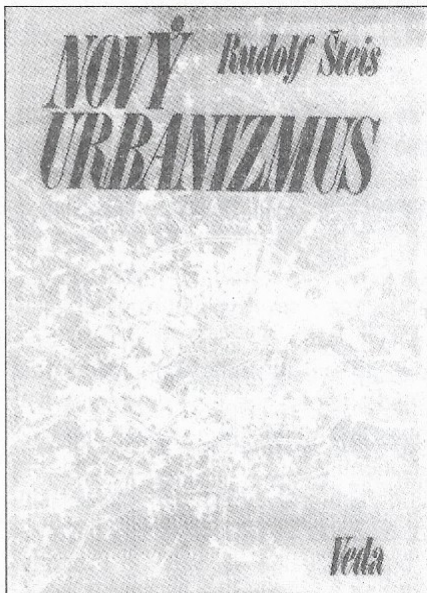




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PROFESSOR'S RUDOLF ŠTEIS 80TH BIRTHDAY



As a tribute to Professor's Rudolf Šteis 80th birthday an international conference "Cross-Border River Basin Management in the CEE Countries" was taking place on 11-12 October 2005 at the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. It was organised by the research team of the ARL Hannover and the SPECTRA Centre at the Faculty of Architecture, under the chairmanship of Prof. Maroš Finka, the former student of Prof. Ing. arch. Rudolf Šteis, DrSc. To celebrate his anniversary was natural to many of his former students and colleagues from the FA STU since he had been the founder of the modern Slovak planning school to which he devoted his lifetime activities, including education of young generation of planners. He himself started to study 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. Belluš and E. Hruška.

Prof. Šteis 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 a specific complex approach to town and country planning, based on interdisciplinary cooperation with other fields of science that he always tried to apply and comprehend the spatial impacts (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 in VEDA SAV 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.

At present as Professor Emeritus he reflects the impacts of information technologies on spatial development and cares about the consequences. He is aware of the fact that wider awareness of the anticipated phenomena can support future development and accelerate the societal development towards information society.

The international conference "Cross-Border River Basin Management in the CEE Countries" paid the attention of his work in several contributions and the speech to his tribute was given also by his foreign colleagues Prof. Isolde Roch from IOER Dresden and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dietmar Scholich, Secretary General of the ARL Hannover as well as by the the dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the STU in Bratislava, Prof. Ing. arch. Peter Gál, PhD.

The celebration was attended by many of his former students and colleagues from the planning practice and was going on in a warm and pleasant atmosphere.

