

The settlement of Óbuda, district III of the Capital, a 2000 year old "city within the city" is the oldest section of Budapest, having been inhabited since ancient times. An accumulation of localities from various historical periods can be found on this territory. The reason for the early settlement of the spot was basically the favourable geographical location, as important routes ran through it and here were the best options for crossing the Danube. In Roman times it was the capital of Pannonia Inferior under the name Aquincum, in the middle ages a seat of princes, kings and later queens, after the expulsion of the Turks a flourishing market town thanks to colonisation and Baroque building operations of the Zichy family, in the 19th-20th centuries an industrialised district. From the palette of Óbuda's long historic past, we present characteristic localities which evoke aspects and moods of the old city, as by visiting them we can draw closer to the everyday lives, customs, festivals and daily routines of the onetime citizens.

1. Holy Trinity sculpture – Holy Spirit Square



The sculpture was set up as an expression of gratitude to God by survivors of the devastating plague epidemic of 1738-39, with the aid of Zsuzsanna Bercsényi, widow of Count Péter Zichy. The work originally stood on the square just a few metres from the SW corner of Zichy Manor, which was later named Holy Trinity Square after the sculpture, then Holy Spirit Square. The foundation stone was laid in 1740. The ground-area of the monumental memorial is 40 square metres and its height is almost 11 metres. Its central figures: God the Father,

Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit (the Holy Trinity) and the Virgin Mary. Around them are positioned the saints, evangelists and martyrs, who the people principally prayed to during epidemics. Saint Sebastian, Saint Roch, Saint Felix of Valois, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Charles Borromeo and Saint Florian, with 3 reliefs in addition. Saint Rosalia, with the figures of the "Good Shepherd" and "Penitent David". Damaged in World War II then dismantled, the sculpture was set up once more in 2000, to the north of its original spot.

2. Zichy Manor – Main Square



The most noteworthy sight on the Main Square was reconstructed between 1746 and 1756 by Miklós Zichy from the former modest rustic villa to a lavish two-storied count's residence. Place was found in the manor for a reception hall, suites for count and countess, a gun-room and a library. An ornamental Baroque park was also laid out. Concerts and theatrical performances were given regularly in the manor. Maria Theresa also paid a visit to the Zichy residence, in 1751. After the early death of Miklós Zichy (1758), his widow Erzsébet Berényi struggled for a few more years to retain the manor, but finally assigned it to the treasury for an annuity. The outer and side wings were subsequently demolished, and the manor was used as a military clothing store and tobacco warehouse. The main building was renovated in the 1970s. Today there are museums (Óbuda Museum, Kassák Museum, Vasarely Museum) in part of the manor, as well as the Open Air Theatre.

3. City Hall



The building erected as City Hall in 1906 today houses the Óbuda-Békásmegyér Mayor's Office.

4. Sindbad sculpture



The bronze statue sipping wine while seated at a table, which is the work of Péter Szanyi, commemorates Gyula Krúdy who spent the last years of his life in Óbuda and Zoltán Latinovits who portrayed him on film. It was set up in 2013 in front of the council building.

5. "Waiting" sculpture



Popularly named "Umbrella carriers", Imre Varga's work was placed on the part of the Main Square towards Laktanya Street in 1986, close to the sculptor's museum at no. 7 Laktanya Street.

6. Statue of Pál Harrer



Pál Harrer (1829-1914) was the first mayor of Óbuda, in office for only a short time in 1872-73 due to the city unification. He himself was an enthusiastic supporter and promoter of the unification of Buda, Pest and Óbuda. After the creation of Budapest, he was the leader of district III council until his retirement in 1886. During this period, Óbuda changed from a vine-growing, agricultural market town to an industrialised district.

7. Remains of east gate of Roman encampment (Porta praetoria) – 7 Kórház Street

May have been built in the second half of the 3rd century, in the time of Caesar Diocletian. The entrance with three openings was enclosed by two octagonal gate towers. The broadest, central opening, with a drain in the middle, served the passage of carts, whereas the two narrower, outer gaps were for pedestrian traffic.

8. Ruins of Franciscan church and monastery – Vöröskereszt Street

Óbuda Franciscan church and monastery were founded in the 13th century, and constructed using the walls of a Roman barracks. It could only be excavated in part, as the remains of the monastery linked to the church on the northern side were fully demolished when the blocks of flats were built. The charter issued by King Louis the Great in 1355 dividing Óbuda into two and marking the boundaries of the royal (reginal) and prebendal cities. The church and monastery buildings fell into ruin at the time of the Turkish invasion in 1526, and after this were no longer used.

9. Thermae Maiores, large baths of the Roman military encampment – Flórián Square underpass

Located in the southeast quarter of the onetime military encampment. Excavation which can be regarded as almost complete was carried out from 1981 till 1984, in connection with the modernisation of Árpád Bridge and construction of its underpasses and



flyovers. With the help of unique technical options, 48 rooms, shrines and changing rooms of the 15,000 square metre Roman military baths, together with the 80x30 metre huge gymnasium attached to the baths, all provided with underfloor heating, have been successfully preserved and put on display. Due to the famous medicinal waters, the baths were visited not only by those wishing to do sports, but also by many sick people. The building complex of the baths is of outstanding significance, even among the Roman monuments of Europe. May be visited free of charge.

10. South gate of the legionary encampment and remains of an officer's house – Flórián Square

The gate was presumably built in the second half of the 2nd century, in the time of Caesar Hadrian, in the locality of the via principalis, the main north-south route. The entrances to the gate towers can easily be seen, from where the inside of the gates could be accessed. Here, along the main road lined with a row of columns (which led to the commander's building, the Principia, on the site of today's Flórián department store), once stood officer's quarters, tabernas (hostelries) and shops. Ruins of a military commander's (centurion's) house with an atrium and several rooms can be seen in the sunken area by the southwest corner of the Flórián department store.

11. Saint Florian votive altar – corner of Pacsirtamező Street and Serfőző Street

Miklós Zichy had Károly Bebo produce statues of Saint Florian and Saint Charles Borromeo, protectors against flood, fire and



plague, in 1758. The third statue, Saint Philip Neri, was ordered by his widow Erzsébet Berényi in 1763. All three statues were originally set up in the vicinity of their manor, on today's Main Square. The individual statues were placed on an altar-like base in 1819, close to today's Flórián Square. The statues were dismantled in 1928, just the Flórián statue remaining on the square named after him. This was also dismantled at the end of the 1940s. The statue group was later restored and repaired. It was set up once more in 2012, close to its original spot.

12. Reformed church and parsonage – 2-4 Kálvin Close



The oldest Reformed church in the Capital was built in 1785-86 on the foundation walls of the mediaeval royal/reginal castle. A tower was erected in front of its facade in 1788. With a single nave and a single tower, in Louis XVI style. The present church tower with a steeple dates from 100 years later. In 1908-1909 the new parsonage building was constructed next to the church to designs by the famous Transylvanian architect Károly Kós. During the construction work, the ruins of the mediaeval royal castle were partially excavated, and then reburied. (Virtual reconstruction can be seen in Óbuda Museum.)

13. Óbuda Clubhouse building – Kiskorona Street 7.

The inn and coffee shop styled "Crown and Lions" was built between 1816 and 1818, in Classicist style, on the site of a Roman villa then a mediaeval dwelling. Following multiple reconstructions, the Bródy coffee shop and casino were in operation here. It was completely renovated in the 1980s, based on the Classicist inn.

14. Gyula Krúdy's house – Korona Square



The dwelling house opposite the Clubhouse building was built on the Roman rampart in the 18th-19th centuries. Author Gyula Krúdy lived and worked in the middle wing for the last 3 years of his life. Today the Museum of Trade and Tourism is located in the building, with a Krúdy memorial exhibition.

15. Parish church of Saints Peter and Paul – Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Square



Its predecessor was the parish church of the onetime reginal city, the church of Saint Margit. A section of the walls of the mediaeval building is marked by a detail of the ground plan laid out in pink stone at ground level by the south wall of the parish church. Antonio Bonfini, King Matthias' historiographer, was presumably buried here in 1502. He is commemorated by

a symbolic tombstone on the south side of the church. On the site on the church which had fallen into ruin in the Turkish times, construction of a Baroque church with a single nave was begun in 1744, for which Countess Zsuzsanna Bercsényi provided considerable support. The church was completed in 1749. The cost of the opulent interior fittings was also largely provided by the Zichy family. It was their sculptor, Károly Bebo, who carved the Saint Roch and Saint Sebastian statues in the two side niches on the facade, the relief above the gate, the 5 side altars, the pulpit and the red marble epitaph of Péter Zichy resting under the pulpit. The high altar brought here from the Kiscell church of the Trinitarian order dissolved by Joseph II and above it the wonder-working statue of the Virgin Mary of Kiscell were placed by the walled-up north gate of the church.

16. Mediaeval market square and Ferenc the scribe's house – 158 Lajos Street



The market square formed around a NE-SW road, which set out from the mediaeval ferry dock and joined the "great Esztergom road" (today Bécsi Road) in the south. Two-storied houses of the nobles from the reginal city section once surrounded the market square. The houses fell into ruin in the Turkish times. Many were demolished or reconstructed in the 17th-18th centuries, but unfortunately in such a way that none of the mediaeval portions were preserved. A lucky exception is the house standing at the northwest corner of the onetime market square, the home of Ferenc the scribe of Óbuda, the only surviving mediaeval building in Óbuda. Ferenc the scribe was a scrivener for the Poor Clares, and at their recommendation he received a title from King Wladyslaw II in 1499. The building later changed owners several times and was reconstructed. The first brewery in Óbuda was built here after 1686 (this being commemorated to the present day in the name of Serfőzde Street). Today the building houses the Budapest Gallery.

17. Synagogue – 163 Lajos Street



The first Óbuda synagogue was built around 1732. The building in Classicist style which is still standing today was built on the same site between 1820 and 1821 to designs by András Landherr. A curiosity of the interior was its asymmetric form, as a result of which it was reckoned a "stumpy basilica". The interior was reconstructed in Art Nouveau style in 1900. It functioned as a synagogue until the late 1960s, then it was used by the Hungarian TV as a studio. Following renovations, it has been used since 2010 in accordance with its original purpose.

18. Ruins of church and convent of the Poor Clares – corner of Kiskorona Street and Perc Street



Founded by Queen Elizabeth (mother of Louis the Great) in 1334. This classic creation of late Gothic was around 70 metres long and 24 metres wide, with a 60x60 metre convent associated with it.

(A virtual reconstruction of the convent and church can be seen in Óbuda Museum.) The Corpus Christi chapel was built onto the south side of the church, where the queen was buried in 1380. The convent of the Poor Clares was also a centre of education for the daughters of aristocrats in the middle ages. While withdrawing from Óbuda in 1529, the Turks set the church and convent on fire.

19. Military amphitheatre – 5 Nagyszombat Street



In the time of Caesar Antoninus Pius, in the mid 2nd century, the legio II Adiutrix constructed the seventh largest amphitheatre in the Roman Empire. Its oval arena (89.6 m x 66.1 m) is even larger than that of the Colosseum in Rome! In the amphitheatre constructed of stone and earth, 10-12,000 spectators at once could enjoy the gladiator and animal fights and performances. The 12-13 metre high outer ring-wall of the amphitheatre was reinforced with 24 buttresses. The height of the inner wall running round the arena was originally 4 metres, in order to provide the spectators with appropriate protection against the wild animals. In the time of the Hungarian conquest, within the walls which still stood high at the time was a princely centre for Kurszán, and after his death for Árpád. In 1938 the ruins of the earth-filled amphitheatre were excavated, and these were restored in 1942.

20. Kiscell church and monastery (now Kiscell Museum) – 108 Kiscelli Street

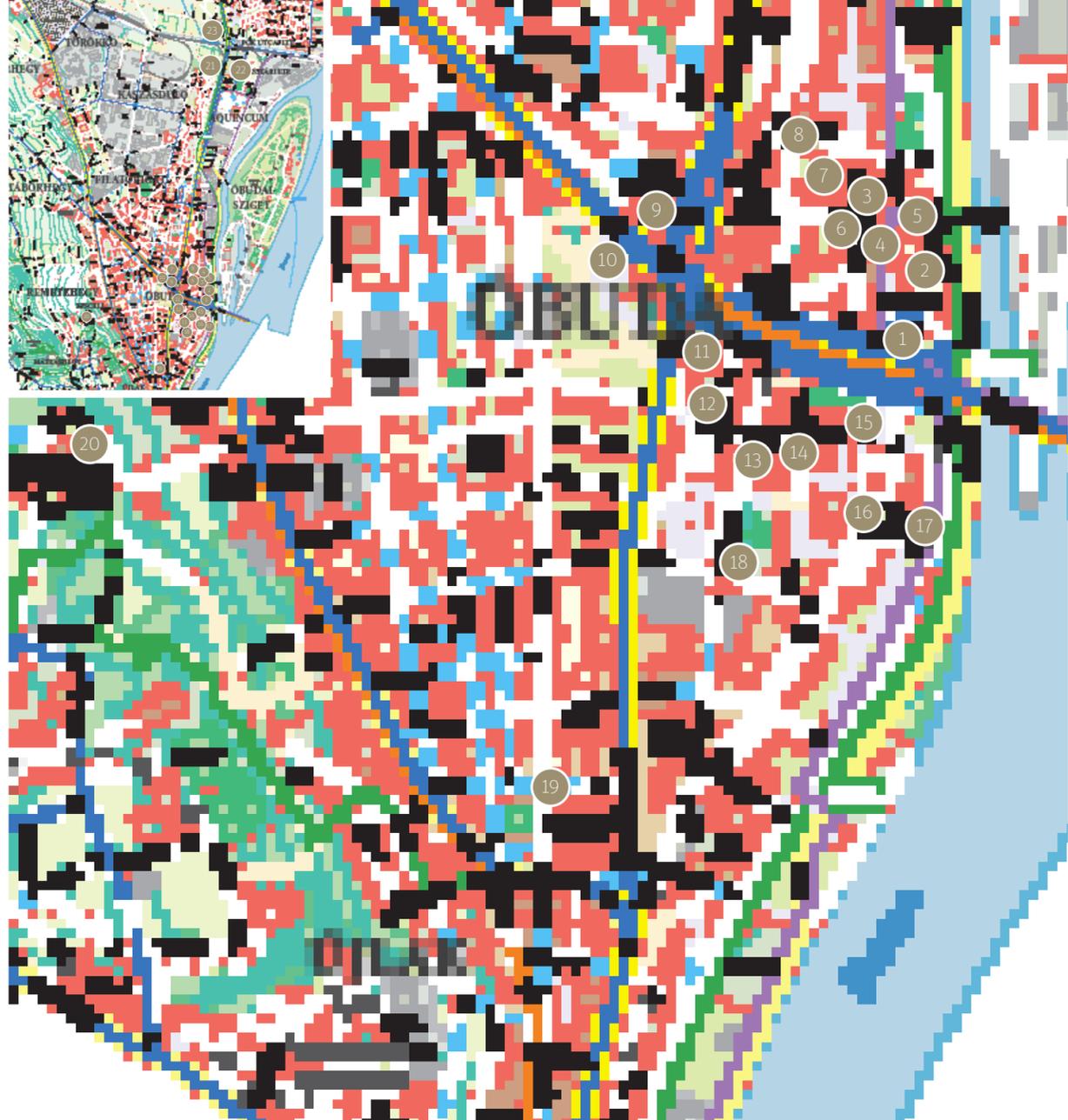
The foundation and construction of the church and monastery are linked with the name of the Zichy family. Construction of the monas-



tery for the Trinitarian monks began in 1745, the church being built between 1747 and 1758. The copy of the wonder-working statue of the Virgin Mary from Mariazell, from which Kiscell also took its name, was taken to the church on 8 September 1760 from its previous spot in a small chapel. Óbuda became a famous place of pilgrimage, begin visited by several thousand pilgrims every year. The Trinitarian Order (for the redemption of captives) was dissolved by Joseph II in 1783. The articles from the monastery and the church fittings were sold at auction, the wonder-working statue of the Virgin Mary, as well as many paintings and the high altar, were transferred to Óbuda parish church where they can still be seen today. The monastery building was a base for invalids from 1784, then it became a military hospital and finally a clothing store. It was bought by furniture contractor Miksa Schmidt in 1910, who transformed the monastery into a mansion. In his will, he left the mansion, the park and his art collection to the Capital. The building complex suffered severe damage in World War II. The monastery was renovated by the Capital in 1976, and it now houses the Kiscell Museum of the Budapest History Museum. Renovation of the church interior was carried out to such an extent for it to be suitable for holding concerts and exhibitions.

21. Ruins of aqueduct (water conduit) – Szentendrei Road

The water conduit traversing the middle section of the civilian town of Aquincum ran for approx. 4-5 km: from the 14 springs excavated in the vicinity of today's Roman baths to the military amphitheatre. It was made up of pillars interconnected by arches, but underground conduits have also been excavated in places. Water from the springs was raised by tympana to the conduits on top of the pillars, into the upper section of which lead pipes of 16 cm diameter were incorpo-



rated vertically. During construction of the M-11 motorway, several reconstructed sections of the onetime aqueduct were successfully preserved on the grassy area next to the road, which offer passersby the sight of an outstanding memorial complex.

22. Ruins of the civilian town of Aquincum: Aquincum Museum and Garden of Ruins – 139 Szentendrei Road



The ruins still visible today form only a part of the settlement once covering around 30 hectares. The town was encompassed by a wall, with square towers and round ones at the corners. The houses were located close to one another along the networks of roads perpendicular to each other. The houses were generally 2-3 storied, extended with a veranda or a forefront with a portico. The walls of the rooms were covered with coloured paintings, the floor was faced with stone or marble slabs, terrazzo or coloured mosaic pictures. Heating was provided by portable stoves or ovens. Traces of

central heating (hypocaust) have been found in the public baths, public buildings and houses of the better-off citizens. Significant excavated buildings of the town: Forum, basilica (law court), lodging houses, shops, baths, macellum (market hall), Mithras shrine. One of the outstanding archaeological finds from the civilian town is the bronze water organ found in the fire service headquarters. This instrument is the only surviving organ from the Roman Empire. A working copy of this was made in 1969, which visitors can hear played on ceremonial occasions. During construction of the Filatorigát in 1888 an inscribed stone sarcophagus was unearthed in which Aelia Sabina was at rest, the singer who played the organ.

23. Civilian town amphitheatre – 1 Zsófia Street



Built in the mid 2nd century, close to the north city wall. The ground plan is almost circular, the arena being 53.5 m x 45.5 m. The grandstand for 6-7000 people was around 15 metres wide. The outer curtain wall was reinforced with buttresses. The ring was surrounded by a stone wall around 3 metres high. On the stone blocks which served as seats, the names of the onetime owners have survived in places, including the names of women.

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