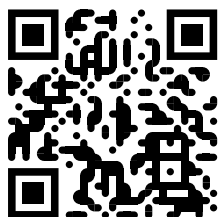# MAPAMÁTKY
Cubist route

Sharp Edges Everywhere

If Paris is the cradle of cubism in fine art, then Prague is its cradle in architecture. While paintings composed of prisms and pyramids conquered the world, plastic facades with sharp edges did not cross the borders of Czechoslovakia. As a result, they have become one of the few Czech architectural wonders that attract visitors from all over the world to Prague. Although this architectural style came to an end with the onset of the First World War and lasted only a few years, we can still be enchanted by the plasticity of individual facades, observe the interplay of light and shadow upon them, and, at least for a moment, be transported into the world of geometric planes, crystals, and diamonds.

Route length 3,8 km

Stops 6

1. **Cubist triplets**
   Rašínovo nábřeží 6–10
   Josef Chochol, 1913
2. **Kovařovic Villa**
   Libušina 49/3
   Josef Chochol, 1913
3. **Rental house
   in Neklanova street**
   Neklanova 98
   Josef Chochol, 1914
4. **The Diamond house**
   Lazarská 82
   Emil Králíček, 1913
5. **Cubist lamp**
   Jungmannovo nám.
   Emil Králíček, 1913
6. **The Black Madonna house**
   Ovocný trh 19
   Josef Gočár, 1912

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What's next?

AVU School of Architecture
U Akademie 172/2
Jan Kotěra, Josef Gočár
1910, 1920

Bethlehem chapel in Žižkov
Prokopova 216/4
Emil Králíček, 1914

Cubist kiosk
Bolzanova, Vrchlického sady
pravděpodobně Pavel Janák
20. léta 20. stol.

Ďáblice cemetery
Ďáblická 564/2a
Vlastislav Hofman, 1912–1914

Libeň bridge
Libeň – Holešovice
Pavel Janák, 1928

Neklanova house 2
Neklanova 2
Josef Chochol, 1913

The front of Švanda's Theatre
Štefánikova 6/57
Ladislav Machoň
kolem roku 1929

The House of Hus
Jungmannova 22/9
Bohumír Kozák, 1923

**Teachers' Houses
at Old Town**
Bílkova 5
Otakar Novotný, 1921

Tychonova villa 4
Tychonova 269/4
Josef Gočár, 1913

Rental house Karmelitská
Karmelitská 268/26
František Štorch, 1913

If you're in a rush or your legs are aching, you can take a shortcut by tram. 14 24

M Náměstí Republiky
Lazarská
Výtoň
Albertov

Cubist route

1: Cubist triplets

`1913` `Josef Chochol`

Rašínovo nábřeží 6–10

The largest cubist achievement by architect Chochola became the home of three prominent entrepreneurial families of Prague at that time, and due to its scale, it can resemble a magnificent palace. The cubist three-house complex is also nicknamed the Cubist Triplets, and its facade is adorned with sharp edges and plastic cubist elements that extend to the design of windows and doors. At the beginning of the 20th century, the owners reportedly wished for a more flamboyant façade and therefore, after several years, a relief depicting scenes from Czech legends and myths was added to the facade of the central part. Its authorship is attributed to sculptor Ladislav Křtina.

2: Kovařovic Villa

`1913` `Josef Chochol`

Libušina 49/3

Behind the low, jagged fence near the Vltava River stands the Kovařovic Villa, a cubist masterpiece since 1913. It is situated on a triangular plot of land shared with the modernist Sequenses Villa designed by Otakar Novotný and the Art Nouveau Na Libušince Villa by Emil Králíček, which features several cubist details. Architect Josef Chochol spared no effort in incorporating cubist elements into the design of the Kovařovic Villa, both in its facade, fencing, and interior details such as doorknobs and railings. When viewed from Libušina Street, where the main entrance is located, the villas form a continuous strip, and towards the river, they open up to a shared garden. Access from the gardens is also possible and even more impressive than from the street.

3: Rental house in Neklanova street

`1914` `Josef Chochol`

Neklanova 98

The building on Neklanova Street is characterized by its pointed corner, a facade filled with sharp edges, and windows and doors of atypical shapes. The architect further emphasized the plasticity of the facade with white plaster, which highlights the play of light on the inclined polygonal surfaces. The entire mass of the structure is dominated by a corner column with a crown made of sharp crystals, accompanied by opeworked balconies. This detail, along with the overall appearance of the facade, may evoke the aesthetics of certain Gothic cathedrals that the architect drew inspiration from. Additionally, Chochol referred to the pentagonal bastions of the baroque fortress at Vyšehrad in his design. A similar motif can be found on the Kovařovic Villa as well.

4: The Diamond house

`1913` `Emil Králíček`

Lazarská 82

Originally designed by architect Ohmann, the project envisioned a neoclassical Art Nouveau building. However, during the construction process, Emil Králíček took over and decided to be inspired by the prism-like forms emerging in the new Cubist movement. As a result, the modern Diamant House is abundant in geometric shapes that extend to its sculptural decoration and interior elements such as lamps, chandeliers, railings, doors, and etched window panes. Králíček's architecture also harmoniously connects with the adjacent baroque Church of the Holy Trinity, as he incorporated a very unconventional element in the form of a Cubist arch, which serves as a roof for a sculpture of St. John Nepomuk dating back two centuries to 1717.

5: Cubist lamp

`1913` `Emil Králíček`

Jungmannovo nám.

A successful example of the fusion of geometric Art Nouveau and Cubism is the building of Adamova Pharmacy on Wenceslas Square, in which architect Emil Králíček was involved. In close proximity to this building, there is a purely Cubist work by the same architect. The construction company Matěj Blecha, for which Králíček was working at the time, was tasked by Prague to enhance the adjacent area of the pharmacy, leading the architect to create a unique Cubist work made of artificial stone, metal, and glass. This work is a Cubist lamp, which is a global rarity. The lamp column is adorned with smooth and grooved triangles, creating a sense of plasticity. The sharp edges also characterize the lantern itself.

6: The Black Madonna house

`1912` `Josef Gočár`

Ovocný trh 19

The very first Cubist building in Prague was originally constructed as a department store with a café on the site of a demolished Baroque building. Only the Black Madonna, which gave its name to the new structure in 1912, remains and can still be seen behind a golden grille on the building's corner. The facade is adorned with a grand entrance featuring a grille, balconies, and corner bay windows - all in a distinctive Cubist design. Architect Josef Gočár is also responsible for the interiors of the building, including the café on the first floor. However, over the years, the spaces of the Grand Café Orient underwent various renovations, and it was not until the beginning of the new millennium that they were successfully reconstructed based on period photographs. It is likely the only Cubist café in the world. Inside, visitors can enter through a unique staircase with the atypical shape of a light bulb.

Puzzle

Can you tell, which detail can be found on which building?

Go take a look and match the pictures with the correct number!