



The Archbishop's Palace

(No. 56/IV, Hradčany, Hradčanské nám. 16)

Before the palace's construction began, a total of eight houses are said to have existed on its site, of which three were along the street front. All these were merged into two buildings during the Middle Ages. The house acquired by Václav of Velhartice, who initiated its rebuilding, gradually increased in importance. Florián Griespek of Griesbach, the new owner from 1538 onwards, continued the work. He passed the palace, completed in 1561, on to the sovereign, who donated it, a year later, to the newly appointed archbishop Antonín Brus of Mohelnice, to be held by the archbishop's successors in perpetuity. The archbishop turned to the master builder Bonifác Wolmut, requesting that he draw up the plans for the adaptation of the palace and provide an opinion on how the work should proceed. Wolmut undoubtedly prepared the plans, although in the end he was not in charge of the work – instead Hans Tirol was called upon. Everything, including the internal furnishings, was completed by the end of 1563. Minor modifications were carried out in the palace over the next decade under the supervision of an equally renowned builder, Ulricho Aostalli. In 1599, Archbishop Zbyněk Berka of Dubé had built the palace chapel, which is still in existence today. A new chapter in the history of the palace opened with the arrival of Jan Bedřich of Waldstein in May 1675. The reliable builder Francesco Lurago was called upon for the job, but he followed plans by Jean Baptiste Mathey, a French architect trained in Rome. The first stage in construction produced the surviving marble



◀ Zrcadlo v Audienčním sále / Mirror in the Audience Chamber /
Spiegel im Audienzsaal

▼ Audienční sál / The Audience Chamber / Audienzsaal

▲ Salonek / A drawing room / Kleiner Salon

