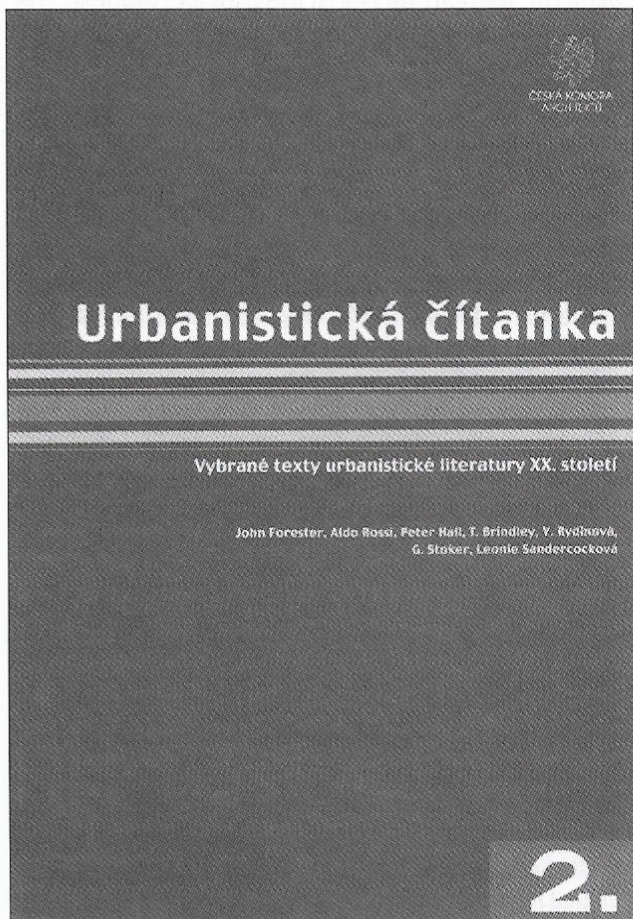


Vybrané texty urbanistické literatury XX. století
(Selected Texts of Urban Literature of the 20th century)

URBANISTICKÁ ČÍTANKA 2 (URBAN READ BOOK 2)



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Vybrané texty urbanistické literatury XX. století
(Selected Texts of Urban Literature of the 20th century)

Ed.: Karel Maier

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There have been several positive actions within the editions on the texts on architecture, published by the Czech Chamber of Architects. One of the latest actions was the activity of Prof. Karel Maier from the Czech Faculty of Architecture of the ČVUT, whose footprint can be recognised through the selection of the texts of urban literature of the 20th century in the Urban Read book 2, which was published in 2003. The selection of the texts, connected to the first volume, has been motivated by the effort to encompass the whole 20th century. The overview of the 20th century is focused on the changes, which happened mainly over the last 40 years in the scope and content of the terms urbanism, town and country planning and regional planning.

The limited extent of publication did not allow including the entire works of the authors, which was then quite a difficult task for the editor to choose the parts of their books representing the core stone of urban theory development. The task of the editor was even more demanding since the time distance from the end of the 20th century is quite short and the 20th century was highly turbulent in the development of views in urban theory and practice. The intention of the editor was not to offer the entire overview or present the complete spectrum but rather to show the mosaic mapping the diversity of urban theoretical flows. This ambition has been fully accomplished by including the texts of the outstanding scientists like: J. Forester, A. Rossi, P. Hall, T. Brindley, Y. Rydin, G. Stoker, L. Sandercock.

The text of each of the authors is in this publication introduced by the editor with the aim to acquaint the reader with the author's work as well as with the broader context of the times. The actual texts are often edited in a shorter way in order to make them more understandable and address the targeted readers - the undergraduates and postgraduates of architecture and planning but also the planners and architects from the planning practice in the Czech Republic, since these were not given the opportunity to study the relevant urban theories of west European and American provenance during their studies in the socialistic period.

The interpretation of all of the introduced professional texts was quite a demanding task too, particularly with regard to many professional terms from urban theory and practice used in the original books. The problem of interpretation is even deeper in relation to different contents of the terms fixed by legislation that are often used freely without awareness of contextual differences in the linguistic homonyms.

The Czech but also the Slovak readers acquired, thanks to this Czech Chamber of Architects publishing activity, the unique opportunity to get the overview on the developments of urban theory in the 20th century.

Prof. Ing. arch. Maroš Finka, PhD.