

### **Pracovní list 3:**

#### **Jan Kaplický**

### **1. Watch the documentary „The eye above Prague“ about Jan Kaplický**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpLy-XQSWIY>

### **2. Write the following information from this documentary in the right order:**

1. A. The director of the National Gallery lobbies against the National Library.
2. B. The famous American architect Frank Lloyd Wright said „The democracy builds...“.
3. C. Winning an international tender on Czechoslovak soil is a real feat!
4. D. There is no way to restore history.
5. E. Lies being passed off as truth.
6. F. Prague Mayor Bem begins to attack the library.

### **3. Read carefully the basic information about Jan Kaplický and his life and work in the following text:**

## **Jan Kaplický**

### **Curriculum vitae and way abroad**

Jan Kaplický was born in Prague in 1937 in a family of artists. His mother Jiřina was a draftsman. His father was a painter and sculptor. Between 1955-56 he worked as a draftsman at the National Design Institute. From 1956-1962 he studied at the College of Applied Arts & Architecture (VŠUP). In the years from 1964 until 1968 he founded and worked in his own office. In 1968 he fled to London following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

"I did want to be in London. Even then, the city was an important place to be architecturally. But escaping evil was the imminent cause of my move," he explains.

He spent a significant part of his life in the United Kingdom. In 1969 he met Eva Jiříčná in London. He was the leading architect behind the innovative design office Future Systems. Jan Kaplický died in Prague on 14 January 2009.

### **Work and selected projects**

In London J. Kaplický worked at Denys Lasdun & Partners before joining the office of Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers working on the design for the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. From 1979 until 1983 he worked at Foster & Associates. Future Systems began in 1979 as a partnership between Jan Kaplický and David Nixon. In 1989, Amanda Levet joined Kaplický as partner and together they began to build some of the practice's best-known work, for example the building for Selfridges in Birmingham. Prior to his death Kaplický won several competitions in his native country including the Czech National Library in Prague and he was chosen by the South Bohemian Association of Friends of Music to build the concert hall in Budweis. In Italy Kaplický won the competition to build the new Enzo-Ferrari-Museum in Modena (see picture on the next page). Kaplický's built work can be classified as British



evropský  
sociální  
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost



STŘEDNÍ  
PRŮMYSLOVÁ ŠKOLA  
STAVEBNÍ  
OPAVA

Pracovní list byl vytvořen v rámci projektu  
"Nová cesta za poznáním", reg. č.  
CZ.1.07/1.5.00/34.0034, za finanční podpory  
Evropského sociálního fondu a rozpočtu ČR.



Uvedená práce (dílo) podléhá licenci Creative Commons  
Uveďte autora-Nevyužívejte dílo komerčně-Zachovejte licenci 3.0 Česko

high-tech architects as either bionic architecture or amorphous, organic shapes sometimes referred to as "blobitecture". Kaplický lectured in more than 20 countries and published 14 books.



## FAMOUS BUILDINGS

### Nat-West-media centre

The Nat-West- Media Centre was completed in 1999. It is the first all-aluminium building in the world. It represents a breakthrough. It is raised on a concrete column 15 m above the ground. The ground plan looks like a white, seamless shell. The west provides unobstructed views of the matches for the world's media.





### **Selfridges Building in Birmingham**

The Selfridges store in Birmingham creates the new-look Birmingham. It has won seven awards, including the RIBA Award for Architecture 2004. It is designed in the Space Age-style. Here is a dreamy, sci-fi style interior for modern shoppers. Different teams of designers - Cibic and Partners, Stanton Williams, Eldridge Smerin and Future Systems- have shaped each floor.



### **The New National Library**

The New National Library of the Czech Republic is situated within a large green site on the Letná plateau in Prague. The 40.000 sq. m building is placed on a white unpolished marble platform, with mirror-finished stainless steel wings. Its architecturally unique form and curvature is a reference to baroque buildings in Prague. The shell is covered with champagne-coloured aluminium tiles fading from dark at the bottom to light at the top. Circular areas of glazing distributed over the external shell provide generous levels of natural light in all public spaces. Special features inside the building include the top-level viewing platform and café with spectacular vistas over Prague, comfortable and colourful reading rooms, the first level 'street' which continues the public realm through ramps and stairs from the street and park inside the building. The estimated volume of 10 million books stored underground are distributed by an automated storage and retrieval system and reach the reader in less than 5 minutes. At the day of its completion in 2011, the New National Library of the Czech Republic will be one of the most modern libraries in the world.

### **Naples subway station “Universita”**

This project was developed in collaboration of the famous architect Kapoor with the London-based architecture firm Future Systems. This urban project connects form and function. It was scheduled for completion in 2010. The building has two entrances: one made of steel that looks like an upturned sock and has been pulled from the earth, the second made of polished aluminium that appears to sink into the ground. Its shape turns space inside out. Mr. Kapoor states: “In the proximity of Mount Vesuvius and Dante’s mythical entrance to the Inferno”



### **4. Explain your own opinion about one of Jan Kaplický’s buildings using the following expressions:**

- I think that...
- It is quite obvious...
- The building in this picture is unusual because...
- In my opinion...
- It seems to me that...
- On the other hand...
- All in all,...

### **5. Write a letter of complain.**

You have seen the document „The eye above Prague“ and the character of the people attacking impolite the victory of Jan Kaplický with his project of the new National Gallery. Write a letter to the major Architect in Prague:

A

- 1) Explain why are you writing,
- 2) describe details of this problem,

- 3) describe the attitude and behaviour of the attacking people
- 4) describe the consequences
- 5) suggest a possible solution of the situation

B Use following expressions:

- 1) Dear Sir or Madam/Dear Ms/Mr...)
- 2) I am writing to complain about...
- 3) I have already watched...
- 4) The behaviour of these people was...
- 5) in this way they (these people) ruined all plans and believes of Mr. Kaplický
- 6) In this situation I am afraid ....
- 7) I hope/ilbelieve
- 8) I hope to hear from you...
- 9) Yours faithfully/Yours sincerely

*Citace:*

*documentary „The eye above Prague“ about Jan Kaplický*

*<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpLy-XQSWIY>*

KOTALOVÁ ŠTĚPÁNOVÁ, Daniela, *Marks of the Czech architects in the world*. Opava: Slezská univerzita ústav cizích jazyků, 2010

*Zdroje obrázků:*

[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

<http://commons.wikimedia.org>

<http://www.artalk.cz>

[www.e-architect.co.uk](http://www.e-architect.co.uk)