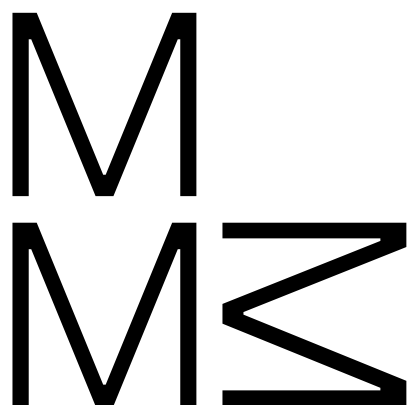


Špilberk Castle and Fortress
sightseeing tour

EN

The story of the Castle



Muzeum města Brna

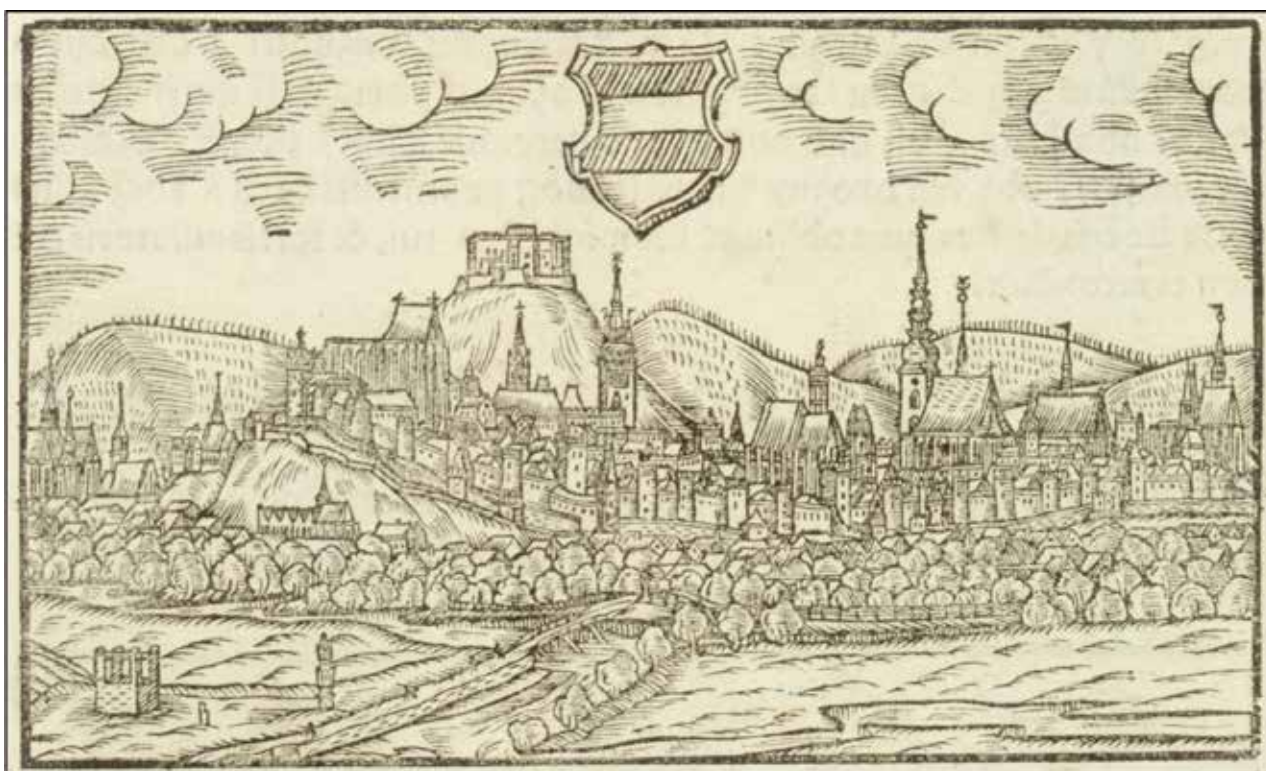
hrad Špilberk

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the National Cultural Monument, Špilberk Castle and Fortress, the seat of the Brno City Museum.

Špilberk has been an inseparable landmark of the city of Brno for more than seven centuries and also a symbol of both sovereign power and human suffering. During that time, it has been rebuilt many times and its function has changed as well. During our tour we will briefly get acquainted with its rich history.

If you have any questions now or later, I will be happy to answer them.



*The oldest depiction of Brno and Špilberk. JAN WILLENBERG. Brno. View from the south-east. 1593. Illustration in the book by Bartholomeus Paprocky of Hloholy, *The Mirror of the Famous Margraviate of Moravia*.*

ROYAL CASTLE

The castle, built on the highest hill in Brno, was primarily of strategic importance for the emerging city. It formed a solid defensive point, as it prevented the enemy from taking over the hill and its potential use for an attack on the city.

The first written mention of the castle dates back to 1277, when the Bohemian king and Moravian margrave, the probable founder of the castle, Ottokar II of Bohemia, dedicated the castle chapel to St. John the Baptist and entrusted it to the administration of Jindřich, the provost of Doubravnice. It has

not been proven yet with certainty where the chapel was exactly located in the castle. A year later, the General Assembly of the Estates of the Kingdom of Bohemia was held at Špilberk and was not chaired by Ottokar II of Bohemia personally but conducted in a ceremonial manner. The first mention of the name Špilberk („Spilberch“) dates back to 1279; it was first used for the hill, and then transferred also to the castle. We will discuss what the castle roughly looked like at that time later.



PETR VAVREČKA, ALEŠ NAVRÁTIL. Špilberk as the castle where Moravian margraves resided in the 14th century. View from the north-east. 2017.

THE SEAT OF MORAVIAN MARGRAVES

In the 14th and early 15th century, Špilberk served as the seat of Moravian margraves of the Luxembourg dynasty. Firstly, the younger brother of Charles IV John Henry of Luxembourg and in particular John Henry of Luxembourg's son, Jobst of Moravia (Moravian), who stayed at the castle until his death in 1411. Jobst was one of the most important Moravian politicians, as he obtained the title of King of the Holy Roman Empire during his career.

After the extinction of the Luxembourg margrave line in 1411, the castle began to

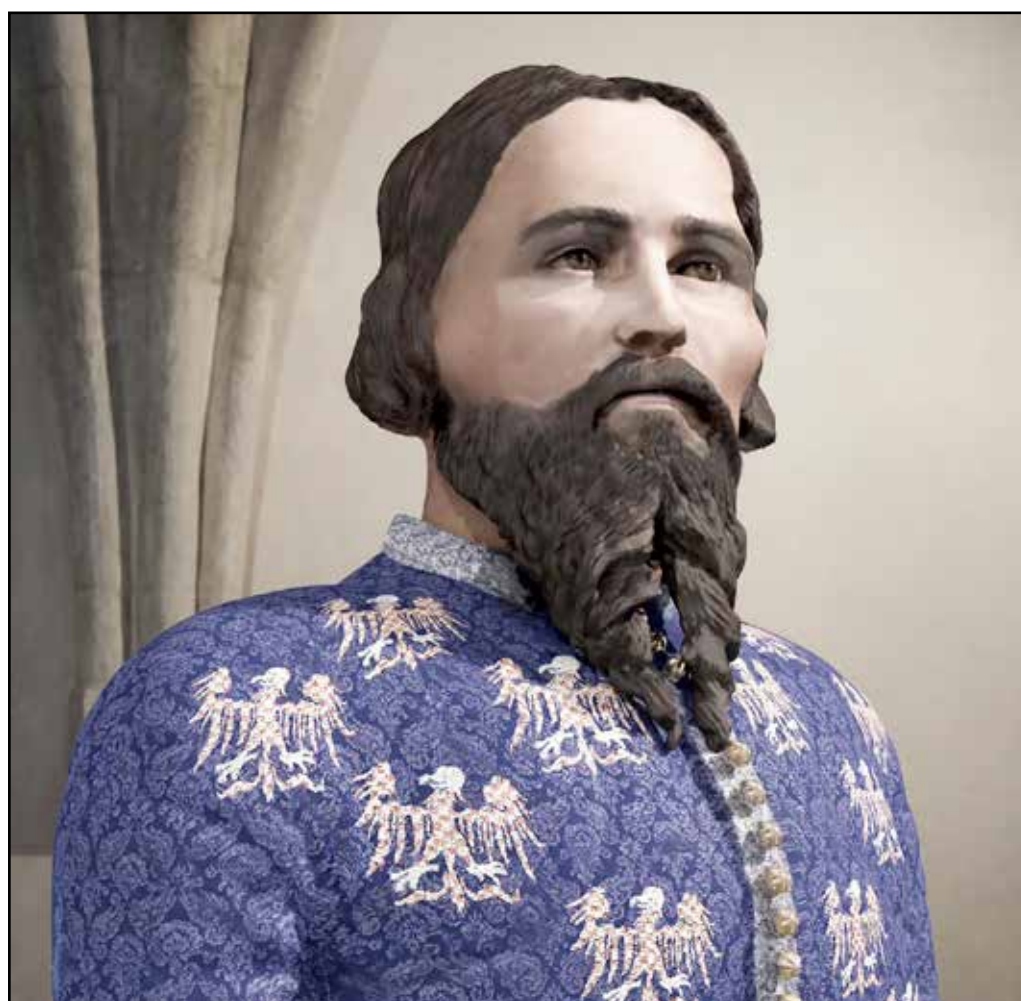
serve as a military fortress administered by burgraves, which also played a role in the Hussite Wars, particularly between the Bohemian King George of Poděbrady and the Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus. Not only did the military importance of the castle decline in the following years, but also the interest of the rulers in its maintenance. In 1560 Špilberk became the property of the city of Brno. The castle was administered by the city clerk and a small military garrison was located there. Due to its poor condition, the castle even burnt down in 1578.



You can learn more about Jobst of Moravia and the earliest history of Špilberk in the exposition „**FROM CASTLE TO FORTRESS**“.



The partially exposed foundations of the medieval castle – the cylindrical tower.



A computer visualisation of the appearance of Jobst of Moravia, which you can see in the exposition „From Castle to Fortress“.

PROVINCIAL FORTRESS

Špilberk played a key role during the Thirty Years' War. Because some of the Moravian Estates joined the Czech Estates Revolt, some of them were imprisoned here in the castle as punishment. As a result, the castle was confiscated from the town by Ferdinand II (1578 - 1637) in 1621. In the summer of 1645 Špilberk, under the leadership of **Jacob George Ogilvy** (1605 - 1661) and despite its dilapidated condition, withstood a three-month siege when many times outnumbered by Swedish forces and contributed significantly to turning the tides of the war. The Emperor was aware of the strategic importance of Špilberk and therefore invested considerable resources in its reconstruction. Over the next hundred years the castle was gradually converted into a massive baroque fortress under the direction of the military engineer Pierre Philippe Bechade de Rochepin. In the 1740s **casemates** were built into two side moats of the castle which, during the reign of the Emperor Joseph II, (reigned from 1780 to 1790) went down in history as one of the harshest gaols of the Habsburg monarchy. In the middle of the 18th century, Colonel Franz von Trenck served his life sentence at Špilberk (not in the casemates, but in a building in the back moat), during which he died. Although this prison was primarily intended for criminal prisoners sentenced to many years and life imprisonment, from the 1790s onwards, individuals we might call political prisoners were also brought in here. Specifically, in the autumn of 1795, a total of 15 so-called Hungarian Jacobins led by Ferenc Kazinczy. The actual end of the fortress came during the second visit of the Emperor Napoleon I Bonaparte (1769 - 1821) and the subsequent occupation of Brno in 1809. Napoleon then ordered the French army engineers to destroy strategic parts of Špilberk: several bastions (e.g., the South-West one), to backfill the local well and to

destroy the armoury which stood in the large courtyard. Špilberk was then officially deprived of its status as a fortress in 1820.



HIERONYMUS BENNO BAYER, HANS JÖRG ZEISER. Siege of Brno by the Swedes. 1645 - 1646. Cut-out. The original is displayed in the exposition Brno at Špilberk.



Coat of arms of George Jacob Ogilvy in the large courtyard of Špilberk Castle.



You can learn more about the siege of Brno by Swedish forces in the tour **“BASTION - FORTIFICATION”**.



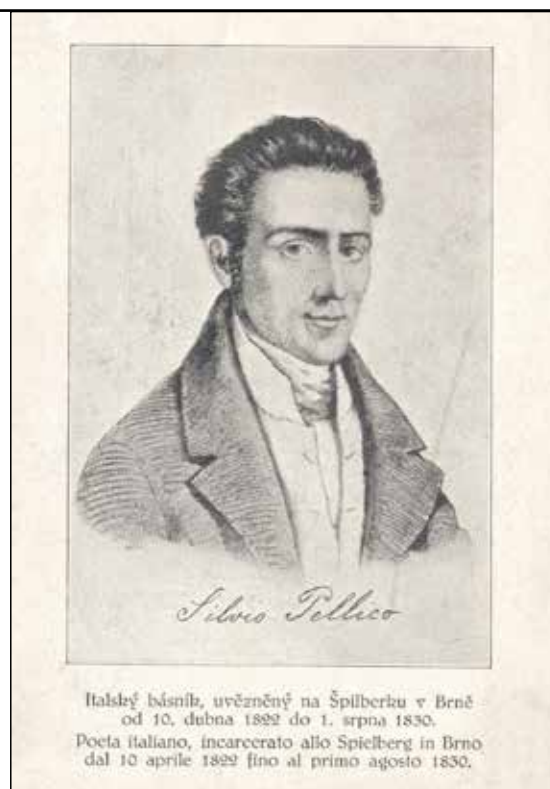
You can learn more about the prison system at Špilberk in the tour **“CASEMATES - PRISON”**.

PRISON OF THE NATIONS

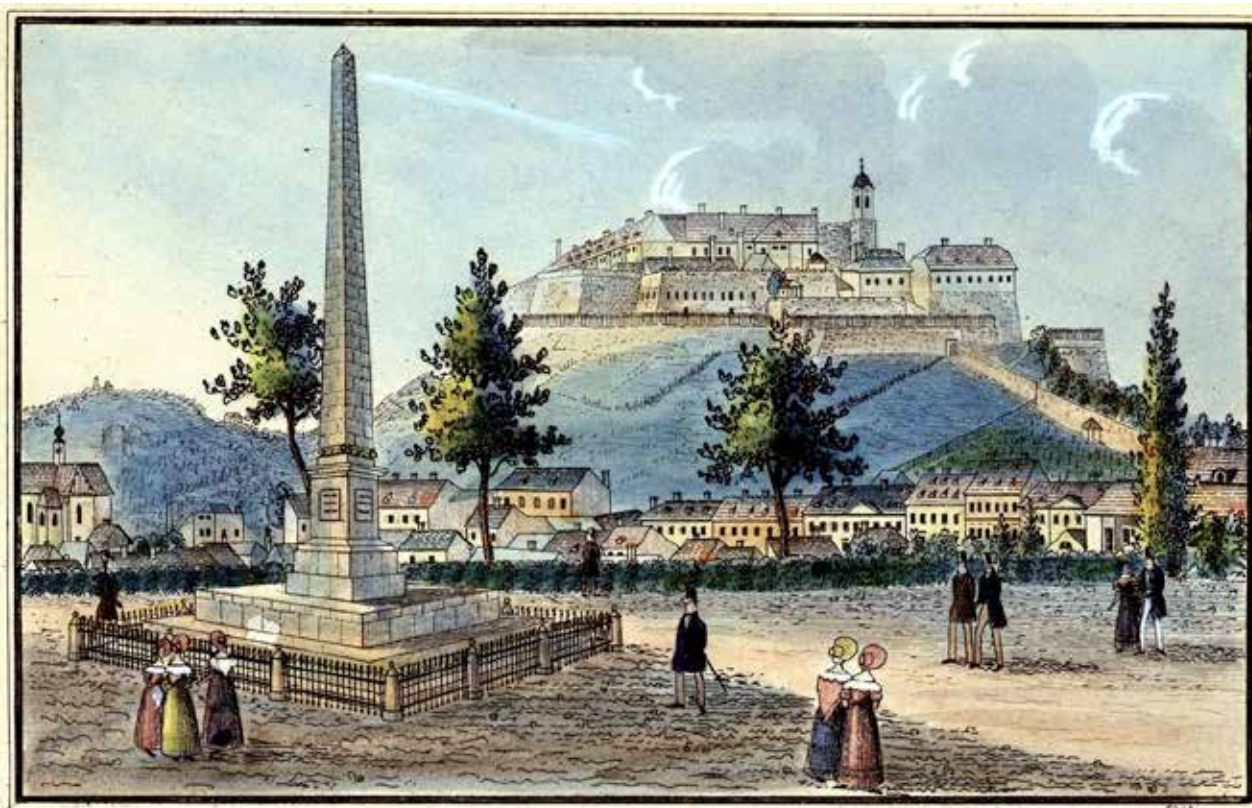
In the same year, the former fortress was handed over to civilian administration and began to serve prison purposes for more than thirty years. Among the first of the prisoners (which one might call political) in the early 1820s were so-called Italian Carbonari and members of the Young Italy movement. Probably the most famous of them was the poet **Silvio Pellico** who, after his release, wrote his memories of the local prison in the book „My Gaols“.

The largest national group (almost 200 men) were Polish revolutionaries, especially participants in the Cracow uprising against Austrian rule in 1846. One of them, Henryk Bogdański, like Pellico, made the most of his experience with the Spilberk gaol in his book „Polish Revolutionary at Špilberk“.

Even before the civil prison was abolished by the Emperor Franz Joseph I in 1855, one of the prison cells was occupied by the well-known criminal Václav Babinský.



Silvio Pellico. Postcard from 1920's.



Špilberk at the time of Silvio Pellico's imprisonment. J. V. REIN. View from Františkov towards Špilberk. Between 1820 - 1850. (Moravian Library).

You can learn more about the prison system at Špilberk in the tour **“ŠPILBERK – PRISON OF NATIONS”**.

#hradspilberk
#vilatugendhat
#meninskabrana
#arnoldovavila

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 @hrad.spilberk

BARRACKS OF SEVERAL ARMIES

In the following almost hundred years (1858 - 1960), Špilberk was occupied by the army once again. It served several armies as a barracks for about 500 soldiers: the Austro-Hungarian, Czechoslovak, German and, after the Second World War, Czechoslovak again.

In 1862, Špilberk was handed over to the ownership of the city of Brno with the intention of establishing a public park on its slopes.

One of the important events of this time was the opening of Špilberk's casemates and lookout tower to the public in 1880.

Thanks to this, the casemates have become not only the most visited part of the castle

to this day, but also the venue of the oldest continuous guided tour in the Brno city area.

During the years of the First World War and especially at the beginning of the Second World War, Špilberk served as a prison once again. Between 1939 and 1941 it was significantly redeveloped to serve as barracks for the Wehrmacht (the German armed forces). Špilberk was presented as a Moravian margraval palace of the Barbarossa type, or more precisely, as a feudal residence of Teutonic knights: role models for German soldiers. We can see some elements from this period in the castle to this day.



Špilberk as barracks of the Austro-Hungarian army. JOSEF KUNZFELD. Špilberk. View of the eastern wing of the castle. 1907.



Špilberk as barracks of the German Wehrmacht. HERBERT ORTH (?). Špilberk. View of the eastern wing of the castle. Around 1941.

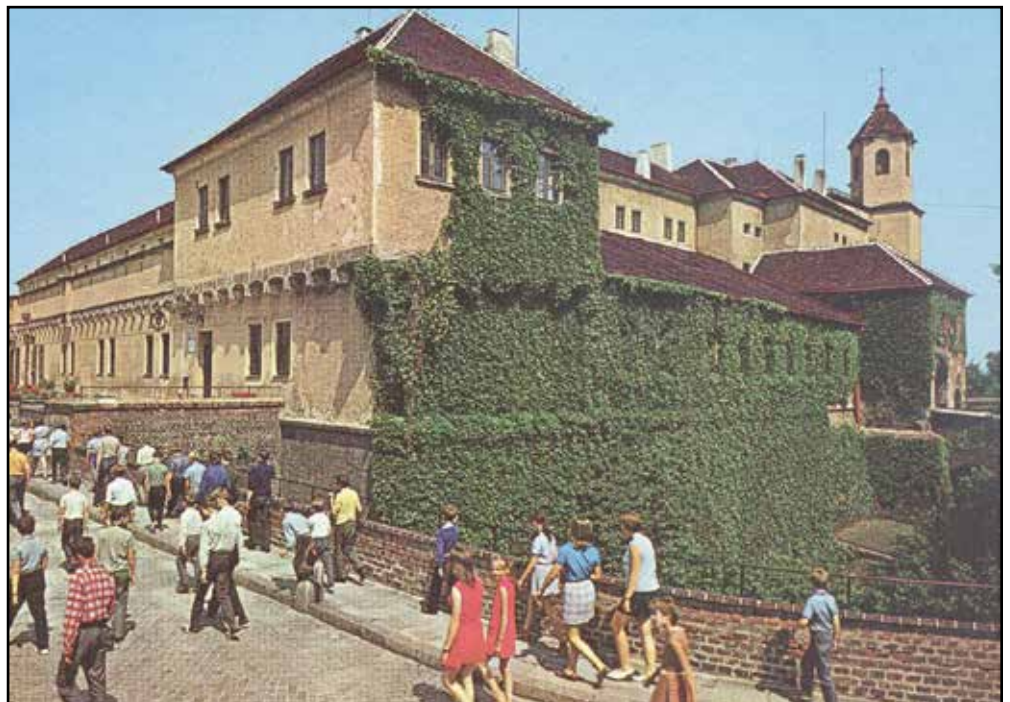
BRNO CITY MUSEUM AND NATIONAL CULTURAL MONUMENT

After the Second World War, Špilberk was used by the Czechoslovak army. In 1960, the Brno City Museum moves to the castle and installs its first exhibition in the same year when Špilberk became a national cultural monument - 1962.

From the 1960s onwards, further building modifications were under way at Špilberk, mainly for the purposes of the museum. This also included the removal of the major-

ity of German modifications from the Second World War period.

A general reconstruction of Špilberk has been underway since the 1980s. Its penultimate part was completed in 2020 with the repair and opening of the former water tanks in the eastern bastion, where the exhibition „Temple of Stone“ has been installed.



Špilberk has been the seat of the Brno City Museum since 1960. Postcard from the 1960s.

1. BRIDGE

Now we are standing on the bridge which was built in the 18th century, when Špilberk was growing into a massive baroque fortress. Its construction is mainly related to practical considerations. To move heavy cannons from the armoury, which stood in the large courtyard, to the walls and back. The building on your left ❶, where the apartment of the fortress commander was located, was also built at this time. In medieval times a Outer bailey ("parkán") with a wall was situated here. A stone loophole has remained preserved from this period ❷. During the Second World War, the rooms were converted into a mess hall for the non-commissioned officers of the local garrison. In the 1960s the mess hall was adapted by Ing. Arch. Kamil Fuchs for a restaurant and wine bar of the national enterprise Interhotel Brno.

The extension ❸ on the right dates back to the 18th century and the Špilberk chaplain resided here.

The bridge was built on the site of the original wooden bridge (drawbridge). The pulleys installed in the upper part of the passageway refer to it. They were installed here during the reconstruction of the castle for the purposes of the Wehrmacht in 1940s, to emphasize the medieval character of Špilberk. At that time, a limestone emblem ❹ from the beginning of the 18th century which symbolises the union of Bohemia and Moravia under Habsburg rule, was secondarily placed above the door. It is an Austrian imperial double-headed eagle holding the symbols of imperial power in his talons: a sceptre and a sword. On his chest he bears the emblems of Bohemia (lion) and Moravia (eagle).





The Austrian imperial eagle on the frontage of the main castle gate.

2. MAIN CASTLE GATE

We will now go through the main castle gate. It is of medieval origin and was modified in later years. The current appearance originates from the 1940s.

On your left you will see the so-called SEDILE ❶, originating from the 13th century and reminding us of the earliest history of

the castle. These are niches in the wall that may have been used by the castle garrison when they needed to rest. They are made of crinoidal limestone – a typical building material in Brno since the Middle Ages. It was quarried on the Stránská rock. We will see this type of limestone at several places during the tour.



3. *SMALL COURTYARD*

We are standing in the small courtyard. The medieval castle had only a single large courtyard with impressive dimensions of 93 x 53 metres. It has a rectangular shape and was accessible from two sides. On the east, i.e., from the town, it was protected by a massive square tower ❶, the so-called donjon (residential tower) measuring 14 x 13 metres, and on the west by a round tower with a diameter of 15 metres (with walling up to 3.5 metres thick), which was not preserved to this day. The eastern part of

the castle, which we will visit, probably had a residential and representative function and the western part an operational-economic function.

The so-called central wing ❷, which you can see behind me, was built in the 1830s. Its construction is related to the abolition of the prison in the casemates. It was then decided to build a new wing in the upper part of the castle to increase the capacity of the upper prison.



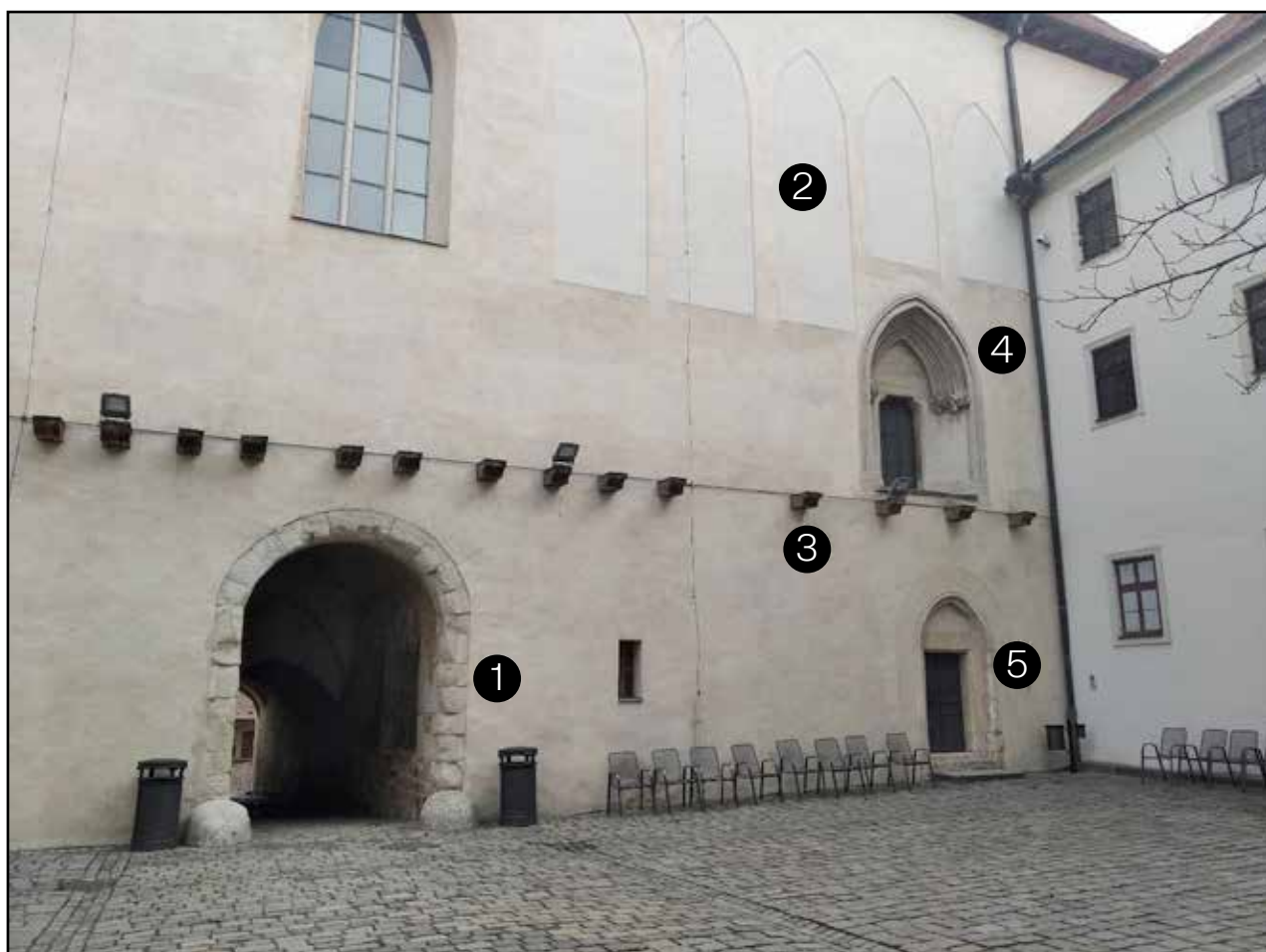
4. EASTERN WING

The eastern wing of Špilberk represents the only largely preserved part of the Gothic castle. In the other wings only the perimeter wall remains.

The original Gothic passageway to the castle is particularly noteworthy ❶. The current appearance of the eastern wing is the result of the monument restoration from 1999 - 2000, when the Gothic appearance was "restored".

The hinted windows in the facade ❷ show the location of the original windows; the wooden beams ❸ indicate the course of

the original wooden courtyard gallery. From the courtyard gallery, a sumptuous portal ❹, again in crinoidal limestone, led to the main representation area in the castle. The partially exposed portal ❺ on the ground floor of the castle leads to the so-called Gothic Hall, which we will visit in a moment. We will enter it through a pointed-arch concession portal, of which the southern part (on the right) is original. The rest of the portal was recently rebuilt. Currently, this space is used for short-term exhibitions of the Brno City Museum.



5. GOTHIC HALL

The so-called Gothic Hall belongs to the oldest parts of the castle and is one of the few rooms that have been preserved in almost original form.

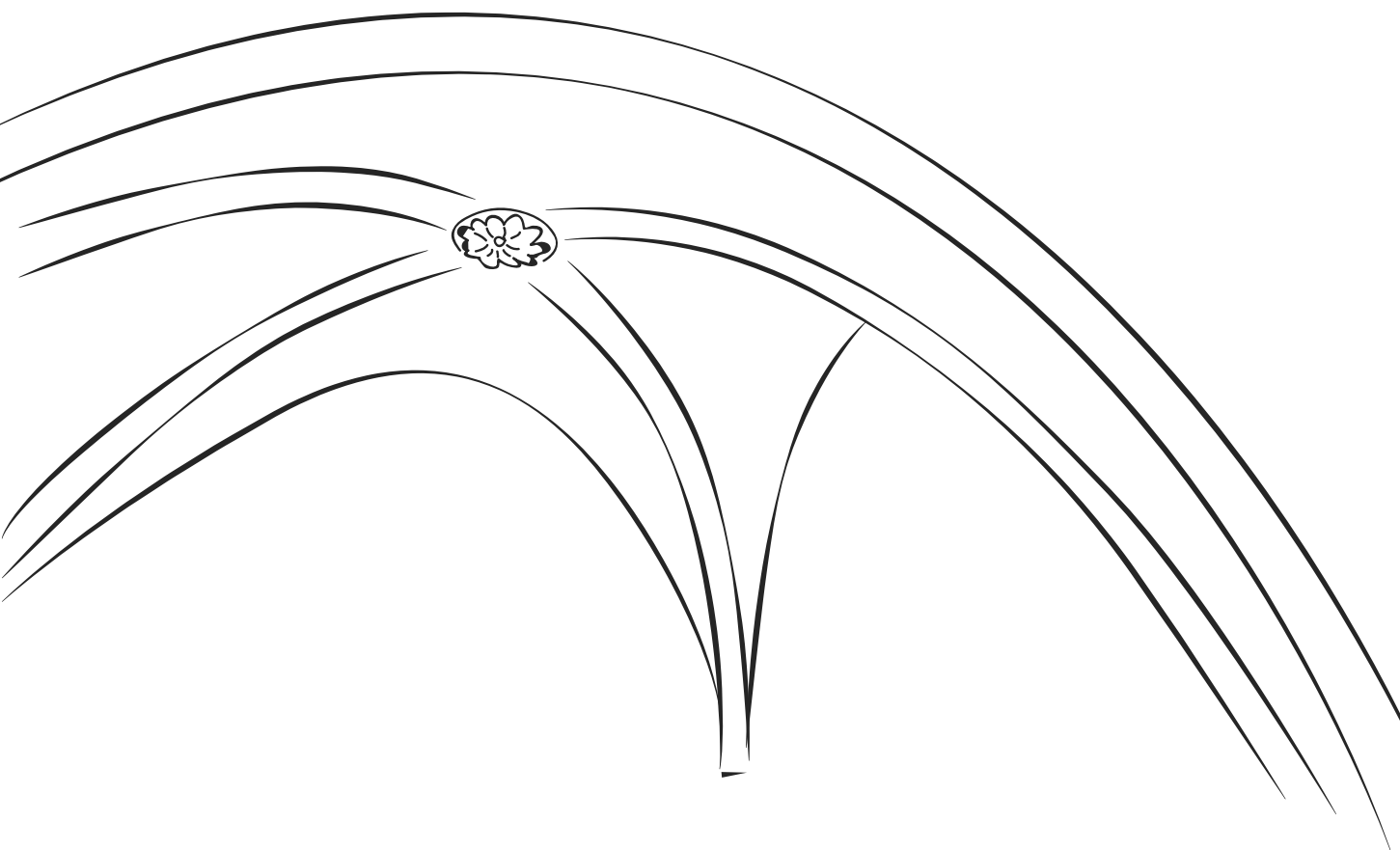
The entire space was created during the construction of the castle sometime in the middle of the 13th century.

The hall is divided into two parts by a double arcade with a central supporting pillar. In the main part, we can notice the original cross-ribbed vault ❶ above us, which is topped with keystones ❷, covered with grapevine reliefs and oak leaves. In front of us there are modern niches ❸ (openings in the wall), where probably stone benches were situated. A full sill and windows with artificially lightened marble panels remind

us of the form of the original windows.

There are replicas of tiles on the floor. The room is nowadays entered through the original Gothic portal.

We know virtually nothing about the original use of the rooms. One of the possible interpretations was that it was a chapel for the castle dwellers. During the baroque fortress period (in the 18th century, when Franz von Trenck, for example, was imprisoned at Špilberk), the premises were converted into a cooking facility for the garrison. In the 19th and early 20th century, a canteen for the local garrison was located here. Between 1928 and 1939 the Czechoslovak army used the premises and set up an exposition of the so-called Museum of Resistance (Legionary Museum) here.





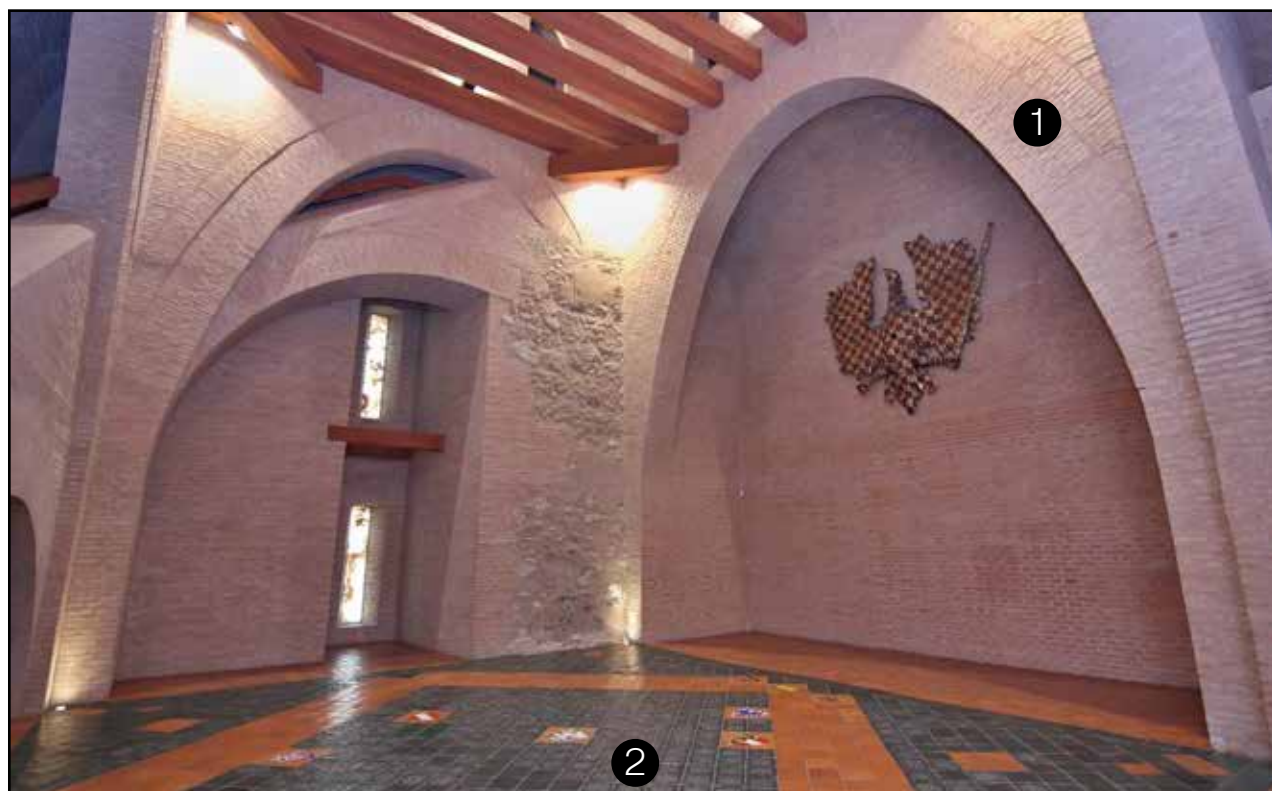
6. SQUARE TOWER

The square tower was an important part of the defence system of the original medieval Špilberk Castle. The rectangular structure with dimensions of 13×14 metres protected the eastern entrance gate to the castle and at the same time, thanks to its strong walls, it could serve as the last line of defence for the castle's defenders. Originally, several floors were built into the tower, and the virtually windowless space could look very gloomy. However, the safety of the inhabitants of Špilberk required such a solution. During the baroque reconstruction of the fortress, a practical use was sought for the dark rooms with extremely thick walls. In the end, the decision was made to turn them into prison cells for soldiers of the Špilberk barracks serving sentences. These rooms then served the same purpose in 1939-1940, when the Wehrmacht and the Gestapo took control of Špilberk. The cells in the former square tower served as solitary confinement cells for detainees who needed to be isolated from other prisoners. During the reconstruction of the eastern

wing of the castle in 1999-2000, it was decided to partially rehabilitate the original function of the defensive tower. The baroque floors of each storey were removed in an attempt to highlight the monumental open space of the building. To strengthen the incomplete medieval perimeter walling, an interesting modern element was used, namely the completion of brick strips in the shape of a parabolic arch **1** iconically referring to the construction of Pavilion A of the Brno Exhibition Centre.

Nowadays the interior of the square tower gives the impression of a well-protected "treasure room" and is therefore used for museum presentations of significant collection items.

On the floor there is a map of the Bohemian Kingdom and other territories in the domain at the time of Ottokar II of Bohemia. **2** At the forefront we see the personal emblems of the monarch. The individual countries are marked with landmarks: Carniola, Carinthia, Styria, Austria, Moravia and Bohemia.





Three are blank. Cheb, the Mark of Vindice and the city of Pordenone. This is because, according to heraldists, there are no known coloured coats of arms from these areas from the time of Ottokar II of Bohemia. The map is oriented towards the south, i.e., towards Rome, as was the custom at that time. The “north-up” orientation of maps appeared in Europe with the spread of compass in the 14th century.

Artistic representation of symbols of the reign of Ottokar II of Bohemia inspired by the so-called crests of the monarch.



Carniola



Carinthia



Styria



Austria



Moravia



Bohemia

One of the museum's interesting collection items is displayed on the wall in the square tower. It is a Moravian eagle from the first half of the 18th century. It is carved from lime wood and has an interesting design, where the necessary volume for the eagle's body was obtained by assembling wooden parts. The wings are attached at the root of shoulders by a system of wedges and screws.

From the way the colours are used, it can be assumed that it comes from the interior of one of the prominent buildings in Brno. The artefact was restored in 2008 by Jindřich Jurča, the preserver of the Brno City Museum.



Moravian Eagle

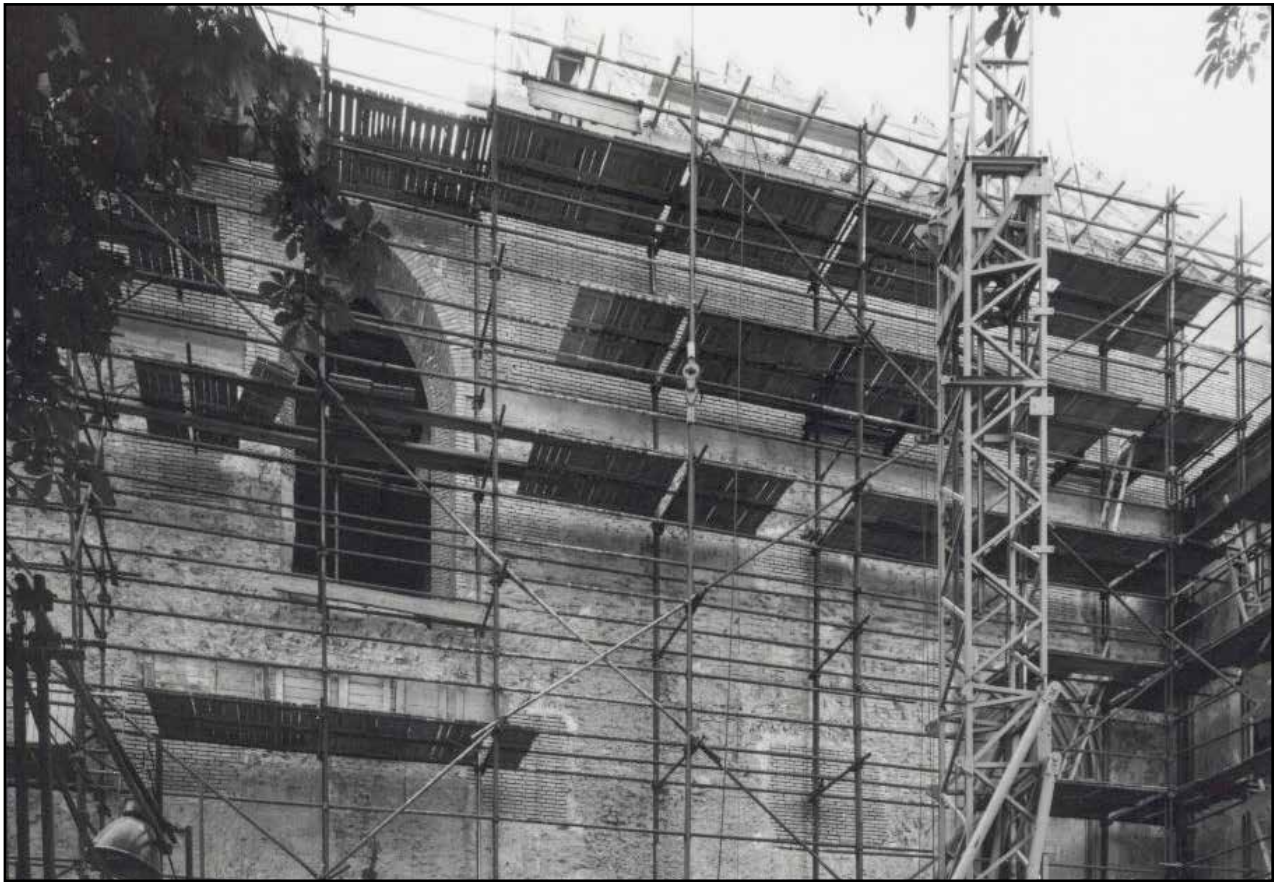
7. SPACE ABOVE THE PASSAGEWAY

The original function of the superstructure above the eastern gate to the castle could not be ascertained either from written sources or during building-historical research. It is very likely that the space was divided into several floors. However, one hypothesis considers the use of the hall as it is open now, without horizontal divisions. This theory claims that in one of the construction phases of the medieval castle, a castle chapel was situated here. This would be consistent with the longitudinal orientation of the room, where the position of a possible altar faces the east, which is one of the conditions for the construction of a Christian sanctuary. However, in the environment of medieval castles often standing

on exposed positions, their builders often did not have the possibility to orient the chapel correctly. Therefore it was allowed by the Church to deviate from the prescribed scheme. The assumption of a sacral place immediately adjacent to the prismatic tower cannot be confirmed or refuted. The chapel is also mentioned in the oldest surviving document concerning the Špilberk Castle, which originates from the 4th September 1277 and was issued by Ottokar II of Bohemia. in Prague which says:
"... that our chapel in Brno, which we had built and ordered to dedicate in honour of the blessed John the Baptist..."

During the reconstruction, a keystone ❶, which is bricked up here, was found in the backfill of the vault. Originally, the ceiling

space might have been topped with a cross vault, similar to the one in the Gothic hall we visited.



View of the eastern wing of the castle from the small courtyard during the reconstruction. Photos from the second half of the 1990s.



8. ROYAL CHAPEL

The so-called “royal chapel” is the key area of the eastern wing. It was originally vaulted with two diversely-sized bays of cross vaulting and lit by tall windows with a characteristic pointed arch. From the small courtyard it is possible to see the entrance portal to the room, decorated in an exceptionally elaborated manner, which was accessed from the courtyard by a wooden gallery indicated in the perimeter of the masonry. Nowadays the whole space has essentially two functional interpretations. Either it was the main meeting hall where the relevant monarch or his representative granted an audience, or it was actually the main chapel of the castle dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

During the reconstruction of the castle in 1997-2000, it was decided to uncover the preserved relics of the medieval masonry and to complete the missing structural elements into the form of the chapel mentioned above. A choir loft ❶ was built into the southern part of the room, covering an early Gothic window with seats in the thickness of the masonry ❷. The arcades with sedilia ❸ along the longer walls of the room were also reconstructed. The vault was not completed, so the room opens vertically into the roof trussing ❹ and enhances the impression of the most monumental room of Špilberk Castle.



Although we do not know the exact original appearance or function of the hall, it is likely that this room belonged to the luxurious part of the medieval castle used for the representation of its owners. Undoubtedly, Bohemian kings and Moravian margraves spent time here, including for instance John Henry of Luxembourg, his son Jobst, Ottokar II of Bohemia and Charles IV with his first

wife Blanka of Valois, who was banished to Brno by her unfriendly mother-in-law. Whether they prayed or received visitors in this part of Špilberk cannot be decided today, but the royal splendour emanates from the preserved remains of the Gothic architecture of the eastern wing to this day.



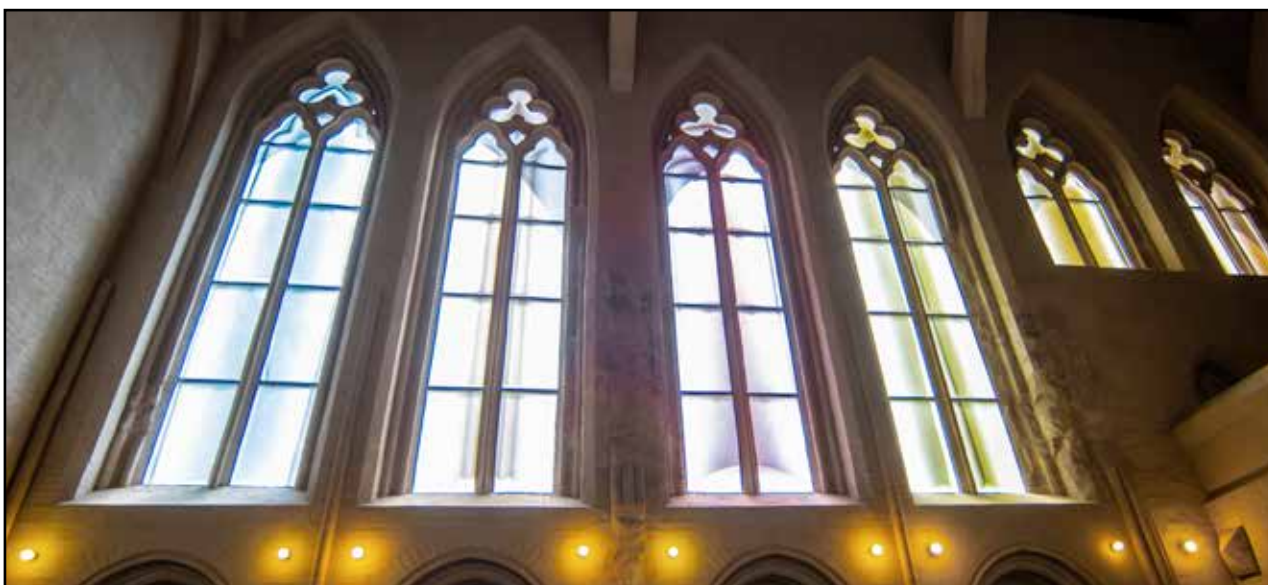
The royal chapel after the reconstruction for the purposes of the Wehrmacht between 1939 and 1941.

STAINED GLASS IN THE EAST

The renovation of the oldest part of Špilberk Castle, the eastern wing, was completed in 2003 with the installation of new stained glass windows designed by **Stanislav Libenský** and **Jaroslava Brychtová**.

It was not a classical multicoloured stained glass, where individual panes are separated by metal, but each window is tinted in a shade of one colour. The leaded glass was coloured with unusual oxides of even golden tones to result in a shade corresponding

to the importance of the historical site. The glass was then cut, polished and shaped to precise formats. The only similar works in our country is located in the St. Wenceslas Chapel of St. Vitus Cathedral and in the Gothic chapel in Horšovský Týn. This was the last work of the famous glass designer Stanislav Libenský, who unfortunately did not live to see it unveiled. His wife Jaroslava Brychtová thus took over the completion of the commission for Špilberk.



9. RENAISSANCE PARLOUR

The room was created during the reconstruction of the eastern wing of the castle carried out in 1994-2000. The name "Renaissance Parlour" was given to it according to the preserved Renaissance window, which is incidentally the only preserved window of its kind in the castle. We will see it on the outside. The original features are the jamb of the window niche and the sanguine

inscriptions ❶ on the scuncheon ❷. All other parts of the room, including the wooden ceiling ❸ and the wooden and glass window parts ❹ are modern constructions made in the spirit of the Renaissance style. Historical and historicizing furniture from the collections of the Brno City Museum was placed in the room.



PAINTINGS IN THE RENAISSANCE PARLOUR

Right wall

- portraits of Emperors Joseph I and Charles VI

Their author is the painter **Simone Gionima (1655 - 1731)**.

The portraits of Emperors Joseph I and Charles VI were painted by Gionima to order of the Brno City Council and were intended to decorate the boardroom of the Brno City Hall.

Joseph I (1678 – 1711)

was the emperor for only six years – from 1705 to 1711. During his reign, the War of the Spanish Succession was in full swing, caused by a dispute over the succession to the Spanish throne after the Spanish branch of the Habsburgs died out in 1700. The portrait of Joseph I was completed in 1709, and at the beginning of April 1711 the imperial crown apple spontaneously fell off its frame. People of Brno remembered this event as an unfortunate prophecy, for on 17 April 1711 the emperor died in Vienna of smallpox.

Charles VI. (1685-1740)

was the younger brother of Joseph I and succeeded him as the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire after his death. He was also King of Bohemia, Hungary, Margrave of Moravia, etc. **During the reign of Charles VI, the castle well at Špilberk was deepened to 112 metres**, making it one of the deepest in the Czech lands. After the completion of the well, the reconstruction of Špilberk into a massive baroque fortress (citadel) protected by a complete system of bastions, courtines and protruded fortifications was completed.



Joseph I.



Charles VI.

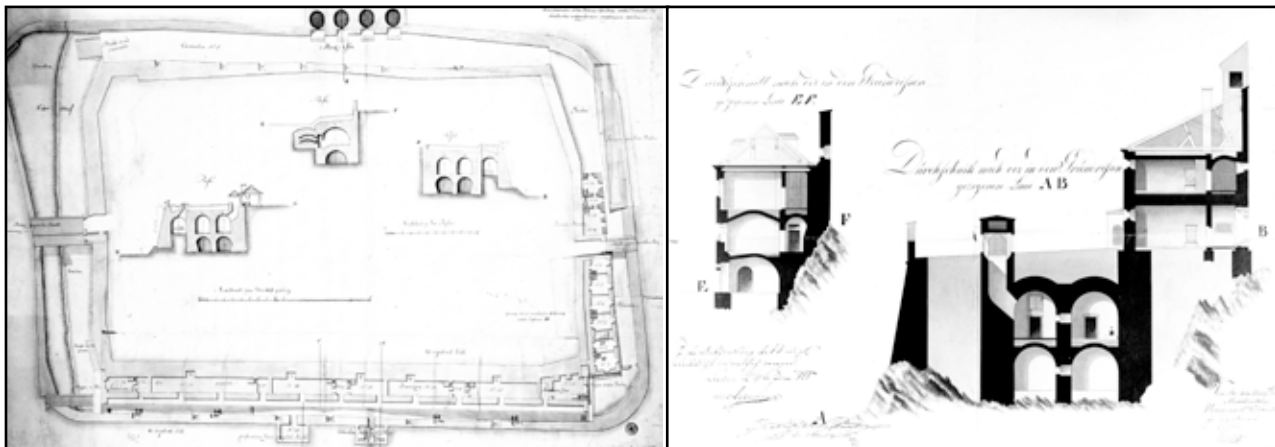
Left wall

- portraits of Maria Theresa and Joseph II.

Unknown author.



Entrance to the north casemates.



Maria Theresa (1717 - 1780)

the only Bohemian reigning queen, married to Duke Franz Stephan of Lorraine, crowned in 1745 as the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (which is why Maria Theresa is referred to as the empress). At the beginning of Maria Theresa's reign, Špilberk and Brno faced once more a real threat of war after a hundred years. The Prussians seized Olomouc and besieged Brno and Špilberk, but fortunately they did not attempt a direct attack on the well-fortified town and fortress and withdrew in April 1742. The Archduke Charles of Lorraine came to Špilberk and after an inspection he decided to build **casemates** in the fortress as a shelter for the garrison and a storage of military material. This decision was then approved by Maria Theresa.

The visit of Empress Maria Theresa and Emperor Franz Stephan of Lorraine to Brno in 1748 became an exceptional event. The imperial couple, staying in the Dietrichstein Palace on the Cabbage Market, took part in a spectacular Corpus Christi procession, and the Emperor and his brother Karl of Lorraine also visited Špilberk, where they saw its new fortifications. In 1767 Maria Theresa fell ill with smallpox, which was a common cause of death at the time, and even received her last rites. As a token of joy at her recovery, a large firework was launched from the walls of Špilberk in July.

Joseph II. (1741 - 1790)

began his independent rule in the Habsburg monarchy after the death of his mother Maria Theresa. As a well-known reformer, he also intervened in the judicial and prison system, which greatly affected Špilberk – which he himself visited on several occasions. **He transferred the prison at Špilberk to civilian administration and had the casemates, no longer needed by the army, rebuilt for prison purposes.** On the 3rd of September 1784, he personally inspected the lower floor of the Špilberk casemates and had wooden dungeons built there for prisoners condemned to life imprisonment. It was therefore quite the opposite of the later made-up legend according to which he got himself locked up there and afterwards, under the influence of this horrible experience, he abolished this worst prison at Špilberk.



Maria Theresa

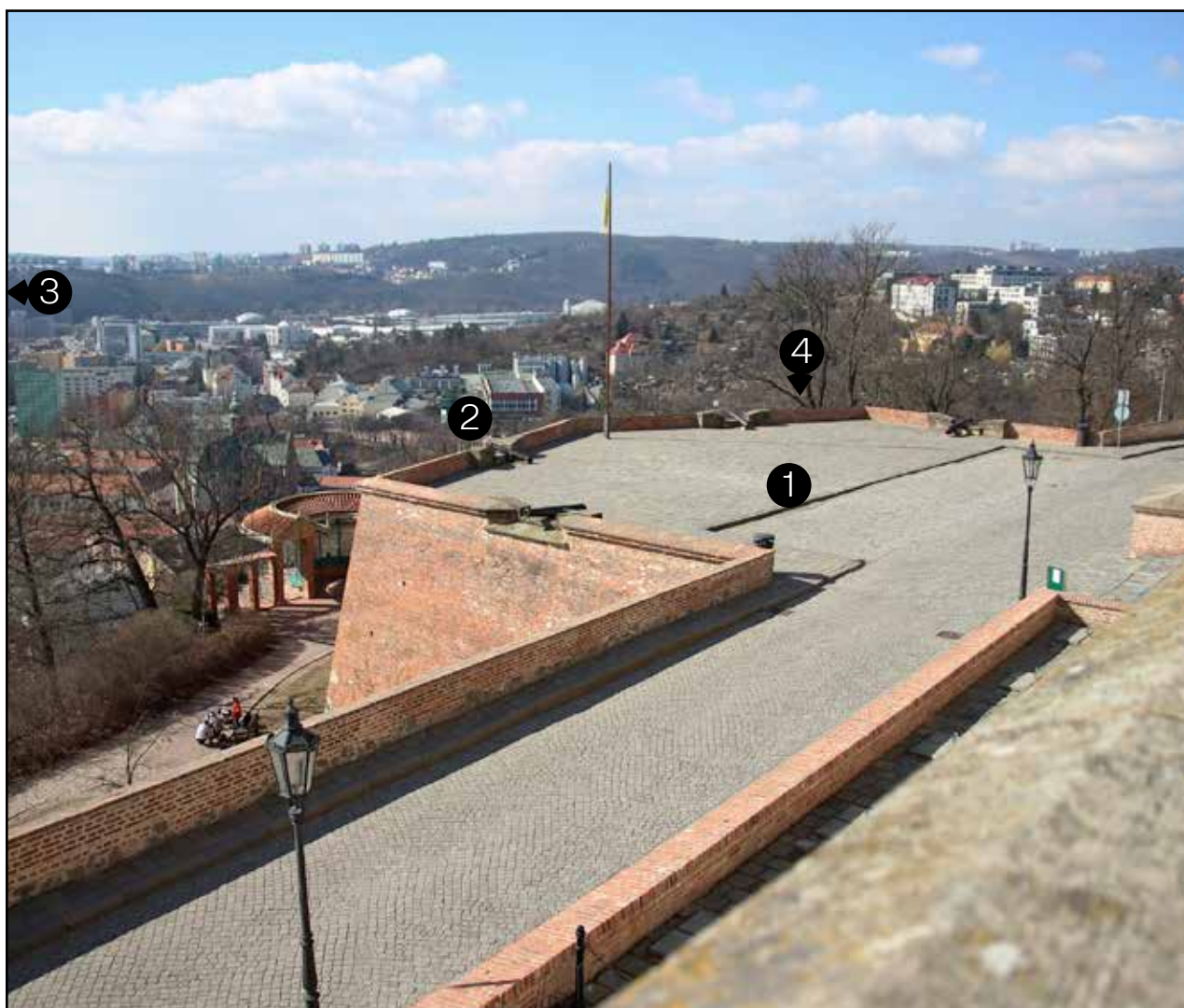


Joseph II.

10. SOUTH TERRACE

We have just entered the so-called South Terrace. We are now standing on the roof of the former barracks buildings built in the middle of the 18th century (about the same time when the casemates were built). At the time of the medieval castle there were no buildings here, only the so-called parkan and the parkan wall. In front of us a view of the so-called Cannon Bastion ❶ opens and below we see Old Brno with the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary ❷. On

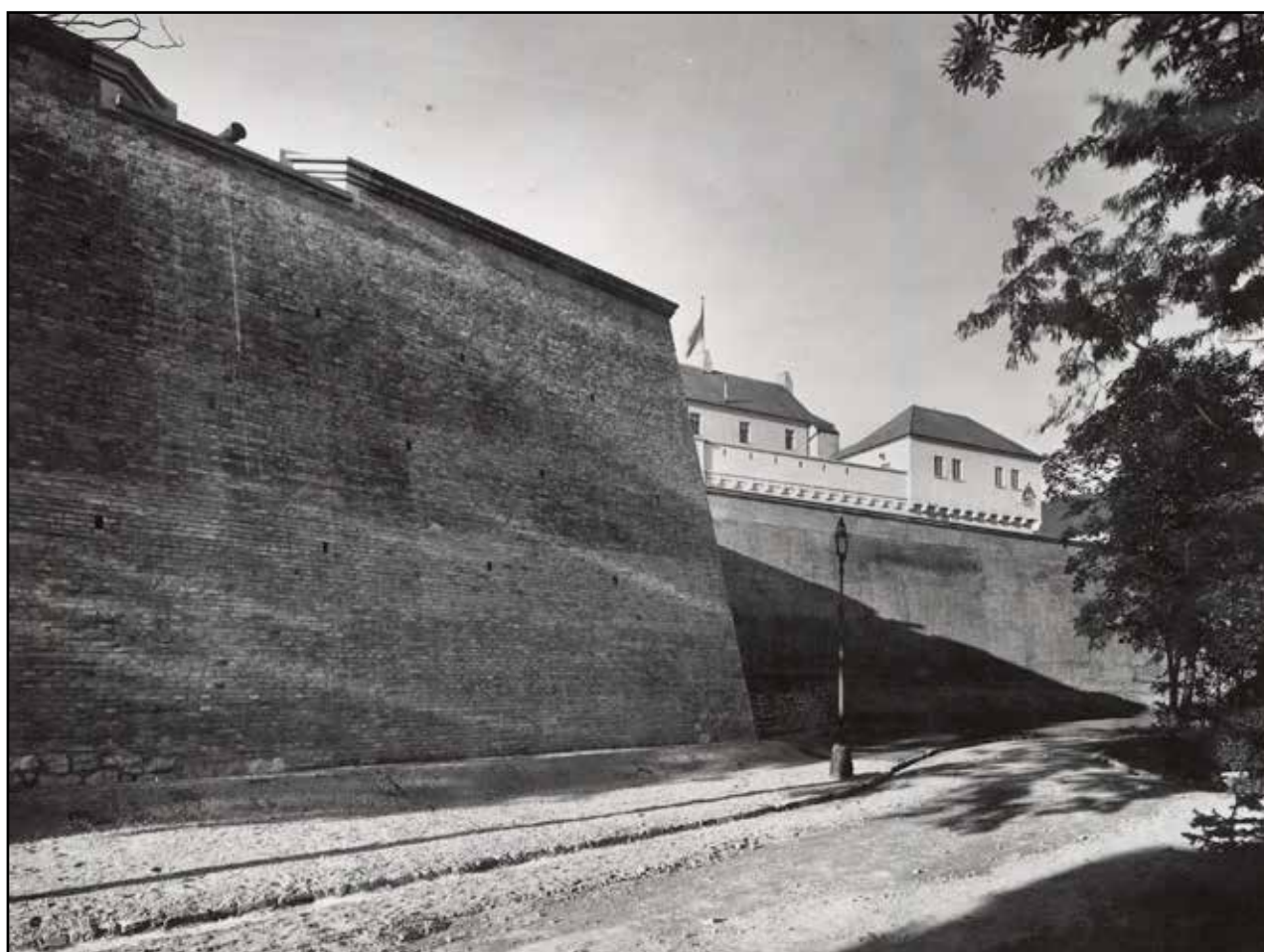
the horizon to the left you can see the former AZ Tower ❸ (now called the N Tower), the tallest building in the Czech Republic. Today's so-called Cannon Bastion was built during the Second World War, when the castle was modified to serve as a barracks for the Wehrmacht; the aim was to invoke the appearance of Špilberk as a baroque fortress. The original 17th century bastion was blown up in 1809 by the French army.



The legend of the so-called Devil's Bastion from the Thirty Years' War also refers to that bastion

"Even though General Torstenson expected to capture Brno within three days, the reality was quite different. After three months of fighting, the people of Brno would still not surrender. In the last phase of the siege, he was so desperate and furious that he roared: "May the devil take that damned Brno!". At that moment the devil appeared and said: "As you please, General, I will be glad to help you! But I will want something in return! You have to confirm with your own blood that after your victory the souls of all those damned defenders will be mine." Torstenson did not think a moment, stabbed himself in the finger, and signed the devil's contract. The devil just chuckled and mounted astride the nearest cannonball. He commanded: "Fire me at Špilberk!". He planned to use his goat horns and infernal skills to break down the mighty walls and help the Swedes to storm the fortress. But he did not count on the fact that the pious citizens of Brno had the fortifications of Špilberk consecrated. At the moment he was approaching the wall at a tremendous speed on his cannonball, an impenetrable screen was formed over the whole fortress. The devil began to scream and tried with all his might to jump off the ball, but the speed was such that he did not make it and was hurled into the wall. He remained stuck in the wall forever and turned into stone..."

This legend is still commemorated by the head of "The Devil" ④ set in the left face of the bastion under the wall crown.



11. EASTERN TERRACE

We are standing on the eastern terrace, on the roof of the outer eastern wing, which was built in the mid-18th century. At that time the apartment of the commander of the fortress was situated here. In the times of medieval castle there were no buildings here, only the so-called parkan and the parkan wall.

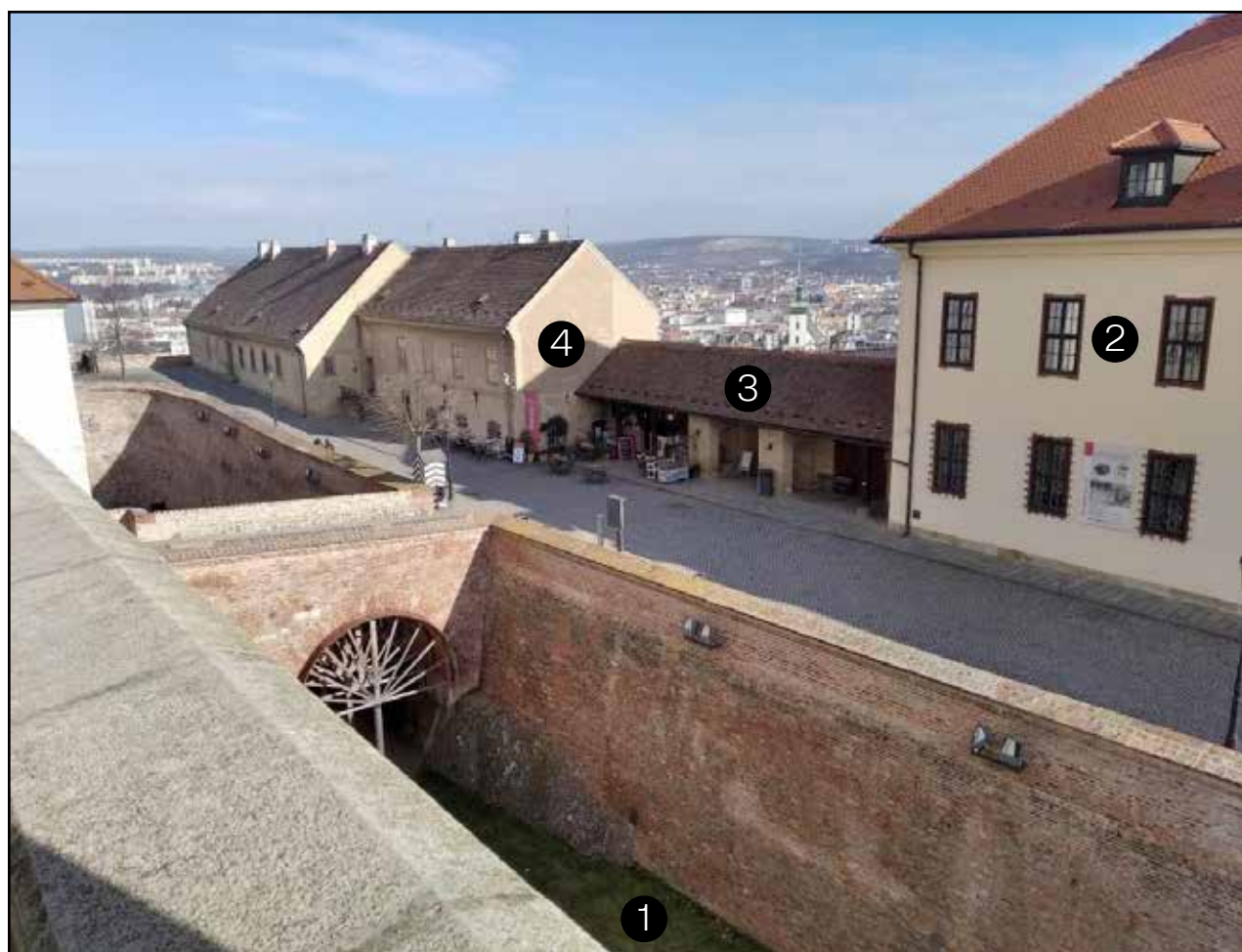
Behind us there is an exposed jamb of a Renaissance window that opens into the so-called Renaissance Parlour, which we visited during the tour.

The so-called front (eastern) moat ❶ is located below us and the casemates stand along the sides.

The building ❷ in front of us is nowadays used for administrative purposes. The

offices and headquarters of the Brno City Museum, which has been located at Špilberk since 1960, are situated here. It was built between 1847 and 1849 (i.e., at the time when the bandit Václav Babinský was serving his sentence at Špilberk) for the administration of the local prison.

During the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918 - 1938), when the castle served as barracks for the Czechoslovak army, it probably housed a military prosecutor and a brigade and divisional court. During the Second World War the building was renovated for the German army – it contained a kitchen and a men's canteen.



On the site of the gate ③ (also built during the Second World War), which is to the left of the administrative building, stood the so-called Waldorf Chapel, built between 1740 and 1750 by the regional governor, Freiherr Franz Augustin of Waldorf. To the left of the gate there are the buildings ④ used nowadays by the castle's security guards. Originally it was a guardhouse, built in 1820 according to a design by the building director Jan Konrad Gernrath, rebuilt between 1847 and 1850 (when it was extended to the end of the wall).



Waldorf Chapel

12. SWALLOW NEST

The construction of this building dates back to the period when Špilberk was reconstructed to serve as barracks for the German army. In August 1939, the staff of the Brno Military Construction Office at the Military Administration in Bohemia and Moravia were given the task of drawing up plans and leading the construction work. The head of the office, the certified architect of the government building council Neubert, had the architects Holoch and Erwin Franz Alexander Komma at his disposal. As it was a historical building, the head of the Brno Conservation Institute and head of the Institute of Building and Art History at the German Technical University, Professor Karl Friedrich Kühn, was also invited.

The so-called Swallow Nest (German. Schwalbennest) was built between 1940 and 1941 on the southeastern corner of the castle and was intended to serve as a common room for Wehrmacht officers. The artistic design and furnishing of the room correspond to this.

In the first room we can notice a tiled stove **1** with motifs of Moravian towns. It was made by the Angermayer company, which still today in the Austrian town of Eberschwang. Behind the door on the right there is a spiral granite staircase (also from the Second World War period), which leads to the ground floor, where the officers' mess was situated.





HERBERT ORTH (?). Špilberk. Swallow nest. A tiled stove made by ANGERMAYER with a little statue of Eugene of Savoy. Around 1941.

A tiled stove ② with painted decoration by the same manufacturer as in the previous room dominates the second room with a whitewashed wooden ceiling with distinctive soffits and parquet floors originally laid out in squares. On its upper mantel stood a little majolica statue of Prince Eugene of Savoy ③ (which is why the room is sometimes called Prince Eugene's Salon, Germ. Prinz-Eugen-Raum), which was not preserved. After the Second World War, the so-called Swallow Nest became a part of the wine bar and restaurant located below us and was adapted for the purposes of the Interhotel Brno national enterprise in the 1960s by Ing. Arch. Kamil Fuchs.





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