

The work consists of four chapters dedicated to selected aspects of research in architecture and interior fittings of houses of late medieval and early modern villages and small towns in the 2nd mid-15th in the 16th century. The first chapter deals with the occurrence of late Gothic and Renaissance architectural elements in the estates. It is conceived as a set of model clauses coherent analysis of material and written sources. In the end, there are social groups defined by the acquirers. The second chapter presents a balance of knowledge about the application of late Gothic and Renaissance tiles in the environment of farms and rural parishes. At the forefront are questions about the chronology of this phenomenon, the possibility of reconstruction of heating equipment, the confrontation with the results of research remaining buildings and comparison with a higher social milieu (manor houses). The third chapter presents the results of two-conceived interdisciplinary studies on collective findings of unusual types of tiles in a rural context. The aim of the analysis of written and material sources is an attempt to answer the question whether the tiled stove conveys the social status of the customer. The fourth chapter in the example of mass set of tiles from a small town (Sedlcany) shows the possibilities and limits of the definition of common heating equipment in this type of places in the 2 mid-15th century. Great attention is paid to the iconography of the decoration.

In principle, no matter whether addressed the social context of the order of architectural elements or tiles, the questions concern same issues. Generally speaking, it is a means of personal expression, family, professional guild (self-) presentation, which follow the customer's intention to fully integrate into a social group. As such, it can be analyzed in a uniform manner. We deal with the issue of collective identity, which itself is a key starting-point as well as the aim of the research: each one example bears representative testimony given by the outward signs of social position, which had to be based on time-understandable, therefore (in the context of a given milieu) common symbols of prestige.