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# NOVÝ DOMOV



THE NEW HOMELAND

Pravda vítězí!



CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER [www.novydomov.com](http://www.novydomov.com)

## November 17 to December 29, 1989 a key event in Czechoslovak history

by Ernie Zucker

Velvet Revolution - like the founding of the Republic on October 28, 1918 a key event in Czechoslovak. History started on November 17, 1989 - as a tradition in Czechoslovakia, students were at the forefront. Police stopped the procession downtown. After a stand-off in which they offered the police flowers and remained peaceful, night sticks came out and at least 167 people were injured. In a severe blow to the Communist morale, a number of workers' unions joined the student's cause. From Saturday, November 18, until the general strike of November 27, mass demonstrations took place in Prague, Bratislava and elsewhere - and public discussions instead of performances, were held in many theaters. At the Činoherní Club Theater in Prague, on Sunday, November 19, the Civic Forum (OF) was formed to be the official "spokesgroup" for a large segment of the population increasingly very critical of the regime.

(the fall of the Berlin wall).

As the mass demonstrations continued - and more people supported the general strike - an extraordinary session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee was called. The Presidium of the Party

Communist Party was the leading political force; the position of the National Front and mandating Marxist-Leninist education. These changes were carried out by the parliament on November 29. As the old saying goes "give them an inch, they'll take a mile"



The centre of Prague will see mass celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the communist regime, including a march and a concert, on November 17, the date when the Velvet Revolution broke out in 1989. [photo.ceskenoviny.cz](http://photo.ceskenoviny.cz)

The Civic Forum, led by Havel, demanded the resignation of the Communist government, the release of prisoners of conscience, and an investigation into the November 17 police action. A similar initiative (the Public Against Violence - VPN) took place in Slovakia. Both organizations were supported by the great majority of the population. It took about two weeks for the media to catch up to what was going on. In the interim, student delegations traveled widely through cities and villages, to rally support. The leaders of the Czechoslovak government and Communist party officials were totally unprepared to deal with the developing situation. They failed to notice that regimes in neighbouring countries had been wobbling and toppling all around

resigned, and a relatively unknown person, Karel Urbánek, was elected as Party leader. The public rejected these cosmetic changes, which were intended to give the impression that the Communist Party was being reformed from within as it had been in 1968. The people's dissatisfaction only increased.

Massive demonstrations of almost 750,000 people at the Letná Park on November 25 and 26 as well as the general strike on the 27th were devastating for the prevailing regime. Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec was forced to hold talks with the Civic Forum, led by Havel. The Civic Forum presented a list of political demands who had to agree to form a new coalition government. Also, three articles had to be removed from the constitution, namely the guarantee that the

applies here. The previous steps forced on the government, led to new demands. Once more the government resigned and Marian

Calfa took over with now nine members of the Communist Party two, from the Socialist Party, seven ministers with no party affiliation.

All of the latter were either Civic Forum or Public Against Violence activists. On December 10 President Husák resigned, the general strike was called off and the borders to Austria and Germany were opened. Alexander Dubček (remember, he was prime minister during the ill-fated Prague Spring movement in the 1960's) was named speaker in the parliament and this body elected Václav Havel as President of Czechoslovakia. In the first truly democratic elections that followed in the spring of 1990, Petr Pithart of the Civic Forum was elected Czech premier, Slovaks Vladimír Mečiar and Marian Calfa of the Public Against Violence, were elected Slovak and Federal premiers respectively. Václav Havel was re-elected Czechoslovak President on July 5, 1990.

**PLEASE CELEBRATE WITH US AT MASARYK TOWN, ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15 AT 6PM,** Masaryk Memorial Institute 450 Scarborough

Golf Club Road (exit at Markham Rd. off highway 401, drive south to Lawrence Ave. and then two traffic lights east)

## Biden reassures CR of defense role

U.S. vice president attempts to refute "reset diplomacy"

Joe Biden was biding his time, delivering a keynote speech more than two hours behind schedule at Government House, Oct. 23. The U.S. vice president dashed into and out of Prague to deliver a reassuring message, he hoped, that the United States was not using "reset diplomacy" with Russia at the expense of the Czech Republic.

With journalists locked in for security reasons, Biden finally delivered bland reassurances, confident in the knowledge that he would not face any hostile questioning from the assembled journalists.

In September, the Obama White House scrapped the proposed missile shield, announcing it hamfistedly on the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939. Biden was quick to get the anniversaries dealt with first. "This is the fifth anniversary," he said, "of the Czech Republic joining the EU, the 10th of the Czech Republic joining NATO and the 20th of the Velvet Revolution. I don't think people here realize just how inspirational that was." "The Czech Republic is prepared, as a NATO member, to contribute to a new architecture" of the missile shield, Fischer said. He emphasized that the approach is not bilateral but multilateral. "It'll be primarily an alliance project, continuing with (the alliance's) foreign policy and missions." *Source radio prague*

## Charles University wants registration fees

In an attempt to mend its budget gap, Charles University has been working to implement a registration fee of thousands of crowns that it plans to present to the Education Ministry in September as part of an extensive proposal to amend legislation on higher education.

Dubbed by critics as "tuition in disguise," the proposed 4,800 Kč (\$267) fee marks yet another drift of higher education toward a tuition-based system, something the state has been mulling for years.

The idea of a tuition-based university system has surfaced numerous times over the past several years to help bolster a flaying economy, but officials have always stated that it would take a minimum of three to four years to put such a model in place.

While Charles University's proposed annual

fee would help cover directorial, service and administrative operating costs, boosting the university's resources 7 percent, the move has many student groups crying foul.

Officials at Charles University point out that the annual budget is short 2 billion Kč. According to a study by the university's Centre for Education Politics, the country's average relative expenditure per student in 2008 stands a quarter lower than the EU average. The university estimates the budget gap is somewhere between 7 billion and 10 billion Kč.

In its reform proposal concerning tertiary education that passed the government in January, the Education Ministry calls for a discussion of the possible forms of students' financial contributions and proposes state study loans to be repaid after graduation. *Source www.praguepost.com/*

## The Olympic Flame arrived to VANCOUVER

„Thousands lined the route to watch the flame pass by on the first day of its 106-day odyssey, after a boisterous kickoff to the relay before thousands more at the provincial legislature here.

But the price of glowing Canadian hearts from the Olympic flame doesn't come cheap.

VANOC has earmarked \$32-million for the torch relay, while the federal and provincial governments are chipping in an additional \$15-million and \$3-million, respectively, to assist community celebrations.

Millions more are expected to be spent on security along the 45,000-kilometre path of the torch. ...“

(Source - part of an article by Rod Mickleburgh, *The Globe and*

*Mail Posted Friday, October 30)*

The 2010 Winter Olympics, officially known as the XXI Olympic Winter Games or the 21st Winter Olympics, will be held February 12-28, 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, with some events held in the resort town of Whistler nearby. Both the Olympic and Paralympic Games are being organized by the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC).

The 2010 Winter Olympics will be the third Olympics hosted by Canada, and the first by the province of British Columbia. Previously, Canada was home to the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. These will also be the first games to be held

in an NHL market since the league allowed its players to participate starting at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Following Olympic tradition, then Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan received the Olympic flag during the closing ceremony of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. The flag was raised on February 28, 2006, in a special ceremony, and will be on display at Vancouver City Hall until the Olympic opening ceremony. The event will be officially opened by Governor General Michaëlle Jean. Canadian Olympic Association chose Vancouver as the Canadian candidate city over Calgary, which sought to re-host the games and Quebec



City, which had lost the 2002 Olympic bid in 1995. On the first round of voting on November 21, 1998, Vancouver-Whistler had 26 votes, Quebec City with 25 and Calgary 21. On December 3, 1998, the second and final round of voting occurred between the two leading contenders, which saw Vancouver win with 40 votes

compared to Quebec City's 32. The win allowed Vancouver to prepare its bid and begin Source Wikipedie lobbying efforts internationally.[citation needed]

After the bid bribing scandal that took place with the 2002 Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City (which saw Quebec City asking for compensation (CDN\$ 8 million, for their failed 2002 bid), 1999 saw many of the rules around the bidding process change. The IOC created the Evaluation Commission which was appointed on October 24, 2002.

Prior to the bidding for the 2008 Summer Olympics, often host cities would fly members of the IOC to their city where they toured the city and were provided with gifts from the city. The lack of oversight and transparency often led to allegations of money for votes. Afterward, changes brought forth by the IOC bidding rules were tightened, and more focused on technical aspects of candidate cities. The team analysed the candidate city features and provided its input back to the IOC. The bid books from the three candidate cities were submitted in January 2003 and inspections occurred before May 2003.

Vancouver won the bidding process to host the Olympics by a vote of the International Olympic Committee on July 2, 2003, at the 115th IOC Session held in Prague, Czech Republic. The result was announced by IOC President Jacques Rogge. Vancouver faced two other finalists shortlisted that same February: PyeongChang, South Korea, and Salzburg, Austria.

Pyeongchang had the most votes of the three cities in the first round of voting, in which Salzburg was eliminated. In the run-off, all but two of the members who had voted for Salzburg voted for Vancouver. It was the closest vote by the IOC since Sydney, Australia beat Beijing for the 2000 Summer Olympics by 2 votes.

Vancouver's victory came almost 2 years after Toronto's 2008 Summer Olympic bid was defeated by Beijing in a landslide vote. Source Wikipedie

## Sun Moon Lake - discover Taiwan's hidden jewel

by Martin Mayer

Nestled between sweeping mountain ranges in Taiwan's central Nantou region lies one of the countries hidden, yet most breathtaking of gems – Sun Moon Lake.

I had the privilege to be invited this past October by Taiwan's premiere resort, the Lalu Hotel & Spa, to come to Sun Moon Lake and perform at the Canadian promotion for food, wine and music. The two-week festival, hosted at the five-star

resort's lakeside property allowed the natural surroundings to show their various colours in and around the day. Most mornings you'd wake up to a beautiful view of lake from the hotel room, the lobby bar, or morning breakfast on the patio, only to watch Sun Moon gentle caressed by sweeping morning mist. Afternoons see the sun high in the sky providing a dancing glow on the water's calm ripples, made only so by local tour boats. With

temperatures hovering around 32°C and 75% humidity even in early fall, this tropical destination will leave you feeling like you're on holidays in an area whose beauty is truly like something out of a travel magazine. Cap off the day with a sunset that will tickle every sense of your eye's colour spectrums and is absolutely stunning to photograph.

If you think a bit of home is too far away in Sun Moon Lake, which lies secluded 3 hours south of Taipei, not to fear. In the small resort town at the foot of the Lalu's mountain-side, you'll find no other than 7-11 and Starbucks Coffee to greet you. Locals are friendly and will even smile at you when you say 'Ni-hao' (Chinese for 'hello') with a foreign accent, or surprise them with a famous Taiwan melody on the piano. Care to go exploring? Gas scooters can be rented for 300 TWD (about \$10 CDN) for 3 hours, more than enough time to take one on a journey around the lake with stops at the Ita

Thao aboriginal village, the Ci-en Pagoda, or the Wenwu Temple.

Leaving Sun Moon Lake is no easy task. Unlike other destinations you might visit, this place becomes home very quickly; it's *that* relaxing. Just let your mind slip away from your troubles and cares and let nature's beauty soothe the soul. Regardless of what you might need, the staff at the Lalu can help you with anything to make your trip more enjoyable.

Not many places have inspired me to write music on the second day there; Sun Moon Lake is the first exception, with a solo piano piece aptly titled after this hidden jewel now a part of my upcoming album. For more information on Sun Moon Lake, visit [www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw](http://www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw) and for more on the Lalu Hotel & Spa, visit [www.thelalu.com.tw](http://www.thelalu.com.tw).

Martin Mayer is a pianist and composer living in Vancouver, B.C. His concerts in Taiwan and China concluded in October, and are being scheduled again for 2010. You'll find his regular column a new addition to the *New Homeland's English supplement*. Martin can be reached at [music@martinmayer.com](mailto:music@martinmayer.com)



The Prague Fine Food Emporium is a popular restaurant in downtown Toronto. The current owner, Tom Kral, was born to Kveta and Vladimír Kral. The Kral family is known mainly as the proprietors of the Prague Deli, carrying Czech and European products. It is the only store of its kind, with more than 40 years of tradition, not only in the Greater Toronto Area, but also across the North American continent in general.

Tom and his sister, Helen, today's owners of the store, are the third generation, continuing the legacy of their grandparents, George and Mary Pichlik. Each generation left their own unique mark on the store. The first generation offered fresh meats & smoked sausages for new European immigrants to Canada. The second generation, Kveta and Vladimír Kral, offered a larger variety of cooked products. The youngest generation evolved the business to add diversified services including a restaurant and a catering service required for new age customers. We had an interview with Tom to see how he views his life and business:

**Tom, you were literally raised in the store. What feelings do you have from your childhood? What stuck in your mind the most?**

I mainly remember the deli as more of a place to hang out than just a food establishment. It was a place where new Czech immigrants that were home sick felt at home. They could share the stories of their old country, eat their favorite Czech food and drink pivo. I was well known in the business since I was the owner's only son, so I remembered customers that came often... They called me 'Tomiku' and pinched my cheeks.

**Which part of the deli was your favorite?**

Well, being a little boy, I was fascinated with terror. Whole carcasses of pigs and cows hung on hooks in our old smoked houses that looked like dark gas chambers. This is cool stuff when you're a kid.

**Did you ever think that you would take over?**

Actually NO. It was only later in my chef career that I had my life-changing trip, which changed my view of the deli. As a child, were there things that you wanted to change about the restaurant?

No, definitely not, there was nothing broken so it didn't need fixing. It was a great place then,

which in later years needed to be updated to the times.

**When did you realize you wanted to follow in the footsteps of your parents?**

It was only about 5 years ago that I first visited Czech Republic. This changed my view of the business. I had a newfound respect for my heritage and was proud to be of Czech background. Being a chef,

### Young and Successful

I got ideas of how to share this spirit of Prague with Toronto. This is where I imagined the deli to be transformed more into a restaurant so I can challenge myself into fusing Czech cuisine with my culinary experience.

**How did you plan on doing it?**

First I quit my current job at Liberty Group Entertainment. Then I had to prove to my parents that I was serious about it and had to make a business plan to make sure things will work out after the renovation since there was a lot at stake. This was my parents' retirement we were talking about. I had to get to know the customers and see where there was potential for prepared meals. The rest of the plan would follow.

**Did you feel the need to heighten your qualifications?**

I'm constantly learning from others or from personal experiences. I'm also interested in the digital era, combining my culinary skills into digital format to be used for marketing. This is why I got into photography and graphic design. I'm also looking at how to be more self sufficient,

**graduated from were most important to you?**

I apprenticed at the King Edward Hotel under Chef John Higgins. He was the head chef of culinary team Canada, so I had a chance to work with the team, which was an amazing experience. I spent 4 years training there, where I went through all the departments of the kitchen brigade, always being pushed to my limits. It was considered the top place for apprenticeship in North America at the time. As part of the program I was sent to George Brown Chef School for basic and advanced training. I gained most of my culinary experience there. Another amazing opportunity



kind of people you meet through food. There are lot's opportunities that I've had from caterings and every event is different. You must adapt yourself to these situations.

**Your job forced you to sacrifice a lot of your private**

of when I had taken over the business, there are so many great memories in my life from the business. It has been such an amazing experience that I wouldn't trade away for anything.

**What do you think is most important about your job?**

To keep the quality high is very important. As soon as it slips just a bit, many other problems will come about, almost like a domino effect. A good business man must be... Passionate. You must have passion in what you do, because if you don't, you will see the outcome in your product. Also balance; there are many instances that come up in the food industry, sometimes you have to be the nice guy, and sometimes you need to show some discipline. The main ingredient is to have respect for your employees, suppliers, customers... whoever you deal with from the business or from anywhere else. You are nothing without a good team, your team, when trained right, will work hard for you. The team represents you.

**What do you see your future in?**

I am simply a man, I do not need any extra responsibilities and I'm happy with what I have. I have many opportunities, but they would really burn me out and I would feel like I'm losing the quality of what I do now.

**What are your expectations of yourself?**

Very high. I'm always pushing myself in different ways, learning new skills, thinking about what needs to be fixed. The only problem is that there aren't enough hours in the day.

**One day when you have your own children, do you think you'll allow them to take over the business calmly?**

It's a very hard question for me to answer. Who knows what the future of the city will be and a big question is if my children will have interest in the business. You cannot force somebody into doing something they do not want to do, so if it happens that they are interested then I will not stop them from achieving their dreams. *Photo KK*

A good business man must be:

**PASSIONATE**

by Kristina Kottova

I had to work with the legendary Susur Lee. He had given me the opportunity for the apprenticeship at King Edward.

**Why did you and Helen feel the need to change the interior and layout of the Prague?**

Well it was mainly my constant push for a change that finally got the rest of the family to realize it would be beneficial. The neighborhood was changing, and if we wanted to survive, we had to change as well. There was a greater need for prepared meals and a restaurant section was required for the customers. Nobody was doing this nouveau Czech cuisine.

**Who are your most frequent customers?**

This is a hard question; it's whoever knows and enjoys good food. Toronto is a multicultural city so we have multicultural customers, although Czech's do frequent the restaurant too.

**What is your favorite thing about your job?**

I love the variety in my day; it's never boring. I do love to be in the kitchen but there are many other responsibilities that I have which challenge me. Another big favourite is catering corporate/media events. It's amazing what

**life and time. Do you regret that about the job?**

Sometimes I think I could have a job that works 9-5 Monday-Friday, but I know I would be bored and feel like many of the people out there who just hate their jobs. I do not consider my career as a job; it's a lifestyle. I live in the business, literally! From when I wake and have my first coffee, to when I make my dinner and close the doors to the public.

**Has your approach in offering duties, menus and assortment of products changed?**

It has changed slightly over the years, but I believe I have found that a business cycle that keeps turning is what works best. As a chef, I must keep the menus up to date, but not change the classic menu items that are a staple of the restaurant. The Prague Catering side of the business is constantly evolving as its popularity increases.

**What have you taken from your parents and grandparents for your professional life?**

I have learned a lot from my parents, babi and deda. They have a hard working spirit that has been passed onto me. They have also made me realize the importance of listening to customers, and being honest and fair with customers and employees.

**If you had the opportunity to start all over again, do you think you would dedicate your life to this job again?**

If I look back at the last 4 years



caring about the future of our planet. It's difficult being a small business but there are small changes that make a big impact.

**Which studies/apprenticeships that you**

# The culture of our land: Architecture 5

by Ernie Zucker

On my last visit to Prague, I snubbed the renaissance and baroque churches and palaces of the city, and for a few days, allowed myself to be seduced by another Prague. While Berlin had the Bauhaus and Paris Le Corbusier, Prague nurtured its own modernists. In the years before World War 1 and the interlude between the two world wars, they filled the city with innovative and sleekly functional buildings. They return a missing chapter to the history of 20th century architecture and offer a counterpoint to Prague's more familiar trove of architectural treasures.

The Art Nouveau style in architecture appeared in the country from about 1890 and, being rather short-lived, burnt itself out by about 1920. The style is known by different names depending on location: here it is "secese", in Austria and Germany as "Jugendstil", in France as style "nouille" or style "Guimard" etc. The characteristics of the style are decorative (art, flowing lines, floral motifs, stained glass). Many apartment houses on Prague's Pařížská and on Vinohrady display Art Nouveau features. Built on the site of the Royal Court in 1911, the Municipal House (Obecní dům) is the most extravagant product of the boom times that hit Prague due to the industrial revolution at the turn of the century. The curvaceous, domed structure with a rhomboid footprint was designed by architects Antonín Balšánek and Osvald Polívka. The wealth of masterful mosaics, murals and sculptures (inside and outside of the building) are the work of prominent artists including Alphonse Mucha, Karel Špillar and Ladislav Šaloun. An exuberant symbol of Czech patriotism, it became the site where the Czechoslovak state

was signed into independence on October 28, 1918. Today it hosts lavish balls, art exhibitions and major musical events.

Another stream in Czech architecture was spearheaded by leading architect and educator Jan Kotěra whose work influenced the boom in civil engineering and utilitarian architecture of that time (example: the structures erected for the Jubilee Industrial Exhibition of Engineering and Architecture in 1891). The museum in Hradec Králové is one of many of his buildings. Another outstanding architect of the time was Dušan Jurkovič who drew on folk architecture for inspiration. His work includes the spa in Luhačovice and the mountain chalet on Radhošť. Probably the most creative architect of the day was Josef Gočár, a top student of Kotěra. He understood construction as a prerequisite of transforming space and giving it expression by the use of the front of the structure. Examples of his work include the Wenke department in Jaroměř, the Winternitz flour mill in Pardubice and the design for Prague's Old Town Hall reconstruction, which was rejected and aroused indignation as being too avant-garde. Now the design is regarded as the beginning of Czech cubism, a unique style shining within European architecture of the time.

In 1911, wholesale merchant Herbst commissioned Gočár to design his department store in Celetná Street in Prague. The result was the House of the Black Madonna, probably the finest example of the cubist style anywhere. Gočár utilized a reinforced concrete form, which enabled him to line the building with large, deep-set windows, emphasizing the structure's three-dimensional

appearance. A popular tourist destination, the ground floor now houses a book and cubist design store, while the upper floors are occupied by a permanent exhibition on Czech cubism. The original Grand Café Orient opened in 2005 restored to its original Cubist glory.

Czechoslovakia was declared an independent country on October 28, 1918 and construction, manufacturing, the arts, etc. flourished - the country became one of the ten richest countries in the world despite the worldwide economic slowdown of the 1920s and 1930s. This prosperity resulted in many new buildings being built in Prague. At the time, the ideas of the Bauhaus and the functionalist architectural style predominated. The huge Exhibition Palace (Veletržní palác) built between 1925 and 1928, designed by Joseph Fuchs and Oldřich Tyl, became an early example of this style. When Le Corbusier saw it, he took pictures to show to prospective clients. Its galleries surrounding the high atrium, saw annual commercial displays of interest to thousands of prospective customers. The building is now the National Gallery of Modern Art.

The massive Church of the Sacred Heart now dominates Prague's Jiří z Poděbrad Square. Built between 1929 and 1932, the church was designed by Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik, best known for his masterful renovations to Prague Castle. The Moravian city of Zlín, home of Bata shoe manufacturing became in the thirties a symbol of highly functional design of a modern industrial centre (architects



The Dancing House

Vladimír Karfík and František Gahura). Karfík's designs incorporated many ideas gleaned during his time working in the U.S. with Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. This was the time when large housing estates were built in the capital, such as the 'Baba' residential district laid out by architect Pavel Janák. This still exists, though it appears old-fashioned today in its severe functionalist blocks, almost totally devoid of any decorative relief. This was also the time for the start of building glass and steel department stores, an early one being the Centrum in Brno by František Gahura.

Better known for his ideas than for projects he designed before the 1930s, architect Adolf Loos still rankles critics with his 1913 essay "Ornament and Crime", which argued against using anything that might interrupt his vision of endless, smooth, light-reflecting surfaces. His Muller Villa (designed together with Karel Lhota) in Prague, is an excellent example of functionalist style. The villa houses an exhibit devoted to the life and work of Adolf Loos. Mies Van Der Rohe was retained as architect to build a villa for Fritz and Grete Tugendhat in 1928 in Brno. One of the great interiors of this period is its living space, as to the couple money was no object. A curved wall of Macassar ebony defines the dining room and a straight wall of gold-veined onyx separates the music room from the living room. The villa is now on the UNESCO list of cultural heritage buildings and is open to the public.

One can say that the World

War 2 years and the communist era starting in 1948, are characterized by a stranglehold on artistic endeavour and architectural excellence. Standardization, mainly meaning prefabrication, became the order of the day. The result: huge sets of ugly Soviet style housing estates, industrial and farming plants you can see everywhere throughout the Czech Republic to this day. In the short period of the relative loosening in political pressures (Prague Spring - in the mid-1960's) Czech architects tried to do some catching up. The television transmitter on the Ještěd Mountain in Northern Bohemia, designed by Zdeněk Partman and Karel Hubáček, is one example. The Soviet army invasion of 1968 put an end to this short period of enlightenment.

The Velvet Revolution of 1989 sparked a countrywide architectural awakening, combining construction of new projects with renovations sprucing up villages, towns and cities. The Dancing House on Prague's Vltava Embankment, designed by Canadian-born Frank O. Gehry and Vlado Milunič, the Four Seasons Hotel and other tourist accommodations, new bank buildings, shopping malls (opened in late 2007, the Palladium on Náměstí Republiky in Prague is now the country's largest mall with over 200 stores and 30 eating establishments) and scores of new residential buildings. The current crop of Czech architects must base their work on the country's thousand year tradition of "design and build" which presents a true challenge to the whole profession.

The End of the serial Architecture



The Trade Fair Palace