

Abstract

The bachelor's thesis focuses on the photographic phenomenon of *Urban Exploration*, also known as „UrbEx“. The bachelor's thesis deals with the question of why places remain abandoned and compares the Czech and general foreign approach to urbex. The aim is to find out whether „city explorers“ are able to help abandoned buildings with their photographs. First, terms closely related to urban research such as industry, taphophilia, graffiti and psychogeography are defined. History from Romanticism to the present is also presented. Briefly mentioned are figures which are connected to exploring of abandoned places, such as *André Breton*, *Guy Debord*, *Jeff Chapman* and groups that helped shape the phenomenon, i.e. the *San Francisco Suicide Club*, *Action Squad*, *Cave Clan* and *Diggers of the Underground Planet*.

Pripjat' and so called Chateau Congo were chosen from the world demonstration of urbex. However, most attention is paid to buildings in the Czech Republic, from where were chosen *pewter shaft Rolava* and *St. George in Luková*, which is an ideal example of how urbex can in some way help to save abandoned buildings.

Keywords

Urbex, exploration, abandoned places, photography