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Imię i nazwisko osoby ubiegającej się o nadanie stopnia

Tytuł rozprawy doktorskiej: In the Tatras. Shelters and cultural practices. Places and spaces of tourism

SUMMARY

This dissertation focuses on phenomena occurring in the Tatra Mountains since 1827. The subjects of the research are high-mountain refuges – their architecture, functioning and the discourses accruing around them – and cultural practices within high-mountain protected areas.

The scientific objective of my dissertation is to recognise the relationship between the architectural object and the actors involved in its design, construction and use. I pursue this aim by recognising the spatial practices constituting refuges and by investigating the influence that refuges have on the ways in which users act. I thus treat the relationship between architecture and user as reciprocal and situated in the high mountain landscape and nature under protection.

Alongside shelters and cultural practices, place and space are important analytical categories in my research. These are concepts developed mainly in humanistic geography. In this rich history of assigning different meanings to space and place, some general constants can be found. Spaces are defined by the multiplicity of parallel processes taking place in them and the feeling of not being rooted. Places are characterised by greater intimacy and fixed identities. They can be enclosed within boundaries, and thus it is easier to encompass their range and meanings. Space and place are most often shaped by opposing values. The categories of place and space allow us to see the different, often conflicting meanings given to the same environment. From a synchronic and diachronic perspective, I have distinguished the following practices constituting the spaces of the Tatra Mountains: the space of the Tatra Mountains as a space of rituals and treasures constituted by conspiracies containing



topographical, speological and literary descriptions; the space of pastoral practices; the industrial space constituted by land exploitation activities, the naming of particular places and produced by stories about miners and metallurgists; the space constituted by research practices – primarily geological and botanical – the space of the national good; and tourist spaces.

The aim was to develop categories that would best describe the Tatras and the activities undertaken in them in a relational perspective. The most important relational aspects for my considerations will be class, the relationship between the human and the non-human, and the relationship between being a host and a visitor in the classical perspective of tourism anthropology.

The result of research based on found material (memoir literature, reports, journalistic texts and archival material such as employment-related documents, architectural and construction projects, maps and photographs) and evoked material (participatory observation in the field, external observation of online interest forums and in-depth interviews with shelter staff) is the identification of practices constituting tourist spaces in the Tatra Mountains and their analysis based on relational theories of practices, spatialisation theory and assumptions of sociology and anthropology of architecture. Another outcome of my research is the identification of the meanings given to the spaces and places produced, which I realised through discourse analysis and the method of mapping controversies in architecture.

The work analyses shelter as ‘devices’ through which it is possible to reproduce certain tourist attitudes and relationships between hosts of facilities and travellers. Facilities inspired by local building forms, with a repetitive functional layout (the focal point being the communal dining room and veranda, the kitchen and the multiple sleeping rooms) allow for the realisation of relationships based on the guest–host pattern and reproduce the personal pattern of the tourist. The shelters are fully accessible to those who have the necessary competences to participate in nature tourism. These include a willingness to be together in sometimes difficult conditions to rest – sleeping on the floor, close to strangers, sharing food and following shelter rules. Many aspects of staying at the facility are not covered in the rules and regulations. Rather, tourists learn them as they go along, observing others and being guided by how the building ‘guides’ them.

The shelters were presented as some of the first examples of ecological architecture. It was mainly realised by focusing on aesthetics, which was defined as ‘appropriateness’ – buildings not standing out in the landscape, referring to local building forms and interiors of



modest standard. Today, building greenness also means specific technological solutions initiated most often by the tenants of the facilities. Shelters are also responsible for reproducing a specific attitude towards the protected environment.

Słowa kluczowe:

the Tatras, shelters, cultural practices, places, spaces, tourism

Podpis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerzy Kufy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.