

The Jewish Suburbia is one of the most important Jewish heritage sites in Slovakia. The compound includes the Old Synagogue, the *Beith Hamidrash* (House of Study), the *Mikvah* (Ritual Bath), an expansion tower, a boiler house and a replica of a ritual slaughter house. These buildings served the spiritual and communal needs of the Jewish community of Bardejov, which was the sixth largest one in Slovakia during the Pre-WWII era.



The Suburbia is situated in the buffer-zone of the Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve. In 1970, the Old Synagogue was declared a National Cultural Monument, followed by the *Mikvah* and the *Beith Hamidrash* in 2000. That same year, the Suburbia and Bardejov's historic town center were registered on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. The boiler house is also a National Technical Monument.

Save the heritage of our ancestors



THE OLD SYNAGOGUE IN BARDEJOV: RESTORATION PROJECT

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The Old Synagogue in Bardejov belongs among the jewels of sacral architecture in Slovakia. The uniqueness of the structure constructed in the first half of the 19th century consists of several elements: a monumental avant-corps with entry stairs, a sundial, a floor sunken below the ground level, nine arches in the main hall, rich ornamental interior painting, wooden ceilings with decoration, distinctive row of eight alcoves on the eastern wall and a dedication plaque.

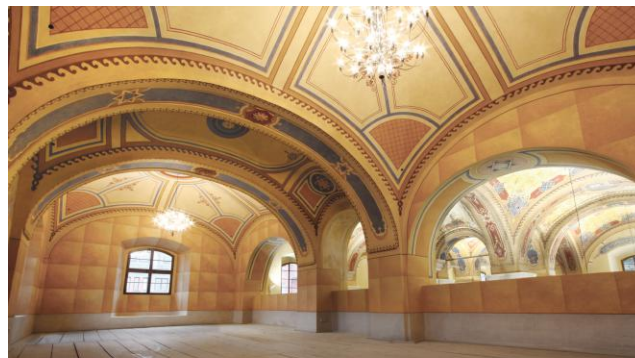


The interior consists of a vestibule, a study room, a prayer hall and a women's gallery. The most interesting artifact of the prayer space is the dedication plaque in Hebrew language, placed above the main hall entrance. Its poetically tuned text tells the story of the construction and provides names of the constructors. Other preserved Hebrew inscriptions are the Old Testament Psalm which determine the structure orientation to the east.

In the center of the main hall there is the *bimah* (raised stage) which is connected to the arches by four support pillars. A Hebrew engraving of the words *Keter Torah* (Crown of Torah) indicates the location of the arc in which the Torah scrolls were kept. Part of the staircase which led to it was the *genizah* (repository) serving as storage for damaged Torah scrolls, unused religious texts or banned books before their ceremonial burial.



The restoration of the synagogue and the Holocaust Memorial contribute significantly to the presentation of the religious and cultural center of one of the oldest Jewish communities in Slovakia. A successful realization of the project is simultaneously a prerequisite for strengthening the relationship to the common heritage of our ancestors.



Within the project of the interior restoration, the following works were carried out: stabilization of the socle parts of the inner plaster; fixing and retouching the paintings on the ceiling; restoration of the original doors including door frames, door handles and keys; complete electrification, installation of new wooden floors and restoration of old ones, creating an exhibition dedicated to the history of the Jewish community in Bardejov.

The following renovations were carried out on the exterior of the building: construction of the external staircase replica and its sculpture decoration; repairing the gutters and the crowning cornice; restoration of the external facade and the original sundial; construction of the original ritual slaughter house, including the sanitary facility and sewer connection; surface treatment of the courtyard; building an enclosure and entrance gates to the Jewish Suburbia compound.

BASIC INFO

Project name: Suburbium of Bardejov – rescue, recovery and restoration of the Old Synagogue

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