

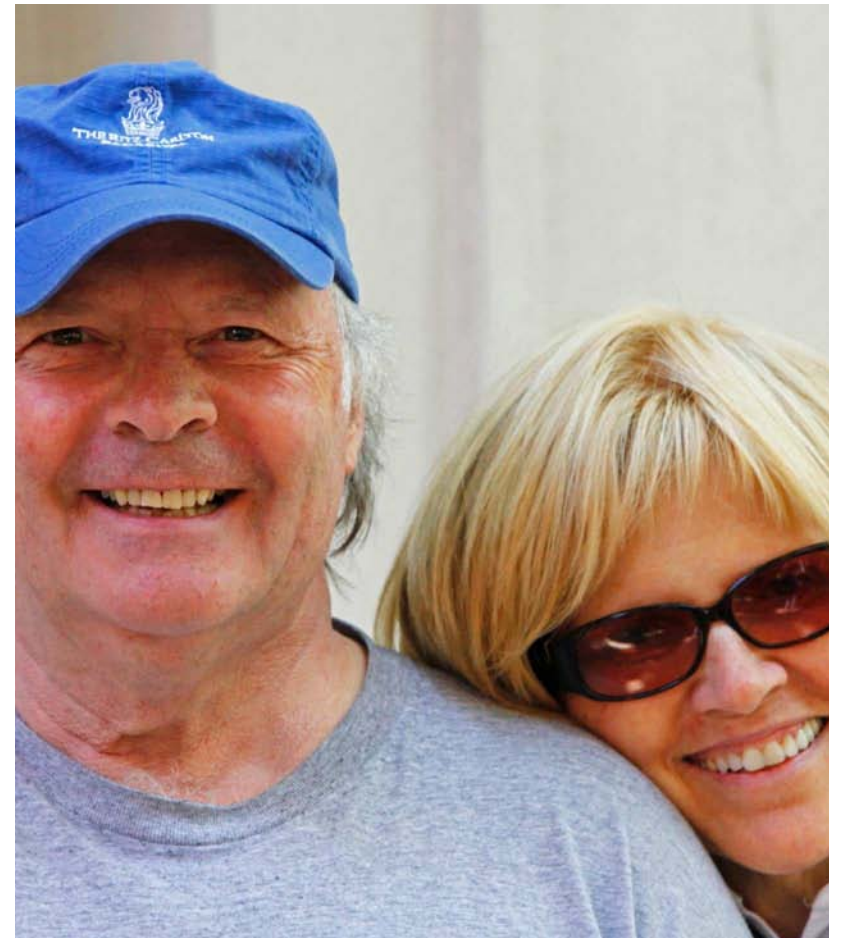
PRAGUE

by Bill Lockington



PRAGUE







THE CITY OF MARIONETTES







CITY SCAPES

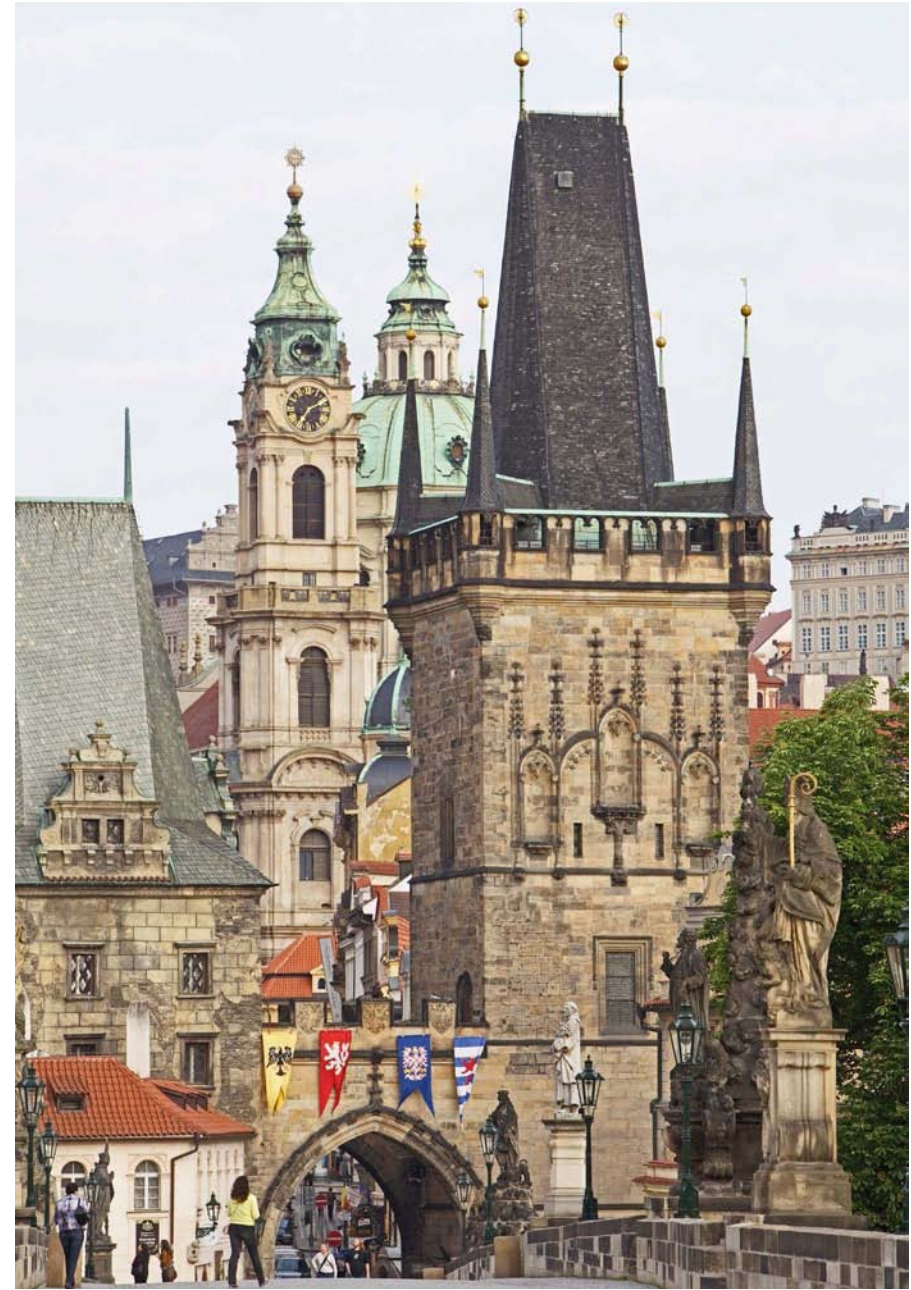






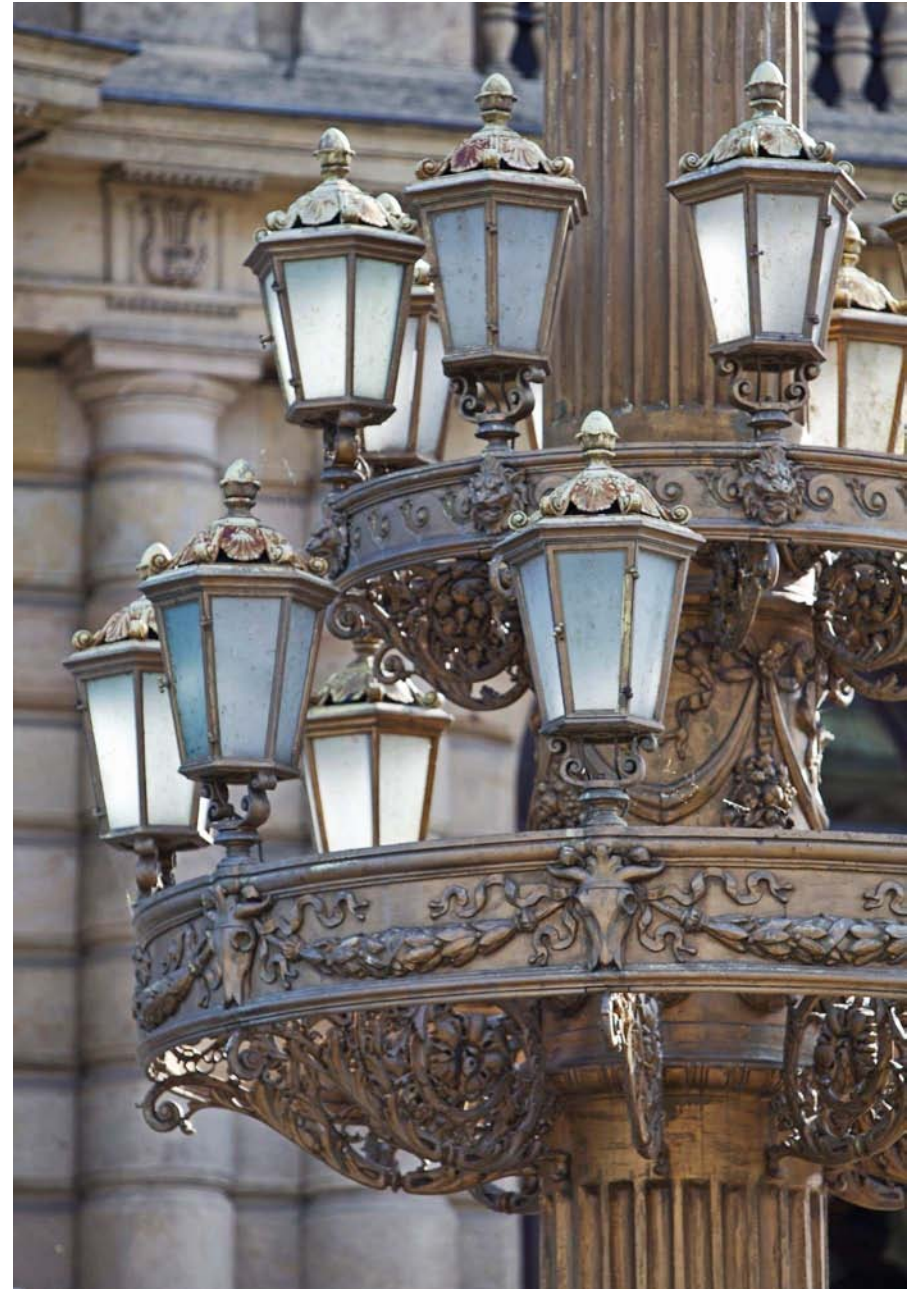
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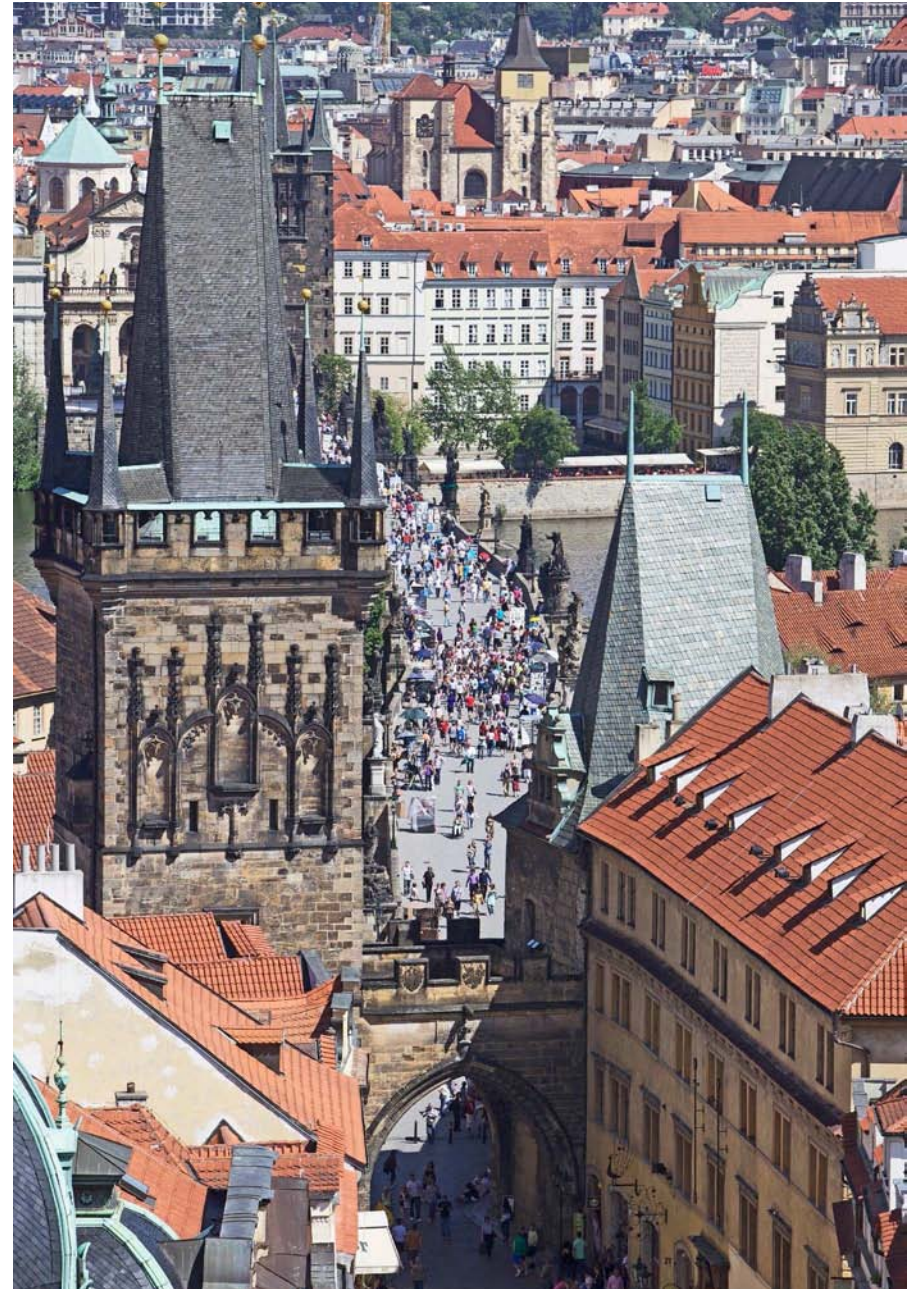


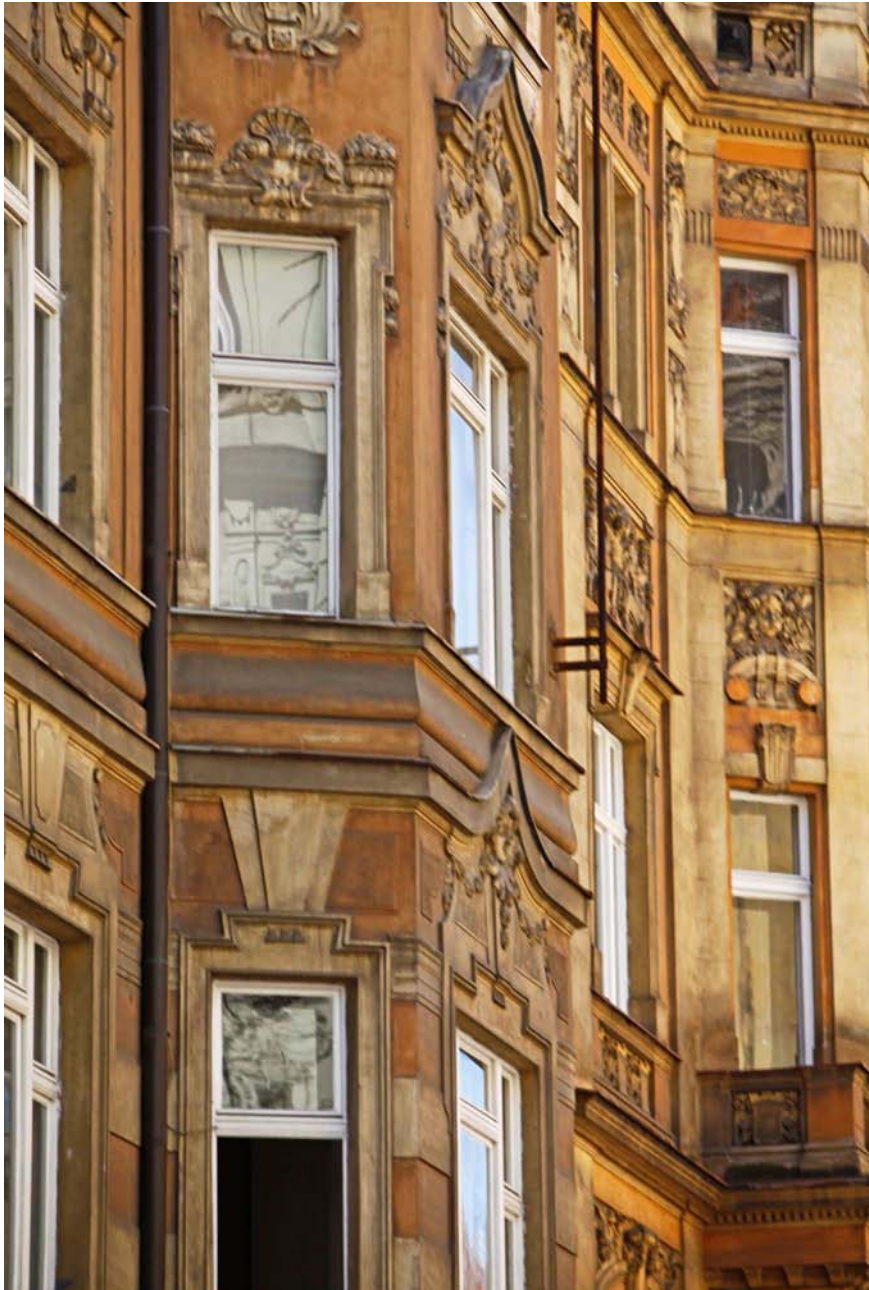
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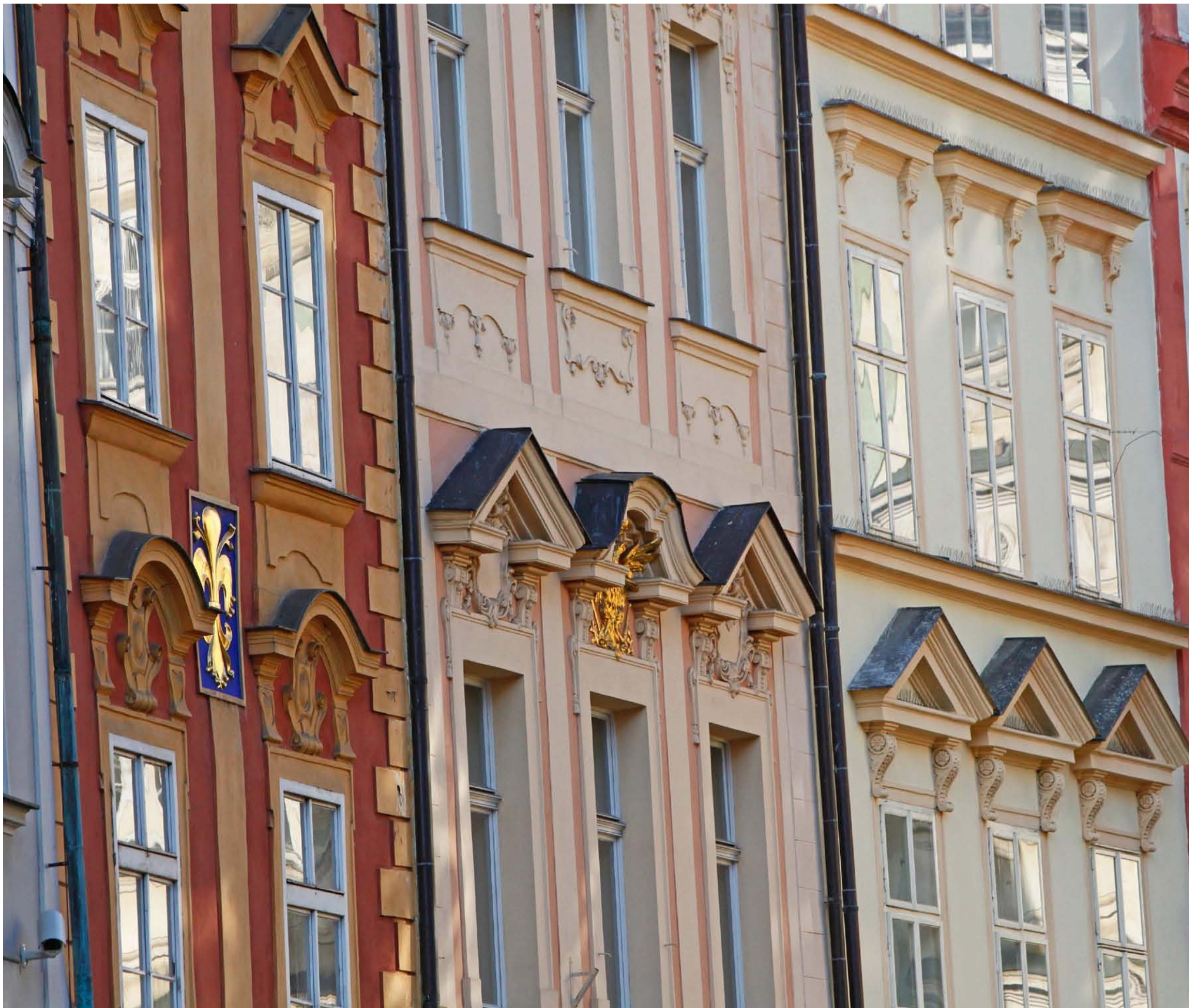




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OUR TRANSPORTATION







An original tram car in Wencelas Square - with painted people.



This is the famous "22" Tram; we had been told that if you wanted to see Prague, all you had to do was ride the "22" from one end to the other. We did this on the second day, Gail leading the way and when we thought we were going one way, we were really going the other. A great ride though!







STREET SCENES





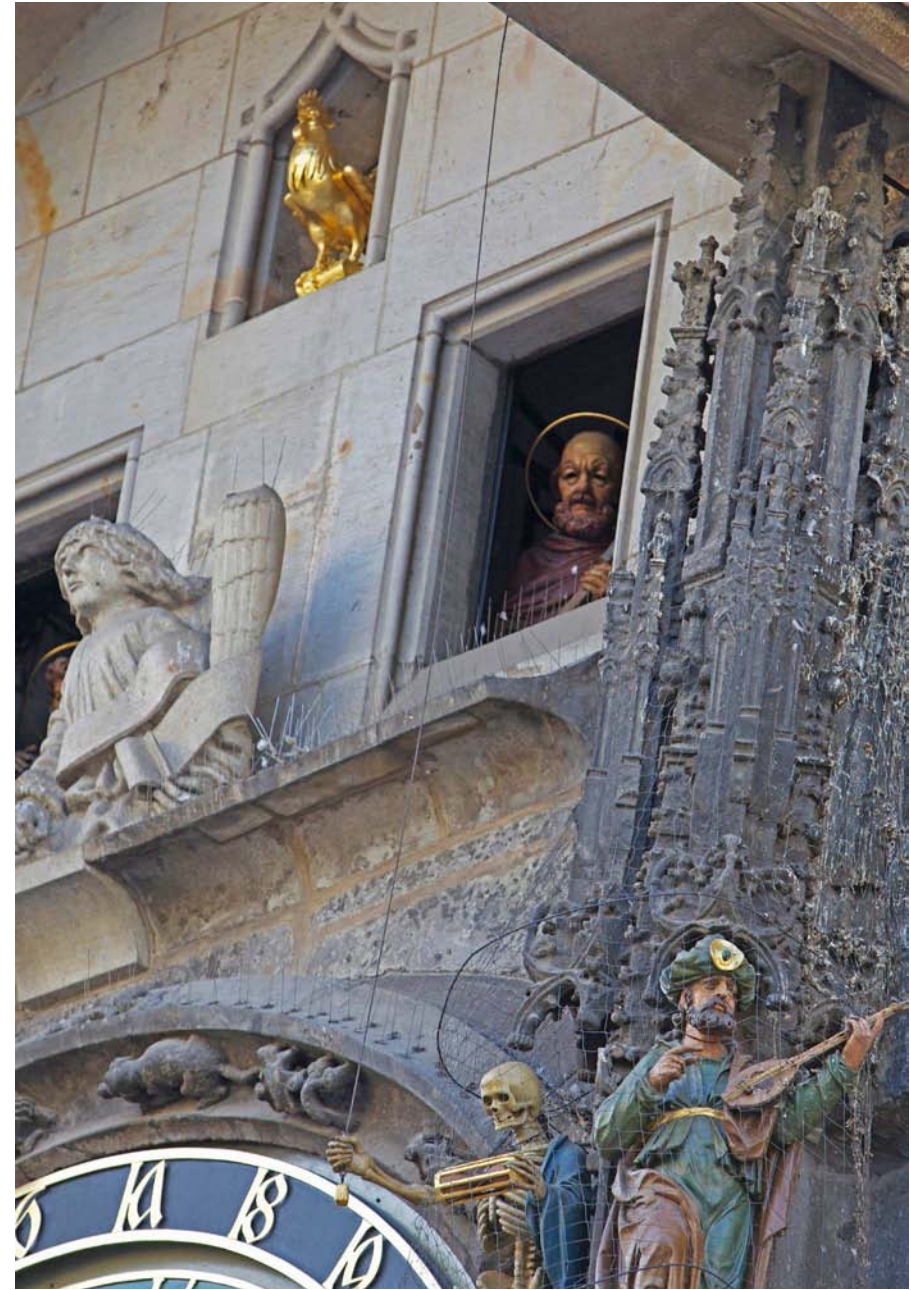


The Astronomical Clock

The Town Clock, the centrepiece of the Town Square, was first built at the start of the 15th century and rebuilt in 1490 by the master clockmaker Hanus, who it is said, was blinded by the town councillors because they did not want him to recreate his work. Each day, the clock draws huge crowds to see the procession of the 12 Apostles. First, the figure of Death, the skeleton on the right of the clock gives a pull on the rope that he holds in his right hand. In his left hand is the hourglass, which he raises and inverts. Two windows then open and the clockwork Apostles (or to be precise, the 11 Apostles and St. Paul) move slowly around in the window opening, led by St. Paul. At the end of this part of the works, a cock crows and the clock chimes the hour. The other moving figures are a Turk, who shakes his head from side to side, Vanity who looks at himself in a mirror and Greed, adapted from the original medieval stereotype of a Jewish moneylender.

The Astronomical clock features the clockmaker's view of the universe with the Earth fixed firmly at the centre. The purpose of the clock was not to tell you the exact time but to imitate the supposed orbits of the sun and moon about the earth. The hand with the sun, which points to the hour, in fact records three different kinds of time. The outer ring of medieval numerals measures old Bohemian time in which a day of 24 hours was reckoned from the setting of the sun. The ring of Roman numerals indicates time as we know it. The blue part of the dial represents the visible part of the sky. This is divided into 12 parts. In so called Babylonian time, the period of daylight was divided into 12 hours, which would vary in length from summer to winter. The clock also shows the movement of the sun and moon through the 12 signs of the Zodiac, which were of great importance in the 16th century in Prague.







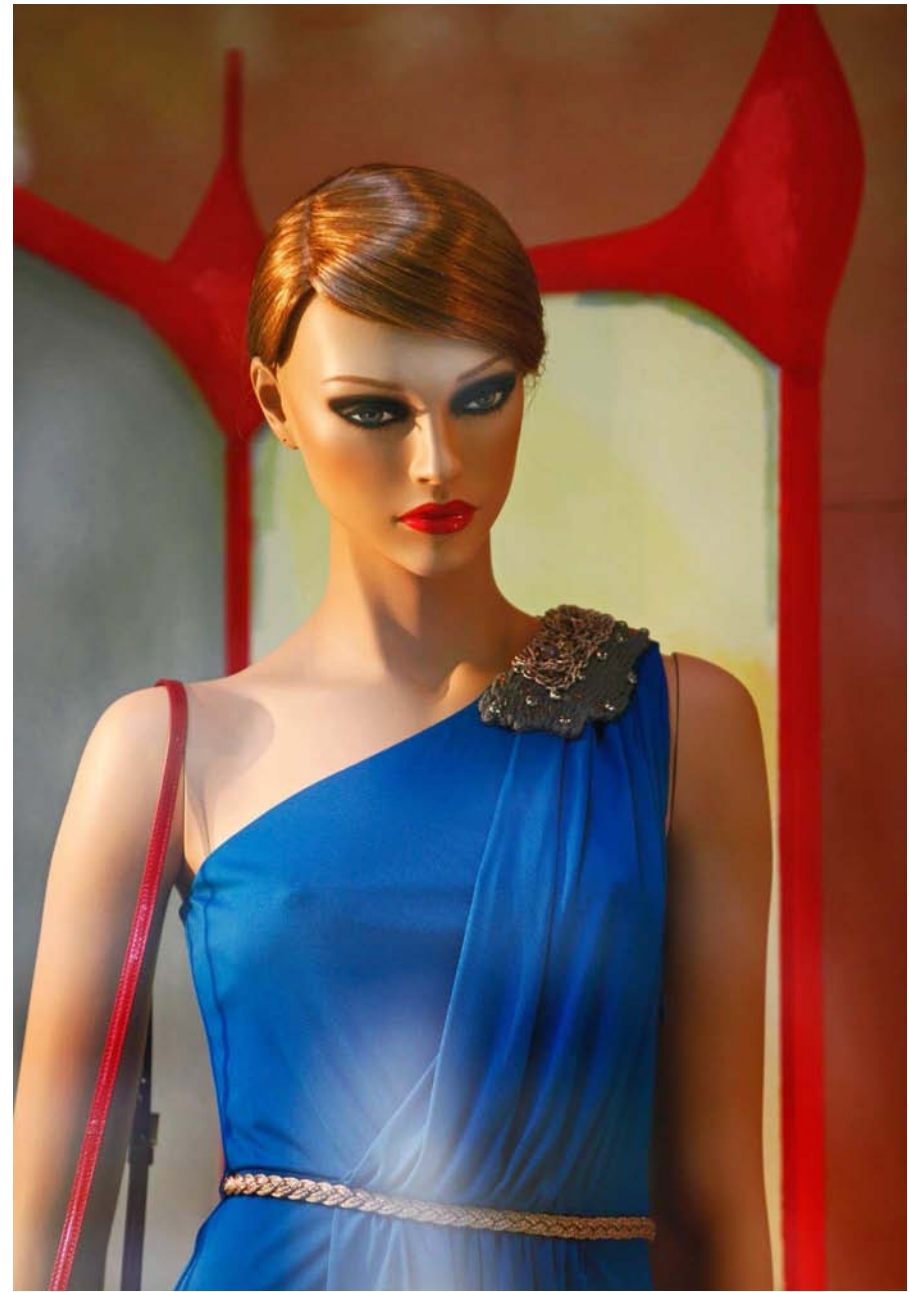








WINDOW IMAGES







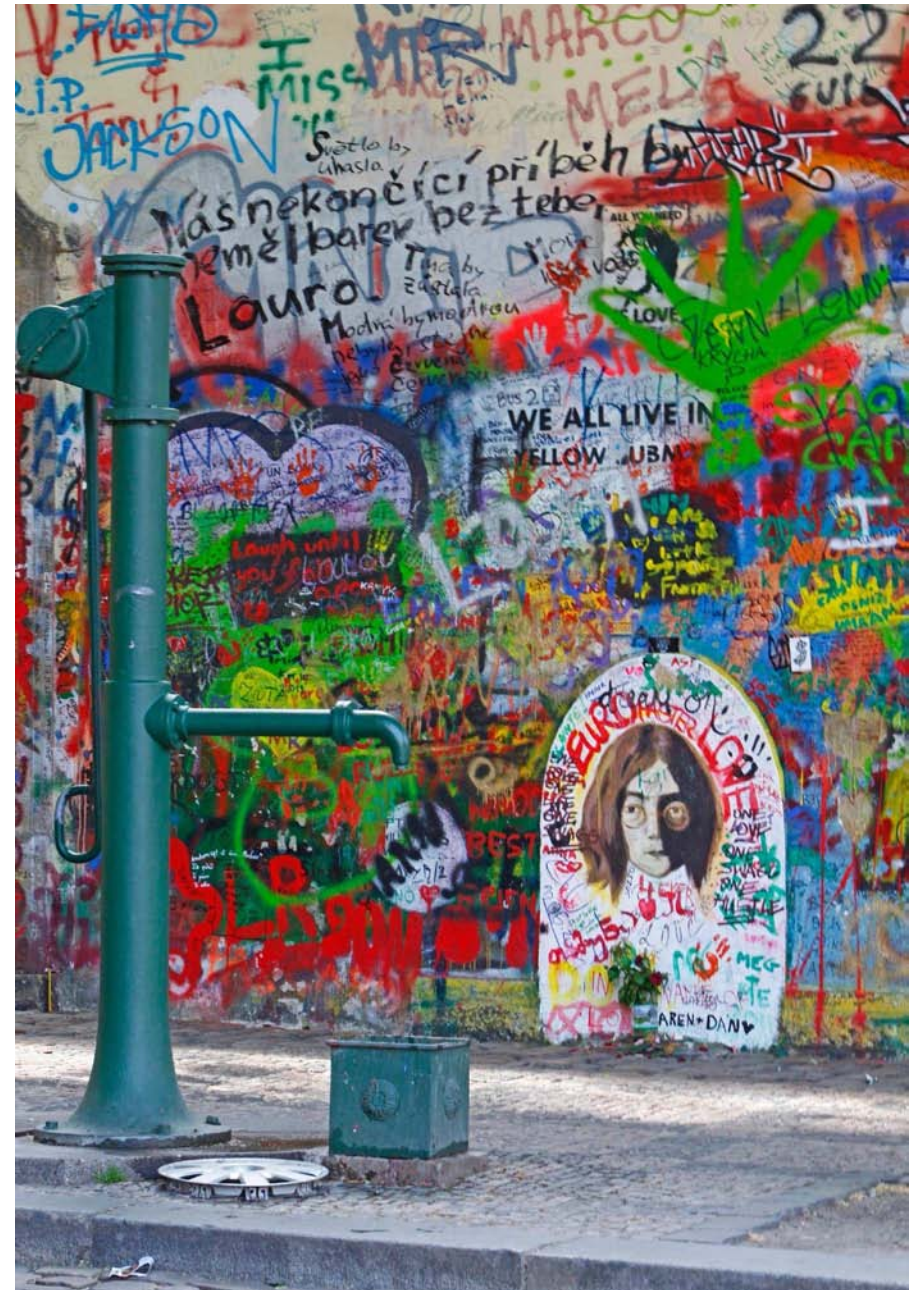


Wall Art









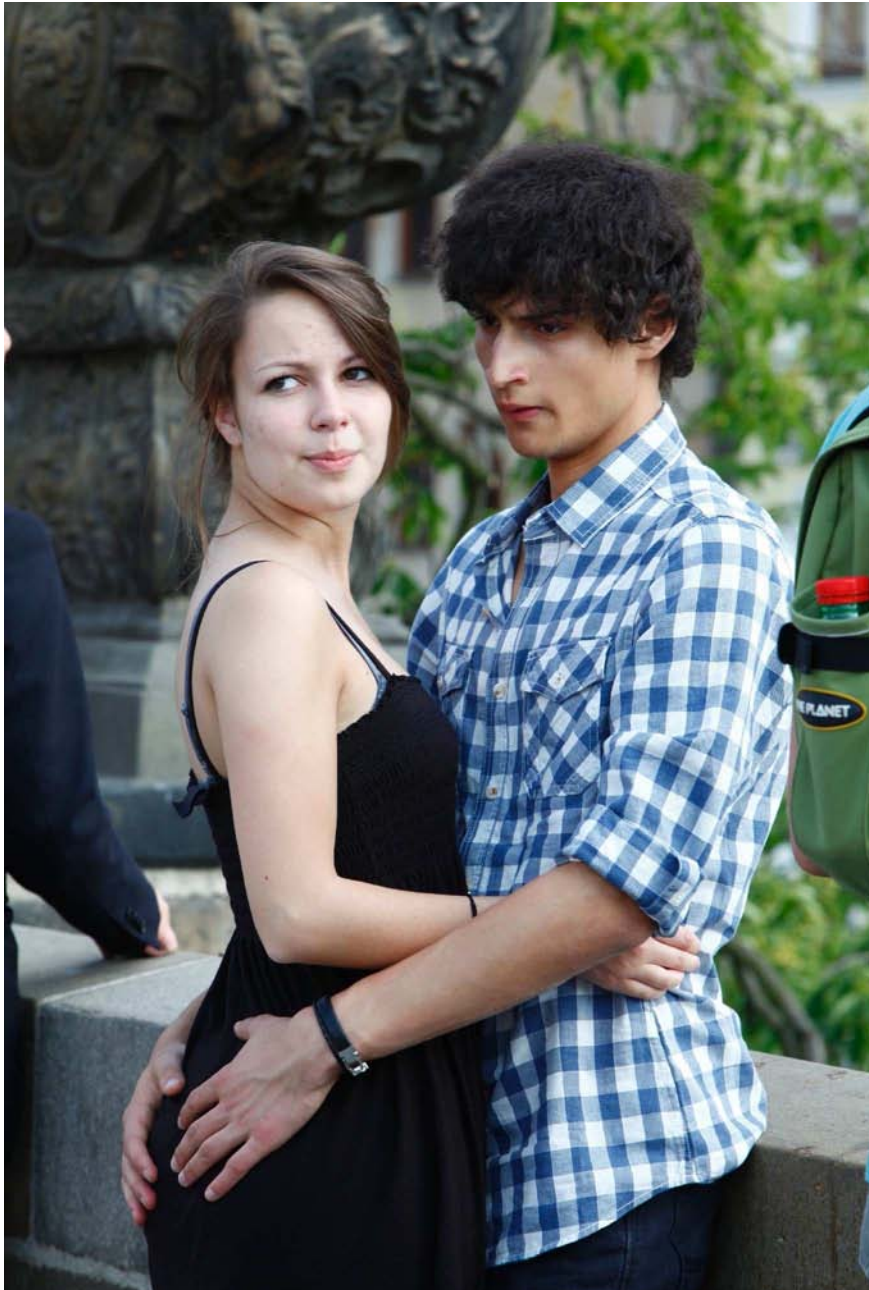




The People













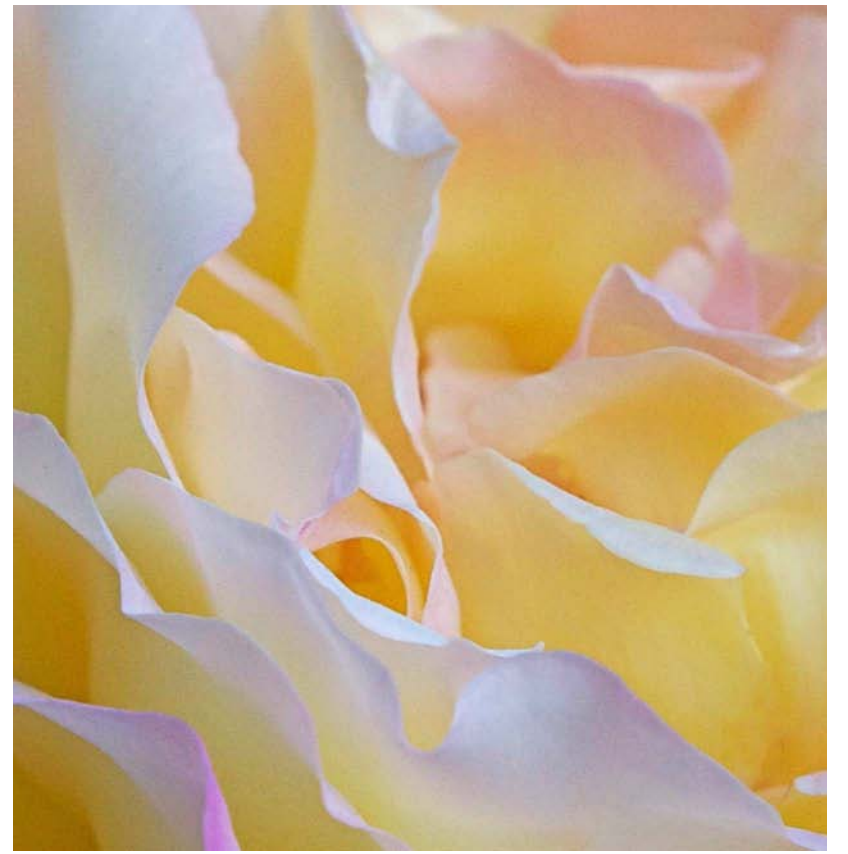


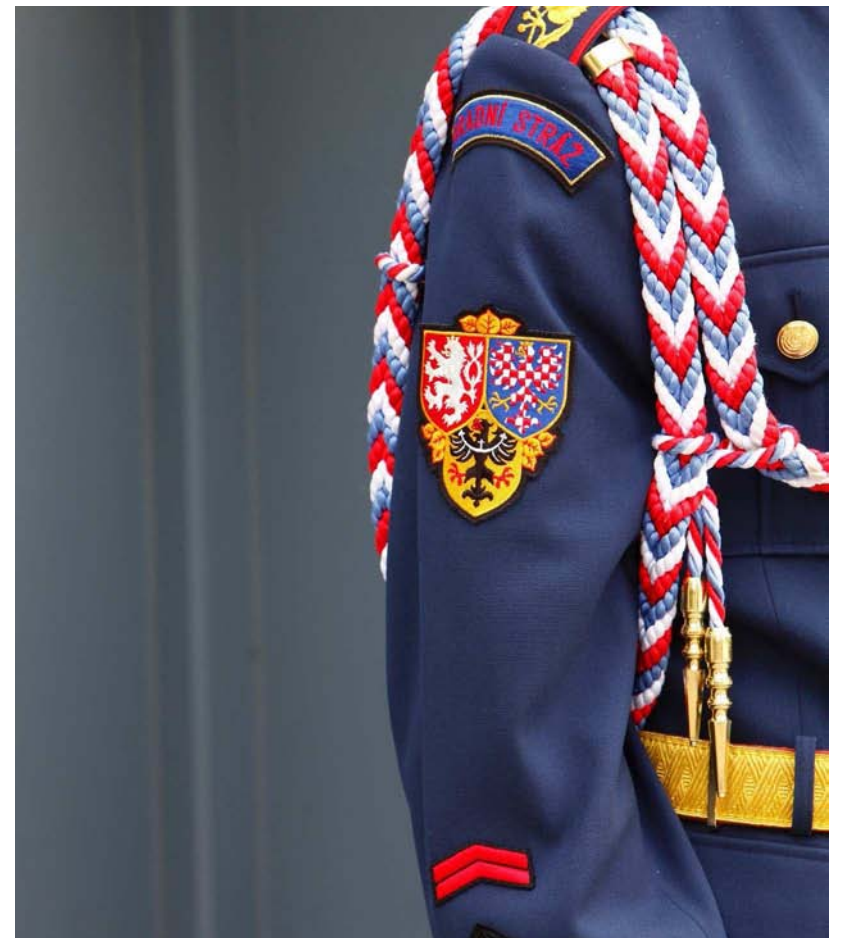














The Charles Bridge

The Charles Bridge (Karlův Most) was founded in 1357 by Charles IV. By the latest researches, construction was started by Master Otto and finished by Petr Parler in 1402. On both sides the bridge is fortified with towers, (Lesser Town Bridge Towers and the Old Town Bridge tower). The Baroque sculptures and sculptural groups on the bridge are mostly from the 18th century. (Matthias Braun, F.M. Brokof etc.). The bridge is only open to pedestrians and midday, traversing the bridge is a most time consuming exercise. It is a centerpiece of Prague, beautiful at any time.

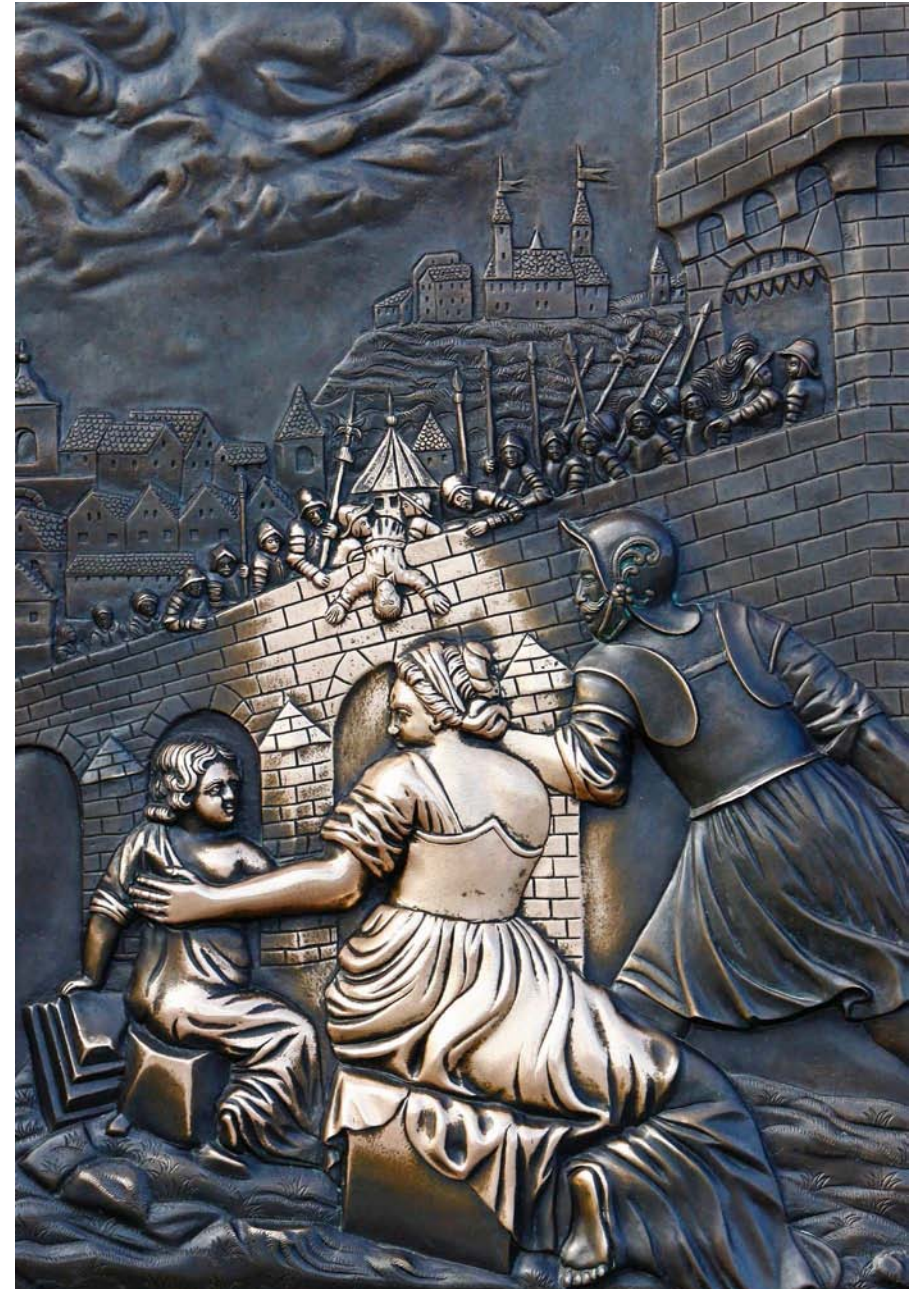
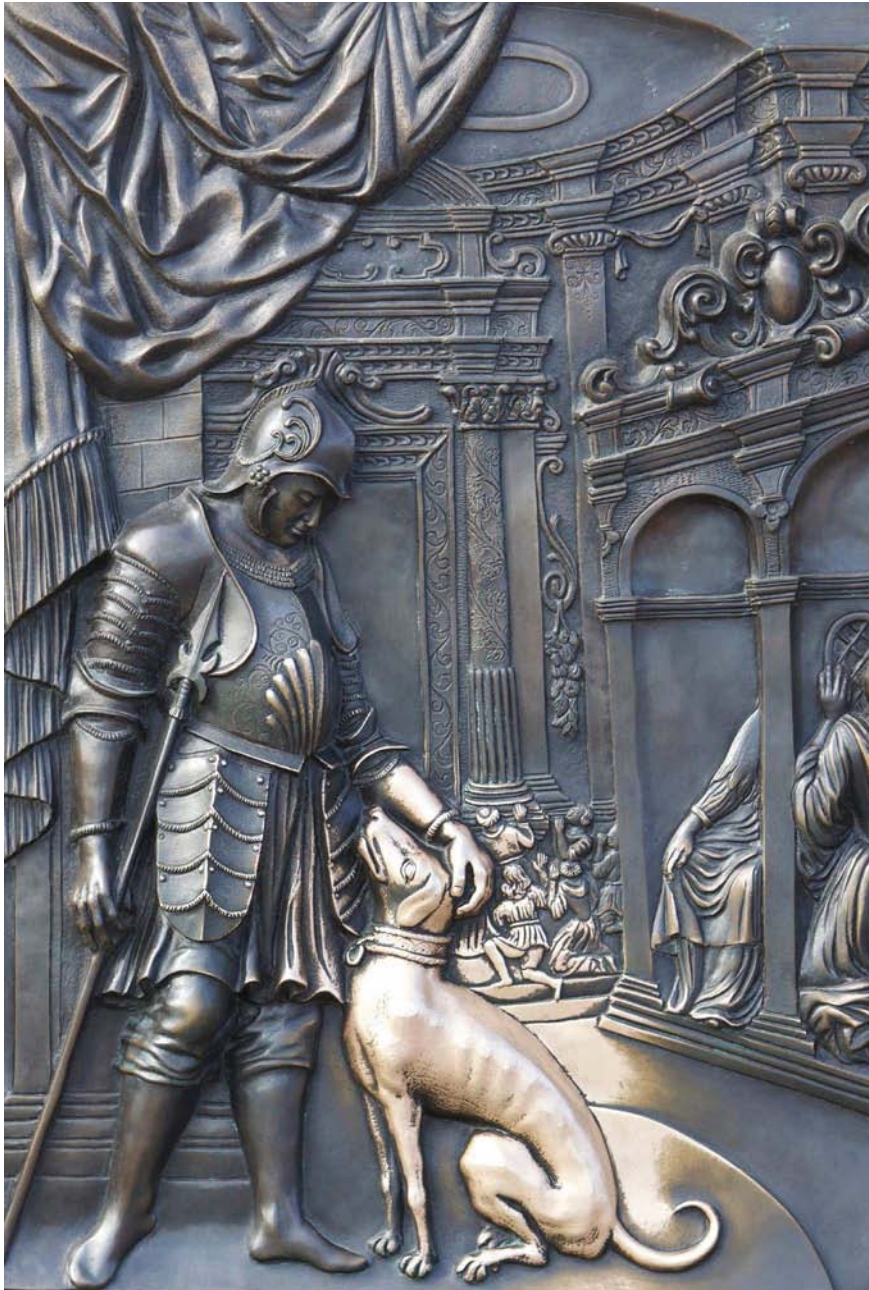




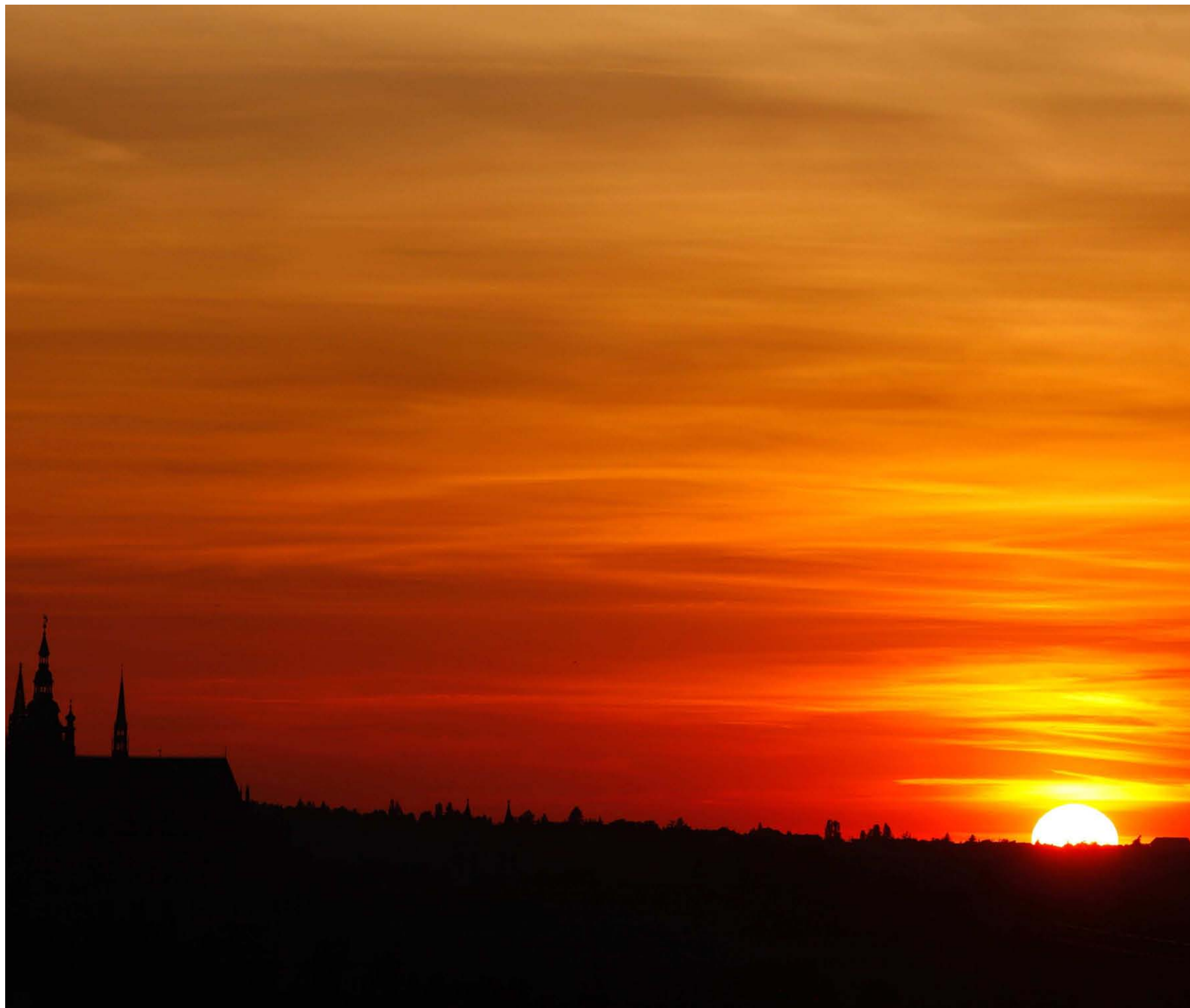




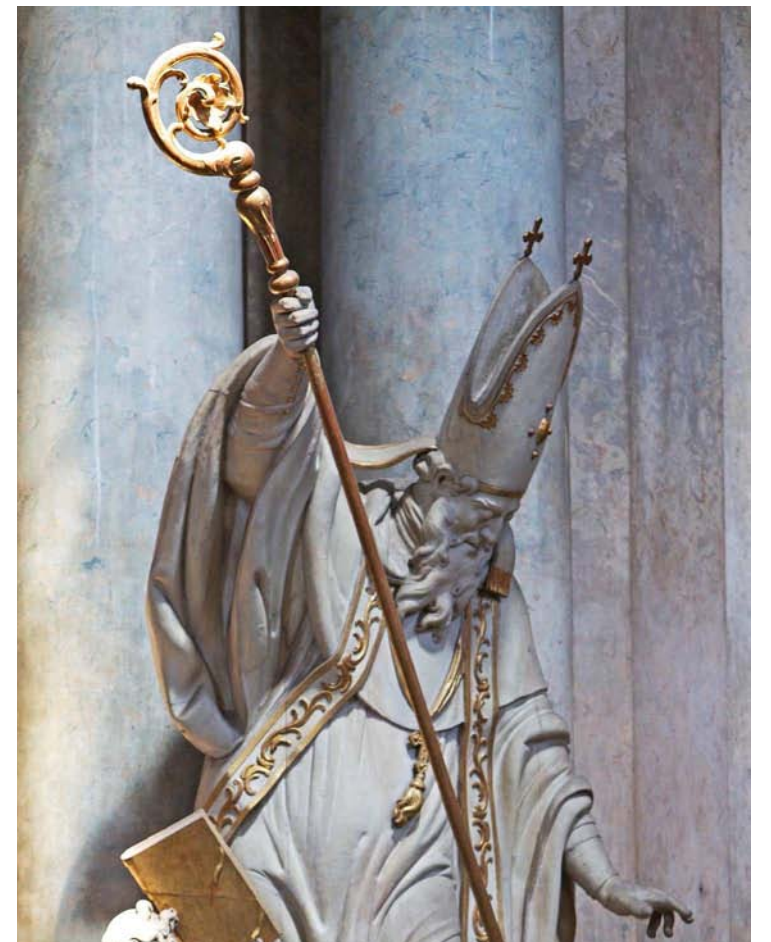
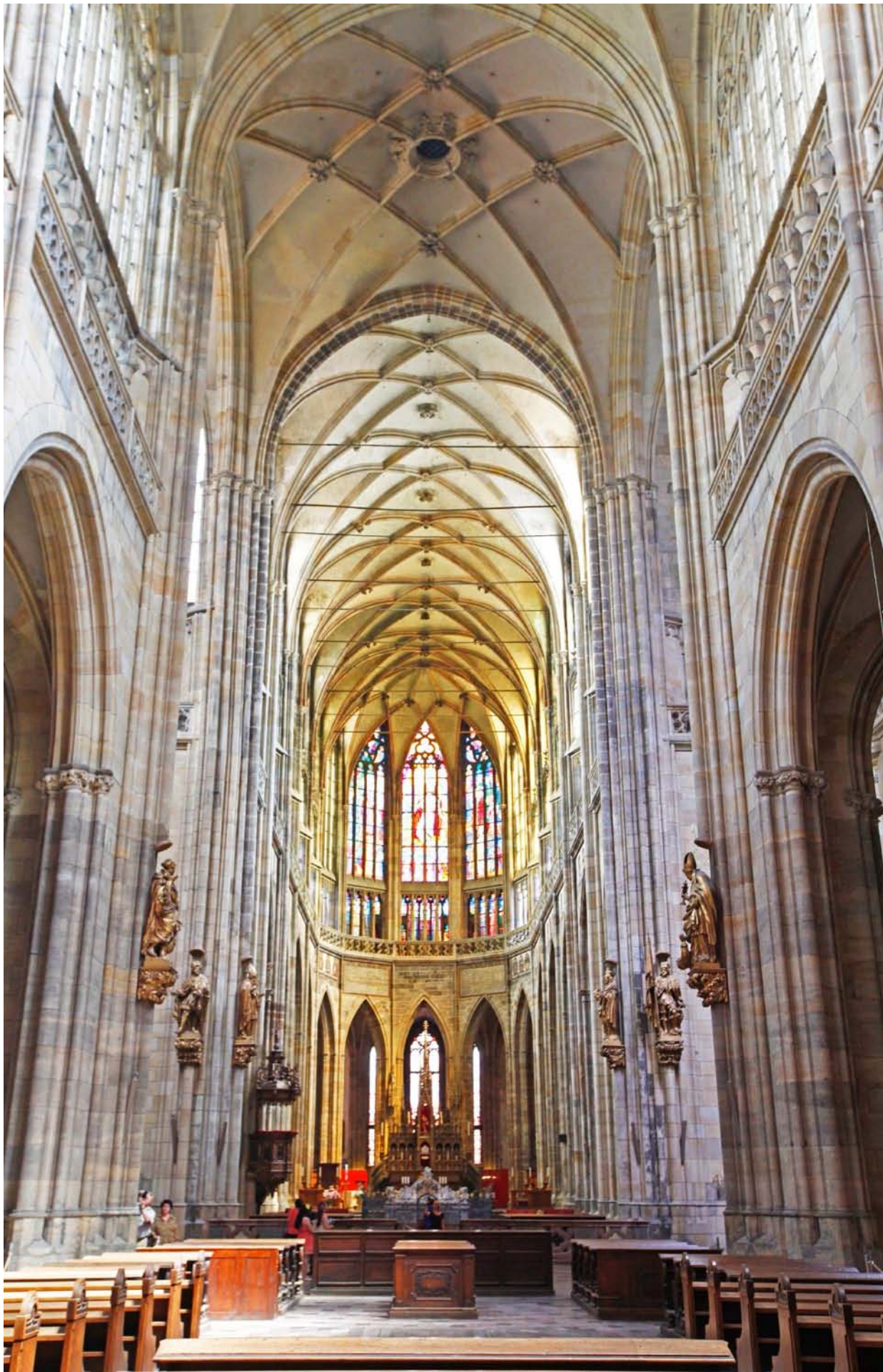


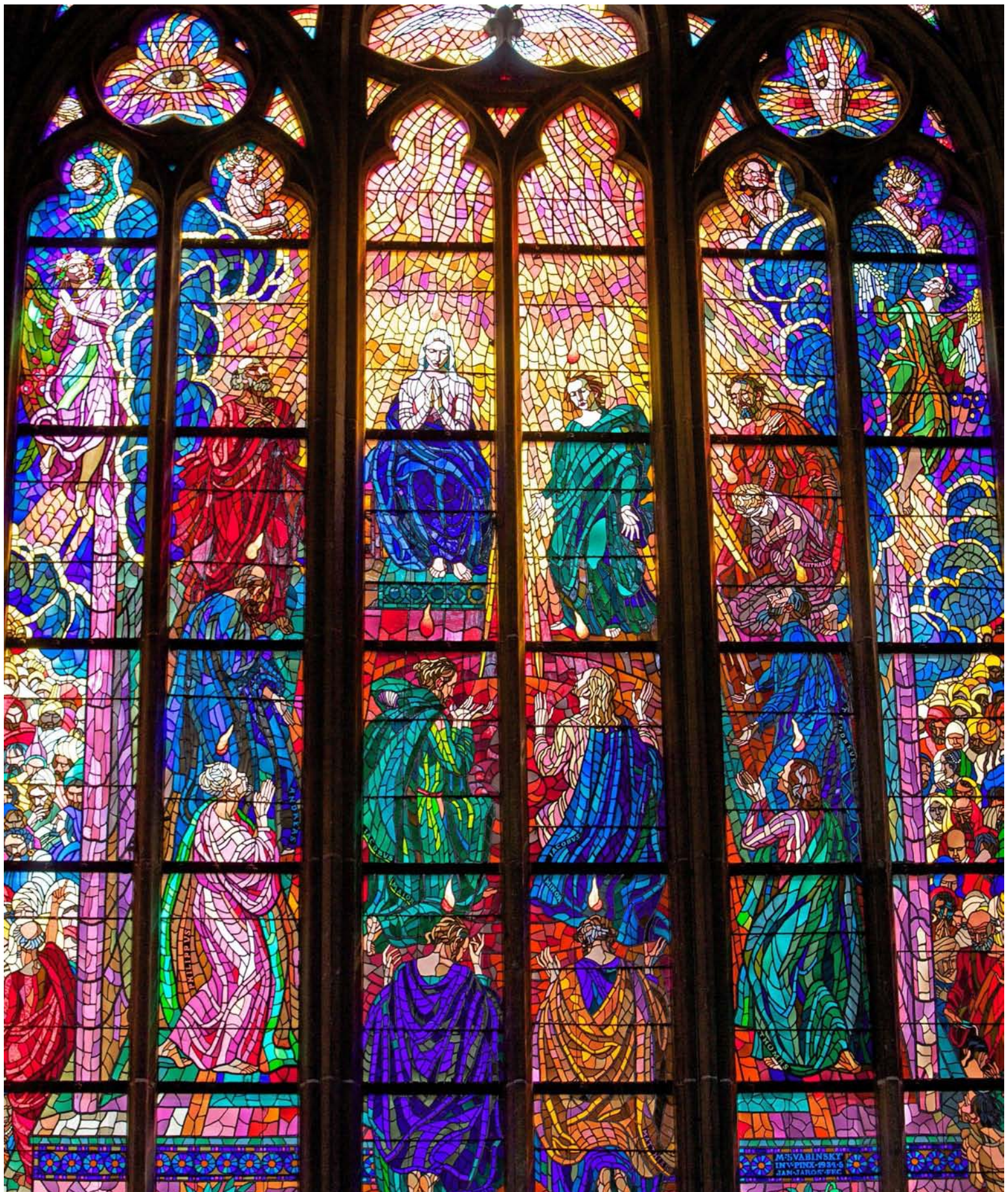




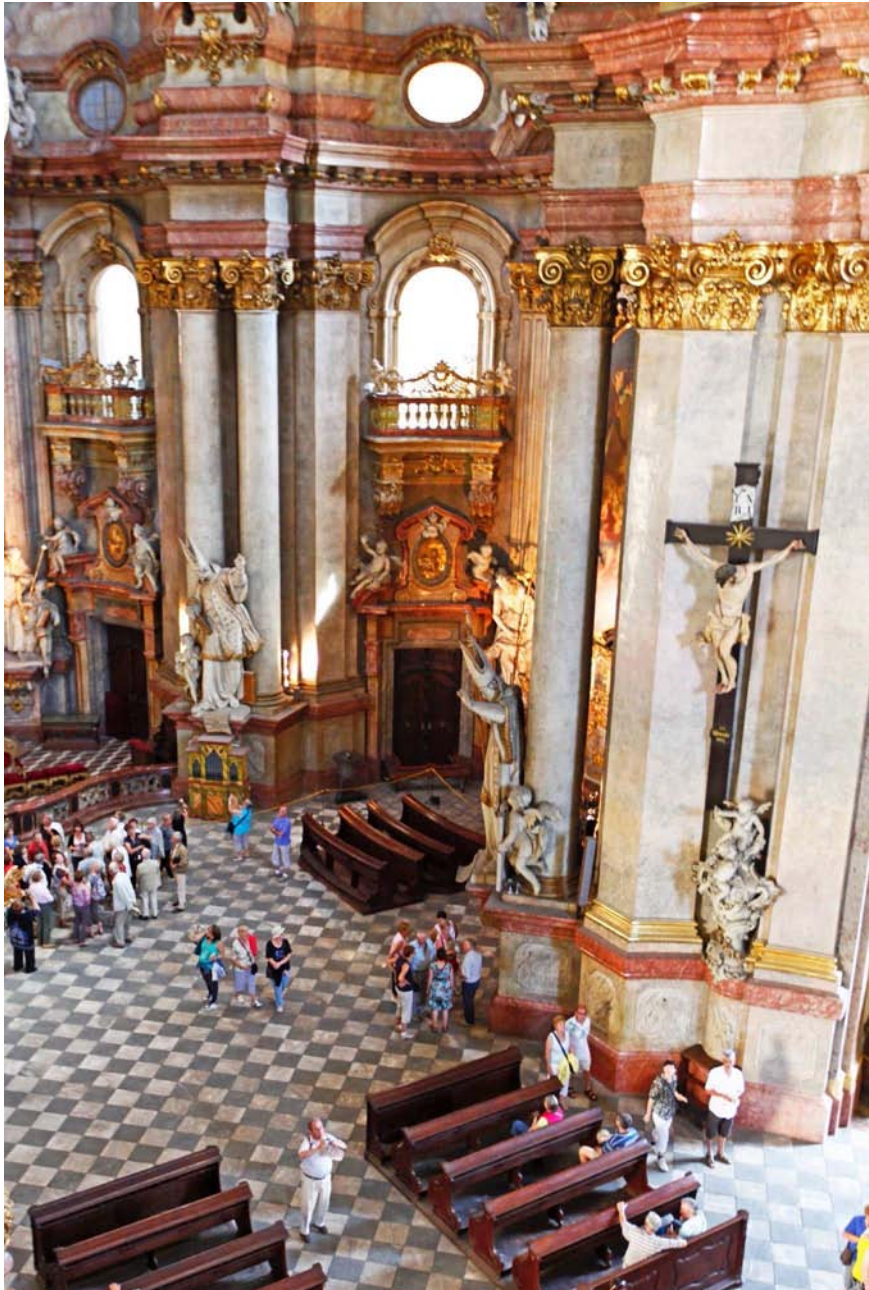




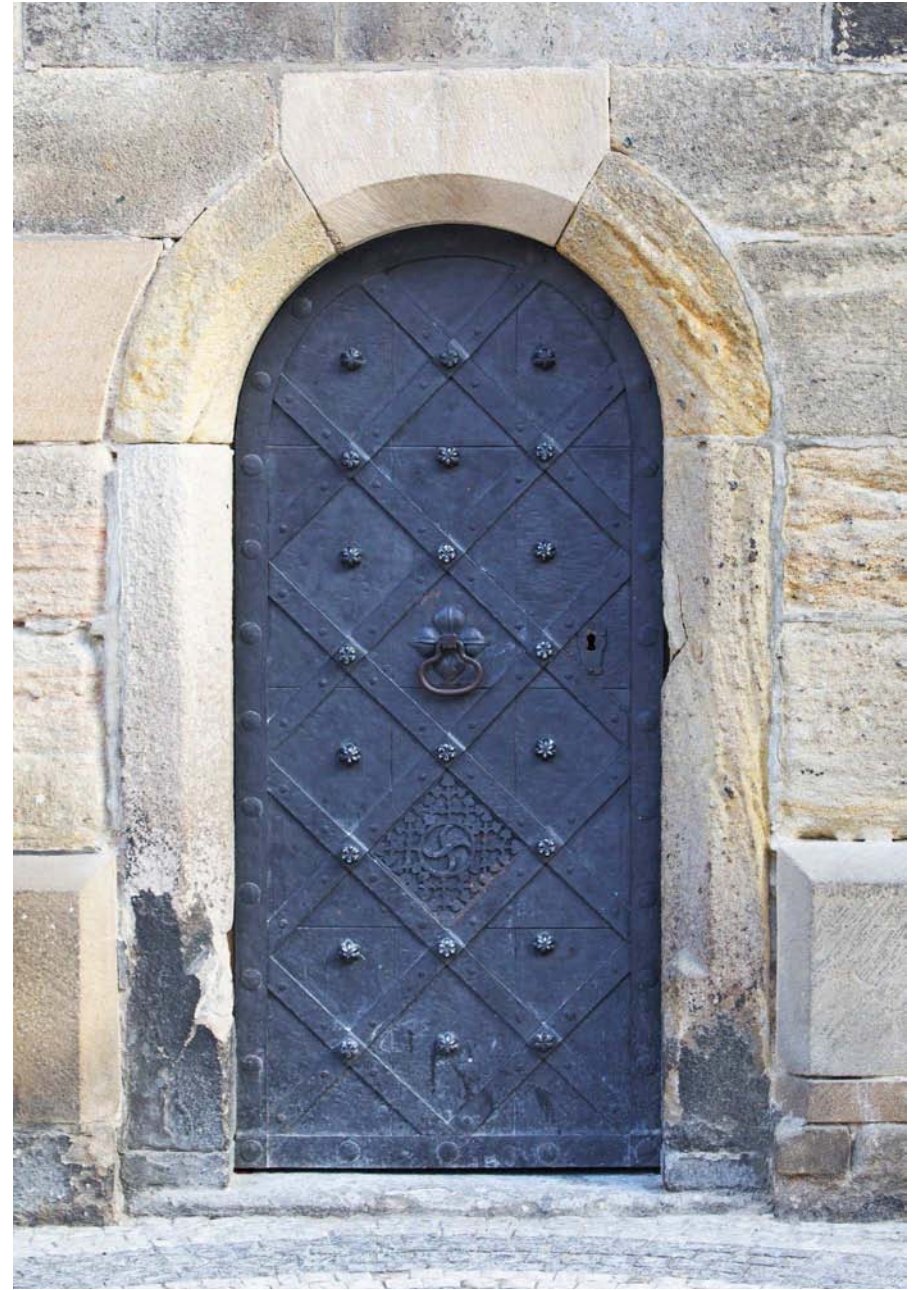


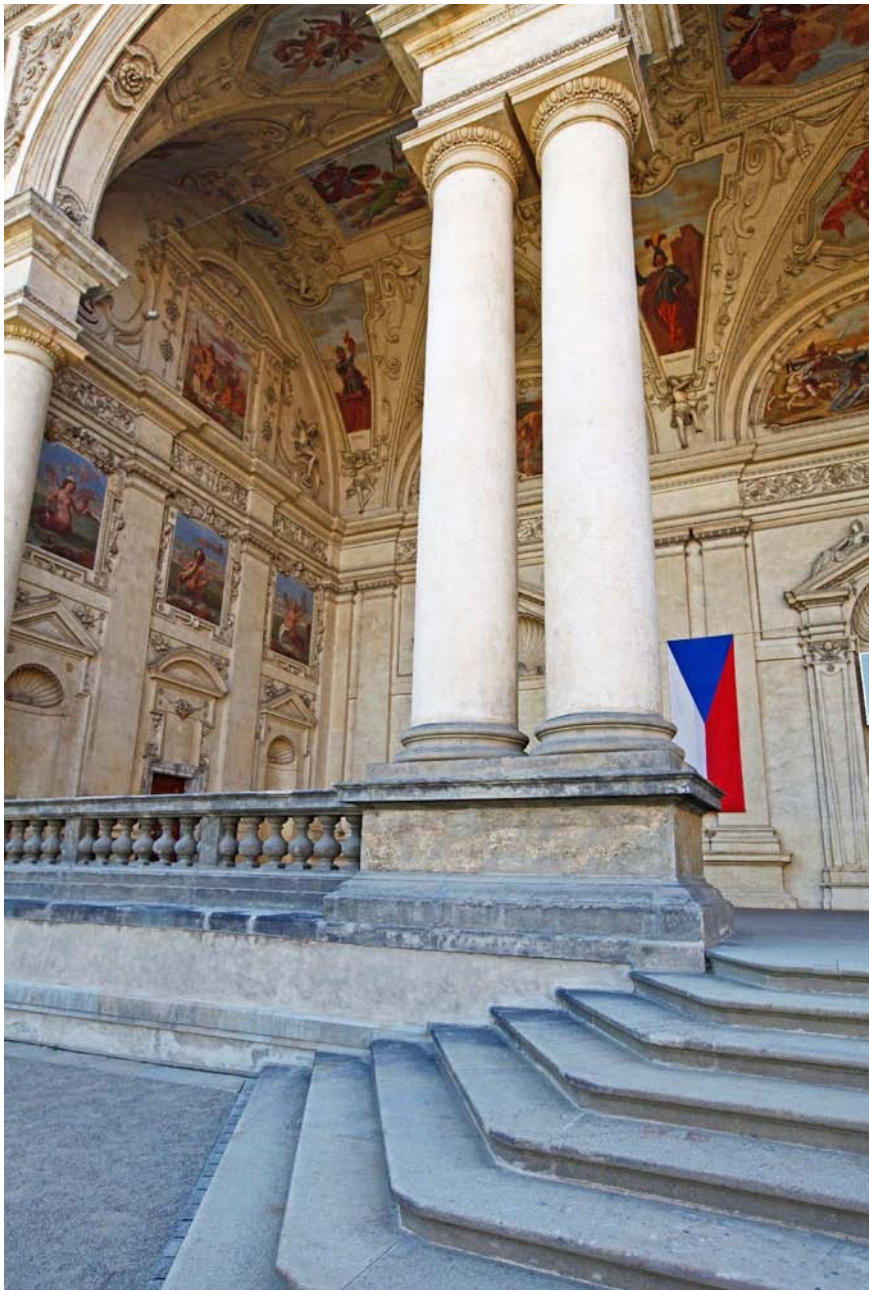








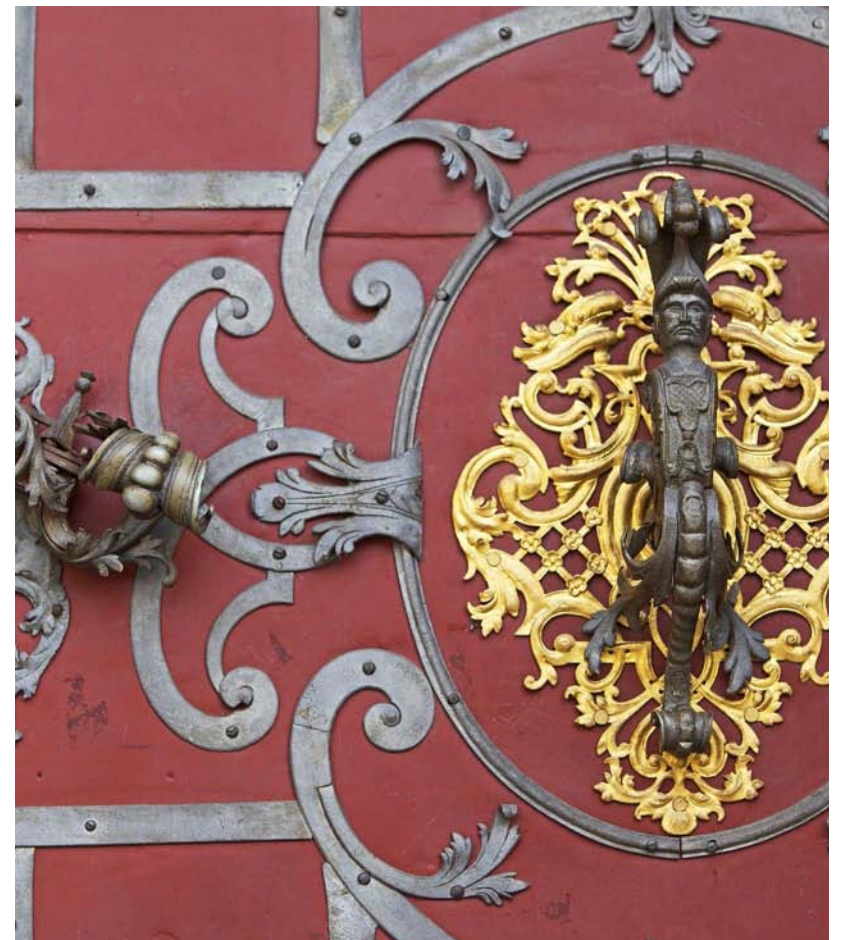
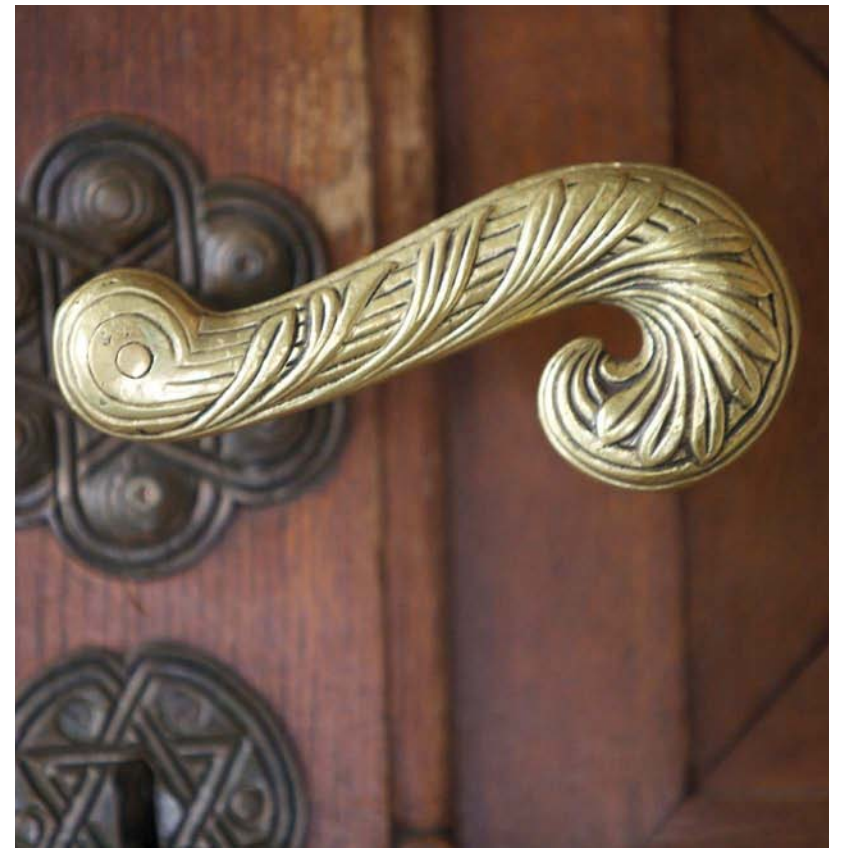






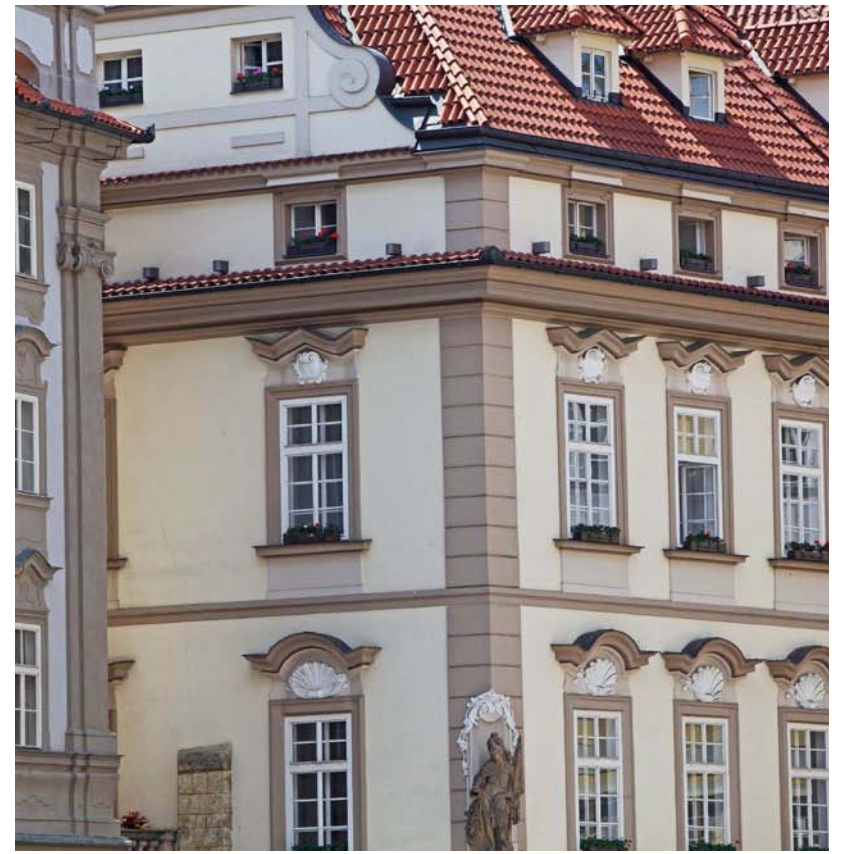
















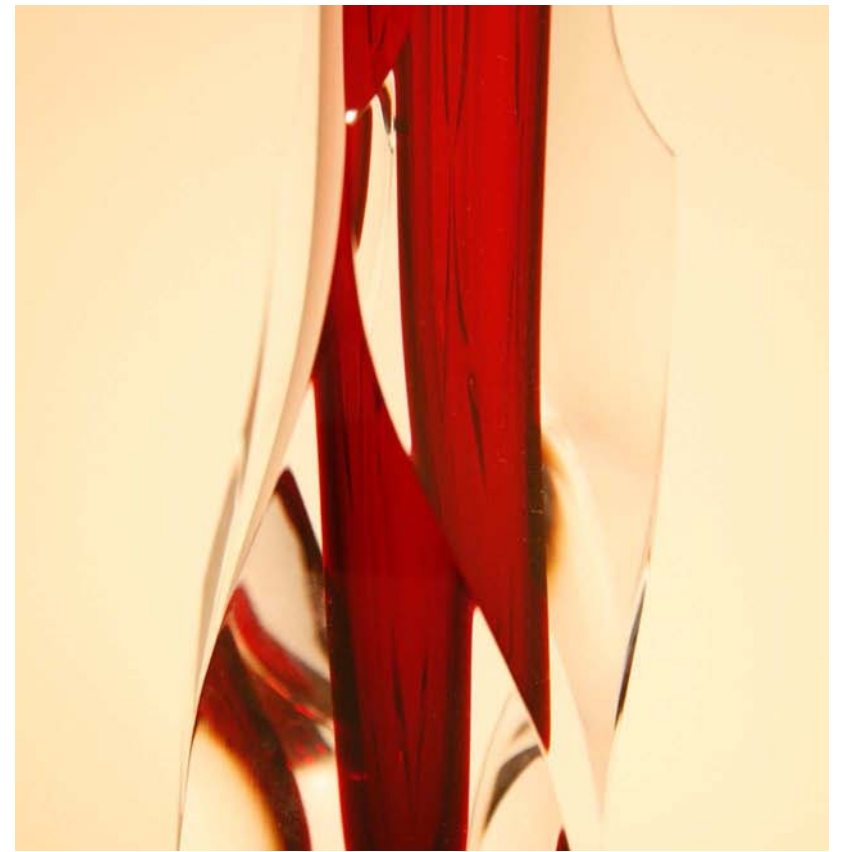


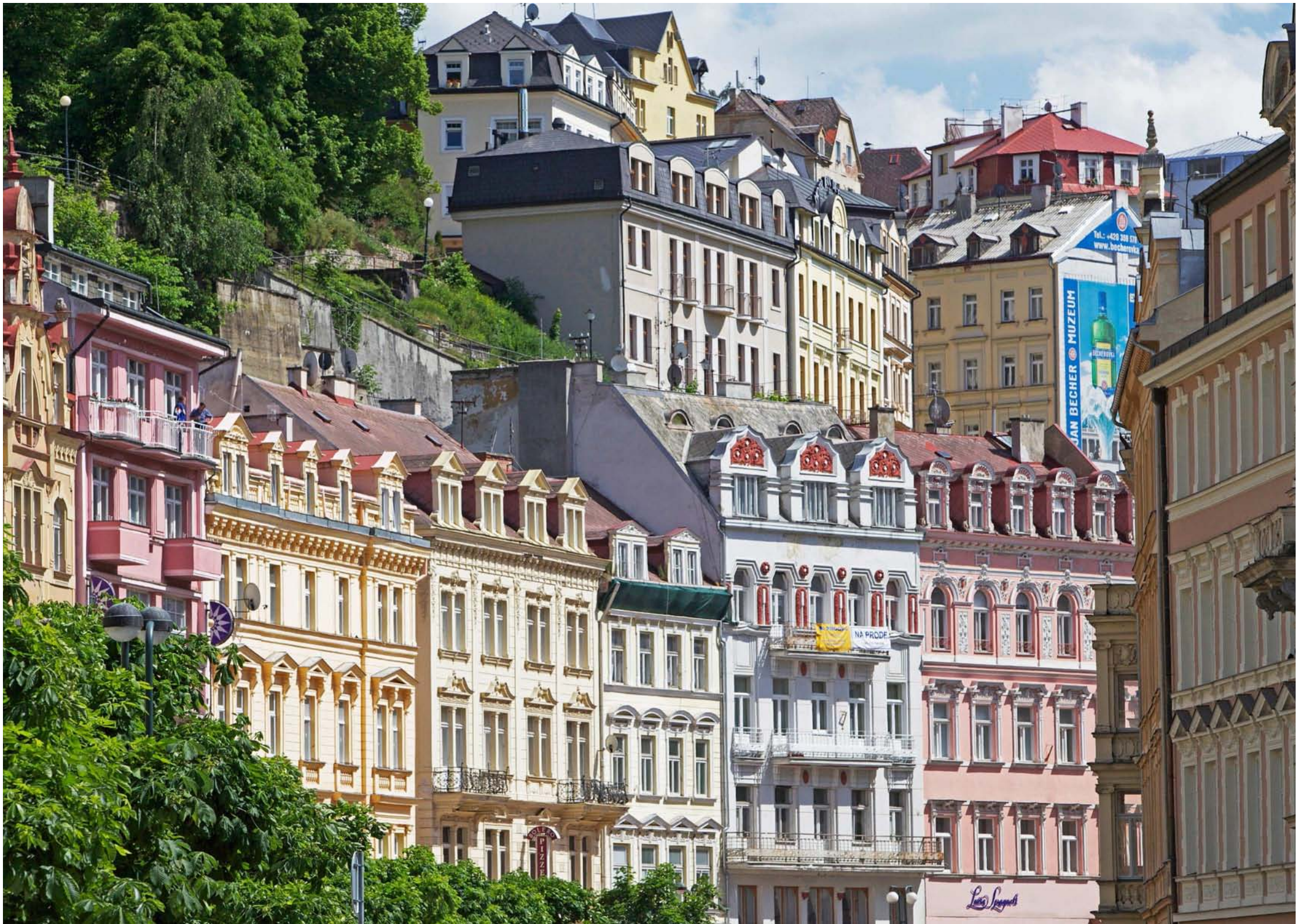


Karlova Vary - The Moser Glassworks

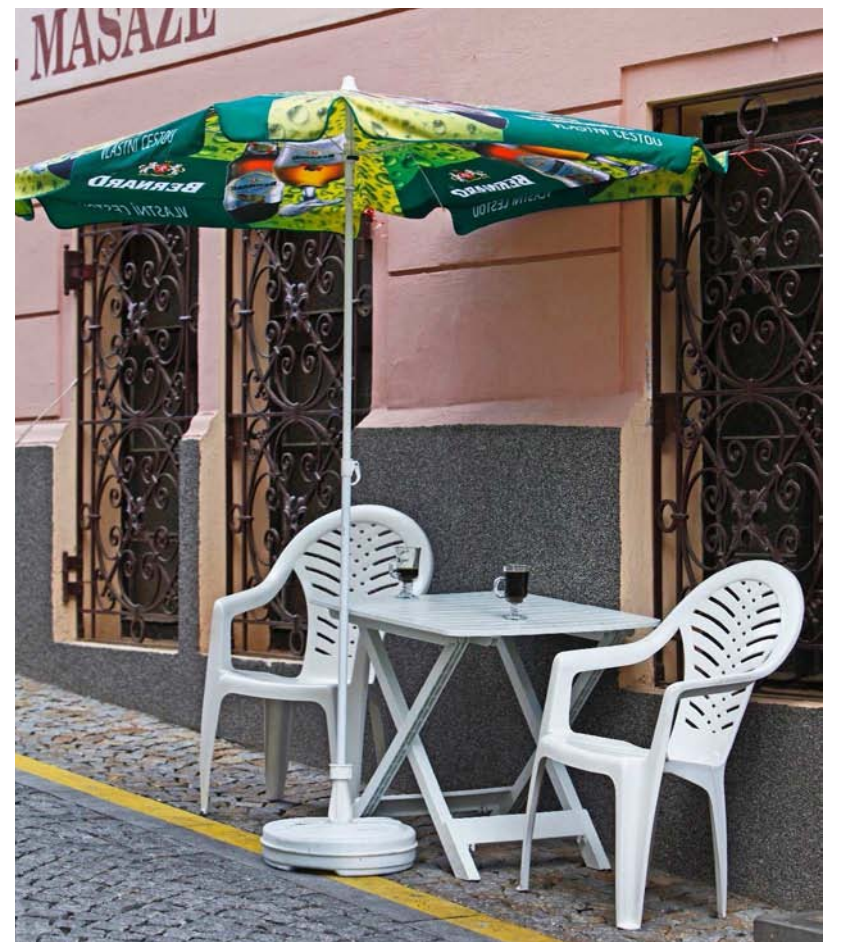
We took a day trip to Karlova Vary. Boarding the bus at 8:30 , we travelled 85 miles west of Prague to visit this famous 'Spa Town', home to 12 hotsprings and the Digestive waters in its mineral springs. Before we arrived at the town, we stopped before lunch at the Moser glass factory, one of the most famous in the Republic. The architecture is beautiful, with every colour under the rainbow.





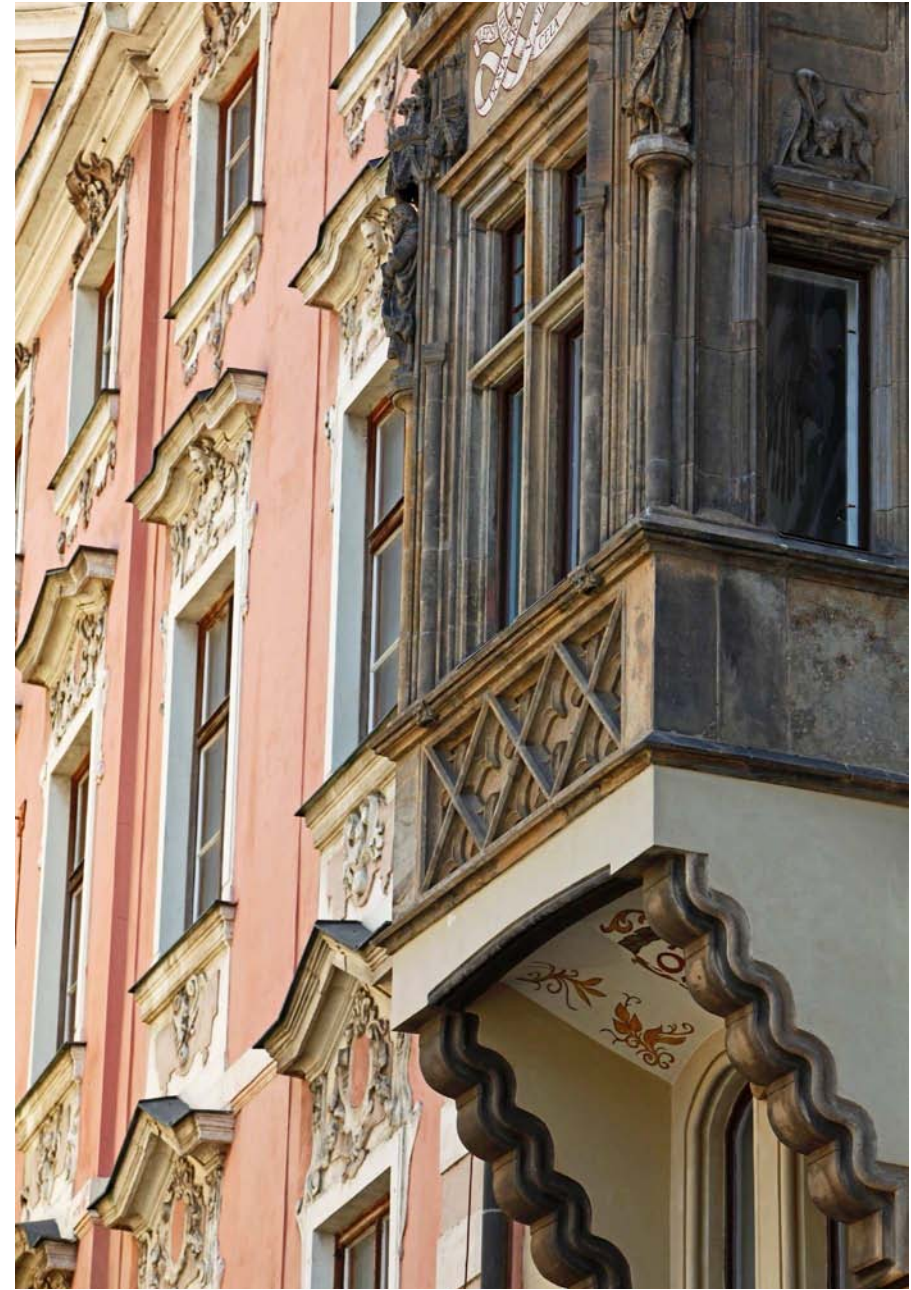




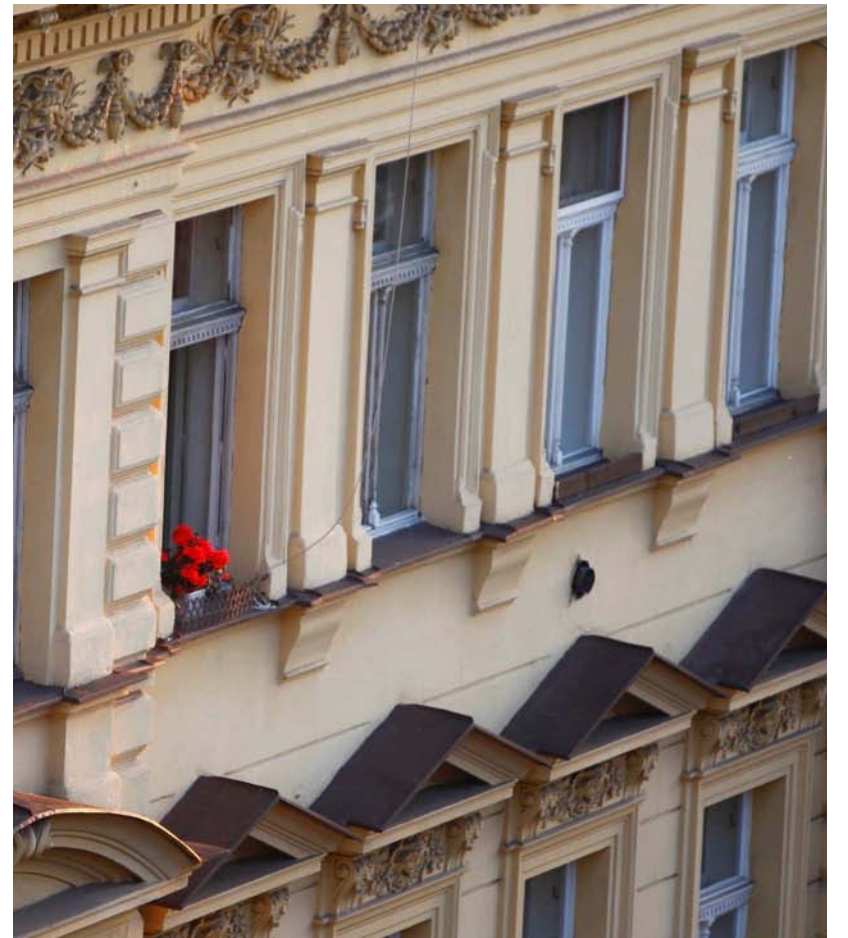
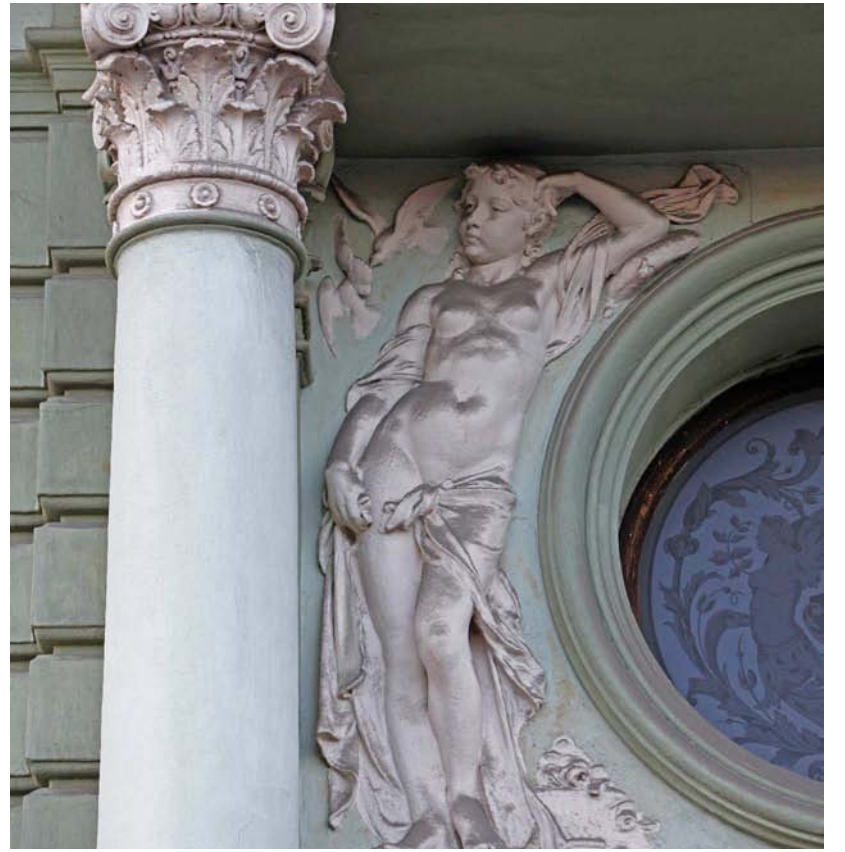


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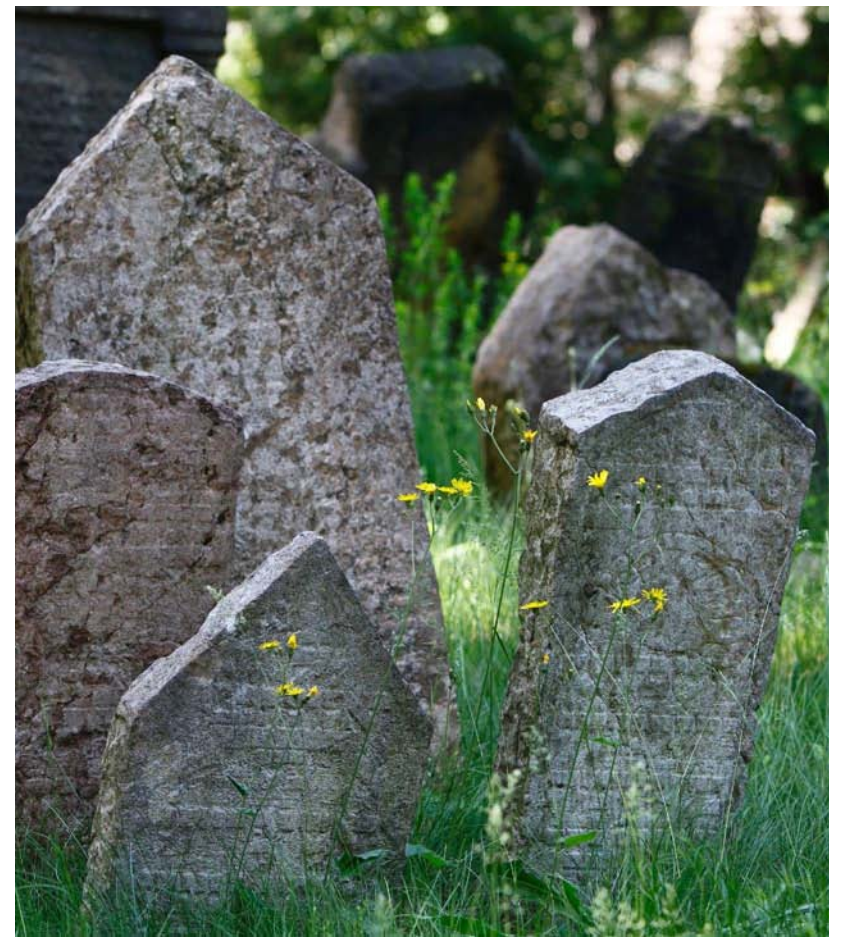
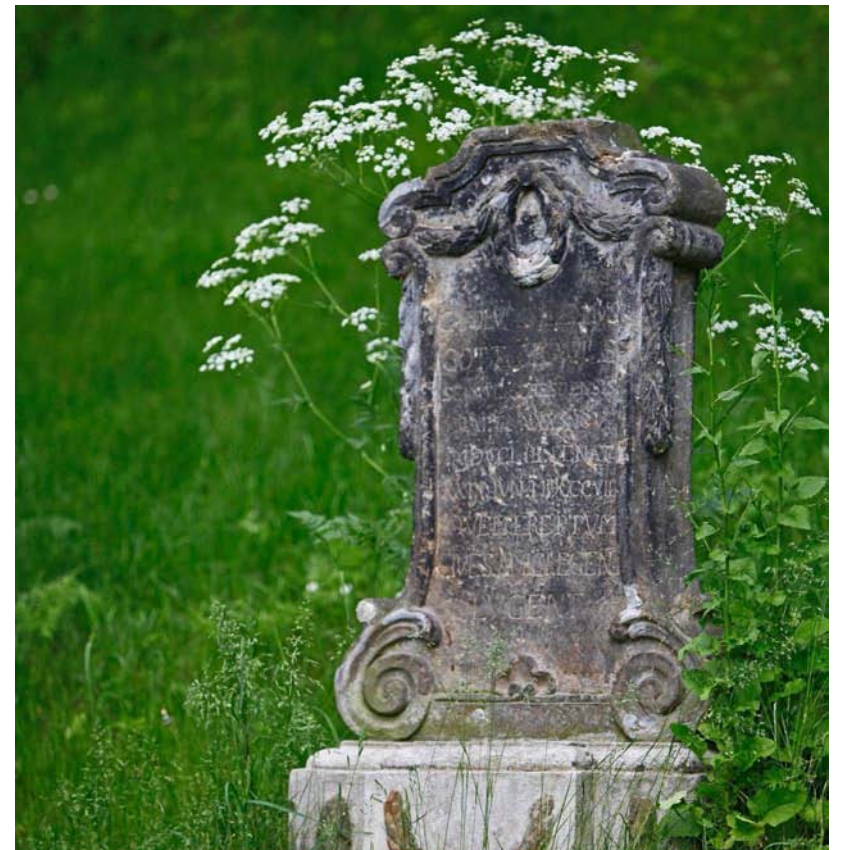
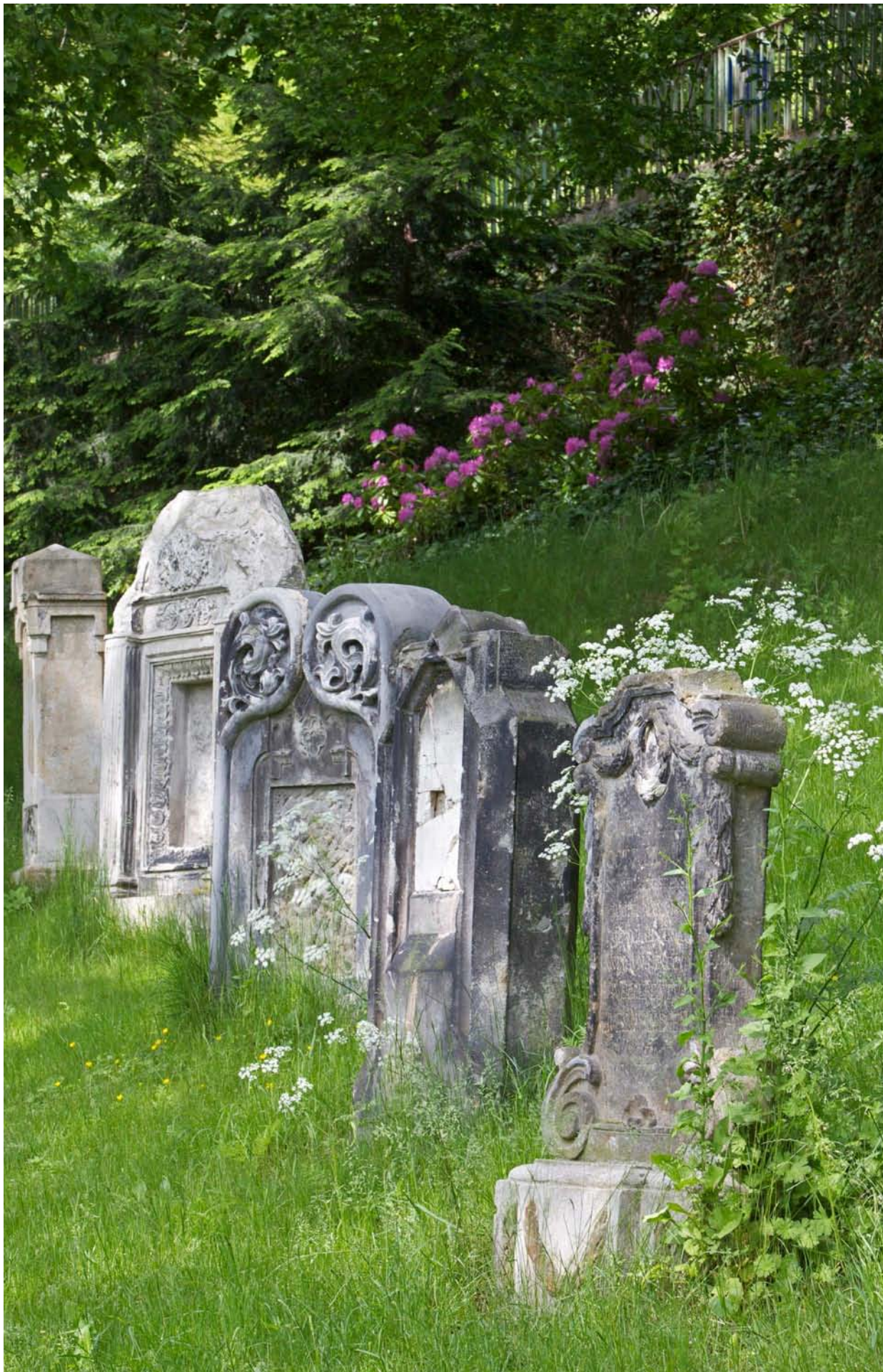


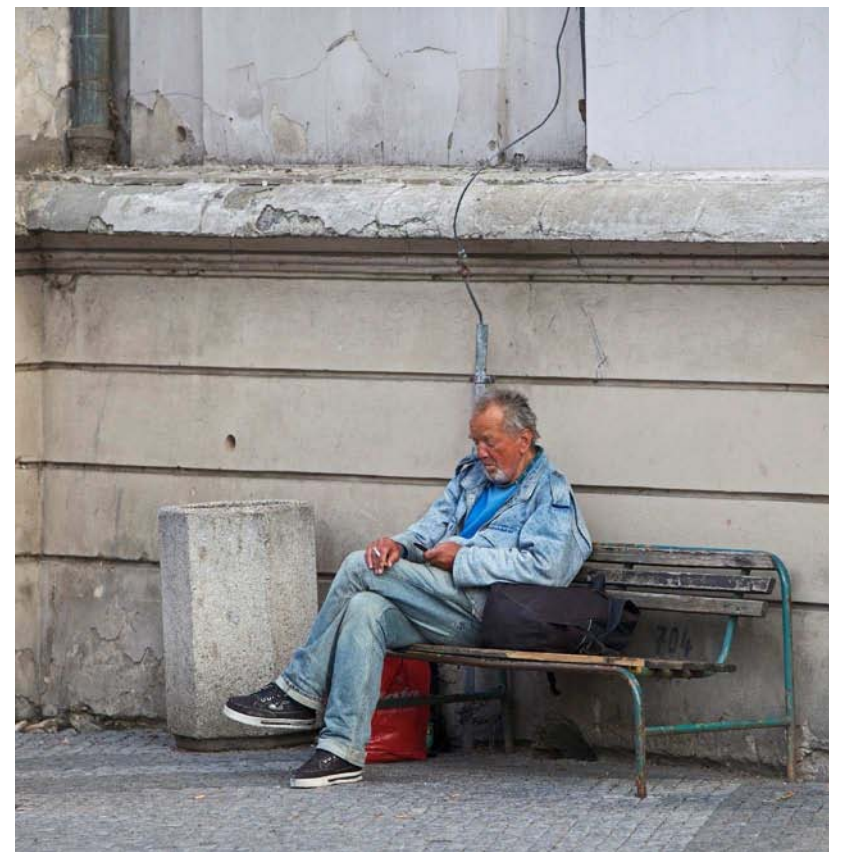


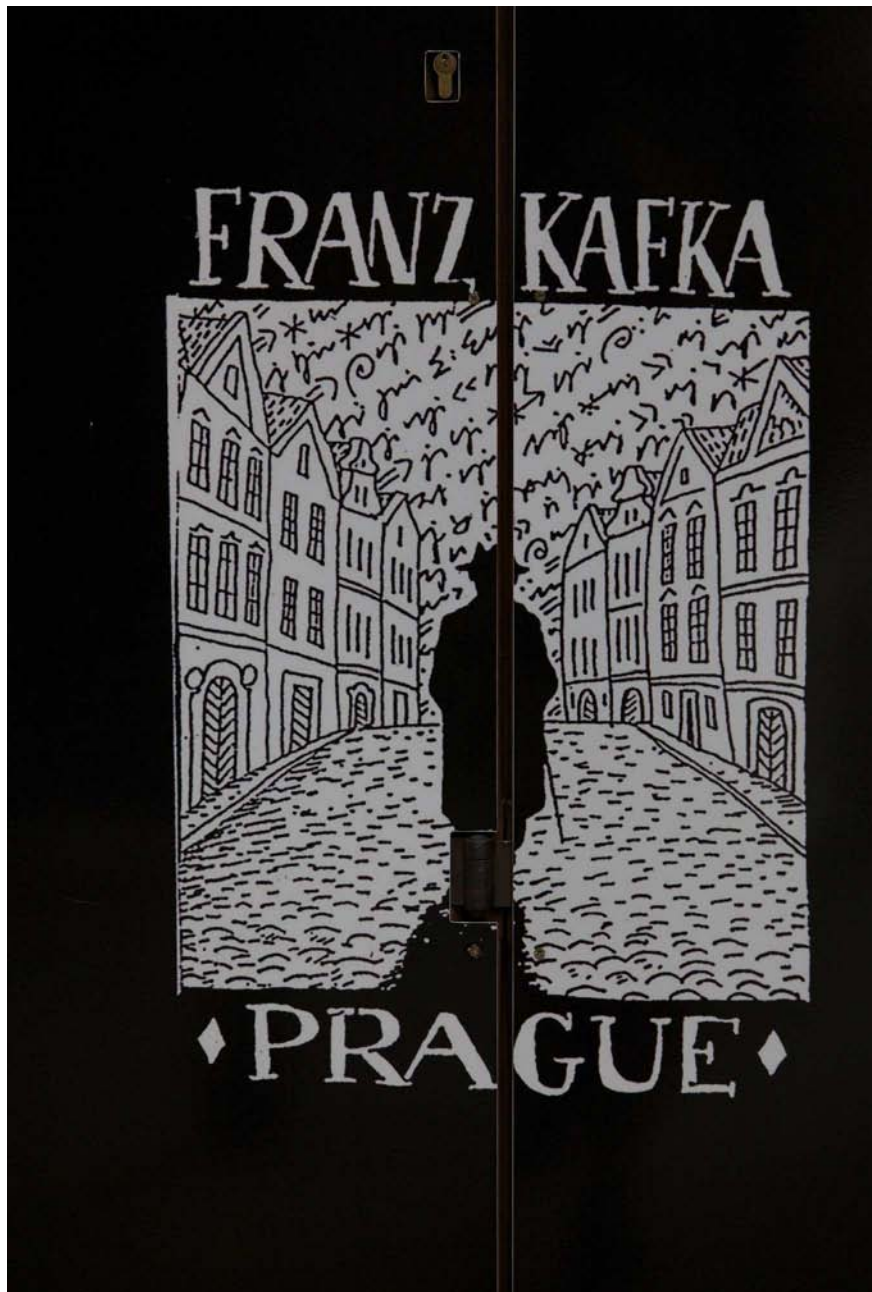


















We are most grateful to Paul and Yvonne Svastal who were so kind to accomodate us in their wonderful residence in Prague. Located close to the train station and a short walk to the underground, their home was everything that we could have wanted for our visit to this beautiful city. They are very generous people who let us have the use of their home in St Lucia with Rob and Sue two years before and through their kindness we have very fond memories of these trips. Our sincere thanks to all of you for making this possible.



