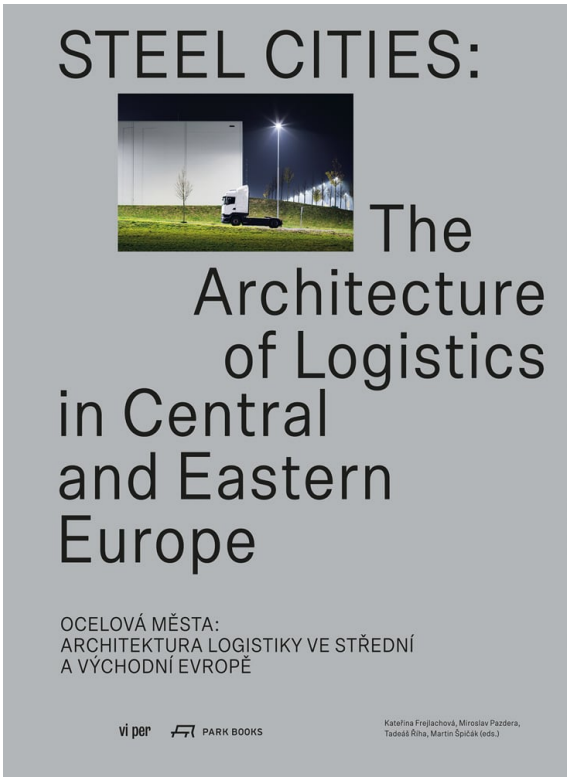
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Steel Cities

The Architecture of Logistics in Central and Eastern Europe

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- Highlights the hugely problematic effects on landscapes, societies, and individuals in Central and Eastern Europe caused by of a way of life forged by transnational supply chains, online shipping and the immediate availability of cheap consumer goods
- A study on the transformation of fertile farmland into anonymous, faceless sites for an industry that produces nothing physical
- Also sheds light on the continuing economic imbalance between Eastern and Western Europe: prepared and packed in the East, consumed in the West

In the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, a certain type of industry has rapidly developed – an industry that produces nothing physical. Storing, packaging, classifying, assembling, and other ancillary processes of manufacturing and distribution are carried out 24/7 in extensive logistics parks. Their vast sites, often brightly lit during night hours, have doubled in terms of area covered every four years during the past two decades. These Steel Cities, as some locals have termed them, occupying increasing amounts of what had been fertile farmland, deeply affect the lives of local residents, and create entirely new relationships.

This book investigates the Steel Cities' impact on landscape and society from various perspectives. It reveals the architectural and spatial, legal, economic, social, and environmental ramifications of the logistics system in this region and elsewhere. It examines these logistics centres on three scales: as an architectonic-landscape entity the size of a small town, as a network that reshapes the map of Europe so to define its own territoriality, and as part of the everyday life of the workers inside and the residents around them.

Text in English and Czech.

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