

**SoLiLL**

**Project Group „Bread and Housing“ in České Budějovice**

Renovation of an ancient area of city

## **Reconstruction of the Millrace**

### ***Rekonstrukce a úprava Mlýnské stoky***

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### **The Millrace – historic view**

#### ***Mlýnská stoka - pohled do historie***

A ground plan of Budějovice New Town, its fluent and oval shape was determined by lively watercourse of the Millrace. Locator of the town, the Zvíkov Castle burgrave Hizro put into this site a chessboard configuration of houseblocks and streets.

The ground plan of the town recedes concavely where the water and frequent floods are the strongest, and towers convexly, particularly in its northwestern end where the water loses its aggression. It is an effective and at the same time aesthetic conception.

### **The River Malše and the Millrace – present condition**

#### ***Řeka Malše a Mlýnská stoka-současný stav***

The Malše riverbed is stabilized with reversible quaysides throughout the whole town area. In 1930, the junction of the Malše and Vltava rivers was adapted and the adaptation of the Malše banks continued in the 50s and later in the 90s when the quaysides were built. The Millrace, an original branch of the Malše was turned many times in the course of its history. People primarily wanted to use water power in the mills and feed the moat.



*Fig. 1: The bridge over the River Malše in Mánesova Street causes water resources officers great anxiety, especially with swelling.*



*Fig. 2: The Great Weir at the Red Yard in Mladé. The Millrace separates the Malše branch just above the weir..*

Essential adaptation of the Millrace was its elongation by adjoining the narrowed original riverbed of the Vltava river. In the 30s it was construction of the quaysides, and covering of the Millrace in the area of Senovážné Square in the 50s and 60s. Nowadays it has no effects for the town potential and embellishment. There are 16 bridges, footbridges and other objects on the Millrace but a lot of them do not make a good aesthetic impression, and they can also become an obstacle during the flood.

## **Proposed adaptations of watercourses**

### *Navrhované úpravy vodních toků*

Proposed adaptations of watercourses

- improvement of the flood control condition
- exploitation of the watercourse potential and improvement of the town aesthetics



*Fig. 3: The Rear Mill*

The Blind Malše riverbed and the Millrace will be chiefly changed, especially the Millrace in Senovážné Square. The adaptation in the site of Na sádkách park will be done above all for the view approach of the watercourse. The extension of the Millrace riverbed, a new pavement and banks at the watercourse level will be another adaptation. Reconstruction of footbridges and bridges over the Millrace will also be important. The watergate dam and original side spill will be renovated at the Rear Mill and the weir on the Blind branch at the Front Mill will also be rebuilt.

## **Citizens' points of view regarding the adaptation of the Millrace**

### *Názory občanů města na úpravu Mlýnské stoky*

The owners of properties nearby the Millrace disagree with raising of the watercourse level because they are afraid of water penetration. A new Millrace riverbed in Senovážné Square is not popular either. The citizens do not like digging up.

I tried to find out the citizens' point of view concerning the Millrace adaptation and used the following questionnaire:

**A ) Do you think the care for historic buildings in České Budějovice is up to standard?**

| <b>Answer</b>                   | <b>Number of answers</b> | <b>%</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| The care is good                | 9                        | 75       |
| I do not know                   | 1                        | 8        |
| The care is <b>insufficient</b> | 2                        | 17       |

**B ) Are you informed about the plan of reconstruction of historic buildings?**

| <b>Answer</b>          | <b>Number of answers</b> | <b>%</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| I know the plan        | 2                        | 16       |
| I know the plan partly | 3                        | 25       |
| I do not know the plan | 7                        | 59       |

**C ) What is your opinion concerning repeated opening of the Millrace in Senovážné Square?**

| <b>Answer</b>               | <b>Number of answers</b> | <b>%</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| I do not agree with opening | 8                        | 67       |
| I do not know               | 1                        | 8        |
| I agree                     | 3                        | 25       |

## **Conclusion**

### ***Závěr***

Proposed adaptations represent a great intervention in the area and afflict the lives of citizens and tradespeople in the nearest surroundings. The project is being judged by specialists, architects and preservationists.

Podklady pro tuto práci byly získány:

Státní vědecká knihovna v Českých Budějovicích

VH-TRES, ing.Vaclík

A+U DESIGN, ing.Polcarová

Magistrát města České Budějovice odbor územního plánování a architektury, p.Hrdý

Státní ústav památkové péče, ing.Prokeš

Sdružení majitelů domů, K.Pražák

## References :

Pavel, J. *České Budějovice*. Praha: SNKLU, 1965.

Pletzer, K. *České Budějovice*. České Budějovice : Jihočeské nakladatelství Růže, 1991.

Propagační leták Městského informačního centra České Budějovice.

## Picture appendix

### *Obrazová příloha:*



*Fig. 4: The Great Weir at the Red Yard in Mladé. The Millrace separates the Malše branch just above the weir.*



*Fig. 5: The Dam on the Millrace which regulates the amount of flowing water.*



*Fig. 6: The Millrace flows through the gardening area in Mladé.*



*Fig. 7: The Millrace in Senovážné Square. The view from the beginning of the 20th century.*

**Fotografie:** Václav Dlabáček, autor příspěvku

**Photography:** Václav Dlabáček, author of contribution