



MAPAMÁTKY

Rondocubist route



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Route length 2,9 km

Stops 6

Kingdom of arches and national colours

Some perceive it as a symbol of a new nation, while others see it as a ghost of long-surpassed architecture teetering on the edge of kitsch. In reality, the style known as rondocubism, also referred to as national decorativism, Czech Art Deco, or arched cubism, is characterized by plastic facades full of decorations and rounded edges.

Rondocubism emerged in connection with the establishment of Czechoslovakia and can be seen as a reaction to the preceding period of Cubism. The architects of that time were intoxicated by the freedom of the new independent state and sought an architectural expression that would demonstrate the uniqueness of Czech culture. To create a purely national style, they drew inspiration from traditional patterns of folk architecture, which they complemented with a palette of national colors in subdued shades such as ochre, beige, or sienna. Although rondocubism was considered regressive by some experts at the time, it undoubtedly represented an important stage in Czech architecture, enchanting us to this day with its playfulness, vivid colors, and references to the heroic history of the Czech nation.

- 1. Rental apartment building**
Jungmannovo nám.
764/4
Rudolf Stockar, 1922
- 2. Adria Palace**
Jungmannova 31
Pavel Janák,
Josef Zásche, 1924
- 3. U Myšáka house**
Vodičková 730/31
Otto Ehlen, Josef Čapek,
Josef Gočár, 1922

- 4. Radiopalace**
Vinohradská 1789
Alois Dryák, 1925
- 5. Švehla hall**
Slavíkova 1499
Jan Chládek, 1925
- 6. City Telephone Exchange**
Fibichova 1500/21
Bohumír Kozák, 1926



What's next?

Akropolis palace

Kubelíkova 1548
Rudolf Svoboda, 1927

The Czechoslovak legion bank

Na Pořičí 1047/26
Josef Gočár, 1923

Rental house Růžová

Růžová 947/10
Bohumír Kozák, 1922

The Red Houses

Tusarova 1266/11
Rudolf Hrabě, 1922

Svoboda colony

Chorvatská 1823/6
a přilehlé ulice
František A. Libra, 1924

Teachers' houses in Holešovice

Kamenická 811/35
Otokar Novotný, 1924

The Bruska Pumping Station

Svatovítská 467/1A
B. Hollmann, J. Žofka,
L. Řehák, J. Němec, 1924

Rental house Bubenečská

Českomalínská 527/11
Jaroslav Vondrák, 1922

Former school

Gymnasijní 510/1
Rudolf Hrabě, 1925

Gočárový houses

U Trojského zámku 120/3
Josef Gočár, 1920

Hořanovského villa

Na Lysinách 52/7
Pavel Janák, 1921

Rental house Jugoslávských partyzánů

Rooseveltova 615/34
Rudolf Hrabě, 1925

Rental houses Nad Panenskou

Nad Panenskou 524/1
Miloš Vaněček, 1926

Na Šafránce villa

Na Šafránce 1760/12
František A. Libra, 1921

Rental house Senovážné nám

Senovážné nám. 980/22
Rudolf Jonáš, 1925

Transformer station Praha 5

Kováků 32
Jindřich Freiwald, 1925

Rental house Vínohradská

Vínohradská 1786/122
unknown

map provided by



Rondocubist route

1: Rental apartment building on Jungmann Square

1922 Rudolf Stockar

Jungmannovo nám. 764/4

On the narrow Gothic plot at Jungmann Square, there stood a house since the time of Charles IV. The later neoclassical building, of which the ribbed vaults and staircase on the ground floor have been preserved to this day, underwent several renovations over the centuries. The most significant transformation took place in the 1920s, according to Rudolf Stockar's design. The proposal, prepared for the merchant Gustav Vinařský, was influenced by Rondocubism, which is particularly evident on the facade facing Jungmann Square. The single-axis facade is bordered on the sides by convex red pilasters and horizontally divided by a composition of cornices and window sills of the same color. The most distinctive elements are the rounded bay window on the fourth floor and the arched gable at the very top of the building. Over the years, the ground floor has been modified, and further changes to the house have been ongoing. Nevertheless, this protected monument still represents a high-quality example of Czech Rondocubism.

What year is on the pedestal of Josef Jungmann's statue on Jungmann Square?

A) 1866 B) 1877 C) 1888

2: Adria Palace

1924 Pavel Janák Josef Zasche

Jungmannova 36/31

Adria Palace is a prime example of Czech Art Deco, even though it doesn't entirely draw from Czech architecture. The Italian insurance company Riunione Adriatica di Sicurtà chose the location, where the Thun-Hohenstein Palace previously stood, for its new headquarters and entrusted the project to architect Josef Zasche. Later, Pavel Janák joined him with a design for the famous facade filled with Rondocubist details, such as arched and triangular cornices, or pilasters with stylized flowers. The relationship between Italy and the Czech Republic is symbolized by the elevated entrance with side sculptures depicting Trieste and Prague, created by sculptor Karel Dvořák. The central passage is dominated by a circular square and the insurance company hall, featuring a clock adorned with sculptural decorations by Bohumil Kafka. At the opposite end of the passage, there is the entrance to the renowned Adria Café, which has recently been meticulously restored to its original appearance, and its rooftop terrace offers a beautiful view of Národní třída.

What number is NOT to be found on the dial of the "astronomical clock" in the Adria passage?

A) 3 B) 8 C) 20

3: U Myšáka house

1922 O. Ehlen J. Čapek J. Gočár

Vodičkova 710/31

In the architectural development of Vodičkova Street, the prominent building U Myšáka plays a significant role. It was originally built as a Neo-Renaissance structure in 1883. However, its current Rondocubist form dates back to the First Republic era. The owner of the complex, the renowned Czech confectioner František Myšák, established his namesake confectionery "Myšák" here, which counted famous guests such as Ema Destinová, Oldřich Nový, and President Masaryk among its regular guests. The design of the Rondocubist facade from 1922 is attributed to the builder Josef Čapek, although it is likely that Josef Gočár also participated in its development. The result is truly a masterpiece of the national Art Deco style, adorned with characteristic arches, cylinders, and triangles. The entire facade is unified by a decorated corbelled cornice, a pair of bay windows, a high order of pilasters, and interlocking window arches. The color scheme, referencing the national colors of red and white, further enhances the unity. Parts of the interior, including the confectionery itself, were created in the same style. However, only fragments of the original Rondocubist decoration have survived to this day.

How many lights can be found over the entrance of the U Myšáka house?

A) 7 B) 9 C) 11

4: Radiopalace

1925 Alois Dryák

Vinohradská 1789/4

The voluminous six-story building of Radiopalace spans across three streets in Prague: Vinohradská, Sázavská, and Blanická. At first glance, it blends in with the surrounding architecture, but upon closer examination, its intricate adorned facade stands out, representing the typical Czech arch style. The building consists of three wings forming a U shape, with an integrated two-story wing set lower. Alois Dryák, an architect known for his diverse designs in various styles and purposes throughout his career (such as the Art Nouveau Hotel Meran on Wenceslas Square, the original form of Strahov Stadium, and his involvement in the architectural work on the František Palacký Monument in 1912), became the architect of Radiopalace. Since its establishment in the 1920s, Radiopalace has been a gathering place and venue for cultural events. This tradition continues to this day, thanks to the two social halls that are mostly available for rent.

Which symbol can be found between geometric shapes on the building's facade?

A) postal trumpet
B) violin and bow
C) gear

5: Švehla hall

1925 Jan Chládek

Slavíkova 1499/22

The strikingly colorful building of Švehlova Hall bears the name of Antonín Švehla, a politician of the First Czechoslovak Republic who contributed to the city's architectural development. The construction of this grand six-story building, which includes a former cinema (now the „Venuše ve Švehlovce“ theater within the inner courtyard), was funded through a mortgage from the state, a lottery, and a cooperative share worth 500 Czech crowns, which each parent of an accommodated student had to pay. At the time, it was one of the most modern buildings of its kind in Europe. Above the main entrance, there are four caryatids symbolizing the seasons, created by František Úprka. In the 1950s, a new wing in the style of Socialist Realism was added to the Rondocubist building, adorned with period sgraffito. The hall has a rich history in terms of important events. Students were arrested here after anti-fascist demonstrations in 1939, and during the war, the hall was even occupied by fascists. During the communist era it came under state administration, later transferring to the administration of Charles University.

Whose bust is NOT to be found at the entrance to the new part of the college?

A) J. A. Purkyně B) O. Ševčíka C) B. Bolzana

6: City Telephone Exchange

1926 Bohumír Kozák

Fibichova 1500/21

The yellow building of the former telephone exchange was the first house built in Žižkov after the establishment of Greater Prague. It became the center for all telephone calls and also served as the headquarters of the postal office. The reliefs on the top of the entrance portals, along with other sculptural decorations, created by Ladislav Kofránek, reference these two functions. Although this building with its adorned geometric facade is now vacant, it used to be in almost continuous operation. Employees had the option to live or use the communal swimming pool within the building. The interior was dominated by a 30 meter long and 15 meter wide hall, where 82 switchboards were located. During that time, antenna wires were stretched between the two towers. The building's history also includes the beginnings of Czechoslovak Television, as in the 1930s, it housed the television institute responsible for developing television signals. The Rondocubist exchange served as the offices for Telecom from the 1980s, and it has been vacant since 2010.

What is written on a memorial plate situated between two main portals of the Telephone exchange?

A) památka padlým za druhé světové války
B) věrni sobě a národu
C) obětím okupace, hrdinům revoluce