

History of the tower

There were several incentives for the construction of a tall building in the 16th century in the center of the medieval city - the number of church towers as well as the will to build a secular building as a sign of power and prosperity following the example of other European cities.

Location of Trnava was close to the area besieged by the Turks (former Hungarian Empire) during this period, which led to the modernization of the walls and the construction of a higher observation tower.

A 57-meter-high prismatic tower was built in the northwest corner of the square between two burgher houses. The façades above the level of the walkway were decorated with an illusory white-ocher squaring. The shape of the original roof is unknown.

tower height in meters

During the fire in 1683, the complete wooden interior burned down, followed by the most extensive reconstruction. Probably for this reason, the arch was removed, a niche protruding from the front of the tower, the remains of which were discovered during the last reconstruction in 2004.

A tall baroque onion-shaped roof with lanterns on two levels was created. Two bells dating from 1693 were placed in the lower lantern.

There was also a change in the expression of the facades, which were plastered with a new plaster with a bumpy surface without painting. The corners of the tower were decorated with black and white illusory blocks with a diamond cut.

Construction

Like most buildings in the area from that period, it is built of brick, which was produced in brickyards right around Trnava.

number of stairs in the tower

After the end of the military threat, the tower was given a new function, inhabited by firefighters, and used as a lookout tower in the event of a fire in the city. It has served and continues to play an important role, informing the citizens of this business city about time for several centuries.

The existing railings of the walkway are set according to their artistic realization, to Baroque period as well. This expression of the facades remained in a dilapidated condition until almost the middle of the 20th century.

In 1729, a newer clockwork was installed on the 5th floor of the tower. It is an almost 300-year-old clock mechanism that drives 5 dials and 2 bells from the year 1693. The clock drive is purely mechanical.

In 1809, in order to simplify maintenance, the rectangular dials were replaced by the square ones and moved from the original location to the current position, which can be seen on the tower to this day. The major reconstruction changed the Baroque roof significantly in 1875.

floor area size of the tower in meters

After 1875, only the lower onion-shaped part with one lantern was left from the roof construction, above which a new pyramidal end was created. This shape has remained unchanged to this day.

From the monumental point of view, the tower suffered the most in the years 1938 - 1945, when its exterior plaster with elements of illusive decoration (except sundials) was almost completely removed during its repair.

The clock is powered by weights that are attached to ropes and must be stretched once every 24 hours. If this does not happen, time will "stop" in Trnava. The clockwork works like a big "cuckoo clock".

At the end of the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century, during the last renovation of the tower, it acquired a relatively faithful Renaissance style (except for the roof, which is Baroque). Since there was enough information about the original exterior expression of the upper part of the tower from the 16th century, it was decided to present a reconstruction in this form. According to the Renaissance expression, the arch was also restored, the remains of which were discovered during the last reconstruction (2004).

weight of hour weights in kg

About the watchmaker and his family

The city tower was inhabited by guards, watchmen and watchmakers. For the last more than 100 years, men from the Nemček family have taken over the baton in the form of keys from a rare clockwork and are performing this role.

The tower is not an optimal building for daily living, so the family had to climb dozens of stairs every day in the past with buckets of water or coal. The watchman had to report the time every quarter of all four corners of the tower and sound the alarm in the event of a fire.

According to information from the family archives, Pavol Nemček, who came from Kremnica, was the last watchman. Paul and three other generations of Nemček family still lived in the tower.

The current watchmaker (fifth generation) is also the first generation to live "down" and not on the floor of the tower. The father of the current watchmaker remembers life in the tower as follows:

"At this place, where there is currently a sandy base for settling weights, we used to raise poultry, rams, chickens and piglets. We took everything up. My father used to go to the square with the ram, which used to be different, and the ram found some grass to eat there."

Opening hours

The city tower is open:

during the season 1. 5. - 30. 9.
from 10:00 to 18:00 with entry possible at any time during the day.

The last entry is possible during this period 30 minutes before closing.

out of season 1. 10. - 30. 4.
entry to the lookout is possible every hour - at 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00 and at 16:00.

The tower is occasionally accessible even longer, especially during various events taking place on Trinity Square - e.g., Traditional Trnava Fair, Lumen Festival, Lovely Experience Festival, Advent Markets, etc. The city tower is open every day of the week, including weekends and holidays.

The tourist information center located on the ground floor of the town tower is open from 10:00 to 18:00 during the season (May 1 - September 30) and from 10:00 to 17:00 during the off season (October 1 - April 30).

Entrance fee

Adult - 3 €
Student / Senior / Disabled - 2 €
Child up to 16 years - 1 €
Child up to 6 years - free
Family admission (2 adults + 2 children) - 6 €

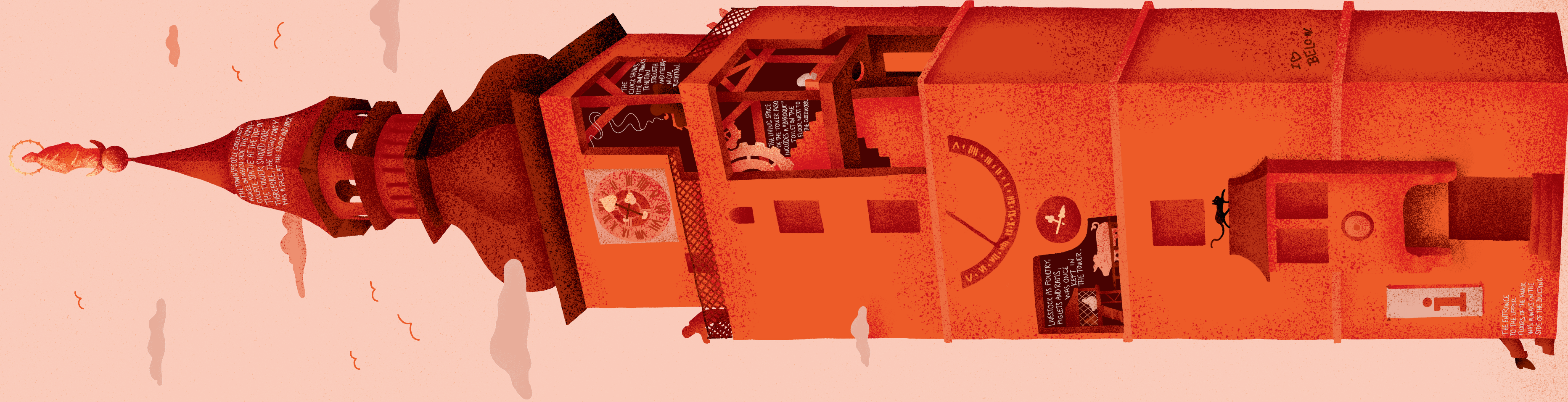
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Find out more at:



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city tower in Trnava

