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Defining the Rožmberk Residence of Kratochvíle

The Problem of its Architectural Character*

Ondřej Jakubec

The “chateau” of Kratochvíle was built at the end of the 16th century as an occasional residence for the Rožmberk family, whose members were among the most important Czech aristocrats. It represents a unique work of architecture within the network of residences in the South-Bohemian territory that belonged to the last members of this family. The isolated and rationally designed building with a deer park attached to it, features sophisticated fresco and stucco decoration depicting themes inspired by Ovid and Livy. Kratochvíle’s architectural design is unique and raises questions concerning its meaning and function. The conception follows from the Italian villas of the Renaissance and Classical periods, although it reveals other influences (Austrian, French etc.) as well. This exceptional artistic form corresponded with the prestigious role Kratochvíle played in the social and political life of the Rožmberk family, who often used the hunting reserve as a background to meetings with their political partners. The refined concept of the villa suggests the influence of Jacopo Strada, who presented Vilém of Rožmberk, the chateau’s owner, with the Latin edition of Serlio’s Seventh Book of Architecture. In the wider Central-European context, Kratochvíle – together with Neugebäude and Hellbrunn – is an exceptional work, preceding by a hundred years the architectural type of occasional residences such as Lustgebäude or maison de plaisance.

Key words: Kratochvíle; Renaissance architecture; Renaissance villa; building task of the early modern era; Czech Lands; Rožmberks

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In the present day, the late-Renaissance residence of the House of Rožmberks near Netolice in South Bohemia falls within the general category of a “state chateau.”¹ However, this modern-day label tells little about the character of the building. Which term, then, should we use to define the building? Moreover, how can the definition tell us something of the purpose and character of the building? Our inquiry looks in two directions. We study the terms used by the residence’s inhabitants and with the help of those terms reconstruct what the building represented for them. We also attempt to place the building within the typological classification of early modern architecture. This attempt, however, causes a number of interesting difficulties, and the existing literature cannot quite define Kratochvíle. Authors tend to use several different terms, even within one text. It is not a result of inconsistent thinking but perhaps of uncertainty about the character of the residence. Jarmila Krčálová, one of the most important authors who wrote about Kratochvíle defines it as a “summerhouse”, which is the most common definition of this building. At the same time, Krčálová characterizes Kratochvíle as an “equivalent of the Italian villa”, and somewhere else, she simply writes “villa”.² Similar parallel uses of different definitions occur in texts by other authors as well. Erich Hubala calls Kratochvíle a “hunting villa” but in the same publication, he also uses the terms “Lustschloss” or “Schloss”. For the central, residential part of Kratochvíle, Hubala uses simultaneously (in one paragraph) the terms “Villenbau” and “casino”.³ Ivan Muchka applies similarly varied terminology and adds also the traditional “chateau”.⁴ In his more recent text, Muchka is aware of the problems with the terminology and – quoting available literature – alternates between several definitions: “casino”, “summerhouse” and “Lusthaus” and, with reservation, “villa”, which he describes as a different economic-administrative model.⁵ Muchka points to the necessity of deriving the definition of the building from its function, that is, from the purpose it served its inhabitants. The residence was primarily designed for warmer months



1 – Bird's-eye view of the whole premises of the Kratochvíle villa

and for the hunting season but was comfortable enough to be inhabited the whole year round. A number of archival records show that the Rožmberks kept Kratochvíle fully supplied and heated. Petr Vok's sojourn at Kratochvíle during the plague epidemic between June 1598 and May 1599 also confirms the long-term use of the residence.⁶ These and other pieces of information can help us understand the way the Rožmberks perceived and used the residence. First, we will characterize Kratochvíle itself, whose remarkable architecture connects artificial and natural elements with sophisticated fresco and stucco decoration into a remarkable, autonomous whole, isolated within the remote South-Bohemian landscape.⁷

The Architecture of Rožmberk Kratochvíle

A different residence – a manor-house called Leptáč near Netolice – originally stood in the place of today's Kratochvíle. Jakub Krčín of Jelčany, the Rožmberk regent, had it built after he purchased the plot from Vilém of Rožmberk in 1569. The manor house or citadel was built between 1577 and 1579 and featured an interesting decoration – “he had his Leptáč painted with peculiar skill and ingeniousness”.⁸ In the beginning of 1580, Vilém acquired the citadel back from Krčín in exchange for the town of Sedlčany. The value of

this exchange suggests the exceptional nature of the place. The Rožmberk ruler did not hide his reasons for this acquisition; it was meant to provide a “*divertissement*” for him, which soon reflected itself directly in the new name of the residence.⁹ Vilém immediately built a “*rabbit reserve*” as well as a large deer park.¹⁰ By 1581, he and his third wife, Anna Marie of Rožmberk and Baden, were already staying in the “*new building*”. At the same time, construction work on Krčín's old citadel continued, lead by Baldassare Maggi from Arogno, Ticino.¹¹ However, the residence still lacked capacity and splendor and at the turn of 1582, Vilém decided to construct a new building near the old one.¹² In this period, the Rožmberk ruler started to gather building material and hire artisans. Presumably, he already had an architectural plan at his disposal. It is probable that in 1582, he showed the plan to his brother Petr Vok, told him about his intention to “*erect a glorious building*” and asked for his advice.¹³ The expression “*glorious*” (“*slavný*” in Czech) in the sense of “*exceptional*”, “*famous*,” or “*celebrated*”¹⁴ implies that from the very beginning, Vilém of Rožmberk perceived his residence as something extraordinary, which would draw the desirable attention.

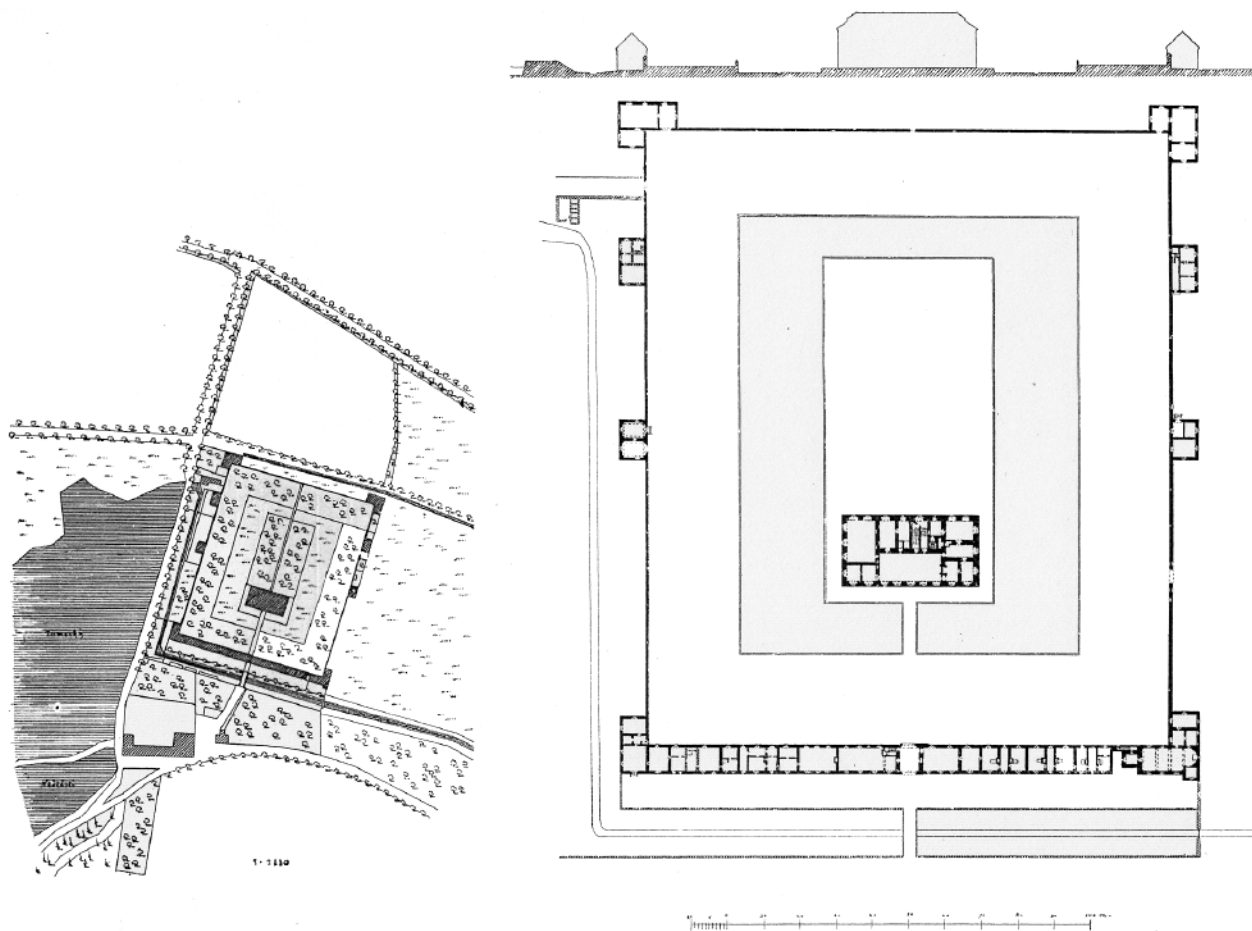
The construction began following the plan of “*baumeister Balcar*” (Baldassare Maggi) in May 1583, when Mertl, a carpenter from Krumlov, carried out the complicated job of

laying foundations on oak and alder wood pilots in the muddy terrain. The initial construction of the “*new Rožmberk manor*” or “*new building by the deer park*” happened quickly.¹⁵ In 1589, Vilém of Rožmberk founded a church or a chapel – “*the little church in the deer park of Kratochvíle*” – in the south-west corner of the property, and consecrated it in July 1589. By that time, the construction must have been finished because in 1589 and the following years the painters decorated the facades and interiors, as is documented in a design for the completed building by painter Georg Widman.¹⁶ The death of Vilém’s wife Anna Marie of Baden may explain the slow pace or perhaps a pause in the construction work. Vilém’s new marriage with Polyxena of Pernštejn in 1587 probably stimulated the completion and decoration of the residence. In November 1590, small adaptations were on-going: carpenters were finishing the roofs of “*these new buildings*” (probably the pavilions in the wall around the premises).¹⁷ In the same year, Vavřinec, the clock-maker from New Town of Prague, installed the tower clock.¹⁸ Between 1590 and 1591, the Rožmberks expended great sums (3,500 three-scores of groschen) for “*building of the new chateau of Kratochvíle*”, and further investments continued until 1595. It is likely that even during Petr Vok’s ownership of

the residence some work was still taking place at Kratochvíle.¹⁹ The Rožmberk era at Kratochvíle ended in 1602, when the emperor Rudolph II purchased the whole property, together with the manors of Krumlov and Netolice.

The Rožmberk Kratochvíle enjoyed the great attention of its contemporaries. The Rožmberk chronicler Václav Březan highly valued both its construction and ornamentation.²⁰ However, he is critical of the construction costs and his note from 1586 mentions “*water dolls*” – hydraulic mechanisms (automatons) in the garden, which he describes as “*peculiar water machines and effigies, through which water would run...they were costly and there was nothing lasting about them. This way, foreigners swindled the owners out of a lot of money.*”²¹ Even though Kratochvíle provided accommodation mainly in the summer and during hunting season, we have evidence that the Rožmberks and their guests used the mansion year-round.²² High state administrators of the Kingdom of Bohemia counted among the most frequent guests, but foreign aristocrats often stayed here too; for example, the Archduke Ferdinand of Tyrol and his wife Anne Catherine Gonzaga with their retinue visited Kratochvíle in July 1588. One year later, pope’s nun-

2 – Ground-plan of the whole premises of the Kratochvíle villa



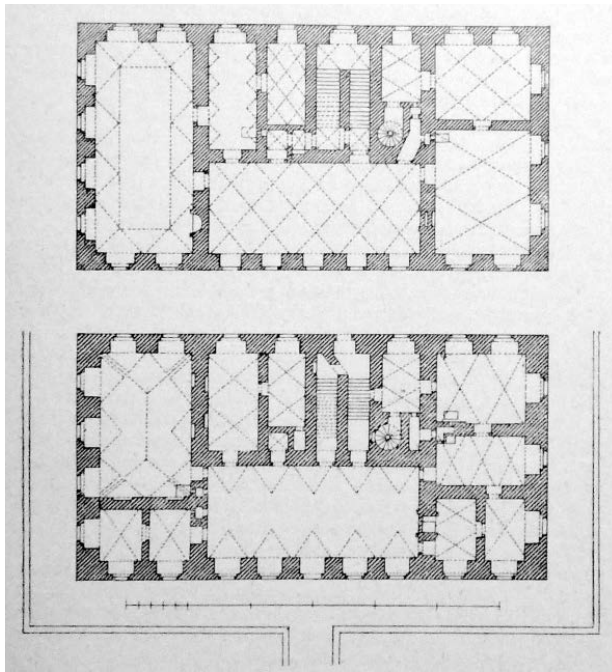


3 – View of the central villa with the entrance tower, 1583–1589

cio Antonio Puteo came to consecrate the chapel.²³ The glory of Kratochvíle resonates in records from as late as the 17th century. At the beginning of the 17th century, Pavel Stránský praises its architecture and writes about its “*charming summer house with large orchards*” tastefully complemented by the “*exquisite artful garden*”.²⁴ In his *Miscellanea Historica Regni Bohemiae*, Bohuslav Balbín compares Kratochvíle to the gardens of Rudolph II. He writes admiringly of “*the majestic hunting chateau of Kratochvíle [...] where they built a delightful quadrangular chateau [...] with a beautiful courtyard and exquisitely decorated menagerie. He [Vilém of Rožmberk] boasted that he would add a garden to it with which he would surpass the emperor Rudolph II himself.*”²⁵ Rudolph II was aware of Kratochvíle’s exceptional character; soon after his acquisition of the mansion, he commissioned the Krumlov painter Bartoloměj Beránek-Jelínek to create vedutae of the building from all four sides. The documentation comprised ground plans of all floors of both Leptáč and Kratochvíle and perspective depictions of the chapel interiors and the interiors of several other rooms.²⁶ The need for such detailed documentation shows the complicated character of the building and its decoration. This complexity manifests itself also in our problems with defining the mannerist residence of the last Rožmberks. Bartoloměj Beránek’s vedutae have not survived but they were likely similar to paintings

by Giusto (Justus) Utense, who created views of Medici villas in Tuscany. Utense’s views, like the ones from Kratochvíle, show distinctly the “mannerist composition” of these villas and the elusiveness of their architecture. Only the bird’s eye view allows one to observe the complicated building complexes of the villas, while from inside, new spaces one after another open up to the visitor, who can acquire only a limited idea of the overall character of the buildings and their gardens. It is possible that the surviving painting of Kratochvíle and Netolice by Henry de Veerle from 1686 follows from Beránek’s vedutae.

De Verle’s painting offers a bird’s eye perspective that reveals the remarkable and generous plan of the villa. The present state is not identical with the original ground plan, surroundings and roads, but, in its basic features, the villa is almost intact. The premises of Kratochvíle with the original fenced-in deer park in its vicinity is oriented approximately along the North-South axis. An uninterrupted wall, strengthened with a double wall in front of the entrance wing, encircles the central part of the premises. The one-storey entrance wing with a carriageway tower has been transformed into a residential unit. On either side of the entrance wing are the church and a small house (pavilion) with hipped roof. Similar pavilions, incorporated into the wall are placed symmetrically in opposite corners, as



4 – Ground-plans of the main floor (bottom) and the second floor (top) of the central villa

well as in the connecting sections of the wall. Even though their present state does not correspond with the original plan, it is important to ascertain the purpose of these buildings, mentioned in the 1602 inventory as “bastions”.²⁷ They likely served as residences the whole year round because they have chimneys and the historical records mention furniture (tables, chairs, beds). Březan’s term “attached rooms with beds” perhaps refers to these dwellings, which researchers sometimes regard as accommodation for the Rožmberk guards (“the *trabant dwellings*”).²⁸ It is certain though that in 1592, Daniel Švarc of Semanín, a member of the Unity of Czech Brethren stayed in one of these dwellings during his service as court preacher.²⁹ The elaborate decoration with its frescoes (which in one pavilion depicts an elephant) and inscriptions confirms the residential function of these buildings. One of the fragments of these inscriptions reads “*In silentio et spes erit fortitudo vestra*”, alluding to the personal motto of Petr Vok of Rožmberk.³⁰ Incorporating the residential pavilions into the surrounding wall is quite an unusual solution.³¹ Later, frescoes were added to the wall, when a series of painted figures replaced the original sgraffito cuboids. These later frescoes probably represented mythological and historical warriors and other

5 – Central villa (“palace”) in the middle of the moat





6 – Georg Widman from Brunswick, **Fresco decoration depicting hunting scenes and themes from Ovid**, around 1590.
Kratochvíle villa – Main-Floor Entrance hall

allegorical figures, such as Fame or, interestingly, Poverty. The symbolic figure of the Rožmberk equestrian dominated the centre of the back façade of the wall.³²

The wall encloses the whole premises and the central residential building itself stands isolated in the middle of the moat on an island accessible only across the bridge. The rectangular, two-storey central “palace” of Kratochvíle intersects the axis of the premises. The ground floor and first floor layouts are almost identical. The rectangle of the building is divided into three parts with identically-sized halls on the edge parts. The front halls on the ground floor are in the same position as the halls on the first floor. Behind the front halls are staircases and smaller utility rooms. Researchers compare this layout to projects by Francesco di Giorgio Martini or to the ground plan of Villa Farnesina in Rome by Baldassare Peruzzi. Still, this similarity, based on analogies in ground plan is unimportant, or rather, misleading, because the typology of the Italian residences is completely different from that of Kratochvíle.³³ However, the concept of a two-storey building divided into three parts is interesting as it is characteristic of the gradually establish-

ing type of the Renaissance Italian villas.³⁴ This concept is reminiscent of Palladio’s villas, which elaborate on the tradition of compact three-part buildings. In Kratochvíle, the villa forms a solid block with no accentuation of the side wings, a feature which appears in the entrance block of Sansovino’s Villa Garzoni in Pontescale (around 1540). The Rožmberk residence lacks one distinctive element of all these Italian villas: the loggia, probably a result of the different climactic conditions. However, painters who decorated the façade of Kratochvíle creatively evoked the loggia by using the motif of *tromp l’oeil* pillars that encircle the whole first floor of the building.

The entrance into the main building leads across the bridge directly into the great hall where there is a fireplace; this is similar to the situation in Palladio’s villas where the central hall follows immediately after the entrance portico. This arrangement shows the refinement of Kratochvíle’s architecture, designed to meet high demands of the Rožmberk court on a relatively small space. In general, the interiors are rendered with unusual generosity, not only in fresco and stucco decoration but also in the

construction of the rooms themselves. The wide span of the barrel and trough vaults of semi-elliptical section creates an impression of airiness.³⁵ The interior of Kratochvíle contains four large public halls: the entrance hall furnished with fireplace and adjoining “trabant” hall on the ground floor, and the central space with fireplace adjoining the so-called “golden hall on the first floor.” This configuration thus forms “two palaces,” meeting the demands of either small or large company of guests (similar arrangement exists in the chateaux of Bučovice and Kostelec nad Černými Lesy). Apart from these large public halls, the residence provides three comfortable apartments. In Petr Vok’s lifetime, the rooms on the right side of the ground floor served as a separate flat for his nephew Jan Zrinský of Seryn. On the first floor, there are two apartments on each side of the staircase: one smaller two-bedroom apartment that belonged to Vilém, and the second, larger one belonging to Vilém’s wife Polyxena, with a small room (probably for a maid) attached to it. The apartments adjoin to both large festive halls, but provide sufficient private space to the owners. At the same time, this arrangement reflects the social practice of functionally dividing male and female worlds in aristocratic residences.³⁶

The hierarchical organization of space embodies the very essence of Kratochvíle. The multi-layered confinement of the central building within several fences, turning it into an isolated island, is exceptional in both Czech and international contexts.³⁷ The structure follows the principle – characteristic of all aristocratic residences – of gradation according to accessibility or relative inaccessibility of individual spaces. In Kratochvíle, the visitor enters the core of the residence through several barriers: the entrance tower, the bridge leading to the main hall, the adjoining “trabant” hall – the *Warthstuben*,³⁸ which, like in other aristocratic residences, served as a place for the ruler’s personal guard and for visitors to leave their weapons. The apartments follow a similar spatial sequence. There are no specialized ante-rooms to precede them but both the “trabant hall” on the ground floor and the large room with the fireplace on the first floor could serve as an *anti-chambre* the kind of which had started to appear in many of the important rulers’ and aristocratic residences of that period.³⁹ The same hierarchical differentiation is apparent in the church, accessible for “laymen” from the outside; the Rožmberk ruler, however, used to enter independently from one of the wall pavilions straight to the oratory attached to the choir. These limitations not only provided the necessary privacy, but also carried a symbolic meaning in the court ceremonies, where the presence of the ruling authority was only gradually revealed. The spatial arrangement of the residence reflects the structure of the owner’s social milieu.⁴⁰

In an exceptional way, the new building of the



7 – Antonio Melana/Melani/da Melano, **The vaulted ceilings with stucco scenes inspired by Livy’s History of Rome**, around 1590. Kratochvíle villa – so-called Golden Hall on the second floor

Rožmberk Kratochvíle connects social structure – the public festive halls on the one side and the private spaces on the other – with rational architectural form. In relation to on another, the rooms are in proportion; we can again recollect Palladio’s idea of beauty inherent in the proportional relationship between the parts and between the parts and the whole. Palladio’s villas consistently work with the room dimensions derived from one proportion. In Kratochvíle, the same logic is apparent in the ratios between the widths and lengths of the main rooms. The sequencing of windows symmetrically spaced out along the facades is similarly well calculated; it is apparent from the inside as well, despite the varied interior layout of the building. This shows the exceptionally consistent and coherent plan of this seemingly simple building fully linking the exterior with the interior.⁴¹ The only exception is the different rendition of the windows of the staircase on the back façade. The painted *trompe l’oeil* rustication highlights the outside of the staircase, suggesting a cylindrical bastion. This characteristic un-Italian motif interestingly emphasizes the inner stair-

case to allude to the trans-alpine habit of placing the winding staircases outside the buildings (Wendelstein).

The whole site including the garden is exceedingly coherent and in a small space, it offers an interesting combination of Italian and perhaps French inspiration.⁴² Despite the looseness of the term mannerism – especially in the Czech milieu⁴³ – it is possible to define Kratochvíle as mannerist architecture following in an interesting way from Italian villas of the 16th century. Starting with Raphael's Villa Madama in Rome, the architecture of many of these villas is characteristically elusive. Without the view from above, it is difficult to get a general idea of the whole premises; the visitor reveals the logic of the site only gradually. The building of Kratochvíle is in a peculiar way both enclosed and open. The openings in the surrounding wall offer views of the landscape but this landscape is “unattainable” from the confined microcosm of the villa.⁴⁴ The real landscape is available only bounded by the openings or in the form of deer park (*barchetto*) next to the premises of the villa. The painted architecture on the façades of the main building refers to Raphaellesque Mannerism. Its atectonic stereometry resembles the Roman palace by Branconio dell'Aquile from

the beginning of the 16th century. The architecture of the palace uses the same “willful” elements, especially the characteristic motif of the colonnade on the first floor, where one of the half-columns stands on top of the niche on the ground floor, thus illogically overloading the concave space of the niche.

Typology and the Definition of the Rožmberk Residence

Having introduced the architecture of Kratochvíle, we now start exploring the way the Rožmberks themselves perceived and referred to their residence. It is interesting how heterogeneous and sometimes seemingly contradictory the contemporary terminology was. One of the most commonly used names was the neutral term “building” (*bau*), usually with an attribute “new:” In 1581, Vilém arrived “*in the Netolice deer park, in the new building*”.⁴⁵ Another attribute was “glorious:” “*the ruler decided to erect a glorious building*”.⁴⁶ Its contemporaries often described the building with the words “*a very expensive and beautiful building*”.⁴⁷ In the Rožmberk milieu, the name Kratochvíle first

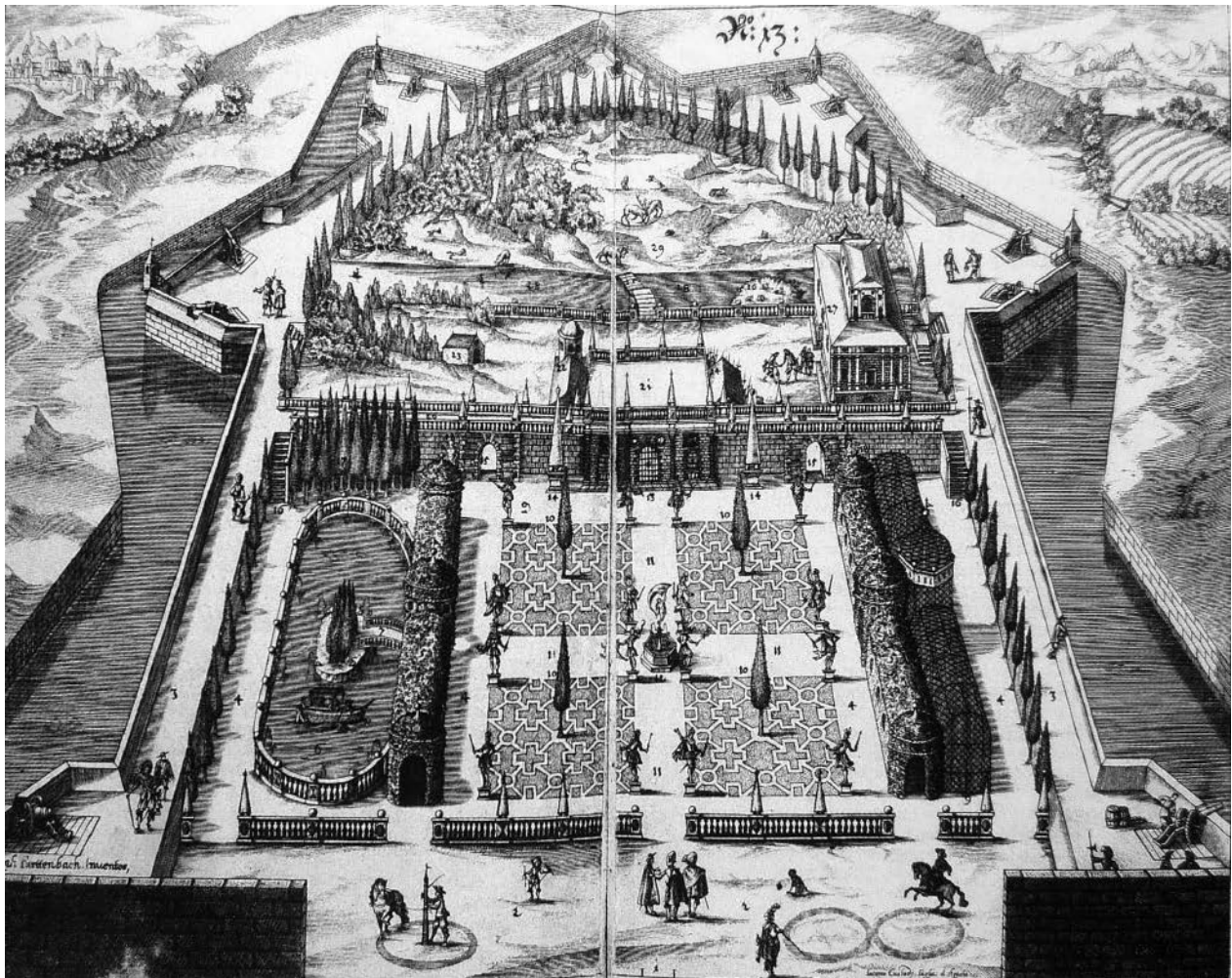
8 – View of the back façade of the central villa and its fictitious painted bastion (“staircase tower”)

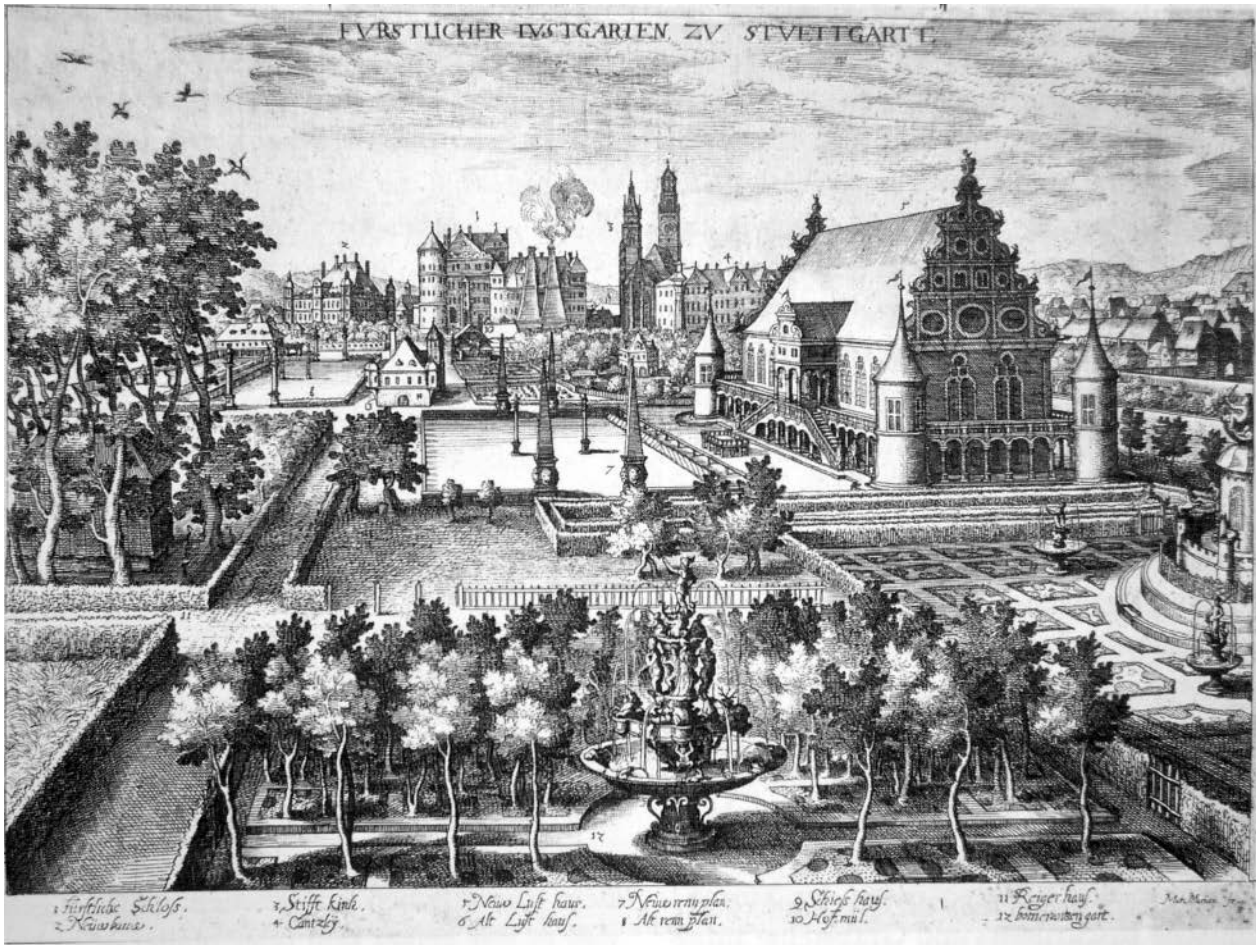


appeared in 1581: “in that year, the building was named *Kratochvíle*”.⁴⁸ The name – for example in the phrase “knightly pastime” (“*ritterlicher khurtzweil*”) – refers to a popular collective entertainment of the 16th century aristocrats.⁴⁹ The Rožmberks used to connect the word *Kratochvíle* primarily with hunting, which is reflected in the rich hunting iconography of the interior decoration.. In April 1561, both last Rožmberks organized a festivity for Ferdinand of Tyrol and a large retinue of aristocrats near Veselý nad Lužnicí. This festivity was described in the records as a demanding “*hunt and pastime*”.⁵⁰ One can sense that “pastime” is different from hunting; it is not a synonym but a more general term. The old Czech “*kratochvíliti*” (to pass time) means to entertain oneself. Similarly, the expression “*to play dice or backgammon for entertainment (kratochwyl)*” demonstrates that “*kratochvíle*” can, but does not have to, denote a particular activity.⁵¹ It simply refers to the time of entertainment and relaxation. The name *Kratochvíle* therefore does not designate the South Bohemian Rožmberk residence

as a place for hunting in a sense of a leisure-time activity but rather as a refuge providing background for “noble relaxation,” which corresponds with the classical tradition of aristocratic country residences. When Vilém of Rožmberk called his project “*a glorious, celebrated building*”, he meant that the building would make him famous but it also implied that it would serve as a place for courtly celebrations. We can therefore understand both the decoration of the villa and the garden with its fountains in the context of the ceremonies and celebrations of the Rožmberk court.⁵² It bears mentioning that the “hunting entertainments” of the early modern era included – apart from the actual physical activities – many ritualized acts that expressed aristocratic majesty and authority. Hunting as a noble activity became the subject of several theoretical treatises, for example *Il cacciatore signorile* (1548) by Domenico Boccamazzo, Pope Leo X’s court hunter, who describes the ideal of the noble hunter – “*principe cacciatore*”; or *The Noble Arte of Venerie or Hunting* (1575) by George Gascoigne.⁵³ Correspondingly,

9 – Jacob Custos, *The Lustgarten project with a summerhouse*, copper-plate engraving. Joseph Furtenbach sr., *Architectura civilis*, Ulm 1628





10 – Matthaeus Merian, **View of the Neue Lusthaus in Stuttgart**, copper-plate engraving, 1616

the “hunting chateaux” were not simply low-key, utilitarian buildings for occasional hunting sessions but impressive and luxurious residences, such as the French royal chateau of Chambord.⁵⁴

Next to the words “building” and “Kratochvíle”, the period documents use other, surprisingly variable expressions. The phrase “chateau of Kratochvíle” was quite common and in the 17th century, the chroniclers still talk about the “old chateau” when they want to distinguish Krčín’s old citadel from the later Rožmberk building. In the inscription to his series of vedutae, the painter Bartoloměj Beránek refers to Kratochvíle as a chateau.⁵⁵ Sometimes, however, the residence was called a “castle”: Václav Březan uses an expression “Netolice deer park with the castle.” This may remind us that Krčín’s citadel in Křepenice near Příbram, which in its disposition resembles Kratochvíle, was also called a “new castle”.⁵⁶ To complete the list of expressions, we need to add “citadel,” used in another of Březan’s reports: “that year the building was named Kratochvíle and founded as a citadel”.⁵⁷ This diverse terminology could have resulted from the subjective approach of the authors, even though most of these

expressions come from the Rožmberk chronicler Václav Březan, who witnessed to the construction of Kratochvíle. A certain vagueness to many of the terms complicates matters: the Latin word “*arx*” denoted both castle and chateau and for a long time, these words functioned as synonyms.⁵⁸ Yet, we know that the choice of one or the other equivalent was often intentional and logical, and that the definition of an architectural type evolved from particular local terminological tradition.⁵⁹ In the case of the Rožmberk residence, it seems there was no tradition to follow and its contemporaries were not able to find a definite word to describe its typology. The hesitance of present-day historians thus reflects similar problems in the past.

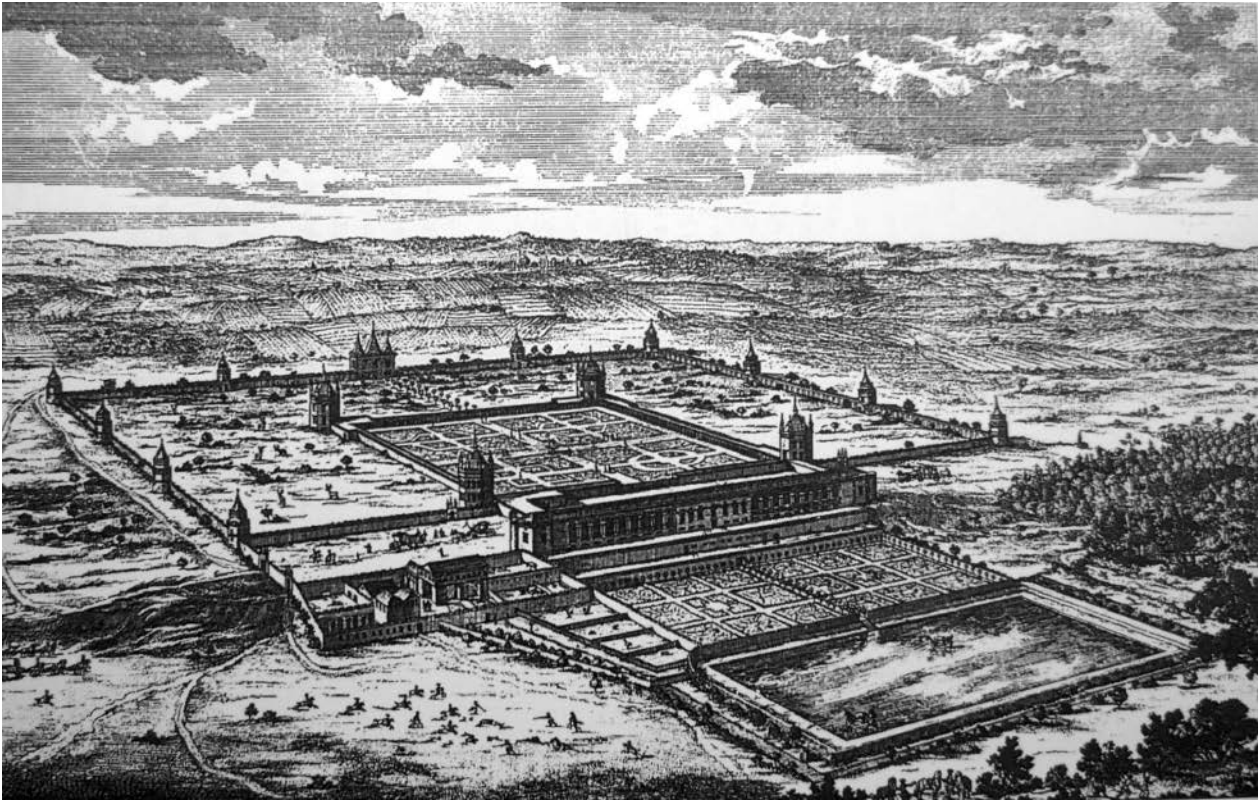
These problems result from the fact that not only the premises as a whole but also the main residential building itself is hard to describe with a definite term. The complicated architecture of aristocratic residences belonged to the Mannerist *topoi*: Castiglione calls the Urbino residence “a city in the form of a palace” and Palladio defines the architectural type of a villa as follows: “because the city is nothing else but a large house, and conversely, a house is a small city”.⁶⁰

Claudio Sorina, the Mantuan legate at the court of the Emperor Matthias captured this feature of Kratochvíle in the following description: “a prominent place for relaxation, which the master of Rožmberk had built...From the windows of the palace one can see a large park enclosed within a wall, with more than 500 stags and roe deer”.⁶¹ His expression “*palazzo nel parco*” is not surprising as it reflects the way contemporaries referred to the enclosed inner residential building. The Medici often called their villas “*pallazetto suburbano*”, and the residential buildings in the centre of the villa premises were referred to as “*palazzi*”.⁶² Following from the late Renaissance tradition, Joseph Furttenbach calls a similar building in his ideal *Lustgarten* a “*palazotto*”.⁶³ In 16th-century England, the term “*palace*” was a synonym for an Italian villa.⁶⁴ In addition, Bedřich of Donín in his travel book from 1594 describes the North Italian villas along the Brenta River as “*palacze*”. He creates a typological hierarchy within which the summer houses – “*lusthausy*” – formed only a part of the villa-palace compounds.⁶⁵ In the Czech milieu, the term palace appeared in an even narrower sense: it referred to the central, most prominent and often the largest spaces within a residence. In Vyškov chateau, the historical records include the phrase “*higher palace*”⁶⁶ referring to the first floor of the main building. The inventory of the chateau in Kostelec nad Černými Lesy refers to the largest hall on the second floor as the “*palác*”.⁶⁷ Similarly, the Bučovice chateau inventories from the beginning of the 17th century call the largest halls on the first floor and the second floor “*lower and upper palace*”.⁶⁸ In Kratochvíle, the large hall with a fireplace on the first floor was also called a “*palác*”.⁶⁹ Like in Kostelec, it probably served as banquet hall and was adjoined to the neighboring dining space, the so-called golden hall; after dinner, the guests would proceed to the “palace” for dance and conversation. In the Czech milieu, the tradition of accentuating and delimiting the central residential space within the wider complex of an aristocratic residence dates back to the 15th century, when the central palace used to be called “chateau.” Josef Macek quotes the 16th century source which talks about “*the castle of Prague with that chateau*”.⁷⁰ The same term was used to describe the central building in Kratochvíle; in 1605, the emperor’s clerks reported that “*there is a moat around the chateau*”.⁷¹ The present-day art historians sometimes feel the need to use diverse terminology to describe the main residential building at Kratochvíle and come up, in a rather unsystematic way, with terms such as “casino”, “Villenburg” or “small chateau”.⁷²

The terms “palace” and “citadel,” the former of which is probably suitable for the central building of the Rožmberk Kratochvíle, bring us close to the terminology of Sebastiano Serlio. Art historical literature relates his term “*palazzo in fortezza*” (palace in the style of a fortress)⁷³ to a similar expression “*building within a citadel*”, which Jan Šembera of Boskovice used to describe his chateau in Bučovice.⁷⁴ This

sounds quite similar to the way the Rožmberks describe their construction plan in Kratochvíle in 1581: “*to build the house as a citadel*”.⁷⁵ Here too, like in Bučovice, the entire inner residential complex is isolated within the wall and the moat, which restricts access to this insular area, like in the case of several Italian villas.⁷⁶ The terms “castle” and “chateau” mentioned above thus refer to this self-contained character of the Rožmberk residence.⁷⁷ The personality of Serlio may have a special meaning because in 1575, Jacopo Strada, the Hapsburg antiquarian, art counselor and architect dedicated his Latin translation of Serlio’s *I sette libri dell’architettura* (*Seven Books on Architecture*) to Vilém of Rožmberk.⁷⁸ The treatise deals mainly with problems of countryside architecture and contains an introduction, the end part of which introduces the projects of “*palaces to be built in the countryside for great princes and noblemen*”. It is interesting that Serlio’s original text does not include the passage about palaces; Strada himself wrote this addition.⁷⁹ Serlio’s architectural examples themselves do not directly relate to Kratochvíle, where only the structure of the apartments may show traces of inspiration from Serlio’s treatises. The role of Strada is probably more important in the architecture of the Neugebäude suburban villa near Vienna, built in the 1560s by Maximilian II and later by Rudolf II; Strada could have influenced the owners to draw inspiration from the complicated architectural complex of Palazzo Te in Mantua.⁸⁰ The layout of the large compound with its elongated palace building and enclosed inner garden quite resembles Kratochvíle. In both Neugebäude and Kratochvíle, the position of the central “palaces” on the longitudinal axis of the premises is shifted towards the entrance to the premises. In addition, the interior decoration bears similar iconographic elements (classical Roman history scenes, hunting scenes, and portraits of “illustrious men”).⁸¹

The decorative artistic program of the Rožmberk residence had two main layers: hunting and natural motifs and scenes from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* referred to “poetry”, and stucco illustrating Livy’s *History of Rome* on the first floor represented “history”. As a whole, both iconographic programs were meant to express the owner’s social status and they also accentuated an idea of ancestral continuity connected with the fictitious Roman origin of the Rožmberks. However, the decoration had a moralizing dimension as well. Numerous personifications of virtues constitute Vilém of Rožmberk’s image as the virtuous knight abounding with Christian and Classical-Roman virtues. Both Kratochvíle and Neugebäude raise questions about the type or function of their architecture. As for Neugebäude, researchers usually define it as a suburban aristocratic resort (*villa suburbana*), summerhouse, or a place for art collections, but the residence occasionally served as a hunting lodge and as a symbol of its owner’s power.⁸² The latter function corresponded with the intentional choice to



11 – Johann Adam Delsenbach, **View of the Neugebäude summerhouse (suburban villa) near Vienna**, copper-plate engraving, before 1715

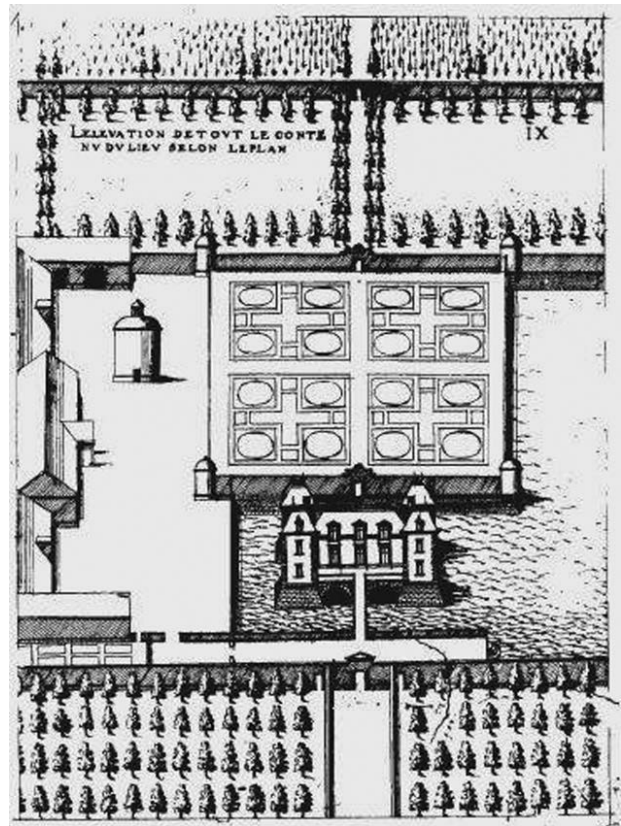
build the residence in the place where in 1529, Sultan Süleyman I camped during his unsuccessful siege of Vienna.⁸³ Neugebäude introduced the main ethos of the Italian villa in Central Europe: it represented the comfortable dwelling that creates a social environment and at the same time is isolated from the bustle of the city. In his treatise *Le ville del Doni* (1566), Anton Francesco Doni describes this feature: “these villas are furnished in such a manner that there is no difference between them and the city palaces”.⁸⁴ It is possible that Jacopo Strada had introduced this idea to the owners of Kratochvíle; he might even have been an author of the entire ideological conception of the residence, as he was also an architect. In 1568, he designed a remarkable Antiquarium for the library and sculptural collections in the Wittelsbach residence in Munich.⁸⁵ In our context, Strada’s connection with the chateau of Bučovice is interesting; he stayed there for several months in 1583–84.⁸⁶ Wherever he was, Strada acted as artistic counselor and author of ideological conceptions: he proposed an idea for a project, consulted with building contractors, or designed particular plans. He created a program of artistic decoration and designed hydraulic water fountains for gardens (we have records of existence of such water works in Kratochvíle).⁸⁷ Even though Strada’s participation in the Rožmberk building project is highly hypothetical, it is clear that the

architecture of Kratochvíle is in many respects close to the design of Neugebäude. Compared to the latter residences, Kratochvíle represents a “minimal” version of the luxurious aristocratic dwelling, which is in its essence inspired by Italian villas. Kratochvíle is remarkably original, as it does not cite any of its prototypes, creating a distinctive variation.⁸⁸

However, let us come back to the question of Kratochvíle’s architectural type. What building task did it represent for Vilém of Rožmberk? Despite all the information, the true sense and typology of the building is elusive. Art historians usually compare Kratochvíle to the luxurious residences in Landshut, Munich, the residential complexes of the Schleißheim chateaux near Munich, Hellbrun near Salzburg, or the above-mentioned Neugebäude.⁸⁹ This comparison rates Kratochvíle among the most important aristocratic dwellings of the period, even though these dwellings are somewhat different. They are urban or suburban palaces and villas, while the Rožmberk residence is essentially rural and isolated. Researchers most often refer to Kratochvíle as a “summerhouse” pointing to its limited and seasonal function. From the perspective of architectural typology, this term does not fit completely. Kratochvíle is architecturally and functionally autonomous, unlike the typical summerhouses, which always form a part of a larger architectural ensemble. The term summerhouse

and its synonyms such as *Lusthaus*, *Sommersaal*, *Gartenhaus*, *Gartensaal*, *Gartenpavillon* or belvedere, casino and garden house⁹⁰ imply the “ancillary character” of these buildings. They often stood in a garden or a park, as supplements to the overall residential structure. One of the encyclopedias defines the term casino as a “small house in the grounds of a larger house”.⁹¹ That is why the word “casino” is not suitable for Kratochvíle.⁹² For example, the Vatican casino of Pius V and the Farnese casino in Caprarole are both garden pavilions subordinate to the residential complex as a whole. Similarly, the “hunting casinos” of the Italian renaissance villas were not designed as autonomous dwellings.⁹³ Sometimes even larger buildings can have such a supplementary function, for example the “chateau” Gottesau in Karlsruhe, in the residence of Markgrave Ernst Friedrich. This “*Lustbau*” is a large three-storey building (it was adapted from a former monastery) and yet, it served merely as a recreation space near the main residence.⁹⁴ The summerhouse near the chateau in Saarbrücken built in 1577 for Philip of Hesen had a similarly dependent function. There are other buildings that fall under the same category: the *Lusthaus* of Count Wilhelm IV of Hesen near Kassel, the exquisite summerhouse of the Württembergs near Stuttgart from the end of the 16th century or the “belvedere” at the Prague Castle.⁹⁵ Similar summerhouses exist near the residences in Opočno or Česká Lípa, both in Bohemia. In the 16th century, the term “summerhouse” was generally used for various garden houses and pavilions, such as the so-called Roundel in the garden of the Jindřichův Hradec chateau (sometimes also referred to as “*Lusthaus*”). At the beginning of the 17th century “*Lusthaus*” was a common expression for small wooden garden houses of the type that Petr Vok had built in the garden of the Třeboň chateau. In the 1750s, the same word was used to denote the small garden buildings in the grounds of the Lednice chateau.⁹⁶ In our context, it is interesting that in 1563, during his journey to the Netherlands, Petr Vok visited the French royal residence in Château de Bussy-Rabutin and in his description of it, he distinguished the “chateau” itself from the adjoining “beautiful summerhouse with a nice garden”.⁹⁷ That is why we should probably rid Kratochvíle of the label “summerhouse” and designate it as a type of autonomous villa, which had, in the trans-Alpine context, its analogy in the so called “*Lustgebäude*”, a residence without any direct complementary connection to another building.

The autonomous character of Kratochvíle is apparent from the fact that its owners used it year-round, including in the winter months. The inventories list winter equipment and both the central villa and the wall pavilions had fireplaces.⁹⁸ However, this does not solve the terminological uncertainty. The term “*Sommerhaus*” as a smaller, “dependent” garden building was, in transalpine regions, synonymous with “villa”. For example, the Duke Maurice of Hes-



12 – Chateau model IX, copper-plate engraving. Jacque Androuet du Cerceau, *Livre d'architecture de laques Androuet du Cerceau*, Paris 1582

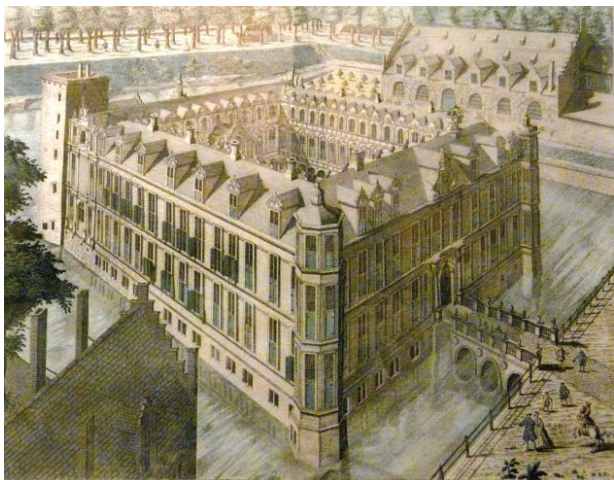
sia, who designed a number of such buildings himself, used both terms as synonyms. Moreover, the above-mentioned P. Stránský regarded Kratochvíle as a “summerhouse”. All such debates must necessarily hit upon the limited terminological consistence of the 16th century sources. Freedom in use of “architectural terms” was typical for this period; the humanists especially used the term villa in a relatively wide sense. It did not refer to a specific architectural type but reflected the intention of the owners and other persons involved, who in various manners morphologically adapted the “idea of the villa”.⁹⁹

Neither late-renaissance observers nor today’s art historians agree upon the exact typological character of Kratochvíle.¹⁰⁰ Does it make sense, then, to try finding such an exact term? The true meaning of the building certainly lies somewhere else. Yet, we believe it is necessary to call attention to problems caused by using diverse and sometimes contradictory terms, such as “casino” and “summerhouse”. The latter term is particularly loose. In certain respect, it is analogical to the German “*Lusthaus*” meaning a subordinate building. In this sense, some encyclopedias call buildings “dependent” on a larger residence a “*Festsaal*” or a “pleasure palace”,¹⁰¹ which are more general but express well enough

the non-autonomous character and function of these buildings. Things become complicated when we perceive the term “summerhouse” as synonymous to the German “*Lustschloss*”, or when we freely alternate between these terms.¹⁰² The meanings behind architectural nomenclature in both 16th-century and present contexts may shift quite distinctly. The existing literature about Kratochvíle shows that writers sometimes tend to interchange these terms or their meaning in a confusing manner.

The Task behind Kratochvíle’s Architecture

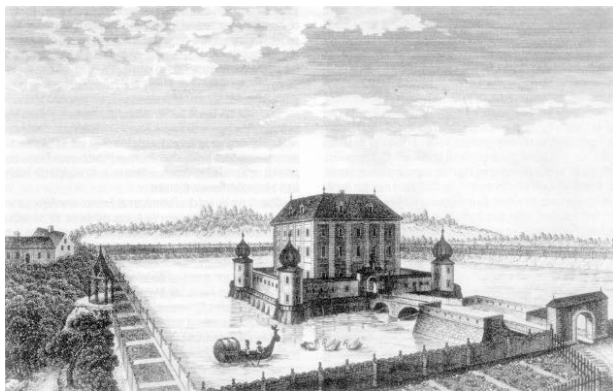
If the terminological considerations do not lead to definite conclusions, we should define the meaning of Kratochvíle on a functional or semantic basis. If we define Kratochvíle as a villa or a variation of the Italian villa, what type of villa is it? It cannot be a “copy” of a certain villa because of the difference in geographical and cultural contexts. Moreover, even in Italy the aristocratic villas starkly differed from one another: the Tuscan villas represented a different type than the Roman villas surrounded by “urban parks”, and both had little in common with the type of *villa rustica* in Veneto.¹⁰³ That is why some researchers avoid using, even formally, the term “villa” for transalpine regions and prefer other terms such as “villa-type dwelling” or “second house”.¹⁰⁴ The Italian villa, unlike the trans-alpine “*Lustgebäude*” did not create space for ceremonial court life (although this does not apply in all cases).¹⁰⁵ The transalpine regions created a “different way” of building an aristocratic villa, but in principle, followed from Italian examples, which drew inspiration from the classical *topoi* of the ideal simple rural life as celebrated by Ovid or Horace.¹⁰⁶ In the 16th century, the poet Annibale Caro praised the idea of “dignified relaxation”. His works reflected the older tradition of suburban villas, represented especially by the Medici residences, where humanists such as the poet Angelo Poliziano or the



neo-Platonist Marsilio Ficino reanimated the classical ideal of bucolic life lived in isolation from worldly duties. The villas did not simply mean a place of rest. They also contained the essential desire to express one’s social status; the architecture transferred the comfort of the urban palace into the country, while also demonstrating the power of its owner.¹⁰⁷ The villa embodied the owner’s territorial dominance. The same feature is apparent in Kratochvíle, whose social-status potential manifests itself in the luxurious ideological decoration celebrating the virtues of the Rožmberk ruler and his clan, and in the space it provided for social activities and political meetings. Palladio’s concept of the villa aptly sums up the functions of the renaissance rural residence. It connects practical functions with those pertaining to social status and at the same time maintains the ethos of the classical ideal. The aristocrats greatly benefit from “*the country houses where they will spend the rest of their time supervising and perfecting their property [...] where by exercise [...] they preserve their health and their strength, and where their spirits, tired of the agitation of the city, can finally take great refreshment and consolation. They can attend quietly to the study of letters, and contemplation, as for that purpose the wise men of old times used often to follow the practice of retiring to similar places, where they were visited by good-hearted friends, and their kin, having houses, gardens, fountains and similar places for entertaining, and especially their virtue, they could easily live a life as blissful as one can attain down here*”.¹⁰⁸

In Central Europe, similar “places of relaxation” started appearing quite early, in the second half of the 15th century. In this period, Sigismund of Hapsburg built several “hunting villas”, which were fittingly called “places of pleasure” – “*luoghi di diletto*”. Their other names, such as Sigmundsrüh, Sigmundsfreud or Sigmundslust, expressed, like Kratochvíle, their character of a country refuge and a place of rest.¹⁰⁹ However, there are not many of these autonomous recreational dwellings. The early villa of Anenburg in Lochau built by the Saxonian Elector Friedrich the Wise is one such predecessor of Kratochvíle; it was built at the beginning of the 16th century approximately twenty kilometers from Torgau, the Elector’s main seat. This *Lusthaus* functioned as a hunting lodge, but it also had a sumptuous artificial garden, reflecting the new way aristocrats were spending their time in the country.¹¹⁰ Much later, in 1620, Santino Solari designed an Italian-style villa near Salzburg called Hellbrunn for the Archbishop Markus Sittikus of Hohenems. Much before that, as early as at the end of the 15th century, the Salzburg church dignitaries started building small mansions with gardens

13 – Breda, water chateau after the renovation during the reign of Henry III of Nassau-Breda, in 1530s. Thomas Ernst van Goor, *Beschryving der stad en lande van Breda*, 1744



14 – Wasserburg chateau, Lower Austria, lithography, 1825

referred to as “*lusthaws*”. Some time later, Duke Wilhelm V of Wittelbach built a small chateau in Schleißheim in Bavaria (from 1628 on, rebuilt by Maximilian I), where he spent a large part of the year, isolated from the hectic residential city.¹¹¹ In the 16th century, Polish aristocrats and the king built similar country residences (e. g. Wola Justowska and Łobzowie near Krakow, the Myszkowski villa in Książ Wielki from the Florentine architect Santi Gucci, or the residence of Plock bishops in Brok) as did the rich burghers.¹¹² The Hapsburg estates near Vienna – especially those from the times of Maximilian II – seem to be architecturally closest to the building of Kratochvíle. After 1569, the mansion called Katterburg was erected on the grounds of today’s Schönbrunn and served as a hunting villa with a deer park. The so called “*grüne lusthaus*” (on the grounds of today’s Prater) drew inspiration from the “*maison verte*” in Brussels, owned and rebuilt by Maximilian’s uncle Charles V. Above all, Maximilian II’s Neugebäude, as a true renaissance suburban villa, is similar to Kratochvíle in ground plan and decoration.¹¹³

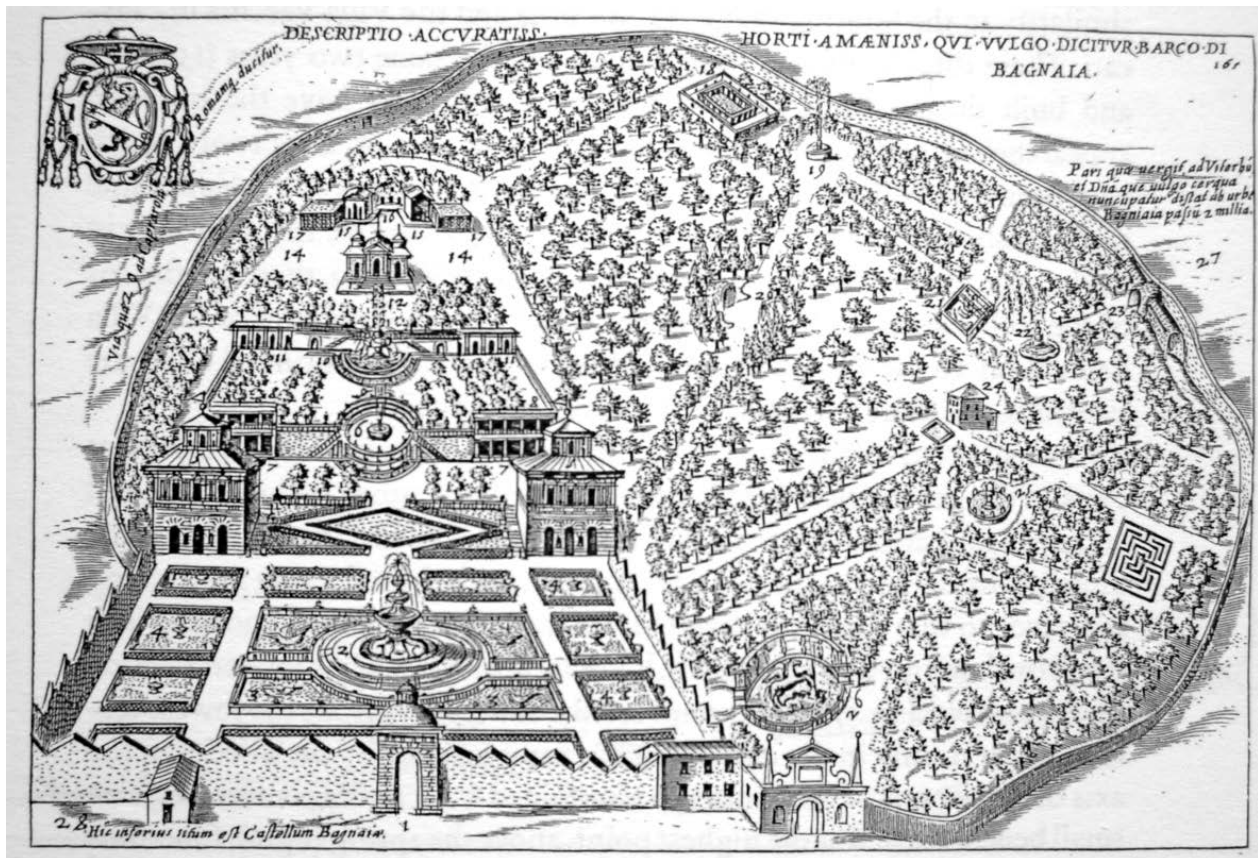
From the formal point of view, these comparisons are quite loose. The above-mentioned “villa” of the Saxonian Elector Friedrich the Wise does not resemble the Italian villas and similarly, the architecture of Kratochvíle differs considerably from both its Italian and transalpine analogies. The moat around the main building makes Kra-



tochvíle exceptional because neither the Italian villas nor the Central-European *Lustschlösser* ever assumed this form. Hypothetically, this motif could have drawn inspiration from water castles common in French and Dutch milieus. Before the start of his building project, Vilém of Rožmberk consulted with his brother Petr Vok,¹¹⁴ who had experiences with the Dutch milieu during his “Dutch journey” at the turn of 1963.¹¹⁵ In the Netherlands, he could have seen a number of smaller or larger residences, for example the chateau in Breda,¹¹⁶ owned by Vok’s Dutch host, the Prince William of Orange. The rectangular mass of the chateau is surrounded with a moat and, like Kratochvíle, accessible across the bridge. Petr Vok brought a collection of graphic prints from his travels, which could have inspired this type of dwelling, too.¹¹⁷ Vok’s graphic prints probably resembled those produced by Jacque Androute du Cerceau, whose *Livre d’architecture* (1582) contains designs with a ground plan similar to Kratochvíle (e.g. plate XIX or IX). These designs could have later inspired Kratochvíle’s architecture.¹¹⁸

Aside from the art-historical approach, based on research of the architecture, we can also focus on the functional meaning of Kratochvíle, examining it from the “sociological” or semantic point of view. What was the role of the residence for people who built it and inhabited it? Kratochvíle was not a manor house in the sense of an administrative centre of feudal territory and it was not a “dependent summerhouse” either. Neither does it represent a type of occasionally-used hunting chateau (sometimes referred to as barco), such as the less luxurious mansion called New Castle in Nesovice that belonged to the Prusínovský family, or the Žerotín building in Tatenice, which were both closer to the Renaissance citadel.¹¹⁹ It is possible to see Kratochvíle as a variation of the Italian suburban villa,¹²⁰ but this approach does not take into account the specific conditions of the transalpine milieu, where the nobility ruled over larger areas and owned several country residences. This situation was starkly different from the one in Rome, Tuscany or Veneto. Unlike the Italian villa suburbana, its transalpine equivalent – *Lustschloss* or *Landschloss* – was not dependent on the city, but complemented the rich residential structure of the manor. Another key feature of the transalpine country residences was the fact that – unlike the Italian villa rustica, common especially in Veneto – they lacked the economical status of a farm. On the contrary, the presence of the court and court culture was characteristic for these residences.¹²¹ Because of the year-round use and the high standard of living, as well as the busy social life, we can regard

15 – Jindřich de Veerle, Kratochvíle villa on view of Netolice, detail, oil on canvas, 1686



16 – Villa Lante, villa of cardinal Gianfrancesco Gambara, bishop of Viterbo, Bagnaia by Viterbo, copper-plate engraving, 1596

these residences as “alternative dwellings” – *Nebenresidenzen*. Friedrich Carl von Moser used this term for German mansions in his *Teutsches Hof-Recht* (1755).¹²² These “satellite residences” within the particular manors formed an important part of the residential net and provided the aristocrat with the space for relaxation. At the same time, they were as luxurious and socially dynamic as the main residences.¹²³ The largeness of these dwellings and their distance from the main seat was always directly proportional to the power and stability of the owner and they often played an important role in the ceremonies of official visits. There are many examples of the villas, summerhouses or hunting chateaux that have come down to us from the early modern era. They were autonomous but within reach of the main aristocratic residences. Kratochvíle, for example, was built at a fifty-kilometer distance from the main Rožmberk residences in Bechyně, Český Krumlov and Třeboň.¹²⁴ In general, the country mansions were a short distance by horse or carriage from the main residence, as for example, the smaller mansions of Bavarian Wittelsbachs agglomerated around residential Munich.¹²⁵ The Rožmberks owned several seasonal dwellings, even though less architecturally complex, such as Dobrá Mysl near Lomnice or the villa in Červený Dvůr, designed by B. Maggi. The name of the

former [Good Spirit, transl. n.] evokes the names of Italian Renaissance villas.¹²⁶ These dwelling were to a certain degree “specialized”, like the “hunting” mansion of Kratochvíle, but next to “relaxation”, they served other purposes, especially in evoking social status.¹²⁷ In this sense, we can compare Kratochvíle to the English Renaissance architectural type of “hunting lodge”, which although functioning as a private refuge, gradually extended its functional scope, accentuating the owner’s social status. It is therefore not surprising that these buildings often became the central family residences.¹²⁸ Around 1600, there were other similar buildings in England, following from the older tradition of the hunting villa and often called “secret house”, “garden lodge” or significantly, “villa lodge”, [English in original] which implied the Italian inspiration (e.g. the *Queen’s House* in Greenwich or Francis Bacon’s *Verulam House* in Gorhambury).¹²⁹

During his visit to Kratochvíle in 1614, Claudio Sorina referred to the mansion (by then already owned by Rudolf II) as “*gran luogho di ricreazione*”, that is a “splendid place of relaxation.” If we gave up looking for the “exact term” for Kratochvíle, we could use the more general concept “recreational architecture” – *architectura recreationis*, coined by the Ulm architect Joseph Furtenbach in his book of the same title (*Architectura*

recreationis, 1640).¹³⁰ This term corresponds with both the idea of Italian *villeggiatura* – the broader area of the villa farmstead – and its antique predecessor, the classical villa. Like in the case of Italian examples, the Rožmberk land around Netolice formed a compact property, and Kratochvíle was both the actual and symbolical centre of local executive power. At the same time, it represented the Italian-Renaissance cultural and social ideal of rural life, which the Rožmberks lived on their own or with their guests. It is not a coincidence that later, similar buildings were called *maison de plaisance*. Characteristically, Erich Hubala regards Kratochvíle as the prototype of the chateau of Marly by J. Hardouin-Mansart.¹³¹ Even though the building task of *Lustschloss* or *maison de plaisance* gained importance from 17th century on, there are exceptional examples from the 16th century. Kratochvíle, next to Neugebäude and Hellbrunn,¹³² represents this type of a building, regardless of whether we call it *Lusthaus*, *Lustschloss*, *Lustgebäude* or *Landeshaus* (*maison de campagne*), terms which were, from the 17th century on, practically synonymous.¹³³ The essential fact is that Kratochvíle represents a residence firmly anchored in court culture and ceremonial activities connected with social status and at the same time, despite the ceremonial courtly order, it embodied a freer, recreational spirit. The theoreticians of the 17th and 18th centuries emphasized that this kind of residence provided relief to its owner, who could temporarily throw off the burden of the strict courtly ritual. That is why one of the main features of these dwellings is their separation from central residences. The *Lustschloss* type of dwellings was not involved in the economics of manor administration and their function was mainly “recreational”, but the quality and ideational richness of the decoration equaled the central residences, as there was a great emphasis on festiveness and the demonstration of power. The social happenings in these dwellings were essential and in spite of the casual natural or garden environment, these happenings reflected the majestic character of the residence, ruled directly or symbolically by *princeps absolutus*.¹³⁴

Despite all above-mentioned formal-typological analogies, the essence of Kratochvíle still eludes us. In the “sociological” and semantic interpretation of the villa, the best method is to study how the users and visitors defined the building. Vilém of Rožmberk, on the one hand, strove to build a “*glorious building*” as a manifestation of his majesty, but, on the other hand, defined its function in the sense of the knightly “*kratochvíle – divertissement*.” Behind this function is the idea of “noble relaxation,” expressed at the beginning of the 17th century by the Mantuan legate Sorina. Kratochvíle is a *Lustschloss* rather than an Italian villa; it has a different genesis, context and form.¹³⁵ However, in the Rožmberk dominion, it functioned in the manner similar to that of the Italian villa: its sophisticated building task connected the idea of a private aristocratic refuge with the public function of a status symbol. The refined decoration is essentially intended

for public viewing. It portrays to maximum effect Vilém of Rožmberk as an ideal, virtuous ruler.¹³⁶ In this sense, Kratochvíle fits into the context of other Rožmberk residences whose late-renaissance additions and decoration show diverse forms of symbolic communication and self-presentation.¹³⁷ However, Kratochvíle had an exceptional function within this residential net. The meaning of Kratochvíle therefore lies somewhere between the Italian ideal and the transalpine reality of an alternative country mansion that assumes the symbolic and social functions of the central residences. However, if we wanted to apply the “Italian villa theory” to an analysis of Kratochvíle, we could again use the writings of A. F. Donni. In his *Le ville del Doni*, he distinguished several types of country dwellings according to their social principle. The first rank belonged to the villa of an important aristocrat: *villa – casa di signore*, which is a description that corresponds well with the residence of Kratochvíle.¹³⁸

Facit

The Rožmberk Kratochvíle will probably always be referred to as a “summerhouse” or “chateau” or “hunting chateau”. This is not objectionable provided these terms are used with the understanding of Kratochvíle as an autonomous, even though occasional *Lustschloss* type of residence that connects – in Italian style – an ideal of a recreational refuge with status-symbolic functions. If it were necessary after all to choose the most fitting term for Kratochvíle, I would simply choose one of the expressions used by its owners and inhabitants. In Václav Březan’s chronicle, Vilém of Rožmberk chooses words such as “*glorious building*” or “*building and house*”. “House” refers to the patriarchal context of the building that comprises both its residential function and the idea of family continuity. The glorification of the Rožmberks distinctly manifests itself in the iconographic program of Kratochvíle: the Livian *histories* and Ovidian *poeses* celebrate the virtues and the reign of the Rožmberk ruler.¹³⁹ Like his Italian contemporaries, Vilém intended his “villa” to be mainly a luxurious mansion that would represent the high social status of its owner. Kratochvíle reflects the position of the Rožmberk ruler as the highest-ranking aristocrat and consciously (and confidently) compares itself with similar buildings of other eminent European aristocrats and rulers. (This is still apparent in the 17th-century remark of Bohuslav Balbín about competition between the Rožmberk villa and Rudolph II’s building projects).¹⁴⁰ At the same time, the complex architectural form and the decorative program of this “Netolice Arcadia” reflect the utopian and imaginative spirit of the Italian villas.¹⁴¹ In Kratochvíle, the Italian architectural form meets the ideal of *la vita in villa*, which draws inspiration from the classical writings of Cato, Columella or Cicero who praise the re-creative power of nature isolated from the urban (or officially residential) environment. In this sense Kratochvíle, as an occasional and to a certain

degree “impractical” building, while at the same time luxurious and symbolic corresponds with the “ideology” of Italian villas.¹⁴² In the Czech milieu, the Rožmberk Kratochvíle is unique. Even within the larger context of Central Europe it belongs – together with Neugebäude and Hellbrunn – among the exceptional buildings that precede the building task of Central-European temporary country residences referred to as *Lustgebäude* or *maison de plaisance* that become common

almost a hundred years later.¹⁴³ The unique and singular work of Kratochvíle’s creators – Vilém of Rožmberk, Baldassare Maggi, Antonio Melano, Georg Widman, and perhaps Jacopo Strada – enriched the humanistic aspects of villa architecture, and offered a unique manifestation of its owner’s power and social status.¹⁴⁴

Translated by Hana Logan

Původ snímků – Photographic Credits: 1: Aleš Motejl; 2: repro: František Mareš – Josef Sedláček, *Soupis památek historických a uměleckých v politickém okresu Prachatickém*, Praha 1913; 3, 5–8, 15, 16: Ondřej Jakubec; 4: repro: F. D. Středa, *Zámek Kratochvíle*, Praha 1916; 9: repro: Veronica Biermann et al., *Architektur Theorie von der Renaissance bis zur Gegenwart*, Köln 2006; 10: repro: Ulrike Weber-Karge, „...einem irdischen Paradies zum vergleichen...“ *Das neue Lusthaus in Stuttgart, Untersuchung zu einer Bauaufgabe der deutschen Renaissance*, Sigmaringen 1989; 11: repro: Hilda Lietzmann, *Das Neugebäude in Wien. Sultan Süleymans Zelt – Kaiser Maximilians II. Lustschloß. Ein Beitrag zur Kunst- und Kulturgeschichte der zweiten Hälfte des sechzehnten Jahrhundert*, München – Berlin 1987; 12: repro: <http://architectura.cesr.univ-tours.fr/>; 13, 14: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Notes

* I would like to thank Prof. Jiří Kroupa and Prof. Petr Fidler for their valuable consultations and advice which, I believe, I followed more often than neglected.

¹ The standard guide literature uses the word “chateau” – Vojtěch Troup, *Kratochvíle. Zámek*, Praha b. d. – Milena Hajná – Petr Pavelec – Zuzana Vaverková, *Zámek Kratochvíle*, České Budějovice 2011. I published some of the conclusions in a book for general public Václav Bůžek – Ondřej Jakubec, *Kratochvíle posledních Rožmberků*, Praha 2012. The term Kratochvíle (“Kur-zweil” in German) can be translated literally as “pastime”. In the context of architectural typology, it is possible to use “pleasure house”. V. Kotrba uses the archaic term „*letohrad*“ [summerhouse, transl. note], Viktor Kotrba, *Renesanční architekt Mistr Baltazar Majo „de Vonio“?*, *Umění XIX*, 1971, pp. 97–101, esp. p. 98.

² Jarmila Krčálová, *Renesanční architektura v Čechách a na Moravě*, in: *Dějiny českého výtvarného umění II/1*, Praha 1989, pp. 37–38. Eadem, *Renesanční stavby B. Maggiho v Čechách a na Moravě*, Praha 1986, pp. 30–39, esp. p. 35. – Eadem, *Italské podněty v renesančním umění českých zemí*, *Umění XXXI*, 1985, pp. 54–82, esp. p. 62. In the dictionary entry she defines Kratochvíle simply as “villa”, see eadem, entry Maggi, Baldassare, in: Jane Turner, *The Dictionary of Art 20*, London 1995, pp. 89–90, esp. p. 90.

³ Erich Hubala, *Palast- und Schloßbau, Villa und Gartenarchitektur in Prag und Böhmen*, in: Ferdinand Seibt (ed.), *Renaissance in Böhmen*, München 1985, pp. 27–64, esp. p. 61, plate 67, 69, Jana Kybalová, *Innenraum und Kunstgewerbe*, Ibidem, p. 209.

⁴ Ivan Muchka, *Hlava čtvrtá. 1526–1620*, in: Petr Kratochvíl (ed.), *Velké dějiny země Koruny české. Tematická řada. Architektura*, Praha – Litomyšl 2009, pp. 310–388, esp. pp. 353–355.

⁵ Ivan Muchka, *Profánní architektura posledních Rožmberků* in: Jaroslav Pánek (red.), *Rožmberkové. Rod českých velmožů a jeho cesta dějinami*, České Budějovice 2011, pp. 420–425, esp. pp. 422–423.

⁶ Jiří Kubeš, *Zásobování sídel Petra Voka z Rožmberka potravinami (1592–1602)*, *Jihočeský sborník historický* 68, 1999, pp. 263–272, esp. pp. 268–269.

⁷ More about the decoration esp. Milada Lejsková-Matyášová, *K malířské výzdobě rožmberské Kratochvíle*, *Umění XI*, 1963, pp. 360–370. The latest bibliography in Petr Kindlmann, *Římské motivy v sebereprezentaci renesančního velmože. Symbolická výzdoba ve Zlatém sále letohrádku Kratochvíle*, Bachelor thesis. Institute of History of the University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice 2010.

⁸ Jaroslav Pánek (ed.), Václav Březan: *Životy posledních Rožmberků*, Praha

1985, pp. 294, 446. Březan probably describes the scenes from the “world upside down”, depicted for example on the frescoes in Bučovice chateau or on the gallery of the Žerotín chateau in Hustopeče nad Bečvou. About this theme Richard William Hill, *Killer Hares and Talking Apes. Worlds Upside Down in Western Art from the Late Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period*, in: Idem (ed.), *The World Upside Down*, Banff 2008, pp. 14–43.

⁹ Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 294, 465. The name of the residence – “Kratochvíle” – means literally “pastime”. See note 1.

¹⁰ Ibidem, pp. 294, 296, 307.

¹¹ Ibidem, p. 460. – Krčálová, *Renesanční stavby B. Maggiho v Čechách* (note 2), p. 31. – Latest literature about Maggi, see eadem, entry „Maggi, Baldassare“, in: Anděla Horová (ed.), *Nová encyklopedie českého výtvarného umění*, Praha 1995, pp. 465–466.

¹² Theodor Antl, *Dějiny města Netolice*, Netolice 1903, p. 114. – František Kašička et alia, *Kratochvíle, okres Prachatice, kraj Jihočeský. Vila. Stavebně historický průzkum a architektonicko památkové vyhodnocení*, Praha 2006, p. 3.

¹³ Pavel Vlček, *Ilustrovaná encyklopedie českých zámků*, Praha 2001, p. 322.

¹⁴ Jaromír Bělič – Adolf Kamiš – Karel Kučera, *Malý staročeský slovník* [online], Praha 1978, see <http://vokabular.ujc.cap.cz> (27. 7. 2012).

¹⁵ Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 313–314, 466, 483. The wooden floors date back to 1582–1584, see dendrochronological analysis <http://www.dendrochronologie.cz/database?pg=31> (27. 7. 2012). – Kašička et alia (note 12), pp. 42, 70–72.

¹⁶ František Mareš, *Materiálie k dějinám umění, uměleckého průmyslu a podobným, Památky archaeologické a místopisné* 17, 1896–1897, col. 43–52, esp. col. 44–45.

¹⁷ Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 355, 493, 500.

¹⁸ František Mareš – Josef Sedláček, *Soupis památek historických a uměleckých v politickém okresu Prachatickém*, Praha 1913, p. 69.

¹⁹ Krčálová, *Renesanční stavby B. Maggiho* (note 2), p. 32. – Kašička et alia (note 12), p. 5. – Jarmila Krčálová, *Ke knize Evy Šamánkové Architektura české renesance, Umění X*, 1962, pp. 74–89, esp. p. 84. On history of Kratochvíle with the bibliography see Bůžek – Jakubec (note 1).

²⁰ Pánek – Březan (note 8), p. 493.

²¹ Pánek – Březan (note 8), p. 335. It is possible that the effigies in these water works depicted mythological figures connected with the water element, for example water nymphs. The 1570s description of the city fountain in Louny uses similar words writing about “*Fauns, Satyrs, Naiades and other Dolls*”. In 1586, the Rožmberks acquired other sculptures (fountains) for the garden in Kratochvíle; the sculptures probably came from Alexander Colin’s workshop in Innsbruck, see Jarmila Krčálová, *Kašny, fontány a vodní díla česká a moravská renesance, Umění XXI*, 1973, pp. 527–541, esp. pp. 531,

536. It is possible that during his time, Petr Vok of Rožmberk also added some water works to the garden. This is suggested in a note about Georg Thumberger, the *wassermeister* who, before 1600, had created fountains for the ruler's *Lustgarten*. Next to the fountains, Thumberger was known to master the production of various hydraulic water mechanism (*authomata*), Tomáš Knoz, Karel st. ze Žerotína. *Stavebník a jeho stavitelé, Cour d'honneur* 1, 1998, pp. 18–22, esp. p. 20.
- ²² Kubeš (note 6), pp. 268–269.
- ²³ Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 332, 348–349, 355–356. – Václav Bůžek, *Ferdinand Tyrolský mezi Prahou a Innsbruckem. Šlechta z českých zemí na cestě ke dvorům prvních Habsburků*, České Budějovice 2006, p. 252.
- ²⁴ Quoted according to see Krčálová, *Renesanční stavby B. Maggiho* (note 2), p. 38.
- ²⁵ Bohuslav Balbín, *Krásy a bohatství české země. Výbor z díla Rozmanitosti z historie Království českého*, edd. Helena Businská – Zdeňka Tichá, Praha 1986, pp. 138–139, 228.
- ²⁶ Mareš – Sedláček (note 18), p. 85.
- ²⁷ Krčálová considered these small buildings the “houses of the staff”, see Krčálová (note 2), pp. 6–69, esp. p. 37. – Kašička et alia, *Kratochvíle, okres Prachatice, kraj Jihočeský. Bašty. Stavebně historický průzkum*, Praha 2008.
- ²⁸ Krčálová (note 2), p. 30. – Kašička et alia (note 27), p. 26. – Hubala (note 3), p. 61.
- ²⁹ Hajná – Pavelec – Vaverková (note 1), p. 41.
- ³⁰ The Old-testament excerpt from Isaiah (Is. 30,15) alludes to the motto of Petr Vok of Rožmberk, Tomáš Kleisner, *Medals of Petr Vok of Rožmberk, Studia Rudolphina* 7, 2007, pp. 125–131, esp. p. 126.
- ³¹ These small buildings are first mentioned as “pavilions” in: Oliva Pechová, *Kratochvíle, České Budějovice 1962*. – Kašička et alia (note 27), p. 3.
- ³² Milada Lejsková-Matyášová, *Restaurování rožmberské Kratochvíle, Památková péče* 30, 1970, pp. 100–109, esp. p. 101. – Kindlmann (note 7), pp. 36–43, 47.
- ³³ Lejsková-Matyášová, (note 32), p. 109. – Jarmila Krčálová, *Italské podněty v renesančním umění českých zemí, Umění* 33, 1985, pp. 54–82, esp. p. 62. – Krčálová (note 2), p. 37.
- ³⁴ James P. Ackerman, *Sources of the Renaissance Villa*, in: Ida E Rubin (ed.), *The Renaissance and Mannerism. Studies in Western Art*, Princeton 1963, pp. 6–18, esp. p. 9.
- ³⁵ More about these groined barrel vaults see Jiří Škabrada, *Konstrukce historických staveb*, Praha 2007, p. 122.
- ³⁶ Jiří Kubeš, *Reprezentační funkce sídel vyšší šlechty z českých zemí (1500–1740)*. Dissertation at the Historický ústav Jihočeské univerzity, České Budějovice 2005, p. 206. – Stephan Hoppe, *Drei Paradigmen architektonischer Raumaneignung*, in: Katharina Krause (ed.), *Geschichte der bildenden Kunst in Deutschland 4. Spätgotik und Renaissance*, München 2007, pp. 236–243, here pp. 237–238.
- ³⁷ This uniqueness is emphasized in Hubala (note 3), p. 61. – Krčálová (note 2), p. 32.
- ³⁸ The so-called golden hall was referred to as „Aufwärtsstube“, see Lejsková-Matyášová (note 7), p. 366. – Mareš (note 16), col. 45.
- ³⁹ Lejsková-Matyášová (note 7), p. 366. – Mareš (note 16), col. 45.
- ⁴⁰ John Adamson, Introduction. The Making of the Ancien-Régime Court 1500–1700, in: Idem (ed.), *The Princely Courts of Europe. Ritual, Politics and Culture Under the Ancien Régime 1500–1700*, London 2000, pp. 7–41, esp. pp. 12–14. – Peter-Michael Hahn, *Das Residenzschloss der frühen Neuzeit. Dynastisches Monument und Instrument fürstlicher Herrschaft*, in: Werner Paravicini (ed.), *Das Gehäuse der Macht. Der Raum der Herrschaft im interkulturellen Vergleich. Antike, Mittelalter, Frühe Neuzeit*, Kiel 2005, pp. 55–74, esp. p. 59. – Julius Chrościcki, *Ceremonial Space*, in: Allan Ellenius (ed.), *Iconography, Propaganda, and Legitimation*, Oxford – New York 1998, pp. 193–216, here pp. 199–202. – From Czech literature for example Josef Petrůň et al., *Dějiny vlnotné kultury II/1*, Praha 1995. – Kubeš (note 36) and especially Petr Fidler, *Valdštejnský palác v rámci evropské architektury*, in: Mojmir Horyna et al., *Valdštejnský palác v Praze*, Praha 2002, pp. 131–191, here pp. 160, 172. – Idem, *K architektuře středoevropského Seicenta*, *Ars* 2, 1994, pp. 135–154, esp. pp. 140–141.
- ⁴¹ That is why I do not consider, unlike Hubala (note 3), p. 61, the central building on its own less interesting than the premises as a whole.
- ⁴² *Ibidem*, p. 82.
- ⁴³ Jarmila Krčálová, *Byl v našich zemích vůbec manýrismus?, Výtvarné umění* 3, 1969, pp. 68–86.
- ⁴⁴ Similar principle in the case of Villa Garzoni in Pontescale is mentioned by Martin Kubelík, *Tradice a inovace. Dvě vily benátské renesance*, in: Idem – Milan Pavlík – Josef Štulc (edd.), *Historická inspirace. Sborník k poctě Dobroslava Líbala*, Praha 2001, pp. 177–198, esp. p. 189.
- ⁴⁵ Pánek – Březan (note 8), p. 460.
- ⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 465.
- ⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 371.
- ⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 460.
- ⁴⁹ Václav Bůžek, „Rytířské kratochvíle“ na místo držitelkém dvoře arciknížete Ferdinanda, in: Tomáš Borovský – Libor Jan – Martin Wihoda (edd.), *Ad vitam et honorem. Profesoru Jaroslavu Mezníkovi přítel a žáci k pětasedmdesátým narozeninám*, Brno 2003, pp. 613–622. – Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 314, 316, 332, 469–470.
- ⁵⁰ Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 181–182.
- ⁵¹ Jan Gebauer, *Slovník staročeský*, Praha 1970, quoted according to <http://vokabular.ujc.cz/hledani.aspx> (27. 7. 2012).
- ⁵² Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 542, 544–545, 551.
- ⁵³ Jeremy Kruse, *Hunting, magnificence and the court of Leo X, Renaissance Studies* 7, 1993, pp. 243–257, esp. p. 256. – Susan Maxwell, *The pursuit of art and pleasure in the secret grotto of Wilhelm V of Bavaria, Renaissance quarterly* 61, 2008, pp. 414–462, esp. pp. 447–454.
- ⁵⁴ About the type and the building task of the hunting chateaux see Heiko Laß, *Jagd- und Lustschlösser. Kunst und Kultur zweier landesherrlicher Bauaufgaben; dargestellt an thüringischen Bauten des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts*, Petersberg 2006. – Claude d'Anthenaise (ed.), *Chasses princières dans l'Europe de la Renaissance*, Arles 2007.
- ⁵⁵ Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 542, 544–545, 551. – Theodor Antl, *Kde stávala stará tvrz Leptáč u Netolic a kdy byla zbořena?, Památky archeologické a místopisné* 15, 1892, pp. 766–770, here p. 770. The inscription of Bartoloměj Beránek quoted according to Kašička (note 12), p. 7.
- ⁵⁶ Pánek – Březan (note 8), p. 313. – Petr Chotěbor, *K architektonické podobě českých tvrzí v období renesance a manýrismu, Umění* 39, 1991, pp. 101–113, esp. p. 104.
- ⁵⁷ Pánek – Březan (note 8), p. 460.
- ⁵⁸ Josef Macek, *Hrad a zámek. Studie historicko-sémantická, Český časopis historický* 90, 1992, č. 1, pp. 1–16, esp. pp. 5–7.
- ⁵⁹ Tomáš Knoz, *Renesanční zámky na Moravě. „Zámeckost“, „renesančnost“, a „moravskost“ moravských renesančních zámků*, in: Idem (ed.), *Morava v době renesance a reformace*, Brno 2001, pp. 46–58, esp. p. 47.
- ⁶⁰ Libuše Macková (ed.), *Andrea Palladio: Čtyři knihy o architektuře*, Praha 1958, p. 133.
- ⁶¹ Elena Venturini (ed.), *Le collezioni Gonzaga il carteggio tra la corte cesarea e Mantova (1559–1636)*, Milano 2002, pp. 609–610. I thank Václav Bůžek for this information.
- ⁶² Matthias Quast, *Die Medici-Villen als Spiegel frühabsolutischer Herrschaft. Beobachtung zur Instrumentalisierung der Villenarchitektur unter Großherzog Ferdinand I. (1587–1609)*, in: Wolfgang Liebenwein – Anchise Tempestini (edd.), *Gedenkschrift für Richard Harprath*, München – Berlin 1998, pp. 375–385.
- ⁶³ Joseph Furttenbach, *Architectura civilis*, Ulm 1628, p. 34, plate 13.
- ⁶⁴ Paula Henderson, *A Place to „Cultivate The Soul“: The Idea of the Villa in the Sixteenth and Early-Seventeenth Centuries*, in: Malcolm Airs – Geoffrey Tyack (edd.), *The Renaissance Villa in Britain 1500–1700*, Reading 2007, pp. 25–37, esp. pp. 26–27.
- ⁶⁵ Donín illustrated his observation with a drawing that captures probably the villa Mocenigo-Soranzo, see Antonín Grund (ed.), *Cestopis Bedřicha z Donína*, Praha 1940, p. 179, plate 7.
- ⁶⁶ Statement of the Olomouc Bishop Marek Kuen, *Moravian Provincial Archives in Brno*, G 83, Kopiař V, 1563, n. kart. 38, inv. n. 163, f. 23v–24r. Kuen's successor Vilém Prusinovský, ZAO–O, AO, Kopiař 1569, inv. n. 64, sign. 9, f. 62v, also spoke about “palace” in the Vyškov chateau.
- ⁶⁷ Alena Nachtmannová, *Kostelec nad Černými Lesy. Provoz a vybavení*

- renesančního zámku, *Průzkumy památek* 10, 2003, No. 2, pp. 87–101, esp. pp. 96, 98.
- ⁶⁸ Lenka Šabatová – Zdeněk Vácha, Bučovice – nové poznatky ke stavebnímu vývoji zámku v první polovině 17. století, *Památková péče na Moravě. Monumentorum Moriavia tutela* 11, 2006, pp. 7–26, p. 13.
- ⁶⁹ In the inventory from September 12, 1608, the first hall “in the upper rooms” is referred to as “in the palace,” while the adjoining hall, called golden was called simply “the golden room,” quoted according to Kašička et alia (note 12), p. 8.
- ⁷⁰ Macek (note 58), p. 8.
- ⁷¹ Quoted according to Kašička et alia (note 12), p. 7.
- ⁷² Hubala (note 3), p. 61. – Vlček (note 13), p. 179.
- ⁷³ Vaughan Hart – Peter Hicks (edd.), *Sebastiano Serlio on Architecture II. Books VI and VII of ‘Tutte l’opere d’architettura et prospetiva’. With ‘Castrametation of the Romans’ and ‘The Extraordinary Book of Doors’ by Sebastiano Serlio*, New Haven – London 2001, p. 34.
- ⁷⁴ Jiří Kroupa, „Palác ve tvrzí“: umělecká úloha a zámecká architektura v raném novověku. Dvě úvahy k výzkumu světské architektury raného novověku, *Opuscula historiae artium*, F 45, 2001, pp. 13–37. – Idem, Palazzo in villa, memoria a bellaria. Poznámky k sémantice architektonické úlohy v baroku, in: Idem (ed.), *Ars naturam adiuvans. Sborník k poctě prof. PhDr. Miloše Stehlika*, Brno 2003, pp. 117–132.
- ⁷⁵ Quoted according to Krčálová (note 2), p. 31.
- ⁷⁶ David R. Coffin, *Gardens and Gardening in Papal Rome*, Princeton 1991, pp. 3–4. Kratochvíle is considered as “villa variation tied with palazzo in fortezza model” also by Artur Kwaśniewski, *Architectura recreationis – środkowoeuropejskie założenia „willowe” XVI–XVII w. Geneza, rozplanowanie, funkcje użytkowe i idee*, *Sborník* 6, 2008, pp. 91–112, esp. pp. 94–95.
- ⁷⁷ Pánek – Březan (note 8), pp. 313, 545. More about this from theoretical point of view Macek (note 58). For the critique of Macek’s view see Robert Šimůnek, Hrad jako symbol v myšlení české středověké šlechty, *Český časopis historický* 108, 2010, č. 2, pp. 185–219.
- ⁷⁸ Hart – Hicks (note 73), pp. 159–160.
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RESUMÉ

Stavební úloha rožmberské Kratochvíle a její architektonický charakter

Ondřej Jakubec

Pozdně renesanční rožmberské sídlo Kratochvíle u jihočeských Netolic je bezesporu výjimečnou památkou pozdně renesanční architektury a rezidenční kultury. Neupoutá přitom jen dochovanou a jedinečnou malířskou a sochařskou (štukovou) výzdobou interiérů i exteriérů (čerpající z ovidiovských a liviovských předloh), ale také svým architektonickým typem, potažmo architektonickou úlohou. Text se tedy zamýšlí nad tím, jaký měl tento zámek či letohrádek, jak je Kratochvíle nejčastěji označována, význam jak pro svého stavebníka, Viléma z Rožmberka (1532–1592), tak nad tím, jak vlastně definovat tuto architekturu v rámci raně novověkého rezidenčního stavitelství. Pro interpretaci této stavby je klíčové, že se nejednalo o stavbu sídla s nějakou administrativně-správní funkcí v rámci daného panství, stejně jako byl její příležitostný lovecký charakter bezmála zdánlivý, kdy sídlo nabízelo nejen komfortní zázemí a vybavení pro celoroční pobyt rožmberských vladařů. Svým konceptem architektury, ale především způsobu využívání, bezmála v duchu italské villeggiatury, vychází z ideje italské

renesanční, respektive antické vily, nezapře však další inspirační vlivy (rakouské, francouzské ad.). Můžeme tedy o Kratochvíli mluvit jako o autonomní vile, případně jako o stavební úloze středoevropských příležitostných sídel typu *Lustgebäude* či *maison de plaisance*. Tyto pojmy sice užíváme až pro pokročilejší 17. století, přesto i ve střední Evropě 16. a počátku 17. století vznikala sídla, která tento typ bezmála předjímají – zejména Hellbrunn u Salzburku a předměstská vila Neugebäude u Vídně. Především poslední sídlo, snad realizované dle ideového návrhu mantovského Jacopa Strady (1507–1588) od šedesátých let Maxmiliánem II. (1527–1576) a později Rudolfem II. (1552–1612), nabízí zajímavou analogii. Nejen pro svou dispozici a kompozici architektonických hmot, ale i pro analogické tematické vrstvy výzdoby a vůbec formu využívání. Vztah možného „inventora“ ke stavebníkovi Kratochvíle, Vilémovi z Rožmberka nemusí být přitom nijak odtaziť, když uvážíme, že právě tento habsburský antikvář a architekt věnoval roku 1575 svou latinskou edici Serliovy *Sedmé knihy o architektuře* právě Vilémovi. Na Kratochvíli tedy můžeme bez jakékoliv úporné snahy po jednoznačné slovní definici nahlížet především jako na „slavné stavení“, jak ji výstižně definoval rožmberský kronikář Václav Březan, které ve formě příležitostné rezidence typu *Lustschloss* propojuje v italizujícím stylu ideál útočištného odpočinkového místa s bytostně reprezentačními funkcemi nejvýznamnějšího aristokrata v českých zemích.

Obrazová příloha: 1 – Celkový pohled na Kratochvíli z ptačí perspektivy; 2 – Púdorys areálu Kratochvíle; 3 – Pohled na ústřední vilu Kratochvíle se vstupní věží, 1583–1589; 4 – Púdorys přízemí (dole) a patra (nahore) ústřední vily Kratochvíle; 5 – Centrální vila („palác“) areálu Kratochvíle uprostřed vodního kanálu; 6 – Georg Widman z Brunšviku, Vstupní sál přízemí s loveckými a ovidiovskými náměty nástěnných maleb, kolem 1590; 7 – Antonio Melana/Melani/da Melano, Tzv. Zlatý sál v prvním patře vily Kratochvíle se souborem štukových výjevů inspirovaných Liviovými Dějinami Říma, kolem 1590; 8 – Pohled na zadní fasádu ústřední vily Kratochvíle s fiktivní malovanou baštou („schodišťovou věží“); 9 – Jacob Custos, Projekt Lustgarten s letohrádkem, mědirytina. Joseph Furttenbach st., *Architectura civilis*, Ulm 1628; 10 – Matthaeus Merian, Pohled na tzv. Neue Lusthaus ve Stuttgartu, mědirytina, 1616; 11 – Johann Adam Delsenbach, Pohled na letohrádek Neugebäude u Vídně, mědirytina, před 1715; 12 – Model zámku č. IX. Jacque Androuet du Cerceau, *Livre d'architecture de laques Androuet du Cerceau*, Paris 1582; 13 – Breda, vodní zámek po přestavbě vévodou Jindřichem III. z Nassau-Bredy, třicátá léta 16. Století. Thomas Ernst van Goor, *Beschryving der stad en lande van Breda*, 1744; 14 – Zámek Wasserburg v Dolním Rakousku, litografie, 1825; 15 – Jindřich de Veerle, detail Kratochvíle na vedutě Netolic a okolí, olejomalba, 1686 16 – Villa Lante, Kardinálská vila viterbského biskupa Gianfrancesca Gambary, Bagnai u Viterba, mědirytina, 1596