

ABSTRACT

This thesis is focused on four adjacent buildings that currently make up the compound of the Czech radio broadcasting company. There are three building phases that can be outlined: the oldest functionalist building from the late 1920s, and a later functionalist addition from the 1940s. The second phase materialized in the dramatic change of the Radio building block in the 1960s and 70s, when this strategically located area was selected for the development of important transportation structures, and for the placement of public office buildings such as the sculptural World union federation building, Gas transit headquarters, and the Ministry of energy. In the euphoria of the 1960s, it was also planned to move the Radio company to a new skyscraper on the Pankrac plain, however, this plan never materialized. The Radio remained in its original spot, and the following third phase brought the restoration of the oldest building, and the addition of two minimalist buildings, bringing the entire compound into a full enclosed block in the 1990s.

In the individual phases, I repeatedly open the same questions: what is the relationship between the location and the building, how was the construction itself affected by the purpose for which it was built, how does it compare or fit in the context of the contemporary architecture, and whether the building reflects the socio – historical context and the symbolic meaning of the radio broadcasting in the historic events shaping the Czech nation. The necessary prerequisite of the complete story is the observation of the urban changes in the close proximity of the compound.

Keywords

Radio, broadcasting, architecture, Prague, Bohumil Sláma, functionalism, minimalism, A.D.N.S.