

The subject of this thesis entitled What does an invisible city look like is the perception of a city and the way it is represented. The work is based on urban semiotics that sees urban environment as a particular system of communication. The methods of sensory urbanism and rhythm analysis are employed as well. The author asks whether the cities could be represented by other than visual symbols as it is usually the case for the products of tourism industry (guidebooks, souvenirs, etc.). Usually, the symbol of a particular city is formed by the image of its skyline. In Prague, this is the skyline of the Prague Castle, in Paris, it is the Eiffel tower, in New York, it is the Statue of Liberty, etc. But every city has definitely many other qualities. What are they? To find the answer, the author asks for help the visually impaired people. These people can tell easily what are the non-visual qualities of the urban space as they experience them necessarily in their everyday life and use them for better orientation. The author interviewed the visually impaired people and she also observed the way they read the city in real. The practical part of the thesis focuses on the Prague city centre.