

ZÁMEK VALEČ

Cultural Landscapes: Documentation, Analysis and Protection



The Cultural Landscapes Summer School took place from August 16th through the 22nd in the city of Prague and Palace of Valeč, Czech Republic. Hosted by faculty from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Czech University of Life Sciences, the two-week experience was an opportunity for students to work on a real-life project, while at the same time develop field experience in cultural landscape documentation, analysis and protection. Using both conventional and state-of-the-art techniques, students were exposed to the strengths and weaknesses of various landscape techniques, and applied them in a real-world setting.

Faculty:

Professor **Elizabeth Brabec**, Director, Center for Heritage and Society, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA

The composed landscape at Valeč is centered on the village and its surrounding farming landscape. The landscape composition extended over 30 kilometers from the pilgrimage church at Andělská Hora to the Stampach family crypt at Vidhostice.

Professor **Kristina Janečková**, Associate Dean of International Affairs, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences

Professor **Vratislava Janovska**, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences

Sage Sluter, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences

The first week of the summer school was spent in and around the city of Prague. During the first three days, students explored the history of Bohemia from the Dark Ages through the return to a democratic republic after 1989. Focusing specifically on the periods of extensive development - the medieval (10 -13th c.), the Baroque (late 17th - mid 18th c.), the First Republic (1918-1938), and post-socialism (1989 to date) – the group explored the specific landscape forms of these periods. This included an analysis of the various periods of development in the city of Prague, followed by visits to specific sites in the metropolitan area: the landscape remnants of the abandoned medieval village of Žák, the existing medieval landscape of the village of Mořinka, the palace landscape and contemporary additions to the Baroque palace (zámek) at Troja, and the erroneous 20th c. renovations to the medieval castle (hrad) at Karlštejn.

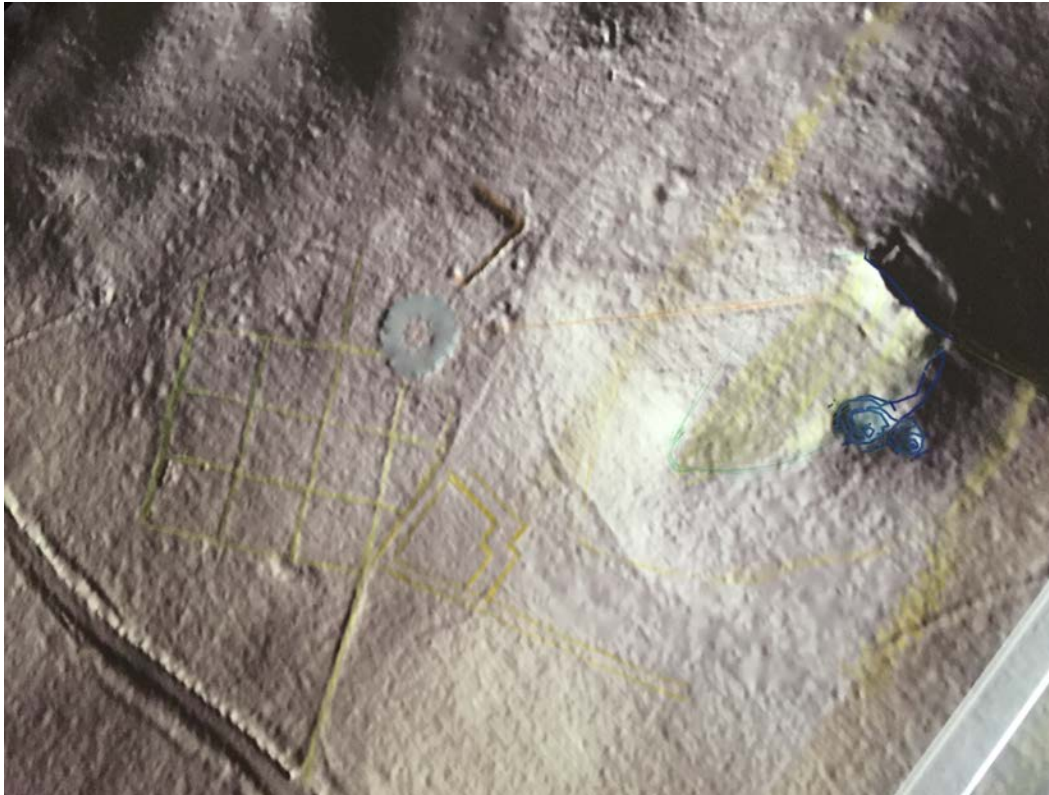
The second week of the field school was spent onsite at the palace of Valeč, in the western foothills of the Czech Republic. Located on the edge of the Doupovské hory (mountains) and Military Area, the site is adjacent to the largest uninhabited protected area in Europe. The range of native flora and fauna, including endangered species is extremely diverse. Within this unique natural environment lies a cultural landscape of international importance.

Eight graduate students from Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and the United States took part in the summer school.

The Bohemian Baroque is understudied as a landscape type. While it has its roots in the Italian Baroque and less strongly in the French Formal Baroque traditions, the Bohemian Baroque landscape was reflective of the region's culture, creating an important European style in its own right. The Baroque was replaced or obscured in most Czech palace landscapes by the later English Landscape movement. Political and religious changes that favored the



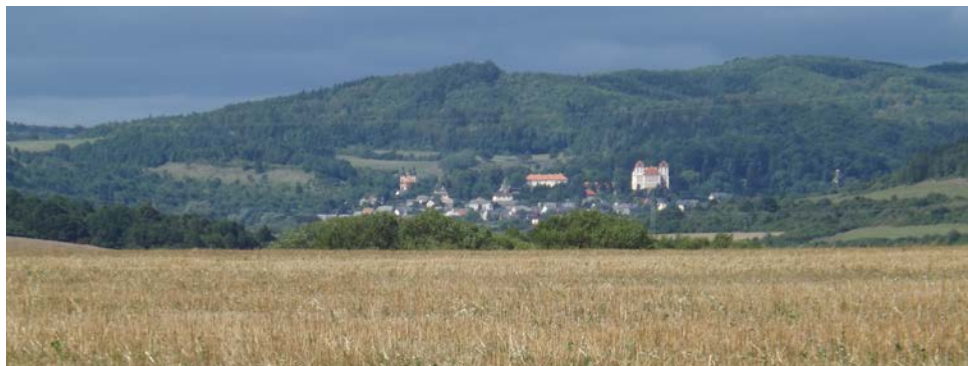
Hands-on site analysis includes physically uncovering the landscape remnants of the site, partially visible on Lidar imagery. Removing vegetation allows non-invasive examination of the features as well as their documentation and further analysis.



Lidar images revealed the existence of a Baroque-era garden: pattern of nine squares in yellow to the left of the photo); doughnut-shaped pool with center island in blue in the center of the photo; triangular platform in yellow with a water feature in blue to the middle right of the photo. This garden was associated association with a hilltop Hermitage (later Lust Haus), which can be seen as a black rectangle to the middle far right of the photo.

later English Landscape tended to underplay the original importance of the Baroque landscape development.

The group also explored the politics of the recognition of historic resources, and the setting of funding priorities. An acknowledgement of value is key to the political process of setting funding priorities. The students also had the opportunity to contribute valuable documentation to the developing knowledge base and understanding of the Bohemian Baroque, and the extensive (30km. long) composed landscape of Valeč palace.



With the palace nestled on the slope of the mountains (red roofs in the center), and the hermitage/lust haus site (abrupt change in tree line on horizon) dominating the landscape setting, the composed landscape exemplifies the importance of religion, science, history and pagan traditions of the region.

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