

NEW COLOURS ON OLD HOUSES

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A FACADE OF A BLOCK OF FLATS – PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LANDSCAPE ?

The personal view on the architectural level of regeneration facades of blocks of flats.

Pict. 1



Have blocks of flats been more beautiful in these days than in the past?

Day by day there can be found a new facade of the block of flats in housing estates in Czech cities. The first regenerated prefabs have brought positive reactions and have inspired other owners of houses. The discussions that our gray housing estates have getting a new face started. It is a question whether the visual aspects of housing estates have been improved entirely. A lot of colours, which are included in swatches of paintings, attract to use. People have missed colours of their blocks of flats the most. However many colour solutions impress inappropriately -harmonizing of colours, using excessive shades, selection designs which do not respect tectonics of a building. Although a good solution is used for some individual case, it is not often successful unless it is properly placed in context. Last but not least, some facades of buildigs of flats had an interesting original colour solution that match the architecture of a building. It is pitty that such a good solved original facades have lost.



Pict. 2

Old and new...

Do we think about the housing estate as a whole which maintains any common architectural elements?

The current approach to composing the facades is evidently individual. There does not exist any coordination after a sale of individual houses to owners(and it is not often understood as desirable). We can not defend an impression that the result of new solution is a different facade for a specific object or entrance, but overall sites receive more „patchy“ appearance. Colour arrangements are not usually coordinated and there are not boundaries.

Losing any hierarchy and arrangement of objects(street frontages with many entrances have been breaking, the groups that had the same character originally are losing ,the home tower accent is disposed by disparate arrangement of individual objects). Residential houses in the housing estates were originally in the form of its founders intended, sort of neutral, geometric elements. „Elements“ take on the importance after incorporating into the composition of housing.

Houses had the character of industrial products and facades in the traditional concept of the individual solutions were changed to the grids of periodic windows and balconies.

These compositional principles of modernist urban concept have been denied today and they are not replaced by any new quality.

Architects as well are often dedicated to individual objects, which may look good themselves after the regeneration, however in context with the surroundings they look disparate.

It happens that a solution to a facade at all devoids of any fundamental principles and it is a random "inspiration" of a creator or an investor.

Theoretical foundations are missing and there are very different views of what is appropriate, proportionate and beautiful.



Pict. 3, 4

Should a facade design be subordinated to a housing estate?

Colourfulness of block of flats should not be considered as a "private landscape" which was defied and removed from the hostile surroundings.

A good living environment arises only there where is some consistency between the various elements - buildings, their immediate surroundings and the common public space.

During walking round the many housing estates we can see many examples of inappropriate, badly color harmonized, inappropriately designed solution of facade regeneration.

Certain coordination and uniform approach that does not necessarily mean a new uniformity would help create the necessary consistency.

Should be architectural design of the house faces determined by the rules and boundaries?

In a country where the most citizens still remember the period of bondage, any rules and regulations are not accepted with great comprehension.

It may constitute a basic framework agreement on the rules for the use of appropriate shades of color in a certain locality.

Author of each solution has a number of options on how to proceed in dealing with the details - different accents of entrances, entrances to houses, balconies and loggias.

There can be reflected originality everywhere and creative approach that will remind people author's invention every day.

Too often it is happening that a variegated – multi-coloured block of flats has got a banal brown house entrance door covered by a tacky roof.

Simple coordination assists in housing estates areas to maintain a required consistency.

Pict. 5, 6 details



Where is it from "our house"

Environment of housing estates needs to get rid of clichés and myths.

Not all block of flats are "sad".

Some of the sad block of flats are in beautiful surroundings. The owners of family houses situated in the „settlement porridge" can only envy.

The regenerations of prefabricated houses are fed more and more with resources but interest of their architectural design is not in accordance.

This situation needs to be changed. It is high time to look for acceptable ways which will not change the housing estates from its monotony and greyness in a colorful kitsch during the next few years.

Pict. 7

