

Romanian Architecture

~ROMANIA PROJECT~

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Introduction

In Romania, many old buildings have been saved because they were not bombed during World War 2. They are so unique that we could never see them in Japan. So, I'm going to introduce three of them to you: the People's House, farmers' houses and fortified church buildings. Do you know how long it would take you to finish walking around the whole of the People's House? What would you do if you wanted to explain what is written in the Holy Bible to illiterate farmers? You will find out the answers in this essays.

1. The People's House

Nicolae Ceausescu was the first president to build an enormous palace to live in by using an extraordinary amount of the expensive people's money. It is located in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, and said to have cost over 150 billion yen to build it. Everything inside it is made out of marble produced in Romania. It's so huge that we wouldn't be able to walk around the whole building within half a day. I wonder how long it will take. After the Romanian Revolution, twenty-four years later, he lost his position. After that, he was executed for treason, and his house is now used as the Parliament building for Romania.

People's House The layout of the building



2. Farmers' Houses

When you walk through the countryside in Romania, you will find large and beautiful gates with elaborate carvings on the roadside. Each gate is uniquely designed and colorful. Some of them are magnificently high.



The gate of a farmer's house



a farmer's house

By the way, farmers' houses have another uniqueness. The lower half of them is under the ground! So, why did they build them like? Although I don't know the details, they are thought to be buried in order to protect their crops from the coldness in winter, and also to keep farmers and their families warm because Romania has severe weather in winter.

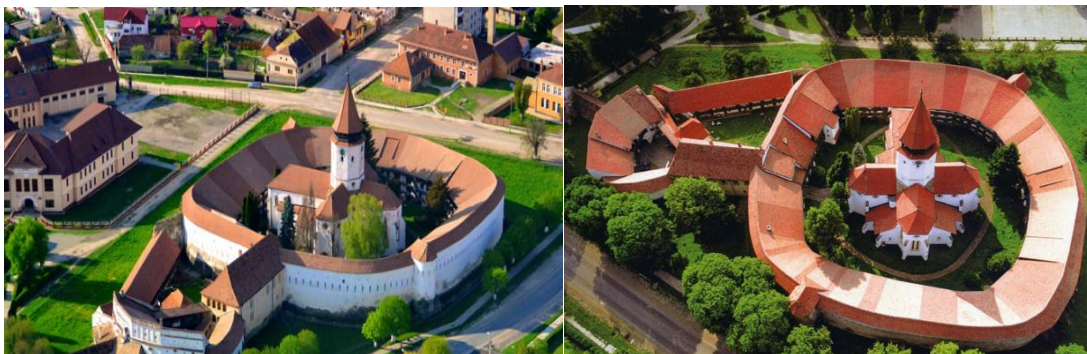
What we can learn from these buildings is that Romanian farmers made use of their wisdom in order to improve their life.

3. Fortified Church Buildings

As for the churches in Romania, you can see religious stories with illustrations on their walls. They were painted so that illiterate farmers could understand what was written in the Holy Bible.



As I told you before, fortunately, Romania is one of the countries that was not bombed in World War 2. So these structures still remain today. Some churches in villages are fortified, which means they have defense walls and barriers. In particular, some huge churches in the Transylvania region have been chosen as World Heritage Sites .



So, what were the people afraid of that they built such fortified churches? The history traces back to the 13th century. The then Hungarian king allowed German people to immigrate into the country, and they gradually got the power and position in government. Their new style of culture made the community among farmers flourish. However, because they were put in danger of Ottoman Empire attacking them, they had to constructed the fortifications. The more important the city was, the more firmly it was secured with big walls. So, the unimportant small villages like the Transylvania region made their churches

fortified. The fortified churches protected the people's valuable property. Also, in emergencies, the fortified churches could protect the people.

Conclusion

Romania has developed a unique history and culture as a result of many historical events such as the revolution, the war, the relationship with immigrants. Therefore, because Japan has not accepted many immigrants, we have a lot of thing that we can discover from the cultures and lifestyles of Europeans.

By researching on Romania and contacting students there, we were able to exchange our opinions about each cultures. And we also brushed up our skill of speaking English by talking with them on Skype even though there was a big time difference between Japan and Romania.

That's all, thank you for your attention.

References

Picture: Villages with Fortified Churches in Transylvania
National village museum in Romania
Information from the students in Romania