

UNDER HISTORICAL PRESSURE – 2026

Department of Residential Design & Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation



site:

Zsellérváros neighbourhood, Gyöngyös (Hungary)

a 19th-century low-rise residential area with an intact historical plot structure

task:

DENTISTRY IN ZSELLÉRVÁROS

Filling or extraction? Amalgam or ceramic? Replacement or full reconstruction?

*At first glance, the dental metaphor may appear playful, yet it precisely captures the dilemmas of Zsellérváros. The urban fabric itself has remained remarkably stable since the 19th century, while social conditions, economic realities, and the overall perception of the area have changed radically. The core challenge is therefore not classical “rehabilitation”, but **reintegration**: how a historically persistent, yet socially and economically marginalised area can once again become a meaningful, forward-looking part of the city.*

*The dental analogy highlights that there is **no single correct scale or intensity of intervention**.*

A “filling” may correspond to subtle, targeted architectural actions; an “extraction” to the removal of dysfunctional or unsustainable elements; and a “replacement” to the insertion of new structures and spatial systems. At the other extreme lies the possibility of a full “crown”: a more radical reinterpretation of the area, potentially introducing higher density, more urban typologies, and new cultural or creative programmes. Each option carries different long-term consequences and risks.

Zsellérköz exemplifies the difficulty of balancing continuity and transformation. Socially motivated housing solutions alone may unintentionally stabilise segregation, while the creation of an attractive, trend-driven urban quarter can raise the overall value of the area yet risk excluding existing communities. Between these extremes lies a narrow, complex field of **conscious architectural decision-making**, where sustainability is understood not primarily as an energetic issue, but as **long-term adaptability, resilience, and social-spatial flexibility**.

In this project, students are encouraged to move beyond the scale of individual buildings and to **think in terms of the entire area**. Working in multidisciplinary teams, the task is to develop spatial strategies, architectural concepts, and intervention scenarios that address Zsellérköz as a coherent urban condition. The aim is not to propose a single “solution”, but to articulate informed, reflective positions that demonstrate how architectural thinking can responsibly engage with complex, real-world urban situations.

goals:

Historical sense

the project as a whole and the details should show and demonstrate the understanding of the site and an interesting vision for the future state of it. The functional system, the architectural tools and the design solutions should coherently express the mission of the ideas.

city connection

the project should reflect the urban context.

Near surroundings

The project should build connections with the neighbours.

Quality of the presentations

The preliminary, the midterm and the final presentation should be clear, should express the concept and should be top quality...

submission details:

preliminary study – groupwork:

projected digital presentation (pptx, pdf)

showing the history of the area, the topography, climate, orientation, infrastructure, architectural environment. Exposing the proposed function and design

midterm – groupwork:

projected digital presentation (pptx, pdf)

showing the proposed design, the development of the concept, sketches, site analysis, program, 3D vision

final – groupwork:

projected digital presentation (pptx, pdf)

concept description visual illustrative slide(s) of the origin of the idea, the connection with the historical values and contemporary visions. First conceptual sketches, site analysis, program.

site plan showing the surrounding area, the layout, the accesses, the height conditions, the communications with the city...

floorplans and sections showing the rooms, walls, doors/windows, furniture possibilities, connections with the near surroundings. Showing the levels, the structural systems/subsystems of the building, the possible layers of the walls/slabs/roofs.

3d visualizations 3D images and 1-2 minutes of animation showing the 3d geometry and atmosphere of the building complex, the connections to the surrounding city area.

instructors:



György HILD DLA



László DARAGÓ DLA

schedule:

week	Mondays	Wednesdays
1.	introductory lecture, forming groups	lecture about the site and
2.	presentation of site analysis and concept	consultation
3.	consultation	consultation
4.	midterm presentation	consultation
5.	consultation	consultation
6.	consultation	consultation
7.	consultation: final check	Final presentation (22nd MAY)

Budapest, 21-01-2026

György Hild, László Daragó