**Brnoʼs Hidden and Little-Known Places Will Open To The Public For The Open House Brno Festival**

BRNO – A behind-the-scenes look at four iconic hotels, a tour of surprising qualities of a socialist housing estate, compared to the current ones, or a quartet of views on how architecture meets the art of music. These are just some of the tours offered as a part of the Open House Brno architectural festival on the last weekend of May. Those who are interested will have an opportunity to admire more than 75 historic and contemporary locations on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th May 2022. 40 additional locations which remained closed, will be introduced by online tours.

”The main idea of the festival is to offer the opportunity to see the city from unexpected perspectives or to enter places that are closed to the public. We want to show Brno in all its beauty and passion, and bring people to places, projects, and ideas our city is defined by today. This year, visitors to Open House Brno will have an opportunity to visit the recently renovated building of Czech Radio, which won a prestigious award for its reconstruction” says its creative director Lucie Pešl Šilerová of the Culture & Management club.

The detailed program is gradually presented on the website www.openhousebrno.cz, on facebook.com/openhousebrno, and instagram.com/openhousebrno.

Those who are interested can look forward to the selection of interesting buildings on the premises of the Brno Exhibition Centre, including the tower of Pavilion G, built in functionalist style, the Bauer Chateau, or the once-popular Julius Fučík Theatre, now Theatre at the Exhibition Grounds.

In cooperation with TIC Brno, which is the general partner of the festival, the famous “White House” will open, even with its currently inaccessible hall. Visitors will also have an opportunity to see the hotel Marriott, the Clubco center in the new Vlněna complex, or see a modern style of accommodation in Domeq, opened by another partner of Open House Brno, company CTP.

This year’s special theme is “Old and New”; a comparison and contrast of socialist realism and brutalist architecture with contemporary modern buildings. Locations of this program will be presented by a seven-kilometer-long bike tour.

Visitors will have a chance to walk the “old and new” in person during a tour of St. Ann’s University Hospital complex, which will show the rich history of the place. The “old aspect” is represented, for example, by the historical neo-renaissance building from 1868, with its original cast-iron columns from nearby Adamov. The “new side” is represented by modern buildings of the International Clinical Research Center from 2010 to 2014; in the basement of the new building will open up Faraday "cages", designed to study extremely fine electromagnetic signals of the human body. Afterward, they will have an opportunity to see Brno from the roof terraces.

„The icing on the cake” will be the view from the 24th floor of one of the three newly reconstructed buildings of the Šumavská Tower.

The entire festival is non-profit, admission to all events is completely free; the organization is conducted by volunteers. “We will appreciate new volunteers, willing to help with this year’s event”, says Lucie. Those who are interested can contact dobrovolnici@openhousebrno.cz.

Children and their parents might enjoy special evening tours: a demonstration of a railway shunting at the premises of Park Railway (18:00 and 18:30). A night tour will take place on the grounds of villa Tugendhat on Saturday and villa Löw Beer on Sunday. The program “Enjoy the villa untraditionally” will offer both representative halls and otherwise inaccessible spaces with a torch in hand. There will be two versions of the special guided tour – for families with children and adventurous adults.

The festival will offer traditional workshops led by architect Jana Kaštánková; this time, they will be focused on recycling and industrial architecture.

The festival is a part of Open House Worldwide, a network of more than 50 cities around the world that organize architecture festivals for the public. Every year, more than two million people around the world take part in these festivals. Brno has been a part of this network since 2018.

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Photo description:

01 Visitors of Open House Brno / photo: archive OHB, Pavel Gurka

02 DEPO Business Parking / photo: archive OHB, Martina Morrissey

Former chemical industry, plastic toy casting CHEVA, now reconstructed seat of Fandament Architects, with a stunning rooftop garden

03 Music faculty, Janacek Academy of music and performing arts/ photo Vojtěch Kába

House of music and its concert halls

04 Park model Railroad will present a children's workshop on steam train manipulation in the station/ photo: archive OHB, Marek Štěpánek

05 Community center for war veterans/ photo archive OHB

06 Český rozhlas Czech Radio roof views / photo archive OHB, Martina Morrissey

Recently reconstructed functionalistic building opens up for the first time and offers views over the rooftops

07 Český rozhlas Czech Radio Brno authentic details, windows in the lightwell / photo archive OHB, Martina Morissey

08 Český rozhlas Czech Radio Brno reconstructed staircase/ photo archive OHB, Martina Morirssey

After 60 years was marmor freed from plastic covers and gained original colours and light

09 Coworking Clubco / photo archive OHB, Martina Morrissey

Nordic design, technical gadgets, and equipment, positive yellow feeling.

10 Hotel Courtyard by Marriott / photo archive OHB

Large murals and details of Nordic-inspired hotel

11 Hotel Continental / photo archive OHB

Brussels style hotel, with a spiral staircase dominating the lobby and artistic glass details all over the building

12 KUMST creative hub reusing glass panels of a disassembled commercial mall

13 Ústavní soud – Institutional Court / photo archive OHB

Former Moravian parliament, explaining country past and present, now the seat of guardians of Constitution.