### **Town Hall of České Budějovice**

The area that is taken by the town hall had already been used in the Bronze Age. Then it was also settled by Celts and Germanic tribes.

The original Gothic town hall comes from the 15th century. We don´t know how did it look nor how long did it take to build it. It probably looked similar to a normal urban house.

In the year of 1555 an Italian architect Hans Spatz started reconstruction of the town hall. He reconstructed it into the Renaissance style. It was finished by the year of 1558. It was a one-floor building with a clock tower in the corner.

In the year of 1727 the city council decided to reconstruct the town hall into the Baroque style. The reasons were fires of the town hall and also that the Renaissance town hall was not so representative. The architect was Anton Erhardt Martinelli. He decided to demolish the clock tower. It was done by the year of 1730. This contemporary design has sustained up today.

There are allegorical statues of Justice, Temperance, Courage and Prudence made by Josef Dietrich on a cornice. There are plastic crests at the front. The middle one shows the crest of Bohemia, on the sides there are crests of Moravia and Silesia. On the edges there are pictures of the Roman history. The gable in front of the middle tower is decorated with paintings of saint Florián and saint Roch painted by Karel Bonanella.

There have been many changes in the 19th and 20th century. Because of the needs of the County Court there were new prison cells added. Later the neighbouring house was rebuilt and it was merged together with the town hall.

