

Contents

Introduction — 1

1 Seeing the burrow — 8

- 1.1 Topological metaphor in Kafka's »Bau« — 8
 - 1.1.1 The image of a labyrinth — 9
 - 1.1.2 The image of a prison — 13
- 1.2 Designing totalitarian architecture — 18
 - 1.2.1 Ocularcentrism: the Panopticon model — 21
 - 1.2.2 Staging panopticism in the burrow — 25
 - 1.2.3 Visibility in crisis: coercion through panoptic effects in the burrow — 29

2 Hearing the burrow — 34

- 2.1 The nature of sound — 34
 - 2.1.1 (Dis)Location: acousmatic sound and the acoustic era — 37
 - 2.1.2 A phenomenological experience: silence, noise and music in other short stories — 39
- 2.2 Audible space: stimulus, sense and sensory perception in Kafka's »Bau« — 49
 - 2.2.1 An otological approach — 49
 - 2.2.2 »Investigations of a burrow dweller« — 60

3 Experiencing the burrow — 72

- 3.1 Navigating the ambiguous topography and emotional climate in Kafka's »Bau« — 72
 - 3.1.1 Liminal space and its effects on representation — 75
 - 3.1.2 Deterritorialization — 83
- 3.2 Constructing reality — 97
 - 3.2.1 The dotted line scrutinized — 101
 - 3.2.2 The real behind the veil of ambiguity — 111

4 Typifying the burrow — 121

- 4.1 A divinely ordained, earthly dwelling place: the burrow as mishkan (מִשְׁכָּן) or Tabernacle — 121
 - 4.1.1 The entrance, the burrow and the Castle Keep as Outer Courtyard, Holy Place and Holy of Holies — 121
 - 4.1.2 Temple service: the performative acts — 134

VIII — Contents

- 4.2 The Other as God of the Israelites — 152**
- 4.2.1 The possibility of identification and communication — 152**
- 4.2.2 The impossibility of appeasement and redemption — 170**

5 Understanding »Der Bau« — 183

- 5.1 Kafka and the burrow dweller — 183**
- 5.1.1 The cell motif — 183**
- 5.1.2 The noise — 189**
- 5.1.3 The blurred line — 192**
- 5.1.4 The Jewish connection — 196**
- 5.2 Kafka's beliefs — 203**
- 5.2.1 A theological paradox — 203**
- 5.2.2 Writing: the way to salvation — 208**
- 5.3 Rethinking »Der Bau« — 218**
- 5.3.1 A closer look at the predominant interpretation in Kafka scholarship — 218**
- 5.3.2 A Jewish reading of »Der Bau« — 226**

Conclusion — 239

Abbreviations — 249

Bibliography — 251

Index — 263