

Dancing House

Prague, Czech Republic

Dancing House is remarkable and magnificent building which has become an integral part of Prague. There had been free space on the corner of Rašín's waterfront and The Square of Jirásek since 1945. The house, which stood here, was destroyed on February 14 in 1945 by the bombs of US aircraft when the Americans mistook Prague with Dresden. After the final clearance of debris in 1960 the former government had been arguing about the purpose of this place for more than 30 years.

Dancing House was designed by Croatian architect Vlado Milunić along with Frank O. Gehry and British architect of Czech origin Eva Jiřičná. As a result of this cooperation a real masterpiece, which in its concrete structure harbors nine floors and twofloors underground, came into being.

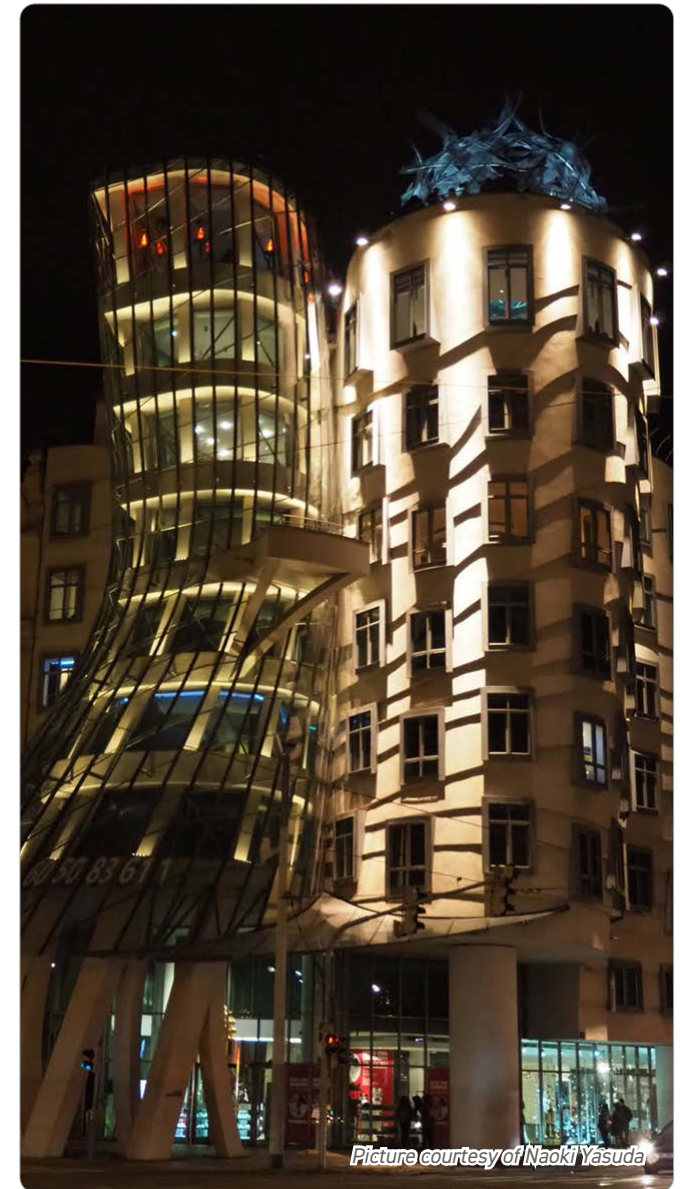
Nowadays, the building serves as a newly opened luxury hotel, which offers 21 luxurious rooms with

unforgettable views of Prague Castle, a café and a top-floor restaurant. At the top of the house you will find amazing panoramic terrace where you can admire the city and its skyline view.

Building gained its name thanks to the towers that resemble famous figures of dancers, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. A stone tower represents dancer and a glass tower his female partner. At the top of the tower symbolizing the dancer there is a dome with the construction of metal tubes coated with stainless steel mesh-work. The dome is shrouded in imaginary hair and symbolizes the head of jellyfish. Dancing House was opened in 1996 and the same year won the prestigious award of US magazine Time in the category of design of a year. Equally important is the fact that the Czech National Bank allowed to portray Dancing House on commemorative coins as an example of present building for the cycle "Ten Centuries of Architecture".

Dancing House has belonged among the controversial constructions of modern architecture in Prague which originated in the nineties.

Environment:	urban
Use:	dome shape sculpture
Architects:	Frank Gehry
Photographs:	Honza Goh and Naoki Yasuda (ISSF Staff)
More information:	dancinghousehotel.com





Picture courtesy of Honza Goh