

Abstract

The essay hereby submitted concerns itself with the genesis of the architectural element generally known in art-historical studies as westwerk/westwork and originating in the Carolingian times of the eighth and ninth centuries.

Methodologically the topic is approached from two mutually opposite perspectives.

One, in the vein of the Vienna School, pays attention to the development of westwerk's form, i.e. „from within,“ while the other favours the view „from outside,“ and stresses the cultural, political and other influences of the historical time. It also takes into account the receptive approach of Ernst Gombrich.

The main reason for writing this essay, however, is the fact that no special work has as yet been dedicated to the westwerk phenomenon in the Czech environment, even though its influence on the local architecture was far from negligible.