


LJUBLJANA

TOWN TRAIL

ART NOUVEAU



ART NOUVEAU - ART RENOUVEAU 2014-2017



**THERE ARE NO STRAIGHT
LINES OR SHARP CORNERS IN
NATURE. THEREFORE,
BUILDINGS MUST HAVE NO
STRAIGHT LINES OR SHARP
CORNERS.**

ANTONIO GAUDI

LJUBLJANA ART NOUVEAU

The term »Secession Ljubljana« (the term »secession« in Slovenia is used after the example of the Vienna Secession) is a name for the neighbourhood between the old city centre and the main train station. This neighbourhood was mostly (re)built between the years of 1895 and 1910. It includes many important and well preserved architectural art works, but its pride is mostly in the richly decorated facades, which give it a special character. On Easter, the 14th of April 1895 Ljubljana, with 31,000 citizens and 1,400 buildings, was shaken by a very strong earthquake. About 10% of the buildings had to be demolished and all the rest were in need of a restoration. The city turned into a vivacious building site, in the next decade over 400 buildings were made, many were restored, electrical public lighting was introduced in the city and the sewage system was improved. A renaissance of the city began, that left important traces in the city centre all until today.

MIKLOŠIČ SQUARE

The square in front of the Judge Palace was first symbolically called the Slovenian square and was made by the plans of Maks Fabiani in 1900. The park was almost completely surrounded by buildings, built between the years 1900 and 1907 and represents the most beautiful Secession ambient in Ljubljana. The Secession buildings around it were built for the wealthy local merchants, lawyers, businessmen, all mostly of Slovenian origin.

Krisper house was built according to Maks Fabiani's plans first, as an example for all others around the square.



GRAND HOTEL UNION

(Miklošič Street 1, Josip Vancaš, 1903-1905)

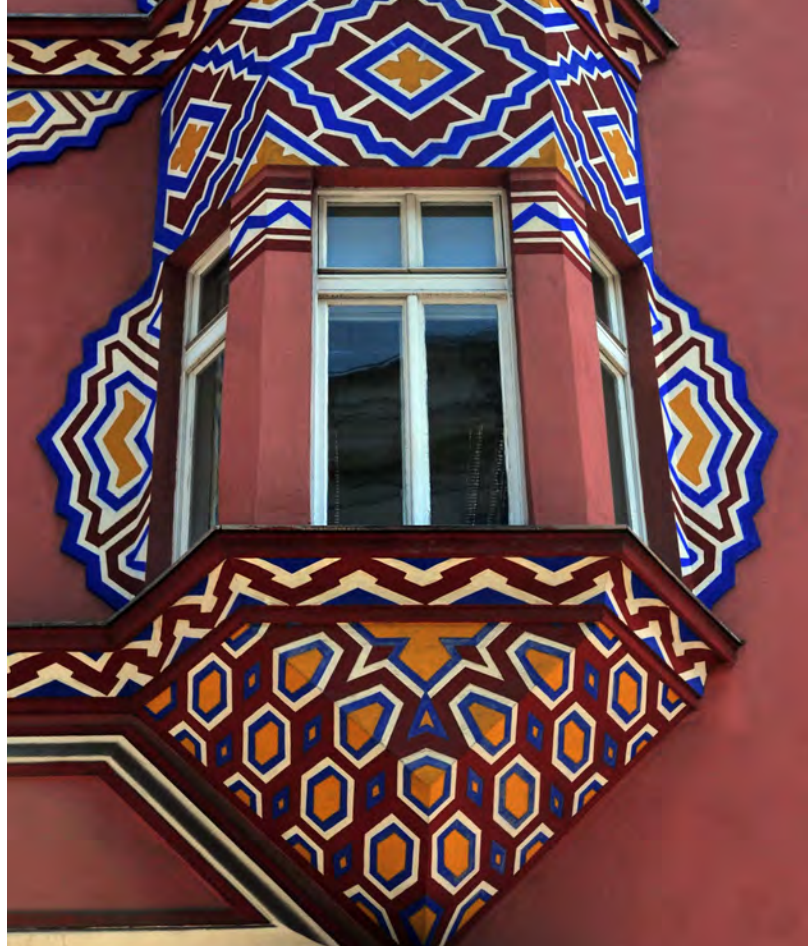
The idea of building a modern hotel would contribute to a faster development of extraneous traffic in Ljubljana. Looking from a functional, technological and organization view, building such a hotel was an enormously tough task, so they trusted the work to a reputable architect from Sarajevo, Josip Vancaš, who had had a series of such projects behind him. The hotel fit the modern hotel standards of that time, it was functional, convenient and hygienic (it had electrical installation, central heating, warm water, WC, bathrooms, elevators ...).





The main hall was a true technological achievement (15m wide, 33m long and 11 meters tall) and was the biggest and most representative hall, not just in town, but on the whole Balkan Peninsula.





COOPERATIVE BUSINESS BANK

(Miklošič Street 8, Ivan Vurnik, 1922)

Ivan Vurnik (1884-1971) was, besides Plečnik and Fabiani, a beginner of Modern Slovenian architecture. In the early period, he wanted to create a national Slovenian style in the architecture that would combine functionality, design expression and esthetical beauty and he got his ideas from the people's artistic shape.

He later focused on Functionalism and was an excellent Urbanist. Vurnik was responsible for the establishment of an architecture department on the University of Ljubljana and was a lecturer for many years.

URBANC HOUSE

(Prešeren Square 4b;
Friedrich Sigismundt, 1903)

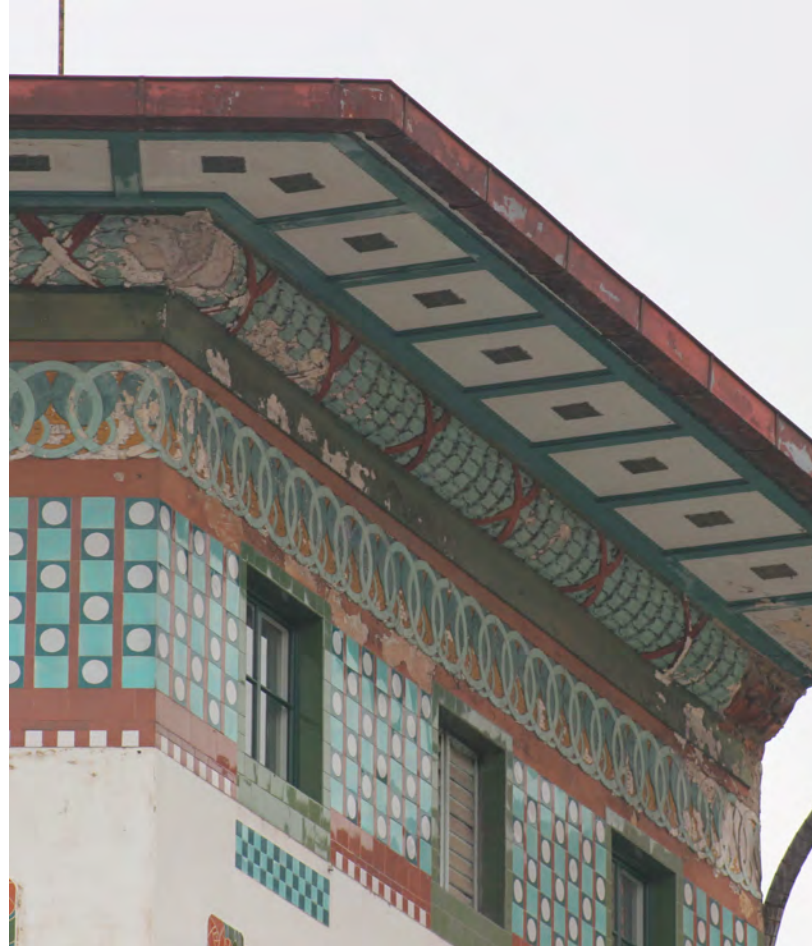
On an elite location in town, the merchant Felix Urbanc ordered the first modern department store to be built in Ljubljana, which created a cosmopolitan look of the store with both its façade and interior spatial concept and decorative elements (following the example of department stores in Paris, Vienna, Budapest ...).





The building's entrance is enhanced by a semicircular canopy in the shape of a fan-like petal cluster made from glass and wrought iron.





HAUPTMANN HOUSE

(Prešeren Square 1; Ciril Metod Koch,
renovated in the 1904)

The building itself was already built in 1873, but its owner decided to renovate it in the modern style of that time, the Wagner inspired Vienna Secession.



DRAGON BRIDGE

(Jurij Zaninović, 1901)

The bridge was the first real concrete and iron construction in town and one of the first, and also biggest bridges of that kind in Europe at that time (arc 33m); on it, the first asphalt coating in Slovenia was laid. The bridge project was made by prof. Josef Melan and after Zanimović's plans, the concrete covers, balustrades and statues of dragons made out of copper sheets, were made. The lamps on the bridge's fence are also a part of the original ornamentation and originally ran on gas. At its opening, the bridge's name was Franz Joseph's Jubilee Bridge, as it was built in memory of the Anniversary of Franz Joseph's reign.

DROFENIG HOUSE

(City Square 23; Karl Brünnler, 1914)

The department store that was built by a merchant Franc Drogenig on the site of a former baroque house is the first building in Ljubljana with a reinforced concrete and a prefabricated iron facade, faced with black polished marble (the first to do this was Plečnik on the Zacherl House in Vienna) and big windows. There's not much decoration, the only thing that shows the secession motive is the golden decoration of the cornice under the roof and the decorated projecting roof.



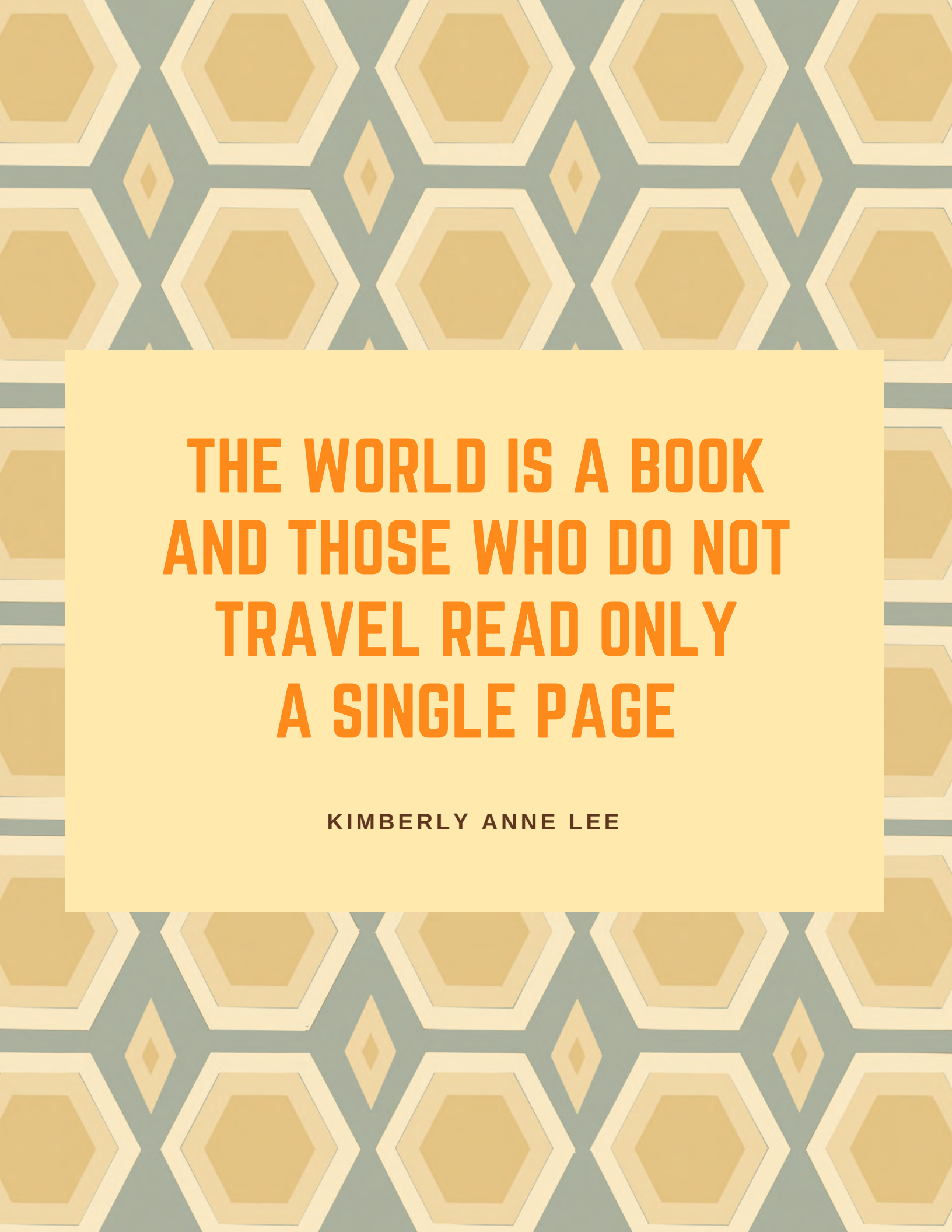


MLADIKA

(Prešeren Street 25)

**Maks Fabiani, 1907;
Boarding School: Ciril Metod Koch, 1910-1912)**

The city government decided Maks Fabiani, the most respected architect of Slovenian origin at the time, should be the architect of the first high school for girls on Slovenian ground. Maks Fabiani (1865-1962), Slovenian architect and one of the founders of modern architecture in Vienna, left his mark in Ljubljana. Besides the after-earthquake regulation plan and plan for the Miklošič park he accomplished a lot of buildings that indicated the way into the next, functionalist phase of modern architecture with its structured modern facades (for example the Girl's school on the Levstik Square, Mladika Girls' College etc.).



**THE WORLD IS A BOOK
AND THOSE WHO DO NOT
TRAVEL READ ONLY
A SINGLE PAGE**

KIMBERLY ANNE LEE

This activity book was compiled and designed by students and teachers of the Diocesan Classical Gymnasium (Ljubljana, Slovenia) as a part of the project Erasmus+ project “Art Nouveau – Art Renouveau”, No. 2014-1-UK01-KA201-000226_3, financed by Erasmsu+, KA2, in the academic year 2015/16.

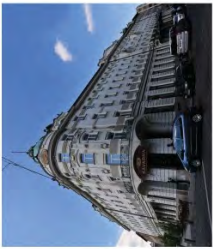
Sources:

Breda Mihelič, Secesijska arhitektura v Sloveniji;
<http://www.artnouveau-net.eu>

Photography: Tina Dernovšek



1. Krišpčjevo hiša



2. Grand hotel Union



3. Zadržna gospodarska banka



4. Urbančeva hiša



5. Hauptmannova hiša



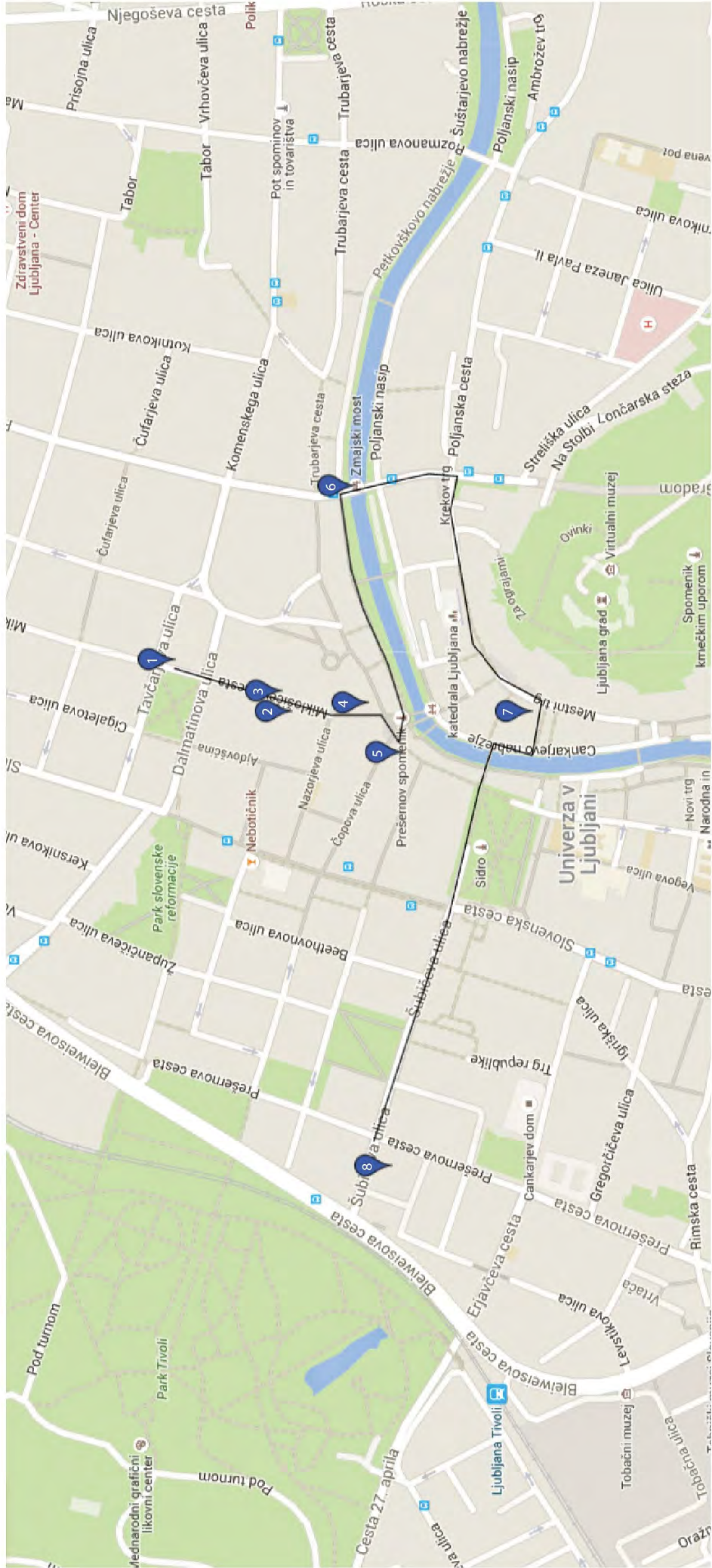
6. Zmajski most



7. Drefenigovo hiša



8. Mikulka



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