

PRESS RELEASE OF MUSEUM OF CITY BRNO
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20 years of Villa Tugendhat in UNESCO

Exactly 20 years ago, i.e. on 16 December 2001, at the 25th session of UNESCO in Helsinki, Finland, the Villa Tugendhat, managed by the Brno City Museum, was entered on the World Heritage List.

The entry on the list of the most important world monuments was preceded in 1998 by an invitation from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic to create a nomination document. Professor Zdeněk Kudělka represented the Brno City Museum among experts from all over the Czech Republic. Based on the nomination submitted through diplomatic channels, Villa Tugendhat, built in 1929-1930 and designed by German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, was inscribed on the list in 2001. It became the only monument of modernist architecture in the Czech Republic to be listed to this day.

"I would like the icon of modern architecture, which Villa Tugendhat undoubtedly is, to be more accessible to the public, who cannot plan their visit to Brno several months in advance. The villa has its capacity limits, but we have decided to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List by organising special tours on 26 and 31 December. Tickets go on sale today on the new website of Villa Tugendhat," said the director of the Brno City Museum, Zbyněk Šolc.

Over the past twenty years, the structural substance of Villa Tugendhat has undergone a number of fundamental changes. The most important of these is the extensive and internationally acclaimed restoration, prepared by experts since 2003. A thorough rehabilitation of the house, interiors and garden was carried out in 2010-2012. After its completion, the villa returned to its original 1930's appearance.

Visitor interest in the building has also changed significantly: in the whole year 2000, the villa saw less than 8000 visitors, while in the record year 2019, almost 60 000 guests joined the tours. However, visitor numbers are often limited by the maximum capacity of the interior.

The new website of Villa Tugendhat is probably this year's biggest novelty for the visitor. The original website of the villa was created in 2009 and therefore was in dire need of a complete overhaul. The staff at Villa Tugendhat have been working on this update, funded by the Czech Republic's World Heritage Sites 2021 grant programme, for the past few years.

The development of services for clients does not end with this project, however, and the villa is preparing a number of new programmes and visit options for 2022. Making the villa accessible to disabled citizens is also an important topic. In cooperation with Tichý svět, o.p.s., tablets with interpretation in Czech sign language for clients with hearing impairment

are in the final stages of implementation. A number of other projects will be presented to the public at a later date.

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