

Summary

ANNA CWYNAR (University of Wrocław) / Gas station as an anthropological place

The point of departure for the article is Marc Augé's classification of service stations as typical examples of "non-places" – undifferentiated spaces of „super-modernity”, which are non-historical, non-relational, and not concerned with identity. The author questions such understanding by describing a number of gas stations with unusual architectural form and evident link to the time and place, in which they were built. She points out that gas stations are objects, whose users often recall in their memories, and which have strong impact on identity of an individual or a community. She argues that many historical objects, as well as contemporary stations despite their look-alike pavilions, should be defined as anthropological places, because of the relations, which they build with their users.