

Pisztory Palace

The venue of the Reception and Celebration Party of the Conference “20 Years of Community foundations in Visegrad countries” is going to be held at the Pistzory Palace.

It is the seat of the Via Cultura association – Institute for Cultural Policy – which is a partner of this event.

The Palace, owned by the Bratislava Old Town municipality, has been in decay for years, since the last tenants moved out in 2005.

Since 2012 it is the seat of the Via Cultura association which rented it from the Old Town, prepared a plan for its revitalization and filled it with various civic and cultural activities, events and exhibitions.

Today it serves to the public as a community-cultural center and provides office and activity space for various culture-related organizations such as the Film Europe Cinema, community Theatre “Bez domova” and others.

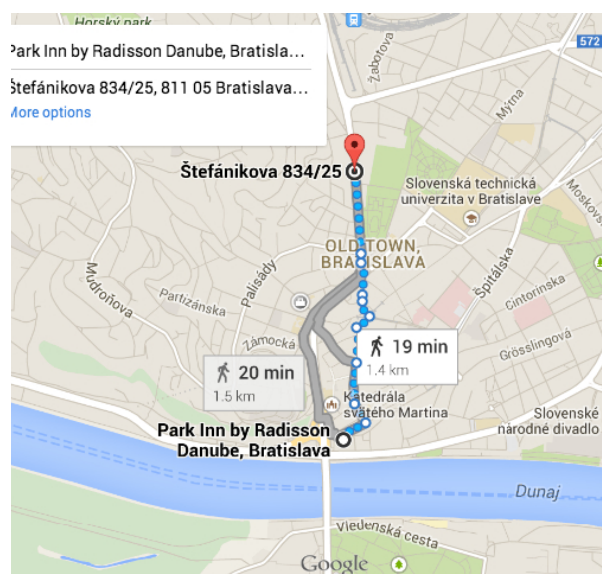
But beyond its present function, the history of the 120 years of its existence is very interesting and rich and is worth of exploring.

How to get there

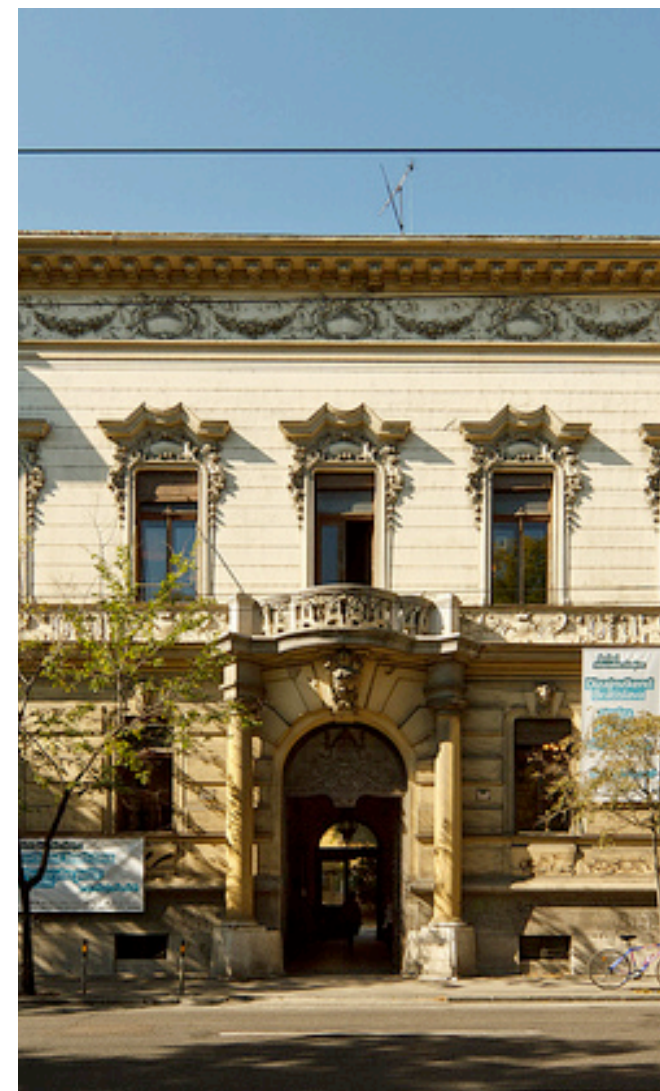
Walk through the Old Town

From the Park-Inn Hotel walk north through the Hviezdoslavovo Square, through the “corso” in the Old Town, Michalská street, Michalská gate up to the Hodžovo square and pass by the Presidential Palace. It is on the left side of the Štefánikova street. Be careful when crossing the street as it is very busy.

The address is: **Štefánikova 25, Bratislava**



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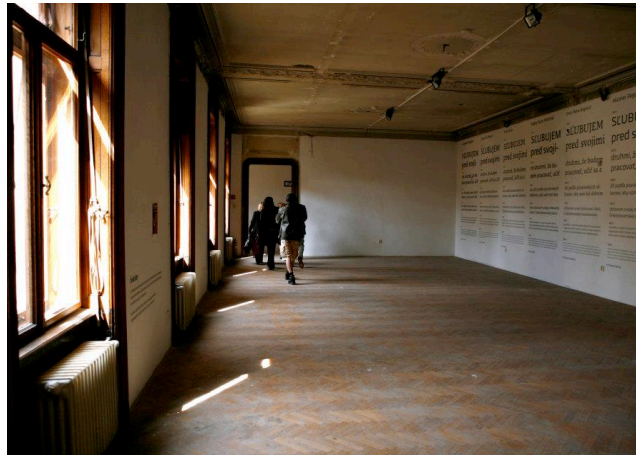


History

Felix Pisztory, a wealthy pharmacist, built the palace in the 1890s. At that time, the street was just an emerging city avenue towards the Hungarian royal railway where wealthy residents of Pressburg purchased lands for their palaces and villas. Pisztory had a garden in the back of his palace extending to today's Slavín hill, where he grew his medicinal herbs.



According to a book by historian Tivadar Ortway, the Palace excelled in taste and luxury. Most of the original equipment has been preserved and can be seen here today - the forged gate, artistic railings, balustrade, crystal chandeliers, mosaic floor in the stair hall and rich stucco decorations or even gilded frescoes on the ceiling. The allegorical paintings, which are an apotheosis of music, were created by Gast in 1895.



Embassy vs. Lenin

During the Second World War the Palace became the seat of the Embassy of the German Reich (or Croatia?) and after the War, in communist period in 1954, it was converted into the Museum of V.I. Lenin – and it became the showcase of communism, where many sworn their pioneer oaths and still remember its marvelous staircase and beautiful halls.

The Palace is in need for substantial renovation though, but while the resources are not ready and collected, it is open to public as a community cultural space.



After 1989

After the 1989 the side wing was used as the office of the House of Slovaks Living Abroad. They were the last tenants until 2005. Since then, the Palace has been empty and in decay, only until recently – in 2011 when the Via Cultura initiative rented it from the Old Town and brought life to it again.