



THE CITY THEATER, today the Deva Drama Theater

In 1866, a restaurant with a performance hall called Redout was built on the site of the theater. This building was demolished in 1910, and the current Art Theater building was constructed in its place.

Completed in 1911, it was designed by Austro-Hungarian architects Marcell Komor and Jakab Deszo, two of the most important representatives of the "Lechner style," who won several competitions and built buildings in various locations in Hungary during the dualist period.

Both designers worked for a period under the guidance of Lechner Odon, one of the main promoters of the Hungarian Secession style in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Particularly prolific in the Empire, Marcell Komor and Jakab Deszo continued to design in the same style, producing remarkable works both in the Hungarian capital and in cities such as Szeged, Bratislava, and Subotica, as well as in present-day Romania, Timișoara (Max Steiner Palace), Oradea (Black Eagle Hotel, Stern Palace), Târgu Mureș (Palace of Culture, Administrative Palace), and Deva. The Palace of Culture in Târgu Mureș is the most important work of the two architects in Romania.

The main façade of the Theater in Deva contains elements of the Secessionist vocabulary, specific to the architecture of Lechner Odon, promoting floral motifs and garlands, which were partially restored during the last renovation. Treated as a small palace, the volume of the building is marked by recesses that highlight the original entrances, accentuated in height by the turreted roofs. Other remarkable elements in the composition of the façade are the semicircular loggia, adjacent to the foyer floor, and the two pediments on different planes. The use of this formula, similar to a recessed floor, was necessary to adapt and integrate the building to the smaller scale of the existing buildings on the street front.