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## **Libraries in the age of a digital fire**

Zlatuška, Jiří  
2012

Dostupný z <http://www.nusl.cz/ntk/nusl-112769>

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Datum stažení: 31.03.2020

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# Libraries in the age of a digital fire

Jiří Zlatuška

Masaryk University

LIBER LAG 2012

Prague, April 18, 2012

# Libraries

- Encouragement of learning
- Promotion of public access to knowledge
- Access to printed material
- Access to technology enhanced by expertise
- Special collections
- Cultural interaction
  
- In ancient times even a symbol power

# Libraries as centers of research

- The concept of combination huge library with a complex of research institutions known already from initial 300 or so years of Library of Alexandria
- Libraries until recently undisputed warehouses of accumulated knowledge within every university

# Libraries, Technology, and the Costs

- Expanding book and journal collections
- Escalating costs of acquisition and storage of scholarly books and journals within recent decades; subscriptions often rising tens of per cent a year
- Digital forms of information exchange, storage and catalogizing
- Declining costs of storing and manipulating digital information versus rising costs associated with printed material

# Digitization as a replacement for print?

- Digital subscriptions existing in paralel with paper ones
- Access to e-books and e-journals
- Economizing on multiple forms of information collected
- General availibility of digital repositories (professional and/or publisher)
- Free access initiatives such as Google books

# Digital burning of traditional libraries?

- Lure of complete transition to digital formats
- Short history of digital formats/standards
- Unsecure prospects of commercial activities such as Google books – for-profit side of such an activity cannot be ignored in longer term
- Books still more flexible for manipulation than e-materials, and likely stay so for considerable time
- Unresolved IP issues, likely to generate conflicts

# Open access initiatives

- Open access as well as e-learning certain to generate demand for digital materials
- Yet unlikely to substitute printed material fully
- Diversity of sources encouraging librarian services
- Meta-information needs (cataloguing, locating, cost negotiating, etc.)



# Aesthetic values

- Printed books
- Library buildings
- Multi-function spaces

# Masaryk university - personal experience

- Rector of Masaryk university 1998-2004
- New University Law effective since 1998 transferred real estate to universities
- Opening new possibilities for development
- Second Czech university founded in 1919
- Until 90's relatively small institution
- Unfulfilled plans for provision of campus-like set of buildings

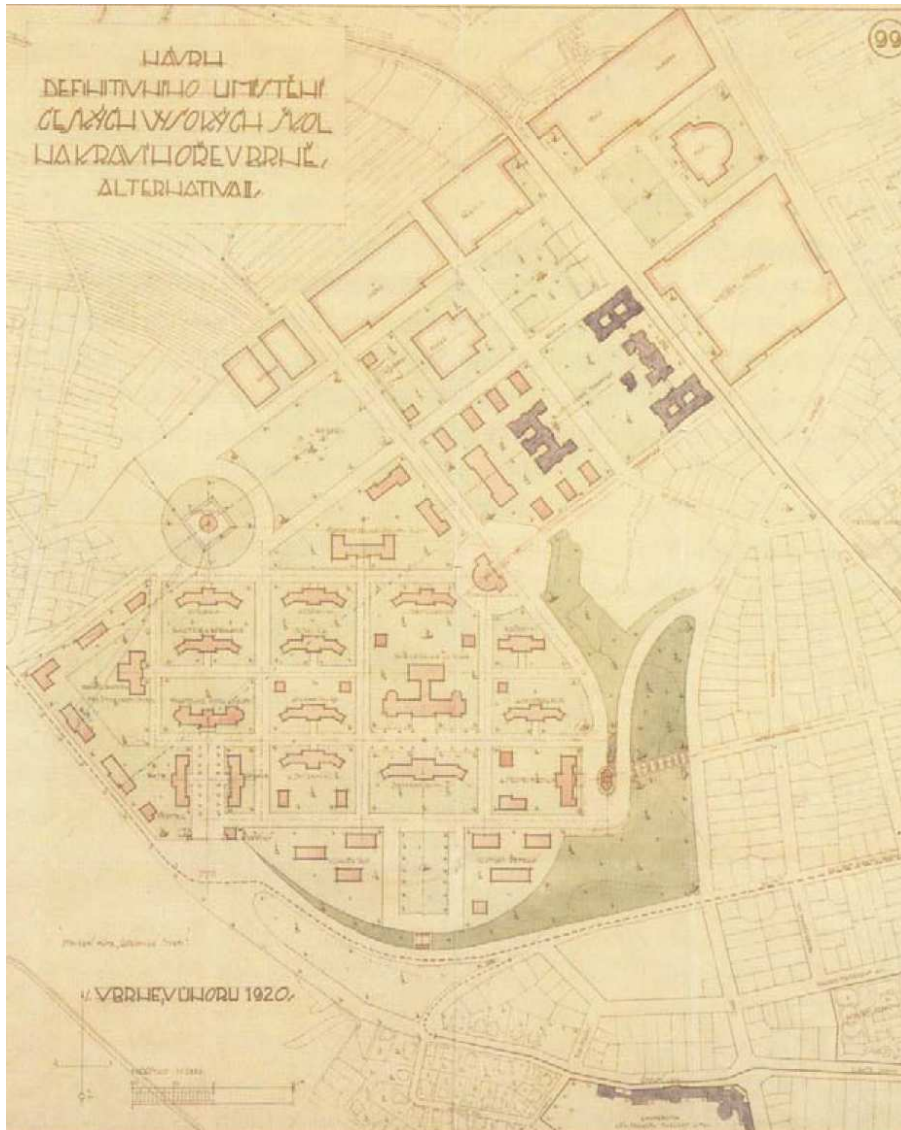
# Bulding a digital dimension of the university

- Implementing state-of-the-art information system
- Teacher-student interaction, comprehensive administrative support
- Digitization of interaction:
  - applications for study
  - study materials
  - digitization of theses
  - plagiarism detection
  - e-learning and/or blended learning
  - research papers repositories
  - etc.
- Several prestigious awards:
  - Enis Elite Award in 2005
  - Intel Itanium mission critical system finalist in 2008
  - winner of Evaluation Campaign on Plagiarism Detection and Wikipedia Vandalism Detection in 2010
  - several national awards

# Expansion in mission, scope and size

- The first university in the Czech Republic to put in place a structured three-cycle curriculum based on a credit system compatible with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)
- One of the fastest growing and most sought-after universities in Central Europe
- The biggest in the Czech Republic in terms of applicants for study as well as numbers of students at its primary location

# First plans for university premises

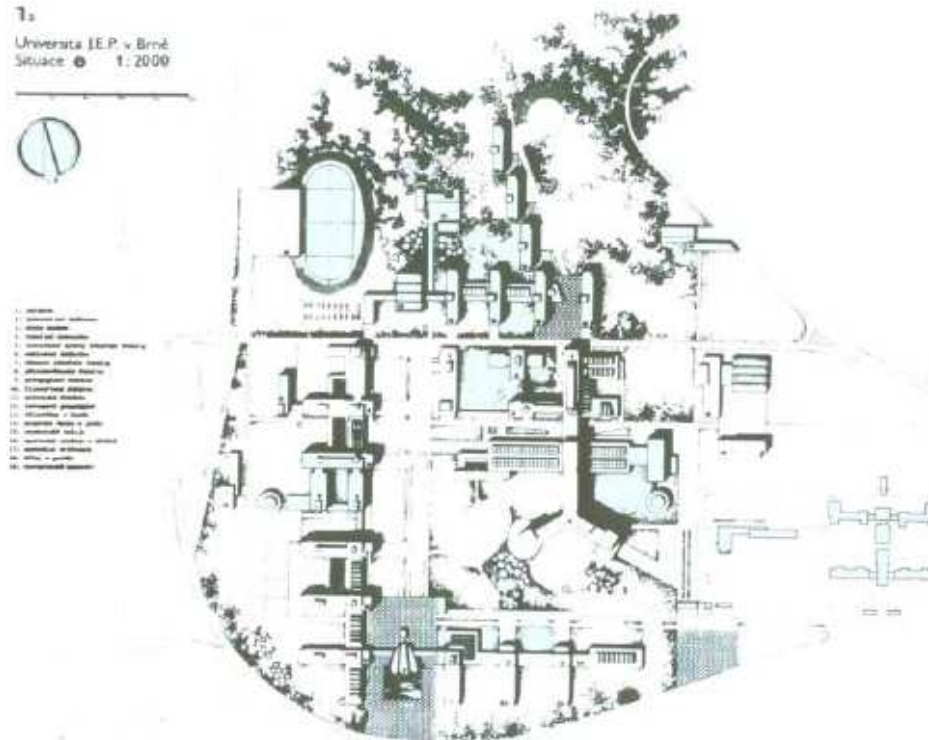


Plans from 1920's  
(M. Laml, J. Grunt, J. Šálek)

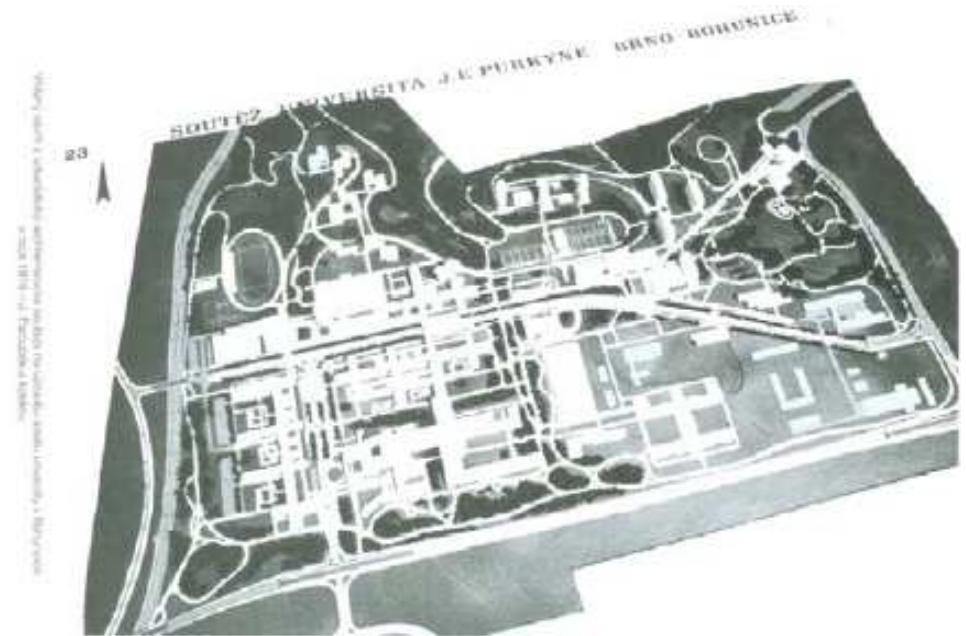
Only one building completed  
in 1933 (A. Dryák)



# Revised plans in another location



B. Rozehnal, 1971

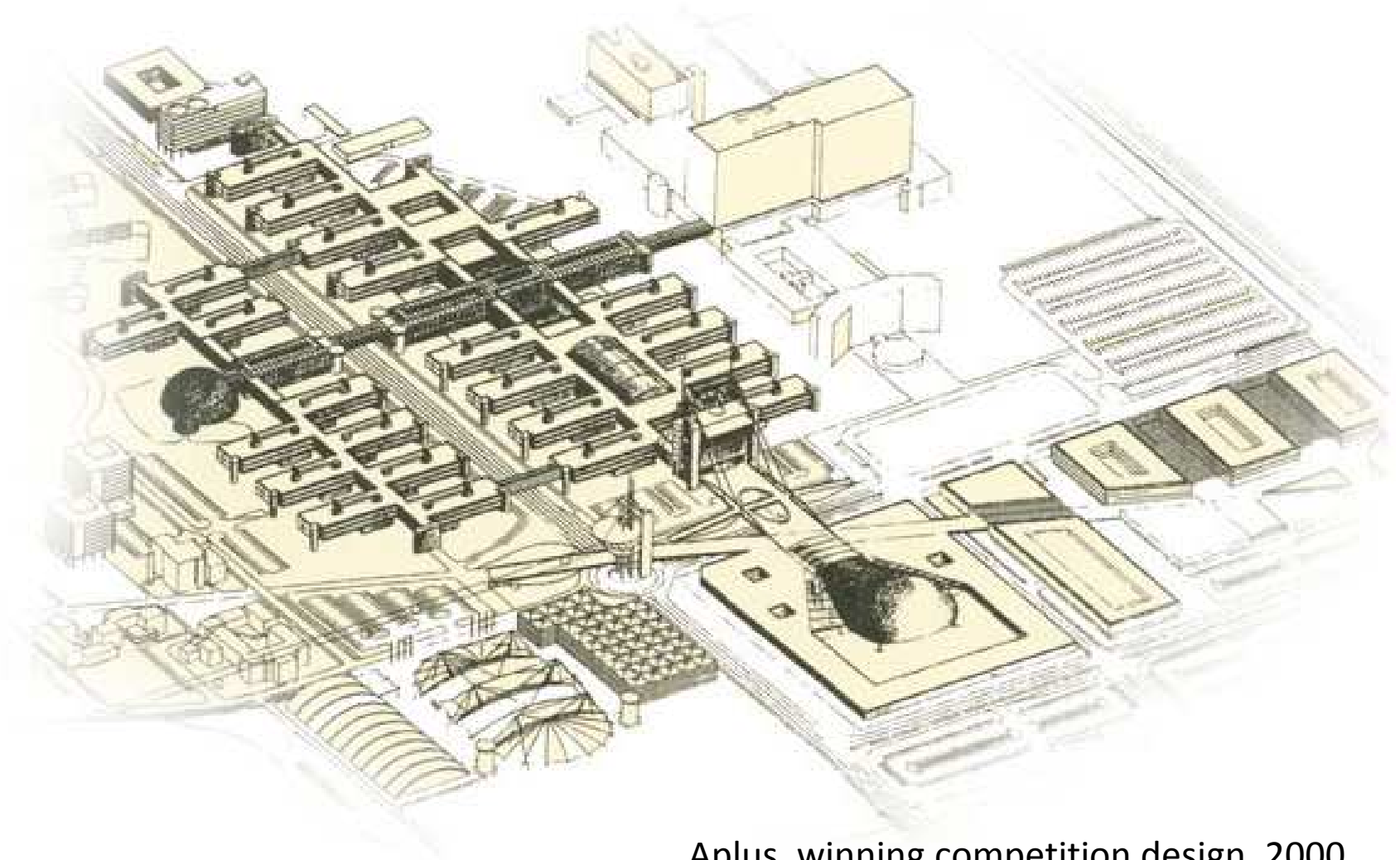


J. Paroubek a kol. 1976

# Expansion plans in 1998-2004

- Funding from European Investment Bank
- Biggest EIB educational project supported by EIB outside of EU
- Architectonic competition for Bohunice campus in 2000, so far just one of two examples praised by the Czech Chamber of Architects in the sector of Education after 1990

# University Campus at Bohunice



Aplus, winning competition design, 2000



# Masaryk University development

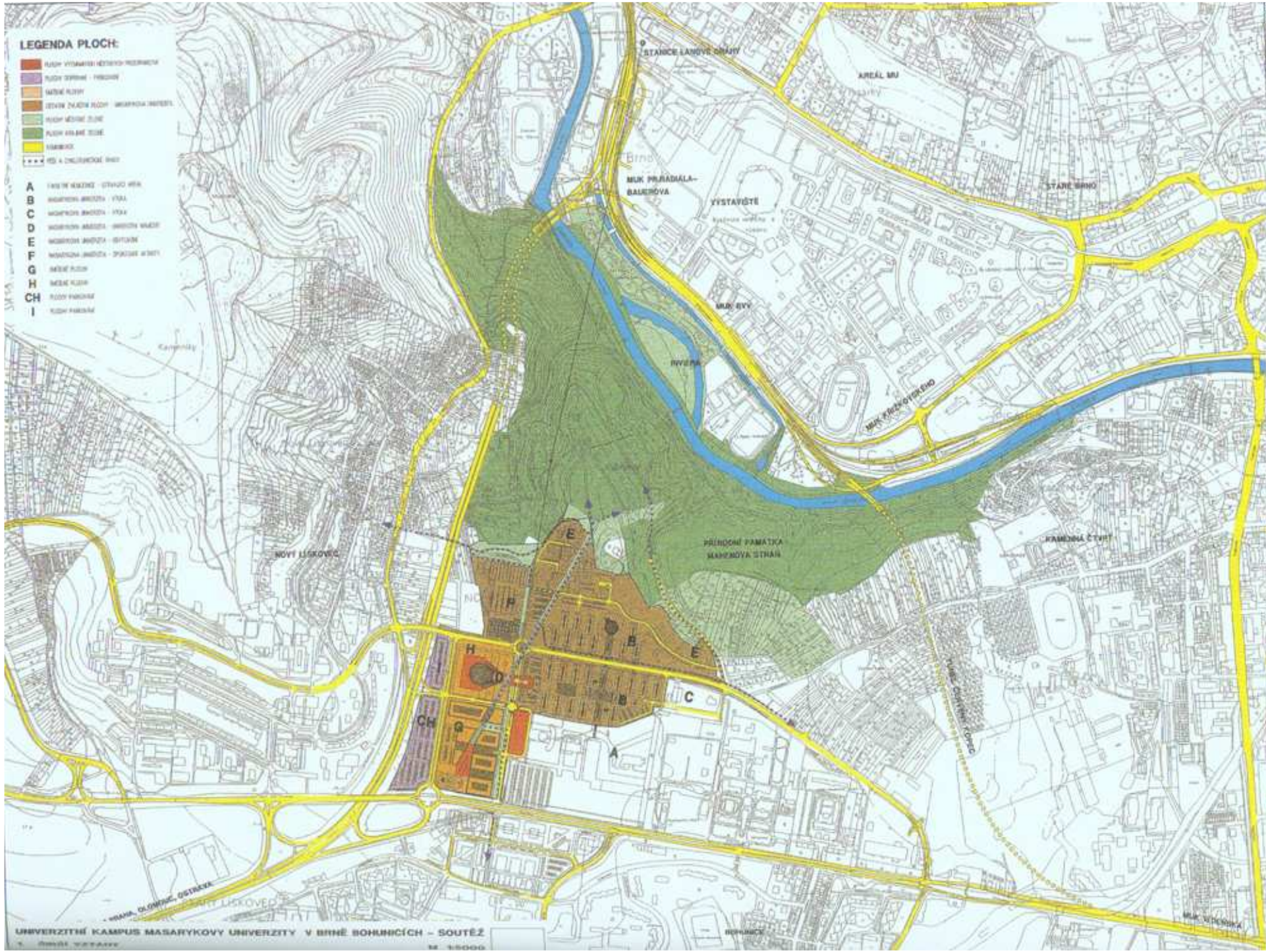
- Academic Quarter plans date back to 1920s
- The founding Law of MU from 1919 assumed new buildings for the University within ten years
- After 1945 plans for campus development in Bohunice
- Before 1990 part of the allocated area used for building the most modern hospital in Brno
- Structural development of MU after 1990 meant doubling numbers of students before 2000; Bohunice lot no longer sufficient for whole University
- New plans for campus from 1990s oriented towards faculties with intense biomedical research for Bohunice and development of social studies in the traditional locations
- Combination of conditions for top-quality research and extensive quantitative development of MU

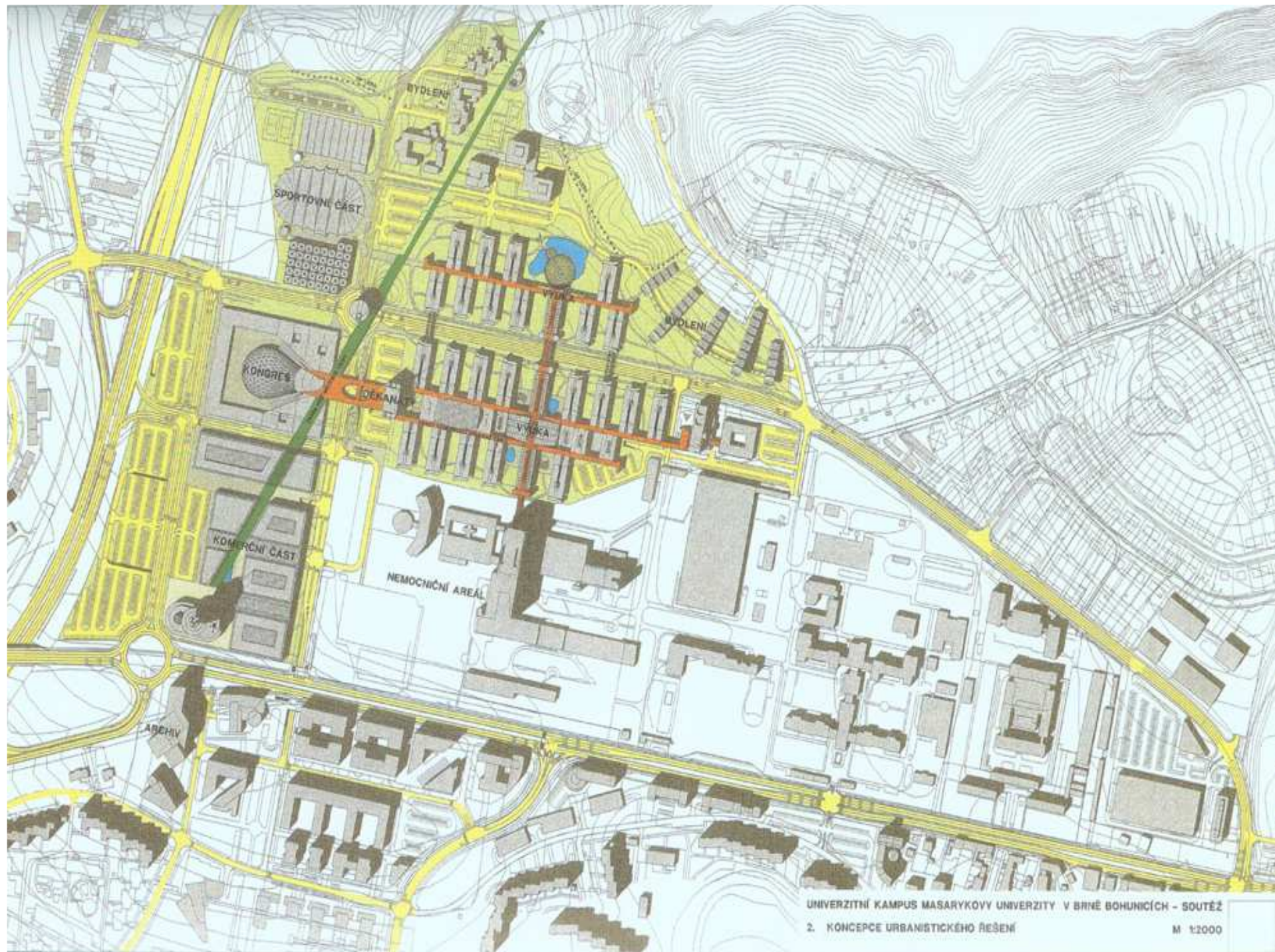
# University Campus at Bohunice

- International architectural competition based on requirements of the European Investment Bank Loan 2000
- Feasibility study for University Campus from 2001
- Plans for overall development of MU within range of euro 190 million
- EIB proposes loan
- Spring 2002: Government approves plans for euro 95 million loan from EIB
- Construction of the main part started in 2004, completion of last pavillions pending within (approx. 2014), majority of the complex up and running since 2010.

**LEGENDA PLOCH:**

- PLOCH VYJADRUJÍCÍ HISTORICKOU NEBO PAMĚTNOU
  - PLOCH STŘEDNÍ - PŘEDNÍ
  - MĚKKE PLOCH
  - JEVNĚ ZNATĚ PLOCH - NEPŘÍMÁ NEBO
  - PLOCH MĚKKE ŽILNÉ
  - PLOCH VE VEK ŽILNÉ
  - VYKONÁNÍ
  - ŘEŠ. A DOKUMENTACE ŘEŠ.
- 
- A** VYŠŠÍ NEBO STŘEDNÍ VĚK
  - B** NEBOVNÍ NEBOVNÍ VĚK
  - C** NEBOVNÍ NEBOVNÍ VĚK
  - D** NEBOVNÍ NEBOVNÍ VĚK
  - E** NEBOVNÍ NEBOVNÍ VĚK
  - F** NEBOVNÍ NEBOVNÍ VĚK
  - G** MĚKKE PLOCH
  - H** MĚKKE PLOCH
  - CH** PLOCH VE VEK ŽILNÉ
  - I** PLOCH VE VEK ŽILNÉ









# Campus Library

- Campus development with central library located in the heart of building complex
- Traditional library combined with social events center



# Campus Library cnt.





# Faculty of Arts – traditional university library together with IT access center



Dominant architectonic feature within the complex of Faculty of Arts building complex (L. Kuba, T. Pilař; Grand Prix OA 2002)

# Information Center at Kotlářská location of the Faculty of Science



R. Květ, 2004

# Center for Education and Research in Information Technologies 2012-14

- **CERIT Research&Education**

Extending research and education infrastructure for Informatics – approx. \$20M investment

- **CERIT Science Park**

Close collaboration with IT companies with substantial R&D, incubating new ones – approx. \$8M investment

- **CERIT Scientific Cloud**

Installing computational and storage grid as a part of the national R&D infrastructure – approx. \$8M initial investment



# Libraries & IT co-development

- Libraries present important part of physical infrastructure development
- IT development in the forefront of Central European universities
- Repositories, open-access initiatives, plagiarism detection
- E-learning and blended-learning support and development
- Synergic development of traditional paper/based as well as digital infrastructure as vital ingredients of successful development

# Fate of the Library of Alexandria?

- Digital access and use of digitized materials seen as enhancement to traditional library infrastructure
- Burning down traditional libraries, even in figurative sense by “digital fire” of modern electronic information resources highly unlikely in the decades to come.