

Abstract

In Central Europe, an early medieval architectural complex, in which palatial remnants have been either unearthed or expected on the basis of historical writing, is often classified as a royal/princely seat. Thus, the architectural criteria are used to define the residential areas. Alas, in most studies the interpreted architectural remnants are simply juxtaposed without taking into account their terrestrial and landscape context. I demonstrate that in some cases landscape significance of royal seats was constructed without taking into account any spatial evidence. Secondly, I illustrate that by isolating a single building within the royal seat from its landscape and textual context, the spatial aspects of the structure were misinterpreted. However, our understanding of the local environment is essential to identify the role of architectural “quotation” in the semantic creation of space of the royal seats in the past. Thus, based on a textual approach to architecture and landscape, my thesis aims to deconstruct the meaning of early medieval royal seats, and to demythologize the interpretation of early medieval royal seats in Central Europe.

In addition, I present that both textual (historic writing) and physical (environmental) aspects of the reality creates a historic spatiality that is polarized into textual (semantic) and physical. The former results from the construction of meanings of particular place and its architectural context – a process in which the lost semiotics is replaced and renewed. The latter, *localization*, is generated on the basis of contemporary metrics, and physicality.

Moreover, the character of archaeological sources, early medieval royal seats constitute fragmented texts, which have been deconstructed, among other things, by the post-depositional processes. Hence, according to Derrida, while interpreting “architectural expression” new *milieu de production* and primary context have to be created. For the purposes of interpreting architectural remnants, by utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS), I have generated historic digital terrain models (DTM) for Polish and Czech royal seats. To further analysis of the physical aspect of the royal seats, I used the concept of *folies* – the *emplaced* points. The advantage of applying the concept lays in the fact that the network of *folies* is limited in synthesizing and welding the deconstructed spatiality. As a result, the interpretation becomes a discourse, which is open and prone to verification. In this sense, no scientific myth is created and the past is not mythologized.