

# Public lectures at the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

The Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia offers free public lectures on topical issues in the profession in Slovenia and internationally. The lectures are announced in newspapers and on the website [www.uirs.si](http://www.uirs.si), and also by e-mail by registering at [predavanja@uirs.si](mailto:predavanja@uirs.si). Please write to the same address for any additional information. The archive of past lectures with abstracts is available at [http://www.uirs.si/dogodki\\_predavanja.asp](http://www.uirs.si/dogodki_predavanja.asp).

## Overview of lectures from May 2009 to April 2010

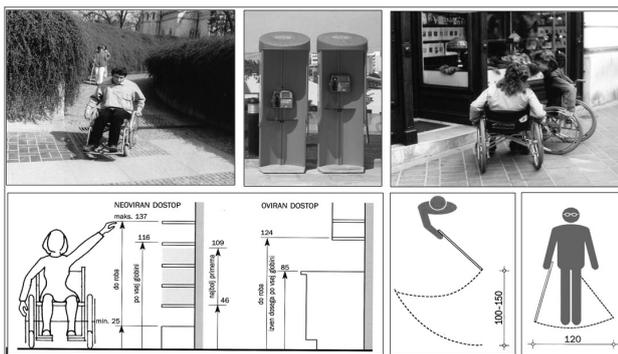
18 May 2009

### Is Slovenia (in)accessible for people with disabilities?

*Measures for implementing the rights of the disabled to barrier-free access*

**Lecturers:** Richard Sendi, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Barbara Kobal, Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The right of disabled people to barrier-free access is defined in a number of documents at the international and national levels. In order to determine what the actual effects of these documents are in Slovenia, an extensive study was carried out in 2008 among people with disabilities and disability organisations. The research was conducted by the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia and Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, and co-financed by the Public Research Agency and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. The findings were presented by the project managers Richard Sendi and Barbara Kobal, and the invited speakers were Disability Director Cveto Uršič and Boris Šuštaršič, the president of the National Council of Disability Organisations of Slovenia.



16 June 2009

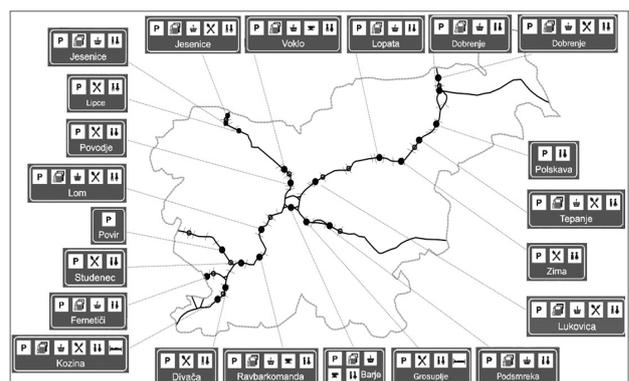
### New forms of mobility landscapes

*Areas along Slovenian motorways as potential generators for developing local identity in a global network*

**Lecturer:** Eva Prelovšek, Atelier Prelovšek, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Moderator:** Matej Nikšič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Eva Prelovšek presented her research related to a creation of new identities of Slovenia's motorway spaces. In this largest Slovenian urban network of all time, some spaces have the potential to become the foundation for a new perception of natural and cultural heritage, especially following the implementation of a new toll-collection system that gives users greater flexibility. The lecture demonstrated how automobile transit spaces can be reshaped into new democratic spaces, including the introduction of elements linked to pedestrian identity, thereby creating and exploiting the development potentials of tourism.



15 October 2009

## Architecture of the Balkans

### *Architecture as a significant criterion in defining the Balkans as a research area*

**Lecturer:** Carmen Popescu, University Paris I – Sorbonne, Paris, France and the Faculty of Art History at the National University of Arts in Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

**Moderator:** Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Carmen Popescu's research focuses on architecture in the context of national identity and politics. She points to the relationship between centres and peripheries as one of the essential questions of modern historiography that aims to create a new perspective – a more inclusive one, if not more coherent – on the dominant historical discussions in the West. For Balkan architecture, she demonstrated how this new view is being created and used selected cases to show how it continues to apply double standards.



21 January 2010

## Treasures of Pohorje

### *Rocks, minerals and crystals of Pohorje as building materials in Slovenian architecture and urban design*

**Lecturers:** Mojca Bedjanič, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Maribor, Slovenia, Miha Jeršek, Slovenian Museum of Natural History, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Igor Cotič, Mineral, d. d., Podpeč, Slovenia

**Moderator:** Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Pohorje is the largest massif of igneous and metamorphic rock in Slovenia. Pohorje tonalite has had a significant impact on the identity of Slovenian towns, and it continues to be used today for some of the most important buildings in the capital city and elsewhere in Slovenia. It is a great responsibility to maintain this precious material for the renovation of architectural heritage and for aesthetic achievements in contemporary design. Mojca Bedjanič, Miha Jeršek and Igor Cotič presented the geological treasures of Pohorje and outlined the book *Geološki zakladi Pohorja* (Geological Treasures of Pohorje), which simply explains and presents readers with the sometimes very complex geological history of Pohorje.



11 February 2010

## The hayrack: A landmark of the Slovenian cultural landscape

### *The hayrack cultural landscape in light of the UNESCO definitions*

**Lecturer:** Maja Oven Stanič, National Museum of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Moderator:** Matej Nikšič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The scholar Janez Vajkard Valvasor drew attention to the hayrack (Sln. *kozolec*) as a characteristic of the Slovenian cultural landscape as early as the seventeenth-century and documented it with a drawing in his work *Die Ehre deß Hertzogthums Crain* (The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola). The overall frequency of these structures has been preserved to the present, only to see most of them now abandoned and often in disrepair. Through a comparison with the cultural landscapes on the UNESCO world heritage list, Maja Oven Stanič pointed out the importance of these characteristic landscapes in a global context. Knowledge of the relevance of the cultural landscape created by hayracks has recently grown somewhat and some of their owners are working on reviving more traditional farming and agricultural practices. Nevertheless the fate of most

