

Summary

The paper under the title “Inscriptions on the Krakow’s tenement houses as an expression of the ideas’ transfer in the architecture at the turn of the 19’s and 20’ century” is an interdisciplinary stadium on urban architecture, which served as a carrier of some social and cultural phenomenon, that occurred parallelly in few European countries. The constructed building become at the same time an eyewitness of its times, but as well a factor co-creating the society. Thanks to the new possibilities of travels, studying abroad, circulation of professional periodics, international expositions and competitions some concepts were able to move from bigger cultural centers and spread their impact towards smaller towns. Those ideas made themselves visible in the buildings forms, the applied construction technique, but as well in the external decoration, thus also the one present as inscriptions which were put on the facades both of residential and public buildings. Many of those elements are still preserved, and they constitute a perfect material to conduct a research under many different aspects.

The architecture is a reflection of its time, an external expression of a combination between some currents present in the art, science and technique applicable at the time, but yet constitutes an interesting source of information about the contemporary society. The paper undertakes a task to observe and describe the above mentioned factors in the aim of finding what was their impact on the inscriptions left on the houses’ walls. Having accomplished a wide photographical documentation, an attempt was made to analyse and interpretate inscriptions left on Krakow’s tenement houses’ facades, as a case study. In order to underline observed analogies as to make a comparison, some chosen examples of the inscriptions were given from big cultural centers of the time whose impacts are visible in the works of Krakow’s architects: Paris, Vienna and Lemberg. The paper depicts as well the development of those towns, the role of the architecture and the growing significance of the builders, who become the creators of the modern urban tissues in their shape actually preserved till today. The study shows some ways of the ideas’ transfer which were present in many places at the same time and decided about the development’ directions of the cultural centers. The architecture of the houses is an expression of those ideas and the inscriptions on their facades constitutes at the same time a source bearing multiple significations to be read and interpreted.

21.03.2023

