

THE CZECH SCENE

The title of my essay is rather indefinite on purpose. What czech scene?! Well, I mean the landscape, the scenery. What you see when you look around yourself. The sense of that expression must be completely unmistakable when you imagine yourself in an ordinary czech suburb or sometimes even in a common city.

What I see are big billboards, amount of smaller advertisement panels hanging on various poles, coloured legends everywhere I look.

And some people complain about this. They claim those panels disturb the look of a city, destroy a normal appearance of living space and create an unsightly place where unscrupulous interests of market dominate over man`s concern for liveable urban environment. They say: „It is not nice, I do not like it and I cannot find the reason why government allows companies to depreciate my favourite city.“

But what about those growing suburbs on peripheries of cities with 20 thousands of inhabitants and more! Many of us are amazed by the beauty of new houses with clean and shining coat, with shortly cut English grass and exactly sectioned gardens etc. These dwellings (if you really can`t visualize one in your mind, remember your arrival to Carlsbad where there is much of people who have realized their aspire after life out of the restless city in new house built up in great western – German – style) have a number of *petit* disadvantages: your friend may find it troublesome to differ from between the yours and your neighbour`s house, small gardens can not satisfy your craving for calm environment and a piece of nature; maybe you`ll be discontent with appearance of your residency in few years (let`s confess the general known verity – the design of typical city suburb houses is rather simple and without what we call „element of art“); power of people taunting you with your darling residence, out of taste in their minds; neighbourhood of the other houses and people. We could name plenty of other matters for others don`t prefer this style of living.

And where is the point of my writing? You guess well. I affirm:

- Plastic windows do not fit to every house; in fact, they match well with tiny number of houses. Today, sea of people create a grim creature out of their formerly nice habitation. Gold-rush (cheap stuff, superior features) beats native aesthetic sense.
- As I grow in age, I see more and more obviously the simplicity and lack of deeper idea and sense in the typical suburb houses built so often these days, i.e. in Carlsbad or in Sokolov – Stara Ovcarna. And I cannot help myself to think people who have built such house must miss something in their thinking I feel intensively...
- The flood of advertisement and announcement panels in cities is probably an attribute of the economic condition of the Czech Republic (on the west side of the border you are not hardly surprised by the wild group of coloured panels competing for your eye). Why have not we admitted laws limiting positioning of different advertisement stuff? The conditions would be the same for everyone, anyway, so where is the problem?
- And last, I must notice one particular affair which has something to do with previous point. Billboards in the landscape. I begin to be nervous when I look for the answer for following question considering billboards are often posed in broad acres, next to historical monuments etc.: „Why do the M.P. (members of parliament) not take respect to the interest of citizens of the state after preservation of the charm of the typical and one and only czech country-side and do not forbid to place those billboards where they actually stay?!“



For closing my essay I just repeat my ideas: We should care for our landscape with more responsibility and we should keep and show the signs of sense for beauty. And let`s awake it is not just important but also possible to make our life environment *good* for living.

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