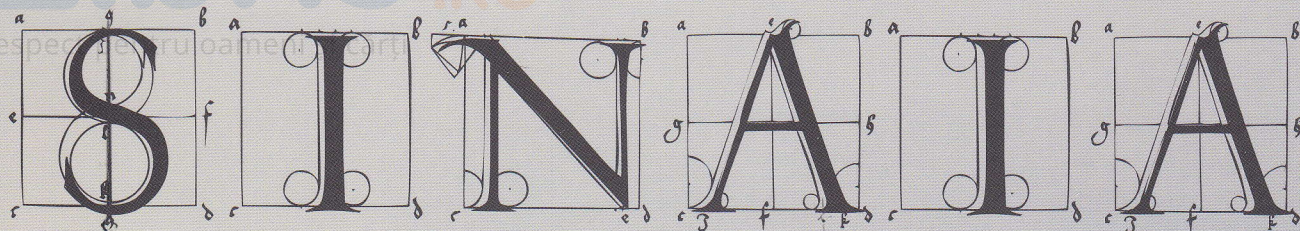


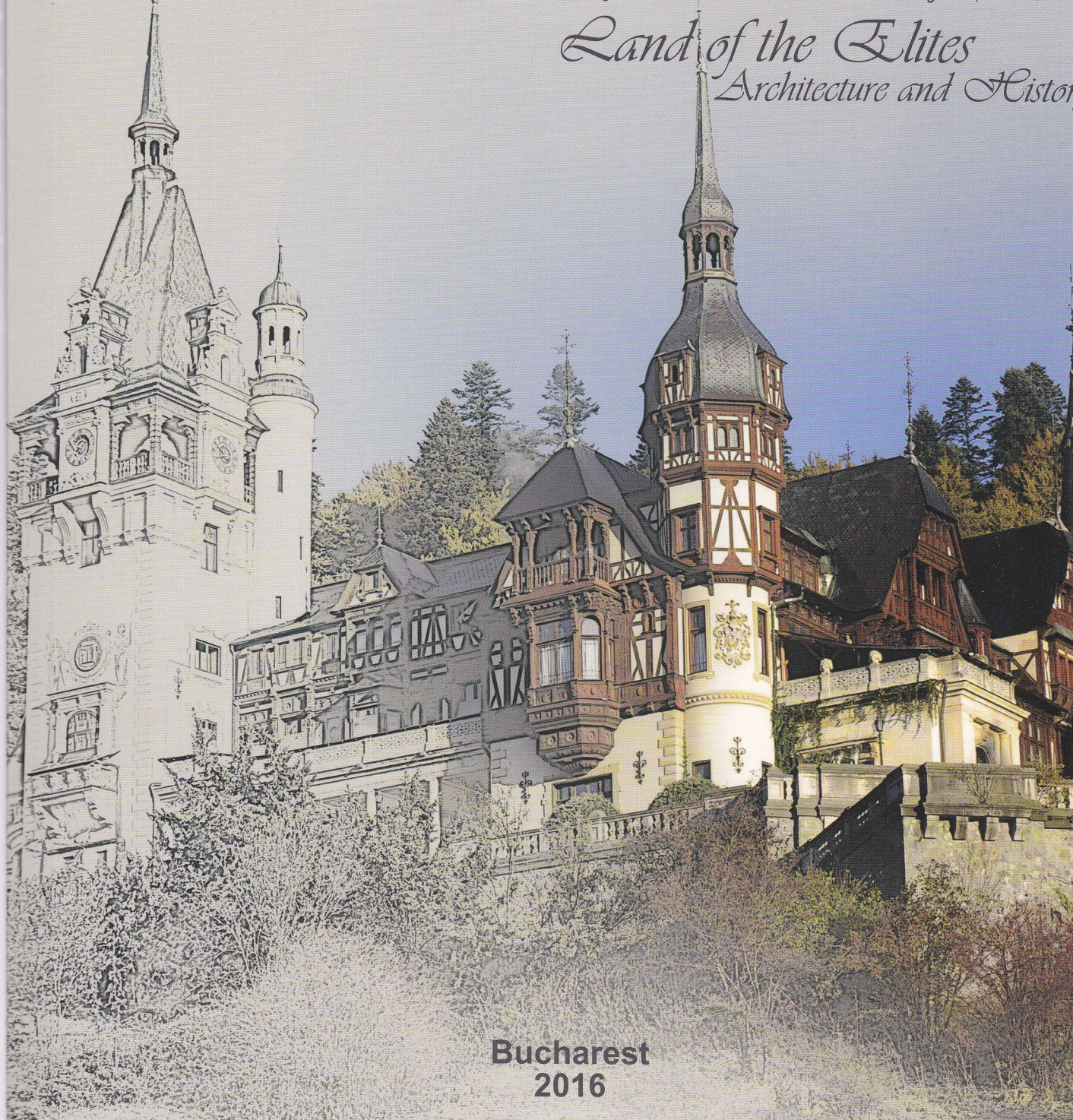
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Respectivul meu oame



*Land of the Elites
Architecture and History*



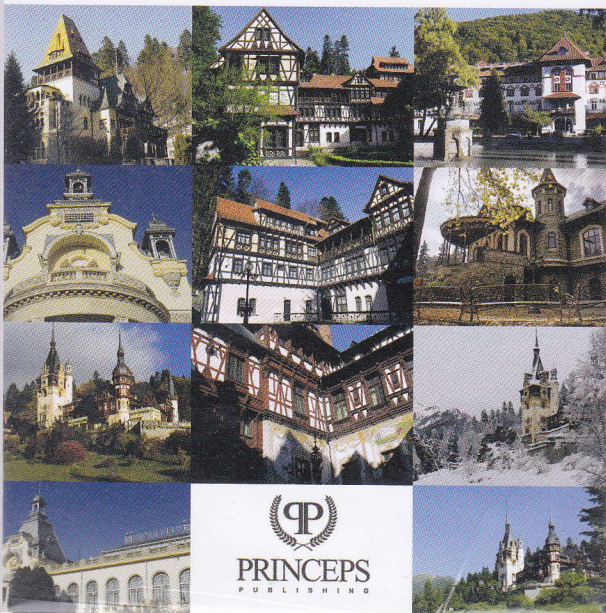
Bucharest
2016



- NOTES -

Suvenir din Sinaia

Cele mai Frumoase Locuri



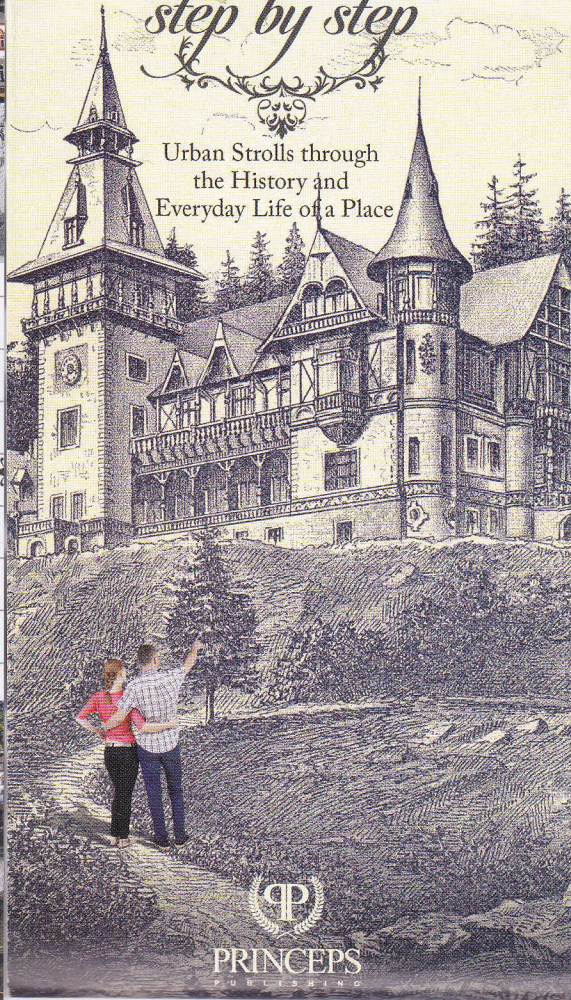

PRINCEPS
 PUBLISHING

Architect Dan Manea

SINAIA

step by step

Urban Strolls through
the History and
Everyday Life of a Place



Worth C



1 Saşa Romano Villa/Villa Florilor (Garden of Flowers Villa). 7 Theodor Aman Street. Early 20th century. Urban Romantic style home.



2 Dr. Emil Glinceanu Villa/Bujorul Villa (Pond Villa). 8 Theodor Aman Street. First half of the 20th century. Urban Traditional style home.



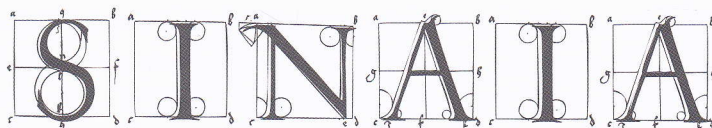
3 Constantin Pandelev Villa. 11 Theodor Aman Street. Early 20th century. Urban home with traditional architecture.



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Respect pentru oameni și cărți

Arhitect Dan Manea



*Land of the Elites
Architecture and History*

Bucharest, 2016

Table of contents

I. Preface	7
II. Foreword	9
III. About the Book	10
Chapter 1 – From Origins to Present Times	18
Chapter 2 – Stories. 100 Articles about Sinaia	46
Chapter 3 – Traveller on Bucegi Trail	142
Chapter 4 – Your Town Resembles You!	170
Chapter 5 – The Ideal Town, the Gorgeous Town	210
Out of Love for Sinaia	232
Bibliography	235

A black and white photograph of a rocky cliffside. The cliff is composed of large, light-colored rock blocks. In the lower center, there is a rectangular window with a dark frame and a grid pattern, set within a recessed, arched opening in the rock. To the left of the window, there is a smaller, arched opening, possibly a niche or a small doorway. The upper part of the cliff is more rugged and has some sparse, dry vegetation. The overall scene suggests an ancient or historical site, possibly a cave or a small dwelling carved into the rock.

Chapter I

From Origins to Present Times

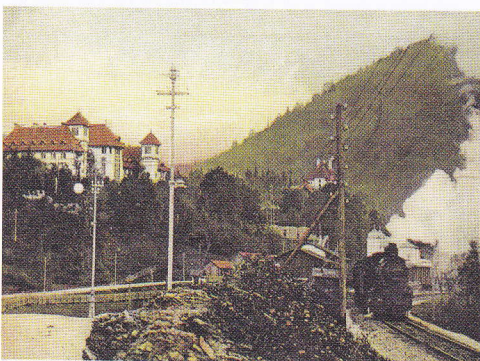


...pect pe Sinaia greets its guests
with style, like a beautiful
and always exquisite and
gleaming queen. The
town borrows something
from old boyar families'
wisdom, subtlety and scent,
and carefully preserves the greatness and
nobleness of the Royal House of Romania
blended with local spirit and tradition.

The air full of ozone provided by the wide
spread surrounding forests, the heights of
the magnificent mountains that guard it, the
blue skies that mirror the health providing
waters that pass through it, all these compile
the town's coat of arms, united under the
unbattled walls of a crown stronghold
together with the noble regalia. At an age
of almost 320 years, always assailed by elites
and always one step ahead of time, the Lady
of the Romanian tourism detachedly towers
over the top of choke touristic spa resort
destinations by constantly bewitching elite
pretenders" arriving from all over Europe
and around the world. "Sinaia is a European
health spa located on Orient-Express and
Alberg-Express international train voyage
route". The famous train, which starting
with 1883, was for more than a century
synonym of luxury voyages throughout
Europe, put Sinaia on an exclusive map,
next to such cities as London, Paris, Wien,
Istanbul, Milan, Zürich, Budapest or Athens.
The presentation document released in
July 1912, on Palace Hotel inauguration
day, mentioned: "With a status of summer
residence after the 1883 of the Peleş Castle,
Sinaia ranks among the few European cities
that hold, beside a public passenger railway



station, two other railway stations fully
reserved for the royal family or for visits paid
by notable politicians or celebrities of that
time".



PHOTOS

1. Sinaia's coat of arms was restored based on a stamp discovered in the Register Office Book for 1940, found in the archives of the Sinaia Town Hall, and on the image preserved in the State Archives in Bucharest.
2. Postcard with the Orient Express train in Sinaia Railway Station
3. The Orient Express, at the platform of the old Passenger Station in Sinaia
4. The Orient Express, leaving Sinaia Railway Station. In the background, Caraiman Hotel

PHOTOS

1. Marie-Margareta Villa, Sinaia, M. Kogălniceanu Street
2. Margot Villa, Sinaia, Carol I Boulevard
3. Olga Villa, Sinaia, Mihai Eminescu Street
4. Melania House, Sinaia, Aosta Street



1. Such as Enescu, Iorga, Florescu, Costinescu, Take Ionescu, Robescu, Angheliescu; Duca, Hufkar, Ciortan, Ghica, Kogălniceanu, Simu, Mandrea, Boerescu, Slatineanu, Oreteleşanu, Mosca, Kalimtzakis, Dozzi, Filittis, Knopp; Romano, Battoya, Litman, Scanareti, Rosetti, Karmitz; Florilor (Garden of Flowers), Bujorul (The Peony), Brânduşa (The Crocus Flower), Zambila (The Hyacinth), Liliacul (The Lilac); Crinul (The Lily), Floricica (Floweret), Stejarul (The Oak), Mesteacănul (The Birch), Brazi (Firs); Carola, Camelia, Liliana, Tanți, Boema, Alina, Elena, Adina, Doina.

2. Of these we could easily mention Constantin Brâncoveanu, Gheorghe Bibescu, Barbu Catargiu, Cezar Boliac, Dimitrie Ghica, Carol Davila, V.A. Urechea, Take Ionescu, Nifon Popescu, Nicolae Iorga, Mihai Gold Haret; Constantin Argetoianu, C.I. Parhon, Gh.I. Brătianu, Ion Florescu, Titu Maiorescu, I.L. Caragiale, Nicolae Grigorescu, Vasile Alecsandri, Grigore Alexandrescu, Alexandru Vlahuță; George Coșbuc, Mihai Eminescu, Cincinat Pavelescu, Mihail Sadoveanu, George Enescu, Cezar Petrescu, George Călinescu or Constantin Noica.

3. With ninety enlisted buildings and three urban architectural reservations (Annex to Law No. 422 / 2001).

4. Timișoara was the first city in Romania (and in Europe) to be illuminated by electric light in 1884.

In a town where, instead of mailing addresses, houses were known by the names of their owners, by names of flowers or women¹, the significance of constructed values often takes your breath away when you go for a stroll down the streets that continue to preserve the footprints of many famous personalities².

Today Sinaia is seen as the town with most historical monuments per capita in Romania³. Its name is connected with many remarkable national and European premieres. The Peleş Castle, which even today ranks among the most beautiful ten castles in the world, was the first fully electrified European castle. When it was inaugurated, it had incredible utilities for that time, like air conditioning system,

centralized heating, centralized intake system, elevator and instant water system. It was ranked among the most modern architectural buildings in Europe of the k. Sinaia Monastery was the first electrified worshipping structure. After two hundred years of existence, having been consecrated in 1885, the Monastery inaugurated the worshipping objects museum in Romania. For more than a century, Sinaia - the first electrified touristic resort⁴ (1890) - could boast with one of the four golf courses in country, which was considered by the exp. of the time as one of the most beautiful golf courses in Europe. Out of storyteller memories regarding Sinaia, delicate for me-nots thrive in boggy meadows each spring.

The genesis and the growth of this settlement is based on blending old local domestic traditions, which gave birth to Sinaia Monastery, with the Royal House of Romania activity, which is specifically related to King Carol I decision to build the Peleş Castle in this location. But before all that, the location meant the scenery (mountains, forests, meadows, waters and skies). The earth was given greenery and creatures to live in the land, the waters and the skies, according to their nature. And when everything was put in order, man shaped the place after his own image and ability. Today one may hardly imagine the Prahova Valley as a quiet, people devoid, beasts dwelt in hoodlums haunted place, where no cart could go and no household had been erected until the end of the 18th century. And who could believe that the upper Prahova Valley is the last Carpathian pass where a cart road was built or that the settlements above Comarnic are about one hundred years old? Doroftei, a famous monk priest, tells us that by 1650 the first hermits went up from Comarnic - based Lespezi Abbey⁶ towards the mountains in order to live in reclusion, "not wanting to have each his own dwelling". They settled on locations like Zgârburei



Valley, Vânturişului Valley or Peleş, these hermits passed on to us names like Poiana Pustnicului (Hermit's Meadow) - and places like Bogdan's Cave or Saint Anna's Rock Grotto. Later on, the hermits, gathered on the Molomoţ Mountain and built a small church "with several small rooms and a guardian confessor rather customary there".



PHOTOS

1. Michel Bouquet: Sinaia Monastery in 1840. Found in "King Ferdinand I" University Library.
2. The cave and the icon at Stâncă Sfânta Ana (Saint Anna's Rock)
3. Lespezi Skete in Comarnic
4. Schitul de la Peştera (Peştera Skete) bears a strong resemblance to the one situated on Molomoţ Mountain.

5. Plaiul/Poienile Prahovei (Prahova's Plain/Meadows): a large territory, situated between Izvorul Rece (The Cold Spring) in Sinaia and present day Predeal, bordered by the passes of Orăştii and Timiş; administrative and territorial subdivision, watched over and guarded as a mountain pass by a plain bailiff and his watchmen.
6. Schitul Lespezi (Lespezi Skete) is built in 1661 by Toma and his son, Părvu Cantacuzino, on a plateau of the Pleşuvava Mică Mountains, over the waters of Prahova, on the bank opposite to the Bibescu Castle, nowadays a Hunting Trophies Museum.

Greetings from Sinaia

