Press Release, Prague, April 14, 2023

**Open House Prague Festival 2023 Offers Over 100 Architectural Gems for Free**

**This year’s Open House Prague Festival, an annual celebration of Prague architecture, takes place May 15–21, 2023. The 9th edition of the festival is going to open more than 100 buildings and spaces around Prague on the weekend for free. Starting May 15, there is also going to be an accompanying program with walking tours, lectures, and discussions. Several buildings in the program also offer tours in English. The list of all open buildings is now available at**

[**www.openhousepraha.cz/en/festival-2023-2**](http://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/festival-2023-2)**.**

*“During Open House Prague 2023, people can visit 109 buildings and spaces that are usually inaccessible. The list includes places that we regularly walk by without a chance to see what is hidden behind their walls and fences. Not only are there true gems of Prague architecture but, as people will learn on guided tours, there are often also fascinating stories behind the origin of the buildings, be it historical buildings, reconstructions, or modern projects. Thanks to them and the colorfulness of Prague architecture, we can stop for a little while to think and be mesmerized,”* says festival director Klára Veselá.

With the motto of the festival being *Architecture for Everyone*, Open House Prague is designed for all citizens. Admission to all buildings during the weekend is free, and the organizers strive to make the event as barrier-free for various groups of citizens as possible. During the weekend, there are going to be special tours for children, people with hearing or visual disabilities, and long-term Prague residents from abroad.

Aside from the owners, employees, and managers of the buildings, **hundreds of volunteers** also get involved in the festival. *“Our volunteers form an enthusiastic community of people of all generations, and they help us not only during preparation stages but mainly during the event itself. They act as tour guides in the buildings, coordinate visitors, take photos, or give visitors information. To be able to open all the announced buildings, we need more than 500 volunteers this year, which is why the recruiting process runs until the last minute,”* says coordinator of volunteers Renáta Hajnová. Volunteers can sign up at [www.openhousepraha.cz/en/become-a-volunteer](http://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/become-a-volunteer/).

**Anniversary Triplet: Prager – Machoninová – Barvitius**

With this year’s program, the organizers are commemorating **Karel Prager**, one of the eminent Czech architects of the 2nd half of the 20th century, born **100 years ago** this summer. The program includes Prager's projects from various stages of his life. For the first time during the festival, visitors can enter the former [**branch of** **Komerční banka in Smíchov**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=374), explore the [**university campus in Jinonice**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=373)from the 1990s, or see the backstage of the [**New Stage of the National Theater**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=55), opened 40 years ago*. “The program also features the Boiler House of the General University Hospital or the so-called ‘Prager cubes’, now CAMP, which, as part of the accompanying program, will host a discussion on how to approach reconstruction of buildings from the 2nd half of the 20th century, including a tribute to Karel Prager,”* says creative director Andrea Šenkyříková.

Another important architect of the 20th century is Věra Machoninová, who celebrates a milestone birthday this September. Her work in the style of brutalism is represented in the program by the [**administration building of Teplotechna Praha**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=361) and [**DBK Shopping Center**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=371) (formerly **Dům bytové kultury**, a shopping center with home furniture and textiles), which is considered one of the peak works of post-war architecture in the Czech lands.

This year's program is also dedicated to **Antonín Viktor Barvitius**. On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the architect's birth, the festival is opening [**Gröbe Villa**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=356)in Havlíček Park, [**Villa Lanna**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=219)in Bubeneč, and the [**Church of St. Wenceslas in Smíchov**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=370). *“The impressive basilica in Smíchov is a prime example of Czech neo-renaissance architecture. The interior is dominated by Barvitius' main altar made from several types of Carrara marble and an unusual wooden, gold-plated coffered ceiling,”* says Klára Veselá. The accompanying program also focuses on the architect's projects related to **funerary architecture**.

**More New Buildings in the Program**

With 27 first-time participants, the program also features the former [**Hotel Intercontinental**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=360), which is currently under reconstruction, soon to be reopened under the name Fairmont Golden Hotel Prague. The renovation of the famous brutalist building is led by TaK Architects, authors of the award-winning reconstruction of Bubenská 1. Because of the on-going construction works, entry to the building during the festival is only possible after prior registration.

The public can also visit [**Terminal 4** **at Václav Havel Airport Prague**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=359), which has recently undergone an extensive reconstruction. Reserved for government delegations, the administration and check-in building is the oldest part of the airport. Designed by Adolf Benš in the style of functionalism, the building won gold immediately after it was finished at the International Exposition of Art and Technology in Paris in 1937. During the festival, people can visit the presidential and governmental lounge and see places that have welcomed important figures from abroad, such as President Barack Obama or Pope John Paul II.

Other government-related buildings featured in the program for the first time include the monumental [**Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=368), formerly the seat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia located on Ludvík Svoboda Embankment. Visitors can enter not only conference rooms or the office of the transport minister but also the former apartments of the highest representatives of the Communist Party and the underground shelter. The festival will also open the [**Nostitz Palace**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=382), a late baroque seat of the **Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic**. Here visitors can see the minister’s office, gallery, billiard room, and the chapel.

This year’s program features a number of successfully converted industrial buildings. One of the buildings at [**Braník Brewery**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=362) was turned into a **Dance Art Center**, the former [**Bratři Vinopalové Factory**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=378) – which produced devices for airplanes – now offers luxurious apartments under the name **Vanguard Prague**, and the former [**Breitfeld-Daněk Factory**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=379) in Karlín is now a busy journalistic center of the media house **Economia**. Next to Economia, festival visitors can also enter [**Machine House**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=45), which serves as the main office of the studio QARTA Architecture. In **Smíchov**, the local [**transformer station**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=372)now serves as an exhibition hall of **400 ASA Gallery**. Finally, [**KOH-I-NOOR Factory**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=380) in Vršovice – formerly the production site of world-famous snap fasteners – is also going to be turned into a residential area in the future. The now vacant factory is sure to attract urbex fans.

The program also includes several recently finished constructions. In Vysočany, there is a new main office of the company [**Blum**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=364) whose appearance reflects the industrial history of the location. On the other side of Prague, in Vokovice, the festival will open the award-winning [**Bořislavka Center**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=367), a place where modern architecture meets art. In Ruzyně, near the aforementioned Terminal 4, people can visit and learn more about an unusual “falling” building, serving as a [**showroom of electric bikes**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=354). In Holešovice, visitors can see [**PORT7**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=353), a brand-new, nearly finished multifunctional complex of buildings aiming to become the beating heart of this quarter. In the district of **Libeň** nearby, you can see a former brownfield that has changed into a **modern administration quarter**. Here you can explore the recently finished [**DOCK IN FIVE**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=365), a building made with respect to the international standards of **environmental sustainability**.

The festival offers something for everyone. Those who are not afraid of heights can climb up to the top of several water towers or roofs and terraces of high-rise buildings such as the former [**administration building of Motokov**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=377) in Pankrác (now **City Empiria**), where visitors can enjoy a view of the city from the 27th floor. The program also includes a number of schools and educational institutions, historical palaces, modern offices, hotels, and even a crematorium. This year’s curiosities include the [**Ceramic Lounge**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=376) by Jan Kotěra at the General University Hospital and two historical boathouses in Podolí Harbor – the [**boathouse of the** **Czech Yacht Club**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=355), one of the oldest yacht clubs in Central Europe, celebrating 130 years since foundation, and the [**floating boathouse of TJ Tatran Praha**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=358).

**Tours in English**

While tours in most buildings take place only in Czech, there are a number of buildings that offer **tours in English**. These include [**Adria Palace**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=249), a unique example of Czechoslovak architecture from the 1920s; [**Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, Czech Academy of Sciences**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=147), where you can visit both the historical and new, modern building of the institute and see the restored study of the brillian chemist Antonín Holý; [**Congress Center Prague**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=380), formerly Palace of Culture built to host congresses of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia; or [**House of Fashion**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=176) on Wenceslas Square, a former symbol of luxurious shopping where you can climb up to the roof and enjoy a beautiful view of the city. In most cases, tours in English take place **continually** **throughout the day**, but there are some exceptions ([**The Fizz Prague**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=241) and the [**Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=147)) where tours take place at a **fixed hour** only.

More information about buildings that offer English tours available at:

[www.openhousepraha.cz/en/festival-2023-2](http://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/festival-2023-2/)

Most of the buildings and spaces are open **all weekend from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**; however, there are **some exceptions**.

The exact opening dates and times along with more details (e.g. on wheelchair accessibility) can be found at [www.openhousepraha.cz/en/festival-2023-2](http://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/festival-2023-2/).

Admission to all buildings is **free**. The former **Hotel Intercontinental** is still under construction, which is why **prior registration** is required. Registrations will open **in the beginning of May**. Entry to all remaining buildings is possible **without prior registration**.

**Facebook event** [**Open House Praha 2023**](https://www.facebook.com/events/406824111453794)

[**Promotional video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLcjzNbj2K0&ab_channel=OpenHousePraha)

Open House Prague is part of [**Open House Worldwide**](https://www.openhouseworldwide.org/), an **international network of festivals** which take place in **more than 50 cities** around the world. Thanks to the involvement of **hundreds of volunteers**, Open House Prague is not only an **important cultural event** but also a unique festival with a **social impact**.

**Open House Prague on Social Media**

#openhousepraha, #ohp2023

[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)

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**About Open House Prague**

*Open House Praha, z. ú.* is a nonprofit, non-state organization which holds a festival of the same name on one weekend (usually) 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 of more than **50 cities** on 6 continents where the Open House festivals take place. Aside from 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, and people with disabilities.

The festival is held under the auspices of the following people: Martin Baxa – culture minister; Bohuslav Svoboda – mayor of Prague; Petr Hlaváček – deputy mayor of Prague and councilor for local and strategic development; Adam Zábranský – councilor for property, transparency, and legislation; Jiří Pospíšil – deputy mayor and councilor for culture, tourism, protected buildings care, exhibitions, and animal care; Michal Hroza – councilor for infrastructure; Naděžda Goryczková – CEO of the National Heritage Institute; Terezie Radoměřská – mayor of Prague 1; Alexandra Udženija – mayor of Prague 2; Michal Vronský – mayor of Prague 3; Ondřej Kubín – mayor of Prague 4; Jaroslav Pašmik – mayor of Prague 5; Jakub Stárek – mayor of Prague 6; Jan Čižinský – mayor of Prague 7; Ondřej Gros – mayor of Prague 8; Tomáš Portlík – mayor of Prague 9; Martin Valovič – mayor of Prague 10; Vojtěch Kos – mayor of Prague 12; and Martin Tumpach – mayor of Prague-Ďáblice

Financial Support:

[Hlavní město Praha](http://www.praha.eu/jnp/cz/index.html), [Státní fond kultury](https://www.mkcr.cz/statni-fond-kultury-cr-42.html), [Městská část Praha 3](https://www.praha3.cz/), [Městská část Praha 6](https://www.praha6.cz/), [Městská část Praha 7](https://www.praha7.cz/), [ČSOB](https://csob.cz/), [Architekti Headhand](http://www.headhand.cz/)

Partners:

[Mapy.cz](https://mapy.cz/), [Bageterie Boulevard](https://www.bb.cz/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIxYKY1ryt4QIVFKWaCh2Kvw_rEAAYASAAEgLEPfD_BwE), [360pizza](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), [Hestia – centrum pro dobrovolnictví](http://www.hest.cz/), [Institut plánování a rozvoje hl. města Prahy](https://iprpraha.cz/), [Nová scéna ND](https://www.narodni-divadlo.cz/cs/sceny/nova-scena), [Ministerstvo průmyslu a obchodu ČR](https://www.mpo.cz/)

Technological Partner:

[Sherpas](https://www.sherpas.tech)

Partners of Programs for People with Disabilities:

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

Media Partners:

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

**List of All Open Building (by type)**

**Administration**

Administration Building of Motokov – City Empiria

Administration Building of Teplotechna Praha

Blum – main office of the company

Bořislavka Center

Branch of Komerční banka in Smíchov

Brumlovka – Building B

Brumlovka – Delta

Brumlovka – Filadelfie

DOCK IN FIVE

Electrical Enterprises Prague – Bubenská 1

General Pension Institute – Radost House

Meteor Centre Office Park (building C) – offices of Pricefx

Municipal House in Ďáblice

NN IT Hub

PORT7

Prague 12 Town Hall

Quadrio

**Art and Culture**

DISK Theater (part of the Academy of Performing Arts – DAMU)

Garden of Arts

Metro Palace – Image Theater

Na Zábradlí Theater

National House in Karlín – studios of Český rozhlas Rádio Praha and Region

New Stage of the National Theater

Palace of Culture – Congress Center Prague

Sculpture Atelier of Jan Lauda – Olgoj Chorchoj studio

Trade Fair Palace – National Gallery Prague

Vlna Community Center in Ďáblice

**Education and Research**

Czech Polytechnic Institute – Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague

Ďáblice Observatory

Faculty Elementary School in Ďáblice

Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague

Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague

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

Institute of Philosophy, Institute of Sociology, Institute of Art History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Jinonice Campus – Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

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

National Library of Technology

New Building of the Czech Technical University in Prague – Faculty of Architecture

Project Studios Association – CAMP

State Reformed Realgymnasium – Higher Professional School of Pedagogy and Social Sciences, Secondary Technical School and Secondary General School

**Funerary Architecture**

Evangelical Cemetery in Strašnice

Olšany Cemetery

Strašnice Crematorium

**Historical Palaces and Sights**

Adria Palace

Cibulka Homestead

City Mayor’s Residence

Clubhouse of the Autoclub of the Czech Republic

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

Desfours Palace

Ericsson Palace

Forum

Gröbe Villa

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

Libeň Chateau

Marianne Gellert-Petschek Villa – Museum of Literature

Metro Palace

Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic

Nostitz Palace – seat of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

Nusle Town Hall

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

**Hotels and Accommodation**

EA Hotel Juliš

Gráf Hotel – I. P. Pavlova 5

Hotel Intercontinental – Fairmont Golden Prague Hotel

Hotel International Prague

The Fizz Prague

**Housing through the Ages**

Grab Villa

Kramář Villa

Laichter House

Trmal Villa

Villa Lanna

**Religious Buildings**

Chapel of St. Wenceslas at Vinohrady Cemetery

Church of St. Anne – Prague Crossroads

Church of St. Wenceslas in Smíchov

Hus Congregation in Vinohrady

Hus Congregation in Vršovice

New Synagogue in Libeň

**Specialties**

New Krenovka

Petzold Restaurant – Bohemia Pavilion

**Sports and Wellness**

City Spa Žižkov – House of Dance

Floating Boathouse of TJ Tatran Praha

General University Hospital in Prague – Ceramic Lounge

Great Strahov Stadium

Historical Boathouse of the Czech Yacht Club

Sokol Gymnasium in Karlín

T. J. Sokol Pražský Gymnasium

Třebešín Velodrome

**Technical and Industrial Buildings**

Braník Brewery – Dance Art Center

Bratři Vinopalové Factory – Vanguard Prague

Breitfeld-Daněk Factory – Economia Media Company

General University Hospital in Prague – Boiler House

Great (Löwit) Watermill

KOH-I-NOOR Factory

Letná Water Tower

Libeň Brewery – Studio ALTA

Libeň Gasholder

Machine House – main office of Qarta architecture

Podkovářská Premises

Pragovka Art District

Transformer Station in Smíchov – 400 ASA Gallery

Vršovice Waterworks in Michle

**Trade**

ARA Palace

Central Prague Slaughterhouse – Holešovice Marketplace

DBK Shopping Center

Ekolo.cz showroom

House of Fashion

**Transportation**

Masaryk Railway Station

President Wilson Station – Prague Main Railway Station

Václav Havel Airport Prague – Terminal 4