

Gallery of Modern Art Prague, Czech Republic



Client
National Gallery Prague

Value
€7.18 million / 250 million CZK

Area
16,700 sq m

Schedule
04/1995 – 02/1996

Duration
35 weeks

Contract
Design/Manage/Construct

Architect
Stopro s.r.o.



One of Prague's landmark buildings, the Veletzní Palace, was selected as a new home for the National Gallery of Modern Arts.

Built in the 1920's for the Prague Sample Trade Fair Society, the Veletzní Palace is an outstanding example of the functionalist style of architecture, which evolved after the foundation of an independent Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Between its opening in 1928 and its destruction by fire in 1974, the building had provided exhibition space and administrative offices. Following repairs it became offices and a television studio, but required careful conversion to fulfil its new role as a gallery.

Bovis Lend Lease managed the reconstruction and restoration of the palace under a Design/Manage/Construct arrangement, creating a spacious and striking new gallery with offices and a restaurant in less than six months.

Principal works involved the complete renovation of the electrical and mechanical services to create the optimum environment for the exhibits.

Careful attention to humidity control and control of natural light levels were critical to the success of the project. Structural works involved the insertion of a new mezzanine floor to accommodate retail and restaurant areas to generate commercial income. It now provides 16,700 sq m of exhibition space on four floors.

Rapid and successful delivery of the project was made possible by the Bovis Lend Lease record in restoration, refurbishment and new construction of galleries and museums. A sensitive approach, coupled with strict cost controls and exacting safety standards, has created a sure framework for the development of many of the world's cultural and historical landmarks.

