

ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION INTERVENTIONS IN THE AREA OF PRAGUE CASTLE IN THE 1980S

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ABSTRACT: The presented contribution builds on previous research and focuses on building modifications, the design or implementation of which were created in the 1980s in the area of Prague Castle. First, the position of architects during the period under study is discussed, with an emphasis on the position of architects working directly at the Castle - within the commissions, employees of the Office of the President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and especially those working in the Castle studio of SÚRPMO (State Institute for Reconstruction of Monumental Towns and Buildings). It contains a general description and list of building interventions in the 1980s. It describes the extent to which reconstructions, conversions, new interventions in old buildings were used and how this affected the appearance of Prague Castle. It looks in detail at the most significant interventions that occurred in the area under study during this period. This was the reconstruction of the Lobkowicz Palace for the needs of the National Museum. Attention is also paid to the construction interventions that were required to ensure the technical functioning of Prague Castle. Information is obtained in the context of archival research in the Archives of Prague Castle, the Archives of the Office of the President of the Republic and the Archives of the National Museum. Interviews with the architects who worked there during this period proved to be a good source.

KEYWORDS: monument care; Prague Castle; architectural interventions; old and new; reuse; expert commissions; SÚRPMO

INTRODUCTION

My research focuses on architectural interventions in the Prague Castle area in the second half of the 20th century. I am continuing my last year's paper, in which I focused on the period of the 1970s, and I am also discussing the not-so-explored 1980s. The initial chapter outlines the position of architects in the period under review, discussing in more detail the situation at the Castle, where the work of the expert commissions and sub-commissions of the previous decade was reverberating at the time. Next, emphasis is placed on the staffing of the departments of the Office of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, which were responsible for building activities at the Castle. Much attention is paid to the projects and activities of architects from the Castle Studio (Architectural Centre 05) of the SÚRPMO.¹ The article contains a list and a general description of the construction activities and interventions whose design or realisation took place during the period in question. The discussed area of research is presented not only with examples of architecturally significant projects implemented, but also construction works related to the technical use of the Castle (securing of heat and cold sources, distribution of networks in the area) are not omitted. The reconstruction of the Lobkowicz Palace for the needs of the National Museum, designed by Zdeněk Hölzel, is discussed in detail. Other interventions, not only of a technical nature, are associated with the architects from the castle studio SÚRPMO. These included Karel Firbas, Pavel Kupka, Věra Hlaváčková, Maria Šváblová, Miloslav Burian, Eva Růžičková, Bohumil Pirout. Most of the material is drawn from archival sources and information obtained by reading period and contemporary literature is used. Further suggestions were provided by interviews with witnesses who worked at the Castle.

THE POSITION OF ARCHITECTS IN THE 1980S

The period of the 1980s in Czech architecture is characterised by centralisation in the design process in many aspects. The standardisation of design had already begun to run out of post-war enthusiasm and motivation to engage in the reconstruction of the country and to solve some pressing problems – for example, the housing crisis.² Gradually, feelings of sobriety and

even helplessness emerged. The authorities have tried to respond to these issues by making adjustments to the overall organisational structure. Nevertheless, it became more typical to search for the meaning of the architectural profession. Some authors have even managed to find alternative ways³ of dealing with the limitations of industrialised construction. [1]

The most influential factor in the local architectural field has been the large construction companies, the so-called contractors. They had more influence than the Communist Party or the Ministry of Construction. The architect Osvald Döbert mentioned this problem on the occasion of the congress of the Association of Czech Architects in 1987: „Perhaps everyone agrees that the main cause (of the crisis in architecture) is the monopolization of construction production and the resulting dictatorship of the contractors.“ [2] As a result, questions have been raised as to why the outcome of the building process is not influenced by the needs of future users (ideally in cooperation with the architect's ideas), but mainly by the needs and resources of the construction companies, which are informally agreed with the panel companies. Contractors preferred projects that were the most organisationally predictable, the simplest in terms of construction, and of sufficient scale to make a large profit and meet a large part of the five-year plan. The construction companies placed enormous emphasis on easy accessibility and ample space for site facilities, which led to their resistance to contracts dealing with building alterations within urban centres. [3]

Only independently functioning design-engineering organizations, which were managed either by ministries with national competence, national committees for local construction, or other lower forms (general directorates, management of economic enterprises), could participate in the design system. The operation of the ministerial design institutes depended on the focus of the respective parent ministries. Examples include Healthprojekt, Sportprojekt, Ceramoprojekt (Ministry of Construction), as well as various institutes corresponding to the individual industries under the ministries' responsibility.⁴ Work in these studios was sought after because they were mostly specialised design tasks that allowed partial freedom from typification. Local design institutes, which were subordinated to regional national committees, dealt with housing

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¹ SÚRPMO = Státní ústav pro rekonstrukce památkových měst a objektů (State Institute for the Reconstruction of Monumental Towns and Buildings)

² Regarding the change of mindset of the communist leadership towards pre-fab construction, see R. Švácha, *Pozdní krásná a postmodernistická sídliště = Late Beautiful and Postmodernist Housing Estates*, in L. Skřivánková, R. Švácha, M. Koukalová, E. Novotná (eds.), *Paneláci 2: historie sídlišť v českých zemích 1945–1989 = Paneláci 2: History of Housing Estates in the Czech Lands 1945–1989*, UPM, Praha, 2017, pp. 252–285. Nebo P. Vorlík, *Modernizace bytových domů, sřet technokracie a rozmanitosti = Modernisation of Residential Buildings, the Clash between Technocracy and Diversity*, in: P. Vorlík, H. Guzik, L. Beran, et al, *Ambice: architektura osmdesátých let = Ambitions: the architecture of the eighties*, Přeložil R. Cassling, *České učení technické v Praze, Fakulta architektury*, Praha, 2022, pp. 178–213.

³ For more details on the everyday ability and courage to bend the system in the architecture of late normalization, see P. Vorlík, K. Brůňová, J. Zikmund, et al., *Improvizace: architektura osmdesátých let = Improvisation: the architecture of the eighties*, Přeložil = Translated by R. Cassling, *České učení technické v Praze, Fakulta architektury*, Praha, 2021.

⁴ Energy Project, Hydroprojekt, Gas Project, Mining Project, Ore Project/Interproject, Metallurgical Project, Metal Project, Project, Chemoprojekt, Ceramoprojekt, Timber Project, Lignoprojekt, Food Project, Centroprojekt and Skloprojekt.

and civil construction. These were large design firms - Regional Design Institutes (KPÚ), Stavoprojekty and the Chief Architect's Office. Most of the then 5,000 architects and architects worked in them. The third group consisted of institutes under the cooperative associations. The Union of Production Cooperatives had design units ČSVD (Czech Union of Production Cooperatives) and SZVD (Slovak Union of Production Cooperatives), for the Union of Consumer Cooperatives this was the Business Project and for the Union of Housing Cooperatives it was Drupos⁵. Prague had a special position within this structure. Not only the standard design institutes focused on residential and civil construction (PÚ VHMP⁶, PPÚ⁷), but also other large specialised enterprises (SÚRPMO, PÚDIS⁸, Metroprojekt, the Office of the Chief Architect of the City of Prague) operated there. [1]

The architect's work was conceived in an almost scientific way. There was a precise hourly allocation for the elaboration of the project according to the professions. Above all, compliance with the set deadlines was controlled, so that the result of the design process was essentially a creation with a set content, created by the routine repetition of activities. This led to dissatisfaction among architects and especially among the younger generation, who envisioned greater use of imagination, creativity and flair for design. Another negative was the financial aspect, where the difficulty and time required for each activity was not taken into account and everything was evaluated in a uniform way. Hence, disillusionment and disinterest were also experienced in the work activities in some institutes. „The work ethic was varying in different studios. In the good ones it was quite high, in the mediocre ones often quite poor. If people weren't interested in the work, they tried to turn it down. During working hours, personal anniversaries were celebrated, women went shopping during the day, lunch breaks were extended and so on. If they could, employees often took home work supplies, drawing materials, a tracing paper for moonlighting jobs, etc.“ [4]

Private studios were not allowed, yet there were opportunities to design independently. If an architect obtained a so-called special competence certificate for certain construction activities⁹, he could conclude a contract and design a building with a maximum cost of 500 thousand CZK (Kčs). In the second half of the 1980s, there was a relaxation in this area as well and the first private studio was established (D.A. Studio in 1986). Another opportunity was the cooperation with artists through the ČFVU.¹⁰ Several quality art-architectural solutions were created, but unfortunately some others were not created because they were not allowed at the meeting of the relevant art committee of the ČFVU. There was a chance for members of the Architects' Union to work out commissions (especially studies) within the Architectural Service.¹¹ There was also another way outside the design system, which also meant avoiding the unpleasant review of designs by expert committees and further interference in projects by outsiders. This required an agreement with members of the International Organization of Journalists (Mezinárodní organizace novinářů = MON), who had the necessary authorization and could stamp individual projects (very often for a fee). [1]

THE POSITION OF ARCHITECTS IN THE CASTLE AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEES

While several expert commissions and sub-commissions were active at the Castle in the 1970s¹², their activity and number decreased in the 1980s. Most of the subcommissions had their last meeting in 1975 or 1976. Only the art subcommission met until October 1982. Nevertheless, there was a commission that met

throughout the 1980s, even several times a year. This was the Commission for the Assessment of Investment Plans at Prague Castle, the Forest Administration in Lány and the Lány Castle (the so-called Investment Commission). It was established as early as 18 March 1975 as an advisory and auxiliary body to the head of the KPR¹³ and consisted of Ing. Jiří Růžička, Ing. Josef Prokůpek, JUDr. Jan Kolář, Jan Svoboda. The Commission's activities are reported as follows: „The task of the commission will be to submit to the head of the CPR comprehensive opinions together with an analysis of the prospective use of the intended investment, the provision of manpower for its maintenance, etc.“ [5] The membership of the commission was gradually expanded to include other KPR staff. The Commission continued to meet until the revolutionary year of 1989 (a total of 8 meetings were held in that year), the last meeting being held on 15 November 1989.

Most of the architects employed by the KPR at the Castle worked in the Department of Construction and Utilities (OSIS) and the Department of Preservation (OPP). These departments were combined into one department (OSPS) until 1978. In OSIS continued their activities akad. arch. Osvald Döbert and Ing. arch. Vojtěch Veverka. During this period, the head of the department was Ing. Josef Prokůpek, at the end of the 1980s he was replaced by Ing. František Dohnalík. From the plans of the department's activities for each year, it can be seen that the main tasks were to refine the draft plan of capital construction, the plan of repairs and maintenance and the plan of research and project work for a given year, to draw up reports, to provide information on the progress of construction work and to create specifications for the preparation of project documentation, and to ensure the technical operation of historical expositions. [6] In the OPP Ing. arch. Viktor Procházka still worked as a specialist officer, during the 80's Ing. arch. Petr Chotěbor was added to this team. In the 1980s, the KPR contributed to the preservation of historically unique monuments, but also to their cultural and political use (exhibitions, concerts). [7] The Monuments Department also participated in the task of improving the quality of project preparation for investment construction and maintenance by preparing monument guidelines (as a basis for documentation of buildings) and monument opinions on the documentation under consideration. The Department also ensured and monitored the progress of restoration works, cooperating with scientific institutions (e.g. the Institute of Archaeology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, the National Museum in Prague, faculties of the Czech Technical University, etc.). He carried out an inventory of all art objects and historical collections. The Department also dealt with improving and raising the professional level of the guide and curatorial service. [8]

Most of the project documentation dealing with the Castle area was prepared in the SÚRPMO. The SÚRPMO consisted of several centres of different sizes, but usually 60 to 100 people worked in one. Within the centre there were 3 to 5 independent architectural groups (studios) and groups of individual specialists (electrical, HVAC, BTI, statics, transport). The Institute had centres in Prague, Brno, Hradec Králové, Pardubice, Olomouc. [9] The architectural centre 05 (the so-called castle studio) was part of the SÚRPMO. This studio was located in the houses provided by KPR in Jelení Street. The same names appear on the project schedules as in the 1970s. The head of the aforementioned centre was the architect Karel Firbas until 1986, when he was replaced by the well-known architect Pavel Kupka. Other designers included Miloslav Burián, Bohumil Pirout, Marie Šváblová, Eva Růžičková, Věra Hlaváčková. At the end of the 1980s, new names appeared Ing. Pavel Jakoubek and Ing. Petr Wollner. From the point of view of understanding the structure of the SÚRPMO, interviews with Ing. Jakoubek and Ing.

⁵ Drupos = Družstvo pozemních staveb (Co-operative Building Society), dedicated to designing houses and distributing their catalogues throughout the country.

⁶ PÚ VHMP = Projektový ústav Výstavby hlavního města Prahy (Project Institute of Construction of the City of Prague)

⁷ PPÚ = Pražský projektový ústav (Prague Project Institute)

⁸ PÚDIS = Projektový ústav dopravních a inženýrských staveb (Project Institute of Transport and Engineering Construction)

⁹ In order to obtain the licence, it was a requirement to have a university degree and five years of experience or a secondary vocational education and 10 years of experience.

¹⁰ ČFVU = Český fond výtvarných umění (Czech Fine Arts Fund)

¹¹ The Czech Fine Arts Fund has established several organizational units to fulfill art commissions. Their establishment was made possible by the Copyright Act, which allowed the Fund to set up enterprises that could assist in the performance of its tasks. Thus, in the structure of the ČFVU, the Works enterprise began to operate with subordinate units of the Art and Architectural Services.

¹² The period of the 1970s is discussed more thoroughly in a contribution to the proceedings from last year: M. Šnorbert, *Architektonické intervence v areálu Pražského hradu v 70. letech 20. století = Architectural Interventions in the Prague Castle Area in the 1970s*, in M. Peřínková, S. Jüttnerová, L. Videcká, *14th Architecture in Perspective 2022*, Ostrava: Vysoká škola báňská - Technická univerzita Ostrava, Fakulta stavební, 2022, pp. 189-196.

¹³ KPR = Kancelář prezidenta republiky (The Chancellery of the President of the Republic), in this period often referred to as KP ČSSR (Chancellery of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic).

arch. Švábová. Architect Švábová was the head of the studio for the reconstruction of buildings owned by the Office of the President of the Republic. In her studio there were 8 people, of whom one architect (arch. Kotrba) was working, the others were designers and draughtsmen. In the 1980s, approximately 80 people worked in the castle studio. [10]

ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS IN THE 80S

Clear information about the repairs and construction works started in the period of the 7th Five-Year Plan (1981-1985) is provided by a document prepared by the individual heads of the KPR departments for the XVII Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which was held from 24 March to 28 March 1986. In the document we read about the fulfilment of the basic objectives of the following:

"In the years of the 7th Five-Year Plan, the basic objectives were fulfilled as follows:

- the architectural and historical-heritage values of a number of Prague Castle buildings were restored and the level of technical equipment was raised. Among the largest projects were the reconstruction of the PC Riding School, the Old Provost's Office, building no. 73 in Kanovnická Street, the repair of the Mocker Houses' shell, and the interior renovation of the Basilica of St. George. As part of the preparation of other events, the reconstruction of the old salons of the South Wing of the PC was prepared.

- The external appearance of the Prague Castle was significantly improved, especially by carrying out repairs to the facades and roofs. Repairs and new facades were carried out, especially on the South and West wings and the northern facade of Prague Castle, all the buildings of the northern access road, the western part of the Old Palace, the Prague Castle Riding Hall, the Old Provost's Office, No. 2. The reconstruction of the roofs of all buildings of Prague Castle was basically completed, with the exception of St. Vitus Cathedral and minor repairs in Vikářská Street.

- The issue of comprehensive modernisation of utility networks and technical facilities was addressed by way of

- reconstruction of utility networks and distribution systems inside some buildings during the reconstruction and modernisation of technical equipment

- preparation of a comprehensive modernisation of the energy facilities of Prague Castle in order to ensure the reliability of heat and electricity supply and the function of the energy distribution systems and equipment on the territory of Prague Castle. The implementation of the prepared energy structures will take place in the years of the 8th Five-Year Plan.

- The objective of completing the economic facilities of Prague Castle was partly solved by reconstruction of the Pohořelec Riding School, the Prague Castle Riding School and minor repairs of the warehouses and workshops in the Riding School Yard. A major solution to the greenhouse management will be implemented by the construction of a new greenhouse in the years of the 8th Five-Year Plan. The construction of the Energy Centre behind the Prague Castle Riding School, which will include the necessary facilities for the maintenance of energy equipment, will contribute to improving the situation in the workshops. (...)

- Modernization and reconstruction of a substantial part of the housing stock of the KP ČSSR was carried out and 37 flats of the first category and 3 dormitories for KP ČSSR employees were acquired – the total cost of modernization amounted to 6 459 thousand CZK (Kčs).“ [11]

Critical investment actions and major repairs are also

mentioned. Firstly, pending actions that were started in the previous period are listed. These included the **Lobkowicz Palace**, where comprehensive reconstruction began as early as 1973. The general designer was SÚRPMO and the contractor was Pražský stavební podnik. It is stated that the reconstruction will be completed in 1986 and the building will be handed over to the National Museum, which will run a historical exhibition there. By the end of 1985, 78.7 million CZK had been spent on the building. The budgeted costs increased to 103.7 million during the implementation. (this amount includes a reserve of 6.2 million CZK). For more on this building and the reconstruction, see the following chapter. Another project under construction was the project called **Slevárna (Foundry) – Collector Building 2A**. This is the construction of another section of the Northern Collector, which started in 1978, was completed in March 1983 and was approved in 1985. The budgeted costs of 5,4 million were respected. The general designer and contractor were the same as for the Lobkowicz Palace. In 1979-1981, **the interior modifications and lighting were carried out in the Basilica of St. George**. New electrical wiring was installed, the quality of the interior lighting was improved and new furniture was added for chamber concerts and other cultural events. The budgeted costs amounted to 2.24 million CZK.

In the course of the 7th Five-Year Plan, **repairs to the facades and roofing** were carried out on an even larger scale than originally planned. The facades of the 1st and 2nd courtyards were completed in 1981-83, the facades of the 3rd courtyard in 1983-85, and the western facade of the Old Palace was completed in May 1985. The facades of the northern facade were completed in 1983, the facades in the area of the Powder Bridge, the Riding Yard including the entire Riding Hall were repaired in 1984-85. In 1985, the facade of building No. 2 facing the South Gardens was also completed. The facades of buildings 8, 9 and 10 were completed off plan. During this five-year period, repairs were completed on almost all the buildings of the Castle. The contractors Průmstav Praha, Pražský stavební podnik, Prague Building Renovation Company, Štuko, Pamiatkostav Žilina and other small contractors participated in these works. The originally estimated cost of 41 million CZK were not used in full. Further modifications in order to obtain suitable storage areas and workshop spaces for the KP of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and for suppliers took place in the building of the **Pohořelec Riding School** in 1981-1985. The contractor was the company Průmstav Praha, the budgeted costs were exhausted to the tune of 5.4 million CZK. In **the engine rooms under the Spanish Hall**, the aged electrical wiring and ventilation of the engine rooms were renewed. The modifications were started in 1983, finished with defects and incompletions in 1984, and the final removal of these defects and the final approval took place in 1985. The budgeted costs of 1.1 million CZK were respected. Further reconstruction was carried out on **house No. 73 in Kanovnická Street** in 1983-85. The construction work leading to the modernisation of the housing stock with low-category flats was carried out by the Prague Building Renovation Company, the project was carried out under the direction of the Project Institute of the Capital City of Prague. 22 flats of the first category were built here. 4.4 million CZK was used for the construction of the apartments. The reconstruction of the **Slévárna (Foundry)** area was carried out between 1981 and 1985 and a passageway was created as part of the planned northern sightseeing route through Mihulka. The space was to be used for small refreshments, souvenir sales, and possibly for small occasional exhibitions. The total cost amounted to 4.4 million CZK. The project documentation was prepared by SÚRPMO and the contractor was Pražský stavební podnik.

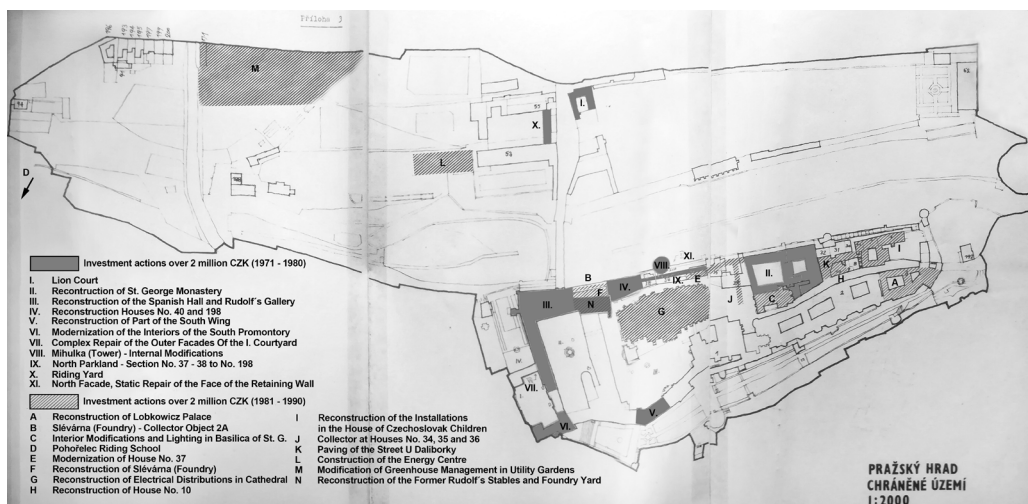
Other projects included the reconstruction and

strengthening of the internal electrical power distribution, improvement of lighting, and the renewal and addition of an electrical fire alarm system in the building of **St. Vitus Cathedral**. The implementation was underway since 1983 and was to be completed by the end of 1986. 3 million CZK were spent on the project. The project was prepared by SÚRPMO, the construction works were provided by the Prague Construction Company. **The reconstruction of the house No. 10 in Jiřská Street** was to bring additional flats and a hostel for the needs of the KPR. The project was prepared by SÚRPMO, the contractor was Průmstav Praha. The works were carried out between 1983 and 1985, with full completion planned for March 1986. 3.2 million CZK was used. The next planned construction was **the reconstruction of the installations in the House of Czechoslovak Children**. The aim was to reconstruct the electrical and HVAC installations and the central heating. Originally, the construction work was to take place in 1983-85, but due to the connection with the general design of the utilities in the area, the construction was not expected to start until 1987. Further action was triggered by the problem of leakage into the garages under the terrace of the **Prague Castle Riding School**. In this building, structural modifications were carried out to improve the operational condition of the building, the level of technical equipment was raised, the roof trusses and the entire shell were repaired, which involved a new colour scheme for the facades. The works were carried out from 1983 to May 1985 according to the project documentation of the SÚRPMO and were provided by Průmstav Praha. The costs amounted to 7.5 million CZK. Another construction started was **the collector at buildings No. 34, 35, 36**. These are other sections of the Northern Collector, the projects were prepared by the SÚRPMO and the implementation was carried out in 3 separate actions. The first of them, called Slevárenský dvůr – collector object 3A, was started in 1984 and was to be completed in 1986, the costs amounted to 3.7 million CZK. The second construction (North Park Road and collectors) started in 1984, the underground part was to be completed in June 1986, the above-ground part in April 1987. The budgeted costs were set at 5.3 million CZK. The contractor was Pražský stavební podnik with VKD Kladno¹⁴ as a subcontractor. The last project (collector in the section of houses Nos. 35 and 36) was started in 1984 with a completion date of June 1986. The cost was proposed at 4,5 million CZK. The construction company was VKD Kladno. **The final paving of Jiřské Square** was to be carried out, following the completion of all other construction work in the area and an archaeological survey. It was planned that the action would take place in 1985-88. This assumption turned out to be odd for capacity reasons and the implementation was to take place at the end of the 8th Five-Year

Plan period. Another unrealised project was called **Courtyard III – upgrade works**. It was contemplated to replace the waterproof insulation layers under the courtyard pavement, to prevent water seepage and therefore to lower the reinforced concrete structures, to level and renew the pavement with granite slabs. The original assumption was to start in 1983 and finish in 1985. Also, due to the concurrence of a number of demanding projects and capacity reasons of the contractors, the planned implementation was postponed to the beginning of the 9th Five-Year Plan period.

In addition to the above-mentioned major actions and repairs, there were several minor modifications, which, however, in aggregate, constituted a substantial intervention. These include repair of the shell of the houses no. 34, 35, 36 (Mocker houses) and reconstruction of the factory canteen (1981-1985; 5.8 million CZK), continuation of the repair of the shell of the St. Vitus (0.8 million CZK), minor repairs and reconstruction in the utility gardens of Prague Castle (2.8 million CZK), repairs in the underground roads - southern gardens, galleries of the second and third courtyards, repair of the sewerage system in the southern gardens (1981-1985; 7.5 million CZK), reconstruction of the Ballroom and buildings in the Royal Garden (1981-1985; 1.7 million CZK) and other minor works.

The document also contains a concept of investment actions and major repairs in the next 5 years (until the end of 1990). Firstly, **the innovation of energy systems and management** is mentioned. The aim was to rebuild the electricity and heat energy system with a view to modernising and ensuring greater reliability and economy in supply and operation. This action was divided into 4 constructions – EZ 402 construction I (February 1986 - August 1988; 19,8 million CZK), EZ 402 construction II (1987 - May 1988), EZ 402 construction III (July 1987 - September 1989; 39,3 million CZK); EZ 402 construction IV (1987 - May 1988). The next planned action was the construction of the energy centre itself. It was to be built to the west of the Prague Castle Riding Hall and was to include a substation, a replacement power supply, a central cooling station, and an input heat exchanger station for the steam supply from the Holešovice power plant. Of course, the connection to the collector system in the Castle area was envisaged. The implementation was to take place from September 1987 to September 1989. The costs were estimated at 67.0 million CZK. The construction of **the central DC power supply** providing for the construction of an acoustic station in the basement of the Middle Wing was planned for the period from January 1987 to July 1988. The budgeted costs amounted to 2.3 million CZK. The focus was also on **greenhouses in commercial gardens**. Outdated and aging greenhouses were to



¹⁴ VKD Kladno = Výstavba kamenouhelných dolů Kladno (Construction of Coal Mines in Kladno)

Fig. 1.: Designation of investment projects over 2 million in 1971-1980 and 1981-90. (Source: Archive of the Office of the President of the Republic, Gustáv Husák, Carton No.12, KPR and PH, Šalda, kolegia etc., Materials for the Head of KPR, No.404.448/81, Programme of Restoration and Care of Prague Castle in 1981-1990)

be renewed in order to make it cheaper and easier to grow the plants needed. Construction was scheduled to begin in 1987 and to be completed in 1989-90. **The reconstruction of the former Rudolf's Stables and the Foundry Yard** was to provide a gathering hall for the KPR, including the necessary facilities. This project was originally planned for the previous five-year period, but was delayed due to links with the collector works under construction and also due to contractors' capacity considerations. A new start date for construction was set for 1987. At the time of the document's publication, the documents were being prepared to update the design brief for **the reconstruction of the Old Royal Palace**, divided into six phases. Due to similar problems, implementation was to be envisaged at the end of the 8th Five-Year Plan or after 1990. Most of the actions mentioned in this paragraph were implemented later than planned and some only after the regime change.

At the end of the document, the costs of these actions and repairs are listed by year. In total, 95.4 million CZK for investments was spent during the 7th Five-Year Plan period and 154.5 million CZK for repairs. [11]

LOBKOWICZ PALACE

The first thoughts about the creation of a history museum at Prague Castle were already in the 1950s, and these ideas crystallized in the early 1960s into thoughts about the creation of the Memorial to the History of the Czechoslovak People at the Castle. It was to be a representative and magnificent project in which visitors would learn about the history of Prague Castle and its art collections. Several buildings were considered, with the St. George Monastery proving to be the most suitable. [12] The Lobkowitz Palace was scrapped because it was to become the Palace of Labour. The conceptual design from 1960 states the following: „The mission of the Palace of Labour is to celebrate the creative work of workers, cooperative peasants and the working intelligentsia and its outstanding results, to depict the magnificent development of our society, to document the fact that socialism has triumphed in our country, and to show convincingly the perspective of communist development. An effort will be made to show that for all our achievements we must give credit to the great struggle, diligence and initiative of our people who, under the leadership of the Communist Party, in indissoluble friendship with the Soviet Union, are building their socialist homeland.“ [13] In 1964, the National Museum was divided into 4 specialist museums and in the following year it was considered to move one of these museums (the NM Historical Museum) to Prague Castle. All these ideas were slowed down after August 1968 and finally stopped in 1969. The idea of locating a separate historical exhibition of the National Museum at Prague Castle, in the building of the Lobkowitz Palace, reappeared. In 1973, the NM worked out a project for the exposition and a method of using the palace for museum purposes. In the ex-



Fig. 2.: Opening of the exhibition Monuments of the National Past in the Lobkowitz Palace in the presence of President Gustáv Husák. (Source: Archive of the Office of the President of the Republic, Photograph Collection, Gustáv Husák, carton 1987, photo Jiří Kruliš)

position one was to learn about the development of the Czechoslovak state and nation from the arrival of the Slavs to the revolutionary year 1848. The development of Czech statehood was to be traced on three levels - state-political, economic-social and cultural. The Lobkowitz Palace with its historical exposition was put into use by the NM only in 1987. [14]

Geological and civil engineering surveys were carried out as early as 1961. After that, a project for the reconstruction of the Palace of Labour was prepared. It was created by the architect Zdeněk Hölzel within the framework of the SÚRPMO. The same author, in cooperation with architect Věra Hlaváčková, developed the initial project in 1963. In 1966, the roofing, roof trusses and chimneys were overhauled. In the following year, the structural condition and foundation conditions were investigated. From 1969 to 1972, a project for the structural safety of the building was developed. The work itself took place between 1971 and 1973. The first phase of reconstruction began in 1973 (demolition and securing work). In 1974 the basement was structurally secured. In the second phase of the reconstruction, the architectural and interior design and technical equipment were designed.¹⁵ In 1973, architect Václav Bašta and architect Jarmila Nováková contributed to the project documentation. During the implementation of the first and second phase, an art-historical survey was carried out. The third phase, consisting of a complete restoration of the painted decoration, a new flooring solution, installation of security equipment and a lighting and technical project, was proposed at the end of 1975. In December 1977, the project documentation was activated, during which the detailed construction drawings were refined. Some of these drawings were updated in November 1978. The construction addenda followed the detailed design and were issued first in November 1979 and a second time in June 1986. Further changes and additions were made in 1981, 1983 and 1984. The installation of floor outlets was designed in October 1983. Architect Hlaváčková created the project documentation¹⁶ for the modification of the passage and terrace at the Lobkowitz Palace in February 1986. As can be seen from the above list of project documentation, the reconstruction was complicated and took a very long time (from 1973 to 1986). The estimated cost for the first phase was 25.8 million CZK, and for the second phase 38.7 million. The summary budget for both phases, dated July 1981, set the total cost at 82.9 million CZK. In April 1984, the total budgeted cost was 109.5 million. In the end, 103.7 million was spent.



Fig. 3.: Part A - section A-A1 and the southern facade of the courtyard (Source: Prague Castle Archive, New Plan Collection, signature 10 601 Lobkowitz Palace, Reconstruction of Lobkowitz Palace, detailed design, August 1973)

The reconstruction did not affect the mass, the shape of the roof and the early Baroque character of the palace facades. All non-valuable utilitarian interventions from the 19th and 20th centuries were removed. The palace layout, art and craft decoration were rehabilitated, technical equipment was added, and the pre-Baroque spaces were restored. The only significant inter-

¹⁵ In the second phase, the surfaces, floors and fillings of the openings; internal installations of hot, cold and fire water, sewerage, central heating, air-conditioning and ventilation, power and low-current wiring, technical equipment of the cafeteria preparation room, refrigerated beverage storage were designed; plumbing, joinery, locksmith work, stone work, wall cladding, painting, upholstery, glazing, plastering, restoration work, new art decoration, light fittings; internal fittings

¹⁶ construction drawings, statics, dehumidification, electrical power, health installations, budget, POV

vention in the architectural expression and external appearance of the building was to increase the plasticity of the facades, which was achieved by restoring the stone lining with the original form of recessed windows. There were not many new interventions in the artistic design and they complemented the decoration of the palace complex. These included a proposal for glazing the windows in the chapel and softening the then secular character, a proposal for glazing the windows in the public spaces on the ground floor facing Jiřská Street evoking the pre-Baroque character of the palace, a simple sculpture with a water motif at the intersection of the axes of the passages in the large courtyard, the restoration of the fountain in the small courtyard and the design of several metal grilles on the ground floor and basement. In terms of the layout and communication system, maximum care was taken to restore the original palace character. The exceptions were the new vertical circulation from the ground floor to the first floor to the large exhibition hall and the body of the 2 freight and passenger lifts. The building was of course completed and equipped with appropriate sanitary and technical facilities. The main entrance and communal areas were located on the ground floor, and both courtyards became part of the communal areas. The exhibition was concentrated on the 1st and 2nd floors in the hall passage rooms around the large courtyard. Period exhibitions were held in the restored large two-storey hall on the 1st floor of the east wing. A new function was brought to the building by the lecture room, which was located on the ground floor next to the new staircase to the first floor.

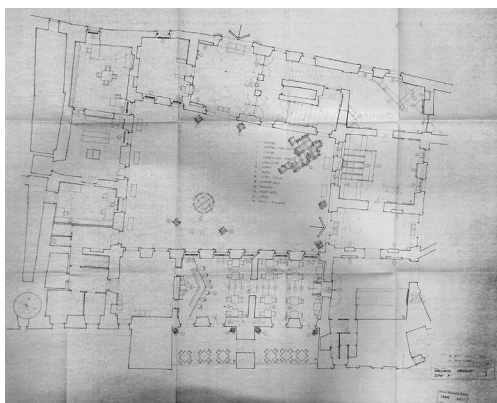


Fig. 4.: Ground floor plan – part A. (Source: Prague Castle Archive, New Plan Collection, signature 10 601 Lobkowicz Palace, LP - Non-exhibition spaces, technical description for the detailed design, September 1984)

The non-exhibition spaces were designed in 1984 by architect Vladimír Rubek from the national company Výstavnictví. The exhibition part of the historical exposition was created in 1983 and 1984 by the projection

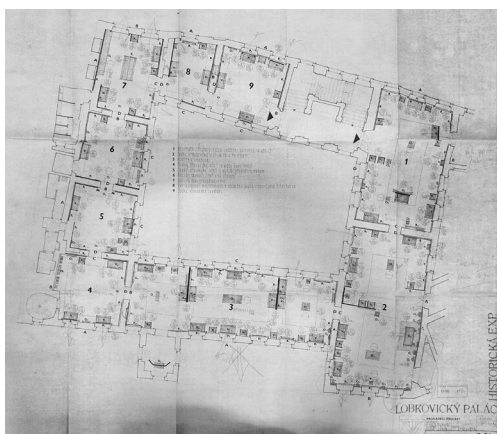


Fig. 5.: Floor plan of the second floor. (Source: Archive of Prague Castle, New Plan Collection, signature 10 601 Lobkowicz Palace, Lobkowicz Palace - Historical Exposition of the National Museum in Prague: exhibition spaces, implementation project, June 1984)

studio of n.p. Výstavnictví, the architects Jiří Fejk and Josef Václavíček are listed. In October 1986, a modification of the project was prepared under the direction of architects Rubek and Miroslav Rouse. The location of the exhibition elements, the content of individual rooms and the production documentation of showcases and panels, the required cooperation with individual professions (e.g. electrician) were addressed here. The libretto, introductory and professional scenario of the exhibition was created by experts from KPR, NM and ČSAV.¹⁷ The management was entrusted to prof. PhDr. Josef Kočí, DrSc. a PhDr. Helena Johnová, CSc., other members were PhDr. Jiří Burian, CSc., doc. PhDr. Jiří Dvorský, CSc., PhDr. Richard Sedláček, PhDr. Zdeněk Smetánka, CSc., PhDr. Vlastimil Vondruška, CSc., PhDr. Jaroslav Vrchoťka, CSc., PhDr. Josef Žemlička, CSc.¹⁸

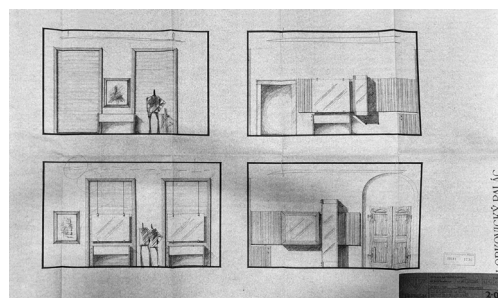


Fig. 6.: Hall No.9: views of the walls, use of designed elements. (Source: Prague Castle Archive, New Plan Collection, signature 10 601 Lobkowicz Palace, Lobkowicz Palace - Historical Exposition of the National Museum in Prague: exhibition spaces, installation of historical exposition, November 1983)

ENGINEERING PROJECTS

As already mentioned above, the gradual reconstruction of the electricity and heating system has been given great emphasis also from a financial point of view. Utilities and wiring inside some buildings were reconstructed, resulting in significant technical upgrading and reliability. This has also resulted in financial efficiency and sufficient energy supply capacity. The design work was carried out by specialised organisations such as Energoprojekt Praha (electrical systems) and Vojenský projektový ústav Praha (heating system) and by specialised studios in SÚRP MO.

Among the important constructions was the construction of the collector network, which contributed to improving the function and reliability of the utilities. The collectors still contain the backbone of the utility. The construction of the collectors required the demolition of some parts of the buildings and was associated with minor structural interventions (e.g. resurfacing of the northern parkway, lighting, grates to prevent unwanted access to certain areas, repairs to stone lining). Already in the 1970s, a technical gallery (object 1A) was built on the parkland of no. 37-39, followed by object 2A, a technical gallery (collector), which ran from no. 39 to no. 198 and ended at the Foundry Yard. The lead designer was architect Karel Firbas and the responsible designer was engineer Ivana Matičková. Several variants were worked on, the original route of the collector was changed because it would have interfered with the exposed foundations, which would have led to complicated underpinning. The project (1979) and construction were delayed and building 2A was finally completed only in 1980. As part of the early 1980s refurbishment of the Foundry (planning permission 1983), 2 rooms were designed and constructed for a temporary heat exchanger station and a room for the chillers with access from the 2A collector. A downstream collector 3A was designed in the Foundry Yard. The single-stage design was prepared in March 1984 by the Ore Project staff and construction took place from May 1984 to December 1986. The contractor was the state enterprise VKD Kladno. The whole construc-

¹⁷ ČSAV = Československá akademie věd (Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences)

¹⁸ For more information on the preparation of the exhibition, the course of exhibitions, the libretto and the script, see T. Kopllová, Permanent Exhibition of the National Museum in the Lobkowicz Palace, Bachelor's thesis, Faculty of Arts, Prague 2020. Or the unprocessed fund of the National Museum's Registry – National Museum Archives, National Museum Registry, Department of the Historical Exposition of the Lobkowicz Palace (1983-2006), not inventoried.

tion was divided into a collector, which started in the substation in the third courtyard and ended with the connection to the existing collector under the North Gate. The cable tunnel, which ran parallel under the collector, started under the extension in the Foundry Yard, passed under the North Gate and terminated at the T1616 substation at the North Gate. The collector was partly constructed in an open trench and the other part was mined in a shaft. The cable tunnel was mined by mining. According to the final invoice, 3,64 million CZK was paid. [15]

(tunnel) and the construction of a part of the park path in the North Parkland with a staircase and modification of the Gothic wall. The new section of the parkway and the collector underneath it were to be connected to the east to the already built parkway of St. George Monastery and the collector underneath it. The total cost was set at 6.5 million CZK. The building permit was granted as early as 1984, and according to the construction diary, construction activity took place from February 1985 to July 1988. [16] The collector of Nos. 35, 36 passed under the courtyard wings of Nos.

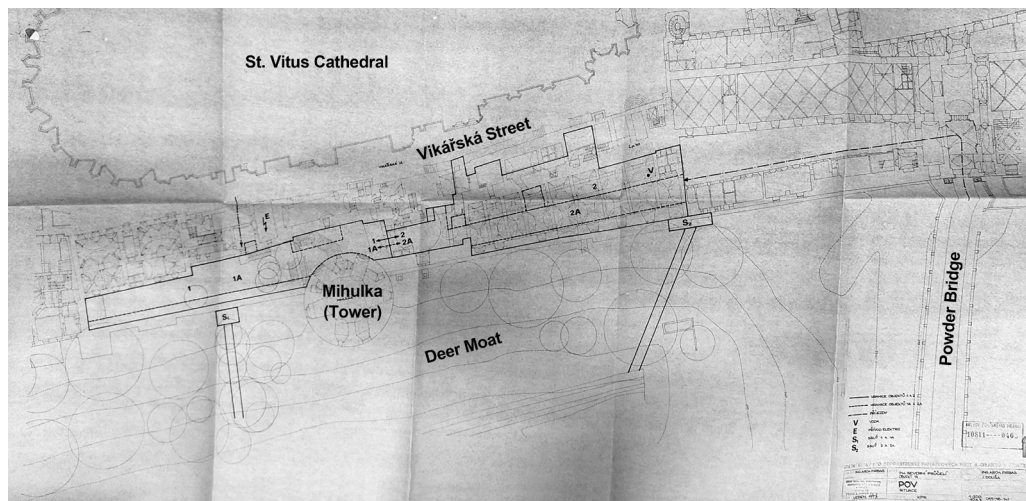


Fig. 7.: POV - situation (object 1A). (Source: Prague Castle Archive, New Plan Collection, signature 10 811 North facade, North facade of P.C. - object 1A, project documentation, November 1972)

On Jiřské Square, collector No. 34 was built in connection with building 1A and collector No. 35, 36. The one-stage project was prepared in 1982 in the castle studio of SÚRP MO under the direction of arch. Hlaváčková. The engineering project consisted of a collector which was routed under Jiřské Square through the basement of the house No. 34 and under the yard of No. 34. The project also included the induced modifications of a part of Plečnik's tunnel, the existing smaller gallery

35 and 36. The project was also developed in 1982. Several variants were considered and therefore several changes and additions were made, the implementation took place only in 1985-1987.

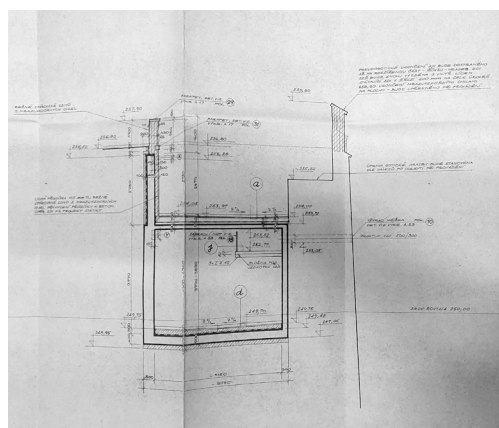


Fig. 8.: Section B-B' (Collector No.34). (Source: Prague Castle Archive, New Plan Collection, signature 10 811 North facade, Collector No.34, Jiřské Square - P.C., one-stage project, December 1982)

All these collectors (3A, 2A, 1A, collector No. 35, 36, collector No. 34 including the branch to the collector chamber under Jiřské Square, collector along the northern and eastern facade of St. George Monastery) formed the so-called Northern Collector of Prague Castle. It was connected to the collector from the Powder Bridge in the west under the North Gate. In the east it ended at the level of the south-eastern corner of St. George Monastery. In 1988, a project was developed (led by Ing. Pavel Jakoubek on behalf of the SÚRP MO) to equip and retrofit this collector. The project dealt with the construction works connected with additional locksmith constructions, removal of some non-functional constructions from previous stages, modifications of the collector surfaces, entrance openings and fire partitions. For the equipment itself, racks with cable trays, pipe racks with metallized surface and single point fixing were designed.

The most significant investment was the construction of the energy centre. Already in 1983, the urban and architectural conditions for the construction were studied. Two years later, the basic concept of the solution and a comparative study of the SCZT¹⁹ were prepared. Since 1986, the construction of the energy centre (EGC), the necessary demolition works, the rebuilding

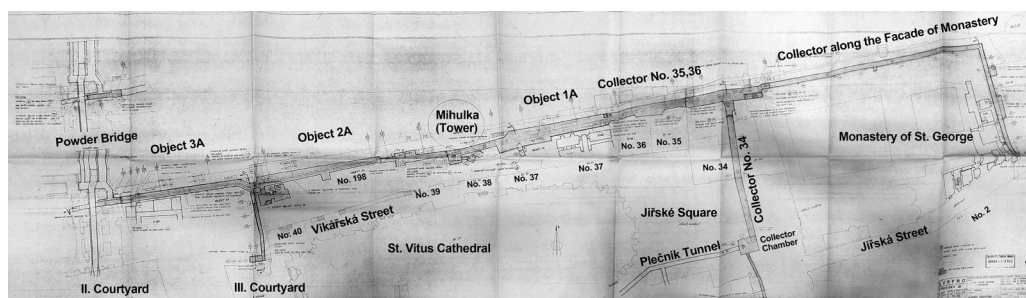


Fig. 9.: Floor plan of the collector (North collector). (Source: Prague Castle Archive, New Plan Collection, signature 10 811 North facade, North collector - construction, one-stage project, December 1987)

¹⁹ SCZT = systémy centrálního zásobování teplem (central heating supply systems)

of the demolished buildings and the connection to the collector network were planned. The design work was completed in 1990, during which time the implementation took place, with some minor modifications still taking place in 1991. The actual EGC building was constructed to the west of the Riding School. It contained the R1 substation, the GG1 substation, the central cooling station, the steam inlet exchange station from the Holešovice power plant, the workshop, sanitary facilities and the water treatment plant. The connection to the collector network was either through a tunnel or through a tunnel and canal from the EGC building itself to the chamber on the bridgehead of the Powder Bridge at the Paccasi Gate.

CONCLUSION

This paper focuses on architectural interventions at Prague Castle in the 1980s. The topic has not been systematically discussed yet, most of the information comes from archival documents and interviews with witnesses. The article focuses on the often overlooked building interventions by often unknown architects. The period under study is characterised by reconstructions and renovations of the internal and external spaces of the Castle, which were of a rather lower quality (especially compared to the 1960s). Most of the major changes were still taking place in the 1970s, and the interventions of the 1980s did not manifest themselves much externally and did not fundamentally change the architectural form or function of the Castle. Financially, the construction work was still a priority. During 1981-1985, 249.9 million CZK were spent on repairs and investments. In the following five years it was planned to spend even more 561.6 million. After the Velvet Revolution, most of these works met the same fate, namely gradual destruction, reconstruction or return to the form of the First Republic. To this day, a minimum of realisations have survived, with the exception of very practical engineering projects.

The most important intervention was the creation of the historical exposition of the National Museum in the Lobkowitz Palace. However, even this major action was started in the 1970s. Furthermore, the reality of socialist construction at that time was clearly shown here, when, due to various setbacks (mainly on the part of contractors), construction was carried out from 1973 to 1987. Although the building was returned to the Lobkowitz family in 2002 and the historical exhibition was moved in 2006, the premises have retained their character and are used as a museum and picture gallery.

The second half of the 1980s was marked by engineering projects - the power system was reconstructed and modernized in the area of electricity and heat and cold supply. The construction of the collectors involved minor construction work (modifications to the lining, surfaces, new elements such as grilles) and demolition. A significant intervention was the irrigation of the spaces above the tunnels with the networks. The collectors and the energy centre are still in operation today, they were assessed as important projects and therefore their construction was continued after the Velvet Revolution, unlike other projects. Today's planners appreciate their creation, because they benefit from the advantages of the design of the time. From a technical point of view, the usefulness and necessity of these projects cannot be denied, but from a conservation point of view, they posed certain problems and were not evaluated positively, and from an archaeological point of view, they were essentially a major devastation, because a lot of strata disappeared, which unfortunately could not be sufficiently investigated because the excavated soil was immediately removed.

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