

Jan Jakub Outrata

## **Reconstruction of the railway station at Vršovice (contribution to the history and reconstruction of railway architecture in Prague)**

### ANNOTATION

Historic railway stations and buildings as examples of industrial architecture are viewed from the perspective of their possible heritage protection within the authorization of NPÚ in Prague. Several examples are given together with some specific questions and practical problems involved with this task. The second part of the article presents the area of Prague – Vršovice neo-renaissance railway station from 1872-1899, including its interiors, which in 2003-2009 were successfully reconstructed.

### SUMMARY

The author summarises general problems of industrial architecture – historic railways and railway buildings, their state and possibilities of so far limited heritage management and actual efforts of NPU Prague in this field. He names a number of these specific objects, which recently were proclaimed or proposed a heritage monument. He also mentions some building and technological problems including a necessary modernisation of their practical utilisation, which make their preservation difficult. One of the objects, which is a good example of the quality and importance of the railway architecture and also of its sensible reconstruction, is the railway station at Vršovice in Prague. The original building from the 1880s with Neo- Renaissance annex in 1898–99, was supposed to be replaced by a new building, which was not realised. The historic railway station building therefore survived with some degrading recent additions and interventions from after 1960. Also other late 19th century objects from the whole station complex survived intact, mainly the former water works and the heating plant. The author discusses in detail the reconstruction in 2003–2009, which included the substance restitution of the building by clearing out the later additions, the renovation of the facade with a partial reconstruction of the architectural elements and the renovation of the interior including the restoring of the original art – technical features. This renovation completed under close cooperation with the NPU Prague can be perceived as one of the most successful actions of this type lately in Prague.

*English by Linda and Patrick Foster*