



Commercial Academy

Object no. 19 | Havlíčkovy sady, Šanov

The Commercial Academy building is located on the top of a rocky headland, formerly called Mont de Ligne, which rises over the Bytřický stream valley. In the nineteenth century, there used to be a romantic gazebo with mirrors there which was later rebuilt as a scenic restaurant. It was called Pepferbüchsel – which means a Pepperbox. This popular restaurant had to make way for the ambitious plans of Šanov councillors.

There should have been completed a building of Church of Saint Elisabeth of Thuringia in today's Zeyer Square in 1877, which was necessary for awarding the status of town to the quickly developing Šanov. The councillors wanted to further raise the growing prestige of Šanov so they decided in 1875 to build a new German classical grammar school on the headland, until that time the grammar school had been seated in today's regional library. They started landscaping in the same year, the whole porphyritic rock was lowered to today's level and then the construction was performed between 1893 and 1894. It cost 95 000 golden coins; the school palace was put in service in September 1894.

The building was designed by David Ferber in neo-Renaissance style. This new school building immediately became a new landmark of the town alongside the synagogue and St. Bartholomew's Church, namely thanks to its tetragonal, 45 metres high tower. The tower was not only decorative; there was the so called "karcer", the room where naughty students were arrested. Teplice Commercial Academy has been located in this building since 1953.

The headland of Mont de Ligne still offers unique views. Access is free along the right side of the building and it offers views from Šanov, across the Janaáček orchids, of Prosetice with its built-up area of blocks of flats to Letná.