

Nine architectural projects applied for the competition. The Committee session for evaluation of the designs for the parish church of St. Blaise was held on 25 and 26 January 1909. The third prize of 1000 crowns (kruna) was awarded to the project of the architect Vjekoslav Bastl. The second prize of 1500 crowns (kruna) was awarded to the work of the architect Dioniz Sunko. The first prize of 2500 crowns (kruna) was awarded to the project under the code Deo which belonged to the architect Viktor Kovačić.

Viktor Kovačić skillfully places the church complex on the small lot: he designs the rectory along the western edge of the lot, facing Prilaz, he draws the church to the north and thus forms in front of the church and the entrance to the rectory a small square for the gathering of the congregation, and he closes the building block on the east side by placing the bell tower along the Primorska Street. Kovačić, as part of the complex, plans the construction of the bell-ringer's house and other commercial buildings as well. In addition, Mr. Kovačić offers a new urban solution for the entire city block. Viktor Kovačić envisioned the church of St. Blaise as a central building, and designed as a Greek cross with a dome at the nave. The dome is made of reinforced concrete, with a diameter of about 18 meters and it is the first such structure made from reinforced concrete, not only in Croatia but also in the world.

The building permit for the construction of the church of St. Blaise and the rectory was issued on 24 August 1910. The construction began on 19 July 1911 and the use permit became valid on January 14 1914. The church was consecrated, 28 March 1915, by the coadjutor bishop of Zagreb Dominik Premuš, PhD. Viktor Kovačić was in charge of developing a provisional design of the church.

Interior decoration of the church, because of the war and post-war crisis, continued in 1923. Mr. Kovačić developed detailed designs for the whole interior: the high and two side altars, benches and confessionals. After the passing of Viktor Kovačić, on 21 October 1924, the architect Alfred Albini became in charge of the works for a short while.

In 1926, the architect Stjepan Hribar continues the works on the design of the church's interior. Mr. Hribar made several preliminary sketches in accordance with the design for the high altar that Viktor Kovačić started to develop. The high altar of the church of St. Blaise was finished on Christmas, 1932.

The Artistic Committee, which included the sculptor I. Kerdić, painter Lj. Babić, D. Kniewald, PhD, and the architect S. Hribar, started planning the construction of the side altars of the Immaculate Madonna and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The designs for the altars were developed by Stjepan Hribar, and Ljubo Babić developed the designs for the mosaics. The reliefs of the Immaculate Madonna and the Sacred Heart of Jesus were made by the sculptor Ivo Kerdić. The altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary was completed in 1942, and the altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was constructed in 1943.

In 1995, a competition for the Preliminary Design of the interior of the church of St. Blaise was published. Nobody won the first prize in this competition. Instead, by a majority of votes of the Assessment Committee, three equally valid prizes were awarded to the teams of architects: Andrej Uchytíl and Renata Waldagoni, Ivan Crnković and Marko Piljek and Nenad Fabijanić and his associates.

The architect Željko Kovačić developed first designs for the church of St. Blaise in 1983. He took part in the competition in 1995, and in 1999, at the invitation of the rector Mijo Gorski, signed a contract on the development of the design for the church's interior. The works began in 2014 at the instigation of the current rector Zvonimir Sekelj. The consecration of the new altar and the refurbished sanctuary was done by Cardinal Josip Bozanić, the Archbishop of Zagreb, on 1 February 2015.

**MUZEJ GRADA ZAGREBA**  
Opatička 20, Zagreb

**IZLOŽBA / EXHIBITION**

**1. 6. - 25. 9. 2016.**

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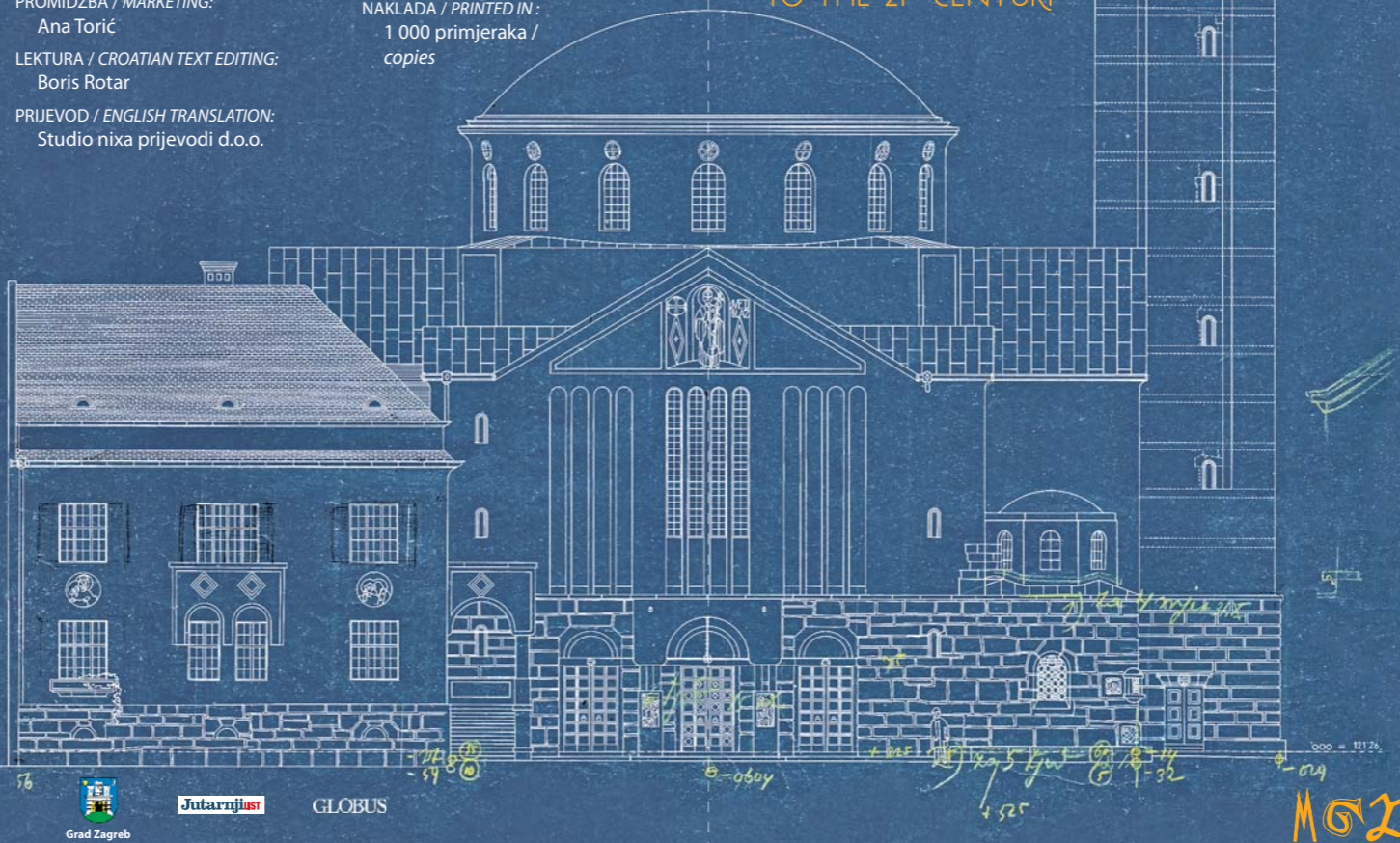
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**IKONA HRVATSKE MODERNE**  
ZAGREBAČKA CRKVA SVETOG BLAŽA  
OD 19. DO 21. STOLJEĆA

**THE ICON OF CROATIAN MODERNISM**  
CHURCH OF ST. BLAISE  
FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



Povijest zagrebačke crkve sv. Blaža počinje osamdesetih godina 19. stoljeća kada se, zbog povećanja broja stanovnika, pojavila potreba osnivanja nove župe u zapadnom dijelu grada. Eduard Suhin 1886. godine izradio je elaborat o osnivanju novih župa, prva bi bila sv. Blaža u Primorskoj ulici, a druga sv. Križa između Savske i Petrinjske. Za gradilište župnog dvora i nove crkve sv. Blaža Suhin je darovao zemljište prebende sv. Križa u Primorskoj ulici. Nadbiskupski duhovni stol 1889. godine, donosi odluku o osnivanju Župe sv. Blaža. Osnovan je Građevni odbor koji je trebao brinuti o provedbi natječaja i gradnji crkvenog kompleksa. No do konačne izgradnje crkve i župnog dvora, te početka rada župe proći će još mnogo godina i rasprava.

Na prvom natječaju za gradnju crkve sv. Blaža, raspisanom 1889. godine, niti jedan projekt nije zadovoljio, stoga su, 1891. godine, članovi odbora zatražili od arhitekta Josipa Vancaša izradu projekta za novu crkvu. Počele su rasprave o mjestu gradnje crkve i župnog dvora. Prijedloga je bilo više; jedni su bili za gradnju na križanju Prilaza i Primorske ulice, drugi na Iličkom trgu, treći na Ciglani. Na temelju projekta koji je Vancaš izradio 1897. godine, dobivena građevinska dozvola 1898., no ni ta gradnja nije nikad započeta.

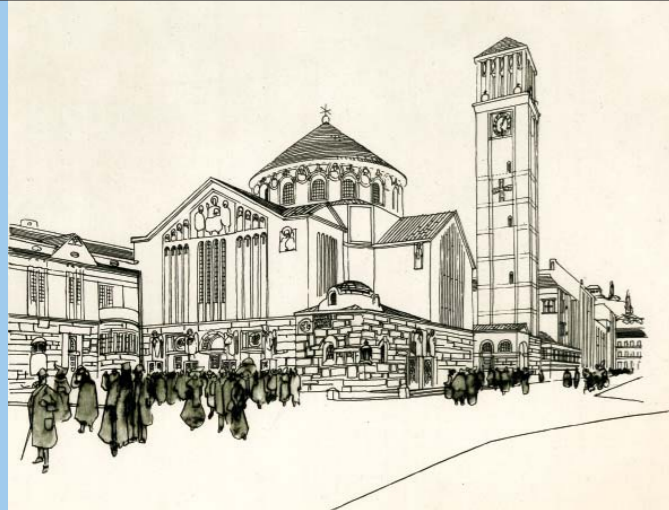


Nakon burnih polemičkih rasprava novi Građevni odbor raspisao je natječaj u trajanju od 6. kolovoza 1908. do 16. siječnja 1909. godine.

Na natječaj je prijavljeno devet arhitektonskih projekata. Sjednica odbora za prosuđivanje nacrtu za župnu crkvu sv. Blaža održana je 25. i 26. siječnja 1909. godine. Treća nagrada od 1000 kruna pripala je projektu arhitekta Vjekoslava Bastla. Drugu nagradu od 1500 kruna dobio je arhitekt Dioniz Sunko. Prva nagrada od 2500 kruna dodijeljena je projektu pod šifrom *Deo* iza koje se je krio arhitekt Viktor Kovačić.

Na neveliku parcelu Viktor Kovačić spretno smješta crkveni kompleks: uz zapadni rub parcele projektira župni dvor, pročeljem



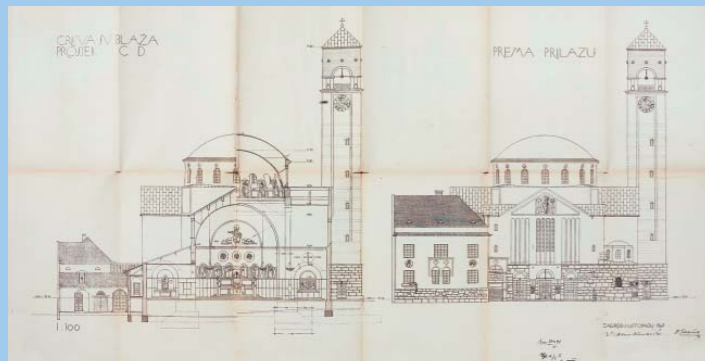


V. Kovačić: Natječajni projekt, 1909.

okrenut prema Prilazu, crkvu uvlači prema sjeveru te tako ispred crkve i ulaza u župni dvor formira mali trg za okupljanje vjernika, a građevni blok zatvara s istočne strane smještajem zvonika uz Primorsku ulicu. Kovačić kao dio kompleksa planira i gradnju kuće zvonara i najamnih stanova, a osim toga nudi novo urbanističko rješenje za cijeli gradski blok, probijanje nove ulice (današnje Kordunske). Crkvu sv. Blaža Viktor Kovačić je projektirao u obliku grčkog križa s kupolom na križištu.

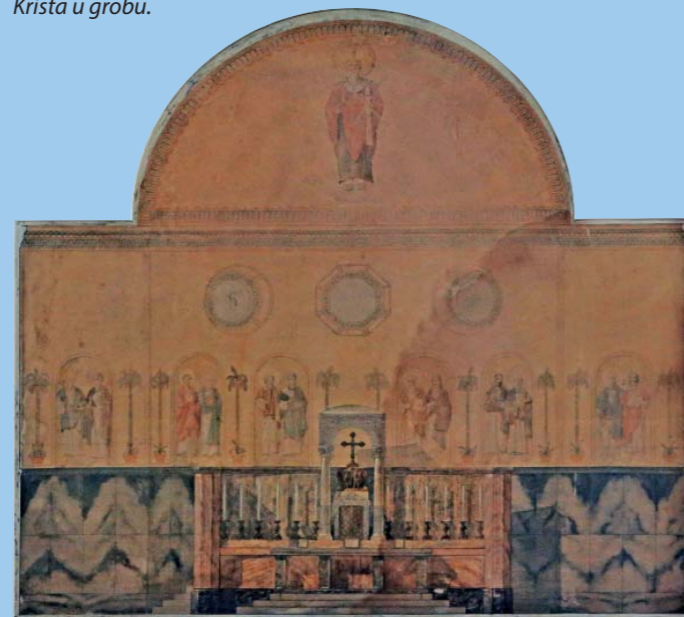
U ožujku 1909. Viktor Kovačić potpisuje ugovor o izradi projekta i nadzora nad gradnjom. U glavnom projektu on odustaje od svake suvišne dekoracije. Kupola gubi stožasti krov, te svojom ogoljelom ljepotom postaje osnovni dekorativni element. Izvedena je od armiranog betona promjer oko 18 metara, prva takova smjela konstrukcija, ne samo u Hrvatskoj već i u svijetu.

Građevna dozvola za gradnju crkve svetoga Blaža i župnog dvora izdana je 24. kolovoza 1910. godine. Gradnja je započela 19. srpnja 1911., a uporabna dozvola postala je važeća 14. siječnja 1914.



V. Kovačić: Glavni projekt, 1909.

godine. Viktor Kovačić zadužen je besplatno napraviti provizorno uređenje crkve. Blagoslov crkve obavio je 28. ožujka 1915. pomoćni biskup zagrebački dr. Dominik Premuš. Vojta Braniš izradio je *hrvatske božićne jaslice* 1916., a Ljubo Babić naslikao *Svetog Blaža i Krista u grobu*.



V. Kovačić: Nacrt oltara, 1923. - 1924.

Unutarnje uređenje crkve, zbog rata i poratne krize, nastavljeno je tek 1923. godine. Na zahtjev odbora Kovačić je izradio detaljne nacрте za glavni i dva pokrajnja oltara, klupe i ispovjedaonice. Nakon smrti Viktora Kovačića, 21. listopada 1924, kratko vrijeme radove je vodio arhitekt Alfred Albini, te su izvedene samo klupe 1925. godine.

Arhitekt Stjepan Hribar 1926. godine nastavlja radove na unutarnjem uređenju crkve. Hribar je izradio nekoliko različitih idejnih skica, da bi se na kraju priklonio „intenciji“ Viktora Kovačića. Glavni oltar crkve sv. Blaža postavljen je za Božić 1932. godine.

Umjetnički odbor, u kojem su bili kipar I. Kerdić, slikar Lj. Babić, dr. Kniewald i arhitekt S. Hribar 1938. godine pokrenuo je akciju za izradu pokrajnjih oltara Majke Božje „Imakulate“ i Presvetog Srca Isusovog. Nacrte za oltare napravio je Stjepan Hribar, a za mozaike Ljubo Babić. Reljefe Imakulate i Presvetog Srca Isusovog izradio je kipar Ivo Kerdić. Oltar Bl. Djevice Marije dovršen je 1942. godine, a 1943. postavljen je oltar Presvetog Srca Isusovog.



Fotografija unutrašnjosti, nakon 1932.

1995. godine raspisan je natječaj za Idejno rješenje uređenja unutrašnjosti crkve sv. Blaža na kojem nije dodijeljena prva nagrada, već su većinom glasova Ocjenjivačkog suda, dodijeljene tri jednakovrijedne nagrade timovima arhitekata: Andrej Uchtyl i Renata Waldagoni, Ivan Crnković i Marko Piljek, Nenad Fabijanić sa suradnicima.



Razglednica, oko 1918.

Arhitekt Željko Kovačić prve planove za uređenje crkve sv. Blaža izradio je 1983. godine. Sudjelovao je na natječaju 1995. godine, a na poziv tadašnjeg župnika Mije Gorskog 1999. potpisuje ugovor o izradi nacрте za uređenje unutrašnjosti crkve. Na poticaj sadašnjeg župnika Zvonimira Sekelja radovi na uređenju svetišta započeli su 2014. godine. Kao i na svim radovima do sada, arhitekt je, u dogovoru sa župnikom, organizirao tim umjetnika koji su proveli

njegov projekt : Zlatko Kauzlaric Atač za apostole, Zlatko Keser za vitraje, Tomislav Buntak za Krista Pantokratora, Alen Novoselec za palme, Milun Garčević za mozaike.

Kardinal Josip Bozanić, nadbiskup zagrebački, novi oltar i svetište posvetio je 1. veljače 2015. godine.

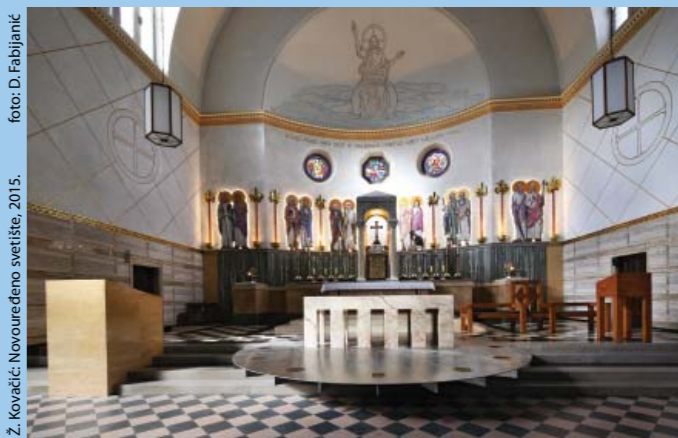


foto: D. Fabijanić

Z. Kovačić: Novouređeno svetište, 2015.

## THE ICON OF CROATIAN MODERNISM - CHURCH OF ST. BLAISE, FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

The history of the Zagreb Church of St. Blaise started in the eighties of the 19th century when, because of a population growth, a need for establishing a new parish in the western part of the city arose. Eduard Suhin developed a study in 1886 on the establishment of new parishes in the lower town, the first to be St. Blaise in Primorska Street and the second St. Cross between Savska and Petrinjska Streets. For the purpose of construction of the rectory and the new church of St. Blaise, Suhin decided to donate the prebend land of St. Cross in Primorska Street. The Archbishop's Clerical Board, in 1889, decided to found the Parish of St. Blaise. A Building Committee was founded, which was supposed to attend to the competition procedure and the construction of the church complex. However, the final construction of the church and rectory, as well as the beginning of the parish work will take many more years and discussions.

At the first competition for the construction of the church of St. Blaise, in 1889, none of the submitted projects met the criteria of the competition. Therefore, in 1891 the members of the Committee decided to ask the architect Josip Vančaš to develop the design for the new church. The construction did not start immediately as discussions began about the place of construction of the church and rectory. There were several proposals for the place of construction; some advocated for the construction at the intersection of Prilaz and Primorska Street, others for the construction at Ilica square; there was also a proposal for the construction at Ciglena. In 1897, Vančaš developed new designs for the church and the main design, based on which the building permit was obtained in 1898. However, the construction has never been initiated.

After a turbulent polemical debate, the new Building Committee published a competition for a period from 6 August until 16 January 1909.