

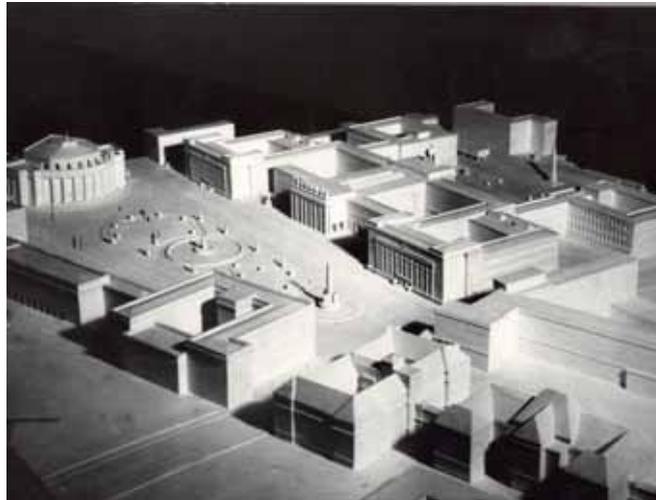


MASARYK UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY
CAMPUS
BOHUNICE



CAMPUS HISTORY



Due to a lack of suitable buildings in Brno, Masaryk University was founded with nothing but temporary spaces at its disposal. The university's Founding Act anticipated solving the problem by means of erecting new buildings with construction scheduled to finish by 1930.

According to the original plan, the new Masaryk University buildings were to be built on Kraví hora and the surrounding plots between Veveří and Kounicova Street. Designed by Alois Dryák, the new Academic Square was to include buildings housing the Faculty of Law, Faculty of arts and various university administration organs, even the university library. The Faculty of Science building as well as the joint laboratories shared by all Brno-based higher education institutions were to be found along the access route to Kraví hora hill. Kraví hora itself was set aside for the construction of the Faculty of Medicine building, designed by Bohuslav Fuchs and Jindřich Kumpošt. In the end, however, the Faculty of Law building was the only facility actually erected – President Masaryk himself was present at the laying of the foundation stone in 1928. Subsequent construction was brought to a halt by the onset of the recession and the outbreak of the Second World War.

As early as 1945, in connection with plans proposed by the Brno regional authority – aimed at erecting a large regional hospital in Brno Bohunice – the Ministry of Education and Enlightenment suggested securing the adjacent acres as a suitable location for a future university complex. These plans, however, were not implemented either and an urban design and architectural tender announced thirty years later likewise failed when the project was stopped short of actual construction in 1976.

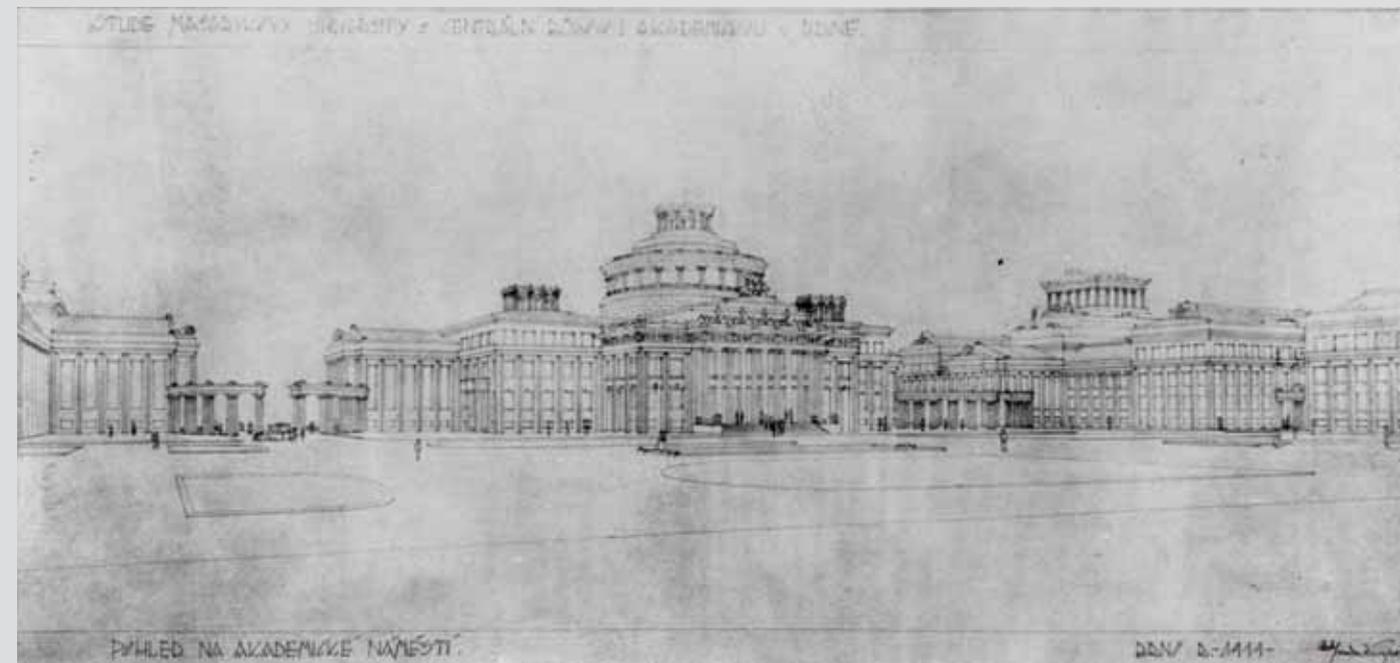
Above: Model of the planned Academic Square; the Faculty of Law building was the sole completed component.
Alois Dryák, 1925

Right: Study of the Academic Square by Jindřich Kumpošt, 1919

The notion of erecting a campus in Bohunice was only revitalized in the early 1990s. In 2000 the university succeeded in securing the support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, necessary for both project planning and funding. An international urban design and architectural tender was announced immediately and in 2002 the government issued an Act facilitating the implementation of the Development of the Material and Technical Base of Masaryk University in Brno programme. A contract regarding programme funding was concluded between the ministry of Finance, Masaryk University and the European Investment Bank; a government resolution subsequently prolonged contract duration until 2010.



Laying of the foundation stone in the presence of President T. G. Masaryk, 1928



ARCHITECTURE

The concept discussed in the 1990s formed the basis for the University Campus Bohunice urban design and architectural tender announced in 2000; the winning project was submitted by Jaromír Černý, Karel Tuza and Petr Uhlíř (A PLUS a.s.).

Their concept of the university campus centres on notions of gradual development and a stage-based construction system. The complex comprises an assemblage of buildings (cells), mutually interconnected by sheltered communication corridors. The complex is gradually constructed in a chequerboard-like manner; however, the emerging system is fully functional once the very first cell is completed. The artistic rendering is based on the notion that new academic quality (i.e. a modern, open European university) must be associated with new quality in terms of external appearance and spatial organization. It is an attempt at blurring the boundaries between exterior and interior space.

According to Ing. arch. Petr Uhlíř, the module-based building structure follows from a notion conceived at the very outset of his professional career: his diploma thesis was inspired by a developing "metabolism" (Kenzo Tange). The notion was revived and applied in the new Masaryk University campus design which incorporates a cell-based building assemblage, shaping the incessantly developing and interconnected living structure of the university campus according to the changing needs of individual departments, effectively creating a communication network interlinking the entire complex. He comments: "As much of my inspiration comes from space, the basic design of the new campus is structured to resemble a space station: the individual standard modules housing scientific units are interconnected by communication channels and supplemented by various special modules in a variety of shapes. These include e.g. the entrance buildings, the biomodel building or the study centre... in fact, the Faculty of Sports Studies itself – featuring an administrative part and two sport halls – may be likewise considered to comprise such a module."



J. Černý, K. Tuza, P. Uhlíř (A-PLUS a.s.)
won the urban design and architectural
UCB tender in 2000

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Effectively facilitating construction, the passing of Act No. 197/2002 Coll. enabled the Czech government to accept a loan from the European Investment Bank and thus finance the Development of the Material and Technical Base of Masaryk University in Brno programme. Construction was launched in 2002 with the reconstruction of the MEDIPO building – the new MORFO III Morphology Centre was finalized in 2003.

Construction proper began in 2004. The first stage – Integrated Laboratories for Biomedical Technologies (ILBIT) – was ready by 2005 and in the following year focus shifted to the Academic Teaching and Research Complex (AVVA). In subsequent years, the departments and lecture halls of the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Science began to relocate to the new campus; the Faculty of Sports Studies likewise moved into newly opened facilities complete with a sport hall and Dean's Office. All remaining buildings – including an entrance building housing an assembly hall – were constructed in the final stage; the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Medicine completed the move.

Right: ILBIT under construction,
January 2005



Below and at left: UCB main
entrance, June 2010

Construction within the framework of the university development programme was finished in 2010; however, a number of new projects facilitating the emergence of additional buildings and sporting grounds are already being prepared. Such plans are currently being consulted, chiefly in connection with European Structural Funds projects.

The University Campus Bohunice is beginning to enjoy the status of a prestigious undertaking within the development of the city of Brno as well as attracting the ever increasing interest of the commercial sector. An entirely new district complete with urban infrastructure is developing in the immediate vicinity; since October 2009, Campus Square – a shopping centre opened in 2008 – even boasts a new academic canteen.





PLANNED PROJECTS

The construction of future campus components will be financed primarily from EU Structural Funds and is scheduled to finish in the 2012 to 2013 period.

The Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC) comprises the key development project; one of the most extensive science and research projects in Central Europe, CEITEC is being prepared in collaboration between Masaryk University and other Brno-based universities as well as the Institute of Physics of Materials of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Veterinary Research Institute. Construction is scheduled to commence in early 2011. Laboratories complete with state-of-the-art material equipment and facilities will provide the best possible conditions for primary as well as applied research in the natural sciences and in the field of advanced materials and technologies.

The CESEB project – designed to complement the biology section of the Faculty of Science – will likewise add to the new campus. Thirdly, the Centre for the Study of Toxic Substances (CETOCOEN) will facilitate the development of scientific and research activities focusing on a range of environment-related and sustainable development issues. Construction of the buildings set to house the facility was launched in 2010.



Planned projects: CESEB, CEITEC and CETOCOEN, exterior rendering by A PLUS a. s.

CAMPUS ART

Among many other missions, the university is tasked with enriching the cultural and social life of both its students and teachers as well as the public. The campus grounds thus feature a number of carefully incorporated works of art.

The *Flowering of Learning*, a bronze sculpture by Vladimír Preclík, was unveiled in May 2008 and now stands in front of the Masaryk University Campus Library. A second bronze sculpture – *Balance* by the Slovak sculptor Jozef Jankovič – was also placed on campus 2009. The artwork was cast in the DSB EURO foundry and may be found between buildings A2 and A3. A third object is to be found inside the entrance hall next to the Morphology Centre: *The Nest* by Dalibor Chatrný, a well-known Czech artist.

Originally located in front of the former Faculty of Medicine building at Komenského Square, a bronze bust of T. G. Masaryk by Vincenc Makovský now adorns the main campus entrance. A bronze bust of Eduard Babák – dean of the Faculty of Medicine, MU Rector and founder of the University of Veterinary Sciences – by the same artist is located between buildings A3 and A6. This second bust was originally located at Joštova Street. Two bronze statues entitled *On Mary* and *On Eve* by Olbram Zoubek are to be found in the atrium of the Department of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine; donated by the author, the sculptures comprise the artist's homage to those serving the living even after their own death.

Two additional artworks by prominent Czech artists are located in the immediate vicinity of the library: *Contacts and Distances* by Aleš Veselý and *Enlightenment* and *Heavy Paint* by Lukáš Rittstein. Pavel Tasovský's *Blades of Grass* is to be found outside of the Faculty of Sports Studies building.

Balance
by Jozef Jankovič

Facing page: *The Nest*
by Dalibor Chatrný





FACULTIES ON CAMPUS

Although the campus naturally serves all of Masaryk University, it is primarily designed to accommodate three faculties: the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Sports Studies.

The core facilities of the first two faculties comprise mainly computer rooms, laboratory spaces and specialized units; many of them were moved to the new campus as early as in 2005.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

The non-clinical (theoretical) departments of the Faculty of Medicine were moved first and by September 2010, the entire faculty – including the Dean's Office and Office for Studies – was fully relocated. Faculty units located on campus are equipped with spacious classrooms including large lecture halls featuring cutting-edge audiovisual technology. Students are provided with several computer rooms as well as a histological microscope laboratory. The state-of-the-art equipment found in the Department of Anatomy is likewise worth mentioning; moreover, the Museum of Anatomy – a component part of the department – houses over 600 exhibits provided for self-study purposes. The campus grounds are interconnected with the adjacent Faculty Hospital Brno, creating a symbolic link and facilitating communication between teachers-physicians and medical students.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

The Faculty of Science has relocated its biochemical, biological and chemical units; their activities now take place in cooperation with the Incubator for Biotechnology (IN-BIT). The faculty is markedly research-oriented, campus laboratories have already aided scientists in discovering e.g. a new way of regulating plant biomass production. Instruction and research activities in the remaining fields – i.e. mathematics, physics, geography and geology – take place in the renovated faculty complex on Kotlářská Street.



FACULTIES ON CAMPUS

FACULTY OF SPORTS STUDIES

The youngest of MU faculties was relocated entirely. All significant Faculty of Sports Studies units including the Dean's Office and Office for Studies as well as the seven existing departments have been transferred to the new campus. Students are provided with facilities such as a ball game gym, combatives gym, gymnastics hall, multifunctional gymnasium, fitness centre and various lecture halls. Courses with no facilities on campus (e.g. swimming and athletics) are taught elsewhere in Brno.



Combatives gym, FSpS



Sports hall



Entrance hall with FSpS
Dean's Office



LIBRARY AND RESEARCH UNITS



Masaryk University
Campus Library

LIBRARY

The Masaryk University Campus Library (MUCL) is an information centre serving Masaryk University students, teachers and science and research workers studying and working on campus. It was formed in 2007 by merging the Faculty of Medicine library, the Faculty of Sports Studies library and part of the Faculty of Science library collection. It offers a wide range of library and information services, focusing primarily on medical, biological, biochemical, chemical and sports-related topics and sciences. The library lies at the very heart of the university campus in building A9. It contains over 100 thousand volumes: apart from a wide array of contemporary books and journals, the library also stores a collection of documents issued prior to 1860 or documents which are otherwise notable.

RESEARCH UNITS

A number of units and individual facilities unique both in and outside of the Czech Republic – in terms of either concept, material facilities or focus – are currently located at Masaryk University. Many of them have now relocated to the new campus – itself a unique science and research hub.

Founded long before campus construction began, the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX) is one of the university's oldest research units; for over 25 years now, the centre has been researching the environmental impact of toxic substances and their effects on humans and other living organisms.



The library is a university-wide centre used by students, teachers and research workers alike

The National Centre for Biomolecular Research (NCBR), specializing in macromolecules, their complexes and behaviour has likewise reached significant results. The centre's activities cover a number of research directions, ranging from computational chemistry and molecular modelling to NMR spectroscopy, protein engineering, glycobiochemistry and X-ray crystallography.

Integrating three specialized Masaryk University units led to the creation of the campus-based Babak Research Institute. The centre specializes in immunological, oncological, haematological and pediatric research, its primary activities include developing cancer vaccines. The institute is jointly operated by research teams from the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Science and the Faculty Hospital Brno. The institute houses the University Cell Immunotherapy Centre complete with cleanroom facilities utilized in the development and production of immune system boosting supplements designed for patients suffering from a broad range of oncological diseases.

A large number of other campus-based units are also involved in facilitating both instruction and research – e.g. the laboratories for biomedical technologies, etc. Close collaboration with the Faculty Hospital Brno and Incubator for Biotechnology (INBIT) likewise plays a significant role.

Cleanroom facility in the University Cell
Immunotherapy Centre

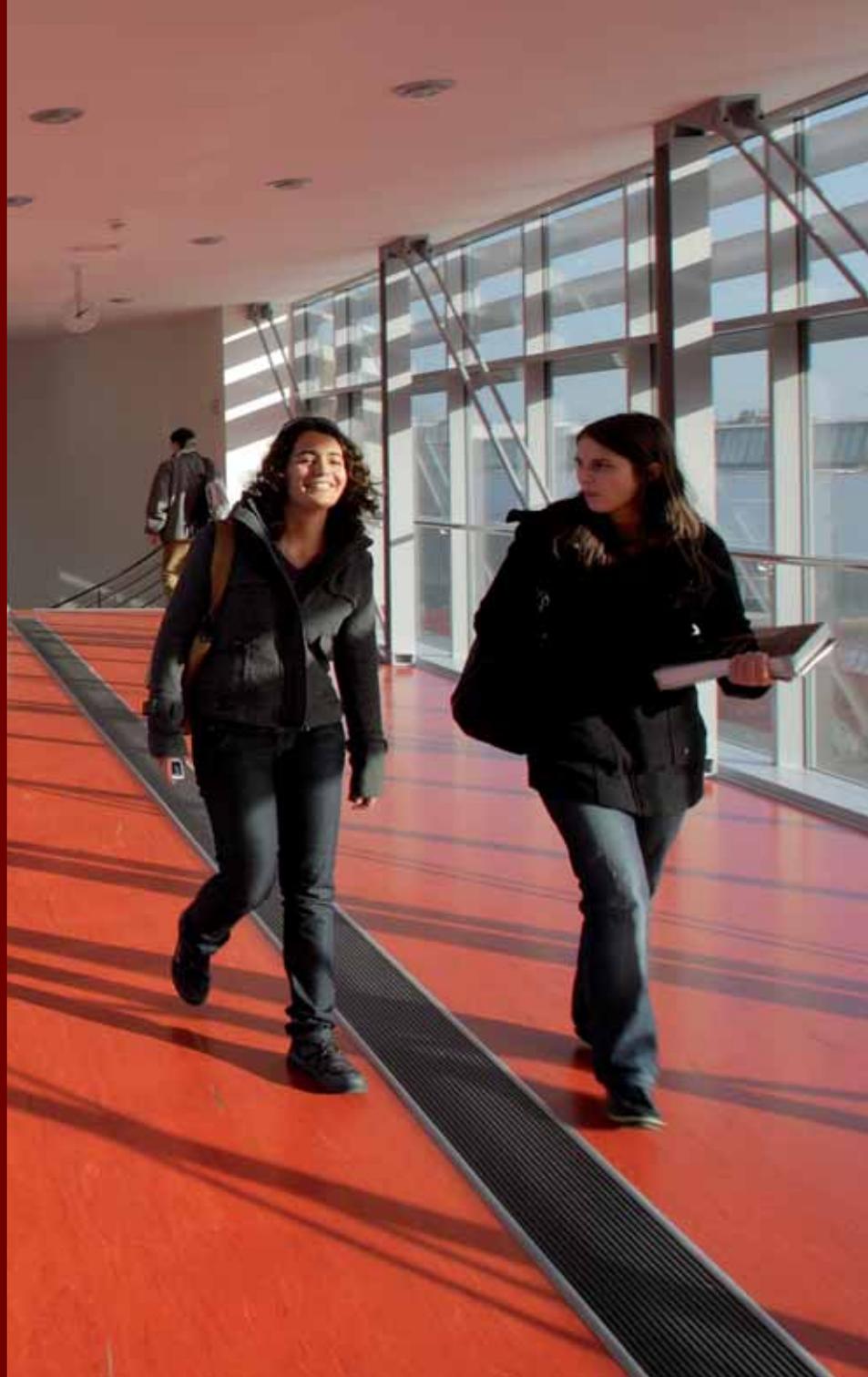


CAMPUS LIFE

The university complex provides 5,000 students and 1,000 academic and research employees with a superior study and work environment. The campus comprises a versatile base for a wide range of student activities: students are welcome to use the modern library and computer room, the heart of the entire university complex. Planned development in the immediate vicinity of the new campus includes accommodation facilities for MU students and employees, catering and business enterprises and facilities for sports and socialising.

Student and academic employee catering is provided by an academic restaurant inside the new shopping centre complex. A café located on the Kamenice footbridge has already become famous for its incomparable view of nearly the entire campus area.

All campus interiors are suitable for students with special needs, a large number of whom are enrolled at Masaryk University. All buildings and routes are wheelchair accessible and three separate navigation elements – leading lines, audio and tactile navigation – are implemented in order to help students with impaired vision.



Leading lines in hallways are designed to help students with impaired vision



The academic restaurant offers dietary and vegetarian cuisine

Campus grounds are also a place for recreation



FACTS & FIGURES

In the 2002 to 2010 period, university infrastructure development took place primarily under the Development of the Material and Technical Base Programme No. 233 330; the total expenditures utilized in implementing the programme amounted to 256 mil. EUR (6.4 billion CZK*). The programme comprised the renovation and modernization of a significant number of historical Masaryk University facilities in downtown Brno (buildings on Joštova St., Kotlářská St. and others). Construction of the University Campus Bohunice constitutes the second part of the programme.

Overall campus construction costs – including the renovation of the MEDIPO III facility – reached a total of 206.4 million EUR, of which 108 million EUR were provided from the national budget via the Ministry of Education. Masaryk University obtained an additional 71 million EUR from the national budget in repayable financial assistance, to be returned by the university in regular instalments from 2011 to 2030.

The university obtained part of the resources necessary for securing state subsidies and repayable financial assistance through a purpose loan provided by the European Investment Bank amounting to 95 million EUR and repayable over a period of 25 years. The city of Brno contributed an additional 11.9 million EUR, primarily utilized in expanding utility networks and technical infrastructure. Masaryk University itself likewise contributed to covering construction costs, investing a total of 15,7 mil. EUR. Taking into account repayable financial assistance, Masaryk University is covering 34.4% of the overall campus construction expenditures. The Masaryk University development funding model is unique; the Czech government has even been presenting it as a possible solution for financing other university construction projects.

The University Campus Bohunice offers 42,200 m² worth of instruction and research space – 39,200 m² worth of newly constructed useful area and 3,000 m² of renovated facilities.

Campus construction was directed by A PLUS a. s., UCB chief designer. Project management and technical supervision were carried out by Bovis Lend Lease, a. s. until 2008 when Arch Design, s. r. o. assumed the role of technical supervisor.

* 1 EUR = 25 CZK





The grand opening of the new Masaryk University campus took place on 23 September 2010. A major milestone in the life of Masaryk University, the ceremonial occasion comprised the crowning achievement of six years of construction at the Bohunice campus – the most extensive higher education construction project in Central Europe.
www.kampus.muni.cz

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