

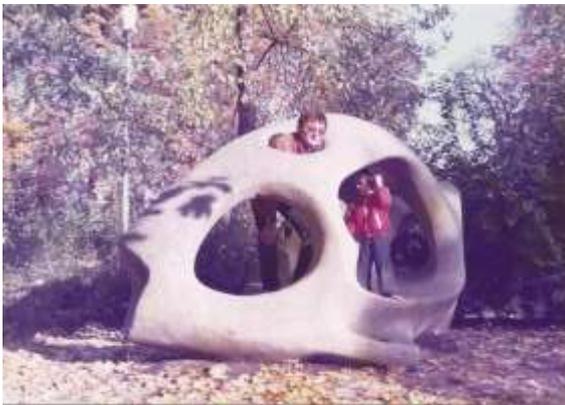
## TOPIC 4: Dwelling Culture

### Lea Verbajs

#### GREEN LJUBLJANA – I STEEL TREAD THESE PATHWAYS

Why I have chosen this topic?

I have been living in Ljubljana since I was a little girl, not far away from the Šišenski hrib and the Tivoli park. My family lived in a block of flats and I always wanted to go to nature as soon as possible. We had friendly relations with our neighbours when I was a child. Some families were our good friends and we have kept this friendship for many years. Families also helped each other. There was always time for a chat over a cup of coffee or a celebration of any kind. At weekends two or more families gathered and went together for a walk to the nearby Šišenski hrib or Rožnik. I have beautiful memories of Šišenski hrib, Rožnik and the Tivoli park as they were between 1964 to 1981.



Šišenski hrib was particularly attractive for us, children, since in the winter we could sledge there. I can still remember how we watched ski jumps but unfortunately after 1967 the ski jump was never renovated and today there is only a tower where the ski jump used to stand. I will also always remember our walks to Rožnik. The children always raced who will run the fastest to the St. Mary's church if visitation. When I was a student, we used to take romantic walks there. Celebration of May 1st on Rožnik was beautiful for me. We used to call it the goulash feast. My mother was glad because on this

day she didn't have to cook. In addition to goulash I also got a cup with a date on it. Even as an adult I still attended these celebrations and I still keep one of the cups. I visited Mostec, which lies in the vicinity of the Ljubljana ZOO, several times. It has always been a popular destination for the citizens of Ljubljana. It is a recreational centre for all generations.

The Tivoli park represents an area of peace and beauty to me. In this wonderful park I spent numerous wonderful days as a child, student and mother. I played there, had fun and kissed boys. I



have an interesting memory from the time when I was a student. There was no quiet place at home, so I went to Tivoli, sat on a bench under a tree and studied. All of a sudden I heard some noise and a squirrel came out of the bushes, I wanted to know where it would go. I picked up my books and followed it around Tivoli for several hours. From that time on, whenever I go to Tivoli I take a hazelnut or to, in case I meet a squirrel.

We liked to sledge or skate in the area below the Tivoli Hall in the winter and roller skate and play mini golf in the summer. When I was a teenager, me and my friends often stopped in front of the railway and when a train passed by, we screamed at the top of our

lungs »This is the first one, not the first, the last one« and laughed loudly. I still don't know why, but it was fun!

When I became a mother I started visiting the Tivoli park with my son. There were many interesting things to play at the playground, but the most popular was the big fish.

Memories of Bellevue are also beautiful. There was once a catering school. We used to go there for a piece of cake and a glass of juice, and the »students« of the school for catering served us as if we were some noble guests. Later on they also organised dances there. Unfortunately today this beautiful building is falling in ruins.



I also remember a visit at the painter Mik Simčič in the building called »Švicarija« and the purchase of a painting.

Today I still tread these pathways!

My favourite is from the city centre to the Modern gallery, then through the subway and down the Jakopič avenue, where excellent photographic exhibitions have been held for several years now. During the summer museum night in June, the museums are open until late at night, I like to visit first the castle of Tivoli, the venue of the International Centre of graphic art and then Cekinov grad, the home of the Museum of Modern History, where we are offered a late night drink and a snack.