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### **Prague interwar architecture from German speaking architects**

The dissertation project aims to provide a more complex evaluation of Prague interwar architecture from German speaking architects. Previous research was focused mainly on specific context of interwar Prague, i.e. the description and evaluation of position of German speaking architects working in Prague in the period 1918-1940. The starting point was the definition of broad term “German speaking architect”, than were studied the particular social connections of German speaking architects to the cultural background. Methodologically the thesis came to a basic distinction of wide group of German speaking architects to the two spheres according to their orientation to a concrete cultural background. The two groups were defined, the first group of German cultural sphere and the second group oscillating between Czech and German sphere. The archive based studied criterions were: choice of nationality and mother language, nationality of clients, publications in concrete Czech or German periodicals, formal style of their work, education (Prague, Wien, Berlin, etc.), professional cooperation, membership of professional associations.

The German cultural-orientated group of architects is more formal coherent and it's relevant to put following questions for it. Are there any common signs or fundaments of Prague German architecture? Which examples or foreign influences do the architects followed? How do they accept new tendencies in the architecture of 20's and 30's? What is the role of traditionalism in their work? Into this group were put architects like Adolf Foehr, Max Spielmann, Fritz Lehmann, Josef Zasche or Rudolf Hildebrand.

The second group of architects is innerly differential, consisted from personalities (e.g. Erwin Katona, Berthold Schwarz, Kohns brothers, Fürth and Mühlstein, etc.) of individual artistic expression. We can find here many Jewish architects, who were closely connected to the Czech surroundings. With regard to complicated political situation in the Czechoslovakia in the 30's and 40's, there is a huge lack of archival material. That is a ground of research problems and reason for absenting art historical review of work from German speaking architects.

The previous study has already answered the question what had been the position of German speaking architects within the Prague cultural scene like. The attention was focused at the reflexion of their social status as they perceived it. It has rarely retained in the memories of architect Rudolf Hildebrand discovered in the archive of AzWien and in the memory book on Josef Zásche. On the ground of broad period periodical research were revealed the connections between Czech and German architects, which are influenced by national and cultural-political aspects of mutual rivalry.

The research in last two years was focused on revealing new personal and institutional connections on Prague interwar architectural scene. The aim is to create a net of connections and influences, which helps to better understand the role of German speaking architects in interwar Czechoslovakia. The next step is an analyse of Prague architectonical production from German speaking architects and its comparison with architecture originated from other German speaking areas. The last comparison was done on Jewish apartment house architecture from Prague and Brno and some new findings were revealed. The Jewish (German) architecture calls for special treatment and its definition plays without question important role in the whole structure of the thesis.

The main goal of this dissertation is to find the answer if the Prague interwar German architecture is somehow specific, if has some common characteristics and what is its position within the Czech or German art history. At the same time, it will be very crucial to find and choose wright methodological approach and to place the theme of German interwar architecture correctly in a history review following recent sociological, historical or philosophical researches about cultural and national identity.