

Annotation

The Church of St. John of Nepomuk in Štěchovice

There are not many Art Nouveau constructions in Bohemia. One of them is the Church of St. John of Nepomuk in Štěchovice designed by the architect Kamil Hilbert. Although the construction is not built in the pure Art Nouveau style, its individual parts and elements are taken over for example from the Roman or Renaissance style, it remains probably the most popular architectural example of this style. In view of this fact it is interesting that neither the church nor the builder were devoted sufficient attention in the past. There are not many sources and literature available. Experts devoted their attention to Hilbert only in connection with the preservation of monuments the modernisation of which was his merit at the beginning. Hilbert's own creation remained on the edge of the interest, be it creation dating back to the end of the 19th century or the first decades of the 20th century.

The aim of my work is to inform the readers about the personality of the architect Kamil Hilbert and to depict his most important construction, the Church of St. John of Nepomuk in Štěchovice. I focused not only on the brief statement of data, but I tried to incorporate the life and creation of Hilbert also into broader connections, to mention the politic as well as cultural situation in the then Austria-Hungary, and also the newly formulated principles of the monument preservation not only in Bohemia, but also in the Western Europe. I am looking in my work first of all for the answers to questions what could be the main inspiration sources while designing the church in Štěchovice? What style period, architectural or preceding projects influenced this construction? Was the work based on the author's preceding creation or did he find the inspiration mainly in the monument conservation and associated historicism or New Roman or New Gothic style? To what extent was Hilbert influenced by then elements appearing at the constructions of modern architects in the first ten years?

The Church of St. John of Nepomuk in Štěchovice is an interesting and extraordinary construction in our environment. The similar style as style created by the architect Kamil Hilbert is remarkable and has no parallel in the Czech environment. Although he drew inspiration from the then modern architecture and surely followed the work of his contemporaries he was always one step in arrears. It is the matter of everybody's own

opinion or taste to evaluate if it was good for Hilbert's style or if he was pushed to „side rail“ hereby. Kamil Hilbert has remained almost forgotten up to now, and his name is mentioned mostly only in connection with the monument preservation. Let us hope the time will come when he will be appreciated in the same way like in the first decades of the 20th century when he was the architect of the St. Vitus's Cathedral.

The main terms:

Personality of the architect Kamil Hilbert; The Church of St. John of Nepomuk in Štěchovice; Art Nouveau; preservation of monuments; inspiration sources