

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to gather information on the furniture firm Emil Gerstel Prague in connection with collaborations with architects as interior designers. Emil Gerstel was in charge of the firm Before the First World War, in that period furniture influenced by Viennese geometric secession and by historicist tendencies was produced. A collaboration with the architect Joseph Maria Olbrich in that time is also mentioned. The firm was purveyor to the Viennese court. Around 1930 under the direction of Bedřich Gerstel was the firm on its peak. This period comprises the works on furnishing of the interior of the Otto Petschek 's villa in the Neo-rococo style, the collaboration with Adolf Loos and Heinrich Kulka on furnishing of the villa Müller and on furnishing of the family Semler 's apartment in Plzeň. Vladimír Grégr was the author of the Václav Maria Havel's apartment, his designs were influenced by organic functionalism. Most of the Gerstel's customers came from wealthy families, their property was after the Second World War nationalized. This thesis deals with the circumstances of the buildings , their restoring or the plans for a future renovation. The second part describes the independent production of the firm. It was mostly influenced by historicism, as we can see at the Panenské Břežany mansion. The architect Arthur Blitz was an author of the designs influenced by art deco and functionalism. This production may be compared to the production of UP závody Brno. The last chapter is dedicated to unproven yet possible collaborations and commissions.

Key words: furniture, interior fittings, interior, Emil Gerstel, Adolf Loos, villa Müller, Max Spielmann, Heinrich Kulka, Vladimír Grégr, Arthur Blitz, Panenské Břežany, Neo-rococo, historicism, organic functionalism