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THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE: ROMANIA'S ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE

This paper explores the controversial history of one of the world's biggest buildings: the House of the People. A paradox in many ways, the structure was meant to symbolize the power of the people in a country with a dictatorial system in which the people had virtually no power at all. Similarly, the building is the most expensive manmade construction of all times, yet it was built in a country where the

population enjoyed one of the lowest standards of living from the entire communist bloc. In the end, the great amount of resources that it consumed at the expense of the impoverished Romanian society and its controversial symbolism were seen with different eyes in the aftermath of the 1989 Anti-Communist Revolution. Today most Romanians take pride in the building and the House of the People is one of the symbols of new and democratic Romania, not to mention a cherished tourist attraction by locals and tourists alike.

Keywords: *Romania, Bucharest, House of the People, Nicolae Ceausescu, architecture, communism*

The House of the People in Bucharest, Romania is the largest manmade structure on the European continent and the second largest in the entire world. Today, the building houses both chambers of the Romanian Parliament and many political and business leaders from the West have walked its hallways, but this is not the reason why it was originally built. The construction took place during the 1980s at the order of Nicolae Ceausescu, the communist President of the former Socialist Republic of Romania. He wanted to have a new headquarters and show to the world what grandiose things Communist Romania could accomplish [6, p. 59]. When communism fell in Eastern Europe and gave way to democracy, the building had not yet been finished. The structure soon became a topic of strong dispute among Romanian intellectuals and politicians [6, p. 60]. Some suggested that the House of the People should be demolished in order to erase all memory of the brutal communist oppression, while others felt that too many national resources had been used and too much human suffering had been involved in the construction to let it all be in vain. How could the House of the People, a symbol of communist Romania, fit in the new political, economic and social landscape of the modern country? In an attempt to answer this question, it is important to examine the architectural, cultural, historical and social contexts that surround the controversy over the House of the People. We must also examine the perception that the public had of the building in the years following the 1989 Anti-Communist Revolution and how that perception changed over the subsequent years.

As you walk through the streets of the historical center of Bucharest, you suddenly come to a stop. If you are too close to the House of the People, you feel as if you have come to a wall which stretches endlessly in both directions. You step back so you can see it in its entirety. It looks as if it has been there for hundreds of years, yet at the same time, it is in contrast with the surrounding buildings. Being positioned in a neighborhood with small 19th century buildings, the House of the People surveys the area “as a giant who landed from outer space and crushed everything underneath it” [6 p. 62]. Like the Coliseum from Rome, the enormous structure gives you the impression that it has witnessed the rise and fall of many empires, but all the good and bad of history still left it standing.

The location of the structure on top of the historical Uranus Hill was a strategic move made by Ceausescu. By also carefully choosing its measurements, he wanted to make sure that the building could be seen from every corner of Romania’s capital, Bucharest [9, p. 7]. At the other end of the spectrum, any person inside the House of the People can see large swaths of the Capital City. In his never ending pursuit of absolute power and his obsession with the cult of personality, Nicolae Ceausescu saw himself as a master puppeteer pulling the strings from this massive structure while the Romanian people all obeyed his orders. The House of the People would allow Ceausescu to become the omniscient eye or big brother constantly watching over the Romanian nation. The citizens living in the city thus were to become inferior beings, always conscious of the fact that they were being watched, but completely unable to escape the controlling power of the ever-present and ever-powerful dictator. The feelings of victory, domination and power which emanate in all directions from the structure are overwhelming. No matter how tall or big you are, the House of the People makes you feel tiny, almost insignificant. It is a giant meant to take on the world.

A Wonder of Architecture. Part of the reason behind the controversy over the House of the People is determined by its different architectural styles and unique characteristics. Being the biggest structure in Europe and one of the most lavishly decorated in the world,

it has an enormous architectural value and it is an important asset for Romania. Because of the amount of expensive materials that were put into its construction, the post-communist Romanian governments felt compelled to make the best use of it. After all, they had at hand the most expensive structure ever built in the history of humanity [11].

According to The Guinness Book of World Records, the House of the People from Bucharest is in second place in terms of surface area, just after the Pentagon from the United States of America, boasting an area of 3,555,000 square feet. In terms of volume, it is in third place, with 90,055,000 cubic feet. It surpasses the Great Pyramid of Giza from Egypt by 10% volume wise. The House of the People measures 886 feet by 787 feet and has 282 feet in height (see fig. 1). Official records say the building has six levels below ground, but there is unofficial information that indicates that there are eight levels which go as deep as 302 feet.

The total number of rooms is 1100 and the building has 12 stories in height. Another interesting aspect is that the building was made entirely using construction materials from Romania, nothing was imported. The estimates for the materials used include 35,315,000 cubic feet of marble from Transylvania, mostly from the Rușchița quarry; 3,860 tons of crystal used in 480 chandeliers, and 1,409 ceiling lights and mirrors. In addition, over half a million tons of steel and bronze were used for doors, windows and chandeliers, while 31,783,000 cubic feet of wood was needed for parquet and wainscoting. The types of wood used were diverse, ranging from walnut and oak to elm and maple. Lastly, 7,063,000 square feet of woolencarpets of different sorts and sizes were included. Some of the larger carpets were so big that entire machines had to be ensembled in the interior of the building in order to weave them [12].

The House of the People is considered to be built in the Romanian Brancovenesc style, an across-the-board term used for vernacular Romanian architecture, so called after the seventeenth-century enlightened Wallachian prince and patron of the arts, Constantin Brancoveanu [6, p.60]. However, according to the historian Cristina Hanganu-Bresch, there is no agreement among architects that such a

style really exists [9, p. 10]. As we can see in figure 2, the architecture of the building combines aspects and motifs from different sources in an eclectic, postmodernist style. The windows with arches and a colonnade spanning the midsection of the first tier on the front façade give the exterior of the House of the People an obscure neo-classic look. The entrance hall rises 90 feet high and a flight of marble stairs leads up to a massive corridor spanning endlessly on both sides [1, p. 1]. It is obvious that the human scale, which mankind used for Classic architecture, was the last thing that was taken into account when the House of the People was planned. The most prevalent architectural styles present in the interior of the building, sometimes in the same room, are: Renaissance, Rococo, Baroque and Byzantine [4]. Slabs of pink and white marble line many of the grandiose halls, while fine carved oak friezes decorate the ceilings of the building (see fig. 3). The amount of attention given to detail is utterly impressive. Thick silk drapery, which had been handmade at monasteries in the north of Romania, are hung from the windows. Similarly, the wainscoting and paneling of the building had been hand carved from cherry and walnut wood. All the rooms are vast, and some, like the Romania Hall, which has 2,100 square feet, are bigger than a football field [6, p. 61]. The basement of the building contains two bunkers designed for use in case of a nuclear war and one air-raid shelter [11]. In his ambition bordering madness and obsession, Nicolae Ceausescu wished for one of the reception halls of the House of the People to have a roof that could open in such a way that a helicopter could be landed inside the building [5]. His desire, however, could not be fulfilled and the architectural blueprint had to be altered for obvious safety reasons.

Aruthless Dictator's Creation. The construction of the House of the People took place during a time of historical changes in Romania. According to Ion Mihai Pacepa, a Romanian historian, former three star general in Ceausescu's secret police and the highest-ranking defector from the Communist bloc to the United States, Ceausescu was considered by western leaders as promoting a moderate form of communism, thus he managed to create strong relations with the US and the European Community in the early stages of his rule. Two

US presidents and many other leaders from democratic states visited Romania in the 1960s and 1970s, and the country had almost entirely broken off from the communist bloc. Ceausescu received many distinctions and medals, such as the Danish Order of the Elephant from Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, and the Knight Grand Cross from Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, because of his outspokenness against the USSR's actions in Czechoslovakia during the revolution of 1968. In 1975, Romania received the «most favored nation» trading status from the US, a few years after a favorable visit by American President Richard Nixon [10].

However, all this was to change during the following decade of Ceausescu's rule. Romania's leader would slowly but surely change from promoting a moderate form of communism to implementing the most autarchic and repressive communist system in the entire world. Due to successive visits to the People's Republic of China, North Korea and North Vietnam, Ceausescu found new inspiration for economic and political models that he could subject his people to [10, p. 9]. After moving his country from the Soviet style of communism towards capitalism, he was now about to make a drastic and swift move towards the left. He got particularly interested in the changes that were occurring in East Asia such as China's Cultural Revolution. He wanted a similar national transformation program to be implemented in his own country. According to historian, Marin Pruteanu, Ceausescu was heavily impressed by the Juche philosophy of Kim Il Sung, the President of the People's Republic of North Korea. Soon, Ceausescu started a small scale cultural revolution in Romania, which would permanently and totally change the country by affecting its culture, literature, traditions and not in the least its architectural appearance [6, p.10]. Thus, building the House of the People was part of the bigger, grandiose plan that Ceausescu had in mind. It was in many ways meant to be the very embodiment of this new age in Romanian history. While the West still believed they were dealing with a moderate communist, Nicolae Ceausescu had already begun his plans to show the world the true power of communism in its most extreme form.

Starting in 1972, Romania implemented a program called “systematization”, best explained as rapid and forced urbanization.

Systematization was in fact a “plan to replace small town and peasant villages throughout the country with ‘agro-industrial centers’, or grim complexes of identical, shoddily constructed concrete high-rises where the population could easily be observed and controlled” [6, p. 59]. Depicted as a way to implement Ceausescu’s vision of a perfect socialist society, the systematization started off with demolition, resettlement, and construction in the countryside, but soon included the decision to completely reshape the country’s capital as well [9, p. 8]. Bucharest, with over two million people, is one of the biggest cities in Europe and had been called the “Paris of the East” or «Little Paris» in the interwar period because of its bourgeois architecture. Ceausescu wanted to change all this and instead leave his own mark on the city, something which would make him stay forever in history books. He thus wanted to transform Bucharest into “the first socialist capital for the new socialist man” [8, p. 6]. The House of the People was at the core of this project. It was meant both to praise the great past of Romania, but more importantly show the promise of the great future that communism offered it.

The actual construction of the building began in 1980 and followed a step by step process by which one fifth of the historical center of Bucharest, a size comparable to all of Venice, was bulldozed [8, p. 12]. This encompassed some of the city’s most valuable real estate, both from a financial and from a historical perspective. The destruction is said to have been run similar to a military campaign as “people recall seeing the dictator’s motorcade moving along while, with a flick of a finger, he indicated the blocks he wanted torn down to make way for his palace and its surrounding web of roads and buildings” [4].

Constructing the House of the People involved razing to the ground two entire neighborhoods with over 9,300 fin-de-siècle homes, apartments and department stores, nineteen Orthodox Christian churches, six Jewish synagogues and temples, three Protestant churches, a museum and even a monastery [6, p. 59]. In addition, eight other churches were relocated to other areas of the city. These lucky churches were moved like Lego toys without being destroyed, the operation being an impressive feat of engineering for that period. In

order to build such an enormous structure, an entire hill was actually leveled. The hill had previously had different names such as Spirii Hill, Uranus Hill, or Arsenal Hill. Despite international protests and the forceful resettlement of over 20,000 people, Ceausescu never contemplated putting his project on hold or significantly altering it, according to Paul Focsa, the city architect at that time [2]. Instead, Ceausescu's vision became even more ambitious as times passed. He no longer wanted to limit himself only to building the House of the People, but wanted to construct an entire complex, as so called Civic Center, which he saw as his legacy for subsequent generations [8, p. 5].

Finally, on the 25th of June in 1984, Nicolae and his wife Elena Ceausescu laid the cornerstone of the largest construction site that had ever existed in Europe. Apart from the House of the People, the Civic Center was to also include two large plazas on the two extremes of a three mile long Avenue of Socialist Victory, as well as administrative buildings for which other historical buildings had to be destroyed. In Ceausescu's vision, the Avenue of Socialist Victory (see fig. 4) had a special role, offering a grand entrance to his headquarters [9, p. 5]. The Avenue is one foot wider than a standard football field. This makes it even wider than the famous Champs Elysee from Paris. It is also almost double in length compared to the Parisian avenue [2]. At the end of the Avenue of Socialist Victory, on the opposite side from the House of the People, is the University Square, Bucharest's own version of the Tiananmen Square from Beijing. Here, Nicolae Ceausescu envisioned groups of people congregating and marching towards the House of the People in order to glorify him and the communist regime of Romania [4].

According to General Constantin Luta, the House of the People's chief engineer, over 15,000 people worked on the construction of the Civic Center: "We worked day and night. Many deadlines were set, but it was beyond human ability to keep them. The amount of work needed was so huge that it didn't matter how many workmen we had, we still couldn't finish" [1]. The official figures claim that 20,000 workers and 700 architects worked in three shifts continuously, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week (see fig. 5). This made the construction of the House of the People a process similar to the building of the Pyramids

from Ancient Egypt. Although officially the workers were free men, not the slaves that the ancient Egyptians used, the fact that all of Romania was a trap from which people constantly tried to escape and taking into account the lack of rights and freedoms that the Romanian population had to endure under Communism, this makes the similarity between the construction of the Pyramids and that of the House of the People even more obvious. According to Gen. Luta, the blueprints of the building was drawn and redrawn by a constantly changing team of architects. Ceausescu himself used to come to the construction site quite regularly and get involved in the process of designing the building. Sometimes he came three times a week in order to make requests and suggestions, such as asking for the modification of the lengths of the stairs or choosing what of materials to use for different parts of the building [1].

Both Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena each had a favorite architect. This would make the building process more complicated, due to the fact that at times conflicting orders were given. It would also be common for Ceausescu to arrive with orders for major changes, which he would later rescind after they had already been carried out [6, p. 59]. Another issue which both complicated and further delayed the construction was that fact that Ceausescu was constantly paranoid about a potential sabotage. He thus prevented his many architects to consult each other. Furthermore, he went as far as demanding that each of them be escorted blindfolded to his or her specific work site. They had to go through the same process when leaving as well. Only Ceausescu and Anca Petrescu, his all time favorite architect, were to know how the structure would look at the end [6, p. 61].

Ceausescu intended to open the House of the People and the Civic Center in 1990. He dreamed of celebrating his 25th year in power with a grand opening of his architectural masterpiece. He was unable to do so, however, because of the 1989 Anti-Communist Revolution which occurred in Romania. Instead of receiving adulation and praise from his people for having built the most costly building in the history of humanity at the expense of their misery, what Ceausescu and his wife did receive were a summary trial followed by a swift execution by a firing squad [3]. The fall of communism in Romania in 1989

is considered the result of “Eastern Europe’s final and bloodiest revolution” [6, p.59].

Due to a cruel irony of history, University Square, the place where Ceausescu dreamed of seeing large gatherings of people praising him and his political regime was where the anti-communist revolution started in Bucharest. Thousands of protesters gathered there on the night of December 21 in 1989. The people bravely disregarded all risks involved with protesting in those times, which included prison time, torture or worse. They demanded the end of dictatorial rule in Romania and the return of democracy and free elections after 50 years of oppressive communism. Nicolae Ceausescu was surprised to see the people revolting against him, as he considered he had done so much for the country. Unlike the political leaders of many other communist countries in Eastern Europe, he refused to give up his power peacefully. Instead he ordered the army to start shooting the protesters. As a consequence, over 1,000 protesters were shot and killed that night, while many more were wounded. The revolution had already gained a momentum of its own by then and could no longer be stopped. In less than 24 hours it spread to the rest of the country. Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu took the decision to flee by helicopter to Targoviste, a town close to Bucharest. This move, although it put them out of harm’s way for a short period of time, it was the final nail in the coffin for the communist regime. Seeing their leader flee, the Romanian army joined the side of the protesters and the collapse of the entire regime immediately followed. The Ceausescu couple were arrested the following day. On December 25, the Ceausescus were put on trial by a military court which quickly condemned them to death, on charges ranging from genocide to illegal accumulation of wealth. They were immediately executed [7, 9]. Many modern historians and political scientists, both from Romania and otherwise, consider the trial of the Ceausescu couple to have been a kangaroo trial or show trial, since it lacked many of the characteristics that a proper trial requires. The Romanian people at time, however, were ecstatic to no longer have to obey every whim of the dictator and his wife.

In the period following the execution of the dictator and his wife,

the House of the People went by different names such as the “House of the Republic” or “Kafka’s Castle.” Sometimes, people referred to it as the “Madman’s House,” in response to Ceausescu’s having called it “my house.” As years passed, however, Romanians started once more to call the building by its initial name: the “House of the People.” This is partly because time had washed away at least some of the suffering that the population went through in order for Ceausescu to build his mega structure, but also partly because the people were now able to see the building with different eyes and felt that it finally belonged to them and not to the dictator. The Avenue of Social Victory was eventually renamed, “Unity Avenue,” by the new post-communist government, who in the early 90s had referred to the House of the People as the “House of Ceausescu,” pointing to it as an example of the opulence in which Ceausescu wished to live, a stark contrast to the misery and destitution many of the locals lived in [6, p. 60-61].

The Sacrifice of an Entire Nation. The House of the People is part of Romanian consciousness not only due to its impressive size, which can be easily seen by any observer, but more importantly due to the immense amount of suffering that its building process involved. The construction took its toll not only on the Capital City of Bucharest, but on the entire country because of the enormous volume of resources used. This involved the deprivation of every day necessities for ordinary Romanians: “for that bloody palace, we were all starving, we were all freezing...everything – bread, cheese – was rationed and the heat in our apartments in the winter was set at 14 degrees C (57 degrees Fahrenheit),” a local recalled bitterly after the revolution [2]. The negative effect on the local community was so severe that in order to express it a new word had to be invented in the Romanian language: “Ceashima”, meant to sarcastically compare Ceausescu and his policies to Hiroshima, the infamous nuclear attack which wiped out an entire city in Japan during World War II.

Years after the anti-communist revolution had consumed itself, Romania still had to deal with the internal debt that the building had brought about and decide how to best use it so that the huge investment that had been made would not be for nothing. In addition, the symbolism

of the building had to be reinterpreted. Initially the House of the People had the obvious purpose of glorifying Ceausescu's dictatorship: "the halls bigger than a football field were designed for the special glorification of the ruling pair (for example, one can still see the 25 ft. tall empty slots at both ends of a huge hall, which were meant to shelter the oversized portraits of Ceausescu and his wife Elena)" [9, p. 6]. After the two had been executed, their architectural heritage provoked mixed and sometimes conflicting feelings in the hearts of the Romanians. Journalist, Radu Budeanu, described the House of the People as "a Pharaonic bunker ... erected at the cost of general misery, raised skywards as an insult to the dignity of the people" [1].

The exact total cost for the construction has been debated by many. All the figures, however, are in the billions of dollars, even unaccounted for inflation. Some of the most reliable estimates mention 6 billion US dollars. This is a huge amount for a country whose budget in 1993 when the construction was over was 17 billion USD [9, p. 6]. No estimate can be exact, however, because there was no accurate accounting of the resources used. In addition, most of the workers involved in the construction were conscripted, meaning that they performed "patriotic labor" for their country. This is why the before mentioned suggestion that these workers could be compared to the slaves that built the ancient Pyramids of Egypt is not an exaggeration.

At the time of the 1989 Anti-Communist Revolution and of the execution of the ruling pair, only 80 % of the interior of the House of the People had been completed. This triggered a fierce debate regarding how to best finish the construction of the building, but more importantly, how to use the building once fully built. Many had so many hard feeling against the structure and what it was supposed to represent that they demanded for it to be demolished. They felt that razing it to the ground would be a symbolic act for the Romanian nation, just like the storming of Bastille was for the French. They were quite close to succeeding and for a while it seemed that so many billions of dollars were going to the garbage bin [6, p. 60]. The international media at the time, however, said that to destroy the House of the People would have been an even more wasteful thing than building it in the first place had been.

In the early 90s the new government organized an international urban design competition to figure out what to do with this «spectacular example of totalitarian architecture»[4]. The competition was held in Cannes and was judged by an international jury. The proposals were some of the most unexpected. Some suggested tearing the House of the People down or turning it into a fun fair. Others said that converting it into apartments would solve part of the housing shortage in Bucharest, but local architects opposed this idea because of the wrong proportions that the building had for such a purpose. For a while the idea to offer the House of the People to the United Nations as a new headquarters was contemplated. Unfortunately, Romania lacked the required infrastructure to support such a large organization at that time. Later, a group of dubious capitalists tried to determine the government to transform the House of the People into the world's biggest casino[6, p. 62]. For a while, the gigantic halls were used as a conference center. Enterprises from all over the world were able to rent rooms for business meetings and other events. However, this was just for a short period of time, as not many companies were present in Romania just a few years after the fall of communism, and the incomes gathered from the rent were insignificant due to the cheap prices that the real estate market had at that time [6, p. 62]. Finally, in March of 1993, the Chamber of Deputies voted to move Romania's Parliament into the building. However, some politicians, mostly from the opposition parties, were unwilling to agree and no sessions were held in the House of the People for a long time after the law was passed [6, p.62]. The transition took over 11 years to complete, but since 2005, both houses of the Romanian Parliament have been located in the House of the People, now officially called the Palace of the Parliament [9, p. 10]. However, the Romanian Parliament uses only a small part of the building and there is plenty of excess space left whose future use is yet to be decided by authorities. Although so many years have passed since the fall of communism, some Romanian still dislike the building. They consider that it is morally unjust to house the Romanian Parliament, a symbol of democracy, in a building which was meant to be a symbol of dictatorship and tyranny.

The House of the People: A Symbol of New Romania. Overall, however, most Romanian people are proud of such a building which,

after all, was built using materials from the different regions of Romania and with Romanian labor. In the same way that the American people are proud by the fact that the biggest building in the world is in the US, the Romanians show pride in having the biggest building in Europe in their country. Ironically, the fact that the construction was made at the expense of the misery of the population is a reason why the House of the People is more appreciated than it would have been otherwise. Precedents from history show us similar examples. The EUR complex built by Mussolini in Rome is today one of the most visited sites in Italy and the Italian people take pride in it. Although the complex was built by Mussolini to praise his dictatorship, that did not prevent the Italian authorities to integrate it in the general economy of the country after democracy was restored. In addition, the EUR complex is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Rome today. Another precedent from history which has many similarities with the House of the People is the great Pyramids of Egypt. Built for the sole purpose of offering an imposing place to rest for the pharaohs, the pyramids' construction involved incredible resources and the loss of thousands of lives. In spite of this, they have been considered wonders of the world because of their architecture and they are extensively used to promote a strong positive image for Egypt internationally.

But maybe the most similar precedent for the House of the People is the Palace of Versailles. Built by Louis XIV, the King of France, as a symbol of his absolute power, it was a residence of unimaginable luxury compared to the poverty in which his subjects lived. The palace is today a museum, a meeting place for world leaders, and most of all a symbol of the beauties that France has to offer. Compared to the House of the People, both in terms of size and display of luxury, Versailles is insignificant, but the amount of international recognition that it has received over the years are the result of its good use. Learning from precedents like this, the Romanian government tried to promote the House of the People as a symbol of what Romania has to offer. The advice of Jean Paul Carteron, The President of the Crans Montana Forum was listened to. He visited the House of the People in 1994, and said: "Let us forget today the 'one' who ordered it and let us praise the 'one' who created it». This best sums up the attitude of Romania's

post-communist governments. The House of the People slowly became part of most of the tourist tours offered in Bucharest and in Romania. Since the country joined NATO in 2004 and the European Union in 2007, tourist travel has increased considerably and the authorities have taken advantage of this. While still not known worldwide as well as Dracula's Castle, the House of the People has the potential to become the most well known symbol of Romania over the next few decades. After all, Dracula's legend and his castle had had a head start of a few hundred years.

The legacy that Ceausescu has left in Romania will never be forgotten, in spite of how hard people may try to do so. In exchange for denying all things that communism did in Romania, the Romanian people have learned how to come to terms with their past. That was the only way in which the country could move on. As Catherine Lalumiere, the General Secretary of the Council of Europe, said during her visit to Romania in 1990, "the House of the People will always be the construction of a megalomaniac, but, at the same time, a masterpiece of the Romanian people». Its existence already is part of the collective memory of the Romanian people and will remain so for centuries to come.



Fig. 1 The House of the People – Aerial view

Source: Romania Explorer. Accessed January 17, 2016.http://bucharest.romaniaexplorer.com/page_10777.html

Fig. 2 The House of the People – Street view

Source: thekonst.net. Accessed January 17, 2016. <http://thekonst.net/ro/photoshow/99/3>



Fig. 3 Inside the House of the People

Source: Romanian Parliament Website. Accessed January 17, 2016. <http://cic.cdep.ro/ro/s%C4%83li/sala-al-i-cuza>

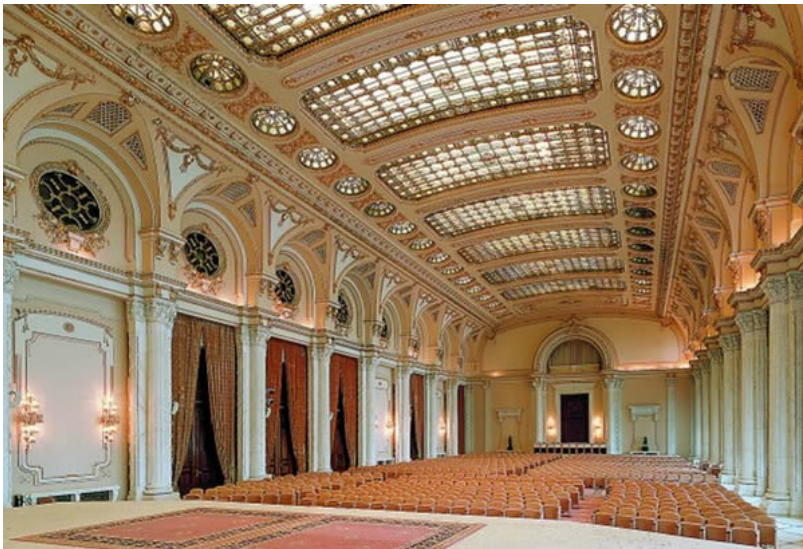


Fig. 4 The Avenue of Socialist Victory

Source: Ziare.com. Accessed January 17, 2016. <http://www.ziare.com/stiri/frauda/circulatie-inchisa-pe-bulevardul-unirii-816291>



Fig. 5 The House of the People under construction during the 1980s

Source: Neculai Ionescu, from Stirred Up. Accessed January 17, 2016. www.stirredup.net



Fig. 6 The House of the People – Night View

Source: Trek Earth. Accessed January 17, 2016. <http://www.trekearth.com/search.php?phrase=house+of+the+people&type=&x=0&y=0>



Стоика Кристинел Попа

ДОМ НАРОДА: ШЕДЕВР АРХИТЕКТУРЫ РУМЫНИИ

Эта статья исследует противоречивую историю одного из самых больших зданий в мире: Дом народа. Парадокс во многих отношениях, сооружение должно было символизировать власть народа в стране с диктаторской системой, в которой люди не имели практически никакой власти. Кроме того, здание является самым дорогим техногенным строительством всех времен, но он было построен в стране, где население имело один из самых низких уровней жизни среди стран всего коммунистического блока. Сегодня большинство румын гордятся зданием и Дом народа яв-

ляється одним из символів нової, демократическої Румунії, заветної туристическої достопримечательностью для местных жителей и туристов.

Ключевые слова: Румунія, Бухарест, Дом народних збораній, Николае Чаушеску, архітектура, комунізм

Стоїка Крістїнел Попа

ДІМ НАРОДУ: ШЕДЕВР АРХІТЕКТУРИ РУМУНІЇ

Ця стаття досліджує суперечливу історію однієї з найбільших будівель в світі: Дому Народу. Парадокс у багатьох відношеннях, будівля мала символізувати владу народу в країні з диктаторською системою, в якій люди не мали практично ніякої влади. Крім того, будівля є найдорожчою техногенною спорудою всіх часів, побудованою в країні, де населення мало один з найнижчих рівнів життя серед країн комуністичного блоку. Сьогодні більшість румунів пишаються будівлею і Будинок народу є одним із символів нової, демократичної Румунії, заповітною туристичною пам'яткою для місцевих жителів і туристів.

Ключові слова: Румунія, Бухарест, Будинок народних зборів, Ніколае Чаушеску, архітектура, комунізм

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ПЕРІОДИЗАЦІЯ ТА ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКА МІЖНАРОДНИХ ВІДНОСИН УКРАЇНИ З ЯПОНІЄЮ (1991-2016 рр.)

У статті розглянуто основні періоди політичної співпраці України з Японією з 1991 р. по 2016 р. Пояснено критерії періодизації та надано характеристику кожному етапу двосторонніх відносин. Незважаючи на акцент статті на політичному аспекті, висвітлюються також результати