

MODERN USE OF HISTORICAL CASTLES WITH UNDERGROUND PREMISES (ON EXAMPLES OF CASTLES IN OŚWIĘCIM AND ŠPILBERK IN BRNO)

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the history of two castles in Oświęcim and Špilberk in Brno and their modern adaptation to museum functions. The stages of the formation of fortifications, the specifics of the architectural and compositional solution and planning are studied. Today, the castles in Oświęcim and Špilberk in Brno operate as museums representing the history of the cities and the castle itself. A special feature is the presence of underground premises that date back to the times of Austrian rule. The mission of the museums is to popularize the history of Oświęcim and Brno, the heritage, traditions and culture of the cities. For this purpose, the protection of cultural values, the documentation of historical facts and the collection of archaeological, historical and ethnographic exhibits related to Oświęcim, the Oświęcim region and Brno are ensured. Each of the museums conducts extensive exhibition and publishing activities. The idea of creating museum exhibits is to show the complex and centuries-old history of the cities of Oświęcim and Brno. Both castle museums cooperate with numerous museums, educational and cultural institutions in popularizing history.

Keywords: Use; Castles; Castle in Oświęcim; Špilberk in Brno; Underground premises

Introduction

The article analyzes the stages of construction of two outstanding objects—the castle in Oświęcim and the Špilberk castle in Brno, where famous museums are now located. Since 2010, the Oświęcim Castle Museum has operated in the Oświęcim castle. The museum is a cultural institution of local self-government; since its foundation, it has performed representative, cultural and educational functions.

The Oświęcim Castle Museum focuses on the importance of museum education in actively supporting formal education in order to educate young people about their heritage and identity. By organizing numerous events, exhibitions, lectures, conferences, historical reenactments, concerts, performances and competitions, the museum encourages the audience to learn about local history, thereby strengthening the sense of identity. Although the museum is

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a relatively young institution, it is part of the 800-year city's history with the cultural appeal of the entire region.

The documented and rich history of the city of Oświęcim dates back to the 12th century and it received city rights in the 13th century. Still, most often when we ask people from other cities about the first settlement with the name Oświęcim, this name is almost 100% related to the former German concentration camp KL Auschwitz Birkenau.

Oświęcim Castle is located in the oldest part of the city, on a hill near the mountain river Soła. Nearby is the Rynek square with the foundations of the old town hall. Compared to other well-known Polish castles, it is less well-known, among other things, because the museum in the castle was organized only in 2010.

The Museum of Castles in Oświęcim, as part of its mission and protection of cultural heritage, is the guardian of the following monuments: Oświęcim Castle, defensive tower (middle of the 13th century/14th century), tunnels under the castle hill (18th-20th centuries), town hall (19th century) and underground relics of the 16th-century town hall.

The museum itself and the exhibits on its territory describe, document and talk about the inhabitants and their city. This shows that Oświęcim is a city where culture does not forget its history but meets it. Through creative local, national and international events and initiatives, the image of the Castle Museum in Oświęcim is consistently being built.

Oświęcim Castle was rebuilt many times and changed its purpose and owners. In 2010, for the first time in the history of the castle, a museum was opened and all the premises of the castle were intended for museum exposition and administration.

The city of Brno is the capital of Moravia, the administrative and administrative center of the South Moravian Region. The city is located at the confluence of the Svatka and Svitava rivers. A significant number of different cultural institutions, which were established here based on historical traditions, are concentrated here. One of the dominant features of the city is Špilberk Castle, once a residential castle, later a legendary prison and currently the seat of the Brno City Museum. The name of the castle was derived from the German word "spile", i.e., a pointed stake [1], after the hill on which it is located.

The purpose of the research carried out in the article was:

- analysis of the construction stages of the castles in Oświęcim and Brno in connection with their history and construction features;
 - familiarization with the rules of organizing exhibitions on the territory of castles;
 - a selection of existing problems related to locks and exhibits and proposals for their solution;
 - comparison of the museum functions of the castle in Oświęcim with the castle in Brno.
- Sources were processed in the following directions:
- general issues related to monument protection activities [2–9];
 - restoration of architectural objects and restoration technologies, professional training of restorers [10–20];
 - the history of the castle in Oświęcim [21, 22];
 - the history of the Brno castle [23–34].

Materials and methods

The research's purpose and tasks determined their solution's scientific methods. The method of historical analysis made it possible to analyze the history of the castles in Oświęcim and in Brno at different stages. The natural research method made it possible to investigate the types of building materials and structures used at various stages of the castles' functioning. The method of photo fixation made it possible to analyze the whole facades and their fragments in photographs and become the basis for conclusions. The iconographic method made it possible to include in the analysis archival sources—old photographs, maps and texts and thus affect the

completeness of the conclusions, showing the development of the territory of the castles over time with all the changes at each stage of the castle history. The method of comparative analysis made it possible to compare the history and state of castles at different stages and to compare the castle in Oświęcim with another monument—the castle in Brno. The basis of the presented research was the materials of the museums of Oświęcim Castle and Brno Castle, as well as the authors' own field research. The analysis of these historical buildings made it possible to demonstrate the existing problems of their modern use and to propose their own solutions.

Results and discussion

Historical stages and construction features of the castle in Oświęcim

The main problem with using the historical building—the castle in Oświęcim—is that almost 4 km away from it is the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, known throughout the world and visited by people from all over the world. However, information about the city of Oświęcim itself, which is mentioned in historical sources as early as the 12th century and received city rights in the 13th century, is insignificant about the existence of the former defensive castle on the Oświęcim hill (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Oświęcim Castle. View from the town. Photo by Y. Ivashko, 2024

The history of the place where the castle museum is located is also inextricably linked with the history of the Oświęcim region. Oświęcim Castle, with its tower, defensive walls and buildings on the castle hill, is one of the city's most important monuments, evidenced by its eight-hundred-year-old roots [22, 35].

The defense tower is one of the oldest brick buildings in Lesser Poland and the view from it opens up a wonderful panorama of Oświęcim and its surroundings.

The history of the castle in Oświęcim has several stages.

The oldest, the first stage, refers to the 11th–12th centuries.

The oldest traces of settlement on Castle Hill date from the 11th to the beginning of the 12th century and were discovered in the northeastern part of Castle Hill, the outline of which differs from the modern one. The oldest open agricultural settlement was in the hill's northeastern part. The settlement consisted of only a few huts and probably had few fortifications. Relics of the oldest settlement are the negatives of several wooden pillars,

discovered during archaeological excavations and ceramics of the 11th–12th centuries. The settlement burned down at the turn of the 11th–12th centuries or at the beginning of the 12th century.

The next stage was the creation of the Kasztelański "hail" of the hillfort. The first sources about it date back to 1179. The Cracow prince Kazimierz Sprawiedliwy granted Oświęcim the castellanship to the Duke of Opole of Mieszko Płatnog assigned to his son Kazimierz. Sources report that Prince Kazimierz I rebuilt and strengthened the castle in Oświęcim.

The oldest element of the defensive outline discovered in the current castle is an earthen rampart from the local loess soil. Some researchers, based on research, believe that the hillfort complex should have been a defensive fortification surrounded by a rampart, located in the southern, higher part of the hill and the surrounding area in the northern part—initially open, later surrounded by a rampart.

Around the middle of the 13th century, a stone tower—*pars pro toto*—began to be built in the southeastern corner of the defensive contour [22]. A stone defensive wall was also built in the second half of the 13th or at the beginning of the 14th century. At the beginning of the 14th century, Oświęcim became the capital of the newly created Oświęcim principality and the first Piast prince who lived in the castle was Władysław. It can be safely assumed that the completely brick castle in Auschwitz, which began with the tower, was built before the middle of the 14th century. The dating of the defensive wall as a whole to the 14th century is also confirmed by archaeological research [22]. Unfortunately, we do not know what structures complemented the tower and the defensive walls because the written sources are silent about it and archaeological research has not brought satisfactory results in this regard.

The castle tower in Oświęcim was built as a separate structure from the very beginning (Fig. 2). We do not know its original height, but it probably had three tiers topped by a defensive platform. The tower could be reached through the entrance, preserved to this day, on the second floor (12 meters above the then level of the courtyard) (Fig. 3). The current entrance in the lower part of the tower, on the southern facade, was re-punched only in the 19th century (Fig. 4). Such a high location of the original entrance clearly testifies to the primarily defensive nature of the building and allows it to be classified as a so-called tower of last defense, called *bergfried*, or free-standing fighting tower.



Fig. 2. Types of masonry in different periods (Photo by Y. Ivashko, 2024)



Fig. 3. The Tower (Photo by Y. Ivashko, 2024)



Fig. 4. Old and new entrances (Photo by Y. Ivashko, 2024)

At the end of the 15th century, the castle, acquired by King Kazimierz Jagielloń, became the nominal royal residence and the warden's residence. It was modernized and adapted to new defense requirements, which was all the more necessary because of its border location.

In 1503, a fire destroyed a large part of Oświęcim, including the parish church and castle buildings, of which only the tower survived. King Aleksander Jagielloń ordered the castle and its fortifications to be rebuilt. It was rebuilt for 5 years and the work on strengthening and reconstruction of the walls continued until 1534.

From this period, a fragment of the defensive wall with a bastion in the northeastern part of the hill and the oldest southern part of the current castle structure have been preserved.

During the 17th-century Swedish invasion (so-called Deluge), the castle was captured and burned by the Swedes. Since then, it gradually fell into disrepair and despite the parliament's decree on urgent repairs, it never regained its former glory. In the first half of the 19th century, the Austrian authorities planned to destroy the castle, but Kajetan Russocki bought it. He established a dominial office and post office there.

In 1904, a railway official, Karol Kaschny, purchased the castle at an auction and immediately began renovating and converting the rooms into a hotel and winery. The original layout of the interior of the building of the current southern wing has been preserved to this day. The facades, in which the layout has been streamlined and the sizes of the window openings have been unified, have received a new, modernized design. On the eastern facade, there is a stucco shield with the image of the Piast eagle. The entire building has a steep four-pitched roof, covered with colorful tiles with a geometric ornament.

Between 1908 and 1910, the tower was also thoroughly renovated. The building was covered with a tent roof. In 1910, Karol Kaschny leased the castle to the Oświęcim Office of the County Office. Shortly after, due to financial difficulties, he sold it to Jakub Habermeld, one of the richest residents of Oświęcim at the time.

After the First World War, the castle became the seat of the government. In 1926, the district administration in Biała Krakowska bought the castle and in 1928–1931 it was repaired and rebuilt. Between the defense tower and the castle, a two-story building with a risalite, crowned with an attic, was erected.

During the Second World War, the castle was the seat of the German occupation authorities in Oświęcim; the city was named Auschwitz.

After the Second World War, the castle housed the local government, the district administration and then the Oświęcim town hall. In the 1950s, the ceiling above the first floor was partially replaced in the southern wing. Also, the roof covering was replaced and the facade was renewed.

From 2006 to 2010, the Oświęcim City Hall carried out major conservation repairs of the castle and tower with the support of the EU. On January 1, 2010, according to the Oświęcim Ordinance of the Oświęcim City Council, the castle became a museum—the Castle Museum in Oświęcim.

Study of the display in Oświęcim Castle

Fulfilling its mission, the museum collects and preserves museum objects related to the history of the city of Oświęcim and the Oświęcim region. The collection includes documents, seals, coins, maps, books, photographs, household items and archaeological sites. Most of the exhibits are presented at the permanent exhibition, which presents the life of pre-war Oświęcim, the interior design of the apartments and the daily life of its inhabitants, as well as at the exhibition "In the Royal City of Oświęcim".

Unfortunately, nothing remains of the castle furniture of those times. Exhibits of the exposition were collected from residents and as the institution developed, they were purchased by the museum.

The permanent exhibition occupies the ground and first floors, while the conference hall and administration are located on the first floor.

The Oświęcim Castle Museum also organizes temporary exhibitions promoting the history of the city of Oświęcim, presented in the Oświęcim Castle and in the second branch—the Town Hall. In 2024, it was an exhibition about the Sola River called "River Colours" and an exhibition of sculptures—figures of Slavic demonic creatures from legends and fairy tales, made as part of art therapy at the District Community Centre for Mutual Assistance in Kęty with premises in Brzeszcze.

The creation and organization of the museum in the castle was a very important activity because until 2010 the city of Oświęcim did not have its own museum. Since its inception, the Castle Museum in Oświęcim has aimed to popularize the history, heritage, culture and traditions of the Oświęcim region among a wide group of recipients, diverse in age, education and background. By organizing numerous events, exhibitions, lectures, conferences, historical re-enactments, concerts, performances and competitions, it encourages the audience to learn about local history while strengthening a sense of identity.

The museum organizes educational events and workshops dedicated to school and kindergarten groups, individual participants, the elderly and families (Fig. 5). Classes are based on museum collections and cover topics of past eras, the history of the Oświęcim principality, Polish traditions, customs and ceremonies.

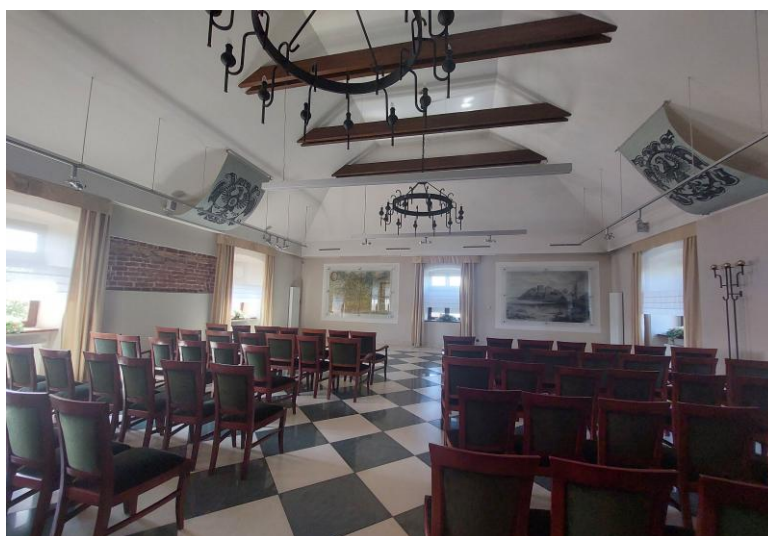


Fig. 5. Conference hall. (Photo by Y. Ivashko, 2024)

Events such as the Kasztelański Fair, Castle Musical Evenings, Night of Museums and City Festival are periodically held. One of the most important aspects of the Castle Museum's activities is the scientific conference "Jagiellons and their world", which occurs every two years within the walls of Oświęcim Castle. The conference gained authority and great popularity in scientific circles. It brings together outstanding experts and researchers from the best centers in Poland and abroad.

For this, there is a conference hall on the 1st floor, where you can see the old oak ceilings of the 18th century in the brick wall—this was the castle's upper level. There are also old maps of Oświęcim in the conference hall.

To protect against rain and snow, parts of the former walls were covered with a glass roof in 2007. We see brickwork from different times—in the lower part of the tower, sandstone of the 13th century, brick of the 16th–19th centuries and a fragment of the wall of the 16th century

(1534). On the example of the tower, you can see the characteristic brickwork—two long bricks, one short, with lime mortar.

Oświęcim Castle is included in the register of monuments of the Voivodeship Office for the Protection of Monuments in Kraków.

The castle is under the care of the Voivodeship Conservator in Kraków and its research was carried out by conservators and archaeologists mainly from Kraków.

History of Špilberk Castle in Brno

Development of the castle complex

Špilberk Castle (Figs. 6 and 7) was built in the middle of the 13th century on a rocky hill that is 290 meters above sea level. The construction was initiated by the Czech king Přemysl Otakar II and the castle was originally supposed to serve as the residence of the then lords of Moravia. The first building was probably a massive cylindrical residential tower. On the other side of the castle, a Gothic palace with a prismatic tower and the chapel of St. John the Baptist [36]. The first written mentions of the castle come from the period 1277–1279 and include the proceedings of the assembly and a mention of the castle chapel.



Fig. 6. Špilberk Castle (Photo by P. Tišliar, 2024)



Fig. 7. Špilberk Castle opposite side (Photo by P. Tišliar, 2024)

Very little has been preserved from this original castle (Gothic portal of the first courtyard and rooms on the ground floor). But its masonry was used for later reconstructions.

Špilberk Castle was not permanently inhabited and the monarchs rarely visited it. However, in 1337, the first wife of the Czech king Karol, Blanca of Valois, stayed here [37].

In the middle of the 14th century, during the reign of Ján Jindřich and his son Jošt, the castle became a settlement. Jan Jindřich and Jošt belonged to the Luxemburg family and were the brother and nephew of the Czech king Karol IV. This period, lasting sixty years, was the most significant and famous in the history of Špilberk. Unfortunately, these sixty years were the last that the castle was known as a place of residence. However, the castle did not become a magnificent fortress or a manorial residence and it acquired the status of an important fortress only after the death of the last Moravian Luxembourg. The castle owners didn't take much care of it, which meant its gradual decline. When Jošt died, the then-Czech King Sigismund handed over the administration of Moravia, including Špilberk Castle, to Albrecht of Austria. Attention was focused on his significant military qualities, which were already known during the Hussite wars but gained even greater importance during the conflicts between Juraj of Poděbrady and Matej Korvín. Matej Korvín eventually won and allowed the Czech garrison to leave with honor, thereby maintaining control over the strategic point and Moravia. From the end of the 15th century, Špilberk began to lose its importance and gradually declined. However, the Moravian estates were aware of its important location and decided to buy the castle to save it from further decline. They bought the castle and the estate and then sold it to the city of Brno. The castle was owned by the city for sixty years, until Ferdinand II did not confiscate and transfer it to landownership. During the Thirty Years' War, the castle fell into disrepair, although about forty soldiers were stationed in it.

The subsequent partial occupation of Moravia by Swedish troops (1643–1645) brought glory to Špilberk again. As a result of the Swedish threat, the fortifications of the castle were repaired and improved and the fortress thus withstood a three-month siege by the Swedes. This event reminded of its strategic and military importance. The well-known Brno legend about the bell ringing on Petrov is also connected with it. According to her, General Lennart Torstenson besieged Brno for three months in 1645 and declared that if the city was not conquered by noon, he would break the siege. He attacked, but when the bell rang in the church of Saints Peter and Paul in Petrov, the Swedes and their general thought it was noon and gave up the siege. Since then, midday strikes at 11 o'clock in Petrov. The second version of the story says that a spy heard the general's statement and reported it to the people of Brno, who decided to ring the noon bell an hour earlier. After this event, when the town and castle were in ruins (the walls, castle chapel and buildings were significantly damaged), repair work began [38] and Colonel Raduit de Souches finally rebuilt the castle into a massive fortress.

During all this time there was also a prison in Špilberk. In 1673, the castle was established as a prison for criminals, vagabonds and debtors, who were to be used in fortification works according to the decree of Leopold I [39]. Emperor Joseph II then converted the fortress prison into a civilian jail [40].

At the beginning of the 18th century, a new castle gate and casemates were built. The name casemate probably comes from the Romanesque word "casa", meaning house and the Lombard or Sieneese dialect word "matta", meaning dark [41]. Underground two-story casemates were built in the fortress moat, which were part of the final stage of rebuilding the castle into a baroque fortress. The long cellar corridors, which until 1742 had a completely different use than a prison, initially served military units. These more than one-hundred-meter-long two-story corridors, built into the moats of the castle, were intended to house the fortified garrison in case of an attack. They were equipped with bread ovens, kitchens and tiled stoves.

The fortress prison consisted of a brick building attached to the castle moat. Its entire space on the ground floor was intended for ordinary convicts, while the upper floors were intended for officers and members of the upper classes. In 1783, 43 prisoners were

accommodated in Špilberk in this way. It became a state prison as part of the reforms of Emperor Joseph II. Until then, the casemates served only as a military prison [42]. Špilberk was thus used for various types of prisoners and punishments, while it became known as the hardest prison of the Austrian monarchy. On the lowest floor of the deepest casemates, sixty dungeons of thick boards and beams were set up. The dimensions of the dungeons were 2×1.5 meters and the height of the cell did not exceed 2.5 meters. The convicts were chained to the wall [43].

This prison was also known as the "dungeon of the nations" [44] because, in addition to common criminals, political prisoners were also inmates. Prisoners at Špilberk included Hungarian Jacobins and Italian Carbonari, but also Polish revolutionaries and Austrian utopian socialists. Among the prisoners were not only common criminals but also political and state prisoners, to whom commemorative plaques or monuments are dedicated in Špilberk.

The Špilberk prison became famous thanks to the poet Silvio Pelli, who wrote the book "My Dungeons" after eight years of imprisonment [45]. At that time, Špilberk no longer served as a military fortress but only as a prison, which was a consequence of the destruction of its fortifications by Napoleon's troops. The last political prisoners were a group of 200 Polish revolutionaries who took part in the Kraków Uprising in 1846. Among the prisoners was the well-known bandit Babinský.

In 1855, Francis Joseph II decided to abolish the prison and turned the premises into barracks, which fulfilled this role for the next hundred years.

The function of the prison was restored during the First World War, but only in the above-ground part. It was used to punish treason or desertion and fulfilled its function until the Second World War, when the Nazis turned the castle into a concentration camp. During the first year of the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, several thousand Czech patriots suffered in the walls of Špilberk, many of whom died there. For most of them, however, Špilberk was just a transfer station to other German prisons or concentration camps. Between 1939 and 1941, German troops made extensive modifications to Špilberk to create model barracks following the romantic-historical ideology of the then Great German Empire. In 1945, the prison was finally abolished. After the departure of the Czechoslovak army, Špilberk became the property of the Museum of the City of Brno. In 1962, the Czechoslovak government declared Špilberk a national cultural monument and entrusted it to the administration of the Museum of the City of Brno.

Reconstructions and historical reconstructions

Originally, the Gothic royal castle was built by the Czech king Přemysl Otakar II. Most of the building was probably built during his reign. A massive cylindrical bergfrit once stood on the western perimeter wall of Špilberk, which served as the oldest access road to the castle. This path led to the eastern entrance facade, which is still preserved in its early Gothic form. The entrance to the castle was located in the center of the wing, where the castle palace with a massive prismatic tower was located. The first floor of the tower has been preserved to this day, while on its ground floor there is an intact early Gothic cross vault with ribs on consoles and a target bolt. South of the passage was the east wing on the ground floor with a rectangular Early Gothic Hall. The main, still Early Gothic arched space of the room with the eastern wall divided by three original niches was accessible from the courtyard through the Early Gothic portal. On the first floor there was an early Gothic castle chapel, which was joined on the south side by a smaller room with a small early Gothic window and stone seats [46].

The oldest construction phase, early Gothic, is logically connected with the construction of the castle. The characteristic and most widespread material of this phase is quarry metabasite, obtained during landscaping of the top of the Špilberk hill and during excavations of the western and eastern trenches. Another material is basal clastic, specifically Devonian basal clastic of the "old red" type and small bricks. All materials were connected with a characteristic, orange-colored, coarse-grained mortar. Bricks were most often used to fill rib vaults and to vault niches, as can be seen, for example, on the reverse side of the vault of the Gothic Hall in

the eastern wing or in the preserved ventilated part of the northern Within this oldest phase, we can follow a certain chronological sequence. From the point of view of the composition of the building material, the western round tower stands out with almost 50% of granodiorite, which, apart from a small occurrence in the eastern corridor, does not occur in the other parts of the castle [47].

The next construction phase, recognizable by the historical method of construction, consists of buildings made of large-sized bricks called "bunches", which are bricked with white lime mortar. This phase is mainly represented by the slightly bent vaulted cellar in the basement of the south wing, which is preserved in its entirety. It is a High Gothic building phase [47].

In 1560, the castle was sold to the city, which began to repair it in 1593. The Renaissance reconstruction also significantly affected the inner core of the castle. The Gothic windows were replaced with new ones, as evidenced by the preserved Renaissance stone profiled casing of the large window on the first-floor facade south of the chapel. The Renaissance phase represents the third construction stage. Its existence is confirmed by building material, historical and iconographic sources. In room 110, this phase is manifested by traces of the piercing of two rectangular windows, while parts of the lining and fittings of the window niches have been preserved in the masonry. The main building materials used were bricks of modern format, supplemented to a small extent by bricks of high format from demolished structures from the previous construction phase. Another completely preserved Renaissance window has been restored in the eastern facade of the eastern wing and the jamb of another is preserved in the outer face of the northern perimeter wall [47].

The estate uprising began the two-hundred-year era of the castle as a state prison. Plans of the castle from the period of the Swedish siege in 1645 show its transformation into a late Renaissance church.

The fourth construction phase, visible on the inner wall of the perimeter wall in room 110, represents the reconstruction of the castle into a Baroque citadel. This reconstruction began in the 1770^s and took place in various stages until the second half of the 18th century [47].

In 1693, the northeastern corner of the castle core was rebuilt into a new Baroque chapel, with small square windows replacing the Gothic chapel windows. In 1727, the gate on the southwestern bastion was modified. After the end of the Thirty Years' War, construction work began on Špilberk to repair and build new fortification systems, in which builders and craftsmen from Brno participated, as well as prisoners from Špilberk who worked on repairing the walls. In the first half of the 18th century, when the construction work was directed by the landscape engineer Nicola de Pieroni, the main gate, powder room, new fortification system and the famous casemates (the lower corridor of the western part) were built. Further construction work continued under the direction of engineer Colonel Pietro Filipe de Rochepine, during which the casemates were completed, the bastion of the fortifications built and the perimeter walls repaired [48].

Other more significant reconstructions followed, such as in the 19th century in connection with the prison function of the castle and then in the 20th century the first monument restoration during the Nazi occupation in the years 1939–1941 under the expert supervision of Prof. Dr. K.F. Kühn, then head of the Monuments Office in Brno [48]. The construction work of this stage affected all buildings and after their completion, Špilberk acquired an architecturally uniform character. In the first phase, implemented by the Brno-based construction company Bloudek, the lighting and water supply installation was tested, sanitary units were rebuilt, new electrical wiring was laid, new trusses were built and the area behind the north wing was fenced. The southern part of the walls was faithfully reconstructed according to old plans from the Viennese military archive. The southern wing of the main building also received a completely new look, including the newly built southeastern Staroban Bastion and a new pedestrian access from the city. Major structural changes were also made in the main barracks buildings, which housed the oldest parts of the Gothic castle. The vault in the front part

of the passage was structurally unified and the Gothic Hall from the original castle was preserved to the left of the passage, which has changed little over time. The internal division of the east wing on the first and second floors was removed and replaced with a new one.

After the building was taken over by the city of Brno in 1960 and the museum was established, further modifications took place. In 1965, the "Castle wine cellar" was opened on the ground floor of the southern part of the eastern wing, designed by the architect Kamil Fuchs. When designing the wine shop, he used the historicizing elements of the interior of the former German officers' casino from 1941 [48].

A more extensive restoration of Špilberk took place in the years 1987–2000 under the expert supervision of the State Institute for Monument Care in Prague. This restoration significantly changed the silhouette of the Brno monument and also affected part of its interior. In the 1980s, it became clear that the monument was in a very bad condition and required complete reconstruction. Preparatory work began in 1987, during which various Gothic fragments of the former royal chapel of the Přemyslov family were "rediscovered". The last large-scale reconstruction also concerned the casemates, which took place in the years 1987–1992.

The reconstruction tried to return the casemates to their original form from the end of the 18th century, that is, from the time when they became the worst dungeon during the reign of Emperor Joseph II. In 1880, the casemates were first made available to the public thanks to Anton Costa-Rossetti, then director of military constructions in Brno. For more than 130 years, they have been the subject of great interest to visitors [49].

Museum and permanent display

The museum officially took over Špilberk Castle in 1960. The exhibition halls were located in the south wing on the first floor and the north wing on the second floor. Two years later (1962), Špilberk Castle was declared a national cultural monument [50, 51].

The museum successfully tried to prepare a presentation on Špilberk Castle, focusing primarily on the castle's development and use (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Interior of Špilberk museum exhibition hall (Photo by P. Tišliar, 2024)

The permanent display consists of several thematic units, which are understandably dominated mainly by the issue of Špilberk as a prison [52]. At Špilberk Castle, visitors can see *Žalár národov: Príbehy slávneho špilberského väzenia* (Dungeon of Nations: Stories of the Famous Špilberk Prison); *Od hradu k pevnosti: Ako sa staval Špilberk* (From a castle to a fortress: How Špilberk was built); *Brno na Špilberku: História mesta Brna v kocke* (Brno na Špilberk: History of the city of Brno in a cube); *O nové Brno: Brnianska medzivojnová architektúra* (About new Brno: Brno's interwar architecture); *Rakúska Morava: Galéria starého*

umienia (Austrian Moravia: Gallery of Old Art); *Baroková lékárna* (Baroque Pharmacy); *Moderna: Galéria moderného umenia* (Moderna: Gallery of Modern Art); and *Od moderny po súčasnosť: Galéria súčasného umenia* (From Modern to Present: Gallery of Contemporary Art).

An exciting and visitor-popular part is the casemates, also presented in the form of dioramas and mannequins of prisoners and guards (Figs. 9 and 10). The exhibition's creators thus managed to evoke an effective and experiential atmosphere [53-56] of a hard prison of the 18th century, which is engaging for the visitor. The Museum of the City of Brno quickly built a good name and is one of the most visited museums.

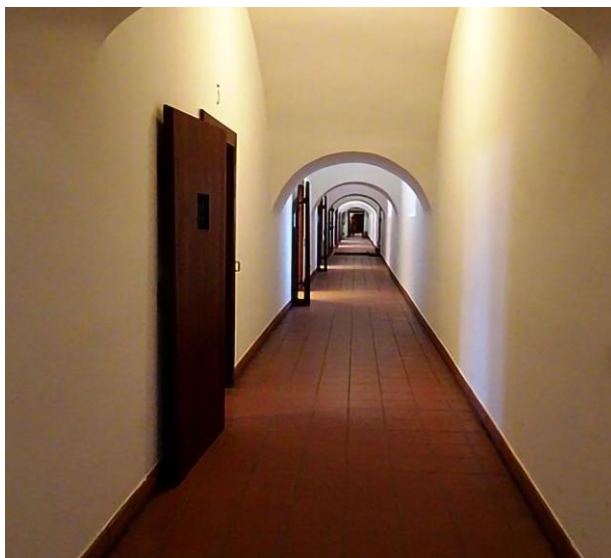


Fig. 9. Interior of the prison corridor in Špilberk Castle (reconstruction) (Photo by P. Tišliar, 2024)



Fig. 10. Interior of a prison cell with prisoner mannequins in Špilberk Castle (historical reconstruction). (Photo by P. Tišliar, 2024)

Conclusions

Definition of the problems of modern use of locks and ways to solve them

The analysis of the stages of the construction of the castle in Oświęcim shows that it is characteristic of the Polish fortifications of the time, which can be judged by the construction structures. The main transformations of the castle were connected with the change of its purpose. Changing its function to a museum made it possible to make the castle and its various parts accessible to a wider group of people. The main purpose of the exhibitions organized in the castle is to popularize the city's history. Another goal is learning through a variety of classes and art workshops organized for children and adults.

The main problems of the museum are:

- proximity to another world-famous object—Place of Memory and Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau, a former German concentration camp;
- complex maintenance of this type of object located on a hill;
- the castle is located near the river, which affects the humidity both in the tunnels and in the tower and in the castle, which requires constant temperature control, reducing the humidity of the structures etc.;
- maintenance of the castle and exposition.

A comparison of the organization of the castle museum in Oświęcim and Brno can reveal common problems. Museums need constant support, help from the city, EU grants and money. The museum, located in the castle, organizes classes, various exhibitions and conferences, attracting more people. Following the example of the castle in Brno, the opening of a cafe, restaurant, or shop with folk crafts and souvenirs in the museum can further increase the number of visitors to this place. In addition, support can be provided by articles in Polish and foreign journals.

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