



Museum of Applied Arts

GYÖRGY RÁTH-VILLA

Recommended age: 10 – 14 years



CÉCILIA IN RÁTH VILLA

Family activity booklet for the
permanent exhibition titled
“Art Nouveau – a Hungarian Perspective”



SIGN SYSTEM



Task idea to do at the exhibition



Task idea to do at home



Did you know?



The task has stickers

Dear visitor,

My name is Cecilia, which is lucky, because my favourite style is the Secession, which is also called Art Nouveau. I'm going to show you around this house, where you can find lots of objects that were made in the Secession style. One thing you need to know about me is that ever since I was a child, I have loved arranging and rearranging rooms. I especially like moving my parents' furniture around, and my favourite piece of furniture is an enormous chest, decorated with tendrils, flowers and animals, which I got as a present from my grandma. These days I'm really interested in home design, so I like to take a long look around the homes of my friends, seeing what kind of furniture they have. I also like to draw furniture and make my own designs. Recently I have been looking for ideas in lots of different homes. But the most wonderful place, in my opinion, is György Ráth's villa. Follow me and find out why! I hope you'll agree.

Now let's take a closer look around his house, which was built a long time ago, at the end of the nineteenth century.

Designing a home is great fun, and all you need is good taste and lots of interesting ideas!

*In György Ráth's villa, the picture gallery and the upstairs dining room are almost the same as they were during his lifetime, but the other rooms are decorated in the style of the Art Nouveau (Secession), the modern style in György Ráth's day and age.



Write **your name**
and **your nickname** here:

The word Secession comes from Latin (*secessio*), and it means “moving away” or “going out” – during the Secession period, about a hundred years ago, many artists spent their days “going out” into nature. They all loved flowers and flowery patterns. Fans of the Secession style also “moved away” from old traditions, and looked for new ways of decorating homes and furniture. Some people thought that a home and everything inside it should be designed by the same artist, so the style would be the same in every part of the house.

HALL

This house was once the home of György Ráth and his wife, and they designed it the way they wanted, using lots of good ideas and plenty of luxury materials. György Ráth was a versatile man, who worked as a government official and as a judge. He later grew more interested in culture and became a passionate art collector, and near the end of his life he worked as a museum director. I don't know how much you know about art or about collecting artworks, but one thing is sure: collectors who buy famous artworks have to understand art, of course, but also business. In the hall you can find a bust statue of György Ráth.

What kind of person do you think he was? Write down some words. To help you, here are some ideas, with a few letters missing:



S R O U S

S R C T

C L T U E D

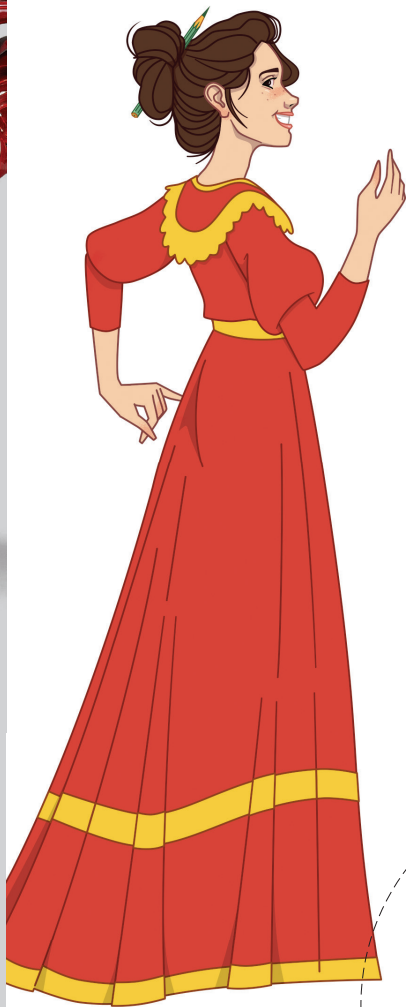


György Ráth was the first director of the Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest. His favourite subject was history, but he was also very interested in culture. He was a very active man, but he also enjoyed quieter, more creative times.



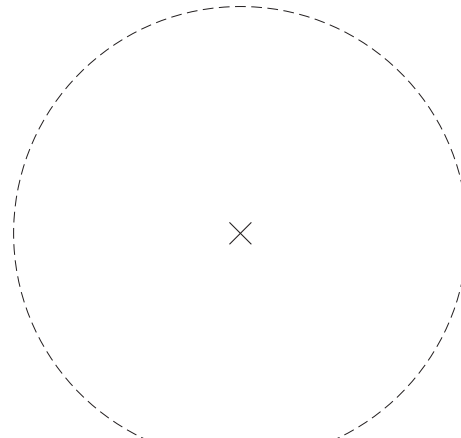
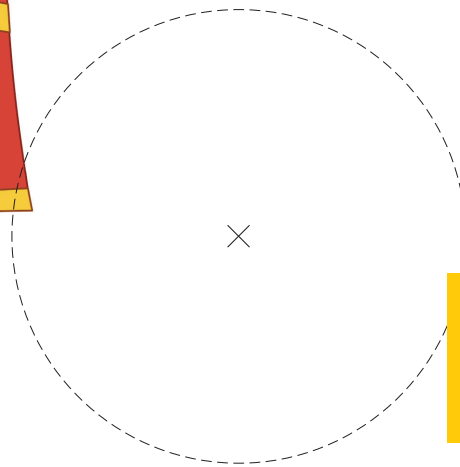
Go up a few steps and you can discover some really valuable artworks, such as the pearl mosaic mirror and the beautiful red palm pot. In the hall, it is important to create a sense of comfort. I like these objects, because they are made in my favourite style, the Art Nouveau.





GRAND SALON

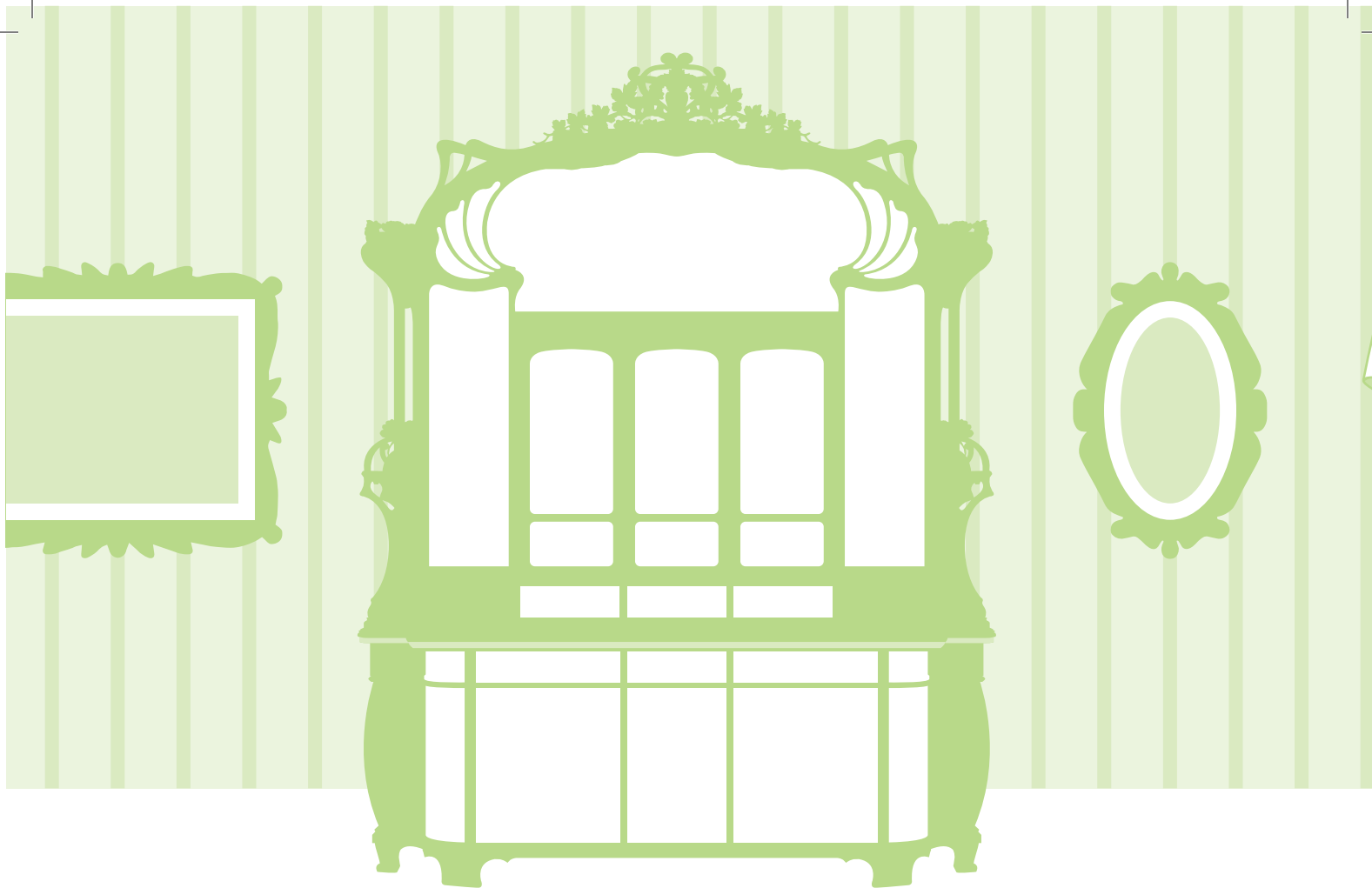
Now at last I can show you one of my favourite items – this beautiful wall tapestry. My friends say the slim girl in the red dress looks a bit like me, as she stands in the garden almost hidden in a carnival of flowers. If you look at the picture a little longer, do you also think that she is moving her left hand as though she is dancing? This picture was designed by a famous Hungarian painter, József Rippl-Rónai, who not only painted pictures, but also designed other items, such as the colourful plates you can see here.



Look through the stickers until you find the wall tapestry and the plates designed by József Rippl-Rónai, and then stick them in the right place!



*When György Rath lived here this was the grand salon, but now it is the Art Nouveau-style dining room.



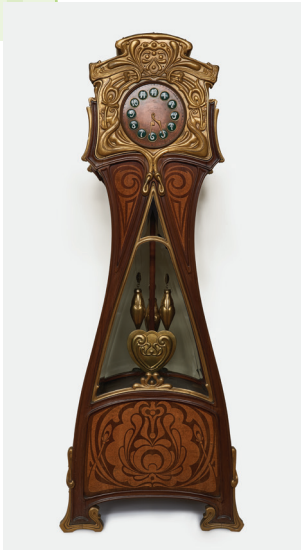
This room was originally the grand salon, where György Ráth's wife would welcome her friends and other guests. The word salon originally comes from the French language.

The dresser was not only used for storing plates, glasses, cutlery and tablecloths, but also for displaying valuable goblets, vases and ornaments.

This dresser is decorated with lots of flowers, and the handles are made of brass. If you look closely, you will see the different fruits together with the flowers.

Arrange the dresser with some valuable items. What would you put in it?





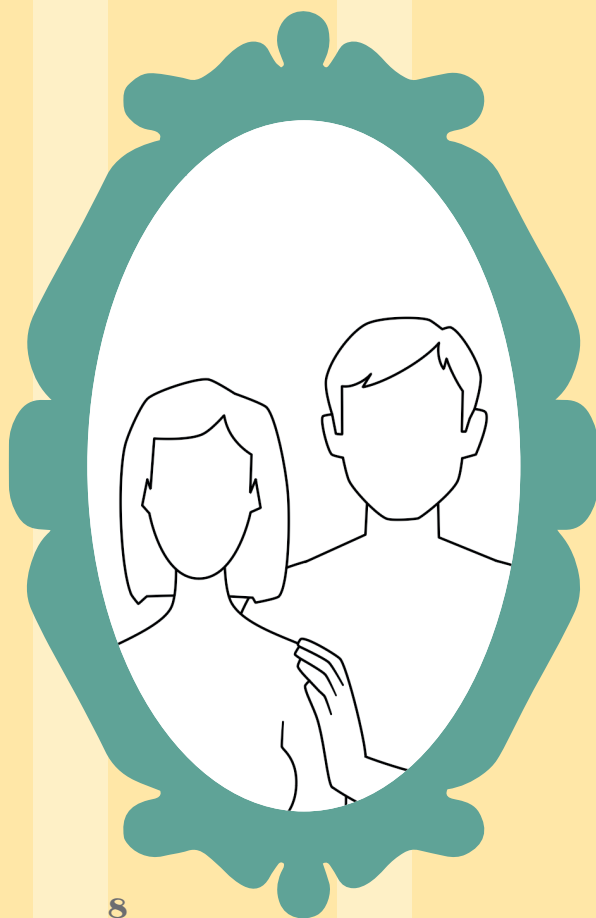
Surprise your friends! Design your own T-shirt using motifs from the grandfather clock in this room. Look for them among the stickers!

If you stand by the door, you'll notice the grandfather clock – it's hard to miss with its strange shape and its brass decorations.

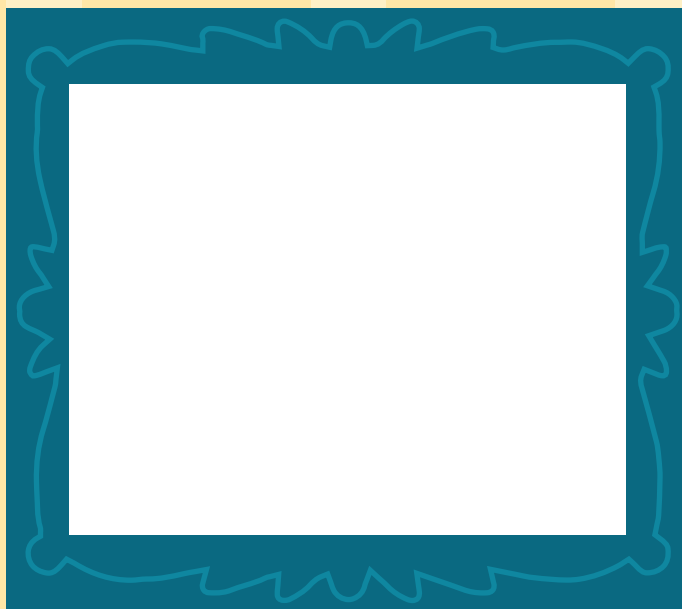
The pendulum reminds me of a gingerbread cake!
What does it remind you of?

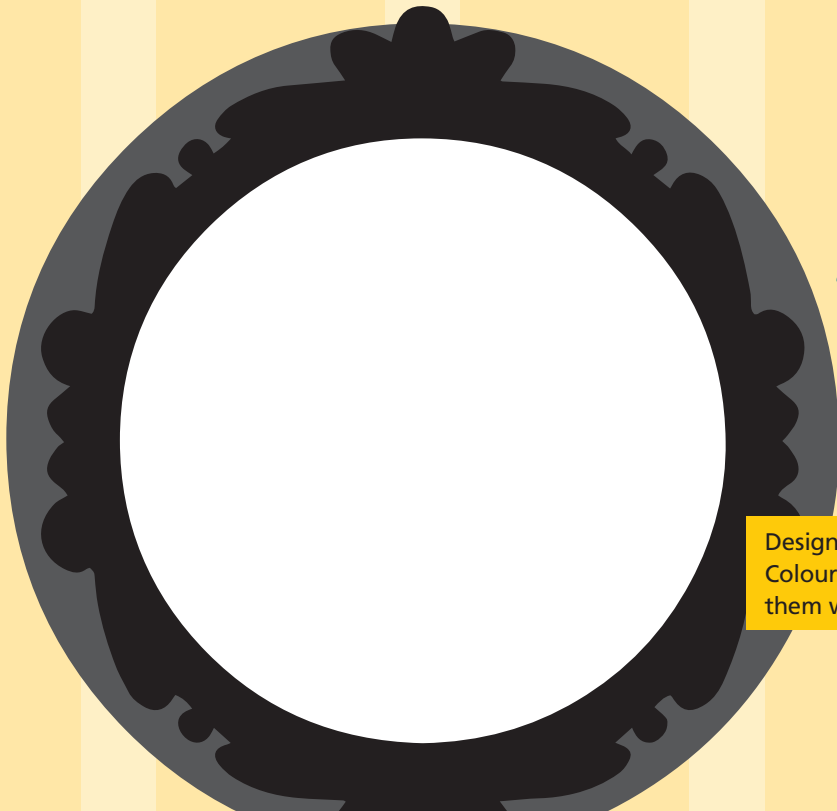
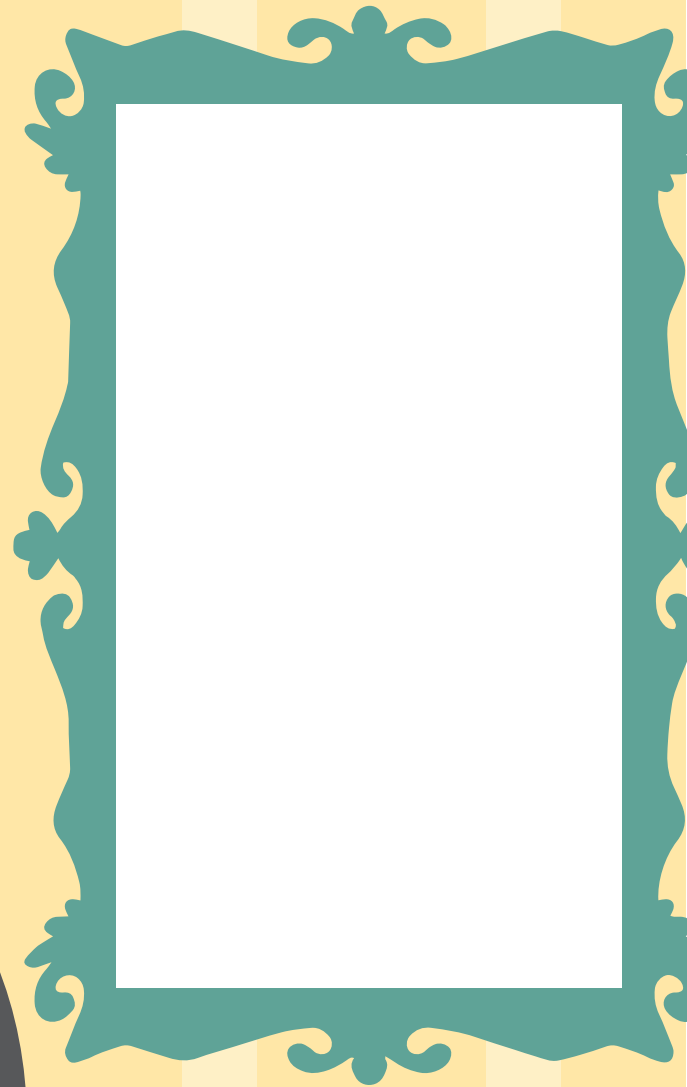
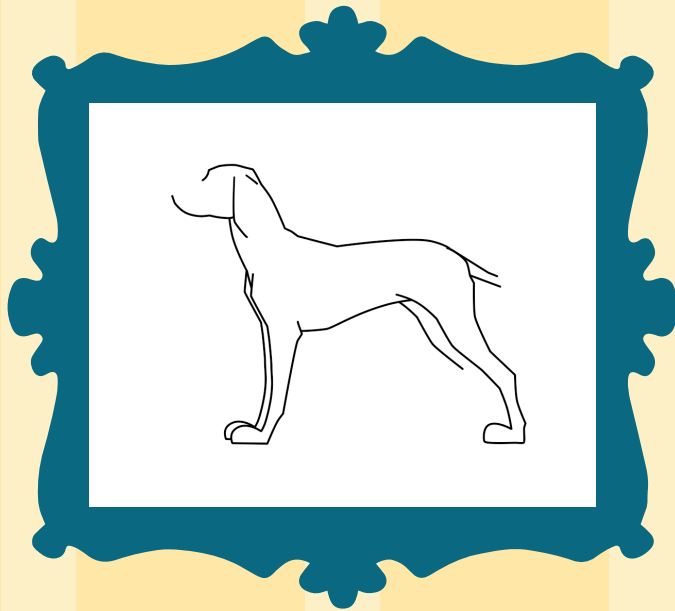
Write it here:

RÁTH'S PICTURE GALLERY



I have heard that György Ráth really loved art, especially Italian and Dutch paintings. His gallery was the envy of art collectors and museum directors across Budapest. Would you believe he had over a thousand artworks? I don't know how much you know about house prices, but this villa was incredibly expensive. György Ráth bought it so that he would have enough space for all his collection. I also heard something amazing about this: he had to sell one of his most valuable paintings in order to have enough money to pay for this villa.

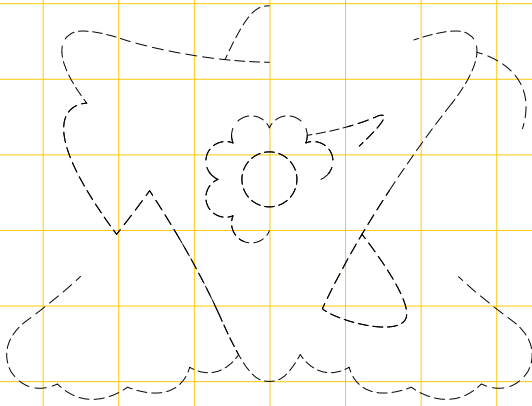




Design your own family picture gallery!
Colour in the empty frames, and decorate
them with attractive stickers!



SECESSION SITTING ROOM



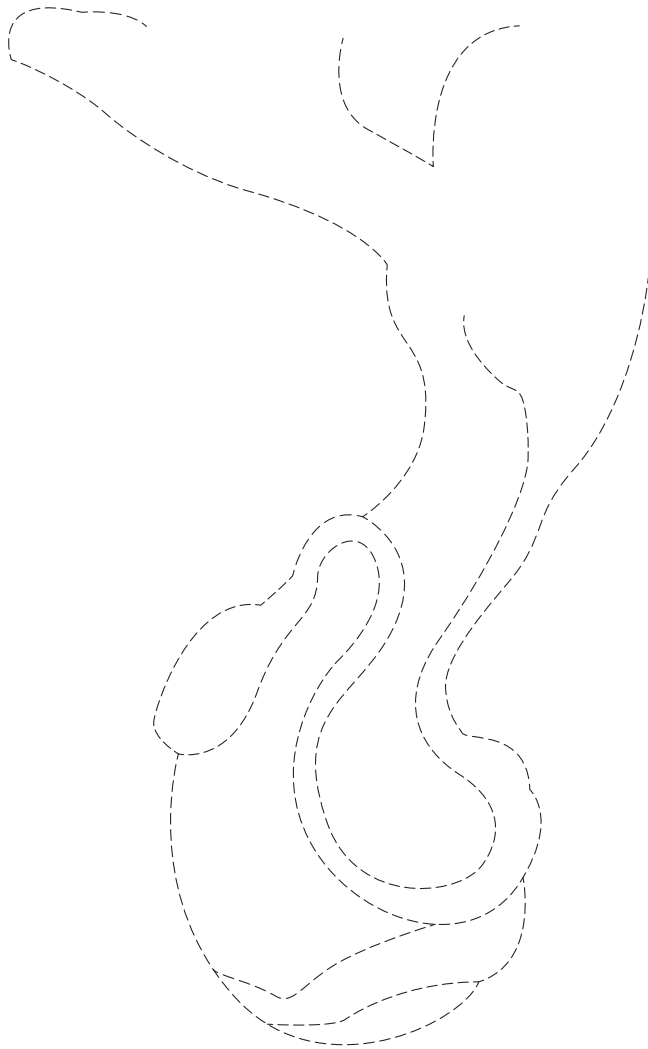
Let's go into the sitting room now, which was designed for visitors like you and me. Which chair would you choose to sit in? My choice would be the comfy black armchair with the wooden armrests.

I read in a book that the cabinets in here were designed by a famous Hungarian Art Nouveau furniture designer called Ödön Faragó. He even designed furniture for the summer house of the

The most important collection of Hungarian Art Nouveau objects belongs to the Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest. The building in the centre of the city is being renovated at the moment, but when it's ready, you must visit it – it's hard to decide which is more beautiful: the building itself or the exhibits inside! Ráth Villa, where we are now, is also under the control of the museum.

Complete the large copy of the butterfly above!

Hungarian queen. If you look more closely at the cabinet, you can see that the glass is decorated with painted gold flowers, triangles and motifs that resemble butterflies. This cabinet was used for displaying ornaments. Here you can see the beautiful tulip jug that was made by Vilmos Zsolnay in his famous ceramic works in Pécs. In this room there are several other objects made by Zsolnay, but we will speak more about him later.



Finish the drawing of the tulip jug!



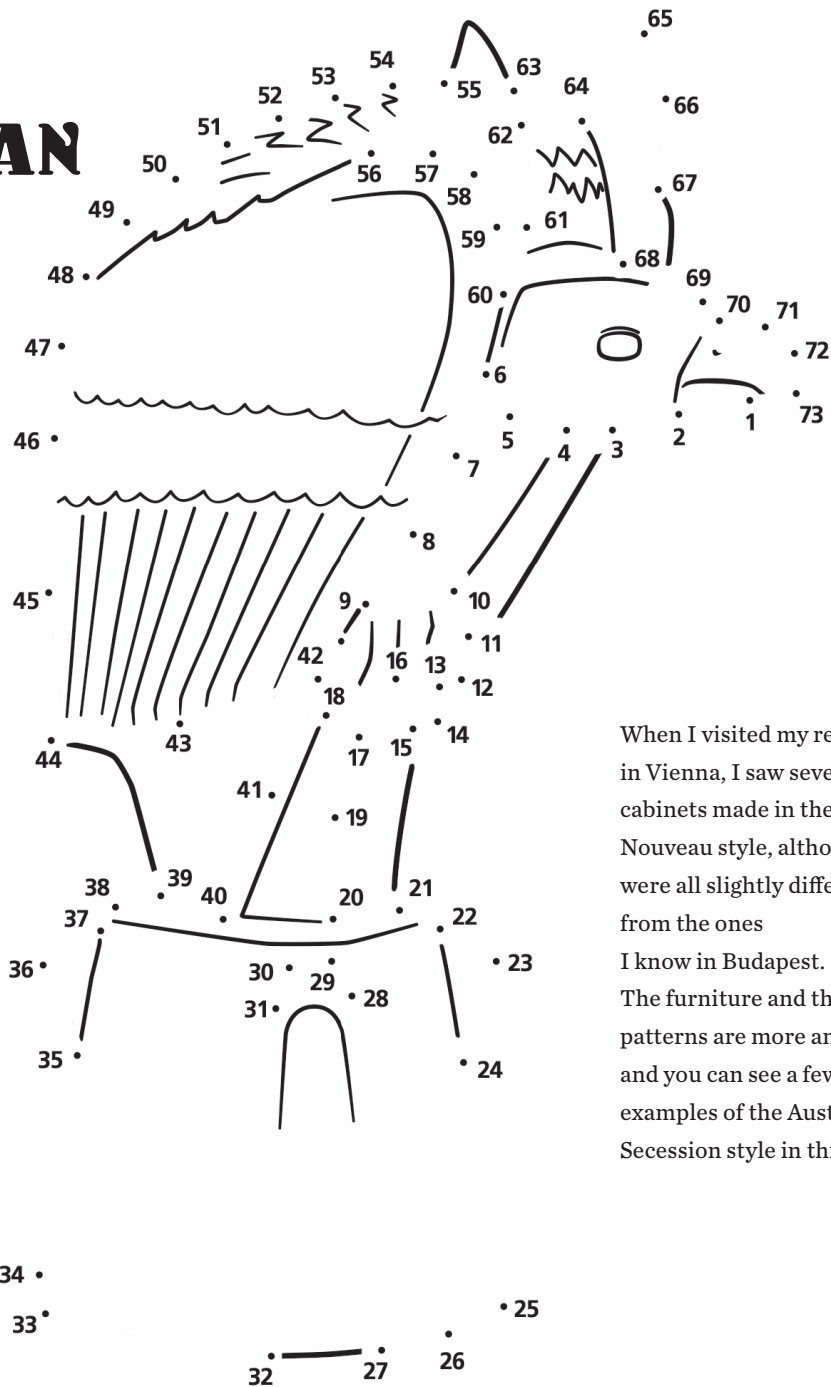
The large cabinet was also designed by Ödön Faragó, for storing ornaments, glasses and cups. People say I'm very good at noticing things. I've just noticed something quite unusual in the middle of the cabinet: a picture. I have no idea how the picture ended up there. It is based on a painting by a very famous Italian artist (Titian: Sacred and Profane Love). Then there are heart shapes surrounded by golden flowers. These hearts were made using a technique called intarsia, which is a kind of wood mosaic.

We have to move carefully through this room, because there are all kinds of little objects to look at, such as the cigarette case, the match holder and the cigar cutter.

I almost forgot to tell you that in the 1900s it was very common for people to smoke cigars and cigarettes. But if you ask me, I prefer places where there is no smoke.



AUSTRIAN ROOM



When I visited my relatives in Vienna, I saw several cabinets made in the Art Nouveau style, although they were all slightly different from the ones I know in Budapest. The furniture and the patterns are more angular, and you can see a few examples of the Austrian Secession style in this room.



The box-shaped cigar and drinks cabinet is one of the most valuable pieces in this room, because of the expensive materials it is made from: palm mahogany and poplar root. Believe it or not, this cabinet was so expensive that it was never actually used – it was always kept as an ornamental item of furniture.



Join the dots to see the secret picture.
Can you find it in the room?

FRENCH ROOM

Let me tell you something! My friend in France, Emily, also adores the Art Nouveau style, and she even writes a blog about it. She told me that the French version is slightly different from the Hungarian Secession. Their furniture is elegant and graceful, decorated with the slender leaves and winding tendrils of flowers and other plants. You can see some examples on the dressing table in this room.



FRENCH ROOM

Move a little closer and you'll see a toiletry set made by the famous jeweller, **Louis Comfort Tiffany**. Tiffany's works were heavily influenced by Japanese art, which was very fashionable at the time, and featured lots of plants and animals, just like Japanese artworks.

Look up at the ceiling and you will see a fascinating chandelier, which is just like a statue. The glass is almost completely surrounded by plant-like tendrils. In those days, electric lights were very rare, and most people used gas lamps.

If you look around the room, you can find another object designed like a human statue. It's actually an electric table lamp made of gilded bronze, and the figure is a famous Parisian dancer called Loïe Fuller.



We've placed the silhouettes of several items of metalwork on top of each other. Can you recognise what they are? Which ones do you use regularly?



?

In the French-speaking world, the Secession is called Art Nouveau, which means "new art". The style was given this name because the new furniture was very different from the older, more solid and heavier furniture from before. When it first appeared, the style was very modern and daring, and many people were shocked by its irregular, dynamic and flowing lines.

×

She used to dance with veils that were tied to long sticks, using them like the wings of a butterfly or a fairy. The villa also has another object – a necklace – that shows a picture of the famous dancer.

Upstairs, try and find the fairy necklace!



JAR

TRAY

JUG

?

You can watch a film of Loïe Fuller dancing on YouTube. Have you ever seen a Rolls Royce car? The famous angel figure on the front of every Rolls Royce was inspired by Loïe Fuller!

CANDLE-HOLDER



Match the toiletry items to their names.
How would you arrange these items on your dressing table?



ENGLISH ROOM

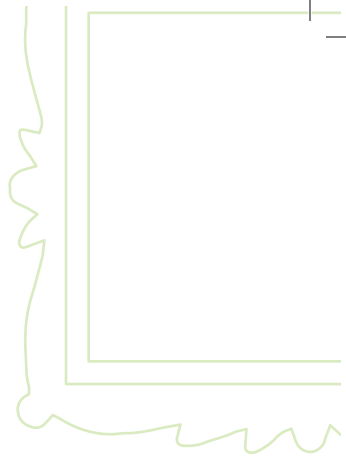
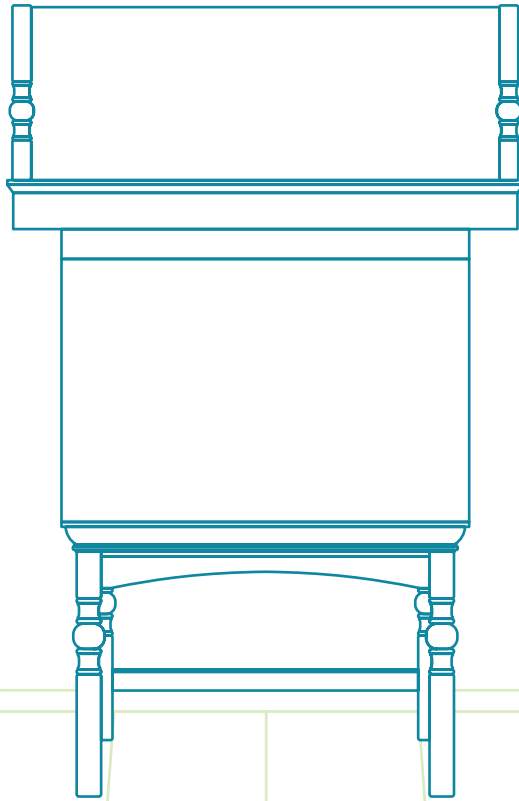


Once my parents took me to London by plane – wow, that was fantastic! We were most interested in the famous buildings and in the Royal Family. In this room of Ráth Villa we can see some British furniture – the writing bureau with the metal fittings is something I'd really love to have at home, because it doesn't take up too much space, but you can store a lot of things inside it. It's no accident that English artists paid special

attention to the objects in their homes, because they designed the furniture themselves – their homes were also the places where they made their art. If you look more closely, you will see the English writing on it and the metal fittings.

Design a writing bureau for your room! To help you, I've started drawing one for you.



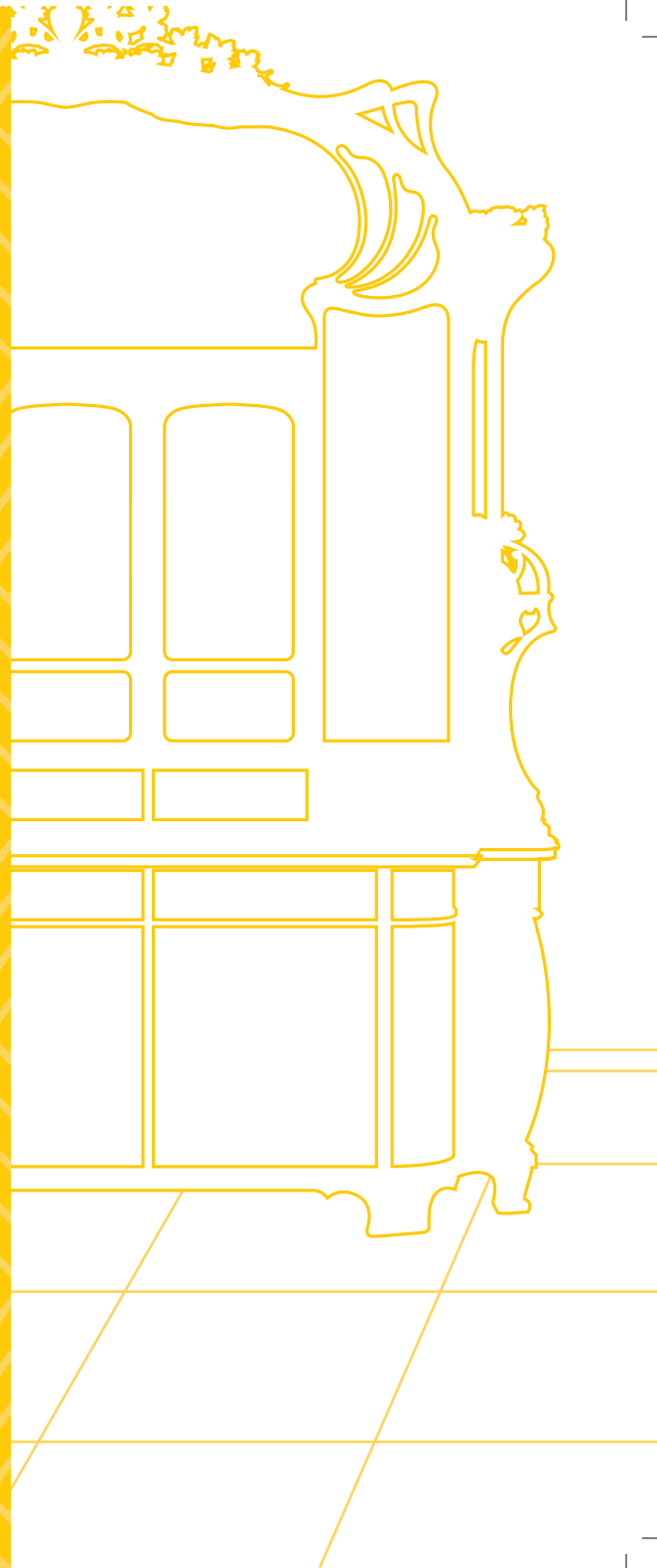


UPSTAIRS DINING ROOM

Dear visitors, you must be hungry and thirsty by now. Please, come into the dining room! I heard that when György Ráth lived here, lunch was served exactly at midday, and he would come home for lunch every day. In this room, almost everything is in exactly the same place as it was when Mr and Mrs Ráth were alive! I've already told you that György Ráth liked to collect things from different periods of history. He also liked furniture that was modern, but made in a historical style, recalling the past. In this room there are objects made in several different historical styles.

Some people think that hanging wallpaper is the simplest way to change the style inside a home, or to make the home feel warmer and more attractive. In the Art Nouveau period, artists not only designed furniture, but sometimes also wallpaper. Interestingly, the walls here are not decorated with the paper or silk coverings that were fashionable in the nineteenth century, but with wooden panels that have leather inserts – the design was made by a famous architect, **Albert Schickedanz**.

Look at the stickers and find the objects that belong in the dining room! Colour in the walls and decorate it however you like – you can use stickers too!





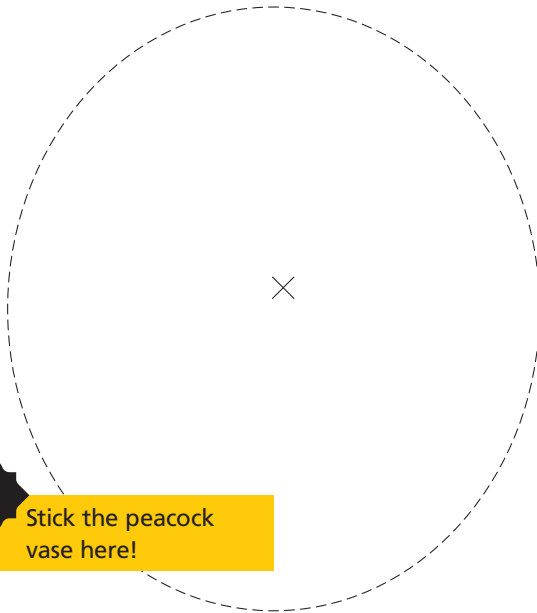
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In posh homes in the nineteenth century, the rooms used for everyday family life were kept strictly separate from the rooms for entertaining guests. The salon and the dining room were the main places where people could show how much money they had and how important they were in society.



SPECTACULAR ORNAMENTS

Now it's time to take a look at some Secession-style novelties among the ornaments in the corridor. Some Art Nouveau artists, such as

you can guess which is my favourite glass object! Another man who liked to experiment was the Hungarian **Vilmos Zsolnay**, who made countless



Stick the peacock vase here!



the famous Frenchman **Émile Gallé** and the American **Louis Comfort Tiffany**, experimented with different methods of making glass, trying to recreate the bright colours and vivid shapes of nature. My favourite bird is the peacock, with its gorgeous turquoise-blue feathers. So perhaps

beautiful ceramics in his factory in Pécs, in southern Hungary. He invented a special glaze called eosin – named after Eos, the Greek goddess of the dawn – which became internationally famous for its shiny colours and its special glow, warm as the rising sun.



Colour in the Secession-style garden and add in animals and flowers, using Secession motifs!



Are you learning chemistry yet? Do you like it? Vilmos Zsolnay worked together with a professor of chemistry named Vince Wartha to create different metallic glazes for his ceramics.

RÓZSAVÖLGYI MUSIC SHOP

? The Rózsavölgyi and Company Music Shop is still in the same location in Budapest, on Szervita Square. If you can, go there one day and see what has changed. Is there still a gallery? What about some comfortable furniture? Where is the sheet music stored nowadays?

When you walk down the high street, you probably notice that the shops have attractive window displays and that the insides are also designed to be practical and tasteful. A hundred years ago, the situation was the same. The Rózsavölgyi Music Shop is in central Budapest, and its original interior was designed by Lajos Kozma, a famous architect.

Inside the shop, he designed a gallery and a system of drawers to store the sheet music. But what's that sofa doing in the middle of a shop? Customers would often study the music sheets



before buying them, so they needed somewhere comfortable to sit. The floral designs that were common in the Secession can be seen on the elements underneath the gallery, only they are much simpler than the ones here in the villa.

✎ Take a close look at the old photograph and put a circle around the following things when you find them.

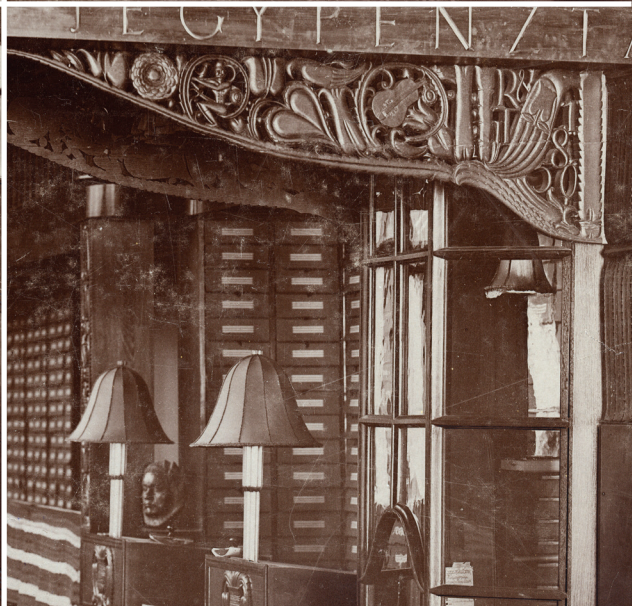
CHAIR

SOFA

LUTE

SOME DATES

TABLE



HUNGARIAN ROOM



Let's take a look upstairs at the kind of furniture made in the Hungarian Secession. There used to be a famous artists' colony, called the **Gödöllő Colony**. Its members were interested in folk art. They all believed that life, work and art were closely connected, and that artistic work should be part of everyday life.

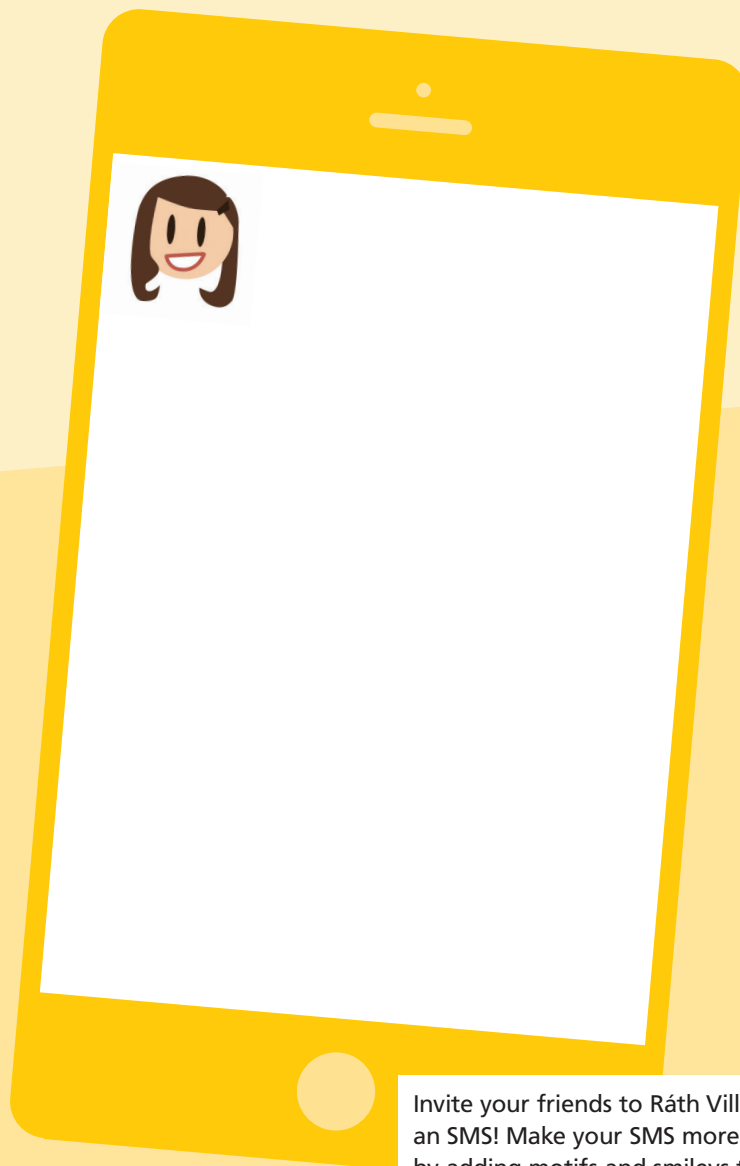
They therefore tried to make sure that all the everyday items around them were as beautiful as possible. **Ede Toroczkai Wigand** was also a famous member of the Gödöllő Colony. One of his designs is called the Fairytale or "Sleepyhead" set

of furniture. If you look more closely at the table, you can see the carved lovers and the figure of the king. The writing on the table top translates into English as "Once upon a time there was a king". The chairs feature animal heads (bulls and rams), as well as a shepherd, standing in his warm coat.

What fantasy name would you give to your favourite furniture? Write it here:



Ede Toroczkai
Wigand loved folk
furniture and motifs,
but he was also very fond
of Hungarian fairy
tales and legends.



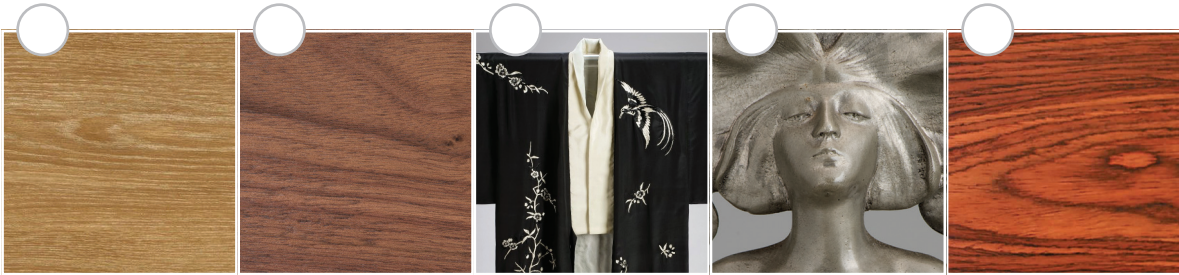
Invite your friends to Ráth Villa – send them
an SMS! Make your SMS more interesting
by adding motifs and smileys that have the
same style as the Hungarian Secession!



BUGATTI ROOM

We have left the most fantastic furniture for the end – these pieces were designed by the Italian artist Carlo Bugatti, who was famous for his creative imagination. He loved to use luxury materials, and he often tried out surprising combinations (wood, silk, parchment and metal).

Take a closer look at the corner chair and the writing desk and you will see some of the strange materials Bugatti used. I think everybody would be happy to have a desk like this!



SILK

PARCHMENT

OAK

ROSEWOOD

PAPER

IVORY

MAHOGANY

WALNUT

METAL





Bugatti borrowed his shapes from nature and from oriental art – even the backs of these chairs were hand-painted with Japanese-style patterns.

?

Match the pictures of the materials with their names, and circle the ones that you can see on the Bugatti furniture!



Museum of Applied Arts

GYÖRGY RÁTH-VILLA

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Nyomda: **KESKENY ÉS TÁRSAI NYOMDAIPARI KFT.**

Hall: serious, strict, cultured
French Room, silhouette: key,
knife, cup, jug, candle-holder
, sauce boat

SOLUTIONS