

Summary - Adam Zygmunt

The topic of my speech will be the way in which the memory of the Czech socialist realist housing construction functions.

Socialist realism as a trend in the art appeared in the 1930s in the Soviet Union, and at the end of the 1940s - it came to the Czechoslovakia with the seizure of power by the communist party. At that time, most Czechoslovak architects were associated with the aesthetics of modernism, and the historicising style, characterized by monumentalism and rich decorations, was very reluctant to them. In the end, the period in which socialist realist architecture disintegrated was quite short, because as early as 1954 Nikita Khrushchev launched his criticism, which heralded a departure from it towards a more ascetic, and thus economical modernism.

Currently, socialist realism is a trend strongly associated with the period of Stalinism, which was characterized by setting up political terror and limitations of civil liberties. Parallel, socialist realist buildings are under the protection as historical monuments.

I focus on how socialist realism looks like, we have contemporary materials devoted to its subject. I look at the publications such as the books *Production of socialist modernity*, *Paneláks*, *Estete Kladno - Rozdělov*, an episode of the *Retro* documentary program featuring socialist realism, and an interesting initiative that took place in the Kladno - Rozdělov housing estate museum.

I am trying to characterize two trends visible in shaping the narrative about socialist realism in house architecture. I am trying to treat socialist realist architecture as a "place of memory". First narration comes from association this architecture with the era in which it was created, which is connected with presenting it as a negative and unwanted phenomenon. The second part comes from a different point of view - local or individual. Here socialist realism functions as an object of memory of the inhabitants, or maybe as an object of nostalgia.