

THE RENAISSANCE IN KRUMLOV

I. TO THE TRUMPETER

Welcome to Český Krumlov, one of the most beautiful towns in Europe. The castle here is the second largest castle complex in the Czech Republic. The castle and the historical town center are among the best-preserved sets of municipal architecture in the world and have been on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List since 1992.

The town was founded in the 2nd half of the 13th century on the trade route from Linz in Austria to Bohemia. The name Krumlov name comes from the German "Krumme Aue", meaning "crooked meadow", and Český means that it's located in Bohemia.

Initially they were two separate settlements – the area below the castle called Latrán, and the Old Town which originated on an open space ("green field") inside the river meander. The Nové Město, or New Town, was built later. They were joined in the 16th century.

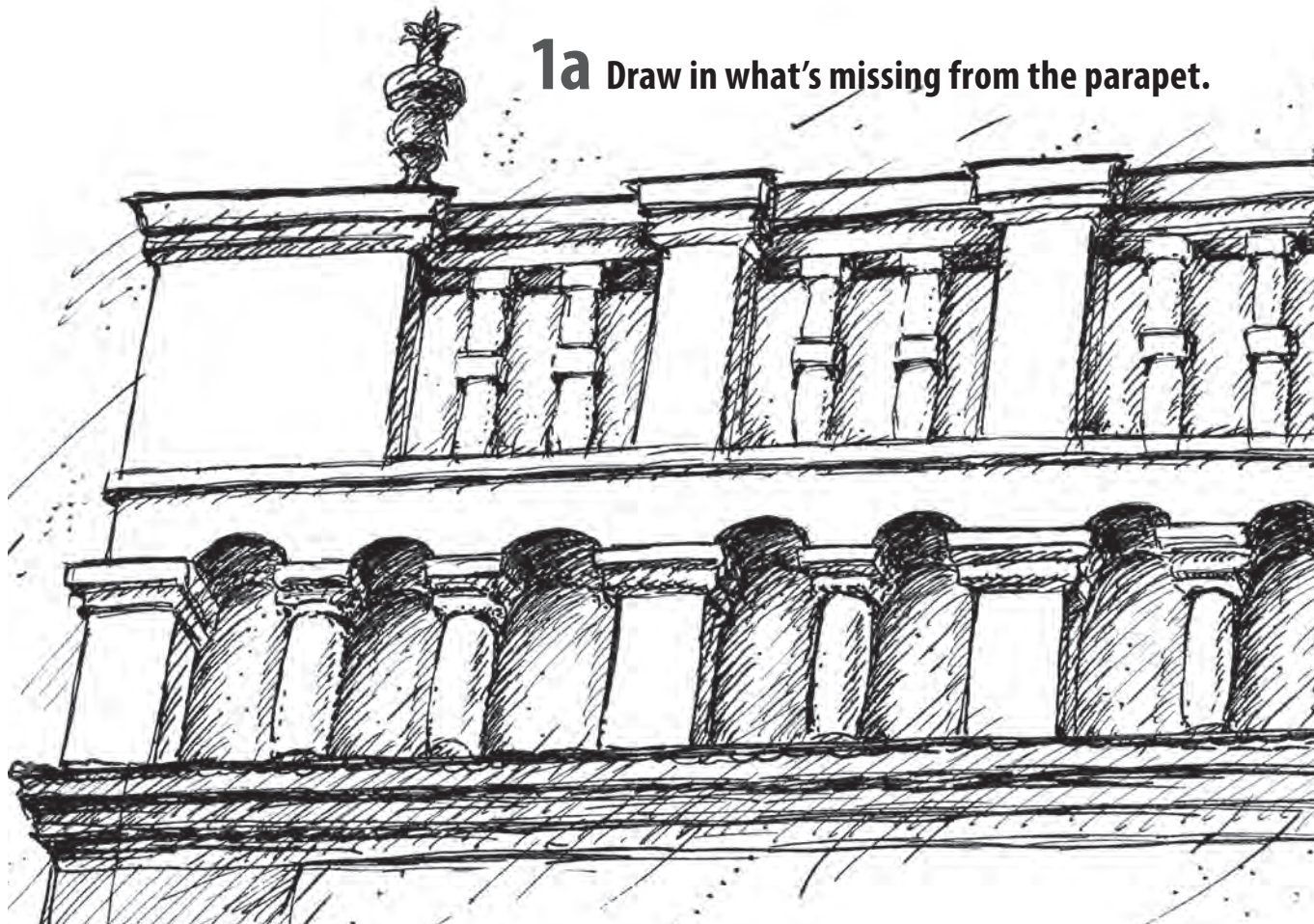
Our journey takes us to the time of Český Krumlov's greatest prosperity and glory, to the Renaissance period. This is when the last of the Rožmberk (Rosenberg) family ruled, the brothers Vilém (Wilhelm, William) and Petr Vok. For your journey, you'll need a sharp wit and a desire to better understand an age when people started to become more interested in anatomy, astronomy, astrology, and alchemy – in other words, in the human body, the movement of the earth, the influence of the stars on our future, and the elixir of youth. **RENAISSANCE** means rebirth or a new recognition, so we'll set out with this approach as well.



You now find yourself on the town square, also the marketplace.

The square used to be the center of social life. This is where markets were held, festivities were organized, esteemed visitors were welcomed, and court sentences were also carried out. The ornate houses are where the wealthiest citizens and municipal councilors used to live.

The Town Hall, or City Hall, is a very distinctive building. Its appearance has seen many transformations over the centuries. We can see traces of the Renaissance at the top part, where the wall is topped with a horizontal line known as the **PARAPET**. This parapet from 1618 is decorated with a band of pillars and pins that cover the roof.



1a Draw in what's missing from the parapet.

1b The four painted coats of arms were made later. Assign the correct name to each coat of arms.

THE NATION OF BOHEMIA

CITY SYMBOL

EGGENBERGS

SCHWARZENBERGS



Hint: Schwarzenberg coat of arms – a raven pecking at a Turk's head

Set off from the town square along Horní ulice (*Upper Street*) towards the corner bay window decorated with the Rožmberk rose and held up by a spiral (helical) column. It's part of the house called the "Kaplanka", or Chaplain's residence, built in 1514-1520 for the Český Krumlov chaplains by the Rožmberk chancellor. This house is one of the first signs of the Renaissance in Český Krumlov, naturally combining late Gothic with Renaissance elements. The stone window lining and ledges above the windows are Renaissance.



The rose signifies perfection, beauty, and good fortune. It embodies the principle of the eternal cosmic cycle and is a symbol of secrecy. The red five-petalled rose on a silver background is the family symbol of the Rožmberks.



Continue along Upper Street and notice the row of houses and how they end with the **GABLES**.

2 Find the arched gable consisting of a half- and quarter-arches and sketch in the second half of the gable.



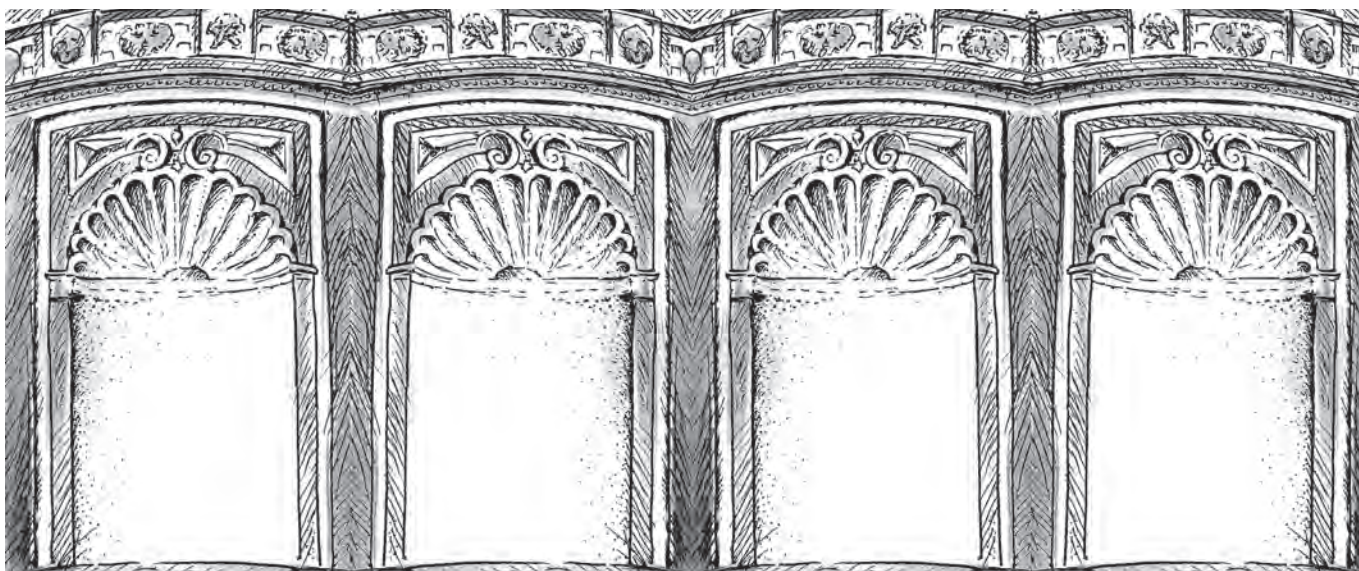
Further down, on the left side you'll come to a terrace. From here, a beautiful view opens up onto the castle that Vilém of Rožmberk had built into a grand Renaissance residence in the 2nd half of the 16th century and from where he ruled his vast Rožmberk dominion. The Rožmberks were one of the most important noble families in Bohemia and held high positions in the royal court. They owned Český Krumlov for three hundred years.

There is a unique system of covered bridges and corridors that passes through the entire castle. During the reign of the Eggenbergs in the 17th century, the corridor system measured almost one full kilometer. Today, the corridor is passable only partially and is walled up in places.



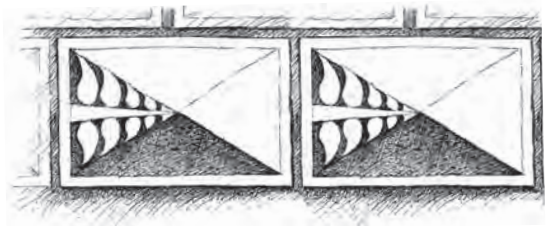
The Český Krumlov castle tower is unmistakable. It has a circular layout, a height of 54.5 meters, and four bells. Deep down inside the tower there is a dungeon. The tower's fourth floor is the bell tower with pink painted niches that face the earth's four directions and are filled with painted figures that personify the four elements. The tower is also decorated with a belt bearing clay lion and human faces, a walkway, four planets that alternate with clock faces, and it's topped by a lantern with a banner.

3 Draw figures representing water, air, earth, and fire into the empty niches.

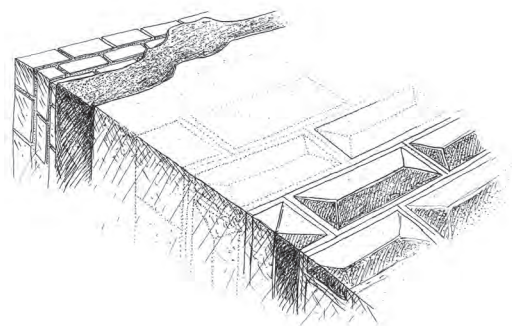
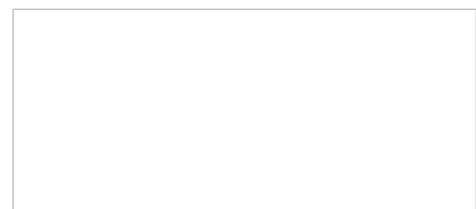


Below the wall in front of you lies the street named Parkán, where the moat between two fortification walls was originally located. From the second half of the 16th century, the Český Krumlov residents began to build houses here, and the fortification wall slowly grew together with their houses. This is where artisans lived who needed water for their crafts, for example drapers, dyers, tanners, butchers, and fishermen. Notice the house with the only roof in the street built at right angles to the adjacent houses. This modification was intended to prevent the spread of a possible fire.

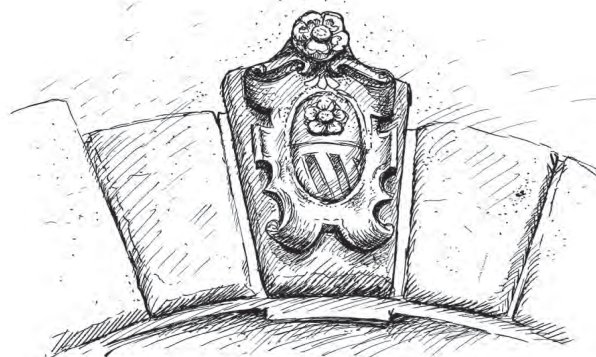
Turn around and you'll see the former Jesuit college. The building was built on the design of the Rožmberk builder Baldassare Maggi of Arogno (read: Baltazar Madži of Aroňo). He also participated in the construction of the castle tower. The college's facade is mostly decorated with sgraffito. The **SGRAFFITO** technique is based on scratching decorative motifs into wet plaster. The motif is known as "psaničko", or envelopes.



4 Create your own design for "psaničko" sgraffito.

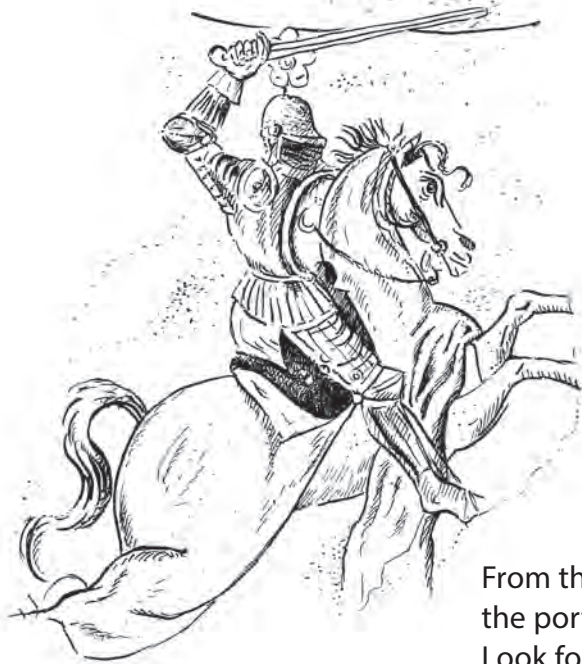
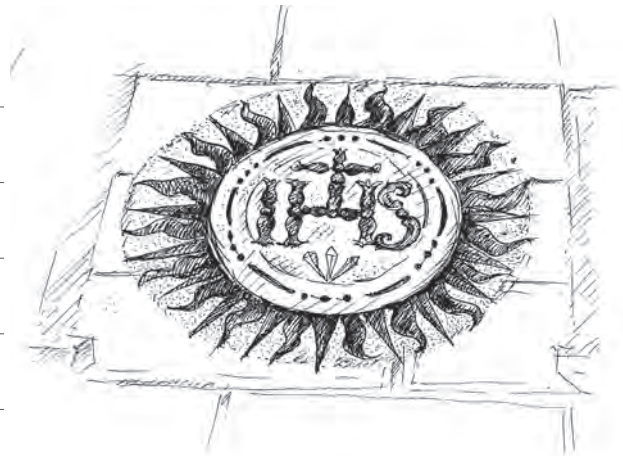


Sgraffito is usually complemented by painted decorations. The same is true in the courtyard of the Jesuit college. Before you step inside, notice the Rožmberk coat of arms and roses. They are located at the top of the **PORTAL** at the main **KEYSTONE (ARCHSTONE)**.



Vilém of Rožmberk invited the **JESUITS** to the town to spread the Catholic faith and culture. The Jesuits emphasized education in languages and the humanities, i.e. speaking, reading, writing, and composing verses in Latin, and rhetoric, or the art of speaking, were also important. The Jesuits recommended walking and sports disciplines for students such as fencing, target shooting, bowling, playing ball, and others. They supported the theater.

5 Look at the paintings that decorate the courtyard of the Jesuit college.
Find the dating and the Rožmberk Rider. Try to describe the rider in simple terms.



The Rožmberk Rider is depicted in motion and conceals many symbols that refer not only to the ancient world, but also to Christianity. His sword bears justice, power, but also the image of a cross and truth; the helmet refers to faith and courage, but also to humility; the white horse is the riding animal for the gods and is a symbol of strength tamed by reason; in John's Revelation it represents heavenly power (majesty). The red robe and roses on the shield and helmet present the Rožmberk family, for whose glory the Rider fought.

From the courtyard, go back towards the portal and return to Horní Street. Look for this sign, it shows you the direction of your journey.



6 Before you pass through the gate into the courtyard, decipher the year of the second sgraffito. What year do the Roman numerals hide?

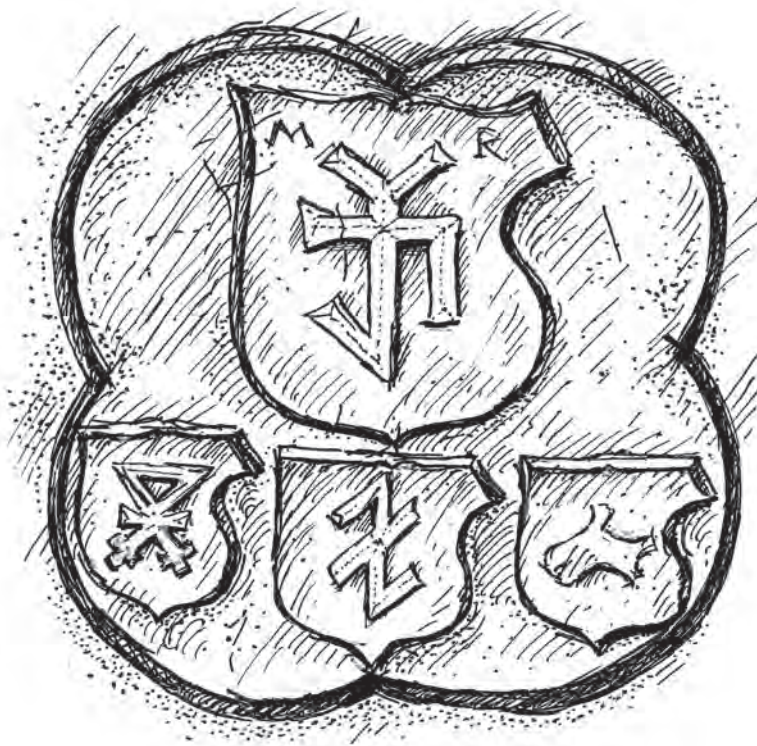


Roman numerals

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

From the courtyard, turn right towards the church of St. Vitus.

Just near the church there used to be a cemetery. The tombstones of the town's prominent citizens were originally placed into the church floor. By the 19th century they were mounted vertically onto the walls or walled directly into them.

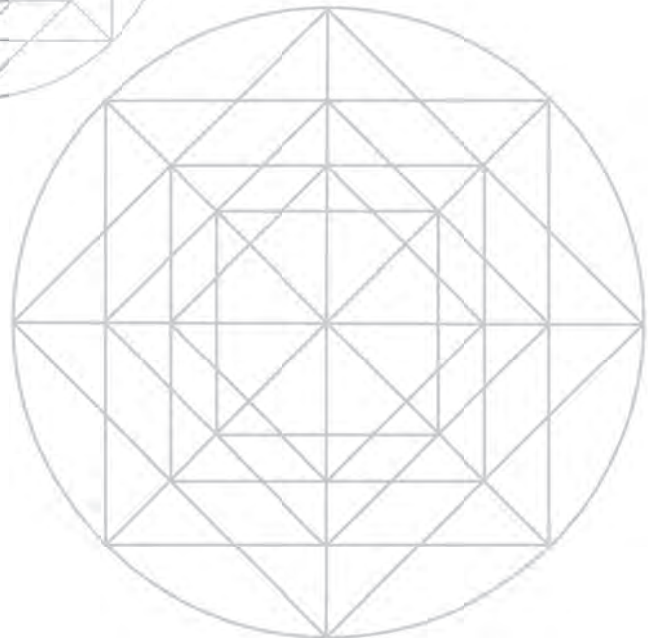
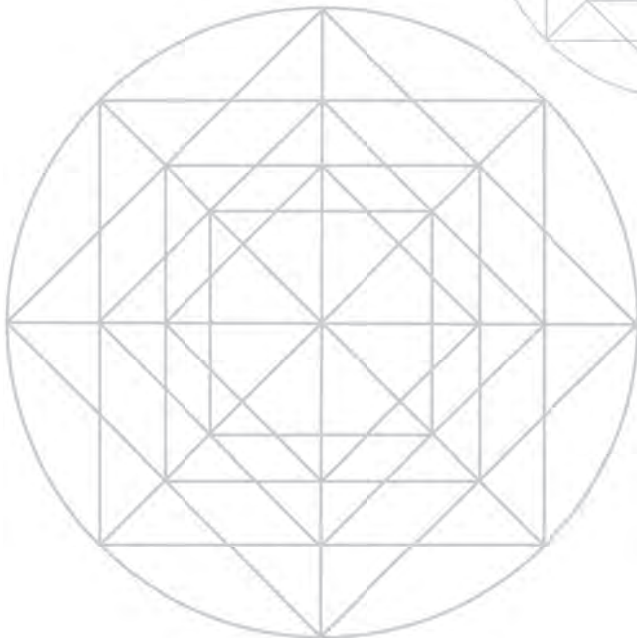


In the niche of the church wall on the left there is a tombstone from red marble. It proclaims that the members of the Rubik stonemason family have been buried here. Beneath the writing, you'll find four stone marks in armorial shields. The largest of them with the initials M.R. belongs to Michal Rubik.

Stonemason signs served to mark the amount of work done that they would receive wages for. The marks were assigned to them by their master after instruction. The shapes of the marks were dictated by law.



7a "Carve" out your own mark into this picture. You can try it twice.



Opposite the church stands a house that we already know, the Kaplanka. Find three granite tombstones on its walls. The first of these bears an inscription written in Renaissance Czech.



Walk down the stairs and turn left onto Kostelní (*Church*) Street. Pass by the building of the Elementary Art School. It has served for education for six hundred years. One student of this school was the poet and Rožmberk clerk Šimon Lomnický of Budeč. He composed poems and wrote stories that ended with a little moral poem.

Continue down Kostelní Street. Along the way, take a look down the narrowest street in Český Krumlov, the one leading to the square. Continue downwards to the two modern bronze fingers on the corner. They point out the bases and corner stones that protected houses against the wheels of passing vehicles. There are many of them in town, either roughly hewn or decorated with ornaments.



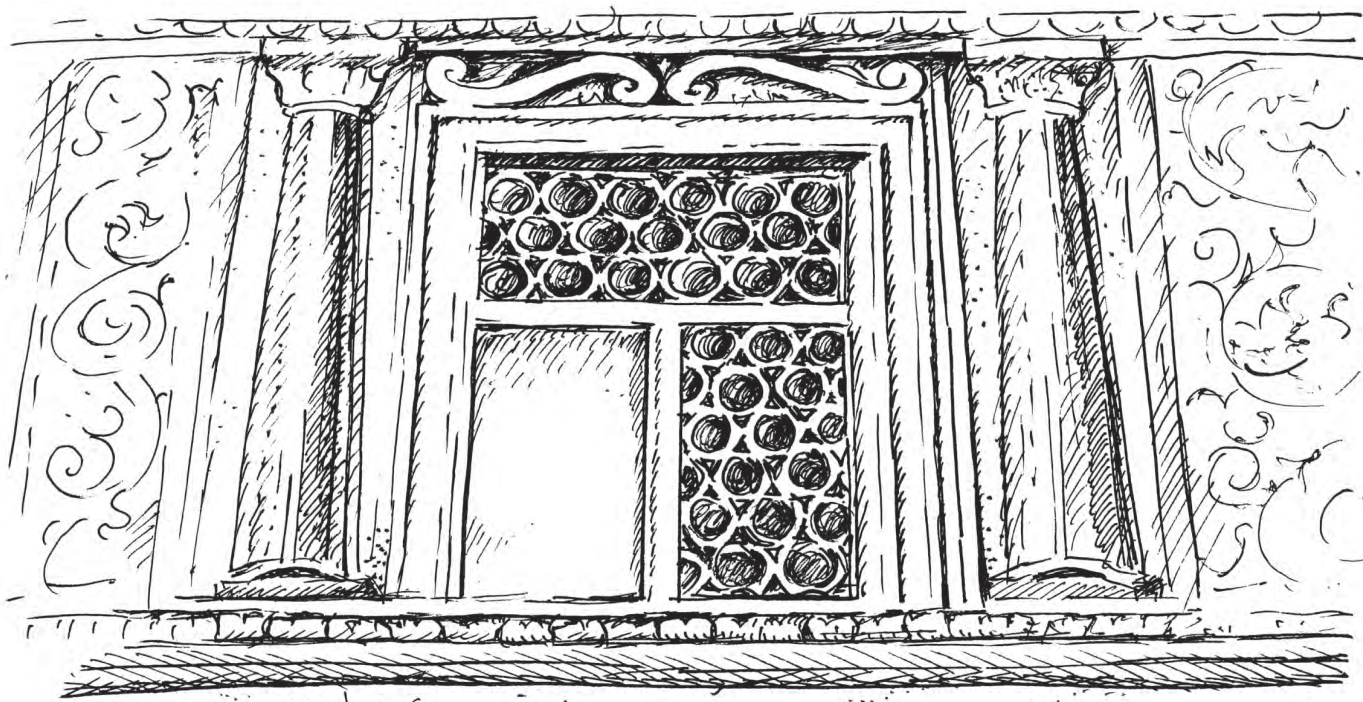
Now you're on the corner of Kostelní and Kájovská Streets – turn right, down Kájovská.

Painted decorations on facades were rarer than sgraffito. You'll find a notably decorative painted façade on the small square called Na Louži, meaning "on the puddle". The "puddle" is watched over by St. Florian, the patron saint who protects from fire. This **FRESCO** adorns the front of house no. 54. The facade towards Široká (*Broad*) Street is also interesting, and this is where we continue our journey. The "residents" of the house look out the painted windows, with a little monkey.

Monkeys are known for their similarity to man and became associated with vice. In the monkey, man recognizes his own disfigured and shameful self.



8 Draw yourself in the window.



At the beginning of Široká Street, on the left, stands the large building of the former municipal brewery. Carefully inspect the sgraffito decoration of the window ledges. They are decorated with motifs of **LEAF** and **EGG PATTERNS**.



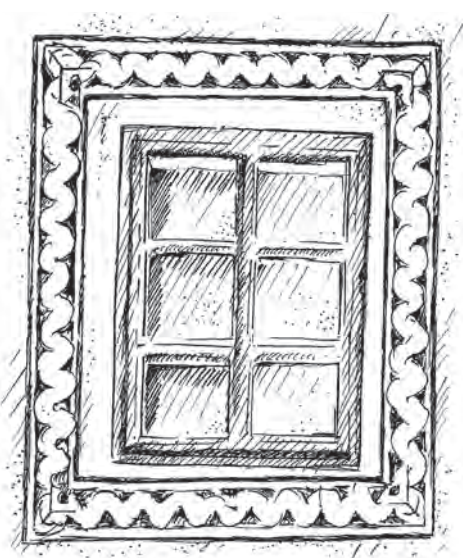
LEAF

DECORATIVE STRIP

EGG

9 Find these architectural features on Široká Street. Using the glossary below, assign the correct names to the images.

PORTAL



CHAMBRANLE



ARCH



Stop at the stone portal doorway. This house was owned by Anton Michael of Ebersbach, who worked in the service of Vilém of Rožmberk for many years as an alchemist. He created an elixir of

life for Vilém. The drink was supposed to bring youth to the ruler and satisfy his longing for an heir. The alchemist was later thrown into prison, mostly for financial fraud, where he died. According to legend, he still haunts this house.

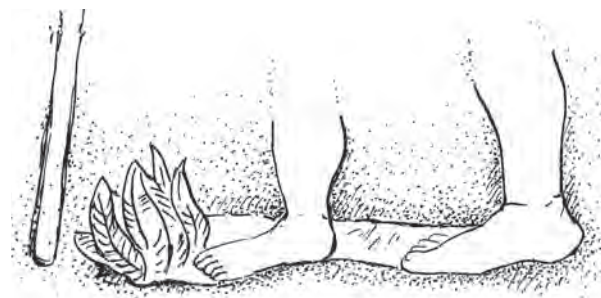
Continue to the right along Dlouhá (*Long*) Street and look for a painted stone marker by Michal Rubik.

You'll pass the house where the sign is located on the right. It's called "Vlašský Dvůr", or the Italian Courtyard. Vlašský is an archaic Czech word for Italian. The house belonged to Vilém of Rožmberk, who hosted Jakub Krčín of Jelčany here, for example, as well as musicians. Apparently the house was a popular site for Italian merchants and craftsmen.

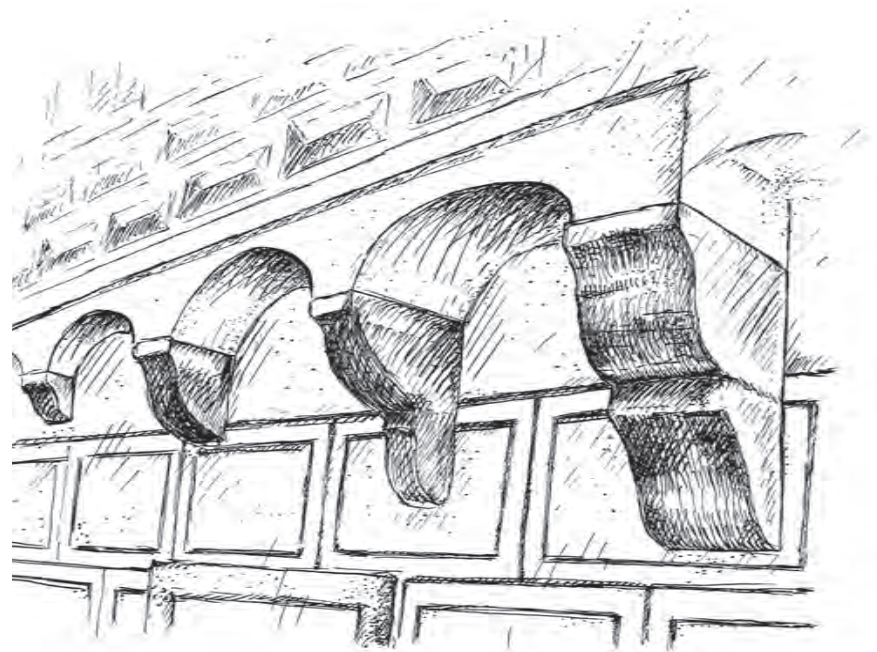
On this side of the Italian Court, examine the rich sgraffito decorated with figural, floral, and architectural motifs. In this part, the house is topped by a parapet supplemented with cones.



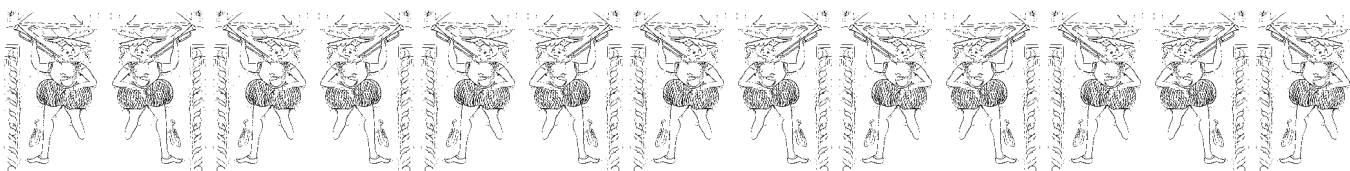
**10 Who joined with the figure trumpeter Gregor to make a pair?
Draw your idea into the image and give it a name.**



Go back to Michael Rubik the stoneworker's mark and continue right to the end of Dlouhá Street, where house no. 100 is on your left. Look how the first floor extends outwards along the **CORBELS**, or the extension beams. Don't forget to inspect the sgraffito decoration again.



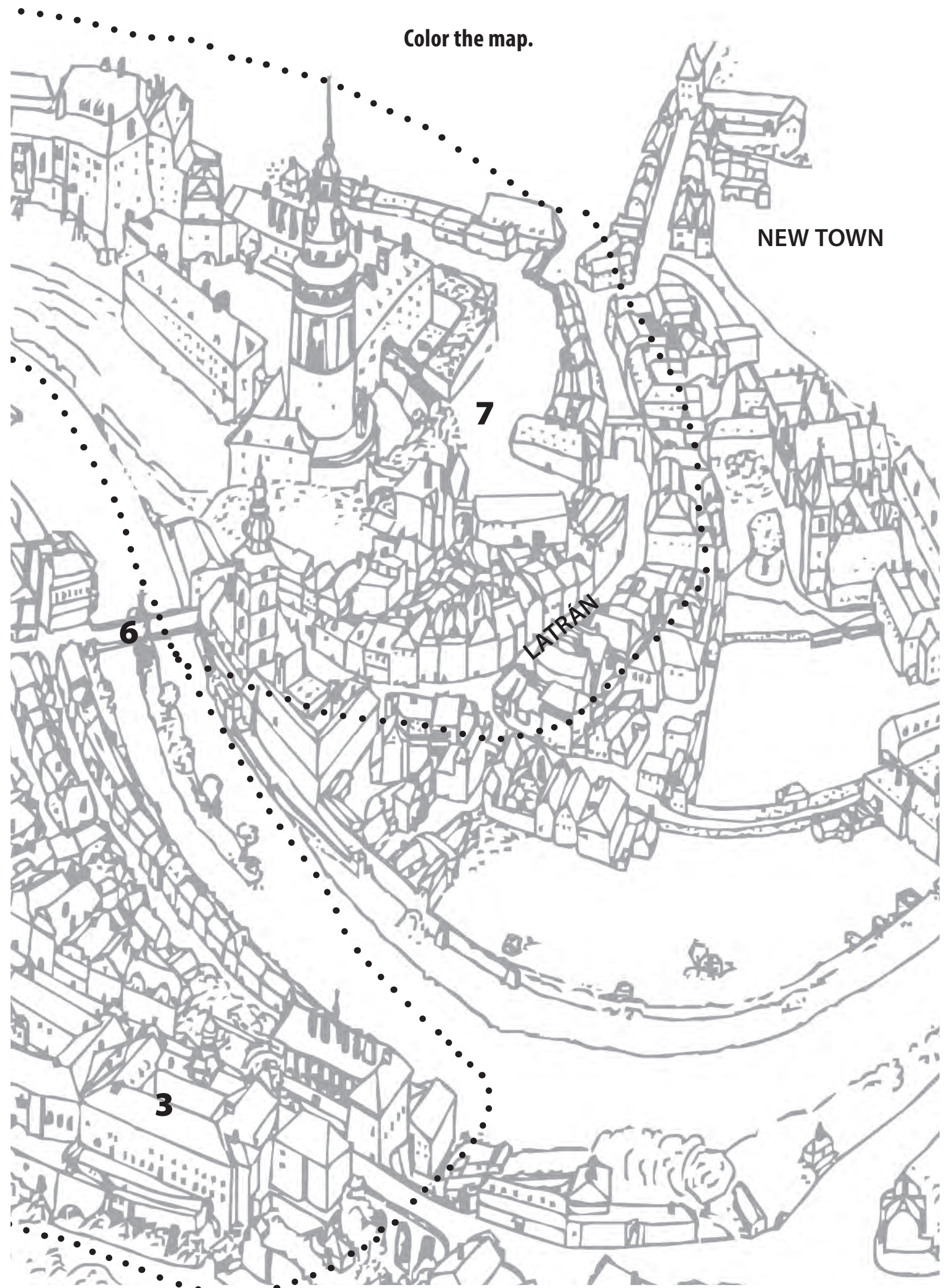
Now you're on the corner of the streets named Dlouhá and Radniční (*City Hall Street*). Close by you can see "Lazebnický Most", or the Barber's Bridge. It got its name from the barber who carried out his trade across the Vltava River. The barber here took care of the spa, thus providing the citizens of Krumlov with the possibility of cleansing the body.



1. NÁMĚSTÍ SVORNOSTI (TOWN SQUARE)
2. KOSTEL SV. VÍTA (ST. VITUS CHURCH)
3. JEZUITSKÁ KOLEJ (JESUIT COLLEGE)
4. ŠIROKÁ ULICE (BROAD STREET)
5. NA LOUŽI (ON THE PUDDLE)
6. LAZEBNICKÝ MOST (BARBER'S BRIDGE)
7. REJDIŠTĚ (FROLICKING GROUNDS)



Color the map.



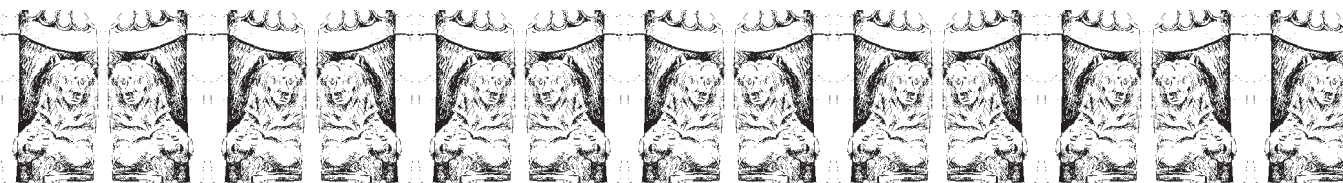
NEW TOWN

7

LATRAN

6

3



II. TO THE BEAR

Stories, tales, legends, and rumors change over time, complement each other, and others disappear. Your story begins after the bridge, in the area of town called Latrán. Your knowledge of the Renaissance will help you find your path to the secrets of the Krumlov bears. The bear tracks will lead you there.

Latrán is the name of the street that ran adjacent to the side of the castle. Streets with this name mostly held the houses where artisans lived, who took their livelihood from the work the castle provided. In Český Krumlov, the name Latrán also indicates an independent part of the town which used to have its own administrative rights and privileges.

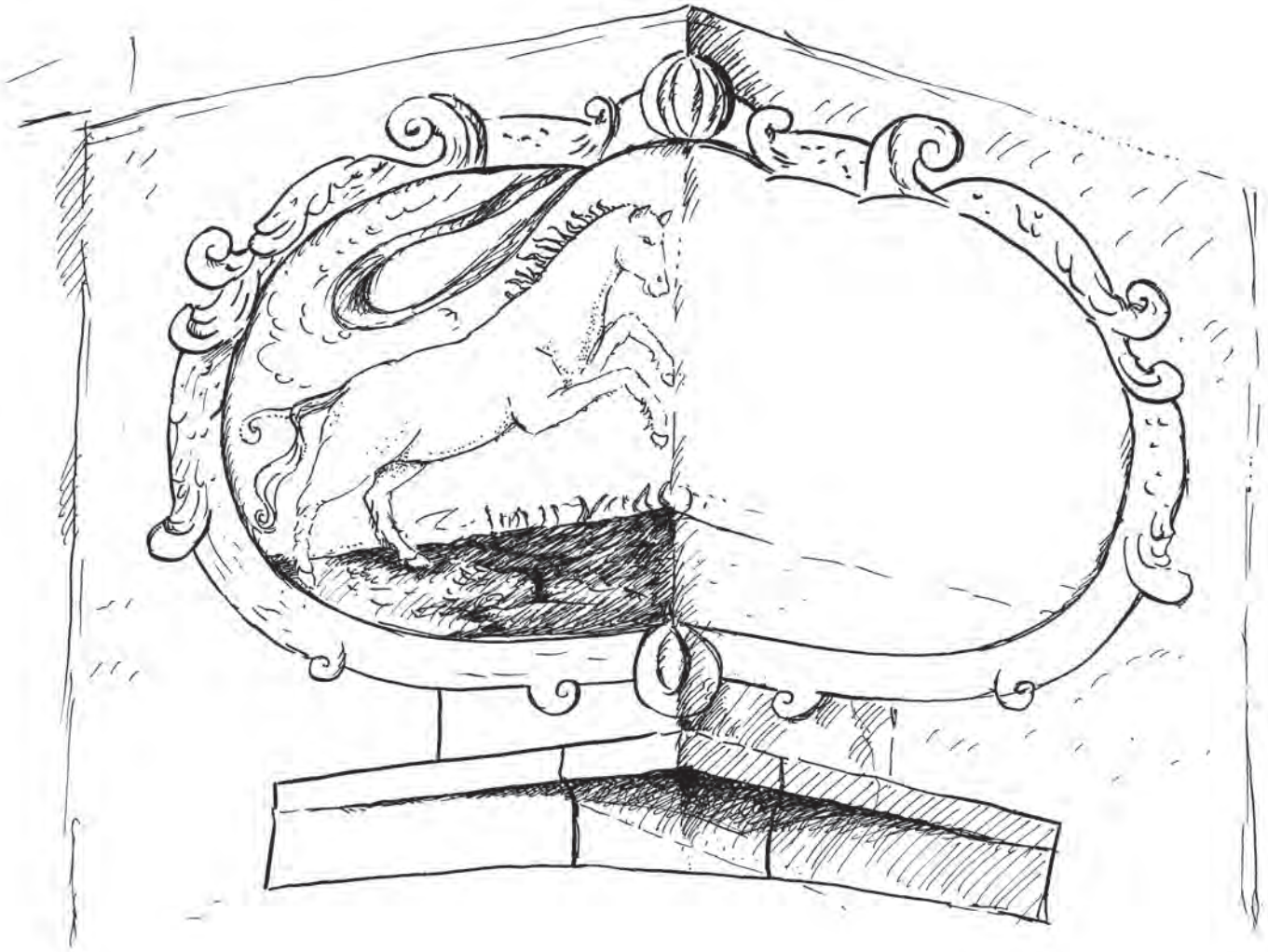
... the fanfare of the trumpeter Gregor sounded – perhaps a bear has escaped! Bears have always been a part of Krumlov, haven't they? No no, this was started by Mr. Vilém... but hurry, quickly now...



To the right at Lazebnický Bridge, across from the former "Lazebna" spa, there stands a corner house. From 1582 it was in the ownership of saddlers for over a century. It is decorated with two horses, but maybe they are really unicorns. Between them there might have been a horn that pointed towards the castle tower. The imaginary line between the unicorn and the lion heads on the tower was allegedly linked by the power of the moon and sun.

1 

Draw the second unicorn into the picture, and don't forget to add the spiral horn – it disappeared from the house over time.



At home, find a picture of a rhino and a narwhal. These animals became the prototype for the beautiful mythical unicorn, who represented strength, purity, and perfect goodness. The powder from its horn was said to heal wounds, clean water, and neutralize poison.

Stroll around the stone bollard and stop at house no. 14.

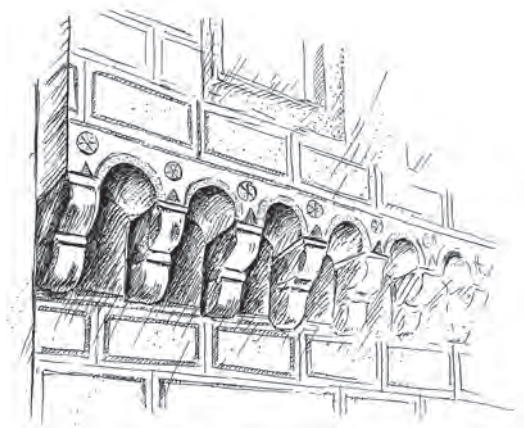
This house was bought by the castle laundry in 1572. Her daughter Mariana had a very argumentative



nature; she often slandered not only her neighbors, but also the city council and perhaps even Petr Vok himself. She promised to mend her ways and to behave respectfully, but she didn't keep her promise. The Town Council therefore requested that she leave the town. Mariana therefore sold the house to her son-in-law, and remained living in the house. But she couldn't run away from her lying tongue. She finally died in the city jail.

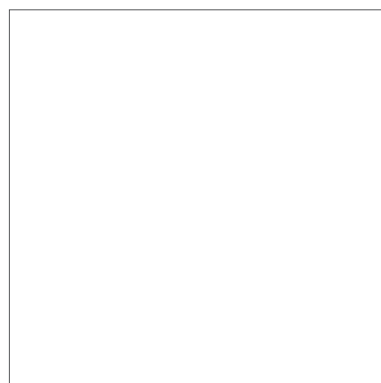


2  **Count the corbels.**
What were they used for?



A short distance away stands house no. 15, adorned with five-petalled roses between the corbels. From 1576 it was the home of the Dutch painter Gabriel de Blonde, who was involved in the decorative painting of the castle. The outside of the house is decorated in predominantly Renaissance style, but inside there are old Medieval wall murals of saints.

3  **How many roses are there on the house?**
Draw one of them.



Latrán Street follows the terrain and rises further to a house with a decorated entrance. This was the home of the baker Kašpar, carpenter Mertl, and cabinetmaker Oldřich.

4a  **Name the stone frames around the windows and doors.**



4b  **Mark the major keystone in the drawing.**

Sit down for a moment on the stone bench by the house and look around. While observing the surrounding houses, you'll come across a special group of corner stones. The story goes of a wounded man who was dying here and nobody helped him. He appears here wailing at night even nowadays, and it is said that the clatter of weapons and banging sounds echo here during the night.

5 

Imagine what could have happened on this spot. Make a sketch into the prepared image and think of the rest of the story at home. You can write it, but mostly you should tell it to someone close.



This house, no. 37, belonged to Jetřich Slatinský from Slatinky. You already know that he was the hetman for the castle – this means that he took care of the Rožmberk estates and represented Vilém of Rožmberk in his absence. You saw the tombstone of Jetřich Slatinský at the church of St. Vitus.

6 

What mark can you find on the corner corbel?

Continue to the house with the fresco of the Rožmberk rider. The painted facade ends with a gable with horizontal ledges articulated by pillars and with Venetian arched gables. During the last Rožmberks, this was the home of ropemakers.



7  Compare the Rožmberk Rider with his other depictions. Which one of these doesn't belong here?

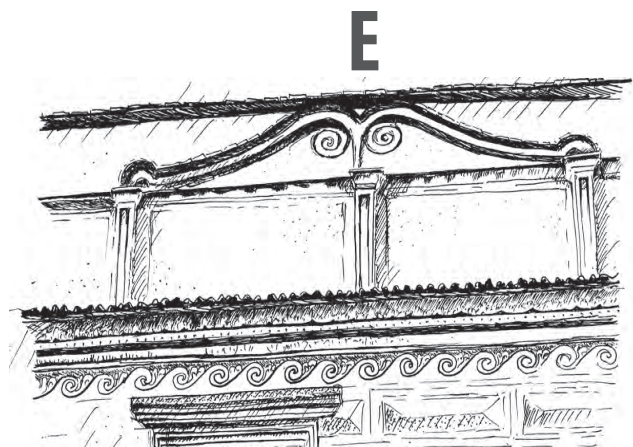
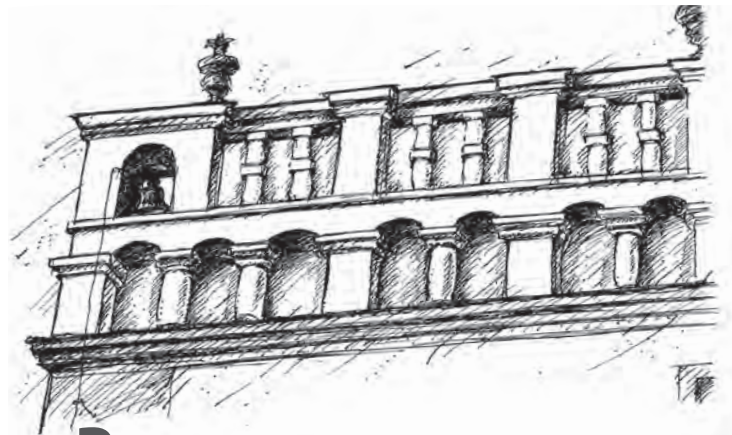
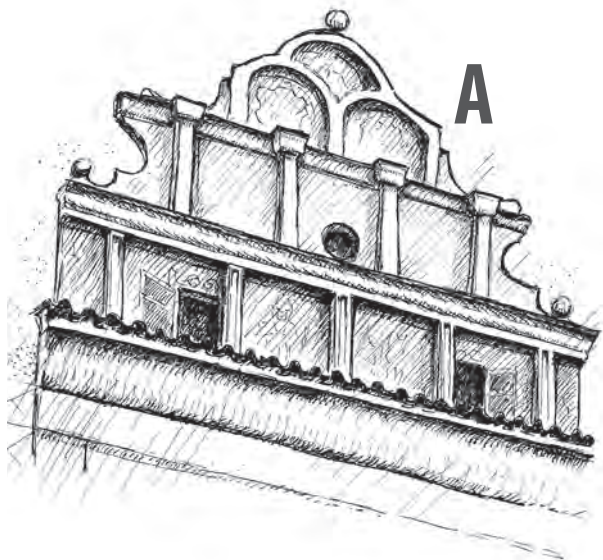


8  **Inspect house no. 43. Copy down all the sgraffito motifs and find the year. The gable belongs to the final period of the Renaissance.**



You are approaching your destination.

9  **Describe what the parapet is and what the gable is.**



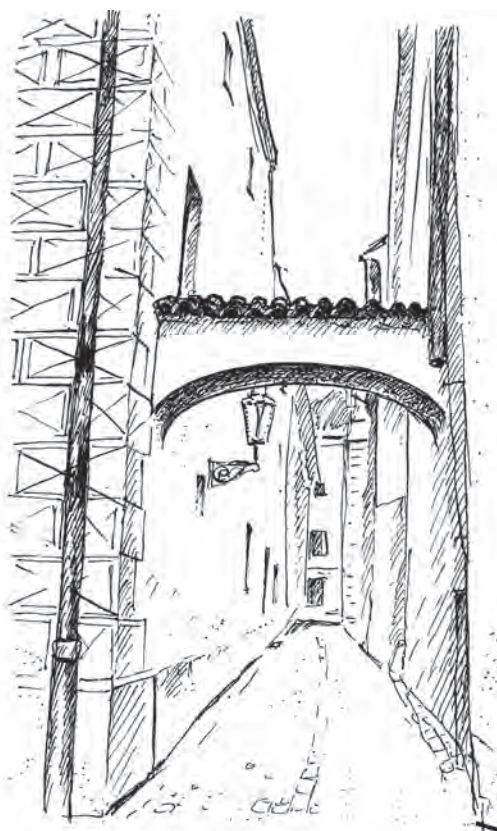
10  **Discover each building element and circle the correct name.**


ICICLE

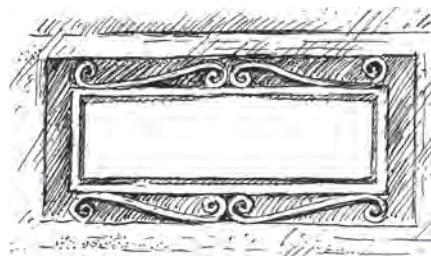
CORBEL

ARCH

Not far from you is the entrance to the "new pharmacy", where the castle physician lived for centuries. Notice the sgraffito decorations, window ledges, and parapet. From the other side, the house is connected to the Red Gate, which is the main entrance to the castle grounds. Go towards the gate into the little square.



11  **Complete both images. Assign these names to the numbered motif patterns: egg, leaf, envelope, ocean wave.**



1



2



3



4



Across from you there stands house no. 53. It has been decorated with ten painted images representing the course of life. The pictures show a man from his boyhood up to his appearance as an old man. On the side of the house, the decoration continues with geometric patterns associated with alchemy.

12a What all happens during a human life?

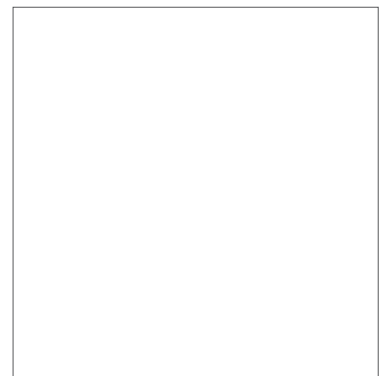
12b Look at the transformation of house no. 53 in the course of "the house's life".



"It has always been that on the seventh year a child's teeth fall out and others grow. On the fourteenth year the first young whiskers grow... in the forty-ninth year, reason approaches a man with maturity, so he is usually careful, and mature and perfect to his age... at seventy years, he has already reached his life goal and death is not far." Hendrych Rankow, Regiment of Health, Rudolph period

13 Draw the shape of the main keystone of the Red Gate.

Above the Red Gate, notice the part of the castle passageway, then as it continues on the right above the street Latrán. Above the street arch there are coats of arms painted of Vilém of Rožmberk and his third wife Anna Maria of Baden. Inside the arch a forged iron hook has remained, where a rope was hung at night hung to prevent the entry of intruders into the city and to protect the peace of the night.



Enter the Red Gate to the first castle courtyard, known as the "rejdiště". This place was reserved for knightly tournaments, contests, and competitive matches.

... Everyone ran together... Katya the she-bear remained in her place. The cheeks of trumpeter Gregor looked like two pink feather blankets. The fanfare sounded again...



14a  Find out the names of the bears in the castle moat and how to say bear in Latin.

14b  Katya the she-bear has remained in her place. Do you see her?

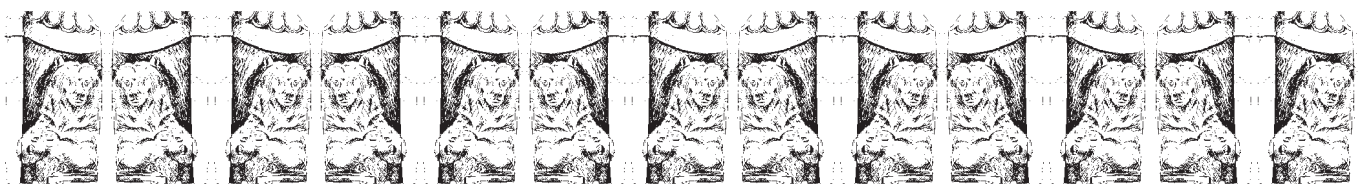


14c  Look for the lost bear.



According to the Rožmberk ancestral legends, the Rožmberks were relatives of the noble Italian Orsini family. This alleged relationship was supposed to prove the antiquity of the Rožmberk family and thus increase their social status. Orsa means she-bear in Italian. This is why there are two bears as shield-bearers in the Rožmberk coat of arms, and why bears have been bred here from the mid-16th century.

Our journey together through Český Krumlov's age full of discoveries and blossom ends here. The story of the trumpeter and the lost bear is almost over. You just have to give a name to the brown fuzzies in the window. Why they are looking from here, and who they live here with... well, this is part of another story. We bid you farewell with the motto of Vilém of Rožmberk, "FESTINALENTE", which means "HASTEN SLOWLY".



GLOSSARY:

ARCH (PRAMPOUCH) arch spacing between two buildings, walled up and usually with a roof.



ARCHSTONE a section of a vaulted stone arch, sometimes only marked into the plaster, painting, or sgraffito. The **KEYSTONE** is at the top of a vaulted arch and is often larger and more ornate.



BOSSAGE a sculpted part of a block wall, also rendered from plaster as an imitation (corner, bossed portal, etc.).



CORBEL a stone beam protruding from the wall; it holds the oriel, an extended storey of a house, and others.



CORNICE it horizontally divides and decorates the wall, ending a work of architecture or its part. We also find it above windows or doors and can be made of stone, brick, wood, or stucco.



FRESCO from Italian *al fresco* ("to the fresh"), a special kind of wall painting where the paint is applied to fresh plaster so that it soaks into the base and dries with it together. The painter works in sections that he can manage to paint within a day, so that the plaster doesn't dry. The drawing is transmitted to the wall from a prepared piece of cardboard by tapping coal powder through fine holes.



GABLE it closes the opening of the roof and thus the attic of the building itself. It most often has a triangular shape and various decorations.



CHAMBRANLE the border around the windows. The framing can be broad or thin, and can be slightly molded into the plaster or wood.



JAMB the stone framing around windows (and doors), decorated from very simple to rich designs. Two windows are often placed in a single frame.



JESUITS the Jesuit Order, or Society of Jesus, is one of the largest and most important religious orders of the Roman Catholic Church. They chose the monogram IHS as their sign. The letters IHS are interpreted here as **I**esum **H**abemus **S**ocium (Jesus is our companion).



ORIEL a protrusion extending from the corner or the face of a building, perched on a leg support or corbels, expanding the interior space.



ORNAMENT

a decorative element which serves to beautify or articulate a building, often as a pattern:

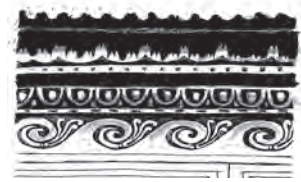
EGG – ovoid shapes in a strip, alternating with pointed shapes

LEAF – a strip ornament composed of stylized leaves

MEANDER – right-angled broken geometric ornament or an ornament composed of spirals like an **OCEAN WAVE**

PEARL – a strip representing strung pearls with a spherical or oval shape

ROPE – its shape is reminiscent of a braided rope, an interleaved circular motive is shown



PARAPET

the wall above the main cornice of a building, always with a horizontal top (jagged battlements, small gables, balustrade with vases, etc.), covering the view of the roof. It can run the full length of the facade or only part of the building, and can hold a gable or many gables.

BALUSTRADES – a railing made of pins.



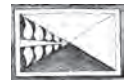
PORTAL

stone framing around a door or gate; it might be decorated with a year or sculpture.



SGRAFFITO

this uses two (sometimes more) layers of plaster. The lower dark and coarse layer, in tones of ocher, black, and gray, is left to dry, then an outline of a drawing is transferred onto the top lighter and finer layer, through translucent paper. This drawing is scratched through while the plaster is still wet. The colors of the plaster can also be reversed.



SOLUTIONS:

1	The bell was used to call councilors together for the town meeting.	1b	EGGENBERGS – THE COUNTRY OF BOHEMIA – SCHWARZENBERGS – MUNICIPAL COAT OF ARMS
5	The figure of a rider in armor, holding a shield with the Rožmberk rose in his left hand, the right arm wielding a sword over his head, with a rose decorating his helmet.	5	
6	1576	6	
9	CHAMBRANLE – ARCHES – PORTAL	9	
II. TO THE BEAR			
2	The corbels, fitted into the rounded ground floor walls, allow for the creation of broader and more regularly distributed rooms on the upper floor.	12	
3	JAMB – PORTAL	13	
4		4	
6	five-petalled rose	6	
7	The one on the lower left corner.	7	
8	MOTIFS OF A ROSE, EAGLE, LION, ROPE INTERWEAVED WITH CIRCULAR MOTIFS AROUND THE WINDOWS (CHAMBRANLES) AND ABOVE IT, 1616	8	
9	GABLE A C D PARAPET B E	9	
10	ARCH	10	
11	1 LEAF, 2 EGG, 3 SEA WAVE, 4 ENVELOPE MDLVI - 1556	11	
12a	It notes the path that each of us have started on by our birth and which we finish by our death. Throughout our life we gain much experience, we learn to speak, to walk, to love, to help others, etc. We age, we mature, and some of us gain wisdom through our diligence.	12a	
14a	CATHERINE, VOK, MARIA THERESA URSUS = LATIN BEAR	14a	
14b	The she-bear Katya can be found on the facade of the Hrádek, or Little Castle, which is part of the castle tower, over the bear moat.	14b	
14c	Return to the rejdiště. Find the castle steps and go down them. Just past the gate on the left you'll see a bear in a painted window.	14c	