

wurde 1903 gegründet und es war das einzige in Österreich-Ungarn. Das repräsentativste Villenviertel Bellevue entstand am Kataster von Auschowitz am östlichen Talabhang.

Dank Herzog wurden dagegen einige Unternehmungspläne vereitelt, was den städtischen Kurbadteil unverhältnismäßig belastet und einen großen Grünverlust bedeutete hätte. Er setzte ferner die geeignetere Trasse der Eisenbahnstrecke nach Karlsbad (1868) durch. Im Jahr 1902 wurden ein neues Bahnhofsgebäude gebaut und eine Straßenbahnlinie vom Bahnhof zu den Kurbadhäusern in Betrieb genommen. Dies war bereits in der Zeit, als Dr. Herzog wegen einer Hetzkampagne (1899) zum Rücktritt gezwungen wurde und bald darauf starb.

Seit den 80er Jahren des 19. Jahrhunderts hielt in Marienbad die **Neorenaissance** Einzug. Die Gebäude zeichnen sich mit präziser Komposition und ausdrucksvoller Monumentalität aus. Josef Schaffer war Stadtarchitekt und Direktor des Kurbetriebes in den 1890er Jahren und Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts. Er ließ sich besonders von den Bauwerken an der Riviera inspirieren (Zentralbad Nr. 1 – bis 1892, Palladio Nr. 343 – 1899–1900 und 1902–1911, Neubad Nr. 53 – 1893–1896 mit Kursaal/Casino Nr. 95 – 1899–1900). Etwa zeitgleich mit der Neorenaissance, vor allem aber von den ersten Jahren des 20. Jahrhunderts bis zum Ersten Weltkrieg, wurde nach dem Vorbild der Bauwerke in Monte Carlo der dekorative, sogenannte Kurbad-Baustil angewandt, der vom neobarocken Historismus zum naturalistischen Jugendstil orientierte. Der Hauptschöpfer dieser Richtung war der Wiener Architekt Arnold Heymann, als Baumeister waren seinerzeit Johann und Ignaz König, Alois Korb und weitere tätig. Besonders märchenhaft romantische Ergebnisse erzielte der Marienbader Baumeister Josef Forberich. Im Kontrast zu den beschriebenen Ausrichtungen steht der Bau einer Kopie des Kreuzbrunn-Pavillons in den Jahren 1911–1913, die sich strikt an das klassizistische Original hielt. Die Renovierung aller Parkanlagen und Gärten in den Jahren 1901–1903 war das Werk des schwedischen Gartenarchitekten Carl Gustav Svensson. Südlich vom Ferdinandsbrunnen wurde 1902 der Holzpavillon der Rudolfsquelle errichtet.

Die **angepasste Kurlandschaft** weist an den zentrumsnahen Abhängen die größte Konzentration von Kleinbauten im Wald auf (Goethe-Obelisk von 1849, Aussichtsturm Hamelika von 1876, Lasky-Kapelle). Sie zieht sich jedoch in extensiverer Form durch die Kurbadwälder mit zahlreichen Quellen weiter (neben 42 Mineralquellen in der Stadt befinden sich weitere 160 Sauerbrunnen in der Umgebung) und lange Promenadenalleen (heutige Bezeichnungen Smetanova alej und alej Svobody), die ursprünglich Kutschenwege waren, hauptsächlich gegen Norden. Beliebte Ausflugsziele waren ferner Ausflugstokale und Cafés auf den umliegenden Abhängen und Höhen, einschließlich am Kataster von Auschowitz. Der britische Monarch Edward VII. eröffnete 1905 östlich oberhalb der Stadt einen Golfplatz (1923 wesentlich erweitert).

In den Jahren vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg erreichte der Ruhm des Kurortes seinen absoluten Höhepunkt und Marienbad setzte sich zu einem **Weltheilbad** durch, wo ab dem letzten Drittel des 19. Jahrhunderts bekannte Persönlichkeiten des öffentlichen Lebens und bedeutende Monarchen eine Kur absolvierten. Hier fanden wichtige politische Treffen statt, deren wichtigstes 1907 war, als zwischen England und Russland unter Beteiligung Frankreichs ein Abkommen über die Aufteilung der Machtosphären in Asien (die Grundlage des späteren Dreiparteienabkommens – Triple Entente) geschlossen wurde. Damit war auch die Bereicherung der Stadt mit Kirchen anderer Konfessionen (siehe oben) verbunden, ergänzt in den Jahren 1900–1902 noch durch die russische (orthodoxe) Kirche des hl. Wladimir zwischen den heutigen Straßen Hlavní und Ruská třída (damals Kaiser- und Jägerstraße). Am Vorabend des Ersten Weltkriegs stellte der Kurbadteil von Marienbad eine vollständige und äußerst wertvolle städtebauliche und architektonische Einheit dar.

Der **Erste Weltkrieg** setzte dieser glorreichen Etappe ein Ende. Die Konstitution der Tschechoslowakischen Republik 1918 wurde in Marienbad nicht mit Begeisterung angenommen. In den 1920er Jahren blühte der Kurort erneut auf und ab 1923 stiegen die Gästezahlen. Im Jahr 1929 wurde sogar der bisherige Besucherrekord übertroffen (41.226 Gäste und 120.000 Besucher). Auch die Bestrebungen, die gesellschaftliche Bedeutung der Vorkriegszeit wiederherzustellen, waren recht erfolgreich. In den Jahren 1927–1929 wurde zwischen Kuttнау und Flaschenhütte ein Flugplatz errichtet. Julius Arigi funktionierte 1932 den Hammerteich (heute Velký Hamrnický rybník) in das Freibad Lido um. Die von dekorativen Tendenzen befreite neue Bebauung entwickelte sich im Kurbereich der Stadt nur wenig, unter anderem auch deshalb, weil es sich um eine erst kürzlich fertiggestellte und harmonische Kollektion von Bauwerken handelte, der bereits andere geeignete Entwicklungsflächen fehlten.

Wesentlich anders war die Situation im südlichen Wohn- teil der Agglomeration, wo hingegen der **Bau neuer Villen** in ziemlich großer Anzahl fortgesetzt wurde, sowohl in den beiden neuen Marienbader Stadtvierteln, als auch im nordwestlichen Teil von Auschowitz (Ortsteil Luft). Im Bahnhofsviertel

konzentrierte sich ferner die tschechische Minderheit, für die 1923 in Schönau eine große Minderheitsschule gebaut wurde. Während der 1920er Jahre kamen in der gesamten Agglomeration 266 Häuser hinzu. Die Wirtschaftskrise der 1930er Jahre führte jedoch zu einer Stagnation der weiteren Bauaktivitäten und einem starken Rückgang der Besucherzahlen im Kurbad. Der Gewinnrückgang löste eine Insolvenzkrise von Kurbadunternehmern und Versteigerungen von Kurhäusern aus. Der Anstieg der Arbeitslosigkeit im Bezirk Marienbad war enorm und spiegelte sich in der Aktivierung der Nazibewegung wider.

Im Oktober 1938 wurde Marienbad (im Jahr 1930 nur 7,2 % der tschechischen Bevölkerung; in Auschowitz sogar nur 3,1 %) von Nazi-Deutschland besetzt und bereits am 10. November 1938 wurde die Synagoge in Brand gesetzt und anschließend abgerissen, das gleiche Schicksal betraf die Zemonienhalle auf dem jüdischen Friedhof, wovon fast alle Grabsteine entfernt wurden. Die Stadt lebte unter den Bedingungen einer Zuteilungswirtschaft, führende Positionen haben Reichsdeutsche besetzt und die Bauern wurden mit hohen Pflichtabgaben behaftet. Das Telefunken-Isosflex-Werk wurde aus Berlin nach Marienbad verlegt. **Der Kurort hat alle ausländischen und jüdischen Gäste verloren**, auch die Anzahl der Gäste aus Deutschland ist deutlich zurückgegangen. Die Kurhäuser wurden nach und nach zu militärischen Reservekrankenhäusern umgestaltet, andere wurden als Lazarette des Berliner Krankenhauses genutzt. Die zweite Kriegshälfte war mit Luftalarmen, dem Bau von Flugabwehrbunkern und dem Zustrom von Flüchtlingen aus dem Osten und aus zerbombten deutschen Städten geprägt. Infolge der extremen Ansammlung von Kranken und Flüchtlingen lebten hier mehr als 40.000 Menschen (1930 waren es nur 7.202, mit Auschowitz 10.957, in 512, bzw. 868 Häusern). Am 6. Mai 1945 besetzte die amerikanische Armee kampflos Marienbad.

Am 15. Januar 1946 begann der fast vollständige **zwangs-volle Abschied der deutschen Bevölkerung**, die Stadt und die umliegenden Dörfer wurden mit Personen aus Pilsen, Südböhmen, Wien und dem Ausland nachgesiedelt. Der kommunistische Putsch im Februar 1948 veränderte völlig die Situation. Das Gesetz vom 6. Mai 1948 verstaatlichte den Kurbadbetrieb. Im Kurort wurde mit der Umstellung auf einen Ganzjahresbetrieb begonnen, insbesondere für gewerkschaftliche Kuraufenthalte und Erholung. Der Straßenbahnverkehr wurde 1952 durch Oberleitungsbusse ersetzt. Der Wohnungsneubau konzentrierte sich in die Stadtviertel Nádrazní čtvrť [Bahnhofviertel] und Ůšovice [Auschowitz].

In den 1950er Jahren stieg die Anzahl der Bevölkerung. Mariánské Lázně selbst hatte 1961 insgesamt 9.064 Einwohner, was einen historischen Höchstwert darstellte. Auch Ůšovice wuchs deutlich an und erreichte 3.297 Einwohner; insgesamt 12.361 Personen. Ferner stieg die Anzahl der Personen im größeren Ballungsraum (14.859 Einwohner) und alle diese Angaben übertrafen den Stand von 1930. Bereits in den 1950er Jahren stockte jedoch die Zahl der Häuser in Mariánské Lázně selbst, weil keine geeigneten Bauflächen zur Verfügung standen. In den folgenden Jahrzehnten ging die Einwohnerzahl in Mariánské Lázně kontinuierlich deutlich zurück. In Ůšovice kam es zu einem leichten Anstieg der Häuserzahl und einem starken Anstieg der Einwohnerzahl. Im Jahr 1980 erreichte die Agglomeration von Mariánské Lázně mit Ůšovice ihren historischen Höhepunkt (14.167 Einwohner).

Aufgrund der Neutrassierung der Transitstraßen außerhalb des bebauten Gebiets haben sich im **Verkehrsbereich** wichtige Veränderungen ergeben. Der städtische Kurbadbereich wurde seit den 1970er Jahren schrittweise renoviert. Großes Augenmerk wurde ferner auf die Pflege und Erweiterung der Parkanlagen gelegt. Allerdings hinterließ die Zeit des Sozialismus auch im Kurbadbereich negative Spuren.

Die hervorragenden Werte der Grundrisskomposition und der nahezu unzerstörte architektonische Charakter der Kurstadt des 19. Jahrhunderts widerspiegeln sich 1992 in der Erklärung von Mariánské Lázně zur **städtischen Denkmalzone**. Die Einwohnerzahl der breiteren Agglomeration ist seit 1991 fortwährend zurückgegangen (2021 auf 13.807), wobei sich der starke Rückgang der Einwohnerzahl in der Stadt selbst fortsetzte (2021 auf 5.037). Seit 2018 besteht das Denkmalschutzgebiet, das alle denkmalwürdigen Teile des Stadtkerns und darüber hinaus den weitläufigen Bereich der Kulturlandschaftumgebung umfasst. Ab 2021 ist der Kernteil des Denkmalschutzgebiets als Teil des Weltkulturerbes **„Große Bäder Europas“** eingestuft. Aufgrund der Vielfalt der Quellen hat das Heilbad eine sehr breite Vielfalt der Applikationen: Erkrankungen der Nieren und Harnwege, der oberen Atemwege, Nervenkrankungen, Erkrankungen des Bewegungsapparates und des Stoffwechsels.

MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ

Salty springs in the muddy valley of the Ůšovický Stream situated north of the village of Ůšovice, on the mesne of the Teplá Monastery, were already known in the 16th century. In 1528, Ferdinand I had the water from the Salty (Fer-

dinand) spring analysed. In 1609, Jáchym Libštejnský of Kolovraty took hot healing baths in water from the Stinking (Mary) Spring. However, water from springs was used only occasionally. At that time as well as in the following decades, the establishment of a spa was prevented by ban on wood extraction and also by the fact that the local forests were reserved for tin mining.

In 1679, Bohuslav Balbín described two kinds of mineral water near Ůšovice and four types of mineral water in a basin above the village. At the turn of the 18th century, the fame of the local healing springs spread not only all over Bohemia, but also in Bavaria and Saxony. The healing water was poured into kegs and sent to monasteries in Plassy and Kladruhy.

In 1779, Johann Josef Nehr (1752–1820), a doctor from the Teplá Monastery, was entrusted with supervision of the springs. By that time, the valley had not been subject to any human activities, and therefore, there were water springs, waterfalls and large swamps. Abbot Jan Kryštof Heřman Trautmannsdorf managed to negotiate the purchase of the reserved plots by the monastery in 1786. In 1789–1790, a small timbered spa house with four baths, called Marienbad, and two timbered cottages were built by the Mary Spring. In 1790, a small half-timbered chapel was built by the Cross Spring.

The promising **start of the spa** was interrupted by Abbot Trautmannsdorf's death in 1789 since his successors did not show any interest in developing the spa. Doctor J. J. Nehr managed to reverse the seemingly hopeless situation; in 1807, he built, at his own cost, a two-storey bricked spa house (called The Golden Ball no. 26) west of the Cross Spring. In 1808, eighty visitors stayed in the residence. Nehr became the spa founder. It was only this success that made Abbot Kryštof Pfoegner build a bricked spa house near the Mary Spring (1807). In 1812, a New Spa residence was built next to it, and therefore, that house started to be called the Old Spa (after 1815, it was called the Traiteurhaus Inn and in 1844, it was pulled down). In 1811, a small pavilion of the Karolina Spring was built (it existed up until 1823). At that time, the officially founded settlement of Marienbad was subordinated to the reeve of Hamrník. In 1812, there were 13 buildings in Mariánské Lázně.

Karel Kašpar Reitenberger (1779–1860), a secretary of Abbot Pfoegner, and a new abbot from 1813, was allegedly the one to be credited for winning the status of an independent municipality for Mariánské Lázně in 1812, and, with the help of vicegerent Filip František Kolovrat, the status of a public spa in 1818. In 1819, the first spa season took place. In 1820, Johann Wolfgang Goethe visited Mariánské Lázně and was charmed by the town.

The northern Cross Spring became the focal point of the settlement. **The development plan from 1815** which was probably made by Anton Thurner from the Teplá Monastery defined the unique layout of buildings along the perimeter of a large site which was subsequently turned into the central park, and introduced a geometric order in the urban development of the town. At the same time, this plan was practical – the planned buildings could be built in dry land on the edge of the site. No construction would be possible in the bottom of the basin before landscaping interventions anyway. This huge central area was supposed to be shaped like an oblong irregular hexagon in the west – east direction. The existing square by the Cross Spring was incorporated as its northern promontory. On the southern side of the park, shaded by the Hamelika slope and shaped by the Pstruží Stream, a new spa building was supposed to be built. All sunny sides of the park were intended for the construction of spa residences. The park was supposed to be divided into two parts by a straight alley and in both halves a star-shaped network of alleys was designed.

In 1817, Anton Isidor Lobkowicz was treated in Mariánské Lázně. Václav Skalník was his gardener in his residence in Hoffn. Starting from the following year, Skalník was busy designing the spa park. **Between 1815 and 1820 a series of layout sketches of the park was created** and Václav Skalník must have been their author. The final concept was fixed by the development plan from 1818–1820 which might have been created by Skalník as well. The composition of the development plan respected the basic principles of the 1815 plan, however, it also introduced some changes. The western side of the central park was designed as a straight line in harmony with the landscape. The eastern side was bent as it had been before. On the other hand, the shadowy southern side was not intended for the construction of buildings and a road was supposed to run there. As a result of that, the centre of the spa featured pentagonal (not hexagonal) shape. The plan also presumed a rectangular (today's) Mírové Square in the north-west, unlike the 1815 plan which designed block construction there. The central park was designed completely differently. Václav Skalník, who gathered experience during his visits to parks and gardens in Great Britain, designed the park according to the English landscape concept with separate pavilions over springs and only in the centre of the eastern bending he designed a semi-circle of short radial alleys. The way

how the Třebízský Stream was incorporated in the park was different as well; according to the 1815 design, the stream was supposed to run behind the bending western side of the park.

The first phase of the urban development of Mariánské Lázně according to Skalník's concept can be dated 1817–1824. Since the northern edge of the park was mostly covered with buildings, the new development focused on the elevated eastern section (today's Goethe Square) which was attractive firstly because of the amount of sunshine and secondly because of the location between both the main springs. The volume and architectural features of the town development had been regulated from the beginning and this concept was further strengthened. The adherence to the united concept was made possible by the fact that all plots had been owned by the Teplá Monastery and the monastery required that businessmen stuck to the development plan even after buying a plot. About 1820, a row of seven houses situated in the narrowed section of the basin close to Ůšovice was built and this development predetermined the eastern side of today's Poštovní Street.

The number of houses increased from 13 in 1818 to 42 in 1842, and the general image was enhanced with new Empire style pavilions over both most important springs. The half-timbered chapel by the Cross Spring was pulled down in 1820 and its role was taken over by a new bricked chapel of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary situated in the middle of the park, on the site of the current church. A colonnade called the Promenade Hall was built next to the hall of the Cross Spring in 1823–1826. In 1819–1820, the New Spa was extended. Skalník's composition of the central park was slightly modified by Josef Esch in the essence of idealized natural landscape in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1827, the colonnade of Ferdinand Spring was built; this spring was situated outside the spa, midway between the spa and Ůšovice; the colonnade replaced a wooden pavilion from 1819. The park by this spring was established in 1826 by Václav Skalník as well. He worked in Mariánské Lázně up until his death in 1861, and in 1824–1834 he was even the mayor of the municipality. West of the New Spa by the Mary Spring, a New Spa (no. 53) with a Kursaal was built; it was situated in the middle of the southern side of the park (the former New Spa started to be called the Old Spa and later on it became a part of the Central Spa no. 1). Hereby the construction activities on the southern side of the park ended for a long time. This symbolically also completed activities of Abbot K. K. Reitenberger whose support to the spa was broadly criticized in the monastery in consequence of which he was forced to abdicate in 1827 and leave for exile in Wilten, the Tyrol where he died in 1860.

In the early 1830s, the development of the spa was significantly boosted up by its **connection to the network of new imperial streets**, which enabled court carriages travelling from Prague to Cheb to pass through Mariánské Lázně. In the 1830s, the development along the edges of the central park was completed when the whole western side was covered with buildings. This meant that there were no construction plots left. In the second half of the 1830s the construction activities spread outside the circumference of the park, however, still connected to the central area of Mariánské Lázně. The attention first focused on the newly defined rectangular area of today's Mírové Square situated behind the western section of the northern side of the park. The southern side of the square had been filled up with the Tepelský House. By 1839, almost the whole southern and western side was developed while a large park remained on the northern side. A map of stable cadaster originating from 1839 showed Mariánské Lázně at this state. Multi-storey houses with simple late-Empire style façades with Biedermeier features were built in the early 19th century.

In the 1840s, when more complicated late **classicistic facades** with pilasters and richly decorated cornices appeared, a new row of spa houses grew above the western side of the central park forming thus today's Ruská Street. A new cemetery which replaced an old cemetery in Ůšovice was opened in a forest over the street. A new highlight of the central park – a Roman-Catholic church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in the neo-byzantine style – was built on the site of the former chapel in 1844–1848. In 1846, the Halbmayr's (later on the Mondorf's) dining hall was built on the eastern side of Mírové Square and the Klinger's hall (later on the Crimea hall) on the southern side of the same square (none of them survived till today). At approximately the same time construction activities started on the northern side of the square. In 1843, there were 79 houses and 412 residents in Mariánské Lázně (along with Ůšovice the numbers were, 131 houses and 742 citizens). As many as 3000 guests visited the spa in 1843.

In 1848, the municipality got rid of feudal lords and in 1851, a four-member spa committee was established. The monastery retained ownership of spa operations, mineral springs with pavilions and a number of spa houses. After the mid-19th century, the development continued along edges of the central basin: primary school no. 87 (1853) and the Town Theatre no. 106 (1866–1868). The list also included the evangelical Church of the Christ no. 90 on the northern side of Mírové Square, built in 1857. The classicism completely ended in

Mariánské Lázně with the construction of the Forest Spring pavilion in 1869 and the new colonnade by the Karolina Spring (1869–1872). In the 1850s, the neo-classicist style (enhanced with romantic details) and a generally more complex concept, larger and more monumental was applied; classicist shallow avant-corps were gradually replaced with standing-out column-shaped avant-corps. In 1865, Mariánské Lázně was granted the town status. In the same year, the vicegerent's office declared a protective zone around healing springs.

The opening of the railway from Pilsen to Cheb in 1872 became a significant milestone. A train station was situated by the southern end of the valley and north-west of Ůšovice. The train station became a magnet for further urban development. The town started to spread along the slanted part of the valley in the southern direction and merged with the recently established neighbourhood called Šenov. A new Station Neighbourhood was built right in front of the train station. Both of these fused with the town in 1895.

Mariánské Lázně experienced the greatest building boom between the 1870s and WWI. From 1869 till 1890, the number of houses in the agglomeration of Mariánské Lázně and Ůšovice grew from 178 to 359, i.e. twice (the town itself grew from 107 to 192 houses). The number of inhabitants grew from 2092 (1566) to 4407 (2119). Between 1890 and 1921 the number of houses in the agglomeration grew to 602 (442), i.e. the number almost doubled again. The population was 9476 (6909). The number of spa guests increased significantly and as early as 1874, it exceeded 10 000; the highest number of people (34 509) visited the town in 1911. In 1888, Mariánské Lázně became the seat of a new court of justice district and in 1902 also of a political district.

Dr. August Herzig was the mayor of the town during the last quarter of the 19th century (1873–1880 and 1892–1899). He managed to push through many useful community projects even at the time when he did not hold the mayor's office and was only a member of the municipal council 1880–1892. During that period the hotel manager Johann Kroha was the mayor. Herzig, and the whole town council, were to be credited for retaining the existing layout of the town with large parks and immediate contact with the surrounding forest parks in spite of the extensive building expansion. In the 1870s and 1880s, Friedrich Zickler (1828–1899) was the chief civil engineer. The construction was strictly regulated and the municipal council insisted on keeping sufficient gaps between individual houses and on keeping the height of houses below 22.5 meters for the sake of fire safety. The development between the edge of the central park and the edge of the forest park was stabilized and Poštovní Avenue and Anglická Street running along the eastern side of the valley were partly filled up with houses. The most vivid building development took place on the western side of the valley along a strictly defined line of the western side of Hlavní (Main) Street, which connected the spa with Šenov. This part of the valley retained enough greenery as well because a sufficiently wide park remained along the stream and it smoothly merged with the central park. After the narrow southern section of the valley was developed, the north-southern valley axis of the town was highlighted; the building of the Telegraf/Pacific Hotel no. 84, situated on the northern side of Mírové Square, formed the northern skyline of the town. Numerous public buildings were built both in the spa as well as in the residential part of the town; a poly-functional Town-Hall was situated above the central part of the western side of the park, on the southern side of Ruská Street (1878); other public buildings included the Anglican Church of the Christ (1878–1879), a complex of the Mud and Water Spa Therapy (1880–1882), a double-tower synagogue which has not survived till today (1883–1884) and a large cast-iron colonnade (1888–1889), which substituted the Promenade Hall and became a new art accent of the central park. Several landmarks were built on the surrounding slopes – the most prominent of them became the Egerländer Café (Monty) no. 218 originating from 1885 (the current one originated from 1901) above the entrance to the valley. In 1894–96, a water dam of Abbot Clemento was built over the town; the dam retained water behind a brick dam, which was raised to a height of 19 meters in 1907–1908. In 1903, a Municipal Hygiene and Balneological Institute, the only one in Austria-Hungary, was established. The most impressive villa neighbourhood grew near Ůšovice, on the eastern slope of the valley.

Herzig was also to be credited for preventing some business intentions which would have seriously burdened the spa part of the town and would have resulted in a significant drop down in the amount of greenery. Herzig also pushed through a better railway route to Karlovy Vary (1868). In 1902, a new railway station building was built and in the same year the operation of a new tram line from the railway station was launched. This happened at the time when Dr. Herzig was forced to resign in consequence of defamation campaign (1899) and soon after, he died.

Neorenaissance started to spread in Mariánské Lázně from the 1880s. A strict composition and significant monumentality of buildings were typical. Josef Schaffer was the

town architect and the spa manager in the 1890s and in the early 20th century; he was inspired by structures in the Riviera (Central Spa no. 1 – up until 1892, Palladio no. 343 – 1899–1900 and 1902–1911, New Spa no. 53 – 1893–1896 with a Kursaal/Casino no. 95 – 1899–1900). Almost simultaneously with neo-Renaissance, and further on from the beginning of the 20th century till WWI, a so called decorative, or in other words 'spa' style inspired by buildings in Monte Carlo, was applied; this style gradually evolved from the neo-Baroque historicism to naturalistic secession. The principal author of this style was Arnold Heymann from Vienna. The most famous builders of that time were Johann and Ignáz König, Alois Korb and others. Josef Forberich, a builder from Mariánské Lázně, achieved fabulously romanticizing results. A copy of the pavilion of the Cross Spring contrasted to the above described styles; it was built in 1911–1913 and it strictly adhered to the classicist original. Swedish architect Carl Gustav Svensson designed renovation of all parks in the town in 1901–1903. A wooden pavilion of Rudolf Spring grew up south of the Ferdinand Spring.

The well-tended spa landscape featured the greatest concentration of small structures scattered in forests on slopes near the centre (the Goethe obelisk from 1849, the Hamelika lookout tower from 1876, the Lasky Chapel) and in extensive form it continued within spa forests which featured numerous springs (beside 42 mineral springs in the town, there are 160 mineral water springs in the surroundings) and long alleys (Smetana's, Svoboda's) which used to be carriage paths running far to the north. Restaurants and cafés situated on the surrounding slopes and highlands, including the Ůšovice cadaster, were popular destinations. British King Edward VII participated in the festive opening of the golf course east of the town in 1905 (it was significantly extended in 1923).

In the years before WWI, the fame of the spa peaked and Mariánské Lázně became a **world-renown spa** where various celebrities as well as famous rulers were treated during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Important political negotiations took place there; the most important one was held in 1907 when a treaty between England and Russia at presence of France was concluded; the subject matter of the treaty was the division of power spheres in Asia (later on the base of the Triple Entente). This was related to the construction of churches for other confessions (see above); in 1900–1902, the Orthodox Church of St. Vladimír was built between Main and Ruská Streets. Just before WWI the spa section of Mariánské Lázně represented a comprehensive and extraordinarily valuable urban and architectural unit.

The First World War terminated this memorable phase. The establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918 was not welcomed enthusiastically in Mariánské Lázně. In the 1920s, the spa started to flourish again and from 1923, the number of guests kept growing. In 1929, the previous record in the number of visitors (41 226) was surmounted (120 000 visitors). The effort to restore the pre-war social prestige of the town was fairly successful as well. In 1927–1929, an airport was built between Skláře and Chotěnov. Julius Arigi rebuilt Velký Hamrnický Pond into an outdoor swimming centre called Lido. New buildings, free of decorative features, were built rarely. One of the reasons for that was the fact that the town had been completed only recently and it formed a harmonious unit which lacked suitable development areas.

The situation was very different in the residential part of the agglomeration where the **construction of new residential houses** continued in both the new neighborhoods of Mariánské Lázně as well as in the north-western part of Ůšovice (Luft). The Czech minority was concentrated in the Nádražní Neighbourhood; in 1923, a large minority school for Czech pupils was built in Šenov. During the 1920s, 266 new houses were built in the agglomeration. However, the economic crisis caused stagnation and a significant drop down in the number of visitors. The profit decrease resulted in a wave of bankruptcies of spa entrepreneurs and auctions of spa houses. The unemployment rate increased enormously in the district of Mariánské Lázně, which contributed to activation of the Nazi movement.

In October 1938, Mariánské Lázně was seized by the Nazi (in 1930, there were only 7.2% of Czech citizens; in Ůšovice even only 3.1%). As early as 10th November 1938, the synagogue was burned down and subsequently destroyed and the same happened to the ceremonial hall in the Jewish cemetery from which almost all tombstones were carried away. There was a rationing system in the town, all managerial positions were held by Germans from the Third Reich. Farmers' production was subjected to high contributions. The Telefunken-Isoplex plant moved to Mariánské Lázně from Berlin. **The spa lost all foreign and Jewish visitors** and the number of German visitors decreased too. Some spa houses were converted into spare army hospitals; others were occupied by wards from the Berlin hospital. Air raids became very frequent during the second half of the war; air raid shelters were built in the town and refugees from the East and from destroyed German towns started arriving. Due to extreme accumulation of injured peo-

ple and refugees, the population of the town was 40 000 (in 1930 it was only 7202, with Úšovice 10 957; the number of houses was 512, including Úšovice 868). On 6th May 1945, the American army occupied Mariánské Lázně without fights.

On 15th January 1946, almost complete **expulsion of German citizens** started. The region was repopulated by people from Pilsen, South Bohemia, Vienna as well as abroad. The Communist coup in February 1948 completely changed the situation. The spa business was nationalized by law passed on 6th May 1948. The spa was open all year round and it was primarily visited by trade union members who arrived for therapeutic stays as well as on holiday. The tram transport was substituted by trolleybuses in 1952. The construction of new houses was concentrated in the Nádražní Neighbourhood and in Úšovice.

The population grew during the 1950s. In 1961, the number of citizens of Mariánské Lázně was 9064, which was the historic maximum. Úšovice grew significantly as well; there were 3297 citizens; altogether 12 361 inhabitants. The broader agglomeration kept growing as well (14 859 citizens) and all these numbers exceeded the numbers from 1930. In the 1950s, the number of houses stagnated since there were no suitable development areas. During subsequent decades, the population of Mariánské Lázně kept decreasing. The number of houses in Úšovice increased slightly and the number of inhabitants grew significantly. In 1980, the agglomeration of Mariánské Lázně and Úšovice reached the historic maximum (14 167 citizens).

Significant changes occurred in **traffic** when transit roads were relocated outside the developed areas. Spa towns were renovated in the 1970s and later on. Lots of attention was paid to the maintenance and extension of parks. However, the Socialist era left also negative traces in the spa part of the town.

Excellent layout and almost undisturbed architectural features of a 19th century spa town resulted in having the town listed as a **municipal heritage zone**. The number of citizens in the whole agglomeration kept decreasing from 1991 (in 2021 the population was 13 807); the population of the town of Mariánské Lázně dropped down even more significantly (in 2021 it was 5037). Since 2018, Mariánské Lázně has been listed as a heritage reservation which includes architecturally valuable parts of the town itself, and beside that, large territories in the surrounding cultivated landscape. Since 2021, the central section of the heritage reservation has been a part of a series world heritage site called **Famous spa towns of Europe**. Due to the broad range of healing springs, a number of health problems can be treated in Mariánské Lázně: kidney and urinal system diseases, breathing problems, nervous system diseases, musculoskeletal system problems and metabolism problems.