



Valdice Gate, built between 1568 and 1578, is the only gate to have been preserved from the original town fortifications. It received its tower-like appearance through gradual reconstruction and conversion works following some devastating fires in the town. The Neo-gothic gallery and pyramidal roof, dating from 1840, is the work of the leading Czech builder Josef Opolzer.

Valdstejn's town residence is linked with the Zebín summer-house by the linden alley, twenty and a half metres wide and 1716 metres long, just as it was in the year 1632. It is only the number of trees, standing in four rows, that has diminished: of the original 1152 trees, only about one thousand of them now remain to be counted.



Linden alley forms the axis of the composition

The grandly-conceived summer-house and loggia complex with its terraced garden, now known as Libosad, was founded by Albrecht of Valdstejn in 1634 at the foot of Zebín hill. After Valdstejn's death the importance of the unfinished summer-house fell into decline. In the 1870s the dilapidated buildings were converted to flats and warehouses; the Classicist look is the result of repairs carried out in 1813. The complex is now undergoing extensive reconstruction. Its romantic atmosphere makes the summer-house a popular venue for a number of cultural events.



Loggia complex with the Libosad

The landscape composition is completed by the Carthusian monastery complex with the Church of St. Joseph in Valdice



Former monastery complex in Valdice

ce. This was established by Albrecht of Valdstejn in 1628 as the ostentatious home for his last days of retirement. The extensive and axially symmetrical complex of buildings is enclosed



Portal of the Church of St. Joseph in Valdice

by a perimeter wall, more reminiscent of a medieval fortress. After the order was abolished the monastery was divided up into offices and flats; since 1857 it has served as a prison for some of the most hardened offenders. The Valdice monastery complex is closed to the public.

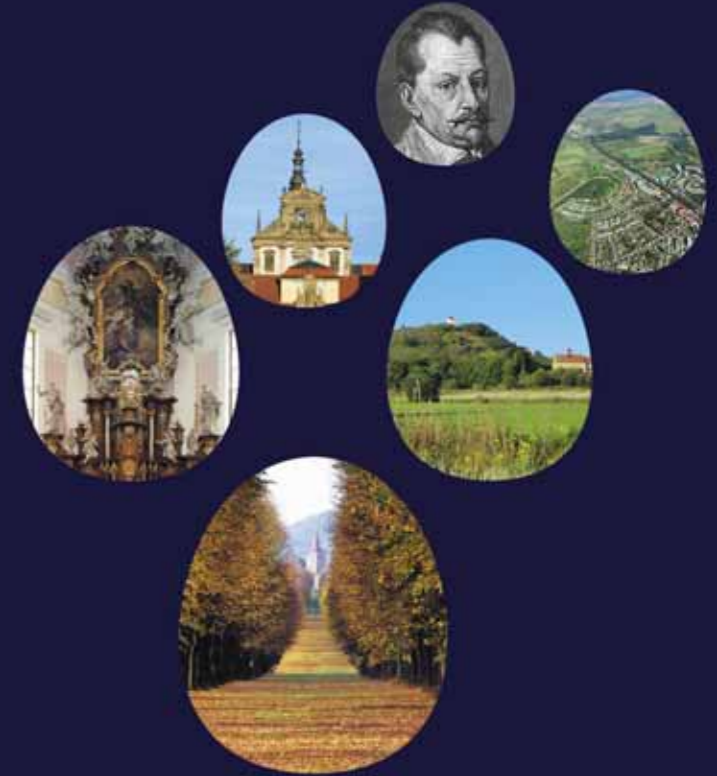
The early Baroque composition materialises in the landscape between Veliš and Valdice fulfilled and yet unfulfilled Albrecht of Valdstejn's yearnings for power. It reflects his efforts to make Jičín the sovereign seat of the Frýdlant dukedom, as well as Valdstejn's forcefulness, immense authority and unceasing aspiration to rule; his desire to surround himself with the power essential to determine the course of affairs on earth while rejoicing in the grace of the powers of heaven.



Cross of Conciliation on Veliš hill



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Published by the Valdstejn's Garden association of villages with the financial support of the EU – SROP program and the Region of Hradec Králové.
text: Pavel Hájek, Graphical layout I. Ulrych, M. Kaválek
photo: Tomáš Rasl (1), Jan Petera (2), Ivan Ulrych (10).
print: RK TISK
www.valdstejnovazahrada.cz, www.valdstejnska-lodzie.cz



The Garden of Albrecht of Valdstejn

The early Baroque landscape composition of the town of Jičín and the surrounding area





The educated cavalier, outstanding military strategist and no less skillful diplomat Duke Albrecht Václav Eusebius of Valdštejn became the administrator of the Jičín region shortly after the Battle of the White Mountain. In 1621 the estates of Kumburk and Veliš were added to the emerging Frýdlant dukedom and Valdštejn decided to make Jičín his administrative and residential centre. The extensive building works carried out over the following years with the assistance of the renowned Italian architects Giovan-

Nicolo Sebregondi were unparalleled in Europe north of the Alps. Their combined efforts culminated in the establishment of a noble residence integrated with the landscape, which linked the dominant landmarks of the town with the surrounding area in a completely unique manner. Despite the fact that Albrecht of Valdštejn did not manage to complete the individual parts themselves, he succeeded in establishing firm and fair order in the Jičín region. The landscape between the hill of Veliš, Jičín and the summer-house of Valdice is still bisected by an almost perfect geometric line which, over nearly seven kilometres, takes in seven important places which he himself founded or inherited from previous times.

The highest point of this landscape composition is the basalt hill of Veliš, the place which offers the most beautiful view over Jičín, the Bohemian Paradise and the Krkonoše mountains. At the turn of the 12th and 13th centuries a castle was built on the summit and for a short time this castle became the main Jičín residence of Albrecht of Valdštejn. Only a few remnants of the perimeter walls and part of the fortifications have been



Interior and exterior of the Church of St. Jacob the Elder

preserved to the present day, as the castle was demolished in 1658 on the orders of Kaiser Leopold I. The ruin of this once prestigious seat was complete in the 18th and 19th centuries when basalt was quarried right

in the castle grounds. The composition extends from the north-western slope of Veliš towards the centre of Jičín, where it takes in the town palace, the Church of St. Jacob the Elder and Valdice Gate.

The gradual construction of the town palace is linked with some important members of the Trčka family, nobles from



The remains of the castle on Veliš hill



Valdštejn's palace in Jičín



Zebín hill



Zebín hill with the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene



Loggia complex with the Libosad

Lípa and Smiřický. The restoration and extensive building work after the fateful and never fully clarified gunpowder explosion of 1620 is, however, the work of Albrecht of Valdštejn. Nowadays the palace is home to a number of institutions, the most important of which for the visitor are the Regional Museum and Gallery and the Town Information Centre.

Albrecht of Valdštejn had the Church of St. Jacob the Elder built from 1627 as a cathedral for the future bishopric of Jičín, which, however, was never established. This was also the reason the monumental centre in the form of a simplified Greek cross was built some decades later. The facade wasn't completed until the second half of the 19th century.



Birdseye view illustrates the grandeur of the composition