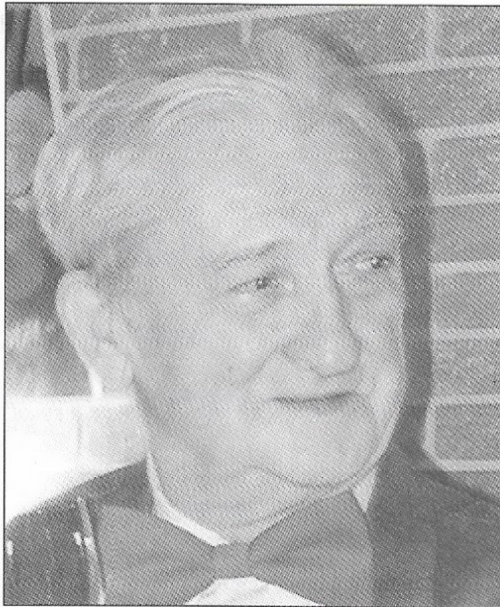




OBITUARY NOTICE

PROFESSOR ING. ARCH. RUDOLF ŠTEIS, DRSC., EMERITUS PROFESSOR



We very much regret having to announce the death of Professor Ing. arch. Rudolf Šteis, DrSc., Emeritus Professor, who died on August 18, 2006 at the age of eighty. Professor Rudolf Šteis, who since his retirement in 1996 had continued in cooperation with the Faculty of Architecture and the Association of the Slovak Architects, will be deeply regretted. Our sense of loss will be shared by his colleagues, his former students and many friends.

Professor Maroš Finka and Professor Bohumil Kováč who were his graduates and knew him for many years, contributed with the following memoir.

Prof. Rudolf Šteis studied at the Faculty of Architecture in Brno and graduated as one of the first graduates of architecture and built structures in Bratislava, under the supervision of famous professors E. Bellus and E. Hruska started his rich practical and theoretical activity at the level of the region (Žilina), continued at the central institution for construction in Bratislava and later in the state institution for urban planning - URBION. Under his managerial and organisational work, which was closely linked to the changes in Slovakia, the main focus was on specific features of the regions and places. Thus he created a long tradition and a specific complex approach to town and country planning, based on interdisciplinary cooperation with other fields of science that he always tried to apply in comprehensive analysis of spatial impacts (e.g. sociology, ecology, informatics).

His cooperation in several international teams was important too. It was a challenge for him and he was taking part in elaboration of local plans in several cities of Tunis and also in land-use planning feasibility study in Kongo Brazaville. The last years of his professional career at the Faculty of Architecture of the STU in Bratislava he devoted to the intensive pedagogical and research activity. He published 7 textbooks for undergraduates and over 150 papers and articles. His book 'New Urbanism' was published by the VEDA SAV publisher in 1985, where he developed contemporary urban theories. Together with Prof. Peter Gál he published a monograph 'Transformation of Rural Settlement Structure' and together with R. Bartková they published 'Zonal and Settlement Settlements'. In his pedagogical work (mainly as Head of Town & Country Planning Department') he motivated the students of architecture to choose the field of urban planning as their study branch and was also an example for others in his effort to increase the qualification. He was chairman of many scientific committees and commissions for the state final exams in the branch of urban planning in Prague and Brno as well as chairman of the commission for PhD. degrees in the branch of urban planning in the former Czechoslovakia and member of the Scientific Board for Technical Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Science.

As Professor Emeritus he was still able to reflect the impacts of information technologies on spatial development and cared about the consequences. He was aware of the fact that wider awareness of the anticipated phenomena could support future development and accelerate the societal development towards information society.

Thanks to Professor Rudolf Šteis, Slovakia is internationally recognised for the introduction of scientific urban planning school and new urban planning culture in central Europe that led to the establishment of the SPECTRA Centre (Central European Training and Research Centre in Spatial Planning) at the FA STU in Bratislava and its integration (as the only centre with this scientific profile) in the network of the Centres of Excellence in the EU. The activities of the SPECTRA Centre of Excellence will always be linked to the personality of Professor Rudolf Šteis and will always develop the message of his lifelong effort.