

## **Abstract**

From the mid-nineteenth century the North Bohemian industrial area, populated mostly by Germans, experienced an unprecedented urban and demographic growth. The onset of the industrial revolution meant a major breaking point, in particular because the following periods shaped it most notably. The characteristic trait of the cities is a precipitous urban development with building boom. Thereby an impressive scrum of mutually coexisting industrial complexes, palatial villas, spectacular public buildings, generous garden districts and small town housing projects originated, creating the peculiar local genius loci. The border areas have always been a busy crossroads of cultures, histories and ideologies, in which Czechs, Germans and Jews mingled and interacted with each other, and thus they reflect the complex ethnic relations in the territory of today's Czech Republic. The Thesis focuses on the architecture of Czech Germans which formed the natural counterpart to the architecture of the Czech majority. The aim is to set this „second stream" of culture into a wider Central European context and find and define the specifics of the buildings production of Czech Germans. For this purpose, the trio of industrial agglomerations Usti nad Labem, Liberec and Jablonec nad Nisou was chosen, which are also compared with similar localities in the Czech (Pilsen) and Germany (Chemnitz) environment.