Press Release, Prague, May 25, 2023

**Open House Prague 2023 Ended with a Highest Ever Attendance**

**Sunday, May 21 marked the end of the 9th Open House Prague Festival, which took place May 15–21, 2023. The festival offered a wide range of accompanying events during the week – from debates and lectures to guided tours and walks. Over the weekend, 107 buildings and spaces that are usually inaccessible were open for all lovers of Prague architecture. The accompanying program and the open buildings recorded over 83,000 visits, the highest attendance in the festival’s history.**

*“Saturday is usually characterized by the highest attendance, which is reflected not only in the heavy traffic on the website, but especially on site at the open buildings. Compared to last year, we recorded a third more visitors who were interested in exploring the beauty of Prague architecture. We are very pleased that people were interested in our offer of usually inaccessible buildings. Thanks to the incredible commitment of our volunteers and partners in the buildings, tours could take place continually without long waits, for which we owe everyone involved a huge ‘thank you’,”* says festival director Klára Veselá. Sunday attendance then confirmed that the total number of visitors increased by 20,000 compared to last year’s edition of the festival.

**Biggest Attractions**

Long queues formed at only about **15 buildings** during the weekend, most of which were first-time participants in the festival. The program highlighted the 100th anniversary of the birth of architect **Karel Prager**, and one of his most visited projects was the [**New Stage of the National Theater**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=55), where people could see the backstage and technical area. On Sunday, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of architect **Antonín Viktor Barvitius**, two magnificent villas were opened – [**Villa Lanna**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=219) in Bubeneč and [**Gröbe Villa**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=356) in Havlíčkovy sady. Many people were interested in seeing the carefully restored representative interiors designed in the neo-renaissance style. Lines were also forming from early morning at [**Terminal 4**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=359), the oldest part of **Václav Havel Airport**. Here visitors could take a look inside the governmental and presidential lounge. Traditionally, many visitors pass through the premises of historical palaces, and this year was no different. Thousands of people streamed into the [**Nostitz**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=382), [**Czernin**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=208), and [**Petschek**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=66) palaces, as well as the building of the [**Ministry of Transport**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=368), which opened for the first time this year as part of the festival. The [**historical boathouse of the** **Czech Yacht Club**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=355) in Podolí also welcomed a large number of visitors.

The organizers also included industrial and technical buildings in the main program, such as the [**KOH-I-NOOR Factory**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=380) in Vršovice, which is supposed to undergo a significant transformation in the coming years. During the festival, people could explore the factory hall where the famous snap fasteners were produced, and they could do so perhaps for the last time ever. [**Braník Brewery**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=362), which now houses dance studios and institutions, has also been successfully converted. Many curious visitors came here during the weekend as well. Nearby, in Modřany, there is the former [**Bratři Vinopalové Factory**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=378), which produced aeronautical instruments in the past. One of the first high-rise factories in the country, the building is currently under reconstruction, and visitors could see luxurious apartments and enjoy a view of the city from the 13th floor. An unusual view was also offered by the former administration building of the company [**Motokov**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=377) in Pankrác. Visitors could also enjoy views of Prague from an unusual angle from the terraces of [**Bořislavka Center**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=367) and many more buildings.

Frequently visited buildings this year that have participated in the festival in the past include the [**Desfours Palace**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=12), [**Vršovice Waterworks in Michle**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=117), [**Quadrio**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=69), [**EA Hotel Juliš**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=247), the former **Electrical Enterprises** – now [**Bubenská 1**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=240), [**Kramář Villa**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=157), or [**Strašnice Crematorium**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=40). A total of almost **4,000 guided tours** took place in the open buildings.

**Accompanying Program**

The accompanying program, which started on May 15, offered **more than 140 events** –exhibitions, guided tours, guided walks, lectures, and discussions. *“This year’s major theme was the architecture of the second half of the 20th century. Thanks to the open buildings and the accompanying events, we were able to introduce people to Karel Prager, Věra Machoninová, Karel Filsak, and other artists and architects whose work is now considered by experts to be very valuable in the context of Czechoslovak architecture and applied art,”* says Andrea Šenkyříková, creative director of the festival. People attended a lecture on brutalism and reconstruction of the former [**Hotel Intercontinental**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=360) with architecture historian Radomíra Sedláková and architect Marek Tichý of TaK architects, toured the former National, later **Federal Assembly** with theorist Pavel Karous, and visited the new building of the **Faculty of Humanities at Charles University** in Troja with Dean Marie Pětová, which was created out of a reconstruction of Karel Prager’s canteen. The creation of the exhibition of brutalist buildings in the small park in Klárov was commented on by the author of the exhibition himself, sculptor Krištof Kintera. *“Other partners also offered interesting events, and the attendance at those events exceeded our expectations,”* says Andrea Šenkyříková.

During the weekend, some architects of the buildings also joined the event and offered visitors **guided tours with expert commentary**. A number of **exhibitions** and accompanying programs were held in the open buildings, including workshops and activities for **families with children**. One of this year’s attractions was the **site-specific exhibition** of works from the **Koojon collection**, which was on display in the basement and shelter of Hall 36 at [**Holešovice Marketplace**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=68). A **photo contest** titled Otevřená Praha (‘Open Prague’) in collaboration with Estav.cz was also held as part of the festival. The contest ran from May 15 to May 21, and the deadline for sending in photos was on **May 24 at 12 p.m.** Winners of the contest will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

**A Festival for Everyone**

The festival program also included **9 interactive tours for children** (including one for a school class), attended by approx. **150 children** in total. There was also a free LEGO and DUPLO workroom at the [**New Stage of the National Theater**](https://www.openhousepraha.cz/en/building-2023/?key=55). In addition, there were **10 special tours for people with visual and hearing disabilities**, attended by more than **80 people** in total. For English-speaking Prague residents, guided tours of selected buildings with **English commentary** took place in **11 buildings**.

**A Look Behind the Scenes**

The festival is organized by the nonprofit **Open House Praha, z. ú.** An annual community project, the festival engages partners from public administration, private companies, developers, private initiatives, nonprofit organizations, architects, and the general public in a mutual **dialogue about the city**. It encourages people to perceive architecture and individual buildings in a broader context and arouses people’s interest in their surroundings.

This year alone, approximately **500 volunteers** were involved in the organization and preparation of the festival. They worked as tour guides and coordinators of the traffic in the buildings. *“The festival takes a year to prepare and we are working with a very limited financial budget. Admission to the buildings is free, which is a condition of the license to hold the event in Prague, which we obtained from the international network Open House Worldwide. We have to look for our own resources to fund the festival, and the future of the festival is a big topic for us, especially this year,”* explains festival director Klára Veselá. Open House Prague brings unforgettable experiences, brings people together, engages different groups of people, including people with disabilities, and has a significant impact on the economy of the city and the country. *“Nevertheless, the organization of the event stands and falls on the willingness of a small team of organizers to devote their free time to the event, especially in the period before the start of the festival. Our budget lacks funds not only to ensure the year-round functioning of the team but also, for example, for the technological administration and support of the event,”* says Klára Veselá.

The next edition of the festival will take place **May 13–19, 2024**. *“Once we evaluate this year’s festival, we will start working on the next edition in the summer. The festival is celebrating 10 years of its existence next year, and we plan to make the next edition unconventional and festive.”*

**Festival in Numbers**

107 open buildings | 27 new buildings | 140 events in the accompanying program | 4,000 guided tours of the buildings on the weekend | 500 volunteers | 9 tours for children | 4 tours for the deaf | 6 tours for the blind

**About the International Network**

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:

[DeníkN](https://denikn.cz/), [Český rozhlas Rádio Praha](https://regina.rozhlas.cz/), [TV Architect Studio](https://www.tvarchitect.com/), [TV Bydlení](https://www.tvbydleni.cz/), [ERA21](https://www.era21.cz/cs/), [Architect+](https://www.architect-plus.cz/), [Archizoom](https://archizoom.cz/), [Estav](https://www.estav.cz/), [Propamátky](https://www.propamatky.info/cs/hlavni-strana/), [CityBee](https://www.citybee.cz/mobilni/m-dnesni-akce/)

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 / canceled

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 / canceled

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