

EN



Modern architecture

Litomyšl



Litomyšl

Litomyšl was first mentioned in Cosmas' Chronicle of the Bohemians. In an entry from 981 it is referred to as a border fort of the territory of the Slavniks. Litomyšl gained the rights of a town in 1259 from King Přemysl Otakar II. The significance of the town in the medieval Bohemian state was confirmed by the founding of a bishopric. Today Litomyšl is known as

a centre of modern architecture and an example of the conflict-free coexistence of old and new. The most significant representative of this approach is the building of the former castle brewery (1), which was comprehensively reconstructed on the basis of a project by Josef Pleskot. The main principle of the design was to preserve the partially industrial character of the structure.

As a result of the newly added roof construction it was possible to make full use of the attic space. The building is used for a wide range of purposes. There are banqueting halls complete with modern gastronomic facilities, a depository, offices and a conservation workshop. There is also a seasonal information centre there. In this UNESCO monument you can find accommodation, and in various categories – from a hostel, through hotel rooms all the way up to stylish apartments with a view of the castle.



The design for the reconstruction of this industrial building [2] came from the now defunct Prague studio HŠH (T. Hradečný, J. Šépka and P. Hájek). The architects, known for their experimental approach, made use of their inventiveness in the reconstruction of the castle park, carriage house, stables and riding hall with laminate as a unifying material. In the carriage house there are new training and social facilities, in part of the stables a children's programme and the park has been completely reconstructed [3]. The unsightly amphitheatre was removed and the water features reinstated – a stream with a pond. A gaming pavilion has been placed in front of the carriage house.



The former riding hall [4] is the site for a new multipurpose variable space ideal for the holding of concerts, conferences and exhibitions, the showing of films, etc. The new building is made up of two parts – a firm structure with facilities

for participants and an adjustable part, thanks to which diverse large spaces can be selected for a range of purposes. The new acoustic ceiling with adjustable resonators converts it into a concert hall.





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The Piarist Church of the Finding of Holy Cross (5), regenerated to a design by the architect M. Štěpán, remains primarily a sacral space. However other uses have been made possible – for example concerts, exhibitions and weddings. In the matroneum there is the exhibition Angels on the Hill and part of the Litomyšlení

children's programme Up to the Angels. From the new viewpoint visitors can see the area of the UNESCO heritage site as well as a large part of the historic centre of the town. The crypt has also been made accessible and several contemporary works of art (V. Cigler, M. Motýčka) are on display in the church.



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The reconstruction of the adjoining halls of residence, which serves the Faculty of Restoration, and the contemporary extension of the New Municipal Hall (6) were designed by the architect A. Burian. The building of the Piarist grammar school, today a museum (7), has undergone significant reconstruction to a design by the architect J. Pleskot. Among other things it gained a new



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entrance hall and a terrace with a cafe. Here you can see not only the permanent exhibition Litomyšl – Town of Culture and Education, but also short-term exhibits. In the basement there is a display of the remains of the gates, fortifications and townhouses from the period of the 14th to 17th centuries. Also of great interest is the exhibition presenting the complete development of the entire castle heights.

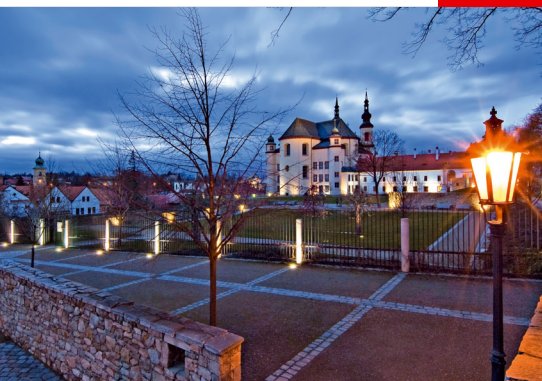


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With its reconstruction to a design by the architect J. Pleskot the original communications were extended to the square (8), with significantly reorganised parking places. This locality has been repaved, and had water features installed as well as new greenery, and carries the imprint of the totally original irreplaceable spirit of the municipal space, making it possible to fully appreciate the surrounding architectural buildings. The newly created space serves as a meeting place and it is popular for the holding of social events and occasions.



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The abandoned space of the garden and former cemetery was modified to a project by the architects Z. Sendler, R. Květ and V. Babka to create a recreational municipal park with a fountain, subdued classical music and a collection of five statues by Olbram Zoubek. The main motif of the design is "garden-theatre, theatre-garden" – the dominant features are churches with views against the background of the historic town. The area of the Monastery Gardens (9) is conceived geometrically and in terms of broader relationships the most important bond is with the communications and the entrances to the park, that is the link between the castle premises and the gardens, and on the other side the approach from the town. The premises also function as an exhibition of modern art.

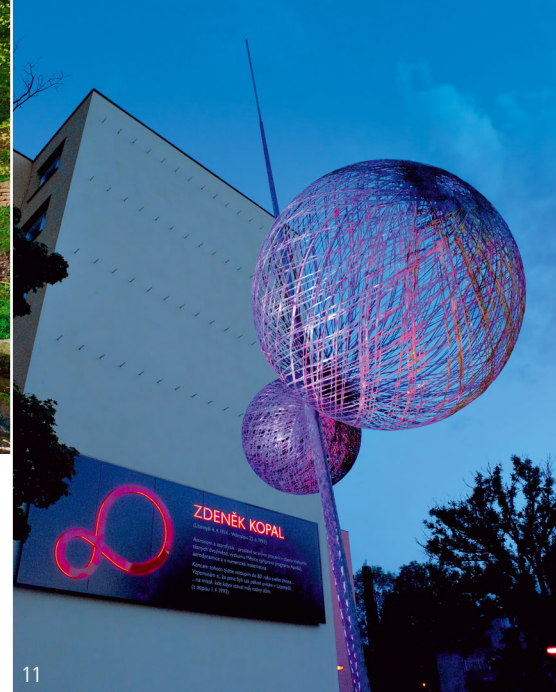


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The reconstruction of the banks of the Loučná by the architect J. Pleskot [10] includes the habitations on the banks of the river from the Smetana House to the Smutný bridge. To better link housing estates with the left-bank part of the town a residential bridge was built. Another part of the renovation of the banks of the Loučná from the Smetana House to Ropková street comes from the studio of the

architects M. Frei and M. Rusina. On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the birth of Zdeněk Kopal the site where the house in which he was born stood was modified and the sculpture Dvojhvězda (Double Star) by Federico Díaz and Marián Karel [11] was unveiled. On the site of the former synagogue a stele was unveiled in memory of the forced removal of the Jewish population of Litomyšl.



11



The bus station [12] by the architects I. Wahla and T. Rusín was proposed in accordance with the building plan by Z. Vydrová. The project dealt with the placing of a reduced bus station, car park and a station building with business units and a grocery shop. A relaxation area complete with a misting fountain was built to a design by Z. Sendlar.

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Public open spaces make up a significant part of every town and their form fundamentally influences the genius loci of that place. The work of the architect A. Burian had a major impact on the modification of public spaces in Litomyšl, with his proposals not only for the repaving of the area in the vicinity of the castle (Toulovcovo and Šantovo squares with the connected streets) and parts of Smetana square [13], but also for supplementing the essential street furniture. Water features also play an important role in urban spaces. Among the most significant are the reconstruction of the 'máchadlo' (for public rinsing of clothes) [14] and the rebuilding of the courtyard of the pedagogical school with a modern fountain [15].



The building of the New Church of the Czech Brethren [16] by the architect Z. Fránek was developed from the principles of ancient and modern architecture and converts them into a simple concept that utilises the configuration of the local terrain. This building, while of small dimensions, 'reaches for the clouds' - a symbolic path to heaven.

The significant artists Karel Malich and Václav Cíglar were invited to help in the completion of the church. The front wall is adorned with Malich's sculpture Dva kruhy [Two Circles]. The white circle crosses the black - a symbol of the victory of light over dark. Václav Cíglar created a glass cross which is placed on the church's roof, which is rather unusual for a protestant church.



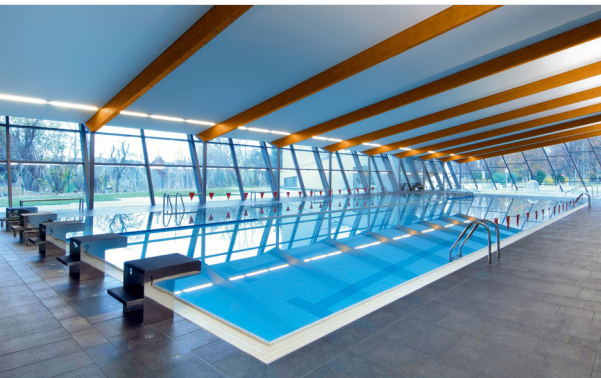


At the end of the nineties the architectural studio Burián-Křivinka created a study of the entire Černá Hora sports ground. Individual buildings were progressively realised – aside from the construction of an indoor swimming pool and reconstruction of the playing field, the winter stadium was roofed and a stand was constructed for the summer

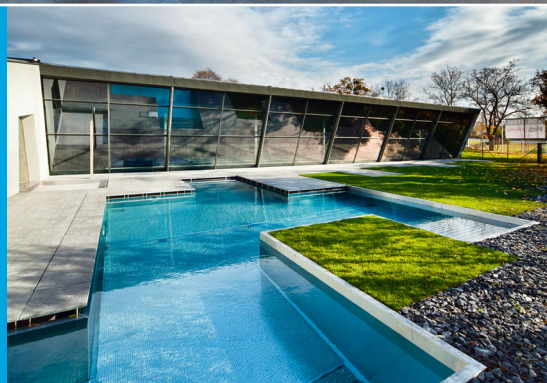
stadium (17). The stand is roofed with textile fabric, carried by a steel frame and stretched. The coating of the winter stadium is designed to maintain contact between the surrounding sports grounds with the historic panorama of the town and the roof does not obstruct this attractive view. The building was nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Prize.



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The building of the indoor swimming pool (18) from the architect A. Novák is precisely defined by its location and purpose. The surrounded grassed areas merge into individual building modules, which are gently modelled into the organic curves of the outer shell, so as to follow the direction of the flow of the slope of Černá Hora. The individual modules of the hall come together

in one joint peak, from where they once more fall in the form of a unified pitched roof to the western border of the site. The structure is visually minimised despite offering 5 swimming lanes, a children's pool, whirlpool, an outwash pool and toboggan. The building won the Grand Prix of the Community of Architects and was awarded the Building of the Year for 2011.



19



The tennis hall (19) to a design by the architects P. Hruša and P. Pelčák features a tennis court, three squash courts, four bowling lanes and the essential facilities for sports players. The modern design of the hall is supplemented with abstract paintings by

Petr Kvíčala. The sports hall also has a stylish restaurant. The site also offers several outdoor courts for tennis and volleyball, and seasonally there is also an inflatable hall available.



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There is also an opportunity for sports on the opposite side of the town, where you can find the Municipal Sports Hall (21) on the premises of the T. G. Masaryk Elementary School (20). The whole site is from the studio of A. Burian and G. Křivinka and received the Grand Prix of the Community of Architects.

The three classroom wings in the shape of the letter U mark out the semi-closed court. The court is completed with an outdoor amphitheatre that makes use of the existing landscape relief. The entire site is completed on the western side by the sports hall. The buildings communicate with their surroundings through their glass facades.



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On the basis of a zoning plan by V. and M. Rudiš and Z. Vydrová individual apartment houses have been built progressively in the U Nemocnice (Hospital) locality. Two buildings with underground parking are by V. and M. Rudiš, while another three were designed by the architect J. Pleskot [22] and four apartment houses are by the architect V. Krátký [23].

In the near future a nursing home that has come from the studios of FAM architects (P. Nasadil and J. Horký) is to be built in the same locality to a design that resulted from an architectural competition.



The halls of residence of the pedagogical school [24] by the architect A. Burian offers accommodation for students on the border between the town and the surrounding countryside. It includes a recreational garden, seating with a fireplace and courts for tennis and ballgames. There is a statue by A. Bartůněk in the internal atrium and the building is decorated with pictures by E. Mautnerová.





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Modern architecture in Litomyšl is not only represented by investment by the town, as work by private builders has also made a significant contribution. This has involved family houses, civic amenities and industrial buildings. Family houses have been designed in Litomyšl by for example M. Rudiš [25], Z. Vydrová [26], P. Keil [27], A. Burian [28], J. Pleskot [29] and S. Sládeček. Modern designs in historic buildings include the Hotel Aplaus (ABV Studio), the pharmacy with accommodation on Touloucovo square

(Ellement Studio), the reconstructed house on the same square (P. Kokeš), the building with laboratories on Šmilovská street (Molo architekti) [30] and the Savitar relaxation centre (ateliér ABV). However it is also worth mentioning the quality of new buildings – e.g. Savos shopping centre (V. Krátký, A. Papp), the H.R.G. printing hall (ATX architekti) [31], the Story Design administrative building (A. Papp) or the White Gallery in nearby Osík (J. Krejčík).



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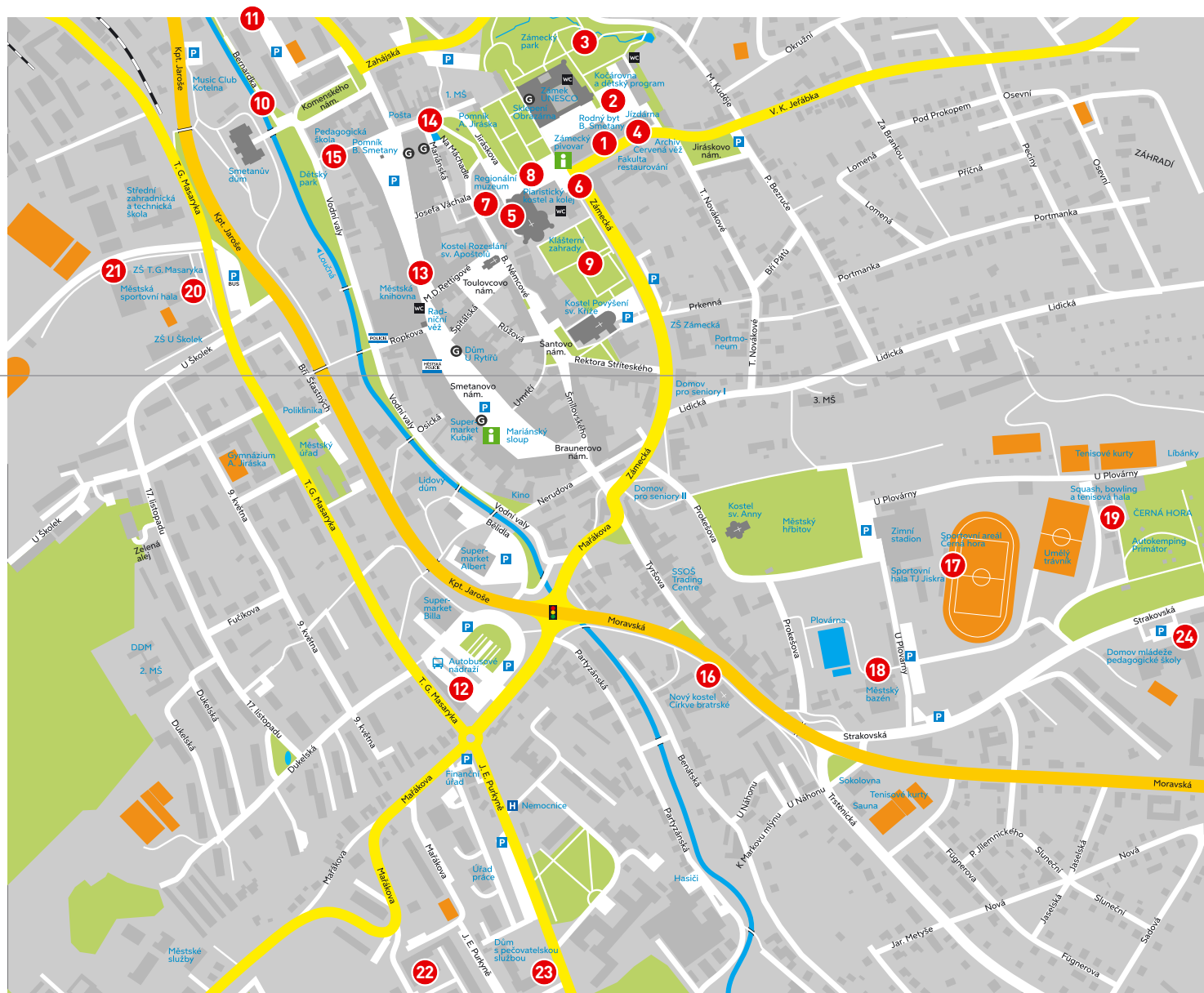


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Litomyšl

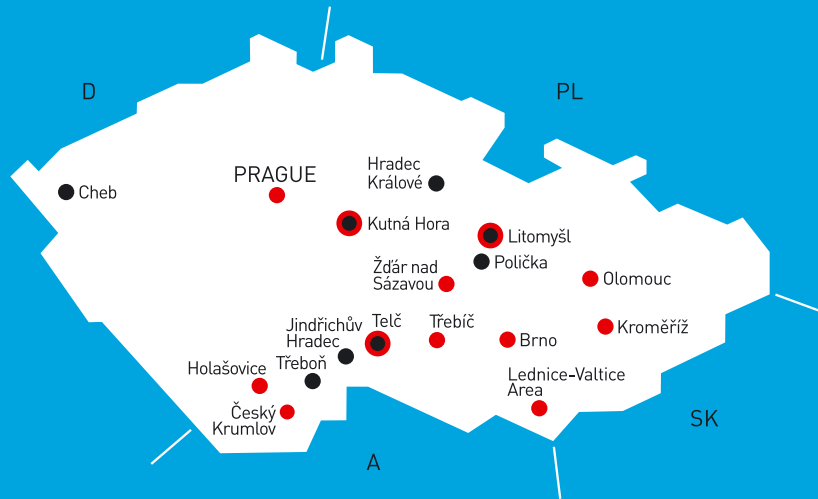
modern architecture

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|----------------------|--|--|
| 1 Castle Brewery | 10 Embankment of the Loučná | 19 Tennis Hall |
| 2 Carriage House | 11 Sculpture Dvojhvězda | 20 T. G. Masaryk Elementary School |
| 3 Castle Park | 12 Bus station | 21 Municipal Sports Hall |
| 4 Riding Hall | 13 Smetana square | 22 Apartment Houses
(V. and M. Rudiš, J. Pleskot) |
| 5 Piarist Church | 14 Máchadlo | 23 Apartment Houses (V. Krátký) |
| 6 New Municipal Hall | 15 Courtyard of the pedagogical school | 24 The halls of residence of the
pedagogical school |
| 7 Regional Museum | 16 New Church of the Czech Brethren | |
| 8 Square | 17 Stand for the summer stadium | |
| 9 Monastery Gardens | 18 Municipal Swimming Pool | |



Litomyšl

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