Abstract

The work of Antonín Tenzer involves his activities in the period of six decades in the turbulent era of development of Czechoslovak history of architecture. The architect is known as one of the representatives of the avant-garde and High functionalism, author of Faculty Hospital in Prague-Motol and other medical buildings or the Jalta hotel, a building associated with socialist realism. In my dissertation, I tried to map the main typological fields that Antonín Tenzer used in his work. My goal was to widen the portfolio of famous buildings, and on the basis I defined the architect's major themes and current issues, which were responded in his effort. I based primarily on historic materials - published projects, plan documentation and writings of public and private archives, as well as personal heritage, made available to me by the architect's family.

In particular thematic areas I focused on Tenzer’s vital and successful implementation of competition projects, which he later followed and extended. In addition to impulses from his collaborators, debates and majors works of those days I was looking for elements and methods of Tenzer that influenced the architecture environment. I observed the influence of historical events and the socio-political situation in his work, for example, housing issues in times of the economic crisis, and the related concept of the minimum dwelling, which was his first success.

In his work of the post-war reconstruction of Czechoslovakia, I analyzed the author's approach to the revision of functionalism at that time and individual tendencies of such efforts. I analysed the Tenzer’s contribution to the discussion about the monumentalism or regionalist architecture, particularly the key post-war competitions and realisations and his work in the period of the two-year planning system. I was also interested in the extent of its contextual approach. In the case of the Jalta hotel I looked for the measure of influence of national and international art on the aesthetics and construction program of the building, the impact of the ideology of socialist realism, pre-war decorative arts and architecture and responses to the upcoming Brussels style. I focused a big part of my thesis on the benefit of Tenzer’s work in construction of health facilities, which were a major theme throughout his whole career. I studied not only Tenzer’s big realizations, but also significant competitive projects that contributed to key debates on the form of hospital architecture and its development.