

DRAWING BORDERS BY COMING CLOSER TOGETHER:
SOME THOUGHTS ON CHURCH CONSTRUCTION
AND PAINTING IN PRAGUE DURING THE PERIOD
OF CONFESSIONALISATION

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The author develops some thoughts about changing views of the function of newly-built churches and their interior furnishing during the period of confessionalisation. The example of the Lutheran Trinity Church in the "Small Side" quarter of Prague demonstrates that the architectural solutions chosen for a church project could be closely intertwined with the confessional policy pursued by those who ordered the construction. A comparison with the pilgrimage church of the Virgin Mary in Stará Boleslav, built to a plan resembling that of the Trinity Church, shows that building rules of a differing confession were put into place immediately. A general observa-

tion about Catholic as well as Protestant church construction before the Thirty Years' War is that Churches of the competing confessions in general shape as well as in the solutions used for concrete architectural tasks drew ever closer together. Nonetheless, these similar shapes have to be understood as expressing radically dissimilar confessional and political views. In a second part, the author describes how the altar-piece "The Annunciation" by Hans von Aachen was transferred from a Catholic to the Lutheran Trinity Church. Immediate reaction to the transfer did not come from the Prague Catholics, but from the Calvinists, who removed all paintings and statues from St. Vitus Cathedral a few days after the altar-piece had been consecrated in Lutheran rites.