

History

The Cernin Palace



On 23rd August 1668, Count Cernin signed a contract on the construction of the palace with Francesco Caratti. Construction began on 26 March 1669. During September 1673, Emperor Leopold visited the site and declared: "It is a big barn, but without a door".

Count Colloredo, however, was of a different opinion and on 20 July 1675, when the exterior of palace was completed, he wrote: "The palace will be the most beautiful gem of Prague. Its architecture and location are proof of the good judgement of a cavalier who has such a building built." The palace is one of Prague's Baroque masterpieces.

The Grand Hall



The Grand Hall is the largest room in the Cernin Palace. When the Cernin owners were unable to pay for the maintenance of the palace, they decided to sell it for military purposes. The National Guard was trained in the Grand Hall, which was later divided and finally completely rearranged.

The palace was converted into barracks and offices. The soldiers left in 1920. The renovated Grand Hall is now venue for meetings, conferences and cultural events. On 1 July 1991 the Warsaw Pact was dissolved here.