

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is to record the every-day life, local and collective memory, and relationships of individuals – local inhabitants of the ‘panel-housing’ estate, Jižní Město, in Prague – towards the specific urban and social space in which they live. The thesis is based on interviews, with the long-term inhabitants of Jižní Město, which were structured to record their lived experience in the housing estate during two consecutive periods in recent Czechoslovak history – the so-called normalisation and post-socialism periods. The interviews were used as an empirical counterbalance to architectural/city planning discourse and Czech media, which has interpreted the legacy of ‘panel-housing’ estates in a negative way, as the socialist form of housing *par excellence*. The aim of this thesis is to analyse this discourse, which also reflects how Czech society deals with its communist past, and to compare it with the experiences, evaluations and current challenges in the lives of these long-term inhabitants, living in the biggest Czech ‘panel-housing’ estate with a bad reputation.

Key words: panel-housing estates, Jižní Město, housing, local/collective memory, local/urban identity, everyday life, city, so-called normalisation.