



## **ADMINISTRATIVE PALACE, today the seat of the Prefecture and Hunedoara County Council**

The building was constructed on the initiative of Prefect Pogany Gyorgy and Deputy Prefect Barcsay Kalman as the new headquarters of the Prefecture after the re-establishment of Hunedoara County, following the administrative reforms of 1876 related to the formation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the last decades of the 19th century, the Prefecture of the Hunedoara district operated in the former Bethlen Castle (Magna Curia), whose premises had become insufficient.

The territorial-administrative reorganization meant taking over the voluminous archives of the Zarand region, annexed to Hunedoara so that additional space was essential. Funds were requested from the relevant ministry for the construction of the new headquarters. The relevant ministry authorized the construction of the new headquarters and allocated 5.000 forints for this purpose. The territorial council organized a competition for the design of the new building, following which a young architect, Alpar Igna, who was at the beginning of his career, was selected. He meticulously coordinated the construction site for two years until the work was completed. The contractor was also selected through a competition, the Oriold & Endstrasser company from Cluj, and the building was constructed between 1887 and 1889. A prolific representative of eclecticism in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Alpar Ignac designed an impressive number of buildings that varied in terms of purpose and location.

The existing building is a remarkable U-shaped complex (with an obtuse angle) in plane. Through this gesture, architect Alpar Ignac follows the curve of 1 Decembrie 1918 Street, widening the public space and allowing a broader perspective of the building, while also connecting it to the continuous front.

The exterior appearance of the building is a tribute to eclecticism, following the general image of the German (neo-)Renaissance. The facades are composed of registers corresponding to each level and are treated gradually, with a massive base; the ground floor is treated with plaster bossages, and the upper floor is finished with clinker brick. The compositional program of the facade follows the planimetric rule.