

etappen von den momentanen Möglichkeiten abhängig. Die Nachkriegsrekultivierungen waren bereits in Beziehung zum heutigen Zustand im Gebiet von Most und im ganzen Kohlenbecken von dem Bedarf die Kriegsbelastungen zu liquidieren und gleichzeitig die Wirtschaft mit vorrangiger an Energie anspruchsvoller Schwerindustrieentwicklung anzukurbeln stimuliert. Die Stromproduktion war in dieser Zeit ausschließlich an Kohle angewiesen. Ihr Abbau stieg deshalb wesentlich an. Schnell erhöhten sich die Beschlagnahmungen von landwirtschaftlichen Grundstücken. Und dies nicht nur durch die Förderung, sondern auch durch den Bau von Wasser- und Industrieanlagen. Im Jahre 1957 wurde ein neues Berggesetz erlassen, das allen verstaatlichten Förder- und Abbaufirmen auch die Rekultivierung anordnete. Es folgten mehrere gesetzliche Normen und das Ergebnis ist das heutige Berggesetz, das den Förderorganisationen anordnet aus eigenen Finanzmitteln die Sanierung und Rekultivierung aller von der Förderung betroffenen Grundstücke zu sichern, und zwar als Landschaftsschadenbeseitigung durch eine allseitige Instandsetzung des Gebietes und der Landschaftsstrukturen.

Gleichzeitig gehen deshalb aus diesem Gesetz die Rekultivierungen hervor. Die Rekultivierung ist ein konzeptioneller, technologischer und wirtschaftlicher Bestandteil des Kohlenabbaus. Aus institutioneller Sicht wird sie im Zusammenhang mit dem Baugesetz in Form von Lieferanten-Kundenbeziehungen gesichert, wo Auftraggeber Rekultivierungsspezialisten der Gruben sind. Ihre Pflicht ist die Vorbereitungs- und die Projektierungsdokumentation sicherzustellen, sie zu genehmigen und danach mit Hilfe mehrerer Auftragnehmer auch die Realisierung der Rekultivierungsarbeiten durchzuführen. Die gebietstechnische Etappe der Rekultivierungen wird über Rekultivierungsgenerelle und globale Rekultivierungspläne projektiert.

Bereits seit den 70er Jahren werden die Rekultivierungen als Flächen zu aktiver Ausspannung mit Badeteichen und Sportanlagen in unmittelbarer Stadtnähe konzipiert; auf den rekultivierten Flächen in unmittelbarer Nähe von Most entstand ein Autodrom und Hippodrom. Auf der Fläche der eigentlichen historischen Stadt – also im Gebiet der Grube Ležáky – entsteht seit 2008 ein See, Mostecké jezero genannt, deren Auffüllung mit Wasser zum Ziel gelangt. In seiner Nähe ist das Gelände mit dem Spital und der Kirche des hl. Geistes situiert, wohin 1975 die Pfarrkirche platziert wurde – heute eines der Kulturmittelpunkte von Most. Die Rekultivierung, deren Bestandteil auch die Wiederanbauung von Weinreben an den Hängen von Most war, gelangte in die Phase, wo man Most als eines der grünen Städte betrachten kann.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF MOST

Landscape made for the city. A very favorable location was chosen for the founding of the royal town of Most. On one side, it was enclosed by Hněvín Hill, which was intended for the building of a royal castle. The opposite side was defined by the course of the Bílina River, which was crossed by a bridge that connected to a major road. The site was surrounded by a fertile and relatively densely populated landscape. The Ore Mountains were just behind the nearby horizon, an area with an entirely different supply and demand. The North Bohemian Basin extended from the Hněvín Hill all the way to the foothills of the Ore Mountains, drained by the Bílina River. The Komořanské Lake, about 5 kilometers long (although its own body of water was substantially smaller) was located to the west of Most. The wetlands that connected with the Komořanské Lake reached all the way to Most. Right outside of Most, the Bílina River flowed into the valley with a significant altitude differential. That is why the optimal crossing of the Bílina River was located in the narrow belt under the Hněvín Hill.

The time before the founding of the town. There is evidence of an important Slavic settlement tradition in and around the Most area dating to the 6th and 7th centuries. In the 8th and 9th centuries, a fortification – whose existence was probably only short-term – was built on the Hněvín Hill. The first written evidence of Most region is mentioned by the chronicler Kosmas. In 1040, one group belonging to the military expedition of the German king Henry II reached *ad pontem Gnevin iuxta fluvium Belinam*. The archeological reconstruction testifies to the existence of three settlement areas in the 11th and 12th century, located near the crossing of the Bílina River (A-C). The first written evidence about Most, which town was held for twenty years by the noble family Hradišiči, dates to 1207. At that time, Most was an important market place. The transformation of Most region began around 1200. This transformation was much supported by the settlement of the Ore Mountains, which was, in turn, related to silver mining. It was at that time that the road from Most region across the ridge of the Ore Mountains gained a fundamental importance. Thanks to the increase of the potential of the landscape around Most's crossing of the Bílina River, the area in the immediate vicinity offered a suitable place for a town foundation. When the Most's branch of family Hradišiči died off in 1227, the path to a foundation of a royal town Most was finally opened.

The origins and rise of medieval Most. The history of royal Most began around 1230. The first town, measuring 11.4 hectares, was located near the crossing of the Bílina River. The road from Žatec remained an important road axis, and it was to this road that the First town square was joined. The royal town Most was at first enclosed by a ditch, 8 meters wide and 2.5 meters deep. With the ditch completed, stone walls began to be built. The town's Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary was built as a three-nave basilica, 53.6 meters in length

and about 24 meters wide. In the early years, Most also contained the convent of Minorites and a hospital of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, located *extra muros*. Even older historical research emphasized that the ground plan of Most linked two different parts, which suggests that the town was built in two phases. Archeological research south of the Minorite church discovered a ditch, demarcating the primary area of the royal town. This also illuminated the extraordinary position of the Minorite convent, which after its expansion found itself in the middle of the city.

Sometime around the mid-13th century, the southern part of the town ditch was filled in and an area measuring about 5.7 hectares was added to the developing royal town Most. It was at that time that the main road axis of the town's center changed. The reason for this change could not have been due to absolute over-population of the primary town's center. The deciding reason was probably relative overcrowding; the early urban community might have lacked prestigious plots of land that would be concentrated near the square and main streets. The community of Most developed very rapidly in the second half of the 13th century, and its town became one of the leading towns in northwestern Bohemia in the course of two generations. In 1278, the emerging royal town Most gained a privilege, which became the basis for its legal standing in the subsequent centuries. The appearance of houses in Most, however, changed only gradually and remained quite simple for a surprisingly long time.

The prosperity of the royal town Most fluctuated a number of times. From the beginning, royal Most depended on silver mining in the Ore Mountains. The mining encouraged a flourishing trade, with food stuffs being transported from the Czech side and with silver going in the opposite direction. The decline of mining began in the mid-14th century. The Hussite wars significantly weakened the town's economy. When the silver mining in the Ore Mountains resumed after 1470, Most began again to prosper. This promising development was brought to an end by a fire on March 11, 1515.

The 1515 fire and the subsequent reconstruction of the city. The fire, which on the 11th of March 1515 flared up in Most, destroyed most of the city including the ecclesiastical buildings. The city's renewal began soon after with the help of the ruler. Vladislav II forgave the payment of all rents for the period of ten years and granted other privileges. The catastrophe as well as the economic favors granted by the Jagiellonian dynasty stimulated in Most an unusually extensive building activity. In the course of the city renovations, the burghers paid special attention to the renewal of the deanery church. The city controlled the church's endowment starting in 1501, but it meant that the city had to take care of its renovation. In order to finance it, the city gained a permission to collect indulgences, which took place between 1517 and 1519. The first building works began in May of 1517 at the site of the burnt-out church and on the 20th August 1517, the foundation stone was laid. The city entrusted the renovation to master Jakob Heilmann from Schweinfurt, who at that time had just started building a church in a nearby Annaberg in Saxony. Heilmann designed a three-nave building, as was the original building, but brought the buttresses on the inside of the structure, which formed a ring of chapels along the perimeter. The first phase of construction was finished in 1549, which we know thanks to the year carved into one of the arches in the southern nave. The town hall in the Square I became another important building. The author of the reconstruction was Jakob Gross, the builder, who worked also on the building of the deanery church. Unlike the church, the town hall was an example of a typical Renaissance architecture. The façade was covered with frescoes with allegorical and biblical motives; the forefront was decorated with seven arches, which created an arcade. The building was finished before 1560.

The period before the Battle of White Mountain. The renewal proceeded relatively rapidly, thanks to the royal privileges, also in the residential quarters. The fire destroyed especially the half-timbered upper parts and roofs, whereas the ground areas, made from stone, remained standing. The reparations changed the character of the urban development by the fact that stone floors were added on top of the older ground structures. Occasionally, new buildings were built with extensive chambers on the ground floor. Among the best-preserved houses, rebuilt in the late Gothic style, was house number 33 in Úzká Street and house No. 176 on the Square II.

The city experienced another larger fire in May 1578, which damaged even some of the newly repaired buildings. The deanery church was consecrated by Prague's archbishop Zbyněk Berka from Dubá in 1594, but building works continued until 1602.

The development around the city continued to retain its village character. In the space southeast of the city, a new Václavské suburb emerged, later also called Teplické. South of the city, there was development in front of Pražská gate, which later evolved into Pražské suburb.

After the second half of the 16th century, we encounter a gradual economic stagnation. This economic decline, however, did not strike all the cities with equal intensity, in fact, Most, which in 1515, 1575 and 1578 was damaged by severe fires, experienced a building boom. In 1593, the humanistic poet Georg Barthold Pontanus from Breitenberg published a versified description of Most, in which he focused primarily on its history, but also topography. The engraving by Jan Willenberg, depicting the city development after the reconstructions occasioned by the 16th century fires comes from 1602. The city, enclosed by double walls, is dwarfed by the dominant deanery church and the town hall, with two other church towers added to the panorama.

Lutheranism entered the city starting in the second half of the 16th century. The turn of the 16th and 17th centuries was, therefore, marked by religious conflicts between Protestants and Catholics.

The castle above the city continued to develop independently until the end of the 16th century. In 1595, emperor Rudolph II sold the castle to Most. The city appointed the castle's commander and was also expected to support both the castle and its garrison from its own coffers. The oldest depiction of the castle is extant only from the turn of the 16th and 17th century.

The Thirty Years' War. The Capuchin order entered the city even before the beginning of the Thirty Years' War, in 1615 as a part of the re-catholicization process. In 1616, the order began to build a monastery to the northwest of the city in front of the Jezerní gate. The foundation stone was laid in 1618 and the building was finished in 1627. After 1620, all persons belonging to the Protestant confession had to convert to Catholic faith and take part in Catholic worship services under the penalty of imprisonment. On account of these measures, about a thousand burghers belonging to the Protestant confession left Most for the nearby Protestant Saxony in the course of the Thirty Years' War.

The Thirty Years' War devastated the city of Most and its inhabitants. After 1639, the city was burnt and looted several times by Swedish soldiers, which unfavorably influenced its economic situation as well. The castle Most was conquered in 1646, and it remained in the hands of a Swedish garrison until 1649. Following the war, the political and economic importance of the city itself declined and the royal city, formerly important, became an unimportant provincial settlement. Most never managed to re-gain its former economic position in the region and came to occupy the status of a less important village town, although it retained an important presence of craftsmen until the second half of the 19th century. After the war, the economic situation gradually stabilized. The town hall tower, which had been destroyed, was repaired between 1657 and 1658. The Magdalenites had their city convent reconstructed after 1652 as well. The Knights of the Cross also renovated their monastery after the war. The heavily damaged medieval commenda was replaced by a new, early baroque, building. Between 1651 and 1653, the Capuchin convent was extended in the suburbs. The reconstruction of the Minorite monastery began probably in 1669.

The burghers blamed the castle above their city for their wartime suffering; as a strategic point it attracted, or so they presumed, enemy armies. For that reason, they petitioned emperor Ferdinand III to have the castle demolished. The emperor allowed in 1650 the demolition of Most's castle and agreed that the building material that would be gained from the demolition be used for the renovation of the city. The demolition began in 1651 with the removal of the roof material on the buildings and the demolition of external walls. In 1652, the external perimeter wall was pulled down as was the round tower and also the castle palace. The remaining smaller buildings on the site were removed in the following year.

The city's renovation in the second half of the 17th and in the course of the 18th century. Whereas the period before the Battle of White Mountain brought a number of new buildings, which importantly impacted the character of the city, after the war only very few new buildings were added. The report about the state of the city economy between 1671 and 1679 mentions that all the mills and timber mills in the city and on the manor were operational, new barns and granaries were built, city walls and gates were renovated. New vineyards were planted, city lakes were cleaned and the dykes were repaired. In 1680, the city was struck by a plague epidemic, and the inhabitants had a plague column of St. Anne erected on the Square I one year later; it was created by an Italian sculptor Jan Petr from Tuscany. In spite of the gradually on-going renewal, we cannot speak of a full consolidation of the economic conditions until the second quarter of the 18th century.

We encounter first evidence of coal mining in the vicinity of Most as early as the early 17th century. In 1613, Most's burgher Jan Weidlich received a privilege for coal mining near villages Čepirohy and Havraň. The mining activities were operated by the city, but the equipment was demolished in the course of the Thirty Years' War, and it was not possible to resume the mining operations after the war had ended. In the course of the next hundred years, most coal mining activities had ceased, save for the occasional exception. It was not until after the Seven Years' War (1765-1763) that demand for cheap fuel to replace the very expensive wood increased. At that time, mining activities intensified in Most region near the village Střimice on the land belonging to the Osek convent. Other mines were located in the close vicinity of Most at the foothills of Zamecký hill. In these localities, coal was obtained by surface mining in the place where the coal stratum reached all the way to the surface.

In 1714, Most had 154 large spacious buildings, 88 smaller buildings and another 30 buildings in the suburbs. The baroque period brought about a boom in architecture and visual arts. A few important sculptures remain extant from the first half of the century. The Marian column comes from 1710, originally located on the Square III. The column of St. John of Nepomuk (1719-1722) adorned the Square II. Another sculptural group featuring St. John of Nepomuk, St. Charles Borromeo and St. Elizabeth was located near the Jezerní Gate. Around 1720, two sculptures of penitents were placed near the deanery church; the sculptures were ascribed to the workshop of Matyáš Bernard Braun. The front façade of the town hall was decorated with allegorical statues of the Elements, which probably originated in 1715 in the workshop of Jan Brokoff, whose author was probably the son Michal Jan Josef Brokoff. Also the loft of the Minorite monastery on the Square II was adorned with its own sculptural decoration around 1770; it was a sculptural group featuring St. Francis of Assisi, allegorical statues of the seven virtues and decorative vases. In 1761, the foundational stone was laid for the stations of the cross along the road from Most

to the convent of Magdalenes in Zahražany (present day Žižkova Street).

The ecclesiastical buildings also received their own baroque reconstructions. The Minorite church was rebuilt between 1716 and 1722, but it suffered a fire in the following year, which was followed by another reconstruction between 1724 and 1726. The monastery was completed in 1755. The reconstruction of the city hospital of the Holy Spirit was completed in the Pražské suburb in 1723; in 1731, the local cemetery received a cemetery chapel of St. Lawrence. In 1725, the renovation of the town hall was also in progress. In 1738, the bell tower adjacent to the deanery church was also reconstructed and elevated by one story. In the second half of the 18th century, the city convent of Magdalenes was also reconstructed, after being damaged in the 1769 fire. These reconstructions came to an end in 1774. Between 1749 and 1752, cavalry barracks were founded in Most. In 1768, the city invited the order of Piarists to enter the city and administer the local grammar school (Gymnasium). A Piarist College was founded in Masná Street (later Švermova Street), but in 1783 the emperor Joseph II donated the discontinued convent and church of the Magdalenes on the Square III to the Piarists. The second convent of Magdalenes in Zahražany was purchased by the city and transformed into a manor estate.

In 1820, a fire erupted in the town hall and spread to other buildings in the city. In addition to the town hall, deanery, school, convent and church of the Minorities, church of the Piarists, orphanage, bell tower of the deanery church, military barracks and military hospital, six of the wall towers and the tower of the Pražská Gate as well as 214 resident houses were consumed by the fire, which was about one half of the residential development. This was the last great fire in the history of the city. Many of the residential buildings that had occupied only the ground floor up were now raised by one story, inside dispositions of buildings changed as well.

The regulation of the Bílina River continued and between 1831 and 1835 the last phase of draining the Komořanské lake came to an end. The inner city remained enclosed inside the original medieval walls until the 1820s and 1830s. City gates as well as parts of the medieval walls were eventually demolished and the ditches were filled up as the streets were improved and widened. On the one hand, these changes blurred the dividing line between the city and its surroundings, primarily village, settlement, which had been quite discernable up until that point. On the other hand, they also gave rise to an empty space along the perimeter of the city, which was re-purposed in the subsequent years.

The 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century until the First World War – the period of great social and economic transformations. The development of the city in the first half of the 19th century was no different from other cities in the region. The changes in this period were brought about especially by the political-administrative and social development in the Austrian monarchy and in Bohemia. It was very different in the second half of the century, when the city and its surrounding areas experienced an intensive economic flowering, caused by coal mining of rich strata of lignite and by the boom in other industries, which made Most into a center of the coal basin and the synonym for a highly industrialized city and landscape. Economic prosperity lasted until the First World War.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the city found itself facing very adverse economic conditions. The reason for that were the Napoleonic wars, which caused – among others – also state bankruptcy in the monarchy and undermined the city's economy. Most was most impacted by the passing of a hundred-thousand man army of the anti-Napoleonic coalition before the battle near Přestanov and Chlumec (near Ústí nad Labem) in 1813. The city was also negatively impacted by famine (1817), devastating fires (1820 and 1832) and floods (1827). In the course of the first half of the century, Most remained primarily a city of craftsmen production and extensive agricultural and forest hinterland with related trade. The city exported cereals, wine, hops, fruit and vegetables and others. Manufacturing and industrial production entered the city only slowly. The city operated only mills, slaughterhouses, breweries, brick kilns, sandpits, and smaller quarries. The mining output of brown coal at the foothills of the Zámecká hora/Hněvín was very low (rustic mining). The appearance of the city changed only gradually, as a result of the waterways being regulated, which was caused by the drainage of the Komořanské Lake (at that time the largest in Bohemia) and as a result of the wall gates and parts of walls being removed and buildings being reconstructed after natural catastrophes. In the center of the city, some buildings were being raised by one story and all of three suburbs (Pražské, Jezerní and Teplické – so called Taschenberg) were extended.

The situation changed in the second half of the 19th century. New possibilities opened up for Most and its surroundings after the revolution between 1848 and 1849. The abolition of serfdom, the new opportunities for entrepreneurship, the establishment of municipal administration and appointment to administer state matters, as for example some taxes, roads, schools, social assistance as well as military affairs encouraged further development. Most became a district town and the site for municipal/regional and district court. The city was until 1855 a part of the Cheb region, and then until 1862 of Žatec region; at that time, the regions were abolished, which strengthened the importance of local, district administration.

Afterwards, when massive supplies of lignite were found in the vicinity of the city, a new, very dynamic phase of development began. The city itself as well as some of the landowners above the coal strata took advantage of the situation and either started to mine the coal themselves or became rich leasing or selling the land to new

entrepreneurs. Connecting Most in 1870 to several state and private railway lines proved to be a big impetus for development. Mines and other relevant industries needed new workers. Those came first from the vicinity and from the Ore Mountains, later from all of Bohemia and even other parts of the monarchy. The number of Most's inhabitants thus increased in the second part of the century more than fivefold (from about 4,000 to 22,000 inhabitants). Such a rapid growth required huge investments in the residential development, civic infrastructure as well as the technical infrastructure of the city. This city that had previously been German changed in the course of two generations into a city with a strong Czech minority (in 1900 there were suddenly 20 % Czechs).

The composition of the city core changed as a result of immigration and population explosion; the suburbs also grew. Residential houses and companies arose alongside the main road and later also in the spaces between them. The village character of the suburbs changed into workers' settlements and the neighboring villages began to join with the city. Since 1875, regulatory and development plans were drafted for the city. As regards architecture, new Most was built in the style of romantic or strict historicism, much like other industrial cities in central Europe. As part of the city's renovation, a number of valuable historical buildings were torn down (for example, the Renaissance town hall in 1882) and new ostentatious public and private buildings were built, such as regional courthouse, hospital, town hall, district office, schools, train stations, spas, synagogue, monetary institutions and entire new villa quarter under Zámecká hora. The city became a member of the prestigious Czech municipal association of municipalities, towns, and districts.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, the economic situation of the city was very advantageous. City of Most administered large properties, including forests, meadows, lakes, manor houses, land plots and buildings of administrative institutions, from which the city administered its municipal affairs as well as those affairs transferred to the city from the state. The technical infrastructure of the city changed completely. New streets were built along the perimeter of the old town and city roads were paved. Since 1863, gas lamps were constructed in the streets, and in 1881 a new aqueduct from the Ore Mountains was put into operation and the city's sewer system was built. Starting in 1893, the city considered the construction of a steam tramline, connecting Most with Litvínov. The construction started in 1895 and was accelerated by the decision to change the project of a steam tramline to an electric tramline. The line became operational in 1901 as a unique single-track line with the track width of 1,000 mm from Most through mining villages Kopisty – Růžodol – Dolní a Horní Litvínov – Chudeřín – Hamr to Janov. Electrification of city lighting soon followed as did the gradual process of linking factories as well residential buildings to the electrical grid.

Concurrently with the economic and technical development, the state services had to adjust as well – especially education, health care, social services, communications, and public safety. New buildings were built, of which some schools, hospitals, workhouses and orphanages served the entire district. Czech elementary education did not enter Most until 1890, higher after 1918. Most was also a military city, first with barracks inside the walls, then after 1908 with an exhibit area with 28 buildings near the Zahražany suburbs (cultural monument).

At that time, various German cultural institutions were being founded, for example, public library (1885), museum with an archive (1888), various associations and athletic facilities and also a theatre (as late as 1911). The city also published newspapers. At the end of the century, J. N. Cori wrote the first comprehensive history of the royal Most. At the end of the century, the construction of the replica of a medieval castle at the top of the Zámecká hora (Hněvín) began, which became a favorite destination for daytrips.

Coal mining became the dominant branch of the economy in Most. Mining activities grew rapidly from small-quantity to large-scale mining. Since the 1870s, there were large mining companies in addition to tens of smaller mines, which could take advantage of all of the technical developments of the time (for example Mostecká mining company in 1871 and North Bohemian mining company in 1890). Surface mining complemented underground mining. On the eastern side of town, new coal quarries (for example Terezie, Boží požehnaní [God's blessing], Jan and later Richard) on top of rich strata, which were only a few meters under the ground's surface).

The mining operations were interrupted by a number of catastrophes. Human victims and material damages were the result of cave-ins, gas explosions, and water outbreaks, from the Bílina River. The biggest catastrophe took place in 1895; when quicksand, so-called shifting sand, burst into the Anna Pomocná mine in Janovská street. A number of deep sinkholes opened up in several places in Václavské suburb. Buildings cracked and toppled down and some of them were completely swallowed up by the holes.

The city of Most had other industries that supported coal mining (machine works, iron works, steel works, timber mills, brick kilns, manufacture of cables, carriages, etc.) and were important for the natural development of the city and of the region (mills, slaughterhouses, breweries, sugar mills, distilleries, printing presses, glass works, stoneware manufacturing, carton production, gas works and – at the end of the century – a power station). The city also produced furniture, toys, musical instruments, textiles, clocks, shoes, bandages and it bottled Most's mineral water etc.

The increased demand for foodstuffs also brought about agricultural revolution in the surrounding areas of the city. The cultivation of cereals, potatoes, vegetables and fruits, hops and

wine intensified and the cultivation of sugar beets began. Starting in 1880s, the city operated two large sugar mills and a sugar refinery. The city Most also owned a number of large estates (for example in Zahražany, Kopisty and other villages).

The growth of industry and of agriculture also brought about the growth of services. Among them was a network of technical crafts, as well as new professions, such as designer, design engineer, draftsman, surveyor and others. Other services, such as commercial, warehousing and transportation services as well rental offices, employment offices and ad agencies etc. grew significantly as well. However, it was the financial services that reached the biggest flowering. As early as 1853, the city founded its own savings bank, which became an important financial institution for the entire surrounding area. There were also about a dozen savings banks, banks and insurance companies. The Revírní bratrská pokladna was a unique institution; it collected contributions both from mine-operators and their employees, who then in case of injury or illness received support according to the pre-agreed rules.

The first exhibition of the German industry in northwestern Bohemia took place on Josefská promenade, in adjacent gardens and in the space under the new brewery (former military training ground). Industrial as well as technical and agricultural firms displayed their products there. This event demonstrated the important economic position of the city and region of Most in Bohemia and in the entire monarchy.

Some industrial buildings and areas had a high architectural value. The large number of industrial buildings gave Most its specific urban and architectonic character. Among them were areas of mines, new brewery from the end of the 19th century, massive sugar mills and both train stations, manufacture of bandages, porcelain factory (both remain partially extant), steel works and also the banks and insurance companies. Most drinking water reservoir is among these exceptional buildings that were built in the village Křížatky in the Ore Mountains (technical monument).

The First World War and the period of the Czechoslovak Republic. The development trend that began in the 1870s continued to the beginning of the First World War. During the war years 1914-1918, the industry suffered a recession, which was caused primarily by the conscription of qualified work force into the war and the shortage of materials, caused by the fact that factories serving the wars needs had priority in receiving raw materials. Among them was the factory for the production of bandages, Richter & Co. (later RICO) and a new steel works, called Rakouský ocelářský průmysl [Austrian Steel Industry]. Mines were under military administration and the city gradually experienced supply problems, which, in turn, caused unrest.

The on-going influx of population coming for work and the related housing problems marked a dramatic turn in the history of the city since the second half of the 19th century and more severely at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The problem of accommodation remained an important issue and during the first half of the 20th century would often flare up as a burning problem for the city. Several building activities from the period between 1900 and 1914 demonstrated the importance and self-confidence of the growing city, especially the building of the German secondary school (Realgymnasium) by the architects Schwarzer and Reinhardt and the large project of the construction of the city theater, which was finished in 1911 under the leadership of the architect Alexander von Graf. The First World War interrupted this promising development. However, a large factory for the manufacture of bandages RICO, whose owners had a spectacular factory campus built in Most, emerged during the war years.

After the end of the First World War, some of the German politicians, such as mayor Josef Harold, did not agree with the new political arrangement and joined the development of the so-called province Deutschböhmen. This activity did not have a long duration and the political conditions quickly stabilized, but even so, the tensions between the two main national groups were never quite suppressed. The new leadership of the city tried to resolve the pressing problem of accommodation by building apartment buildings and, at the same time, addressed the city's urban growth. New districts thus came into being, such as Přední lajsník (Vordere Lajstník) or Zahražanská čtvrť (Saras chmelná), which were the sites of actual or planned cottage colonies. Of the larger investment activities, we can mention the building of the city's crematorium, which was designed by Antonín Svítal or the representative building of the mining association by the firm Hroch and Hilse. The latter is evidence that the Czech element entered into what used to be primarily a German space. The Czech presence was greater than before, which is evident from the construction of Czech schools. The middle school was built by Alois Mezera and in 1927 the Czech Gymnasium was finished according to a project by Pavel Moravec.

The prosperity of the 1920s came to an end with the onset of the world's economic crisis. In Most, the social situation came to a head at the time of the so-called Most's Great Strike, during which the miners became unusually radicalized and collided with the police. The economic situation did not only contribute to social radicalization but also to national radicalization. From the rise of Adolf Hitler to power, the Czech borderlands experienced a rise of nationalism, which was represented primarily by Sudetendeutsche Partei.

In spite of these events, we can find evidence of a certain growth in Most. For example, in 1931, the Czech credit bank was built, one of the few exemplars of functionalist architecture in Most. In 1934, a new modern pavilion of the hospital was finished according to a project by Bedřich Adámek. Another significant intervention, this time by the state administration, was the building of the so-called Beneš's school according to the project of Alois Mezera. The building of a workhouse,

run by the Foundation of Johanna Maggioni, which was finished probably in 1936 was an interesting example of a civic initiative. (It was intended for poor girls and childless widows.) Between 1933 and 1936, the city's leadership found itself in a political crisis, and the city was administered by a government commissary.

The Second World War and the path to the 1948 Czechoslovak coup d'état. After the signing of the Munich Agreement, Most became a part of a so-called Reichsgau Sudetenland. Given its supply of lignite, which was a valuable raw material, its importance could not escape the Nazi administration. City Most was administratively joined with villages Souš, Kopisty, Rudolice and Střimice, creating the so-called Greater Most. Nazi administration began building a settlement for the accommodation of hundreds or thousands of people. However, this extensive initiative was eventually moved to Litvínov. But some of these settlements were realized and they present an interesting urban alternative to functionalism. The buildings were built in Heimatsstil as a combination of rural and historical elements.

Most and its surroundings, as industrial areas with key importance, became the targets of allied raids since 1942 and then repeatedly in 1944 and 1945; administration buildings as well as blocks of residential buildings were damaged.

After 1945, the Czech borderlands found themselves in a difficult situation when it was decided that the German population must be removed en masse. Since after 1946, the overwhelming majority of the German population was moved into the area of present day Germany in the course of about a year. The result of this decision was, of course, an understandable decrease of population in the borderlands and related problems. A new way of organizing municipal administration was among the changes after the Second World War. People's committees were set up as new units of public administration. The elections in May of 1946 strengthened the position of the Communist party not only in the central government but also in individual people's committees. Josef Chadim became the chairman of Most's people's committee and he held this post until 1948. This period was marked by the growing pressure from the Communist party, which culminated after the February coup in 1948.

The Communist leadership realized the industrial potential of North Bohemia and the importance of its raw materials. Shortly after the war, all of the mines were joined, giving rise to Severočeské hnědouhelné doly as a massive conglomerate. A number of interesting urban residential units, such as the settlement called Zdař Bůh (God bless) etc., were created for this organization. These works were undertaken by excellent Czech architects and until the present day represent interesting solutions to the on-going housing shortage. In 1948, the planning for a new large settlement unit called Podžatecká was begun in 1948, and it was completed by architect Pokorný in the 1950s. But at that very moment, a different, more dramatic chapter of the city history began to unfold.

The 1950s and 1970s and the demolition of historical Most. Construction, demolition and development characterized the second half of the 20th century in Most. The post-war development was located between the hills Ressler and Šibeník, and gradually joined up with the district Zahražany. Buildings were built in the area between the following present day streets: Československé armády, Budovatelů and Skupova. Between 1954 and 1957, four massive residential building blocks, with the ground plan shaped like the letter E, were erected on the western side of the Budovatelů Street. Other similar residential building blocks were built along the northern side of Skupova Street. Buildings perpendicular to the existing blocks were added into the open space. Moreover, between 1957 and 1958, the construction continued in the southern direction from the Budovatelů Street to Velebudice. J. Pokorný was appointed the architect.

The fateful moment for historical Most came with the Resolution of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic No. 180 from March 25, 1964, about the construction of New Most and the demolition of the old city. At the end of 1965, first families were moved to new apartments in the new parts of the city. The displacement and demolition works were divided into two demolition zones and the area of the city was divided into the phases, which were then divided up into demolition zones.

First Phase: 1965-1967

Second Phase: 1968 and 1970

Third Phase: 1970 to the complete demolition of old Most

Between 1965 and 1970, the area of old Most, which was located in the area of the future Koridor inženýrských sítí [Corridor for the technical infrastructure], was being emptied of people. In the next phases, the demolition continued in the direction of the center of the city and of the Pražské suburb. Originally, the plan was to demolish the buildings of RiCO and Duchcovská porcelain factory as well. But eventually this did not come to pass, and the chapel of the Holy Ghost with the hospital and peripheral buildings of the hospital were preserved. The church of the Ascension of the Blessed Virgin Mary belonged to the first phase of the city liquidation, because it was located in the path of the Corridor. Its artistic value was, however, deemed to be so high that it was decided that it ought to be preserved. The church was moved 841.1 meters on top of rail tracks and with the help of a wheel-frame carriage. The move began on September 30th 1975 and the church ended its journey on October 27th 1975 in the vicinity of the chapel of the Holy Ghost and the industrial buildings. By April 1st, 1978, the demolition of surface buildings and technical infrastructure was completed and the area was handed over to Doly Ležáky Most for the purpose of mining the coal supply.

The transfer of Most's deanery church represents one of the most impressive accomplishments of its kind, and it garnered rightful inter-

est of domestic and foreign scientific public; it is in the Guinness Book of World Records, and even forty years later appears impressive. However, let us add that the demolition of the royal town, itself of incalculable historical value was an unprecedented cultural crime, to which we could hardly find a comparable analogy.

(New) Most in the 1960s and 1980s. The task to conceptualize the construction of New Most was entrusted to the Regional Design Office (Krajský projektový ústav) in Ústí nad Labem with the center in Most. The directive, approved in 1964, counted with 65,000 inhabitants. The Šibeník hill became a part of the center of the newly built city and new buildings were supposed to be built in relation to it. The nascent city was then divided into seven districts.

The first district was formed by buildings under Hněvín and Široký Hill, including Zahražany, also buildings along Žatecká Street and to the SNP Street. The second district was demarcated by the Streets Žatecká, J. Skupy and Budovatelů. The district Výstavba (third district), which was adjacent to the western side of the then Street of Klement Gottwald and on the north side touched Street Josefa Skupy, grew in the course of the 1970s. The fourth district, called also Družstevní čtvrť, was begun as early as 1962, but it was not finished until the mid 1970s. A market with a fountain was constructed in the same area, in 1973. Space for a stadium and a central park was set aside opposite to the street Budovatelů in the northern part of the future city. The new city center was planned for an area south of there. Subsequent residential construction took place between Budovatelů Street and Moskevská Street. This fifth district, called Severní čtvrť, belongs along with the sixth district (Čtvrť B. Šmerala) among the districts with the highest urban value. In 1967, architect J. Rotyka designed the fifth district in a very open way. The building of a sport's hall begun in 1971 on its border, and it was ceremoniously opened on the 9th of December in 1977. Adjacent to the sport's hall was a complex for track and field with two athletic fields. Mostecká Street became the site for several important and striking buildings. In 1974, the health center was finished, in 1977 the building for the judicial branch was completed as was the headquarters for geodesy one year later. The most interesting building in this area was – without question – the five-story building of the library from 1984 designed by architect F. Kameník. Here we also find the building of the district branch of the Ministry of the Interior from 1979, built according to the plans of the Vojenský projektový ústav, and a shopping mall, completed in 1982. The district of B. Šmeral (Čtvrť B. Šmerala) was designed as early as 1955 by architects Krejčí and Holub. Fifteen years later, architect Wieden continued the plans. Between 1978 and 1980, high-rise buildings of the residential hotel (HOBÝ) were built on the corner of Moskevská and Rudolická Streets. The new city was separated from the old one by the Corridor for the technical infrastructure. All of the transportation and technical networks were re-directed into that area, including the tubular bridges of the Bílina River. Train and bus stations, including railway relays were also a part of the corridor. The entire building was begun in 1966 and completed by August 31, 1980. The completed relay was put into operation in the spring of 1979. Most's train station was built according to the project by J. Reiterman. The building itself was designed by V. Dědek. Individual parts of the train station were brought into test operation and then approved gradually between 1975 and 1977.

Between 1970 and 1976, residential units in the seventh district called Zahradní were built under the leadership of architect F. Kameník. He also planned the building of an extensive open-air thermal swimming pool, which was built into the hillside. The area was finished in 1974.

The seven newly created districts, however, began to seem insufficient by the beginning of 1980s. That is why two new districts were proposed. Starting in the first half of the 1980s, the eighth district called Výsluní was being built and between 1985 and 1990, the ninth district grew up in Liščí Hill. Architect F. Kameník was entrusted with the building of both. An extensive shopping complex Kahan, along with the cultural house Medúza, was built in Lipová Street. The center of the New Most is its own chapter in the construction activities. The center was completed by a working group under the leadership of architect V. Krejčí. The architectural plan won silver medal on the World Biennale for Architecture in Sofia on 21st of September, 1987. The building that was built in the southeastern part of the central district was the building of the district office of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in 1971. The building of joint People's Committees was completed in 1977 according to the project by architects M. Hejduk, J. Kouba and J. Spáček. I. Klimeš designed the modern building of Most's theater, which was ceremoniously opened on 7th of November in 1985. The building of the cultural house was conceived of as a replacement of the demolished REPRES in the old Most. The authors of the architectural plan were M. Böhm, L. Kos a J. Zbuzek. Operations were begun in the spring of 1984. The planetarium was ceremoniously opened on May 2nd, 1984. The building of the shopping center Prior was finished in 1978 according to the plans of M. Böhm and J. Zbuzek. Hotel Murom, conceived as a cascade, was completed in April 1983. It was designed by architects V. Krejčí, J. Burda, and the interior was designed by A. Werner. The building of the post office was added to the center in 1978. The high-rise in the center of Most, known as SHD Komes, is the highest building in the Ústecký region and the third highest building in the country. The high administrative building SHD comes from 1985 and has twenty-three stories above the ground and two below it. It is the work of architects V. Krejčí, J. Fojt and M. Hejduk. In spite of the conception of the city center, which is inarguably high in architectural value, it did not succeed in creating a classic city square, which would be the center of all city activities.

The villages Velebudice, Skyčice a Sedlec were in 1964 designated for the construction of industrial factories.

Velebudice became the site for production and services that required their own transport. Twenty-four companies were located on approximately 63 hectares. The construction took place between 1965 and 1982. It was here that a printing press, bakeries, building contractors, technical services and other production warehouses were located, with a fire station on the border. The zone in Sedlec became the site of production that was linked to rail transport. 18 hectares were set aside for that. The most important company was the brewery in Most.

Most was surrounded by numerous mines and spoil tips, which were gradually re-cultivated. The quarry Benedikt became a natural open-air swimming pool with a leisure and sports complex adjacent to it. A horse race track and a golf course were built in Velebudická spoil tip measuring 790 hectares. A race-track for automobiles was built in the area of the spoil tip belonging to of Vrbenský mine. The area excavated underneath the race-track was filled with water, giving rise to the Lake Matylda with another leisure and sports complex.

Situation after 1990. Year 1989 brought numerous changes. It was no longer necessary to build according to the demands of politicians and of ideological principles, but what became important was the need for an investor. The building of the Československá (and later Česká) savings bank from 1993 placed next to the theater is an example of that. A new banking house was built by Vojenské stavby according to the plan by Václav Krejčí, Josef Burda and Míša Hejduk. The foundation stone of the First Square was laid in 1997. The triangle shaped square with a historical fountain and plague column, which was newly paved, and planted with a colonnade of linden trees, and lit, was ceremoniously opened on the 9th of November 1998. The Second Square filled the area between the REPRES building, the financial office and the terraces in front of hotel Cascade. It was created in 2006 and it also has a rectangular ground plan.

Reclamation of Most's landscape. The beginnings of the reclamation date back to a time that is surprisingly long passed – it can be said that its roots go back to the time when mining activities (both surface and underground) began rapidly to develop, that is to say to the second part of the 19th century. Mining activities were accompanied by an increasing devastation of the land, at that time primarily agricultural. Easy access to coal as an energy source stimulated the development of the industry, which was also an important source of ground level emissions. That was also the reason why environmental quality in the entire mining area under the Ore Mountains deteriorated. What is rather surprising is that even in this situation, the Imperial Council in Vienna refused a proposed law for reclamation (1892). At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the initiative was taken over by local administrative offices in the North Bohemian Basin. In the mining districts – that means also in Most, district offices for reclamation were founded. The fact that reclamation was necessary was discussed as early as the first decade of the 20th century; in 1910, a conference for reclamation took place in Duchcov, with participation of the representatives from the mining district Most.

Subsequently, reclamations took place continuously (and also during the First World War), as much as it was possible in the different time periods given the contemporary situation. Post-war reclamations, affecting the region to the present day, were in Most and in the entire North Bohemian Basin stimulated by the need to repair war damages and, at the same time, to renew the industry, with the development of energetically demanding heavy industry being given priority. Production of electricity therefore grew significantly. The take-over of agricultural land grew rapidly not only thanks to mining, but also because of new construction of water works and industrial buildings. In 1957, a new mining law was passed, which made reclamation mandatory for all state-owned mining companies. The law was followed by a number of binding regulations, and the result is the present day mining law, which makes it mandatory for mining organizations to arrange from their own financial sources for decontamination and reclamation of all land impacted by mining activities, that is to say to remove all damage to the landscape by a complex modification of the land and landscape structures.

Present day reclamations are based on this law. Reclamation is a conceptual, technological and economic part of mining. From the institutional perspective, it is ensured in accordance with the building code, whereby the mine's own experts in reclamation are also the investors. Their duty is to ensure the preparation and planning, the plans' approval and subsequently with the help of a number of contractors also the realization of reclamation activities itself. General reclamation plan and comprehensive reclamation plans govern the territorial and technical phase of the reclamation.

Since 1970s, the reclaimed areas were conceptualized as places of active leisure in the close proximity to the city, with swimming pools and athletic complexes; the autodrome and hippodrome were built on reclaimed areas in the immediate vicinity of Most. On the site of the historical town itself – that is in the area of Ležáky Mine – Mostecké Lake, which has been pumped with water since 2008, is being completed. The hospital complex, with the church of the Holy Ghost, is located in the close vicinity. In 1975, the parish church was relocated to a site adjacent to the church of the Holy Ghost and is today one of the cultural centers of Most. The reclamations, which included also the renewal of wine-cultivation on the hillsides around Most, reached a phase, when Most can be considered one of the greenest cities in the country.