General view of the spinning mill area from the west

vived the post-Velvet Revolution transformation period under the company Mykana Chrastava, for which it spun semi-worsted yarn between 1990 and 2001.

The years 2001–2002 were critical, as the complex was abandoned. Later, it was purchased by Ilja Šercl, a sports car mechanic from Liberec, and his son Pavel. They established a specialized restoration workshop for repairing internal combustion engines on the ground floor of the main multi-storey building and in the adjacent spaces. Their focus shifted to historical military technology, restored for prestigious domestic and international clients. Pavel Šercl initiated the process of declaring the complex a cultural monument, which was successfully achieved in 2011. Step by step, he established a unique Jizera Mountains Technical Museum featuring exhibitions on textile production, aviation, and military technology. The leitmotif is the concept of „the last working day „. None of the younger layers – often „cleaned up" during conversions – were removed, so the overall atmosphere remains exceptionally authentic. In recognition of his efforts, Pavel Šercl was awarded the National Heritage Institute's Patrimonium pro Futuro Prize for 2021 in the category of Presentation and Popularization.

1913 Another fire, followed by a complete reconstruction for Karl Bienert Jr. (project by Heinrich Zieger from Zittau)
1945 Nationalization, textile production continues throughout the second half of the 20th century (Fryba, Bytex, Mykana)

Exhibition in a multi-storey building

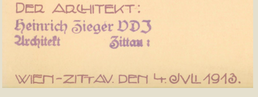
1967 Decommissioning of the hydraulic system
2001 End of textile production
2002 The factory is purchased by the Šercls
2011 Declared a cultural monument
2012 Opening of the first exhibitions of the Jizera Mountains Technical Museum

JIZERSKOHORSKÉ TECHNICKÉ MUZEUM

ARCHITECT

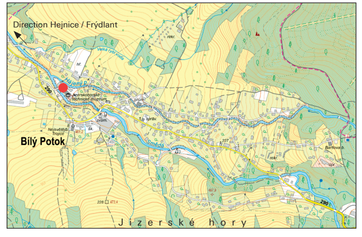
HEINRICH ZIEGER *1873 – †1943

Architect and engineer Heinrich Zieger owned studios in the Saxon Zittau and, since 1909, also in Vienna. After the creation of Czechoslovakia, he founded branches in Liberec and Šenkvice near Bratislava. His speciality was factories and industrial complexes, namely machine factories and light industry constructions. Zieger's priority when designing industrial buildings was a close connection between architectural design and spatial planning, as well as understanding the technological flow and production process. He emphasized optimal ventilation, heating and lighting of the workspace. He held a design patent for the construction of shed halls and offered self-supporting steel roof trusses of his design with a minimum of columns. He frequently utilized the static properties of reinforced concrete and steel structures. His buildings – designed in the spirit of so-called reform architecture – are characterized by thorough work with volumes and proportions, fine plasticity of the facades and altering surfaces (sprayed vs. smooth plaster, multicoloured brick masonry or cladding), combining spacious window openings with segmental and rectangular arches or the usage of mansard and hipped roofs. Many of his industrial buildings were built in Saxony, Silesia, Austria, the Kingdom of Hungary, and Bohemia. For instance, in the Liberec region (alongside Bienert's spinning mill), we can find his Jute Mills in nearby Višňová (1910–1925), the electrotechnical factory Bruno Fritsch situated directly in the centre of Liberec and the weaving and dyeing mill Kraus and Hoffmann in Rochlice (1927–1931).



GPS coordinates:
50.8742217N, 15.2179897E
Connections: By train to the Bílý Potok pod Smrkem train station, from there 20 minutes on foot following the red trail; by bus to the Bílý Potok, School bus stop, from there 5 minutes on foot following the red trail; by car on road II/290 (free parking for visitors).

For more information, visit:
www.npu.cz/uop-liberec sekce prezentace památek
www.muzeumjizerky.cz



Published in 2025 by the National Heritage Institute, Regional Office for the Protection of Monuments in Liberec as part of the Monuments Presentation project.
The publication was created based on institutional support for the long-term conceptual development of the research organization provided by the Ministry of Culture.

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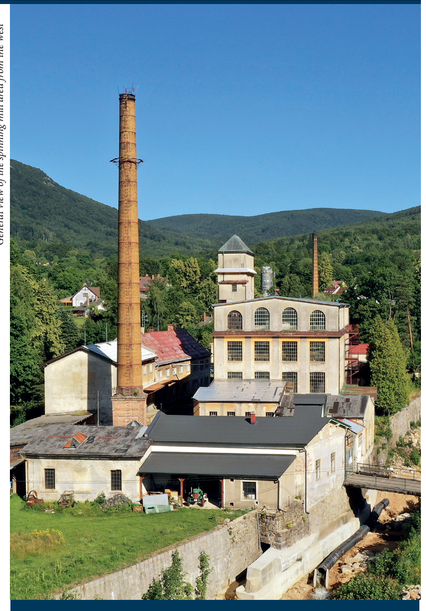
NÁRODNÍ PAMÁTKOVÝ ÚSTAV | ÚZEMNÍ ODBORNÉ PRACOVIŠTĚ V LIBERCI

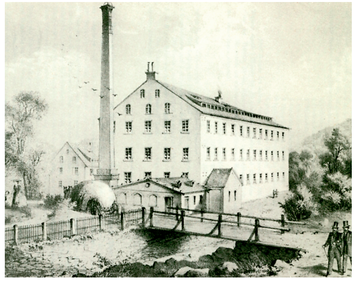
General view of the spinning mill area from the west



BÍLÝ POTOK

The Spinning Mill of the Karl Bienert Jr. Company

HISTORY AND PRESENT OF THE COMPLEX



The oldest depiction of the factory in the Album of the Liberec Chamber of Commerce and Trade from 1862. At that time it served as a cotton spinning mill for the Cordell Brothers company Anschiringer 1862

Few factories in our country could boast such an impressive landscape setting. The prominent landmark of the village spread across the dramatically shaped end of the Smědá River valley. The landmark that remained unrivalled until four decades later when the church – conceived on the drawing board of the same architect – was built. Right here, on the promontory creating the confluence of the streams Smědá and Hájený Potok, Ignatz Lange began building his spinning mill of vigogne (waste) yarn in 1852. He was one of the few pioneers who launched factory production in the Frýdland region in the 1850s. And just like Richter in Luh, the Hermans in Hejnice and Klinger in Nové Město pod Smrkem, he needed – besides manpower and capital – the power of water. That is why this place was considered suitable. The water wheel of the factory was powered by the swift, forceful, abundant water stream of the Smědá River, just as the streams of Bílý, Černý or Hájený Potok powered the water wheels of the local rag-shredding mills that supplied raw material to the spinning mill.

Thanks to the monumental album by Anton Anschiringer – the secretary of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce in Liberec – we can discover what the spinning mill looked like around the year 1860 when it was owned by the Cordell brothers and used for spinning cotton. By then, the water wheel was supported by a steam engine, indispensable in drought and spring thaw periods. It had to keep running 29 carding and 12 spinning machines with a total of 5,000 spindles, all manufactured by the renowned machine factory Platt Brothers & Co. in Oldham, England, and also in the machine factory of Eduard Priebsche in Potočná (nowadays a part of Desná).

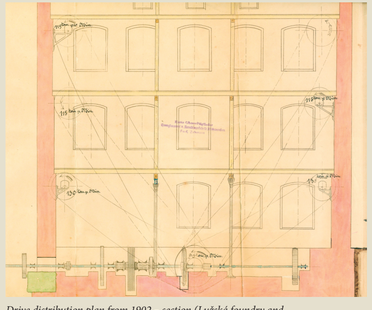
In 1874, a fire – a common scourge of textile factories of the 19th century – broke out in the spinning mill. That might be one of the reasons for the factory's subsequent reconstruction into a mechanical woollen mill (equipped with metal, mechanical – remotely powered looms) done by the new owner of the factory, Karl Bienert, in 1882. The reconstruction plans were made by Josef Neisser, an active architect from Frýdlant. The water wheel was still used as the main power source at that time; however, two years later – next to the waterwheel house (the space where the waterwheel turns) – emerged a new boiler house with a flued boiler (preserved to this day) from Ringhoffer's company based in Smíchov. The boiler powered a horizontal steam engine in the neighbouring boiler room. In 1897, the boiler house was expanded to the location of the then-factory chimney, and a new chimney was built in its present position, according to the plans of Josef Pastorek from Hrádek nad Nisou. In 1907, the continuously growing production required the construction of the second boiler house of a more efficient Tischbein type. It was manufactured by the Prague-based company Akciová společnost strojírny (formerly Breitfeld, Daněk & Co.) and remains in operation to this day. The hydraulic system underwent modernization, too – in 1886, and mainly in 1900 when the old water wheel was replaced by a double-runner (i.e., twin-wheel, sharing a common shaft) Francis turbine.

The appearance of the main building underwent minor changes since 1882. Today's form, overall different from the original one, was established during the major reconstruction in 1913 following another fire outbreak. The reconstruction was designed by Heinrich Zieger, an architect from Zittau. He embedded a four-story, two-section reinforced concrete frame with an eight-bay structure into a part of the original building's perimeter masonry. He attached a staircase tower with an elevator and sanitary facilities on each mezzanine floor. The tower was topped with a water tank that served, among others, fire protection purposes. It supplied a sophisticated fire sprinkler system (automatic fire extinguishers) installed beneath the ceilings of production halls.

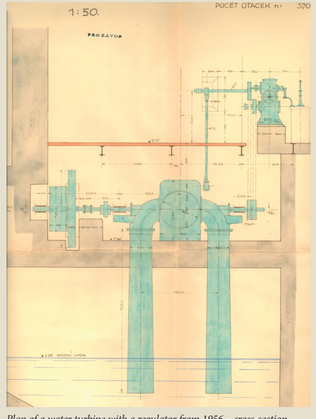
The period of mechanical weaving was a brief episode, and the factory soon returned to its initial production program – spinning yarn from textile waste. The local rag-shredding mills supplied raw materials. After World War II and nationalization, production was resumed, and new machines of English manufacture were purchased. The factory first became one of the production plants of the national enterprise Fryba, later of the leading carpet manufacturers of Czechoslovakia, Bytex Vratislavice nad Nisou. Therefore, the main production focus in the second half of the 20th century was carpet yarns. During this period, the water turbines and the steam engine were dismantled. The spinning mill survived.

MILESTONES

1852 Construction of the vigogne spinning mill for Ignatz Lange
1874 Fire of the spinning mill
1882 Conversion into a mechanical spinning mill for Karl Bienert (design by Josef Neisser from Frýdlant)



Drive distribution plan from 1902 – section (Lužská foundry and engineering factory Ferdinand Zelsmann)



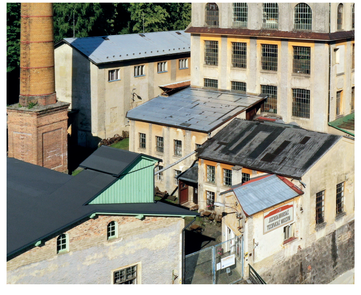
Plan of a water turbine with a regulator from 1956 – cross-section (Bedřich Kočí)

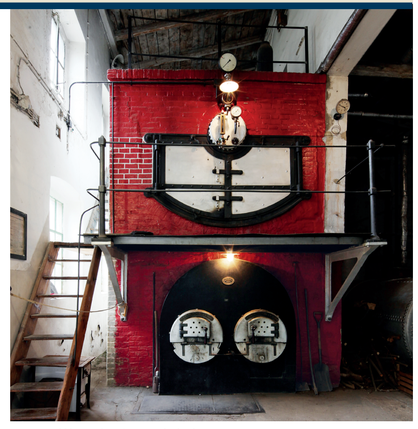
Waste spinning mill after the reconstruction was completed in 1913

1884 Installation of the flued steam boiler by the F. Ringhoffer Company

1900 Replacement of the water wheel with a double-runner Francis turbine

The entrance to the factory. On the right in the foreground is the gatehouse, the engine room, behind it the boiler room, from which an underground smoke duct leads to the chimney. On the left is the auxiliary operations building, originally connected to the engine room by a ropeway. In the background is the multi-storey building of the 2025 spinning mill





Breitfeld, Daněk & Co. steam boiler from 1907, 2025

1907 Installation of the second steam boiler of the Tischbein type by Breitfeld, Daněk & Co.

Engine room interior, 2025