

ABSTRACT

The aim of the diploma thesis is to describe the relationship between the citizen and public space, and to answer the question why the topic of public space should be incorporated in secondary school curriculum. The first chapter introduces the concept of public space. I look at public space through the lens of normative theory, based on which I assess its characteristic features. In the first chapter, I also deal with the mass media and social networks, which are an integral part of public space. The second chapter focuses on urban public space. In this chapter I look for answers to the questions: what is the relationship between the citizen and the public space, how do they influence each other. The citizen and the public space are inextricably linked, because it is the citizens who transform a physical place into public space. Further, the question of the quality of public spaces is raised, to which I answer using the basic principles of architecture and urbanism. The second chapter also answers the central question of the diploma thesis: why the topic of public space should be taught in school. The third chapter presents the results of a simple questionnaire survey. It captures the opinions of interview participants on the current state of public space in Slovakia, its positive and negative aspects. These responses form the necessary basis for the next chapter. The fourth chapter answers the question how to teach about public space. This part encompasses the practical output of the previous chapters. The acquired knowledge from the whole work is then transformed into a simple didactic material that can be used in school. The thesis also presents ideas of small activities for school lessons and a manual for a larger renovation of public spaces project for students. It can thus serve as a useful tool for all teachers who would like to incorporate public space to the curriculum, as it is one of the constitutive factors shaping civic consciousness.

KEYWORDS

public space, civic education, citizen, city

