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KRAKOW – A CITY BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY

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Own motto: Find a balance between own tradition, embodying a reaction to the peculiarities of the place, and the demands of modernity.

Abstract

The definition of the concept of the city forces us to think not only about the purpose of building and expanding the city, but also about the need to search for new ideas, to think about the benefits they should bring to the quality of the space and the quality of the newly created architecture in it. Not only in the context of climatic threats and challenges to the protection of natural environmental resources, there is a need to translate the quality of space into the needs of the modern and future user of the city, the integration of the new and transformed built environment in accordance with the spirit and identity of the city, with the nature of man and his natural earthly surroundings.

The purpose of this work is to demonstrate, based on self-reflection resulting from the analysis of the preliminary phase of the development of the Local Spatial Plan for the New Town in Krakow, the absence in the arrangements proposed in it of comprehensible principles of urban order, creating “fields of gravity” integrating spaces around them, that is, elements crystallizing the layout of the new district of the city creating at the same time threads of connections between tradition, legacy and experience of Krakow’s history.

Keywords: city; traditions; urban form; integration; heritage; intellectual achievement

INTRODUCTION

Modern urban planning cannot be considered without remembering the publicly articulated imperatives of the strategy years of the first two decades of the 21st century. From these came the need to radically improve the urban offer both in terms of space, public facilities and to create public spaces equipped with important infrastructure to raise the level of attractiveness of the city, its healthiness, including, in cases such as, for example, a pandemic.

Newly created urban areas should provide residents with urban vitality mainly through animated streets, cultural and tourist attraction balancing the urbanity of office buildings and service and retail galleries tending to replace the residential function and related social infrastructure, science, education and recreation included.

There seems to be a need for a change of mind-set offering the private sector “new projects”, that is, new urban areas covered by large projects, profitable for the private sector, without guaranteeing certain concessions for the public use and subsequent maintenance of the buildings and their immediate surroundings, despite the fact that in some cases they carry the risk of opening the door to “selling” the city to the highest bidder.

Threatening the quality of urban space are urban designs that tear apart the network of urban nodes, returning to urbanism characterized by isolated towers, privatized collective use spaces that resemble suburban campuses, disrupting the historically achieved balance, rather than a “dense” city (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Example of isolated housing estate: Franciszkanskie Estate in Katowice, TDJ Estate; source: www.franciszkanskie.pl



Fig. 2. Example of user-friendly urban environment: Quincy Square, Boston, photo by N. Ares; source: www.wired.com

The task of modern urban planning is to eliminate the risk of turning the city into a single product of speculative urbanism, which may mean that the rest of the created urban structure will become a suburb,

fragments “excluded” instead of included among the key dominants – significant elements of the historically shaped city. Nor should modern urbanism, dominant and innovative, be merely a continuation of the existing

urbanization of the urban structure. The priority of today's and tomorrow's city planning should be to focus on the problem of quality in the broadest sense.

It is clear from the experience of history that not everything in the past was positive, even modernism did not provide a guarantee of quality. The turning point in Polish urban planning that occurred at the beginning of the 1990s prompts reflections that are difficult to assess due to the embryonic nature of the changes made. It does, however, allow us to ask some questions about the "new model" of the city created on the basis of the experience of the completed fragments of urban planning.

Concepts based on the principle of a sustainable hygienic environment, combined with concern for the problems associated with increased traffic, must offer urban and building-architectural solutions that aim to guarantee quality of life and opportunities for social interaction (Fig. 2).

The city's distinctive urban shape is considered an important contribution to the civilizational development of Krakow. Its basis was the location privilege issued by Prince Boleslaw the Chaste in 1257 with the participation of his mother Grzymislawa and wife Kinga, which gave the city a new organizational and legal form and a new urban shape. The location privilege framed Krakow in a plan, characterized by the scale and symmetry of the urban layout with the Market Square, one of the largest squares in Europe at the time. Freed from cramped backstreets, Krakow became the canvass - the beginning of its metropolitan development. The Magdeburg Law that underpinned its spatial development also laid the foundation for a pattern of legal and economic organization of urban life.

According to Professor Jacek Purchla¹, Krakow harbors many contradictions that "have their own tradition". From a large European metropolis, economically prosperous and vibrant, it is turning into a provincial



Fig. 3. Slowacki Theatre construction, Krakow 1891, Slowacki Theatre Archive; source: [www.https://teatrkrakowie.pl/poczatki](https://teatrkrakowie.pl/poczatki)

1. KRAKOW METROPOLIS

Medieval Krakow, spread out at the foot of Wawel Hill, marked a new dimension in the urbanization of the city. The urban shape of Krakow was not only the result of its capital functions. Built under Magdeburg law, the sprawling city was transformed into one of the largest emporiums of medieval Europe.

town. The city's crisis intensifies in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The period of crisis is followed by the turn of the city's decline. Krakow begins to rise, gaining ground, trying to satisfy the exorbitant ambitions of its residents (Fig. 3).

Krakow's boom in the 1860s and 1870s was the result of far-sighted decisions by the city's authorities.

¹ Jacek Purchla (*1954) – Polish art historian and economist, professor of humanities, member of the PAU, specialist in cultural heritage, founder of the International Cultural Center in Krakow, chairman of the Polish Committee for UNESCO from 2015 to 2020.

At the beginning of Jozef Dietl's presidency, the city experienced a deep crisis, which de facto deprived Krakow of the chance to flourish. There were no opportunities for development using the typical rules of the 19th century, which were contained in the triad: industry, trade, communication. Krakow based its chance for development on assuming the role of a center of culture and science.

In the post-war years, after World War II, the projected development of the city was based on the belief that the only factor influencing the development of the city is industry and urbanization inherent in industrialization. It was Krakow that fell victim to such a view. The pre-war line of development based on the idea of a university center, a center of culture and science, allowed for the development of higher-order services, while the post-war practice deprived Krakow of its independence, harming it with the lack of opportunities for transformation on the basis of strategies and examples provided by other large, prosperous cities of Europe: Salzburg, Edinburgh, Strasbourg, which owed their development to culture, science and art.

Krakow at the turn of the 20th century was a very poor city, but it was the Krakow of Wyspianski, Matejko, and it was thanks to them that it became a metropolis - thanks to its culture. We can observe

a similar phenomenon today. The number of cultural institutions, commercial and non-commercial galleries, theaters, cultural events, festivals, the new headquarters building of the Krakow Opera House, the Krakow Music Center planned for construction, the expansion of the National Museum, the International Cultural Center, testify to the fact that Krakow is on the rise.

It can be said of Krakow that it is an example of continuity of tradition, a social bond that has not been completely broken, according to Professor Jacek Purchla. The unique features of Krakow, its cultural tradition, create the potential of the city to foster development based on culture, science and art needed to face a difficult task - to create a concept of functioning and development within the framework of the old principles of management, which would allow harmonious development in accordance with free market principles, combining private and public capital. This does not mean that Krakow should be deprived of industry. What is needed "is its modernization and transformation into a high-tech industry." (Fig. 4) [J. Purchla 2011a].

An important political factor for the authorities of post-war Poland – the creation of a significant concentration of the so-called "working class," as Professor Stanislaw Juchnowicz² called it, the "vanguard of socialism," near Krakow, a city with aristocratic and



Fig. 4. Krakow Opera, arch. R.M. Loegler; source: Atelier Loegler Architekci Archive

² Stanisław Juchnowicz (*1923; +2020) – architect, urban planner, professor of technical sciences, co-author of the Nowa Huta spatial plan, UN expert at the Polytechnic University of Ibadan. Author of many theoretical works.



Fig. 5. Nowa Huta against the background of the Metallurgical Combine named after Lenin, photo by Sovfoto/UIG; source: www.dzieje.pl

bourgeois traditions, prevailed in locating the new city in close proximity to Krakow. The necessity of building a new ironworks was also supported by the needs of developing the national economy. Its establishment had to be accompanied by a decision to build a new city – Nowa Huta. This decision was accompanied by the conviction that the only factor influencing the development of the country, its prosperity, is industry.

With industrialization, naturally, urbanization was inextricably linked. In a way, Krakow became a victim of such a view. The city developed brilliantly without an industrial base. As a university city, a center of science and culture, Krakow influenced not only the region and the country. Professor Jacek Purchla notes that the establishment of the combine – the ironworks – disrupted the natural line of development of the city, despite the original assumption that the city of Nowa Huta would be an independent urban organism, whose social and cultural needs would be provided by the social and cultural institutions and facilities of Krakow. The policy of deliberate degradation of Krakow carried out since 1995 limited the independence of Krakow. Nowa Huta as an independent city grew on a symmetrical plan, often referring to Baroque assumptions, and the architecture drew inspiration from historical patterns, often changing their scale and spatial volume (Fig. 5).

The layout of the Nowa Huta city plan also resulted from the most characteristic features of the area, such as the wide arch of the 14-meter-high escarpment, a remnant of the former bank of the Vistula River. The escarpment became one of the main elements determining the composition of the plan with its central square, from which a network of main communication and composition routes emerges, connecting the most important centers located outside the layout with the city center (Fig. 6, Fig. 7).

The plan preserved and consolidated two basic, historically developed street layouts. A characteristic feature of the city's spatial composition in the design assumptions was the vision of piling up buildings – from two stories on the outskirts to six in the downtown zone. The social structure was to be shaped within four neighborhood complexes for about twenty thousand residents. The complex, with a block structure of buildings, included three or four settlements with a population between five and ten thousand. Such a plan allowed clear solutions to the spatial layout, and thanks to the services of commerce, education and basic public facilities, ensured that the basic needs of residents were met. The needs of the residents were also to be satisfied by the realization of a park foundation with a lagoon in the southern part, in the vicinity of Central Square. Unfortunately, it has not been realized to this day.



Fig. 6. Site plan of Nowa Huta by Tadeusz Ptaszycski, photo by INTI; source: "Architektura" No. 1 (429) 1986

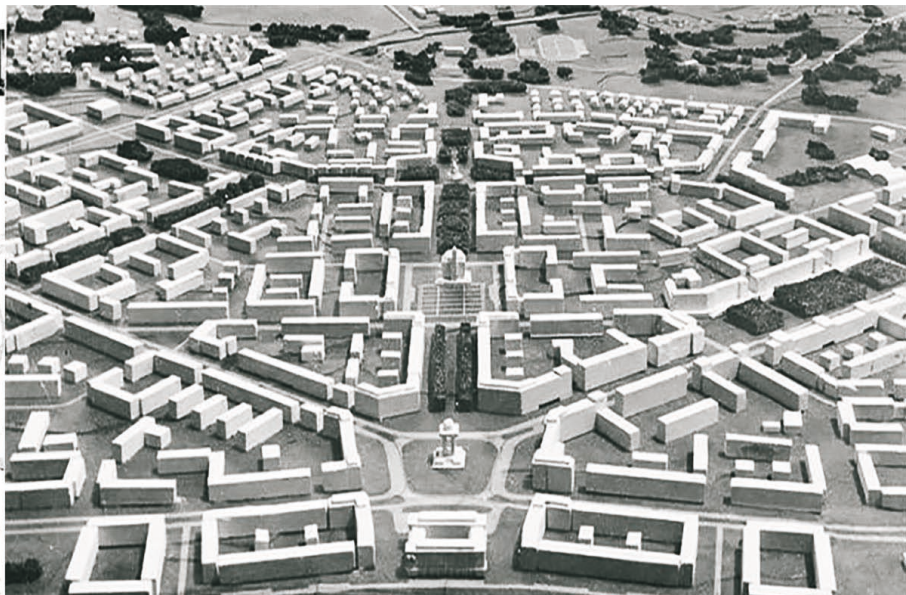


Fig. 7. Master plan of Nowa Huta, 3D model 1951 by Miastoprojekt Krakow, W. Łozinski; source: www.repozytorium.ka.edu.pl

Planned as a new city, Nowa Huta – the “Polish Magnitogorsk” – is today also a symbol of the fourth phase of the great creation. Nowa Huta has undergone a metamorphosis. Its current face was best characterized by Professor Stanislaw Juchnowicz in a publication accompanying the presentation of the results in the

competition for the design of the housing complex and program-spatial concept of Skarpa in Nowa Huta. “The Old Steelworks has a clear and legible layout with distinct crystallizing elements, and in today’s plan of Krakow it stands out among the many housing complexes realized in subsequent periods” (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Architectural competition project - Na Skarpie housing estate, author: arch. Romuald Loegler with Atelier Loegler Team; source: Atelier Loegler

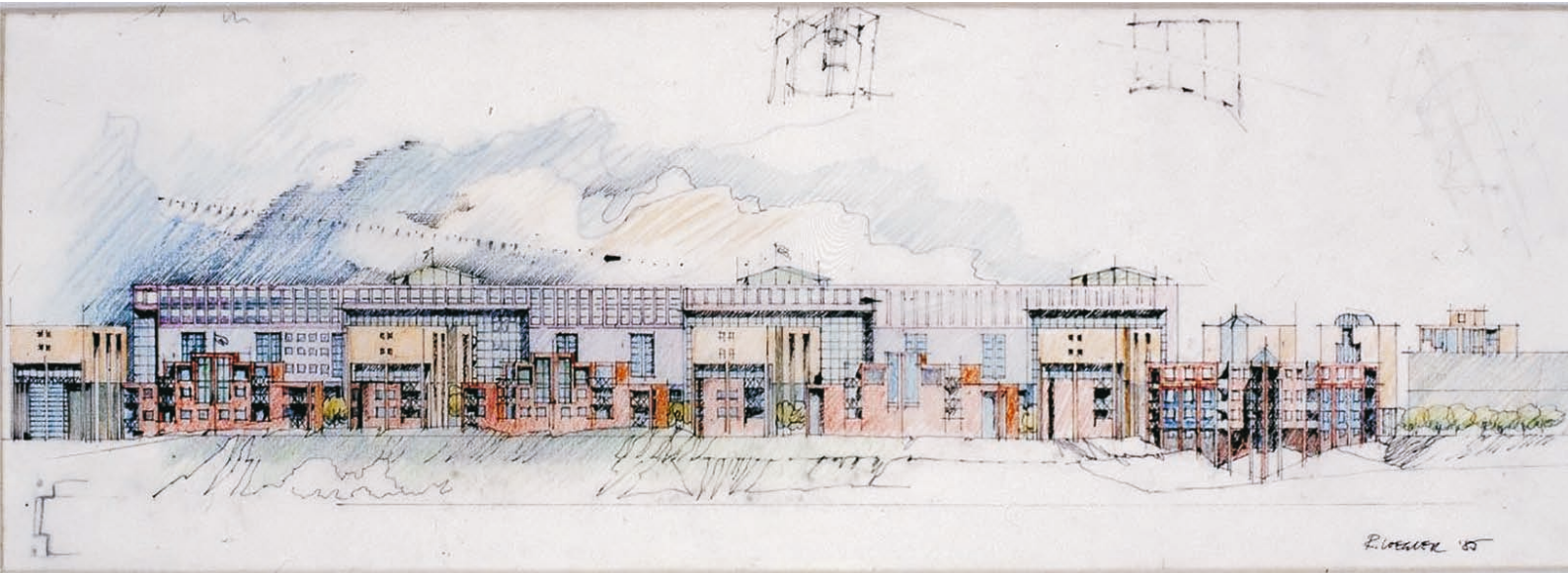


Fig. 9. Nowa Huta, Na Skarpie housing estate, panorama from the Vistula escarpment, author: arch. Romuald Loegler with Atelier Loegler; source: by the author



Opinion of the Competition Jury:
“The work refers to the original concept of the spatial layout of the city, conceived during the period of the creation of the urban plan assumptions in a different architectural expression. The authors correctly propose to saturate the central part of Nowa Huta with downtown-type services. Particularly interesting is the proposal for the introduction of a shopping and service arcade, isolated from the busy artery, while constituting an acoustic barrier for the residential complex. The work, being a creative continuation of the existing layout, enriches the existing space” (Fig. 9, Fig. 10, Fig. 11, Fig. 12).

In a short time, Nowa Huta ceased to be an independent city and formally became a district of Krakow. Its scale



Fig. 10, 11, 12. Na Skarpie housing estate, author: arch. Romuald Loegler with Team Atelier; source: Atelier Loegler Architekci

far exceeded the initial assumptions (100,000 residents). Today, Nowa Huta has a population of about 200,000. Almost from the beginning of the realization of Nowa Huta, the necessity to integrate the entire complex with Krakow became an urban and technical problem. Years later, it should be noted that the sub-

sequent piecemeal design and realization of Nowa Huta, as loosely interconnected settlements, reflected negatively on the integration process, including in the sphere of creating a local community with a sense of being Krakowians.

2. KRAKOW – THE FIELD OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MODERNITY AND THE HERITAGE OF THE PAST

The box of confrontation between the heritage of the past and the present is often reduced to a polemic between creative architects, architecture critics and art historians on the topic: context and tradition! Do they all understand tradition and context in the same way? What do we even understand by tradition? Does tradition mean the transmission of knowledge, experience, beliefs, principles? We can pose many such questions, but it is certain that we build our civilizational progress on the experiences of the past, spontaneously, in spite of ourselves. It is certain that we are enriching and creating further traditions through new experiences, also by building cities and houses. The current urban planning of Krakow is not just a continuation of the urban planning in force based on the canons of the 1980s and 1990s, in which the priority was certainly not the “qualitative leap” that seems to suit today’s city. It can be noted that even modernism did not guarantee qualitative development of the city. The turning point, which was the change of Poland’s political status in 1989, did not become a real test of the quality of Krakow’s urban planning.

Rather, this new urbanism of the late 20th century had an embryonic character and openness to change – it belonged to the scale and network of the “city of action” instead of making the spatial order of the city paramount over the chaotic sprawl of closed developer housing estates, excluded from the authentic spatial structure of the city. This urbanism, which was concretized in the late 20th century, is difficult to appreciate because of its embryonic nature and openness to various possible changes. Many of these urban designs of grand structures interrupt networks of urban nodes, reverting to an urbanism characterized by isolated towers and privatized private spaces that resemble suburban campuses rather than a dense city implanted in its historically shaped structure. They form not cities, but rather individual creations of speculative urban

planning, and others have turned into theme parks. It seems that the local government and planners have forgotten what Krakow is, which has made it desirable to understand its needs, to understand whether planning for its development will maintain its multi-faceted attractiveness. For the sake of the city, it is necessary to consider whether the continuation of the strategy of urban tradition will give Krakow, with regard to public spaces and facilities located in all areas equipped with centers, important infrastructure, to make the city much more attractive, including for the high-quality service sector.

The city of Krakow has not lost its urban vitality, which has been improved by the strengthening and multiplication of streets and the emergence of new cultural initiatives and tourist attractions. Despite fairly well-functioning infrastructure such as the ring road, traffic in central areas of the city is still a nuisance. In a nearly saturated urban area, housing prices have risen, and urban planning of office buildings and service activities tends to replace housing. Planners have not abandoned the most essential elements of the city’s “model,” while offering the private sector attractive urban areas covered by design assumptions that ensure profitability (Nowa Pawia, Plac Dworcowy) (Fig. 13, 14, 15).

City planners have forgotten that the first things in a city are streets and squares, collective spaces and only then buildings. The history of cities, not just Krakow, has proven that public space determines the quality of life and sense of belonging determines the quality of a city, as it shows the quality of life and sense of belonging as perceived by its inhabitants [A. Jacobs³ 1993; J. Gehl 2014].

Allan Jacobs’ book *Streets of Cities* analyzes the city in terms of the aesthetic, cultural, functional, social, symbolic and modern quality of city streets. Ildefons Cerdá⁴ – the creator of the spatial plan of the Eixample district in Barcelona, considered the father of urban planning of the modernist era, said: “*city streets are not roads!*” In his book *General Theory of Urbanization*, he outlined a philosophy of rational urban development, noting the phenomenon of industrialization and transportation development and their impact on the transformation of cities. He pointed out that the Latin concept of *civitas* placed more emphasis on the rights of citizens, as opposed to the Roman concept of *urbis*, which refers to a material collection of buildings and infrastructure. Reinforced by the success of Bar-

³ Allan Jacobs (*1928) – U.S. urban planner professor emeritus, known for his publications and research on urban planning (*Toward an Urban Design Manifesto*), Author of urban planning projects in California, Oregon and Brazil.

⁴ Ildefons Cerdá (*1815; +1876) – Spanish engineer and politician considered the father of urban planning in the modern era. Creator of the spatial plan for the Eixample district in Barcelona.

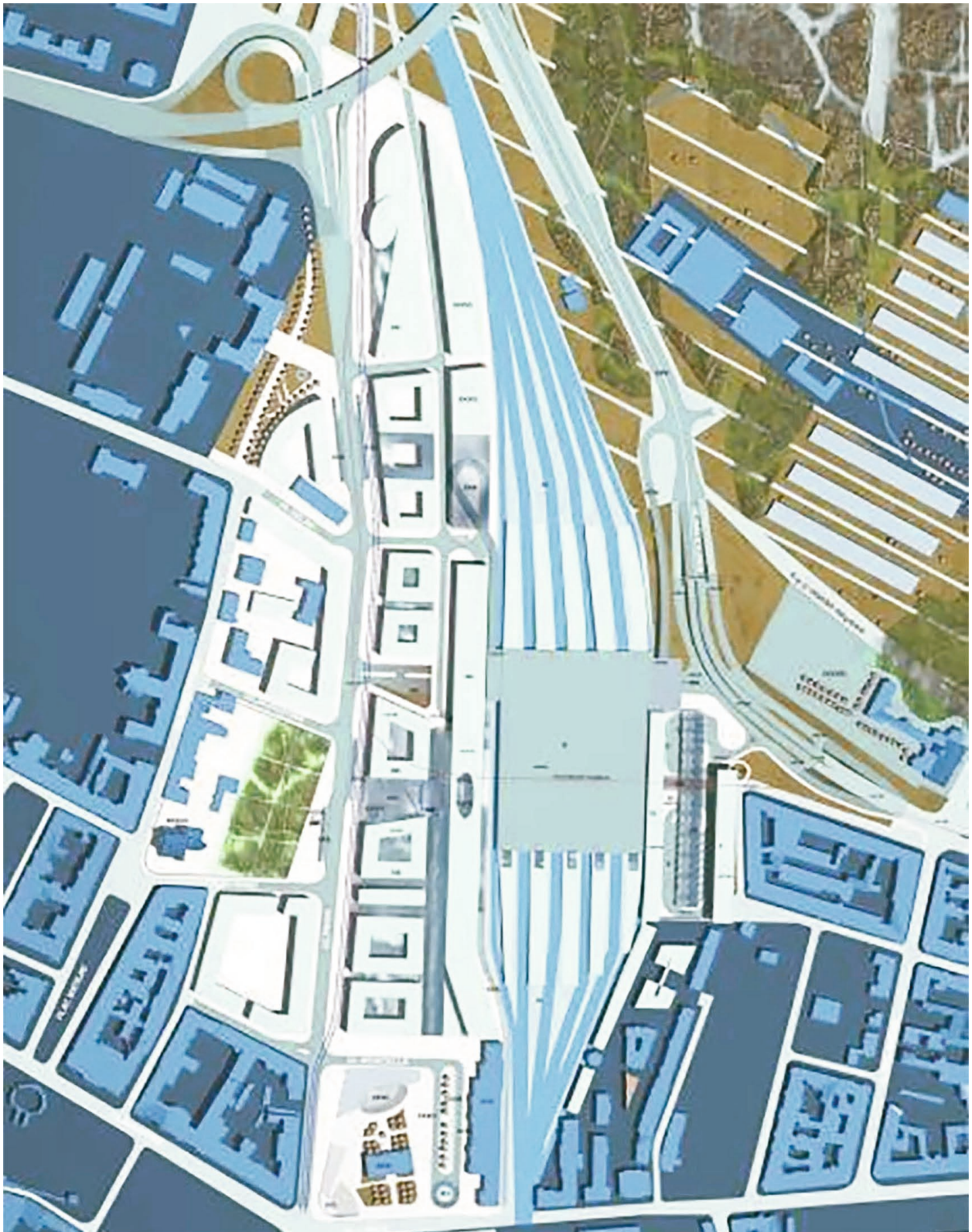


Fig. 13. Project of Krakow Traffic Center, author: arch. Romuald Loegler; source: Atelier Loegler Architekci archive

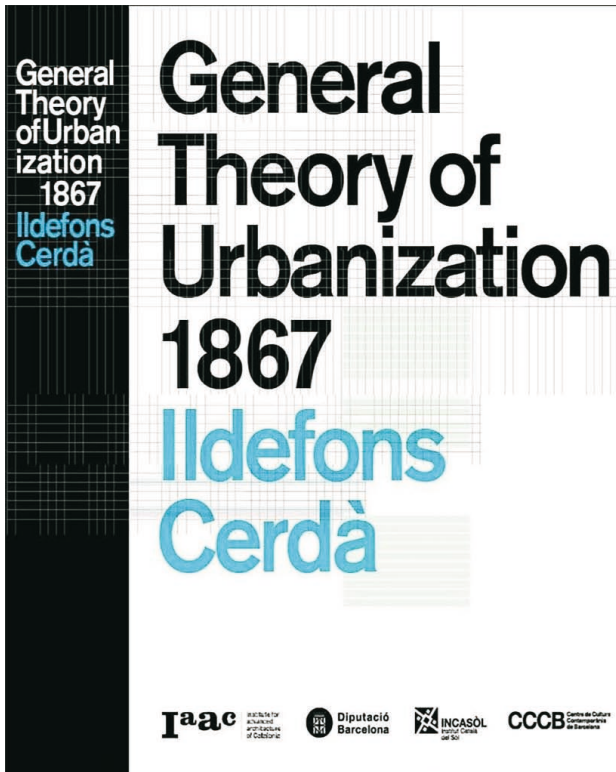


Fig. 14. Allan B. Jacobs, *Great Streets*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA 1995; source: www.amazon.pl

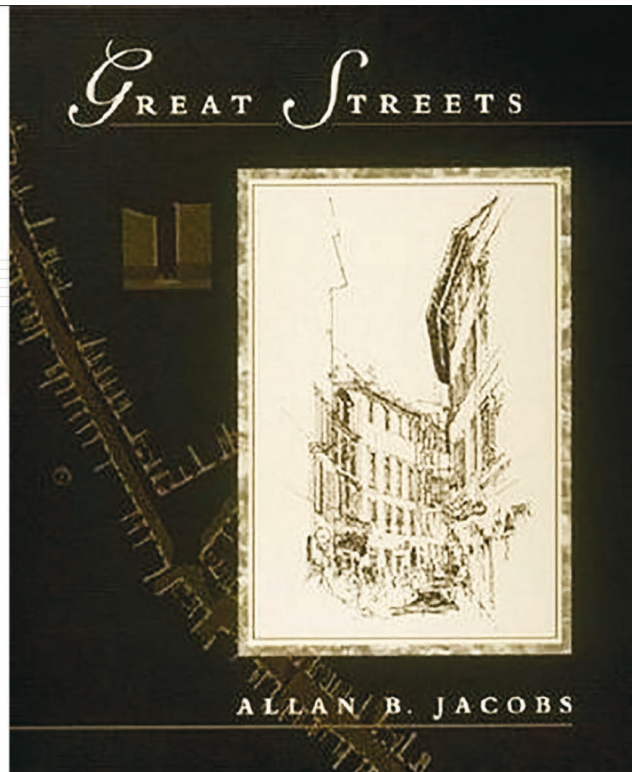


Fig. 15. Ildefons Cerdà, *General Theory of Urbanization 1867*, Actar 2018; source: www.amazon.pl

celona's transformation, Cerdà's considerations gave rise to the development and transformation of cities, which greatly influenced the social, economic and cultural living conditions of residents in many cities around the world. Urbanism and urbanization have permanently entered the catalog of standard terms used around the world (Fig. 14, 15).

Transformation of the urban fabric today often refers to the expansion of cities into new areas, to expand them. In these processes, architects and urban planners are now collaborating with experts from many fields, trying to adapt existing cities to the world's climate change by revitalizing abandoned infrastructure, creating new public spaces from neglected areas, spaces open to the needs of global citizens. These processes also point to the fact that solutions to urban structures are not universal and cannot be imposed a priori. They are deeply relative, contextual Interventions that involve making large-scale changes to the fabric of the city. On the other hand, however, urban revitalization, its development, does not necessarily mean replacing the old with the new. Fixed in history, its traditions of

places and their features, with memory and innate energy, have great potential to define local identity, and the architectural aspects fixed in them, although they do not literally build urban reality, their appearance has the ability to shape large social, cultural and political visions of the city.

3. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – NOWE MIASTO

Krakow is spilling beyond its administrative borders – Mogilany, Zielonki, Zabierzów and many other suburban municipalities are building an image of a new “Greater Krakow.” After 1989, the city began to enter the phase of metropolitan development – an organism based on the civilization of the car.

Today, the city is an agglomeration with the municipality of Krakow at its center. During the presidency of Juliusz Leo⁵, the city's development policy consisted of both grand urban creations and strict control of space. The current image of the city and its size is the result of post-war industrialization and sprawl in Krakow. The construction of Nowa Huta required the in-

⁵ Juliusz Leo (*1861; +1928) – politician, professor of economics and law at the Jagiellonian University, Mayor of the City of Krakow from 1901 to 1904, and in the following three terms until his death. Creator of the so-called Greater Krakow Plan – he annexed 14 boroughs to Krakow municipality, including Podgórze.



Fig. 16–19. Nowe Miasto in Krakow; source: Krakow Municipality, Department of Spatial Planning

tegration of urban development of the very core that is the Municipality of Krakow. This need for integration is met by the idea of creating a “New City,” a new urbanization remaining within the borders of the Municipality (Fig. 16, 17, 18, 19).

Six hundred and eighty hectares of land in the southeastern part of Krakow, according to the assumptions of the Study of Conditions and Directions of Development of Krakow and the Local Spatial Development Plan, the Municipality of Krakow is to create a New City – a district of high-rise buildings. About one hundred thousand new residents are to live in the district. Thus, the Municipality, by designating the area of Rybitwy and Płaszów for transformation and development, is to realize the city’s development strategy planned for 2030. A new multifunctional district is to be created in the designated area, offering investment opportunities for the construction of tall buildings – from one hundred to one hundred and fifty meters.

Raising many doubts with its proposed arrangements, the draft of the Local Land Use Plan seems to take no account whatsoever of the mission of urban planning and architecture and the art of city building. The Vitruvian triad: expediency and utility, individuality and the city’s own characteristics – is not enough. “A city created for utilitarian purposes satisfying the livelihood needs of man, should produce a link with its spiritual content. The spiritual ‘service field’ of urban space, created by works of architecture, is also a reflection of the spirit of time and the time of the city’s existence.” [R.M. Loegler 2011]. It should also create timeless cultural values, a force that is difficult to recognize, but affects the majority.

The emergence of myth means that the newly created city districts and their residents are to live in continuity with their own history. “The physical building structure, urban spaces that create life events, regulations and legal norms are only a part of the city. Ne-

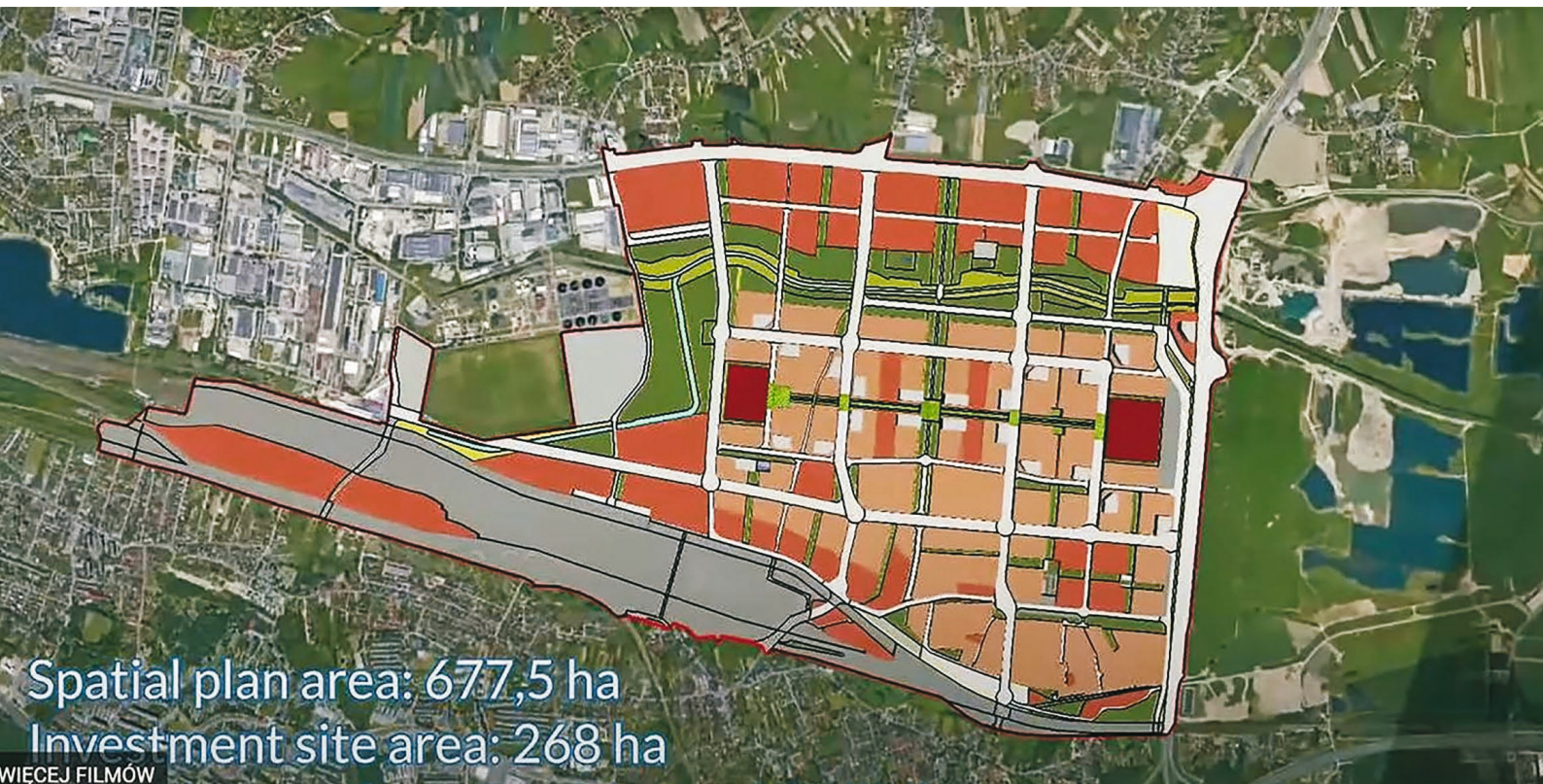


Fig. 20. Project of Nowe Miasto – Local Spatial Development Plan; source: Krakow Municipality, Department of Spatial Planning

cessary or even essential, but not sufficient factors for a city to exist. Often the myth of history and events associated with a particular space means more to a city than a useful but anonymous building” [R.M. Loegler 2011]. This is proved, among other things, by Krakow’s innate myths integrating into its history with its real existence of urban space. The struggle between the myth of the traditional city and the modernist city continues, although in truth the slogan to live in the continuation of a long history was also preached by modernists.

German urban planner Hans-Reiner Müller-Roemisch⁶ claims that it is a lie and a deception if someone “...supposes and promises that through buildings and not through the awakening of humanity and spirit in urbanization, it will be possible to live” [R.M. Loegler 2011]. The development of a city does not only mean the expansion of its functioning mechanism. For it is physically shaped by the architectural forms of space in which the dreams, experiences and memories of successive generations of its inhabitants are to be recorded. The creation of a new section of the city is writing the script for its material and immaterial existence, the entities that define its structure, monumental buildings, recreational spaces, residential areas, transportation bloodstream, as well as monuments to the future and memories of its residents. The above-mentioned principals of creating development are difficult to find in the

presented proposals for the vision of the Local Plan for the New City district.

Illustrated by a physical model, the visions recorded in the draft local plan Nowe Miasto do not reveal the idea to bring out and emphasize the existing qualities and values at the site, which Krakow has enshrined in the tradition of its development in successive stages, the achievements of previous generations (Fig. 20, 21).

Professor Jacek Purchla notes that “today the metropolitanity of Krakow on the map of Europe is still determined more by its history than by the present. The challenge for all of us is to change this situation and turn to the future.” [J. Purchla 2011b] The need to perpetuate Krakow’s metropolitanity must mean creating its future with a projection of modernity that does not threaten the city’s tradition, but enriches it and at the same time saves the existing values that previous eras have written into the city’s fabric. The vision of modern Krakow, in Professor Purchla’s view, should not “slavishly imitate a model that is inadequate to our entire thousand-year history.” [J. Purchla 2011b] President Leo was aware of this view a century ago.

In the plan of Great Krakow of that time there is no tall building, although at that time the world began to build skyscrapers. The Great Krakow plan focused on the creation of large complexes of public greenery and included freely composed assumptions of relati-

⁶ Hans-Reiner Müller Raemisch (*1923; +2018) – German architect and urban planner. Head of the planning commission, author of many publications on urban planning, promoter of citizen participation in city planning.

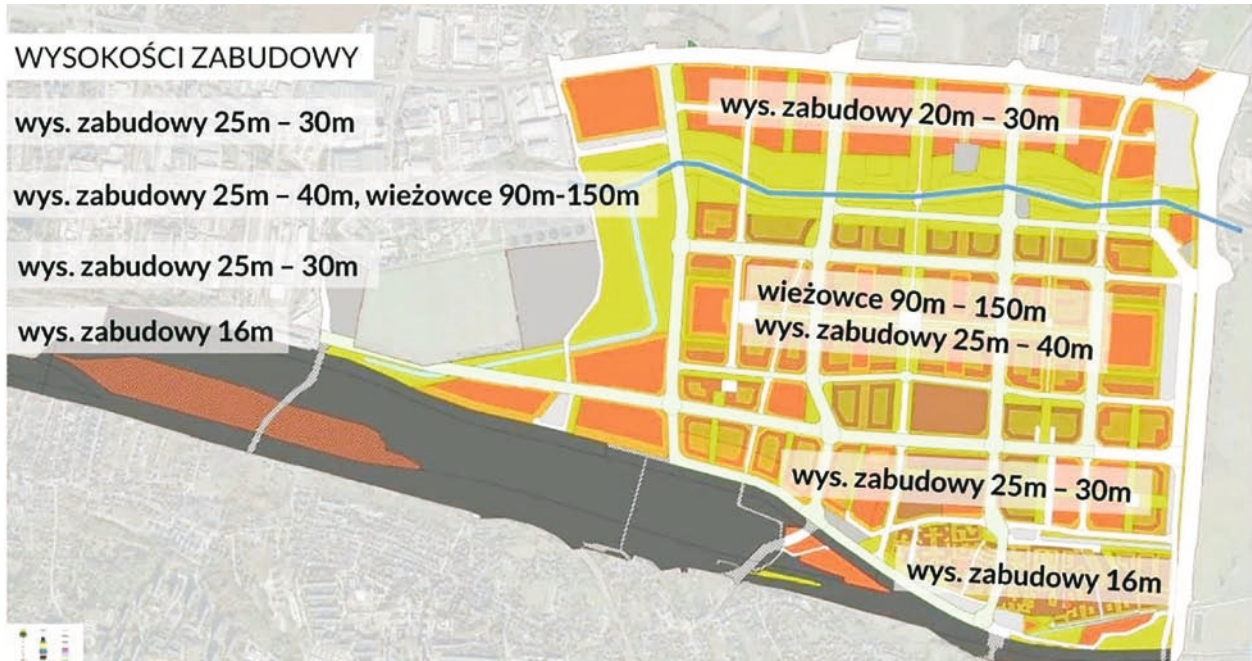


Fig. 21. Project of Nowe Miasto – Zoning of building heights; source: Krakow Municipality, Departament of Spatial Planning

London – Picadilly Street / Green Park



New York – Manhattan / Central Park West



Fig. 22. Comparison of building density – the projected New Town (Nowe Miasto) in Krakow with London, New York and Sydney; source: study by prof. arch. Artur Jasinski

Sydney – Elizabeth St / Hyde Park



Nowe Miasto



100 200 500
skala 1 : 20000



Fig. 23. Map of "Greater Krakow", 1905; source: Budownictwo Miejskie Miasta Krakowa (Municipal Construction of the City of Krakow)

vely low-rise buildings with comfortable healthy apartments. Even then, the value of the medieval city silhouette was appreciated. Also today, Krakow does not need to imitate and duplicate the ideas and models of global urbanization, models that blur the differences in identity of the vast majority of the world's metropolises. With its individuality, which defines its identity, Krakow should be an inspiration to create its development based on ideas that protect against the emergence of city districts devoid of tectonic logic and a sense of architectural materiality that places future residents in an internal and external space tailored in human terms, so that its users will be able to live in it and understand it!

The centuries-long history of mankind shows an unwavering desire to create something unique, unchanged. These efforts were expressed by the cre-

ation, among other things, of monumental buildings and the mythological city of the future "Tower of Babel", which signified the need to concentrate people, to create agglomerations. Today we are witnessing the need for change in the creation of a new vision of the city. The creation of city centers today is no longer defined by churches, city halls, town halls and the like. Our view of complex transportation systems and their planning methods are undergoing changes. They are having a huge impact on traditional urban institutions and other components of the city. The relationship between cities and their landscape is becoming important, affecting our understanding of planning, development and changing needs, including the need to compete with other cities: compete to attract citizens and investment (Fig. 24).

Foreseeing the future is a task for architects and urban planners who create spatial constellations that demonstrate the potential of architecture by inducing future patterns of living conditions. Their new visions, protecting both the tangible and intangible cultural legacy at the same time, the new urbanization is to ensure the comfort and security of life for the communities of future generations, thus facilitating the animation of life events. Manifesting the necessity of preserving the unique original features found in the location, the newly created urban spaces enrich their identification and identity with authentic traces of the past.

What, then, is the city of the future, the city of tomorrow, supposed to be? Is it only a functional reflection of the political system, social and economic circumstances? Is it the result of anticipated events that will be “clothed” in a specific form and will be the psychic dimension of that form? Or a form that arises only as a result of the necessities of existence of its inhabitants and users? A city is not a collection of architectural objects. It is not recognizable by their functional programs and technical qualities. The city is a space delineated by architecture, shaped in a creative act that connects the past of a place with the present. It is the

product of the art of building, the art of creating a framework for the network of connections between the many manifestations of social life.

The creation of the city is a result inspired by many pretexts. The obvious pretext is utility. For the construction of its form, the pretext is also the context understood as a play with the environment, not only architectural, but also cultural milieu of the place of its future existence. In the case of the planned, tentatively named “Nowe Miasto” (The New City), the peculiarity of the area of its location is the stream flowing out of the Piaski Nowe estate – since the 20th century it has borne the name Drwinka (formerly: Czarna). Flowing through Kozlowek, Prokocim, Biezanow, Jerzmanowski Park, it ends its course flowing into Drwinka on the other side of the tracks. Its valley is home to several species of birds, including the green woodpecker and the northern spotted owl.

By the decision of the Krakow City Council, the Drwinka is to be protected through the implementation of a project entitled Drwinka River Park. The fact of Drwinka’s existence is a cultural and landscape aspect that should motivate and inspire us to find an answer to the question of how to write a scenario for the continu-

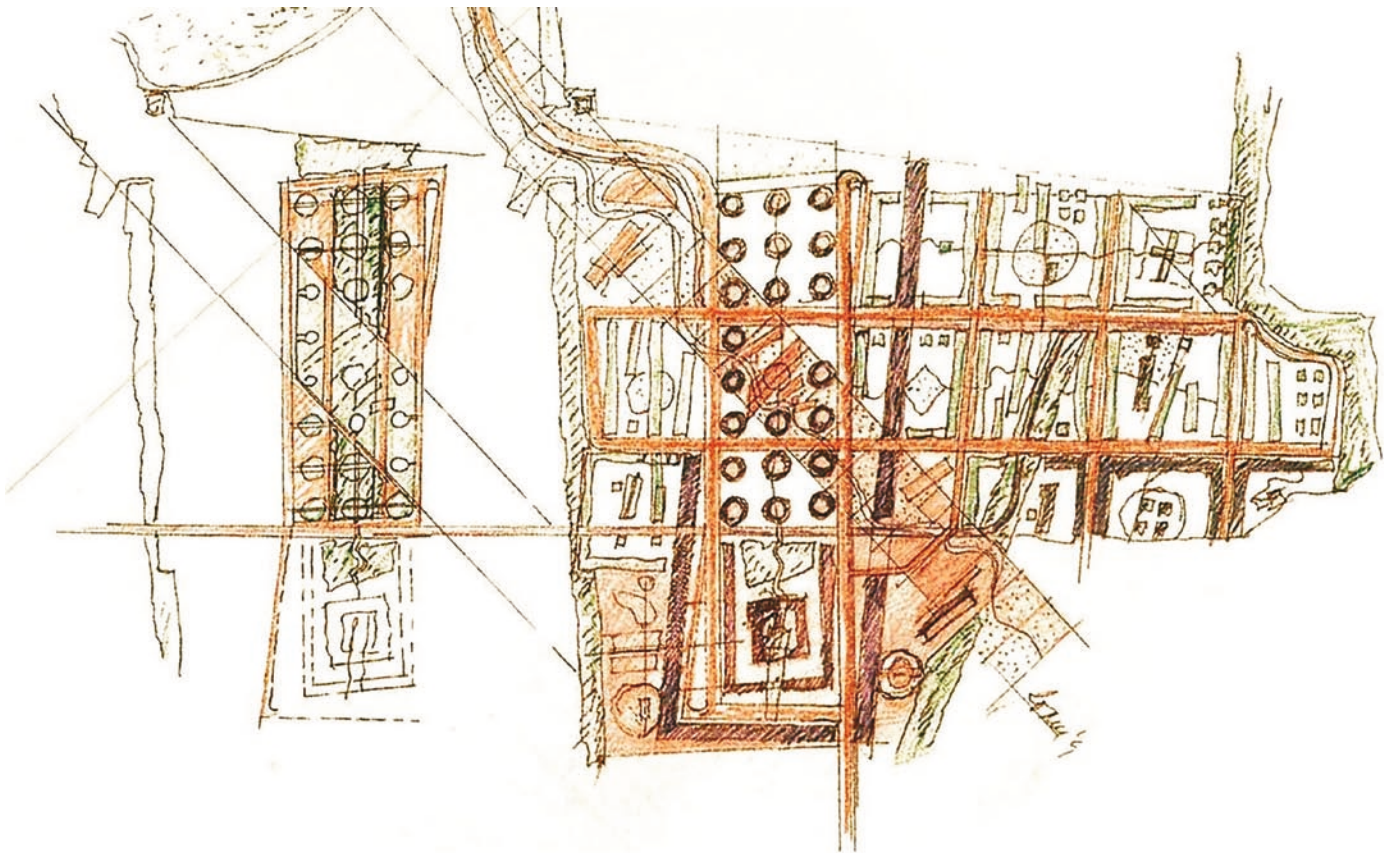


Fig. 24. The project for the revitalization of the former Bangour Hospital grounds in Edinburgh – sketch for the competition design by arch. Romuald Loegler; source: Atelier Loegler Archive

ation of the story of the symbiosis of utility, functionality and beauty of the planned, future revitalization of the area located in the area adjacent to Christo Botewa and Tadeusza Śliwiaka streets towards Bieżanowska street. This scenario should take into account the challenges of managing the diverse character of large cities, the phenomenon of climate change and the need to find an answer to the question: how should the green profile of the new city fit into the trend of pro-ecological urbanization to protect the air and natural environment?

The ideological message directing the scenario of analysis of the proposed solutions for the New City is the creation of a "Sustainable Green City" – green in its symbolic and real layers. Understood and accepted idea and actions within its framework, will allow urban planners and architects to move in the world of contemporary forms, and Krakow to come out with an investment offer showing potential investors Krakow as a city of science, culture, a city aware of the climatic threat, looking for exemplary and inspiring solutions in the current, difficult global climatic reality, not only in Europe. Today, in a new conceptually broadened approach, solutions should also include reference to the spirit of the place – genius loci, tradition, ecology, the idea of sustainable development, sustainability and "green" energy.

The Local Development Plan for the area of Rybitwy - Nowe Miasto, is a unique plan of exceptional importance for Krakow. It is to become the basis for Krakow to make an investment offer, increasing its competitiveness for potential investors.

The draft of the local plan, which is the subject of this analysis, does little to convince the reader of how its proposals fit into the vision of a quality urban landscape of a city seducing its residents, affecting emotions. Nor does it convince the reader of the investment attractiveness of the New City, which was to be, among other things, the oversized public space of a pedestrian "square" proposed in the first design assumptions, equal in size to several Red Squares in Moscow. Clad with high-rise buildings, it was more of a harbinger of a space of sensory deprivation⁷.

The attractiveness of the vision of the New City is also not convincing in view of its other proposals: quarters of urban development with a lost human scale, lack of definition of requirements for the creation of individual features of individual quarters. The omission of an appropriate location compatible with nature, re-

specting its natural peculiarity, which is the Drwina stream, is surprising. Also surprising is the lack of an unambiguous preference for pedestrian traffic, pedestrian routes and a clear limit of streets with intensive vehicular traffic allowed. Also overlooked is the need to create orientation-serving public spaces, diverse in form, allowing for easy identification. The planning arrangements do not compositionally crystallize the elements that integrate the spaces around them. Like the original version of the Plan's findings, the next edition of the Plan does not specify the disposition and location of utility programs in the field of municipal services, administration, education in proper relation to residential zones, health, sports, culture, religious worship (e.g., in connection with park greenery), environmental protection, security, etc. Many more doubts could be enumerated. These include the lack of indication of the possibility of locating programs that interact with the higher education community: scientific research facilities/institutes, etc., as well as the lack of proposals for programs and functions adequate to the location of the agglomeration rail stop.

Serious objections are raised by the failure to define a strategy for releasing land currently used by plants and enterprises in the field of manufacturing, industry, transportation, and waste disposal services. Omission of this very important issue may become a reason for conflicts between entrepreneurs and the city.

According to Bruno Taut: *"You can't build a city merely according to plans that define only building lines, which define nothing de facto in a spatial sense."* How and where buildings are to stand can only be decided by a provision that defines their specific location, three-dimensional form, scale and volume. Only with this understanding of urban planning can there be "a relativization of the value of architecture and urban planning." And this means that planning a "Sustainable Green New City in Krakow" is only possible with the help of an architectural vision. Although, on the other hand, it should be stated that the city, which is subjected to constant processes of transformation, must provide for a certain margin of permissible modifications of urban planning while ensuring the preservation of its basic features. The layout of the city, its space, is common property. So, to create a city is to create a concept for the formation of public space independent of architectural fashion. Such a point of view is obvious, if only for the reason that the realization of urban plan-

⁷ Sensory deprivation of space – leading residents to reduce stimuli positively affecting the senses, a reduction resulting in anxiety, intensive thoughts, depression and negative social behavior. *"This is a consequence of, among other things, the separation of physical spaces by abstract spaces, mathematical spaces. A result of this process is more abstract spatial relations, leading to a rupture of man's emotional connection with his surroundings..."* [J Gądecki 2005, p. 45].

ning should be situated in a time perspective of several decades. Urban structures, thoughtfully and holistically spatially defined, are subjected to a constant process of “interpretation” in the various phases of implementation, referring to individual fragments of places and buildings. This means that the basic structure should bear the characteristics of a clear, timeless “skeleton”, easily understood, recognizable not only to professionals, but legible to every user of the city, and especially to decision-makers. The urban spatial structure understood in this way should not be subject to transformations forced by architectural fashion or the spectacular interests of a developer. Urban planning should be understood not only as the creation of an image of space justified by the provisions of the local plan, but also anticipating the future development of a given area of the city.

The areas defined by the local zoning plan are a kind of pattern based on a typology of abstract forms of buildings of various types: residential dwellings, offices, service buildings, commercial, educational, cultural spaces, etc. Such a picture of space becomes a metaphor for current architectural possibilities, while indicating future proposals for shaping building forms that remain valid in the short term, from five to ten years.

The role of the creator of urban space means that he creates functional spatial connections that can be filled by contemporary architecture, up-to-date at a particular time, which is created as the fulfillment of urban rules written in urban author’s decisions by form. The space created on the basis of the findings of the Local Plan should be the result of a certain order and the social values preferred in it, as well as those being the result of the architect’s/urbanist’s creative idea. The proposed spatial order of the “New Town” could draw inspiration from the experience of the original - the layout of the Old Town, while going beyond its sentimental

and aesthetic framework. For many, the above-mentioned inspiration, could have the meaning of a symbolic bond between Krakow and its contemporaneity, to be identified as a determinant of the bond of future generations of residents with the past and their identification – with Krakow’s history!

The shape of objects, buildings, their arrangement and distribution of accents influence human behavior, their way of covering social distances – “... first we shape cities, then they shape us...” (Jan Gehl). The New City, as a new district of Krakow, should be planned in a spatial and functional structure that stimulates the attitudes and activity of its future residents – both the individual and his community (Fig. 25).

High-rise buildings are not places with hostile fortresses – islands implanted in residential quarters lowering the quality of life of residents. The zone of high-rise buildings located in the vicinity of the S7 expressway eliminates the negative impact on the quality of life for inhabitants, while creating conditions for the penetration of public life into their multifunctional interiors: offices, collective housing, hotels, stores functions of culture, art, etc.

The result of the rules, graphic and textual arrangements of the local plan in force should also be the creation of spatial structures and spaces, positively influencing the quality and cultural values of social processes. Consciously composed, with easily readable and understandable public space, should provide social groups of residents and users with the opportunity to fulfill their basic biological and emotional functions, in a rational and harmonious manner. The rules written in the plan for the creation of public spaces that form the framework of the built environment for the future residents of this new district of the city, must use the contemporary language of architecture, its quality and

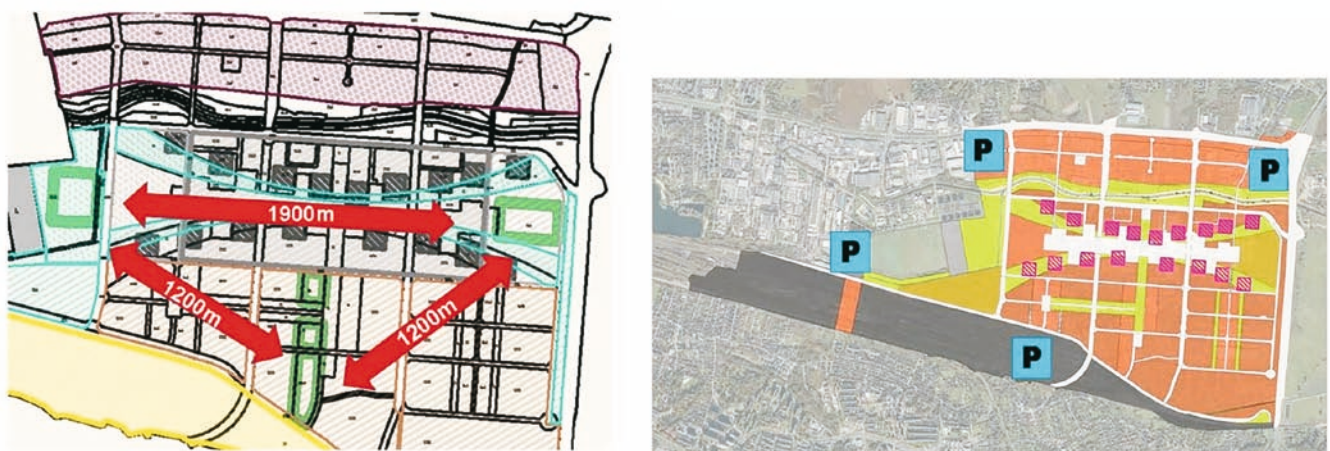


Fig. 25, 26. Establishment of public space - square; source: Krakow Municipality, Department of Spatial Planning

PLAN MIASTA

1. Park Rzeczny „Drwinka”
2. Promenada
3. Civic Center
4. Centrum administracyjne
5. Strefa edukacji / oświaty
6. Strefa komercyjno / handlowa
7. Kwartaly mieszkaniowe
8. Zajezdnia / Centrum pozysk. en. zielonej
9. Usługi zdrowia
10. Parking wielopoziomowy
11. Zespół boisk rekreacyjnych
12. Strefa usług kulturowych
13. Strefa usług kultury, nauki, wysokich wartości
14. Tory kolejowe/przystanek kolei aglomeracyjnej
15. Oczyszczalnia ścieków
16. Zabudowa istniejąca



Fig. 27, 28. The concept of the Green City in Krakow by arch. Romuald Loegler; source: own archive

aesthetic qualities, and indicate the need to refer to the intellectual, cultural and aesthetic values that characterize historical and contemporary Krakow. The proposals for the rules of creating urbanism, included in the material of this work, are based on the conviction that the future of the city must follow the needs of climate protection and healthy conditions for the existence of present and future generations; on the conviction that quality is the most important thing, quality in a broad sense, including in the way of energy management, its pro-ecological acquisition, distribution, sensible and

rational use. The findings of the plan, regardless of state standards and requirements, should be linked to the possibility of investing in the area of the New City – a Green City with the condition of using “green” energy from available alternative sources. A consequence of the above should be the provision of a location for the installation for the acquisition of energy, for example, in the HDR system (“Hot Dry Rock”). A new range of guidelines and recommendations is needed, expanded to include such provisions as:

- “sun on the roof” (photovoltaics);
- “green” roofs;
- windows that let in maximum daylight, providing natural ventilation and maintaining a friendly interior climate;
- connection to the smart grid;
- insulation of residential homes with a type of aerogel or dry ice (a nanotechnology miracle), allowing to make homes economical and energy-efficient while reducing carbon dioxide emissions;
- a city for bicycles in connection with the main street system, with parking close to residences and technical infrastructure located below them;
- walking distances to basic services: 300–600 meters to an environmentally friendly public transport system.

The idea and spatial organization of the city, growing out of the urban vision of the New City, should be the answer to the question of a compact, multifunctional, friendly and vibrant city. For it, the most rational core should be defined. The principle should be a clear layout with urban characteristics, providing good orientation and easy accessibility to buildings thanks to the right hierarchy of streets, rational designation of the location of functional and utility zones of the city/district, their connection with the public transport system, with the system of public spaces: streets, squares, parks!

They are the opportunity and condition for the existence of activity in the city, necessary for its existence. A prerequisite for the emergence of a well-functioning created city is the unambiguous definition of zones for private sector investment and the designation of areas for the location of objects realized by the public sector: offices, headquarters of public institutions, municipal services, public health services, police, post office, education, etc. The framework for the formation of development by the private sector, the provisions of the plan should not leave unlimited freedom to create individual solutions. Determining the requirements of special care and compliance with the rules that determine the aesthetic quality of public spaces, forming in each city places of interaction - creates a kind of skeleton of connections between its various parts.

Public spaces, being socially owned, form the core that organizes the spatial layout of the city, determining the fields of investment activity of public and private investors.

CONCLUSIONS

The vision of the New City district, outlined in the local plan, is to define the principles of shaping public spaces, which should be created in cooperation between the private investor and the local government.

While the local government is to be responsible for defining the geometry of public spaces, as well as for shaping and equipping streets, squares and parks, it is the buildings erected by the private sector that are mainly to create the atmosphere of the city. This special public space in the vision of the New City, should be the main compositional axis, defined by the Promenade and adjacent urban squares, connecting Drwinka Park with the zone of new urbanization.

Drwinka Park conceived as a cultural park – an island of positive divergence – should serve the multidirectional formation of creative personalities involved in sustainable development projects. Clearly defined rules for the creation of public spaces should determine the convention of the entire premise.

In his latest book *How to study public life*, Jan Gehl writes: “look and learn – go out into the city, see how it works, use your common sense, your senses and ask if this is the city we want in the twenty-first century.” The life of a great city is complex, with simple tools and systematic observation it becomes clearer. City planning is not about focusing on individual buildings or technical issues, it is the result of understanding the status of city life, focusing on the future life of the city, creating a framework for the scenario of human events in public space, the interaction between life and public space [J. Gehl, S. Brigitte 2021].

Addressing the problem of public life requires political will and professional leadership, directing the development or planning of a city towards making it more people-friendly.

Proper understanding of city planning tools by urban planners, architects and authorities-councillors responsible for the joy of living in our cities, will address pressing issues such as environmental issues, climate, growing urban population, social and health challenges, and is a prerequisite for creating city plans!

A good, thoughtful and creative city plan is the basis of decision-making processes! The aspect of public life should be taken into account in all phases of city planning and construction. “Life is difficult to predict just like the weather, nevertheless meteorologists have developed tools to predict the weather – similarly, planning needs tools.” (J. Gehl)

Taking into account the nature of the area of the future location of the Green City, setting the rules of the game for future urbanization should reflect the main challenges in our common global situation - the need to build sustainable communities in a world of constraints.

Self-reflection resulting from the analysis of the created New Town – a local plan for a new district of Krakow, does not augur the emergence of an urban quality, different from the newly implemented and es-

tablished in the city space. We have many urban planners and many urban-architectural assumptions of our time, which with their anonymity, lack of references to emotional involvement with historically formed places and buildings, are not conducive to the integration of communities living in them, with the myth and space of Krakow.

Self-reflection from this analysis suggests referring more broadly to the current state of Polish urban planning in recent years, especially in the context of the struggle for a broadly defined "healthy city." Urban transformations with the chief slogan of a city for people provoke a combination of spatial and urban planning with high quality architecture and pro-ecological solutions – synonymous with the ideal city. It is not difficult to notice that modern thinking about the ideal city of the future is dominated by such concepts as "smart city", and "green – healthy" – dependent on the implementation of ever new information technologies and environmental-energy, zero-emission matters. In a word, a city in a sustainable balance.

A third utopia is also emerging: the "inclusive city." This is a city without social, racial, cultural segregation, a city of citizen movements with participatory governance, multicultural, without fences and barriers. A city with a "right to the city." Each of these ideas abstracts from the spatial shape, the urban landscape, from its aesthetics. Digging into the depths of the ideological assumptions of the so-called ideal cities of the future, one can notice the absence of a fundamental message in their ideology: reference to heritage, created by their spatial structure, architecture, culture, intellectual output as well as by spirituality. It is worth considering whether heritage as a necessary condition for the city's development potential is sufficient for successive new layers of urban space to remain in symbiosis with its history, re-interpreted and re-developed heritage. However, this entire heritage: space, objects, cultural landscape, lifestyle should appear as a useful starting point not limiting the final solutions of form, space and use of architecture giving rise to the true identity of the new urbanization. While past memories become the seed of a new idea, the spatial outcome as a traditional tool defining social order will inevitably be the result of a process of architectural evolution based on historical references adapted to contemporary phenomena, uses and needs.

Architecture and urban planning is the art of giving a framework to our lives, building to open up to new possibilities to create cohesive communities.

The original expression of creativity implies finding, inventing, arriving at something new by experien-

cing the grandeur of what exists. It means adding what is new to what is old and familiar. Finding involves risk, namely the risk of one's own ego. But the conditions for creativity can be systematically exercised: i.e. impartiality, flexibility, curiosity, passion discipline. In this context, experience means thinking of many possibilities, systematic changes of perspective, not following the same path!

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