

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2024

ArtLifeCycle.com (Striving to live the Art of Life's Cycles)

Spring is coming, Spring is coming,

Birdies build your nests,

Weave together straw and feather,

Doing each your best...

Hello Dear Friends,

Your interest is warmly embraced by us (James and Andrea)! Thank you. You can expect updates, reports and tell-tales on our life-journey. Life is Nature. Nature is Art. Transformation of the Self in the Cycles of Life is through Art. And that is what we seek in the breaths we take, the cake we bake, the life we make...

THE CHAPEL HOUSE (A KÁPOLNA HÁZ) VELENCE, HUNGARY

We have been working tirelessly on The Chapel House in order to move in...

The first newsletter was about the history of The Chapel House from the Roman times to the date of us acquiring it in 2020. The second newsletter we have shared details of the major reconstructive work on the plumbing, electricity, building structure, roof, walls, garden, etc. and our epic journey with the discovery of the 3 crypts from the 18th century underneath the floor.

In this edition, we will share details of the interior design and build. We are still awaiting the completion of the antique porcelain stove's refurbishment and renovation. We also need corrective masonry work outside, pavement work, final tin work and a thorough clean-up and tidy-up around from all the debris, garbage and left-over materials before we can consider the project complete; even though it is never so...

[The stove and its legendary journey to The Chapel House:](#)

The porcelain stove originally was built to heat one of the rooms of the Hauszmann-Gschwindt mansion in Velence. The mansion was built by the Meszleny aristocratic family in the first part of the 18th century.

You can find our Children's Book in our online shop (click below link)

[Annabelle's Lullaby](#)

Storyline: Annabelle's grandfather goes to fight the wizard. The wizard transforms him and his fellow men into gargoyles. When the grandfather returns in the middle of the night from the battle, he hums [Annabelle's Lullaby](#) for Annabelle. The love of his grandchild, Annabelle helps him on his long journey of recovery...

The book may also serve as a therapeutic tool in communicating about TRAUMA.

Blessings on your Day



In 1910, Alajos Hauszmann then in 1926, Gschwindt family respectively gained ownership of this magnificent mansion with all its eclectic neo-baroque and neo-renaissance glory; including several (said to be 7) of the majolica-tile (majolica tiles are a thin glazed earthenware with an opaque white glaze, which became popular in mid-15th century Italy) stoves in the house. During the 1960's all bourgeoisie artifacts were de-privatised in the communist era therefore the mansion became a government managed workers' holiday retreat. The large saloon-like rooms were chopped into small utilitarian cubicles to provide the workers with an enriching holiday time away from their factory chores. During the conversion work some laborers were instructed to destroy all of the stoves (which all looked the same) except one but they managed to rescue one more stove -against the orders- beside the one left in the main hall of the mansion. This stove, was rescued out of the mansion and carried to The Chapel House (which is about 5-minute walk away from the mansion). And that is how we have such a historic jewel in our building...

It was in a bed shape therefore we have looked for a master-craftsman to restore and modernize it. After a strenuous process and many complications, it will grace our building again with its beauty and amazing warmth-capacity in a few weeks...



The previous newsletter closed with the rendering of the inside walls. And naturally the next phase was the industrial-diamond-edge-concrete-polishing of the floor and the lime-wash painting of the breathable render on the walls. We prioritised on making sure the moisture from the walls dry out because a stone-wall naturally takes up groundwater regardless of our capillary drain-system outside the building. We have certainly not insulated the 300-year old stone/brick walls given that they are 80-90cm thick and able to hold the heat in the Winter and keep the climate cool inside in the Summertime.



Then we moved onto rebuilding the gallery where our bedroom is set to be. We used 20x20cm beams because we preferred the timber to be chunky and hand-hewn. At this point we are 3 years into the renovation. It has been a strenuous process because good, creative and flexible craftsman is very hard to find in Hungary. We have been cheated, betrayed and taken for fools but each time we gathered ourselves and plowed on with the work. We are exhausted by all the work, design-decisions, money-spending and problem-solving but this phase marked a turning point from -what we call- foundational/structural work to furnishing (as the gallery and staircase made to be like a functional furniture). The furnishing ideas are harmonized with the final overall-look inside and out. One of these ideas are a walking glass panel in the gallery floor to let light into the hallway. The philosophy is based on 'less is more'. Function, history and beauty in harmony. Here are some pictures documenting the space from before we took possession of the property through the transformations to the end results; retrospectively...



Late November we started heating the chapel with the underfloor heating-system and it makes all the difference for the walls and all of us, who works and/or lives inside. Now that we have assigned areas (kitchen, bathroom, gallery bedroom etc.) in the chapel and not just one big space, we have several areas which are being worked on simultaneously as we felt the crunch of time. We aimed to have Christmas Silent Night in The Chapel House and so we did...

Bathroom (before and after): of course is not only totally redone but it was relocated from one corner of the chapel to another. The service area (water heater, water softener, laundry drawer etc.) is built into a cabinet for aesthetic purposes. We have a variation of oak and shabby-chic surfaced cabinets. The two-types of large off-white tiles (plain and plat) designed to give a larger feeling to this small space with the black accessories accentuating the contrast.



The transformation of the kitchen was very special; the studying of the way we live and move in a space gave me insight of the practical aspect of the design. Then I worked on the the aesthetics and in the final stages the merge of function with the aesthetics had to unite. It required a good amount of flexibility in thinking in order to arrive at the final idea. Then, of course, space for some more changes had to be allowed for unforeseen space, measurements and work-related complications; wich naturally happens on a building site. The cabinets are hand-made. The shabby chic finish on old-style cabinets with wooden drawers took colossal work by our amazing carpenters, Jani and his twin Pali.



By this time Christmas 2023 had arrived, so we moved back into The Chapel House on December 23. Just enough time to make Silent Night Supper on the 24th. It was pretty special for us!

In January of the new year, the bedroom/gallery (before and after) furniture was completed and we didn't have to sleep on the floor anymore. It is -again- some oak and some shabby-chic pieces to keep it flowing with the rest of the space of The Chapel House.





The attic door is also a marble in the collection of beautiful craftsmanship. The middle section of it is designed to also serve as a vent to move the air in the chapel if needed.

Ventilation is also important for the thick 300-year-old stone walls to breathe and continually vent.

We love the light in our space as that was essential in order not to use artificial lights all the time. The walking glass assures natural light into the hall-way and kitchen area, and also brings our playful signature to the interior. During the day the large triangular window provides with a fresco-like blue-sky view with occasional moving clouds and a starry dark sky from our bed at night.



We are grateful to be living in such special space, and happy to be witnessing and embracing this building at this point of history, and be held and protected by such historical significance to the town of Velence. The next newsletter will show you the final touches of this enourmous project including the installment of the stove, outside work and garden.

May you find inspiration to embark on your own building journey; if that is where you are at in life. Or simply just enjoy the information we share about our journey with The Chapel House (A Kápolna Ház).



Thank you