The cemetery you're now at is our studio's last contribution to shaping the face of the village of Dolní Břežany. Our previous work has been the creation of the slightly non-traditional Celtic-inspired park in the village center, while this cemetery is the park's free-flowing continuation towards the West. For us, the possibility of such a creation is an event that life and creative work offers from time to time. Every such event is a unique challenge, stirring emotions, allowing for meetings with new people and places, each one being an experience, often unrepeatable and incomunicable.

This place could be characterized as a landscape park with a cemetery, or a cemetery in a landscape park. It emerged out of a creative symbiosis of the site, people and ideas.

Exceptional events touching the spiritual are usually not about money, monumental- ity or the importance and status of the client. This includes the new park and also this cemetery in Dolní Břežany. The park is slowly being inhabited, it is getting used to its occupants and they are getting used to it. It will be a similar process with the cemetery, only the 'getting used to' will have a different dimension.

The new cemetery is slightly non-traditional, it does not stand alone, it forms part of a varied landscape, continuing from and connecting with the village, the fields and the valley of Břežany. Conceptually, it takes guidance from the history of the village and its occupants over the ages – from the Celts, the Slavs, up to Christians. In the end, our aim is for it to be a place of – not only the last – meeting, an open, positive place, not exclusively a site of memory.

The basic outline is a linden alley shaped as a cross and having four oaks (sacred Celtic trees) at its center, from which stone walls and hornbeam walls radiate outwards. The composition alludes to the sun (or Celtic) cross as one of the oldest symbols of our civilization.

Cross and circle, vertical and horizontal lines, balance, harmony, all intertwined.

The graves themselves will be placed along the main circular lines in the space between the stone walls. Their look should follow the overall concept of the place, they are not meant to be pompous, but simple, humble with respect to the material and form – simple stelae, inconspicuous, yet understandable outline, quality stone in various forms, dryland plant cover creating a colorful, rolling surface, ultimately connecting the graves in one whole.

The whole area of four hectares is then supplemented with scattered trees, bushes, flowering meadows and gravel and grass paths, while the parking place is created using the same technique as the paths.

The cemetery is an original work of the studio, but the village administration, headed by its mayor Věslav Michalík, was also part of the team. Without their project and cultivated approach throughout the process of planning and implementation, the final form would not have come about. We must also give our thanks to the companies and artisans taking part in the work – stonemasons, gardeners, carpenters, blacksmiths. All have done a magnificent job. We are honored to be able to take part in this kind of project.

......MEMENTO MORI......