

Pracovní list 2:

Jan Letzel

1. Read the following texts:

Jan Letzel

Curriculum vitae and way abroad

Jan Letzel was born in 1880 in Náchod/ North Bohemia in the family of a hotel owner. In Prague's School of Applied Arts he was one of the best students and a favourite of Jan Kotěra, leading architect and interior designer of that period. Kotěra's influence is evident in the only building that Jan Letzel built in the Czechoslovakia - Dvorana pavilion in Mšené Spa, 50 km north of Prague. As soon as he finished his studies in Prague, he left Czechoslovakia for Cairo, Egypt. In 1907 he received an invitation from a German architect Georg De Lalande to come to Japan where he stayed for the next 13 years.

Letzel was in Japan all throughout World War One despite that Japan joined the Allied Powers - France, Britain and Russia. This made an Austro-Hungarian architect an enemy, at least in the eyes of the Japanese authorities. He was able to steer clear of trouble, though, largely thanks to his acquaintances in high circles. Japanese author Murai Shimako, who wrote a play about Letzel, believes that good relations with local oligarchy were fundamental for his success in Japan. Jan Letzel returned to Czechoslovakia in 1923 and died alone and forgotten two years later.

Work and selected projects

Hardly anyone remembers the creator of the only building that survived the Hiroshima atomic bomb attack. His name was Jan Letzel and he came from Czechoslovakia. The bomb flattened the entire city centre, except the Hiroshima Industrial Promotion Hall, which was designed by him. The Industrial Hall, later dubbed A-bomb Dome, soon became one of the world's most striking landmarks, a reminder of the war's atrocities. It has been on the UNESCO World Heritage list since 1996. The building miraculously survived the nuclear attack due to the construction material. And it was probably concrete that made the architect well known in Japan. This "European" construction material was earthquake-resistant.



evropský
sociální
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost



STŘEDNÍ
PRŮMYSLOVÁ ŠKOLA
STAVEBNÍ
OPAVA

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

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
Uvedte autora-Nevyžijte dílo komerčně-Zachovejte licenci 3.0 Česko

FAMOUS BUILDINGS

Hiroshima's Industrial Promotion Hall Genbaku Dome-Atomic Dome

The massive building was completed in April 1915, and the new building was named the Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial Exhibition. It was formally opened to the public in August that year. In 1921 the name was changed to the Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall, and again in 1933 to Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall.



A-bomb Dome today

Hiroshima Peace Memorial, commonly called the Atomic Bomb Dome or A-bomb Dome, is part of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. The building serves as a memorial to the people who were killed in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The Genbaku Dome was originally scheduled to demolition with the rest of the ruins, but the fact that it was mostly intact delayed these plans. As Hiroshima was rebuilt around the dome, it became a subject of controversy; some locals wanted it torn down, while others wanted to preserve it as a memorial of the bombing. In 1966 Hiroshima City declared its intention to preserve the now termed "A-bomb Dome" indefinitely. Funds were sought locally and internationally. To date, the A-bomb Dome has undergone two preservation projects.



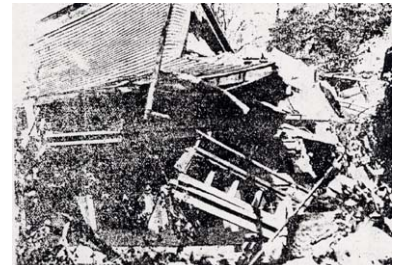
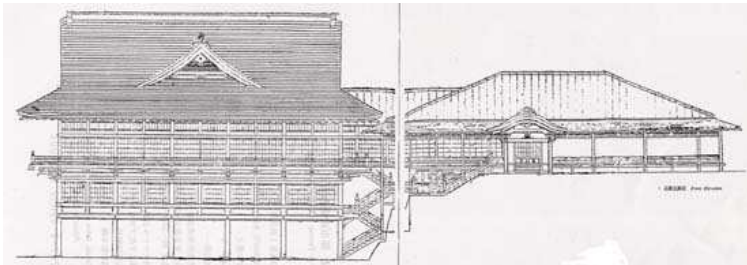
Sopha University, Yotsuya, Tokyo

He completed the construction that was falling in 1914. Unfortunately the Great Kanto Quake damaged the building in September 1, 1923.



Ueno Seiyo-ken Hotel

This hotel was built around June 1917. From outside it had Japanese temple style and inside was situated western rooms. Unfortunately it was destroyed by a strong typhoon on October 1, 1917.



Art-Deco pavilion Dvorana in Mšené Spa near Prague

It was built in 1905. It is a very beautiful very impressive and markedly n building with a range of extraordinary fancy wooden elements. In the early 20th century it underwent an extensive reconstruction. The prevailing style is Art Nouveau. It serves as a dining room and dance hall.



2. Compare the following two pictures of Hiroshima's Industrial Promotion Hall Genbaku Dome before and after exploding of the atomic bomb:

- describe what both pictures are showing
- what are the differences between them
- what is similar
- what is different
- what is the main difference between them
- what do you personally think about the pictures

3. Write an Invitation

During your stay in Japan you want to make the exhibition of Jan Letzel' s work.
Write an invitation.

- inform about the date and the time of the exhibition
- tell your friends they can bring other friends
- explain them how they find the place and where the exhibition takes place

Citace:

KOTALOVÁ ŠTĚPÁNOVÁ, Daniela, *Marks of the Czech architects in the world.*

Opava: Slezská univerzita ústav cizích jazyků, 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLjIwEECZKg>

Zdroje obrázků:

wikimedia.org

www.flickr.com

wikipedia.org

www.atelierph.cz

enjoy.ne.jp