Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary in St. Florian’s Gate in Kraków

The Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary is situated on the ground floor of St. Florian’s Gate. It was built during the renovation of the monument carried out in 1885-1886. The works were commissioned by Prince Władysław Czartoryski who wanted a chapel for his family. The interior was designed in the neo-Gothic style by an architect from Kraków, Wandalin Beringer. The style mimics the features of the Gothic style, such as sharp arches. The chapel was constructed inside the gate built on a rectangular plan, it is eight and a half meters long, nine meters wide, and almost twelve meters high. You can enter the chapel from the porch. In front of the entrance, there is a stone altar with a cross and a figure of Christ on top of it. Behind the altar, you will find a small stained glass window depicting the Virgin Mary. The chapel was painted with vivid colors. The walls are red and yellow, and the vault is blue.

Following the example of Gothic art, the chapel has a rib vault. The skeleton of the vault is made of thick arches which look like ribs. In the Czartoryski chapel, they are painted red and gold. They converge at the central, highest point of the vault, where the Pogoń coat of arms is located. It displays a knight on horseback, raising a sword. The line where the walls and the vault meet is semicircular. It is marked with a painted yellow stripe decorated with a pattern of leaves. At the top, the walls are red and in the bottom half – yellow. Decorative yellow stripes in the shape of arcs are painted on the border of these colors. They feature patterns of blue and red leaves. On the yellow section of the wall, the pattern is formed by rows of blue squares, diagonal lines, and circles.

The cross on the altar is made of wood. The cross itself is dark brown and the body of Christ is light brown. The sides of the stone altar are painted white, with vertical navy blue lines. The columns on both sides are navy blue as well. The altar stands on a low platform. The floor of the chapel is covered with ceramic tiles in the shape of regularly arranged beige and navy blue rhombuses.

The entrance to the chapel has the form of a portal, i.e. a decorative stone opening. It has the shape of a pointed arch.

The chapel is at the site of a former ‘harrow chamber’. It was a room with a device for lowering the portcullis. Its grille was also called a harrow, hence the name of the room.