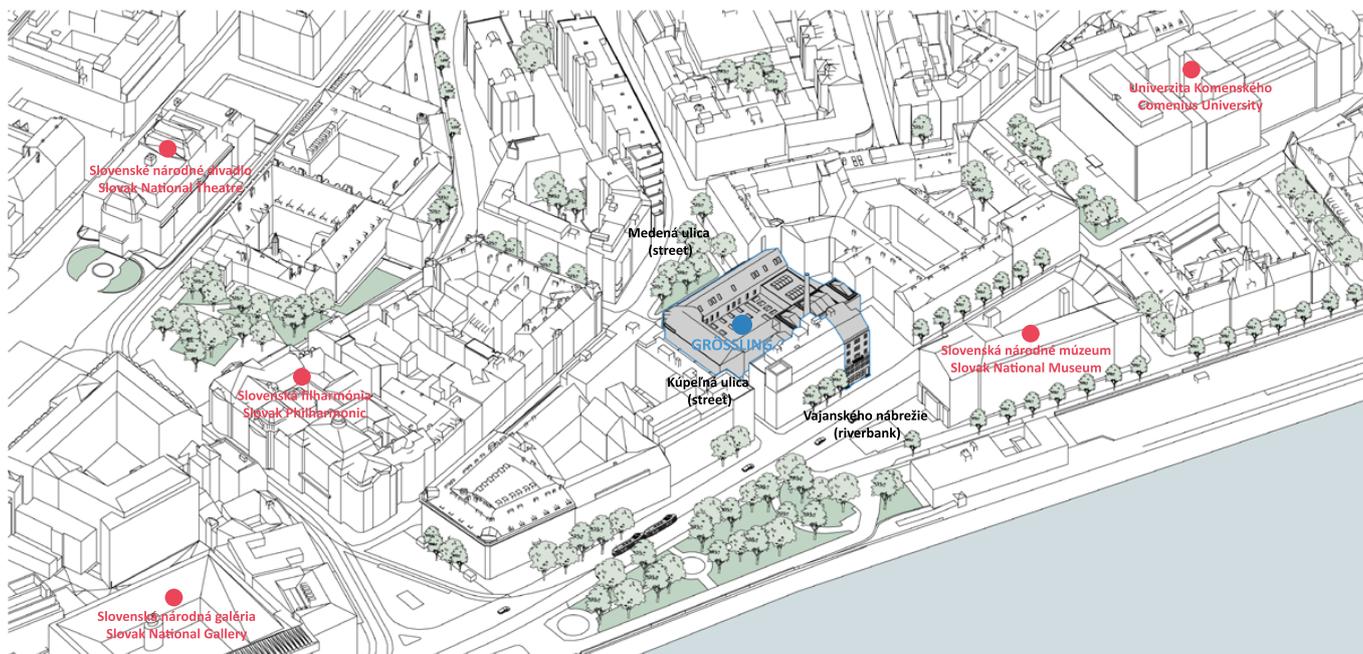
Location of the Grossling building within the city (broader context)

## LOCALITY

The Bath is situated in Bratislava's historically significant area. It is formed by a complex of buildings in the cadastral area of Staré Mesto, bounded by Vajanského nábrežie (riverbank) in the south, Kúpeľná ulica (street) in the west and Medená ulica (street) in the north. Medená street was originally named Grösslingová and that where the Bath's name was taken from. The northern face of the object is situated on the wider part of the street which creates a small public space.

## BROADER CONTEXT TO THE SURROUNDING LOCATION

The City Bath is located in an urban residential zone in close vicinity to the corner building of Kotva insurance company designed by the architect Bedřich Brettschneider in 1930. This building originally included offices of the insurance company's branch and apartments. With part of its north-east façade, the Grössling Bath touches the residential building designed by the architect Jindřich Merganc. A residential building designed by architects Julián Hauskrecht and Štefan Svetko in 1974, which is significant for its architectonic design and urbanistic incorporation into the context of historical buildings, is located on the opposite side of Medená street.



Axonometry of the Grössling's nearest surroundings.

# 3. BATH TRADITION IN SLOVAKIA

Despite the fact that Slovakia belongs to the countries with a developed bath tradition with the rich natural resources of mineral and thermal water completing the vast facilities of complex balneotherapy services, the city bath tradition in Slovakia is neither very rich, nor culturally rooted. The city bath as a typology was established in Slovakia in the 1930s. Unlike medical baths they are not conditioned by the occurrence of a source of thermal water and in the past they were primarily used for hygienic and cleansing functions due to their location in the urban environment. In this case, the thermal water is replaced by heated water drawn from a well.

## City bath as a social meeting place

The city bath enabled the boom of body care outside of the hygienic scope, and especially in the 19th century the bath care in Hungary became the symbol of bourgeois comfort. The reconstruction or extension of the Grössling Bath in 1914 partially reflected this fact – a shift in the understanding of the city bath function which gradually became a popular meeting point of townsmen (and it remained so even after the change of political regimes). The important function of this „social“ factor is shown also by the fact that the pools in that period were intentionally built in such a length that they could not be used for swimming competitions and the recreation and social function could not be gradually eliminated by the sporting function. This can be also seen in the case of the Grössling Bath.

Besides Grössling, other city baths were opened in Slovakia as individual buildings, however, only in bigger cities, e.g. the City Steam Bath in Košice at Drevný trh dating from 1889 or in Trnava from 1930. We can also mention the open-air pool Červená hviezda in Košice from 1936, designed by the architect Ľudovít Oelschläger, or the famous open-air pool with indoor swimming pool Eva at Kúpeľný ostrov (Bath Island) in Piešťany from 1933, designed by architects Franz Wimmer and Endre Szónyi.

## CHANGE OF THE CITY BATH TYPOLOGY

In the second half of the 20th century, the city bath as a typology did not develop any further in the Slovak towns. The typology of objects named as

city bath resembled more swimming pools. This is also related to the fact that after 1959, the bath became a legislatively defined term reserved for natural thermal baths. The towns situated in the vicinity of natural mineral and thermal springs, as well as mountain climate areas, have always been regarded as traditional baths in a Slovak context.

Later, from the 1960s, the gradual emphasis on sporting recreation led to the establishment of dozens of indoor swimming pools which, in addition to the standard swimming pool, incorporated the services of steam baths into their interiors – a steam bath and even a dry sauna to a limited extent. In Bratislava this caused the establishment of still popular places for sport and recreation – in 1966 it was the open-air pool Delfin designed by the architect Karol Paluš, and swimming pool Pasienky built between 1962 – 1974, designed by the architect Kamil Kosman.

### **ROMAN BATH HERITAGE: EMPHASIS ON A VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS**

The earliest traces of baths in the territory of Bratislava are from the period of the Roman Empire. The foundations of a Roman bath of circular type were discovered in the area of the city district Dúbravka (Veľká lúka). In ancient Rome the baths were used by all social classes and served for relaxation and cleansing, as well as for social activities (lectures, discussions), and gradually became the centre of social life.

A characteristic feature of Roman bath complexes was the division of the layout, which enabled easy orientation and passing through the individual parts of the object (circular corridors). The essence of the organisational principle was to enable individual and social form of relaxation. After their closure, the Roman baths served as an inspiration for the creation of Turkish baths (hamam). In many cases they even took over the organisation principle of the circular corridor which led around the columns supporting the central dome of the building.

# 4. GRÖSSLING CITY BATH

## HISTORY OF GRÖSSLING CITY BATH

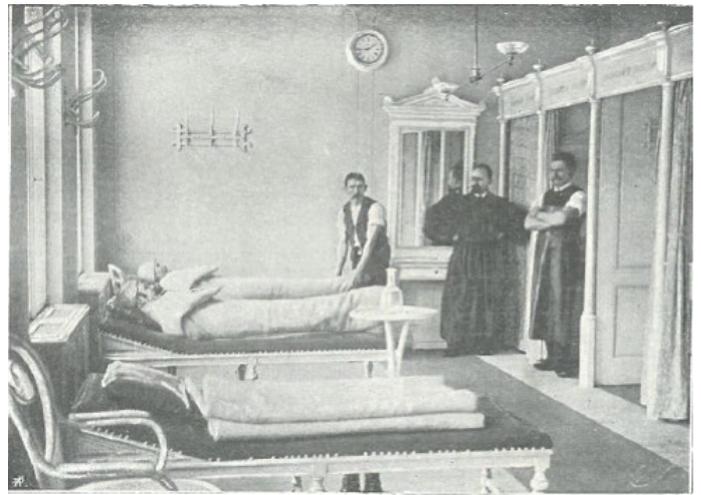
In May 1895 the city bath named „Pozsony fürdő“ (the oldest inscription on the building’s façade above the entrance), also known as „Bad Pozsony“ in German, was opened at the corner of today’s Medená and Kúpeľná street. (At the beginning of the 20th century, three languages were spoken in Bratislava, Pressburg being its German name and Pozsony being its Hungarian name). The neighbouring plot (corner of today’s Kúpeľná street and Vajanského nábrežie, originally Justiho rad) served a similar function even before, since the 18th century there was a small bath facility, the so-called Binderhoferov kúpeľný inštitút (Binderhofer Bath Institution). Based on the work by Tivadar Ortvay (Úlice a námestia Bratislavy, 1905), these balneo-baths were extended in 1774 and ceased to exist in 1902. The new bath named Bad Pozsony at the adjacent corner became popular very quickly. At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, bathrooms were not yet part of the basic standard of residential houses or apartments and, therefore, the majority of visitors visited this place for complete body cleansing.

According to the advertisement in the local daily newspaper Nyugatmagyarországi Híradó, the bath „Pozsony fürdő – Bad Pozsony“ from 1895 also offered various levels of bath comfort – from the hygienic standard of the 3rd class – showers, balneo and steam baths for men and women, to the 2nd class mineral and aromatic bath procedures and inhalation, up to the highest 1st class of services of the hydrotherapy institution with the state-of-the-art equipment – electrotherapy, massages and rehabilitation exercises.

„It is clear, that the bath management from the beginning aimed to offer the visitors a wide range of hydrotherapy services in addition to satisfying their basic hygienic needs. Thus, the Minister of Interior, Dezső Perczel, after several months of being in operation, granted the facility the status of a healing bath (Regulation no. 64113/95) based on a proposal of the Priemyselná banka (Industrial Bank) and since then it has been called the hydrotherapeutic and bath institution Pozsony. Most often the patients came here to treat their spinal problems, neuroses, blood diseases, stomach problems, problems with kidneys and bladder, muscle and joint aches, diabetes or obesity,“ as stated by László Borka in his article ‘Bad Pozsony – takmer storočné kúpele’ (Bad Pozsony - almost a century-old bath) on the basis of the historical materials.

As stated by Viera Obuchová in her book 'Príbehy z dejín Bratislavy' (Stories from Bratislava's history), the newly opened bath immediately gained a very good reputation, which is proven by the fact that it was awarded a medal of honour at the Millennium Exhibition in 1896.

The magazine 'Ezeréves Magyarország' (Thousand-year-old Hungary) from 1897 mentions the bath "Pozsony" as one of the most modern healing institutions in the region. About the bath director, doctor Maximilian Schlesinger, it says that for many years he had worked in the biggest and oldest hydrotherapeutic institution on the continent, in Vöslau-Gainfarn, with the respected expert Sigmund Friedmann, and after gaining professional experience, returned to Pressburg. Among other things, the advertisement mentions procedures such as a salt bath with iodine and bromine.



Grössling Bath in pictures from 1897.

**,POZSONY' fürdő intézet  
megnyitása.**

Ezen új, a legmodernabb rendszerű, minden kényelemmel ellátott és a mai tudomány magaslatán álló, minden orvosi segéd-szerrel felszerelt fürdőintézet megnyitása május hó 5-én reggeli 6 óra-kor lesz.

Az intézetnek következő osztályai vannak :

<p><b>I. osztály.</b> Vizgyógyintézet urak és nők számára. Massage, Electrotherapia és gyógytornászat stb.</p>	<p><b>II. osztály.</b> Gyógyfürdők. Franzensbadi-, lap-, lap-kivonatfürdők; darkani jód bromsó-, fenyő kivonat-, vas- és kátrány fürdők. Gyógyhatású belelegzések</p>	<p><b>III. osztály.</b> I. Gőz-, zuhany-, medence-fürdők, uszoda. Uszólecek uraknak és hölgyeknek. II. Kádfürdők, I. oszt. uraknak, hölgyeknek. III. Kádfürdők, II. oszt. uraknak és hölgyeknek.</p>
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Egész évben nyitva.

Tulajdonos : **A pozsonyi iparbank.** Orvosi vezető : **dr. Schlesinger Miksa.**

Grössling Bath, advertisement from 1st stage of Grössling Bath

## FROM BAD POZSONY TO GRÖSSLING

The project of the building, which up to this day forms the street line of the bath block from Kúpeľná and Medená street, was designed by Viennese architect Adalbert Swoboda in 1893, the author of the Zentralbad bath in Vienna. The period press after the bath opening described the visitor's journey in detail: „The first door leads into a spacious changing room with comfortable cubicles. From this longitudinal room we get to a smaller room with a mirror bath in lukewarm water. The nearest door opens into a room full of steam. This room is followed by a massage room from which we can walk into a spacious room with a large mirror bath. Here, the visitor can fully enjoy pleasant bathing, until he sets forth to the changing rooms. The nearest room includes a smaller pool with cold water, where the visitor can cool his warmed up body. Visitor passes through another room where his body is wiped dry, he gets clean clothing and in this costume he enters the atelier of barbers and personnel removing corns. In this room he can rest, read the newspaper, have his hair cut, have the corns removed – everything as he wishes.“

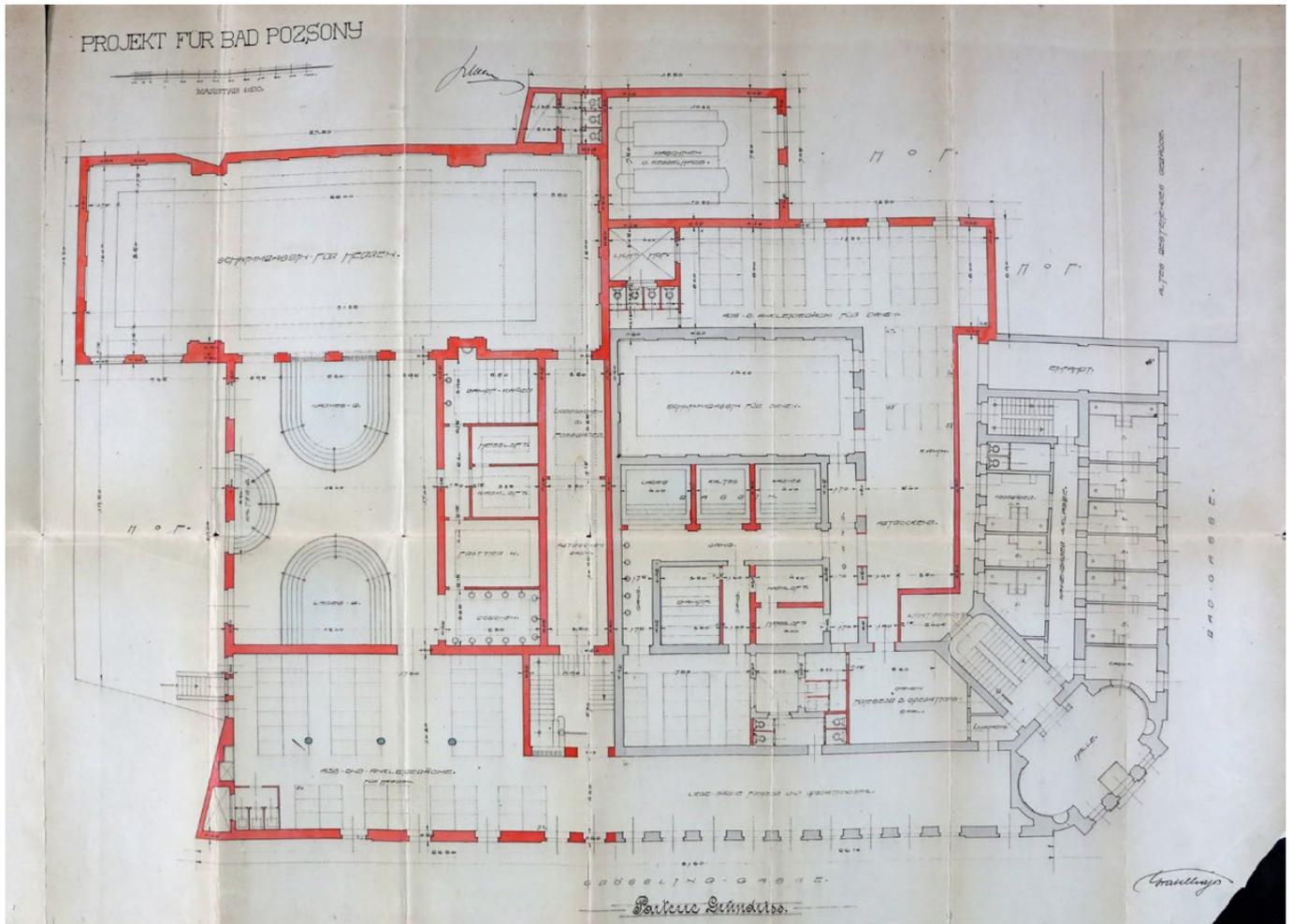


Zentralbad Vienna in pictures from the period of the year 1889.

The first twenty years of the bath operation were characterised by a gradual diversification of the services provided. Carbon dioxide baths were introduced several years after its opening, and in 1906 the press informed about the installation of electricity. In addition to the extended offer of special procedures, the visitors were also able to use hairdryers and electric fans. At the end of the first decade of the bath's existence the capacity of the building started to be insufficient due to the number of visitors. In 1904 Priemysel'na banka (Industrial bank) established a joint-stock company with the registered capital of 500 thousand crowns in order to gain the adjacent empty land for the planned new bath wing.

Construction works, based on the design by Lajos Gratzl, the son of Károly Gratzl, builder of the main building from 1895, were initiated in 1911. This resulted in the addition of a new wing in April 1914 with three new pools, a steam chamber and a hot-air chamber. The most pompous innovation was the large swimming pool with a length of almost 25 metres and width of 9 metres with an inclined bottom, with a depth of 120 cm at the non-swimmers end and 3.80 m at the swimmers end. At the request of the Pressburg fencers, a fencing hall was built in the part of the

building oriented towards the river Danube. The new wing included also the 40-metre-high bath chimney. This structure from 1914 was long regarded as the highest object in the city centre and to this day it is one of a kind. In addition to washing of dirty linen from the bath, the laundry room in the cellar of the new section also provided washing services for the Savoy and Carlton hotels. The period around the year 1914 may be regarded as the golden era of Grössling Bath.



Blueprint of 1914 addition, the golden age of Grössling Bath



Grössling Bath after its opening in 1895, source: Július Cmorej,



Grössling Bath— small pools and the large pool in the pictures from 1914.

After the end of the First World War and the establishment of Czechoslovakia, the façade of the Bath building was marked with the central inscription „Kúpeľný ústav“ (Bath Institution) with Hungarian (Fürdő intézet) and German (Bade Anstalt) equivalents. The pool in the Bath started to play a crucial role in the daily development of swimming sport in Bratislava. However, the smaller recreational pools (sitting pools), still remained popular among the clients. The demand of Bratislava residents was still growing, therefore, another extension of the Bath (and, at the same time, the final one) was implemented in the years 1929 and 1930. According to the architectural projects of Fridrich Weinwurm and Ignác Vécsei, a new functionalist building with a new main entrance was built at Vajanského nábrežie (formerly Justiho rad). In this part of the building was a new steam bath and changing rooms, at the higher floors were apartments.

### WAR ERA

During the Second World War the newly established bank Sedliacka banka became the owner of the Bath for a short time and – based on the design of the architect J. E. Sporzon – in 1942 converted the street wings of the Bath to the bank premises. „Entrance into the premises of the Bath – with the balneo-baths, barber, steam bath cubicles and hydrotherapy on the ground floor located in the premises of the former women’s pool and former small pools – was from the newly created entry in Kúpeľná street. A new entrance was created from Medená street through three steps leading into the hallway, office, conference room, storeroom and archive. From the main staircase on the first floor, it was possible to access the premises of the bank’s office by passing through a narrow corridor into the wing overlooking Kúpeľná street. Even in the wing overlooking Medená street the client could get into the offices by passing through the narrow corridor on both sides.“ (Source: L. Borka: Takmer storočné kúpele (Almost a hundred-year-old bath)).

The records of the bath in 1945 show that the operation of Grössling Bath was interrupted at the end of the war.



Historical photography, swimming training

### GRÖSSLING BATH'S SHIFT TO OTHER FORMS OF USE

Bath was bought by the municipality in 1946. Under the influence of the new socialist ideas, the emphasis was put not only on sport and relaxation, but also for mass swimming lessons. Grössling Bath played a crucial role in the fulfilment of this aim since its swimming pool was the only indoor swimming pool in Bratislava until the opening of the indoor swimming pool at Tehelné pole in 1974. The City Bath was last used by the swimmers and visitors of the steam bath in 1994. Since then the Bath premises were only occasionally made available to the public. Current state of the Grössling City Bath

The city decided to close the bath due to its poor technical condition in the mid-1990s. Until 2007 the corner wing at Medená and Kúpeľná street was used by a bank. In recent years, only maintenance works were implemented in the object.

### FUTURE OF THE GRÖSSLING CITY BATH

The priority aim of the plan is the return of the bath atmosphere according to the state from 1914 and its completion with new functions. An emphasis is put on the creation of a space with both cultural and social character; i.e. a new and unique meeting point for Bratislava residents and visitors to the city. The historical message of Grössling helps us to restore the atmosphere of the old Pressburg times, when the townsmen, instead of private apartments or offices, were meeting in pleasant public spaces with the purpose of the meeting being work-related, friendly or of a recreational nature.

The space of the City Bath shall be divided into two parts while maintaining their communal character throughout the entire object:

1. **Interactive zone**
  - interactive part with the meeting function,
2. **Rest zone**
  - also an interactive part which, with its significantly calmer ambient atmosphere, serves mainly for quiet recreation.

The core of the bath shall remain the part with the original traditional sitting pools and with the large swimming pool. This is based on the fact, that, at present, Bratislava does not have any functional historical city bath of a similar type. The city has indoor swimming pools, saunas, summer beaches, but a city bath, in the traditional sense, is missing. This part would be completed with an indoor and outdoor recreational pool which, with its form, would reflect the historical functions, such as sitting pool and spa massage. On the other hand, the object shall also offer services such as saunas and a rest zone. These functions shall create an autonomous part within the complex with a separate entrance. By their separation they shall be used as a place for sauna rituals or external events.

### **TARGET GROUPS OF THE GRÖSSLING CITY BATH**

A bath is a place where the individual acts as a therapist for themselves, according to their own rhythm and taste. When restoring the bath, we must therefore reflect on the different demands of future customers. It shall include swimming, recreational and massage pools.

In the case of Grössling City Bath, we have identified the following target groups, while the identification was based on the possible capacities of the institution, as well as on the above specified theses.

### **CATEGORIZATION OF VISITORS:**

- **Local residents**  
Regular visitors that live or stay in the centre of the capital city. This includes people of working age and seniors, for who the bath may be attractive especially as a meeting point and even from the point of view of treatment and relaxation.
- **Tourists**  
Irregular visitors who find similar historical baths in Central European capitals very popular.

# 5. CITY LIBRARY IN GRÖSSLING

## HISTORY OF THE CITY LIBRARY

Bratislava City Library is the oldest and largest public library in Bratislava. It was established on the 1st October 1900 and thus in 2020 it celebrates 120 years of its existence. At that time, after Prague, it was the second public library in Austro-Hungary, since Budapest and Vienna did not have their own libraries. It survived two world wars and was part of the social development in Slovakia from the times of Austro-Hungary, through the declaration of independence of the Czech and Slovak Republic in 1918 and the establishment of the 1st Czechoslovak Republic, up to today's independent Slovak Republic.

From its establishment it was seated at various locations – in a part of Primaciálny palác (Primate's Palace), for a short time in the building of the former café Astória at Suché mýto, and its longest seat was in the building of Moravská banka (Moravian bank) at Obchodná street. Since 1995 a part of the City Library is in the building at Laurinská street 5. During its development, the Bratislava City Library evolved into a cultural and information institution of the city with an extensive library fund and a wide range of services, from the basic lending and Internet, to organising cultural and educational events.

The library fund comprises almost 260,000 books and special documents. The fund has a universal character, so that all age groups, professional and social groups of users, can find what they need. The library fund includes fiction as well as specialised literature from all the scientific fields, books for children and adults, books for language courses, music, and audiovisual documents. Supplementing of the fund of specialised literature is focused on social sciences, pedagogy, music, and art.

## CURRENT STATE OF THE CITY LIBRARY

At present, the City Library is seated in two objects in the historical centre of the City District Bratislava-Staré Mesto:

- in the joined block of buildings with separate entrances from Kapucínska and Klariská street (approx. 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>),
- on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of the building at Laurinská street (approx. 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>).

The section of fiction and foreign-language literature, which is also the most frequently visited branch of the library, is located at Laurinská street. The common block of buildings at Kapucínska and Klariská street is the seat of the literature for children and youth, as well as of the section of educational literature including the department for the blind and partially-sighted. During the summer the library runs a Summer reading room U červeného raka.

The City Library faces many operational problems:

- insufficient spatial capacity (especially in the branch at Laurinská 5),
- unsuitable, even critical technical condition of the objects,
- insufficient accessibility of the premises,
- obsolete technical equipment, furniture, and interiors,
- insufficient and unattractive infrastructure for visitors — lack of additional services, rest zones and study areas.

## **FUTURE OF THE CITY LIBRARY IN GRÖSSLING**

Capacity issues can be resolved by moving the library's branch from Laurinská 5 into the Grössling object. Our vision of further functioning of the City Library as part of the renewed Grössling complex offers an opportunity for its restart — modernisation and updating of the infrastructure, the offer of activities and services. At the same time, it opens a dialogue on how the current City Library (in Bratislava) should look like and what requirements it should meet.

## **PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CITY LIBRARY WITHIN THE GRÖSSLING CONTEXT**

Within the cultural infrastructure of the city, the City Library fulfils the role of an informative, educational, social and community institution. Libraries are the holders of systematised and hierarchized information and knowledge in order to enable their provision and passing on to their visitors, bringing enlightenment as well as experience. In addition to the principal function — gathering, systematisation and provision of information — libraries also have a strong educational, community, cultural and social dimension.

Libraries have changed or are gradually changing into places of happenings, social gatherings and educative events. Our ambition is to develop the city library as an organisation with high sensitivity in relation to the city it is part of — in relation to its residents or visitors, individuals and the community. Simultaneously, it is a space for a dialogue on what are the roles that the current City Library should play in relation to the town and its communities.

## **SOCIALISATION – A PLACE FOR SPENDING THE FREE TIME**

The ambition of the City Library is to become a place for meeting up, spending free time and learning, gaining new knowledge and skills. Thus, we are creating a space which is open, barrier-free both ideologically and physically and available for everyone as well. It should have the character of a so-called city living room, semi-public space, which offers a suitable background for the fulfilment of its tasks.

In the development of the library as a place for spending free time we put emphasis on the variety of spaces and opportunities for visitors and readers. It is important that the premises of the library offer space for various forms of spending free time: relaxation and winding down, socialisation and interaction. The library can also be a platform for experimenting — for work with the public, new types of activities, programmes, and collaborations.

## **EDUCATION – A PLACE WHERE KNOWLEDGE IS GATHERED**

Activities of the City Library put an emphasis on education — it is active in the field of non-formal and lifelong learning of individuals as well as groups of all age categories and characteristics — pupils, students, professionals, foreigners

as well as seniors. Libraries commonly offer memory trainings or computer courses for seniors – this also applies to the City Library. In its further development we want to strengthen this aspect and create opportunities for intergenerational learning, free-time education of children and young people. In addition to programme activities, the tool for achieving this is mainly the infrastructure: a space for workshops, an available 24-hour zone and individual study and work places within the premises.

### **CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ASPECT – A PLACE FOR EVENTS**

The library organises events which popularise literature, current releases and focus on the promotion of reading. The cultural programme goes beyond the field of literature and offers a space to other fields, arts, and genres. In the current rich cultural offer and the number of organised events we put an emphasis especially on the building of functional partnerships and collaborations with public institutions, such as the Centre for Information on Literature (LIC) or with the third sector organisations.

### **TARGET GROUPS OF THE CITY LIBRARY IN GRÖSSLING**

The City Library should strengthen its role as an open and accessible community, educational and societal/social institution, the activities of which are based on the principle of an equal approach to all the people, regardless of their age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language or social status.

During the planning and development of the City Library in relation to target groups, it is necessary to extend the traditional perception of the audience differentiated according to age – children, young people, adults, and seniors. It is important to take into consideration life-style characteristics and to consider an urban audience consisting of various types of communities which differ or are similar in the way of spending their free time or work time, their needs, problems, preferences in terms of taste, etc.

### **CATEGORIZATION OF VISITORS**

#### **Foreigners**

In Grössling we want to work especially with the community of foreigners who come to Bratislava for various periods of time, mostly for work. The library can help in the process of learning about the authentic city and their integration into it – either through the availability of the most extensive variety of foreign language literature, or via new tailor-made programmes.

#### **Freelancers**

An ever-expanding group of freelancers who are looking for flexible possibilities for doing their work. The new modern premises and building of the infrastructure for work and study have the potential to become a strong attractor for this group as well.

#### **Young visitors**

The potential of the city library in terms of addressing the target groups is mainly among the visitors aged 14 – 18 years. Currently, it is the least represented group within the structure of visitors. This may be due to the obsolete

environment, unattractive communication, missing services and an offer that would be current and interesting.

Modernization of the library as a whole, especially its branch in Grössling, shall offer a new programme and equipment with the focus on young visitors – the tool for this is mainly the current offer of the library fund, programme, and new attractive premises.

### **Seniors**

This group of city residents is represented among the library visitors in the long-term. For them the library represents an affordable, socially acceptable and safe place – the reasons include the character of the premises, relations with the library staff, as well as the programme organised by the library for this target group.

**We perceive the above defined target groups as specific or with great growth potential and we want to pay special attention to them when developing the municipal library as a whole and especially in Grössling.**

## **Café in Grössling**

The common zone of the library and bath shall become a public space for relaxing, meetings and spending of free time. The café shall be interconnected with the library in terms of its programme; it will offer daily press, newspapers and library news, freely available to all visitors.

The premises of the café shall include a fully-fledged kid's zone and the café part shall offer hot meals.

## **Residential zone in Grössling**

In collaboration with the Literary Information Centre and the capital city, the City Library shall manage, both from the operational and programme point, a residency centre, i.e. manage residency programs for writers, translators and people from creative professions. The establishment of a residency centre is a reaction to long-term demand for the establishment of a so-called „house of literature“ as a platform for the promotion and presentation of literary works. It is expected that 60 – 80% of the centre's programme will be devoted to literary works or translations, and 20 – 40% to topics related to public space, architecture, design, etc.

# 6. GRÖSSLING PROGRAMME

Content requirements for the solution are specified in this document and other competition aids. The Entrant is not obliged to meet these requirements in their proposal. However, if the approach is significantly different from these requirements, the Announcer recommends the Entrant to provide either graphic or written justification of this approach.

The reconstructed public facility objects shall have 2 basic functions:

## A. CITY BATH B. CITY LIBRARY

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL AND OPERATIONAL DESIGN OF THE ENTIRE OBJECT:

- expected capacity of water and sauna surfaces: approx. 215 persons (water surface 145 persons, sauna surface 70 persons)
- expected capacity of the library: 40 000 – 60 000 books,
- expected capacity of the café: 50 persons,
- expected capacity of the residential zone: 2 – 4 persons.
- The expected capacity of individual operations was professionally estimated based on the expected sizes of water surfaces and saunas, which are specified in the Grössling programme.
- The City Bath shall function as an independent business divided into 2 interactive zones:
  - interactive zone – with the meeting function,
  - resting zone – with the function of quiet recreation.
- The resting zone shall be connected to the interactive zone in order to ensure smooth and uniform passage between the operations; however, it shall also be functionally and operationally separate – with the option of a separate entrance.
- The space of the bath shall include drinking fountains.
- The City Library will work as an independent service divided into 2 zones:
  - Interactive zone – selection of books with possible interaction, it is a collaborative social zone
  - resting zone – selection of books with the opportunity for individual study, it is a quiet whisper zone
- The City Library shall be interconnected with the café and with the residential zone in terms of the programme.
- The café is an operational interconnection point between the Bath and the Library.
- The café shall have an independent operator.
- The Announcer prefers the placement of the main entrance towards the historic centre, Medená or Kúpeľná streets. The pedestrian entrances must be clearly visible, easily accessible and recognizable.
- Courtyards and public spaces form an important part of the design. It is necessary to design them in relation to the functional utilisation of the individual parts.
- The aim of the reconstruction is to fully utilise the potential of the existing buildings.
- The design may include an extension in compliance with the document „Specified project for the reconstruction of the Kúpele Grössling in terms of the protection of the heritage features of the object“. The architectural character of the extension shall not compete with the original object and it shall be possible to implement it in the last construction stage.
- The design shall be in compliance with the heritage features of the object.
- The design shall present the possibility to implement the reconstruction in stages.
- The design shall present the possibility to apply efficient energy solutions and new technologies.
- The design shall respect the standard and regulations related to the given issue.
- Creation of architecturally clear orientation and passages between individual parts of the object.
- Within the extension at Vajanského nábrežie it is possible to design changes especially on the underground floor and on the first three floors. The current idea of the Announcer is that the apartments on the 4th to 6th floors shall be preserved. This setting may be reassessed in the competition design.

# A1

## A1. City Bath – interactive zone

- Expected opening hours:
  - 06.00 – 22.00 h – part for swimming
  - 08.00 – 22.00 h – bath
- Predpokladaná kapacita vodných a saunových plôch, ktorú by mal návrh zohľadniť:
  - pools: approx. 125 persons
  - saunas near the pools: max. 20 persons
- The existing swimming pool and sitting pools shall be preserved and revitalised. We recommend that the access to the swimming pool is ensured in such a manner that enables its operational separation from the remaining (bath) part in the given times.
- The existing pools shall be completed with an indoor and outdoor recreational pool.
- The design needs to emphasise year-round operation and ensure the attractiveness of the bath in the summer months by including the exterior into the plan with the possibility to utilise the respective courtyards and roofs.
- The creation of architecturally separate, semi-open resting spaces.
- Relax zone – resting areas, benches, beds with the recommended dimensioning:
  - near the pools: 3 m<sup>2</sup> of the total water surface = resting place for 1 person
  - near the saunas: 2 m<sup>2</sup> of the sauna area = resting place for 1 person
- Creation of architecturally simple orientation and passages between individual parts of the object.
- It is necessary to solve the supplies of the bath object with the possibility to provide supplies into the technological facilities and storage areas 0 – 24 h.

### ENTRANCE HALL

- reception/ ticket counter (2 workplaces behind the counter).

### CHANGING ROOMS AND SANITARY FACILITIES

- storage, rental of swimming equipment (caps, towels, swimsuits, cloths, etc.)
- a place for hair drying,
- changing rooms dimensioned according to the regulation for the entire capacity of the City Bath. Changing rooms shall include two types of storage spaces – private cabins and lockers:
- Changing room shall primarily be equipped with private cabins used for changing and the storing of belongings – 1 cabin for 3 persons (the size of the cabin fits for 1 person as a standard cabin). The Announcer prefers to prioritise the cabins and place them in easily accessible areas in order to restore the bath tradition.
- lockers will be added to capacities – 1 locker per 1 person; in the case of lockers, it is necessary to take into consideration the public changing booths.
- room for cleaning service
- sanitary facilities for visitors – WC and showers; it is necessary to take into consideration the separation of clean and polluted operation of the facility with a hygienic filter.

## **PART WITH POOLS**

### **Reconstruction of the existing pools:**

- swimming pool,
- 3 sitting relaxation pools.

### **New pools:**

- recreational indoor and outdoor pool with massage nozzles and other water elements – approx. 155 m<sup>2</sup> in total. The location of the pools, as well as their connection to the exterior, is up to the design of the competitors. The outdoor pool may also be designed as a swimming pool leading from the indoor pool.
- near the sitting pools shall be placed a steam bath and near the swimming pool shall be placed a Finnish sauna with a total maximum capacity of both saunas of 20 persons. The saunas may have more chambers.
- showers shall be directly connected to the saunas.
- the possibility to locate a toilet at an accessible distance – according to the location of sanitary facilities.
- first-aid station (possible access with stretchers, washbasin, first-aid kit)

## **REFRESHMENTS AREA**

- A separate zone from which it will not be possible to bring beverages and snacks into the bath premises.
- Gastronomic service shall primarily offer beverages and secondarily small snacks.
- Gastronomic service in the bath will serve only for the visitors of the bath and shall not be accessible from the street.
- It is expected that all the gastronomic services within the object (café and refreshments in the bath) will be operated by the same operator; with common facilities situated near the café.

## **MASSAGES AND OTHER THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES**

- separate zone,
- 2 separate massage spaces for individuals – the recommended area per 1 room is at least 12 m<sup>2</sup>,
- 1 room for couple's massages – recommended area is at least 15 m<sup>2</sup>,
- 2 rooms for other therapeutic procedures – the recommended area per 1 room is at least 12 m<sup>2</sup>.
- The possibility to create a separate access enabling to visit the facilities independently of the bath. In the case of a separate entrance, it is necessary to create sanitary facilities for the required number of visitors (6 persons) with a shower and small changing room with lockers used for changing and the storing of belongings.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PREMISES AND FACILITIES**

During the design of the solution, it is necessary to take into consideration that the City Bath will have approx. 35 employees and around 40% of them will be there at the same time.

- offices for 5 persons – 2 separate rooms,
- changing rooms, sanitary facilities and a day room for employees,
- laundry room – approx. 10 m<sup>2</sup>,
- storages for cleaning facilities – approx. 20 m<sup>2</sup>,
- storage room – approx. 20 m<sup>2</sup>,

# A2

## A2. City Bath – resting zone

- Expected opening hours:
  - 08.00 – 22.00 h
- The expected capacity of water and sauna surfaces which shall be taken into account in the design:
  - pools: max. 20 persons
  - saunas: approx. 50 persons
- The area of the resting zone shall be functionally and operationally separable from the interactive zone of the object with the possibility of a separate entrance. At the same time, it shall follow the interactive zone in order to ensure smooth and uniform passage between the facilities.
- In case there is a separate entrance into the resting zone facility, it is not necessary to create a new space for the reception. Visitors will use the common cash counter of the Bath located in the entrance hall to buy a ticket for a separate entry into the resting zone facility.
- The design needs to emphasise the year-round operation and ensure the attractiveness of the Bath in summer months by including the exterior into the plan with the possibility to utilise the respective courtyards and roofs.
- Relax zone – resting areas, benches, beds with the recommended dimensioning:
  - near the pools: 3 m<sup>2</sup> of the total water area = resting place for 1 person
  - near the saunas: 2 m<sup>2</sup> of the sauna area = resting place for 1 person
- Creation of visually open spaces.

### CHANGING ROOMS AND SANITARY FACILITIES

- a place for hair drying,
- separate changing rooms for the required capacity of the visitors in the resting zone – storage lockers and changing booths,
- room for cleaning service,
- sanitary facilities for visitors – WC and showers; it is necessary to take into consideration the separation of the clean and polluted operation of the facility with a hygienic filter.

### PART WITH SAUNAS

- saunas: steam bath, Finnish and other saunas at the Entrant's discretion,
- the saunas may have more chambers,
- premises for other procedures at the Entrant's discretion,
- showers in direct connection to the saunas and other sauna elements (icefall, cooling elements...)
- changing pools – cooling pool and hot water pool, the size of the individual pools is approx. 5 m<sup>2</sup>,

### PART WITH POOLS = SALTWATER POOL (at the discretion of the Entrants)

- saltwater ambient resting pool of approx. 60 m<sup>2</sup>
- in this space it is important to place an emphasis on the work with light
- placement of the saltwater pool with the given parameters is welcome
- it does not have to be placed in the project if it is at the expense of the quality of the total concept and of the capacity of other facilities

# B1

## B1. Library

- Expected opening hours: 08.00 – 20.00 h (separable part of the library 0-24 h)
- Expected capacity of the library: 40 000 – 60 000 books
- Moving of the existing branch of the City Library currently located at Laurinská street
- The City Library will work as an independent operation divided into 2 zones:
  - interactive zone – selection of books with possible interaction, it is a collaborative social zone
  - resting zone – selection of books with the space for individual study, it is a quite whisper zone
- The City Library in the Grössling complex shall focus in particular on:
  - non-fiction literature – in Slovak and other languages, max. 10 000 books (e.g. books about Bratislava, textbooks and dictionaries, travel books and guides, linguistics and literary science, psychology, philosophy),
  - fiction in foreign languages – max. 10 000 books,
  - fiction in Slovak and Czech language – max. 40 000 books.
- The design should preferentially focus on the quality and efficiency of the library space which influences the number of books available on the open access shelves. If a smaller number of books for the open access shelves is used, it is necessary to plan the storage of the rest in the storage room. In such case it is necessary to take into consideration the technical demands of such a solution in terms of higher static load in the storage room.
- Preferred idea for open access shelves from the space transparency point of view is: low height of shelves in the central space, higher shelves placed next to the walls.
- The library should include places with computers. Competitors should also create a space for board games and reasonably reflect other trends, such as the library of things
- The design shall work with the visual opening and interconnection of spaces.
- In the design it is necessary to emphasise the creation of an outdoor public space, which could also be used to expand library activities.

### ENTRANCE

- central counter with 2 to 3 workplaces and facilities – approx. 15 m<sup>2</sup>, located on the ground floor – a contact and information point for visitors, receiving and handing out of the borrowed literature,
- locker space for the visitors – lockers for storing belongings

### SELFCHECK

- self-service station which enables the readers to implement a process of returning and borrowing of books with the use of bar codes or RFID chips.
- 3 stations located on the ground floor.

## OPENING OF THE PART OF LIBRARY 0-24 h

Within the open access shelves area, it is suitable to create a separable zone of the library which will function as a separate functional part, with sanitary facilities, for studying purposes. This part shall function without the necessity of opening of the entire open access shelves area of the library, with the possibility of separate access. After the stabilisation of normal operation, we expect the library opening hours to be 0-24 hrs.

### SELF-SERVICE MACHINES

- an automated device which registers the returned book and issues a receipt to the reader,
- the machine shall be accessible out of opening hours from the public space; it is used at times when the library is closed or no attendants are present.

### OPEN ACCESS SHELVES

- contact point for the readers, one on each floor (on the entry floor as part of the central counter) — the info-counter is a space for one library employee.
- self-service online catalogue for visitors which enables searching for books in the current fund
- open space with free access to the book fund with the possibility of study and workplaces for individuals and groups,
- parts of the open shelves area shall be able to adapt flexibly for accompanying events and activities of the library (e.g. book readings, lectures, discussions, etc.),

#### Interactive zone:

- a smaller area of the total space designated for the open access shelves,
- free interactive study and workplaces for couples and small groups,
- at an accessible distance from the café and separated from the resting zone.

#### Resting zone:

- a larger area of the total space designated for the open access shelves,
- a quiet, more intimate secluded places for reading and relaxation with space for individual study and work.

### STUDY FACILITIES - WORKSHOP ROOM

- a separate room with the capacity of 20 – 25 persons used for the organising of regular courses and meetings

### ADMINISTRATIVE PREMISES AND FACILITIES

- During the design of the solution, it is necessary to take into consideration that the library will have approx. 12 employees and around 60% of them will be there at the same time.
  - office for the executive (approx. 16 m<sup>2</sup>),
  - office for other employees with 1 large desk for book handing (approx. 16 m<sup>2</sup>), ideally it should be located within the open access shelves area — with the possibility of visual interconnection
- the offices may be interconnected/centralised with the administrative premises of the Bath,
- day room for library employees,
- sanitary facilities,
- room for cleaning service,
- a storeroom for books of at least 20 m<sup>2</sup> (its size depends on the number of books in the open access shelves).

# B2

## B2. Café

- Expected opening hours: café 08.00 - 22.00 h
- Expected capacity of the café: at least 50 seats.
- Common premises of the Grössling complex which interconnect the bath and library section.
- The café shall be designed in 2 parts: premises of the café and open space
- The open space shall include a kid's zone, new books, a reading space and flexible sitting.
- The café must be operated as an independent business.
- In the design it is necessary to emphasise the creation of an outdoor public space for café activities.

### PREMISES OF THE CAFÉ

- bar and equipment,
- facilities for the preparation of meals,
- storage of approx. 10 m<sup>2</sup>,
- facilities for employees.

### OPEN SPACE

- **kid's zone**
  - It is situated in the café in sight of the parents, ideally away from the main entrance,
  - it shall provide equipment suitable for children aged up to 9 years.
- **new books**
  - fiction also in foreign languages for adults, selection of non-fiction literature, kid's books, board games,
- **reading space**
  - daily press, newspapers and magazines,
- **seating capacity for at least 50 persons**
- **a flexible space with café seating with the possibility of its adaptation for the organisation of events**
- **sanitary facilities – the possibility of interconnection with the library's sanitary facilities**

## PROGRAMME

The library shall organise events for 20 – 150 persons in the premises of the café and library without a significant impact on their operation. This concerns mainly educational events or civic activities (discussions, lectures, film screenings, scenic book readings, evaluations of competitions, citizens' meetings, etc.). It is necessary to take into account the possibility of flexible working with the size of the premises depending on the requirements for the event.

# B3

## B3. Residency zone

- It is necessary to ensure separate access 24 hours a day.
- Expected capacity taken into account in the design: 2 – 4 persons.
- The residency centre will be operated by the City Library in cooperation with partners, e.g. Centre for Information on Literature, Municipal Authority of the Slovak capital Bratislava.
- The residency programme will be designated for writers, translators, artistic and cultural individuals.

### **RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION**

- At least 1, ideally 2 accommodation units with the size of a 1 to 2-room apartment, of which 1 accommodation is of higher standard
- Each accommodation unit is designed for 2 persons (participants in the residency programme may come with their family)
- Workspace within the accommodation unit.

# 7. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

## CALCULATION AND DESIGN OF CAPACITIES

Determination of the water surface capacity is based on a surface area of 3 m<sup>2</sup> per person in a pool for non-swimmers and 5 m<sup>2</sup> per person in a pool for swimmers (according to Decree no. 308/2012 Coll.). Based on these data and the expected water surfaces located in the object, the following capacities of water and sauna surfaces were determined – expected total capacity of approx. 215 persons, out of which:

- water surface capacity (pools) – approx. 145 persons
- sauna surface capacity – approx. 70 persons

In compliance with the regulation, „the capacity of an indoor artificial swimming pool“ is determined as the immediate attendance of the swimming pool's operating areas; it is determined as one and a half to two times the capacity of the pools' water surface. Premises of the changing room and hygiene are designed for this capacity:  $145 \times 1.5 + 70 = 287.5 =$  approx. 290 persons.

## PUBLIC SPACES REQUIREMENTS

The subject of the solution shall be the public spaces in connection to the Grössling City Bath object – the façade on Medená street, the courtyard on Kúpeľná street, the inner courtyard on the north-east side of the object and the central roofs of the object.

- Public spaces are considered an important part of the design. Therefore, from our perspective, they require adequate attention.
- The roofs, courtyards and public spaces of the object form an important part of the design. It is necessary to design them in connection with the functional utilisation of the object's individual parts and in terms of typology and functional-operational relations.
- Entrants must consider access for delivery vehicles, the location of the delivery and waste handling yard and staff entrance
- In front of the façade on Medená street there are existing trees. We recommend preserving them as much as possible.

## TECHNOLOGICAL FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS

- Technological facilities of the entire object shall be common for the entire object of Grössling – City Bath and Library.
- Workshop (approx. 20 m<sup>2</sup>) assigned to the technological part.
- Storage of chemicals (30 m<sup>2</sup>) shall be located in the basement near the technological facilities.
- The area of the space for technologies should correspond to half of the operating premises of the city bath.

- Technological facilities shall primarily be located in the basement of the object. The technological facilities shall include the technologies ensuring the operation of the Bath – machine room of the pool technology, boiler room (source of heat, cold), ventilation system engine room, wastewater technology (this serves both the interior and exterior).
- Technical facilities shall be considered in terms of the technological, hygienic and acoustic requirements.
- The design shall present the possibility to apply effective energy solutions and new technologies with the use of alternative and renewable resources.
- Part of the basement of the object in Medená street includes an existing transformer station – it is recommended to maintain its location or to find another location which would enable easy access for operational purposes.
- The courtyard in Kúpeľná street includes an existing well which should be taken into account in the design.

### **STATIC TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS**

The Grössling object is located in an internal circuit, in the central city area (CMO), which is well served by municipal public transport. Parking spaces for the reconstructed objects within the existing buildings of the CMO are assessed with regard to the existing state of the static transport of the object under consideration. The multi-functional object Grössling has no reserved parking spaces within its own land or existing public transport space, and it was used in this way during the entire period of its operation. Parking capacities for objects within the existing build-up area of the CMO are currently solved by publicly accessible parking spaces within the City District Bratislava-Staré Mesto. Visitors to this part of the city have to accept the rules for short-term and long-term parking within the zone with traffic restriction. Visitors of the Grössling object may park in the available underground public garages. For the provision of transport service and for persons with reduced mobility, it will be necessary to reserve two parking spaces in agreement with the relevant company providing parking services.

Bicycle parking spaces must also be provided near the new building's main entrance.

### **IMPLEMENTATION IN STAGES REQUIREMENTS**

The design shall present the possibility to implement the construction in stages. The intention of the city, based on the expected permitting procedures and financing of the individual stages, is to implement the public space in Medená street within the first stage and to implement any new construction objects within the last stage.

### **EXPECTED INVESTMENT COSTS**

The total expected investment costs determined on the basis of an expert estimate resulting from the validation study are EUR 12 million excl. VAT.

