

The main focus of the thesis is the theory of architecture of Karel Honzík (1900 – 1966), one of the most distinguished architects of the functionalist period in Czechoslovakia. The first chapter sets out to explore the historical and cultural background of the formation of modernist theories and beliefs. Architectural theories of Adolf Loos and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and their analysis and evaluation as the most important influences on the formation of the functionalist paradigm in architecture are discussed in the second chapter. In the third chapter, theories of other Czech functionalist architects whose work was related to Honzík's are presented and analyzed, with focus on Le Corbusier's influence. The final chapter follows Honzík's departure from the strict functionalist paradigm towards a comprehensive understanding of architecture as of a process of shaping human environment towards a greater capacity to fulfil both instrumental and emotional human needs. Honzík's theory of architecture is also shown to be closely linked to structuralism, especially to its application in linguistics.