



JČÍN

THE TOWN
OF VALDSTEJN



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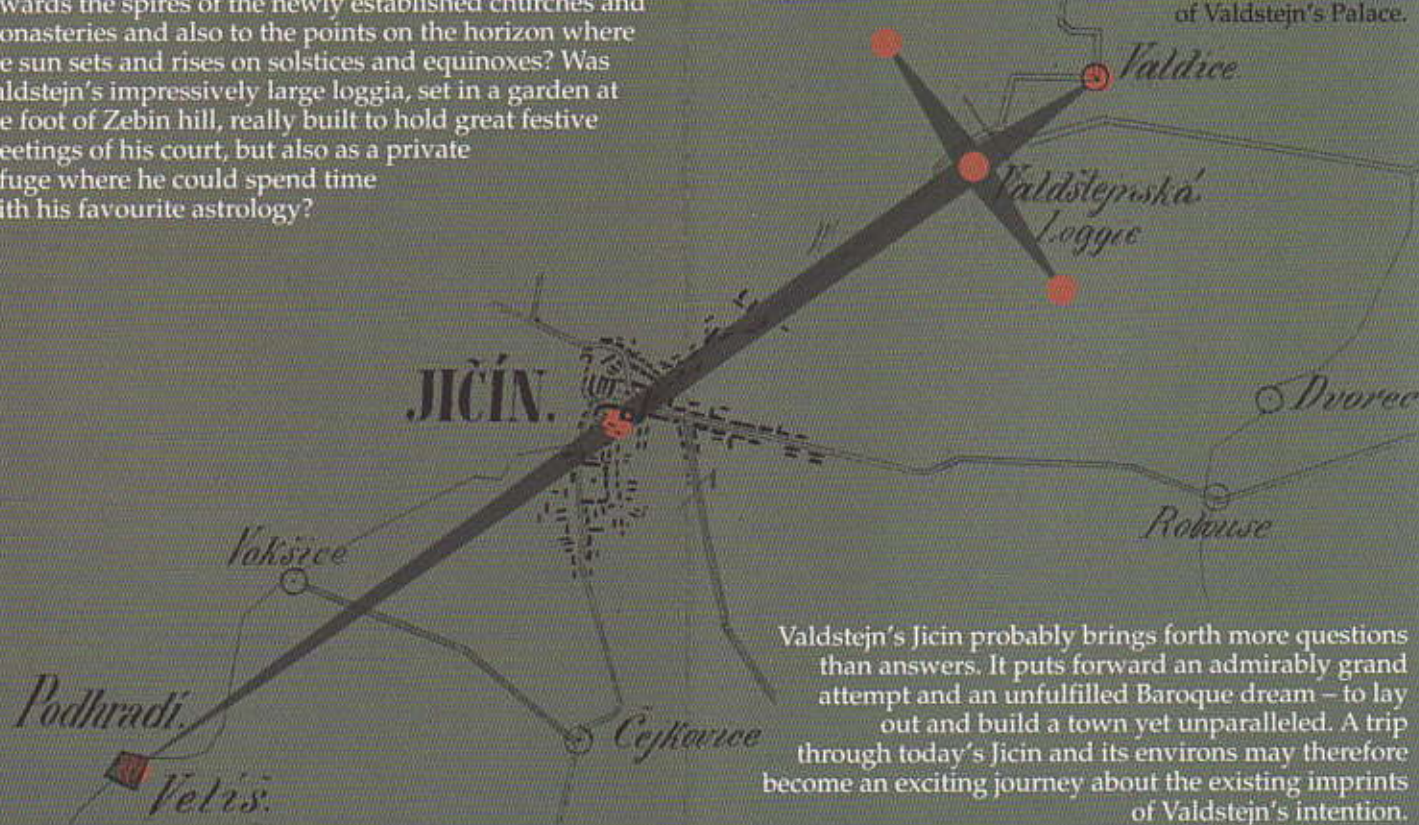


capital. He became the generalissimo (commander-in-chief) of the Imperial Army, an Admiral of the Imperial Navy of the Baltic and Oceanic Seas, the ruler of four duchies and the second most powerful man in the Holy Roman Empire. His unusually fast rise ended in a similarly rapid descent. As a too powerful and unpredictable military leader, he was assassinated in 1634 as an alleged traitor, his property afterwards being confiscated by the Emperor.

All building works in Jicin immediately came to a halt. Only a small torso remains today of his grand idea, hinting at and hiding something at the same time and therefore bringing forth not one question, just like the historically inconceivable and difficult character of the man himself. Was it truly Valdstejn's ambitious objective to construct his residential town and the surrounding landscape as a huge geometrical diagram where predetermined positions of all parts of his vision would contribute to the strictly organised order and harmony of the whole complex? Was it indeed his intention, and a secret plan, to align several kilometre long lines of landscape composition so that they pointed towards the spires of the newly established churches and monasteries and also to the points on the horizon where the sun sets and rises on solstices and equinoxes? Was Valdstejn's impressively large loggia, set in a garden at the foot of Zebin hill, really built to hold great festive meetings of his court, but also as a private refuge where he could spend time with his favourite astrology?



Valdstejn's period in the town's history is represented by a permanent exhibition in the Regional Museum and Gallery in Jicin and a permanent exhibition in the Loggia, both offering an interactive programme. The Loggia is connected to the town not only by a linden tree avenue, but also by a newly installed planetary trail which begins – or ends – in front of the museum entrance, in one of the inner courtyards of Valdstejn's Palace.



Valdstejn's Jicin probably brings forth more questions than answers. It puts forward an admirably grand attempt and an unfulfilled Baroque dream – to lay out and build a town yet unparalleled. A trip through today's Jicin and its environs may therefore become an exciting journey about the existing imprints of Valdstejn's intention.

Valdice

*Valdštejnská
Loggie*

JIČÍN.

Velis



Landmarks of the Jicín Basin – Velis hill and Valdice, with Valdstejn's town in the central position



Valdstejn's Loggia in the Libosad park



Valdstejn's linden tree avenue – a preserved line in the landscape



View of the centre of Jicín and the unfinished Church of St. James



The front facade of the former Carthusian monastery in Valdice



Arcade courtyard of Valdstejn's Palace in Jicín



View of the Loggia sunlit at sunrise on winter solstice