

Pálffy Garden

Current name of the site: Pálffy Palace on Zámocká Street, former garden of the Pálffy Palace

Category: Remnant of the original historic garden

Location of the site:

It is located in the Bratislava Staré Mesto district at 47 Zámocká Street.

GPS: 48°08'42.0"N 17°06'03.2"E

In the 17th century, the Pálffy Palace and its adjacent garden were among the most significant early Baroque buildings in Bratislava. The palace was commissioned by Count Pavol Pálffy, one of the most influential Hungarian aristocrats of his time, who also played a role in the reconstruction of Bratislava Castle. The luxurious residence below the castle was a symbol of the Pálffy family's status, and prominent artists and architects worked on its decoration. After Pavol Pálffy's death, however, the palace's significance gradually declined. It later served as barracks, an orphanage, and a student dormitory, and a large part of the complex was demolished in the 20th century.

The Pálffy Garden was originally designed as a Renaissance garden, which was converted into a Baroque garden in the 18th century. It stretched between what are now Zámocká, Zochova, and Palisády streets. It was known for its terraces, tree-lined avenues, and rare plants. Fruit and citrus trees were grown here, and the garden's centerpiece was a massive linden tree with a wooden observation structure and a gazebo offering views of the Bratislava area. The complex also included a riding hall used for social and theatrical events.

Today, only part of the original palace remains—the summer wing, which houses the Statua and Pálffy exhibition spaces and hosts cultural events. The former gardens now feature a playground, and remnants of the original greenery can still be found in the surrounding area, including the famous linden tree and several old pine trees. The historic staircase with porticos connecting Zámocká and Svoradova Streets has also been preserved.