

Napuštene Zgrade // Abandoned Premises // Verlassene Bauten

Location list

HARTERA PAPER MILL

Founded in 1823, the Paper Mill in the River canyon was soon bought by French and English investors and exported paper worldwide. Already before World War II, it specialized in cigarette paper and during the 1940s it had about 500 workers and state of the art machines. After 1945, the factory was nationalized and the number of workers and production increased. In 1991, it was the second largest cigarette paper factory in Europe. During the Yugoslavian wars of the 90s and their aftermath it lost all of its markets, went bankrupt and closed. There are plans to convert the premises into a cultural centre, and the factory halls have hosted the Hartera Music Festival since 2005. However, the spaces are only occasionally used for cultural events or weddings.



VODOVODNA STREET

Vodovodna street was the city's Eastern Industrial Zone. The last quarter of the 19th century saw an intensive conversion of the mills on Riječina and the modernization of their production. There were numerous factories around the river. The factories were the followings: The Leather Factory Plasse, The Leather Factory Ružić, The Coffee Roster Factory, The Metal Foundry Skull. Only small parts of some of them still exist and are incorporated into new buildings of different functions.



RIKARD BENČIĆ COMPLEX

The complex of factory and administrative buildings started as a sugar refinery in 1750, being the first industrial production plant in Rijeka. In the 19th century it was turned into a tobacco factory and parts of it were also shortly used as army barracks. With around 2000 workers, it was the biggest tobacco factory in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and was one of the few factories in the world to have more female than male workers. Word War II put an end to the tobacco processing; instead, Rikard Benčić opened a motor factory that was working continuously from 1945 until 1998. The so called T-object and the H-object are what is left of the Tobacco Factory. Parts of the building, especially the villa with valuable frescoes are restored, but most of it is not. This year it will be used for a music festival and there are plans for turning it into the new seat of Rijeka's Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, which is halted due to the lack of funds.



SWIMMING POOL ŠKOLJIĆ

In the 19th century, Školjić was one of the most popular neighborhoods in town, and the town's first public pool was built here. There were 12 pools with sea water and 6 with fresh water. In 1965, the first indoor pool in Rijeka was built here; however, as there was another indoor pool built in Kantrida in 1974, the one on Školjić quickly went out of business and closed in the 80s. In 2008, there were plans for revitalizing this space, but they have not been realized.



TEATRO FENICE

The only preserved theatre building in Croatia from the Jungendstil period opened in 1914 and had room for around 200 seats. With its unique construction and innovative technology it was one of the most modern theatres in Central Europe and one of the most contemporary buildings of this kind in Europe. As early as 1924, it was equipped with a cinema projector and has been running as a cinema until the 1990s. As a cultural landmark it is under the highest heritage protection, but as it is now privately owned, funds for its preservation are lacking.



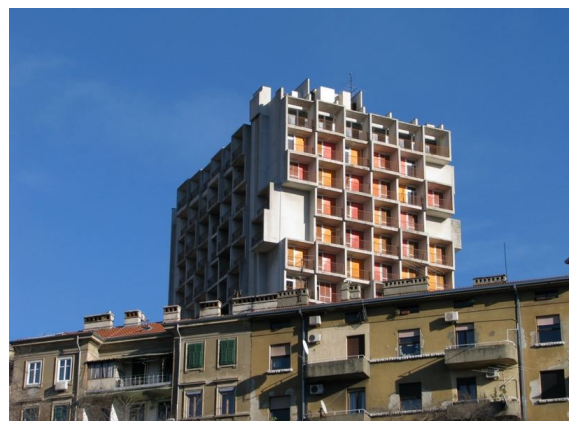
OPERA NIGHT KLUB

A night club built under Teatro Fenice, was one of the biggest and most popular in Rijeka. Newly outfitted in the 90s, it only operated for a short time but made supposedly a lot of money.



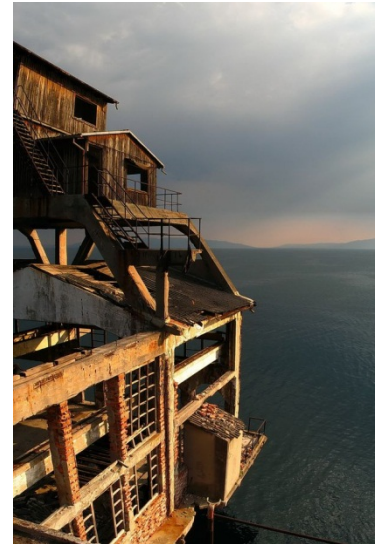
THE RAILWAY WORKERS HOTEL

A hotel designed to host low-budget travelers was built by the Yugoslav Railway Company in 1980. A meeting place for various youth groups, musicians, athletes and workers, its ownership is subject to court investigation, as some of the sales were not legal and / or are fictive.



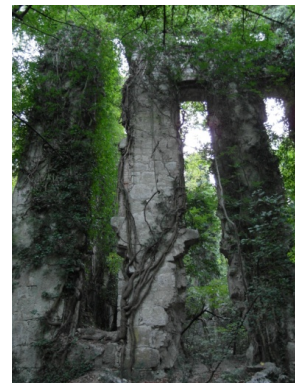
TORPEDO LAUNCHING RAMP and WESTERN INDUSTRIAL ZONE

A little known fact about Rijeka is that it is the cradle of the torpedo, that has been invented here by the Englishman Robert Whitehead. The original test launching ramp, built between 1884 and 1897, is still standing today, the nearby parts of the Torpedo Factory have been sold and are reused today. The ramp has been in desperate need of restoration and conservation for years now, but it seems that renovation will finally start this year. The ramp is situated in the Western industrial area that also hosts a defunct oil refinery and several industrial Jugendstil buildings, also in bad shape.



RJEČINA WATER MILLS

Upstream from the industrial zone in the river canyon is the site of the old Water Mills. A complex of high walls overgrown with ivy, the mills seem to be stuck in a fairytale – and can only be reached on foot, about half an hour away from the last settlement.



ARMY BARACKS ON KAMPUS TRSAT

The former Army Barracks on Trsat, the site of Rijeka's oldest settlement, are now being converted into the new university campus. Some buildings of the old complex, however, are still standing in their original condition. The main building was reportedly built for Austro-Hungarian army in the late 19th century, most walls date from 1926. After the capitulation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941, they were occupied first by the Italian army, later by German troops and after the liberation the Yugoslav National Army took seat here. The barracks were called Barracks of the Spanish Volunteers, until the Croatian army entered the barracks and renamed them Trsat.



HALUDOVO PALACE HOTEL, KRK

The Haludovo Palace Hotel is an abandoned resort hotel on the Croatian island Krk north of Malinska. The hotel is named after a nearby beach. Bob Guccione, the founder of the Penthouse magazine, invested 45 million US-dollars in the project and officially opened the Penthouse Adriatic Club casino located in the hotel in 1972. Due to constraints on foreign investment in communist Yugoslavia, the hotel was owned by the Rijeka based Brodokomerc 'company'. Today the hotel resort is abandoned with the interior effectively destroyed while the buildings remain intact.

