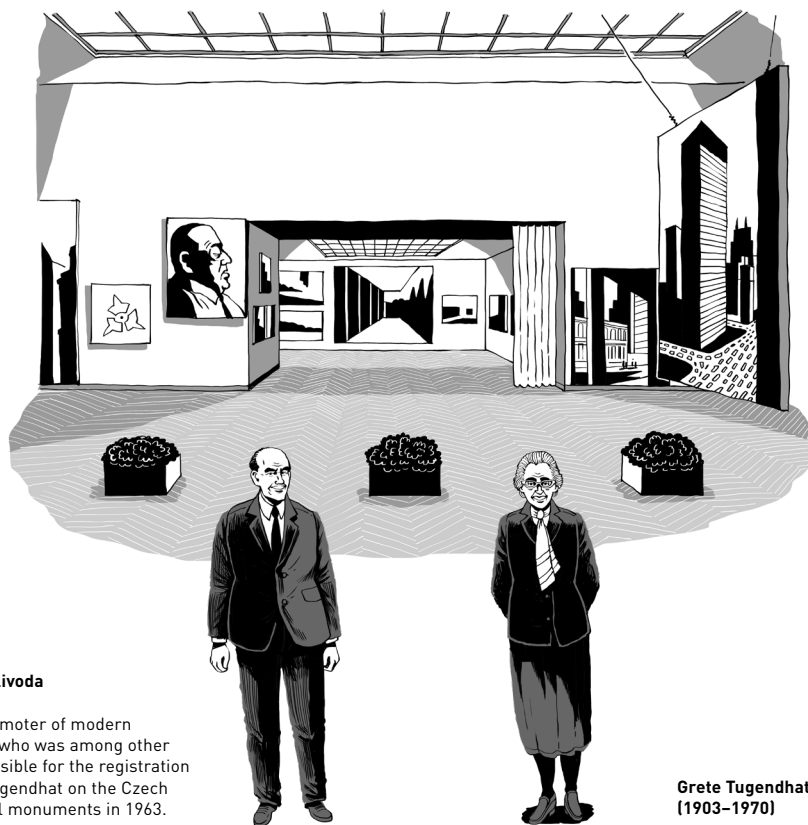


THE VILLA AND ITS RESTORATION

The Tugendhat family home was built according to the design of the architect **Ludwig Mies van der Rohe** in 1929–1930. The uniqueness of the Brno villa comes from its formal architectural purity, its setting in a natural environment and its interconnection of space, but also from its technical and design concept and the use of fine materials. It has become an iconic building of Brno's modernist architecture but also holds a significant position in a global context. The family was forced to leave their home in the first half of 1938 before the impending Nazi occupation. It was confiscated at the beginning of October 1939 by the Gestapo and faced the threat of either radical reconstruction or even demolition.

The first efforts for the restoration and dignified cultural use of this house, one of the most famous villa buildings date back to the early 1960's. The initiator and mover of all these events, Brno architect **František Kalivoda**, established personal contacts with Grete Tugendhat. In November 1967, she visited Brno and her house for the first time since 1938.



František Kalivoda
(1913–1971)

Architect, promoter of modern architecture, who was among other things responsible for the registration of the Villa Tugendhat on the Czech list of cultural monuments in 1963.

Grete Tugendhat
(1903–1970)



Grete Roder-Müller

Author of the planting concept for the Villa Tugendhat garden, was one of the first professional garden architects in Czechoslovakia and an important founder in the field, promoting particularly perennials.

As part of the exhibition of works by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in the House of Arts in Brno on 17 January in 1969, a lecture evening was held, with **Grete Tugendhat** as one of the speakers. The original owner of the villa has become one of the important sources because of her detailed knowledge of the house and its architect. In April 1969, František Kalivoda negotiated with **Grete Roder-Müller** who collaborated with Mies on the design, regarding the restoration of the garden, and was ready to draw up a plan for planting the garden according to Mies' concept (including the equipment of the winter garden). However, the onset of 'normalisation' politics and the death of the main protagonists of the prepared restoration slowed the process down significantly and eventually it stopped completely.

CALENDAR

- 1963** entry on the list of cultural monuments of Czechoslovakia
- 1980–1985** first restoration
- 1994** Villa Tugendhat under management of the Brno City Museum and opened to the public
- 1995** entry on the list of Czech national cultural monuments
- 2001** entry on the UNESCO world cultural heritage list
- 2010–2012** second restoration

It was not until the early 1980's that the **first restoration of Villa Tugendhat** took place. The villa was then used for representation purposes and as accommodation for important guests of the city. Making the villa accessible to the public was not possible then, but the main objective was successful – the physical preservation of Villa Tugendhat for future generations.

Only after the Velvet Revolution in 1989, did the Brno City Council finally decide in 1993 on cultural use of the building, after more than twenty years of relentless efforts of domestic and foreign experts in making the villa accessible to the public. The Brno City Museum received the villa into administration on 1 July 1994 and subsequently opened it to the public as an **installed monument of modern architecture** – the first in the Czech Republic.

The last restoration of the monument, which returned the villa to its original form after many years, took place after a challenging preparation over the years 2010 to 2012. Emphasis was particularly placed on the preservation of original materials and technical equipment, with an interest in approximating, as much as possible, the original condition of the house.

Villa Tugendhat is now an extraordinary monument of modern architecture, known worldwide, presenting a perfect symbiosis of a museum-like environment and at the same time a living, fully functional building organism.

TASKS

- What elements / details do you think remained from the original villa from the 1930's?
 - door stops
 - Brno chairs
 - onyx wall
 - ceiling lights
 - bookcase
 - white woollen carpet
- What would the villa look like if you led the restoration of the building yourself?
- Would you suggest a different use for the house than that which it has currently
- What would you like to have in the house?
- Use this picture ↗ to develop your own ideas for the restoration.



Can you find the so-called restoration window on the facade?

Most preserved photos from the interwar period are black and white and so up until now people mistakenly thought the villa had a traditional white facade, especially in Brno where the style is called 'white modernism'. Examining the exposed original outdoor layers, however, shows the visible plaster has a gentle sandy shade.

DID YOU KNOW...

that a set of children's and even adult handprints were found on the wall next to the door leading from the boys' room to the terrace during the last restoration? After a survey showed that these were located on the layers from the 1930's, it means they perhaps belonged to the family members.

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