

Summary

The Decanal Church of the Holy Cross in Děčín

The Church of the Ascension of the Holy Cross in Děčín (North Bohemia, Czech Republic) is one of the most significant pieces of an early baroque architecture in Děčín region. It was built in years 1686-1691 as a manor church for Don Maximilian von Thun-Hohenstein (1638-1701), in the place of an older medieval church. The church embodies strong influence of a classicism Roman architecture that is characteristic for Gian Lorenzo Bernini's school. Maximilian von Thun-Hohenstein as an imperial diplomat, lord council and knight of the Golden Fleece had a lot of opportunities to charge notable architects of the Central European region with building of this sanctuary. Thus it could be a baroque architect influenced by Bernini's school of the first half of 17th century. However, the construction project could also have been sent by post or could have been gained by Don Maximilian during his stay in Rome or Salzburg.

A number of skilful artists and craftsmen of the turn of 17th and 18th century were participating during building and decoration works - for instance sculptor Franz (František) Preiss, stonemason Santin Aichel or plasterer Johann Peter (Giovanni Pietro) Palliardi. In 1791 splendid fresco painting on a motive of the holy cross story was created by Josef Kramolín.