

RESUMÉ 3/15

Old Town Square (essay on the site's importance)

Václav LEDVINKA

Keywords: Old Town Square, historical development, archeology

As a historical essay, the article outlines the history and development of Prague's Old Town Square from the oldest preserved evidence to the present. As part of a chronologically arranged survey, it highlights the major events that not only formed the area but also held significance and importance for the entire location. Based on a summary of developments, it attempts to formulate what the main heritage and commemorative values are for this site and to create a basis for considering the future of the square.

Old Town Hall – an exceptional building of medieval Prague's past

Karel KIBIC

Keywords: Old Town Hall, Karel IV, Nuremberg Town Hall, town square renovation

This article summarizes findings concerning the historical and architectural development and the quality of the Old Town Hall. Historical/construction research was exhaustively worked up for the Old Town Hall and the neighboring houses (Dobroslav Líbal), city administration in the Old Town under Charles IV was newly assessed (Václav Ledvinka), and crests of distinguished members of the city council up to 1365 under Charles IV were ascertained from the facade of the chapel (Rostislav Nový). In the article, both issues are reflected in the development of the Town Hall building, while the question of whether the tower was already created during the time of the Volflin House or later during the Town Hall is left open. It does however point out the possibility that the unique layout of the Town Hall came about under the influence of Charles IV – the municipal hall was assumed from the Town Hall in Nuremberg, completed shortly before, as an important room for city administration, but in the Old Town the layout continued in the central link of the council and municipal hall to the chapel, located in the tower between them. A new layout therefore occurred in medieval European town hall architecture which has still been preserved to an important degree – the municipal hall, however, was demolished in 1838. In the second part of the article the author deals with the consideration of the possibilities of a historically

corresponding solution to the renovation of the Town Hall as part of the overall completion of the Old Town Square.

Heritage approaches at the peak of the modern era: third competition for the reconstruction of the Old Town Hall in 1909

Ladislav ZIKMUND-LENDER

Keywords: Old Town Square; Pavel Janák; Josef Gočár; Theodor Petřík; Antonín Wiehl; architectural competition; Town Hall; building typology

This article deals primarily with competition proposals selected in the third contest for the completion of the Old Town Hall and the historicisms, traditionalisms, romanticisms, and classicisms that allowed their heritage conformity. Even though only the historicist and conservative proposal of Antonín Wiehl in the Neo-Renaissance won, notable contributions to the inclusion of survivalism and revivalism in modernism were mostly from the proposals of Pavel Janák, Alois Dryák, Bohumil Hübschmann (Hypšman), and Antonín Engel. The proposal of Theodor Petřík, awarded second prize, also integrated the palatial type with a high pilaster order and arcade loggias as well, but the greatest quality was achieved by the very precise respect to the existing visual and communication axes, the existing materials, and the most significant points (the Marian column, the planned Hus monument, and the westwerk Tyn Cathedral). The issue of why the megalomaniac competition project, designed by Josef Gočár, was unsuccessful in its acceptance is also addressed.

Other competitions in 1938, 1946, 1963, 1966/1967, and 1987 showed a gradual divergence of original creative opinions on what is contemporary and what is historically acceptable in such a symbolically exposed historic environment. This was demonstrated particularly in the last and eighth event in 1987 which included proposals of contemporary, abstracting symbolic forms (proposal of Emil Přikryl and the team of Alena Šrámková), and historicist proposals that complemented the original appearance (proposal of the Pavlík spouses and František Kašička, or of Václav Alda and Pavel Kolíbal). The third competition in 1909 is inspiring for the present mainly in the fact that the proposals were (perhaps except for the winning Wiehl's proposal) utterly contemporary and original while simultaneously historically conformist, and managed to moderately capture the symbolic and representative form, corresponding to the constructional type of the Town Hall and the historical significance of the site. Few from the contemporary architectural scene are able to design this sort of connection

harmoniously, and unfortunately very few are even able to handle an architectural task of a public building in a historic environment without slipping into purposeless historicism or generally into architectural bad taste.

The Marian Column and its square (notes on meaning and place)

Vít VLNAS

Keywords: Old Town Square, Marian Column, Jan Hus Monument, iconography, nationalism

The article describes the history of the creation and destruction of the Marian Column on the Old Town Square. The first part summarizes the history of the preparation, production, and erection of the Marian Column. It goes on to closely examine its iconography and seek out artistic and ideological drafts for its final design, which has, among others, a distinctive anti-Lutheran emphasis. The second part is devoted to later reflections concerning the monument, especially in the 19th century when it became the subject of nationalist sentiments and one of the centers of the increasingly aggravated dispute between nationalities, faiths, and political currents. The article closely covers the period debate on the Column, especially in the context of the "fight for the Old Town Square" associated with efforts to erect the Hus monument and thus attempts to characterize the causes that led to the demolition of the statue in 1918.

Columns demolished and re-built. Iconoclasm as an imaginary but eternal rival of heritage preservation

Vratislav NEJEDLÝ

Keywords: Marian Column on the Old Town Square, iconoclasm, Jan Hus, demolished monuments

The article uses the example of the destruction of the Marian Column to address the history of iconoclasm as a latent component of cultural identity within the framework of the Czech lands. It first briefly recalls the Christian roots of iconoclasm, after which it focuses on domestic sources of the iconoclastic tradition related to pre-Hussite thinking and later to the actual Hussite movement (although ironically not with the teachings of Hus himself). It continues by recalling iconoclastic events associated with the conflict between Protestants and Catholics in the 17th and 18th centuries. The article also commemorates lesser known iconoclastic events that did not avoid Bohemia in the 18th and 19th centuries. The demolition of the Marian Column in this context does not appear as a singular event, but as a culmination of a long-term cultural tradition

which also did not mean its end – the interwar period and post-war periods, as well as that after 1989, each have their own iconoclastic episode. It makes the point that iconoclasm is a phenomenon that can not simply be condemned as a manifestation of barbarism, but is a far more complex phenomenon closely related to the current social ideas and needs and which, in this sense, creates an interesting counterbalance to fields such as conservation and restoration.

Krocín fountain. Its fame, barbaric demise and the impossibility of recovery

Kateřina BEČKOVÁ

Keywords: Old Town Square, Krocín Fountain, monument demolition, reconstruction

The Krocín Fountain on the Old Town Square was an extremely valuable sculptural work from the late 16th century. In 1862 it was unceremoniously removed from the square on the justification that its technical and sculptural repair was too expensive for the city council. Some of the pieces were also used secondarily as building material for the foundations of the gasworks in Žižkov. This literally barbaric act resulted in lasting trauma for the Czech cultural community which led to attempts at the restoration of the fountain torso and its renewal in the public environment in 1895 and 1915. Each time, however, the intention proved unfeasible since it would have been impossible to build the complete fountain from preserved torsos and debris, but at the same time it is not possible to make a copy of the non-existent original. Yet still today, there are proposals to create a replica of the Krocín Fountain. The torso of the original fountain is now part of the exhibition of the Lapidary of the National Museum at the Prague Exhibition Grounds.

Archaeology of the Old Town Square. The issue of heritage values of the historic underground of a public space

Jan HAVRDA, Jaroslav PODLIŠKA

Keywords: Prague, public space, archaeological research, archaeological potential, heritage conservation

Prague's Old Town Square is a site with an extremely high historical value. In addition to the visible monuments, however, there are hidden monuments of an archaeological nature concealed beneath its tiles. Information from archaeological research is nearly the sole source for their identification and evaluation.

With the exception of not very quality research on the site of a fire tank in 1943, no major surface archaeological research has taken place on the Old Town Square. Most of the archaeological data was obtained during the documentation of excavation walls for utilities. As of now, we have 60 registered archaeological documented points and lines on the Old Town Square.

After a preliminary evaluation, it is clear that the original georelief was considerably different from the current one. The oldest human activities identified in the square are of a funeral nature, with graves from the 9th-10th centuries. The graves are covered over by textured medieval layers from the remains of various buildings. The question of the character and appearance of the historic buildings on the square represents a hitherto unknown detailed topic. The historical situation existing below today's surface can be seen as the imaginary foundation of the city. These periods consist of a series of anthropogenic layers that contain a large number of findings of both a movable and immovable nature. Generally, they may be viewed not only as a convolute of heritage sites, but they also represent a source of unique information necessary for understanding the history of the city in a broad context.

For a reconstruction of the thicknesses of the archaeological terrains of the Old Town Square and its immediate surroundings, a map has been drawn up of the thicknesses of its historic overlying layers which oscillate between 1.5 to 5 meters. The map is supplemented by clear and partial cross sections of the square.

The deepening of our knowledge about the Old Town Square is possible only through the systematic collection and assessment of archaeological data, possibly targeted probes, and interdisciplinary cooperation in the reconstruction of its historical appearance and development.

Old Town Square as a dictionary for heritage preservation

Ondřej ŠEFCŮ

Keywords: Old Town Square, anastylosis, reconstruction, conservation

The Old Town Square is perceived as an integral part of the Old Town and Old Prague in general, as a kind of constant element that has been here from the earliest stages of the city's development (or perhaps even earlier) and which will always be here. But a deeper insight into the development of the square, especially over the last 200 years, shows what kind of deep changes took place here and could have taken place, and how sometimes it was just a remarkable coincidence which contribu-

ted to the fact that the square has remained almost complete and, even today, despite all the devastation resulting from the weakly managed phenomenon of mass tourism, stands as convincingly and credibly as a witness to the earliest history of Prague should stand. When examining the modern intersections of the development of the square, for interest and better understanding, we deepen our knowledge by sorting out the processes into a kind of a small glossary of conservation. The Old Town Square provides great material for this type of examination.

The risks of renovating the Marian Column on the Old Town Square

Lubomír SRŠEŇ

Keywords: Marian Column, reconstruction, iconography, Old Town Square

The article returns to the current debate on the possible renewal of the Marian Column on the Old Town Square and attempts to summarize the most important heritage and ideological arguments that lead to doubts about the entire project and its hitherto implementation. The introduction deals with an analysis of the ideological mission of the demolished statue which forms the core of the disputes in the public debate, the main points of which are summarized in the article. The main focus, however, is on the actual heritage and restoration aspects of the problem. It reminds the reader of the obscurities regarding whether the renovation should be about restoration, reconstruction, or a loose imitation based on the older model. It also draws attention to the very limited extent of preserved documentation on the column which apparently would not permit the execution of the thus-declared faithful copy of the demolished column monument.

Memorandum on the restoration of the Marian Column on the Old Town Square in Prague

Pavel KALINA

Keywords: Prague, the Virgin Mary, Old Town Square, Marian Column, Baroque

The Prague Marian Column must be seen in its global context. The oldest pillar bearing the statue of the Virgin Mary was the Colonna della Pace at the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, erected by Carlo Maderno for Pope Paul V in 1614. After several decades, the Roman model became popular in Central Europe. In Munich, Elector Maximilian had a Marian Column built in 1637 to 1638. After the Battle of Jankov (1645), the Swedish army even threatened Vienna. Emperor Ferdinand III then decided to dedicate the entire country to the Imma-

culate Conception of the Virgin Mary and promised to build a column modeled after Munich in Vienna in her honor. The Prague Marian Column, also ordered by the Emperor after the Thirty Years War and the aversion of the Swedish threat, therefore represents a link in the chain of monuments which crossed the Danube and the Alps. An interpretation of the column would be inadequate in mechanically applying the concept of the Counter-Reformation – the Swedish invasion of Central Europe was not carried out only with religious motives. In the Czech environment, a "materialistic" approach to heritage preservation is strongly applied, one which a priori disqualifies the reconstruction or replica of historic structures. Initial objections to reconstructions were already formulated in the 19th century in response to the romantic "modifications" of, for example, medieval castles. The reconstruction of historic buildings, however, are quite common (the Munich Residence, badly damaged by bombing in 1944, and of course other monuments damaged during the Second World War: not only the Frauenkirche in Dresden, but also the Zwinger, the Semper Opera, and Dresden Castle). Contemporary examples of restorations may also be found, however (Venice's Fenice theater, rebuilt by Aldo Rossi after a fire in 1996). The problem may also be that a long time has passed since the demolition of the column. In Moscow, however, not only was the media-famous Church of the Savior rebuilt after having been torn down in 1931, but also were a number of other buildings destroyed during the rule of the Bolsheviks. Also, Seoul's Gyeongbokgung, the palace complex destroyed during the Japanese occupation of Korea (1910–1945), has been gradually restored for many years. Therefore there is no reason why the Marian Column, as a site of collective memory, should not be replicated in the Old Town Square.

Rebirth of the monumental work of Peter Parlář on the Old Town Square. One of the winning designs from the last contest at the Old Town Hall Square and completion of the square.

Milan PAVLÍK, František KAŠÍČKA

Keywords: Old Town Square, competition, 1987, completion

In the article, the authors recall their proposal for the completion of the Old Town Hall from the last competition of 1987. Its design was based on the idea of the strict conservation of historic street lines and a respect for the qualities of the space. After a series of competitions, the authors then presented a proposal related to a third of the preserved state of the medieval Town Hall with all the details, including the chapel. The author of the original proposal was likely the world-renowned architect Petr Parlář

and was realized by the Parlář workshop of Wenceslas (Václav) IV.

A conundrum requiring more time. Several comments on the debate on the future of the Old Town Square

Jakub BACHTÍK

Keywords: Old Town Square, completion, reconstruction, modern interventions

The essay is a polemical contribution to the debate on the completion and reconstruction of the Old Town Square. Its aim is to highlight, on a problematic plane, the idea of returning to the medieval form of the Town Hall, both from a heritage and urban perspective. It also covers the evaluation of frequently mentioned foreign examples and drafts, in conclusion attempting to explain why the completion of the Old Town Square under current conditions is not a necessary solution at the present time.

Reminder on the restoration of the shields on the facade of house no. 603 I at the corner of Old Town Square and Celetná Street

Jiřina MUKOVÁ

Keywords: Old Town Square, house no. 603, construction history research, reconstruction

The article focuses on house no. 603/I on the Old Town Square, during the renovation of which in the 1980's replicas of the original gables were returned to the roof, previously taken down during the reconstruction in 1858. The text recalls the construction history of the building and the characteristics of its layout and structure.

Decoration of the Treasury in the Telč State Chateau and its draft basis

Jan SALAVA

Keywords: Telč, castle, Treasury, graphics, sgraffito

The article discusses the sgraffito decoration in the Treasury room at the State Telč Castle, elaborating on the hitherto identified draft material in the work of Rudolf Wyssenbach. It now dates the decorations to the early 1560's, possibly to the end of the 1550's. It takes into account the existing knowledge on the drafts and possible similarities to sgraffito decoration in nearby Slavonice, from where workshop of Leopold Estreicher worked in Telč and in the historically and architecturally identical Town Hall in Moravská Třebová. On the possible iconography of the room, a similar work can be seen by Jacques Androueta Du Cerceau I, whose works inspired Rudolf

Wyssenbach himself. Du Cerceau provided the name of the particular structure on some of his sheets. In one case, this is the sheet that served from Wyssenbach's work as a model for the southern wall and represents the Temple of Venus. Behind this wall is the private chapel of St. George. Behind the northern wall depicting the triumphal arch is located the Banquet Hall with sgraffito images of the seven vices, Herod's banquet with the beheading of John the Baptist, Orpheus playing to the animals and a variety of hunting scenes. The concept of the Treasury seems to be a homogeneous part of the sophisticated iconography of the ground floor of the old castle and in its very beginning it probably served as the bedroom for Catherine of Wallenstein. According to period inventories, at the end of Zachariáš' life it served as a kind of a *Kunstkammer*, where Zachariáš often lingered.