SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARCHITECT STANKO KLISKA FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH CULTURE IN BELGRADE DURING THE PERIOD AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Abstract: The architect Stanko Kliska (Snagovo, Bosnia, September 15th 1896 – Belgrade, October 3rd 1969) is a representative of the generation of young intellectuals adopting the Yugoslav idea. His creative work between the two world wars is connected to the city of Zagreb. World War II interrupts Zagreb period of his independent and very successful activity in this city and brings him as a refugee to Belgrade where he stays with his family to live and work till the end of his life. After the public competition in 1950, Stanko Kliska was elected for the associate professor of the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade, in the subject Social buildings. He takes over lecturing in the group of the professor D. Leko about medical buildings and manages practical work in the same field. With his work Influence of patients’ room on the development of modern hospital he becomes full professor in 1957 in the subject Design of medical buildings, when he was appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade. Belgrade period in the work of Stanko Kliska is characterized by numerous projects, some of them realized and some again not. Between them are distinguished: Sanatorium of FNRJ Government (Belgrade 1947-1949); Draft Master Plan and program draft for the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade (1952); Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Belgrade (1949–1956); General hospital in Zenica (1950); General hospital in Tuzla (1956), etc. His competence, professional courage, consistency and modesty where the reason why he was accepted in Belgrade as a respected architect and professor of the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade. Kliska died in 1969 in Belgrade, and three days later was buried in Mirogoj cemetery, Zagreb.
Key words: urban planning, architecture, medical institutions, hospitals
Non MeSH: the law on public health institutions

Introduction

A review on overall development of modern architecture and urban planning in Serbia could not be possible without consideration and study of the original archives documents, speaking about complete works of each and every constructor. Seen within the context of social, political, living circumstances and surroundings, personal and family heritage of architects, personal and occupation documents in the first place – project and photo archive materials – they become unavoidable means leading towards reconstruction of a global picture and atmosphere where they created and built. It also leads towards far better understanding of modern architectural and urban planning tendencies in Serbia and Belgrade. Modern architecture between two wars, as a clearly defined and configured creative period, mostly continued to live after the World War II, despite aspirations to create new traditions overnight and break all connections with the achievements of modern architecture in the pre-war period.

The obligation of collecting, arranging, studying and preserving of such inheritance, as well as the need for its systematic processing and publishing in the form of periodic and monographic publications to be used by experts, specialists, students, though also by the wider cultural public, is important among the other as a contribution to valid insight in national cultural treasure to be preserved from oblivion. Specialized institutions with main activity to collect and preserve archives heritage, are in fact a unique source for researches in scientific studying, critical consideration and interpretation of an architectural composition and its authors. The Department of Architecture within the Museum of Science and Technology in Belgrade has been constituted exactly with the task to collect, arrange and takes care of the legacy left behind the most significant Serbian constructors in the 19th and 20th century. Collections of the Department of Architecture consist today of more than ten thousand projects designed by prominent Serbian architects such as Milan Zloković, Nikola Dobrović, Branislav Kojić, Dragiša Brašovan, Aleksandar Deroko, Bogdan and Nikola Nestorović, Branko Tanazević and other doyens of Serbian architecture. Besides projects, collection of the Department of Architecture includes drafts, drawings, models and photos of architectural projects, archives materials, competition elaborates, materials from books and periodical publications, memoir components in the form of remembrance of the architects and their contemporaries, personal properties, etc. In this Department, the legacy of the architect Stanko Kliska is kept, donated to the Museum by Aleksandra Kliska Šešić, daughter of the architect Stanko Kliska. First his wife Anica Vincenc Kliska, then his daughter Aleksandra preserved his legacy, patiently and systematically arranging it in their apartment in Palmotićeva 19, Belgrade, the same apartment where the architect Stanko Kliska had lived. By the end of her life, his daughter decided to donate the legacy of her
The architect Stanko Kliska was born in Snagovo near Zvornik (Bosnia) on September 15th 1896 in Serbian family from father Maksim and mother Persida born Vojnović [2: 122–127. 3: 18. 4: 13. 5: 36-37. 6:38. 7:39. 8:118. 9:55. 10: 105–107]. He attended primary school in Tavna from 1903 to 1907, secondary school in Banja Luka (Bosnia) 1907 – 1914. As a supporter of Yugoslav idea, he was persecuted by Austro-Hungarian authorities. That’s why he must left secondary schooling and was also drafted to join Austro-Hungarian army at the very beginning of the World War I. He graduated after the war in Zagreb – 1918. After the graduation he enrolled to Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, where he spent one year. In 1919 he transfers to Technical Great School, Faculty of Architecture in Vienna. He returns to Zagreb in 1920, where he attends newly founded Faculty of Engineering, Department of Architecture – University of Zagreb. Changes in the political map of Europe after the World War I, as well as of ideals and ideologies, had their reflection in the world of architecture and urban planning, particularly on the specific demands requiring speed and skills in construction and establishing of the housing capacities, in the situation of short supply in the cities of newly founded Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes [11: 51–53]. It was necessary to respond fast within the existent constructions task, in design of the project as well as in realization of constructions work, not neglecting
design and urban planning issues, good taste and feeling for living and accommodation culture in the city under the pressure of urgent design and construction of housing units.

Within the generation of pre-war architects in Croatia, a number of them were nominated as the professors in High Technical School, founded in Zagreb in 1919. The first dean of the school was the architect Edo Šen, and among reputable professors was Viktor Kovačić, the student of Bolle (Herman Bolle) and Wagner (Otto Wagner). Among the other, he was an architect known for his choice to spend all his working age as an independent designer, refusing to deal neither with constructions entrepreneurship, nor with public service. His apartment buildings Slaveksa and Ekspolatacije d.d. in Zagreb, and his most prominent work, Zagreb Stock Market became paradigm to the whole pleiad of young architects, to Stanko Kliska as well [11: 52]. In his student days, Stanko Kliska married Zagreb-born Anica Vincenc in 1920, and in March 1922 their daughter Aleksandra was born [1]. Kliska graduated in 1923, his mentor was Professor Viktor Kovačić (1874–1924). After graduation, he was working in Kovačić studio till the professor’s sudden death when he was fifty one in 1924. After the set of unexpected circumstances, Kliska transfers to work in the studio of the professor Erlih (Hugo Erlih (1879–1936) who was invited in 1925 to become successor of prof. Kovačić in the Faculty of Engineering in Zagreb, where he continues with his work till the end of his life in 1936 [11: 52]. Hugo Erlih has swiftly transferred his orientation towards modern tendencies in architecture to his students and associates, as well as on shaping the cities like Zagreb and Belgrade, influencing consequently the whole work of the architect Stanko Kliska. The whole pleiad of young architects graduated in Faculty of Engineering, was employed at once in public service, ensuring a modest but secure income. Among them was Stanko Kliska as well. Simultaneously, he started working for prof. Erlih and in the Technical Department of Ban’s Government in Zagreb where he was employed from 1923. to 1929. In that period he gains experience by constructing Stock Market and Epidemiology Institute, designs Post Office in Sisak and manages its construction (1931), as well as Outbuilding of the main post in Zagreb (Ban’s savings bank, 1935–1936) [1], etc.

He was granted the title of licensed architect in 1929, when he opened his independent studio in Zagreb [1]. As an independent architect he was working from 1929 till the war in 1941, being for Stanko Kliska the most fruitful interval of Zagreb period (1923–1941). This period was characterized by numerous architectural and urban planning achievements, as well as scientific research work. Among the structures from the period of his independent activity apartment-commercial building in the corner of Preobraženska no. 2 and Ilica no. 9 in Zagreb (with J. Denzler and M. Kauzlarić, 1929–1930); apartment building Matolnik in Stančićeva st no.7 in Zagreb (1930); apartment building in the corner of the streets Ljudevita Posavskog and Široline in Zagreb (1930); high school in Sisak (1930); Ban’s hospital in Slavonska Požega (1930); hospital in Glina (1931); hospital in Sisak (1931); hospi-
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tal in Sušak (with E. Steinmann, 1931) [12: 114]; villa Žepić in Gregorijančeva st. 46 in Zagreb (1932–1933); hospital on Rebro in Zagreb (1934–1941, with F. Gabrić, Antun Urlih i V. Juranović); (illustration 3); Ban’s savings bank in Zagreb (1935): Home of the Red Cross in Zagreb (1935); commercial – apartment building, Preradovića square 5 in Zagreb (with A. Urlih (1939–1940), etc. [13: 4. 14:6. 15:5. 16: 8.] are distinguished.

In the period between two world wars Stanko Kliska has participated in numerous competitions and left equally numerous never realized projects, or else realized by the other persons and studios. Among unrealized projects of Zagreb period are: Administrative building of the city companies in Zagreb (public competition, first reward, 1935); Cultural Centre Sušak (public competition, third reward, 1934); Post Office II Zagreb (conceptual design, contracted, 1934); Economic – commercial school Zagreb (limited competition, first reward, 1938); Hospital for transport personnel Zagreb (public competition, first reward, 1939); Surgery Clinic in Belgrade (contracted, project and the whole elaboration, 1939–1940); Buiatrics Clinic of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade (project and the whole elaboration 1939–1940) etc. [1].

During the period from 1925 to 1938 Stanko Kliska visited all the important European metropoles, aiming to improve his professional knowledge in constructions. He was the Secretary of the Chamber of Engineers in Zagreb 1935 and President of the Architects Society in Zagreb 1936. Stanko Kliska was forced to leave Zagreb after the ceremonial opening of Rebro hospital in 1941 and as a refugee he became the resident of Belgrade [1].

Belgrade period of the architect Stanko Kliska (1941–1969)

Moving into town in the middle of war, in that moment the only shelter for him and his family, Kliska could not possibly foresee that Belgrade would become the place of his permanent life and work. That’s when the new Belgrade period in Stanko Kliska’s opus begins, lasting till the end of his life in 1969. It was characterized by
construction, science research and pedagogy stages in his work, mutually pervaded and deriving one from another.

Between two wars the architect Stanko Kliska was working in the whole territory of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes/Yugoslavia, particularly dealing with medical institutions and hospitals. He conducted such a task unobtrusively and courageously, sharing belief propagated by the Ministry of National Health of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, that such facilities as hospitals are in every society means to clearly express its principles of social justice and humanity. Almost by a natural dictate of his personality he was executing this task – in urban planning and architectural sense – trying to answer to all the demands and criteria in order to create a modern hospital in accordance with the European standards. Doing this, he was also trying that each of these structures had something connected with these spaces, also a personal touch of Stanko Kliska. [17: 18, 21]. In that period Kliska established his connections with Belgrade, primarily by participation in competitions and his projects although unrealized, would later give strong stimulus to the whole generation of young constructors and urban planners of Belgrade in that time, the generation professionally coming forward after the World War II (project for the hospital of transport personnel in Belgrade (1939), Surgery clinic in Belgrade (1939–1940) and Buiatrics Clinic of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade (1939–1940). [18: 199–258].

Although the member of the Chamber of Engineers in Belgrade, in the military occupied City, as a refugee from the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), Kliska didn’t want to design. On the initiative of the professors from the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade, Kliska accepted to work for them, on collection and systematization of data acquired in international practice in the field of upgrading of medical culture and constructions of medical facilities, aiming to prepare a future Program for post-war constructions of such facilities.

After the liberation of Belgrade in 1944. he placed himself at disposal of the Trusteeship for National Health of the National Committee for the Liberation of Yugoslavia, where he was nominated for the Head of the Department for renewal and construction of medical institutions. In newly founded Ministry of National Health and Committee for Protection of National Health FPRY, he was doing the same job. As the Head of the Department for renewal and construction of medical institutions, he was working on the estimation of the war damage, giving instructions for renewal and constructions of medical facilities, preparing groundwork for the Five Years Plan, etc, while in the same time he was giving motivation by his expert written works in magazines such as Narodno zdravlje, Naše građevinarstvo, etc. In the same period Stanko Kliska designed buildings for the needs of the institute of newly founded Faculty of Medicine in Skopje (realized 1946/47), then new complex of the Faculty of Medicine in Skopje (1948), types of antituberculosis dispensaries and district infirmaries for the needs of PR Macedonia, General Hospital in Tutored, etc. He was not neglecting his work in Councils of National Health of PR Serbia and PR
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Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Executive Council and in the National Assembly of FRY, where he was engaged in conceptualization of the Law on National Health Institutions, etc.

In the period 1947-1949 preparations of the General Urban Plan of Belgrade were in full swing. Concerning the problems in its elaboration, as well as in the other tasks, Urban Planning Institute was consulting all the expert bodies, where Stanko Kliska was always present as a permanent expert for planning and construction of medical facilities in Federal Institute for National Health and Councils for National Health of NR Serbia and NR Bosnia and Herzegovina [1]. Founded on the existent situation, numerous analysis and prognosis concerning development perspectives of Belgrade, he took part in the work of Planning Commission of the Executive Board of the People's Committee (IONO). In cooperation with the Urban Planning Institute, also with federal and republic institutions, Planning Commission prepared the Program of the future development of Belgrade (based on all the economic activities and life in the city), harmonized with the adopted Five-years development plan of Belgrade (1947–1951) [19: 199]. In 1947, the architect Stanko Kliska transfers to work in the Federal Design Institute Jugoprojekt where he establishes Bureau for the design of medical facilities. With the scholarship of World Health Organization in 1949, Kliska visits health institutions and hospitals throughout Switzerland, England, Denmark and Sweden, with the task to study the hospitals architecture of these countries and to find out possibilities to apply these experiences in organization and construction of health institutions in Yugoslavia. After the educational study tour he made a detailed Report, published in the bulletin of the World Health Organization. [1].

Belgrade period was characterized by numerous projects realized and not realized as well, among them the most prominent are: Sanatorium of FNRJ Government (Belgrade, 1947–1949) (illustration 4); Draft Master Plan and program draft for the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade (1952). [20: 1] (illustration 5); Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics in
By the time when the construction of the new Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Belgrade of the Belgrade medical school started, the dean of the school was Ksenofon Šahović, and the director of the existent Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics was doctor Siniša Tasovac. This hospital was a prominent example of modern organization and construction of medical facilities. The construction of this clinic was only the first stage in realization of the Complex of buildings of the Belgrade medical school. General design of the author Stanko Kliska followed the model of such a clinic built in Zurich in the same time. In order to prevent the approach of upgrading and renewal of the existent medical facilities without previously adopted General urban plan – advocated as the only way in situation under the pressure of urgent tasks in the time of Renewal and Building of Belgrade devasted by war – Ministry of National Health of PR Serbia and Management of Medical Great School have made the decision to begin with elaboration of the General and Phase plan for the construction of Belgrade medical school. In the stage one of the new task, the team led by Stanko Kliska designed the Draft including the Program of future constructions in general, and the draft of the Stage plan of constructions. [21:3]. The whole activity of Stanko Kliska after the World
War 2 derives naturally from the period between two wars, continued to strongly stimulate unstoppable modernization of the capital, in urban planning as well as in constructions.

Pedagogical activity of the architect Stanko Kliska during his Belgrade period

After the recruitment open competition, on May 1st 1950 Stanko Kliska transfers to work in the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade, gaining the position of the associate professor. He was lecturing the subject Social buildings, and later he took over lecturing in the group of professor D. Leko about medical buildings and manages the practical work in the same field. After the new curriculum was adopted, Stanko Kliska has got the subject Hotels and Hospitals, and also manages practical work on the Design of social and accommodation buildings from the third to the ninth semester. With his work Influence of patients room on the development of modern hospital he became full professor in the subject Design of medical buildings in 1957, on the third and forth year of studying. Stanko Kliska was also the dean of the Faculty of Architecture during the school year 1956/57, the member of the Faculty Council, representative in the University Council, etc. [23: 146–147].

With the same commitment professor Kliska has been working on the scientific-theoretical aspects of medical institutions and all the types of hospitals. Besides educational study tour to Switzerland, England, Denmark and Sweden in 1949, he participated in the congress Technology in the hospital (Paris, 1950); congress of the International Federation of Hospitals in London with the work Structural connectivity of polyclinic and hospital (London, 1953); congress of Yugoslav physiologists in Niška Banja with co-author’s work Hospitalization problem of the tuberculosis’ patients (Niška Banja, 1954); doctors’ congress in Niška Banja with the work Problem of hospitals (Niška Banja, 1956), etc. In 1961 Stanko Kliska wrote textbooks: Hospital (illustration 7) and Health Station and Health Center, and had numerous lectures in the Doctors Course for Community Hygiene of the Committee for Health Protection FNRJ, as well as in the Course for sanitary engineers. Professor Kliska was the member of the Council for National Health and Social Politics of the FNRJ Government, where he was engaged on the Elaboration Study of Medical Institutions (People’s Health Centers, types of institutes of public health, anti-tuberculosis dispensaries, stationeries, general hospitals of the I type, general hospitals with the department for infectious diseases, anti-tuberculosis hospitals, etc.). The elaborates were later delivered to the Republics, asking for their
opinion. In the Council meetings, Stanko Kliska insisted on cooperation with doctors and on close cooperation with people from health care, considering such cooperation crucial for the establishment of well organized medical facility. As an example of good cooperation, he emphasized contacts with doctor Nojbajer on realization of TBC institutions, stressing that even bigger problem is financial limitations of the resources used for implementation of drafts and programs [24].

In the same time, he was constantly publishing his professional works in the magazine Narodno zdravlje, where he was writing about hospitals in European countries, constructions plan of hospitals in Belgrade, need to establish the Institute for medical architecture, etc and he was also doing Study elaborates: People's Health Center, General hospital, Hospital for infectious diseases, Health station, Elements of Health Center, Small hospital, etc.

The issue he was elaborating till the end of his life was Influence of patients room organization on the development of modern hospital, where the development of a hospital is seen by treating a patients room as a basic element in hospital's composition, also the influence on the architectural composition of a hospital in general, all this aiming to perceive and improve their future constructions. Mentioned researches and public appearances were an example of the consistent and continual stimulation of planners and designers to recognize the importance of leaving traditional concepts of hospital construction and to accept new standards, at the very beginning of preparation work for construction new and modern hospitals, in the wide specter of their meanings and functions. [25: 145–147. 26: 53–55. 27: 67. 28. 29.]. Turning of Stanko Kliska towards esthetic tendencies in modern architecture was the consequence of life needs, the new technological achievements, as well as a natural saturation with the old, excessively academic treatment of constructions, functionally no longer able to answer the demands of society. Kliska believed that the architecture as the harmony of volumes, spaces, lines and surroundings, in its constructive and esthetic expression, must reflect not only artistic essence, but as the most important goal, to improve and upgrade conditions of everyday life. In such a sense, Stanko Kliska was inviting his colleagues and authorities to direct attention besides housing towards the greatest good of humanity, health of every man, consequently towards constructions of socio-medicine, hygiene and hospital institutions, what is a huge need of mankind [24].

Driven by a set of life circumstances, Stanko Kliska belongs to the group of architects, educated and professionally affirmed in Croatia, directly or indirectly professionally connected to the city of Belgrade (in his high school and student days he was turned towards Belgrade carried by the Yugoslav idea. [31]; period between two wars connects him to Belgrade through numerous public appearances, competitions, projects, lecturing, and the war and post-war period brings him to Belgrade as a refugee, and then he permanently stays to live in Belgrade). In the same period, numerous Croatian architects and urban planners also stay (occasionally or permanently) and create in Belgrade, Stanko Kliska has left a deep trace in modernization of this
city and in the first place in the field of organization and functional improvement of Belgrade’s and Yugoslav medical architecture, consequently on health culture of these spaces in general [32:467–477]. For his work he received numerous state and professional rewards.

Almost in the same time the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade has lost its most prominent professors and leaders of the profession – the architect Dimitrije Leko died in 1964, Milan Zloković in 1965, and Nikola Dobrović in 1967. As he wished, Kliska was retired in 1966 when he was seventy. He died three years later on October 3rd 1969, and after three days on October 6th 1969, quietly and modestly as he was living, he was buried in Mirogoj cemetery in Zagreb in the family repository of his wife.

**Conclusion**

Architect Stanko Kliska (1896–1969) was born in Bosnia, educated and became known professionally in Croatia during the time of the Kingdom SHS/ Yugoslavia, though with the important part of his career in urban planning, architecture and not less important for his complete opus, pedagogical work, he was connected to the City of Belgrade in the time of military occupation and after the Second World War. It was also the period of his devoted and intensive work in the field of health culture in Belgrade, also of all the other cities in Yugoslavia where the need for him was felt. As a member of the significant and numerous group of architects from Croatia that greatly uplifted planning and construction of Belgrade, though also of the other cities throughout Yugoslavia, in the memory of his contemporaries he is remembered as the respectful Yugoslavian and then Belgrade’s constructor of hospitals and edifices to be used for the improvement of health culture in this City.

The same as the work of many famous architects and professors of the Faculty of Architecture and other faculties within the University of Belgrade, the work of Stanko Kliska is waiting to be published in a monography about him. It is the only way to save it from oblivion forever, and in such a way to determine the significance, role and position of famous authors of modern urban planning and architecture, as a part of cultural history of the 20th century in Serbia and Belgrade. At the very end, in favor of all said before, we will quote Ivo Andrić: *Everybody dies once, only great people die twice, first time when they vanish from the face of the Earth, and for the second time when their legacy is lost.*

**Reference**

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M.S., Pod Avalom će biti sagrađen bolnički centar za tuberkulozu-najveći na Balkanu [The biggest hospital for tuberculosis in Balkans will be constructed under Avala]. Glas. 1950; 3.


Kliska S. O planu građenja bolnice u Beogradu [About the plan of constructing hospital in Belgrade]. Narodno zdravlje. 1950; 145–147.


Illustrations list


**Illustration 2.** Form with personal data of Stanko Kliska for the Encyclopedia of Yugoslavia in NR Serbia, Lexicographical Institute of FNRJ (Source: Legacy of Stanko Kliska, Museum of Science and Technology in Belgrade).

**Illustration 3.** Rebro hospital in Zagreb, 1934–1941. (Source: Legacy of Stanko Kliska, Museum of Science and Technology in Belgrade).


**Illustration 5.** Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Belgrade (1948–1956). (Source: Legacy of Stanko Kliska, Museum of Science and Technology in Belgrade).

**Illustration 6.** Belgrade medical school, 1952.