

Bratislava Castle – explanation of the relief model

Title: Bratislava Castle

Location: Bratislava, hill upon the river Danube

Many people say that the castle is like the table upside-down.

Historical value: Dominant of the city to which the first written reference to Bratislava is related in annals of Salzburg of 907 in association with a battle of Bavarians and Hungarians. The castle hill was populated as soon as in the late Stone Age, while the first known inhabitants were the Celts who had founded a fortified settlement here – oppidum. For 4 centuries, borderline of the Roman Empire was running here – Limes Romanus. Slavs had built here up a strong fortress that became a significant centre of the Greater Moravian Empire. In the 10th century, Bratislava became integral part of the growing Hungarian state, while a palace of stone and the church of St. Salvator with the chapter were built up on the castle hill in the 11th century. In the 15th century, in the reign of Sigismund of Luxembourg, the castle was built in Gothic style as an anti-Hussite fortress. In that period of time, a new entrance to the castle was built on the eastern side – Sigismund gate, while 7-metre thick fortification walls were built on the western side and a castle well was constructed in 1437. Its depth is 85 m and the water table is in the depth of 42 m. In the 16th century, the King Ferdinand ordered to rebuild the castle in Renaissance style, while in the 17th century, when the castle became seat of hereditary province chief Palffy, it was rebuilt in baroque style. In the reign of Maria-Theresa, the castle was arranged for needs of her son-in-law - governor Albert of Saxony and Tessen, who was fervent collector of arts, while there was placed a collection of works of arts at the castle, which was later moved to Vienna (today's Albertina gallery). In the reign of Joseph II, there was placed general seminary to educate priests. Later the castle served as barracks for soldiers, while it burnt down in 1811. Reconstruction was carried out as late as in 1953 - 1968. At present, it serves for representation purposes of the Slovak National council and there are placed collections of the Slovak National Museum in it – expositions of Jewels of ancient past – as well as the Museum of History.

The scale of presented model: presented model is much smaller than real one, the real size is more or less 200 times bigger. Real scale is:

Southern foreside: 82,5 m

Eastern foreside: 59,6 m

Northern foreside: 85, 30 m

Western foreside 79,6 m

Explanation of the model:

1. Put your hands in the middle of the paper and run your fingers over the whole picture, follow the each contours. Just try to realize the general shape of the castle.
2. Put your hands to the bottom of the picture, then continue with both of the hands to the sides you reach the base of the picture, it is ground of the castle. When reach the end of this contour you can follow the contours that lead to the top of the castle.
3. Go back to the base of the castle and move your fngers a bit up. You reach the contours of the windows. There are several windows there. The windows are devided in four parts by the cross inside. When you move across this wall

with windows on the sides you reach the contours of the towers. On the top you reach the contour of the roof.

4. Go over the contour of the roof. Find the top of the roof. Move across the roof to the sides. You see the gable dormers on the roof. There are 8 gable dormers there. Soon you reach the towers on each side.
5. Now concentrate both your hands on left tower. Try to realize its shape. It is sharp. It suggest the sharp pencil. Go to the top of the tower and move your fingers down. You are on the roof of the tower. Move across the roof of the tower and you see the lines that goe down from the top. It is because the tower has the shape of octagon. When you go down according the line of the roof, you reach the wall of the tower. It has the shape of octagon too, so you can find the lines going down. Those line symbolize the edge of each wall. There is a small window on each wall of the tower. Now repeat the action with right tower
6. When finish viewing the right tower, you can find another silhoutte on its right side. It is the contour of another side of the castle. It has the same structure as the front side. Repeat the process that you used of recognizing the shapes and parts of front side of the castle for this side. In the top corner of this side you can find the tower, too. Recognize it using the same way as before