



MAPAMÁTKY

Prager's route

When it's Prague, it's Prager

Brutal, selfish, and aggressive, but also airy, humble, and considerate. On a walk through the works of the acclaimed and misunderstood Czech architect, known as the Prager Route, you will form your own opinion. Come with us on a journey that leads past well-known and lesser-known creations of Karel Prager, who designed buildings in the second half of the last century. The journey begins at the Center of Architecture and Urban Planning, in collaboration with which the route was created! Cubes, Boiler House, Federal Building, Nona, and Kája and Bedřich's House! At the end of the walk, you will know a little more about Czech architecture.

- 1. Prager's cubes**
Vyšehradská 51
Karel Prager, 1973
- 2. Central Boiler Room in Karlov**
Wenzigova 1
Karel Prager, 1993
- 3. The New Building of the National Museum**
Vinhovradská 1
K. Prager, J. Kadeřábek, J. Albrecht, 1974
- 4. The New Stage of the national Theatre**
Národní 4
Karel Prager, 1983
- 5. Commercial Bank and rental apartment buildings in Smíchov**
Štefánikova 22
Karel Prager, 1992

What's next?

The Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry
Heyrovského nám. 2
Karel Prager, 1964

Prager's villa
Nad Lomem 33
Karel Prager, 1983

Cooperative for the Construction of Family Houses with Studios
U Háje 31
Karel Prager, 1976

Cooperative Bělocerkevská
Bělocerkevská 1176
Karel Prager, 1953

Institute of Political Studies FSV UK
U Kříže 8
Karel Prager, 2000

Rental apartment buildings U Kříže
ulice U Kříže
Karel Prager, 1999

Vivo! Hostivář
Švehlova 32

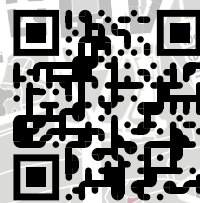
Stops 5

Route length 5,5 km

Karel Prager is not only an architect of significant and important buildings, but throughout the Czech Republic, there are also many of his smaller, less prominent works, such as cottages for his friends. Architecture, for him, was primarily a craft. He is also responsible for the reconstructions of several historical buildings in Prague.

Prague reconstructions

- : Polish Institute Prague
- : Rudolfinum
- : Komedie Theatre
- : The Black Madonna house



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Prager's route

1: Prager's cubes

1973 Karel Prager

Vyšehradská 51

The complex of the former Association of Project Studios and later the headquarters of the Prague City Construction and its Project Institute is located in the area of the Emauzy Abbey. In contrast to the historic neo-Gothic architecture, three modernist cubes stand, levitating above the green park. Today, the Institute of Planning and Development of the City of Prague is located here, and the buildings serve the same purpose for which they were designed. The complex consists of three pavilions and a ground-floor building, which houses an exhibition hall originally intended for the Baucenter but now serves as the space for the Center for Architecture and Metropolitan Planning (CAMP). All three mentioned pavilions function on the same principle. The steel structure of the base with communication cores helps distribute the weight of the cantilevered parts with offices and a lightweight suspended facade. It is thanks to the cantilevers reaching up to six meters that the building is nicknamed "Prague Cubes". Originally, the complex was supposed to have five parts, but the subsequent stages of implementation never took place. Instead of a massive corner building facing Karlovo náměstí, there are original tenement houses standing here.

2: Central Boiler Room in Karlov

1993 Karel Prager

Wenzigova 1

Originally, Karel Prager designed an extensive hospital complex on Charles Square which would complement the magnificent building of the Provincial Maternity Hospital on Apolínářská Street. The center of the complex was supposed to be a pair of extensive modular pavilions, but the construction never took place. The project was terminated in 1989, and the only thing that was built was the boiler room necessary for the operation of the existing buildings. The building from the 1990s stands out at first glance with a pyramid-shaped chimney protruding from the roof and steel beams connecting it to the ground. The prominent structural framework is painted red and complemented by triangular windows. The building's façade is made of ceramic cladding. The southern and eastern parts of the roof are glazed, and the entire building has a footprint of 26 x 26 meters.

3: The New Building of the National Museum

1974 K. P. J. Kadeřábek J. Albrecht

Vinohradská 1

The former seat of the Federal Assembly, also known as the New Building of the National Museum, is a house above a house in the form of Prager's extension on the upper side of Wenceslas Square. It was created for the needs of the former parliament, which was temporarily relocated to the building of the former stock exchange after moving from Rudolfinum. However, that building was neither technically nor spatially sufficient, so it had to be expanded until a new representative seat was built on Letná, which never materialized. The design by the trio Prager-Albrecht-Kadeřábek won the announced competition, in which the preservation of the protected stock exchange building was a condition. Their design surprised the jury with its unconventional approach. A quartet of lattice girders metaphorically levitates above the historic building as the basic framework of the new structure, which surrounds the original building from three sides and elegantly hovers above it. Since 2009, the building has been under the administration of the National Museum and is connected to the historic museum building by an underground tunnel.

4: The New Stage of the National Theatre

1983 Karel Prager

Národní 4

The New Stage of the National Theatre occupies the gap created by the demolition of the Chouara houses, which were in a desolate state in the 1950s. In the initial design by Bohuslav Fuchs, who unfortunately passed away shortly after its completion, and the project was taken over by Pavel Kupka, a cultural palace serving the city was supposed to be built in this location. However, when Prague gained access to the Palace of Culture in Vyšehrad, the original plan

was abandoned. Meanwhile, construction had already begun in the gap, and the project had to be completely reworked on the fly to accommodate the needs of the National Theatre. Karel Prager was the only one who could accept this grand challenge with all its conditions, including the limited time frame for opening the New Stage on the 100th anniversary of the reopening of the National Theatre. Prager supplemented and systematically modified the original steel structure from Fuchs' design to create a theater hall. The interior and exterior are artistically conceived, making the building a large architectural sculpture. The façade is made up of hand-blown glass panels according to the design by Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová. Although it may not seem so, it was necessary to design and produce over 120 different modifications of glass molds.

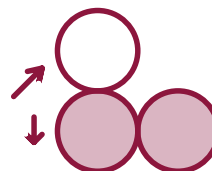
5: Commercial Bank and rental apartment buildings in Smíchov

1992 Karel Prager

Štefánikova 22

Karel Prager was not just an architect and builder, but also a great visionary. For Prague 5, he devised a concept promising a better quality of life for local residents through radical changes in Štefánikova Street. Instead of a pedestrian zone or extensive demolitions, only an octagonal pyramid-like structure and two residential buildings were eventually built. The first mentioned structure, the Commercial Bank building, has been standing at the intersection since 1992. It visually harmonizes with the adjacent residential complex, and its shape has sometimes earned it the nickname "bunker," which also reflects Prager's intention of envisioning the building as a large bank vault. Noteworthy features include the ceramic cladding and the regular layout of windows on each of the eight sides. The windows are arranged on two floors and protected by a glass wall. The KB building still evokes mixed emotions, which also speaks to Prager's unconventional approach to architecture.

Prager's cubes: How many windows are there in one row on Vyšehradská Street?

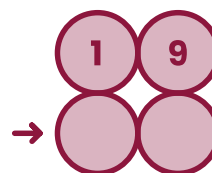


The New Building of the National Museum: How many glass panels does the elliptical sign "Musaeum Nationale 1818" on the facade span?

Central Boiler Room in Karlov: How many square tiles are there in one column of the cladding?



The New Stage of the National Theatre: On which floor is the café NONA located?



Commercial Bank and rental apartment buildings in Smíchov: How many rows of windows are there on the tenement building facing Štefánikova Street?

When was Karel Prager born?

Pause for a moment at each stop and count the windows, glass panels or tiles. Learn Karel Prager's birth date by filling in the crossword!