

Abstract

The main topic of this diploma thesis is the reconstruction of an old house. This is conceived in the perspective of „material culture studies“, where the material object (a house) works as a starting point for the understanding of the human values, relationships, feelings and attitudes. These characteristics were studied in the qualitative research (the fieldwork), in the area near Prague. The dynamics of this area corresponds to the context of my work which is based on the background of the relationship between „the Old and/ versus the New“ and the relationship between „Town and/versus Country“.

The work starts with the theoretical part, which is orientated on the actual phenomenons of „suburbanization“ and „dream about the family house“ and on the contrast of an old and a new house. Then a study of the „ruin“ (and its social signals and contexts) follows. The „core“ of the work can be found in the practical part. It describes the stories of the concrete reconstructions and with the analyses of the meanings that have emerged on the surface. We observe a specific „transformation of the ruin in the home“, a mutual „taming“ between the man and the old house and the inner dynamics of this process. There is not only an adaptation of the building, but also the changes of its occupants – overcoming of the obstacles, learning, selffulfilment, feeling of the joint work, interest in the „memory“ of the place, freedom and immediate connection with their house (and home). It is in contrast with an anonymity of mass-produced new buildings – it offers an alternative choice and deals with the question, if and what modern people might be missing, searching and discovering.