Press release, Prague June 9th, 2021

**Open House Prague Festival 2021 will open 80 buildings and spaces on the weekend of August 7–8**

**The organizers of the festival have decided that the 7th Open House Prague will take place in the summer, from August 2 to August 8, 2021, and all lovers of architecture are welcome to visit. On the weekend of August 7–8, 80 buildings and spaces that are not usually accessible will be opened, and there are a number of accompanying events taking place on the weekdays. With the motto of the festival being “Architecture for everyone”, tours are intended for everybody from the public, including families with children and people with visual and hearing disabilities. The admission to all the open buildings is free with no need to register in advance. The list of all open buildings is available at** [www.openhousepraha.cz](http://www.openhousepraha.cz)**.**

**Anniversary of the birth of Jan Kotěra**

This year, the organizers are commemorating the **150th anniversary of the birth of the eminent Czech architect Jan Kotěra**. *“I am very pleased that we are joined by several famous buildings in Prague that were designed by Kotěra. These buildings include* ***Laichter House*** *in Vinohrady,* ***Trmal Villa*** *in Strašnice, and* ***Vršovice Waterworks in Michle****, which we have wanted to open during the festival for many years now,”* says festival director Andrea Šenkyříková. The accompanying events taking place on this occasion will continue even after the festival, and the famous Czech architectural historian Zdeněk Lukeš will take part. *“Jan Kotěra (1871–1923) is considered the founder of modern Czech architecture. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, where he was taught by professor Otto Wagner. Aside from being an architect, a designer, and an urbanist, Kotěra also focused on scenography and taught at Prague’s UMPRUM and at the Czech Academy of Fine Arts, where he was promoting modern trends in architecture. His most important modern buildings include the museum in Hradec Králové, Laichter House, Mozarteum, his own villa in Prague, and the National House in Prostějov. He was also one of the few Czech architects who realized their projects abroad, too,”* says Zdeněk Lukeš.

**Artistic spaces and ateliers**

**Artistic spaces and ateliers** form a separate theme route in this year’s program. *“We are inviting visitors to the* ***Garden of Arts*** (Umělecká zahrada)*, which has been flourishing thanks to a couple of enthusiasts and their relentless efforts to save it. We have also managed to arrange the opening of the atelier of Jan Lauda, an atelier with a troubled past located on the island in Libeň. Built in 1930 and designed by architect Otakar Novotný, the small atelier managed to withstand a demolition order and now houses Olgoj Chorchoj, an architecture studio and design studio,”* says festival director Andrea Šenkyříková. Visitors will also be able to see a project of a new artistic house in Kunsthalle Praha, where a complete renovation of the original Zenger’s Transformation Station is currently being finished. The renovation will create a new space for cultural events and exhibitions of Czech and international art of the 20th and the 21st century. Visitors can also take a look into the decaying **City Spa in Žižkov** (Městské lázně Žižkov), which used to be the biggest and most modern spa in Prague, once visited even by emperor Franz Joseph I. The spa is set to be completely reconstructed, and the building is planned to be transformed into the **House of Dance** (Dům tance). Some buildings included in the program have already been reconstructed, such as the former Sokol biograph in Vršovice. Built during the First Czechoslovak Republic in the style of Art Deco, the cinema has been transformed into **Vzlet**, a new **cultural palace**. Many more places that are coming alive thanks to art and culture will be opened, too.

**Hotels**

**Prague hotels with distinctive architecture** and impressive interiors are a new part of this year’s program. There are two hotels representing the so-called socialist realism, two hotels representing the quality brutalist architecture of “the golden sixties”, and one post-Velvet Revolution building. *“Opening these hotels is something that we have been trying to make possible ever since the beginning of the festival, but finding a way to organize the tours so that the operation of the hotel would not be disrupted was always very difficult. However, because the coronavirus pandemic has significantly reduced the number of tourists, some hotel operators have agreed to open their hotels during the festival,”* says festival director Andrea Šenkyříková. Visitors will be able to take a tour in **Mama Shelter Prague** (former **Parkhotel Praha**), **Boutique Hotel Jalta**, **Vienna House Diplomat Prague**, and **Hotel International Prague**.

**Safety**

The organizers follow the latest information regarding the coronavirus pandemic and will adjust operation in the open buildings accordingly. Information will be available on the festival’s website. The buildings will be accessible to visitors with no need to register in advance. Tours in most of the buildings will take place continually in the form of groups. The size and frequency of the tours depends on the capacity of each building.

Open House Prague is part of [Open House Worldwide](http://www.openhouseworldwide.org/), an international network of festivals which take place in more than **45 cities** around the world. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, Open House Prague is not only an **important cultural event** but also a unique event **with an impact on local communities and the society**. The recruit of volunteers for this year has already started, and those who are interested in volunteering can sign up via [this](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/zapojte-se/stante-se-dobrovolnikem/) link.

**Open House Prague on social media**

#openhousepraha, #openhousepraha2021, #letosopenhousepraha

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/openhousepraha) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/openhousepraha/) | [Linked In](https://www.linkedin.com/company/open-house-praha-cz/about/?viewAsMember=true) | [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFdVNb874ALQCc2cUTkyHaA/videos)

Facebook event – [Open House Praha 2021](https://www.facebook.com/events/830759454352938)

[Open House Prague 2021 video spot](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOENl8hzxPc)

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**About Open House Prague**

*Open House Praha, z. ú.* is a non-profit, non-state organization which organizes a festival of the same name on one weekend in May with a week-long accompanying program. The concept of the festival was born in **London** in 1992 under the leadership of **Victoria Thornton**, who holds the **Order of the British Empire**. After the organization acquired a license to hold Open House Prague, the festival took place in the Czech Republic for the first time in 2015 and has since become one of the most important cultural events in Prague. The patroness of the festival is **Eva Jiřičná**, a Czech architect who lives in London. She was at the start of Open House London and was a part of it for 20 years as a member of the administrative board as well as a volunteer, and she represents an imaginary bridge between Prague and the founding city. Open House Prague is a proud member of [Open House Worldwide](https://www.openhouseworldwide.org/), an international network which joins together more than **45 cities** on 5 different continents. Aside from holding the festival, the organization also focuses on various **activities throughout the year** (for volunteers, partners, the Architecture Lovers Club, the public), including educational programs for children, young adults, or people with disabilities.

The festival is held under the auspices of the following people: Lubomír Zaorálek – culture minister; Nick Archer – ambassador of the United Kingdom; Zdeněk Hřib – mayor of Prague; Petr Hlaváček – deputy mayor of Prague; Hana Třeštíková – councilor for culture, protected buildings care, exhibitions, and tourist industry; Naděžda Goryczková – CEO of the National Heritage Institute; Petr Hejma – mayor of the Prague 1 Municipal District; Jana Černochová – mayor of the Prague 2 Municipal District; Jiří Ptáček – mayor of the Prague 3 Municipal District; Irena Michalcová – mayor of the Prague 4 Municipal District; Michal Hroza – deputy mayor of the Prague 4 Municipal District; Ondřej Kolář – mayor of the Prague 6 Municipal District; Jan Čižinský – mayor of the Prague 7 Municipal District; Ondřej Gros – mayor of the Prague 8 Municipal District; Tomáš Portlík – mayor of the Prague 9 Municipal District; Renáta Chmelová – mayor of the Prague 10 Municipal District; Miloš Růžička – mayor of the Prague-Ďáblice Municipal District; Tomáš Bryknar – mayor of the Prague-Troja Municipal District.

Financial support:

[Hlavní město Praha](http://www.praha.eu/jnp/cz/index.html), [Ministerstvo kultury ČR](https://www.mkcr.cz/), [Ministerstvo vnitra ČR](https://www.mvcr.cz/), [Státní fond kultury](https://www.mkcr.cz/statni-fond-kultury-cr-42.html), [Architekti Headhand](http://www.headhand.cz/), [Nadace české architektury](https://nca.info/), [Městská část Praha 1](https://www.praha1.cz/), [Městská část Praha 2](https://www.praha2.cz/), [Městská část Praha 4](https://www.praha4.cz/), [Městská část Praha 5](https://www.praha5.cz/), [Městská část Praha 6](https://www.praha6.cz/), [Městská část Praha 7](https://www.praha7.cz/), [Městská část Praha 10](https://praha10.cz/)

Partners:

[Mapy.cz](https://mapy.cz/), [Bageterie Boulevard](https://www.bb.cz/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIxYKY1ryt4QIVFKWaCh2Kvw_rEAAYASAAEgLEPfD_BwE), [pizza360](https://360pizza.com/), [ekolo.cz](https://ekolo.cz/), [Rekola](https://www.rekola.cz/), [Czech Repubrick](https://www.czechrepubrick.cz/cs/uvod), [EMPYREUM Information Technologies](http://www.empyreum.com), [anygence](http://anygence.com/covid-19), [Institut dokumentárního filmu](https://dokweb.net/cs), [AI DESIGN](http://www.aidesign.cz/), [Česká rada pro šetrné budovy](http://www.czgbc.org/), [Hestia – centrum pro dobrovolnictví](http://www.hest.cz/), [Pražská paroplavební společnost](https://www.paroplavba.cz/)

Partners of programs for people with disabilities:

[Ústav jazyků a komunikace neslyšících FF UK](https://ujkn.ff.cuni.cz/cs/), [Transkript](http://www.transkript.cz), [Česká unie neslyšících](https://www.cun.cz/), [Nadační fond Českého rozhlasu Světluška](https://svetluska.rozhlas.cz/), [Středisko Teiresiás](https://www.teiresias.muni.cz/), [Technická univerzita v Liberci – Fakulta umění a architektury](https://fua.tul.cz/), [Radost](https://www.dumradost.cz/)

Main media partner:

[Mall.tv](https://www.mall.tv)

Media partners:

[Český rozhlas Rádio DAB Praha](https://regina.rozhlas.cz/), [TV Architect Studio](https://www.tvarchitect.com/),[TV Bydlení](https://www.tvbydleni.cz/), [Luxury Prague Life](https://www.lifestyle.luxusni-bydleni-praha.com/), [ERA21](https://www.era21.cz/cs/), [Intro](https://www.intro.cz), [Architect+](https://www.architect-plus.cz/), [Archiweb](https://www.archiweb.cz/), [Estav](https://www.estav.cz/), [CZECHDESIGN](http://www.czechdesign.cz/), [Propamátky](https://www.propamatky.info/cs/hlavni-strana/), [Prague City Tourism](https://www.praguecitytourism.cz/cs), [S dětmi v Praze](https://sdetmivpraze.cz/)

Open House Prague is part of the international network [Open House Worldwide](http://www.openhouseworldwide.org/).

**List of open buildings according to typology**

**Administration**

AFI CITY 1

BB Center – Building B

BB Center – Delta

BB Center – Filadelfie

ČSOB Campus – NHQ building

ČSOB Campus – SHQ building

General Pension Institute – Radost House

House of children's books and Albatros publishing house – Spaces Albatros coworking

Municipal House in Ďáblice

NN IT Hub

Prague Institute of Planning and Development

Quadrio

Vyšehrad National Cultural Monument – main office

**Culture**

Fidlovačka Theater

Garden of Arts

Metro Palace – Image Theater

National House in Karlín – headquarters of Radio DAB Praha and Czech Radio Region

Palace of Culture – Congress Center Prague

Šaloun Villa

Sculpture Atelier of Jan Lauda – Olgoj Chorchoj studio

Trade Fair Palace – National Gallery Prague

Vlna Community Center in Ďáblice

Vzlet – cultural palace of Prague

**Education and research**

CAMP

Czech National Library of Technology

Ďáblice Observatory

Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague

Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague

House of Agricultural Education

Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry AS CR – historical and new building

Klar's Institute of the Blind – seat of the Czech Geological Survey

National Museum of Agriculture

**Funerary architecture**

Evangelical Cemetery in Strašnice

Olšany Cemetery – tomb complex

**Historic palaces and monuments**

Czernin Palace – seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Desfours Palace

Ericsson Palace

Forum

House of the Firemen's Association of Bohemia – Firemen's House

Libeňský Chateau

Liechtenstein Palace

Metro Palace

Nusle Town Hall

Petschek Palace – Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Troja Château – Prague City Gallery

**Hotels and accommodation**

Boutique Hotel Jalta – Cold War Museum

Hotel International Prague

Mama Shelter Prague (Parkhotel)

Vienna House Diplomat Prague

**Living throughout time**

Franz by Zeitraum

Grab Villa

House on Za Poříčskou bránou 7

Kovařovic Villa

Laichter House

Maison Ořechovka

Štenc House – main office of Opero business club

Trmal Villa

Zeitraum Student Housing

**Railways**

Masaryk Railway Station

Wilson Station – Prague Main Railway Station

**Religious buildings**

Church of St. Anna – Prague Crossroads

Church of the Hus Congregation in Vršovice

New Synagogue in Libeň

**Sports and body care**

City Spa in Žižkov – House of Dance

Great Strahov Stadium

Sokol Gymnasium in Karlín

Sokol Gymnasium in Nové Město – seat of T. J. Sokol Pražský

Trebešín Velodrome

**Technical and industrial buildings**

Löwit's Watermill

Podkovářská Premises

Pragovka Art District

Štvanice Power Station

Vršovice Waterworks in Michle

Water Tower in Letná

Zenger's Transformation Station – Kunsthalle Praha

**Trade**

ARA Palace – main office of HubHub coworking

House of Fashion

**Specialities**

New Krenovka

Prague Exhibition Grounds

Vyšehrad Historical Steamship