



2001

BEREG



RECONSTRUCTION IN HUNGARY



On 6th March 2001 on the Upper Tisza region Between Tarpa and Tivadar villages the flood protection dam busted along about 150 m length. Water of the amount of Balaton poured over the crack and deluged 47 municipalities. The water damaged more than two thousand residential buildings and institutions. After the flood cleanup the Ministry of the Interior National Directorate for Disaster Management has assessed the damage to buildings. Since these houses were mostly built of adobe, shortly cracks of a finger width appeared on them. Preliminary surveys showed that 181 houses had been destroyed, 870 buildings severely damaged. 1663 residential and public buildings were declared restorable. The demolishing of the ruined buildings was very urgent because of the danger of death in case of breakdown. Further hundreds of houses were still waiting to be analyzed. The March 9th government decision assured the reconstruction of the region preserving the authentic character of the buildings. From 190 reconstruction plans experts selected 17 proposals, from which victims could choose according to their needs. Designer teams were formed to prepare plans, assuming full responsibility for the individual settlements, setting up the architectural system of reconstruction process. The rebuilding of the first residential houses adapted to the conditions of the original plot of the collapsed building and to the proper corporate image of the village began in early May. A consortium, constituted of three national and three provincial construction companies, was in charge of the construction of 711 houses and renovation of 1476 buildings. (For those victims, who did not request reconstruction, the Hungarian Government offered the opportunity to purchase any real property.) The Kós Károly Egyesülés was addressed in a letter by the residents and civil organizations of Gulács and Tákos villages, being impressed by the former exceptional revitalization results of the association. In addition to the construction process in technical terms, providing an effective and complex service was also an important task for them. Therefore the architects of KEE Vándoriskola were staying at the construction area from mid-April to assist the owners in selecting from plans and shaping them to their individual needs - including the installation, functionality and appearance. It was an essential task to develop personal relationship with the citizens in such a technically underdeveloped area, to respond to their problems and to shape their individual needs regarding the porches. The construction started in May (with pauses in the designing process held up to August) in favour of the efficient work, the young architects of the KKE Vándoriskola provided leadership for the consortium of contractors immediately clarifying the problems and assisting in the preparatory work. Under their supervision more than 350 residential buildings were built in the two settlements. An important outcome was that the architecturally neglected villages had found their delegates, that young and ambitious architects helped people, but their presence also provided secure and reliable assistance for the contractors, inspectors, engineering and construction authorities and for the government apparatus as well.

