

affect the preferences of city users to change the way of thinking about various means of communication? Will these alterations help to promote the idea of walkable city centre? Will the implementation of the undertaking in the field of improving the quality of public spaces cause the real social and economical revival of degraded parts of a downtown area? It is needed to observe the changing situation and wait so as to find right answers to the questions. What is for sure, city is like a living organism and city centre seems to be its most important part – the heart. It is crucial to deal with it carefully and within a long-term and multilayered process. The renewal process must be overthought and sensible so as to protect what is valuable, to answer people's needs and to provide desirable, comfortable and attractive living environment.

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COMPLETE PLACES AND ACTIVE INNER CITY SPACE – CHOSEN ISSUES OF HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC SPACE CREATION. CASE STUDY OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF POZNAN, POLAND

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In the following article there is tackled a problem of high-quality public space creation. The author accentuates the importance of idea of complete places formation in terms of functional and spatial exigences as well as in social dimension. The public space is understood as the main compositional and semantic scheme of a downtown area. It is also the most crucial space where it is needed to develop interaction and social contacts. The paper presents chosen issues

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ГОРОДСКАЯ МОБИЛЬНОСТЬ И ПУБЛИЧНОЕ ПРОСТРАНСТВО В СОВРЕМЕННОМ ГОРОДЕ. НА ПРИМЕРЕ ГОРОДСКОГО ЦЕНТРА ГОРОДА ПОЗНАНЬ, ПОЛЬША

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В статье рассматривается роль коммуникационной системы с точки зрения создания комфортных мест для людей в публичном пространстве. Рассмотрен вопрос о возможности и необходимости создания комплексных пространств, которые удовлетворяют не только требованиям к коммуникации, но, прежде всего, отвечают потребностям пешеходов. Подчеркивается необходимость поиска наилучших пространственных решений для обеспечения сбалансированных и устойчивых решений, создания городов, удобных для жизни. Затрагиваются вопросы решения конкретных проблем развития центра города Познань, Польша.

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of high quality space creation within a downtown area of the city of Poznan in Poland.

Introduction. While considering the issue of creating high-quality public space, two factors should be taken into account in the context of contemporary changes and current development trends. The first is the need to ensure the protection of cultural value, and

the second to enable development answering the best contemporary conditions such as globalization, competitiveness, metropolisation and the network structure of urbanized areas. This is particularly important in the case of inner-city spaces, which are distinguished by the number of spatial, historical and cultural values, and therefore require special attention in the context of urban landscape protection. On the other hand, it is needed to provide an attractive functional and spatial offer that can be understood as architectural innovations implemented in the historical tissue as part of active protection strategy.

Taking into account the fact that contemporary society is a knowledge society, while rethinking the renewal strategy it is needed to take into account the issue of information contained in the city visual form. In this context, city physiognomy is a component that plays an important role in the process of development and revival. Creation of public spaces that are visually attractive and usable is essential to be considered in economic terms too, because it can have a significant impact on city competitive advantages formation.

Contemporary trends in downtown area redefinition. The main trends in the transformation of inner-city structures in contemporary conditions are identified in "The new Athens Charter 2003"⁵. It is a document that defines a vision for the development of 21st century cities, proposed by the European Council of Town Planners.

According to the "Charter ...", the 21st century cities are difficult to distinguish, because of widely understood social activity, previously located mainly in inner parts of cities, at present is spreading to the outskirts. Moreover, cities connect with each other creating network systems, where the classic city in the administrative sense is one of the elements of the system. The biggest problem of contemporary cities is the lack of cohesion, both in the spatial sense, as well as in relation to development in time, the diversity

of social structures and cultural differences. This is expressed in the lack of continuity in the nature of the urban tissue, but also in the break of the identity continuity, requiring protection and articulation in the context of high development dynamics. New directions in spatial policy aim to promote activities related to the renewal of historical downtown centers, primarily to preserve and actively protect the historically shaped spatial structure.

Urban development can cause negative effects, against which cities have to defend. It is mainly about the unfavorable phenomena of both spatial unification and segregation. There is a general unification process to several spatial models around the world. Segregation due to income, stereotypical solutions in the field of construction, lack of care for existing resources and existing functional and spatial situation, negatively affect the image of inner-city areas, which often lose their attractiveness in relation to the more economically available suburban areas.

Inclusion of Polish space into European structures creates new challenges for cities, including necessity of increasing their attractiveness and innovativeness, in particular in terms of inner-city areas. Maintaining the proper level of competitiveness of the Polish downtown in the European space is a key principle in development and renewal process. Active protection [Ashworth, 1997] still seems to be a right tool in the city center redefinition, aimed at protecting of cultural heritage and allowing its proper use in the development process. Thanks to this approach, it is possible to carry out the process of revitalization and revalorization while maintaining the value of the place's authenticity, while at the same time

Rethinking the relationship between space and its user in terms of urban composition. From the point of view of the spatial issues a composition is a very important tool that helps to create attractive, readable and well-organised spaces. The composition plays significant role in assessing the quality of the urban space by the user, and decides

⁵ <https://architexturez.net/doc/az-cf-172768>

to help achieve the desired spatial order and harmony.

Relations between urban space and its user are undeniable – already in the sixties of the last century, it was noticed by researchers how strong they are. Archetypical canons, among others of Vitruvius' triad - beauty, durability and usefulness, refer not only to space but to the psychosomatic and socio-cultural dimension of being human in space. In the process of multi-sensory reception of urban surrounding, within a complex cognitive process, the external stimuli influence user's senses.

Functional and spatial offer of the city, its physiognomy and the information and visual layer, to a very significant extent affect the formation of cognitive schemas, and thus affect social behavior. Identification of perception is a physical view and building cognitive schemes in the mind. Perceptual identification in human contact with the environment occurs at the level of orientation and adaptation. In this context, an important role is played by the urban composition, which occurs to be a tool for shaping positive relations between man and city - both in architectural and urban dimensions.

The composition of the city also serves to evoke the emotional and aesthetic feelings of city users. Multisensual contact with the surrounding deeply affects human behaviours and taken actions so in shaping spatial harmony it is very important to understand spatial variability as a principle. Material components of urban space can be understood as factors that stimulate city users sensually and emotionally. Identification and qualification of spatial elements is made in accordance with their meaning. The key task in the process of renewing and reshaping city space is to emphasize the dependence and relationship man and the surrounding urban space.

Chosen aspects of high quality public space creation. Public space is always perceived in the dual system of spatial and social values which is characterized by specific functional features. It is the place of transmission of various products - material and non-material, which should provide satisfac-

tion of diverse needs of city users⁶. It is to be considered as a common good of strategic importance for local communities. Moreover, public space plays an important role in creating a downtown area of high level of attractiveness. It influences the creation of material and immaterial image of the city, also in terms of place marketing.

Public spaces in the city center play a particularly important role in the process of urban renewal and remodelling, because they are distinguished by a rich offer of architectural, compositional, urban, historical and cultural values. Thanks to these values, downtown area is an excellent ground for the development of culture-forming functions and the implementation of art-related elements. The search for urban identity requires the articulation of the individualized character and uniqueness of the place, and in regards to these the accentuation of existing values is crucial.

Downtown areas so as to be competitive and complete need multifunctional offer, versatility of diverse types of spaces and above all, socially attractive public life and vitality in general. Attractiveness of public space is also understood as a stimulation of social activities and inspiration to interact with space and with other city users.

In these terms, the spatial values are of high importance. The urban composition and furnishings can significantly influence semantic value of space as well as emotions and behavior of its users. Elements of urban interior furnishings that have artistic value can underline the uniqueness of a place and can significantly contribute to increasing the attractiveness of the spatial offer within downtown area.

Public space seems to be very attractive place to implement art. In traditional terms, art in public space was placed for aesthetic and semantic reasons. Nowadays, art, going beyond the boundaries of galleries and museums, gains a new value in terms of creation socially attractive offer. It concerns not only physical urban space, but also immate-

⁶ Definition in accordance with Public Space Chart accepted during III Polish Urban Planning Congress in 2009 roku [in:] *Nowa urbanistyka...*

rial solutions like digital ones that can be located in publicly accessible spaces.

Cultural offer together with the elements of small architecture can play crucial role in stimulation of creativity. Provoking spatial activities and social interactions and being of high artistic value, they should complement the offer of urban and architectural historical structure, introducing additional aesthetic, visual and social qualities to the downtown area.

Complete places and active inner city space – case study of chosen public spaces within downtown area of city of Poznan.

Complete places and active inner city space is the idea of promoting and creating vital and high quality public spaces in downtown areas conducted by Author in research team at Poznan University of Technology⁷. It is the study of the public space attractiveness undertaken from the point of view of socio-spatial offer that stimulates users to activity and inspires various social interactions. It is an extension of the problems tackled within research entitled "MAD – Meaning, Action, Design"⁸. The idea of MAD was based on the assumption that equipping public space of downtown area with artistic, interactive and creative artefacts can positively stimulate users to active participation and interactions among city users and a surrounding space. According to the issues considered in the following research, semantic layer, vitality and decoration constitute the necessary elements of attractive, innovative and qualitative public space.

⁷ Complete places and active inner city space – chosen aspects of high quality and vital public space in downtown area of city of Poznan, 2018, research work no. 10/04/DSPB/0140, stage I, conducted at the Faculty of Architecture, Poznan University of Technology, the person in charge: dr inż.arch. B. Kaźmierczak, team member – dr inż.arch. Dominikę Pazder.

⁸ Author's research conducted altogether with dr inż.arch. Bartosz Kaźmierczak under supervision of dr hab. szt. T. Matuszewicz entitled „Sztuka w przestrzeni miasta - obiektom jako środek kreacji i aktywizacji społecznej przestrzeni publicznych miasta na przykładzie studialnym Poznania. Studium fizjonomiczno-semantyczne śródmiejskich przestrzeni publicznych Poznania” realized in years 2013-2018 at the Faculty of Architecture, Poznan University of Technology.

Complete place visioning is understood as creating an attractive public space of high aesthetic and compositional quality, which affects the assurance of positive emotional experiences, psycho-physical comfort and the possibility of establishing social contacts. The starting point of the considerations regarding the creation of the public space which is complete and socially active is understanding architecture and urban planning as the ability to shape human environment. It is crucial to take into account the multi-aspect nature of determinants, not only spatial and economic opportunities, but also humanistic, cultural and social issues.

Attractiveness in the context of public space, especially within downtown and central areas, means providing unique and memorable places, comfortable and functional ones, as well as inspiring and encouraging to stay longer. Art and culture implemented in material form of buildings and elements of public space equipment can prove to be very important instrument of spatial and social activation. Material elements affect immaterial effect having an emotional impact on city user.

The undertaken research presents example of the downtown area of Poznan. The main identified aim was to improve the quality of chosen public space. In the studies the most important research assumption was creation of spatially, functionally and semantically complete public space what influences its social activity. The work was conducted in the research team and also implemented in the didactic work at the Faculty of Architecture of the Poznan University of Technology.

The aim of the research is to formulate recommendations for selected public spaces of the city center of Poznan in terms of the possible introduction of buildings with culture-creating function together with the surrounding public space of high quality and attractiveness. Cultural functions are supposed to fulfill not only a spatial role but, above all, to activate and inspire social life. It is about both semantic and spatial value of the place which is well-equipped and thus can stimulate its recipients intellectually and

emotionally having a positive impact on the public spaces redefinition and renewal.

The first stage of the research was devoted to the identification of specific kind of places within the delimited downtown area of a city of Poznan. The idea was to indicate spaces that are unbuilt and neglected or degraded which in general are called *non-places* [Auge, 1995]. While searching for these kind of spaces, there was made an assumption, that identified places must be characterized by a very illegible meaning and not well defined semantic layer. The next step was devoted to the detailed compositional and visual analysis of the given spaces, taking into account the possible but not visible enough relationships with the surrounding. As a result of this stage, there were selected areas that are characterized by compositional importance and they were intended for further research. The chosen spaces were generally located at the intersection of important directions, at the corners of streets of high importance within downtown area or in their immediate vicinity. An important determinant of the choice was the fact that these spaces should provide the possibility of introducing a cultural function with the neighbouring public space. The assumption was made that redefinition of these places can significantly increase the quality of the spatial environment in terms of composition, functionality and aesthetics and in this way can positively affects social activity and interactions.

The part of the research was also carried out with students⁹ of the Faculty of Architecture of Poznan University of Technology. Student's work was conducted under the guidance of Author. The projects were about designing the possible architectural and urban solutions devoted to selected public spaces, which were diagnosed as significant in terms of composition and spatial meaning, but currently deficient and neglected. These spaces were subjected to a detailed, multicriteria urban analysis, taking into account the compositional-spatial, functional and aesthetic-scenic conditions of the surroundings. As a result of this stage of research it was

possible to formulate design guidelines regarding the selection of functional and spatial solutions and culture-forming offer, which could enable the redefinition of the meaning of space and give it a new semantic dimension.

The projects prepared by the students were planned to be a voice in the discussion on possible and necessary changes in the city center area of Poznan. The proposals concerned the possible architectural design of examined areas altogether with social facilities and urban furniture offer.

The analyses of the surrounding concerned examination of existing communication system and functions e.g. commercial offer, public services, public/private zones, greenery. There were examined visual and compositional aspects as well e.g. materials and colours of built and unbuilt tissue, skylines and urban skeleton. Students made an assessment of the overall image of the given space and marked positive and negative urban and architectural elements. They were also made a subjective assessment of impressions to evaluate an overall image of the plot with neighbouring area.

The next step of design work was devoted to definition of size and dimension of possible solids to be implemented. The proposals were examined within a process of changing colours, materials and structures so as to find the best solution fitting in the surrounding. The chosen solution was justified in accordance to previously observed conditions and to conclusions formulated on the basis of analyzes.

Conclusion. The research presented in the article concerns the assessment of the quality of public spaces in the city center of Poznan with regard to the possibility of implementing objects or elements of culture-related functions as well as artistic and technological values. The research focuses mainly on issues related to the activation of public spaces in the spatial and social aspect. The most important research topic is the relationship between functional and spatial renewal and social activation of inner-city spaces. Transforming selected spaces of high compositional significance and low semantic value through the implementation of cultural

⁹ Students of third year at first stage of education within the course entitled "Landscape architecture".

and creative functions can contribute to ensuring socially desirable attractiveness, which favors social interaction and stimulates creative activities. The creation of public spaces that are complete in functional, aesthetic and semantic terms can significantly affect the stimulation of social life.

The issue of creating high-quality public spaces is an important element of the city's development and renewal. In this context, it is necessary to emphasize the need to create a new image of a city of culture and creativity. In this perspective, the public spaces of the downtown area play a special role of the information carrier regarding quality and openness to creative ideas, activities and environment. Assuming the pro-cultural orientation of the Poznan downtown area development, appropriate facilities and functional and spatial infrastructure should be secured.

The idea of Poznan as the city of culture and creativity can be an important development opportunity, balancing between existing image maintenance of a city of business that already has a strong economic position. The presented research is aimed at popularizing this developmental direction with particular emphasis on the downtown area. Thanks to the high quality of the public space downtown's offer can be an important economic stimulus. The intention of the research is also to draw attention to the necessity of functional and spatial redefinition of the city center, in which there are still many degraded and unattractive spaces with the high development potential. Its proper use and giving it the desired functional and spatial setting are important elements of proper development strategy aiming at increasing the spatial and social attractiveness of the Poznan downtown area.

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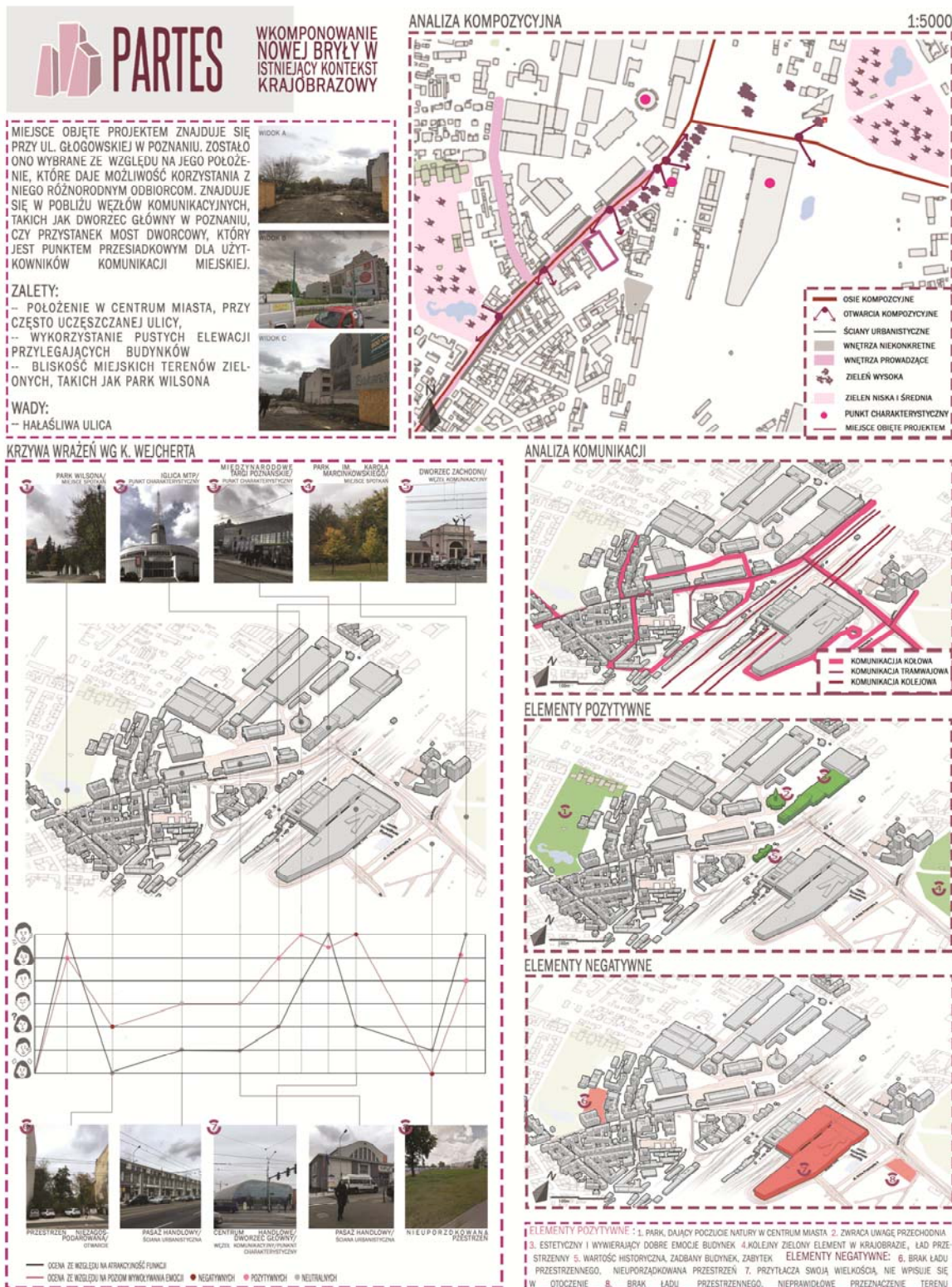
**АКТИВНОЕ ВНУТРЕННЕЕ ГОРОДСКОЕ
ПРОСТРАНСТВО – ИЗБРАННЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ
СОЗДАНИЯ ОБЩЕСТВЕННОГО
ПРОСТРАНСТВА ВЫСОКОГО КАЧЕСТВА.
НА ПРИМЕРЕ ГОРОДА ПОЗНАНЬ, ПОЛЬША**

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В настоящей статье рассматривается проблема создания качественных общественных пространств. Автор подчеркивает важность идеи формирования целостных мест с точки зрения функциональных и пространственных потребностей, а также социального измерения. Под общественным пространством понимается композиционная и семантическая схема центра города. Это также самое важное пространство, где существует необходимость в развитии взаимодействия и налаживании социальных контактов. В статье представлены избранные вопросы создания высококачественного пространства в городе Познань, Польша.

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Pic. 1. An example of a students' work – poster presenting part of spatial, functional and compositional analyzes. Case study of Poznan city centre. [prepared by Aleksandra Kośmicka, Anna Korzeniewska under supervision of Author]