

Villa Reissig was confiscated in 1946 by the Central National Council of the regional capital city Brno and since then the villa and neighbouring buildings were used by the Regional research institutes for plant production in Brno. Since 1948 the building was under the national administration of the Regional Research Institute for plant production in Brno. Since the 1950s the villa was owned by the state and was used by the ancestor of the former regional institutes - the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ).



Nowadays the villa is headquarters of the National Variety Office of ÚKZÚZ. The villa represents an integral part of the Institute's history. In 2011 ÚKZÚZ celebrated its 60th anniversary. During these years ÚKZÚZ has always tried to preserve the villa in the original state, when necessary the restoration was done in a sensitive way and with support of the preservation agency and historians. From the architectonic point of view the villa represents a highlight comparable with another architectonic treasure of Brno - Villa Tugendhat.

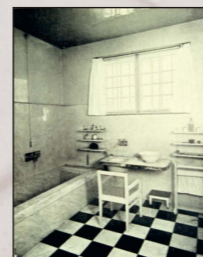
For 2012, a reconstruction of the facade and of the wooden elements is planned. A restoration of a part of the openings of the original loggia in the south part of the house will take place as well. These openings will be covered by windows sunk into the interior to evoke the impression of the original openings of the loggia.

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Book: Brno secesní, autor Jan Sedlák

Villa Reissig - old pictures



Villa Reissig



Hlinky 148/351, Brno - Pisárky

Client: Dr. Karl Reissig Jr. • Architect: Leopold Bauer 1901-1902

The architect Leopold Bauer (1872-1938) was one of the most dynamic personalities of the Vienna art scene, even before reaching 30 years of age. For a long time he was not able to bring his ideas and projects from paper to reality. Finally, in 1901, a client made this possible. Bauer's first architectonic work was a villa in the new garden area for Dr. Karl Reissig (born in 1863), a prominent lawyer from Brno.

The building was finished in the following year and offered its residents advantages of both all the comfort and the simple life in harmony with the nature. All the equipment of the villa was also designed by Bauer and was recognized for its quality in many Austrian and foreign publications. By that time the Villa Reissig was reckoned to be the first modern residential house in the monarchy.





Hall

The spatial concept was not bound by formal rules, but derived from the lifestyle of the owner. The centre of family life formed the two-floors-high hall with a fireplace and a staircase to the gallery. From this point the representative rooms were accessible, a salon, a spacious library with reading corner and a home office and a large and a small dining room from which you could reach the terrace. The salon, the library and the dining room



The style of the villa is called „English house". The construction of the house in the middle of a large garden was based on an ingenious ground plan and spatial conception, which met not only operational, but also aesthetic and social demands. The basic element of ground plans, spaces, details and decorative elements were a square or a rectangle, a cube and a prism. Through assigning, crossing and pasting "squares" Bauer created a cross ground plan, whose arms were oriented to the cardinal points to ensure that the rooms have enough light and air.



Banisters

are connected to the hall with wide doors that allow interesting vistas. On the first floor there was a bedroom and a children's room, in-between a room for a young lady, a bathroom, a dressing room and a gallery. The mansard floor under the vernacular-looking roof was used to accommodate guests. A distinctive feature of the spatial concept was the typically English



Dining table

creating of intimate nooks with different height of floors and ceilings. In order to create desirable "folds" Bauer wedged the spaces into each other, so that it formed a windmill-like structure which reminded of the cross - disposition of Frank Lloyd Wright. The doors and windows were set in irregularly, as needed, so that their various shapes and sizes indicate the function of each room from outside. The contrast of the interior is achieved through the prevalent white plaster and paint and the brightly coloured accents of glass tiles. A part of the built-in furniture is still in the villa, from the mobile inventory remained only the large round dining table made of rosewood with intarsia of light and dark veneer with brass fittings.



Onyx table



The villa is protected by thick walls, the entrance by a covered staircase; there are also bars in the windows on the ground floor. The basement is made out of stone from a quarry and is separated from the residential part of the house by a bordering with a chessboard-like pattern. Apart from this the only other decorating element of the facade was a stucco ornament under the roof, a kind of trellis with small squares of dark glass, initials of the builder, the year of construction and on the roof a stylized motif of an owl, which reminded of Minerva, the patron of education and the arts. In the garden you could find a tennis court, bowling and a swimming pool.



Dr. Karl Reissig and his family (daughter Gabriela and son Ernst) lived in the villa also during the Second World War. In summer 1945, Dr. Karl Reissig had to leave the villa because of his German nationality. He died in 1948 in Vienna. Dr. Karl Reissig was an extraordinary personality both as a lawyer and a man, his credo was that „all relationships have to be based on fairness (decency) and mutual trust". The father of Dr. Karl Reissig was a long-time member of the council of Brno Dr. Karl Reissig Senior (1832-1908) and a street in the centre of Brno was named after him in the years 1908-1919 (nowadays Vachova Street).