

# **The influence of architecture on constitutional law**

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the connection between architecture and constitutional law. Both disciplines can influence each other, and thus reshape their image in people's perception. The architecture and urban planning of the buildings of state institutions are significantly related to national symbolism, to the possibility of identifying oneself with the state, to the behaviour of people in space, to the representation of the powers of these institutions, but at the same time, their appearance is often influenced by political decisions.

The aim of the thesis is to find out to what extent architecture influences law. Architecture can represent and materialize the principles on which the state is based. The appearance and layout of a building can influence the functioning of the institution housed within it, while also influencing how the building and the institution is perceived by citizens. This general objective is then developed by analysing the Czech constitutional system, which is characterised as a parliamentary form of government, although there are opinions saying that it is closer to a semi-presidential system. This view, which is rooted primarily in the perception of citizens, may also be supported by the appearance and location of the seats of the constitutional institutions. This thesis therefore focuses on the design of the buildings of institutions that are crucial to functioning of the system of government, namely those of parliament and head of state.

The thesis is divided into 3 parts. The first part deals with the connection between architecture and law in general, the meaning of architecture, symbolism and interiors of buildings of state institutions, especially parliaments. The second part is a general theoretical explanation regarding the forms of governments, which is a prerequisite for the specific analysis of the Czech constitutional system in the third part. The third part firstly describes the Parliament of the Czech Republic, its functioning, powers and status, as well as its seat. Subsequently, it analyses the position, powers and seat of the Head of State in a similar manner. Finally, it focuses on the constitutional system of the Czech Republic embodied in the Constitution, its deflections and the role of architecture, with emphasis on the location and form of the seat of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the President. It concludes by offering possible alternatives that could remedy the shortcomings of the constitutional system.

**Keywords:** architecture, seat, parliament, forms of government.