

Abstract (EN)

The thesis hereby presented is concerned with Jan Palach Square in Prague. The square has a set of rather unique qualities in the context of Prague and it has the potential to be a monumental urban space. In the past, this has led to a series of noteworthy plans for the embracement of this potential through more or less radical transformation. Yet, nowadays the square finds itself in a miserable provisional state it was put into at the very end of the 20th century.

The first part of the thesis follows the square's development from the perspective of architecture and urban planning, from its very beginning as an important river crossing through its genesis as a square and subsequent mutations in the 19th and 20th centuries up to this day. The sociopolitical context of individual plans for the square is given attention and since changes in one usually went hand in hand with the other, the chapter is structured accordingly.

The second part of the thesis attempts to build a theoretical framework, which could help grasp the specific qualities of Jan Palach square and thus the implications for its further development. As a starting point I chose the *archetypology* of the square formulated by architect and art historian Paul Zucker in his 1959 book *Town and Square from the Agora to the Village Green* (Columbia University Press, NY). I interpret Zucker's *archetypes* as specific configurations of relations between the individual elements, that together form urban space. By classifying these elements according to their role in space formation I attempt to expand Zucker's optic and adapt it as an analytic tool. I then explore its possibilities through three liberal applications on topics concerning Jan Palach Square.

Keywords:

Prague, Urban Planning, Historicism, 20th century, Urban Space, Square, Urban Space Theory.