

Christ Church, so called “Green Church”

Object no. 33 | Un-built upon place at the corner of Scheinerova and Nedbalova street,
Teplice – Trnovany

This empty, still un-built upon, place at the corner of Scheinerova and Nedbalova street commemorates the Evangelical Christ Church, one the most important Art Nouveau memorials of the region and the times of fame of the town of Trnovany.

The turn of the nineteenth century was a time of real growth of the formerly unimportant village. A new Art Nouveau style town grew on green fields thanks to the income from rapidly developing industry. The church was erected on a planned but never completed Trnovany square. Till their demolition in the 1980s, there used to be town Art Nouveau houses carrying name such as Eisenach, Imperial Assembly in Worms or The house with a dragon where today prefabricated blocks of flats stand. The main dominant of the square was Christ Church.

The project was ordered at the famous Dresden architect company Schilling and Gräbner by the German Evangelic Society. The foundation stone was laid on the 24th October 1899 and the completed church was congregated six years later. The church prided on its 70 metres high tower. The Church administered it till the 1960s. At the beginning of so called normalisation, in April 1969, the church was passed to the company of Domáci potřeby Liberec as a storage house. The church caught fire in unclear circumstances in August 1973. Due to political reasons, the church was set for demolition. The demolition was completed by blasting the tower on 29th September 1973.

The Dresden architects Rudolf Schilling and Julius Willi Gräbner designed four Art Nouveau churches in the area surrounding Teplice between 1899 and 1902. The Trnovany church was demolished in 1973 and the church in Chabařovice in 1983, Duchcov and Hrob churches still exist.

In 1942 Trnovany was joined to Teplice and later under the communist government it served as a site for the building of prefabricated concrete blocks of flats. The urban concept of Trnovany was - together with the demolition of tens of Art Nouveau houses – destroyed forever.