



KRAJSKÁ GALERIE
VÝTVARNÉHO UMĚNÍ
VE ZLÍNĚ

3 Administrative Building No. 21 1936—1938

třída Tomáše Bati 21

One of the last buildings using the 6.15m × 6.15m module is the administrative building No. 21, the so-called Zlín skyscraper, designed by architect Vladimír Karfík. This skyscraper replaced the original plan for the construction of three standardised office buildings. Karfík suppressed horizontal structures on the facade with brick cladding, so the overall expression is determined mainly by vertical columns giving the building a vertical character. The 17-storey office building is 77 metres high and in its time it was the tallest building in Central Europe. The most famous part is the so-called director's elevator, designed as an office, though it was never used by either Tomáš Baťa or his brother Jan Antonín. The elevator is equipped with air conditioning, and a sink with running water. The eighth floor consists of offices for the department directors. The corridor with original lights and the bust of Tomáš Baťa is preserved here. In 2004 the building underwent extensive renovation and an exhibition was opened here. In 2019, a bronze model of the city was newly installed on the terrace.



4 Big Cinema 1932—1933

nám. Práce 2511

In the 1930s, the so-called Big Cinema in Zlín was the largest cinema in Czechoslovakia and Central Europe, with a capacity of 2270 people. Construction began in 1932. The drop of the auditorium utilises the natural sloping terrain, thanks to which the construction could be completed in a record time, only a year on. The author of the building is probably F. L. Gahura. The simple shape of the cinema contrasts with the surrounding buildings, especially the Communal House (Hotel Moskva). A steel structure with a span of 33 metres, lined with Heraklith, was used here. It was the first welded structure of this size in Czechoslovakia. The building was intended as a temporary solution. It was to be dismantled in the coming years and rebuilt into a new cultural and social centre, which would include a theatre, cinema, a community centre, and shops.



5 Social House, Hotel Moskva 1930—1933

nám. Práce 2512

The author of the first plan of the building is the architect Miroslav Lorenc, who designed the basic shell using a skeleton system and a rectangular ground plan. During the construction, however, there were differences of opinion between Lorenc and Tomáš Baťa and these disputes culminated in his departure from the company. The basic shell of the building remained, while an internal competition was announced for the interior. From the designs of F. Karfík and F. L. Gahura, Tomáš Baťa chose the first. Surprisingly, he preferred the more luxurious design of smaller rooms with built-in bathrooms. Vladimír Karfík drew on his experience in the USA, where he received an internship with F. L. Wright. The building also functioned as a café, restaurant, had social halls, and a dance hall, and the last floor served as a summer café with a panoramic terrace. Overall, the hotel has a capacity of 300 rooms for 700 people.



6 The Market 1927

náměstí Práce 1099

The Market building was the first department store built by Baťa in 1927 on the newly-emerging square. The project was overseen by the construction company A. Jambor. This was the first use of a reinforced concrete skeleton for the construction of a public building, which until then was typical only for factory buildings. The standard 6.15m × 6.15m module was subsequently used for school and public buildings built by Baťa. The module, originally used for its functional and economic factors, began to determine the future construction. The marketplace included several small shops, a milk bar, a cafeteria, a common restaurant, and a small cinema.



7 Department store 1932, outbuilding 1934

nám. Práce 2523

The decision to build a new large-scale department store was made by Baťa in 1930. Almost a year later the building was completed and in the next year it was fully in operation. The department store was one of the first constructions in the newly-built náměstí Práce (Labour Square), again by F. L. Gahura. The floor plan is the shape of the letter "T" and, like other Baťa buildings, the 6.15m × 6.15m skeleton system is used. An interesting design element is the façade gradation, which reflects the usage of individual floors. The height of the glazing gradually decreases from the lower storeys – shop windows – to the upper storeys – storerooms. In 2018 a renovation was completed, an attempt to return to the original appearance of the building. It also contained the first escalators in Zlín. The department store became the centre of everyday life in the city.



8 Castle

(first mentions from the 15th century, the most significant intervention by Leopold Bauer 1904-1905)

Zlín Castle is the oldest preserved building in the city, it is located in a park near the centre and the factory premises. Since the 15th century the castle has undergone many extensive modifications. Refurbishment carried out in the early 20th century, designed by architect Leopold Bauer, is the most important. By completing the south-east corner with a monumental staircase, the chateau was closed into a square plan. To achieve better contact with the surrounding park greenery, balconies were attached to the eastern and western facades. In 1929, Baron Haupt sold the chateau to the town of Zlín, headed by the mayor Tomáš Baťa. The purchase was financed by the Baťa Company. The chateau was opened to the public and turned into a club house with a new café. Today the chateau is managed by NGO Zlín Castle. The Václav Chad Gallery operates here.



9 Town Hall / 1924

nám. Míru 12

Today's town hall was completed in 1924 to replace a burnt-out building. The design came from an architectural competition won by young architect F. L. Gahura. The project was his diploma work at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. The council building is conceived



as a symbol of the city; the corner tower can be seen as the city gate, which is part of the town's coat of arms. The appearance of the town hall was subsequently changed by the completion of the rear part towards Bartošova Street in 1936–1937. The layout of the town hall has the shape of the letter "L". The building is influenced by the work of Gahura's teacher J. Kotěra. The interiors were inspired by Czech Cubism. In the building we find a statue of a blacksmith as a symbol of the working city. The sculpture is also by F. L. Gahura.

10 Trantírek's House / 1940

tr. Tomáše Bati 488

One of the most distinctive buildings on náměstí Míru (Peace Square) is the corner house of the merchant Eduard Trantírek. The construction was completed in 1940 according to the plans of architect Viktor Jandásek. The work of this author brings a metropolitan dimension to the city, a luxury and grandeur to the Zlín environment with its elegantly rounded corner and ceramic tiles. Originally, 48 flats were planned in the house. The glass passage located on the ground floor of the house is reminiscent of department stores in Brno or Hradec Králové, which also combine residential and commercial functions. Trantírek's house is an example of quality architecture created during the 1930s independently of the Baťa company, which was then the major contractor of construction in the city. On náměstí Míru, we find other burgher houses whose clients built in the historical centre independently of the Baťa company.



11 Evangelical Church / 1937

Štefánikova 3018

Since the early 1930s, the Protestants of Zlín wanted to build their own church. In 1935 they used an unused plot of land not far from the city centre. The church built on this sloping triangular plot of land was designed by the chief architect of the Baťa construction department Vladimír Karfík. Half of the land and the clergy house were paid for by the Baťa Company. The construction of the church began in 1936 and was completed within one year. The building consists of three simple cubes. The small nave and the entrance area constituting the lowest mass of the church are connected to the main nave with the altar which is built perpendicularly to the slope. The whole composition is dominated by a slim bell tower with a chalice sign. In 2016, the first bell was installed in the tower.



12 Jan Antonín Baťa's Villa 1927—1931

Osvoboditelů 187

The redbrick, two-storey villa for Jan Antonín Baťa was built on a vast plot of land above the Church of St. Filip and Jakub. The construction was carried out by the Zlámal and Plaček company, while the author of the design is probably F. L. Gahura. The 12m × 12m floor plan is complemented by a convex southern facade over the entire height of the building. The house was rebuilt several times, in 1937 by Vladimír Karfík. He transferred the main entrance to the west and added a separate garage and a swimming pool, which have not survived. In the interior is J. A. Baťa's partially-preserved study, with built-in furniture, sliding doors, and a fireplace of polished stone. After 1948, the villa was confiscated and it has served as the seat of Czech Radio since the 1950s. In 1950 the Collective House was built in the originally generously sized garden.



13 Gahura's Boulevard and dormitories 1930—1937

náměstí T. G. Masaryka

Gahura's Boulevard is one of the most valuable urban areas in Zlín. The site implies interconnection and sharing, typical values of the Baťa system. It is a continuation of náměstí Práce and gradually merges into the educational area of the former Masaryk Schools (today there is the Rectorate of the Tomáš Baťa University and the Congress Centre). The strip is lined on both sides by boarding houses designed by architect F. L. Gahura. On each side of the boulevard there are dormitories where male and female students of the Baťa School of Work for 14 to 18 year olds were housed separately. Dormitories are located along the contour line, thus deliberately responding to the terrain. The construction system again uses the 6.15m × 6.15m frame. The buildings are designed as three-bay with a middle operating corridor. On the ground floor of each building was a caretaker's apartment and a common room (gym, lecture room, dining room, etc.). On each of the other floors there were twenty rooms for approximately ten people. The whole boulevard is dominated by the Tomáš Baťa Memorial and the buildings of the study institutes.



14 Tomáš Baťa Memorial 1933

nám T. G. Masaryka 2570

The Tomáš Baťa Memorial, built in honour of the company director and founder of modern Zlín, is the climax of the urban concept of the functionalist city of Zlín. The memorial opened on July 12th, 1933, exactly one year after the plane crash which took his life. The simple building designed by F. L. Gahura, which like many other public buildings in Zlín, uses the 6.15m × 6.15m skeleton frame, heads the park square of T. G. Masaryk. The only materials used for the construction are exposed concrete, metal, and cathedral glass. According to Gahura, the choice of materials reflected the individuality of Tomáš Baťa: his generosity, clarity, aspiration, optimism, simplicity, honesty, and truth. The Tomáš Baťa Memorial was intended to be the entrance to the study institutes, but only two neighbouring buildings were realised. The interior was equipped with an exhibition commemorating the life of Tomáš Baťa and the development of the company. The exhibition also included the Junkers F 13 aircraft from the crash. In the fifties the memorial was used as the seat of the Philharmonic orchestra and the Regional Gallery, and it underwent several major structural alterations that disrupted the original form and purpose. The most significant intervention were two outbuildings from the east and west added in 1954, together with the change of the layout and the entrance. In 2019 the building was renovated.



15 Tomášov 1938

U Lomu 638

Tomášov bears the name of "Tomík" – the only son of Tomáš Baťa. Tomáš studied at elite schools in England and the phenomenon of a boarding school facility designed for a select group of students inspired Jan Antonín Baťa. In 1938 such a school began to operate in Zlín. Tomášovci (the Tomáš school graduates) were chosen to become leading managers in overseas branches. Teaching was focused on foreign languages, social behaviour, and sport. A simple building constructed of a reinforced concrete frame of 6.15m × 6.15m is situated on a hill, its distance from the dormitories reflecting its importance. The school ended its activities during the war, at the end of 1940. After 1945, a hospital was built on the Tomášov premises. Today it serves as a reproduction clinic and a hotel.

