

Šance in Jože Plečnik

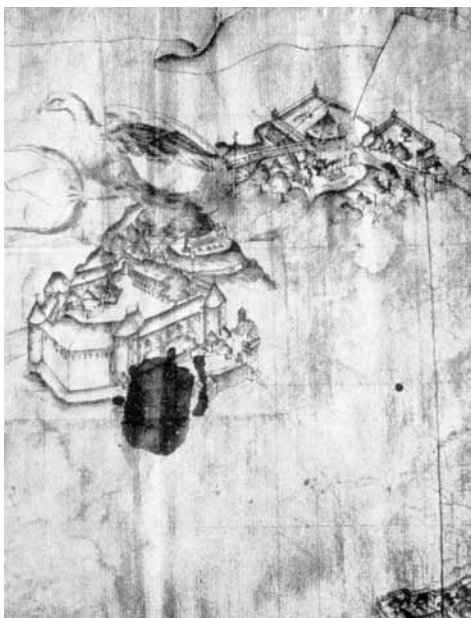
Šance and Jože Plečnik

Irena Vesel



Ljubljanski
grad

Ljubljana
Castle



Ljubljanski grad s Stolpom piskačev, planoto Lipnik, Šancami (obe bastiji in stolp), okoli l. 1660, vir: France Stele, Valvasorjeva Ljubljana, Ljubljana 1928./Ljubljana Castle with the Pipers' Tower, the Lipnik plateau and Šance (both bastions and the tower), c. 1660, source: France Stele, Valvasor's Ljubljana, Ljubljana 1928.

Andreas Trost-Janez Vajkard Valvasor: Pogled na Ljubljano iz graške smeri, Velik prospekt Ljubljane, 1681, vir: Narodni muzej Slovenije, foto: Tomaž Lauko./Andreas Trost-Janez Vajkard Valvasor: View of Ljubljana from the direction of Graz, Large View of Ljubljana, 1681, source: National Museum of Slovenia, photo: Tomaž Lauko.



Naslovnica/Cover

Šance 1997,
vir / source: ZVKDS, OE Ljubljana/Institute
for the protection of the Cultural Heritage
of Slovenia, Ljubljana Regional Unit.

Šance na Ljubljanskem gradu

Kulturnovarstveno območje Ljubljanskega gradu zajema neposredno okolje grajske trdnjave z bastijo in obhodno potjo, jarek, Lipnik, grajsko planoto, območje drevoreda in Šance.

O starejši poselitveni zgodovini griča, na katerem stoji Ljubljanski grad, je dandanes bolj malo znanega. Prvi grad je na Grajskem griču najverjetneje stal že v 11. stoletju v obliki manjše lesene utrdbe, v 13. stoletju pod vladavino fevdalnih gospodov Spanheimov pa je bila zgrajena prva zidana trdnjava. Nepreravana obsežna gradbena dela od srednjega veka naprej so veliko uničila in zaradi tega iz zgodnjega obdobja ni ničesar ohranjenega in ustrezno raziskanega. Skozi stoletja sta namreč Grajski grič in grajski kompleks doživljala številne spremembe in posege.

Obzidja dokumentirajo položaj naselbine, saj so mesta načrtno oblikovala ter vplivala na njihov razvoj in razvoj drugih morfoloških dejavnikov. Obzidja v Ljubljani se niso gradila sočasno, razlikovala so se po oblikovanju, debelini, višini, kvaliteti, nekatera so vključevala stolpe, jarke in bastije. Zgodovinarji ugotavljajo, da so podatki o ljubljanskem mestnem obzidju za starejša obdobja pomanjkljivi. Več podatkov je znanih šele od 16. stoletja naprej, ko je bila Ljubljana vključena v sistem protiturške obrambe. Stara spanheimska trdnjava, ki je stala na območju današnjega gradu, je bila podrta in zgradili so tretji poznosrednjeveški grad. Potres leta 1511 je porušil velik del mestnega obzidja in osem stolpov. Po tem potresu se je pod vodstvom deželnih glavarjev na območju Ljubljanskega gradu veliko gradilo.

V 15. stoletju je bilo na zasnovo gradu priključenih troje obzidij, ki so dokumentirana. Obzidja so omejevala dve mestni enoti pod gradom, Mesto in Stari trg, mlajše obzidje (iz druge polovice 16. stoletja) pa se je vilo v smeri slemena Ljubljanskega gradu do stolpa Padav (s kasnejšimi Šancami) ter do priključka na grad pod Stolpom

Šance at the Ljubljana Castle

The protected cultural heritage area of the Ljubljana Castle consists of the immediate environment of the castle fortifications with the bastion and the circular path, the moat and Lipnik, as well as the castle plateau, the area of the promenade and Šance.

Today, little is known about the early settlement history of the hill on which the Ljubljana castle stands. The first castle probably stood on the hill as early as in the eleventh century, in the form of a small wooden fort, while the first stone fort was built in the thirteenth century under the rule of feudal lords, the Spanheims. During the constant extensive construction work from the Middle Ages onwards, a great deal was destroyed and nothing was preserved and properly researched. Over the centuries, the castle hill and its complex experienced numerous changes and interventions.

Walls generally document the status of a settlement, as they are deliberately formed and influence the development of cities and other morphological features. The walls in Ljubljana were not built at the same time; they vary in terms of design, thickness, height and quality, while some included towers, trenches and bastions. Historians note that information on the Ljubljana city walls in earlier periods is deficient. More information becomes available only from the sixteenth century onwards, when Ljubljana was included in the system of defence against the Turks. The old Spanheim castle, which stood on the site of today's castle, was demolished and a third late medieval castle was built. An earthquake in 1511 destroyed much of the city walls and eight towers. After the earthquake, a great deal of construction work was undertaken on the castle under the leadership of provincial governors.

In the fifteenth century, three walls, all of which are documented, were connected to the scheme of the castle. The walls delimited the two town units beneath the castle, the town centre and Stari trg (Old Square). A newer wall (from the second half of the sixteenth century) ran along the castle ridge to the Padav Tower (with the later Šance), connecting to the castle beneath the Archers' Tower. In 1579 and 1580, the provincial prince had the castle connected with the Padav Tower,

strelcev. Med letoma 1579 in 1580 je deželni knez grad povezal s stolpom Padav, meščansko bastijo in obzidjem v eno utrdbo. Obzidje na slemenu pod grajskim drevoredom so odkrili na območju jarka pod sedanjim dostopom na grad. Ohranjeno je tudi pod terenom vzdolž drevoreda, kar velja tudi za veliki stolp Padav na Plečnikovem rondoju na Šancah.

Na mestnem načrtu iz leta 1709 je vidna geodetska lokacija stolpov in smodnišnic. Konec 18. stoletja so bili na Grajskem griču trije stolpi za smodnik, in sicer dva cesarska in en stanovski. Stolp na Šancah je bil deželni smodnišnični stolp. Smodnišnični stolpi so predstavljali veliko nevarnost za mesto, zato so si meščani prizadevali, da bi jih opustili ali preselili ven iz mesta.

Stolp znotraj obzidja Šanc je bil veliki meščanski stražni stolp s pripadajočo meščansko bastijo. Stolp je bil pozidan pred letom 1639 (po poročilu G. Peroni), kar je razvidno tudi z Valvasorjeve velike vedute iz leta 1660, na kateri sta natančno razvidni oblika stolpa ter povezanost z obema bastijama na Šancah, Lipnikom in gradom.

Glede na lokacijo je veliki stolp naslednik stolpa Padav, ki se kot deželnoknežji stolp omenja že konec 15. stoletja. Šance niso služile samo za obrambo, pač pa so bile tam tudi ječe. O tem, kdo je živel v bastiji in kaj se je v njej dogajalo, ne vemo prav dosti; območje tudi arheološko še ni raziskano.

Vse do sredine 19. stoletja se je meščanska bastija »spogledovala« z gradom z nasprotnega roba griča. Kdaj in kdo je porušil Šance, ni povsem znano. Nekateri viri pravijo, da so na Šance streljali Francozi ob prvem napadu na Ljubljano leta 1809 in jih porušili, po drugih pa naj bi nanje streljali Avstrijci, ko so leta 1813 hoteli pregnati Francoze.

Grajski drevored in Grajska planota sta se kot prostor skozi celotno 19. stoletje postopno nasipavala. Kljub temu so še vedno opazni deli obzidij v ruševinah, kar je razvidno z različnih grajskih upodobitev. Grajska promenada, ki se je začela pri gradu in se nadaljevala po grajskem drevoredu vse do ruševin na Šancah, je sama določala ureditev ruševin. Nove ureditve parka ter drevoredi so zrasli na zasutih obzidjih in utrdbah. Nekaj jih je bilo uničenih in odstranjenih, ker so potrebovali prostor za nove vsebine, za mestni drevored in sprehajališče. V začetku 20. stoletja se je nanovo zasajeni drevored raztegnil od gradu pa vse do smodnišnice in gmote ruševin na Šancah.

the civic bastion and the wall, forming a unified fortress. The wall along the ridge, now under the castle avenue, is exposed in the area of the moat beneath the current access to the castle, and is preserved below the ground along the promenade. Similarly, the large Padav Tower is buried beneath Plečnik's circular garden in Šance.

A town plan from 1709 indicates the geodetic location of the towers and the gunpowder magazines. At the end of the eighteenth century, there were three towers for gunpowder on the castle hill, two belonging to the Emperor and one serving the Estates. The tower at Šance was the provincial gunpowder tower. The gunpowder towers represented a great danger to the town, so the townspeople endeavoured to have them abolished or relocated outside the town.

The tower within the walls of Šance was a large civic watchtower with an associated civic bastion. It was built before 1639 (reported by G. Peroni), which is also evident from a large cityscape by Valvasor dating from 1660, in which he carefully shows the design of the tower and its connection with both bastions of the existing Šance, Lipnik and the castle.

In terms of location, the large tower is the successor of the Padav Tower, which is mentioned as belonging to the provincial prince at the end of fifteenth century. Šance served not only for defence, but also as a prison. However, little is known about the inhabitants and events of the bastion, and the area has not been studied archaeologically.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century, the civic bastion "flirted" with the castle from the opposite edge of the hill. Exactly when Šance was destroyed, and who was responsible for its destruction, is not entirely known. Some sources state that it was fired upon during the first french attack on Ljubljana in 1809 and demolished, while others claim that it was destroyed by the Austrians when they attempted to expel the French in 1813.

The castle avenue and the castle plateau were gradually surfaced as a functional space throughout the nineteenth century. Sections of the walls in ruins were nonetheless still visible, as is evident from various depictions of the castle. It was the castle promenade,

Ljubljanski grad, 1910, vir: Slovenski etnografski muzej./ **Ljubljana Castle, 1910**, source: Slovenian Ethnographic Museum.

Ureditev grajskega drevoreda, 1934, foto: Peter Naglič, vir: Slovenski etnografski muzej./**Layout of the castle avenue, 1934**, photo: Peter Naglič, source: Slovenian Ethnographic Museum.



Po potresu leta 1895 in ukinitvi kaznilnice je začelo prevladovati zanimanje za Ljubljanski grad kot o možnosti za turizem in rekreacijske dejavnosti. Pod vodstvom tedanjega župana Ivana Hribarja (1896–1910) so se na Ljubljanskem gradu začela gradbena dela, ki so omogočila normalno življenje. Ivan Hribar je imel v zvezi z njim velike načrte, nekaj jih je bilo uresničenih (napeljava vodovoda in elektrike), veliko pa tudi ne (vzpenjača, obrtni muzej, knjižnica ...). V njegovem obdobju pa se je začela uresničevati temeljita krajinska zasnova gradu. Prihajajoča 1. svetovna vojna (1914–1918) pa je onemogočila uresničitvev zastavljenih ciljev, grad je postal zbirališče političnih osumljencev, pozneje tudi italijanskih vojnih ujetnikov.

Po vojni so pod vodstvom arhitekta Jožeta Plečnika zastavili dolgoročne smernice ureditve Ljubljanskega gradu. Druga svetovna vojna (1941–1945) ni ustavila del, ki jih je Plečnik načrtoval v okolici gradu in na Grajskem griču. Po kapitulaciji Italije so grad zasedli domobranci in vanj vse do osvoboditve Ljubljane leta 1945 zapirali svoje obsojene vojake.

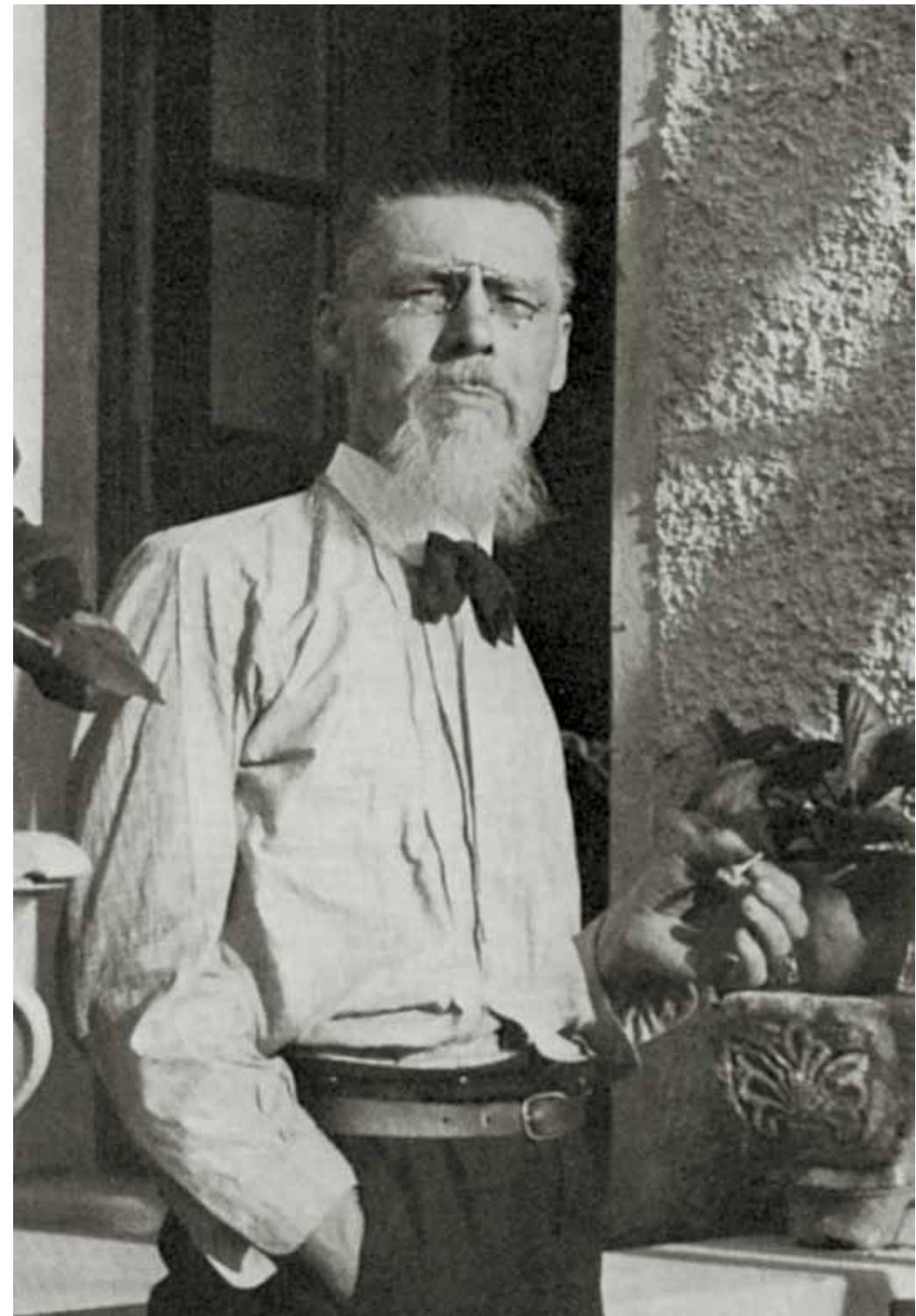
Kljub slabemu stanju so zgodovinske Šance ostale priljubljena in zelo obiskana točka na Grajskem griču.

which began at the castle and continued along the avenue all the way to the ruins at Šance, that largely dictated the arrangement of the ruins. New green spaces and tree-lined avenues grew on buried walls and fortifications. Some of the ruins were destroyed and removed because the space was needed for new functions, for the town avenue and promenade. In the early twentieth century, a newly planted avenue stretched from the castle all the way to the gunpowder magazine and the pile of ruins at Šance.

After the earthquake of 1895 and the abolition of the prison, there was growing interest in the Ljubljana Castle as an inalienable part of the city for recreation and tourism. Under the leadership of the then mayor Ivan Hribar (1896–1910), construction work began on the castle, enabling normal life within it. Ivan Hribar had big plans for the castle, some of which were implemented (installation of a water supply and electricity), but many were not (funicular, craft museum, library, etc.). The implementation of a thoroughly planned landscape design of the castle commenced. However, the First World War (1914–1918) soon interrupted the plans and the castle became a prison for political suspects and Italian prisoners of war.

After the war, attention began to be focused on the long-term layout of the castle, led or guided by architect Jože Plečnik. The Second World War (1941–1945) did not stop the works planned by Plečnik in the vicinity of the castle and the castle hill. After the capitulation of Italy, the castle was occupied by the Home Guard, who imprisoned convicted soldiers there until the liberation of Ljubljana in 1945.

Despite their poor state, the historical ruins at Šance remained a popular and highly visited spot on the castle hill.



Jože Plečnik med letoma 1925 in 1929. Vir: MGML/Jože Plečnik between 1925 and 1929, source: Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana.



Šance in Jože Plečnik

Jože Plečnik (1872–1957), najpomembnejši slovenski arhitekt 20. stoletja, se je šolal v Ljubljani in Gradcu, študij arhitekture pa je uspešno končal na Akademiji lepih umetnosti na Dunaju. Po študijskem potovanju po Italiji in Franciji se je vrnil na Dunaj, kjer je ustvaril Zacherlovo hišo in cerkev Svetega Duha. Leta 1911 je postal profesor na praški Umetniško-obrtni šoli, leta 1921 pa redni profesor na Tehnični fakulteti v Ljubljani. V tem času je bil imenovan za glavnega arhitekta prenove praškega gradu na Hradčanih. Njegova življenjska pot se je v letu 1921 odvijala med Prago in Ljubljano. V Ljubljani si je uredil preprosto domovanje in prostor za delo v mali hiši, ki jo je kupil brat Andrej leta 1915, na obrobju Ljubljane v Trnovem, na Karunovi 4. Leta 1925 je hiši dozidal valjast prizidek, leta 1929 pa še zimski vrt; dokupil je tudi sosednjo hišo s pripadajočim vrtom.

Sredi dvajsetih let se je Plečnik posvetil urejanju mesta s številnimi parki in trgi, s katerimi je zaznamoval podobo nove Ljubljane, prepoznavne kot Plečnikova Ljubljana, ki samostojne urbane ureditve povezuje v enotno kompozicijo in celovito umetniško delo. S svojimi stvaritvami je Ljubljani dal prepoznavno podobo, saj si svoje prestolnice brez Tromostovja ne predstavljamo. V Plečnikovih delih začitimo značaj umetnika, ki se je oblikoval med študijem in dolgoletnim delom v tujini, njegov čut za estetiko ter potrebe preprostega človeka.

Pred Plečnikovimi posegi okrog leta 1930 so se na Šancah izvajala nujna vzdrževalna dela pod vodstvom inženirja Frana Tavčarja. Leta 1934 je prišlo do delnega rušenja že popravljenih Šanc. Magistrat ni bil zadovoljen, zato je odločil, da bo ureditev starih Šanc zaupal Plečniku, ki naj bi jih uredil za mestne potrebe.

Jože Plečnik je Ljubljanski grad videl kot središče vsega urbanizma v Ljubljani, in ne le kot del mesta. Njegova fantazija je na mestu Ljubljanskega gradu ustvarila akropolo kot simbol

Ureditev grajskega drevoreda, 1934, foto: Peter Naglič, vir: Slovenski etnografski muzej./**Layout of the castle avenue**, 1934, photo: Peter Naglič, source: Slovenian Ethnographic Museum.

Posegi na Šancah, 1939, foto: Peter Naglič, vir: Slovenski etnografski muzej./**Interventions at Šance**, 1939, photo: Peter Naglič, source: Slovenian Ethnographic Museum.

Šance and Jože Plečnik

Jože Plečnik (1872–1957), the most important Slovenian architect of the twentieth century, was educated in Ljubljana and Graz, and successfully completed his architectural studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. After a study trip to Italy and France, he returned to Vienna, where he created the Zacherl House and the Church of the Holy Spirit. In 1911, he became a professor at the School of Applied Arts in Prague, and in 1921 he was made a full professor at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Engineering. At the same time, he was appointed as the chief architect for the renovation of the Prague Castle at Hradčany. In 1921, his life journey therefore unfolded between Prague and Ljubljana. In Ljubljana, he arranged a simple home and workspace in a small house that had been purchased by his brother Andrej in 1915 on the outskirts of Ljubljana, at Karunova 4 in the Trnovo district. In 1925, he built a cylindrical extension to the house, and in 1929 he added a conservatory and acquired the neighbouring house and its garden.

In the mid 1920s, Plečnik devoted himself to the layout of Ljubljana with the many parks and squares that characterise the appearance of the new Ljubljana, known as Plečnik's Ljubljana, connecting the independent urban features into a single composition, a comprehensive work of art. With his creations, he gave Ljubljana its distinctive image; the city is unimaginable without the Three Bridges, for instance. In Plečnik's works, we can sense his character, which was formed while studying, during many years working abroad, and through a feeling for aesthetics and the needs of the simple man.

Prior to Plečnik's interventions around 1930, urgent maintenance work was carried out on Šance under the direction of engineer Franc Tavčar. In 1934, however, the repaired Šance was partially demolished. The city authorities were not satisfied with the present state, and so decided to entrust the layout of the old Šance to Plečnik, who was instructed to arrange the area for urban needs.

Jože Plečnik saw the Ljubljana Castle as the centre of all urban planning in Ljubljana, and not merely as a part of the city. With his exuberant imagination, he envisioned an Acropolis on the site of the Ljubljana Castle, serving as a symbol of the capital of the Slovenian nation. However, Ljubljana was in crisis and the city authorities did not have enough funds to realise Plečnik's plans.

With the available resources, an attempt was nonetheless made to execute some of Plečnik's plans, and part of his idea was therefore realised. Thus Plečnik left his mark around the castle with important solutions for the city of Ljubljana and its citizens. The existing footpaths to the Ljubljana Castle were repaired and corrected and new were planned, opening up new and



Ureditev grajskega drevoreda, 1934, foto: Peter Naglič, vir: Slovenski etnografski muzej./Layout of the castle avenue, 1934, photo: Peter Naglič, source: Slovenian Ethnographic Museum.

prestolnice slovenskega naroda. A Ljubljano je doletela kriza in Magistrat ni imel dovolj denarja, da bi Plečnikov naštete uresničil.

Kljub temu pa je bil del Plečnikovih idej uresničen. Z razpoložljivimi sredstvi so poskušali omogočiti izvedbo nekaterih njegovih načrtov. Plečnik je dal svoj pečat grajski okolici s pomembnimi rešitvami za meščane. Popravil in usmerjal je obstoječe in predvidel nove pešpote na Ljubljanski grad. Z njimi je odpiral nove, dotlej še ne videne poglede na grad, na Ljubljano in širšo okolico. Poti so obiskovalca usmerjale tako, da se je lahko sprehodil nad celo staro Ljubljano in imel občutek, da mu mesto leži na dlani.

Turistični načrti za oživitve gradu pa so grad za vse večne čase neločljivo povezali z mestom in mu dali dominantno lego. Preureditev Šanc so izpeljali z javnimi deli, ki so jih poravnali iz t. i. »bednostnega« fonda; dela so potekala vse do leta 1939.

Gmota ruševin na Šancah, ki je bila zavita v skrivnost, je Plečnik »razrahljal« na podoben način kot emonski zid na Mirju. Dodal ji je nove osi, predrl jo je z novimi arkadami in odprtini. S tem je ustvaril nove zanimive poglede na mesto pod Grajskim gričem. Na svoj poseben in hkrati tudi drzen način je oblikoval spomenik zgodovini in gmoti ruševin povrnil srednjeveško funkcijo obhodnega obzidja.

Z novo spomeniško substanco je oblikoval novo arhitekturo. Kljub izredno veliki gmoti mu je uspelo ustvariti transparentnost in poudariti razgibanost. Uporabil je poceni elemente, kot so betonske cevi kanalizacije za ograjo, za stopnice je predvidel betonske kvadre, kamnite oporne bloke je podprl z delčki rdeče opeke in uporabil preproste železne profile za ograjo.

previously unseen views of the castle, Ljubljana and the broader environment. The paths were arranged so that visitors could walk above the entire old town, giving one the sense of having the city in the palm of one's hand.

The tourism-related plans for the revival of the castle gave it a dominant position, inextricably connecting it with the city for all time. The reorganisation of Šance, which continued right up until 1939, was undertaken with public works that were funded from the so-called "poor fund".

Plečnik loosened the pile of ruins at Šance, which were shrouded in mystery, much as he had done with the Emona wall in Mirje. He added two new axes, and pierced the ruins with new arcades and openings, thus creating interesting new views of the city below the castle hill. In his special and bold way, he created a monument to history and returned the medieval function of patrolling walls to the pile of ruins.

With the new monumental substance, Plečnik shaped new architecture. Despite the extremely large volumes, he managed to create transparency and dynamism. He used inexpensive elements such as concrete sewer pipes for fences and concrete blocks for stairs. The stone retaining blocks were supported by pieces of red brick, and simple iron profiles were used for fences.

Šance, 1939, foto: Peter Naglič, vir: Slovenski etnografski muzej./Šance, 1939, photo: Peter Naglič, source: Slovenian Ethnographic Museum.

Šance, 1936, foto: Marija Tičar, vir: SI ZAL LJU 342, fototeka, G4.021-047./Šance, 1936, photo: Marija Tičar, source: Historical Archive of Ljubljana, SI ZAL LJU 342, photographic collection, G4.021-047.



Z obnovo Šance je povezal tudi mrežo sprehajalnih poti vse do bližnjega Orlovega vrha. Plečnikova celotna ureditev območja utrdb poveže Šance s kostanjevim drevoredom iz leta 1905, ki so ga zasadili vzdolž obzidja.

Plečnik se je zavedal, da so Šance z ureditvijo izgubile močan vertikalni poudarek na lokaciji, ki jo je določal nekdanji stražni stolp; le-ta je po vsej verjetnosti zasut pod rondojem. Plečnik je zato na tem mestu predvideval postavitev višje vertikalne plastike, ki pa ni bila nikoli izvedena. Postavljena je bila radijska antena. Celotno zasnovo Šance pa je Plečnik izoblikoval s krožno zasaditvijo javorjev na spodnjem platoju in z živo mejo na zgornjem. Na ohranjeni Plečnikovi skici iz leta 1934 za ureditev Šance je zapisal: »Samo ena fantazija. Bog ve, kaj se da še vse narediti, seveda – skrbljivo studirano in risano. Pozdrav – Plečnik.« S skice lahko razberemo različne rešitve za premagovanje višinskih razlik s stopnicami in klančinami.

Na robu rondoja Šance stoji kamnit vodnjak, grajen iz masivnih kamnov v obliki valja, ki se proti vrhu postopoma zaključijo. Drevo v bližini vodnjaka pa obkrožajo kamniti arhitekturni elementi. Plečnik je v času gradnje na kraju samem usmerjal in spreminjal načrte.

Dandanes o srednjeveški trdnjavi pričajo le še ostanki temeljnega zidovja, ki ga je Plečnik preoblikoval v sprehajališče, razgledno točko in ne nazadnje v spomenik zgodovini. Prvo statično utrjevanje zidanega dela Šance pod stopnicami beležimo v 70. letih. Drugo utrjevanje in večji posegi na stopnicah in ograjah so se izvajali v letih 1999 in 2000.

Šance 1934, vir/source: SI ZAL LJU 342, fototeka A3-052-002/Historical Archive of Ljubljana, SI ZAL LJU 342, photographic collection, A3-052-002.



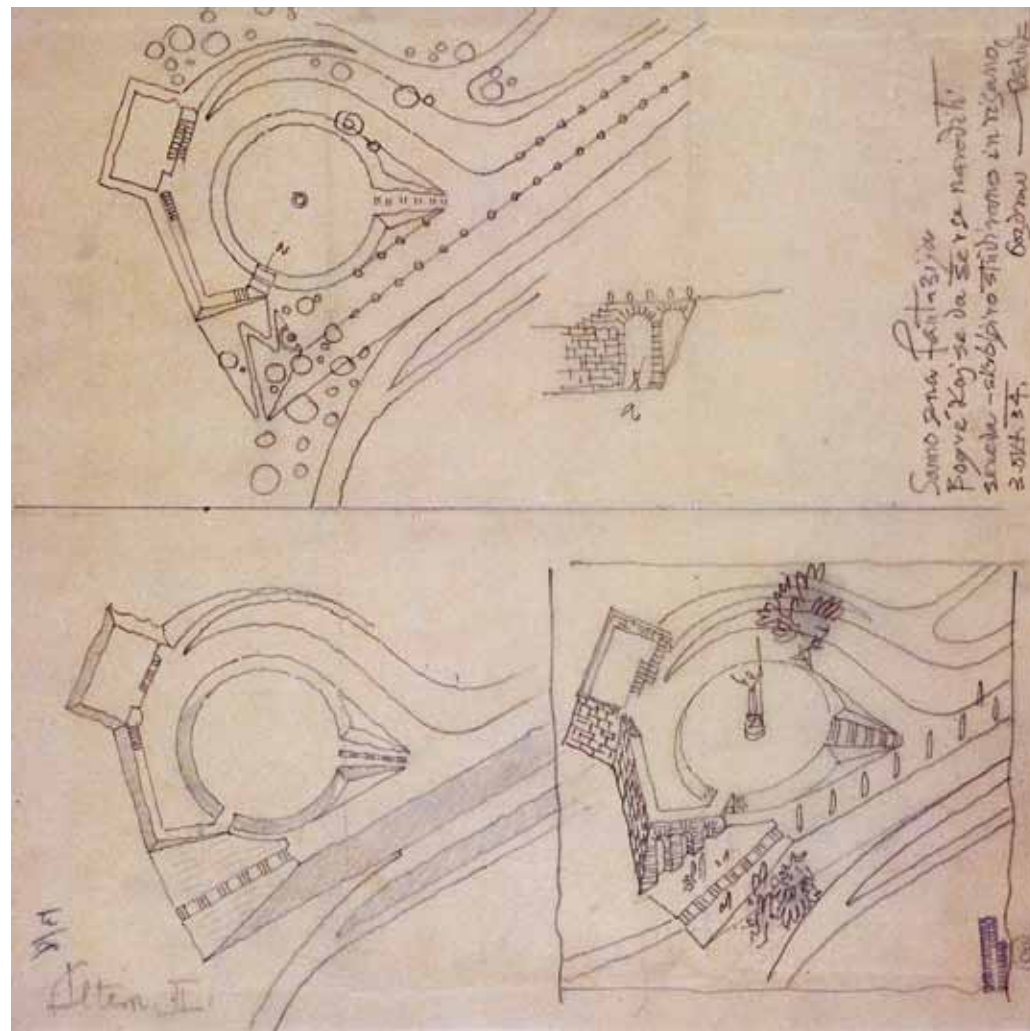
With the restoration of Šance, Plečnik also connected to a network of walking trails all the way to the nearby Orlov vrh (Eagle Peak). His entire layout of the fortress area connects Šance with the chestnut avenue from 1905, which was planted along the path of the former wall.

Plečnik was aware that, with his layout, Šance lost its strong vertical emphasis on the site. This had been provided by the former watchtower, which is most likely buried beneath the circular garden. He therefore foresaw a higher vertical volume on the location, but it was never realised. Instead, a radio antenna was erected. The complete design of Šance was formed with a circular planting of maple trees on the lower plateau and a hedge on the upper plateau. On Plečnik's extant sketch for the layout of Šance dating from 1934, the architect wrote: "Just one fantasy. God knows how much can still be done, of course – carefully studied and drawn. Greetings – Plečnik." The sketch reveals various solutions for overcoming the height differences between the stairs and the ramps.

On the edge of the circular garden at Šance stands a stone fountain. Built of massive stones, it is in the form of a cylinder that gradually concludes towards the top. A tree near the fountain is surrounded by stone architectural elements. During construction, Plečnik himself regulated and changed the plans on the spot.

Today, the only element bearing witness to the medieval fortress is the remains of the foundation wall, which Plečnik transformed into a walkway, a vantage point and, not least, a historical monument. The first static consolidation of Šance's masonry work, beneath the stairs, was undertaken in the 1970s. The second consolidation, as well as more substantial interventions on the stairs and fences, were carried out in the period 1999–2000.

Šance 2014, foto/photo: Irena Vesel, vir/source: ZVKDS, OE Ljubljana/Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Ljubljana Regional Unit.



Jože Plečnik: Načrt za Šance 1934, vir: Plečnikova zbirka, hrani MGML./Jože Plečnik: Plan for Šance 1934, source: Plečnik Collection, housed at Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana.



Šance 2014, foto/photo: Irena Vesel, vir/source: ZVKDS, OE Ljubljana/Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Ljubljana Regional Unit.

Likovna zasnova in podoba Šanc sta odvisni predvsem od vzdrževanja zidov z odstranjevanjem vegetacije, krožno zasajenega drevja (javorjev) in striženja žive meje v rondoju. Improvizirani stopniščni dostopi, ki so bili pri zadnjih sanacijskih posegih izvedeni med nivoji, slabšajo vizualni vtis celote. Za celotno območje grajskega drevoreda in Šanc naj velja načelo, da se vse sanacije podrejajo izvornemu, čeprav skromnemu Plečnikovemu načrtovanju.

Zaradi nevdzdrževanja fasadnih kamnitih zidov Šanc, vremenskih vplivov in potresnega sunka januarja 2012 se je porušil del fasadnega kamnitega zidu, ki podpira severovzhodni del razgledne ploščadi.

Območje spodnje razgledne ploščadi (velika kamnita gmota) je s treh strani obzidano s klesanimi kamnitimi bloki in arkadami, ki so na severovzhodnem deli vpete v teren. Razgledna ploščad je višinsko zavarovana z ograjo iz betonskih teraco kvadrov z vmesnimi železnimi profili. Vmesna poglobljena polja so prezentirana kot fugirana kamnita gmota. Plečnik je na tak način povezoval staro z novim.

The visual design and image of Šance depend primarily on the maintenance of the walls with the removal of vegetation, on the circularly planted trees (maples), and on trimming the hedges in the circular garden. The improvised access ways to the stairs, which were executed between the levels during the last maintenance interventions, detract from the visual impression of the whole. In the entire area of the castle avenue and Šance, the principle should apply that all maintenance is subordinated to Plečnik's original, albeit modest, plan.

The failure to maintain Šance's façade stone walls, as well as weather conditions and a seismic jolt in January 2012, have led to the collapse of the section of the façade stone wall that supports the north-eastern part of the viewing platform.

The area of the lower viewing platform, a large stone volume, is walled on three sides by carved stone blocks and arcades, and is embedded in the ground in the north-eastern part. The viewing platform is secured by a fence made of concrete terracotta blocks with intermediate iron profiles. The intermediate sunken fields are presented as a grouted stone volume, which was Plečnik's way of linking the old and the new.



Šance 2014, foto/photo: Irena Vesel, vir/source: ZVKDS, OE Ljubljana/Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Ljubljana Regional Unit.

Mestna občina Ljubljana je v letu 2014 izvedla statično sanacijo zidov ogrožene razgledne ploščadi. Sanacija je bila izredno zahtevna. Pred posegi je bilo treba raziskati teren; izvajal se je arheološki in konservatorski nadzor. Pri izvedbi vrtin smo prišli do podatka, da se do globine desetih metrov plasti kamnin med seboj menjavajo. Na štirih metrih smo v eni vrtini našli na ostanke starejšega zidu in ostanke apnenega ometa. Med vrtanjem smo v eni od vrtin zaznali tudi vodo. Glede na sestavo zemljine lahko predvidevamo, da navedeno predstavlja nivo nekdanje ureditve tega območja in obstoja Šanc. Zaradi pomembnosti Plečnikovih posegov na ruševinski gmoti smo statično sanacijo izvedli tako, da ni vplivala na videz zidov.

Skrb za Šance in grajsko okolico bo obiskovalcem omogočila nepozabne sprehode, poglede na Ljubljano in širšo okolico. Le kaj vse nam bi lahko povedali zeleni bregovi in grajski zidovi?

In 2014, the City of Ljubljana undertook the static restoration of the walls of the threatened viewing platform, which was extremely demanding. Prior to the intervention, it was necessary to carry out an investigation of the terrain, as well as an archaeological and conservation inspection. By drilling holes in the terrain, it was determined that the layers of rock alternate to a depth of ten metres. In one drill hole, the remains of older walls and lime plaster were encountered at four metres, while the presence of water was detected in another drill hole. In view of the composition of the soil, it can be assumed that these findings represent the level of the former layout of this area and an earlier manifestation of Šance. Given the importance of Plečnik's intervention on the ruins, the static restoration was carried out in such a way that it had no effect on the appearance of the walls.

Care of Šance and the castle surroundings will enable visitors unforgettable walks, with views of Ljubljana and the broader environment. Just imagine all of the stories the green slopes and the castle walls could tell us!



Šance 2014, foto/photo: Irena Vesel, vir/source: ZVKDS, OE Ljubljana/Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Ljubljana Regional Unit.

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Pogled na Šance z Razglednega stolpa Ljubljanskega gradu/
View of Šance from the Ljubljana Castle Viewing Tower, foto/
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Ustanoviteljica
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