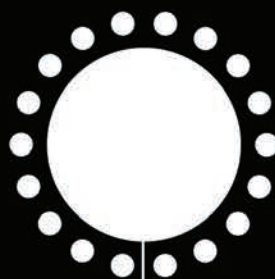


CX

ONE HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS



ŽALE<sub>d.o.o.</sub>







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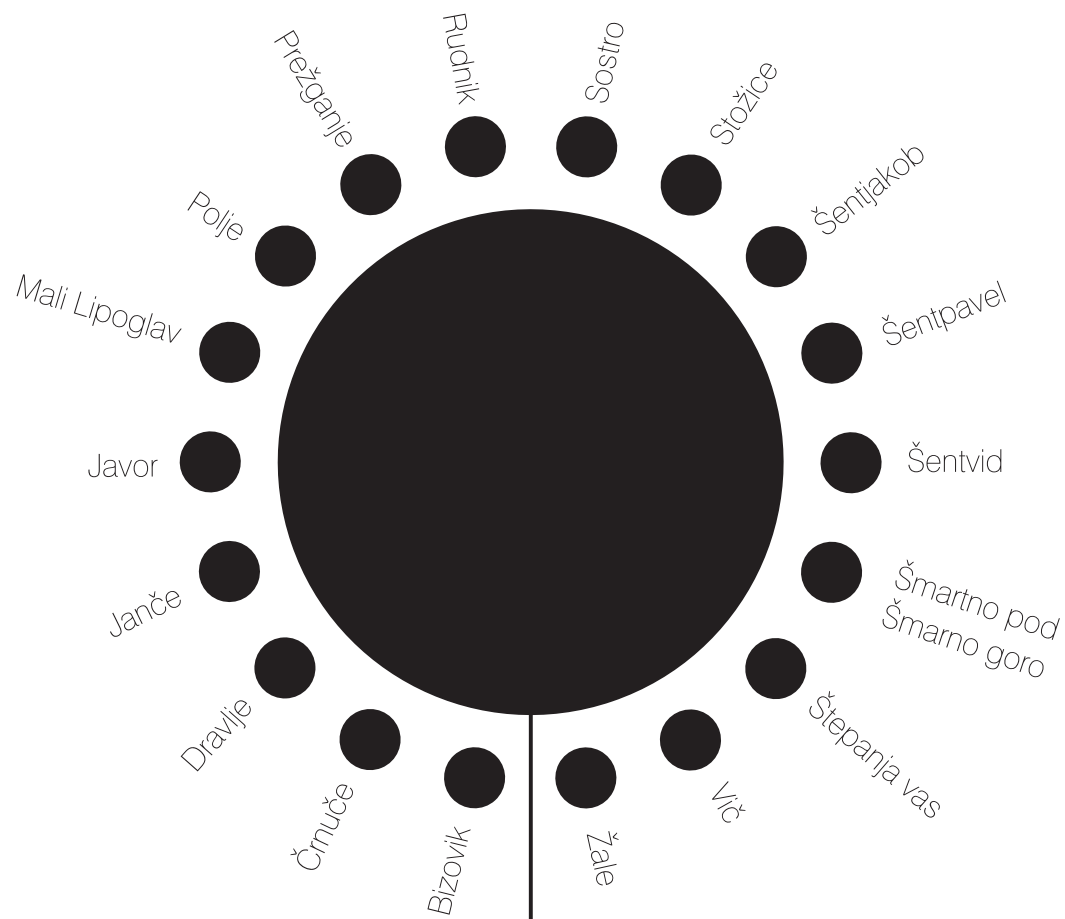
ŽALE Public company (Ljubljana)

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*ŽALE manages 18 cemeteries in Ljubljana and its surroundings. Presented individually, they are a special place, a monument of art and a unique pillar of the memories of our ancestors.*

*To this end, we have created a “flower” sign, which represents the core of the flower of ŽALE, with 18 leaves growing around it, the cemeteries under management.*



ŽALE  
d.o.o.





# ONE HUNDRED



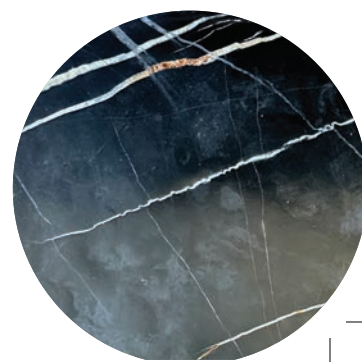
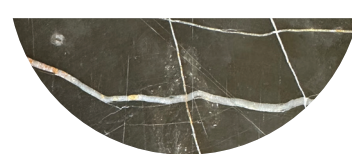


*On 1 August 2024,  
ŽALE celebrated 110  
years of existence.  
For this purpose,  
we issue this publication  
to introduce ourselves,  
to remember our beginnings  
and to think about tomorrow.*

*We are proud of your trust,  
and we believe that together  
we will continue to make  
progress and increase  
satisfaction with  
our services, always  
mindful of our roots.*

AND TEN YEARS

1914-2024







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*We enter this world  
when our mother gives us breath,  
we leave a trace,  
which in the end only remains a memory,  
giving us meaning, respect,*

*...a circle comes full circle and another circle is already started,  
there is no end to it, ever.  
...We are here for you.*



# Respectful farewell to life

Death. A moment that awaits each and every one of us. No matter how or when it happens, it comes as a shock to relatives, friends, acquaintances and the whole immediate community. That is why it is so important that the farewell arrangements are respectful and quiet, and that the final place of rest is tended and full of memories. ŽALE's employees are well aware of this and carry out their work with a great deal of empathy and with the bereaved in mind. At the time of deepest sorrow, they help them to make the necessary arrangements for the funeral ceremony to say goodbye to their loved one, and then, by carefully and systematically taking care of the cemeteries, they make them places of peaceful memory of all those who have left us.

The ŽALE public company manages the central and also the largest cemetery in Ljubljana, Žale cemetery, as well as 17 other cemeteries in Ljubljana and its surroundings. Each of these has its own special place in our city and in the hearts of our townspeople as they are places of calm, reassurance and respectful remembrance of all our ancestors. Plečnik's



*Zoran Janković*  
*Mayor of the Municipality of Ljubljana*

Žale is also a cultural monument of national importance and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The ŽALE public company takes excellent care of all the cemeteries under its management, and we work together to renovate, expand and modernise them to ensure quality services and respect for all users. In recent years, we have been systematically expanding and renovating Žale Cemetery, and in the coming years we will also arrange the Žale Avenue, which will connect the old and new parts of the cemetery. Recently, we have also expanded the Vič, Rudnik, Polje and Sostro cemeteries.

In its 110 years of operation, the ŽALE public company has developed into the leading funeral and cemetery organisation in Slovenia. On this special anniversary, I warmly congratulate all the employees, headed by Managing Director, Robert Martinčič, MA, and I trust that they will continue to be so dedicated in fulfilling their mission.

# In the public interest

ŽALE is the largest and only medium-sized company in Slovenia with funeral services as its core business. It is also the smallest municipal public undertaking in the City of Ljubljana (MOL), which consistently receives very high ratings of significance and quality in opinion polls. But the road to get here has not been easy and straightforward – together with our predecessors and colleagues, we have been paving it for 110 years.

More than 120 years ago, around 1900, cemetery services or maintenance was provided by the Church, while burial services were in private hands. At that time, private funeral homes carried out transport and funerals in Ljubljana on the basis of a licence from the regional government. However, as the citizens and the municipality were not satisfied with their work, the Ljubljana authorities decided to protect the citizens' and the public interest by establishing the city's own municipal funeral home.

Therefore, on 13 June 1913, the Ljubljana Municipal Council submitted a request to the regional government of Carniola for a concession so that the municipality could also provide funeral services. On 27 October 1913, the regional government granted the request, issuing a concession to the Municipality of Ljubljana to carry out funeral activities. The City Funeral Home started operating on 1 August 1914, meaning that 110 years have passed since that landmark moment.

Our mission, of which we are very proud, was placed in our cradle and has remained unchanged for 110 years: to provide funeral and cemetery services to the citizens of the City of Ljubljana and to complement them with commercial services, while protecting the environment and cultural heritage and acting as a socially responsible company. Our vision is to be the largest Slovenian provider of funeral, cemetery and cremation services, while achieving the satisfaction of our clients and service users, our colleagues, the owner and the public.



## *Robert Martinčič, MA*

The way we look at cemeteries has changed a lot in these 110 years. People have overcome negative prejudices and started visiting cemeteries in large numbers. One third of visitors in Ljubljana visit the cemetery once a week, and one in three visitors once a month.

Only a few of those visit it only on All Saints' Day. This is why ŽALE's efforts over the past decades have been focused on raising public awareness of the wider importance of cemeteries. Also with the assistance of ASCE, the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, in which we have been actively involved all along.

In this way, society at large is also slowly realising that cemeteries are no longer just enclosures for burying and remembering the dead, but much more than that – they are also cultural heritage, parks and tourist attractions. In short, they are places where the present and the past, art and nature, connect and intertwine. In addition to the stories of ordinary people, they tell the tale of the city's relationship to culture, history and all that is beautiful. They also tell the story of the Slovenian nation, as many famous personalities, giants of our past, have found their final resting place here: poets, writers, sculptors, painters, composers, architects, actors, engineers, politicians, athletes, etc.

There are at least two places to visit in every city: the market and the cemetery. The market reflects the current pulse of the city, the cemetery the present and the past. In spatial terms, the network of public cemetery parks is part of the green areas of a city, while from the organisational point of view, the concept implies a gradual transition to urban cemeteries, which are chosen by the inhabitants according to the characteristics, qualities and peculiarities of an individual location and, at least to a large extent, no longer according to territorial affiliation. For example, the Žale Cemetery, which is actually one of Ljubljana's largest parks and an open-air museum. As cultural routes in cemeteries are a catalyst for local tourism development, we are pleased to have succeeded in integrating cemeteries

into the tourist offer of cities. Under the ASCE, there is the European Cemeteries Route. It represents a novelty in the tourist offer and has a great development potential.

We pay great attention to the protection of the cultural heritage of the graves and the restoration of Plečnik's Žale, of which we are particularly proud, as it is a cultural monument of national importance and the only facility of its kind in Europe to have been awarded the European Heritage Label in 2007 by an intergovernmental initiative, while in 2021, Plečnik's Žale was designated a UNESCO World and Natural Heritage Site. Plečnik's Žale is part of Plečnik's Ljubljana and certainly the most original solution to 20th-century cemetery architecture, which is why it is admired by professionals and the general public all over the world. The ŽALE public company has been investing a lot of its own assets and effort in the management and maintenance of the cemetery for years.



*It is an honour to be part of a place of remembrance and respect, where one is aware of the finality of transience, the drumbeat of silence, the depth of grief, the gift of compassion, the comforting consolation of tears, and the solace of a sincere embrace.*

## A Tribute to Life

May this monograph, ŽALE 110, be a tribute to the creators and stakeholders of cemetery and funeral activities in the area of the City of Ljubljana.

The challenges that ŽALE d.o.o. face – at a time when it is celebrating its 110 years and beyond – are many. The preparation of this monograph was also a particular challenge. All of us who helped in its creation have approached the task with deep respect, responsibility and reverence. Along the way, however, we have realised that, despite our different personal roles (editors, writers, designers, reviewers, etc.), we share similar values. Co-creation has brought out a special attitude in each of us; first and foremost a professional attitude, as befits our respective roles. Some of us have a respectful attitude towards the activity, stemming mainly from the realisation of how ŽALE d.o.o. are much more than one – thinking of cremations, caskets, funerary urns, funerals and death – could imagine. But the prejudices in all of us have long since disappeared. It is essentially about the harmony between a professional and a human relationship; not only towards all the cemeteries and the dedicated people of ŽALE d.o.o., who together shape the story of this successful Ljubljana enterprise, while caring for the employees, with reverence, sensitivity and feeling, while creating new relationships. In parallel, a level of belonging and dedication is unconsciously reinforced – dedication to all eighteen cemeteries managed by the company. With this monograph, all these places of remembrance become a special flower, illustrating the interconnectedness of all eighteen cemeteries with its inflorescence. The company also comprises three branches of Plečnik's florist's shops, the ŽALE Stonemason's Workshop and the ŽALE Crematorium.

*The creation of the monograph has also led to the realisation that cemetery events remind us again and again of the transience and permanence of change. And to life.*

*Marta Bon, PhD*

It is exciting to go back and forth between the idea that Žale is, in a sense, a place of the dead, and on the other hand, a place of the living. Life bursts out of creative excesses – from architectural, floral and stonework to parks and other creations of human hands. The vitality is woven from the efforts of the employees to keep the cemeteries tended and operations running smoothly. There is vitality in the longing of people who come to graves and funerals, yearning to push the reality of transience as far into the future as possible. There is life in the tears that try to wash away the sorrow and the pain. But the most vital part of everything and everywhere is always us – people – and our relationships. Does it just seem that, in cemeteries, we all find ourselves in somehow altered relationships and relations? Even towards ourselves? And towards others? May the mission of ŽALE in the future also serve as a reminder of the values of life, solidarity, compassion, and the importance of the moment. About the here-and-now.

We would like the Žale 110 monograph to be solemn, elegant, respectful; on the other hand, while respecting reverence, it should also be sufficiently fresh and light. So that make earthly existence, too, may be as light as possible! May the monograph be a guide to lightness until the transience awaiting all of us. And may it also be a support to the bereaved in moments of farewell and in the sharing of grief. They say that if you share sorrow, it somehow diminishes, while happiness expands immeasurably. May ŽALE also be a place of happiness and peacefulness. Until the moment of return to eternity, which is marked out for all of us at birth...

*in eternal stone*

*in eternal reflection*

*in eternal life*







*By way of introduction, I would like to point out that this chapter is taken and adapted from the book ŽALE 100 Years (Martinčič et al. 2014), which was co-authored by ŽALE employees and other experts in the field of funerals and cemeteries.*





# ŽALE

Historical overview

1914-2014

*Before 1914*

# Private funeral homes and Church-run cemeteries



*Church of the Holy Cross, photograph, 1900–1910, MGML, Ljubljana City Museum.*

The first beginnings of the city's funeral service actually go back more than a hundred years. The old city cemetery of St Christopher once stood on the site of today's Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre. Until the early 20th century, burials were carried out here, but the cemetery became less and less suitable as the city developed rapidly.

The solution was found in the Ljubljana Field, where a new cemetery was opened on 3 May 1906 next to the Church of Holy Cross. This was

under the ownership of the parishes of Ljubljana, while the actual funeral activities – burials and transport of the deceased – were carried out by various private companies licensed by the regional government. A year after the opening of the cemetery, the Austrian Trade Rules introduced a priority awarding of concessions for funeral activities to municipalities, which was also used by the City of Ljubljana in the following years. At the opening of the cemetery, the transfer of the deceased from St Christopher's Cemetery to Holy Cross Cemetery began.

1914

# 1 August: the City Funeral Company opens for business

**Otvoritveno naznanilo!**

**Mestni  
pogrebni zavod  
v Ljubljani**

centrala Frančiškanska ulica šte. 8, telefon šte. 97,  
prej pogrebni zavod Franc Doberlet

prične s poslovanjem

**dne 1. avgusta 1914.**

Ustne, pismene ali telefonske prijave smrtnih slučajev sprejema ob  
vsaki uri zavodova pisarna **Frančiškanska ulica št. 8, telefon št. 97.**  
Da ugodí vsem željam in zahtevam p. n. občinstva, prevzame in oskrbuje  
mestni pogrebni zavod vsa k pogrebnístvu spadajoča naročila in vse kakoršne-  
koli potrebne dobave.  
Mestni pogrebni zavod se usoja hkrati opozarjati na svoje bogato za-  
logo kovinskih in lesenih krst v najrazličnejši velikosti in kakovosti, mrtvaš-  
kih prtov, tančic in blazin, mrlíških oblek, čevljev in ročnih križcev, naglavnih  
venčkov, grobnih vencev itd. itd.  
Zavodov cenik in obrednik je slavnemu občinstvu na vpogled in na  
razpolago v pisarni, **Frančiškanska ulica št. 8.**

**Ravnateljstvo mestnega pogrebnega zavoda v Ljubljani.**

*Slovenec: a political newspaper for the Slovene nation (01/08/1914), volume 42, issue 173, publisher: Ljudska tiskarna, source: the National and University Library.*

On 1 August 1914, the City Funeral Institute (Funeral home) is established in Ljubljana. Thus begins the century-old tradition of the ŽALE company. The reason for establishing the City Funeral Institute was both the need to better organise funeral and cemetery activities and the dissatisfaction of the citizens with the work of the private companies that were carrying out funeral activities, as they were supposedly only seeking to make a profit. As early as 1907, the Austrian Trade Rules gave municipalities priority in granting and operating funeral concessions. On 13 June 1913, the Ljubljana Municipal Council submitted a request to the regional government of Carniola to grant a concession to the City of Ljubljana to carry out funeral activities. The concession is received on 27 October 1913. On 24 June 1914, the municipality concluded the first purchase contract with Doberle, a private entrepreneur at the time. Under this contract, the City Funeral Institute took over all the funeral inventory in the warehouses, garages, stables and in Frančiškanska (now Nazorjeva ulica), and in the offices in Prečna ulica. By gradually buying out other private companies, it quickly established a monopoly in Ljubljana.



1915

## Adopted rules and 1,104 funerals

On 12 October 1915, the municipal council adopts the rules of the institution, with the aim of carrying out the concession granted by tender by the provincial government and to manage in a unified way the private companies bought out by the municipality.

The company's management is governed by the Ljubljana Municipal Council, the company's

board of directors and the company's managing director, in accordance with the rules. The municipal council sets the rules, the ceremonial, the price list for funerals and appoints the board of directors and the keeper. That year, the City Funeral Institute carries out 1,104 funerals in Ljubljana and eight transportations of deceased individuals outside the city.

1916–1918

## World War I period: increased number of funerals and transports



*Tomb monument of Janez Evangelist Krek, postcard, 1920–1930, MGML, Ljubljana City Museum.*

During World War I, the number of funerals and transports increases. The City Funeral Institute carries out the core activities: funeral services and transport of the deceased. The war temporarily stops the move from the old cemetery to the new one. At the same time, space is available for new sections for soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian Army and prisoners of war of different nationalities and religions who died in the military hospital in Ljubljana. Approximately 6,100 are buried at the Holy Cross, including more than 1,000 Italian prisoners. From 1916 to 1918, the number of funerals performed increased by 210 and the number of deceased individuals transported by 12.

1919–1925

## Period of development of the activity



*Church of the Holy Cross/All Saints and the Žale parish, source: SI ZAL LJU 342, Fototeka, photo No.: A3-041-036.*

The period after World War I represents a time of development for the City Funeral Institute. Concern for the public interest and the pursuit of the objective of integrated operation management have been the guiding principles of the company's activities ever since, and are essential ingredients for its success today, in 2024.

At that time, the City Funeral Institute, wishing to consolidate its operations and equipment under its own roof, begins to address the

issue of its own premises and company headquarters. The inventory, hearses, horses and coffins are spread out in various places around the city, including garages, stables and warehouses. In 1921, the Municipal Council grants the City Funeral Institute permission to build its own office building. In June 1923, the bodies of the Judenburg victims massacre and the revivalist Ivan Endlicher are transported to Ljubljana, and a tomb monument, the Kranjski Janez statue, is erected for the war victims.

*Memorial to the victims of Judenburg, postcard, 1925–1930, MGML, Ljubljana City Museum.*



1926

## Buying the first motor hearse

In the years after World War I, the number of orders for transport of deceased persons to various places increases for the City Funeral Institute. In 1925, it buys 3 black horses, and in 1926 it buys the first motor hearse – an enclosed car for transporting the dead.

*Ljubljana hearse – bodywork made in the workshop of Franc Rojina, Zg. Šiška (circa 1930), source: [www.euromobil.si](http://www.euromobil.si).*

*Ljubljana hearse – bodywork made in the workshop of Franc Rojina, Zg. Šiška (1935), source: [www.euromobil.si](http://www.euromobil.si).*



*Carriage for transporting the deceased, source: ŽALE archive.*



1927

## Officially recognised funeral institute in Ljubljana

After the purchase of the last private and Church-owned funeral companies, the City Funeral Institute becomes the only officially recognised funeral home in Ljubljana. This also makes it the only entitled entity to

perform funerals in the city. In that year, the municipality buys a house and a plot of land on Ambrožev trg for the City Funeral Institute, worth 1,200,000 dinars at the time.



1928–1935

# Idea and decision on the construction of memorial mortuaries



Source: Milena Piškur:  
Ljubljanske ŽALE:  
vodnik po pokopališču  
(Družina, 2004).

In 1928 and 1929, the Funeral Institute employs 18 workers. They include the keeper, four carriage drivers, three carpenters, a saddler, a painter, three tailors, an upholsterer and four other workers. The Funeral Institute carries out a total of 1,156 funerals and 48 transport services for deceased individuals.

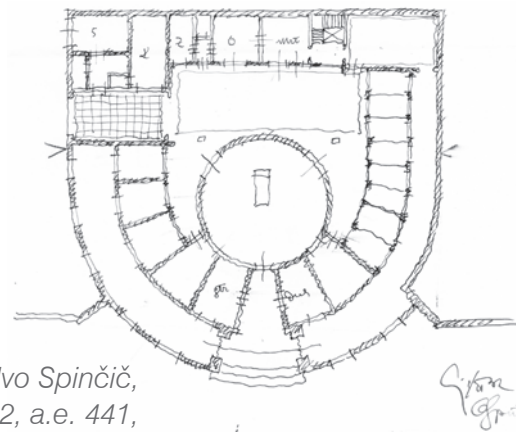
In 1929, it also begins to work on the pressing issue of building a memorial mortuary in Ljubljana to eliminate the deceased lying in their homes. The City Funeral Institute management board proposes the building of a mortuary in the cemetery of Holy Cross. The land for the memorial mortuaries is to be provided free of charge by the Diocesan Ordinariate, and a loan is to be taken out for the construction of the memorial mortuaries.

In the early 1930s, the deceased are still lying in their homes, so in 1930 the Municipal Council decides to build memorial mortuaries,

where it will be compulsory to bury the dead. In August 1935, the newspapers announce the construction of the memorial mortuary according to the plans of the city architect Ivo Spinčič, but the City Funeral Institute later decides to go with Plečnik's plans for fear of excessive costs. In 1931, the entire cemetery at Holy Cross is incorporated into the City of Ljubljana. This increases the municipality's area by 185,786m<sup>2</sup>. In 1932, MPZ buys a second motor hearse for 86,000 dinars.

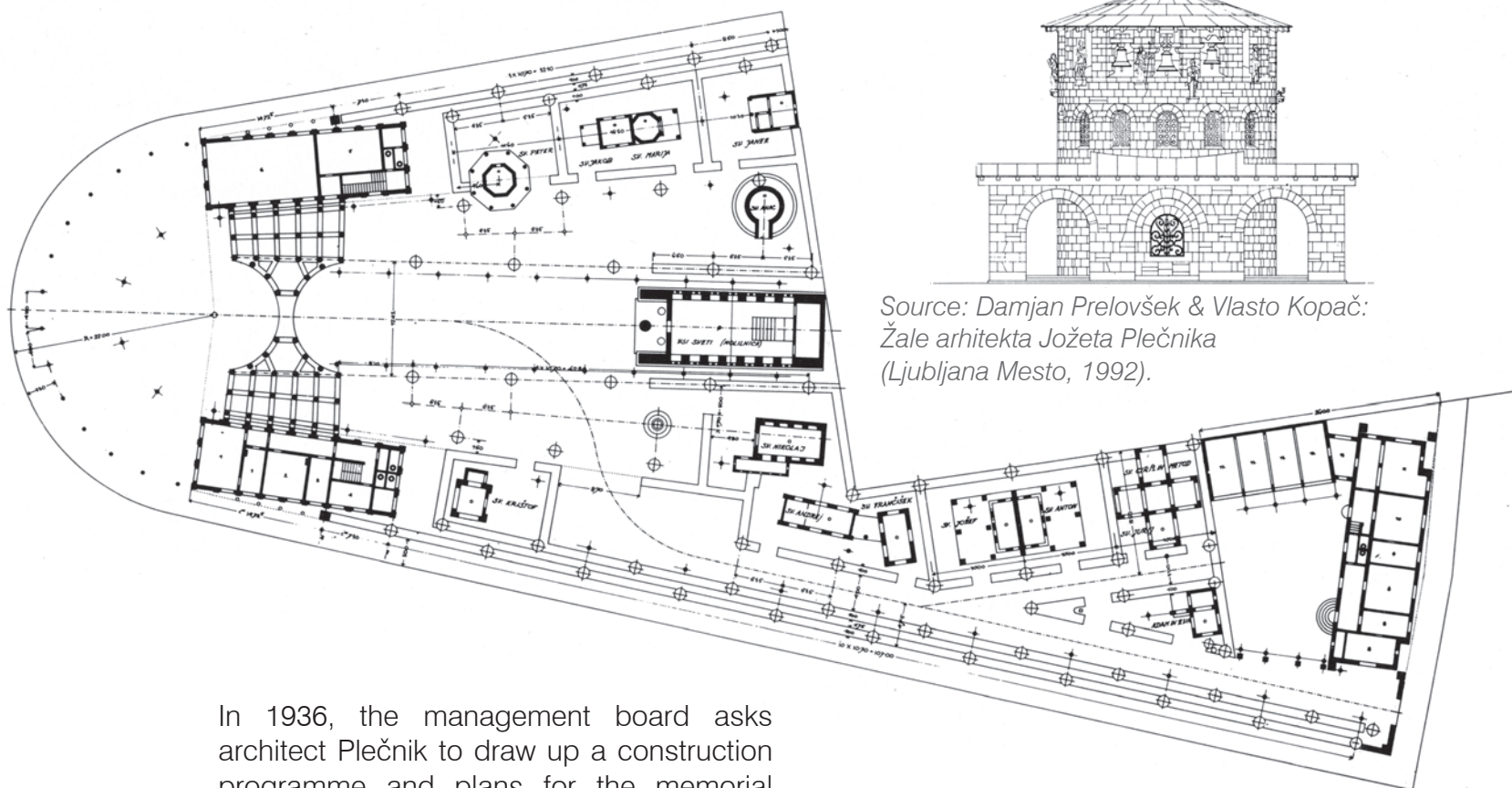


Sketch by Ivo Spinčič, source:  
SI ZAL LJU 630, Komunalno podjetje  
ŽALE Ljubljana,  
t.e. 82, a.e. 441, Files and plans of  
the memorial mortuary at Sv. Križ.



Sketch by Ivo Spinčič,  
source: SI ZAL LJU 630, Komunalno podjetje ŽALE Ljubljana, t.e. 82, a.e. 441,  
Files and plans of the memorial mortuary at Sv. Križ.

# Approval of Plečnik's building programme and the plan for the memorial mortuary



In 1936, the management board asks architect Plečnik to draw up a construction programme and plans for the memorial mortuaries. Plečnik adapts his ideas to the Funeral Institute's financial capacity. At the end of December 1936, the plans are approved. For the purpose of building the mortuaries, they acquire land at the central cemetery of 5,260m<sup>2</sup> by purchase and land swap with private parties. A loan to build infrastructure is also obtained in the amount of 2 million dinars.

30



1938

# Beginning of the construction of Plečnik's Žale, Plečnik's complex renamed Žale



*Construction of Plečnik's Žale, source: the ŽALE archive.*

In July 1938, the company M. Curk from Ljubljana begins the construction of Plečnik's Žale according to plans. Originally, Plečnik drew up plans only for the front building, and only later also for the memorial mortuaries, for which his pupil, architect Vlasto Kopač, drew up the plans on his instructions. At that time, the name of the new memorial mortuaries is under discussion. Plečnik's proposal for a "Garden of the Dead" is not accepted.

After a lengthy public debate, the Municipal Council adopts Professor Wester's proposal on 13 October 1938. The name Žale quickly becomes widely used and incorporates the entire cemetery of Holy Cross. The gradual construction of infrastructure over the years and the development of activities provide a solid basis for the further development of ŽALE as we know it today, in 2024.

1939

# The ossuary of the victims of World War I is built

Architect Jože Plečnik drew up the plans for the ossuary – an arrangement of the graves of soldiers killed in World War I – as early as 1932. At the end of 1938, according to the plans of his pupil, architect Edvard Ravnikar, preparatory work for the arrangement of the military graves in the old part of the cemetery begins. The ossuary, consecrated in December 1939, is used for the burial of

the Judenburg victims, revivalist Endlicher, Carinthian fighters, officers, part of the Austro-Hungarian army, soldiers from the Evangelical cemetery, and prisoners of war. The graves of the remaining Austro-Hungarian soldiers and Serbian, Russian and Romanian prisoners of war – a total of 5,258 victims of World War I – are laid out in the park next to the ossuary.

*Photo: ŽALE archive*

*The ossuary of the victims of World War I, postcard, source, Photo: archive of ŽALE 1930–1940, MGML, Ljubljana City Museum.*





1940

# Inauguration of today's Plečnik's Žale

After two years of construction, the memorial mortuary is completed and on 7 July 1940 the present-day Plečnik's Žale is inaugurated, and the City Funeral Institute moves its headquarters after the opening. The first funeral in the new complex is performed free of charge. A complex of 14 memorial mortuaries bearing the names of Ljubljana's parish patrons changes the ritual of how the deceased are treated until burial. From now on, the deceased no longer lie in their homes until they are buried, and there is no more long funeral processions from the city to a distant

cemetery – including those hours-long funeral processions even from Črna vas, Tomišelj, Šiška and elsewhere. Žale Cemetery is still managed by the Diocesan Ordinariate at that time. The City Funeral Service takes care of funerals and transport. Žale, with its memorial mortuaries, administration building and accompanying facilities, was a unique facility at the time, visited by many locals and foreigners. "Without a doubt, they were a great and important asset for Ljubljana," writes Stane Čož in the publication Chronicle of the Ljubljana Municipal Company.

*Photo: ŽALE archive*







Photo: ŽALE archive







Photo: ŽALE archive





1941–1944

# The importance of the City Funeral Institute during the National Liberation Struggle

In 1941, Italians appropriated 3,828m<sup>2</sup> of cemetery land for the burial of their soldiers. During the war, the Funeral Institute carries out a total of 7,295 funerals, with the highest number in 1945 (2,275), and 132 transports. During the occupation, 105 hostages shot dead are buried by workers of the City Funeral Institute. After the liberation, the remains of hostages from other locations are transported to a common grave at Žale. During the war years, the city's funeral company played an important role in burying and communicating with

the relatives of the victims of the Second World War, and in preserving the memory of the deceased who died fighting against the occupying forces. "When writing the chronicle of the Ljubljana Municipal Company, we cannot overlook the immeasurable contribution of Ljubljana municipal workers in the national liberation struggle, especially in the period after the capitulation of Italy," comments Stane Čož, the author of the chronicle and for many years the head of the general sector of the Ljubljana Municipal Company.

*Photo: ŽALE archive*





1945–1946

# Establishment of the ŽALE State Economic Enterprise

After the liberation in 1945, the City Funeral Institute is working to organise and reorganise the funeral service as soon as possible. It also takes over the care of Ljubljana's cemeteries. On 23 October 1946, the Municipal People's Committee (MLO) establishes the ŽALE State Economic Enterprise by decision, declaring it an "economic institution with independent financing". In November, the Municipal People's Committee takes over

the entire Ljubljana cemetery at Žale, which was previously managed by the Diocesan Ordinariate. The cemetery thus becomes an independent economic establishment. Other cemeteries in Ljubljana are managed by local people's committees. In 1946, the company carries out 1,409 funerals and 178 transportations of deceased persons. In the years after the war, however, there are several different economic phases.



1947–1951

# Incorporation of the central cemetery to ŽALE and significant growth of the company



*Oton Župančič  
(1878–1949),  
funeral and funeral  
procession (1949),  
source:  
The National and  
University Library,  
Ljubljana.*

On 1 July 1947, Ljubljana's central cemetery is incorporated into the ŽALE company. This incorporation significantly boosts the company's workforce, which increases to an average of 34 employees (year-end figures). At the same time, the number of transports of deceased persons increases, so the company buys a third motor hearse. In 1947, it carries out 1,283 funerals and 338 transportations of deceased persons. A year

later, the company expands its transport of deceased persons across Slovenia and to other republics, buys a new motor hearse and carries out 1,255 funerals and 382 transportations of deceased individuals. The number of funerals and transports continues to rise sharply until 1951. Despite the shortage of gravediggers, the company carries out 1,455 funerals and 541 transportations of deceased persons that year.



1952–1953

## ŽALE Ljubljana declared an economic establishment

By decision of the Municipal People's Committee (MLO) on 8 June 1952, the Žale State Economic Enterprise was declared a self-financing economic institution under the name of Žale Ljubljana, with the following operations: funerals and transportation of the deceased from place to place, coffin-making, excavation and backfilling of graves, deepening of graves, opening of tombs and exhumation, keeping records of the buried and graves, care of graves, maintenance of order and cleanliness in the cemetery, cultivation of ornamental plants and flowers and the manufacture and sale

of all products belonging to the horticultural profession, the sale of flowers, wreaths and bouquets.

On 6 September 1952, the entity is entered in the Ljubljana MLO register. With the reorganisation of the MLO and the dissolution of the District People's Committees, that year the Žale company also starts to manage or take care of the cemeteries in Dravljje, Rudnik, Stožice, Štepanja vas and Vič. In 1952 and 1953, the funeral company carries out a total of 2,594 funerals and 603 transportations of the deceased.

1954

## ŽALE Funeral Institute is announced

On 7 April 1954, with effect from 1 January 1954, the Žale undertaking was declared a financially autonomous institution under the name of the Žale Funeral Institute, with its registered office in Ljubljana, by a decision of the Municipal People's Committee, Secretariat for Municipal Affairs. The Žale Funeral Institute was thus allocated

space, excavating and backfilling graves, deepening of graves, opening and closing of tombs, maintenance of order and cleanliness in the cemetery, tending of graves, maintaining the graves of hostages and Gramozna jama (Gravel Pit), the graves of Slovenian poets and writers, and graves of other people of importance to the Slovenian nation;

the following areas of work and tasks: – funeral service – funerals, transporting deceased persons from the place of death to the place of burial, exhumations, coffin making;

– cemetery maintenance – renting out cemetery

– horticulture and florist's shops – cultivation of ornamental plants and flowers in the hothouse and outdoors, selling flowers, seedlings, potted and ornamental plants, making and selling all horticultural products.

1955

## Development and innovation: making coffins

In 1955, the central cemetery is equipped with an 800-metre-long water pipeline, the walls are extended and built, and parks are laid out on the newly acquired plot of land. A new joinery workshop is also built. With the purchase of a new planer, the Funeral Institute thus starts making coffins on its own.

They also renew the uniforms for the undertakers. By a decision of the Ljubljana People's Administrative Committee of 21 December 1955, the Žale Funeral Institute was removed from the jurisdiction of the MLO and assigned to the newly established Ljubljana Bežigrad Committee.



*Photo: Žale archive*

1956

## Central cemetery area of 184,517m<sup>2</sup>

In that year, ŽALE Funeral Institute is entrusted with the management of the cemetery in Bizovik. On 21 June, the institution is registered with the secretariat of the newly established Ljubljana Bežigrad Municipal People's Committee (ObLO). The Žale Central Cemetery covers an area of

184,517m<sup>2</sup>, of which 16,883m<sup>2</sup> are paths, buildings and parks. The area of the outer cemeteries managed by ŽALE Funeral Company is 39,530m<sup>2</sup>. The Italian military cemetery from World War I and World War II is unmaintained, spoiling the appearance of the whole cemetery.

1957

Žale:

## Plečnik's place of eternal rest

Žale is also the resting place of its designer, Jože Plečnik, who is buried at the cemetery that year, on 10 January. At the end of the year, the Funeral Service has five motor hearses, three carts, three hearses, two other carriages, two pairs of horses and a few hand-pulled hearses.

The year also marks the start of the distribution of obituaries to the newspapers – the staff of the Funeral Service start distributing the obituaries to the newspapers from the reception office. The Funeral Service carries out 1,313 burials and employs 60 people.



*Grave of architect Jože Plečnik, photo: Borut Dvornik*



1958

## Purchase of a modern hearse for transporting deceased persons

In 1958, the Funeral Institute buys a new modern hearse to transport deceased persons from the memorial mortuary to the graves. This puts an end to the old-fashioned custom of carrying coffins from the memorial mortuary to the graves, which were particularly difficult to transfer to the

new part of the cemetery. In other cemeteries in Ljubljana, funerals are still carried out according to the old tradition: deceased persons are transported from their home to the cemetery by local residents, and part of the service is carried out by the Žale Funeral Institute.

1959–1960

## Improved employee structure

In 1959, 12 prefabricated flower beds are built, a greenhouse is built in a rented nursery and a toilet facility in the central cemetery is renovated. The Funeral Institute buys three hearses, a van and a lawnmower, four carts for transporting deceased persons and a special handcart for transporting wreaths. The Funeral Institute thus has six motor hearses and a car, a hearse and two horses. They are contracted to

care for Italian and Austrian graves, the ossuary of the victims of World War I and the graves of hostages. The educational structure of the staff is improved, with 60 full-time and 10 part-time workers performing 1,286 funerals.

In 1960, the number of employees remains unchanged, but almost 200 more funerals are performed.



1961–1962

## New challenges: Žale Funeral Institute, the public utility company, cemetery rules and new plots of land

In 1961, great progress is made in the development of Žale Funeral Institute and its activities. The change of the form of organisation and the statute of the labour organisation into a newly constituted public utility company, the adoption of the cemetery rules and the decision of the City Council to extend and reconstruct the central cemetery are important turning points in the further development of the company as well as of the funeral and cemetery business.

On 29 March, the institute buys the entire 4,167m<sup>2</sup> of land of the nursery at Žale from gardener Valentin Kunovar. The land, which was previously rented for many years, is bought for 3,618,000 dinars alongside all the gardening equipment: two greenhouses, 14 concrete hothouses, two wooden hothouses, five concreted water pools and more. The dream of having their own nursery near Žale, which the Funeral Institute had been considering since 1946, and the plan and location chosen in 1958, is now a reality.

This year, the Funeral Institute takes over the management and maintenance of the Šentvid cemetery. On 14 September 1961, by a decision of the Municipal People's Committee (ObLO) of Ljubljana Bežigrad district, the ŽALE Funeral Institute is renamed the newly established Komunalno podjetje (Public Utility Company). In addition to the central cemetery at Žale, the cemeteries in Bizovik, Dravlje, Rudnik, Stožice, Šentvid, Štepanja vas and Vič are also under the administration of the cemetery care service.

On 21 September, the Municipal People's Committee (ObLO) of Ljubljana Bežigrad district adopts a decree on the cemetery rules of the central cemetery. In all the previous years, the Funeral Institute operated without cemetery rules in force, which limited its operations.

The cemetery rules define the land and cemetery facilities as general public property, managed by the ŽALE Funeral Institute, a public utility company. The district of the central cemetery covers the municipality of Ljubljana Centre and parts of the municipalities of Bežigrad, Moste, Šiška and Vič. On 26 December, the Municipal People's Committee (ObLO) of Ljubljana Bežigrad district adopts a decree amending the decree on the cemetery rules of the central cemetery. The most important amendment is the validity of the central cemetery rules also for the cemeteries under the administration of the ŽALE Funeral Institute.

In 1962, the ŽALE Funeral Institute begins to operate under completely different operating conditions, financially much more difficult than before. Unresolved issues of lack of permanent staff, vehicle obsolescence, lack of vehicles in other Ljubljana cemeteries and other problems further complicate the company's work. Horse-drawn funerals are no longer possible on most roads due to the ban on horse-drawn carriages. The company has difficulties enforcing cemetery rules, thefts occur at graves, and waste disposal and removal is unregulated.

1963

## Komunalno podjetje ŽALE (Public Utility Company), Ljubljana

In 1963, on 7 May, on the initiative of the works council, the ŽALE Funeral Institute is entered into the register of the Ljubljana District Court as Komunalno podjetje ŽALE, Ljubljana (Public Utility Service). That year, a TAM motor hearse, two funeral carts and

a refuse collection tractor are purchased. 1,665 funerals are performed, of which 102 in Vič, 48 in Dravlje and 1,415 in Žale; no data is available for other cemeteries. At that time, the company employs 68 permanent and 18 temporary staff.

1964

## Organisation of work by economic unit

This year, the ŽALE Public Utility Company organises its work by economic units: joinery and painting (making, painting and decorating coffins), burial of the deceased or funeral unit (funerals, excavation of graves, burial of the deceased, funeral rites), nursery and florist's shop (making wreaths

and arrangements), fleet (transporting the deceased from the place of death to the place of burial), cemetery care (records) and administration of the company. 1,675 funerals and 525 transportations of deceased persons are carried out, including abroad. 2,208 coffins and 3,000 wreaths are made.



1965–1966

## The cemetery covers an area of 24ha

In 1965, the City Council decides to vacate the land between Tomačevska cesta and Gramozna jama for the central cemetery. Until then, this land was in the Ljubljana Green Belt area under GUP. The last pair of horses leaves ŽALE in the same year. The cemetery is guarded by a warden service, as it covers 24 hectares without fencing. The company carries out 1,470 funerals during the year, 245 of which are held in Ljubljana's outer cemeteries, and 530 transportations of deceased persons.

In 1966, the city's master urban development plan establishes a land area for the future

expansion of the Central Cemetery. New land is acquired, first to the north of today's Path of Remembrance and Comradeship, and gradually to the left of Tomačevska cesta, as far as Gramozna jama. Serious preparations begin for the construction of the crematorium. The company buys a florist's shop, starts building new garages in the Central Cemetery, converts the old garages into a painting workshop and buys various equipment. 1,586 funerals are carried out that year, of which 250 are in external cemeteries. 1,958 coffins are made and a 42-hour working week is introduced.

1967

## ŽALE performed activities of particular social importance

On 20 September 1967, the city council classifies ŽALE as a municipal work organisation carrying out activities of special social importance. These activities include "funeral activities" and "cemetery management and maintenance", according to the law on municipal work organisations adopted by the Assembly of the SR of Slovenia

on 20 April. On 22 November, the City Council adopts a decree on the building plan and spatial planning of the Žale Central Cemetery. 24ha of new land is acquired, extending the existing Central Cemetery to the right and left of Tomačevska cesta to Gramozna jama and the hut settlement.



1968

# The City Council acquires the founder's rights and duties of the ŽALE PU Company.

On 23 February 1968, by a decision of the City Council, the founder's rights and duties of the ŽALE Public Utility Company are transferred to the City Council. On 20 March, the latter issues a decree on the participation of representatives of the social community in the management of the ŽALE Municipal Utility Company. This year, the main avenue and the parking area for visitors to

the cemetery are arranged. For the first time, the company transports two deceased persons from Ljubljana to Villach to be cremated and their urns brought back to Ljubljana, as Ljubljana does not yet have its own crematorium. At that time, the Central Cemetery starts to introduce so-called urn graves and a ten-year investment plan is drawn up for the construction of Žale Cemetery.

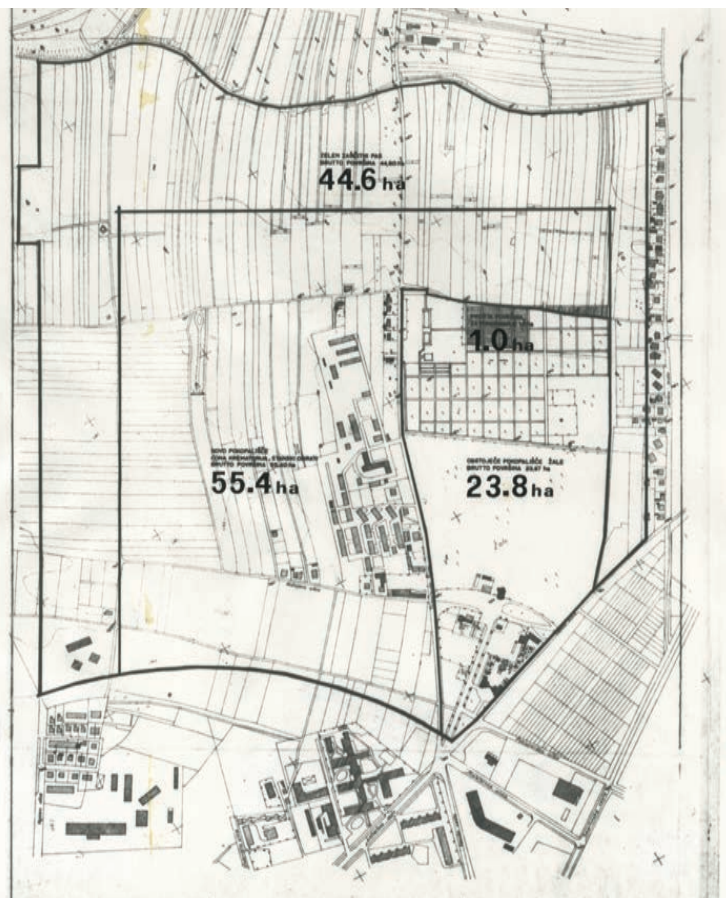
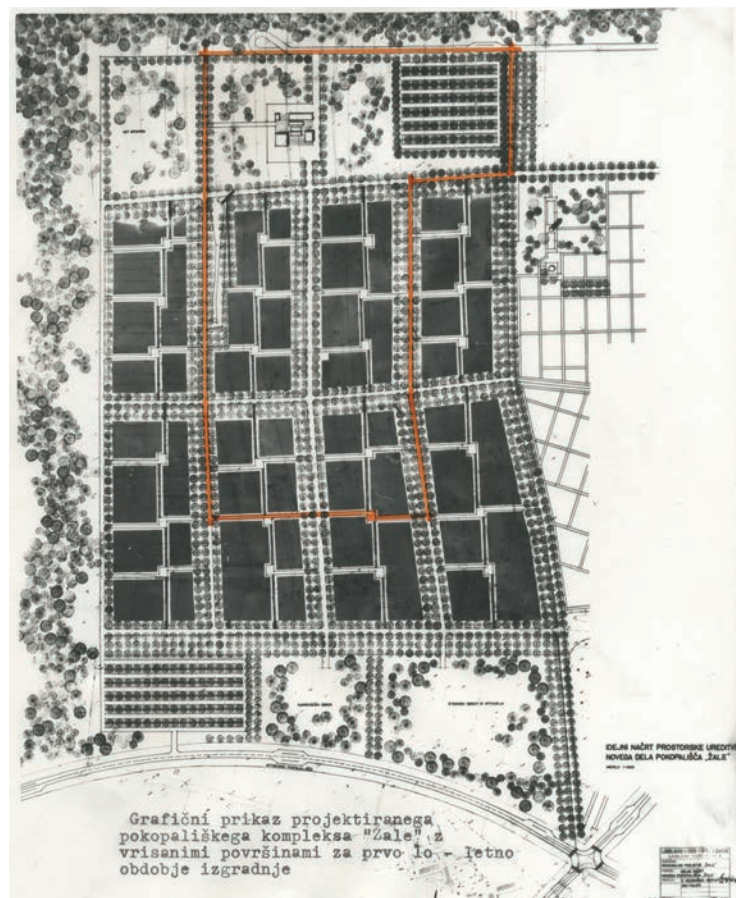


Illustration of existing and new areas, source: SI ZAL LJU 630, Komunalno podjetje ŽALE Ljubljana, t.e. 91, a.e. 480, Basis for the 10-year investment programme for the construction of Žale Cemetery for the period 1969–1979.



Graphical representation of the designed Žale46 cemetery complex with the areas plotted for the first 10-year construction period, source: SI ZAL LJU 630, Komunalno podjetje ŽALE Ljubljana, t.e. 91, a.e. 480, Basis for the 10-year investment programme for the construction of Žale Cemetery for the period 1969–1979.

1969

# Start of the 10-year redevelopment and extension of Žale Cemetery and the Cemetery Rules

As the initial year of the implementation of the ten-year programme for the redevelopment and extension of Žale Cemetery, 1969 is a turning point in the company's business. The company takes over the management of the cemeteries in Polje and Sostro. On 4 December, the City Council adopts the long-awaited decree on Cemetery Rules. The decree applies to all cemeteries in Ljubljana managed by the Žale Public Utility Company. According to the guidelines of Cemetery Rules, burials are performed: in row graves, separated

for adults and children; in single graves; in family graves and burial sites; in urn graves, which is a new feature; in tombs; in communal graves; and in a communal ossuary. The decision of the Regional Commercial Court in Ljubljana of 12 December registers a change in the business of foreign trade, namely the transport of the deceased from the place of death to the place of burial, from the home country to the foreign country and vice versa.

*Source:  
SI ZAL LJU 630,  
Komunalno podjetje  
ŽALE Ljubljana,  
t.e. 160, a.e. 825,  
Photos.*





1970

## Landscaping: asphaltting and lighting of the main avenue

That year, the company installs a water pipeline to the cemetery in Bizovik, extending it to the central cemetery in Žale, builds a new bike shed and buys some equipment. A grant from the City Council is used to asphalt and light the main avenue of Žale. With a bank loan and own funds, the main paths in the Central Cemetery are asphalted and landscaping works are carried out in the new part of the cemetery. During the year, the

company carries out 1,833 burials, 421 of which are done in external cemeteries, and 623 transportations of deceased individuals, seven of which are for cremation. The number of transportations of deceased persons to locations abroad is increasing year by year, in recent years also due to cremation, as there are no crematoriums in Ljubljana or elsewhere nearby.



Source: SI ZAL LJU 630, Komunalno podjetje ŽALE Ljubljana, t.e. 160, a.e. 825, Photos.

1971

# 1,880 funerals, 695 transports of the deceased

During the year, the Works Council adopts the updated company statute with the following organisational units and work groups: the company administration, the horticulture and floriculture unit, the funeral service and the cemetery maintenance. Work is completed on the paths in the park in front of the company's administration building to the entrance of the Central Cemetery, the alleys and the extension of the cemetery. In addition, a platform is built in front of the Church of the Holy Cross. The company carries out 1,880 funerals, 408 of which are done in external cemeteries, and 695 transportations of deceased individuals, 28 of which are for cremation. There are 84 permanent and 8 temporary staff, and the professional capacity of the staff is improved considerably.

1972

# 46 transportations for cremation, 4,292 wreaths

During the year, 1,876 burials are carried out, of which 424 are done in external cemeteries, and 640 transportations of deceased persons. 46 deceased individuals are transported abroad for cremation. 995 graves are permanently tended and 476 graves are tended upon request. 4,292 wreaths are made.

Index of the deceased,  
source: SI ZAL LJU  
630, Komunalno  
podjetje ŽALE  
Ljubljana, t.e. 296,  
a.e. 1035,  
Index of deaths buried  
in Žale cemetery  
(day of death,  
location of grave).

Št. M. K.	Priimek in ime	Dan smrti	Odd.	Vrsta	Grob	Opomba
1416	Hinter Goro	19/12	55	10	6	pagl.
1972						
15 466 112	Hudobinski Ana	5/1 11/1	N/6	5	7	pagl.
118	Hegler Jozefa	24/1	N/59	12	14	pagl.
124	Hoič Josipina	24/1	59	13	11	pagl.
172	Hociwar Franc	25/1	N/59	12	2	pagl.
181	Hocin Martin					

1973

## ŽALE PUC becomes a member of the European Federation of Funeral Services, the Funeral Service Code is adopted

Years of modernising activities help the company to start looking abroad. In 1973, it moves from observer status to permanent membership of the European Federation of Funeral Services. As a rule, the members of this international federation were the regional federations of funeral establishments, but since no such federation existed in Yugoslavia, Žale became a member directly. On 8 November, the City Council adopts a new decree on cemetery regulations. The Chamber of Commerce of Yugoslavia,

through the Committee for Funeral Services at the Council for Craft, Communal, and Housing Economy, adopts the Code of Funeral Services on 14 December. It sets out the principles of funeral and related activities: humanity and reverence, protection of social interests, publicity of the work, social control, economy and modernity. The Code stipulates that only an authorised funeral company, which may be established by a municipality in its area, may carry out funeral activities.

1974

## ŽALE TOZD and change of organisational units

On 1 January, the company starts operating as a single TOZD – a single labour organisation without constituent organisations of the constituent organisation of united labour (TOZD) under the constitutional provisions. Such an organisation of the company was already discussed at the end of 1973. In 1974, the idea is implemented and a slightly modified composition of the working units is

adopted, namely: the company management, the funeral organisation unit, the cemetery maintenance, the horticultural organisation unit, and the florist's shop. Subsequently, on 9 December, in accordance with the new regulations, the company is entered in the register at the Regional Commercial Court in Ljubljana as Komunalno podjetje Žale Ljubljana (Public Utility Company).



# 1975 ŽALE TOZD becomes an integral part of Komunalno podjetje Ljubljana

On 2 January 1975, Žale TOZD starts operating as an integral part of Komunalno podjetje Ljubljana. The decision of the Ljubljana Basic Court of 15 May 1975 registers the incorporation and dissolution of Komunalno podjetje Žale, and on 2 January the constitution of the Basic Organisation of Associated Labour is registered. On 24 June, the working people's assembly adopts a new statute for the Žale TOZD, which now operates in the following work units: funerals, cemetery maintenance, gardening, and florists' shop.

Žale TOZD and its working units carry out activities in all Ljubljana cemeteries except for the one in Črnuče. The number of cremation burials is growing rapidly, and so is the need

to build a crematorium in Ljubljana. In May, the Urban Planning Institute of Ljubljana prepares a study on possible locations for the crematorium. The location of the new buildings at Žale is determined, namely in the south between the Remembrance and Comradeship Avenue and the Tomačevska cesta. Concrete developments began in mid-summer 1975, when the Ljubljana City Council appoints an initiative and construction committee. The first on 25 July – for construction, and the second on 9 October – for investment. The investor of the new facilities becomes Komunalno podjetje Ljubljana, specifically its subsidiary Žale TOZD. Steps in the right direction mark the further development of the company and a more modern approach to the funeral business.





1976–1977

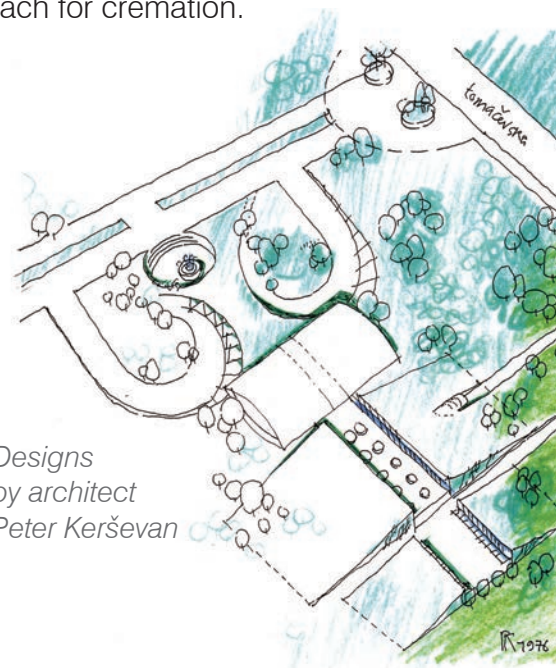
# Erecting monuments, prohibiting the keeping of urns at home and designing new facilities

On the proposal of the workers council of the Žale TOZD, with the consent of the City Council, on 29 July the operation of TOZD is expanded to include the manufacture, sale and erection of gravestones, frames, grave slabs, urns, urn keeping elements and other works associated with stonemasonry, metalworking and metal-printing in the cemetery. The purpose of the expansion is for the Žale TOZD to regulate the construction and erection of monuments in cemeteries in the future, gradually integrating them into the green park area. By providing aesthetic and material furnishings for graves, the issue of differences in the appearance of graves according to social status is also eliminated.

In the same year, the City Council adopts a decree making the Žale municipal organisation a municipal organisation of special social importance and, on 9 December, a decree amending the cemetery regulations, which includes the important amendment that “the storage of urns at home is not allowed”. This is an important milestone – urns must now be buried in urn graves in the cemetery. In 1976, the two-year construction of the crematorium, the farewell halls and the administrative offices designed by architect Peter Kerševan begins.

This is the beginning of the realisation of long-standing aspirations to build a crematorium in Ljubljana.

The construction of the first crematorium in Slovenia marks a new turning point in the funeral industry. On 18 June 1977, Žale TOZD signs an agreement to merge into a workers' organisation. At the end of the year, Žale TOZD employs 92 workers, has 8 motor vehicles, has conducted 1,863 funerals, carried out 527 transports of deceased persons, and has 957 graves under permanent care. As the crematorium has not yet been built, 242 deceased individuals are transported to Villach for cremation.



*Designs  
by architect  
Peter Kerševan*

1978

# Crematorium becomes operational

More than 40 years after the first considerations, Žale TOZD starts cremation in its own crematorium. It begins operating with two TABO cremation systems on 28 October 1978, when construction is completed, and is the first in Slovenia to start regular operation on 26 December 1978. TOZD employees also donate their share of the salaries and bonuses for construction, making an important contribution to the development of the company itself. The

total investment for the crematorium and the administrative and utility buildings with garages amounts to 70.3 million dinars. The total area of the new facilities is 3,931m<sup>2</sup>. In June, Ljubljana's municipal assemblies adopt a decree on funeral ceremonies in the city: burial ceremonies must be organised by the cemetery operator, i.e. Žale TOZD, which is obliged to inform the local community or the work organisation where the deceased was employed.



*Farewell Hall at the time of construction,  
source: archive of Peter Kerševan.*



1979

## The headquarters of the administration moves to Tomačevska cesta

On 1 January, the headquarters of Žale TOZD officially move to the new administration building on Tomačevska cesta. On 3 May, the following activities were re-registered as the main activities of Žale TOZD under the law on united labour: funeral and cemetery activities, cremation, the manufacture and sale of funeral goods, and the transport of the deceased from the place of death to the place of burial, both domestically and internationally. A number of secondary activities are also listed: plant and flower cultivation, buying and selling sand for

arranging graves, buying and selling grave candles and vases, buying and selling and erecting grave slabs, urns, etc. On 26 December, the Assembly of the Association of Municipal Communities in the Ljubljana Area adopts a decision on the rent for graves in Ljubljana's cemeteries. The decision also applies to the cemetery in Črnuče, which is not officially managed by Žale TOZD. Žale TOZD carries out a total of 972 cremations, 586 of which are cremations of deceased from Ljubljana and 386 of deceased brought from elsewhere.



*The Stone of Life, which once stood in front of the florist's shop, now stands along the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship, source: the archive of Peter Kerševan.*

1980–1984

## Plečnik's Žale deterioration, the design of the New Žale

At the end of 1980, Žale TOZD has 102 employees and a total income of 64,383,000 dinars. It carries out 1,886 traditional and urn funerals or burials, 712 transportations of deceased individuals, 673 cremations of the deceased from Ljubljana and 433 brought in from elsewhere. It permanently tends 710 graves. At the end of the year, it has 10 motor vehicles, 2 of which are new, a backhoe and a tractor. In 1981, the organisation of work in the core organisation of Žale remains unchanged. It includes separate maintenance of Ljubljana cemeteries, tending of graves and a nursery. The plan is adopted to set up a stonemason's

workshop to have some models of burial monuments, but the issue of premises and funding for such a workshop under the registered business is still pending. Plečnik's Žale is slowly deteriorating and losing its grandeur as the administration moves to new premises on Tomačevska cesta. In the 1980s, the idea of extending the central cemetery became a hot topic, but it was not until 1985 that the team of architect Marko Mušič moved into a more serious phase with the plans for Nove Žale. It is the project with which Mušič won an anonymous two-stage public architectural competition in 1983.



*The decay of Plečnik's Žale,  
source: Damjan Prelovšek & Vlasto Kopač:  
Žale arhitekta Jožeta Plečnika  
(Ljubljana Mesto Center, 1992).*



1985

# The ossuary of the victims of World War I is declared a historical and cultural monument

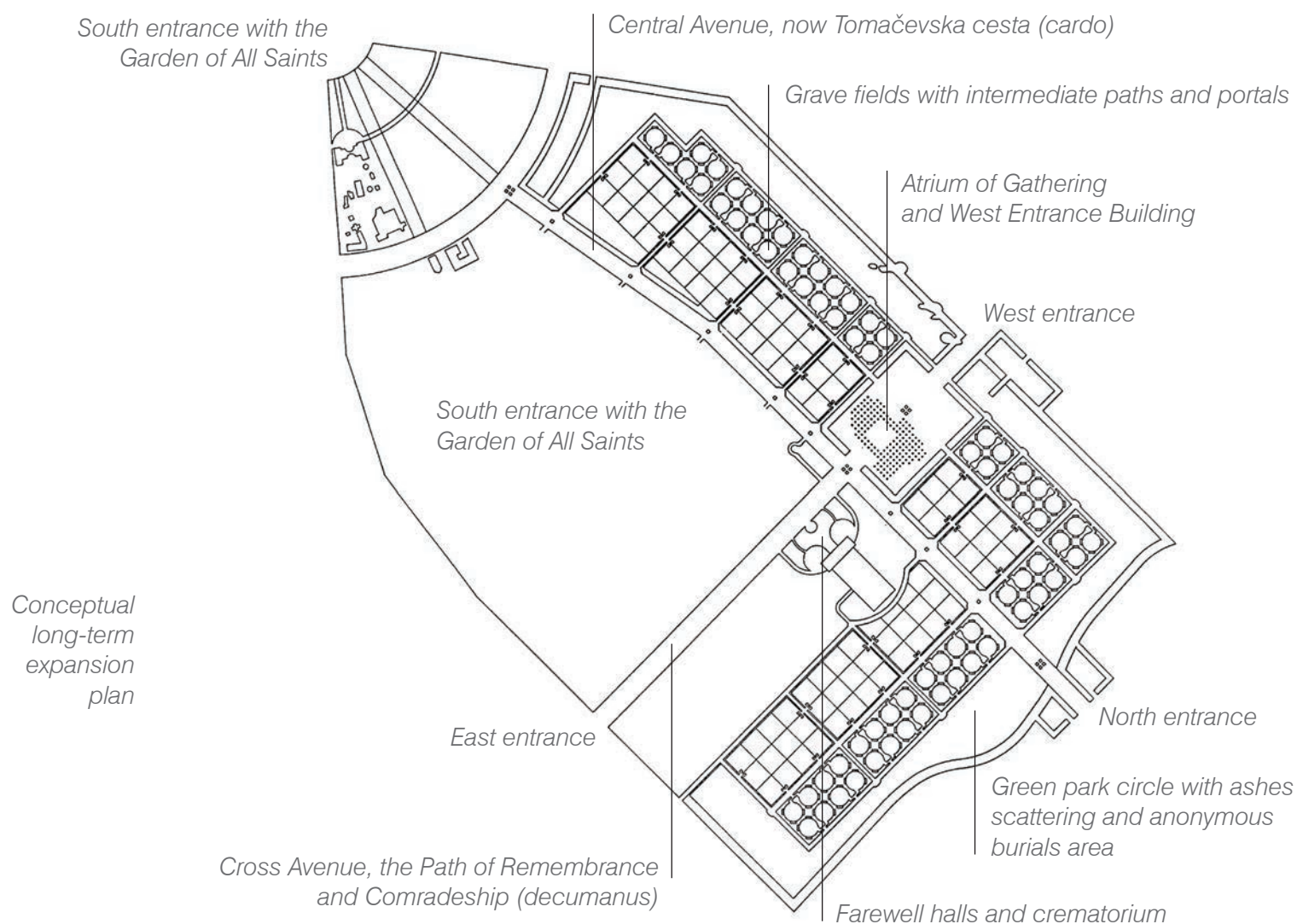
On 28 September 1985, the Decree on the Declaration of Monuments of the Revolutionary Movement and the National Liberation War as Historical Monuments, Official Gazette of the SRS, No. 31/85-1340, declared the ossuary a historical-cultural monument. The cylindrical

building with accessible staircases by architect Edvard Ravnikar and the sculpture of a soldier in front of the main entrance by sculptors Svetoslav Peruzzi and Lojze Dolinar are recognised as a monument of local importance of the memorial heritage type.



1986–1989

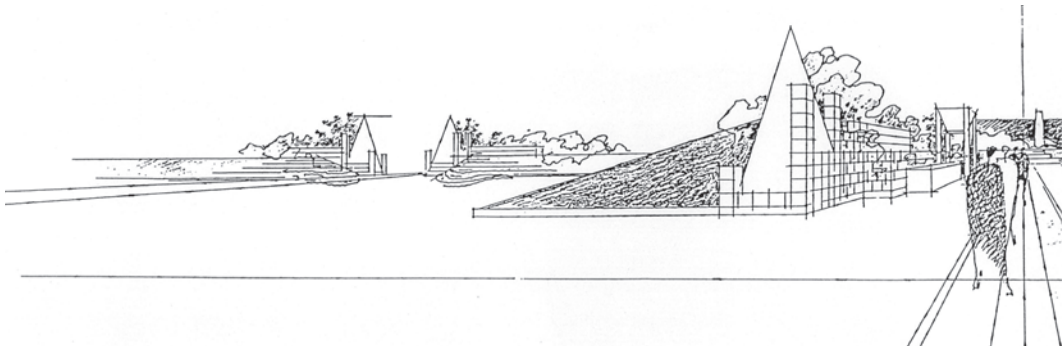
# Restoration of Plečnik's Žale, construction of New Žale



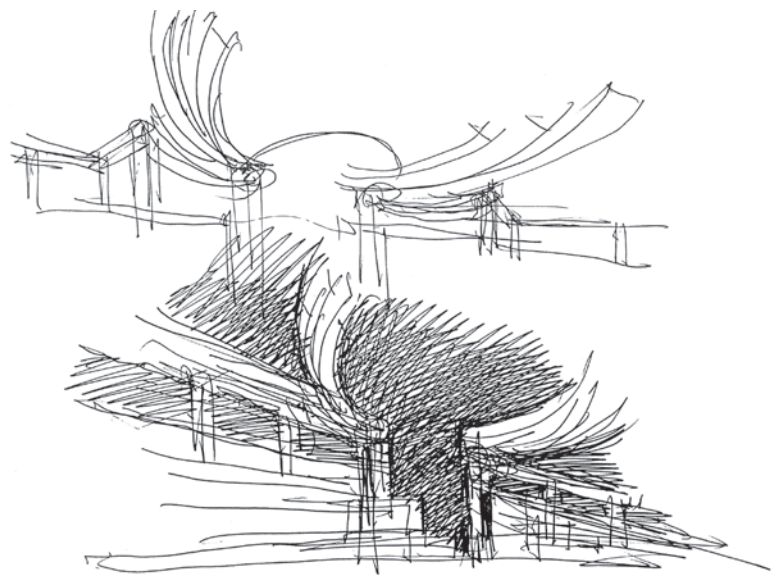
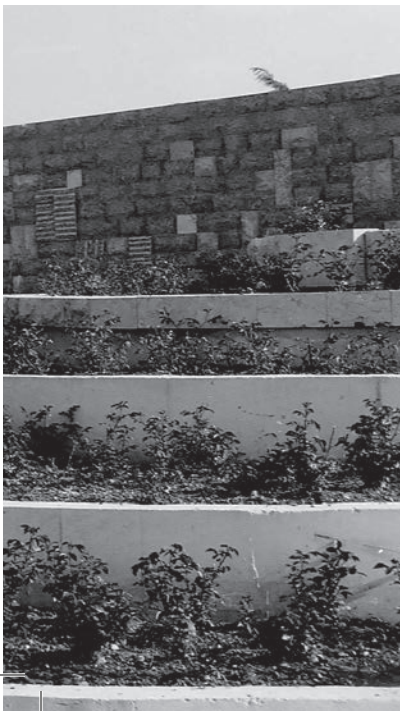
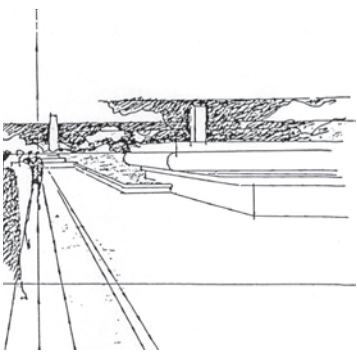
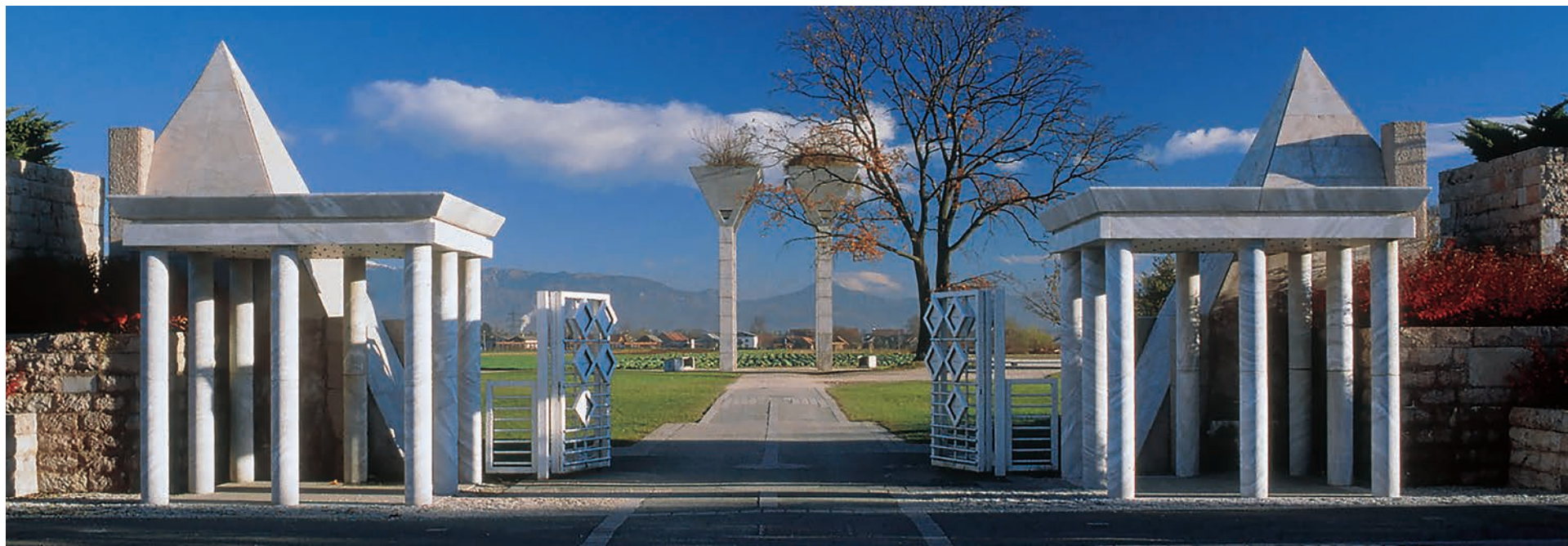
In 1987, a new parish church, All Saints' Church, is built, and in parallel with the construction of the new church, restoration work is undertaken on Plečnik's Žale, which had been in disrepair since the end of the Second World War. The pre-independence period is marked by the one-year construction of a new part of the cemetery (section

"D"), designed by architect Marko Mušič and completed in 1989. The newly built Remembrance Grove, the first place for the scattering of ashes in Slovenia, represents another milestone in the history of Slovenian funeral activity. In 1989, the Linden Tree of Reconciliation is planted and a cenotaph is built for the victims of the Dachau trials.











1990–1991

# Establishment and operation of ŽALE p.o.

In 1990, on its own initiative, the Žale Basic Organisation of Associated Labour is separated from the Ljubljana Public Utility Company Labour Organisation. On the basis of a decision taken by the employees of Žale, the Ljubljana City Council adopts a decree on the organisation of the Žale p.o. public undertaking, which now operates as an independent enterprise, with the City of Ljubljana as its founder. The new democratically elected city authorities decide to return the Žale to its original function. A special decree issued by the authorities in 1979 completely abolishes burials at Plečnik's Žale. The buildings thus begin

to deteriorate, a process that gradually comes to an end in 1990, when the attitude towards the concept of cultural heritage changes, and Plečnik's Žale eventually becomes included in the cultural heritage. In parallel with the construction of the new All Saints' Church, restoration work is also being undertaken on Plečnik's Žale, which was completed and solemnly blessed on 28 June 1991, immediately after Slovenia's independence. When Slovenia becomes independent, the company has a new internal organisation and external image, which are still the pillars of the company's vision and mission.

*Cenotaph to  
the victims  
of the 1991  
Slovenian War of  
Independence,  
architect  
Marko Mušič,  
archive of Atelje  
Marko Mušič,  
photo:  
Milan Pajk*



*In the background,  
the sign of the cross  
in the perimeter park  
of the cemetery,  
architect Marko Mušič,  
archive Atelje  
Marko Mušič*

1992–1994

# Plečnik's Žale, renaming of the company to a public company ŽALE, d.o.o.

11 February 1992 marks the reopening of the funeral ceremonies at the restored Plečnik's Žale. On 19 November 1993, the public company ŽALE, p.o., becomes the property of the City of Ljubljana. On 14 February 1994, the company's professional services move into the renovated premises. On 2 December 1994, the public company ŽALE, p.o. is transformed into a public limited company. ŽALE, d.o.o. In

1994, the Executive Council of the Ljubljana City Council passes a decree amending and supplementing the resolution on the establishment of the Holding Company of public city undertakings. ŽALE becomes one of the seven public undertakings under the respective Holding. Following the status-legal procedures, ŽALE, d.o.o., as a subsidiary of Holding of the City of Ljubljana, starts its operations in 1996.

*Details of  
plečnik's Žale.*





1995–1999

# Expansion and renovation of cemeteries, the Standard for Basic Funerals is adopted

In 1995, there are 500 coffin burials and 1,788 urn burials, and a total of 6,601 cremations.

In 1996, the expansion of the newest Žale cemetery continued, as well as the paving of sand paths in the old part of the cemetery – the paths leading from the main alley to the west to the wall along Tomačevska cesta and to the east to the wall along Jarška cesta were paved, totalling 2,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Paving works continue to be carried out gradually in each of the following years. The new section undergoes a major electrical installation overhaul, with lights now illuminating the interior of individual sections and no longer just the paths. The water supply in Šentvid Cemetery is rebuilt and a fountain is replaced. Of the total 2,240 burials, 80.9% are urn burials and 19.1% coffin burials.

At the end of 1996, 78 persons are employed with the ŽALE, d.o.o., 35 in the Funeral Service Unit, 20 in Cemetery Services, seven

in the Economic Services unit and 16 in Professional Services.

In 1997, the Ljubljana City Council adopts the Standard for Basic Funerals, which ensures that everyone receives a decent, dignified burial, with a strong focus on preventing environmental pollution. At the same time, the partial expansion of Žale Cemetery continues in order to meet burial needs over the next five to seven years. At the end of 1997, ŽALE, d.o.o. employs 82 people. It continues to sell monuments and other funerary equipment.

At the end of 1998, the company has 83 employees and has performed 369 traditional burials and 1,873 urn burials. The undertakers' changing rooms, food distribution rooms and cold storage rooms have been renovated. In 1999, a total of 2,349 funerals are performed, and 85 people are employed.





2000

# ISO 9001 quality certification as the first company of its kind in Europe

ŽALE, d.o.o. performs funeral services throughout the City of Ljubljana and manages and maintains ten cemeteries in the city: the Žale central cemetery, the cemeteries Sostro, Bizovik, Štepanja vas, Dravlje, Stožice, Polje, Šentvid, Vič and Rudnik. In addition to funeral services, the company also carries out commercial activities, including: the sale of funeral, funerary and decorative products, and the provision of grave tending and arrangement services for clients.

In 2000, Žale, d.o.o., as the first European company dealing with cemetery and funeral activities, obtains the international quality

certificate ISO 9001-1994. In 2000, a total of 2,210 funerals are performed, while a downward trend in coffin burials continues. The total number of cremations increases by 5% in 2000, and the number of cremations for the area outside Ljubljana increases significantly compared to the previous year. The total number of burial plots reaches 48,036. The year 2000 also marks the safeguarding of the Žale documentation against destruction, as the public company ŽALE, d.o.o., arranges for its archives to be microfilmed with documents from the period 1914–1999.





2001

# Opening of Park Zvončkov and the Pavilion, commissioning of the third cremator and start of operations under ASCE

In 2001, the Snowdrop Park opens, the first of its kind in Slovenia for the burial of deceased and stillborn children. In the following years, many cities in Slovenia follow this model. The sales pavilion at Plečnik's Žale, where Plečnik's Florist's Shop and public toilets are located, is also new. Cremation in a third cremator starts on 15 December, cutting cremation time by a third and reducing labour costs.

In 2001, the company carries out a total of 2,148 burials. More than 85% of funerals are urn burials. The total number of cremations is 7,823, an increase of 10.4% compared to 2000. ŽALE, d.o.o. begins to participate in

the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE), of which the City of Ljubljana is one of the founding members. The purpose of the Association is to promote awareness of the importance of the cultural, historical, artistic and architectural heritage of cemeteries and to exchange experiences in the field of cemetery conservation and promotion. To this end, the Association is involved in joint projects, promotes the adoption of legal frameworks to optimise cemetery management and the development of technological innovation, and seeks to attract the attention of universities, tourism representatives and the media.





2002

# Žale Cemetery included in the European Cemeteries Route

Žale Cemetery is included in the European Cemeteries Route. This is an initiative of the ASCE, founded with the main aim of preserving cemeteries of particular historical and artistic importance in Europe. In 2014, it consists of 49 cemeteries in 37 cities in 16 European countries. Due to its high cultural, historical and artistic value, Žale Cemetery is one of the most beautiful cemeteries in Europe. It is admired worldwide by the professional and general public for its Plečnik

heritage, the works of famous Slovenian artists and horticulture.

ŽALE, d.o.o. also conducts a survey on the relationship of Ljubljana residents towards the funeral and other services it offers. Over 50% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the service, while 10% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The share of customer complaints is 30 percentage points lower than in 2001.





2003

# Opening of the renovated Farewell Hall at Kerševan's Žale

The renovated Farewell Hall at Kerševan's Žale opens. An important part of the company's business is to be respectful to the relatives and loved ones of the deceased. The company strives to meet their wishes as much as possible, which is why it also enables them to be present at the cremation after the funeral service. Concern for the environment is even more pronounced in 2003. ŽALE, d.o.o. and nursing homes make an arrangement for new clothes for the deceased to reduce air pollution during cremation. Cemeteries collect waste

separately, herbicides are no longer used, and in winter, paved paths are only sanded; no salt is used. At the same time, ŽALE, d.o.o. is already preparing for the internet transmission of the funeral ceremony at the request of the client.

In that year, paths are paved and water pipes are replaced at Žale Cemetery, as well as fountains at Stožice, Bizovik, Žale, Dravlje, Štepanja vas, Sostro and Šentvid cemeteries.



2004

# The 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the company, 1<sup>st</sup> Heritage Days of European Cemeteries, first charity stand

As part of its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a photographic exhibition on the history of ŽALE is being held in the historic atrium of the Ljubljana City Hall from 23 July to 8 August, curated by Peter Krečič. At the opening of the exhibition, Bojan Lepičnik, the director of ŽALE at the time, emphasises that ŽALE has a special role among the city's organisations, because in addition to its economic role, it also plays the role of custodian of the artistic and cultural heritage of Ljubljana's central cemetery.

That year, under the Association of Significant European Cemeteries (ASCE), the first European Cemetery Heritage Days in Slovenia are organised with a concert by the Amacord music group at Plečnik's Žale. The first free guided tours of the cemetery's cultural heritage are also organised. A week dedicated to exploring European cemeteries is one of the projects of the Association of Significant European Cemeteries (ASCE) to

bring cemeteries closer to Europeans. Since that year, the Heritage Days of European Cemeteries have become a traditional part of ŽALE's activities.

In the following years, the Charity Stand, first organised in that year, becomes a traditional event. Recognising that only socially responsible companies are competitive and successful in the long term, the company organises a charity candle sale on 1 November in cooperation with the Svečarstvo Jurkovič candle factory. All proceeds from the sale of candles are donated to Europa Donna to buy a Mammotome machine. The memorial mortuaries at Kerševan's Žale are renovated and the video surveillance system at Žale Cemetery is upgraded. In the same year, the company also collaborates on the book *Ljubljana Žale – A Guide to the Cemetery* by Milena Piškur.

*Heritage Days of European Cemeteries.*





2004

## New corporate identity

ŽALE, d.o.o., renews its corporate identity, which in its graphic and visual elements is based on the motifs of the architect Jože Plečnik. All forms, business cards, signs and other visual elements used by employees and customers are given a new corporate identity. The underlying element of the corporate identity is Plečnik's rosette on the façade of St George's Chapel at Plečnik's Žale. The aim of the renovation was to modernise the graphic design of Žale, making it more user-friendly while preserving the reverence of the activity.



ŽALE

*Graphic design  
by Pristop.*

2005

## Fourth cremator, first candle vending machine and information point and introduction of a geo-information system



A fourth cremator with flue gas cooling is installed. This saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

For performing funerals, electric vehicles are used to transport deceased persons and people who have difficulty walking. The first information points in cemeteries in Slovenia are installed at Žale Cemetery. A visualisation of Žale Cemetery with spatial images of its most important points is available on the website. The replacement of the marker posts started in previous years and the

reconstruction of the wall at Žale Cemetery are completed. The florist's shop is renamed Plečnik's Florist's Shop, and the first candle vending machine and ATM are installed next to it. The Florist's Shop introduces a new form of sales, namely flower delivery to a selected address, online ordering and decoration of business premises. The company adopts a "learning company" approach and starts to implement a geo-information system, which gradually becomes an important tool in its day-to-day work.



2006

# ISO 14001 certification, transport for disabled and older people with walking difficulties

At the end of 2006, the company obtains the ISO 14001 environmental quality certificate, which recognises that the company carries out all activities relevant to the protection of the environment. In 2006, it continues to purchase funeral equipment from manufacturers whose activities are environmentally friendly.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Žale Cemetery, Plečnik's Prayer Hall is renovated and the exhibition Architectural Details of Plečnik's Žale is opened. For the period before All Saints' Day, the company introduces an innovation for disabled and

older people who have difficulty walking – a free electric transport service around Žale Cemetery. This innovation becomes a part of the regular offer in the coming years. Most of the cemetery walls in the old part of Žale Cemetery and the paved paths in the entire "C" section have been restored. The Plečnik's Žale's reception office is renovated and relocated.

More than 60% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the service, with dissatisfaction halving compared to 2002.





2007

# World's first webcast of a funeral ceremony, OHSAS 18001 certification and European Heritage Label

Žale, d.o.o. is the first company in the world to offer internet streaming of a funeral ceremony and receives a bronze award from the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Its website is the first in Slovenia to feature a grave finder. The European Heritage Committee, made up of the Ministers of Culture and Heritage of the Member States of the European Union, awards the European Heritage Label to Plečnik's Žale – Garden of All Saints. It is an initiative to promote European identity and awareness of a common European history based on European heritage. It is the only recognition of its kind in Europe to be awarded to Plečnik's Žale, along with the Holy Spirit Memorial Church in Javorca and the Franja Partisan Hospital in Dolenji Novaki. By doing so, the countries of the European Union confirm their uniqueness and cultural and historical importance.

The company also obtains the international OHSAS 18001 certification for occupational

health and safety. The company operates both the public utility service and all complementary activities in accordance with ISO 9001:2000, ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:1999 standards, ensuring a consistently high quality of service. With an eye on the well-being of customers, a new reception office and waiting area for funeral ceremony attendees are built at Plečnik's Žale – a shelter for funeral attendees who used to wait outside the memorial mortuaries, regardless of the weather conditions, to attend the funeral.

The memorial mortuaries in Stožice and Rudnik are redecorated, and urgent renovations are carried out at the Polje, Vič, Šentvid, Dravlje, Sostro and Štepanja vas cemeteries. On 31 December 2007, the shareholding of Public Holding Ljubljana in the ŽALE company is transferred to the City of Ljubljana, which becomes the sole shareholder of this public company.



2008

# 8,228 cremations for clients outside the Municipality of Ljubljana and the introduction of paperless operations.

This year, 2,316 funerals are being carried out, an increase of 5% compared to the previous year. They also carry out 2,079 cremations and 8,228 cremations for clients outside the area of the City of Ljubljana.

Among other things, the company paves the planned part of the path in Žale Cemetery, partially rehabilitates the cemetery walls in the new part of the cemetery, arranges a part of the space for marking the buried at the ashes scattering site, and modernises the Plečnik's Flower Shop. They also carry out a complete renovation of the cemetery wall, the waste disposal area, and the parking lot at the Bizovik cemetery. The company also starts

with separate collection of degradable waste and waste grave candles.

In September, a new service allows the publication of the obituaries on the website. The obituary can be viewed online as soon as the funeral order is finalised and for a further 10 days after the funeral. The company starts operating with a paperless system. Its development focus continues to be on keeping up with technological innovations and their deployment.

In that year, the company is included on the list of 100 best employers in Slovenia for the first time.

*Walls of remembrance with the names of the deceased, whose ashes are scattered in the perimeter park.  
Archive Atelje Marko Mušič*





2009

# Eight remaining cemeteries to be managed by ŽALE, Plečnik's Žale becomes a monument of national importance

2009 is in many ways a turning point. ŽALE takes over the management of eight cemeteries in the City of Ljubljana area that have not been managed by ŽALE before, namely: Črnuče, Šentjakob, Šmartno pod Šmarno goro, Janče, Prežganje, Javor, Mali Lipoglav and Šentpavel. In July 2009, the area of Plečnik's Žale is declared a cultural monument of national importance by a government decree (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia 51/2009). A new area for urn burials in the new part of the cemetery (Mušič Žale, section "D") has been built and is in use. The newly built part contains 1,727 graves, of which 1,253 are floor graves and

474 are in urn niches.

At the same time, activities related to the expansion of the classic part of Žale Cemetery and the completion of works started in 2008 take place throughout the year. In addition, the cemetery walls at Žale Cemetery near the new Šmartinski park are partially rehabilitated, and part of the cemetery walls at Vič, Šentvid and Štepanja vas cemeteries are restored. The sculpture Fountain of Life is moved to a new location at the entrance to the cemetery along the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship.

*The Stone of Life.*





2010

# Opening of the second branch of Plečnik's Florist's Shop – PST

The company's desire to have its own stonemasonry workshop dates back to 1981. At the time, Žale TOZD intends to arrange it in such a way that it would contain some models of cemetery monuments, which would then be appropriately stonemasoned, inscribed and placed on the grave according to the wishes of the client. The client would thus receive the entire service relevant to the funeral and the layout of the grave in one place. But this wish is not fulfilled until 2010, due to unresolved issues of space and funding.

Today, the Kamnoseštvo Žale stonemason's workshop, together with Plečnik's Florist's Shop, is part of the Plečnik Pavilion and a stony expression of Slovenian art. It is distinguished, among other things, for its top-class stonemasonry and finishing, its individual approach, its comprehensive range of bespoke gravestone solutions and its wide choice of additional services. The artistic aspect is also

realised through the exquisitely designed gravestones, which are the work of renowned Slovenian designers and artists and made of typical Slovenian stones.

In 2010, the paved areas at Kerševan's Žale and the cemetery walls at Dravlje, Prežganje and partly Janče cemeteries are also renovated. The cemeteries in Šmartno pod Šmarno goro, Črnuče, Šentjakob, Janče and Javor are paved. A fence is installed in the new part of Žale Cemetery to provide access to the viewing platform. Plečnik's Žale is newly illuminated with LED lights.

The PST Florist's Shop opens next to Kerševan's memorial mortuaries on the Tomačevska cesta.

This year, the public can also access a website where they can find the most important information on the company's activities on their mobile phones.





2011

# Expansion of the classic part of Žale Cemetery and 200,000 cremations

The classical part of Žale Cemetery (section "D"), designed by architect Marko Mušič, has been extended. In a gradual realisation of his basic idea, the cemetery for urn burials was completed in 2009 with 1,685 graves, and is now complemented by a section of the cemetery for traditional burials with 1,273 graves. The cemetery paths, entrances to the grave fields and communal points, the pavilion with the death knell, the bell of last respects, the grove of remembrance in the perimeter park and the ashes scattering area and part of the perimeter green cascades are arranged. The entrances to the grave fields are marked by selected poems by Kajetan Kovič, Ivan Minatti and Ciril Zlobec.

"The design is based on the realisation that the metropolis and the necropolis are each other's right and back. The fortified walls that once protected the city from invaders now separate and protect the City of the Dead from the bustle of the capital. Particularly important are the terraced, richly vegetated borders along Tomačevska cesta, which protect the cemetery from traffic noise. Later, in its final form, traffic will be removed and Tomačevska cesta will become the central avenue of Žale. A central processional and ceremonial route that will definitively and convincingly link the two wings, the old and the new part of the cemetery into a meaningful, symbolic and semantic whole," explains Marko Mušič.

The memorial mortuary at Janče Cemetery is renovated. However, the crematorium of Žale cremates about 90% of all the deceased persons buried in the cemeteries managed by the ŽALE company. Thirty-three years after cremation services began, the company records 200,000 cremations performed.



*The portal of the classical grave field with the verses of academic Ciril Zlobec. Architect Marko Mušič, archive of Atelje Marko Mušič.*



2012

## A family-friendly company

ŽALE is managed by Robert Martinčič, MA, who has been with the company for 28 years and thus, together with the company's 100th anniversary in 2014, is celebrating 30 years of service to the company. The company receives a basic Family Friendly Company certificate. The first four pillars of flame are almost fully restored and the paving of the paths in Žale Cemetery is completed, the walls in Stožice Cemetery are restored, the first part of the restoration of Plečnik's propylaea is completed and the planned vertical hydro insulation of the administrative and technical building is completed. The old part of the cemetery

is given a new entrance by breaking through the wall, connecting it to the new part.

Extended funeral times are available to meet clients' needs. Until now, funerals have usually lasted no longer than one hour, but since 2013 this time can be extended at the wish of the family of the deceased. The company is working to adapt to the new rituals of funeral ceremonies, including more singers, eulogists, entries in the book of condolence, more mourners, longer religious services, etc.





2013

# New developments, central memorial to road accident victims opens

In 2013, Žale once again introduces various innovations. Support processes are transferred from the financial and accounting, human resources and IT areas to Javni holding Ljubljana, d.o.o., and the SAP information system is introduced. There are also opportunities introduced to explore the cemetery with a mobile guide via smartphones and tablets. That year, on 13 November, on the occasion of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, a central memorial to the victims of road accidents in Slovenia is unveiled at Ljubljana's Žale, with the aim of raising the importance of road safety and preventing further unnecessary suffering. The wall at Polje Cemetery, the path and the other four flame pillars at Žale Cemetery are restored, and the paths are being paved. The company

also acquires a waste collection area, a new waste collection vehicle and a tipper truck with a lifting basket, both CNG-powered and therefore environmentally friendly. A partial restoration of Plečnik's joinery workshops and the second part of the restoration of Plečnik's propylaea are carried out. The place for marking the buried in the ashes scattering area is completed. Video surveillance is also set up at Šmartno pod Šmarno goro Cemetery, and a memorial mortuary is arranged at Mali Lipoglav Cemetery. A total of 11,409 cremations are carried out this year, of which 9,060 are for clients outside the City of Ljubljana. Satisfaction with services is also increased, with 82.7% of respondents satisfied or very satisfied and only 2.9% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.





# 2014 100 years

On its 100th anniversary, ŽALE, the oldest and largest company of this kind in the Republic of Slovenia, is home to more than 164,000 deceased on more than 60 hectares of land with more than 57,000 graves. In 2014, the ARtour mobile guide is upgraded and a mobile version of the grave

finder is launched, the first in Slovenia to be used with smartphones. The cemetery map shows the current location of the user and the route from the user's location to the grave. The device continuously displays the user's movements and current location and guides them to the grave.









## ŽALE

*The next chapter of the monograph takes us to the most recent period of ŽALE in more detail. The main projects and achievements of each year are presented in chronological order (The Last Ten Years: 2014–2024). The main subchapter is devoted to presenting the cemeteries under management. We start by introducing the central cemetery – Žale, and then list the cemeteries in alphabetical order.*

*It also seemed appropriate to check what people thought and felt, which we highlight in our article Attitudes of the people of Ljubljana towards funeral rites. The final pages of the subchapter also list scientific and technical literature aimed at enhancing the knowledge of those interested in the cemetery activity.*

*Although most of our work is concerned with the past, we conclude with the Director's view of the future (Looking ahead) and a brief presentation of our ideas for how we would like to see ŽALE managed and organised in the next decade.*





## *Žale Cemetery*

an art-cultural-historical park,  
a tourist attraction – an open-air museum,  
in addition to the respectful farewell of the deceased,  
you can be touched by peace, tranquillity, nature...









ŽALE<sub>d.o.o.</sub>



# The Last Ten Years

2014-2024

*Our constant activities always lead us to new developments in our various fields of activity. They are driven by time, technology, the needs of the people to whom we offer services and the desire to serve them as best as possible. We respect our clients and hold ourselves to high standards.*



# The last ten years of operation

*The data in this chapter are mainly taken from ŽALE's annual reports.*

## 2014

2014 marked the 100th anniversary of ŽALE. On this occasion, the Chamber of Public Utilities of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia presents the company with the ZKG-GZS Award for 100 years of successful operation. At the main ceremony, the City of Ljubljana awards the company a charter for 100 years of successful work for the benefit of citizens and responsible care for the preservation of cultural heritage. To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the company published a book entitled "100 Years of the ŽALE Company". The company is the first in Slovenia to launch a mobile version of the grave finder, which provides active guidance to the grave, and upgrades the online version of the finder, which allows users to draw and print the path to the grave. The ARtour Mobile Guide is upgraded with three new thematic sections: Writers and Poets, Actors and War Graves. We are the first in Slovenia to develop a mobile and web application for the ŽALE PIS information system, which provides a virtual overview of all relevant data for cemetery management. Among the renovations and replacements carried out in 2014, the following are worth highlighting: paving and asphaltting of the path in the old part of Žale Cemetery, renovation of the walkway and the wall, and renovation of the utility points in the new part of the cemetery. Dravlje Cemetery is equipped with a break room and toilets for relatives. The rooms for relatives are renovated in Črnuče. In 2014, a viewing platform is built in the ashes scattering area. A platform and a shelter in front of the memorial mortuary are built at the Mali Lipoglav cemetery. New fountains are installed at Mali Lipoglav, Vič and Šentjakob cemeteries. New notice boards are installed in all local cemeteries.

Robert Martinčič, MA  
director of the ŽALE company

Mojca Hucman



Žale



100 LET  
ŽIVLJENJA  
PODJETJA

Gospodarska  
zbornica  
Slovenije  
Zbornica komunalnega  
gospodarstva

podeljuje

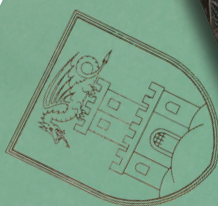
GRADO

podjetju

Javno podjetje, d. o. o.  
za 100 let uspešnega delovanja

Celje  
6. junij 2014

Janko Kramžar  
predsednik ZKG



Mestna občina  
Celje

podjetju  
gimnazijsko listino

podjetju Žale Javno podjetje,  
za 100 let uspešnega delovanja v dobro občanov  
in odgovorne skrbi za obnavljanje kulturne dediščine

Zoran Šimčič  
župan

Ljubljana, 3. avgusta 2014



## 2015

For the innovation “grave finder” and all the upgrades implemented the year before, Robert Martinčič, MA, and the ŽALE company received the bronze award of the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Chamber of the Central Slovenian Region. Further projects this year also focus on bringing and presenting cemeteries to a wider audience. The possibility to visualise cemeteries in the City of Ljubljana or to take a virtual tour and explore cemeteries is upgraded. One hundred information points and the possibility of a virtual tour of the interior of the memorial mortuaries at Plečnik’s Žale are also provided. As the first funeral company in Slovenia, it includes a new funeral service called Beli plamen (White flame) in its offer, also participating in its development. In the same year, the company is certified to the Information Security Management Standard (ISO/IEC 27001) and is awarded the full Family Friendly Company certificate. The BISNODE credit rating agency awards the company the AAA – Gold Certificate of Credit Excellence. The company also applies for the Republic of Slovenia Award for Business Excellence. Among the renovations and replacements carried out in 2015, the following are worth pointing out: the purchase of work vehicles for the funeral business, the renovation of the cremator, the waterproofing of part of the green roof of the building on Tomačevska cesta 2, the arrangement of toilets and the renovation of the wall at the Vič Cemetery, the renovation of utility points, the paving of the paths and the renovation of the walkway at the Žale Cemetery, the fountains at the cemeteries of Javor and Prežganje, and the redesign of the two florist’s shops, etc. The Plečnik Joinery Workshop building is also renovated, and the GIS system is upgraded to record the health status of the trees in Žale Cemetery.





2016

ŽALE became a finalist in the Republic of Slovenia's Business Excellence Award, for which it received a diploma and the international certificate "Recognised for Excellence – 4 star". The online Plečnik Florist's shop is launched and the possibility of funerals by carriage is offered to citizens. The company participates in the erection of a monument to the Sons of Russia and the Soviet Union who died on Slovenian soil in World War I and World War II. On the occasion of the Personal Data Protection Day, the company was recognised by the Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia for obtaining the ISO/IEC 27001:2005 Information Security Management System certification and the related efforts for the protection of personal data. The following major investments are implemented in 2016: renovation of the cremator, arrangement of the changing rooms in the administrative-technical building, purchase of work vehicles for the funeral business, expansion of the inscription capacity for ashes scattering (Remembrance Grove II), renovation of the walkway and paving of the sand paths at Žale Cemetery, renovation of the asphalt surface in front of the alley at Žale, renovation of the basement wall and the arrangement of the basement premises in the florist's shop, renovation of the wall at Črnuče and Rudnik cemeteries, etc. In 2016, the technological upgrading of systems or the acquisition of new fixed assets and the use of paperless business continues. The renovation of the left building of the propylaea at Plečnik's Žale starts.







# 2017

In 2017, the renovation of the left building of the propylaea at Plečnik's Žale is completed. The company thus acquires renovated offices for ordering funeral services on the ground floor, as well as the largest funeral equipment showroom in Slovenia, which extends over the entire area of the upper part of the building. The grave finder app is upgraded again, with the possibility to display photos of the grave you are looking for, and a virtual flight animation over Žale Cemetery is available on the company's website and on YouTube. Visitors to Žale Cemetery are given free access to the internet network. That year, in cooperation with the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) and the Maribor Funeral Company, an international symposium Digital Technologies in Cemeteries is organised, where the company presents a demonstration of the use of modern technologies and how to use virtual reality, which is also available on its website. For the first time, the company enables visitors to travel free of charge around Žale Cemetery in the electric vehicle – Kavalir, from April to October, every Sunday and public holiday. In 2017, the following major investments are made to renew or replace fixed assets: purchase of a special funeral vehicle and a lawn mower, renovation of the rooms for the reception and arrangement of the deceased and the arrangement of the undertakers' and florists' changing rooms, modernisation of the cremator and the air conditioning in the crematorium, renovation of the floor in the Plečnik's florist's workshop, renovation of the wall in the stonemason's workshop and of the memorial mortuaries at the Šmartno pod Šmarno goro and Štepanja vas cemeteries, renovation of the promenade paths and other paths at the Žale cemetery.





# 2018

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia awards ŽALE, d.o.o., with a large plaque for cooperation for its outstanding merits, dedication and diligence in strengthening and success of the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence. Sostro Cemetery is expanded to provide a farewell facility, more than 700 new burial places (traditional, ground and wall graves) and a park area for ashes scattering. Video surveillance of the cemetery has also been set up. The Ekvilib Institute gives the company a special commendation for its culture and family-friendliness, as the company further contributes to improving the work-life balance of its employees. In 2018, the extension to Plečnik's joinery workshops is renovated. In 2018, the following major investments are made in the renovation or replacement of fixed assets: rehabilitation of the wall at Javor Cemetery, modernisation of the cremator, remediation of the effects of damp in the memorial mortuary, replacement of the special funeral vehicle, renovation of the cloth drying room, renovation of the mourners' area and replacement of the lawn mower or multi-purpose machine.



2019

Polje Cemetery is expanded to provide a farewell facility, the Plečnik Florist's branch is completed, and 1,500 new burial places (traditional, ground and wall graves) and a park area for ashes scattering are arranged. Video surveillance of the cemetery has also been set up. A new shelter is erected in front of the memorial mortuaries and the farewell hall at New Žale to protect the mourners from adverse weather conditions (rain, snow, sun). The first five memorial mortuaries (St Peter's, St Jacob's, St Mary's, St John's, St Achatius's) are restored at Plečnik's Žale. The company is involved in the creation and sale of the first biodegradable candle in Slovenia, Evergreen. In 2019, with the signing of the pledge and the awarding of the certificate, the company joins the first 30 organisations of the Chamber of Public Utilities of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, which demonstrate their care for the environment by obtaining a certificate for promoting the drinking of tap water, which is our most precious commodity. This also prevents the production of additional waste and helps to protect health and the environment. In 2019, the following major investments are made in the renovation or replacement of fixed assets: rehabilitation of the memorial mortuaries, replacement of windows in the Tomačevska cesta building, renovation of the wind tunnel in the stonemason's shop, replacement of two specialised funeral vehicles, replacement of the waste collection vehicle and the excavator for digging graves.





2020

In 2020, the Prayer Room and the St Nicholas memorial mortuary are restored at Plečnik's Žale. The third branch of the renowned and highly regarded Plečnik's Florist's Shop opens in the Polje Cemetery. In the same year, the company launches the EDINA candle – an eco-friendly grave candle that contributes to the recycling of waste cooking oil, has a reversible glass container and leaves no waste behind. The BISONDE credit rating agency awards the company with AAA Platinum Certificate of Credit Excellence according to internationally recognised criteria. A new company website is launched in 2020. In 2020, the following major investments are made in the renovation or replacement of fixed assets: the overhaul of the cremator, the replacement of windows in the building on Tomačevska cesta, the purchase of a tractor with a lawnmower and a new specialised vehicle for the cemetery management activity, as well as two work vehicles for gravediggers and an electric vehicle for the burial team. The company is also involved in the expansion of Žale and Rudnik cemeteries. Video surveillance of the cemeteries of Dravlje, Vič, Rudnik, Šmartno pod Šmarno goro and Šentjakob was implemented.



# 2021

The new urn section of Žale Cemetery is expanded to include three circular urn oases with wall urn graves and ground urn graves, one square-shaped urn oasis for ground urn burials, the Remembrance Grove, the Fountain of Life, the Green Pyramid and a perimeter park for ash scattering. The expansion results in 837 new ground graves and 1063 new wall graves. The northern part of Rudnik Cemetery is also extended, with new access and parking. This results in 45 new ground urn graves and 55 new wall urn graves. The 44th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee confirms the entry of Plečnik's works in Ljubljana on the prestigious World Heritage List. In addition to the complex of the City of the Dead – Plečnik's Žale, the Garden of All Saints, six other works by Plečnik in the area of the Municipality of Ljubljana have been inscribed on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List, all of which come together to form a recognisable whole, today known as Plečnik's Ljubljana. In 2021, the remaining memorial mortuaries of St Christopher, St Andrew, St Francis and St Adam and Eve at Plečnik's Žale are renovated. The grave finder is upgraded again, making it even easier and faster to search and navigate the Google map. The company receives a commendation from the Ekvilib Institute for 10 years of spreading the culture of a family-friendly company. In 2021, the company expanded its range of environmentally friendly candles and offered customers a new 100% compostable ECOTERRA® candle from Jurkovič candle factory, which is disposed of in a biodegradable waste container after use in the cemetery. In addition to the memorial mortuaries, the following major investments in the renovation or replacement of fixed assets are made in 2021: the overhaul of the cremator, two special funeral vehicles for the 24-hour on-call service, inscription plaques for the scattering of ashes in the Remembrance Grove, etc. The renovation of the prayer room, which had been planned for 2020, is completed in 2021.





# 2022

The Vič Cemetery is expanded to include a farewell building with two memorial mortuaries, rooms for relatives, a break room and toilets, a farewell platform, grave fields for coffin burials and for ground burials with urns, a place for wall burials with urns and an area for the scattering of ashes. The expansion adds 188 single coffin graves, 566 new ground urn graves and 144 new wall urn niches. The memorial mortuaries of St Joseph, St Anthony, St Cyril and Methodius, and St George are restored at Plečnik's Žale. In 2022, the roof over the Farewell Hall at Kerševan's Žale is also renovated. Inscription plaques are also installed in the Remembrance Grove IV and Oasis I, next to the ashes scattering area in the new part of the Žale or Mušič's Žale. From 2022, the grave finder will also be available on the mobile stores (App Store, AppGallery, Google Play). The grave finder was used 2 million times in 2022. The company's complete innovation is the Slovenian product Timeless Memory, which allows you to leave more than just names and years at the final resting place of loved ones and tell the story of the people who rest there by using modern technology or a QR-coded plaque, as well as sharing photos or video. In 2022, in addition to the memorial mortuaries and the roof renovation, the following major investments are made in the renovation or replacement of fixed assets: the overhaul of the cremator, the purchase of a machine for digging graves and a multi-purpose machine for cemetery maintenance, etc.



# 2023

In 2023, the expansion of the eastern part of the new part of Žale Cemetery, which was not completed in 2011, to accommodate coffin burials, including a monumental entrance, cascades along Tomačevska cesta and 80 graves, starts and is projected to be completed in 2024. The renovation of the right-hand building of the propylaea at Plečnik's Žale has also started and will be completed in 2024. Part of the eastern cemetery wall of Stožice Cemetery and part of Section 91 C of Žale Cemetery are also restored. Additional plaques are installed in the Remembrance Grove II, Area IV and Grove of Memory IV, Oasis II, next to the ashes scattering area in the new part of Žale or Mušič's Žale Cemetery. In 2023, the information and direction signs at Žale Cemetery are replaced. The company is awarded a plaque by the City of Ljubljana in the field of protection against natural and other disasters for its work, dedication, knowledge and selflessness in helping citizens in the event of natural and other disasters and for its active participation in the preparation of various protection and rescue plans. In addition to the cemetery wall and the renovation of the propylaea, the following major investments in the renovation or replacement of fixed assets are made in 2023: the overhaul of the cremator, the purchase of a hearse and a tractor, and a Piaggio vehicle.





# 2024

The expansion of the unfinished eastern part of the new part of Žale Cemetery for coffin burials, started in 2023, continues. The expansion of the southern part of the new Žale Cemetery for coffin burials also starts. Preparations continue for the closure of part of Tomačevska cesta and its conversion into a cemetery alley, where no traffic will be allowed, except for buses of the Ljubljana public passenger transport service. The renovation of the right-hand building of the propylaea at Plečnik's Žale, which started in 2023, is completed. The expansion of the administrative and technical building on Tomačevska cesta also starts, most of which will be underground and will include a warehouse, cold storage and a crematorium. A complete renovation of the first-floor offices also starts. The restoration of the cemetery wall and the sacral building at Polje Cemetery, the paving of part of the path at Šmartno pod Šmarno goro Cemetery and the restoration of the roofs of the cemetery buildings at Stožice and Črnuče cemeteries are also under way. In Žale Cemetery, the Kamnoseštvo Žale stonemason's workshop exhibition space is removed and the area is turned into a lawn along Med hmeljniki Avenue. Work starts on the installation of additional plaques in the Remembrance Grove IV, Oasis III, the new part of Žale Cemetery and Mušič's Žale. New signboards and directional signs for local cemeteries are also designed. In addition, several new trucks, a tractor, a lawnmower or multi-purpose machine and other equipment have been or will be purchased. ŽALE, which was one of the pioneers of the initiative and was awarded the basic Tap Water Certificate in 2019, is awarded the Gold Tap Water Certificate by the Slovenian Chamber of Public Utilities.







Mestna občina  
Ljubljana podeljuje  
**NAGRADO**  
glavnega mesta Ljubljana  
za leto 2024



Nagrajenec je v podjetju Žale opravil pomembno, 40 let dolgo karierno pot: od pripravnika do direktorja pokopališke dejavnosti. Leta 2012 je postal direktor družbe in to delo ambiciozno in odgovorno opravlja še dandanes. Urejenost pokopališč v Mestni občini Ljubljana je njegova zasluga, saj je bistveno prispeval k visokemu standardu pokopališke dejavnosti. Pod njegovim vodstvom je podjetje prejelo pomembna priznanja in certifikate, ves čas pa deluje tudi družbeno odgovorno in se po njem kot pionirju na področju pogrebne dejavnosti zgledujeta Slovenija in tudi tujina.

**mag.  
Robertu  
Martinič**

Ljubljana, 9. maja 2024 Zoran Janković  
župan Mestne občine Lj





*In addition  
to our core business of funerals,  
also other activities are pursued.*

*Funeral activities:*

- 24-hour on-call service
- transport of the deceased
- preparation of the deceased
- cremation
- preparation and performance of the funeral
- cemetery management

*Floriculture:*

- gala arrangements for banquets
- wedding decorations
- cultural, sporting events
- funeral arrangements (wreaths, bouquets, etc.)
- care and maintenance of graves

*Stonemasonry:*

- making gravestones
- making art monuments
- manufacture of stoneware

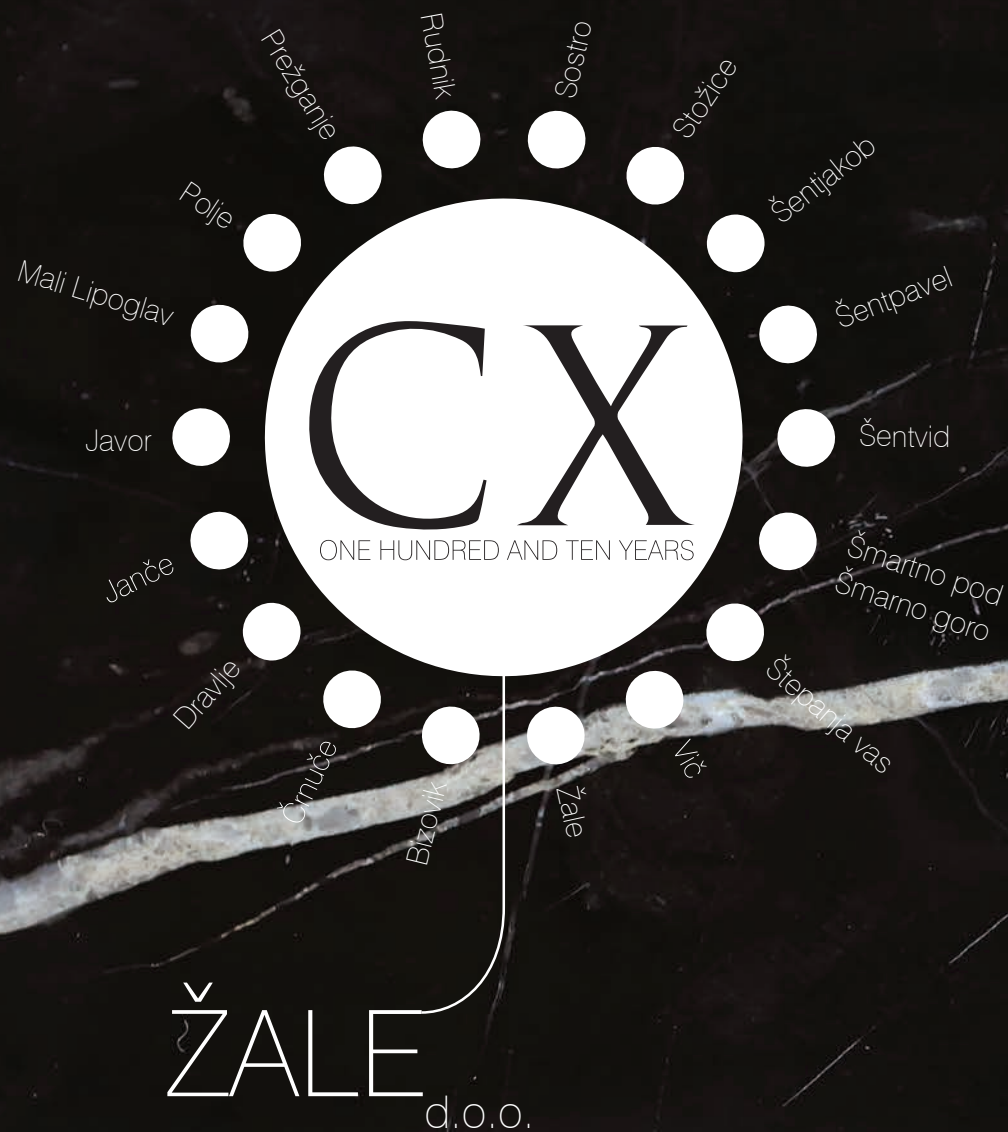
*Useful technology:*

- video coverage of the funeral ceremony
- a smartphone and web app for finding graves
- guided tours of the cemetery, art history education
- e-guiding, open-air art museum









The texts are mainly taken from written and oral sources and partly from websites (cf. <https://www.druzina.si/storage/app/media/ProductFiles/ljubljanske-zale.pdf>; <https://www.zale.si/sl/>, <https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%BDale>, [https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centralno\\_pokopali%C5%A1%C4%8De\\_%C5%BDale](https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centralno_pokopali%C5%A1%C4%8De_%C5%BDale)).

The texts on the cemeteries were written by Žiga Vertič (Bizovik, Črnuče, Dravlje, Janče, Polje, Rudnik, Sostro, Šentjakob), Mojca Hucman (Mali Lipoglav), Nataša Jereb (Šentvid), Robert Martinčič and Borut Dvornik (other cemeteries). The texts were reviewed and edited by Marta Bon and Mojca Hucman.



# Presentation of cemeteries under management

*ŽALE manages 18 cemeteries in Ljubljana and its surroundings. Presented individually in this publication, they are a unique place, a monument of art and a pillar of the memories of our ancestors.*

*In terms of size and urban structure, the central Ljubljana cemetery, Žale, is in many respects the leading one and thus presented first, with the other cemeteries following in alphabetical order.*

*We would like to introduce you to our activity, which is inevitably linked to the deceased and to you, who wish to bury your loved ones with respect and dignity, to visit them, to remember them, to admire the art, the atmosphere of the consecrated spaces, and to enjoy the peace and tranquillity imbuing the space.*

*Each cemetery is presented with a short text and pictures. It is worth pointing out that the historical records of the early periods were almost exclusively kept by the Church. Thus, only historical sources of this kind are available, and we have only been able to obtain public and personal sources in parts. Most of the cemeteries in the City of Ljubljana area are registered in the Register of Immovable Cultural Heritage and therefore constitute cultural heritage, which is also protected in accordance with the current City of Ljubljana Spatial Planning Act.*





Žale is by far the largest cemetery in Slovenia, created by the rapid development of the city and the consequent inappropriate location of the former city cemetery at St Christopher, located in the wider area of today's Exhibition and Convention Centre, the remnant of which is the Navje Cemetery Park. A solution was found on the outskirts of the town, where on 03/05/1906 a new cemetery was opened next to the small historic Church of Holy Cross and the first burial took place, when the priest Martin Malenšek, who had been transported from the St. Christopher cemetery, was buried. At the same time, work began on moving the graves of some of the deceased from St Christopher's Cemetery. The word Žale is etymologically related to concepts such as grief, mourning, etc., and is derived from the Old Church Slavonic meaning "to mourn" or even from the word for gravestone.

Žale Cemetery has been shaped by three great architects. The first is Jože Plečnik. An important turning point in the development of the cemetery was the beginning of the construction of Plečnik's Žale in July 1938 and its opening on 07/06/1940, which made it possible for the deceased to no longer lie at home until burial, and also put an end to long funeral processions from the city to the distant cemetery – lasting even several hours. Plečnik's Žale is now a cultural monument of national importance, a European Heritage Site under an intergovernmental initiative, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site from 2021. Symbolism of farewell buildings and a deep sense of reverence for each mourner, but without



# ŽALE Cemetery

any sentimentality, make Plečnik's Žale one of the most important architectural creations of its kind in 20th century Europe.

The second turning point came in 1976, when construction of a new administrative and technical building, designed by architect Peter Kerševan, began and was completed in 1978. It also contained a farewell hall, memorial mortuaries and the first crematorium in Slovenia.

The third turning point came in 1989, when the first part of New Žale was completed according to the plans of the academic architect Marko Mušič, and its expansion is still ongoing. Mušič created the City of the Dead, starting from the idea that the necropolis and the metropolis are each other's front and back side. This parallel between the city of the living and the city of the dead has been preserved since ancient times. At the same time, Mušič was aware in his design that the graves are a memorial to each individual deceased. They are therefore a reminder of their life and at the same time a dwelling place, a sanctuary where another, eternal life begins, as the inscriptions on gravestones and other iconography testify. Today, Žale Cemetery is no longer just a burial place and a place of remembrance for the dead, but also an open-air museum, a park and a tourist attraction.

*Martinčič Robert, MA*

## *Žale Cemetery:*

- first funeral in 1906;*
- ŽALE has been holding funerals there since 1914 and has managed it since 1946;*
- located in the north-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Bežigrad district, between Štajerska cesta, Žalska ulica and Jarška cesta;*
- 423,909m<sup>2</sup> or 42ha and 46,304 graves*









# ŽALE and architect Jože Plečnik

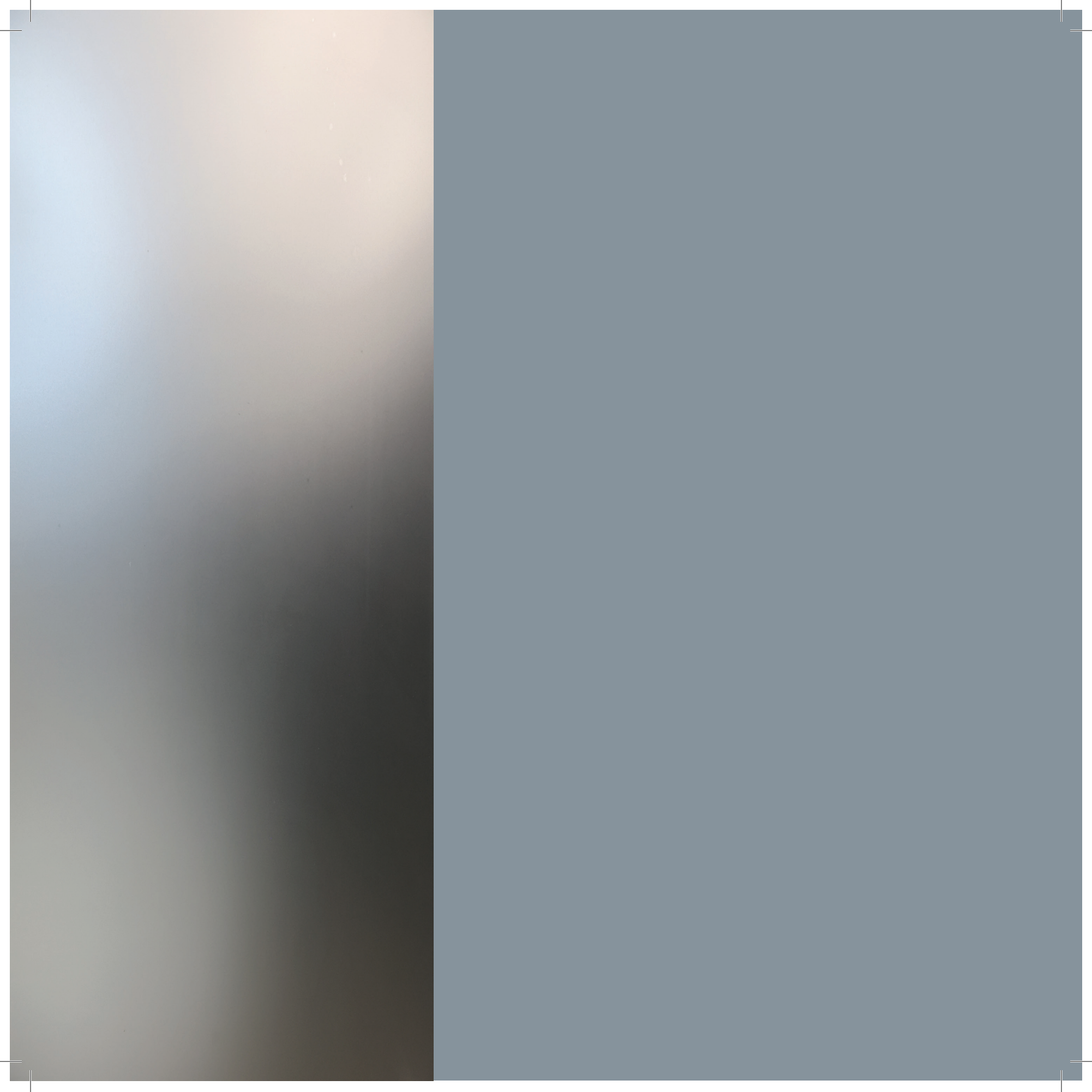
*architect Jože Plečnik, 23 January 1872–7 January 1957*











# Jože Plečnik

1872–1957

The face on the former five hundred tolar banknote, an honoured citizen of the Slovenian capital, a Prešeren laureate and a pedagogue – and above all, the most prominent Slovenian architect. Today, a prize is named after him for his achievements in the design of the Slovenian environment, a bust of him stands next to Prague Castle, and his architectural creations and urban planning solutions can be seen from Vienna to Prague and Ljubljana.

Soon after his studies in Graz and Vienna, Plečnik – also under the tutelage of Otto Wagner – opened his own architectural studio there in 1901. As a professor, he went on to Prague, and later to Ljubljana, where he was involved in its ambitious urban planning projects during the inter-war years.

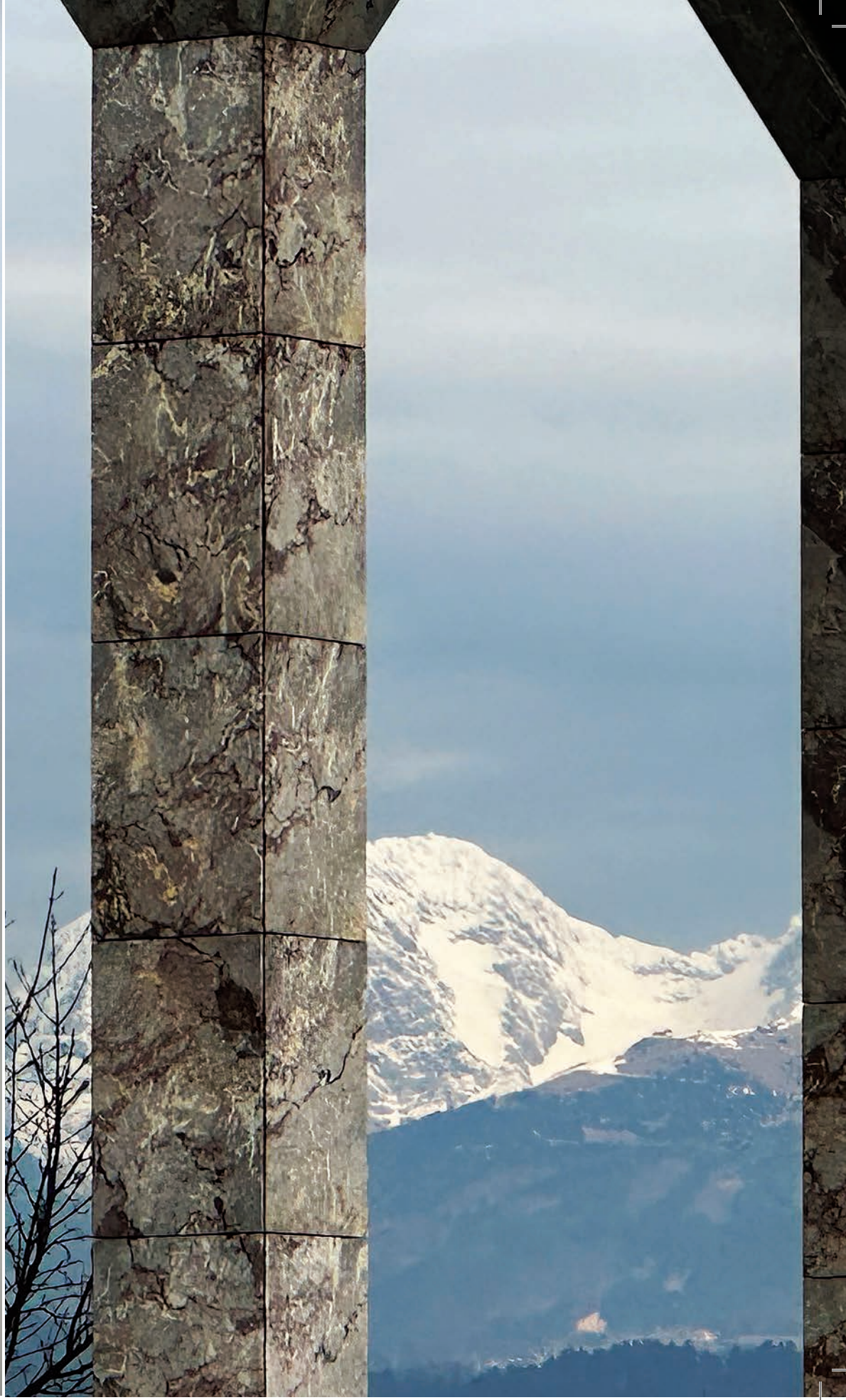
He made a name for himself with his architectural plans and urban planning solutions for the Triple Bridge, Market Place, Congress Square, Tivoli Park and the Ljubljanica River embankment. He prepared the project for the construction of the National and University Library, the Ursuline school, the Bežigrad Stadium, churches and Plečnik's Žale. During his teaching period and work abroad, his most notable projects included the renovation of Prague Castle, the construction of the Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord, and the famous Zacherl's Palace and Church of the Holy Spirit in Vienna.

## Plečnik's Žale

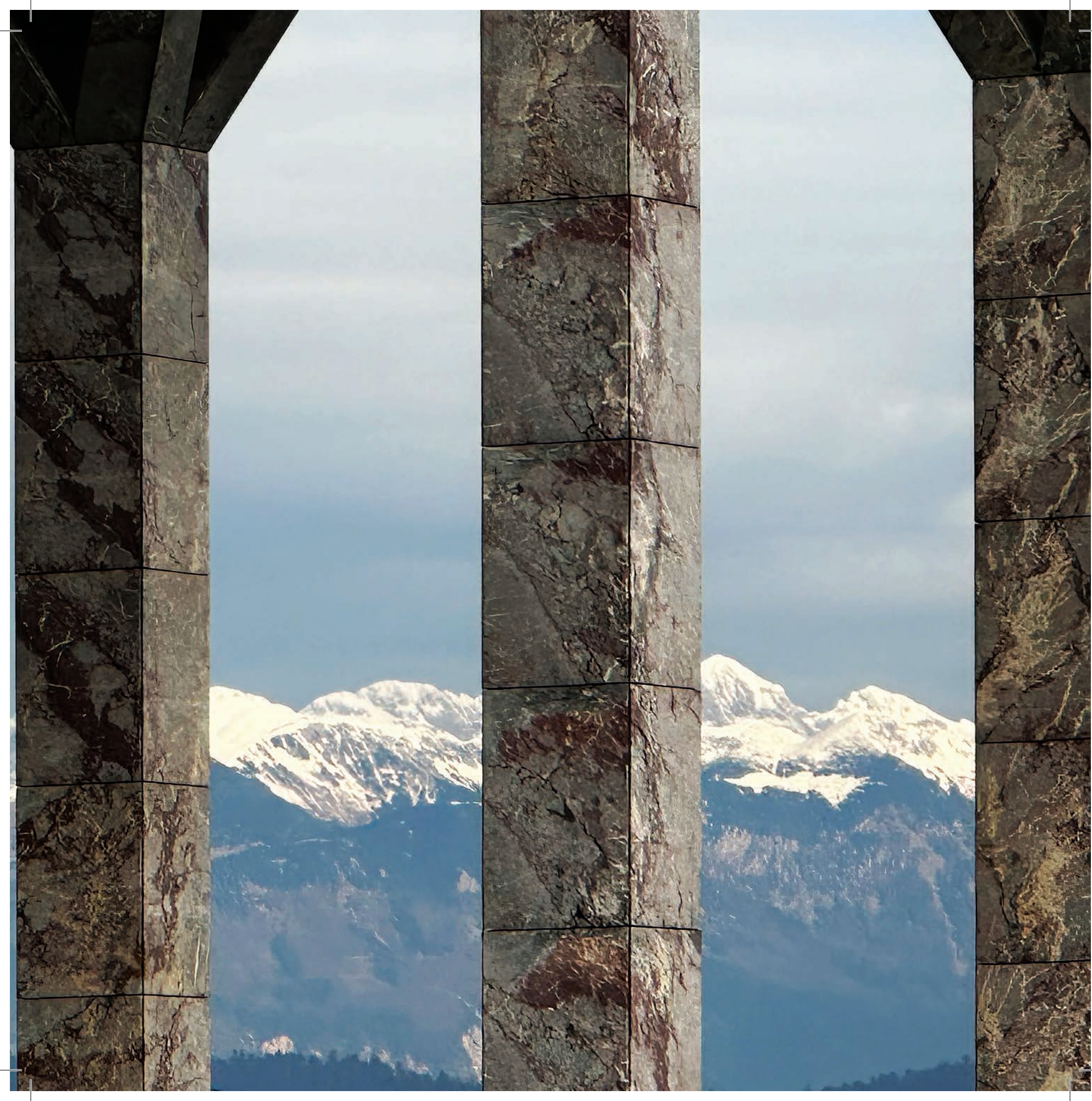
A decade after World War I, Ljubljana wanted to follow the example of other European cities and reform the traditional way of burial. In parallel with the growing demands for new cemetery areas, the time had come for a renovation, which was entrusted to Jože Plečnik. The basic idea of a single multi-purpose mortuary was modified and complemented by the idea of the Garden of All Saints complex, designed as a landscaped promenade park. Among the most famous buildings are the Entrance Portal, which symbolically separates the city of the living from the city of the dead, and the special memorial mortuaries, which were dedicated to individual parishes in Ljubljana. Plečnik's Žale is the only building of its kind in Europe to be awarded the European Heritage Label.



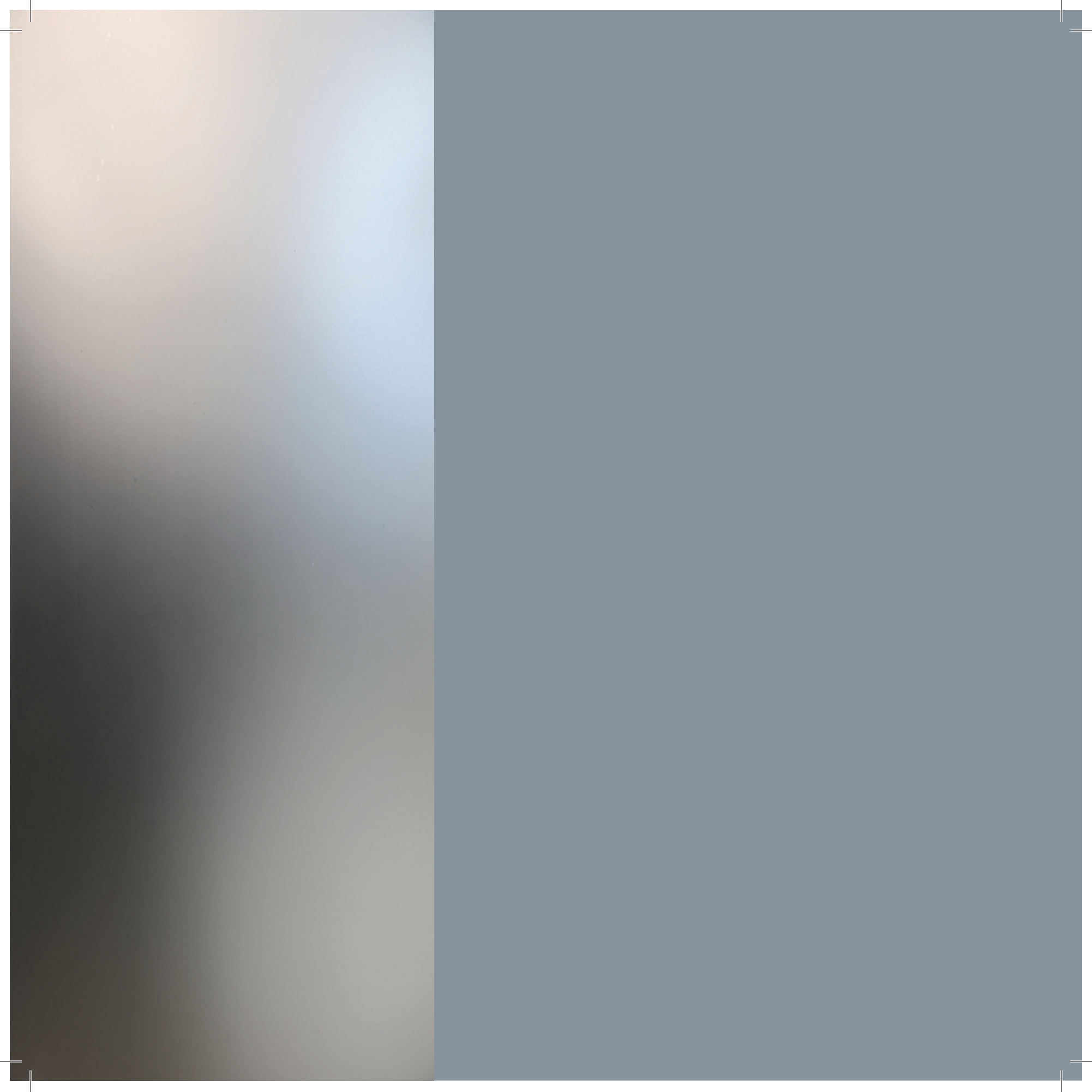
ŽALE and architect Marko Mušič  
*architect Marko Mušič, 1941*











# Marko Mušič

1941

Marko Mušič is a Slovenian architect born into a family – Vladimir Braco Mušič, Marjan Mušič, Marjan Mušič Jr, Vladimir Mušič and Miklavž Mušič – that has left a strong architectural and urban planning mark on the Slovenian landscape. In 1966, under the mentorship of architect Edvard Ravnikar, he graduated from the Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Ljubljana and continued his studies in Denmark and the USA. A year later, he presented his project Vila Bled to the wider professional public at the Biennale of Youth in Paris, and continued his work with successful competitions and architectural creations of cultural buildings in various regions of the former Yugoslavia.

He is a full member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, a correspondent member of four foreign academies, Vice President since 2008, and President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 2014. His extensive body of architectural ideas and realisations includes various projects for religious and educational buildings, cultural centres and libraries, squares and commercial buildings, villas, memorials, renovations, memorial parks and cemeteries.

## Mušič's Žale

Mušič is the architectural father of the New Žale in Ljubljana's central cemetery. Following the example of ancient elements and in line with the design of his predecessor Jože Plečnik, he realised the idea of a city of the dead with central geometrically arranged burial fields, along which green paths run. The park area of the Remembrance Grove, created with artificial knolls, has a special reputation as the first place in Slovenia dedicated to the scattering of the ashes of the dead:

"I had to elevate the perimeter park, the ashes scattering area, with something to distinguish it from all the other green spaces in the city. I was looking for a motif that had a strong message but also a connection to our country and our culture. I remembered of the mounds, the ancient markers of the last dwellings of our earliest ancestors, which are scattered all over Slovenia and which give names to many places. These mounds, the tumuli, are the evidence of graves from ancient times still preserved in the landscape; evidence of the burial of loved ones, which, as anthropologists say, is how man really became man. A fine example of a mound of ancestors covered with oak trees is not far from Žale, behind the village of Breg na Sorškem polju. The rounded outcrops of the Žale perimeter park perimeter create a new, artificial and dreamy landscape, which, like the ancient mounds, was created with a sacred purpose and a profound message. The modern necropolis has thus acquired an association with prehistoric times," explains Marko Mušič.



ŽALE and architect Peter Kerševan  
*architect Peter Kerševan, 1938–2024*











# Peter Kerševan

1938–2024

He graduated from the Faculty of Architecture, and later studied art history and ethnology, which greatly benefited him in his further work, which was never limited to a single geographical area. His architectural solutions have been implemented from Mongolia to Siberia, Cuba and Iraq, to the African island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe and Nepal in Asia. In later years, he worked internationally on the design of a building in Stockholm, Sweden and a museum in China, but more often than not his work is focused on objects that are linked to architectural tradition.

His first project was a convenience store in Idrija. He was awarded the Prešeren Fund Prize. He combined his knowledge of architecture and his professional period in Iraq in a book on the architectural tradition of Iraq. He also made his mark in the field of graphics, being the author of the logo and graphic design of the Ciciban factory, the Histrion hotel, Ona-on and many others.

## Kerševan crematorium

Kerševan always had an indirect connection to Žale. His father was a construction foreman, and it was this role that he fulfilled during the construction of Plečnik's Žale. In 1976, Peter Kerševan took up the work. He won a Slovenian competition for a crematorium and in less than two months developed the idea of a building with a crematorium, farewell halls, memorial mortuaries and an administration facility.

“Our goal was to build a building at Žale that would be virtually invisible. It was a huge programme, over 5,000 square metres of functional space hidden under a green roof. It was the first green roof in Slovenia. The guiding idea was that the greenery from the outside extends into the building. And it is always connected with water. There used to be a fountain there. From the top, you saw water springing from the stone and creating new life: after passing away, something else is springing from you. That was the point of the building. In the middle, we designed a break where the light from the roof falls on all floors – we wanted to give them a bit of air and sun, because of the nature of the employees' work. The key aspect of both the crematorium and my other facilities remains the connection with nature and the minimum interference with it,” says Peter Kerševan.







*The ŽALE administration building is renovated,  
Plečnik's joinery workshops, 2015*







*Remembrance Grove IV,  
plates with the names of the deceased, 2012.*







*Shelter over Kerševan's memorial mortuaries and Farewell Hall, 2019.*









*Expansion of the urn part of Žale Cemetery, 2021.*











*Green Pyramid, 2021.*



*New entrance to the cemetery, 2024.*







*Fountain of Life,  
2021.*

*Expansion  
of the classic  
part of  
Žale Cemetery,  
2011.*



*Tombs, 2011.*



*Expansion of the classic part of Žale Cemetery, 2011.*







*A new acquisition in progress,  
main entrance, 2024.*







*Expansion of the administrative and technical building – warehouse, cooling rooms, crematorium, 2024.*









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here is no precise information about the construction of the Church of St Nicholas in Bizovik. However, it is known that in 1526 it donated a copper chalice, a patena and some money for military purposes. Documents mention that when the Ljubljanica River flooded, the lord of Fužine Castle landed on a knoll with a boat and had a small chapel built on the hill opposite his castle. It was later turned into Bizovik church. The lord of Fužine Castle was also responsible for the naming of Bizovik. Etymologically, the name derives from Vizavik, which alludes to its location – vis-a-vis, or opposite the castle. Despite its early origins in the 13th century as Bisouik, in the 17th century, Janez Vajkard Valvasor is said to have called the village Spodnje Dobrunje

The year 1749 is inscribed above the entrance to the church, commemorating its renovation. The present belfry, which dates to 1825, is younger than the church's renovation. The church has three bells, although it used to have four. During World War I, three of them were melted into cannons. Of the original ones, only one remains, made in 1688 and dedicated to St Nicholas, St Michael, St Vitus and St Florian. The other two bells were added in 1922. All three altars in the church were renovated between 1976 and 1977, when Bishop Stanislav Lenič also enshrined the relics of the martyrs St Celestine and St Victor in the altar. They were finally renovated in 2004.



# BIZOVIK Cemetery

The area around the church was once used as a cemetery, but burials next to the church were abandoned shortly after World War II. In 1980, the wall around the church began to crumble, and the old cemetery was renovated and levelled. The new cemetery is located in the middle of the Bizovik field and is enclosed by a wall in a rectangular shape. For the land of the new cemetery, Ivana Škerjanc sold plot number 337/2 of the land registry, which was given a new land register entry No. 446 of the land registry of Bizovik.

The entire cemetery was divided into four equal areas. A path was made along the wall for visitors to the cemetery. There was a wider route for processions down the centre of the cemetery. The paths and walkways measure 634 square metres, with 1,796 square metres for graves. The cemetery had its own path from St Nicholas Church. The land for the path was ceded by Ivana Dimnik, a landowner in Bizovik. Burials began on the north side, with adults on the left and children on the right. In 2008, the City of Ljubljana renovated the cemetery walls and car park.

*Žiga Vertič*

*Bizovik Cemetery:*

- *ŽALE has been managing it since 1956;*
- *in the south-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Golovec district, between Litijska cesta and Hruševska cesta;*
- *2,870m<sup>2</sup> or 0.3ha and 390 graves.*



# Bizovik Cemetery

















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he Church of St Simon and St Jude, which stands in Črnuče, was first mentioned in written sources in autumn 1526. Črnuče is mentioned as a town as early as 1322, so it can be assumed that the original church was built in the 14th or 15th century at the latest.

In 1881, a cemetery was arranged around the newly built church. It was large enough for the parish's population of 850 and its needs. Until 1898, a wooden fence surrounded the cemetery and braved the weather conditions. It was later removed and replaced by a hedge. The small size of the cemetery raised the question of whether to build on the site of the church that was destroyed in the earthquake or elsewhere. It was agreed to build on the new plot, which still had to be bought. The community thus had a large enough cemetery. A new, larger cemetery cross was erected, bearing a restored image of crucified Jesus. A small memorial mortuary was also built.

In 1913, the cemetery was renovated for the first time and the cemetery rules were implemented. A cemetery register book and a cemetery plan were introduced. Until then, burials were carried out without any proper order or arrangement of graves. For the first time, all graves were numbered. A year later, the first plans for a gate at the entrance were made, but later they were abandoned. Master Kremžar from Šentvid, from whom the gate



# ČRNUČE Cemetery

was ordered, was mobilised in World War I and soon killed. The cemetery received its gate more than ten years after that.

After World War II, the cemetery was transferred to the state management. The increase in the population of the parish after 1970 raised the question of extending the cemetery. There was a possibility to buy land in the immediate vicinity of the old cemetery and behind the presbytery of the parish church. The land was bought in 1976 and the following year burials began to be performed in the new cemetery. In 1994, the memorial mortuary was enlarged, toilets and a break room were built, the façade was renovated and the shelter in front of the memorial mortuary was extended. They also paved the area around the parish church.

In 2009, ŽALE took over the management of the cemetery. Previously, the cemetery was managed by the Črnuče local or district community. A year later, the paths through the cemetery were paved and the following year the wall between the cemetery and the nearby farm was rebuilt. In 2013, a cross was erected in the new part of the cemetery. The Crucified Jesus is a copy of the crucified Jesus in the old part of the cemetery. It is located to the right of the entrance to the new part of the cemetery. It was blessed by the Archbishop and Metropolitan of Ljubljana, Dr Anton Stres. The cross in the old part of the cemetery was also restored.

*Žiga Vertič*

## *Črnuče Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the north-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Črnuče district, between Stare Črnuče and Pot k sejmišču;*
- 4,729m<sup>2</sup> or 0.5ha and 1,083 graves.*



# Črnuče Cemetery

















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he Church of St Roch was built in Dravlje in 1646 to mark the end of the plague in the town. At that time, the newly built church belonged to the Parish of Šentvid nad Ljubljano. Soon, however, the local community's desire for an independent parish emerged. It took some time from the first idea for an independent parish to its realisation. In the first half of the twentieth century, the idea was conveyed to the Diocese of Ljubljana. In 1961, the parish was founded and Bishop Anton Vovk issued the charter of the new parish in Dravlje. Lojze Štrubelj was chosen as the first administrator, and France Kovač came as vicar. Together, they worked to rebuild the church. Due to the large number of new inhabitants in the parish, a new parsonage was opened and there emerged a need for a new church. The old church had become too small for such a large congregation.

An application for the location of the new church was submitted in 1975 and a competition was launched. The project by architect Marko Mušič was selected. In 1983, the foundation stone of the new church was blessed. On 15 September 1985, Archbishop Alojzij Šuštar consecrated the new Church of the Incarnation of Christ.

The cemetery was divided into four sections. The first section had 12 rows; the first two rows had nine graves each, and the remaining ten rows had 11 graves each. The second section had twelve rows; the first row had ten graves, the next ten had 11 graves each, and the last row had nine graves.



# DRAVLJE Cemetery

The third section had 12 rows; in the first row there were nine graves, in the next ten rows 11 and in the last row eight graves. The fourth section had eight rows; the first row had nine graves and the following seven rows had 11.

Later, three more sections were added – five, six and seven. The fifth section was marked with the letters a, b, c, d and f. There were 10 graves in row a, 46 graves in row b, nine graves in row c, nine graves in row d and 32 graves in row f. The sixth section had six rows; the first four rows had 15 graves, the fifth row had 13 graves and the last row had 11 graves. The seventh section had one row and six graves. There were a total of 666 graves. The sixth section was for graves of children. The seventh section and five rows of the fifth section were reserved for their own burial sites.

In 1908, the cemetery in Dravlje was owned by the Municipality of Zgornja Šiška and measured 5,760 square metres. The land for the path past the church from the district road to the cemetery measured 1,496 square metres, the paths inside and outside the cemetery measured 788 square metres, the fence wall 72 square metres, the mortuary and chapel area measured 65 square metres, and 2,884 square metres were allocated for graves and tombs.

Žiga Vertič

*Dravlje Cemetery:*

- managed by the company since 1952;*
- in the north-western part of Ljubljana, in the Dravlje district, between Korenčanova and Šlosarjeva ulica;*
- 9,691m<sup>2</sup> or 1ha and 1,380 graves*



# Dravlje Cemetery



















The parish Church in Janče was built at the end of the 16th century or at the beginning of the 17th century as a chapel. Travellers in the area were attacked by individual escaped Janissaries and one day a lone traveller fell into their hands. In his distress, he vowed to build a chapel of gratefulness if he survived. Thus a chapel in honour of St Nicholas was built, which later became the church in Janče. The former chapel is now the presbytery of the church.

As the parish church in Janče is surrounded by a cemetery, it is worth mentioning the oldest monuments or gravestones built into the cemetery wall.

Four parish priests enjoy eternal rest in Janče. On the left side, just after the entrance, a grey stone mentions the first parish priest of Janče: "Rev. Dni. Loc. Janzhe: Andr. Marn +29. Maji 1808." The same plaque also says: "Math Demshar +8. Juli 1809 R. I. P. Posatavlen od farnikov."

The second plaque is on the right side behind the entrance, where – according to folklore sources – a saintly parish priest rests: "Jožef Zupančič, fajmošter na Jančim, rojen v Št. Vidu 28. Marca, umerl 3. Aprila 1859 – Bratje molite za nas."



# JANČE Cemetery

Next to it stands the grave of the parish priest Janez Dobnikar with a beautiful monument; he lived in Janče for 36 years.

To the left of the entrance is a plaque with the inscription “Jurkovi Gaberje št. 10. Matevž Anžur, 62 let star 1840. Spomin od hvaležnega sina, duhovnega gosp. Antona Anžur.” We can conclude that these are the first graves in the cemetery.

The cemetery has an entrance just in front of the belfry, consisting of two three-metre-high chapels connected by an arch. Their roof is made of metal like that of the belfry. Each chapel has a fresco on the back wall. On the left is the Virgin Mary and on the right St Nicholas. The two chapels were probably erected around 1880, at that time as a perimeter cemetery wall. In 2009, the ŽALE public company took over the management of the cemetery and started keeping records of graves and tenants. It also renovated all cemetery infrastructure.

*Žiga Vertič*

*Janče Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the south-eastern part of the Municipality of Ljubljana, in Janče, in the Sostro district;*
- 1,184m<sup>2</sup> or 0.1ha and 110 graves*



# Janče Cemetery

















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he small cemetery is located in the hills to the south-east of Ljubljana, away from the hustle and bustle of the city and set on a hillside. The cemetery is the site of the old parish church, now St Martin's Chapel. It was first mentioned in 1303. The chapel is closed by a wall, within which you can still see some interesting old cast-iron gravestones depicting the suffering Christ with rich floral decoration dating back to the Industrial Revolution. The cemetery is also marked by Christian symbols carved in stone. The parish of Javor was founded in 1875. Since 2011 it has been managed by the Minorite Brothers of St Peter's Parish in Ljubljana, and on 01/08/2020 it was returned to the Archdiocese of Ljubljana.

*Robert Martinčič, Borut Dvornik*



# JAVOR Cemetery

*Javor Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the south-eastern part of the Municipality of Ljubljana, in Javor, in the Sostro district;*
- 1,068m<sup>2</sup> or 0.1ha and 98 graves.*



Javor Cemetery



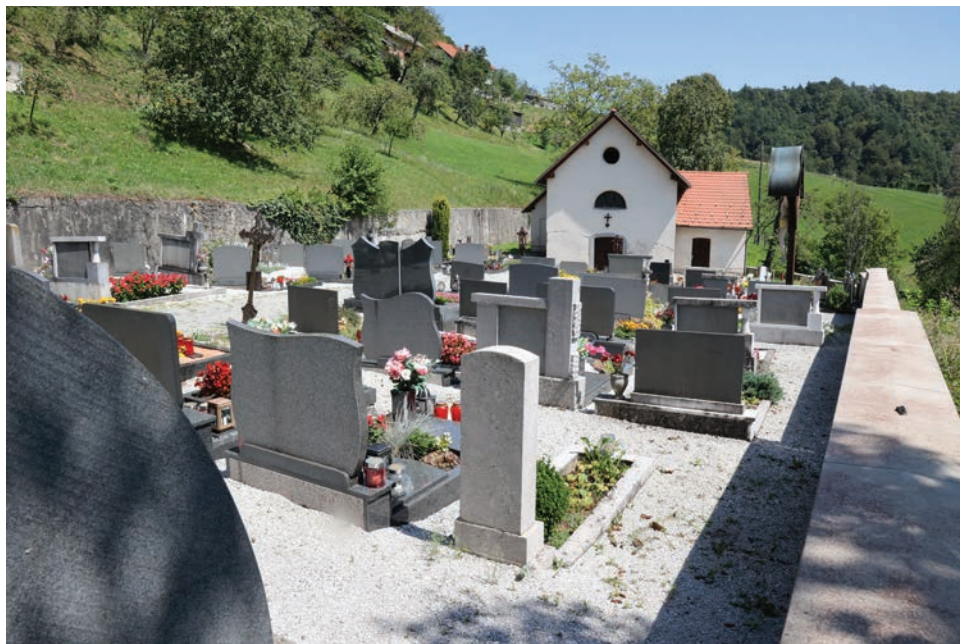
















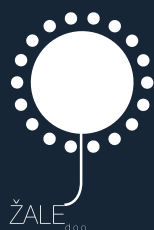
his cemetery is set back from the urban environment and, together with the church and the parsonage, located in the central village square. It stands on a small hill. As Borut Dvornik says: “The environment is peaceful, picturesque, pleasant. Visitors feel that a sacred space has been chosen to pay tribute to the departed.”

The cemetery is surrounded by a stone wall, enclosing also the Church of St Nicholas, while a chapel greets you at the entrance. The church is mentioned as early as 1290. The main altar dates back to 1863 and is the work of the Ljubljana carver Matija Tomec, and contains a painting by Metzinger. The Way of the Cross was painted in 1831 by Janez Potočnik. The parish of Lipoglav was founded in 1782 and is now managed by the Grosuplje parish.

We would like to add something about the history and the cemetery from the parish chronicle written by Mr. Martin Pečarič between 1920 and 1954, when he was the parish priest in Lipoglav and published in the parish newspaper “Miklavževa beseda”.

The name Lipoglav means ‘an elevated place planted with linden trees’. It is mentioned as early as between 1136 and 1169 in connection with the Stična estate, and the church is recorded by Valvasor, listing three altars: the altar of St Nicholas, St John the Baptist and St Lucia.

The parish of Lipoglav was founded in 1782. The church was probably partially rebuilt at that time.



# MALI LIPOGLAV

## Cemetery

Mali Lipoglav: There is no specific historical information about this village. In Celtic times, the graves of the dead were in this village, as well as on the nearby St Magdalene knoll and along the road to Šmarje. There is still a mound on the property of Janez Bozja No. 4, behind the house in the garden, which according to some people was once a settlement – a camp for former inhabitants. In 1905, two urns were excavated just a few steps away from the road to Šmarje, which suggests that the mound also covers historical remains.

The chapel was probably built at the time when the cemetery was enclosed around the parish church. The painter Štefan Šubic painted it in 1873 when he was renovating the altars in the parish church. The statue of the Mother of God, a French work, was purchased in 1884 (cf. Parish Chronicle, no. 13, 1924).

In the beginning, the cemetery was only at the parish church. The cemetery cross was built into the chapel. In 1874, the land was purchased and the cemetery was enlarged and at the same time enclosed by a wall. A new cemetery cross was also erected at that time. In 1901, the cemetery was expanded again. The then parish priest Frančišek Marešič bought from Matevž Janežič a part of the field (580m<sup>2</sup>), which was at the end of the cemetery, towards the east. A new cross was erected in the cemetery and the previous one was moved to the chapel. In 1914 this cross was blown down by the wind and the parish priest Jožef Šolar had it repaired and it was erected in Mišnikov Log, where a new path from Lipoglav to Šmarje was built (cf. Parish Chronicle, No. 13, 1924).

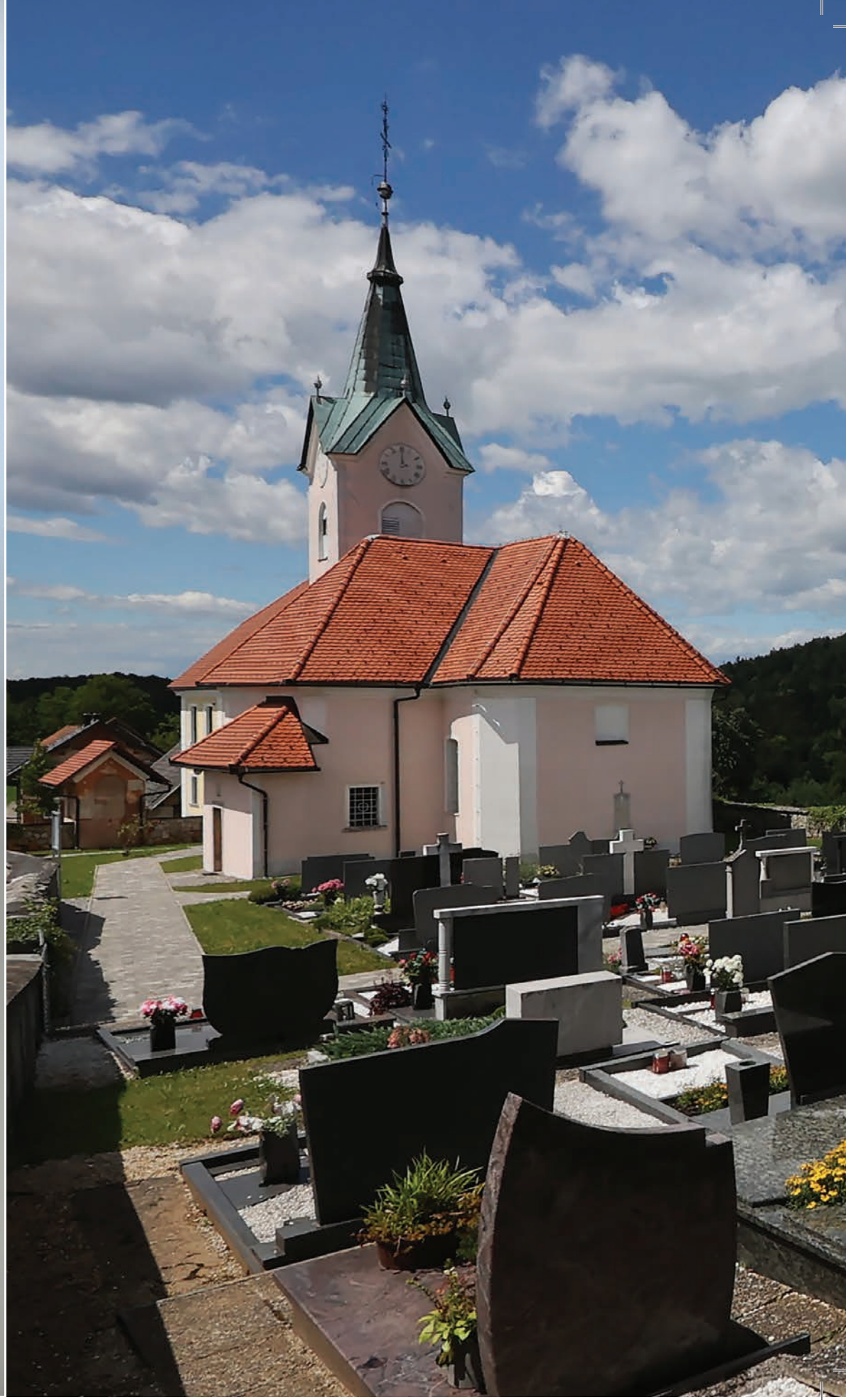
*Mojca Hucman*

*Mali Lipoglav Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the south-eastern part of the Municipality of Ljubljana, in Mali Lipoglav, in the Sostro district;*
- 921m<sup>2</sup> or 0.09ha and 182 graves.*



Mali Lipoglav Cemetery



















The parish in Polje was founded in 1783 and was initially called Pri Devici Mariji v Polju (At the Virgin Mary in Polje). Twelve villages were excluded from the former Šentpeter ancient parish: Polje, Vevče, Zgornji and Spodnji Kašelj, Zgornja and Spodnja Zadobrova, Besnica, Slape, Studenec and Fužine. When the parish was founded, Polje as we know it today did not exist. Around the church stood a few houses and taverns, where pilgrims would stop and chat with the owners. Two years before the parish was founded, a parsonage was built on the north side of the church. The newly founded parish had two branches, the Church of St Andrew in Kašelj and the Church of St Thomas in Zadobrova, in addition to St Mary's Church, which became the parish church. The third branch, the Church of St Jacob in Slape, was closed due to its poor condition and sold at auction in 1789. The Chapel of the Holy Spirit and the cemetery were blessed on 27 February 1520 by Natallis de Turre, who was the assistant of Bishop Krištof Ravbar. Later, in the year the parish was founded, the chapel had to be demolished due to its age and poor condition.

The deceased had long been buried around the old church. Eventually, the church cemetery became too small, as the deceased from the nearby psychiatric hospital in Studenec were also buried in Polje. The civil authorities demanded that the cemetery be enlarged or redeveloped. The then parish priest, Franc Ksaver Levičnik, was retiring, so the initiative for the new cemetery was taken over by the Municipality of Devica Marija v Polju (Virgin Mary in Polje) with its mayor Luka Strah. Land north of the primary school was bought from the farmers from Slape and a cemetery was built. In 1887 it was blessed by the cathedral canon Fran Križnar. The year 1887 is still visible on the pillars in front of the main entrance. In the same year, a decision was taken that no more burials of the deceased could be made in the old cemetery next to the church. From then on, the deceased were buried only in the new cemetery. The old cemetery was preserved until the great Ljubljana earthquake of 1895. It was closed during the post-earthquake reconstruction and enlargement of the church. A church already stood on the site of the present church before the Great Earthquake.



# POLJE Cemetery

After the earthquake, it was enlarged and rebuilt. The town was named after it until 1952, when the name was changed to Polje. The new cemetery, surrounded by a fence, also included a cemetery chapel and a tall wooden cross in front of it. After the earthquake, the church was too severely damaged, so the next day, on Easter Monday, the service was held outdoors in front of the cross in the cemetery. In the afternoon, Pastor Kolar blessed the cemetery chapel in the name of St Joseph. An altar was built in the chapel as well as a place to store the Blessed Sacrament. The cemetery chapel has served as a place of worship since then.

The cross was removed after World War II. Since 2021, to a large cemetery cross has been standing at the cemetery. Polje Cemetery was renovated in 2019, adding a new section with additional urn and traditional graves. A site was also arranged for scattering of ashes. Two memorial mortuaries and a florist's shop were also built in front of the new section.

During the opening of the new cemetery, the newspaper Slovenski narod published news of the new cemetery on 23/12/1887, saying that the citizens had decided to give the first person to be buried there a large funeral, which would be attended by everyone. All the bells will ring and a beautiful monument will be erected. However, the first patient to die was one from the provincial mental institution in Studenec, and the citizens reportedly resisted the solemn burial of the latter, so a little later the second funeral officially became the first. The newspaper Slovenski narod then published a correction at the beginning of 1888, requested by Mayor Strah, calling all the claims about the "cancelled" ceremonial first funeral of a mental patient untrue.

*Žiga Vertič*

*Polje Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 1969;*
- in the south-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Polje district, between Zadobrovška cesta and Polje cesta XL;*
- 19,404m<sup>2</sup> or 1.9ha and 3,534 graves*



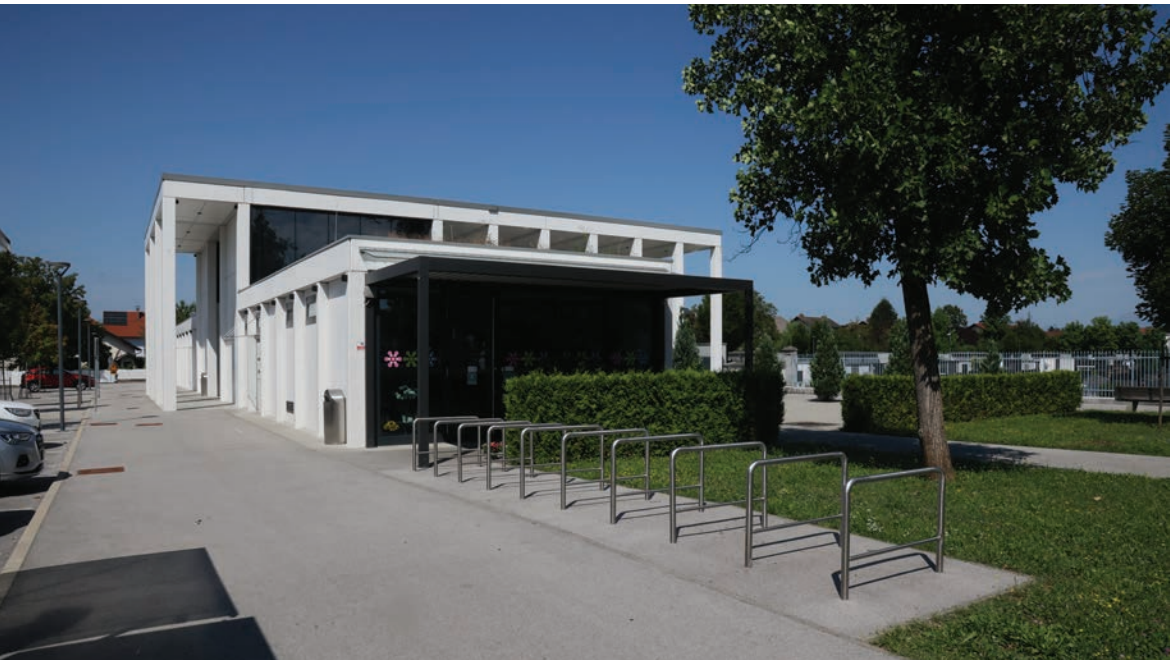
Polje Cemetery

















A picturesque landscape, elevated above the rest of the valley, where the eye can take in beautiful views. On the NW side, we have a beautiful view across the valley to the neighbouring Janče hill. The cemetery is enclosed by a stone wall, within which lies the church, which glorifies the sacred space," Borut Dvornik vividly describes. As you approach the cemetery along the road, you can see the newly built memorial mortuary, built by the City of Ljubljana. The memorial mortuary complements the wider cemetery space together with the parish buildings. The Church of St Margaret is located at the cemetery. The original church probably stood here as early as the 11th century, and definitely before 1395 as a branch of the Šentvid pri Stični parish. The church is built of local porous stone, similar to the travertine mined near Volavljje. The cemetery also has some old gravestones that are still successfully withstanding the ravages of time.

*Robert Martinčič, Borut Dvornik*



# PREŽGANJE

Cemetery

*Prežganje Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the south-eastern part of the Municipality of Ljubljana, in Prežganje, in the Sostro district;*
- 1,048m<sup>2</sup> or 0.1ha and 177 graves.*



PREŽGANJE Cemetery

















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he first funeral at Rudnik took place in July 1751. At that time, burials took place around the church. The cemetery as we know it today was built after 1900. On 29 December 1930, the Mayor's Office was instructed to provide a new cemetery, as the existing one was full and had to be abandoned. First, the new cemetery was built on land behind the old cemetery next to the mortuary, which was owned by the parish. The use required permission from the diocesan authorities of the time. Later, at a meeting on 12 June 1932, the municipal committee decided to build a new municipal cemetery. The cemetery was to be built on plots 169, 175, 176 of the Rudnik cadastral municipality which belonged to the mayoralty, or on plots in the vicinity, which were the property of the landowners Anton Golija, Alojzij Žagar and Janez Martinc.

The purchase contract for the land was concluded between Alojzij Martinc and the Church of St Simon and Judas Thaddaeus in Rudnik. The church was represented by the then parish priest Karol Zajc. Alojzij Martinc sold parts of his land plots 185, 186 and 188 in the Rudnik cadastral municipality. These sections have been appropriately marked and demarcated. The new land for the cemetery measured 2,714m<sup>2</sup>.



# RUDNIK Cemetery

In addition to the land for the cemetery, another 300m<sup>2</sup> was earmarked for a municipal road leading to the cemetery. The entire territory was bought from Martinc for 48,100 dinars.

The Municipality of Rudnik thus took over the new land and started paying taxes on 1 July 1937. Burial on the new land could then begin. In this way only a kind of inter-war cemetery was acquired. After the end of World War II, the city authorities and Žale complied with the will of the people and opened the cemetery as we know it today, in the parish field behind the church. For a while, Rudnik had three cemeteries, until the old two cemeteries were redeveloped in the 1970s. During the same period, the water supply system in the new cemetery was laid.

In 2021, the northern part of the cemetery was extended. New access to the cemetery and parking spaces were arranged. Forty-five new ground urn graves and 55 new wall urn graves were provided.

Žiga Vertič

*Rudnik Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 1952;*
- in the south-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Rudnik district, along the Rudnik I road;*
- 3,163m<sup>2</sup> or 0.3ha and 604 graves.*



# Rudnik Cemetery

















T

he land for the new cemetery in Sostro was purchased from Andrej and Marija Remc on 12 August 1929 and became the property of the parish church of St Leonard in Sostro. The purchase contract was prepared at the Ljubljana tax office around 17 August 1929 under number 2327 with a certificate that the fee of 853 dinars had been paid in cash.

On 8 August 1930, the right to build a new cemetery and mortuary was obtained. In 1932, the Archangel Michael Chapel and a memorial mortuary were built in the cemetery. A new mortuary was also built. The old mortuary, which stood in the old cemetery, was given to the municipal poorhouse for free use.

The internal perimeter of Sostro Cemetery is 5,502 metres – 5,338 metres if the space for the Archangel Michael Chapel, the mortuary and the paths are not taken into account.

The cemetery has space for a total of 750 graves, of which 137 are for children, 485 are for adults and 128 are family graves. There is a space for family graves and tombs along the wall, and a rounded space for graves of children.



# SOSTRO Cemetery

People who committed suicide and the deceased of other religions were given a place behind the mortuary. Graves for adults had to be 2.5 metres long and 1 metre wide, while graves for children had to be 1.6 metres long and 90 centimetres wide. Regardless of the type of grave, the graves had to be set 75 centimetres apart.

The burial of the deceased in the new cemetery was determined for the whole parish, i.e. for the villages of Sostro, Češnjice, Zagradišče, Podlipoglav, Sadinja vas, Podmolnik, Dobrunje, Zadvor and Zavoglje. Foreigners were buried in the cemetery only exceptionally with the permission of the political authorities to transport deceased persons and with the ecclesiastical acceptance of the deceased.

A major extension of the cemetery took place in 2018. The expanded cemetery includes a farewell facility and more than 700 new burial places: classical, traditional and wall urn graves. There is also a park area for the scattering of ashes.

Žiga Vertič

## *Sostro Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 1969;*
- in the south-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Sostro district, along Cesta II. grupe odredov;*
- 16,057m<sup>2</sup> or 1.6ha and 1,992 graves.*



# Sostro Cemetery

















Stožice Cemetery is located to the west of the former village of Stožice. The name of the village comes from the many haystacks or hayricks and grain that could be seen in the meadows in front of the village, until they were replaced by hayracks. This cemetery, one of the small cemeteries in Ljubljana, is charming because of its proximity to the urban environment, with small block of flats directly next to the cemetery, and the open view of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps to the north-west. The Church of St George is located in the old part of the cemetery. It is a late Gothic church, first mentioned in 1526. It was originally a pilgrimage church. It stands on the site of a Roman villa rustica. Already in the 16th century it was part of the parish of St Peter. It was originally a branch church of the Parish of St Cantianus and Companions in Ježica, but in 1976 the Parish of St George was founded. The church was small and even in 1895 it was mundane. The belfry was low. There were three bells in the belfry; the large one was cast in 1841 and weighed 392 kilograms, the medium-sized one was cast in 1854 and weighed 224 kilograms, and the small one was cast in 1841 and weighed 168 kilograms. The large bell burst on 7 December 1914 and was recast a year later. The new large bell weighed 388 kilograms. During World War I, the army confiscated the bells from the church and melted them down to make weapons.



# STOŽICE Cemetery

In 1923, all three bells were newly cast in the foundries in Ljubljana. St George was depicted on the high altar. On the Gospel side was the altar of the Sorrowful Mother of God, in whom people had special trust. In the church, an altar was dedicated to St Gregory the Miracle-Worker, due to the flooding of the Sava River, and St Florian. The interior of the church is now adorned with carved altars by A. Jelovšek and A. Rovšek. In the 1980s, the church was rebuilt according to a plan by architect Franc Kvaternik. As Borut Dvornik vividly describes it, "It is a church that reaches up and draws attention to itself among the nearby modern high-rises, a contrast between a venerable time of history and modern times that are rushing steadily on... yet in the end, we all meet in 'the same place', in a timeless cemetery." Until 1787, the dead were buried at the parish church. Later, the burials started to be performed around St George's Church. Some claim that part of the cemetery wall is a remnant of the Roman walls. The cemetery was first extended in 1906 and again in 1946. Shortly afterwards, the cemetery was transferred to state management.

*Robert Martinčič, Žiga Vertič*

*Stožice Cemetery:*

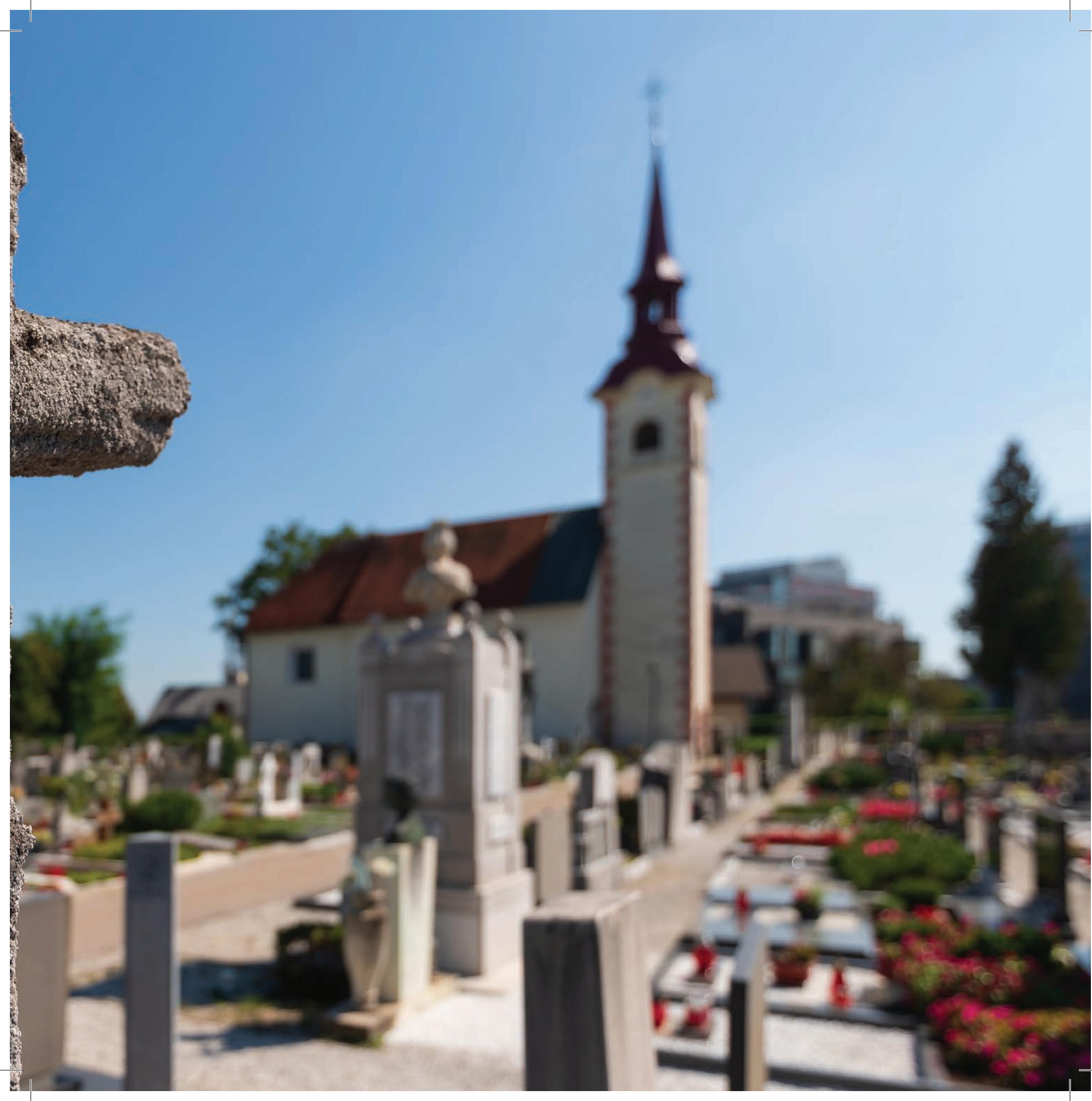
- managed by the ŽALE company since 1952;*
- in the north-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Posavje district, between Dunajska cesta and Stoženska cesta;*
- 4,741m<sup>2</sup> or 0.5ha and 559 graves.*



# Stožice Cemetery



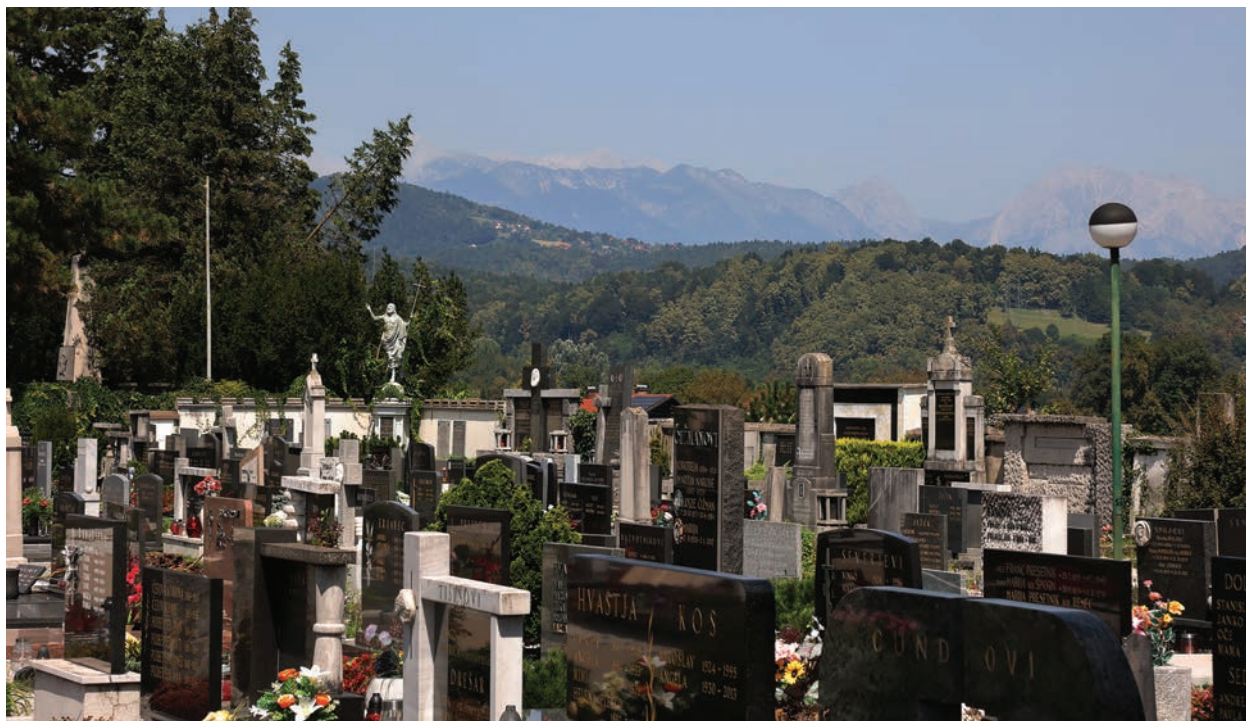














In Šentjakob, or in the parish of St Jacob by the Sava River, the parishioners had already planned to enlarge the old church before the great Ljubljana earthquake of 1895, and had already piled up some stones for this purpose. The great earthquake in Ljubljana, however, accelerated the completion of the church and the layout of the new cemetery, as the parish church was severely damaged on the night of 14–15 April, and a complete renovation was needed. During the building of the church, mass was held in the sacristy. State aid of 15,000 guildens was granted for the building of the church. On 16 January 1896, the District Governor Gozani handed over a savings booklet for 13,000 guildens to the then parish priest Valentin Škulj, and 2,000 guildens in cash.

The majority of the parishioners, led by Mayor Ivan Kršmanec, demanded that the new church should have the same location as the previous one, so that the main entrance would be under the belfry. The parish priest and the district governor also shared this view. However, some parishioners were in favour of the position the church is in today. The dispute was so fierce that a completely different solution was also possible. With the new parish priest Gregor Jakelj taking office, the support between the new location and the old location has shifted to the side of the new location. The second discussion led to the approval of the new location of the church and the building of a new cemetery. On 10 August 1896, a new parish priest, Gregor Jakelj, arrived. The first step was to find land for a new cemetery.

The planning had already started long before that, as on 17 November 1886 the Church had bought from Anton Vilar a plot of land 1047/2 and a plot of land 1092/2, the former registered as arable land and the latter as meadow. The purchase price for the two plots was 55 guildens and 80 crowns. The purchased land measured 124 square fathoms. On 9 September 1897, Vilar sold to the Church another piece of arable land on plot 1047, measuring 87 square fathoms, at 40 crowns per fathom, a total of 34 guildens and 30 crowns. A quarrel arose between the municipality and the parish priest over the construction of a new cemetery. The municipality opposed the construction of a cemetery on the purchased land and wanted the cemetery to be built on Blaže fields near the Pečnik Chapel or at the Škotin hayrack.



# ŠENTJAKOB

## Cemetery

The reason is said to be that the soil on the land purchased was too shallow. The real reason for the opposition was the ownership of the cemetery. The municipality wanted a municipal cemetery and the church wanted its own cemetery. The local authorities did not object to the latter, provided that the Church bore the full cost of the operation. On 15 July 1897, a commission hearing was reconvened for the church and the cemetery. On the engineer's proposal, it was decided to change the location of the church and to approve the site for a new cemetery. As a result of the mayor's complaint to the provincial government, the district governor's office ordered some pits to be dug in the cemetery in order to find out how much soil was there. The parish priest reprimanded the worker and complained about the trespassing. When all the disputes were resolved and the construction of the cemetery started, the mayor complained that they were not allowed to build the cemetery at the Church's expense, because the Church's coffers also received money from the villages of Pšata and Dragomelj. And both villages already had their own cemeteries. The parish priest got out of the quandary by saying that the cemetery would be built with voluntary contributions. As some Church material was also used for the cemetery, the mayor again complained to the district governor's office that the parish priest had to return it.

The total cost of the new cemetery was 871.95 guildens. The mortuary was built at the same time. On 21 November 1897, the new cemetery was blessed by Dean Flis. Once the cemetery was made and filled in, they immediately began to transfer the deceased from the line of the excavated foundations to the new cemetery. This was done without a permit, for which they had to pay a fine of five guildens, whereas a commission inspection would have cost about four times more.

*Žiga Vertič*

*Šentjakob Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the north-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Črnuče district, between Zajčeva pot and Pod Bregom;*
- 5,436m<sup>2</sup> or 0.5ha and 499 graves.*



# Šentjakob Cemetery









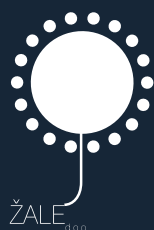








Sentpavel is the smallest cemetery managed by ŽALE, both in terms of size and number of graves. It is located at the top of the village slope within stone walls, where the main dominant building is the church with a covered entrance, which occupies most of the cemetery. This is St Paul's Church. It was first mentioned in 1365. Judging by its style, it was built in 1505. The present form is the result of remodelling in the 17th and late 19th centuries. On the south wall is a painting of St Paul by Štefan Šubic from 1878. The wall surrounding the church and the cemetery is dating from the mid-18th century.



# ŠENTPAVEL

## Cemetery

The church is declared a cultural monument of local importance and is a branch of the Sostro Parish. The charm of the cemetery is vividly described by the sentiments of Borut Dvornik: "The cemetery glows with its archaic architectural elements, which enrich the area and recall and remind us of the times of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers, of our predecessors. It is small, tidy and restored, and you can see the care and respect of the living for the departed."

*Robert Martinčič, Borut Dvornik*

*Šentpavel Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the south-eastern part of the Municipality of Ljubljana, in Šentpavel, in the Sostro district;*
- 415m<sup>2</sup> or 0.04ha and 28 graves.*



# Šentpavel Cemetery

















An important building in the cemetery is the Chapel of St Vitus. It is dedicated to Saint Vitus, who was a popular saint in Slovenia. He was considered the patron saint of apothecaries, innkeepers, brewers, vine-growers, engravers, dancers and actors, young people and domestic animals. The chapel was renovated a few years ago and is now used for funeral ceremonies.

There is a church in the cemetery, also named after St Vitus.

The people of Šentvid like to say that the late Archbishop and Metropolitan Alojz Uran once served and worked as a parish priest in their parish. He was known for his popularity among the faithful and for his approachability and kindness, as well as for his pastoral work, his sermons often focusing on compassion, understanding and love for fellow human beings. With his life and work he left an important mark on the Slovenian Church and also on the parish of Šentvid.

The parishioners of the Šentvid nad Ljubljano parish are proud of their former parish priest Blaž Potočnik, who made an indelible mark on the town and his homeland. As a parish



# ŠENTVID Cemetery

priest, poet, writer, national awakener, he had a significant influence on his parishioners and compatriots not only during his lifetime, but also after it.

Today it is called the Blaž Potočnik Association Reading Room, after the national reading room he founded as parish priest of Šentvid, which is active in the cultural and national-awareness field in Šentvid and is closely involved in parish life. As the Šentvid parish priest, Blaž Potočnik founded the National Reading Society in the middle of the 19th century, recognising at the right time what was most important for the Slovenian nation to grow and strengthen, both spiritually and culturally. He was aware that only a nation that had a rich culture, cherished its roots and, above all, respected its language, could survive.

The mission of the Reading Society is to research and revive local customs, to strengthen the Slovenian language, Slovenian culture and love of the homeland, to connect various institutions in the Šentvid district, and to realise the potential of individuals through amateur culture. The national awakener Blaž Potočnik is buried in the Chapel of St Vitus.

*Nataša Jereb*

*Šentvid Cemetery:*

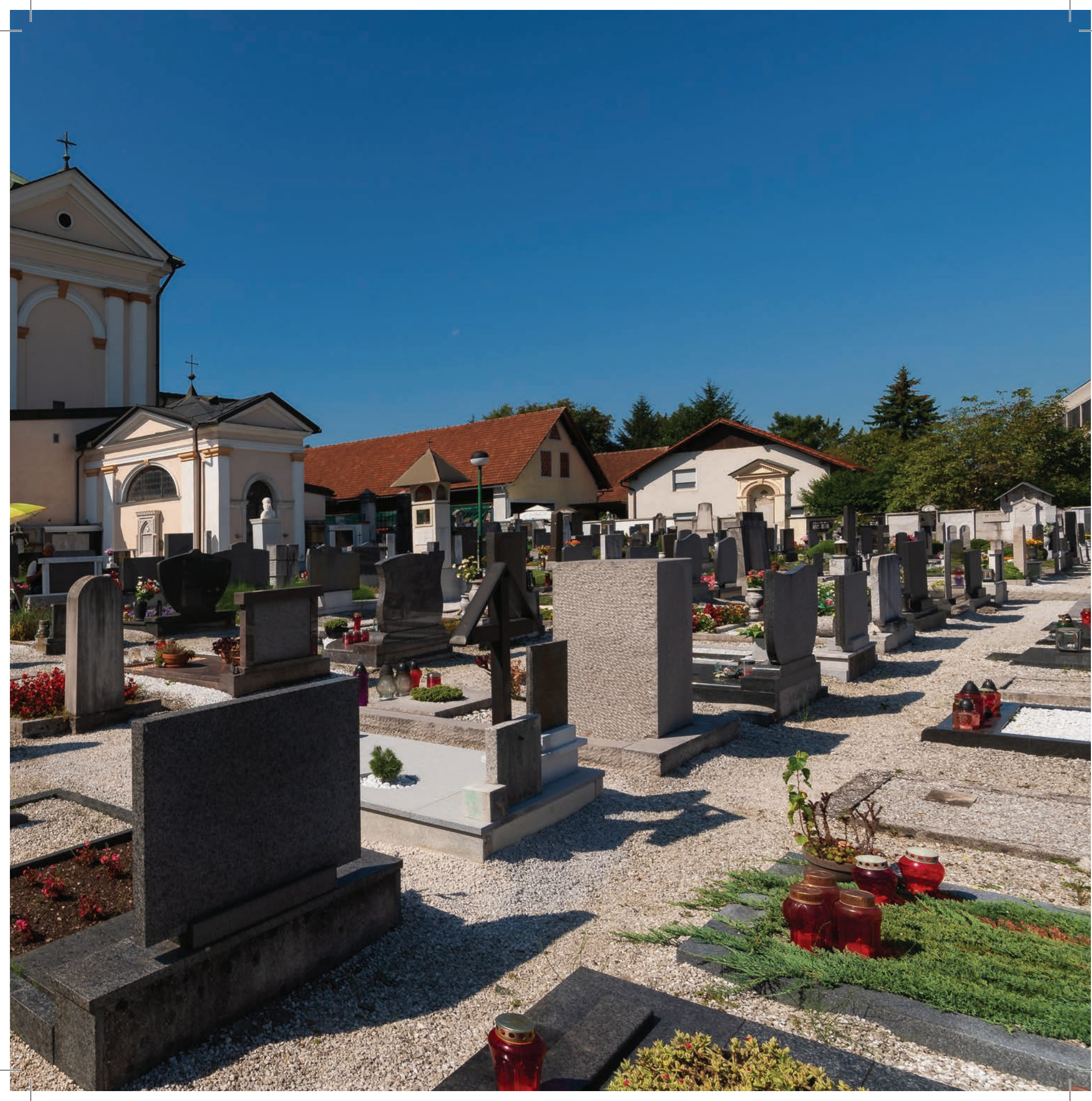
- managed by the ŽALE company since 1961;*
- in the north-western part of Ljubljana, in the Šentvid district, between Prušnikova ulica and the railway line;*
- 4,887m<sup>2</sup> or 0.5ha and 731 graves.*



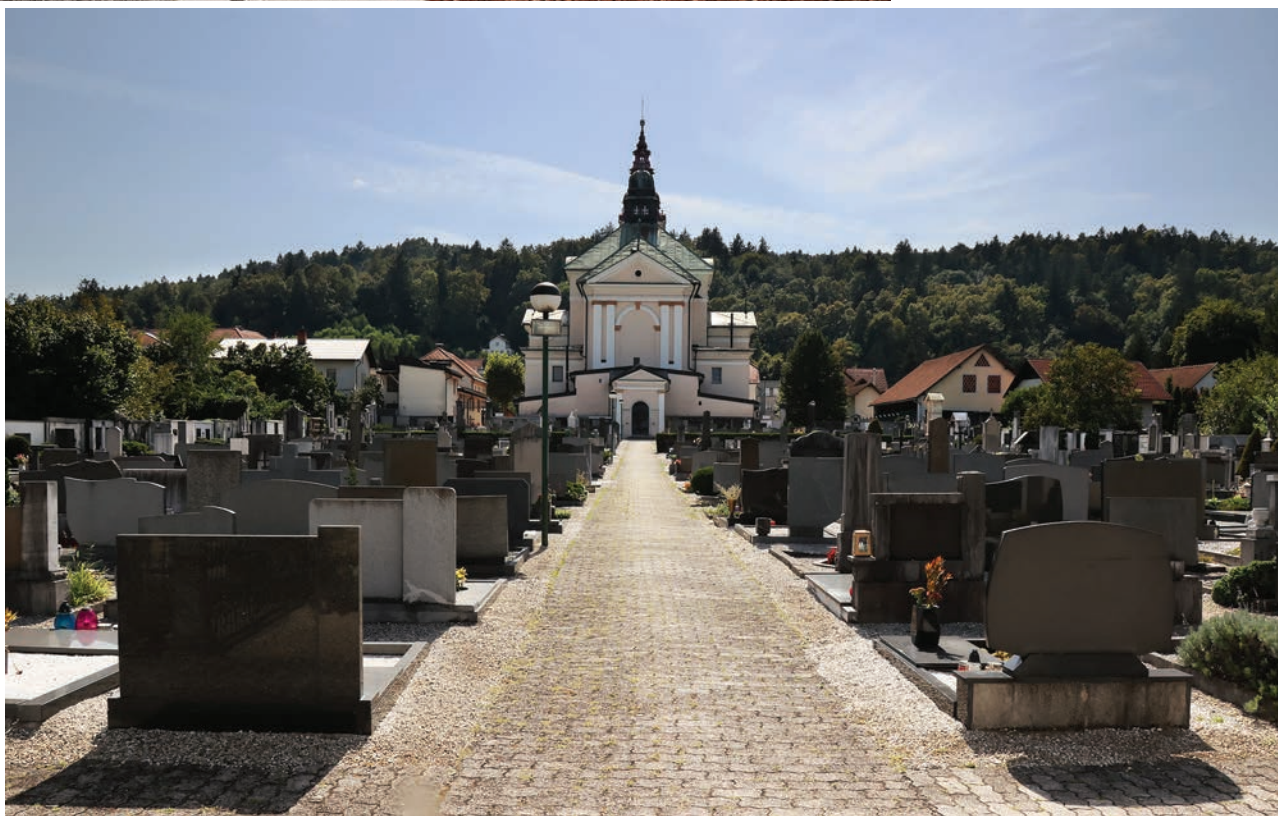
# Šentvid Cemetery



















he original church of St Martin, which no longer exists, stood on the opposite side of the Cesta v Gameljne, opposite today's parish. The first church in Šmartno pod Šmarno goro is mentioned between 1084 and 1106.

Later, a Gothic church with a cemetery was built on the same site. In 1631 it had three altars, the main altar dedicated to St Martin, the altar of St Mary Magdalene on the Gospel side and the altar of St John the Baptist on the pulpit side. Before 1747, the church and the altar furnishings were renovated, creating four side altars dedicated to the Corpus Christi, the Mother of God, St Joseph and St Francis Xavier.

In 1838–1841, the present church was built on the prebend field, which extended from the parish to the east. Simon Foykar drew up the plans for the large building, designed in the late classicist style, with a temple façade and a dominant position. The church was consecrated on 9 October 1841.



# ŠMARTNO

## POD ŠMARNO GORO

### Cemetery

The parish of St Martin in Šmartno pod Šmarno goro was originally part of the parish of Vodice and before that of Mengeš. It is mentioned as an independent parish or perhaps a vicariate as early as 1296. Originally it comprised only the village of Šmartno, but at the end of the 18th century it was joined by Zgornje, Srednje and Spodnje Gameljne, and it was not until 1938 that the village of Rašica was added to its present management.

The original cemetery was located around the old church, opposite the present parish. In 1769, burials began in the old part of today's cemetery. Burials had been held in the cemetery next to the old church since the end of the 11th century, when the Church of St Martin was granted burial rights by the Patriarch of Aquileia. The first burials in the present cemetery date back to 1769. The land of the present-day old part of the cemetery was owned by the then Mihec farm and was bought from them.

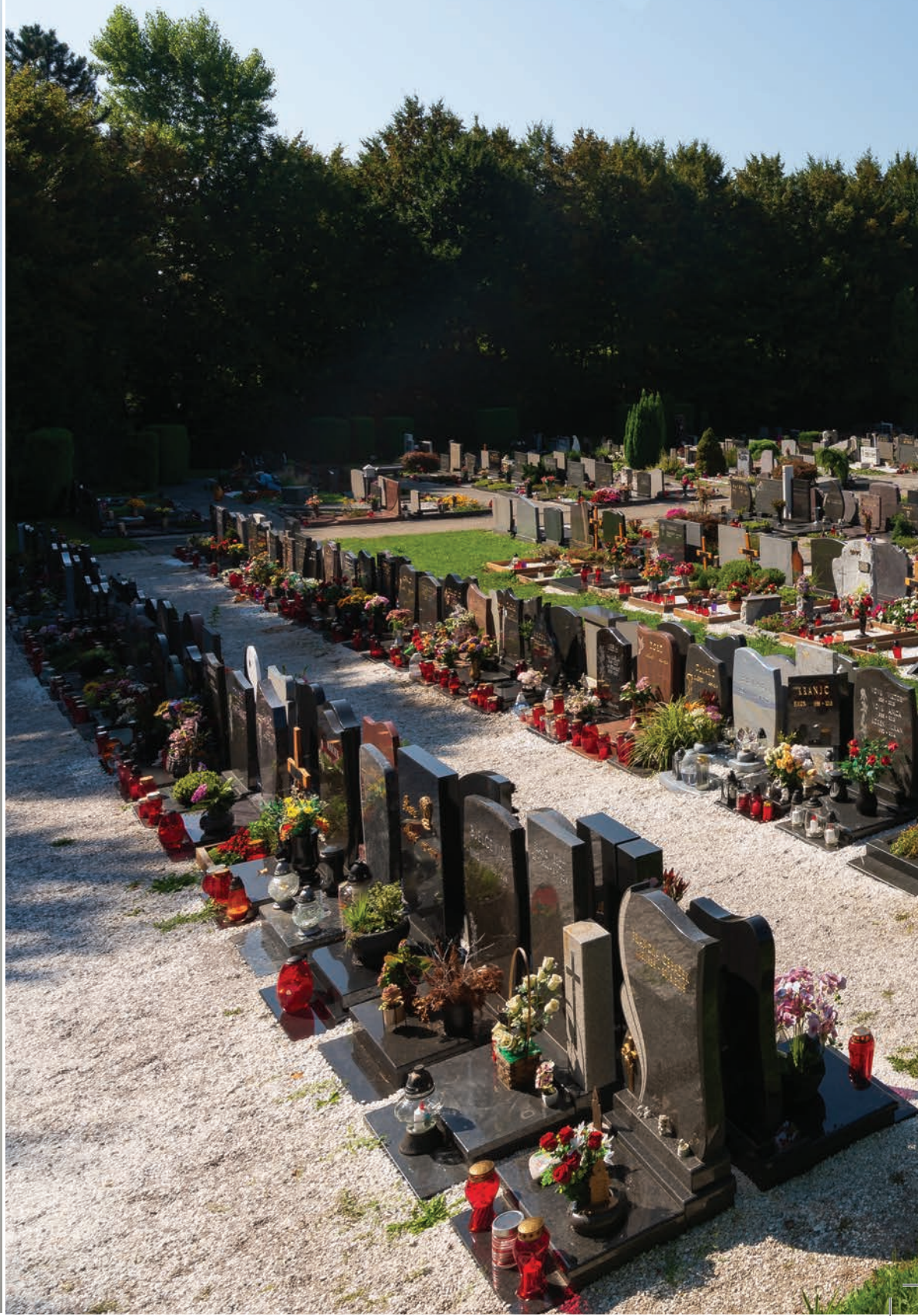
*Žiga Vertič*

*Šmartno pod Šmarno goro Cemetery:*

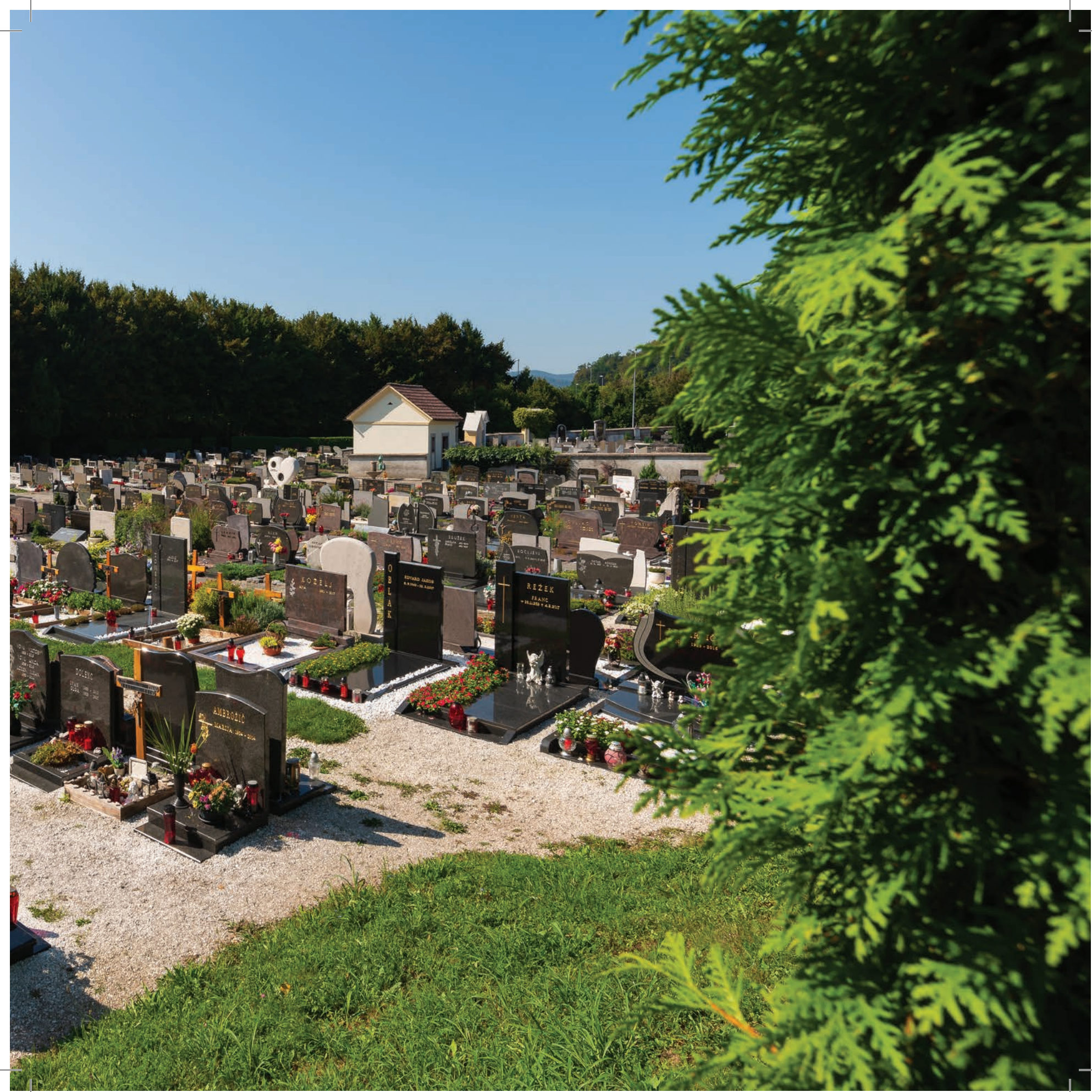
- managed by the ŽALE company since 2009;*
- in the north-western part of Ljubljana, in the Šmarna gora district, between Cesta vstaje and Ulica Angele Ljubičeve;*
- 11,294m<sup>2</sup> or 1.1ha and 1,331 graves*



# Šmartno pod Šmarno goro Cemetery

















F

or the cemetery at the Holy Sepulchre in Štepanja vas in Ljubljana, it is mentioned that the old cemetery order was confirmed by the Ordinariate and the District Governor's Office on 18 November 1914 under the number 939.

As the old cemetery was insufficient and the plots overcrowded, on 3 May 1929, under No. 622, the Srem Health Officer prohibited burials in the old cemetery, except in tombs. The cemetery was enlarged in 1929 and blessed on 10 November of that year.

The plan is a copy of the old cemetery rules, which had to be updated to reflect the situation. The new rules put an end to all old privileges, in particular the apparent rights of some who, for one reason or another, had not paid the fee until then. Fees that had not been paid also had to be settled and paid in advance, as provided for in the cemetery rules.

There would be no more burials along the wall of the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre up to the curved corner. This part of the cemetery had to be emptied, and the relatives or leaseholders of the graves had the possibility to transfer the remains of the deceased to the new cemetery.

The cemetery in Štepanja vas is owned by the parish of St Stephen and was registered in the land register under plot no. 50. The old cemetery measured 2,611m<sup>2</sup>, of which 1,177 were dedicated to burial.



# ŠTEPANJA VAS

## Cemetery

The mortuary was also owned by the Church and had to be furnished by the municipality. The old cemetery had 19 rows with 251 graves. There were two rows of 13 graves, one row of 12, seven rows of 17, three rows of 15, three rows of six and one row of 15. There was space for family graves along the wall to the north-west and along the wall from the mortuary to the south-west.

The new cemetery was also owned by the Parish of St Stephen in Štepanja vas. The land was registered under parcel nos. 144/1 and 145/1.

The new cemetery has 18 rows of 10 graves, seven rows of 64 graves, four spaces for tombs or family graves along the west side, 18 along the north side, 11 along the south wall and 15 along the east wall. The new, extended section of the cemetery therefore has space for 244 rows of graves and 48 tombs or family graves.

The new cemetery is in principle intended for the burial of the deceased from Hradeckega ulica, Zgornja and Spodnja Hrušica and Štepanja vas.

Žiga Vertič

*Štepanja vas Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 1952;*
- in the south-eastern part of Ljubljana, in the Golovec district, between Parmska cesta and Mekinčeva ulica;*
- 8,262m<sup>2</sup> or 0.8ha and 1,016 graves.*



# Štepanja vas Cemetery

















V

ič used to be defined as a village and was, together with the hamlet of Glince, part of the Šentpeter parish. In the 1st half of the 15th century, the branch church of St Simon and St Jude was built near the settlement of Vič. The church was first mentioned in 1448. From the very beginning, the dead were buried there, and the cemetery was first mentioned in 1631. It is not known when it was blessed.

In 1785, three new parishes were founded in Ljubljana – the Franciscan, St Jacob and Trnovo. Vič with Glince belonged to the Franciscan parish of the Annunciation. The great earthquake that hit Ljubljana in 1895 was also felt in Vič. A badly damaged building had to be rebuilt. The sacristy had to be demolished and a new one constructed on the other side. The disaster, which left devastation, allowed the then small municipality to develop rapidly. The latter extended to the area of today's Rožna dolina, where a new settlement was built. As the municipality expanded and the population grew, so did the cemetery. In 1905, the cemetery was extended only slightly. A major expansion of the cemetery had to wait, as the construction of the new church of St Anthony of Padua, which was planned to be the seat of the new parish, was already in the planning stage. In 1906 and 1907, a church and a cloister were built, and a new parish was founded a year later. It was joined by the branch church of St Simon and St Jude with a cemetery.

The first major expansion of the cemetery took place in 1909, when just under 5,000m<sup>2</sup> of land was purchased to the north of the existing cemetery area. The cemetery on the acquired site comprised four large sections. There was enough space for family graves or tombs along the walls. The cost of the cemetery extension amounted to 15,780 crowns. The cemetery had a larger mortuary and a new entrance. A loan had to be taken out for their maintenance. The municipality was obliged to pay for the construction of the mortuary; it contributed 2000 crowns for the new facility. The extended cemetery was blessed on 31 October 1909 by the Dean of the Ljubljana area, Canon Anton Fettich – Frankheim.



# VIČ Cemetery

After 20 years, preparations are underway for a new cemetery expansion. The cemetery authority acquired about 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of land for the expansion of the cemetery in 1934. The new plan also included a monumental entrance on the north side of the cemetery, designed by Jože Plečnik. On one side of the entrance, a memorial plaque with the names of 90 men and boys who died in World War I was planned. On the other side, a tomb was envisaged. This expansion added two larger sections to the Vič Cemetery, as well as space for family burials along the wall. An important addition was the space in front of the main entrance to the cemetery.

The post-World War II era also brought many changes to burials. On 23 September 1946, all regulations and laws passed before 6 April 1941 were repealed. Under the General Law on People's Committees, the management of cemeteries was transferred to people's committees. Cemeteries lost their religious character and became public health facilities, municipal cemeteries. On 21 November 1946, the Executive Committee of the Municipal People's Committee (MLO) decided that the Vič District People's Committee would take over the administration of the Vič Cemetery with all its belongings. On 2 December 1946, the parish priest Teodor Tavčar lodged an appeal against this decision with the Presidency of the Government of the People's Republic of Slovenia, which was rejected as unfounded on 22 March 1947. Thus, the cemetery, which continued to be owned by the Vič Parish, was managed by the Vič District People's Committee. In 1952, when the District People's Committees ceased to function, the ŽALE company took over the management of the cemetery. Before the cemetery was transferred to the Žale administration, all the documentation for the new expansion of the cemetery space was prepared. The plan for burials in the new sections 9 and 10 was finalised in June 1951. Burials began in 1952 in section 9 and in 1961 in section 10. The new numbering of sections, as we know it today, was introduced in 1975.

*Žiga Vertič*

*Vič Cemetery:*

- managed by the ŽALE company since 1952;*
- in the south-western part of Ljubljana, in the Rožnik district, between Cesta Dolomitskega odreda and the railway line;*
- 31,755m<sup>2</sup> or 3.2ha and 3,040 graves.*



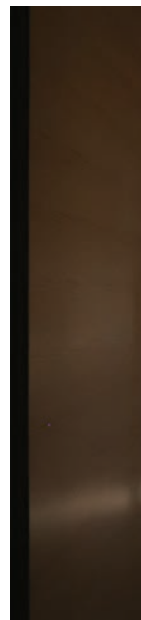
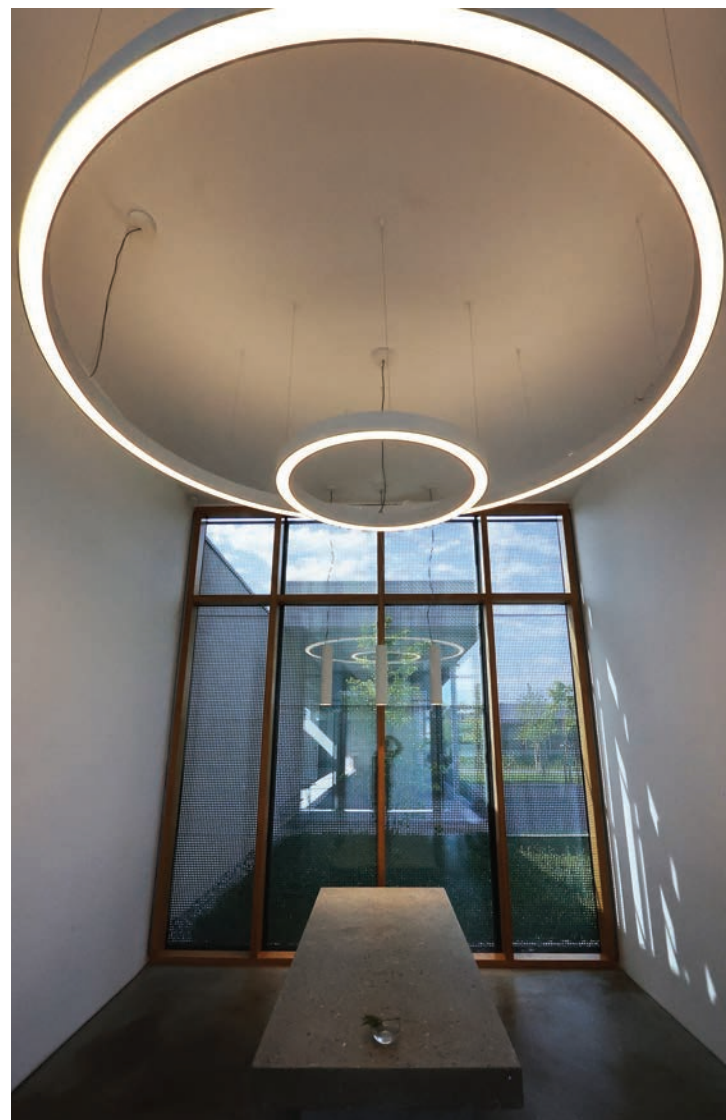
# Vič Cemetery

















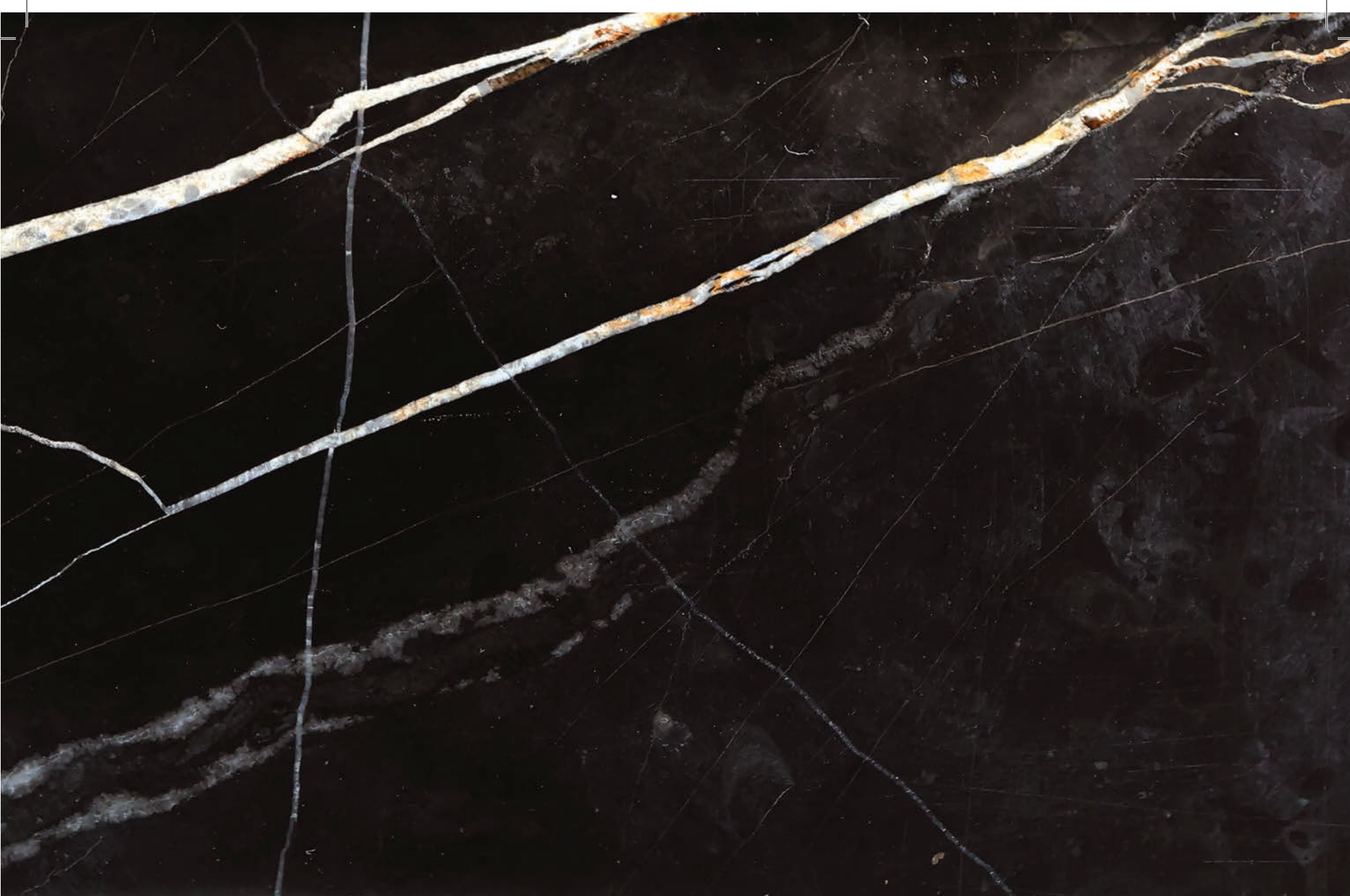


# Attitude of the people of Ljubljana towards funeral rites in the past decade

## SUMMARY

As far back as human history goes, people have always honoured the departure of the deceased with a specific ritual; this is also the case in Ljubljana and in Slovenia. The people of Ljubljana have a respectful attitude towards funeral rites, which are changing along with the society and culture in which we live. The postmodern era, its strong individualisation and secularisation offers a different perspective on funerals. The burial of the deceased is still generally governed by the discretion and wishes of the client, although new guidelines





have intensified in recent times. The aim of the study was to investigate and determine the attitudes of Ljubljana residents towards various aspects of the funeral ritual over the past decade (until 2016). It looked at how many people would have wanted to determine all the details of their funeral during their lifetime if they had the option, highlighting the professional aspect of the issue and reflecting on it through working practice.





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- Polje cemetery  
The material was obtained directly from the parish priest, Mr. Janez Bernot.  
He also sent us the newspaper Slovenec VII/16 in electronic form (PDF)
- Dravlje cemetery  
The material was obtained from the Archdiocesan archives of Ljubljana.
- Rudnik cemetery  
The material was obtained from the Archdiocesan archives of Ljubljana.
- Janče cemetery  
The material was obtained from the Archdiocesan archives of Ljubljana.
- Sostro cemetery  
The material was obtained directly from the parish priest, Mr. Aleš Tomašević, and from the Archdiocesan archives of Ljubljana.
- Šmartno pod Šmarno goro cemetery  
The material was obtained directly from the parish priest, Mr. Anton Perčič.











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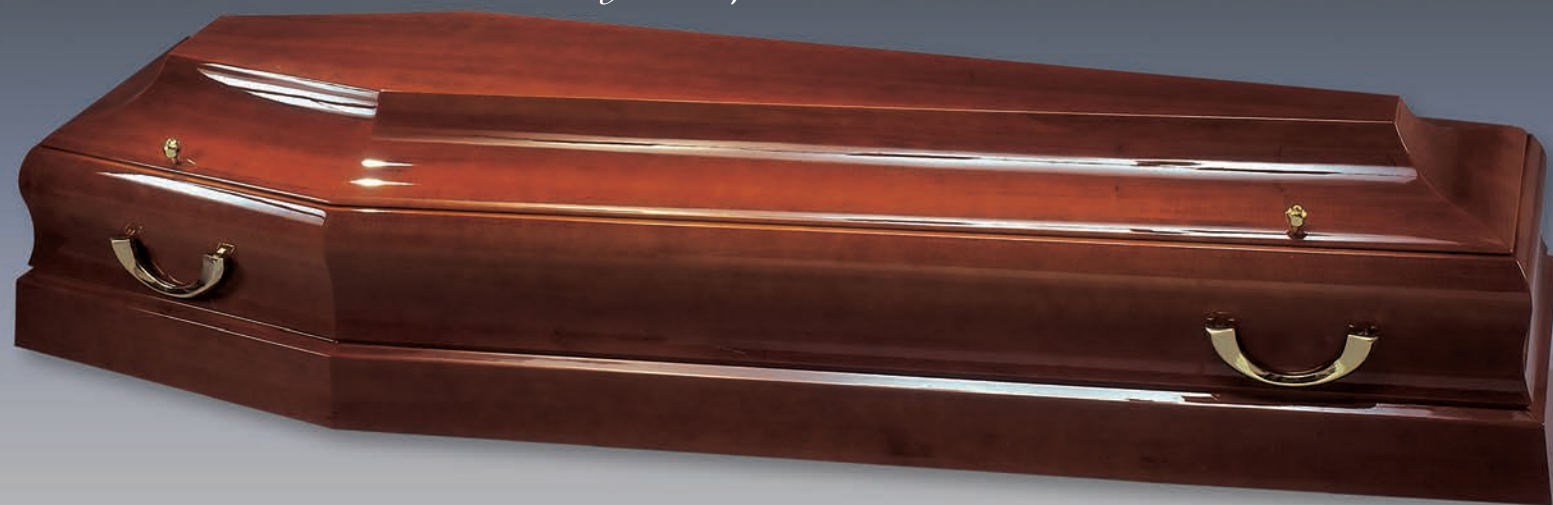
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