

Abstract

Dealing with both practical and consequently theoretical aspects, the thesis treats the Saxon Renaissance with the emphasis on the architecture in the Czech Republic.

The purpose of the first part was to put together a list of historical monuments. Supported by previous research the selection method was determined and the individual buildings described. As a result we organized them into types and specified the Saxon Renaissance architectural features.

Then we discussed broader issues related to the Saxon Renaissance architecture that were: the influence of Saxon timber-framed architecture, the origins and the role of the portal with seat shaped niches in the jambs; we re-examined the importance of the architectural commissions of the house of Pernštejn and we proposed to link the Bohemian Saxon Renaissance architecture with Czech early renaissance terracotta pieces.

The second part of the thesis further explores the contextual issues. It tracks the early sixteen century French architecture and focuses on the German renaissance architecture, that of Saxony in particular. Then some theoretical reflections on the character of transalpine architecture are presented.

Consequently, the thesis analyses the particularities of the region where the Saxon Renaissance architecture appeared – North-western Bohemia. This includes the point of view of geography, economy and sociology, special emphasis is put on North-western Bohemia noble houses, patrons of the Saxon Renaissance architecture.

The results

After considering the findings we came to these conclusions: the Saxon Renaissance architecture was an artistic movement that combined two stylistic modes – the gothic and the renaissance. Appearing in North-western Bohemia, it spanned the period from the early 16th century to the first two decades of the 17th century. It modified the north Italian renaissance architectural features already altered by the French architecture. The Saxon Renaissance style was shared by both Saxony and North-western Bohemia. These two regions formed an integral “art unit” with Czech region adopting and applying consistently throughout the whole period the Saxon architectural style that was established in the twenties and the thirties of the 16th century in Saxony. The connection of the regions in question resulted from geographical proximity as well as from close links in many other fields. The Saxon Renaissance was artistic style on its own; it concerned all modes of creative artistic expression. The Saxon Renaissance architecture in Bohemia fostered under the patronage of North-western Bohemia noble houses that originated from Saxony or were in close relation to Saxony. The end of the Saxon Renaissance architecture in Bohemia coincided with the decline of these houses.