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Hospitals Na Bulovce and Na Homolce. Contribution of the 1980s to the architecture of the Prague hospital premises

ANNOTATION

This article concerns the history and subsequently the reality of Bohemian, resp. Prague, architecture designed for medical purposes, until the end of the 1980s.² The authors selected two large hospital premises in Prague, which in their opinion are both well preserved and remarkable. The selection thus covers the most significant realisations of hospital architecture in Prague in the 1980s, which includes three new pavilions within the Na Bulovce hospital complex (from the late 1970s to 1989) and the complex of the prominent hospital Na Homolce, in service since 1989, which soon afterwards was transformed to a classic state facility.

SUMMARY

The three authors of this article present three well-nigh unpublished Prague hospital buildings: three pavilions within the Na Bulovce Hospital premise in Libeň and the Na Homolce Hospital complex in Motol. The building history of these features is described and their authorship is discussed in greater detail together with the role of the Zdravoprojekt, the state project organisation – specialised department for projecting medical facilities, active in 1953–1992. Also the reflexion of these buildings in the press of the period is mentioned. Each building is presented in the context of the architecture of the period and its exterior is described, as well as the interior in more detail with preserved or not preserved original furnishing, including the works of art. Also the heritage value of the buildings is evaluated with a potential of a suitable form of a more consistent heritage protection.

The history of large hospital premises in Prague is outlined in the introduction from their beginnings to the present day. Medical architecture from the 1980s still stands on the edge of scientific research of the architecture of the 2nd half of the 20th century, which is reflected by the sparse mentions in the bibliography of the period and today. Although the features presented in this article have received little discussion previously, it doesn't mean, that their quality is low. The research of this period has received an added value of the possibility of consultation with still living architects (the author of the radiotherapy pavilion at Bulovka Ing. arch. Josef Sedloň, and the collective of authors of the Na Homolce Hospital lead by Ing. arch. Petr Kutnar) or the artists (the potter Veronika Oleríny or Tamara Divíšková).

The orthopaedic pavilion in the Bulovka complex from the 1970s is briefly presented (Vladimír Černický architect, 1975–1978), which precedes the researched period of the 1980s and 1990s. The neighbouring gynaecological-maternity pavilion of a correlative style is described in more detail (Adolf Pospíšil, 1982–1986), together with the radiotherapy pavilion on the top of the building site (Josef Sedloň, 1983–1989).

The gynaecological-maternity pavilion is a moderately elegant building, which follows the style of currently standing features in the hospital and mainly of the neighbouring, slightly earlier orthopaedic pavilion by Vladimír Černický. Large amount of art work, preserved in both buildings, gives evidence of the original generous conception (from more varied materials in the orthopaedic pavilion, i. e. glass objects, reliefs and tapestries); sculptural art is accented more in the gynaecological-maternity pavilion (relief walls, ceramic reliefs). The pavilion of radiation oncology added to the already existing Radio Therapeutic Institute has been realised only partially after 1989 (only the irradiation tract was built with a single storey building of auxiliary services). The architectural expression of the radiation oncology pavilion follows the time-tested principals of the modern architecture. The long period from the proposal to realisation caused the style of the building to correspond more with the slightly earlier architecture. Numerous art decorations in the interior are mainly of textile material (tapestries) and a remarkable glassed atrium with extensive ceramic decoration in the basement.

The complex of the former State Institute of the national health (SÚNZ) Prague-Motol, today The Na Homolce Hospital, was built in 1982–1989 after the project of the architect team Petr Kutnar, Jana Jeřková and Svatopluk Zeman from The Atelier R23 of The County Projecting Institute in Prague. The hospital is not structured with pavilions as f. e. Bulovka, but as a single block with a quite complex composition of mutually joined spaces, influenced by the north south slope of the ground, where the height difference between the entrance on the fifth

floor and the foot of the building covers four floors. The area contains several quality art works, mainly firmly joined with the architecture of the building (glass mosaics, ceramic walls and wall paintings), in the exterior as well (sculptural art).

The authors consider The Hospital Na Homolce to be the most valuable one among the presented features since its quality exceeds the others in architecture as well as with the choice of the artists involving mainly the younger generation providing a more daring style as well as applied techniques. The result was influenced by the fact, that – on the contrary from the others – it was an above-standard facility for prominent clients. Nevertheless its architectural expression and also the selection of the artists devolved from the authors of the building to a large extent. The authors would consider proclaiming Homolka a cultural monument as a compact complex untouched by a radical alteration, which would be a representative example of the architecture of its period, currently without any protection.

Fig. 1. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2. View on the construction of The Hospital Na Bulovce, exterior, period photograph, 1930 (Prague City Archives, Collection of photographs fond, sign. XI620).

Fig. 2. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2. View on the construction of The Hospital Na Bulovce, exterior, period photograph, 1942 (Prague City Archives, Collection of photographs fond, sign. I4764).

Fig. 3. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The hospital complex, axonometry, PD 1979 (SA Prague 8, reprophoto from the archive of the authors, 2017).

Fig. 4. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce, Orthopaedic pavilion, exterior, view from the NE (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 5. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Vincenc Vingler, Wings. Plastic art, metal, concrete, 1977, in front of the Orthopaedic pavilion, exterior, view from the NE (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 6. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Karel Wünsch, The Olympic circles. Glass plastic art, Orthopaedic pavilion, interior, 4th floor (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 7. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Author unknown, conference hall with a textile wall decoration. Orthopaedic pavilion, interior, 4th floor (photo A. Schránílová, 2017).

Fig. 8. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, exterior, view from the SE (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 9. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce, The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, exterior, view from the NE (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 10. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, groundplan of the ground floor, PD 1979 (SA Praha 8, reprophoto H. Křížová, 2017).

Fig. 11. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce, The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, interior, the waiting room on the 1st floor (photo, M. Kracík 2017).

Fig. 12. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce, The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, interior, the entrance hall, the 1st floor (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 13. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Nikos Armutidis and Osvald Döbert, The happy world of the children, marlstone relief. The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, interior, the entrance hall, the 1st floor (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 14. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Marta Taberyová, without name, ceramic relief/mosaic. The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, interior, the admittance hall, the 2nd floor (photo A. Schránílová, 2017).

Fig. 15. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Tamara Divišková, ceramic reliefs: **A** – Tempting; **B** – Surprise (both on the 5th floor); **C** – Wedding (the 3rd floor). The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, interior, the dinning-halls (photo A. Schránílová, 2017).

Fig. 16. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Billboard by A. Ingr and F. Řitička, without name, metal, stone. The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, exterior, south (photo A. Schránílová, 2017).

Fig. 17. Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The gynaecological-maternity pavilion, exterior, detail of the façade (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

- Fig. 18.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The institute of the radiation oncology, exterior, view from the W (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 19.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The institute of the radiation oncology, photo of the period model, the original project, placed on the 2nd floor (archive of J. Sedloň, reprophoto A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 20.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The institute of the radiation oncology, photo of the period model, final realisation of the lower part, placed on the 2nd floor (archive of J. Sedloň, reprophoto A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 21.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The Institute of the radiation oncology, groundplan of the basement, PD, without date (archive of J. Sedloň, reprophoto A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 22.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The Institute of the radiation oncology, groundplan of the 1st floor, PD, without date (archive of J. Sedloň, reprophoto A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 23.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The Institute of the radiation oncology, a section, PD, without date (archive of J. Sedloň, reprophoto A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 24.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. The Institute of the radiation oncology, interior, hall, the basement (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 25.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Edite Pauls-Vignere, Prague, tapestry, 1984. The Institute of the radiation oncology, interior, hall, 1st floor (photo A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 26.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Jaroslava Dejmková, Sprouting, tapestry. The Institute of the radiation oncology, interior, hall, 1st floor (photo A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 27.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Li-ki Sun Bejčková, Universe, tapestry, 1979. The Institute of the radiation oncology, interior, hall, 1st underground floor (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 28.** Prague 8-Libeň, No. 67, Budínova 2, Hospital Na Bulovce. Renata and Veronika Oleríny and Jiří Pošva, ceramic sculptures and walls in the atrium. The Institute of the radiation oncology, interior, hall – atrium, the basement (photo A. Schránílová, 2017).
- Fig. 29.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Perspective drawing by the authors of Petr Kutnar, Jana Ježková, Svatopluk Zeman, ca 1982 (archive of Ing. arch. Petr Kutnar, reprophoto M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 30.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Photo of the model of the entrance part, authors of the project, ca 1982 (archive of Ing. arch. Petr Kutnar, reprophoto M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 31.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. East view, authors of the project, 1987 (archive of the Hospital Na Homolce, reprophoto M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 32.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Exterior, view from the NE onto the main entrance, in the front the plastic art of The Heart by Zbyněk Runczik (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 33.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Exterior, view from the NW (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 34.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Exterior, view from the SE, in the front the sculptor art A Girl by Peter Orišek (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 35.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Interior, swimming pool (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 36.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Interior, conference hall (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 37.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Jiřina Adamcová, glass mosaic. The entrance hall, the 5th floor (photo M. Kracík, 2017).
- Fig. 38.** Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Eva Heřmanská, On the way you meet a man. Enamel on tin, surgical inpatient department, the 5th floor (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 39. Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. Vilém Veselý, glass dividing wall, the corridor between the pool and the dressing-rooms, 1st floor (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Fig. 40. Prague 5-Motol, No. 37, Roentgenova 2, Hospital Na Homolce. The building with a conference hall, exterior, view from the SW (photo M. Kracík, 2017).

Translation by Linda and Patrick Foster