

## TRANSFORMATION OF HISTORIC OBJECTS TO HOSPICE AND ITS RELATION TO LANDSCAPE

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**Abstract.** One of several levels of the urban revitalization is a reviving of existing physic building structures. The purpose of these activities is a re-usage of such objects and thereby the regeneration of a functional complexity of an area usage in the city organism. One of the many possible functions, which is serving collective benefit of city inhabitants, is the change of low-used areas into hospice houses.

**Key words:** hospice house, quality of environment, historic objects reconstruction

### INTRODUCTION

In this text, I would like to look at revitalization, which means in other words: renewal or revival of damaged, functionless entity [Zeman], from more points of view: a) from the architectural view (a certain architectural object), b) from the urban view (a particular site with broader context), c) from the natural view (a context of natural environment) and in the end d) from the socio-cultural view (a particular unit of society).



Phot. 1. St. Jan Neumann Hospice, Prachatice, reconstruction and annex in 2005,  
the location is in the historical center of the town

Fot. 1. Hospicjum św. Jana Neumanna, Prachatice, rekonstrukcja i rozbudowa w 2005 r.,  
usytuowanie w historycznym centrum miasta

The reusing of existing urban structures is one of several levels of city and landscape revitalization. The purpose of these activities is a new usage of such objects, and thus the regeneration of an entirety of area functional usage in the city organism. These structural acts are often followed by the modification and the recultivation of the building site or the nearest natural landscape environment.

### THE TRANSFORMATION OF OLDER BUILDINGS

By the transformation of older buildings, we preserve certain historical values. Such activities can also influence the public relation to mentioned historical values as well as contemporary social meanings. Reused and cultivated natural environment of old or historical buildings can offer to its users or the nearest public a pleasant place to stay in natural environment, or even a place for relaxation and sport.

One of the many possible functions, which are contributing to welfare of public in a city or a region, is the transformation of underused structures to hospices.



Phot. 2. St. Stepan Hospice in Litomerice, reconstruction and annex; hospice since 2001, maternal home before

Fot. 2. Hospicjum św. Szczepana w Litomericach, rekonstrukcja i dobudówka; hospicjum od 2001, wcześniej – dom dziecka

The first hospice in the Czech Republic was opened in 1996. The hospice house is a facility, which guarantees to the patient, that he or she will not suffer from unbearable pain and will not stay in his or her last minutes alone. Hospice house is also a healthcare facility with social care, where is provided palliative care for incurable and seriously ill. The goal is a quality of patient life. Hospice services are multilevel: provided care is concerned on physic, social, psychological and spiritual aspects of human needs [Svatošová 1999]. These buildings have their specific demands on inner and outer environment.



Phot. 3. St. Jan Neumann Hospice, Prachatice, reconstruction and annex, hospice since 2005, retirements house before

Fot. 3. Hospicjum św. Jana Neumanna, Prachatice, rekonstrukcja i dobudówka; hospicjum od 2005 r., wcześniej – dom spokojnej starości

There is a short statistic for illustration too [Hospicové domy]. Now (October, 2005), there are 11 free standing hospice houses in the Czech Republic. Nine hospices are in reconstructed objects and just two were newly built. Ten hospices are placed in the cities (in a centre or suburb) and only one is placed in a village (anyway, this village is closed to bigger city). Eight hospices are in site with park or garden and just two have winter garden or terrace at least<sup>1</sup>.



Phot. 4. St. Jan Neumann Hospice, Prachatice, reconstruction and annex, hospice since 2005, retirements house before

Fot. 4. Hospicjum św. Jana Neumanna, Prachatice, rekonstrukcja wraz z dobudówką; hospicjum od 2005 r., wcześniej – dom spokojnej starości

<sup>1</sup> In the one case, Hospice in Malenovice, I am not sure, because I do not visited it. That is why I left it out of the summary



Phot. 5. Hospice Straburk, Prague, reconstruction and annex, hospice since 1998, inn, hostel before  
 Fot. 5. Hospicjum Straburk, Praga, rekonstrukcja, hospicjum od 1998 r.; wcześniej – zajazd i schronisko



Phot. 6. St. Alzbeta Hospice, Brno, reconstruction and annex, hospice since 1998, that part, where hospice is now (two tracts at first floor) was convent house before  
 Fot. 6. Hospicjum św. Elżbiety, Brno, rekonstrukcja, hospicjum od 1998; wcześniej – klasztor

## RESULTS

In view of the topic of this conference, I would like to review the influence of free standing hospice houses on the urban environment. In Czech Republic, these facilities are mainly founded in objects, that are connected to wider natural environment. This fact, although it could be only a coincidence, has its justness in the hospice program, that tries to include the environment positively affecting its client in the spectrum of its services. There exist several researches supporting the idea that the environment, the natural one or the one created by us, has some influence to our behaviour, physical and psychical health. As an explanatory example we can consider the work of Roger S. Ulrich, who investigates in 70s and 80s, whether the view through a window may influence patient recovery

from surgery. Ulrich's research brought the finding that the time of patient convalescence with the view through a window to the greenery was on average shorter than the time of patient with the view to the brick wall [Ulrich 1984].



Phot. 7. St. Josef in Rajhrad, Brno, reconstruction, hospice since 1999, military hostel before, a board on the right shows which donor have paid for specific tree placed in the hospice park

Fot. 7. Hospicjum św. Józefa z Rajhrad, Brno, rekonstrukcja, hospicjum od 1999 r., wcześniej koszary; tablica na zdjęciu po prawej informuje o fundatorach poszczególnych drzew w szpitalnym parku



Phot. 8. Hospice Citadela, example of a new building, built in 2004, the park is important part of a composition

Fot. 8. Hospicjum Cytadela, przykład nowego budynku z 2004 r., park jest tu istotną częścią kompozycji

Freestanding hospices try to keep a good quality of an environment. For this purpose, natural elements as parks or gardens are very important. Where is no possibility to have such natural elements in site or its neighbourhood, or as addition there are built winter gardens or terraces at least. Possibility, it could free somebody's mind, to relax, to be hidden or to have some privacy. Hospice parks or gardens are sometimes public semi-accessible too.

## CONCLUSIONS

These particular hospice activities can be viewed as partial revitalization, which is done at the local level. As a plan, there is just general concept of Ministry of health, which supports the idea to set up 5 hospice beds per 100 000 people [Ministerstvo] in region.

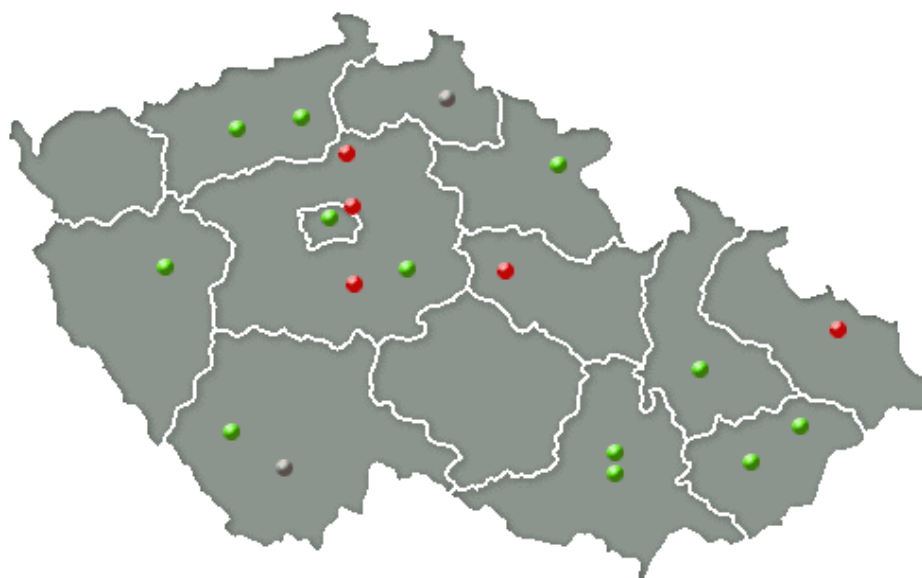


Fig. 1. A map of the Czech Republic shows free standing hospice houses locations. Marks: green – already opened hospice house, red – there is certain activity to build hospice house or hospice house is under reconstruction, grey – the intention to build a hospice house was cancelled

Ryc. 1. Mapa Czech ukazująca rozmieszczenie wolno stojących domów hospicyjnych. Oznaczenia: zielony – czynne hospicja, czerwony – hospicja planowane lub w budowie, szary – zaniechano planów budowy hospicjum

Free standing hospices are mainly placed in cities, because of possible profit of specific public facilities proximity (these facilities are e.g. hospital or public transportation) and they are founded not directly by state, but mainly by non profit organizations (e.g. foundation, civic movement or diocesan charity), with certain financial state support.

It is very hard to obtain some money for these non profit organizations, so that is why they usually reconstruct old or historic buildings, which they more likely get as a gift of some donor. These objects are mainly unused and sometimes in very bad conditions.

Generally, the hospices as the free standing buildings in the Czech Republic have more meanings: a) There is a support for social integration and re-socialization of ill, b) it brings new functions for old buildings, so they are prese-

rved, c) it also brings new work possibilities for the region, d) in the case of bigger site it means another cultivated green place in a city, e) there is a possibility to provide palliative care in specialized facility and possible centre of home care and the other care for seniors, handicapped or ill too.

The topic – hospice houses – in the relation of city-revitalization, solve not just questions of sustainable development, in the view of existing sources preservation, but even the question of future sustainable development of ageing Europe population, cultural and humane inter-generation relationship and environment quality improvement.

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## PRZESZTAŁCANIE OBIEKTÓW ZABYTKOWYCH W HOSPICJA I ICH ZWIĄZEK Z KRAJOBRAZEM

**Streszczenie.** Jedną z kilku odmian rewitalizacji miast jest ożywianie istniejących fizycznie struktur budynków. Celem tych działań jest ponowne wykorzystanie tych obiektów, a przez to regeneracja złożonej struktury funkcjonalnej otoczenia w organizmie miejskim. Jedną z wielu możliwych funkcji, która przynosi zbiorową korzyść mieszkańcom miasta, jest zmiana sposobu użytkowania niskostandardowych budynków na domy hospicyjne. W pracy przedstawiono kilka konkretnych realizacji tego typu.

**Słowa kluczowe:** dom hospicyjny, jakość środowiska, rekonstrukcja obiektów historycznych