

Baroque architecture in Prague

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Baroque architecture - Prague

- Complex architectural plan shapes, **often based on the oval, and the dynamic opposition and interpenetration of spaces were favoured to heighten the feeling of motion and sensuality.**
- Other characteristic qualities include grandeur, **drama and contrast (especially in lighting), curvaceousness, and an often dizzying array of rich surface treatments, twisting elements, and gilded statuary.**
- **Architects unabashedly applied bright colours and illusory, vividly painted ceilings.**

Baroque in Prague I

- **Nerudova Street** (Nerudova ulice)
- Named after the poet and journalist Jan Neruda, who lived at No 47 in the **House of Two Suns**, it is the picturesque narrow street that leads up to Prague castle as a part of Royal Way. There is a splendid selection of heraldic beasts and emblems on the houses, for example the Red Eagle, **the Three Fiddles**, the Golden Horseshoe, the Green lobster and the White Swan.
There are also a number of grand Baroque buildings, such as the Thun-Hohenstain Palace, the Morzin Palace, the Church of Our Lady of Unceasing Succour.

Strahov Monastery



Hall of Theology, Library



Praemonstrate
Order

Strahov Monastery, Chapel St. Roch



St. George Basilique, Castle



Remark:
The towers behind the facade are built in romanesque style with its characteristic small coupled windows.

Matthias Tor, Prague Castle

- J. B. Mathey, 1679 - 1685



Benedictine Monastery Břevnov



Baroque statues

There are **30 statues** mounted to the balustrade of **Charles Bridge** (Stone Bridge) in Prague. They form two rows, one on each side. They are listed in the order they are passed when crossing the bridge from the Old Town to the Lesser Quarter, and are divided into two categories:

those **on the north side** of the bridge and those **on the south side**.

The statue of Bruncvík is also included, although it is not considered one of the principal statues.

Figure: The statue of St. Johannes Nepomucensis. Note that the statue is curved in the shape of a letter "S", which is a typical sign of baroque sculptury art.



Kampa Island

- Known as **the Venice of Prague**, Kampa Island has been formed by a branch of the Vltava called the **Devil's Stream (Čertovka)**.
- **Two old mills**
- Originally there were only gardens on the island but it was also used for washing clothes and bleaching linen.
- In the 17th century the island became well known for its pottery markets.
- Today it is an elegant part of Prague with a village-like character.



Kampa

