

Name of the thesis: Hotel Thermal and the problem of heritage preservation of buildings constructed in the second half of the 20th century

Abstract:

The student will work on a monograph of the hotel Thermal in Carlsbad, especially emphasising the development of its perception and evaluation in a broader social context and its related issues of heritage preservation. She will clarify the circumstances which lead to the decision to build a big festival and conference hotel with an outside swimming pool right in the historical environment of the city. Not only she will set the hotel in the context of the work of architects Věra and Vladimír Machonin, but she will also evaluate the hotel as an architectural unit and compare it to the style of architecture in the second half of the 20th century. Aside from the usual art-historical methods, she will also use the oral history method by utilising testimonies of direct participants in the planning and the construction of the hotel, especially of the architect Věra Machoninová. Furthermore she will reconstruct the development of the appreciation of the hotel by professionals and the public since its completion until today. Parallel to that, she will focus on how the hotel was used in late socialism and during the rapidly changing property and economical conditions after 1989. Particular emphasis is placed on the issue of heritage preservation of the hotel and initiatives leading towards its declaration as a cultural monument.

Key words:

architecture, brutalism, heritage preservation, Carlsbad, hotel Thermal