

The dissertation under the title “Café Architecture. The Café Space in Studies and Realizations of Architecture in first half of the 20th Century” deals with the question of the meaning and form of the café institution in modern times, from 18th century, especially in the years 1898–1939. The emphasis is placed on the Prague environment, but we cannot seal ourselves off from the inter-disciplinary or geographic overlap in the case of significant examples outside of the Prague environment, especially in European capitals (Vienna, Berlin, Paris). The café space as an architectural structure and phenomenon related to the modern urban society must be viewed from many different angles. To understand what is happening in the cafe and to realize the importance of social events, we reconstruct historical fact: we observe the topography of cafés, its visitors and its founders, but especially specific experience moments from cafés. This work attempts to capture what phenomena of modernity is mainly related to the café, how it is characterized by the artists and architects themselves and how they in turn determine café space. I divide the work into two basic sections therefore. Cultural-historical study summarizes thinking about the institution of café and watches its specifics as a typical space of modernity that complements classical public space given by the antiquity. I do not neglect to express the social typology of cafés. The theoretical bases of the work at this part are the phenomenological and sociological studies of space and modernity by Georg Simmel, Walter Benjamin and the Frankfurt School. The second section of the dissertation is devoted to the architectural and operational typology of cafés, reflecting concrete modern architectural elements, and finally it captures the café as a manifesto of a modern expression – a representation of architectural ideas.