

The Great Synagogue of Plzeň

Location: Czech Republic

The Great Synagogue of Plzeň, also known as the West Bohemian Synagogue, is located in Plzeň, Czech Republic. It was built between 1888 and 1893 in the neo-Romanesque style, designed by Viennese architect Max Fleischer. The synagogue was commissioned by the Jewish community in Plzeň, which at the time was one of the largest Jewish communities in Bohemia. The building is impressive in size, with a capacity of 1,200 people. It was built with a mix of red bricks and white stone, and its facade features tall windows with intricate tracery. During World War II, the synagogue was spared from destruction by the Nazis who occupied Plzeň, as it was used as a storehouse for military supplies. However, after the war, the synagogue was neglected and fell into disrepair. In the 1950s, it was even considered for demolition. In the 1990s, the synagogue underwent a major restoration, which included the reconstruction of the roof and facade. The restoration was completed in 1998, and the synagogue was reopened as a cultural center and museum. Today, the Great Synagogue of Plzeň is a popular tourist attraction and serves as a symbol of the rich Jewish history and culture in the region. It is

also used for occasional religious services and concerts.